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Journal Name:	Journal of Experimental Agriculture International
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JEAI_32356
Title of the Manuscript:	EFFECTS OF LANDSCAPE SLOPE POSITION, URBAN REFUSE COMPOST AND SEWAGE SLUDGE ON SOIL PROPERTIES AND CASSAVA YIELD IN SOUTH EASTERN NIGERIA
Type of the Article	Original Research

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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.

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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	Generally, paper need to be better discussed and supported with relevant literature. See attached text Review Comments on EFFECTS OF LANDSCAPE SLOPE POSITION, URBAN REFUSE COMPOST AND 2 SEWAGE SLUDGE ON SOIL PROPERTIES AND CASSAVA YIELD IN SOUTH EASTERN 3 NIGERIA Abstract: Lines 15, 16, 18, 19, 25 and 26: (P< 0.05) NOT P< .0.05, Line 25: However percent NOT % survival... Line 27: ...total porosity, and fresh. Delete comma between porosity and. Lines 27-28: The highest fresh root yield of 11.63 tha-1 28 of the. Should read as 'The highest fresh cassava root yield..... Introduction: Line 37: limited farmers in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. Delete 'and' between Asia and Latin America. Line 39: cassava per annum making her the largest... To read as 'cassava per annum,	



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	making her.... Lines 42-43: 'Production being a function of area and yield requires an expansion in the area of production and average yield per hectare'. Recast this statement. Production is dependent on crop variety and potential yield, land available, soil quality and fertility status, resource availability and management potentials. You may intensify production without expanding land to attain target production goal. Line 44: The pressure has necessitated intensive cultivation,... What pressure are you referring to? Lines 44-45: The pressure has necessitated intensive cultivation, continuous tillage, bush fires and other unsuitable agricultural practices with their negative consequences on soil fertility. Statement is not self explanatory. For example, intensive cultivation could involve or imply continuous tillage. Poor management of these would result in negative soil fertility conditions. What then do you mean? Line 57: (Webber, 1978, Mitchell et al. 1982. To read as (Webber, 1978; Mitchell et al., 1982) Line 63: properties, and influence crop. Delete comma between properties and Line 64: (Foth, 1978, Akamigbo and Asadu, 1986, Wezel et al. 2002). To read as (Foth, 1978; Akamigbo and Asadu, 1986; Wezel et al., 2002) Line 66: pH , exchangeable Ca, and Mg in the depositional areas of foot slope ,while higher. To read as 'pH, exchangeable slope, while higher... Lines 79-80: on the yield of cassava and properties..Are you also interested in cassava stem yield for example? Specify what yield you are investigating. Materials and Methods: Line 87: located by Latitude 06⁰ 25' N and Longitude 07⁰ 24' E and at an altitude of	
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	approximately 400m.. To read as 'Located at latitude 06⁰ 25'N, longitude 07⁰ 24'E and altitude of approximately 400m'. Line 91: 1990). They lie at two slope positions – mid slope (26%) and toe slope (9%). To read as '1990), that lie at two slope positions.....' Field Study: Line 96: constituted the whole plot: to read as 'constituted the main plot.... Line 99: The land was prepared by clearing, tilling and ridging manually. Were the ridges aligned on or against slope direction? Specify Lines 103-104: 17kg/ha for cassava, (IITA, 2005), 3 weeks before the desired planting date and ploughed under within 48 hours. What was the source of your nitrogen fertilizer? Why would you allow as much as 48 hours before ploughing under applied fertilizer, given high rates of N-loss to volatilization of ammonia and/or Urea based Nitrogen fertilizers? Lines 109-110: Other cultural practices 110 were carried out timely. Specify or delete this statement. Laboratory studies: Lines 116-117: soil samples were collected using steel core over each slope position. What is the dimension and volume of this steel core? Line 128: V =Volume of sample (cm-3). Check this unit for correctness Lines 133-134: r = radius of the core h = height of the core. What is the diameter and height of the steel cores? Results and Discussion:	
