

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Research in Agriculture and Forestry
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJRAF_130219
Title of the Manuscript:	AGRONOMIC PRACTICES ADOPTED BY THE MAIZE (Zea mays) FARMERS IN HOROWPATHANA DS DIVISION IN ANURADHAPURA DISTRICT IN SRI LANKA: A CASE STUDY
Type of the Article	Survey case study

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 paper is a fairly uncommented survey of the actual situation in Sri Lanka Maize farming. There is no reflection of state of the art knowledge about sustainable farming methods. The standard recommendations of the department of agriculture are the reference without any critical discussion. There is no own discussion on any agronomic or scientifically relevant issues. Scientifically the paper does not provide any new insights.	
Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)	Yes	
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.	The abstract provides an overview about the paper	
Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.	40 years ago the manuscript would be scientifically correct. Today it is completely outdated. New aspects of sustainable farming concepts, such as Conservation Agriculture or Regenerative Agriculture are not even mentioned, environmentally degrading practices such as ploughing are referred to without any reflection.	
Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.	Most of the references are extremely dated, there are very few more recent than 2015. Not a single reference is about new farming concepts, such as no-till and related farming methods.	

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<p>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>Generally the English is ok, but there are some bad grammatical mistakes; the worst are corrected in track change in the reviewed manuscript.</p>	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>	<p>Corrections are inserted in the attached manuscript in track change mode. Comments are inserted in the attached manuscript as follows: Introduction: Why are here examples of China and India shown, if the paper is about maize in Sri Lanka? Maize has different issues in different cropping regions and climates; it would be interesting, what the real issues in Sri Lanka are. 3.2: It would be good to explain, when the Yala and teh Maha seasons are. Internationally these terms are not common. - Pls. Explain/translate 'chena'. - What does that mean? That the Maha season is the season for best crop performance? Pls. change to make the meaning clear. – 3.3: You mean the silt soil? Pls. say so. - 3.4: What is a mamoty? A hoe? A cutlass? Pls. explain. - Is this really a „hook plow“ or ard plow for animal traction, or do you mean a chisel cultivator? - This is obsolete knowledge in times, when globally Conservation Agriculture or Regenerative Agriculture without any tillage are promoted. Pls. mention this in some place. 3.7: Do you mean the germination percentage when you write „seedling percentage“? Pls. Correct. 3.11: Pls. Specify, what kind of seeder - manual, precision, tractor mounted? A mechanized precision seeder for single grain seeding is usually called a planter. 3,15: In the entire paper there is no single mention of a modern (sustainable) management practice. Pls. expand.</p>	

PART 2:

	<p>Reviewer's comment</p>	<p>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)</p>
<p>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</p>	<p><i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i></p>	

Reviewer Details:

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<p>Department, University & Country</p>	<p>Germany</p>