



**SDI Review Form 1.6**

Journal Name:	<a href="#">International Journal of Plant &amp; Soil Science</a>
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)
<b>Compulsory</b> REVISION comments	<p><b>Irrigation treatments - Not clear (Line 62)</b></p> <p><b>No enough information about your plots (size, how did you control lateral water movements?</b>  <b>Shade plants, spacing,</b>  <b>why 7 days irrigation interval? Etc.</b>  <b>I amt - Is it daily amount? According to eq i it is total amount (mm)</b>  <b>As I understood, Volume = I amt x Area x P</b>  <b>But according to your eq ii, you didn't consider Kcp</b></p> <p><b>Did you transplant in both 2012 and 2013? –(line 64-65).</b>  <b>But no results related to 2013 transplanting.</b>  <b>Check your design. (line 66)</b>  <b>Table 2 is repeating the same results in table 1 (Table 1 – survival%, Table 2 – mortality% (100- survival%)</b>  <b>Need to recheck the results in table 1, 3 and 4. (Average of shade treatments should be equal to the average of 3 irrigation treatments.)</b>  <b>Did you have no irrigation treatment? (line 144-146)</b></p> <p><b>Line 147 – Because your all treatments are same at this point</b>  <b>Planting – June 2012</b>  <b>First irrigation (As I understood by your M&amp;M, all three irrigation treatments irrigated in first dry season) – Dec 2012 -April 2013</b>  <b>Your sampling period – April-Dec 2013 (10-18 months)</b>  <b>At this point nothing to compare in irrigation treatments.</b></p> <p><b>Table 6 and 7 useless.</b></p> <p><b>Your second irrigation – Dec 2013 - April 2014</b>  <b>At this point you can compare one season irrigation and two season irrigation. Still two season and three season irrigation are same. Check your Table 9.</b>  <b>Line 176-178, 180-183 – No results shown</b></p> <p><b>Conclusions – some of your conclusions are not tally with your findings</b>  <b>Need to rearrange after finalizing your results and discussion.</b></p>	<p>No irrigation treatment but varying seasons of irrigation. This have been handled in materials and method</p> <p>The plot size has been indicated in the write up under materials and methods. (The cacao seedlings were transplanted on a 75 x 39 meter square plots at 3x3 meters with each block of shade treatment containing 96 cacao stands).</p> <p>Not necessary and have been removed</p> <p>Yes and was indicated in Materials and methods</p> <p>Table 1, 2, and 3 have been replaced with chart for better understanding</p> <p>They are different treatments, their average cannot be the same value</p> <p>No varying irrigation treatment, but the plots were irrigated varying the seasons which serves as the treatment</p> <p>This was clearly mentioned in Materials and methods</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Plant responses in term of <b>growth, development and survival</b> during the four to five months of dry season irrigation greatly determine the performance during the subsequent rainy season. Some pictures were attached showing different state of the cocoa plant during the dry season I disagree that the table is useless. Conversional, Flowering in cacao does not translate to fruit formation, but when shade and soil moisture are effectively managed, it results to increased pod formation. It may not be required due to the presence of tables indicating pod yield. Though, it has been removed.</p> <p>The comparism is among one, two and three seasons of irrigation to evaluate survival and performance among the three.</p> <p>Adjusted to fit.</p>
<b>Minor</b> REVISION comments	Rewrite the sentence (line 104-108)	



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<p><b>Optional/General</b> comments</p>	<p><b>Better to discuss with a statistician and conduct your analysis according to the comments of a statistician. Need major corrections on M&amp;M, results and conclusion before resubmitting and discussion also be rearranged accordingly.</b></p> <p><b>I highly encourage the authors to rearrange the data with opinions of a statistician and rewrite the paper before resubmitting.</b></p>	<p>These have been handled</p>
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