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**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:

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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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| **Compulsory** REVISION comments | **Review of manuscript "Irrigation strategies for optimizing water table contribution to soil moisture storage and water use of pepper in a humid tropical zone of Nigeria**<br><br>The manuscript presents data quantifying the contribution of water table via capillary rise and irrigation to soil water content, ETc and agronomic parameters of a pepper crop in Nigeria.<br><br>The major reasons are:<br>- The methodology is incomplete and does not allows the reader to fully understand the work<br>- The paper is not properly written and many mistakes appears in the text, in relation to, (i) symbols that are not used consistently, (ii) cite to tables that refer to the wrong ones, (iii) unfinished sentences as well as (iv) poor English.<br>- One of the major indices used in the paper to quantify water stress is the "CWSI defined by the authors as: CWSI= 1-ETa/ETo. This index is incorrect; the CWSI is a crop water stress index based on measurements of canopy temperature in relation to a well irrigated crop. In this paper, ETa is the crop evapotranspiration calculated according to the FAO methodology and ETo is the reference evapotranspiration. Authors call ETo "potential evapotranspiration" | |

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| | which is an outdated terminology. The ratio of ETc/ETo is the kc and the value (1-kc) is a meaningless index.<br>- Pepper growth is not properly measured as units are expressed as g??<br>- The calculation of water table contribution is incorrect. This calculation is based on a water balance where ETc is estimated. Authors assume that ETc is the maximum evapotranspiration; if the crop is suffering water stress, ETc would be less that the calculated by FAO and the estimation of capillarity flux will be incorrect.<br>- Results are very short and very difficult to understand<br><br>In conclusion, since the methods used to quantify major parameters are not correct. | |
| **Minor** REVISION comments | | |
| **Optional/General** comments | | |

*Note: Anonymous Reviewer*