



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
After 2 reviews, several major revisions remain. Moreover, the main feedback I gave in previous reviews (very weak statistical analysis) was not improved. Below some more comments. Introduction could be improved with better connection among paragraphs. Also there is still several grammar and spellings mistakes. On the results, the tables are not clearly described on the headings. For example, most of them miss information about what are the variables being presented. It is difficult for the reader to understand what is being presented on each table; they do not stand on their own. CV is of observed vs. the one for different models is used as to evaluate accuracy of the models. This is not a valid comparison (see this following reference for different validations approaches; Wallach, D., D. Makowski, and J. W. Jones, Eds., 2006: Working with Dynamic Crop Models: Evaluation, Analysis, Parameterization, and Applications. 1st ed. Elsevier Science, 462 pp.). Most important weakness of this work is that there is not a statistical comparison among models. Moreover, the statistics used to evaluate the models on their own, are not good. That leads the authors to use subjective evaluations of the quality of each model and to evaluate relative performance among them. For example, terms as "unrealistic", "unreasonably", "fairly close correlation" are used as to evaluate models performance.	Statistics is a group of methods for collecting, summarizing, analyzing and interpreting data to obtain information. Statistics start from collection and summarization of data to analysis such as measures of central tendency and dispersion which are means, median mode, variance, standard deviation, standard error of means These statistical tools were part of what were used in this study and they are already highlighted yellow in the manuscript for your attention. We only used statistics relevant to what the research is all about. The introduction has been revised accordingly The title of the tables has also been revised as suggested for clarity purpose It was not stated that the CV measured accuracy of the model but the variability and stability of the models. The comparison of the models using CV is in the context of which of the models is more stable or less variable as shown in the tables. CV of flowering in maize is usually low as shown from previous studies on maize hence the comparison of the CV of the predicted days to flowering with the observed values in this study. The developed models used in this study were regression models and not mathematical models as described in the "Wallach, D., D. Makowski, and J. W. Jones, Eds., 2006: Working with Dynamic Crop Models: Evaluation, Analysis, Parameterization, and Applications." This statement of "not a statistical comparison of the models" is not true since standard error of means and comparison of the cv of the models were used in the write-up