

***Interactive comment on “Discussing the Genesis of Karst Rocky Desertification-research Based on the Correlations between Crop land and Settlement in Typical Peak-cluster Depressions” by Y. B. Li et al.***

**Anonymous Referee #2**

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This study tries to determine how the structure of agricultural holdings affects the desertification processes in karst rocky areas. The authors mention the size of patches and the land carrying capacity as the most important desertification driving forces in the area. They list and analyse different percentages of croplands, settlements and desertified areas in different land forms.

General comments

The topic is particularly interesting due to the scarcity of data in this type of areas in the English scientific literature. This paper covers the need to integrate socio-economic

C1

studies in bio-physical research. Therefore I support its publication.

I find however that the text is difficult to understand in certain sections of the paper, mainly the Results. It is a pity because this is probably just a question of English style.

I suggest the authors to ask for help in order to improve the writing style because sometimes the paper is quite difficult to understand.

Specific comments

I have tried to help with this, please see detailed comments and suggestions in the pdf attached as supplement. There are many comments and suggestions, but most of them are easy to solve.

The authors mention correlations that are not included in the results, due to the fact that this is the core of the paper, they should include such type of relationships.

Reference list needs format corrections.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<http://www.solid-earth-discuss.net/se-2016-15/se-2016-15-RC2-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on Solid Earth Discuss., doi:10.5194/se-2016-15, 2016.

C2