

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Research in Agriculture and Forestry
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJRAF_130218
Title of the Manuscript:	Effects of Irrigation Depth and Interval on Reproductive and Yield Components of Cucumber in Ogbomoso.
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

PART 1: Comments

	Reviewer’s comment	Author’s Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.	The manuscript successfully addresses a relevant agricultural challenge—efficient water use in cucumber cultivation under tropical conditions.	
Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)	Yes	

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Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.	<p>The abstract effectively summarizes the key findings but could be refined for brevity and greater impact.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Sentence Conciseness: The abstract is somewhat verbose in describing results. Original: “Results showed that while irrigation depth did not significantly affect days to first flowering, longer irrigation intervals delayed flowering, with I□ resulting in the longest time to flowering (28.69 days).” Suggested: “Irrigation depth had minimal effect on days to first flowering, but three-day intervals significantly delayed flowering to 28.69 days.” Practical Implications: Highlight practical outcomes more prominently: Suggested addition: “These results offer critical guidance for optimizing water use in cucumber farming, balancing fruit quality and yield in water-scarce environments.” Minor Issues: Consistently use italics for scientific names: <i>Cucumis sativus</i> L.</p>	Correction effected
Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.	Yes	
Introduction	<p>Suggestions for Improvement: Flow and Repetition: Example: “Water scarcity is becoming an increasingly critical challenge in agricultural production worldwide, particularly in tropical regions where climate change is exacerbating rainfall variability and drought conditions.” The next sentence reiterates similar information. Consider combining or restructuring. Suggested: “Increasing water scarcity, driven by climate change and rainfall variability, poses significant challenges to tropical agriculture.” Local Context: Strengthen the relevance to local farming practices in Nigeria earlier in the introduction to frame the research’s practical impact.</p>	Correction effected
Materials and methods	<p>Suggestions: Title Consistency: Use consistent capitalization: “Materials and Methods” instead of “material and methods.” Redundant Details: The description of the irrigation system setup could be more concise. Original: “A drip irrigation system was installed to ensure precise water application according to the treatment specifications. The system consisted of a 1000 l water storage tank, 50.8 mm diameter main pipe, sub-main pipes, T-joint, end plugs, gum, gate valve, and 16 mm diameter laterals equipped with pressure compensating emitters.” Suggested: “A drip irrigation system with a 1000 l tank and pressure-compensating emitters was used for precise water application.” Statistical Analysis: The software used (SPSS V20) is appropriately mentioned, but provide a brief rationale for using Duncan’s Multiple Range Test for mean separation.</p>	Correction effected
Results and discussions	<p>Suggestions for Improvement: Overuse of “Unexpected”: Phrases like “unexpected responses” and “counterintuitive patterns” are frequent. Use more precise language to explain physiological mechanisms or cite supporting studies. Example: “Unexpectedly, deficit irrigation (D□) produced fruits with larger diameter...” Suggested: “Deficit irrigation (D□) increased fruit diameter, possibly due to resource reallocation under water stress.” Table Presentation: Ensure that Table 1 is easy to interpret. Add a more descriptive caption, e.g., “Effect of Irrigation Depth and Interval on Reproductive and Yield Components of Cucumber.” Detailed Yield Discussion:</p>	Correction effected

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	<p>The yield differences between treatments should be explored in more depth.</p> <p>Example: Explain the practical significance of a 30% yield difference between D□ × I□ and D□ × I□ beyond citing percentages.</p> <p>Practical Implications:</p> <p>More clearly address how findings can influence irrigation strategies for smallholder farmers.</p> <p>Suggested addition: “Farmers in water-limited regions might benefit from adopting moderate deficit irrigation with shorter intervals to conserve water while maintaining quality.”</p>	
Conclusion	<p>Suggestions for Improvement:</p> <p>Direct, Practical Language:</p> <p>Original: “These findings provide valuable guidance for irrigation management in tropical regions, particularly where water resources are constrained.”</p> <p>Suggested: “This study recommends full irrigation with daily intervals for maximizing cucumber yield in tropical climates. Where water conservation is critical, moderate deficit irrigation (85% ETc) offers a viable alternative with minimal quality trade-offs.”</p>	Correction effected
Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.	<p>The references are comprehensive, but ensure all are formatted consistently according to the target journal's style.</p>	
Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?	<p>Yes</p>	
Optional/General comments		

PART 2:

	Reviewer’s comment	Author’s comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<p><i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i></p>	