

Thank you for your advice. I will answer and revise the following questions.

1. Materials and methods section 2.1 Soil sampling and cottonseed meal production does not provide a detailed description of the sampling site and does not mention the characteristics of the local soil type, etc. Please add.

Response: Many thanks for your review and suggestions. Please see lines 96-100 "The soil type was gray desert soil, which was collected from farmlands (82.90° longitude, 44.96° latitude) in Xiao Yinpan town, Bole City, Bortala, northern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, northwest China. The farmlands soil is naturally formed original saline-salinity soil and with a continuous 30 years planting of maize (C4 crop) and maize straw returning to soil for 7-8 year. " And the cottonseed meal productions see the lines 106-109 and table 1.

2. What is the season for the collection of agricultural soil samples? Is it an inter-root or non-root soil? What is the soil's mode of collection? Please add.

Response: We have revised this sentence following your suggestion. Please see lines 101-107 "In September 2021, we determining the sampling area, and use the five-point sampling method to collecting non-rhizosphere soil. The soil samples were indoor air drying and hand-picked to remove visible other debris, animal and plant residues and then sieved at field moisture (<2mm) and subsequently adjusted to 40% of water holding capacity (WHC). Texture was determined by the pipette method without carbonate in all soil samples. They were then incubated at 25 °C for 7 days before starting the experiments, to allow any early sampling and sieving effects to subside ".

3. The source of the unstable substrate is not clearly stated in the Conclusion, and the role of cotton meal regulation needs to be more clearly emphasised; and future research directions are not proposed;

Response:We have add this sentence following your suggestion. We revise the conclusion : " Cotton meal is a kind of organic material with high nitrogen content, adding cotton meal in salinised soil can stimulate and promote the release of soil nutrients. The microorganisms mainly use the organic matter in the cotton meal in the pre-culture period, so the soil carbon excitation is negative excitation, Soil priming effect turned from negative to positive at the later stage of incubation (day 28), because microorganisms turned to decompose SOC from the labile substrate. With the increase of salinity, the diversity of microbial community decreased. Soil microbial community was mainly controled by soil pH and EC. By O2PLS, we found Actinobacteria and Proteobacteria (Luteimonas, Hoeflea and Stenotrophomonas) dominant in these soils were the core microbial taxa that affecting the process of organic C mineralization, particularly soil primed CO₂ ".

4. The first occurrence of a term in line 184 manuscript should be given the full name. Also, in line 399, nouns should be given full names, and the inappropriate use of abbreviations could be improved;

Response: We have added the explanations for " PDB " following your suggestion. Please see lines 184 "where R_{sample} is the mass ratio of ^{13}C to ^{12}C of each sample and R_{VPDB} is the international PDB(Peedee Belemnite) limestone standard. The labeled ^{13}C (%) of cottonseed meal was then estimated from ".

5. Fig.4 The figure notes are not continued on the pictures;

Response: We have revised this sentence following your suggestion. The changes are as follows "Fig. 4. The top 10 of phylum and gene in bacterial community in soils with a gradient of salinity "

6. The article needs to be formatted in a uniform way. For example, line112 needs a space at the beginning, line192 needs to be deleted, line250 "CO2" needs to be changed to the format of a subscript, line269 (Fig. 3), line273 needs to be deleted, and so on, and a lot of details need to be paid attention to.

Response: Thank you for your suggestion. We Add a space at the beginning of the paragraph in line 112, and delete lines 192 and 269, besides change the line 250 from "CO2" to " CO_2 ". In addition, the entire manuscript was checked for details and changes were made to address formatting issues.