



SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

PART 1:

Journal Name:	American Journal of Experimental Agriculture
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJEA_22538
Title of the Manuscript:	Impact Of Preceding Legumes And Nitrogen Fertilizer On Soil Fertility And Growth Attribute Of Maize
Type of Article:	Original Research Paper

PART 2:

FINAL EVALUATOR'S comments on revised paper (if any)	Authors' response to final evaluator's comments
References cited in the text but not found in the reference section: Timsina and Connor, 2001 Arif et al., 2014 Amanullah et al., 2009 Lopez et al. (2007) References not cited in the text but found in the reference section: Line 183: Ali, M. (1992) Line 198: Ojiem, J.O., ... Line 201 : Safdar, A., ... I still do not agree with the author on the method used for determining emergence/m². If I wish to repeat this trial as described by the author, I cannot understand how I'll convert to m² by counting plants in three randomly selected 1m row lengths. I'll rather the author recalculate in terms of percentage: $Emergence (\%) = \frac{[(total\ number\ of\ emergent\ plants\ in\ all\ three\ 1m\ row\ lengths)]}{(expected\ total\ emergence\ in\ all\ three\ 1m\ row\ lengths)} \times 100$ Please note: CaCO₃ not CaCo₃	References are added. Removed Emergence in one meter Then convert by formula Emergence m⁻² = Total number of plants in one meter/row length X row to row distance X row length Initially the table was like that but later on it was change due the comments of one of the reviewer and i am agree with that because one can easily take idea from one table than 5 or 10. Thanks for comments but sorry for incorporation.



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The author's presentation of results is still not satisfactory. It is impossible to have different tables of values each for the effect of legumes on emergence and effects of increasing nitrogen application rates on emergence. Both have a combine effect and only statistical analysis can show the difference (e.g. for the cowpea plot receiving 120 kgN/ha, YOU CANNOT PRESENT TWO SEPARATE VALUES FOR EMERGENCE – ONE FOR LEGUME AND ANOTHER FOR N RATE). The results could be more easy to understand by readers if presented in the following format for each plant and soil parameter:

Emergence m ⁻² of maize as affected by preceding legumes and increasing nitrogen application rate.				
	Nitrogen application rate (kg/ha)			
Legumes	0	90	120	150
Cowpea				
Mungbean				
Sesbania				
Fallow				

The author should endeavor to present the results in a clear manner and discuss them accordingly. If the author presents the results using the table format above then it will be clear on (i) how different fertilizer application rates affect the parameter of interest for each legume plot and (ii) compare among different legumes, the variation in the parameter of interest for each application rate.