September 2, 2022

Editorial Department of PLOS ONE

Re: Cover letter

Dear Editor of PLOS ONE

I am submitting a manuscript for consideration for publication in PLOS ONE. The manuscript is entitled “Evaluating combined effects of pesticide and crop nutrition (with N, P, K and Si) on weevil damage in East African Highland Bananas”. It is an original research article presenting complementary evidence from two experiments.

We tested the effect of varying levels of inorganic fertilizers (nitrogen, potassium and silicon) combined with insecticide on weevil damage in East African highland bananas in two experiments monitored for 4 and 3 growth cycles. We analyzed the data using a generalized linear mixed model with negative binomial distribution and found that potassium and silicon fertilizer are associated with lower damage whereas nitrogen is associated with higher damage. This makes fertilizers a good addition to integrated weevil management in East African highland bananas.

In Uganda the push for using inorganic fertilizers to reduce soil nutrient mining and boost the productivity of bananas is picking momentum, this will be augmented by evidence that fertilizers also contribute to banana weevil control

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Thank you very much for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Hannington Bukomeko

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