Comment on essd-2021-73
yao zhang (Referee)

The authors described the open-access database TropSOC 1.0. It is very well written and provided enough details about the data, its experimental design, rationale, references for protocols, and availability of the data. I am very excited to see this database is available for the research community and appreciate the effort of the authors and other supporting personnel. As the authors stated that such data are rare for African tropical regions, I believe this data set is very valuable. I think the manuscript can be accepted with only a few minor changes.

Specific comments:

1. Line 663. It is better to have the full names for CGIAR-IITA and CGIAR-ICRAF

2. The values in the csv files in the database are semi-colon delimited instead of using commas. Is there any reason? The standard csv files use comma and can be populated into columns when they are opened by Microsoft Excel.

3. I found the dates of the sampling are not in the database. For example, the harvest date of biomass. I believe the date is important for some potential users of the database. Maybe these data can be added in the next version of the database.

4. In the "Sample availability" section, the authors mentioned the sample of soils and biomass are stored but did not indicate if they are available for researchers outside the group and the policy for sharing these samples.