



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of Plant & Soil Science
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJPSS_37339
Title of the Manuscript:	Effects of shade regimes and varying seasons of irrigation on survival, developmental pattern and yield of field grown cacao (Theobroma cacao).
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)
Compulsory REVISION comments	This manuscript give some information of the impact of the combined shade and irrigation on the cocoa seedling growth and establishment. So the manage at the right way of the both factor allow to rich good establishment of cocoa orchards.	
Minor REVISION comments	<p><u>Introduction:</u> No aim of the study was declined at the end of the introduction. Need to be completed.</p> <p><u>Material and Methods:</u> What do you mean by moderate and dense shade? Which shade cover level correspond to dense or moderate? More, plantain not give a definitive shade for cocoa plant and the definitive shade trees have more contribution than plantain in the control of cocoa shade regime. Usually, dense density remain that the shade regime allow to have at less 75% covering of the cocoa with the additional effect of trees on the cocoa orchards like soil mulch, contribution of N addition, microclimate stability.</p>	<p>The aim and objective of the study is stated in the introduction</p> <p>Level of shade cover which was determined by amount of transmitted light through the canopy of the shade plant measured by canopy analyser.</p> <p>Yes, but the actual period that cacao requires shade is at the early stage of establishment. Though shade plays a lot of role in microclimate stability, but reduces access to the required sunlight for photosynthesis, disease control and pest attack.</p> <p>This depends mainly on the nature of soil in term of nutrient status and physical composition.</p>
Optional/General comments	<p>The use of plantain as shading tree in cocoa agroforest is very limited as we know that definitive trees recommended in cocoa agroforests are often suitable for enrich soil nutrient status (<i>Leguminosae</i>).</p> <p>The life cycle of the cocoa growing under full sun light is established to be shot than those under shade trees. No forget of the changing in climate observed in our environment nowadays in West Africa.</p> <p>The results is clear by I'm not convene by the use of plantain as shade trees because the plantain life cycle not contribute to allow cocoa to be established for several years</p>	<p>In most parts of west Africa, plantain are used to provide the required shade for young cacao as its canopy develop faster, they serve as a source of food and money to the farmers when the cocoa is yet to start producing and eradicating them is not difficult when the need arises. This does not rule out that some shade trees (3-5) per Ha is necessary.</p>