

INDIAN JOURNAL OF SOIL CONSERVATION

Guidelines for the Preparation and Submission of Papers

IJSC is published by the Indian Association of Soil and Water Conservationists (IASWC) in April, August, and December. The detailed guidelines for preparation of manuscript (MS) are given below for authors and quick handling of the manuscript by the reviewers, editors, and printers. These guidelines are also available on our website at www.iaswc.com.

1.0 Aims and Scope

- i. IJSC welcomes full length research articles, short communications, review articles, book reviews, case and successes studies, soil and water conservation, natural resource management, watershed management, soil-plant-animal relationships, conservation cropping, farming systems, integrated farming, agroforestry, pasture management, land degradation and rehabilitation, land use planning, socio-economic analysis, policy issues and environmental protection, etc.
- ii. The MS submitted for publication should be exclusive for this journal and must not carry same material already published.
- iii. Article should be written in English correctly, clearly, objectively and concisely, and aims at short, meaningful sentences while maintaining continuity of expression.
- iv. Two hard copies of the (one side print) MS should be submitted along with soft copy. Soft copy of the MS can also be submitted through e-mail for speedy submission and processing of manuscript.
- v. Accepted manuscripts shall be published only when the entire author must be member of IASWC.

2.0 Full length article

Full length article comprise the following sections. Title, Author/Authors, Institution and Address with Pin Code/ and E-mail, Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results and Discussion, Conclusion, Acknowledgements if any, References, Tables and Figures. Follow double spacing for the sections of Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results and Discussion, Conclusion.

2.1 Information sheet (Separate sheet): This page contains title of the MS, author(s), institutions and address details. This should be prepared as per the following guidelines.

- i. **Title :** Title of article should be informative but concise, and should not contain any abbreviations. It should be set in sentence case with bold letters, using one font size higher than the remaining text. The first letter of the title word should be in capital letter. Scientific name if any should be mentioned properly and in italics. Use of words with "Effect of....." or "Influence of....." etc., should be avoided.
- ii. **Author/ Authors:** The name(s) of author(s) should be typed in bold letters a little below the title. Initials followed by name (Ex: K.G. Tejwani). Put an asterisk on the name of the corresponding author. Give the Email ID and contact phone number of the corresponding author.
- iii. **Institution and address:** This matter will come below the name(s) of the author(s) and should be in italics. Name of the Laboratory/Department, followed by the name of the Institution/Organization/University where the work was carried shall come below the name(s) of author(s). Complete postal address, which should include city/town, district, and state, followed by PIN (postal) code is to be furnished. In case any author has left the above address, this should be indicated as a footnote.

2.2 Preparation of full length article

Second page should start with title of the article and followed by the abstract and other sections of the MS. Final submission of MS include Section 2.1 before abstract.

2.2.1 ABSTRACT: The paragraph should start with the word ABSTRACT (in capital & bold font), followed by colon (:).

This section should be single spaced. Abstract placed at the beginning should be able to convey the gist of the MS in a concise manner not exceeding 250 words in length. It should briefly indicate the experiment described, including brief objective (not the wording of the title as such), season or year and the place of study as appropriate, materials and methods, main highlights of the study preferably with data/numerical values, most important conclusion / recommendation. In the abstract, do not deflect the reader with promises such as 'will be discussed' or 'will be explained' and do not include reference, figure or table citation. It must be remembered that indexing journals place a great emphasis on the abstract in the selection of articles for abstracting. If properly prepared, they reproduce it verbatim.

2.2.2 Key words: Important and relevant key words of the MS should be given below the abstract in bold. The word "Key words" followed by colon (:) and followed by key words. First letter of the key word should be capital. Between the key words semi-colon should be used (;) and arranged alphabetically. Should not repeat the MS title word as a key words.

2.2.3 **Introduction:** The Word “Introduction” not to be typed but follow double spacing. The introductory part should be brief and to the point, limited to the statement of the problem that justifies the work or the hypothesis, on which it is based, an explanation of the general approach and objectives of the study. To orient readers, give a brief reference to previous concepts and available research information or gaps that are expected to be bridged through this investigation. Limit literature references to essential information. When new references are available, do not use old references unless it is of historical importance or a landmark in that field.

