



SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

PART 1:

Journal Name:	Journal of Experimental Agriculture International
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JEAI_43194
Title of the Manuscript:	Validation of flowering models for classifying maize into maturity groups in the different Agro-ecologies of West and Central Africa.
Type of Article:	Original Research Article

PART 2:

FINAL EVALUATOR'S comments on revised paper (if any)	Authors' response to final evaluator's comments
The author addressed the comments and suggestions I did on my first review. However, that first version was lacking much information, with a difficult language to read so after improvement of the manuscript by authors I was able to explore more into detail the work. I think that it still have large room for improvement on the language (I did only some comments), and suggest a deep review of structure of sentences, spacing and use of dots and comas. The materials and methods are lacking essential information for the readers to understand the work done. I mention several areas of improvement on the word document, but as standing points I would consider the lack of information of the validation trials (from design and locations, to general crop management), and the lack of statistical analysis for the comparison of models. The authors only use statistics to make a description of each model, but there is not statistical analysis to validate or to compare among models. For example, I would expect a statistical comparison of the regression of calculated vs. observed, among models. The results description is too long, with too many tables, and mixing discussion with actual description of results. That makes results section long and hard to follow. The authors should find a more efficient way to show all the information, and dedicate this section only to describe results, leaving any discussion for next section. Finally, the weaknesses mentioned before are reflected in the discussion, where the reader reaches this section with several doubts. The discussion also needs to bring some great works done by other researchers; this is an area where several researchers and institutions dedicated lots of efforts to build prediction models. I think that the discussion would become richer if some of those works are brought into this section. One example is Kumudini et al., (2014), where several experts where brought together to compare different models to predict maize development.	- Comparison of the predicted days to flowering (Taselling, Anthesis and Silking) due to the regression models with the observed days to flowering (Tasselling, Anthesis and Silking) were carried out with - Standard error (S.E.) and - Coefficient of variability (CV) - Regression Equations with coefficient of determination (r^2) which was close to 1 as presented in the Tables and figures. - The tables were much for the validation to be strong and reliable because - There were quite a number of trials used for the validation of the models which are field trials in which these 100 varieties were evaluated for flowering and - The scope of this study which included the other agro-ecologies of West and Central Africa which are the main focus of this study hence the validation to be carried out in other Agro-ecologies where some of these 100 varieties were evaluated - The discussion has been revised with the inclusion of the findings of Kumudini et al., (2014) as suggested.