Author's Guideline to Blue Nile Journal of Agricultural Research (BNJAR)

GUIDELINE

About the Journal: The Blue Nile Journal of Agricultural Research (BNJAR) is an openaccess official journal of the Amhara Agricultural Research Institute (ARARI). The journal is published twice a year in English in both print (optional) and online versions, which are available for free. The journal emphasizes regular full-length research articles; however, review articles and short communications on agricultural research are also welcome. All articles publishable in BNJAR are peer-reviewed.

Regular Full-length Research Articles: These should describe new and carefully confirmed findings, and experimental procedures should be given in sufficient detail for others to verify the work. The length of a regular full-length research article should be the minimum required to describe and clearly interpret the work.

Short Communication Articles: A Short Communication Article is suitable for recording the results of small investigations or giving details of new models or hypotheses, innovative methods, techniques, or apparatus. The style of the main sections need not conform to that of full-length regular research articles. Short communications are 2 to 4 printed pages (about 6 to 12 manuscript pages) in length.

Review Articles: Submissions of reviews and perspectives covering topics of current interest are welcome and encouraged. Reviews are required to be concise, but need to be long enough to describe and interpret the review work.

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Submission/Contact details of BNJAR:

• Email: bnjar2016@gmail.com

• Online submission link: https://arari.gov.et/login.php

• P.O. Box 527, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

• Website: www.arari.gov.et

Scope of the journal: BNJAR publishes original articles on applied and basic research in all

aspects of agriculture with emphasis on crop sciences, plant sciences, genetics, plant breeding, agronomy, plant physiology, phytopathology, crop protection, agricultural entomology, weed science, biotechnology, tissue culture, horticulture, crop modeling, animal sciences, animal breeding and genetics, animal husbandry, veterinary science, veterinary epidemiology, animal feeds and nutrition, apiculture, aquaculture, limnology, fishery, soil science, soil fertility management, hydrology, sedimentology, soil and water conservation, irrigation, water use, ecology, climatology, forestry, agroforestry, silviculture, agricultural engineering, agricultural mechanization, post-harvest technology, food science, food processing, gastronomy, nutrition, agricultural economics, resource economics, agricultural extension science, rural sociology, climate change research, environmental sciences, geographical information system, statistics, gender issue in agriculture.

Editorial Board and Chief Editor: The editorial board consists of scientists who are assigned by the Director General (DG) and Deputy Director General (DDG) of ARARI. Chief and associate editors are experienced scientists and are members of the editorial board. Chief and associate editors conduct preliminary assessments of the submitted articles to check whether they are acceptable for further review. Each article acceptable in preliminary review is channeled to the respective two to three editorial board members or to particular reviewers who have expertise in the area of the submitted article. The chief and associate editors finally decide on the acceptance of the article based on the reviewers' assessments. They also make sure that all the relevant comments are incorporated before final acceptance and publication.

Introduction

Submission checklist

You can use this list to carry out a final check of your submission before you send it to the journal for review. Please check the relevant section in this Guide for Authors for more details.

Ensure that the following items are present:

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:

- E-mail address
- Full postal address

All necessary files have been uploaded:

Manuscript:

- Include keywords
- All figures (include relevant captions)
- All tables (including titles, descriptions as notes)
- Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided
- Indicate clearly if color should be used for any figures in print (where applicable)

Graphical Abstracts / Highlights files (where applicable) Supplemental files (where

applicable)

Further considerations

- Manuscript has been 'spell-checked' and 'grammar checked'
- All references mentioned in the Reference List are cited in the text, and vice versa
- Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet)
- A competing interest's statement is provided, even if the authors have no competing interests to declare
- Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed
- Referee suggestions and contact details provided, based on journal requirements (where applicable)

Referees

Please submit the names, addresses and e-mail addresses of three potential reviewers. Potential reviewers should be experts in the field of your submitted paper and have published papers on the subject. Do not suggest reviewers who are part of your or your co-authors' institutions, or reviewers with whom you have collaborated in recent years. Note that the editor retains the sole right to decide whether or not the suggested reviewers are used.

