Research Article

An Extensive Reflection on the First 5 Years of the Asian Journal of Agriculture and Rural Development (2018-2022)

Pallavi Pandey*, Avichal Sharma

Christ University, Lavasa, Pune, Maharashtra, INDIA.

ABSTRACT

The Asian Journal of Agriculture and Rural Development (AJARD) marked its first publication in the year 2018, and this article examines the journal's evolution after being indexed in Scopus for the first time. The core purpose behind the conduct of this study is offering a bibliometric evaluation of this journal by cataloguing its citations, influential authors, most frequently used keywords, and geographical concentration of articles. To discover hot and relevant journal topics, we use co-occurrence analysis and keyword analysis in the timeline view. In light of the aforementioned research, we also address the problems faced by the journal. Academicians, researchers and stakeholders associated and interested in the matters pertaining to the economy and business will find this report useful in charting the development of this very journal. Quantitative and qualitative bibliometric data were analyzed using descriptive and graphic approaches. The authors accessed the journal's bibliometric data from Scopus, the biggest interdisciplinary database in the social sciences, using the VoSViewer software and Advanced Excel. To begin, we gauge the quality of our publications and citations using established bibliometric metrics. Secondly, we provide a compilation of the leading countries, regions, and institutions that have made contributions. In the next section, we demonstrate the analytical potential of the VOSViewer in the context of cartography. Co-authorship and co-citation networks facilitate the discovery of previously unsuspected relationships. The majority of the journal's 173 authors have ties to Nigeria's Delta State University. The journal is published in the United States by the Asian Economic and Social Society. One of the most promising publications in the fields of social science, agriculture, and rural development is the AJARD In such a short amount of time, authors from Nigeria have submitted 30 publications to the AJARD The next two most common contributors are from Indonesia and India, respectively. Agricultural and social science topics predominate in the articles published in the Journal of Rural Development. Articles are by far the most common sort of submitted content. So, new agricultural and social science developments in rural areas can be covered in the AJARD. This will be useful for the governments of developing countries with a large rural population and an agricultural economy in making informed decisions during this time of transition. The longevity of the Journal can be attributed to its editors, authors, and reviewers. This, as the authors themselves claim, is the first bibliometric analysis of this journal using Scopus-based papers with regard to the AJARD In this article, writers have examined bibliometric data, highlight historical patterns, and probe into the journal's potential future directions.

Keywords: Asian Journal of Agriculture and Rural Development, AJARD, Scopus, Asian J. Agric. Rural Dev., Bibliometric analysis, Co-occurrence analysis, Social-sciences, Agriculture.

INTRODUCTION

The Asian Economic and Social Society (AESS), based in the United States, publishes a quarterly journal titled Asian Journal of Agriculture and Rural Development (AJARD). The aim of this publication is promoting scholarly research and study in the area of rural development. To the extent that this is required, it seeks to establish and enhance ties between rural improvement and the social sciences. It creates a forum where those working in the social sciences, government, and business can discuss issues related to rural revitalization. The Asian Economic and Social Society, the journal's publisher, disclaims any and all liability for the opinions represented in the articles it publishes. The views expressed here are solely that of the concerned authors based on their analysis using the bibliometric data fetched from the Scopus database.

[1] Asian Economic and Social Society (www.aessweb.com)

Research scientists have recently shown a growing interest in the topic of bibliometric (Alvarez-Betancourt and Garcia-Silvente, 2014). As a reliable method for determining the credibility of a study's source material, bibliometric analysis has experienced rapid expansion and widespread adoption (Shang *et al.*, 2015). According to He *et al.* (2017), this is because the bibliometric indicators can assist indicate how a certain research direction has changed over time because bibliometric is a field that blends, information technology, advanced mathematics, and statistical tools with regard to a particular domain. Due to its usefulness in a variety of contexts, bibliometric has found widespread application in areas as diverse as business studies and econometrics (Merigo *et al.*, 2016), tedious decision making (Liu and Liao, 2017), use of energy sustainably (Hache and Palle, 2019), and the sustainable supply chain (Merigo *et al.*, 2019). (Merigo *et al.*, 2016). (Azevedo, 2019; Azevedo *et al.* Bibliometric can also be used to examine the evolution of a journal through time and the structure of individual publications. Academicians and budding research scholars have shown an increasing interest in doing systematic journal research during the past few years.

Asian Journal of Agriculture and Rural Development[2]
A Glimpse

Agronomy and Crop Science (Quarter 4), Geography, Planning, and Development (Quarter 4), Plant Science (Quarter 4), and Soil Science (Quarter 4) are all topics covered by the AJARD (Q4). The Asian Economic and Social Society puts out this journal. The company's publishing house can be found in the USA. Here is a rundown of what to expect from this publication in 2019 and 2020. AJARD is ranked 21736 among all journals. This publication's SJR score is 0.14, as determined by the SCImago Journal Rank (SJR). The SCImago Journal Rank refers to the metric that is being developed by SCImago to make comparison between the prestige of academic publications. It takes into account two aspects- total number of citations received by a publication and the prestige of the journals citing the publication. SJR is a substitute for the Journal Impact Factor (JIF) which meant the value of average number of citations being received in last 2 years by a journal, Asian J. Agric. Rural Dev's *h*-index is 5 (Five). For this publication, the top quartile is found in Q4. AJARD has two ISSNs: 22244433 and 23041455. In the previous three years, 37 articles have referenced the Asian Journal of Agriculture and Rural Development (Preceding 2021).

