Dear Editor,
RE: Comments on the paper by S.V.R. Shetty, M.V.K. Sivakumar, and S.A. Ram.¹

After reading the recent “Instructions to Authors” in Agronomy Journal, Vol. 74, pgs. 1100-1102, emphasizing the need for precise application of statistical techniques, we thought it appropriate to point out results of statistical analysis published in the same issue (Shetty et al.¹, Fig. 4).

It is apparent that some of the regression fits are not correct, e.g., % LAI, % Dry matter, and % Tuber production vs. % Transmission of PPFD. Surprisingly this point has been missed by the referee. Even the regression equations presented are different from the regression lines for all the four parameters. Using the data points presented, new linear regressions were computed and are presented along with the original equations (Fig. 1).

Both intercept values and regression coefficients of the modified curves are significantly different from the original curves. The modified curves fit the data better than the original (Fig. 1). Either the authors have miscalculated or fitted to preconceived ideas. For the relationships of % dry matter and % Tuber production with % Transmission of PPFD, the quadratic equations fitted the data better than the linear, and in fact for % Tuber production vs. % Transmission of PPFD.


Fig. 1. Relationship between light transmission (PPFD) and the plant height, LAI, dry matter, and tuber production of Cyperus rotundus.