

Interactive comment on “Soil fertility along toposequences of the East India Plateau and implications for productivity and sustainability” by Peter S. Cornish et al.

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Referee 2

We thank the referee for the supportive general comments, and the changes suggested in the supplementary comments that will improve clarity and accuracy.

Title change. Agreed

Line 9. The referee suggests ‘wetland’, and we concur.

Line 16. We prefer to keep the current wording. Management embraces a wider set of options than is implied by the word ‘ameliorate’, that typically means liming. Manage-

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ment may include, for example, the choice of N source and the timing of N application to minimise leaching. We used ‘further’ intentionally, because acidification has already occurred.

Line 146. We will amend this text.

Line 183 Agreed

Line 226. The relationship is certainly weak as we said, but it is significant ($P < 0.05$). It is the weakness that is actually important. We will add here that this was the only significant (but weak) relationship between any of the fertility indicators. We conclude the paper (line 350) by saying that weak associations between the fertility indicators highlights the need for field-specific fertiliser regimens rather than broad prescriptions.

Line 251 Agreed

Line 254. The referee appears to refer to the following paper, that we will now cite: Homma K, Horie T, Shiraiwa T, Supapoj N, Matsumoto N, Kabaki N (2003) Toposequential variation in soil fertility and rice productivity of rainfed lowland paddy fields in mini-watershed (Nong) in northern Thailand. *Plant Production Science* 6, 147–153. These authors reported, amongst other things, higher OC in rice fields lower in the landscape, as we report.

Line 284. Agreed

Line 299. We agree that fertiliser efficiency will be very much less than 100

Line 329. We will add that B deficiency is widespread according to Anon (2013).

Line 346. Agreed

Line 349. Agreed. We will expand the argument.

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