Journal abbreviation

Asian J. Agric. Rural Dev. is the approved abbreviation according to the International Standard Serial Number (IS0 4). Asian Journal of Agricultural and Rural Development is recommended and accepted for indexing, abstracting and for the purpose of citing. It satisfies all of the mandatory requirements of the ISO 4 standard.

Impact Score 2021-22

Calculated in 2022, AJARD impact score (IS) 2021 is 0.37. The Asian Journal of Rural Development IS has declined by a factor of 0.38, or about 50.67 percent, compared to the 2020 base year, exhibiting a declining trend. If this negative tendency continues, the effect score in 2022 could also decrease. Impact score (IS), commonly shortened as Journal impact score (JIS), is a measure of the annual average number of citations to a journal's most recently published articles. Data from Scopus is used for the analysis Figure 1(i).

Understanding the *h*-index

There are 5 citations to articles published in AJARD In this publication, 5 papers with more than 5 citations are considered highly cited. The *h*-index is used to measure an author's impact and productivity concerning their published works. The *h*-index measures average number of times a given journal or author's work has been cited by other works.

AJARD and SCImago Journal Rank (SJR)

The current position of AJARD in the world rankings is 21736. In terms of the SCImago Journal Rank (SJR), this publication is ranked at 0.14. The scientific impact of journals is quantified by the SCImago Journal Rank. A journal's prestige is determined by both the amount and quality of citations it receives.

Bibliometric data source, methods and materials used

Since the inaugural issue of AJARD appeared in 2018, we chose to do a retrospective bibliometric study covering the years 2018 through 2022. By searching for the publication's title, we were able to retrieve the information from Scopus, the largest and most multidisciplinary database in the social sciences. Access to the papers published in STM journals and the references mentioned within those papers is provided via the Scopus database. This enables users to do searches in both the present and the past. The database has multiple uses beyond that of a simple research instrument. Both Comma Separated Values (CSV) and plain text formats have been exported for all of the articles published in
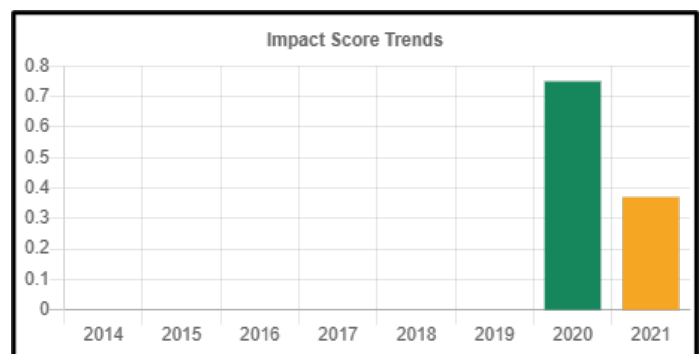

Figure 1(i): 5 years Impact Score (IS) by year. according to Scopus data. Data source Scopus.

the journal between 2018 and December 20, 2022. Bibliographic data, keyword data, and citation data are only some of the types of data that can be found in these formats.

In order to give viewpoints on the data that are both informative and representative, 173 publications are produced and analyzed as a direct result of this. This article employs several bibliometric measures widely used in the academic world to assess the significance and output of the research. We employ *h*-index (5), total number of publications made (173), total number of citations attained (166) and average number of citations per publication achieved (2).

Bibliometric approach undertaken

Using the previous description as a reference, the writers were able to review the bibliometric information of the AJARD available in the Scopus database. They were able to do so by utilising a network visualization tool and descriptive analysis. Figure 1(ii) displays the authors' method for achieving their objectives. Specifically, the technique consists of three steps:

- Extraction of data,
- Cleaning of data,
- Processing of cleaned data for Bibliographic analysis.

Both descriptive and graphical analyses of bibliographic data were performed. With the help of VoSViewer and Advanced Excel, the authors were able to extract bibliometric data from Scopus, the most comprehensive social sciences database, and draw meaningful inferences from it. The investigation identified important trends in the publication history of AJARD, as well as recommendations for future authors. In this study, we employ keyword sting to evaluate the bibliometric data we've collected: "SRCTITLE (Asian J. Agric. Rural Dev.) AND (LIMIT-TO (PUBSTAGE, 'final') OR LIMIT-TO (PUBSTAGE, 'aip')) AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, 'ar')) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE, 'English'))". (Refer to Figure 1a).

Using bibliometric information, we first look at cited works

Second, we provide you a rundown of our best contributors. We will demonstrate VoSViewer's mapping capabilities below. Using co-citation networks, it is possible to find previously unknown relationships. Discovering new authors and publications is one use for a bust analysis. To find the authors' information, we used Google Scholar. We develop and evaluate 173 publications to bring you the most relevant and up-to-date data viewpoints possible. Using common bibliometric criteria, this article assesses the study's significance and its overall contribution to the field. In this analysis, we consider the following metrics: the number of papers being published till date (173), the average citations per manuscript, *h*-index, and the author-wise i-10 index value.

Data Source

The *h*-index can be used to rank writers, nations, and even entire institutions. A combination of the number of publications and citations is used to arrive at this estimate. As a result, the *h*-index (without self-citations) and the number of citations (also excluding self-citations) are used as two significant markers of the research's quality. Depending on their needs and interests, scholars may draw different inferences from the rankings (Hsieh and Chang, 2009).

VoSViewer is a data visualization tool for conducting a scientific mapping study of journal articles. The reason for this is that both of these programmes have advanced graphical user interfaces and the ability to visually map data.

More precisely, co-citation analysis can be used to identify a pattern in a certain area of study and quantify the degree of proximity between related works. Referencing, sourcing, and authorship can all be examined in this way.

The co-authorship network analysis reveals the value of papers written by authors (at least two) from distinct locations, organizations, or disciplines.

