



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of Plant & Soil Science
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJPSS_49973
Title of the Manuscript:	INFLUENCE OF FARMING PRACTICES ON THE CHEMICAL PROPERTIES OF SOIL IN SMALL SCALE TEA FARMS IN KIRINYAGA AND THARAKA-NITHI COUNTIES OF KENYA
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

General guideline for 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 guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)



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PART 1: Review Comments

	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)
Compulsory REVISION comments	<p>REFERENCES</p> <p>-First of all, the referencing style used in the text does not conform to journal guidelines. The author should rearrange the references in the text using numbers in brackets, [], E.g. In the introduction, the first three references should be written as follows: "The interactions of the nutrients also affect the availability of each other either positively or negatively [1], [2], [3] ...</p> <p>-Secondly, the corresponding references used in the text should be numbered accordingly in the reference list, sequentially.</p> <p>-The reference "Njogu et al. (2013)" has been written twice in the reference list. One should be deleted.</p> <p>MATERIALS AND METHODS</p> <p>-It is important to give the full meaning of KTDA.</p> <p>-The method used for analysis of exchangeable acidity, total organic carbon and available nutrients should be referenced.</p> <p>-The units "me%" is not standard. Change this either to meq/100g or cmol+/kg</p> <p>-The conclusion should be improved and let it reflect or support the findings of the study.</p> <p>I suggest that the introduction and discussions should be improved with the following references:</p> <p>- Sitienei, K., Kamiri, H. W., Nduru, G. M., & Kamau, D. M. (2018). Nutrient Budget and Economic Assessment of Blended Fertilizer Use in Kenya Tea Industry. <i>Applied and Environmental Soil Science</i>, 2018.</p> <p>- Li <i>et al.</i> (2014). Effects of organic and other management practices on soil nematode communities in tea plantation: a case study in southern China. <i>Journal of Plant Nutrition and Soil Science</i>, 177(4), 604-612.</p> <p>- Chong, K. P., Ho, T. Y., & Jalloh, M. B. (2008). Soil nitrogen phosphorus and tea leaf growth in organic and conventional farming of selected fields at Sabah Tea plantation slope. <i>Journal of Sustainable Development</i>, 1(3), 117-122.</p> <p>- Hajiboland, R. (2017). Environmental and nutritional requirements for tea cultivation. <i>Folia Horticulturae</i>, 29(2), 199-220.</p> <p>- Wang, L. M., Huang, D. F., Fang, Y., Wang, F., Li, F. L., & Liao, M. (2017). Soil fungal communities in tea plantation after 10 years of chemical vs. integrated fertilization. <i>Chilean journal of agricultural research</i>, 77(4), 355-364.</p> <p>- Zhu, R., Zheng, Z., Li, T., Zhang, X., He, S., Wang, Y., ... & Li, W. (2017). Dynamics of soil organic carbon mineralization in tea plantations converted from farmland at Western Sichuan, China. <i>PloS one</i>, 12(9), e0185271.</p> <p>- Qiu, S. L., Wang, L. M., Huang, D. F., & Lin, X. J. (2014). Effects of fertilization regimes on tea yields, soil fertility, and soil microbial diversity. <i>Chilean journal of agricultural research</i>, 74(3), 333-339.</p>	<p>Referencing style and reference list done to comply to journal guidelines.</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Done Done</p> <p>Suggestion of references highly appreciated. Helpful in improving the paper.</p>



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Minor REVISION comments		
Optional/General comments	The paper attempts to investigate the influence of farming practices on soil chemical properties under small-scale tea plantations in some counties of Kenya. The choice of the methodology is good. However, I have raised some concerns with respect to laboratory methods and statistical analyses. These need to be addressed. The language of the manuscript is good and very few technical/grammatical errors have been identified. The choice and use of references is not encouraging. I have proposed some articles that will help to improve on the background of the study in the introduction. These will certainly help the authors too in their discussion of results.	

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>	