

RESPONSE TO REVIEWER COMMENTS ON MANUSCRIPT: Comparative efficacy of individually and combined application of compost, biochar, and bentonite on Ni dynamics in a calcareous soil Egusphere-2025-2147

The authors would like to thank anonymous reviewer for time, invaluable comments and suggestions for substantially improving this manuscript. Please find detailed responses to each comment below.

ALL CHANGES ARE INDICATED IN **YELLOW** IN THE REVISED MANUSCRIPT

REFeree #1

I have only a minor comment that should be clarified by the authors before publication. When referring to the detection limit in $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$, this value applies to the solution. However, when discussing Ni concentration in soil, you are converting this concentration from the solution, which depends (for example) on the amount of soil used in your Ni extraction protocol. Therefore, the detection limit of the AAS cannot be directly compared with the Ni concentration in soil. In summary, please ensure that all references to detection limits are made with respect to your Ni extraction solutions.

Authors' response: In response to this valuable feedback, we have revised the manuscript (2.8.4 *Detection limits and precision*) to ensure all references to detection limits are explicitly and correctly contextualized. The changes are as follows:

// Based on this detection limit and our extraction protocols, which used a Y g soil sample diluted to a final volume of Z mL, the corresponding method detection limit for Ni in soil was calculated as mg kg^{-1} //

In addition, we have added DOI number for each reference wherever possible.