The co-occurrence analysis performed on the keywords is based on association method. Overlay visualization and network visualizations have been used. Based on network data analysis on affiliations have been performed.

Timeline analysis shows how the journal's content has changed over time, whereas co-occurrence analysis of keywords shows how often two phrases appear grouped in a collection of papers (Kamdem *et al.*, 2019). The VoSViewer can be accessed and downloaded at no cost from https://www.vosviewer.com/">https://www.vosviewer.com/. For further detailed analysis and graphical representation of the figures' Advanced Excel has been utilized in the course of writing this paper.

Findings of the study

The bibliometric analysis of the journal presents information from three angles: the nature of the publications themselves, the most influential countries and organizations, and a scientific examination of geographic patterns.

Characteristics of publications

Here, we examine the AJARD from three perspectives: the most-cited articles, the people who is paying attention to the journal and has due interest in it, and the study of annual publications.

Annual analysis of publications

A breakdown of the value of articles published and the value of citations achieved in rural development subject-based journals is shown in Figure 1 shows a comparison, using official data

from Scopus, between the Asian Journal of Agricultural Rural Development and a few other top journals in the subject of rural development for the years 2018 through 2022.

Figure 1 shows that, among journals in the same field, Asian J. Agric. Rural Dev. has received the highvalue of citations in a relatively short amount of time. Figure 1b shows that the aforesaid journal did not begin publishing until 2018, long after its contemporaries in the subject area of agriculture sciences and rural development had begun doing so.

Insight on the Science-mapping analysis performed

This section, shows the use of VoSViewer software package in order to undertake a scientific mapping investigation of articles published in the AJARD from four angles: co-citation, co-authorship, co-occurrence, and timeline view.

Insight on the Co-occurrence analysis performed

In this paper, we describe and analyze co-citation networks based on the references, sources, and authors cited in articles published in the Asian J. Agric. Rural Dev. Analysis of simultaneous events and causal relationships. The co-occurrence analysis performed taking into consideration the keywords used in journal, is an efficient and an indispensable instrument for knowledge extraction that offers a glimpse of the knowledge structure and research trend, making it useful for understanding the research themes of papers published in Asian J. Agric. Rural Dev.

In Figure 2a, we see a network visualization created in VoSViewer based on a co-occurrence analysis of all terms, counting them all and applying an association strength approach. The research revealed that the total number of keywords employed was 427, distributed across 28 clusters, and used to create a total of 1287 links with a total link strength of 1297. Based on the data, the most popular keywords of this journal include "farmers," "agricultural," "production," and others.

In Figure 2b, we see an overlay visualization created in VoS Viewer based on a co-occurrence analysis of full counting all author keywords and applying an association strength method. The research revealed that the total number of keywords employed was 4, distributed across 2 clusters, and used to create a total of 3 links with a figure of 6 for the value of total link strength. Based on this data, the most popular keywords of this journal include "farmers," "agricultural," "climate change," and "Nigeria".

Using Index Keywords for co-occurrence analysis was not possible for the keywords of Asian J. Agric. Rural Dev. as such keywords were falling short for analysis and a minimum of 3 keywords is essential.

Figure 3 demonstrates the science mapping using co-authorship analysis performed using VoS Viewer, wherein the figure clearly shows the maximum number of co-authorship with regard to the AJARD is from Vietnam. The result was obtained taking fractionalization method into consideration and performing analysis based on countries involved. A total of 3 clusters were formed with 12 countries majorly contributing as per the results of co-authorship analysis. The visualization scale used to fetch the results is based upon documents.

In what circles is the Asian Journal of Agriculture and Rural Development read?

With regard to the future of the AJARD, it is essentially important to understand the prospects of the journal and the potential interests who in future shall contribute in direction of betterment of the journal. Figure 4 shows the major contributors to the AJARD across nations globally.
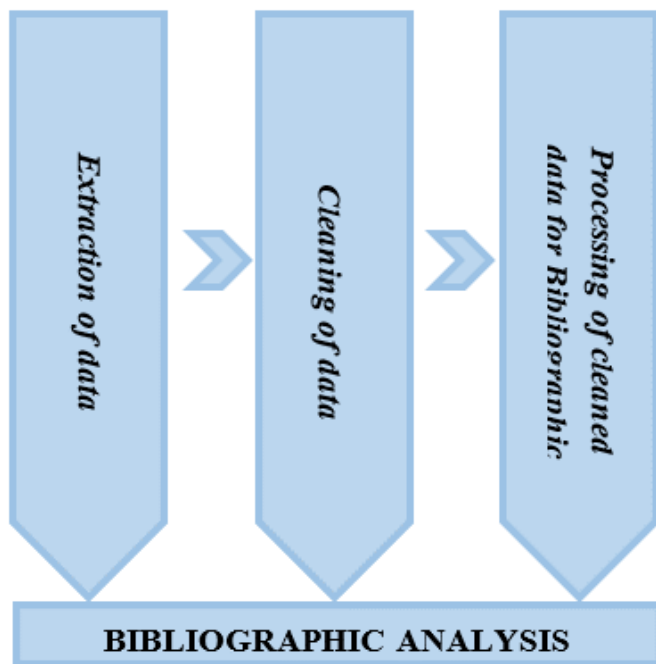

