



UJ Press

25 April 2026

To whom it may concern

### CONFIRMATION OF PEER REVIEW AND PUBLICATION

This letter serves to confirm that the following work was peer-reviewed and published by UJ Press:

Title:	<i>Nxazonke: Circles of Urban Agriculture Enterprise Development</i>
<i>Thema</i> classification:	KNAC Agriculture, agribusiness and food production industries
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Author:	Naudé Malan
Affiliation:	University of Johannesburg

We hereby certify that the original manuscript was subjected to an independent double-blind peer review process and was reviewed by external reviewers. The review reports were shared with the scholars and they adhered with great care to the recommendations for improvements made by the reviewers, and I hereby confirm that the publisher is satisfied that the manuscript was revised sufficiently according to the recommendations made by the reviewers and complies with the following benchmarks:

1. The manuscript disseminates original research which contributes to the national, and where applicable, the global knowledge in the relevant field.
2. The target audience is specialists/peers in the relevant fields and the research chapters do not constitute a textbook or a popular book intended for the general public.
3. The research methodologies followed are clear and accurate.
4. The structure and systemisation of the manuscript is in order.
5. The quality and quantity of the references are acceptable.
6. No plagiarism was noted by the editors or the external reviewers

UJ Press requires at least two positive reviews of a title before accepting it for publication. The reviews are confidential. The book is available in print, as well as in electronic and audio formats.

We trust that the above should suffice, but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further enquiries.

Sincerely,



**Wikus van Zyl**  
**Manager: UJ Press**

# Nxazonke

**Reviewer: A**

**Completed: 2024-06-10 11:26:41**

**1. Would this title fit in well with the publications in the UJ Press catalogue?**

Please comment on whether this title would enhance the catalogue of UJ Press.&nbsp;

It seems relevant for a potential new market of urban farmers.

**2. Would this title build the international reputation of UJ Press and the contributing authors? &nbsp;**

Please comment on whether this title would build the reputation of the Press and the other authors in the catalogue.&nbsp;

Given the relative new field of urban agriculture, I feel this book would add value to the existing offering from UJ Press.

**3. Is the theme of the manuscript in line with our goals of internationalisation, 4IR and the UN SDGs?**

Please comment on whether this title is aligned with our goals and vision.&nbsp;

Although the proposed book does not align with ALL four of these themes, there is a strong socio-economic improvement approach that underpins the ideas captured in the book. It would be recommended that the author integrates more current thinking around regenerative agriculture, and sustainability (considering social, economic and environmental aspects) in the design and content of the book. That will help the current relevance of the book and also better align with the UN SDGs, thereby fulfilling this component of the above alignment requirement.

**4. Would this title be best suited to the UJ Press imprint (scholarly research outputs) or the Hoopoe Press imprint (general and trade publications)?&nbsp;**

Please comment on which imprint would be most suitable for this title.&nbsp;

Unfortunately, I am not familiar with the differences of these two publications' details, but given the above descriptions, I would recommend the latter (Hoopoe Press) as a more appropriate avenue for publication – given the nature and approach of the proposed book.

**5. Do you note any issues of ethical concern in the manuscript that you would like to make the publisher aware of?**

Please comment on whether you see any issues of ethical or legal concern in the book.

Given the author(s) involvement in existing urban farmers' practices in Soweto, ethical clearance would be required from the university and participants, to ensure aspects of consent, bias, and overall ethical clearance is obtained to ensure these urban farmers' experiences and practices can be used in the book. Presumably all participants/involved parties are over 18 ages old and formal consent can be obtained, subsequent to the university's ethical clearance. I don't foresee this as a problem to obtain,

but merely an additional administrative process to complete and then these ethical practices implemented in the collection of data, presentation of findings, etc. in the final book.

## **6. Comments or Suggestions**

Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the manuscript?

As highlighted previously, the integration of sustainability (from an economic, social and environmental perspective) will add great value to the proposed publication. This means integrating aspects of regenerative farming/agriculture into the suggested approaches, and not merely the traditional small-scale, urban farmer - otherwise there will be little alignment with the UN SDGs. There is opportunity for this book to build on its existing socio-economic focus and also integrate good environmental practices (regenerative agriculture) to really have the book stand out above its peers and improve the marketability of the potential readership/audience and demand. With this in mind, I do not think the proposal needs to be back for another review (i.e. Option 2 noted below), but with so many chapters not yet finalised, there's opportunity to amend the book proposal to include sustainability and regenerative farming (perhaps as an additional chapter to outline these concepts and approaches), and then integrate these sustainability/regenerative aspects into the remaining chapters (e.g. marketing, finance implications, etc.). Good luck to author(s)!

