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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:

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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	**-Line 20-23, is not necessary to repeat the objective of this work.** **-Line 111, a tensiometer is not able to reach the pressure that authors mentioned. Review this statement.** -What kind of tensiometers were used? Specified, so tensiometers with vertical recharge, and with contact to the environment, they usually have some problems with the extreme temperatures, because of evaporation rates. Was it taken into account by the authors? **-Please, rewrite the equations 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 with a correct format and style.** **-Line 187-188 not repeat the equations mentioned above** **-Line 215, what's WAT meaning of??** **-Line 217, please take out an equation from the title of one section** **-line 236 to 239, how did the authors measure the matric or hydric potential?, was it done using a tensiometer?, what sort of tensiometer can measure more than -80 kPa?** **-another interesting variable to analyze when a soil is characterized is the organic matter. Why the authors didn't mention in the manuscript? The organic matter content it is one of the most important variables in terms of water content and water potential and hydraulic conductivity as well, when an agricultural soil is characterized. This variables influence quite much at low potentials, i.e. at the beginning of the soil water characteristic curve.** **-some graphics need units. Also, in Figure 2a, put the units in positive sense. Use bars or kPa, yet**	

	graphics need coherence in units **-Figure 4, please I can't understand the Y axis, and the curve equation it can't read well** **Figure 5 a and b, need axis Y units or legend**	
Minor REVISION comments	-A cites is needed for calculating the soil water content and water content in the biomass as well. -What's meaning the follow paragraph in bold "The second year experiments which involved identical treatments as in 2009 were sown on December and January 2009 and 2010 respectively. the results for the two-years experiments were separately analyzed, and were not significantly different from one year to the other. Therefore, data collected o for the two-years of study were averaged and means are presented in tables and figures in the text (Tables … to … and fig. … to …"?, which are the tables and figures belonging? -Review some grammatical and orthographic errors -line 61, 62, 121, 122, etc… should be written as equations below the paragraph, and they should include an explanation of the equation terms. -I strongly recommend remake the graphics, same style, size, clears and comprenhensible.	
Optional/General comments	-A map of the study area would be interesting for the readers to locate the experimental plot in Nigeria. -I suggest to take a look the article Srivastava R. & Guzman-Guzman A. (1995). Analysis of hydraulic conductivity averaging schemes for one-dimensional steady-state unsaturated flow. *Ground Water*, Vol 33, 6, 946-952.	

Note: Anonymous Reviewer