

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-56602

Title: Soil Quality Assessment Based on Physico-Chemical and Biological Properties in the Mangrove Ecosystem of Asramam, Kollam, Kerala, South India ,

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

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

Reviewer's ID: JPR-

Dr Thirunahari Ugandhar

Detailed Reviewer's Report

The manuscript examines a significant ecological issue by assessing the physicochemical and biological properties of soil in the mangrove ecosystems of the Asramam wetlands in Kerala. The research provides valuable foundational data about nutrient dynamics and VAM root colonisation in mangrove soils.

But the document needs a lot of work on its language and structure. Some statements in the abstract, introduction, and methodology are not grammatically accurate and need to be rewritten to make them clearer. The abstract has to be shorter and more organised so that it clearly shows the goals, methodology, main findings, and conclusions.

Some claims in the introduction are not comprehensive or are repeated, and the literature review needs to be updated with more recent sources. The research area and methods section should include clearer explanations of the sampling design, the quantity of samples, and the statistical analysis.

In the results and discussion, it would be better to compare the findings to those of earlier research to make the interpretation stronger. Figures and tables also need improved labels and explanations in the text. The conversation on VAM colonisation and nutrient distribution has to be longer so that it can better explain how it affects mangrove plants.

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The paper is pertinent and possesses scientific merit; nonetheless, substantial revisions in language, formatting, and discourse are required before publishing.

Final Comment (Decision):

The manuscript addresses an important topic related to soil quality and mangrove ecosystem functioning in the Asramam wetlands of Kerala. The study provides useful information on physico-chemical soil properties and VAM root colonisation that may contribute to understanding nutrient dynamics in mangrove habitats.

However, the manuscript contains **several grammatical errors, unclear sentences, and formatting issues** throughout the abstract, introduction, methodology, and results sections. The discussion also needs improvement with stronger comparisons to previous studies and clearer interpretation of results. Figures and tables should be properly explained and standardised.

Decision: The manuscript **can be accepted only after major revisions**. The authors should carefully revise the language, improve the structure of the manuscript, clarify the methodology, and strengthen the discussion before publication.