

Editorial comment:-

In my opinion this manuscript cannot be published in AJEA in current form.

1. As I stated earlier, percentage differences between the treatments, presented in the results and discussion section, in many cases are inconsistent with the data presented in tables (e.g. line 186 (28% ?), line 191 (63%), line 262 (42-63%?)).

Response:

The percentage differences have been checked and the appropriate corrections made in the Revised Version 3 of manuscript attached.

E.g. Line 186. The 28% was not incorrect, rather it was the percentage difference observed for 2010, while the number of leaves per plant were similar for 2009.

Similarly, the other concerned sections have been corrected.

Other comments made have been answered.

Editorial comment:-

2. Please improve the conclusion section. Currently some of the statements are not in accordance with the results - see comments in the text attached.

Response:

Some comments in the conclusion were made based on previous statements made as part of the justification for assessing the organic maize with NPK.

In spite of these statements, the study clearly established that it was possible to substitute or integrate NPK with PM for increase production. I agree that the cost reduction and damaging soil effects by NPK could be removed since they were not part of the objectives of the study. The concern on the conclusion has been affected.

Editorial comment:-

3. The manuscript need technical improvement:

- please use $\text{t}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$ or $\text{kg}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$ instead t/ha or kg/ha ,
- Some of the corrections are pointed in the text.

Response:

The t/ha and kg/ha have all been corrected to t ha⁻¹ and kg ha⁻¹

Some corrections pointed out have been responded to.