

Peer Review

Review of: "Row Configuration and Soil Amendment Affect Performance of Popcorn (*Zea mays* L. var. Everta) in Semi-Arid South Africa"

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Under the subheading "*Description of the experimental site*," the authors included information on soil sampling and analysis using LECO CNS. That information is not part of the description of the experimental site. It should have its own subheading, e.g., "*Pre-soil sampling analysis*."

Under the subheading "*Treatments and Experimental design*," the authors indicated four spacings of 15 x 15, 20 x 20, 25 x 25, and 30 x 30 cm and also indicated a spacing of 70 cm for inter-row spacing, which is very confusing. By indicating the inter-row spacing of 70 cm, that means the spacing used for the experiment should be 15 x 70, 20 x 70, 25 x 70, and 30 x 70 cm. The authors should correct the spacing used under materials and methods and under results, including figure 1 and table 4.

Under the subheading "*Land preparation, sowing, and field management*," the authors indicated that each experimental plot had a dimension of 3 m x 2.1 m, which is also adding more confusion to the study after indicating four spacings under treatment and experimental design.

The manuscript needs major revision.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.