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### Bibliometric Assessment of Journal of Eco-Friendly Agriculture for the Period of 2015-2021

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#### Abstract

This study aims to develop a bibliometric analysis of the publications of the Journal of Eco-Friendly Agriculture (JEFA) between 2015 and 2021. This work analyzes various bibliometric aspects such as gender wise productivity of publications, authorship pattern, average page length of publications, geographical distribution of publications, references pattern, most prolific authors, *etc.* The analysis shows that 268 articles were written by 833 authors and published in the Journal of Eco-Friendly Agriculture from 2015 to 2021. The study finds that on an average 38 research articles were published per volume during 2015-2021 in JEFA. The study also finds that out of total 833

authors, 652 were male authors and 181 were female authors. During the study, it was found that 23 articles (08.58%) were single authored, while 85 articles (31.72%) were written by two authors in collaboration. India is the leading country among all the eight countries from which the maximum number of contributions (757) was in the journal. Out of total 268 articles, 101 articles have 11-20 references, while on an average per article 14.02 references were cited. K.V. Malshe (13 articles) and Rabindra Prasad (12 articles) were the two most prolific authors who contributed significantly in the journal between the period from 2015-2021.

**Keywords:** Bibliometrics, Authorship Pattern, Citation Analysis, References, Research Output, JEFA

#### 1. Introduction

Today is the era of information explosion and every field of human endeavor has been generating huge amounts of information in the form of books, journals, magazines, pamphlets, patents, copyrights, conference proceedings, *etc.* Due to the increase of information and information resources in many forms speedily, it is important to analyze the information and literature of different domains so that the research community could be benefitted. The bibliometrics is the method to evaluate and analyze the various aspects of a subject. In simple words, bibliometrics is a quantitative evaluation of literary or research output by mathematical and statistical applications. Bibliometric studies include the studies of "literature growth of specific subjects, how much literature is contributed by various individual researchers, groups, institutions or countries". In an era of information explosion, bibliometric techniques help the researchers to analyze and measure scattering of literature output of a particular subject, measuring the literature output through language wise, geographical wise, document type wise, institution wise *etc.* In other words, bibliometrics is nothing but "the use of mathematical and statistical methods to study and identify the patterns in the usage of materials and services within a library or to analyze the historical development of a specific body of literature, especially its authorship, publication and use" (Reitz, 2002) [7].

The bibliometric is a type of research method mostly used in library and information science. It utilizes quantitative analysis and statistics to describe patterns of publication within a subject or on a topic. The term bibliometrics was first coined by Allen Prichard in 1969, who stated that bibliometrics deals with application of mathematics and statistical methods to books and other media of communication. Husain, Fatima and Kumar (2011) [3] stated that bibliometric studies have been applied mainly to scientific fields and are based principally on various metadata elements like author, title, subject, citations, *etc.* related to scholarly publication within a discipline. So bibliometrics has specific measurements and indicators and the purpose is to measure the output of scientific and technological research through data.

In order to understand the latest trend and pattern of publication distribution in the field of agricultural science particularly research trends in eco-friendly agriculture, it was conceived to undertake the bibliometric study on the “Journal of Eco-Friendly Agriculture” for the purpose and the present study remains confined for the period 2015-2021.

## 2. Source Journal: Journal of Eco-Friendly Agriculture

Journal of Eco-Friendly Agriculture (JEFA) is a bi-annual scientific research journal published in English by the Doctor’s Krishi Evam Bagwani Vikas Sanstha, Lucknow (UP), India in the field of agricultural sciences, and published articles in basic and applied aspects of agriculture, horticulture, environmental science and human ecology. However, special emphasis is given to the articles, which are related to eco-friendly agriculture, viz, bio-agents, bio-fertilizers, IPM, IDM, INM and other allied eco-friendly areas. It was published in print form up to the year of 2021 but from the year 2022 onwards, it is published only in online form in the months of January and July every year since its inception in 2006. Nehru Library, CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar have bound volumes (Print form) in its collection from 2015 (Volume 10) to 2021 (Volume 16).

