



SDI Review Form 1.6

PART 1:

Journal Name:	American Journal of Experimental Agriculture
Manuscript Number:	MS: 2012/AJEA/2299
Title of the Manuscript:	Determinants of Farmers' Decision of Soil Fertility Management Options for Maize Production in Southern Ethiopia.

General guideline for Peer Review process is available in this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)

- This form has total 9 parts. Kindly note that you should use all the parts of this review form.



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PART 2: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	The paper gives an overview of factors contributing to decision making among smallholder farmers in soil fertility management uptake in Ethiopia. The authors however fail to clearly list the current available options being used/ or that have been adopted except give a simple reference to them in one sentence in the conceptual framework. There is need to include a clear separate section outlining this. What is chemical fertilizer? Crop rotation? Etc. Moreover, integrated soil fertility management, by definition is broad. What did the authors mean when it was used in the model as one of the management options? There is no single reference in the discussion section of the paper, does this mean no similar work has not been done elsewhere. The same goes for the literature review which is rather weak. This is evidence that some data analysis was conducted; however, leading the reader to the appropriate table has been overlooked throughout the manuscript. There is no need for phrases such as "The results reveal that..."e.g. line 231, just state the results and refer to specific table	Care was taken to revise the manuscript according to these important comments. Necessary corrections are made on the revised manuscript.
Minor REVISION comments	- Title: the title could be more informative if it reads as : "Determinants of farmers' decisions on fertility management option for maize production in Southern Ethiopia" - Line 54: delete "maintaining" - Line 58-59: could read "fertilizer is recommended nationally for maize production" - Lines 61-63: could read: "Information on ways to reduce risk and uncertainties farmers face in choosing appropriate soil fertility management options remains scanty." - Line 73: replace the word "in" with "across" to read ... distributed across 12 districts. - Line 77: what months are the two rainy seasons? What is the average rainfall? What are small showers? - Line 78: garden should be plural "gardens." - Line 86: add "l" on capita to read "capital"	All comments were carefully considered to edit the manuscript.



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	• Lines 94-98 could be rephrased to come up with one sentence and avoid repetition • Line 191: I believe by “farmer” the authors were referring to “farmer resource-endowment” ? • Line 223 and similar text thereafter: what is meant by integrated soil fertility management? • Line 273: need clarity. what is located in the outfield: the farmyard manure or the maize production? • Lines 287: could read” The number of plots a household possess appeared to influence the use of compost as a soil fertility resource? • Line 289: delete the word “compost” and replace with “the resource” • Line 289: could read “If there are many plots located in...” replace “at” with “in” • Line 291: delete “in the study areas” and replace with “were” • Line 294-295: delete “in the study areas” and “while preparing the land” for the sentence to read “Farmers with larger farms usually left maize stover after harvest and subsequently incorporate it into soil during land preparation.” • Line 295: delete “This was revealed in the result that, and start sentence (Line 296) with “The decision to use... • Line 298: replace “... use of it” with “its use” as soil fertility... • Line 331: delete “of the sample farmers in the study areas” • Line 333-334: delete phrase” were computed and have been”... to read “...outcomes are presented in Table 3.”	
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	• It would be good to use past tense for the whole manuscript instead of the active language that is currently displayed. • The study sites need Georeferencing	