

**Review Form 1.6**

Journal Name:	<a href="#">International Journal of Plant &amp; Soil Science</a>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJPSS_77779
Title of the Manuscript:	EFFECT OF ZINC FORTIFICATION ON QUALITY, YIELD AND ECONOMICS OF SWEETCORN
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.  
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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>1. <b>Abstract: Key words:</b> It is not interesting to have the same keywords, repeated in the title of the manuscript, because, in this way, it reduces the reader's search capacity when activating your article on the web.</p> <p>2. <b>INTRODUCTION: (Remison) [22],</b> the number of indications in the bibliographic references (23) differ from the text (22).</p> <p>3. <i>In addition to its demand for fresh sweetcorn in hotels, it is also used as raw materials for various industrial products like dextrin, starch syrup and dextrose which ultimately enhanced sweetcorn significance both in local and global markets. It would be interesting to put some study references in this quote!</i></p> <p>4. <i>Soils with strong fixation and adsorption processes favour chelating compounds such as Ethylene diamine tetra acetic acid (EDTA) to augment the availability of zinc and other trace metals in the soil solution. So to corroborate your results, it is important to have soil analysis before and after zinc applications.</i></p> <p>5. <i>Though zinc applied to the soil promotes grain yield, its presence in the kernel was only enhanced by foliar spraying of zinc fertilizer (Tariq et al.) [28]. Where are the soil analyses?</i></p> <p>6. <i>The economics of treatments were determined using current market pricing. Current when?</i></p> <p>7. <i>Application of zinc had a positive effect on plant metabolism, physiological processes, and plant development, as well as improved glucose translocation from source to sink, resulting in increased yield. This cannot be stated as it is not a study variable.</i></p> <p>8. <i>Kumar and Bohra [17], Chand et al. [11], and Kumar and Salakinkop [16] all observed an increase in yield when Zn had been used. These quotes are for review and not discussion. It is important to corroborate your results with identical variables and not from inference citations.</i></p> <p>9. <i>Phytohormone: inappropriately written word.</i></p> <p>10. <i>The use of nano zinc oxide may have triggered enzymes in sweetcorn plants by integrating with chlorophyll formation and increased phytohormone synthesis, such as tryptophan. This increased production is the main location to store carbohydrates in plant as grains, which finally resulted in an increased number of seeds per plant as a source, and storage carbohydrates, and enhanced sweetcorn yield.</i></p> <p><u>Here they relied heavily on plant physiology to explain the variables, not their own variables.</u></p>	
Minor REVISION comments	<p>1. <b>INTRODUCTION:</b> <i>is basically an American crop and later introduced in India...Do you have a date?</i></p> <p>2. <i>industrial products like dextrin, starch syrup and dextrose which ultimately enhanced sweetcorn significance both in local and global markets.</i></p> <p><u>There was a link missing here to introduce about micronutrients, cut text.</u></p> <p><i>Micronutrients are important for plant growth and development and involved in various metabolic processes such as cell wall development, chlorophyll formation,</i></p> <p><u>I suggest using this paragraph as a link when you start talking about micronutrients. Intensive agriculture using current technologies, including the introduction of high-yielding varieties and the constant application of high-analysis fertilisers, has resulted</u></p>	

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	<p><i>in a deficit of micronutrients, notably zinc (Alloway) [2].</i></p> <p>3. <i>Normally, ZnSO<sub>4</sub> is the sole dependable source of zinc fertilizer, Why?</i></p> <p>4. <i>Results pertaining to green cob yield of sweetcorn are given in Table 1. The data clearly reveals that integration of soil and foliar application of zinc showed a remarkable effect on cob yield of sweetcorn over application of zinc either as soil or foliar alone. It would be interesting to comment on how this can change the economic scenario in relation to corn marketing, as you mentioned the economy factor.</i></p>	
<b>Optional/General</b> comments	<p>1. <i>“Studies on zinc management in sweetcorn” - Excellent title.</i></p> <p>2. <i>The data regarding to effect of zinc fertilization on stover yield of sweetcorn clearly revealed that stover yield was significantly influenced by Zn treatments. Higher stover yield (7,590 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) was registered with soil application of Zn EDTA @ 25 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> + foliar sprays of nano zinc @ 250 ppm at 20 and 40 DAS along with RDF (T9) and was superior to rest of the treatments tried except with the T8 and T7. The lowest stover yield was noticed in control (5,004 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>). Treatments T4, T2, T3, T5 and T6 were also statistically comparable with one another. Exactly</i></p>	

**PART 2:**

	<b>Reviewer’s comment</b>	<b>Author’s comment</b> <i>(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)</i>
<b>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</b>	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

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