## 3. Literature Review

Some of the following relevant bibliometric studies, which were conducted in recent past on various journals and subjects, have been reviewed for the present study:

Haldar (2023) <sup>[2]</sup> conducted a bibliometric analysis of “Library Herald” journal for the period from 2017-2021 and revealed that total 168 articles has published in the journal for the period covered under study and out of which, 104 articles were written in collaborative authorship, which shows the overall degree of collaboration was 0.62, whereas, it was also noted during the study that not only the Indian authors but also those from the country other than India have contributed to this journal. Another side, Xiao (2022) <sup>[9]</sup> conducted a bibliometric study of the journal “Building” for the period 2011-2021 and found that the journal has published more than one thousand documents and is widely acknowledged by scholars all over the world and the most cited paper, entitled “Design of A Sustainable Building: A Conceptual Framework for Implementing Sustainability in the Building Sector”, was written by Akadiri, P.O., Chinyio, E.A. and Olomolaiye, P.O. in 2012, while Italy was the most productive country in *Buildings*, and the University of New South Wales, located in Australia, has been the most productive affiliation over the past 10 years with 46 publications and 345 citations in total. Similarly, Prieto-Gutierrez and Segado-Boj (2019) <sup>[4]</sup> conducted a comparative bibliometric analysis of journal “Annals of Library and Information Studies” with the top library and information studies journals in Asia and Worldwide for the period between 2011–2017 and observed that the largest number of citations of ALIS articles come from India and authors also found that India is in 13th place, with a high average number of citations per article; even higher than the United States, whereas, authors found ‘ALIS’ weaknesses was its very low level of international collaboration, despite the internationalization of science.

Bhanu Partap (2018) <sup>[1]</sup> conducted a bibliometric analysis of 161 articles published in 09 volumes (24-32) of 18 issues of

“Indian Journal of Agricultural Library and Information Services (IJALIS)” for the period of nine years (2008-2016) and revealed that on an average, 18 research articles were published per volume in a year during the period of study, whereas, maximum number (39.75%) of articles were two authored followed by single authored (32.36%), whereas, Karnataka begged the top rank among all the 20 contributed states of India from where maximum number of contribution in the journal. On the other hand, a bibliometric analysis of the “Journal of Knowledge Management” was conducted by Raza and Malik (2018) <sup>[6]</sup> and revealed that a total of 508 publications published during 2009 to 2016 in the journal were contributed by 584 institutions from 57 countries, of which USA and UK ranked first and second respectively and the most prolific institution was found to be Lakehead University, Canada with 12 publications, whereas, Serenko Alexander and Bontis, Nick were the two most prolific authors with 11 and 9 publications respectively and both of them were from Canada. Shukla and Moyon (2017) <sup>[8]</sup> noticed that two authorship pattern (44.15%) was the most prevalent in the journal (IJODLS), followed by single authorship (40.9%) and among that majority (85.71%) of research papers belonged to national contribution, whereas, journal articles (58.81%) were the most prevalent in terms of citations in research articles, followed by web based resources (15.78%), and Books and reference sources (12.58%) and further observed that Maharashtra (14.41%) has the highest number of contributors to the journal, followed by Tamil Nadu (12.22%), Andhra Pradesh (10.91) and Karnataka (10.48%).

## 4. Objectives of the Study

This study was carried out with the following major objectives:

- To make an analysis of the articles published in JEFA during the period from 2015-2021
- To know the nature and extent of authorship of articles published during the period under study
- To find out the number of contributions published during the period under study
- To explore the gender wise distribution of articles
- To know the year-wise and issue-wise distribution of articles
- To study the average length of articles in the source journal
- To find out the number of references given in an article under study
- To quantify average articles published per volume and issue
- To identify the most prolific authors and their work affiliation
- To analysis the geographical distribution of articles published in the journal under study.

## 5. Research methodology

The data required for analysis were collected, scanned, examined and recorded on the slips in a systematic manner from the print copy of “Journal of Eco-Friendly Agriculture (JEFA)” available with Nehru Library, Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCS HAU), Hisar, India. For the present study, the data were collected from all the volumes of seven years (2015-2021) and put to analysis as per the framed objectives of the study. JEFA since being a half-yearly journal, as such in all 268 published research

articles were scanned from 07 volumes from 2015-2021 and get the research output.

