Review Form 3

Journal Name:	**International Journal of Plant & Soil Science**
Manuscript Number:	**Ms_IJPSS_127656**
Title of the Manuscript:	**EFFICACY OF DIATOMACEOUS EARTH AND SILICIC ACID IN MULBERRY CROP ON ITS LEAF QUALITY AND BIOCHEMICAL ATTRIBUTES**
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.
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PART 1: 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)*
Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.	This manuscript is significant as it provides valuable insights into how diatomite (DE) and silicic acid (SA) can improve the biochemical and quality parameters of mulberry leaves. As mulberry leaves are critical for silk farming, this research holds potential for enhancing silk productivity through better-quality leaves. The findings can contribute to the development of sustainable agricultural practices by exploring the synergy of DE and SA for improving plant health and nutrient uptake. Furthermore, this work may inspire further research on the role of silica in non-accumulator plants like mulberry, which could be applicable to other crops as well.	
Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)	The current title of the manuscript accurately reflects the primary focus of the study, which is the effect of diatomite and silicic acid on the quality of mulberry leaves. However, it could be made slightly more specific to emphasize the combined application of these treatments. A suggestion for a revised title could be: "Enhancing the Biochemical Quality of Mulberry Leaves through Combined Application of Diatomite and Silicic Acid".	
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.	The abstract of the manuscript is comprehensive as it succinctly summarizes the main findings, methodology, and significance of the study. However, a brief mention of the experimental design (e.g., number of treatments or specific treatments used) could improve clarity. The inclusion of the broader implications of the findings, such as the potential economic and environmental benefits of using DE and SA, would strengthen the abstract. Otherwise, the abstract is clear and well-structured.	
Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.	The manuscript appears scientifically correct based on the data and methods presented. The methodology for assessing biochemical components and the application of DE and SA to mulberry is appropriate. The results are discussed with clear scientific reasoning, and the interpretation of the data is logical. The manuscript accurately references previous studies, providing a strong theoretical foundation for the results. However, ensuring that the experimental controls (absolute control vs. RDF control) are clearly differentiated would enhance clarity, as these terms seem to be used interchangeably at times.	
Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.	The references cited are generally sufficient and relevant to the topic, covering aspects of plant nutrition, Si application, and mulberry leaf quality. However, some references could be updated to include more recent studies on the use of DE and SA, particularly in relation to their impact on plant growth and leaf quality. Recent studies on the effects of silicon in agriculture or similar crops could strengthen the manuscript. Adding references from the past 2-3 years could help ensure that the manuscript is up to date with current research.	
Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?	The language and quality of the manuscript are generally suitable for scholarly communication. The writing is clear, and the scientific terminology is used correctly. However, there are occasional minor grammatical issues and redundancies that could be refined.	
Optional/General comments	The study demonstrates a well-designed experiment with valuable insights into the role of DE and silicic acid in improving mulberry leaf quality.	

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?	*(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)*	

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