Figure 1(ii): Demonstrating the procedure followed to conduct bibliometric data analysis.
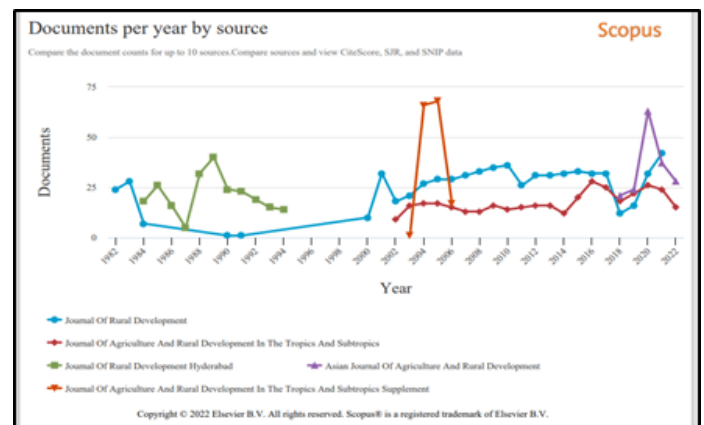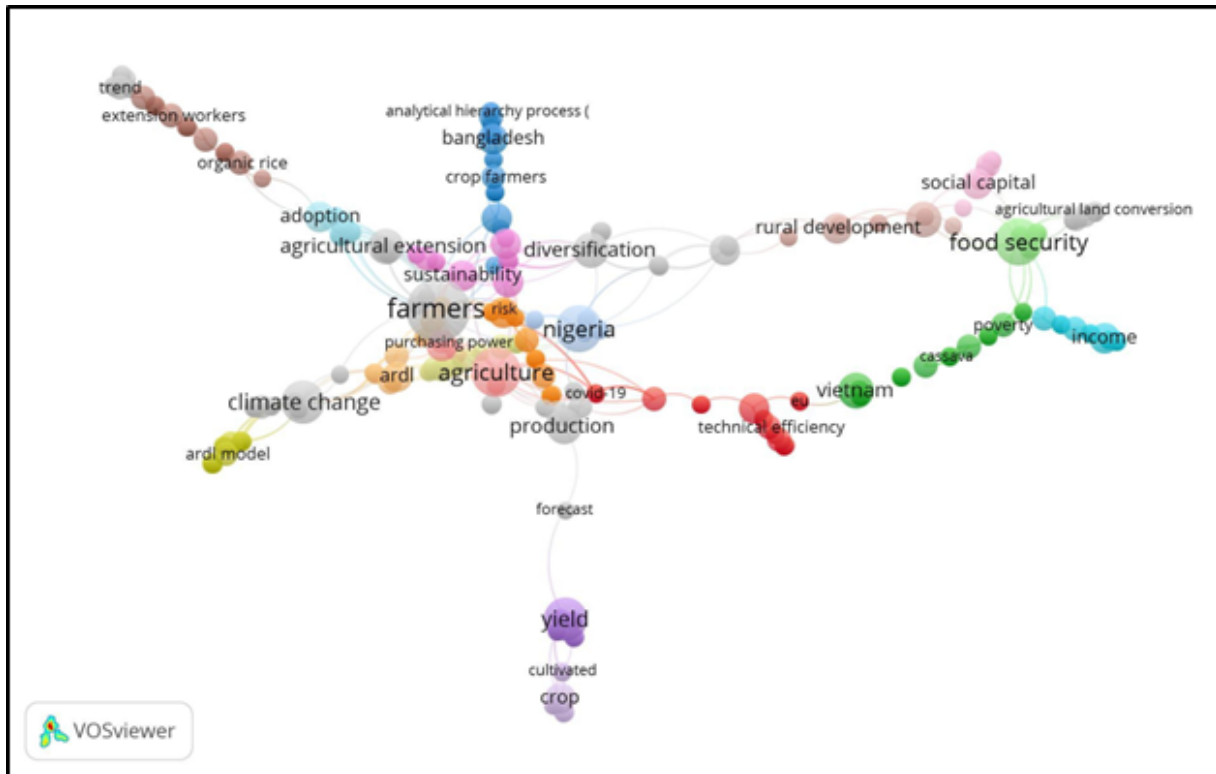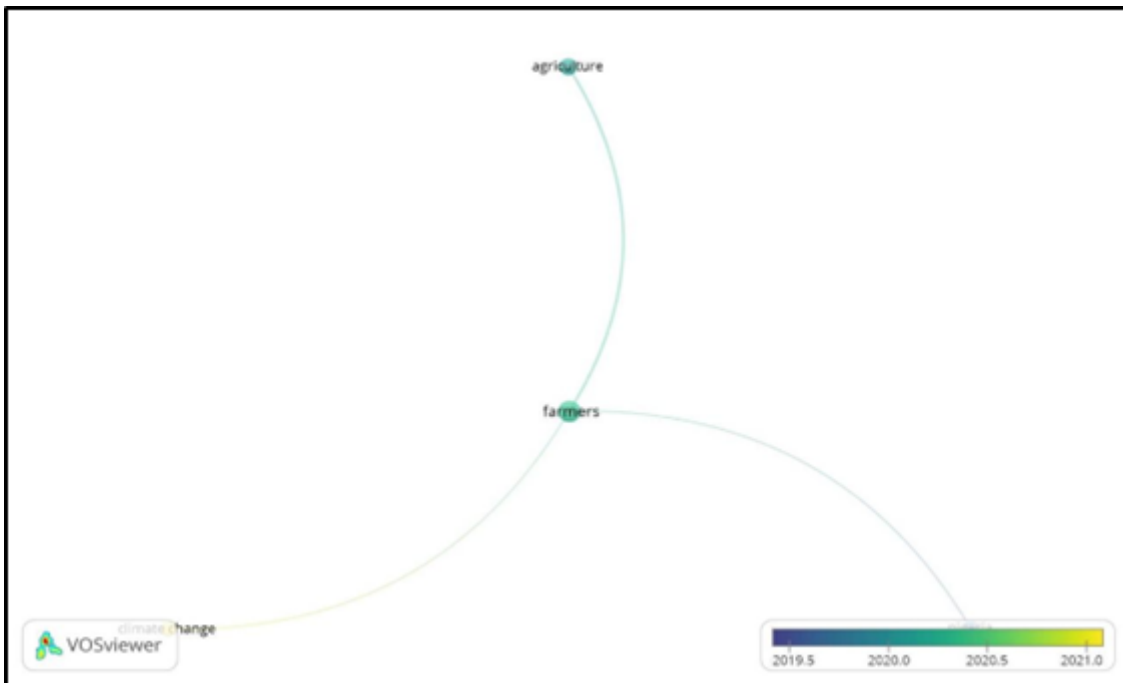