**6. Scope and limitation of the study**

The scope of the present study was limited to the seven volumes (14 issues) published between the year 2015-2021. The study covers all the articles except review articles, feature articles and short communications published during the period of study.

**7. Data Analysis**

Keeping in view the nature of collected data and the type of analysis to be carried out as per the framed objectives, the data were simply put feed into MS-Excel worksheet for executing simple operations like addition, subtraction, percentage and averages, etc., and conclusions are drawn accordingly.

**Table 1:** Year wise distribution of articles

Year	Vol. no.	Total articles	%age
2015	10	43	16.04
2016	11	45	16.80
2017	12	42	15.67
2018	13	39	14.55
2019	14	27	10.07
2020	15	31	11.57
2021	16	41	15.30
Total		268	100

The data presented in Table 1 highlights the year wise publication/distribution of articles published during 2015 to 2021 in the Journal of Eco-Friendly Agriculture (JEFA). It was found during the data analysis that a total 268 articles had been published in the source journal during the period under study, i.e., 2015-2021. A total 45 articles were published in the year 2016, while in the year 2015; a total 43 articles were published, followed by 42 articles in 2017 and 41 articles published in 2021 respectively. On the other hand, 39 articles were published in the year 2018, while 31 articles were published in 2020, followed by 27 articles published in the year 2019. It is clear from the analysis that maximum articles (45) were published in the year 2016, whereas, less number of articles (27) were published in 2019 in the Journal of Eco-Friendly Agriculture. On an average, 38 research articles were published per volume in a year during 2015-2021 in JEFA.

**Table 2:** Volume wise and Issue wise distribution of articles

Year	Vol. no.	Issue- 1	Issue- 2	Total articles	Average articles per issue
2015	10	20	23	43	21.5
2016	11	26	19	45	22.5
2017	12	20	22	42	21.0
2018	13	22	17	39	19.5
2019	14	11	16	27	13.5
2020	15	17	14	31	15.5
2021	16	15	26	41	20.5
Total				268	

The Table 2 represents the data about the volume wise and issue wise distribution of published articles in the Journal of Eco-Friendly Agriculture. It is revealed by the data given in the above Table that Issue 1 (26) and Issue 2 (19) of Volume 11 of the journal published in the year 2016 has published

highest number (43) of articles in the source journal, whereas, Issue 1 (20) and Issue 2 (23) of Volume 10 published in the year 2015 has published total 43 articles. On the other hand, Issue 1 (20) and Issue 2 (22) of Volume 12 in the year 2017 has published a total 42 articles, while Issue 1 (15) and Issue 2 (26) of Volume 16 in the year 2021 has published a total 41 articles. Similarly, Issue 1 (22) and Issue 2 (17) of Volume 13 published in the year 2018 has published total 39 articles, followed by Issue 1 (17) and Issue 2 (14) of Volume 15 (total 31 articles) of the year 2020, and Issue 1 (11) and Issue 2 (16) of Volume 14 (total 27 articles) of the year 2019 respectively.

**Table 3:** Gender wise distribution of authorship

Year	Vol. No.	Male	Female	Total Authors & %age
2015	10	103	27	130 (15.60)
2016	11	96	34	130 (15.60)
2017	12	89	35	124 (14.89)
2018	13	84	28	112 (13.46)
2019	14	88	17	105 (12.60)
2020	15	80	13	93 (11.16)
2021	16	112	27	139 (16.69)
Total		652 (78.27)	181 (21.73)	833 (100)

The data given in Table 3 depicted the gender wise distribution of authorship of articles published during 2015 to 2021 in the Journal of Eco-Friendly Agriculture. It is revealed that a total 833 authors published articles during 2015 to 2021 in the source journal, out of which, 652 were male and 181 were female authors. In the year 2021, out of total 139 authors, 112 were male authors and 27 were female authors, whereas, in the year 2015, out of total 130 authors, 103 were male authors and 27 were female authors who contributed valuable articles in the source journal. On the other hand, out of total authors (130) in the year 2016, 96 were male and 34 were female authors, while out of 124 authors in 2017, 89 were male and 35 were female authors. Similarly, in the year 2019, out of 105 authors, 88 were male and 17 were female authors, followed by 80 male and 13 female authors (out of total 93 authors) in the year 2020 who contributed their research work in the source journal.

