

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	International Journal of Plant & Soil Science
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJPSS_121483
Title of the Manuscript:	Influence of enriched Zeolite on chemical and biological properties of black soil (Typic Calciusterts)
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

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PART 1: Review Comments

Compulsory REVISION comments	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback (Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<p>Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. Why do you like (or dislike) this manuscript? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>This manuscript provides valuable insights into the utilization of zinc-loaded zeolite for enhancing soil health. It specifically concentrates on exploring the chemical and biological characteristics of black soil. By investigating the impact on soil pH, electrical conductivity, organic carbon content, and enzymatic activities, the study enhances our comprehension of alternative strategies for managing zinc nutrients. I believe that these findings hold significant implications for sustainable agriculture as they offer potential solutions to address zinc deficiency in soils. This deficiency is a crucial concern that affects crop productivity and food security.</p>	
<p>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.</p>	<p>Summarize the main conclusions and explain their implications. Additionally, you may consider providing suggestions for future research or practical applications.</p>	
<p>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</p>	<p>It might be helpful to include a subsection in the Materials and Methods section specifically for the statistical analysis methods used. This will provide clearer insight into how the data was processed and interpreted.</p>	
<p>Please write a few sentences regarding the scientific correctness of this manuscript. Why do you think that this manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>The manuscript is scientifically sound, employing rigorous experimental methodologies and comprehensive statistical analyses. The experimental design, which includes graded levels of Zn-loaded zeolite and controlled moisture regimes, is well-conceived and appropriate for achieving the study's objectives.</p>	
<p>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form. :-</p>	<p>The references in the manuscript are generally sufficient, covering a broad range of studies relevant to the topic. However, there are a few key areas where additional references could strengthen the manuscript, particularly in the context of recent advancements in zinc nutrient management and the use of zeolites. The following articles could be useful in supporting the introduction:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adisa IO, Pullagurala VLR, Peralta-Videa JR, Dimkpa CO, Elmer WH, Gardea-Torresdey JL. "Recent advances in nano-enabled fertilizers and pesticides: a critical review of mechanisms of action." <i>Environmental Science Nano</i>. 2019;6(7):2002-2030. 2. Mondal, M.; Biswas, B.; Garai, S.; Sarkar, S.; Banerjee, H.; Brahmachari, K.; Bandyopadhyay, P.K.; Maitra, S.; Brestic, M.; Skalicky, M.; et al. Zeolites Enhance Soil Health, Crop Productivity and Environmental Safety. <i>Agronomy</i> 2021, 11, 448. https://doi.org/10.3390/agronomy11030448 	

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<p>Minor REVISION comments</p> <p>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>The language quality of the article is generally clear and adheres to the norms of scholarly communication. However, there are minor grammatical errors and inconsistencies in subject-verb agreement that should be addressed. For example, "The highest dehydrogenase activity the highest (203.4 μg of TPF h^{-1})" should be rephrased for clarity.</p> <p>Please ensure consistent formatting and terminology throughout the document. For instance, sometimes "Zn-loaded zeolite" is hyphenated, and sometimes it is not.</p> <p>Improve punctuation for better readability. For example, "Therefore, it is important to investigate alternative zinc nutrient management strategies" instead of "Thus it is essential to investigate alternative zinc nutrient management."</p> <p>Since the experiment has already been conducted, using the past tense "investigated" is the appropriate verb tense.</p>	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>	<p>Summarize the main findings and their implications and provide suggestions for future research or practical applications in the abstract section.</p> <p>The introduction is well-written.</p> <p>Include four to eight keywords.</p> <p>Divide the Materials and Methods section into subsections. Include information about the sampling location (longitude, latitude), and its atmospheric conditions, such as maximum and minimum temperature and rainfall. Provide clarification on the analytical method used to determine individual parameters, including names, models, or manufacturers of the devices used.</p> <p>Integrate tables and figures into the text. Present them in the order they appear in the text. Follow the table format provided in the manuscript and modify it accordingly. In Table 2, instead of indicating 'Jackson (1973)', use an in-text citation like [num].</p> <p>The figure caption could be revised to improve clarity and readability. Here is a suggested revision: "Fig. 1. Representation of enzymatic activities (Dehydrogenase - μg TPF g^{-1} soil h^{-1}, Urease - μg $\text{NH}_4^+ -\text{N}$ g^{-1} dry soil, and Phosphatase - μg p-nitrophenol g^{-1} soil h^{-1}) at field capacity." Please apply the same revisions to the remaining captions.</p> <p>Discuss the limitations of the study and future research prospects in the Conclusion section.</p>	

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

Reviewer Details:

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