



**SDI Review Form 1.6**

Journal Name:	<a href="#">International Journal of Plant &amp; Soil Science</a>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJPSS_49534
Title of the Manuscript:	Application of Dry Cocoa Bean Shell Ash and NPK 15:15:15 Fertilizer for Improvement of Soil Fertility and Maize Yield on a Degraded Humid Tropical Alfisol, Southwestern Nigeria.
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>)

**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)
<b>Compulsory</b> REVISION comments		
<b>Minor</b> REVISION comments	<p>In this paper authors studied on an Alfisol South Western Nigeria, located at Joseph Ayo Babalola University Ikeji-Arakeji, Ilesa Osun State, Nigeria Teaching and Research Farm from April to July 2017 and from August to November 2016. Four treatments of dry cocoa bean shell ash (DCBSA) at 5 tonsha<sup>-1</sup>, NPK 15:15:15 at 300 kgha<sup>-1</sup>, dry cocoa bean shell ash (DCBSA) at 2.5 tonsha<sup>-1</sup>, mixed NPK 15:15:15 at 150 kgha<sup>-1</sup> and control (C) were used in a Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) with three replications.</p> <p>Results indicates that DCBSA improves soil pH as well as increases minerals such as Ca, Mg, Na and in particular, made available phosphorous due to its increment on soil pH. pH increased fro 5.3 to 7.8 DCBSA, N levels in the soil increased from 0.06gkg<sup>-1</sup> to 2.61gkg<sup>-1</sup> (DCBSA) and 2.10 gkg<sup>-1</sup> (DCBTA + NPK). Organic carbon (OC) increased from 0.07 gkg<sup>-1</sup> to 2.87gkg<sup>-1</sup> DCBSA plot. P level decreased from 3.7 mg dm<sup>-3</sup> to 1.09 mg dm<sup>-3</sup> (DCBSA) and 1.81 mg dm<sup>-3</sup> (NPK) and 1.42 mg dm<sup>-3</sup> (DCBSA + NPK) which was an indication of P availability to crop during growing season.</p> <p>The study is very interesting and manuscript is almost structured properly.</p> <p><b>Following Explanations are needed-</b>  <b>Page 3: Materials and Methods is to be replaced as: Materials and Methodology</b>  <b>Page 14: Conclusion is to be re-written with point wise.</b>  <b>Note: All the subtitles are needed to be numbered.</b></p>	<p>Corrected</p> <p>Corrected</p> <p>Corrected</p>
<b>Optional/General</b> comments	<p>Manuscript is interesting and structured properly, but need to be improvised linguistically.</p> <p>The review manuscript is recommended for publication after incorporating above suggestion / comments.</p>	<p>Corrected</p>

**PART 2:**



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	<b>Reviewer's comment</b>	<b>Author's comment</b> <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>
<b>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</b>	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	