**Table 4:** Authorship pattern of articles

Year	Vol. no.	Single author	Two authors	Three authors	>3 authors	Total articles & %age
2015	10	04	11	15	13	43 (16.04)
2016	11	05	15	12	13	45 (16.80)
2017	12	01	19	09	13	42 (15.67)
2018	13	03	11	14	11	39 (14.55)
2019	14	03	10	06	08	27 (10.07)
2020	15	04	07	13	07	31 (11.57)
2021	16	03	12	10	16	41 (15.30)
Total		23 (8.58)	85 (31.72)	79 (29.48)	81 (30.22)	268 (100)

Authorship pattern of articles contributed in the Journal of Eco-Friendly Agriculture is depicted by the data shown in the Table 4 and it was found during the data analysis that out of total 268 articles published in the journal during 2015 to 2021, 23 articles (08.58%) were single authored, while 85 articles (31.72%) were written by two authors. On the other hand, 79 articles (29.48%) were written by three authors, whereas 81 articles (30.22%) were written by more than three authors. The analysis shows that more than 60 percent

of the articles were written and contributed to the authorship of three or more authors.

**Table 5:** Distribution of page length of articles

Year	Vol. no.	<3	4-5	>5	Total articles per year
2015	10	14	26	03	43
2016	11	18	20	07	45
2017	12	20	16	06	42
2018	13	11	21	07	39
2019	14	09	12	06	27
2020	15	12	11	08	31
2021	16	09	24	08	41
Total		93	130	45	268

The presented data in the Table 5 revealed the distribution of page length of 268 articles contributed during 2015 to 2021 in the Journal of Eco-Friendly Agriculture. It is explored during the study that out of total 268 articles, 93 articles were written in three or <3 pages, while 130 articles were written in 4-5 pages. On the other hand, 45 articles were written in 5 or >5 pages. The analysis shows that about 50 percent of the articles are written in more than four pages.

**Table 6:** Range of references per article

Year	Vol. no.	<10	11-20	21-30	>30	Total articles per year
2015	10	20	19	03	01	43
2016	11	26	15	03	01	45
2017	12	21	15	05	01	42
2018	13	18	17	02	02	39
2019	14	07	08	10	02	27
2020	15	11	13	03	04	31
2021	16	14	14	08	05	41
Total		117	101	34	16	268

The Table 6 shows the data about the range of references per article given in 268 articles during 2015 to 2021. It is

**Table 8:** Prolific authors and their contributions

S. No	Author	Affiliation	Contribution
1.	K.V. Malshe	Regional Coconut Research Station, Bhatye, Ratnagiri (MH)	13
2.	Rabindra Prasad	Birsa Agricultural University, Kanke, Ranchi (Jharkhand)	12
3.	R.A. Balikai	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad (KN)	10
4.	V.V. Shinde	Dr. B.S. Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli (MH)	10
5.	Devendra Prasad	Birsa Agricultural University, Kanke, Ranchi (Jharkhand)	08
6.	S.L. Ghavale	Dr. B.S. Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli (MH)	08
7.	Syed Danish Yaseen Naqvi	Hamelmallo Agricultural College, Hamelmallo, Keren, Eritrea, Africa	08
8.	K.B. Yadahalli	G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar (U.K.)	07
9.	R.K. Rai	College of Agriculture, JNKVV, Jabalpur (MP)	07
10.	Tuffail Ahmad	Hamelmallo Agricultural College, Hamelmallo, Keren, Eritrea, Africa	07
11.	Anita Kochhar	Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana (Pb.)	06
12.	D.B. Phookan	Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat	06
13.	Lakhinder Hembrom	Birsa Agricultural University, Kanke, Ranchi (Jharkhand)	06
14.	M.S. Shah	College of Agriculture, JNKVV, Jabalpur (MP)	06
15.	Neelima Garg	ICAR-Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture, Rehmankhera, Lucknow (UP)	06
16.	R.G. Khandekar	Dr. B.S. Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli (MH)	06
17.	H.P. Maheshwarappa	Regional Coconut Research Station, Bhatye, Ratnagiri (MH)	05
18.	M. Manjunatha	College of Agriculture, Navile Shimoga (KN)	05
19.	Shamarao Jahagirdar	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad (KN)	05
20.	S.P. Singh	Trihut College of Agriculture, Dholi, Muzaffarpur (Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Bihar)	05

