

Topical Editor Decision: Publish subject to minor revisions (review by editor) (29 Nov 2020) by Luuk Rietveld

Comments to the Author: Several comments are well addressed. However, before publication the following should still be revised:

Query 1

Avoid too general introductions. So, e.g. delete sentences on lines 25-29; 31-41; 115-118; 119-123; 126-130; 133-135; 232-234;

Response 1

All identified lines for deletion have been deleted and some sentences were modified to preserve the flow of information.

Query 2

Merge chapters 1 & 2

Response 2

Chapters 1 and 2 merged.

Query 3

As commented by reviewer delete references to TDS in entire document, since the measurement is indirect by EC meter. So only discuss your results based on EC removal.

Response 3

The references to TDS in the entire document have been deleted and the discussions were based on EC.

Query 4

When introducing abbreviations, do it when word appears for the first time and then ALWAYS use abbreviation, such as EC, CSS (do not use SS)..

Response 4

The issue on abbreviation has been corrected in the entire document

Query 5

Line 43 (and other parts of the manuscript): specify what is meant by “heavily polluted” water (surface water, pond water, drainage water?)

Response 5

Heavily polluted is described as stagnant surface water that retain dirt because it doesn't flow.

Query 6

Line 55: CSS has environmental pollution, since a brine is produced, so this statement is incorrect.

Response 6

The sentence has been modified as highlighted in line 46 of the revised manuscript.

Query 7

Line 65-67: repetition, avoid redundancies

Response 7

The repetition has been addressed

Query 8

Line 69-71: as suggested by reviewer, it is highly unlikely that roof top water with rusted iron is carcinogenic, so adjust

Response 8

The statement has been adjusted as highlighted in line 32-33.

Query 9

Avoid words like “very” (line 75) and “huge” (line 366)

Response 9

These words have been replaced or removed

Query 10

Line 96-98: rephrase sentence

Response 10

The phrase is modified as shown in lines 63-65 of the revised manuscript.

Query 11

Line 236 and onwards: described the results in the past tense

Response 11

The aspect of discussion of result from lines 236 has been modified to reflect the use of past tense where necessary.

Query 12

Line 303-313: merge two section

Response 12

The two sections in Lines 303-313 have been merged and information about TDS has been deleted in response to the earlier suggestion by the reviewer. This is shown in lines 266-272 of the revised manuscript.

Query 13

Line 314-320: integrate the discussion with previous research with the other results section (no specific discussion section).

Response 13

The most important results that need to be compared is performance evaluation of the solar stills. This comparison is discussed in lines 273 -279 and tabulated in table 2, the results discussed in other sections are specific parameter of the solar still, these are better discussed separately for clarity.

Query 14

Line 337-354: too extensive explanation. Make it more concise and base it on literature.

Response 14

The analysis of cost of distilled water per litre based on the literature is explained concisely as shown in lines 296-302.

Query 15

Line 355: compare = comparing

Response 15

This has been corrected as shown in line 303

Query 16

Delete Table 1 & Table 2 and integrate data in text

Response 16

Table 1 has been deleted but Table 2 has been modified to exclude TDS results and some data have been integrated in the text as suggested.

Query 17

Delete Table 4, since the information is too specific

Response 17

Table 4 shows important information on comparison of past works with the present research. The authors feel this table is very relevant and should be retained but with new title "Table 2". Moreover, this was requested by one of the reviewers in the first round of reviews. Thank you.