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Interactive comment on “Nitrogen storage and variability in paddy soils of China” by J. S. Lin et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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The study analysed the N storage in Chinese paddy soils regarding different soil groups and cropping systems. The study is based on a large and interesting dataset; the data evaluation is in most parts comprehensible. The manuscript is clearly structured and well written. I recommend publication after minor revision. Abstract, l. 9-10: Also in the abstract, you should briefly specify HOW different management systems affect soil N density. 2.2 Data source, l. 5-8: The described methods were applied to each soil horizon of a 1-m soil profile? 3 Results and discussion, l. 19 (and later on): Calculation of the mean N density is not exactly described: was it calculated regarding the different paddy soil areas? 3.4 Other factors affecting total N..., first paragraph: you should scale back the significance of most correlations (temperature, texture). You have reduced their relevance in the next paragraph anyway.

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