The data given in Table 8 highlights some of the prolific authors who had significantly contributed (five or more articles) to the Journal of Eco-Friendly Agriculture. The total 268 articles were authored by the 833 authors in single

pertinent to mention here that out of total 268 articles, 117 articles have <10 references, while 101 articles have 11-20 references. On the other hand, 34 articles have 21-30 references, whereas 16 articles have >30 references. It shows that more than 80 percent of published articles in the source journal have up to 20 references each article.

**Table 7:** Assessment of number of references

Year	Vol. no.	Total articles	Distribution of References				Total references	Average references per article
			<10	11-20	21-30	>30		
2015	10	43	139	257	75	35	506	11.76
2016	11	45	170	240	72	38	520	11.55
2017	12	42	150	229	118	34	531	12.64
2018	13	39	94	255	48	88	485	12.43
2019	14	27	54	116	226	135	531	19.66
2020	15	31	76	175	66	181	498	16.06
2021	16	41	110	220	186	172	688	16.78
Total		268	793	1,492	791	683	3,759	14.02

The presented data in Table 7 depicted the assessment of the number of references per article appended in the source journal of total 268 articles during the period of study, i.e., 2015-2021. It was found during the analysis that out of total 3,759 references, on an average per article 14.02 references were cited. Maximum numbers of references (1,492) were found from the range between 11-20 references per article, followed by 793 references between the range of <10 and 791 references between the range of 21-30 references. On the other hand, 683 references were cited for the range of >30 references per article.

authorship or in collaboration with more authors. It was noticed during the analysis that K.V. Malshe of Regional Coconut Research Station, Bhatye, Ratnagiri (MH), India had contributed 13 articles in the source journal during the



period of study, while Rabindra Prasad of Birsa Agricultural University, Kanke, Ranchi (JH), India had contributed 12 articles. On the other hand, R.A. Balikai of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad (KN), India and V.V. Shinde of Dr. B.S. Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli (MH), India have contributed 10 articles each, whereas, Devendra Prasad of Birsa Agricultural University, Kanke, Ranchi (JH), India, S.L. Ghavale of Dr. B.S. Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli (MH), India and Syed Danish Yaseen Naqvi of Hamelmalo Agricultural College, Hamelmalo, Keren, Eritrea, Africa have contributed eight articles each equally during the period under study. Similarly, K.B. Yadahalli of G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar (U.K.), India, R.K. Rai of College of Agriculture, JNKVV, Jabalpur (MP), India and Tuffail Ahmad of Hamelmalo Agricultural College, Hamelmalo, Keren, Eritrea, Africa have contributed seven articles each equally to the source journal, while Anita Kochhar of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana (Pb.), India, D.B. Phookan of Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, India, Lakhinder Hembrom of Birsa Agricultural University, Kanke, Ranchi (JH), India, M.S. Shah of College of Agriculture, JNKVV, Jabalpur (MP), India, Neelima Garg of ICAR-Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture, Rehmankhera, Lucknow (UP), India and R.G. Khandekar of Dr. B.S. Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli (MH), India have contributed six articles each to the source journal. Another side, five articles each have been contributed by H.P. Maheshwarappa of Regional Coconut Research Station, Bhatye, Ratnagiri (MH), India, M. Manjunatha of College of Agriculture, Navile Shimoga (KN), India, Shamarao Jahagirdar of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad (KN) and S.P. Singh of Trihut College of Agriculture, Dholi, Muzaffarpur (Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Bihar), India. The analysis shows that out of a total 833 authors who contributed to the source journal during the period of study, the total output of these twenty prolific authors shown in the above table is 52.24 percent.

