

W A D M E D A N I.

S U D A N.

15th December, 1932

Dr R.A.Fisher F.R.S.,
Rothamsted Experimental Station,
Harpenden - Herts.,
England.

Dear Dr Fisher.

Greene has asked me to forward the attached draft to you for your criticism as regards the statistical treatment.

The attempts to make direct use of contemporaneous observed facts to reduce the residual error, appeals to me very much and appears at first sight to be justified by the dictum that if any method of treatment ^{which} gives a significant result that result can be accepted. On the other hand the logical outcome of the procedure adopted would appear to be a throwing together of all the highest yielding subplots, and so on, irrespective of position.

I should be very interested, personally, if you can find time to comment on Greene's paper.

Yours Sincerely,



MAB/MIA 

GEZIRA CHEMICAL LABORATORY
GEZIRA RESEARCH FARM

Wad Medani, December 12th. 1932.

Dr. R.A. Fisher F.R.S.
Rothamsted Experimental Station,
HARPENDEN (HEETS).

Thro. Controller,
Agricultural Research S.C.,
WAD MEDANI

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Controlled
13/12/32

Dear Dr. Fisher,

I should regard it as a favour if you would look through Sections I and II. of the enclosed typescript which is the first draft of a paper I should like to publish in the J. Agr. Sc. You will see that in a soil improver trial carried out here the lay out was such that the Experimental area could be divided into blocks in more than one way. The different methods of demarkating blocks correspond more or less closely to a natural fertility gradient and the results obtained by applying the analysis of variance (correctly, I hope) differ to a considerable extent. This leads me to suppose that the analysis of variance introduces an arbitrary element in the presentation of experimental results and is not therefore completely satisfactory except, possibly, when applied by a statistician of wide experience. Would you therefore be kind enough to let me know whether the analysis has been correctly applied in the present instance and also indicate what modifications you would recommend before the paper is submitted for publication?

One small point on which I should value your opinion is the inclusion of some paragraphs of elementary arithmetic in illustration of the discussion. It seems to me that the data might with advantage be presented in detail as an example of the method of analysis but my attempt to do this is not perhaps very successful. If you agree that a worked out example would be of general interest would you kindly suggest any revisions or corrections that seem necessary?

Sincerely yours

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