

## ***Interactive comment on “Estimations of soil fertility in physically degraded soils through selective accounting of fine earth” by M. S. Nagaraja et al.***

### **Anonymous Referee #1**

Received and published: 9 March 2016

FIGURES: it could be possible to add colors to figures 2, 3 and 4? In the on-line version they are for free.

INTRODUCTION: These two references (Lozano-García et al., 2016 [Science of the Total Environment 544, 963-970. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2015.12.022>] and Parras-Alcántara et al., 2015 [Land Degradation and Development 26, 800-806. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/ldr.2231>]) are more appropriate here (to support the idea of “help land developers and farmers to select management plans...”) than Parras-Alcántara et al., 2015. Because the first one is related to natural areas with different kinds of vegetation [native or reforested] and the second one is referred to agricultural lands under different managements.

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**MATERIAL AND METHODS:** Please, clarify some aspects related to the sampling process and the methodology: 1. How many samples were taken in each sampling point? 2. How many replicas? 3. Could you locate the sampling points in the Figure 1? 4. Could you add a table with the main soil properties of the 18 soils sampled? 5. Between 2.2 and 2.3 sections I suggest including a new one in which you define the three methods (equation included) for the assessment of soil C and nutrient stocks.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:** Please, be uniform respect to the use of acronyms. On the one hand, you use SOC in lines 12 and 13 in page 6 but you do not have defined this acronym previously, in fact you use soil organic C in the rest of the text. On the other hand, in the Abstract you refer to P and K, but in the 3.3 section you write P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O. Furthermore, you must improve and enrich the discussion by adding more current references.

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Interactive comment on Solid Earth Discuss., doi:10.5194/se-2016-26, 2016.

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