

Editor's comments:

Lindsay, D. (2011) Scientific Writing = Thinking in Words (CSIRO, Collingwood Australia) is a useful guide to scientific writing.

The manuscript is poorly written, with poor English. The authors should address ALL comments by the reviewers and the editor, and re-submit the manuscript for consideration by the journal. A few of the many shortcomings/changes needed in your manuscript are as follows.

1. Data from only one sampling date in one year from an experiment in the field make it impossible to draw conclusions on effects of management on properties of soil.
2. Show what new scientific concepts this manuscript would add to the scientific literature.
3. The reader gets lost in all the words. Condense the manuscript. Remove all unnecessary statements and data. Avoid repetition.
4. When you are discussing nutrients, it is sometimes unclear whether you are discussing fertilisers or nutrients in soil.
5. Make sure that all statements are credible.
6. Title. Avoid abbreviations, or at least define abbreviations.
7. Title. Include scientific name of maize.
8. Abstract. Include scientific name of maize. (Not Line 26).
9. Abstract. Change 'soil fertility status rating' to 'soil fertility'.
10. Abstract. Change 'plants nutrients' to 'plant nutrients'. Check entire manuscript.
11. Abstract. Change to 'nitrogen (N)', 'phosphorus (P)', 'sulphur (S)'. Note lower case.
12. Abstract. Use 'g kg⁻¹' not '%' for concentration. Check entire manuscript.
13. Abstract. Change 'soil fertility status rating' to 'soil fertility'.
14. Abstract. Change to 'objective was'.
15. Abstract. State objectives of research, and show whether data meet objectives.
16. Make sure that objective and title match each other.
17. Abstract. State hypotheses tested, and show whether data support hypotheses.
18. Abstract. In one or two sentences, state methods.
19. Abstract. State findings in order of importance.
20. Abstract. Include international classification of soils.
21. Abstract. Include more data to support statements, and give better summary of the manuscript.
22. Abstract, Discussion, and Conclusion. State relevance of manuscript to other soils, climates, land use, plants and years.
23. Use consistent style for units. e.g. not a mixture of 'kg/ha' and 'kg ha⁻¹'. Check entire manuscript.
24. Throughout. Change 'levels' to 'concentrations'.
25. Materials and methods. Include more information so that reader could repeat the experiment.
26. Materials and methods. State size of each treatment.
27. Materials and methods. State size of buffer rows between treatments.
28. Materials and methods. Include international classification of soil (with reference).
29. Line 16. Change 'tonnes' and 'tones' to 't'. Check entire manuscript.
30. Line 26. Include scientific name of rice. Check entire manuscript.
31. Line 41. Change to 'objectives --- were'. Check entire manuscript.
32. Line 50. Change to 'areas receive'.
33. Use plural or singular verbs with plural or singular nouns respectively. e.g. Line 67. Change to 'seeds --- were'. Check entire manuscript.

34. Line 68. Change 'The dose of N and S were top dressed to all treatments' to 'All treatments were top-dressed with N and S'.
35. Line 69. Change 'agronomic practices' to 'agronomy'.
36. Line 72. Change 'moisture content' to 'water content'. Check entire manuscript.
37. Line 73. Change 'tones per hector' to 't ha⁻¹'. Check entire manuscript.
38. Line 76. Change 'one kilogram' to '1 kg'. Check entire manuscript.
39. Line 76. Change to 'samples ----- were'.
40. Line 116, 117. Repetitive. Check entire manuscript.
41. 'amount(s)' and 'quantity' are ambiguous. e.g. Line 127. Change to 'In soil, the concentrations of nitrogen and organic matter are closely related'.
42. Use 'content' and 'concentration' correctly. e.g. Line 118. Change 'content' to 'concentration'. Whether or not 'content' is incorrectly published elsewhere, 'content' is incorrect when you mean 'concentration'. 'Content' and 'concentration' have different meanings. However, 'water content' is acceptable.
43. Line 129. 'level(s)' is ambiguous. Change to 'concentration(s)'. Check entire manuscript.
44. Keywords. Search engines search Title and Abstract. Hence, include only words or terms that do not appear in the title or Abstract. e.g. Delete 'maize'. Check all keywords.
45. End of Introduction. State objectives of this research, and hypotheses tested, based on Introduction.
46. Line 136, Tables. Use 'g kg⁻¹' not '%'.
47. Tables. Include enough information so that tables could be understood without reference to the body of the manuscript. Define abbreviations.
48. When you calculated concentrations of nutrients in soil, did you consider that the bulk density of soil may have differed in different treatments?
49. Include statistical analyses of all data, and use these analyses correctly in the Discussion.
50. Discussion and Conclusion. Address the objectives and hypotheses.
51. Discussion. Discuss first the most important finding in this manuscript. State whether data a) meet the objectives, and b) support the hypotheses tested.
52. Ensure that recommendations are well supported by data in the manuscript.
53. Ask a colleague who is fluent in English to edit the manuscript.
54. Include a table to show the changes made, including relevant line numbers in original and revised manuscripts.

