

Editor's Comments:

I have read the answers of the authors. Although the first one does not justify the experiment, I believe that if this is the situation in their country then this must be mentioned somewhere in the manuscript. Furthermore, the Units of enzymes assays should be clearly stated in the Materials and Methods section. SOD is expressed as $\mu\text{g g FW}$, μg of what? What if the water content of the tissue is different among treatments? We usually express enzyme units per mg of protein. If this is possible then the authors should express it that way, if not then they should clearly state what the μg or mg refer to.

Author's Feedback:

The soil condition is although already mentioned in Materials and Methods of manuscript ie it is alkaline and calcareous in nature with low content of nitrate N, P, and Zn (in last sentence of first paragraph). However, as suggested, now the issue and cause of low nitrogen content in soil and plants has been addressed in the first paragraph of Introduction (green highlighted).

The Units of enzymes assays have now been mentioned in the respective Materials and Methods section 2.2. Regarding the unit of SOD activity, it has already been mentioned; however, now the title of SOD activity Table 5 is re-stated to express the unit more clearly as below:

Table 5: Activity of SOD ($\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ of fresh biomass weight) in maize diagnostic leaf