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

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Anonymous Referee #1

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.

Question 1:

Abstract, l. 9-10: Also in the abstract, you should briefly specify HOW different management systems affect soil N density.

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Answer:

Agree, we specify the management systems into single rice cropping, double rice cropping etc.

Question 2:

2.2 Data source, l. 5-8: The described methods were applied to each soil horizon of a 1-m soil profile?

Answer:

Yes, you are right. We added the described method in revised paper.

Question 3:

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?

Answer:

Agree, we add the described in 2.3 Method, and specify the mean N density was calculated regarding different paddy soil areas.

Question 4:

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.

Answer:

This is a good question. Because we used two different statistical methods in this section. We do not reduce the relevance of temperature and texture. We used correlation analysis in first paragraph, and stepwise multiple regressions in the second paragraph. Therefore, we get various results between those two steps.

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