

Ethical Guidelines

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Ethics and Malpractice Policy

The **Axis Journal of Agriculture & Biological Sciences (AJABS)**, published by **AXIS EXPLORATION AND ACADEMICS (PRIVATE) LIMITED**, is steadfastly committed to upholding the highest standards of publication ethics and academic integrity. We adhere to the principles outlined by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) and other relevant international bodies. This policy delineates the ethical responsibilities and expectations for all parties involved in the publishing process: authors, editors, and reviewers.

Responsibilities of Authors:

- **Originality and Plagiarism:** Authors must guarantee that their manuscript is an original work. Any text, data, or ideas from other sources must be appropriately cited. Plagiarism in all its forms constitutes unethical publishing behavior and is unacceptable.
- **Data Integrity and Reproducibility:** Authors are prohibited from fabricating or falsifying research data. The study must be presented accurately, and underlying data should be available to permit verification and reproducibility. The journal may request the raw data for editorial review.
- **Exclusive Submission:** Submitting the same manuscript to more than one journal concurrently is considered unethical. Authors must not submit work that has been published previously in any form.
- **Conflict of Interest Disclosure:** All authors must disclose any financial, personal, or professional conflicts of interest that could be perceived to influence the results or their interpretation in the manuscript. This disclosure is required at the submission stage.
- **Authorship Criteria:** All listed authors must have made significant intellectual contributions to the work and approved the final version for submission. All individuals who have made substantial contributions must be listed as co-authors.

Duties of Editors:

- **Objective and Fair Decision-Making:** Editors evaluate manuscripts exclusively based on their intellectual and scientific merit, without regard to the authors' race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, citizenship, or political philosophy.
- **Confidentiality:** Editors and editorial staff must hold all details of a submitted manuscript in strict confidence. Unpublished materials must not be used in an editor's own research without the express written consent of the author.
- **Vigilance against Misconduct:** Editors shall take reasonable responsive measures when ethical concerns are raised regarding a submitted or published paper. This includes conducting a fair investigation and permitting the authors to respond to any allegations.

Responsibilities of Reviewers:

- **Constructive and Objective Feedback:** Reviewers should provide objective, well-reasoned, and constructive assessments aimed at improving the scholarly quality of the manuscript. Personal criticism of the author is inappropriate.
- **Confidentiality:** Manuscripts received for peer review are confidential documents. Reviewers must not share, discuss, or use the information from an unpublished manuscript for their own or others' advantage.
- **Conflict of Interest and Integrity:** Reviewers must declare any potential conflicts of interest (e.g., competitive, collaborative, or other relationships with the authors) and decline to review if such a conflict exists. They should also alert the editor to any substantial similarity between the manuscript and any already published work or any concurrent submission they are aware of.
- **Timeliness:** Reviewers who feel unqualified to review a manuscript or know that a prompt review is impossible should promptly notify the editor and excuse themselves from the process.

Addressing Allegations of Misconduct:

AJABS takes all allegations of publication misconduct, including plagiarism, data fabrication, and fraudulent authorship, with the utmost seriousness. Any such allegations will be investigated comprehensively and confidentially.

If misconduct is confirmed, the journal will implement appropriate corrective actions. These may include retraction of the published article, a formal notice of concern, notification of the authors' institution(s) and relevant regulatory bodies, and a prohibition on future submissions from the involved author(s) for a defined period.

This Ethics and Malpractice Policy is designed to safeguard the integrity of the scientific record in agricultural and biosocial sciences, promote honest scholarly collaboration, and maintain public trust in published research. AJABS requires all individuals involved in the publishing process to adhere rigorously to these standards.