Format of Manuscript Preparation for Journal of Saffron Agronomy and Technology

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Essential title page information

The title page must be prepared and uploaded separately from the main text with the following information:

• Title. Concise and informative, and not more than 15 words.

• Author names and affiliations. Present the author's affiliation addresses (where the work was done) below the names. Indicate all affiliations with a superscript number immediately after the author's name and also in front of the appropriate address. Provide the full postal address of each affiliation and, if available, the e-mail address of each author.

• Corresponding author. Indicate who will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing and publication, as well as post-publication. Ensure that phone numbers (with country and area code) are provided in addition to the e-mail address and the complete postal address. Contact details must be kept up to date by the corresponding author.

• Present/permanent address. If an author has moved since the work described in the article was done, or was visiting at the time, a 'Present address' (or 'Permanent address') may be indicated as a footnote to that author's name. The address at which the author did the work must be retained as the main affiliation address. Superscript numerals are used for such footnotes.

Paper configuration

Each paper should have the following distinct sections: Title, Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results and Discussion, Conclusion, and References. The Acknowledgment (briefly), Recommendations, and nomenclature can also be added. Each section should be prepared as follows:

The title

The title of the article should include a maximum of 15 words and contain all the characteristics of the conducted research as well. In the title, the usage of abbreviations should be avoided.

Abstract

The abstract should provide a comprehensive yet standalone overview of the study in 200 to 250 words, clearly stating the main objective, methodology, and key findings. It must convey the significance of the topic, the necessity of the research, and provide a concise summary of the

methods and results, while avoiding unnecessary details, tables, figures, mathematical equations, and formulas. The abstract should be presented on a separate page, including the title, authors' names, personal information, and five keywords separated by commas. Undefined abbreviations and references should not be included to maintain clarity and readability.

Keywords: Provide three to five keywords that can be used for indexing purposes. Keywords should not repeat the words of the manuscript title or contain abbreviations and shall be written in alphabetical order, separated by a semicolon.

Introduction: The introduction should have 2-3 paragraphs, depending on the type or category of information delivered, as well as the study's motivation and objectives. It is essential to present an adequate background of the field of research. The main reasons and objectives of the research paper must be explained in this section. The date and location of the research carried out throughout the study must be mentioned at the end of this section.

All the articles are peer-reviewed by highly acclaimed referees, and this journal reserves the right to accept, reject, edit, or shorten the manuscripts. The submitted articles are not accepted if they have been previously published or are under consideration for publication anywhere else. Furthermore, the authors of the article are responsible for the validity of its contents.

Materials and Methods: An overview of the research design should be reported. The previously published procedures would be cited, and methods used in the paper should be described in detail. Types of analysis should also be mentioned in this section. This section includes subheadings for each category, method, or procedure employed, as well as study regions, analysis, and so on. This part should be written in the past tense with passive voice and should not contain any study findings.

Results and Discussion: The results section of a scientific research article is crucial for clearly presenting verified findings, enabling reviewers to assess the study's validity. It should demonstrate the accuracy of the developed model both quantitatively and qualitatively, and thoroughly discuss the behavior of results using illustrations and tables to enhance clarity. Data must be presented concisely, preferably in tables or figures, while avoiding extensive tables. The discussion should interpret the significance of the findings in relation to previous research, adhering to the journal's policy on SI units and symbols. Results and discussions should be well-structured, ensuring clarity without excessive wording, and utilizing tables to present exact values and figures that illustrate trends or relationships. Each table and figure must be self-explanatory, avoiding redundant representations of the same data. A textual description should highlight key findings, employing various tenses to convey different aspects of the results. Additionally, the discussion should address potential limitations, compare findings with existing literature, and explore both theoretical and practical implications. Concluding the section, a review of relevant studies should demonstrate how the research contributes to the broader scientific field.

Conclusion: The conclusion section should provide a concise summary of the key findings, clearly stating the study's contributions without repeating sentences from the abstract. It should highlight the research applications and suggest areas for further investigation or potential expansion into other fields. The most essential elements include a brief review of the introduction, a summary of the results, and the main points of discussion. Additionally, the conclusion should address the study's uniqueness, limitations, and recommendations for future research while presenting the final key message without referencing external literature.

Paper layout

The main text should be prepared in A4 paper size, with 1.5 line spacing, and all margins should be 2.5 cm. All pages should be numbered sequentially and not more than 17 pages. All lines should be numbered continuously by applying the "Line numbering" command of MS Word.

Fonts

• All writings should be written using Times New Roman font.

• The font size for the title is 14 point, and for the main text is 12 point.

• The subtitles should be written in Bold and a font size of 12 point.

Units

Please use SI units only. It is not necessary to give the SI unit and (say) its Imperial equivalent. Engineering notation, where units are in multiples of 1,000, should be used. Thus, we wish to see the use of mm and m and not cm. Use exponent form instead of conventional format (ds m^{-1} or kg ha^{-1}).

Mathematical formulae

Present simple formulae in the line of standard text where possible. In principle, variables are to be presented in italics. Number consecutively any equations that have to be displayed separately from the text in the right margin (if referred to explicitly in the text).

Tables

Tables should be numbered sequentially as they appear in the text. Footnotes should be placed below the table body and indicated using superscript lowercase letters. Vertical rules should be avoided, and tables should be used sparingly to prevent redundancy with results already described elsewhere in the article. The table caption, written in 10-point font, should be positioned above the table. Tables should be displayed without borders.

