SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	**American Journal of Experimental Agriculture**
Manuscript Number:	**Ms_AJEA_19637**
Title of the Manuscript:	**Effect of Biochar Soil Amendment on Soil Properties and Yield of Sesame Varieties in Lafia, Nigeria**
Type of the Article	**Original Research 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	**The manuscript represents a valuable study showing the effects of biochar on soil physical and chemical properties and sesame yield in Nigeria. Significant increase in soil macronutrient and micronutrient content as well as a significant increase in sesame yield-related characteristics (seed weight) were found after biochar application. The manuscript text contains an adequate description of the experiment, adequate presentation of experimental data with an adequate statistical evaluation, and clear conclusions are formulated.** **I have only formal comments on the manuscript:** **Abstract, line 6: Correct the year "2011" (not "201")** **Abstract, line 7: Use a comma instead of a dot between the words "Nigeria" and "to evaluate…"** **Abstract, line 21: Insert a comma after the word "Therefore,…"** **Abstract, line 21: Insert a space between a number and a corresponding unit in "1.69 g/cm^3"** **Abstract, line 25: Insert a comma before the word "respectively"** **Abstract, line 27: Insert "a" before the words "gradual increase" , i.e., "a gradual increase"** **Abstract, line 27: Write "resulted in a gradual increase" (NOT: resulted to…")** **Abstract, line 29: Insert a comma before the word "respectively"** **Abstract, line 31: Insert "a" before the words**	Thank you for a thorough review. The corrections you highlighted are good. God bless you.

	"significant effect in both cropping seasons", i.e., "a significant effect in both cropping seasons" - use the plural form "seasons" instead of "season" since you talk about "both seasons" **Introduction, line 47: Use a plural form of the word "states" since there are fourteen states included in the list.** **Lines 49, 73: Modify the word "compare" to "compared" in the sentences "compared to other countries of the world" and "compared to compost"** **Line 58: Rephrase the sentence as follows: "This soil nutrients depletion is a consequence of population pressure which forces farmers to grow…"** **Line 61: Insert "a" before the words "decrease in crop yield", i.e., "a decrease in crop yield"** **Line 63: Insert a comma before the word "especially" and write "especially when the soil benefits from amendments."** **Use author´s name before just a number at the beginning of a sentence - e.g., line 64: Write "Warren [14]" instead of just „[14]"** **Lines 89, 90, 113 and further: Insert a space between a number and a corresponding unit in "08.33 N", "40 mm - 350 mm", "15 cm", etc.** **Line 189: Insert a comma before the word "respectively"** **Line 190: Correct the typing error in "statistically"** **Line 191: Insert "a" before the words "gradual increase", i.e., ůa gradual increase"**	

	Line 239: Remove "as" from the sentence "This improvement in yield is a result of incorporation…" **Line 241: Modify the word form "improve" to "improved" in the sentence "improved water-holding capacity"** **Line 242: Use the word "corroborate instead of "collaborate" in the sentence "This result corroborates the findings…"** **Line 250: Correct the typing error in the word "Conclusion"**	
Minor REVISION comments		
Optional/General comments		