

Interactive comment on “Multi-cooperation of soil biota in the plough layer is the key for conservation tillage to improve N availability and crop yield” by Shixiu Zhang et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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This manuscript needs significant improvements in English grammar to be understandable and publishable.

Title: needs re-working. “Multi-cooperation” isn’t correct. Perhaps simply “interaction”? Affiliations: I think there should be a better translation for “Key Laboratory of Mollisols Agroecology”. Even simply “Laboratory of Mollisol Agroecology” Ln 13: Please check English grammar. For example, “Conservation tillage systems may promote more complex and heterogeneous distributions of soil organisms relative to conventional tillage that may result in higher crop yield. However, the role of soil biota in N mineralization promoting plant growth remains limited.” Some introduction or definition of “trophic

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groups” and “energy pathways” is needed. Ln 27-31: Is the second to last sentence of the Abstract the main finding of the study? The last statement, on lines 30 and 31, is quite a broad generalization and is not overly useful. The second to last sentence here, lines 27 to 30 would seem to say that ploughed and non-ploughed systems are similar in terms of N supply to plants, is that what you mean? Clarification may be needed.

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