



SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

PART 1:

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

PART 2:

FINAL EVALUATOR'S comments on revised paper (if any)	Authors' response to final evaluator's comments
<p>I think the MS in writing has improved a lot, but there are still many misunderstandings in calculation of the ET and each components of the water balance, which lead to the unreliable results in the MS. I suggest that the author could just write a paper about the irrigation scheduling on the yield performance of this crop, not involving the crop water use. You didn't have enough data to do such calculations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Table 2a, what's the unit of the root length? Is it cm/plant? If so, the root length data is not correct, with a root weight of over 60 g/plant, the root length would be much higher than the some 20 cm.2. Table 2a, from the value of the water use efficiency (WUE) in the table, it was the irrigation WUE. But for irrigation water use efficiency calculation, it should be IWUE=(yield with irrigation-yield without irrigation)/irrigation amount.3. What's the unit of the Leaf area? Is it cm²/plant? If so, the plant had a very small leaf, only with a leaf area several cm². When did the data collected? The errors are regretted. The unit is m²4. Table 2b, how the water use efficiency for the non-irrigated treatment was calculated?5. Table 3, what's the unit for the ET, was it daily value or for a growing period? The values of ET reported were daily values6. If ET₀ was the reference ET in this MS, the ratio of ET_a/ET₀ was the crop coefficient (K_c). The values in the table 3 and table 4 were not correct.7. The MM section didn't provide information about the measuring some parameters in the tables.	<p>Thank you</p> <p>The length of the tap root was measured and the unit of the root length is cm/plant The error is regretted</p> <p>The errors are regretted. The unit of leaf area measured is m²</p> <p>Irrigation water use efficiency (WUE)</p>