

Reviewer's Comment:

Attached are my comments on the paper.

Very impressed with the revisions made by the authors. It needs these minor comments (directly noted on the paper) to be worked on.

The author as well needs to reduce the sentence length and strengthen the flow of ideas. Otherwise I liked reading the second draft.

Author's Feedback:

Thanks a lot for the prompt review process you made so far. We have made the necessary corrections on the manuscript where we accepted most of the minor corrections suggested by the reviewer within the text. The corrections have been highlighted yellow in the text. Below is our response to various suggestion and comments given by the reviewer.

Pg1 ln 12-13 (Reviewer comment 1): we have corrected to read"Tharaka and Mbeere Sub-counties and Kitui County" According to new Kenyan administrative units we have confirmed that Tharaka is a Subcounty within Tharaka Nithi County while Mbeere is a Sub-county in the Embu County while Kitui is a County from the former Eastern Province. This correction has been done throughout the manuscript

Pg1 ln 26: "In conclusion....." has been deleted from the sentence

Pg 1 ln29-30: all the capitalized keywords has been changed to small letters

Pg 1 ln36 (Reviewer comment 2):"across space and over time" has been corrected to read ".....widely" and reference [2] citation added

Pg4 ln159 (Reviewer comment 3): scientific names of the different crops have been provided

Pg 4 ln166-172 (Reviewer comment 6): the sentences have been reworked to be more focused and precise maintaining a logic flow.

Pg4 ln181 (Reviewer comment 7): Citation [22] for a mixed purposeful sampling has been provided

Pg 5 ln212-213: the sentence has been rewritten as suggested by reviewer and correct software name and source included

Pg 5 ln218-222: deleted as suggested by reviewer

Pg7 ln258-261: the sentence has been reworked to be shorter and precise

Pg 9 ln 340-341: Fig 1 has been redone keeping in line with reviewer suggestions

Pg11 ln405-406: Fig 2 has been also been reworked according to reviewer suggestion

Pg11 ln409: Scientific name for mango has been provided

Pg13 ln464-468: the sentence has been rewritten to be shorter and precise as suggested by reviewer

Pg13 ln486-559: the reference section has been cleaned out as observed by reviewer and the new citations included appropriately