2.2.4 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

- i. To be typed as side-heading, starting from the left-hand margin, one space below the introduction with double spacing, capital and bold. This section of the MS should comprise the materials used in the study, methods of experiment and analysis adopted. It should be explanatory and have all the requisite information needed for understanding and assessing the results reported subsequently.
- ii. The information relating to period/season/year and place of study, climate or weather conditions, soil type including physico-chemical properties and others as relevant to the study are to be given. The geographical position of the experimental site may be identified with the help of coordinates (latitude and longitude) and altitude.
- iii. Treatment details along with techniques and experimental design, replications, plot size, *etc.*, should be clearly indicated. Minimum error degrees of freedom are to be ensured to minimize the errors and statistical analysis. Year wise data along with mean data are to be presented with suitable statistical analysis. Specify the crop variety (within single inverted commas), methodology for application of treatments, common cultivation practices have to be presented. Any plants, animals, organisms and soils not already mentioned in the abstract should be identified accurately by scientific name.
- iv. Use of symbols for treatments may be avoided, unless these are absolutely necessary. An abbreviation should be fully explained at its first mention.
- v. Methodologies adopted for quantifying soil loss and runoff should be explained and expressed in standard units like $t\ ha^{-1}$ and in mm but not in $q\ ac^{-1}$ and in inches, respectively along with rainfall (mm) and other relevant weather parameters.
- vi. Specifications and quantity (use suitable units) of conservation technologies should be mentioned for clarity and better understanding.
- vii. Soil properties (Physical, Chemical & Biological) including soil moisture content, extraction and utilization (Efficiency) data must be given in appropriate cases.
- viii. A brief description of the specific observations recorded may also be made. Further, the procedure for calculation of not-so-common parameters should be explained along with suitable references.
- ix. Known methods of analysis may be just indicated, avoiding detailed description. However, any new technique developed and followed should be described in detail.
- x. References for methods used in the study should be cited. If the techniques are widely familiar such as those of chemical and statistical analysis, use only their names in that case.
- xi. All statistical comparisons among treatments may be made at $P=0.05$ level of probability. Correlation and regression analysis should be given in appropriate cases.
- xii. Methodologies for economic analysis should be given. Tangible and intangible benefits of conservation measures need to be identified and presented.

2.2.5 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

- i. To be typed as a side-heading, with a single space below the matter on “MATERIALS AND METHODS”. It should be capital and bold. This section can be presented with appropriate sub-headings and sub-sub headings depending on type of MS. Follow double line spacing. Sub-headings should be bold with mixed cases. No colon (:) or semicolon (;). Where in sub-sub headings, sentence case with bold. In all the headings, text matter start in next paragraph. Use roman numbering only when many sub-sub headings under each sub-heading.
- ii. While discussing the results, give particular attention to the problem, question or hypothesis presented in the introduction. Relate results to the objectives.
- iii. Discussion should be strengthened by explaining treatment effects in terms of cause-and-effect relationship. Explain how the results relate to previous findings (supports or contradicts the previous findings).

- iv. Scientific speculation should be reasonable and firmly founded in observations. When the results differ from previously available information, possible explanations should be given. Controversial issues should be discussed clearly and fairly on the basis of facts available.
- v. The references quoted in the introduction for review and justification of the study should be suitably utilized for discussion of the results.
- vi. Discussion part in most articles is very weak. Statements like “The results are in agreement with”, ‘Similar results were reported by’ are to be avoided.
- vii. References to published work should be cited in the text by the name(s) of author(s) as follows:

- 1 Thornthwaite and Mather (1955) or (Thornthwaite and Mather,1955), Stewart (1991) or (Stewart,1991), Allen *et al.* (1998) or (Allen *et al.*,1998)
- 2 Use semi-colon (;) between two references to list more than two references as shown below.
Campbell (1977); Engleson *et al.*(1978); Syendar and Pruitt (1985);NIH (1989)
or
(Campbell,1977;Engleson *et al.*,1978;Syendar and Pruitt,1985;NIH,1989)

2.2.6 CONCLUSIONS

- i. To be typed as side-heading, left aligned, one spaces below the “RESULTS AND DISCUSSION”. It should be capital and bold.
- ii. This should be very brief and clearly crystallize the summary of the results obtained along with their implications in solution of the practical problems or contribution to the advancement of the scientific knowledge.

