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Comment

## ***Interactive comment on “Effect of land management on soil properties in flood irrigated citrus orchards in Eastern Spain” by A. Morugán-Coronado et al.***

**A. Morugán-Coronado et al.**

amorugan@umh.es

Received and published: 12 March 2015

Comments from F. García-Orenes (Second author):

Dear Editor, thank so much to propose a debate about “organic farming studies” and the correct use of this terminology for describing an experimental design. In our opinion the treatment that we are studying in this work is a really an organic farming system because, the treatment follows the strict limits of “organic farming practices” as:

- Very strict limits on chemical synthetic pesticide and synthetic fertiliser use, food additives and processing aids and other inputs; in our case there is not application of

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any chemical or synthetic fertilizer in this plot.

- Absolute prohibition of the use of genetically modified organisms; the citrus crop used is a Valencian variety traditional of orange, never genetically modified.
- Taking advantage of on-site resources, such as livestock manure for fertiliser or feed produced on the farm; manure from sheep and goats and chipped pruned branches and weeds have been used as a fertilizer in this plot.
- Choosing plant and animal species that are resistant to disease and adapted to local conditions; the variety of citrus is autochthonous from Valencia.

In the other hand, the use of “organic amendment” can implicate the possibility to use of every type organic residues as: compost, sewage sludge, mud, etc. and this is not our case. I sincerely think that the treatment that has been used in this work can be described as organic farming system. Of course we are so interested to follow with the debate and change the terminology if there is a good justify. We are going on work in paper to implement all the suggestions and question of the reviewers.

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Interactive comment on SOIL Discuss., 2, 1, 2015.

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