

Interactive comment on “Precision of farmer based fertility ratings and soil organic carbon for crop production on a Ferralsol” by P. Musinguzi et al.

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Response to Anonymous Referee #1. We are grateful for the positive comments on the methodology and paper structure overall. There is no doubt that in a highly heterogeneous smallholder farming system, the farmers' role in classifying soil condition is crucial given the state of economic distresses in the SSA. We agree that the comments particularly on the scientific significance of using Farmer Field Experiences (FFE) to rate soil fertility are pertinent. However, since this research targeted resource-constrained farmers, it is crucial that knowledge in soil fertility that has been transmitted between generations is tested and integrated with SOC or scientific rating approaches.

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The results were evidently promising, with farmers ably judging fields of poor fertility (low SOC) and high fertility (rich SOC). However, we agree that some minor corrections will be done to differentiate the scientific and non-scientific approaches. Other proposed alternative approaches on how we can improve content are noted although the PLS regression analysis presented in the subsequent sections addressed some of the points raised.

Interactive comment on Solid Earth Discuss., 7, 1237, 2015.

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