Thanks very much for your comment. The two papers you recommended did great work on mass balance of some Tibet glaciers. But we do not have an AWS station, hence we cannot calibrate an energy balance model such as Mölg et al., (2012).

In the revision, in addition to the previous model-based surface mass balance (SMB) resulting from the energy balance model of a nearby glacier (Xibu Glacier), we make a new formulation for estimating SMB of Gurenhekou Glacier. We digitize the SMB of Gurenhekou Glacier for the six-year mass balance stake network observational period 2004-2010 from a published figure in Yao et al., (2012) and combined it with our surface elevation data to get the SMB-altitude profile for six years. That is the longest period of observation data available. We parameterize both SMB and its uncertainties as functions of elevation and JJA mean temperature. This is not ideal, but the optimum we can achieve in view of the data available for this glacier. However we think that this approach uses the best parameterization that we can come up with, also in view of the motivation to generalize the results to glaciers, almost all of which lack any data. When combined with the energy balance model adapted from Xibu Glacier, we believe that this is a reasonable approach to produce realistic SMB uncertainties.

References:

Mölg T., Maussion F. , Yang W., and Scherer D. , The footprint of Asian monsoon dynamics in the mass and energy balance of a Tibetan glacier, The Cryosphere, 6, 1445-1461, 2012.

Yao, T., Thompson, L., Yang W., Yu, W., Gao, Y， Guo, X. ,Yang, X., Zhao, H., Duan, K., Xu, B., Pu, J., Lu, A., Qin, D. H., Xiang, Y., Kattel, D. B., and Joswiak, D.: Different glacier status with atmospheric circulations in Tibetan Plateau and surroundings, Nature Climate Change (supplementary information), DOI: 10.1038/NCLIMATE1580, 2012.