Figure 1: Shows documents per year by source for journals related to agriculture and rural development. (Data source: Scopus).

Figure 2(a): Showing all keyword analysis with the help of co-occurrence through network visualization.

(Source: Author's own calculation using VoSViewer; Data source: Scopus).

Figure 2(b): Showing author keyword analysis with the help of co-occurrence through overlay visualization.

(Source: Author's own calculation using VoSViewer; Data source: Scopus).

Nigeria is the most prominent contributor to the journal with around 30 publishes by far in the entire lifetime of the AJARD. It is followed by 29 publishes from Indonesia and 16 from India. The gap between Nigeria and Indonesia which stand at first and second position is too less. The official data fetched from the Scopus database as mentioned in the Table 1, shows 39 countries been engaged in the publication of documents in the AJARD (Refer Table 1). According to the official database as on Scopus, a

total of 160 authors have by far contributed to the AJARD. This is a decent figure to have reached by the journal in a short span of 5 years. However, despite Nigerian authors contributing majorly to the journal (Refer Figure 4) with maximum co-authorship with Vietnamese authors (Refer Figure 3). Thus, it can be said that Nigerian and Indonesian authors' interests align majorly with the prospects of the journal and thus, they are the potential contributors to it. Further, the AJARD can be propagated more among them and in countries like India, South Africa and Vietnam journal must be promoted to attract the interested researchers as potential authors can be observed through trends. (Refer Table 1).

It has been considering 21 authors contributing to the Asian J. Agric. Rural Dev. for analysis using VoSViewer (with reference to Figure 5). Performing the analysis using the association method with co-authorship analysis showed the bussing contributors to the AJARD which was performed dividing the authors into 7 clusters, using documents as the weight for analysis.

The Overall top contributor to the journal based on the documents contributed is Muhammad Subandi hailing from Indonesia and affiliated from the Agro technology Department FST, UIN of Bandung, Indonesia has by far contributed the maximum of 7 documents to the Journal. (Refer Figure 5a).

Journal articles with the highest number of citations

Figure 6 shows the year-wise publications in the AJARD between 2018-2022, highlighting its first 5 years. The journal commenced with a great number of 21 in 2018 when it first got indexed in Scopus. The number further increased in 2019 to become 24 documents.

Based on the Figure 6 it has been observed that year 2020 had the maximum number of publishes for the AJARD till date with a total of 63 documents published in a year, which declined in 2021 and reached a figure of 37 and further declined to 28 in 2022(till date).

Further taking a look at the Table 2. It can be stated that though 2020 had maximum number of publications for the AJARD 2019 has been the year of maximum recognition with a total of 58 citations in a year. Followed by the year 2020 where the number of citations stood at 52 per year, making it the best year for the journal by far with decent figures in both publications and citations. Overall, the average value of citations with regard to the Journal has been 1 citation per year.

Figure 7 presents a network data analysis based on the affiliations of the authors who have made contribution in the AJARD. The analysis shows visualization map of 157 item distributed in 7 clusters using the association method. The analysis showed the Delta State University in Nigeria attracts major contributors for the journal, with over 13 documents have their affiliation. The Malaysian institute Universiti Putra follows next with 10 affiliations in its name for the documents published in AJARD.

The notable authors whose works appear in the AJARD are listed in Table 3 above. Despite their not-insignificant influence, authors like Subandi Muhammad and Saleem Abid have showed due interest in the Asian J. Agric. Rural Dev., with Muhammad
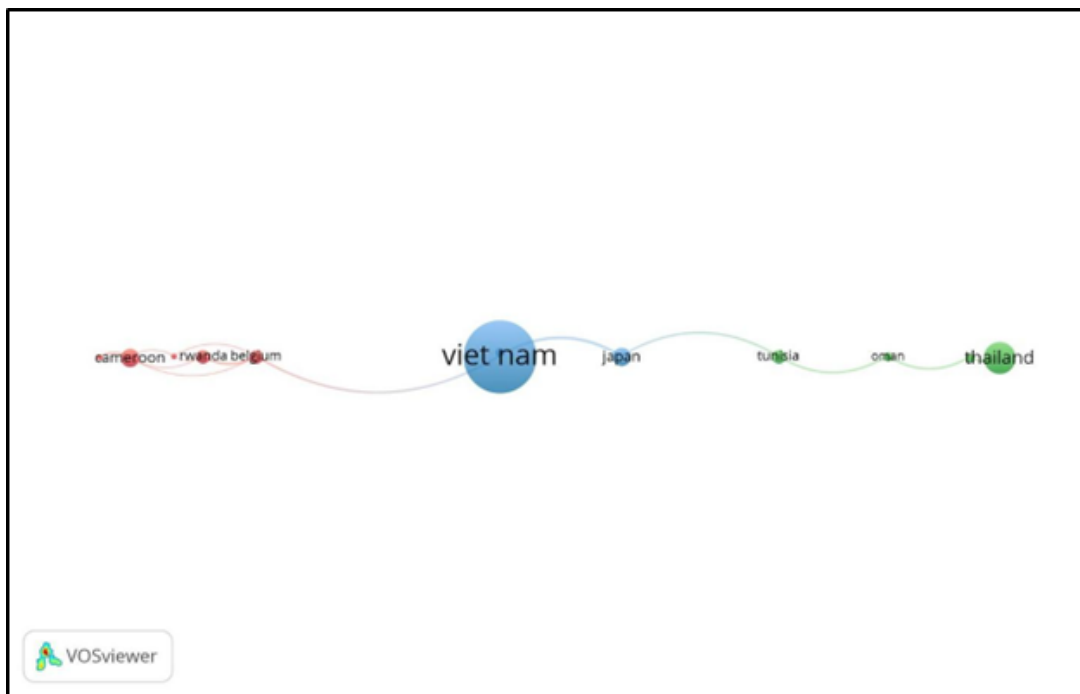

