June 12, 2019

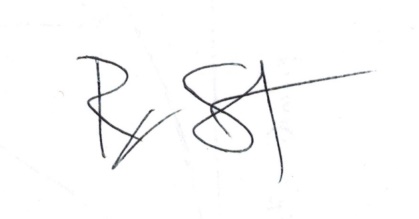
Dear Scientific Data Editors,

On behalf of my coauthors, I am pleased to submit for your consideration our manuscript titled “A database for global soil health assessment”. Soil health evaluation requires soil physical, chemical, and biological properties information. In the past decades, many site scale field experiments have been conducted to evaluate the soil health and how farmland management such as cover crops and no-tillage can affect soil health. However, those previous published data have not been integrated, which impede our ability to assess soil health particularly at the global scale.

Here, for the first time, we compiled data from a set of soil health measurements collected across 45 countries around the world, named *SoilHealthDB*, which includes 5,241 data entries from 281 published studies. The *SoilHealthDB* includes 42 soil health indicators and 45 background indicators that describe factors such as climate, elevation, and soil type. A primary goal of *SoilHealthDB* is to enable the research community to perform comprehensive analyses, e.g., meta-analyses, of soil health changes related to cropland conservation management. The database also provides a common framework for sharing soil health, and the scientific research community is encouraged to contribute their own measurements.

Our new database *(SoilHealthDB)* will be of interest to the readership of your journal because it provides new data for soil chemical, physical, biological, soil management, and soil health evaluation. This manuscript has not been published or presented elsewhere and is not under consideration by another journal. We have read and understand the journal policies, and we have no conflicts of interest to declare. In closing, we hope that you and the reviewers will agree that this manuscript represents an important contribution to *Scientific Data*, and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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