The authors have done an admirable job creating a cohesive unit from their multiple response variables. This is a strong dataset which hints at some interesting trade-offs between nutrient and water limitation in tropical dry forests. With one exception, I feel the authorship team has done a sufficient job addressing my earlier concerns. The outstanding issue is the statistical justification for including plant-functional traits and canopy position as an explanatory variable in their uneven design. While this is well explained in the response-to-reviewers, much of this context is still missing from the manuscript itself (see line notes below).

Line Notes

68 Is the reference to water use efficiency as a trade-off with photosynthetic efficiency needed here? Could be an opportunity to simplify.

75 replace tropical with TDF

119 remove 'on'

Paragraph starting on 155 - Seems dishonest to call it fully factorial unless this is qualified along the lines of - "The nutrient-addition and drought aspects of the experiment were fully factorial…"

226 & 235 change productivity to "production"

267 How was substrate-derived microbial biomass C distinguished from other biomass?

306 How does PFT and understory/plantation fit into stand here?

401 Not clear how PFT and understory/plantation tree were analyzed, not currently included in the statistical analysis section.

403 This is a fair and clearly stated summary of the results, well done!

428 Add, "although these effects were not statistically significant"

436 Occam's razor would argue that effects weren't found because the manipulation was not strong enough.

440 Add, $p = 0.09$

444 Not sure of the grammar rules for botanical authorities, possible that A. Rich should be within ()

452 Similar to my comment for lines 306 and 401 above, there is no explanation of how this effect was tested. Regardless, the claim seems so weak as to not be worth mentioning?

469 Results sections says that F had one nodule, and D+F had 57, please revise.

482 Remind the reader that this is a glucose-based measure of CUE