Multiple, redundant, or concurrent publication

An author should not, in general, publish manuscripts describing essentially the same research in more than one journal of primary publication. Submitting the same manuscript to more than one journal concurrently constitutes unethical behaviour and is unacceptable. In general, an author should not submit for consideration in another journal a paper that has been published previously, except in the form of an abstract or as part of a published lecture or academic thesis, or as an electronic preprint.

Style of Manuscript

Typing: Manuscripts must be typed in Calibri with a font size of 12 points, with single line spacing throughout (including footnotes, references, tables, and legends), and a 2.5 cm wide margin on all four sides (left, right, top, bottom). All pages must be numbered in the bottom right margin. Manuscripts should be written in clear, concise, and grammatically correct English. Indent new paragraphs.

Spelling: Use American spelling. If the word is not found in the dictionary, as some foreign words are not (like some Amharic words), you must italicize the word. For the name of an organization or corporation, however, use the official spelling.

Capitalization: In general, capitalize the first letter of proper nouns (that is, the names of specific persons, places, or things), and lowercase common nouns (like tef, barley, wheat, ...).

- **Place names:** Capitalize the first letter of names of countries, states, provinces, and established regions. Lowercase directional words that are not part of an established name.
 - o Amhara Regional State, North Shewa Zone, South Gonder Zone
 - o eastern Amhara, northwest Amhara, western Amhara
- **Job titles:** Capitalize the first letter of job titles when they appear immediately before a personal name. Lowercase them when they appear after a name or are used alone.
 - o Before a name:
 - Chairman Mao
 - President Sahilework Zewdie
 - After a name or alone:
 - Ahimed Shide, the minister of finance
 - The president has executive authority

Numbers: Spell out a number when it appears at the beginning of a sentence. Within a sentence, spell out whole numbers from one to nine and use numerals for 10 and over. Numbers greater than 999 should contain commas to indicate thousands, except for page numbers in citations or references.

- Ten leading diplomats from four countries urged the United Nations to take action (this is correct).
- 10 leading diplomats from four countries urged the United Nations to take action (this should be avoided).
- Only two researchers were present at the experiment.
- At least 12 separate agencies collaborated on the initiative.
- The sample contained 100,000 households.

Dates: Use the 1 January 2020 style; avoid the January 1, 2020 style

Nomenclature and units: Follow internationally accepted rules and conventions: use the international system of units (SI). If other quantities are mentioned, give their equivalent in SI.

Headings: Main headings should be in upper case and bold type (like **MATERIALS AND METHODS**). The first letter of subheadings should be in upper case and bold type (like **Materials and Methods**). Sub-sub headings should be in a sentence case and bold type (like **Materials and methods**). Sub-sub-sub headings should be in a sentence case, in bold type, and in italics (like *Materials and methods*).

Tables and Figures: Each table and figure must be numbered sequentially in order of mentioning in the text body of the manuscript (like Table 1, Table 2, ...; Figure 1, Figure 2, ...). Following the first citation, tables and figures should be presented in the appropriate place of the text body of the manuscript page on which they are cited or the immediately next page. Each table or figure should be complete or able to stand alone so that the reader

can understand it without referring to the text. For example, acronyms, abbreviations, or other technical or unfamiliar terms should be explained or defined in notes (see below for table presentation, which also applies to figures). Ensure that each illustration has a caption. Supply captions separately, not attached to the figure. A caption should comprise a brief title (not on the figure itself) and a description of the illustration. Keep text in the illustrations themselves to a minimum, but explain all symbols and abbreviations used. Please submit tables as editable text and not as images. Tables can be placed either next to the relevant text in the article, or on separate page(s) at the end. Be sparing in the use of tables and ensure that the data presented in them does not duplicate results described elsewhere in the article. Please avoid using vertical rules and shading in table cells.

Table 1: Some descriptor data of the respondents

Serial Number				
of respondents	Sex	Age (years)	Weight (kg)	Height (cm)
1	M	25	65.3	175.8
2	F	-	45.6	165.0
3	F	-	65.2	170.2
4	M	45	76.4	185.3

Note: M = Male; F = female; — = data not available.