Figure 3: Country wise co-authorship analysis.

(Source: Author's own calculation using VoSViewer; Data source: Scopus).

receiving 865 and Abid 187 total citations. This exemplifies the breadth and promise of this journal. In addition, it is amazing that the publication is able to draw authors from all over the world, with authors from Pakistan, Java, and Ghana all included among the eminent contributors.

DISCUSSION

The AJARD continues to grow in terms of its impact and citation impact, with 173 papers now indexed in Scopus. There are 166 articles cited out of a total of 173 in the journal. With a CiteScore

Figure 4: shows distribution of publishes across nations Data source: Scopus.

of 0.06, the journal has a lot of potential for future engagement. Since authors from all around Asia and Africa are encouraged to submit to the AJARD the journal's global reach and influence are mirrored in its wide range of authors. Relying upon the keywords that have been brought in common use by the authors while doing their journal submissions, Scopus identifies a focus on rural development as the primary area of study for the majority of articles published in the AJARD with increased recognition of issues linked to the social sciences, biological sciences, specifically soil sciences, and agricultural sectors. The same may be said for the journals that are cited throughout the text. This suggests that the vast majority of articles submitted to the AJARD deal with topics directly related to agriculture.

In providing a highly respectable and prominent venue for the submission and publication of their work, the academic community stands to benefit much from The Asian Journal of Agriculture and Rural Development. It may be vital for academics, business owners, customers, and policymakers to analyse and act on the most recent trends in a range of industries as a result of the paradigm shift caused by post-pandemic developments as well as technology advancement in all domains.

As a suggestion, when it comes to advancing the multidisciplinary growth of the concept of rural development, the journal can publish a wide range of industry-specific special issues. The publisher has played an unparalleled role in making the Asian
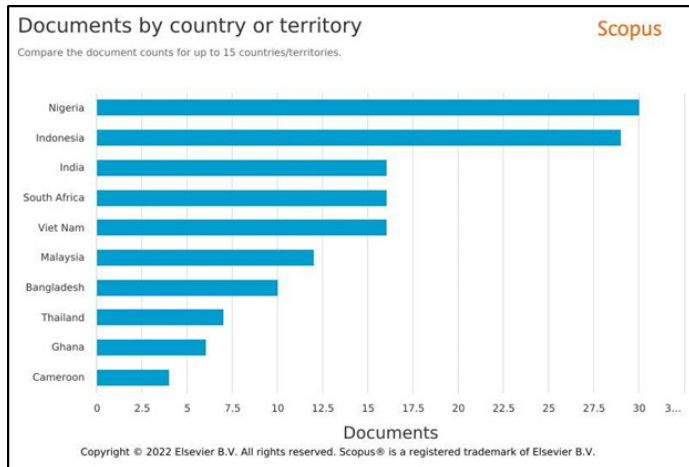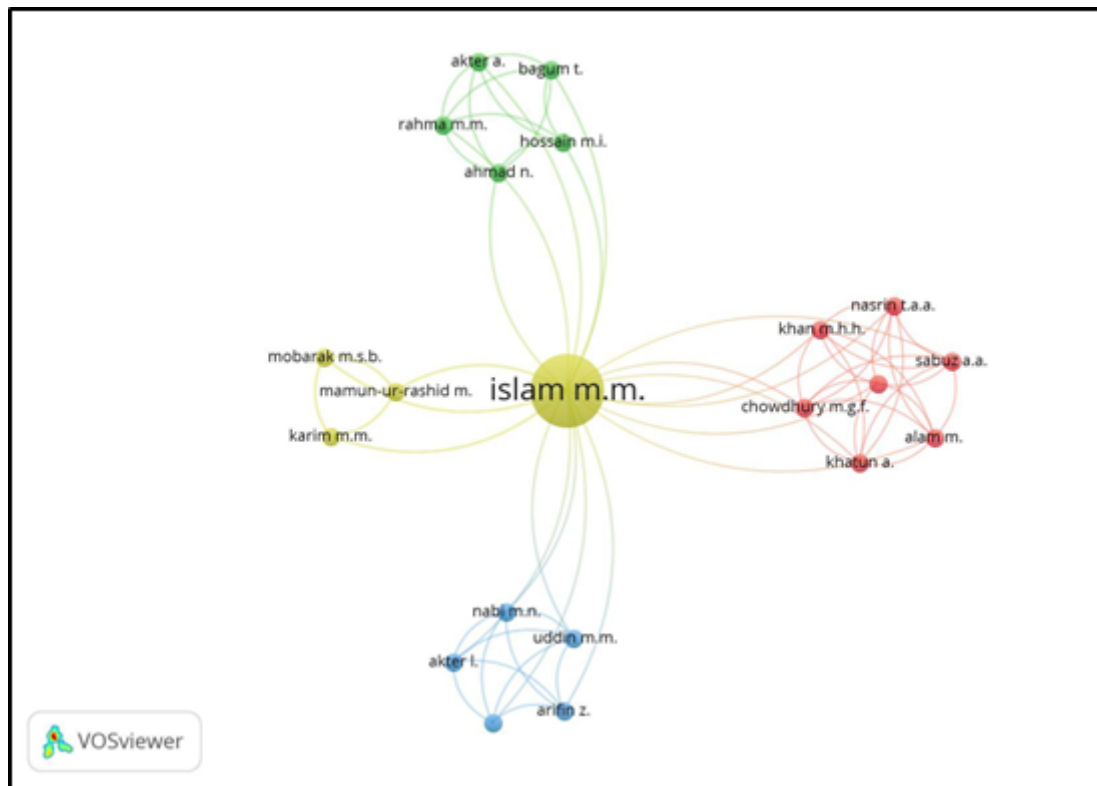

