

### Review Form 3

Journal Name:	<a href="#">International Journal of Plant &amp; Soil Science</a>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJPSS_127816
Title of the Manuscript:	Status and Distribution of Micronutrient in Litchi (Litchi Chinensis Sonn.) Orchards Under Subtropical Conditions of Himachal Pradesh
Type of the 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**

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**PART 1: 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. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.	This manuscript reports on the status of micronutrients in Litchi orchards under subtropical conditions of Himachal Pradesh. Such studies are a welcome step in effectively managing soil nutrients by applying fertiliser. Most farms are neglected by scientists which end up affecting the inherent properties of soil through over-application of fertilisers and thus leads to soil degradation. This kind of work is crucial as it opens room for effective soil resource management and provides baseline information for other studies.	
Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)	The title is suitable, but it needs some modification. In the introduction, the authors do not answer the distribution part raised in the title. Another thing, the relationship between micronutrients and soil properties seems to be taking a huge part of the manuscript. The authors should rethink introducing driving factors in the title rather than the distribution.	
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.	For the abstract to be comprehensive, I suggest addition of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The authors must specify their methodology. The area studied, sampling strategy and number of samples collected must come in the abstract.</li> <li>2. The authors must specify all micronutrients and what they mean by high status. Do they have thresholds or what? The author must specify what do they mean also on sufficient of the leaf, was it greater than a certain value?</li> <li>3. I am suggesting that authors should add correlation coefficients in their abstract. This is because when they mentioned the negative correlation, they were quiet on the strength of the correlation. Suddenly when the positive correlation is in place, they mention the strength.</li> <li>4. Most importantly, the authors need to write concluding remarks in their abstract. What is the study telling us. What is the way forward?</li> </ol>	
Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.	The manuscript is scientifically incorrect. I am failing to grasp the problem, motivation and conclusion of the study. Why specifically the status of micronutrients, was there a scientific gap associated with this? Why are the micronutrients linked to Litchi was there a problem encountered with Litchi production, was the problem related to micronutrients and all of them? Why not other properties? The problem and motivation need to be clarified.	
Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.	The references are not sufficient and recent. My key suggestion is for the authors to find recent works published in the same space. I am also worried about the anonymous citation included. It is not anonymous, it can be found here, <a href="https://nhb.gov.in/statistics/Publication/Horticulture%20At%20a%20Glance%202017%20for%20net%20uplod%20(2).pdf">https://nhb.gov.in/statistics/Publication/Horticulture%20At%20a%20Glance%202017%20for%20net%20uplod%20(2).pdf</a>	
Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?	The language quality is fair.	
<u>Optional/General</u> comments		

**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>	

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