In a Note, when describing an abbreviation or acronym, use an equal sign (=) between the acronym or abbreviation and the meaning.

Presentation order of the manuscript

An article should have the following sections: Title page, abstract, keywords, introduction, materials and methods, results and discussions, conclusions (and recommendations), acknowledgment (optional), and references.

Title page: The title page should contain a concise and informative title written in sentence case; a list of author(s) name(s), affiliation(s), and complete mailing address (including email address, telephone, and fax numbers) of the corresponding author.

ABSTRACT: The abstract should outline the rationale, objective(s), materials and methods, the main results, conclusions, and recommendations (if any) using clear and factual statements. The whole abstract should be readily understandable to all the Journal's readers, including non-specialists, and **must not exceed 300 words**.

Keywords: Keywords should reflect the precise content of the paper, and should be in alphabetical order, containing three to eight words or phrases in sentence case; a comma separates each word or phrase from the other.

INTRODUCTION: The introduction should be as brief as possible and should state the reason for the work, the context, background, aims, and the hypotheses being tested. While reviewing the literature in the introduction, indicate the achievements and gaps leading to the conduct of your research. Reference should be made to recent and important literature on the

main topic.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: They should be described with sufficient detail to allow others to replicate and build on published results. It should mention the time and place of research in the first part. The study area description should include at least ranges of altitudes, geographic coordinates, annual rainfall and temperature (minimum and maximum) averages, and soil types of the study target areas. Particular attention should be paid to the study factors/treatments and their structure, design, analysis, and other statistical considerations. New methods and protocols should be described in detail, while well-established methods can be briefly described and appropriately cited. Give the name and version of any software used

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS: Results and discussions must be written in the same part to avoid repetition. Tables and figures should be used to effectively present the results. The result presentation should provide a concise and precise description of the experimental results and their interpretations. Discussion of the results should elaborate and point out the importance of the results and place them in the context of previous studies. Authors must discuss their results articulately first before rushing to the literature to substitute for their much-needed professional contributions. Discussions should clearly indicate the significance and implications of the results obtained, in the context of the answers expected against the study objectives, and subsequently, how they align with the existing literature on the subject, and the limitations of the work highlighted. It should end with a clear statement of the main conclusions of the research, and a clear explanation of their importance and relevance for management or policy.

CONCLUSIONS (AND RECOMMENDATIONS): The conclusion should elaborate on the implications of the results and discussions and may also suggest recommendations based on the findings. This should state clearly the main conclusions and provide an explanation of the importance and relevance of the study to the field. Suggestion placed after the conclusion contains a recommendation on the research done or an input that can be used directly by consumers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: The acknowledgments should be brief and include only those with very significant contributions to the study. List all contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship, such as a person who provided purely technical help (those who critically reviewed the study proposal, collected data, and reviewed the manuscript), typewriting assistance, or a department chair who provided only general support. Financial and material support should also be acknowledged.

REFERENCES: The references section lists only the literature cited in the paper. Authors are responsible for the completeness and accuracy of all references. Indent the second and subsequent lines of each reference in the list. Some details on how to organize and arrange a reference list are provided below.

Citation in text: Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Any references cited in the abstract must be given in full.

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Preprint references: Where a preprint has subsequently become available as a peer-reviewed publication, the formal publication should be used as the reference. If there are preprints that are central to your work or that cover crucial developments in the topic but are not yet formally published, these may be referenced. Preprints should be clearly marked as such, for example, by including the word preprint, or the name of the preprint server as part of the reference. The preprint DOI should also be provided.

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Style of the reference list: Text: All citations in the text should refer to:

- 1. Single author: the author's name (without initials, unless there is ambiguity) and the year of publication; In-text: (Allan, 2000).
- 2. Two authors: both authors' names and the year of publication; Intext: (Miller & Schuh, 2005)
- 3. Three or more authors: first author's name followed by 'et al.' and the year of publication. Citations may be made directly (or parenthetically); In-text: (Kramer et al., 2010).
- 4. Groups of references should be listed chronologically. Examples: 'as demonstrated (Jones, 1999; Allan, 2000; Miller & Schuh, 2005; ... Kramer et al. 2010)'

List: References should be arranged first alphabetically and then further sorted chronologically if necessary. More than one reference from the same author(s) in the same year must be identified by the letters 'a', 'b', 'c', etc., placed after the year of publication.

