



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 (<i>Theobroma cacao</i>).
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>)



SDI Review Form 1.6

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	<p>Irrigation treatments - Not clear (Line 62) No enough information about your plots (size, how did you control lateral water movements? Shade plants, spacing, why 7 days irrigation interval? Etc. Iamt - Is it daily amount? According to eq i it is total amount (mm) As I understood, Volume = I amt x Area x P But according to your eq ii, you didn't consider Kcp Did you transplant in both 2012 and 2013? –(line 64-65). But no results related to 2013 transplanting. Check your design. (line 66) Table 2 is repeating the same results in table 1 (Table 1 – survival%, Table 2 – mortality% (100- survival%)) 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.) Did you have no irrigation treatment? (line 144-146)</p> <p>Line 147 – Because your all treatments are same at this point Planting – June 2012 First irrigation (As I understood by your M&M, all three irrigation treatments irrigated in first dry season) – Dec 2012 -April 2013 Your sampling period – April-Dec 2013 (10-18 months) At this point nothing to compare in irrigation treatments. Table 6 and 7 useless. Your second irrigation – Dec 2013 - April 2014 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. Line 176-178, 180-183 – No results shown</p> <p>Conclusions – some of your conclusions are not tally with your findings Need to rearrange after finalizing your results and discussion.</p>	
Minor REVISION comments	Rewrite the sentence (line 104-108)	
Optional/General comments	<p>Better to discuss with a statistician and conduct your analysis according to the comments of a statistician. Need major corrections on M&M, results and conclusion before resubmitting and discussion also be rearranged accordingly.</p> <p>I highly encourage the authors to rearrange the data with opinions of a statistician and rewrite the paper before resubmitting.</p>	

Reviewer Details:

Name:	M H J P Gunarathna
Department, University & Country	Dept. of Agric. Engineering and Soil Science, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka