

Editor's Comment:

I agree with reviewers that there have been significant progress made by the author. But I am not convinced with the authors with their conclusion. In the introduction the author has mentioned that "The potential of Moringa oleifera seed cake in enhancing crude oil degradation in soil was determined". I am not fully agreed with that. Sample B was control with no seed cake whereas sample-C was the treatment group with seed cake in it. Statistical analysis between these two groups indicate P-value of 0.068 which is more than 0.05. Author mentioned they have rejected "alternate hypothesis", which in other words means accepting 'null hypothesis'. If null hypothesis is accepted then experiment has failed to prove an effect of seed cake on crude oil degradation from statistical standpoint. Authors themselves mentioned "concluded that the rate of biodegradation of crude oil in soil amended with Moringa oleifera seed cake as compared with that of crude oil in soil unamended with Moringa oleifera seed cake was not effective at 5% significant level". But then in the conclusion section they mentioned "From the results of this study, it can be concluded that Moringa Oleifera seed cake possesses the ability to enhance the biodegradation of crude oil in soil by up to 64.3%." These seem contradictory and also not sure about where this 64.3% value came from. While it can be understood from the microbial growth etc. that the seed cake may have influence on increased degradation of crude oil, their key experiment failed to prove that. That is mainly due to high variability in their data. If the authors increase the number of samples by two or three fold there may be a higher possibility of showing a true difference between sample B & C. Considering the fact the result is not in line with their conclusion I reject the paper.

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