Figures

Each illustration must have a caption, provided separately and not attached to the figure itself. A caption should consist of a brief title and a clear description of the illustration, while keeping text

within the figure to a minimum. Symbols and abbreviations should be explained within the caption to ensure comprehension without referring to the main text. Figure captions should be placed below the figure and written in a 10-point font. Figures should be displayed without borders, with font sizes within the figure ranging between 8 and 10 points. Whenever possible, figures should be presented in grayscale rather than color. Below is a sample of a table and figure.

Table 2-Consumed inputs during the first year in saffron fields

Type of inputs	Consumption (kg ha^{-1})
Consumed corms	3000
Urea	100
Ammonium phosphate	100
Animal manure	32000
Consumed irrigation water	3000 (m^3)*

* Because farmers are mainly using Qanat water for irrigation, with unspecified discharge, in this region, thus annual applied water for saffron cultivation was considered equal to 3000 m^3 (Mahdavi, 1999).

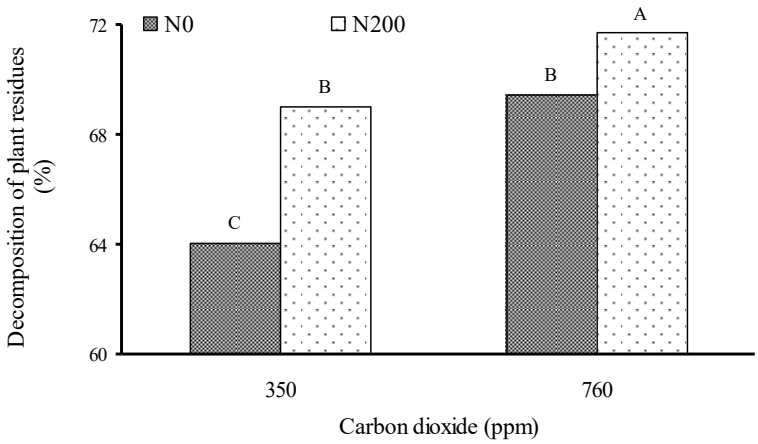


Figure 1- Interaction effects of CO_2 (ppm) and N fertilizer (kg)(Urea) on decomposition of plant residues in calcareous soil.

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Author Contribution

Author: Conceptualization, Methodology, Software services, Validation, Data acquisition, Writing original draft preparation.

Author: Supervision, Conceptualization, methodology, Technical advice, Validation, Text mining, Review and editing.

Author: Review and editing.

Funding Source

Availability of data and materials

Conflicts of Interest

References

All references should be cited throughout the manuscript text as well as in the Reference section, organized according to the APA 6th edition **reference style**. Groups of references should be listed first alphabetically, followed by a chronological order. It is also recommended that the authors refer to recent references from the last decade rather than older and outdated ones. The references may include books, articles from scientific journals, patented inventions, conference articles, theses, and other reliable sources. Referring to unpublished reports, rejected articles, and invalid sources should be avoided. The list of references should be included at the end of the article in English. Therefore, if Persian sources have been used, their information should be translated into English, and the term (in Persian) should be written at the end.

All citations in the text should refer to:

1. Single Author: the author's name (without initials, unless there is ambiguity) and the year of publication; (Mitchell, 2017)

2. Two Authors: both authors' names and the year of publication; (Mitchell & Smith, 2017)

3. Further cites can be shorted to the first author’s name followed by et al: Mitchell et al. (2017) state… Or (Mitchell et al., 2017)

4. Six or More Authors: Only the first author’s surname should be stated, followed by et al., and the year of publication.

5. Citations may be made directly (or parenthetically). Groups of references should be listed first alphabetically, followed by a chronological order. Examples: as demonstrated **(**Smith, 1999; Samuel et al., 2008; Smith & Samuel, 2009**)**

List

References should be arranged first alphabetically and then, if necessary, further sorted chronologically. More than one reference from the same Author(s) in the same year must be identified by the letters "a", "b", "c", etc., placed after the year of publication.

Reference to a Journal Article

Liu, H., Yang, J., Drury, C. A., Reynolds, W., Tan, C., Bai, Y., He, P., Jin, J., & Hoogenboom, G. (2011). Using the DSSAT-CERES-Maize model to simulate crop yield and nitrogen cycling in fields under long-term continuous maize production. *Nutrient Cycling in Agroecosystems*, *89*, 313-328. http://doi.org/10.1007/s10705- 010-9396-y.

Reference to a Book

Glaszious, P., Irwig, L., Bain, C., & Colditz, G. (2001). *Systematic reviews in health care: A practical guide*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Reference to a Book chapter

Mettam, G. R., & Adams, L. B. (1999). *How to prepare an electronic version of your article*. PP 281-304 in B. S. Jones and R. Z. Smith, eds. Introduction to the Electronic Age. EPublishing Inc., New York.

Reference to a Conference paper

Hemmat, A., Adamchuk, V. I., & Jasa, P. (2007). *On-the-go soil strength sensing using an instrumented disc coulter*. International Agricultural Engineering Conference (IAEC). Asian Association for Agricultural Engineering, Bangkok, Thailand.

Reference to a Thesis/Dissertation

Abbaspour-Fard, M. H. (2001). *The dynamic behavior of particulate biomaterials using the discrete element method (DEM)*. Faculty of Agriculture. Newcastle University, Newcastle Upon Tyne.

Miscellaneous

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