Examples:

Reference to a journal publication: Van der Geer, J., Hanraads, J. A. J., & Lupton, R. A. (2010). The art of writing a scientific article. J. Sci. Commun. 163, 51–59. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.Sc.2010.00372.

Reference to a journal publication with an article number: Van der Geer, J., Hanraads, J. A. J., & Lupton, R. A. (2018). The art of writing a scientific article. Heliyon. 19, e00205. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2018.e00205.

Reference to a book: Strunk Jr., W., & White, E. B. (2000). The Elements of Style, fourth ed. Longman, New York.

Reference to a chapter in an edited book: Mettam, G. R., Adams, L. B. (2009). How to prepare an electronic version of your article, in: Jones, B.S., Smith, R.Z. (Eds.), Introduction to the Electronic Age. E-Publishing Inc., New York, pp. 281–304.

Reference to a website: Cancer Research UK, 1975. Cancer statistics reports for the UK. http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/aboutcancer/statistics/cancerstatsreport/ (accessed 13 March 2003).

Reference to software: Coon, E., Berndt, M., Jan, A., Svyatsky, D., Atchley, A., Kikinzon, E., Harp, D., Manzini, G., Shelef, E., Lipnikov, K., Garimella, R., Xu, C., Moulton, D., Karra, S., Painter, S., Jafarov, E., & Molins, S. (2020). Advanced Terrestrial Simulator (ATS) v0.88 (Version 0.88). Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3727209.

General Editorial Policies

Blue Nile Journal of Agriculture (BNJAR) is dedicated to publishing high-level scientific research papers or reports that can best serve the interests of the wider scientific and development communities. Thus, BNJAR is devoted to maintaining a high level of professionalism. However, due to reports of fraud and plagiarism in the scientific literature, we remind authors of their obligation when submitting manuscripts for publication.

The editorial policy of the journal strictly prohibits authors from submitting more than one article for consideration in each issue. This regulation has been put in place to ensure fair and equal opportunities for all contributors. Thus, authors are kindly requested to adhere to this guideline and refrain from submitting multiple articles for the same issue. By upholding this rule, the journal aims to maintain the quality and diversity of content featured in each publication. Authors are encouraged to prioritize the quality of their submissions over quantity, as this allows for a more robust selection of articles and promotes a balanced representation of diverse perspectives and topics within the journal.

Minimum requirements for authorship: Each author to qualify for authorship should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content. Authorship credit should be based only on: **a**) substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; and **b**) final approval of the version to be published. Conditions "and must meet the criteria for authorship in BNJAR. Acquisition of funding, the collection of data, or general supervision of the research group, by themselves, do not justify authorship.

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No-footnote rule: In BNJAR, it is important to adhere to the no-footnote rule, meaning that author should abstain from using footnote citations in their manuscript. This guideline serves to promote clear and concise writing by discouraging the inclusion of additional information in footnotes. By avoiding footnotes, authors can maintain a seamless flow of content in their manuscripts and ensure that readers can easily follow the argument without distractions. It is recommended that instead of relying on footnotes, authors incorporate any necessary details or references directly into the main body of the text to enhance clarity and readability.

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Age of Data: When evaluating manuscript submissions in regard to clinical trials, crop varieties, fertilizer rates, and other related areas for potential inclusion in BNJAR publication, the required data age must not to exceed a span of 3 years. Contrarily, for manuscript submissions involving soil laboratory analyses, social science data, and related

categories intended for BNJAR publication, the acceptable data age limit should not surpass 6 years in order to maintain the relevance and timeliness of the findings. This systematic approach ensures that the published content in BNJAR reflects the most current and pertinent research insights across various disciplines within the agricultural landscape. BNJAR considered the month, but not the date, as it is rare for published agricultural research studies to report the data collection period to the level of date. Next, we made a universal assumption that the start and end dates of the data collection period fell on the first and last days, respectively, of the reported months. For example, if the data collection period ranged from January 2023 to April 2024, the start and end dates were assumed to be January 01, 2023, and April 30, 2024, respectively.