**Table 9:** Geographical distribution of contributors

Country	Contributors	Percentage	Ranking
India	757	90.88	1
Eritrea	63	07.56	2
United States of America	06	0.72	3
Japan	03	0.36	4
China	01	0.12	5
Kenya	01	0.12	5
Sudan	01	0.12	5
Vietnam	01	0.12	5
Total	833	100	

The presented data in Table 9 shows the geographical affiliation of authors who have contributed to the Journal of Eco-Friendly Agriculture (JEFA) during the period of study, *i.e.*, 2015-2021, and accordingly the ranking of countries was done based on the number of contributors from a particular country. A total of 833 authors have been contributed to the Source journal during the period of study from eight different countries. Being the publishing country of the Journal of Eco-Friendly Agriculture (JEFA), India is in the first place in the list where from total 757 authors have been contributed, while Eritrea (Africa) is in second place with the contribution from 63 authors. Another side, six authors from the United States of America have

contributed, while from Japan, three authors have contributed, followed by the contribution of one author each from China, Kenya, Sudan and Vietnam respectively. As far as ranking of contributing countries is concerned, India is in first place, while Eritrea (Africa) is in second place. On the other hand, the USA is in third place, whereas Japan is in fourth place, followed by China, Kenya, Sudan, and Vietnam, which are in fifth place jointly.

## 8. Major Findings

Based on the analysis of the data, the following are the major findings observed from the study:

- On an average, 38 research articles were published per volume during 2015-2021 in JEFA.
- Highest numbers of articles (45) were published in volume 11 in the year 2016, while least numbers of articles (27) were published in volume 14 in the year 2019.
- A total 833 authors were contributed to the source journal (JEFA) during 2015 to 2021, out of which, 652 were male authors, while 181 were female authors.
- Out of a total 268 articles, 23 articles (08.58%) were single authored, while 85 articles (31.72%) were written by two authors in collaboration, followed by 79 articles (29.48%) were written by three authors and 81 articles (30.22%) were written by more than three authors.
- Out of total 268 articles, about 50 percent of the articles were written in more than four pages.
- More than 80 percent of published articles have up to 20 references each article.
- Out of total 3,759 references, on an average per article 14.02 references were cited and maximum numbers of references (1,492) were found from the range between 11-20 references per article.
- The total 268 articles authored by 833 authors, K.V. Malshe (13 articles), Rabindra Prasad (12 articles), R.A. Balikai (10 articles), V.V. Shinde (10 articles), Devendra Prasad (08 articles), S.L. Ghavale (08 articles), Syed Danish Yaseen Naqvi (08 articles) were the most prolific authors who contributed significantly in the source journal (JEFA) during the period of study.
- India is the leading country with the contribution of 757 authors, while 63 authors from Eritrea (Africa) were contributed.

## 9. Conclusion

Today, bibliometrics is one of the most followed interdisciplinary research fields, which cover all scientific fields. Bibliometric studies are being used nowadays in great force to evaluate scientific output and monitoring and analyzing of information resources. Bibliometric studies are considered to be a very important tool for policy makers and research advisors to make decisions to improve the publication productivity in a particular topic or subject. The present study has explored the publication productivity on various aspects of eco-friendly agriculture. Bibliometric analysis of this journal reveals some important output, which could be useful for the research community in the field of library and information services. The study reveals that a total of 268 articles were published in the Journal of Eco-Friendly Agriculture (JEFA) between 2015 and 2021. The majority of the articles (85) were published by two authors, followed by 81 articles written by more than three authors. K.V. Malshe (13 articles) and Rabindra Prasad (12

articles) were the two topmost prolific contributors among all authors. The study found that about 91 percent of the authors, who contributed to the journal significantly, are from India. The research output would be very fruitful to the research fraternity related to library and information science/services and for those who deal with eco-friendly agriculture.

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