

Interactive comment on “Alleviating aluminium toxicity on an acid sulphate soils in Peninsular Malaysia with application of calcium silicate” by A. Elisa et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

Received and published: 24 November 2015

The first issue is the quality of English language and grammar, which is very poor. I strongly recommend revision by a native-English colleague or a professional scientific translation service. The greatest problems of this manuscript are grammar and style, and some sentences are not understandable (eg: “The release of Si to the acid sulphate soils increased their amount in the exchangeable form of nutrient”). Even if scientifically correct, the manuscript should not be published in these conditions.

The abstract needs to be completely re-written. The abstract must briefly state the background, your main objective, a general approach of methods and main results and conclusions. The first half of the abstract is some chaotic and should be rewritten.

C1414

In addition to reviewing the language, the main text needs a thorough restructuring and revision. Firstly, I do not understand the objectives or they are not clearly expressed. It seems, as stated (page 2906, line 7), that the aim of this work is to increase production, but this subject is not touched beyond the introduction.

The description of the experiments needs to be completely revised and restructured. The number of samples taken is unknown. The reader does not know where they were collected, when (only the number of days between samplings is known) and why.

Regarding the statistical analysis, the methods used are simple, but some measures of dispersion must be added. This would help to understand some results.

Finally, I believe that this work may be summarized as follows: soil samples were collected and calcium silicate was added. This raised soil pH (decreasing exchangeable Al) and increased the soil Ca and Si contents. Obvious! Moreover, much of the discussion is conducted on the effect of Si on pH (see page 2913, line 7). Si is inert and this makes no sense, since the pH increase is due to other reasons (the addition of Ca). The positive effects of these changes on production are discussed. Although expected, this is just speculation, since no data were provided for crop yield.

The following are some detailed comments on the abstract, introduction, methods and results sections of the manuscript.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:
<http://www.solid-earth-discuss.net/7/C1414/2015/sed-7-C1414-2015-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on Solid Earth Discuss., 7, 2903, 2015.

C1415