

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJSSPN_128974
Title of the Manuscript:	EFFECT OF AGRICULTURE LAND USE PRACTICES ON SELECTED SOIL PROPERTIES AND MACRO-AGGREGATE STABILITY: A CASE STUDY OF COASTAL PLAIN SAND IN AKWA IBOM STATE, NIGERIA.
Type of the Article	

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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 guidelines for the Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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PART 1: Comments

	Reviewer’s comment	Author’s Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.	This manuscript provides insights into how agricultural practice impact soil health and stability. This finding can be of help to local farmers adopt practices that improve soil fertility, leading to a sustainable agriculture.	
Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)	Yes	
Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.	The abstract showed a complete details. However, I would suggest of rephrasing some sentences. Please see below: The study was carried out in to evaluate the macro-aggregate stability of soils under three distinct land-use types - Rubber Plantation (RP), Oil Palm Plantation (OPP) and Forest plot (FP)- in the Coastal plain Sands, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. Random soil and core samples were collected in five points in each of the three land-use types, yielding a total of 15 bulked samples for physical and chemical analyses. Soil aggregate separation was done using a nest of four sieve sizes. Macro-aggregate stability indices, including Mean Weight Diameter of dry and wet aggregate (MWDd and MWDw), Water Stability Aggregate (WSA), Aggregate Clay (AC), Exchangeable Sodium percentage (ESP) and Aggregate Silt plus Clay (ASC) were calculated. The data were subjected into descriptive statistics and correlation Matrix. Results showed that sand was the dominant particle size fraction. Macro-aggregate stability indices result revealed that MWDw recorded highest value at RP (1.128) and lowest at FP (0.963). WSA and AC had highest mean value at RP (26.82) and OPP (11.562) and RP (4.85), mean value at OPP (1.54) and OPP (13.35) and lowest value of RP (1.22) and FP (7.35), respectively. Aggregate silt plus clay increases flocculation of soil aggregate, while exchangeable sodium percentage causes disintegration of soil aggregate. <i>Can you add a conclusion or implication statement in the last part of your abstract. This would summarizes the broader significance or practical application of the study’s findings, may highlight how the research provides significant contribution in the field of agriculture (knowledge or practice).</i>	
Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.	I have comments in the manuscript kindly check.	
Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.	- Kindly check consistency of the references check the in text citations e.g. Sollin <i>et al. (1996) or Sollins?</i> Nsikak et al., 2024? - not found in the references e.g. Simansky (2018), Akata et al., 2024; Akpan et al., 2021	

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Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?	Yes	
<u>Optional/General</u> comments		

PART 2:

	Reviewer’s comment	Author’s comment (if agreed with the 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 detail)</i> No	
Are there competing interest issues in this manuscript?	I cannot see this one in the manuscript maybe this will be added as part of the declaration of the author.	
If plagiarism is suspected, <u>please provide related proofs or web links.</u>		

PART 3: Declaration of Competing Interest of the Reviewer:

Here reviewer should declare his/her competing interest. If nothing to declare he/she can write “I declare that I have no competing interest as a reviewer”

“I declare that I have no competing interest as a reviewer”

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PART 4: Objective Evaluation:

Guideline	MARKS of this manuscript
Give OVERALL MARKS you want to give to this manuscript (Highest: 10 Lowest: 0) Guideline: Accept As It Is: (>9-10) Minor Revision: (>8-9) Major Revision: (>7-8) Serious Major revision: (>5-7) Rejected (with repairable deficiencies and may be reconsidered): (>3-5) Strongly rejected (with irreparable deficiencies.): (>0-3)	8

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Editorial Comments (This section is reserved for the comments from journal editorial office and editors):

	Author's Feedback

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