

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: JNAVES-037

Title: ASSESSMENT OF INTEGRATED NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR IMPROVING SOIL FERTILITY AND MAIZE (ZEA MAYS L.) PRODUCTIVITY.

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity	✓			
Significance		✓		

Reviewer Id: JPR-194

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

The manuscript addresses an important topic concerning sustainable nutrient management for improving maize productivity and soil fertility. The objectives are clearly stated, and the manuscript is logically organized with appropriate sections covering the introduction, methodology, results, discussion, and conclusion. The experimental design (RCBD) and statistical analysis are suitable for the study objectives, and the results indicate that integrated nutrient management (farmyard manure combined with recommended chemical fertilizer) significantly improved maize growth, grain yield, and soil fertility parameters.

However, the manuscript would benefit from several minor revisions before publication:

1. Provide more detailed information on the initial soil physicochemical properties, including pH, organic carbon, and available nutrient status before the experiment.
2. Clearly specify the recommended fertilizer dose (N, P, and K rates) and the nutrient composition of the farmyard manure used.
3. Include measures of variability (standard error or standard deviation) and report LSD values and significance levels in the result tables.
4. Strengthen the discussion by comparing the findings with additional recent peer-reviewed studies and explaining possible mechanisms responsible for the observed improvements.
5. Mention the limitations of the study, particularly that the experiment was conducted during a single cropping season at one location, and recommend multi-location and long-term validation.
6. Carefully proofread the manuscript for minor grammatical inconsistencies and ensure uniform formatting of tables, headings, units, and references.

Overall, the study contributes useful information on integrated nutrient management for sustainable maize production. After addressing the above minor comments, the manuscript will be suitable for publication.