



# Peer-Review Statements

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All of the articles in this proceedings volume have been presented at the *National Conference on Next Generation Technologies for Small Scale Producers* during on September 7-9, 2022 in Greensboro, North Carolina, USA. These articles have been peer reviewed by university professors and scientists and approved by the Editor-in-Chief, who affirms that this document is a truthful description of the conference's review process.

## 1. REVIEW PROCEDURE

The reviews were *blind reviews*. Authors names were coded with numbers and affiliations were removed. Each submission was examined by *at least 2 independent reviewers*.

*The conference submission management system was*

<https://www.ncat.edu/caes/departments/agribusiness-applied-economics-andagriscience-education/ngst/index.php>

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NGST submissions were first screened for generic quality and suitability by the editorial staff. After the initial screening, they were sent for peer review by matching each paper's topic with the reviewers' expertise, taking into account any competing interests. A paper could only be considered for acceptance if it had received favourable recommendations from the two reviewers. Reviewers were sent this message: "North Carolina A&T State University hosted a National Conference on Next Generation Sustainable Technologies (NGST) for Small Scale Producers on September 7-9, 2022 in Greensboro, NC. The purpose of the NGST conference was to bring farmers, scientists, extension agents and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) together to share ideas about climate adaptation, environmental and farm justice, food security, small business innovations, and sustainable farming. The September 2022 NGST papers which will be published in the Atlantis/Springer Proceedings if accepted are attached for peer review. We are looking for fair, expert, and unbiased evaluation of papers in the peer review process."

Authors of rejected submissions were given the opportunity to revise and resubmit after addressing the reviewers' comments. The acceptance or rejection of a revised manuscript was final.

## 2. QUALITY CRITERIA

Reviewers were instructed to assess the quality of submissions solely based on the academic merit of their content along the following dimensions Pertinence of the article's content to the scope and themes of the conference;

1. Clear demonstration of originality, novelty, and timeliness of the research;
2. Soundness of the methods, analyses, and results;

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3. Adherence to the ethical standards and codes of conduct relevant to the research field;
4. Clarity, cohesion, and accuracy in language and other modes of expression, including figures and tables.

In addition, all of the articles have been checked for textual overlap in an effort to detect possible signs of plagiarism by the publisher.

### 3. KEY METRICS

<i>Total submissions</i>	28
<i>Number of articles sent for peer review</i>	24
<i>Number of accepted articles</i>	20
<i>Acceptance rate</i>	83.5%
<i>Number of reviewers</i>	12

### 4. COMPETING INTERESTS

There are no competing interests of the Editor-in-Chief and/or members of the review body, that may or may be perceived to influence editorial decisions. We understand that the ethics of scientific publication demands that any competing interests be properly declared, and that appropriate steps be taken to uphold the validity of the editorial process.

Neither the Editor-in-Chief nor any member of the Scientific Committee declares any competing interest.

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