

Editor Decision: Publish subject to technical corrections (06 Sep 2018) by Theresa Blume

Comments to the Author:

Dear authors,

I am happy to tell you that your manuscript will be published as soon as you have carried out a minor technical correction: You added this section on page 10 of your revised MS:

"Moreover as discussed earlier, the ultimate purpose of the developed profiles is to be assimilated into a LSM, the lower boundary can serve as a highly effective way to tie the POME profile to the model climatology by using the model SM in the lowest layer of the soil column as the lower boundary on the POME integral. Since this level (100-200 cm) is normally well below the root mass of most vegetation species (particularly row crops) (Wu et al., 1999), then its selection will have minimal impact on model results."

In my impression this section is more of a discussion of a potentially different procedure to assign the lower boundary and not something you have actually done for this study and describe the results of in this manuscript. I therefore suggest to move this to the discussion. As you are here talking about two models in the same sentence please also always make it clear which one you are referring to and refrain from simply referring to "model", e.g. at the end of the last sentence.

Thank you for your efforts,

Theresa Blume

Response: We agree with the editor, the mentioned section is more suited for discussion than model description. Therefore as per the suggestion, the specified section has been moved to the discussion section, specifically section 5 – ‘Error Characterization’ page 18 lines 5-9.