Review

of «Tropical climate-vegetation-fire relationships: multivariate evaluation of the land surface model JSBACH» by G. Lasslop, T. Moeller, D. D'Onofrio, S. Hantson, and S. Kloster
(Manuscript number bg-2018-48).

Lasslop et al. presented a study on assessment of climate-vegetation-fire relationships in tropical regions based on both observational and model data. The choice of the topic for the research is undoubtedly worthwhile owing to importance of correct representations of climate (precipitation), vegetation, and fire in global climate models. Authors presented some interesting results that will be valuable for scientific community. The manuscript can be recommend to publish with minor revisions.

Here is the specific comments:

1) When authors discuss precipitation-vegetation-fire relationship, they miss a link between precipitation rate and lightning activity (thus, fire ignition) (see, e.g. Romps et al., doi: 10.1126/science.1259100). At least a short discussion on this point should be added to the paper.
2) Correlation coefficients in the Table 1 should be accompanied with statistical significance estimates (e.g. to show statistically significant coefficients with the bold font).
3) Figures 4, 6, and 7 are 'blind' and hard to read. Is it possible to increase dots and chose more contrast-to-white colors?
4) The word 'surprisingly' (Introduction, Section 3.3) seems to be unsuitable since there was made no particular assumptions on any expectations.
5) English should be improved, mostly in terms of punctuation.