



SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

PART 1:

Journal Name:	American Journal of Experimental Agriculture
Manuscript Number:	2013_AJEA_5654
Title of the Manuscript:	Changes in rhizosphere concentration of mineral elements as affected by differences in root uptake and plant growth of five cowpea genotypes grown in mixed culture and at different densities with sorghum

PART 2:

FINAL EVALUATOR'S comments on revised paper (if any)	Authors' response to final evaluator's comments
In my previous review, I had two major concerns: 1, the experimental design was not clearly described; and 2, too many non-significant results were presented. In this revision, the authors made no effort to clarify these issues. For the experimental design, the authors claimed that the design was 3-factor randomized complete block design, but described plant density as the main plot, cowpea genotypes as sub-plots, and cropping system as sub-subplots. If you have main, sub-plots and sub-subplots, then the design should be split-plot design, not randomized complete block design. I'm also confused by the total number of plots. For three factors design, the total plots should be $2 \times 2 \times 5 \times 4 = 80$, not 88 as the authors responded in their response to review comments. For the non-significant results, I suggest that if the F test was not significant, the whole column could be removed from the table. On the F test significant variables can be kept in the table. I think the authors need to clarify these issues before it can be accept for publications.	

Note: Anonymous Reviewer