2.2.7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- i. To be typed in capital with bold as a side-heading, well below the concluding portion of conclusions.
- ii. The author(s) may place on record the help, and cooperation, or financial help received from any source, person or organization. This should be very brief, and omitted, if not necessary.

2.2.8 REFERENCES

- i. To be typed in capital with bold as a side-heading, well below the concluding portion of conclusions or acknowledgements.
- ii. All references quoted in the text must appear at the end of the article and vice-versa. The spellings of names and dates or years at the two places should be carefully checked.
- iii. The references should include names of all authors, years (not within brackets), full title of the article, standard abbreviated name of the journal (in italics), volume number (in bold), issue number, and pages. For book or monograph, the name of the publisher should also be given as well as its volume, edition and relevant pages.
- iv. The references cited together in the text should be arranged chronologically. The list of references should be arranged alphabetically on author’s names, and chronologically per author.
- v. References from standard scientific journals should be preferred, while those concerning unpublished data are generally to be avoided or mentioned as ‘Personal communications’ in the text. These need not be given in the reference list.

a. **Research articles**

Dhruva Narayana, V.V. and Ram Babu. 1983. Estimation of soil erosion in India. *J. Irrigation Drainage Engin.*, 109(4):419-434.

b. **Book**

Hudson, N. 1995. *Soil Conservation*. B.T. Batsford Ltd., UK. 2391p.

c. **Book Chapter**

Samra, J.S. and Sharda, V.N. 2006. Watershed management. In: Environment and Agriculture. (Chada, K.L. and Swaminathan, M.S., Eds.), Malhotra Publishing House, New Delhi, India. pp 116-143.

d. **Report**

Natarajan, A., Reddy, P.S.A., Sehgal, J. and Velayutham, M. 1997. Soil Resources of Tamil Nadu for land use

- planning. NBSS Publ. HBB (Soils of India Series) NBSS&LUP, Nagpur, India, 88p+ 4 sheets Soil map (1:500 000 scale).
- e. **Annual Report**
CSWCRTI.2008. Annual report 2007-08. Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute, 218,Kaulagarh Road, Dehradun,India.178p.
Ambrish Kumar, Sharma,N.K and Dhyani,B.L.2008. Hydrological evaluation of CBT in Hymalayan foothills. In:Annual report 2007-08,CSWCRTI,Dehradun,India.pp61-62.
 - f. **Thesis**
Chitdeshwari, T. 1999. Studies on the sewage biosolid compost and their effects on soil and crops. Ph.D. Thesis, Tamil Nadu Agril. University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India. 162p.
 - g. **Proceedings**
Bryant,E.J. and Lorimor,M.S.1992. Protecting our land through local government. In:Proceedings of 7th ISCO conference, Sydney, Australia. Vol.2, pp586-590.
 - h. **Bulletin**
Ram Babu, Dhyani, B.L., Agarwal, M.C. and Samra, J.S. 1997. Economic evaluation of watershed management projects concepts, methodologies and case studies. Bulletin No. T-33/D-23, CSWCRTI, Dehradun, India. 83p.

3.0 TABLE AND FIGURES

3.1 Table

- i. Each table must be typed on a separate sheet and numbered consecutively in the same order as they are mentioned in text.
- ii. The title should describe the contents of the table and self explanatory.
- iii. The large sized tables of more than full page should be suitably split into two or more small tables.
- iv. Standard abbreviations of units of different parameters should be added between parentheses and aligned at same line.
- v. All the tables should be tagged with the main body of the text *i.e.* after references

3.2 Figures

- i. In no case the same data should be presented in both tables and figures.
- ii. The figures may be sized to fit within the columns of the journal
- iii. Lines should be bold enough to allow the figure to be reduced to either single or double column width in the journal.
- iv. Vertical axes should be labeled vertically. Use uniform font size.
- v. Only laser print outs of line diagrams are acceptable.