## **7. Do you recommend that we continue with the double-blind peer-review process for this publication?&nbsp;**

Please indicate your recommendation.&nbsp;

- 1. Accept the proposal and submit the manuscript to a double-blind peer review process
- 2. Provisionally accept the proposal and ask the author/editor to make changes and resubmit the proposal
- 3. Reject the proposal

## **Review Files**

Ch2.pdf

Ch1.pdf

Nxazonke Proposal.pdf

# Nxazonke

**Reviewer: E**

**Completed: 2025-03-31 06:05:52**

## 1. Original research

Please indicate whether the manuscript disseminates original research and new developments within specific disciplines, sub-disciplines or fields of study.

The work brings a much-needed perspective in the field of farming. More so, for urban residents whose livelihoods often seem to be divorced from agriculture. Not only will it be helpful to such people, but also for scholars with a strong focus on social agriculture, rural ecology, agroecology, and urban development.

## 2. Target audience

Please indicate whether the target audience of the manuscript is specialists in the relevant field.

N.A.

## 3. Structure & Methodology

Please indicate whether the manuscript is structured in a logical manner and whether the methodology is clear.

The methodology is not clear. However, I do not think this follows the pattern of an academic book, thus I do not think a traditional methodology may be necessary.

## 4. Referencing

Please indicate whether the referencing in the manuscript is up to standard and done uniformly in the same referencing style throughout.

None provided.

## 5. Depth of Research

Please indicate whether the depth of research is sufficient and whether it engages the current literature on the topic.

There is a degree of research given the fact that there are some links provided. However, it is difficult to prove this in the absence of in-text references and the bibliography. I do maintain, however, that this does not appear to be an academic book, rather a self-help non-fiction, which takes it out of the bounds of the narrow structure of traditional academic writing.

## 6. Plagiarism

Please indicate if you suspect any plagiarism or self-referencing in the book.

There are no suspicions of plagiarism, nor are there any for self-referencing. However, I would strongly suggest that prior to publishing of the book, a thorough test be conducted to identify if there

is any AI-Generated Content. Tools like Turnitin AI Detection and Originality.AI may be helpful for this exercise.

## **7. Ethics**

Please comment on whether you see any issues of ethical or legal concern in the book.

No unethical issues observed.

## **8. Comments or Suggestions**

Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the manuscript?

Please refer to the accompanying document that has detailed comments.

## **9. Recommendation**

Do you recommend the manuscript for publication?

- I recommend the publication of the manuscript without any changes
- I recommend the publication of the manuscript with minor changes
- I recommend the publication of the manuscript after major changes
- I do not recommend the publication of the manuscript

## **Review Files**

Ch2.pdf

Ch1.pdf

Nxazonke Proposal.pdf

## **Book Review: “Nxazonke: Circles of Urban Agriculture Enterprise Development”**

### **Overview and Context**

“Nxazonke: Circles of Urban Agriculture Enterprise Development” presents a broad framework for developing sustainable urban agricultural enterprises in South Africa and other developing contexts. The author addresses the persistent challenges faced by small-scale urban farmers and offers practical guidance for establishing circular economic systems that convert waste into value while creating viable livelihoods in underserved communities.

### **Originality**

The book’s innovative contribution lies in its conceptualisation of urban agriculture as a circular enterprise system rather than merely a food production activity. The author introduces the concept of “Nxazonke” to describe how different components of urban farming can be integrated into mutually reinforcing systems. This perspective transcends traditional agricultural development approaches by positioning waste harvesting and exchange as central to both economic viability and environmental sustainability.

The proposed “Unique Value Proposition” for urban agriculture i.e. “the creation of a price reduction mechanism for urban agricultural produce through the local recycling and repurposing of waste”, represents a novel framing that addresses multiple challenges simultaneously. This approach resonates with emerging research on moral orders in agricultural systems, where new value frameworks can challenge established norms and create spaces for previously marginalised farmers to thrive.

### **Contribution to the Field**

This work makes several significant contributions to urban agricultural development. Firstly, it directly addresses the reality of limited resources available to small-scale urban farmers and offers a model that turns this constraint into an opportunity through innovative resource cycling. The book acknowledges the scale limitations of urban farming but demonstrates how intensification and integration of systems can create viable enterprises despite these constraints.

Secondly, the author provides a nuanced analysis of the market position of urban farmers relative to conventional food systems, identifying specific competitive advantages that small-scale producers can leverage. This market-oriented perspective aligns with recent research on agricultural dualism in South Africa, which highlights how structural barriers limit black farmers’ participation in mainstream

markets. By identifying specific entry points for small-scale producers, the book offers practical pathways for overcoming some of these barriers.

Thirdly, the book offers a practical bridge between theoretical concepts of circular economy and regenerative agriculture and their implementation in resource-constrained urban settings. This integration of economic, social, and environmental considerations mirrors what researchers have identified as necessary for creating more inclusive agricultural systems through approaches that address not just technical but also moral and relational dimensions of development.

