



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	Journal of Experimental Agriculture International
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JEAI_32530
Title of the Manuscript:	Effects of Cow Dung and Cowpea Growth Habits on the Productivity of Cocoyam/Cowpea Intercrop
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	The materials and methods segment in the abstract section was not detailed. It lacked information on the plant parameters assessed. The author used two methods of paragraphing in the first paragraph of the introduction section. The author should use only one style/methods of paragraphing and should be uniform in the whole text. The author did not give clear explanation on how the two factors (cow dung rates of application and the cowpea varieties) were utilized in the field. Which of the two factors occupied the main plot and the subplots in the layout? The twenty (20) plots in each Block have to be grouped into different main-plots. How did the author arrive at the twenty plots in each block? Is it the corms or cormels of the cocoyam did you use? Be specific and let there be uniformity in what you discuss. Note that corms and cormels cannot be used as same. See lines 65, 84 – 89, etc. correct accordingly in the whole text. The twelve (12) plants per plot obtained in line 87 - 88, was this for sole cocoyam plots or the combination of cocoyam and cowpea populations	Adequately addressed Correction effected The experiment was a factorial arrangement in a randomized complete block design. Split plot design was not used; hence there was no need for main plot and sub plot. The cormels were used as planting material. However, for yield measurements, the data reported was the total of corms and cormels produced. This is for cocoyam population in both sole and intercrop condition. The gross plot size was 4m x 3m with a net plot of 2m x 2m; planting



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	per plot? If it was on sole cocoyam or cocoyam population, how did you arrive at this 12 stands in a plot of 2 x 2 m when 1 x 1 m spacing was adopted? Was the climbing cowpea variety staked or allowed to climb freely on the cocoyam in the intercropped plots? This was not stated in the materials and methods section. Why were ten plants selected for yield determination instead of the entire plants in each plot? See lines 112 – 113. Is it proper to dry seeds to a constant weight (lines 120 – 121)? Or is the seeds meant to lose its viability? Note that any seed dried to a constant weight contains no moisture and cannot germinate as the embryo of the seed might have been killed on the process of drying. Your reports (lines 112 – 121) on yield measurements were only centered on the cowpea crop and nothing was reported on the cocoyam yield determination. The results presented on cocoyam discuss effects of the two factors and their interactions on only the corms of the cocoyam. Was there no data collected on the cormels? Collapse or build the discussion section into the results section to agree with the journal format of	spacing of 1m x 1m therefore gives a total of 12 plants per gross plot It was allowed to climb freely on the cocoyam i. some of the plants were uprooted and used for root and shoot dry weight determination ii. Ten plants were selected and tagged and the fresh pods harvested regularly for determination of fresh pod yield attributes iii. Another set of ten plants were also randomly selected, tagged and the pods allowed to dry. Thereafter, the pods were harvested and the seeds removed and used for the determination of seed yield attributes the seeds were sun-dried and not oven-dried this has been included The results presented included both the corms and cormels
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	presentation.	Addressed
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	How did you determine these percentage changes in corms yield reported in lines 180 – 191 and other sections in the results?	(The difference of sole cocoyam mean corm yield and cocoyam mean corm yield intercropped with either Akidienu or IT97K...) divide by sole cocoyam mean corm yield and multiplied by 100.
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	The introduction section was well written.	