Figure 5: Co-authorship analysis for authors using association method.

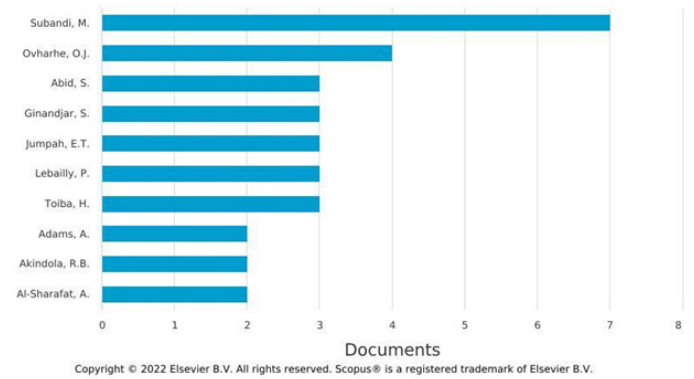(Source: Author's own calculation using VoSViewer; Data source: Scopus).

Table 1: Data source Scopus.

Sl. No.	Country	No. of documents contributed
1	Nigeria	30
2	Indonesia	29
3	India	16
4	South Africa	16
5	Vietnam	16
6	Malaysia	12
7	Bangladesh	10
8	Thailand	7
9	Ghana	6
10	Cameroon	4
11	Egypt	4
12	Ethiopia	4
13	Japan	4
14	Belgium	3
15	Greece	3
16	Pakistan	3
17	Rwanda	3
18	Taiwan	3
19	Tunisia	3
20	Zimbabwe	3
21	China	2
22	Jordan	2
23	Kenya	2
24	New Zealand	2
25	Norway	2
26	Oman	2
27	Philippines	2
28	South Korea	2
29	United Kingdom	2
30	Afghanistan	1
31	Brunei Darussalam	1
32	Chad	1
33	Democratic Republic Congo	1
34	Iraq	1
35	Nepal	1
36	Netherlands	1
37	Saudi Arabia	1
38	Turkey	1
39	Zambia	1

Figure 5(a): Shows documents are top authors in AJARD.
Data source Scopus.
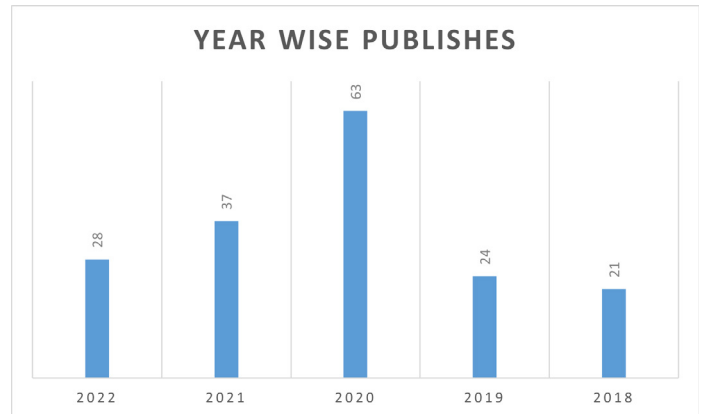
Figure 6: Year-wise publications in AJARD.

(Source: Author's own calculation using MS Excel; Data source: Scopus).

Journal of Agriculture and Rural Development one of the most promising journals in its field in just five short years, with respect to both submissions and distribution, as well as editorial contributions.

Future researchers may continue in the tradition of these notable individuals by basing their research strategy on the suggestions they have made to progress the field. As with every research, this one has some limitations. The present study has used all the relevant bibliometric information about the Asian Journal of Agriculture and Rural Development that was fetched from the Scopus database for the aforementioned study. As a remarkable decline in the number of publications in the AJARD has been observed after 2020, researchers in the future may organise a study like this one by analysing the bibliometric data of the journal after 2020 to determine the comeback scenario with increased numbers of publications. A huge number of documents have been drawn to this journal since its debut in 2018, and this study lays the groundwork for an analysis of the journal's scope from 2020 onward. Furthermore, any shifts in the patterns of

Table 2: Trends of publications in the AJARD (Source: Author's own calculation using MS Excel; Data source: Scopus).

Years	Number of documents published	Total citations per year	Average citations per year
2022	28	4 (till date)	-
2021	37	24	1
2020	63	52	1
2019	24	58	2
2018	21	28	1

Table 3: Eminent authors associated with the AJARD (Source: Author's own calculation using Advanced Excel; Data Source: Google Scholar).

