

Dear Editor of Journal of Biotech Research,

I am one of the authors of the paper titled “Mapping agroecosystems in BRICS nations: A comprehensive bibliometric and visualization analysis”, published in the Journal of Biotech Research (**Volume 17, Pages 187-195**). I would like to formally report a significant error in the paper and provide detailed background information for clarification.

In the paper, we incorrectly included Saudi Arabia as a member of the BRICS nations and discussed its role in the agroecosystem analysis. This error arose for the following reasons:

Timing and Context of Paper Completion: The paper was completed in early January 2024. At the time of writing, multiple reputable news outlets, such as **treasurytoday.com** and **Sina News**, reported that Saudi Arabia had officially joined the BRICS as of January 1, 2024. These reports highlighted Saudi Arabia’s significant role as a major economic power in the Middle East, joining BRICS to foster deeper political, economic, and cultural collaboration with the other member countries. Based on this information, we included Saudi Arabia in our analysis as a BRICS member.

Lack of Follow-Up on Subsequent Information: After the paper was completed, we did not keep up with the latest developments regarding BRICS membership. It has since come to our attention that, despite the initial reports stating Saudi Arabia's inclusion, the country had not officially joined BRICS and remained in a nomination or consideration status. This fact became clear after our paper was submitted, but we were unaware of these updates and, therefore, did not reflect them in the final version of the paper.

Concern for Academic Integrity: As scholars, we understand the importance of maintaining the accuracy and rigor of published research. Therefore, I would like to officially inform the journal of this issue.

In conclusion, our initial judgment regarding Saudi Arabia’s status in BRICS was based on the most recent information available at the time of writing. However, subsequent developments, which we did not track closely enough, led to an incorrect representation of Saudi Arabia in our analysis.

Author,
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