### **Technical Quality**

The technical content of the book demonstrates considerable practical knowledge of both agricultural methods and enterprise development. The author provides detailed explanations of various components of urban farming systems, from composting and liquid manure production to market development and customer engagement.

The technical recommendations are generally sound and based on established principles of agroecology and business development. The author's approach to composting, deep trench beds, and biological fertility management reflects current best practices in sustainable agriculture. Similarly, the marketing and enterprise development strategies incorporate recognized principles of small business development.

However, some technical aspects could benefit from more detailed exploration. For example, while the book mentions soil chemistry processes in relation to composting and fertility management, more specific information about nutrient cycling and soil biology would strengthen these sections. Additionally, more detailed financial modelling would help readers understand the economic viability of the proposed systems under different scenarios.

### **Clarity of Presentation**

The book is generally well-organised, progressing logically from conceptual foundations to practical implementation. The writing style is accessible and avoids unnecessary technical jargon thereby making complex ideas understandable to readers with varying levels of technical background.

The use of personal narrative and practical examples helps ground abstract concepts in real-world contexts. The author effectively draws on their experiences and observations to illustrate key points, making the content relatable and applicable. Furthermore, this approach aligns with phenomenological research methodologies that emphasise lived experience as a source of knowledge, recognising that farmers' practical wisdom is essential for developing contextually appropriate solutions.

However, the presentation could be enhanced by more visual aids and diagrams. Given the interconnected nature of the systems described, visual representations of resource flows and enterprise relationships would help readers conceptualize how different components fit together. More structured summaries and implementation checklists would also improve usability for practitioners.

### **Depth of Research**

The book demonstrates substantial experiential knowledge but could be strengthened by more explicit connections to academic literature and comparative case studies. While the author draws on personal observations and interactions with farmers, more systematic reference to research on urban agriculture, circular economy principles, and small enterprise development would provide stronger theoretical grounding.

Recent research on moral norms in South African agriculture suggests that transformation requires attention to grounding, clarifying, and organising norms that shape agricultural practice. While the book implicitly addresses these dimensions through its recommendations on business practices and community engagement, a more explicit connection to this theoretical framework would strengthen its analytical depth.

The economic analysis of urban farming enterprises could also be deepened. While the book makes a compelling case for the potential viability of urban agriculture, more quantitative evidence of successful implementations would strengthen this argument. Comparative analysis of different urban farming models across various contexts would provide valuable insights into which approaches are most effective under specific conditions.

### **Relevance to Contemporary Challenges**

The book addresses critical issues facing urban communities in South Africa and similar contexts, including food insecurity, waste management, economic exclusion, and environmental degradation. By positioning urban agriculture as an integrated solution to these interconnected challenges, the author offers a vision for more resilient and inclusive urban food systems.

This approach aligns with emerging research on agricultural development that emphasises the importance of trust-building, knowledge integration, and community participation. The book's focus on creating local economic cycles that retain value within communities addresses a key challenge identified in studies of agricultural dualism i.e. the extraction of value from marginalised communities through conventional food systems.

## **Recommendations for Enhancement**

To strengthen future editions, I recommend:

1. Incorporating more visual representations of the circular systems described, including diagrams showing material flows and enterprise relationships.
2. Expanding the financial modelling sections with concrete examples of startup costs, revenue projections, and return on investment calculations for different scales and types of urban farming enterprises.
3. Including more case studies of successful implementations of the proposed approaches, with detailed analysis of challenges encountered and how they were addressed.
4. Strengthening connections to related academic research on moral norms in agriculture, trust-building, and inclusive development.
5. Developing more detailed implementation guides or checklists for key processes described in the book.
6. Expanding discussion of policy implications and how urban agriculture advocates can engage with urban planning processes to create more supportive environments.

## **Conclusion**

“Nxazonke: Circles of Urban Agriculture Enterprise Development” makes a valuable contribution to our understanding of how urban agriculture can be developed as a viable enterprise model while addressing environmental challenges through circular resource management. The book’s strength lies in its integration of ecological principles with business development strategies offers a holistic approach that serves both economic and environmental goals.

The work resonates with recent research on agricultural transformation that emphasises the need for approaches that address not just technical and economic dimensions but also the moral and relational aspects of development. By focusing on trust-building, community engagement, and value creation through waste exchange, the book offers practical strategies for creating more inclusive agricultural systems.

Despite some limitations in presentation and research depth, the practical wisdom and integrative thinking demonstrated throughout the book make it a worthwhile resource for urban farmers, agricultural development professionals, and policymakers interested in creating more inclusive and sustainable urban food systems.