

Journal Name:	International Journal of Plant & Soil Science	
Manuscript Number:	2013_IJPSS_6532	
Title of the Manuscript:	Rice Response to Phosphorus and Potassium in Fluvisol of Second Order Lowland in a Guinea Savanna Zone of Sub-Saharan Africa	
Type of the Article	Research Paper	

Comments per Section of Manuscript

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment <i>(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)</i>
General comment	<p>Uniform fertilizer recommendation over large and highly variable areas (known as blanket fertilizer recommendation) is a common practice across the subsistence-oriented lowland rice production systems in many African countries, including Cote d'Ivoire. This practice however, does not consider variability and location-specific needs, and therefore can be very inefficient and at the same time expensive for the farmer. Farmers should apply only as much nutrient as needed for a realistic yield increase for their specific locality (site-specific fertilizer application).</p> <p>The present study intends to contribute to the development of suitable management options for nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) fertilizers applied in Fluvisol of second order lowland in the Guinea Savanna Zone of Cote d'Ivoire.</p> <p>The manuscript addresses a relevant topic that will certainly be of interest to the readers of the International Journal of Plant and Soil Science (IJPSS), and also to whosoever has a stake in agricultural research and development in lowland rice production systems in Africa.</p> <p>However, the manuscript (MS) has some serious weaknesses that are outlined below.</p>	
Introduction	The problem statement was clearly set forth. But the authors have failed to adequately summarize previous investigations on options for site-specific nutrient management (SSNM) strategies that include site- and season specific knowledge of crop and nutrient management. These strategies have been developed and tested under similar conditions elsewhere. Likewise, the authors have failed to address the knowledge gap and to indicate how the	

	present research is filling the gap?	
Materials & methods	<p>As a consequence of the inadequate and insufficient review of previous investigations relevant to the research hypothesis, the authors have failed to design relevant methods that would rigorously generate data to provide scientific answers to the questions brought about in the problem statement.</p> <p>A considerable amount of scientific knowledge is now available for packaging into appropriate decision tools for the farmers, including the principles of site-specific nutrient management (SSNM). However, no hints were suggested as to the principles of SSNM.. Below is a suggestion of a list of publications, which can be of interest to the authors in their attempt to re-design their research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and delivery of nutrient management innovations for lowland rice farmers (RJ Buresh, et al., 2001); • Dobermann A, Witt C, Dawe D (eds). 2004. Increasing the productivity of intensive rice systems through site-specific nutrient management. Enfield, NH (USA) and Los Baños (Philippines): Science Publishers, Inc., and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). • International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). 2006. Site-specific nutrient management. http://www.irri.org/irrc/ssnm 	
Results & Discussion	Failure to design a rigorous scientific method to attempt to provide answers to questions brought about in the problem statement has made irrelevant data reported in the 'Results and Discussion' sections, and regrettably weakened the scientific quality of an otherwise relevant topic	
Conclusion	The authors' conclusions were irrelevant as a result the inappropriateness of the research data on which they were based.	

Note: Anonymous Reviewer