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| Journal Name: | [**Journal of Agriculture and Ecology Research International**](https://journaljaeri.com/index.php/JAERI) |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_JAERI\_141001** |
| Title of the Manuscript: | **The Potential of Neem as Fertilizer and Suppression of Soil and Foliar Arthropod Pests and Diseases in Vegetable Crop Production** |
| Type of the Article | **Original Research Article** |

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| PART 1: Comments | | |
|  | Reviewer’s comment **Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated or assisted review comments are strictly prohibited during peer review.** | **Author’s Feedback** (It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here) |
| **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.** | **It's a good idea to avoid anything that harms the environment, such as pesticides, which interfere with all components of the environment. Using natural and organic materials that are readily available and inexpensive is also very important for continuing to increase agricultural production. Even more important is their ease of use.** | The study presents an eco-friendly alternative to synthetic pesticides by demonstrating the dual potential of neem (*Azadirachta* *indica*) as a fertilizer and also as a biopesticide. Thus, this study fills the knowledge gap as it supports organic pest management while improving soil health and crop yield. The approach is particularly relevant for smallholder farmers in developing countries like Ghana, where cost and environmental safety are major concerns. In summary, this study is intended to promote sustainable agricultural practices towards food security without harming the environment. |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?**  **(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | **No.**  **(The effectiveness of neem in enhancing the growth of okra and reducing some of the pests that affect it).** | We thank the Reviewer for suggesting a more specific title which focuses on okra and pest reduction. The original title was used to target the broader potential of neem in vegetable crop production. However, we agree with the Reviewer that focusing on okra will enhance clarity, given the design of the study. Therefore, we have revised the title to "The Potential of Neem as an Organic Fertilizer and Bio-Pesticide for Enhancing Soil Fertility, Nematode and Foliar Pest Suppression, and Okra Growth". |
| 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. | **Yes** | Thank you. The abstract has been revised to make it more comprehensive and to highlight the practical application of the research. |
| Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here. | No, the effect of neem on insect biology as well as its effect on nematodes must be studied before it can be recommended as a pesticide, as it is possible that the large amount of neem added has changed soil pH, which helped reduce the number of pests. | The discussion in section 3.2 has been revised to accommodate the gap in the study regarding a lack of inclusion of the specific physiological or biochemical mechanisms underlying neem’s effect on pests and nematodes. However, the assertion that the study must include insect and nematode biology before recommending neem as pesticide may be overly restrictive. This study provides strong field evidence of pest suppression using neem extracts with strong literature backing. Therefore, the practical recommendation of neem for sustainable pest management in smallholder systems remains valid and is maintained. |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.** | Many References need to update | The references have been updated to include more recent ones. |
| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | Yes | Thank. The language has further been improved following comments from another reviewer. |
| Optional/General comments | **- 200 grams of neem is a very large quantity.**  **- How much liquid was produced from the neem paste to which the drops of liquid detergent were added? Explain.**  **- Perhaps the decrease in insect and nematode numbers was the result of an indirect effect. The author should have investigated this further.** | The use of 200 grams of neem is not very large by method. The application of the neem leaf paste of the 200 grams per plant was determined based on previous studies as well as by field trials. This quantity was found to be optimal in order to achieve an effective nematode suppression and an improvement of soil fertility under field conditions without causing phytotoxicity. It is important to note that the paste was applied directly to the soil at the base of each of the plants. It was not applied foliarly, such that this method mitigates concerns over quantity in terms of plant exposure. |

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| **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?** | *(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)* | No ethical issues were encountered and therefore clearance is not required. |