

Interactive comment on “Effects of land use changes on kinetics of potassium release in sweetpotato garden soils of the highlands, Papua New Guinea” by B. K. Rajashekhar Rao

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I have read this manuscript carefully and with great interest, and I confess that I liked it very much. I have no objections to the experimental design and discussion of results. The manuscript falls within the scope of SE and publication is highly recommended.

I just think there is a little problem. Sometimes it seems that the authors only focus on the analyzed soils of PNG, but this work is valid globally. Especially, when the release of potassium is related to the different compartments of the exchange complex, results cannot be locally limited. Therefore, the authors recommend that give it another go to the document, emphasizing the relevance of the results, not only local implications

C1465

in highlands of PNG. I strongly recommend changing the title to something similar to this: “Kinetics of potassium release in sweet potato-cropped soils. A case study in the highlands of Papua New Guinea”.

I am not an English-native speaker, but “farm” sounds better than “garden” to me. Gardening refers to outdoor enjoyment with a particular design of planting and management, not food production.

The difference between “old” and “new” gardens is not clear. It looks like you are talking about traditional/innovative management or simply before and after a certain date. I suppose, “new” means “after land use change”, but during how much time? Not clear. Concerning the abstract, I have found only a small problem. The objective of this research and a general overview of the necessity of studying K dynamics in the area are well depicted in the introduction. In contrast, the abstract does not refer to this (although general results and conclusions are well described). I suggest including some lines at the beginning focusing the problem and describing the objectives.

My recommendation is “minor revision”, as I do not find great problems in the manuscript. I have uploaded a doc with detailed comments.

Congratulations to the authors.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<http://www.solid-earth-discuss.net/6/C1465/2014/sed-6-C1465-2014-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on Solid Earth Discuss., 6, 2843, 2014.

C1466