Solid Earth Discuss.,
https://doi.org/10.5194/se-2017-121-RC2, 2017

Solid Earth Discussions
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Interactive comment on "A review of the available cropland and land cover maps for South Asia" *by* Prashant Patil

Anonymous Referee #2

Received and published: 14 December 2017

General comments

The manuscript is listed as a review paper but it only provides a list of the current available cropland and land cover maps. Although I understand the need and value of such manuscript, the manuscript lacks a clear scientific question (an overall focus is not a scientific question). As a result, the manuscript has a short and weak discussion and conclusion sections. Nevertheless, I believe that the topic of the manuscript is relevant and is suitable for the Solid Earth journal.

Suggestions for further major revision on the manuscript

- Present a stronger research question and objectives for the manuscript. It can be followed by a methodological approach (such as review the LUCC for South Asia) to

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answer the research question.

- I believe that a more concise section of the available datasets can be achieved. For example, presenting the available datasets in a table. This can make it easy to compare different datasets and identify weaknesses in the discussion.

- Insert useful figures and tables. Fig.1 doesn't add any relevant information in a scientific manuscript. Also about Fig.1: if there is the need to keep such figure, work on a better labelling of the figure to avoid the issue with the labels of Maldives and Sri Lanka.

- Identify the authors of the current available datasets. The text is not clear if it was the author of the manuscript executing all datasets (the way the text is written in English).

- In the section "Introduction" there are some references missing to support strong statements.

Other minor technicalities

- Pag.1, line 26. Replace "Owing" by "Due".

- Pag.1, line 26 to 28. Even with the table it is a strong argument that should be supported by more references.

- Pag.2, line 12. Consider remove the sub-section "Croplands" or develop a more 2 sentences.

- Pag.2, line 19 to 23. Consider make shorter sentences to avoid a fragmented text for the reader. Also missing some references.

- Pag.3, line 2 to 3. Reference missing.

- Pag.3, line 5. Consider change the expression "generally believed" or justify it with references.

- Pag.3, line 19. Replace "estimates" by "estimations".

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- Pag.4, line 7. Consider change the expression "looks like".

- Pag.4, line 17. Consider add reference to the "unsupervised classification method".

- Pag.6, line 1. Replace "agriculture" by "agricultural".

- Pag.9, line 3. Example of possible confusion with the author of the datasets in the use of the verb "was derived".

- Pag.12, line 15. Consider replace "it essential" by "it is essential".

- Pag.12, line 18. Consider replace the first comma for a final stop (before "Hence").

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