



SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

PART 1:

Journal Name:	American Journal of Experimental Agriculture
Manuscript Number:	2014_AJEA_11495
Title of the Manuscript:	Sustainable Production of Groundnut (<i>Arachis hypogaea</i> L.) through Screening and Selection of Soil Salinity-Tolerant Genotypes

PART 2:

FINAL EVALUATOR'S comments on revised paper (if any)	Authors' response to final evaluator's comments
The authors did not follow my previous recommendations, so I cannot add many new things. By their insistence in maintaining the discretion of the way of preparing a solution 1 M NaCl I understood that they are not much familiarised with scientific writing and reading. In this sense, the Discussion is extremely poor and again no references on other studies on salt tolerance of groundnuts are given (and they are plenty!!). In some cases authors did not understand my point: I did not criticise the use of filter paper for seed germination but carrying out the study on a laboratory bench at room temperature. Germination studies are carried out in controlled conditions of regulated temperature, light and photo-period in germination chambers.... In conclusion the MS did not improve and I consider that it cannot be published in a scientific, international journal.	I appreciate the comments. I followed the previous comments except the specific ones that have been raised now. I agree that the discussion should be improved upon. In compliance, the discussion has been greatly improved upon (see the portions highlighted yellow). The discussion section has properly addressed germination, mortality/survival, growth, biomass, yield parameters and selectivity of tolerant and sensitive genotypes. This has been related to several previous studies on groundnut genotypes, now having 11 references (see references 10-19 and 28). The total number of references has now increased from 22 to 32. The introduction section has also been improved upon to create a link between introduction and discussion. (see the portions highlighted yellow) Of course, I understood the points raised on filter papers and growth chamber. My response was that I did not use growth chambers for the germination studies, since I cannot be claiming to use what I did not use, for repeatability. I also stated further that germination studies can be conducted using Petri dishes between layers of filter papers without necessarily putting them in conditioned growth chambers, particularly where such facilities are not available. Several reserchers have earlier used my method without invalidating the results, since the control and those treated with saline water were placed in the same environment (e.g. please see Mensah et al 2006, a well cited article on germination study of groundnut genotypes under salinity). Many researchers have even used germination trays filled with sandy soil, without having to put them in germination chambers. The methodology depends on the research scope, available facility and the clarity of the method used. Those were the points I raised. I still maintain that the methodology is not new and it is being used by researchers for germination studied. The reviewer may probably not be familiar with this method.