4.0 REVIEW PROCESS

- i. MS identification number will be given to the received MS for publication.
- ii. MS initially screened by the Chief Editor solely or with the help of members of editorial board for its suitability and to check the MS as per the guidelines.
- iii. Only screened MS is processed and send to referees by the concerned subject Editor. The MS that are weak and not with the standard guidelines are rejected and or returned to the author for revision.
- iv. After the article has been examined by the reviewer, it is also suitably edited by the concerned subject Editor. Both the reviewer and Editor comments along with the manuscript are passed on to authors for resubmitting after attending the suggestions.
- v. The thoroughly revised article will be checked by subject Editor and will be placed before Chief Editor for a final decision.
- vi. There is no publication or printing charge from the authors. No reprints are supplied. Only on request PDF format of the MS will be made available to the corresponding author through e-mail.

SECTION WISE TIPS AND SOME USEFUL HINTS FOR PREPARATION OF PAPERS

1. Information sheet

- i. **Title** in sentence case, bold, single spaced and one font size higher than the remaining text. Avoid use of “effect of” or “Influence of”. Scientific name in italics.
- ii. **Author/Authors:** Initial followed by name in bold, use comma between names ex: K.G. Tejwani, J.S. Samra, and V.N. Sharda.
- iii. Email and contact phone numbers.
- iv. Complete address with pin code in italics.

2. **ABSTRACT:** Capital, bold with colon, single spaced with 250 words.

3. **Key words:** Sentence case, bold, colon, arrange in alphabetically separated by semicolon. The first letter of the key word should be capital.

Example: Key words: Conservation measures; Economics; Organic farming, Soil moisture

4 Introduction: Not be typed

5. MATERIALS AND METHODS

- i. Typed as side heading, capitals with bold, text start in next paragraph and double spacing. Crop variety name with in single quote and italic. All local names are in italic. Ex. *Kharif, Rabi, etc; viz;* SI units, follow kg ha⁻¹, mm hr⁻¹, %, etc., one space between data and unit.
- ii. For citing references follow the pattern given below:
- iii. Thornthwaite and Mather (1955) or (Thornthwaite and Mather, 1955), Stewart (1991) or (Stewart, 1991), Allen *et al.* (1998) or (Allen *et al.*, 1998)
- iv. Use semi-colon (;) between two references to list more than two references as shown below.
- v. Campbell (1977); Engleson *et al.* (1978); Syendar and Pruitt (1985); NIH (1989)
or
- vi. (Campbell, 1977; Engleson *et al.*, 1978; Syendar and Pruitt, 1985; NIH, 1989)
- vii. Treatments number in subscript ex: T₁, T₂
- viii. Plant size may be mentioned as 25 m x 50 m
- ix. Date, month and year may be mentioned as 13 May 1965, 15 May to 25 June 2007.
- x. Words should be used for numbers one to nine.
- xi. In a series or range of measurements, mention the units only at end. Ex: 5, 10, 15, 25 and 30 m or 40, 50 and 80% instead 5 m, 10 m, 15 m and 30 m or 40 %, 50 % and 80 %, respectively. Use % after numbers not per cent.

6. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- i. Typed as side heading, capital with bold, Text start in next paragraph with double spacing.
- ii. Sub-headings are in mixed case (first letter of word is capital), left aligned, matter start in next paragraph with double spacing.
- iii. Sub-Subheadings are in sentence case (only first letter of word is capital), left aligned, matter start in next paragraph with double spacing.
- iv. Follows other tips given at MATERIALS AND METHODS, First letter of the word Table/Figure is capital while citing Table/Figure number through out the MS. Either at running text or in parenthesis.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- i. Typed side heading, left aligned, capital and bold. Matter start in next paragraph with double spacing.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- i. Typed side heading, left aligned, capital and bold. Matter start in next paragraph with single spacing.

9. REFERENCES

Follow the patterns given in section 2.2.8

10. Table

- i. Table and table number in normal font followed by dot (.). Title of the table in italic without dot (.) at the end.
- ii. Use parameter, treatment, crop instead of parameters, treatments, crops, respectively.
- iii. Big table exceeding full size may be split into two or three tables.

11. Figures/Maps

- i. Title should be below the Figure/Map. Type Figure/Map followed by one space, number and dot (.). Title should be in italic with dot (.) at the end.
- ii. Vertical axes labeled vertically. Follow uniform font and font size. Only laser print out is allowed.