

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	Journal of Scientific Research and Reports
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JSRR_124965
Title of the Manuscript:	Impact of various cotton intercropping systems with legumes and cereals on Bt cotton phenotypic traits under rainfed conditions
Type of the 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 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 is important for the scientific community as it contributes valuable insights into plant breeding and agricultural sustainability, particularly in relation to enhancing crop resilience against pests and environmental stressors. The focus on specific genotypes and varieties offers practical applications for improving food security, which aligns with global initiatives. I appreciate the manuscript's clear methodological approach and its relevance to current agricultural challenges, though a deeper exploration of broader ecological impacts could have strengthened the findings. Overall, it serves as a meaningful contribution to crop improvement research.</p>	
<p>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p>	<p>The title "Impact of Various Cotton Intercropping Systems with Legumes and Cereals on Bt Cotton Phenotypic Traits Under Rainfed Conditions" is quite descriptive and informative. It effectively conveys the main components of the study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subject Matter: The focus on Bt cotton and its interaction with different intercropping systems. - Variables: The inclusion of legumes and cereals highlights the specific intercropping systems being studied. - Conditions: Mentioning "rainfed conditions" indicates the environmental context of the research. <p>If you feel that the title could be refined, consider the following alternative:</p> <p>"Evaluating the Influence of Legume and Cereal Intercropping on Bt Cotton Traits in Rainfed Conditions"</p> <p>This version emphasizes the evaluation aspect, which might attract readers interested in the practical implications of the research.</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>The abstract provides a solid overview of the study, outlining its objectives, methodology, and key findings. However, some enhancements could improve clarity and comprehensiveness. Here are some suggestions:</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarify objective: The objective could be stated more clearly at the beginning. For example, specify that the aim is to assess the impact of different intercropping systems on the phenotypic traits of Bt cotton. - Methodology details: While the experimental design is mentioned, providing more details about the duration of the study, the location, and the specific conditions (e.g., soil type, rainfall patterns) could enhance the context. - Results specificity: Include specific quantitative results where possible (e.g., percentage improvements in growth rates or yields), as this adds strength to the findings. - Balance in conclusions: The conclusion mentions both the benefits of legumes and the challenges of cereals but could balance this by briefly summarizing the implications of these findings for agricultural practices. - Keywords relevance: Ensure that the keywords reflect the core aspects of the research, including specific crops studied and the context of the findings. 	
<p>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</p>	<p>The structure and subsections of your manuscript titled "Impact of various cotton intercropping systems with legumes and cereals on Bt cotton phenotypic traits under rainfed conditions" are generally appropriate for a scientific paper. Below are some observations and suggestions for</p>	

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improvement:

General Structure

1. **Abstract:**

- Your abstract provides a clear overview of the study, including the aim, methods, and key findings. However, consider condensing it further to enhance clarity. Aim for a concise summary of key points without excessive detail.

2. **Keywords:**

- The keywords are relevant and suitable. Consider adding more specific terms that reflect the intercropping systems used or specific findings.

3. **Introduction:**

- The introduction sets a solid foundation by contextualizing the study within the broader agricultural challenges and the significance of intercropping. However, it could be more focused on the specific gaps your study addresses.
- Consider restructuring to clearly define:
 - The problem statement
 - The significance of your research
 - The specific objectives or hypotheses of your study.

4. **Materials and Methods:**

- This section is well-detailed, providing a clear understanding of the experimental design and methodology. Ensure that the methods are sufficiently replicable by including details on soil preparation, planting density, and any statistical analyses conducted.
- A subheading for **Statistical Analysis** could be added to enhance clarity.

5. **Results:**

- The results section is organized and presents data clearly. Including tables for dry matter accumulation and crop growth rates is beneficial for visualizing the findings.
- Consider breaking the results into subsections based on specific parameters (e.g., Dry Matter Accumulation, Crop Growth Rate, Relative Growth Rate, Boll Weight) to improve readability.

Suggestions for Improvement

- **Subsection Titles:** Ensure that the titles of the subsections in the results are descriptive. For example, instead of just "Result," use "**Results and Discussion**" to indicate that this section includes interpretation.
- **Discussion Section:**
 - A dedicated discussion section could strengthen your manuscript. In this section, interpret your findings, compare them with previous studies, and discuss implications for agricultural practices. This helps in understanding the significance of your results beyond just the data presented.
- **Conclusion:**
 - If not included, consider adding a conclusion that summarizes the main findings and their potential impact on cotton intercropping systems.
- **References:**
 - Ensure you have a comprehensive reference list at the end of your manuscript, formatted according to the journal's requirements.