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	Line 168: The properties of the mid slope. Delete 'the' between of and mid Line 175: elements are below the. To read as elements were below...which call for the calls for supplementation ... Line 177: of the soils used for the study. Delete 'the' between of and soils. Present organic carbon in gkg⁻¹ and not % in text and Table Lines 180-181: Table 2 shows the nutrient composition of the urban refuse compost and sewage sludge used for the study. Delete 'the' between shows and nutrient, between of and urban. Soil Properties Prior to Treatment Application: This section need to be further discussed using more relevant and current literature. Effect of Urban refuse and Sewage sludge on Soil Properties: Line 190: porosity, and bulk density. Delete comma between porosity and. Line 192: dispersion as measured by the length of exposed. To read as 'dispersion, as measured by length of exposed.... Line 193: between the non-amended plots and the organic. Delete 'the' before between and organic... Line 194: aggregate stability as measured by. To read as 'aggregate stability, as measured by'.... Lines 195-196: The soil amended with UR had the highest % WSA of 58.3 which did not differ significantly from the sewage sludge treated soil. To read as 'soil amended with UR had highest % WSA of 58.3, which did not differ significantly from sewage sludge treated soil'. Attempt to have not one 'the' in a sentence to make your text more appealing for	
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	reading. Check your entire write to effect this correction Line 204: with that of Guidi et al., (1982) which noted. To read as Guidi <i>et al.</i> (1982). Prefer to use who noted since you are referring the authors. Line 206: that of Bazzoffi et al., (1998). To read as 'Bazzoffi <i>et al.</i> (1998) Line 209: Ahmed et al., (2010) correct this in line with above suggestions. Line 211-213: Because the same amount of organic matter was applied to the soils, the variability in the results obtained in the soil structural stability must have been due to the different chemical nature of the organic wastes added to the soil (Table 2). Very clumsy reading. Improve and many more like this. Lines 126, 149 and Table 3: be consistent in use of units for bulk density. Effect of Landscape Slope Position on Soil Properties: Entire paragraph need to be justified and uniform as previous sections. Lines 232-233: The higher structural stability of the mid-slope 233 soil may be attributed to its long-term grass fallow and conservation practices. What conservation measure were put in place on these high slopes of 9 and 26% Line 241: (Gregorich et al. 1998). to read as (Gregorich <i>et al.</i>, 1998) Line 250: Effect of Urban refuse and Sewage sludge on weed infestation, survival and yield of cassava Line 256: Nwachukwu et al., (2012), to read as 'Nwachukwu <i>et al.</i> (2012) Line 258: Odedina et al., (2012), to read as 'Odedina <i>et al.</i> (2012)' Lines 256-258: The non-significant influence may be 256 attributed to inhibitory substances in the waste as Nwachukwu et al., (2012), observed high 257 levels of lead	
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	and cadmium in dump sites in southeastern Nigeria that exceed the soil critical 258 limits. This discussion did not show how weed incidence, cassava survival or yield was affected. What is its relevance here? Lines 251-262: This section should discuss 'effect of urban refuse and Sewage sludge on weed infestation, survival and yield of cassava'. You must recast this section to discuss its subject matter. Table 5 was therefore not discussed. Line 268: Effect of Landscape Slope Position on weed infestation, survival and yield of cassava Line 272: Stevenson et al., (1995) correct this slope positions; such as toe slope, typically..... Section on 'Effect of Landscape Slope Position on weed infestation, survival and yield of cassava should first present results and be further discussed and supported with relevant current literature. 280-281: Interactions between landscape slope positions and Organic residues (Urban refuse and sewage sludge) on soil properties Lines 285-286: This may be ascribed to the masked effect of long-term grass fallow at the mid-slope. How does this justify statements on lines 283-284? Section on Interactions between slope position and organic residues (Urban and sewage sludge) on soil properties should be further discussed with relevant literature to support findings Table 7: pH NOT Ph Lines 295-296: Interactions between landscape slope positions and Organic residues (Urban refuse and sewage sludge) on weed infestation, survival and yield of cassava: This section should be further explained and supported with relevant literature	
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	Generally, this study was not well discussed to arrive at conclusions outside the expected. References need to be updated and rechecked. Some references were not presented in the reference section.	
Minor REVISION comments	Minimize the use of 'the' to as low as once if possible in any sentence. See attached text	
Optional/General comments	Most sections must be further discussed and supported with literature. See attached text.	

As per the guideline of editorial office we have followed VANCOUVER reference style for our paper.

Kindly see the following link:

<http://sciencedomain.org/archives/20>

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