

## Peer Review Policy & Process

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### Peer Review Process for the Axis Journal of Agriculture & Biological Sciences (AJABS)

The **Axis Journal of Agriculture & Biological Sciences (AJABS)** is dedicated to upholding the highest standards of scientific integrity, impartiality, and scholarly rigor, which are embodied in our foundational **double-blind peer-review system**. This process ensures the anonymity of both authors and reviewers, thereby minimizing potential biases and safeguarding the quality and credibility of every published article.

#### Initial Screening

Upon submission, every manuscript undergoes a preliminary assessment by the Editor-in-Chief or a handling editor. This initial screening evaluates the manuscript's alignment with the journal's scope, its adherence to basic formatting and ethical standards, and its overall scientific quality. Submissions that do not meet these criteria are desk-rejected at this stage to expedite the process for authors.

#### Selection of Reviewers

Manuscripts that pass the initial screening are assigned to at least two independent, external peer reviewers. Reviewers are carefully selected based on their demonstrated expertise in the specific sub-field of the manuscript, their publication record, and a confirmed lack of conflicts of interest with the authors. This meticulous selection is critical for securing an unbiased, thorough, and authoritative evaluation.

#### Reviewer Instructions

Reviewers are entrusted with the confidential task of providing a fair and constructive assessment. They are expected to:

- Treat the manuscript as a confidential document, not to be shared or discussed with others.
- Provide objective, detailed, and respectful feedback within the agreed-upon timeframe.
- Immediately disclose any potential conflicts of interest to the editorial office.
- Assess the manuscript's originality, validity, methodology, and significance to the field.
- Alert the editor to any substantial similarity with other published works or any ethical concerns.

#### Review Process Details

- **Feedback and Revisions:** The reviewers' comments are collated and sent to the authors. Authors are expected to address all points raised in a point-by-point response and submit a revised manuscript within a specified timeframe. The revised version is often re-evaluated by the original reviewers.
- **Final Decision:** The final editorial decision—accept, reject, or request for further revisions—is made by the handling editor based on the reviewers' recommendations and the quality of the authors' revisions. This decision is final.

#### Preventing Peer Review Manipulation

To protect the integrity of the review process, **AJABS** employs several safeguards:

- Reviewer identities are verified through institutional email addresses and professional profiles.

- While author-suggested reviewers may be considered, the journal independently confirms their suitability and absence of conflicts.
- The editorial team remains vigilant for signs of fraudulent peer review, such as fabricated reviewer reports, and will initiate additional verification or review if any suspicion arises.

#### **Double-Blind Peer Review & Editorial Policy**

- **Confidentiality and Impartiality:** Our double-blind process ensures that author and reviewer identities are concealed from each other, fostering an objective evaluation based solely on scholarly merit.
- **Expert Review:** Manuscripts are critiqued by experts who provide formative feedback to strengthen the research, ensuring that only robust and significant contributions are published.
- **Editorial Oversight:** Editors oversee the entire process, ensuring its fairness, timeliness, and adherence to the journal's high standards.

#### **Commitment to Transparency and Integrity**

**AJABS** is committed to maintaining a transparent, fair, and efficient peer-review process. We strive for a constructive and timely evaluation that not only filters for quality but also enhances the value of the research we publish, thereby contributing to the advancement of knowledge in agriculture and biological sciences.

We invite researchers worldwide to submit their work to **AJABS**, where integrity, academic excellence, and the dissemination of impactful science are our paramount priorities.