REVIEW TABLE – REVIEWER 1

Article: ***Place-branded Foods with Responsible and Sustainable Management: A la carte serving in Regional Restaurants***

Reviewer 1

Review N.º	Reviewers' observations	Line	Changes made
Q1	Because the measures of the variables (i.e., RAP, QMP, EMP, CSR, FP) are developed by the authors based on a review of related literature, it is important to verify the validity of the measurements. In addition to content validity, the study has to evaluate the construct validity of the measurements. For example, the authors can use confirmatory factor analysis or other methods to evaluate construct validity.	---	We acknowledge the reviewer's comment, nevertheless, in the current empirical approach, due to the dichotomous nature of the data (including the one-tailed distribution of the dependent variable), the option was to use discrete-choice models, namely logit and probit, using as robustness check option the estimation of generalized linear models linked to logit and probit. Based on previous empirical applications of these estimation methods, the validity of the measurements is not usually tested in the scope of binary data explanation. As recommended in the previous round of revision, the use of the proposed measurements follows previous theoretical and empirical studies.
Q2	Because the questionnaire survey method was used in the study, it is also necessary to check the reliability of the questionnaire survey results.	412 to 421 804 to 808	We acknowledge the reviewer's comment. For clarifying the two-steps procedure adopted, the following sentence was introduced in the manuscript in the Methodology description: "*The reliability of the questionnaire survey results was previously ensured by conducting a pilot test in both Portuguese and Spanish Restaurants, covering a small sample of 20 restaurants (i.e. 10 Portuguese restaurants + 10 Spanish restaurants). Afterwards, the results of the questionnaires were compared and no significant results were found or missing answers (or values). Since it was not possible to collect a sufficient number of 200 valid questionnaires related to the Regional Spanish restaurants located in the Extremadura Region, especially due to the Covid-19 conjecture, the option was to perform the final analysis applied only to the Portuguese sample. Moreover, a principal component analysis was performed pointing out the joint significance of variables representing RAP, QMP, EMP, and CSR.*" In addition, at the Conclusions section, a limitation was added pointing out the following limitation: "*It should be noted that, due to limited access to data originating from the Regional Spanish Restaurants located in Extremadura Region, it was not possible to provide a comparative analysis between the two samples, as originally planned. This was mainly justified by the number of closures associated with the Pandemic crisis.*"
Q3	The research hypotheses focus on the influences of variables (RAP, QMP, EMP, and CSR) on FP. The analysis models explore the associations between components of variables and FP. In each variable, some components have significant effects, and some do not. Can we conclude that the corresponding research hypothesis can be rejected or not? For example, among the six components of CSR, only two of them (CSR.1 and CSR.6) are significant; the other four components are not significant. Can we conclude that CSR has significant effects on PR, and say that the research hypothesis is supported? Similar questions for the other variables.	647 to 652	We acknowledge the reviewer's comment, and several amendments were introduced in the discussion and concluding remarks section, pointing out the support and/or rejection of the significant relationships concerning the sub-hypotheses, displayed in Figure 1. Moreover, in Tables 6, 7, 8 and 9, was introduced a column for better identifying the correspondence between the items and the sub-hypotheses. <u>Changes made</u>: "As observed in Tables 6-9, *not all the items (tested through sub-hypotheses, cf. Figure 1) that integrate the four con-structs concerning the use of regional agri-food products (RAP), implementation of quality management practices (QMP), adoption of environmental management practices (EMP), and implementation of corporate social responsibility practices (CSR), reveal a significant influence on the behaviour of the response variable, that is, the financial performance of the restaurants studied."*

		654	"…namely, *for RAP,* three parameters…"
		665	"Concerning the *QMP, there is a positive and statistically significant influence* associated …"
		669 a 674	*"Relative to the EMP, the concern about choosing organic and sustainably farmed food (EMP.3) is the only item that reveals a positive and significant influence on restaurants' financial performance, in all the models estimated.* *In what concerns the CSR, the cooperation with the community to develop the territory (CSR.6) reveals also a positive and significant influence on restaurants' financial performance. It is also worthwhile to outline that* for the variable representing*…"*
		705	"…meaning *that the sub-hypothesis 1.e is not rejected.*"
		706 a 707	"…the implementation of this *management option linked to the use of regional agri-food products by the restaurants in study,* …"
		720 a 721	"…on their financial performance*, which signals both the rejection of the sub-hypotheses: 1.c and 1.d, in corresponding terms*."
		730 a 731	"…financial performance, *indicating that the sub-hypothesis 2.b is not rejected*."
		740 to 754	"*Regarding the adoption of environmental management practices (EMP), when restaurants choose the option of using organic and sustainably farmed food (EMP.3) in their menus, this reveals to have a positive and significant influence on their financial performance, being corroborated by the estimators obtained in the logit (Model 1) and GEV (Model 2) models. Thus, the sub-hypothesis 3.c cannot be rejected. This is also in line with previous studies indicating a positive relation between environmental management practices and firms' economic-financial performance [30].* *Concerning the corporate social responsibility practices (CSR), it is detected a positive and significant influence on the restaurants' financial performance (FPR), associated with the items representing the socially responsible practice of commitment to retaining employees' jobs, even in crisis situations (CSR.1), and the cooperation with the community in favour of the territory's sustainable development (CSR.6). Thus, sub-hypotheses 4.a and 4.f cannot be rejected, correspondingly.* *These results are aligned with the previous conclusions of Kang et al. [98], who stated that CSR influences financial performance in the hotel and tourism sector. In this same* sector, …"
			Lastly, we want to acknowledge all the comments received, which in our view contribute to improving the correction and scientific soundness of this research. And for that, on the *Acknowledgments* section we have made the following change:
		830 to 831	**"Acknowledgments:** *We want to acknowledge all the comments received from the editor and reviewers, which contributed to improving the correction and scientific soundness of this research."*