

Review of: "Revitalizing Key Conditions and Integrated Watershed Management Approach to Sustain Water Availability and Agriculture in Semi-Arid Regions"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper is interesting and well written. It is well known that in semi-arid areas watersheds are degraded and water scarcity for domestic and irrigation uses are common challenges, hence integrated water shade management(IWSM) activities play a vital role in solving the challenges. The author goes further into IWSM approaches to be followed for combating water scarcity in semi-arid areas. Saying this the author should consider the following minor comments.

1. Use up-to-date references? Most of the references used are outdated
2. 30-50% of the incoming rainfall is lost as evaporation, what will be the best soil water conservation measures to be recommended to reduce soil evaporation in semi-arid areas? Just mentioned options supposing with literature
3. In Q2 have you referred to mulching which might be implemented in areas of having high evaporation? If so add concepts about it
4. Add concepts/measures about reducing surface runoff /i.e. measures to increase water availability /groundwater
5. What is your view about rainwater harvesting as the solution to increasing water availability /surface and groundwater in SAA? Add concepts by supporting literature about rainwater harvesting and IWSM relations
6. It would be better if you add literature about nature-based solutions of reducing flood and drought
7. Alley cropping activities are one aspect of IWSM a system of planting different crops together at a time /crop with forest for animal fattening. Would you add some points about cropping system?