

Interactive comment on “Regional soil moisture monitoring network in the Raam catchment in the Netherlands” by Harm-Jan F. Benninga et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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pag 1 line 26: hard to find and download the data. Make the website easier to use or explain how to get them pag 2 line 13: trafficability of the lands is not so much scientifically interesting, as it is something more related to the farmers' necessities (to do it timely, and trying to avoid damages). more focus on e.g. groundwater/drainage/irrigation pag 2 line 23: the sentence is quite clear but could be divided in 2 sentences and explained a bit better. pag 2 line 25: it should be mentioned before that soil moisture retrieval is based on microwave pag 2 line 29-30: is it easy and effective the 'estimation' of deeper soil moisture? pag 4 line 6: maybe add a graph with the average monthly precipitation pag 5 line 3: in Figure1 stations 8 and 9 are outside the Raam catchment. Maybe provide a short explanation about it pag 5 lines 3-4: locations and stations are repeated very closely pag 5 line 14: maybe provide an example of the footprint, just to give an

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idea pag 6 line 2: it is not clear if the stations are WITHIN the fields or adjacent. In the latter case is it important to know the land cover of the adjacent field? pag 6 line 26: if the prongs are installed with vertical orientation, the instrument is not measuring one depth (e.g 5 cm) but a range (e.g from 3 to 7 cm, etc.). This should be explained a bit more pag 8 line 22: the correlation (R²) could be added in the graphs of Fig. 7 pag 9 lines 3-6: a bit confusing pag 9 lines 10-12: not clear: the measurements in lab shouldn't be done on the samples collected in situ, i.e. with the same organic matter and macropores?? pag 9 par 4.3.2: maybe show/mention if the data exhibit a specific behaviour related to the area/conditions pag 10 lines 11-12: maybe it would be nice to see if there are any differences among the 3 stations used as reference (1, 7, 10) (different soil types)

page 30 table 2: column names could be more explicit (e.g soil classifications -columns 2 and 3, and ground data obtained from lab - columns 4 to 7)

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