

Review Form 3

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| Journal Name: | International Journal of Environment and Climate Change |
| Manuscript Number: | Ms_IJECC_123183 |
| Title of the Manuscript: | INFLUENCE OF TREE CANOPY COVER ON SOIL MOISTURE DYNAMICS IN DIFFERENT AGROFORESTRY SYSTEMS UNDER SEMI-ARID CONDITION |
| Type of the Article | Original Research Article |

General guidelines for the Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guidelines for the Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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Important Policies Regarding Peer Review

Peer review Comments Approval Policy: <https://r1.reviewerhub.org/peer-review-comments-approval-policy/>

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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> |
|---|--|---|
| 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. | Soil Moisture is an important parameter which influences productivity. This is even more crucial when a land is used for growing several type of crops simultaneously as in the case of agroforestry where in tree crops and agricultural crops are cultivated together having ecological interactions. | |
| Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title) | Title is suitable. | |
| 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. | Abstract of the article is comprehensive. However, dividing into paragraphs i.e aim, methods, results etc. is not necessary. It may be written as a continuous para. | |
| Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate? | Yes. | |
| 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. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is not clear how many soil samples were collected for each treatment (inside the canopy for a agroforestry system) and control (outside canopy). It is also not clear how extensive were each of the different agroforestry system studied i.e. areas under the canopy cover of a particular tree species. Also, it is not clear whether there were possibilities of "interactions" in soils under various agroforestry systems based on their relative locations, and slope etc. So more detailed information regarding the relative locations of different agroforestry systems need to be included along with data about number of samples and the variation in soil moisture within the agroforestry system. 2. There is a sizable variation in Soil moisture outside the canopy, mentioned to be "as influenced by the different agroforestry models" without including any information about the zone of influence i.e up to how much distance from edge of the canopy cover. It is also likely to be impacted by land slope. To this extent, whether comparison is scientifically correct. | |
| Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form. | Several references cited are more than 20 years old. It would be better to include more recent publications. | |

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| Minor REVISION comments Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | Language is ok. 1. Some of the abbreviations used eg. S.Em±, CD may better be in full form when they are used first time in the article, along with their connotation if different from the relevant commonly understood definitions, for clarity | |
| Optional/General comments | | |

PART 2:

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| | 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> | |

Reviewer Details:

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Name: | Arun Kumar Bansal |
| Department, University & Country | India |