Plagiarism: BNJAR will evaluate any case of duplication or plagiarism on its limits. If plagiarism is identified by the editor-in-chief, reviewer, editor, etc., at any step of the article before or after the peer review process and acceptance, in that case, we will alert the author(s) and will request them to rewrite the content in the article or to cite the references from where the content has been copied. If more than 20% of the content is plagiarized, the article may be suggested to be rewritten or rejected and the same is informed to the author.

Core ideas: The author provides the core ideas starting from volume 6, issue 1, when submitting an article to BNJAR through Manuscript Central. They consist of 3 - 5 bullet-point statements that are important findings in the article. Each bullet statement should be less than 85 characters. Unfortunately, there's no way for us to limit the author to a character count in this section in Manuscript Central. Therefore, the core ideas should be vetted and reviewed, so please watch for these and remind your reviewers to read and evaluate them.

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Funding statement: Authors must state how the research and publication of their article was funded, by naming financially supporting body(s) (written out in full) followed by associated grant number(s) in square brackets (if applicable), for example: "This work was supported by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council [grant numbers xxxx, yyyy]; the National Science Foundation [grant number zzzz]; and a Leverhulme Trust Research Project Grant". If the research did not receive specific funding but was performed

as part of the employment of the authors, please name this employer. If the funder was involved in the manuscript writing, editing, approval, or decision to publish, please declare this.

Acknowledgments: All acknowledgments (if any) should be included at the very end of the manuscript before the references. Anyone who contributed to the research or manuscript, but who is not a listed author, should be acknowledged (with their permission).

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Research published in the journal must be:

- Scientifically valid adhering to accepted community standards of research.
- Technically accurate in its methods and results.
- Representative of a specific advance, or replication, or null/negative result, which is worthy of publication.
- As reproducible as possible sharing underlying data, code, and supporting materials wherever able.
- Ethically sound and transparent adhering to best practices with respect to animal and human studies, consent to publish, and clear declaration of potential conflicts of interest, both real and perceived.

Terms of the editor-in-chief and associate editors

The positions of the chief editor and associate editors have a designated term of service lasting for **three years**. During this period, these individuals actively participate in overseeing and managing editorial tasks. Upon the completion of their term, a successor is chosen through a careful selection process conducted by the editorial advisory board. This transition ensures continuity and stability within the editorial team, guaranteeing a seamless handover between the outgoing and incoming editors. Through this systematic approach, the editorial advisory board plays a pivotal role in shaping the editorial leadership, upholding the publication's standards, and fostering a sense of collaboration and vision among the editorial team members. This process not only facilitates a smooth transfer of responsibilities but also provides opportunities for new perspectives and fresh ideas to be integrated into the editorial direction and content planning. By adhering to this established

protocol, the publication maintains a dynamic and innovative editorial environment that is responsive to the evolving needs and interests of its readership.

Requirements to be editor-in-chief and associate editors

To qualify as a chief editor of the BNJAR, a researcher should hold at least the position of senior researcher with a PhD, reflecting their advanced level of knowledge and expertise in the field. The academic community requires applicants to include their h-index in their application form for the Editor-in-Chief role. This metric evaluates an applicant's research output and influence, providing a quantitative representation of their scholarly productivity. Setting a minimum Google Scholar h-index of 8 is considered an appropriate threshold, as it aligns with the expectations for a position of such prestige and responsibility. This ensures a transparent and objective selection process, ensuring candidates recognized for their contributions are given due consideration. In contrast, to be an associate editor for the BNJAR, the minimum requirement is to have achieved the rank of researcher II with a PhD and a minimum Google Scholar h-index of 5, indicating a solid foundation of experience and proficiency in agriculture.

Abstracting and indexing

Blue Nile Journal of Agricultural Research (BNJAR) is currently indexed in: Academic Business Current Data (ABCD), and Asian Science Citation Index

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