

Review Form 1.7

Journal Name:	International Journal of Plant & Soil Science
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJPSS_114756
Title of the Manuscript:	Soil Fertility Assessment and Mapping under Different Land Use Types along Toposequence at Danka Watershed in Dinsho Districts of Bale Highland Oromia, Southeastern Ethiopia
Type of the Article	

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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)
<p>Compulsory REVISION comments</p> <p>1. Is the manuscript important for scientific community?</p> <p>2. Is the title of the article suitable? Assessment and mapping of soil fertility in various land uses along the toposequences from Danka River to Bale Highlands, Oromia or SE Ethiopia.</p> <p>3. Is the abstract of the article comprehensive?</p> <p>4. Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</p> <p>5. Do you think the manuscript is scientifically correct?</p> <p>6. Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestion of additional references, please mention in the review form.</p> <p><u>(Apart from above mentioned 6 points, reviewers are free to provide additional suggestions/comments)</u></p>	<p>1. (yes) 2. Assessment and mapping of soil fertility in various land uses along the toposequences from Danka River to Bale Highlands, Oromia or SE Ethiopia. 3. Answer: No, it must be revised 4. Answer: Prepare the manuscript according to the format provided in the instruction for authors 5. Answer: Yes 6. Answer: ok</p> <p>Abstract: The utilization of composite soil sampling and laboratory analysis followed by interpolation techniques demonstrates a robust methodology. Moreover, employing both ArcGIS and R software for data analysis enhances the credibility and reliability of the study's findings. - A forward thinking approach to precision agriculture and food security enhancement is indicated in the recommendation for additional research on slope position based fertilizer response ratings. This indicates the possibility of exploring tailored fertilization strategies based on specific soil and slope conditions in the Danka catchment area for future studies. - It would be beneficial for the study to discuss any limitations or constraints encountered during the research process. Additionally, considering socio-economic factors and stakeholder engagement in soil management initiatives could enrich the study's implications further.</p> <p>* The description of the field survey and site selection process lacks clarity in certain areas. For example, the term "free surveying" may not be well-defined and could benefit from further elaboration or clarification. * There is no mention of any measures taken to ensure the quality and reliability of the data collected during the field survey. Including information on data validation procedures or quality control measures would help to reassure readers about the accuracy of the research findings. -While the text briefly mentions the use of ArcGIS software for delineating the study area and Arc Hydro Extension for automatic delineation, it lacks detail on how these techniques were applied and their relevance to the research objectives. Providing more information on the specific GIS tools and methodologies used could improve the clarity and comprehensiveness of the methodology section. - The description of soil sample preparation and analysis is thorough, covering the process from collection to laboratory analysis. However, it would be helpful to specify the specific physicochemical characteristics analyzed and the rationale behind choosing these parameters. Additionally, including information on the laboratory's accreditation and quality assurance procedures would enhance the credibility of the results - In order to minimise variability and assure comparability of results, it is important to confirm that standardised laboratory procedures have been consistently applied throughout all sample analyses. In order to assess the reliability of these data, details should be included on each analysis's particular protocols. - The conclusion briefly mentions the relevance of the soil fertility status map for planners, decision-makers, and stakeholders, but it does not elaborate on how these groups can utilize the information effectively. Including a discussion on the practical implications of the findings and how they can inform land management practices would strengthen the conclusion. - The conclusion does not address potential challenges or limitations associated with implementing the recommended strategies. Acknowledging these challenges and proposing ways to overcome them would provide a more comprehensive and realistic perspective for stakeholders. - The conclusion could benefit from clearer communication of recommendations to farmers and other stakeholders. Providing specific guidance on how they can utilize the study findings to improve soil and plant nutrient management strategies would make the recommendations more actionable and accessible.</p>	

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Minor REVISION comments		
1. Is language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?	The paper has many editorial and grammatical errors which should be thoroughly revised.	
Optional/General comments		

PART 2:

	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)
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

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