Conclusion

Overall, the manuscript is well-structured and presents relevant information. Making these adjustments can enhance clarity, focus, and the impact of your research.

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<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 demonstrates scientific robustness through its comprehensive methodology, which adheres to established protocols in the field. It employs rigorous statistical analyses to validate the results, ensuring that the conclusions drawn are based on solid empirical evidence. Additionally, the literature review effectively contextualizes the research within current scientific discourse, highlighting its relevance and potential contributions. Overall, the meticulous approach taken in both experimental design and data interpretation supports the manuscript's technical soundness.</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 cited in the manuscript appear to be sufficient and include a good mix of foundational studies and more recent publications relevant to the research topic. However, it would enhance the manuscript to include additional recent studies from the last 2-3 years to ensure that it reflects the latest advancements in the field.</p>	

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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 mostly clear, but it would benefit from improvements for better readability and scholarly communication. Key areas that need attention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sentence structure and grammar: There are several long sentences that can be broken into shorter, more coherent ones to improve clarity. Some grammatical errors, such as missing articles ("the" and "a") and verb tense inconsistencies, should be addressed. For instance, "Intercropping being a unique property of tropical and sub-tropical areas is becoming popular day by day among small farmers" should be revised to: "Intercropping, a unique practice in tropical and subtropical areas, is increasingly popular among small farmers."- Consistency: There are inconsistent uses of terms like "Bt cotton" (sometimes referred to as "Bt cotton" and other times as "genetically modified cotton"). Stick to a single term for clarity and consistency.- Punctuation: Some sentences are missing punctuation, especially commas, which can make them difficult to follow. For example: "The experiment laid out with randomized block design with fifteen treatments which is sole and intercropping..." should be: "The experiment was laid out using a randomized block design with fifteen treatments, involving sole and intercropping systems..."- Flow and cohesion: Some sections, such as the introduction, can be more logically structured to better guide the reader. For instance, the introduction should begin with a broader context before narrowing down to the specifics of Bt cotton and intercropping.- Passive vs. Active voice: While passive voice is sometimes acceptable in academic writing, alternating between active and passive voice can make the text sound inconsistent. Consider maintaining a uniform voice throughout. <p>Overall, with some revisions, the article's language can be refined to meet scholarly standards. Improving sentence structure, grammar, and consistency will enhance its clarity and impact.</p>	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The authors should carefully review and revise the paper template to ensure it aligns with the required guidelines and formatting standards (font, font size, etc.).- Here are some criticisms about the proportionality of the introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion, and conclusions sections of the paper: <p>Introduction</p> <p>The introduction provides good background information on cotton and Bt cotton, but it could be more focused on the specific research question and hypotheses.</p> <p>Key points to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clearly state the research hypothesis or specific question• Provide more context on why this study is needed• Briefly mention the experimental design and key variables measured <p>Materials and Methods</p> <p>The materials and methods section is comprehensive, but it could be more clearly organized and easier to follow.</p>	

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	<p>Key points to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group similar information together (e.g., experimental setup, measurements, statistical analysis)• Provide more details on the experimental design and randomization procedure• Clarify the exact timing of measurements and sampling procedures <p>Results</p> <p>The results section is extensive and provides detailed data for many measurements. However, it could be more effectively presented to highlight key findings.</p> <p>Key points to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summarize the main findings at the beginning of the results section• Use graphs or tables to present data more clearly• Focus on statistically significant differences rather than every detail <p>Discussion</p> <p>The discussion is quite long and sometimes repetitive. It could be more focused on interpreting the key findings and their implications.</p> <p>Key points to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clearly state the main conclusions from the study• Discuss the implications of the findings• Address limitations of the study• Relate the findings to existing literature more explicitly <p>Conclusions</p> <p>The conclusions section is brief but somewhat disconnected from the discussion. It could be more effectively linked to the earlier sections.</p> <p>Key points to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summarize the main take-home messages from the study• Clearly state the practical implications of the findings• Suggest avenues for future research• Do not forget to write a brief acknowledgement, after the conclusions section.• Add the following sections according to the SDI-Paper Template recommendations: competing interests, authors' contributions, consent (where applicable), ethical approval (where applicable). <p>Overall, the paper provides valuable data on the impact of intercropping on Bt cotton phenotypic traits, but would benefit from a more focused presentation of the results and discussion, as well as clearer connections between sections. Minor revisions for clarity and a few additional references to support specific claims would also be helpful.</p> <p>Based on my analysis, there do not appear to be any explicit competing interests disclosed in this manuscript.</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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