

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	International Journal of Plant & Soil Science
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJPSS_120246
Title of the Manuscript:	Delineation of Soil-Crop Nutrient Status in Continuous Cotton Growing Areas of Sangareddy District of Telangana under GIS Environment
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

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PART 1: Review Comments

Compulsory REVISION comments	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<p>Please write few sentences regarding the importance this manuscript for scientific community. Why do you like (or dislike) this manuscript? Minimum 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>This manuscript provides valuable insights into the spatial variability of soil nutrients in cotton-growing regions, which is crucial for optimizing fertilizer application and improving crop yields. It contributes to the understanding of nutrient management and soil fertility, essential for sustainable agriculture practices. The detailed analysis of soil and leaf nutrient content enhances our knowledge of nutrient dynamics and their impact on crop production.</p>	
<p>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p>	<p>The current title is "Status of soil fertility and leaf nutrient content in cotton-growing soils of a semi-arid region." While it is descriptive, it could be made more specific and engaging. Suggested alternative title: "Spatial Variability of Soil Fertility and Leaf Nutrient Content in Cotton Fields of a Semi-Arid Region."</p>	
<p>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.</p>	<p>The abstract is comprehensive but could benefit from a clearer emphasis on the main findings and their implications. Suggested additions include highlighting the significant variability found in nutrient content and its potential impact on cotton yield. Additionally, briefly mentioning the practical recommendations for nutrient management would enhance the abstract.</p>	
<p>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</p>	<p>The subsections and structure of the manuscript are generally appropriate, but the flow could be improved by better transitioning between sections. Each section should clearly introduce its focus and how it contributes to the overall objectives of the study</p>	
<p>Please write few sentences regarding the scientific correctness of this manuscript. Why do think that this manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound? Minimum 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>This manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. The methodology for soil and leaf sampling, nutrient analysis, and statistical treatment of data is well-executed and appropriate for the study objectives. The results are clearly presented and discussed in the context of existing literature, providing a solid foundation for the conclusions drawn</p>	
<p>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestion of additional references, please mention in the review form.</p>	<p>The references are sufficient and recent, reflecting the current state of research in soil fertility and nutrient management. However, including more recent studies on nutrient management practices in semi-arid regions could further strengthen the manuscript.</p>	

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<p>Minor REVISION comments</p> <p>Is language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Improve the clarity of transitions between sections.<input type="checkbox"/> Expand the discussion on the implications of magnesium content in soils.<input type="checkbox"/> Include specific data comparisons with cited studies for a more robust comparative analysis.<input type="checkbox"/> Address minor grammatical errors and awkward phrasing to enhance readability. <p>The language and English quality of the article are suitable for scholarly communications, but minor improvements in phrasing and grammar are recommended to ensure clarity and readability</p>	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>	<p>Introduction of Subsections:</p> <p>Ensure that each subsection is clearly introduced. For instance, the transition between different nutrient contents (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, and Magnesium) can be more fluid by providing a brief introduction before delving into the specifics of each nutrient.</p> <p>Data Presentation:</p> <p>The data presentation in tables (Tables 4 and 5) is mentioned, but the actual tables are not included in the provided text. Ensure that the tables are included and correctly referenced within the text.</p> <p>Comparative Analysis:</p> <p>The comparisons with previous studies are mentioned, but specific numerical or contextual comparisons with cited studies (e.g., Vasu et al. [19], Reddy et al. [21], etc.) are not provided. Including specific data from these studies would strengthen the comparative analysis.</p> <p>Citations and References:</p> <p>Ensure all citations are correctly formatted and that the reference list is complete and accurate. Verify that all cited works are included in the references section and that they adhere to the journal's referencing style.</p> <p>Explanation of Variability:</p> <p>The reasons for the observed variability in soil nutrients are briefly mentioned, but a more detailed explanation could be beneficial. For instance, explain the mechanisms behind nitrogen loss (volatilization, nitrification, denitrification) and how these processes specifically affect cotton-growing soils in the region.</p> <p>Depth-wise Nutrient Analysis:</p> <p>The text discusses nutrient content at different soil depths (0-15 cm and 15-30 cm). However, a more detailed analysis of how these depth variations specifically impact cotton growth and yield would be useful.</p> <p>Magnesium Content Discussion:</p> <p>The discussion on magnesium content should be expanded. While it mentions that the soils are calcareous and contain smectitic clay minerals, it would be helpful to explain how these factors influence magnesium availability and its uptake by cotton plants.</p> <p>Leaf Nutrient Content:</p> <p>The nutrient content of cotton leaves is mentioned, but there is no discussion on how these levels</p>	

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	<p>compare to optimal nutrient levels for cotton. Including a comparison with established nutrient standards for cotton leaves would provide a clearer context for the data.</p> <p>Figures and Illustrations:</p> <p>Including figures or illustrations (e.g., graphs showing the distribution of nutrient content across different depths and locations) would enhance the readability and comprehensibility of the data.</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>The conclusion provides a summary of findings but could benefit from specific recommendations for farmers or policymakers based on the study results. For instance, suggest practical nutrient management strategies or soil amendment practices that could address the identified nutrient deficiencies.</p> <p>Editing and Clarity:</p> <p>There are a few grammatical errors and awkward phrasing that should be addressed. For instance, "High variability in leaf nutrient content indicates diverse soil fertility levels across the study area" can be rephrased for clarity.</p> <p>Implications of Findings:</p> <p>Discuss the broader implications of the findings for the agricultural community and potential impacts on cotton production in the region. This could include economic implications, potential changes in farming practices, and long-term soil health.</p> <p>Future Research:</p> <p>Suggest areas for future research that could build on the findings of this study. This could include more detailed studies on the impact of specific nutrient management practices or long-term monitoring of soil fertility changes.</p>	
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PART 2:

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

Reviewer Details:

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