

Reply to the Topical Editor

MS Title: Development of soil biological quality index for soils of semi-arid tropics

Author(s): Selvaraj Aravindh et al.

MS No.: soil-2019-60

Comments to the Author:

Thank you for the revised manuscript. I am happy to inform you that your paper is now accepted subject to technical corrections. The topical editor has identified several language issues that need to be resolved and has detailed this. Please carefully consider this. I also think the manuscript will benefit from a thorough copy editing. Copernicus provides this service and I suggest that you interact with Copernicus to further improve the language.

Reply: As pointed out by the reviewer and the technical editor, I carefully scrutinize the English corrections pointed out by the topical editor. I express my sincere thanks to Topical editor who improved the manuscript to a good shape.

Topical editor's suggestions:

1. I think the title (Development of soil biological quality index for soils of semi-arid tropics) needs an "a" before "soil biological quality index", it would be better as "Development of a soil biological quality index for soils of semi-arid tropics". Could you please check with your native English translator?

Reply: Modifying the title as "Development of a soil biological quality index for soils of semi-arid tropics" looks better. Hence 'a' was added in the title.

2. Can you substitute the "the" of line 10 "the soil quality index" by an "a soil quality index"?

Reply: Corrected as 'a'

3. In the discussion could you please change the present perfect forms by a simple past forms?
Such as:

Line 255 "we have developed" by "we developed"

Reply: Corrected

Line 256 "have chosen" by "chose"

Reply: Corrected

Line 308 "we have adopted" by "we adopted"

Reply: Corrected

Line 311 "we have not picked" "we did not pick"

Reply: Corrected

357 "we have investigated" by "we investigated"

Reply: Corrected

Line 316 "can able" is not correct, can you replace it by "was able"?

Reply: Corrected

Apart from these, the manuscript is thoroughly scrutinized and changed as simple past form of verbs.

4. I am not sure if those sentences are correctly formulated:

Line 317 “relating to soil functioning” do you mean “and relate it to the soil functioning” ? If that is so, can you change the sentence?

Reply: Corrected as ‘and relate it to the soil functioning’

Line 338 “Twenty five farmers’ field in and around..., have assessed, ...” I think you mean “..... were assessed...”

Reply: Corrected as ‘were’

Line 355 “these soils may deter their quality” change by “the quality of soils may decrease and may be reflected in declining crop productivity”

Reply: As per the suggestion, the sentence was rephrased.

5. Line 363-364

Can you correct this sentence “as it is with less statistics and a more biological approach” by “as it implies less statistics calculations and it is more based on a biological approach”

Reply: As per the suggestion, the sentence was rephrased.