Interactive comment on “Estimations of soil fertility in physically degraded soils through selective accounting of fine earth” by M. S. Nagaraja et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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FIGURES: it could be possible to add colors to figures 2, 3 and 4? In the on-line version they are for free.

INTRODUCTION: These two references (Lozano-García et al., 2016 [Science of the Total Environment 544, 963-970. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2015.12.022] and Parras-Alcántara et al., 2015 [Land Degradation and Development 26, 800-806. http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/ldr.2231]) are more appropriate here (to support the idea of “help land developers and farmers to select management plans…”) than Parras-Alcántara et al., 2015. Because the first one is related to natural areas with different kinds of vegetation [native or reforested] and the second one is referred to agricultural lands under different managements.
MATERIAL AND METHODS: Please, clarify some aspects related to the sampling process and the methodology: 1. How many samples were taken in each sampling point? 2. How many replicas? 3. Could you locate the sampling points in the Figure 1? 4. Could you add a table with the main soil properties of the 18 soils sampled? 5. Between 2.2 and 2.3 sections I suggest including a new one in which you define the three methods (equation included) for the assessment of soil C and nutrient stocks.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION: Please, be uniform respect to the use of acronyms. On the one hand, you use SOC in lines 12 and 13 in page 6 but you do not have defined this acronym previously, in fact you use soil organic C in the rest of the text. On the other hand, in the Abstract you refer to P and K, but in the 3.3 section you write P2O5 and K2O. Furthermore, you must improve and enrich the discussion by adding more current references.

Interactive comment on Solid Earth Discuss., doi:10.5194/se-2016-26, 2016.