



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	American Journal of Experimental Agriculture
Manuscript Number:	2014_AJEA_9564
Title of the Manuscript:	Upland Rice and Dry Season Sorghum Production under Double Cropping Systems in a Tropical Semi-Arid Region
Type of the Article	

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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PART 1: 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	How do you take into account in your analysis that preceding rice cultivar is significant	These are the few lines we want to add before the conclusion in order to account for the fact that preceding rice cultivar is significant. We also include a comment on planting dates to respond to the optional/general comments. This study demonstrates that double cropping of upland rice and dry season sorghum is a sound option to increase cereal production in the semi-arid region in Northern Cameroon. Growing rice as a precedent crop to traditional dry season sorghum ensures three to four times more output of cereals from the cultivation of the same plots than when dry season sorghum alone is produced. The local short-cycle-dry-season sorghum variety is very suitable to the double cropping system investigated as it tolerates late plantings and thus buffers efficiently counter effects that may result from delayed planting of sorghum to allow rice mature prior to its harvest. Since preceding rice cultivar revealed a significant effect, it is worthy dedicating efforts in choosing rice cultivars that suit better to the double cropping system. Versatile rice varieties that can be grown under various regimes (upland, lowland or irrigated conditions) are of great interest owing to their ability to cope with the variability of climatic conditions in the semi-arid region in Northern Cameroon.
Minor REVISION comments	In the Abstract: session results; change "production of ...of dry season sorghum depending on year and preceding rice cultivar " by : "production of ...of dry season sorghum depending on year or	The proposed change has been made



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	preceding rice cultivar “ because you do not have interactions. Line 123: the procedure used for analysis should be mentioned	We added that Procedures GLM and MEANS of SAS aided to perform the analysis of variance and the means’ comparison.
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	I was expecting sowing date to be significant because the last sowing date in 2009 (dry season) was 18 November (12 days after the first date) knowing that you did not have any rainfall in October. Similarly in 2010 you have 20 days-period between the first and last sowing date. Can you make a comment on that? Since there is no significant difference between planting dates; when farmers should sow their sorghum? Will it be in September or November?	The fact that sowing date was not significant can be explained at least by two reasons: 1. In general, dry season sorghum varieties are adapted to dry conditions. At planting, every seedling receives about 0.2 l of water and this is enough for it to grow up to harvest. Once seedlings initiate new roots, they are efficient in using water present in the vertisol profile. 2. The option used in our experiment was to select a dry season sorghum variety adapted to late plantings. This variety is more efficient than others under dry environments. Since a few rains occur in September, plantings cannot be recommended at that time because dry season sorghum varieties are very sensitive to rain. In general, seedlings decay whenever rains occur short after plantings. Also, farmer’s have a very tight calendar in September and early October. The rainy season lasts only four months in the region and in September an early October, farmers are doing a lot of harvesting. They shift into dry season sorghum plantings when rainy season crops are fully harvested.