Author's Feedback:

S/no	Comment in Original Manual script	Changes made in Revised manual script
1	Data from only one sampling date in one year from an experiment in the field make it impossible to draw conclusions on effects of management on properties of soil.	
2	Show what new scientific concepts this manuscript would add to the scientific literature	New scientific finding in this manual script is the Emerging Phosphorus, sulphur and Zinc deficient's in agricultural soils in Morogoro Tanzania and the proposed fertilizer rates to be applied in maize cultivation.
3	The reader gets lost in all the words. Condense the manuscript. Remove all unnecessary statements and data. Avoid repetition.	Revised
4	When you are discussing nutrients, it is sometimes unclear whether you are discussing fertilisers or nutrients in soil	Revised
5	Make sure that all statements are credible.	Revised
6	Title. Avoid abbreviations, or at least define abbreviations	Title: Abbreviation avoided
7	Title. Include scientific name of maize	Title: Scientific name of maize included
8	Abstract. Include scientific name of maize. (Not Line 26).	Title: Scientific name of maize included
9	Abstract. Change 'soil fertility status rating' 'to soil fertility'	Revised
10	Abstract. Change 'plants nutrients' to 'plant nutrients'. Check entire manuscript	Checked
11	Abstract. Change to 'nitrogen (N)', 'phosphorus (P)', 'sulphur (S). Note lower case	Changed to 'nitrogen (N)', 'phosphorus (P)', 'sulphur (S
12	Abstract. Use 'g kg ⁻¹ ' not '%' for concentration. Check entire manuscript	checked
13	Abstract. Change 'soil fertility status rating' to 'soil fertility'	Changed 'soil fertility status rating' to 'soil fertility'
14	Abstract. Change to 'objective was'	Abstract. Changed to 'objective was'
15	Abstract. State objectives of research, and show whether data meet objectives	Checked
16	Make sure that objective and title match each other	Checked
17	Abstract. State hypotheses tested, and show whether data support hypotheses	The data answers the hypothesis
18	Abstract. In one or two sentences, state methods	Abstract :Stated
19	Abstract. State findings in order of importance	Abstract :Stated
20	Abstract. Include international classification of soils	Abstract: included
21	Abstract. Include more data to support statements, and give better summary of the manuscript	Revised
22	Abstract, Discussion, and Conclusion. State relevance of manuscript to other soils, climates, land use, plants and years	
23	Use consistent style for units. e.g. not a mixture of 'kg/ha' and 'kg ha ⁻¹ . Check entire manuscript	Checked
24	Throughout. Change 'levels' to 'concentrations'	Levels Changed to concentration in the entire manual script
25	Materials and methods. Include more information so that	Revised

	reader could repeat the experiment	
26	Materials and methods. State size of each treatment.	Stated
27	Materials and methods. State size of buffer rows between treatments	Stated
28	Materials and methods. Include international classification of soil (with reference).	Line 46: Soil classification included
29	Line 16. Change 'tonnes' and 'tones' to 't'. Check entire manuscript	Line 16 changed to 't' checked in the entire manual script
30	Line 26. Include scientific name of rice. Check entire manuscript	Checked
31	Line 41. Change to 'objectives --- were'. Check entire manuscript	Line 41: Checked, and changed the entire manual script
32	Line 50. Change to 'areas receive'	Checked
33	Use plural or singular verbs with plural or singular nouns respectively. e.g. Line 67. Change to 'seeds --- were'. Check entire manuscript.	Checked
34	Line 68. Change 'The dose of N and S were top dressed to all treatments' to 'All treatments were top-dressed with N and S	Line 65 revised
35	Line 69. Change 'agronomic practices' to 'agronomy'	Line 66 agronomic practices' Changed to 'agronomy'
36	Line 72. Change 'moisture content' to 'water content'. Check entire manuscript	Line 69 changed to water content
37	Line 73. Change 'tones per hector' to 't ha-1. Check entire manuscript	Checked in the entire manual script
38	Line 76. Change 'one kilogram' to '1 kg'. Check entire manuscript.	Checked in the entire manual script
39	Line 76. Change to 'samples ----- were'	Line 73 were' included
40	Line 116, 117. Repetitive. Check entire manuscript	Checked
41	amount(s)' and 'quantity' are ambiguous. e.g. Line 127. Change to 'In soil, the concentrations of nitrogen and organic matter are closely related'	
42	Use 'content' and 'concentration' correctly. e.g. Line 118. Change 'content' to 'concentration'. Whether or not 'content' is incorrectly published elsewhere, 'content' is incorrect when you mean 'concentration'. 'Content' and 'concentration' have different meanings. However, 'water content' is acceptable.	Revised
43	Tables. Include enough information so that tables could be understood without reference to the body of the manuscript. Define abbreviations	Revised
44	Keywords. Search engines search Title and Abstract. Hence, include only words or terms that do not appear in the title or Abstract. e.g. Delete 'maize'. Check all keywords	Checked
45	End of Introduction. State objectives of this research, and hypotheses tested, based on Introduction	Checked
46	Line 136, Tables. Use 'g kg-1' not '%'	Checked
47	Tables. Include enough information so that tables could be understood without reference to the body of the manuscript. Define abbreviations	Checked
48	When you calculated concentrations of nutrients in soil, did you consider that the bulk density of soil may have differed in different treatments?	Yes, Bulk density considered

49	Include statistical analyses of all data, and use these analyses correctly in the Discussion	Noted
50	Discussion and Conclusion. Address the objectives and hypotheses	Only objectives were considered
51	Discussion. Discuss first the most important finding in this manuscript. State whether data a) meet the objectives, and b) support the hypotheses tested.	Considered
52	Ensure that recommendations are well supported by data in the manuscript	noted