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Solid Earth Discussions

Interactive comment on "Reversing land degradation through grasses: a systematic meta-analysis in the Indian tropics" *by* Debashis Mandal et al.

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Dear Editor, Thank you very much for completing the review evaluation and providing valuable suggestions. We have addressed all the comments clearly and revised the manuscript accordingly.

Comments from Referees: The abstract should be rewritten and it must start with some background information of the problem. Moreover, it must end up with a strong take home message.

Author's response: The abstract is rewritten as suggested. We started the abstract with the following sentences.

Although intensive agriculture is necessary to sustain the world's growing population, accelerated soil erosion contribute to a decrease in the environmental health of ecosystems at local, regional and global scales. Reversing the process of land degradation using vegetative measures is utmost important in such lands.

Similarly, at the end of the abstract we have given some take home messages that has been emerged out from the study.

The present analysis also indicated that grass must be used as vegetative strip to maintain soil quality in sloppy arable areas (8.5 m ha) of Indian hilly regions. Similarly, due attention should be given for establishing grasses to about 3 m ha degraded pasture lands and 3.5 m ha shifting cultivation areas in India to reverse the land degradation.

Comments from Referees: The criteria used for selecting various papers for this particular meta-analysis must be clearly provided in Materials and Methods sections.

Author's response: The criteria used for selecting various papers for this particular meta-analysis is given in the materials and methods section where the authors clearly stated the basis of selecting the various papers for all three roles of grasses.

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