

Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Environment & Ecology
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJEE_84127
Title of the Manuscript:	Effects of Agricultural Land Use Practices on Soil Organic Carbon Stocks, Total Nitrogen and Available Phosphorous in Smallholder Farms in Embu County, Kenya
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:

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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)
Compulsory REVISION comments	<p>The context of the study is well presented, the effects of land used on well-chosen soil physic-chemical characteristics is clearly stated</p> <p>The figures are not well organized. You cannot do Figures 3a, 3b, and 3c separately and call them all Figure 3xx. It would be better to make a single figure 3 on which have to see a, b and c</p> <p>Same for Figures 4a, 4b and 4c.</p> <p>In the "Statistical analysis" section, the authors say they did an analysis of variance and assessed whether the differences were significant.</p> <p>In the figures and in the text, we do not see any word talking about statistical analysis (standard deviations, differences, etc.)</p>	<p>The figures have been consolidated all figure 3- a, b, c and 4- a, b, c have been worked on as per the reviewer's comments</p> <p>Analysis of variance was assessed and has been incorporated in the article</p>
Minor REVISION comments	<p>The author must clearly show the sampling points on the map or, failing that, make a table showing all the sampling points and their coordinates and altitudes.</p> <p>The authors or author said "The different agricultural land uses in Embu County include cultivation of upper zones with tea. At the lower altitude gradient coffee is grown as a cash crop. This zone is immediately followed by an area where maize, beans, horticultural". Why did they or he finally focused on two? («The focus was on coffee and maize based agricultural systems located along different agro ecological zones in the Kapingazi river catchment of the Embu County).</p> <p>Titles of figures need more precisions (see in the text)</p>	<p>Sampling points have been represented in a table showing how soil sample was collected for analysis</p> <p>The consideration of coffee and maize in the study was due to the fact that these two agricultural land use practices were represented across the agroecological zones though specific agroecological zones had a dominant crop</p> <p>The abbreviations have been highlighted in the abstract – AEZ (agroecological zones) - (Demarcation was done into four agro-ecological zones (AEZ) following the river downstream; Lower Highland Zone 1 LH1; Upper Midland Zone 1, UM1; Upper Midland Zone 2, UM2; Upper Midland Zone 3, UM3) – From the abstract</p>
Optional/General comments	<p>The context of the study is well presented, the effects of land used on well-chosen soil physic-chemical characteristics is clearly stated. The soil analysis and statistical analysis are acceptable but the authors should improve the presentation of the site and sampling points.</p> <p>The authors did not take into consideration the altitude in the spatial comparisons, but they specify it in the conclusion as a perspective. Maybe they could at least give the trends according to the altitude??</p>	

PART 2:

	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)
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	Included in the paper