



SDI Review Form 1.6

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| Journal Name: | International Journal of Plant & Soil Science |
| Manuscript Number: | 2013_IJPSS_6870 |
| Title of the Manuscript: | Irrigation strategies for optimizing water table contribution to soil moisture storage and water use of pepper in a humid tropical zone of Nigeria |
| 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:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)



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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) |
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| <u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments | <p style="text-align: center;">General comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Were there no replications of the treatments of this study, and hence statistical analyses of the data attained? 2. The manuscript was badly written, with many incomplete, incoherent or distorted sentences. I also observed an unacceptable level of carelessness on the part of the authors during the preparation of the manuscript. Also there are too many grammatical errors in the manuscript. The manuscript in its present form lacks clarity in the style of its presentation. It needs to be thoroughly re-written. 3. The authors used many methods of computation of ET in their analyses. But the more important factor of groundwater contribution, going by the title of the paper, was not properly addressed. The title of the paper in itself suggests that groundwater contribution can be used to grow pepper in the dry season but may be optimised through a good choice of irrigation schedule. One therefore expects to see data from completely non-irrigated plots, but such plots were not part of this study. This is a major flaw of this paper, otherwise the authors may wish to consider changing the title to reflect the fact that their emphasis was on the effect of irrigation schedule on the components of water balance and production of pepper in an inland-valley ecosystem during the dry season. <p style="text-align: center;">Selected specific comments</p> | <p>The manuscript was not badly written, with many incomplete, incoherent or distorted sentences. <i>We do not agree with this view</i></p> <p>The grammatical errors in the manuscript had been corrected and have been re-written.</p> <p>The important factor of groundwater contribution was properly addressed.</p> <p>The title of the paper in itself suggests that groundwater contribution can be used to grow pepper in the dry season but may be optimised through a good choice of irrigation schedule. The data from completely non-irrigated plots part of this study and is available (as used in another paper). This has been introduced</p> <p>The authors may re- consider changing the title to reflect the emphasis was on the effect of irrigation schedule on the components of water balance and pepper performance in an inland-valley ecosystem during the dry season.</p> |



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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Title: 'Irrigation strategies ... in a humid tropical zone of Nigeria'. Please delete 'tropical' in the title or change the title to 'Irrigation strategies ... in a humid tropical environment' (Reason: we don't have humid temperate zone of Nigeria). 2. Lines 20-23: why repeating this which you already have in Lines 11-14? 3. Lines 23-34: not clear 4. Line 47: Inland valley swamps are not the same as floodplains. 5. Line 75: Of what relevance is SWAP to your study? 6. Lines 176-178: The translation of eq. 5 to eq. 6 was wrongly done. 7. Line 378: Conclusion should not be a repetition of the Results. | <p>Title: 'Irrigation strategies ... in a humid tropical zone of Nigeria'.</p> <p>'tropical' in the title is deleted and changed to 'Irrigation strategies ... in a humid tropical environment'</p> <p>The statement in Lines 20-23 was deleted</p> <p>Lines 23-34 is recast</p> <p>Line 47: Inland valley swamps are synonymously used not the same as floodplains.</p> <p>Line 75: The term SWAP is deleted from text</p> <p>Lines 176-178: The translation of eq. 5 to eq. 6 was correctly done.</p> <p>Line 378: Conclusion is re-written</p> |
| <u>Minor</u> REVISION comments | | |
| <u>Optional/General</u> comments | | |