



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	American Journal of Experimental Agriculture
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJEA_28153
Title of the Manuscript:	EFFECTS OF LIME AND NITROGEN RATES ON SOIL PROPERTIES AND NUTRIENT CONTENT OF SUGARCANE – SOYBEAN INTERCROPPED ON ACIDIFIED SOILS OF KIBOS, KISUMU COUNTY IN 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:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)



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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)
<u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments	What was the purpose of intercropping? What role did Soybean play in the study? You have not recorded or reported anything on soybean. Please try to explain more about intercropping because in the whole study you only report about sugarcane and liming and nitrogen rates but nothing about the importance of intercropping of sugarcane with soybean. The benefits of intercropping towards sugarcane production or soil properties.	I have inserted statement on intercropping in the introduction section line 50 to 73.
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	Table 1. There are no soil K analysis results recorded, was K in the soil sufficient as there was no mention of K supplying fertilizer in the study? L115: Lime per rate was applied prior planting. How long prior planting was lime applied? L191-193: Did CEC in this also study increase with decrease with Zn? L 196: Nitrogen rate affected only available P for 15-30 cm depth. Explain how did that happen? L228-229: The more sugarcane leaf nutrients content noted in sugarcane plots shallow banded with lime was perhaps due to enhanced uptake of the nutrients at 0 – 15 cm depth. What could have influenced nutrients content in sugarcane leaf?	Soil K is mostly moderate and adequate in the study area therefore did not include it as an investigation. E.g. table 4 and 8 in the text shows soil K at 0.50 and 0.35 cmol(+)/kg on average which is moderate rating (0.3 – 0.7 cmol(+)/kg)
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	The study seems interesting however I suggest that the role of soybean be clearly outlined or else the author (s) must try to relook in the study and also the title. The novelty of the study is low, there are articles about liming of acid soils for sugarcane production e.g. Choudhry 1984, Mallawaarachchi et al., 1998, Mutonyi et al., 2014.	Comments acknowledged. The authors Choudhry (In Philippines), Mutonyi (in Acrisols) did there research in sites not similar to my study site (Cambisols). My study site has been under long term continuous sugarcane monoculture