Authors	Affiliations of the authors	Country	P	PC	C	AC	PPC	h-index	i-10 index
Subandi Muhammad	UIN of Bandung	Indonesia	96	63	865	9.01	13.73	19	24
Joseph Oghenero Ovharhe	Dennis Osadebay University, Asaba, Delta State	Nigeria	43	26	99	2.30	3.80	6	2
Saleem Abid	Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC)	Pakistan	37	19	187	5.05	9.84	8	8
Salamet Ginandjar	UIN Sunan Gunung Djati	West Java	20	9	35	1.75	3.88	4	1
Jumpah, Emmanuel Tetteh	Czech University of Life Sciences	Ghana	15	9	53	3.53	5.88	6	1

Abbreviations explained: P- Number of publications, PC- Value of publications that are cited, C-Value of citations, AC-Average value of citations for every publication made, PPC-Average value of citations per cited publication.
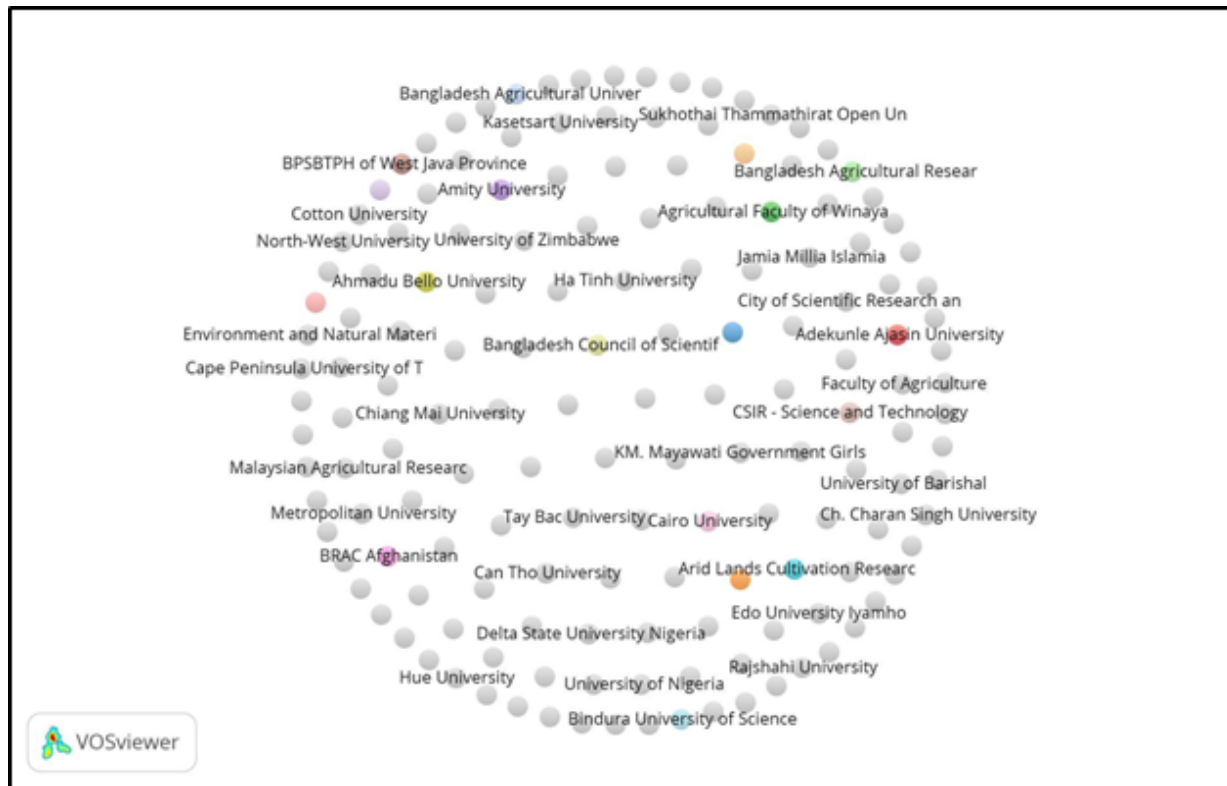
Figure 7: Network visualization map based on network data.

(Source: Author's own calculation using VoSViewer; Data source: Scopus).

publication with respect to certain keyword phrases, specific authors, specific countries, and overall scope. Additional data sources (like WoS) may be considered in future studies to track any discrepancies in publication patterns.

CONCLUSION

This study is performed using the Scopus database and thus, presents a bibliometric analysis of the Asian Journal of Agriculture and Rural Development for the years 2018 through 2022. VoSViewer claims that the focus of the work is on an examination of three factors: the nature of the publications themselves; the role that various countries, regions, and organizations play in the field; and a co-occurrence analysis of where scientific findings have been published. The peak year for publication activity was 2020, with 63 works appearing that year. However, there has been a significant drop in output after the year 2020. It's no surprise that writers from Nigeria dominate the pages of the Asian J. Agric. Rural Dev. There are 160 authors and 160 organizations from 40 different countries represented in this publication. The AJARD has connections to roughly 39 nations, with Nigeria being the primary supplier of writers. In its 173 issues, the journal has only published articles. By far, 49 sponsors support the editorial work of the Asian Journal of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Based on the data presented above, it is evident that publishing 173 articles with 166 citations in only 5 years is an impressive feat for any publication. While the journal has accomplished a lot in terms of nations engaged, authors active, funds raised, and more, the fall in the quantity of papers published in 2021 and 2022 (to date) is concerning and needs to be looked into to assist the journal be best of the field.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

ORCID ID

Pallavi Pandey Orcid id: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3530-7216
Avichal Sharma Orcid id: https://orcid.org/0000 -0001-6014-5373

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