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Status report on greenhouse gas emissions in lowland rice farming in Ivory Coast

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Abstract

Rice production is a major source of global methane and nitrous oxide emissions. Numerous studies have been conducted to quantify the flux rates of these gases in rice fields in many developed countries. However, in Africa and particularly in West Africa, where this culture is experiencing considerable growth, very few studies have focused on this aspect. Thus, the objective of this review was to evaluate the studies and study methodologies already carried out on greenhouse gases in rice cultivation. It appears that several countries have quantified greenhouse gases emitted in rice cultivation. Several methods have been developed such as the gas chromatograph, the spectroscopic method and the calculation using the IPCC guidelines for the quantification of greenhouse gases in rice cultivation. The gases retained are methane and nitrous oxide. And the quantities of gas emitted vary depending on the country. Emissions in Asia are higher than those on other continents. Several emission mitigation solutions have been proposed for rice cultivation with less environmental destruction. However, most of these methods have not yet been applied.

Keywords: GHG; Rice cultivation; Gas chromatograph; Method spectroscopic; IPCC

1. Introduction

The increase in world population coupled with changes in diets will lead to an increase of around 70% in food availability (FAO, 2009). Thus, greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector could increase from 24% to 75% in 2050. To continue to feed the population and reduce the effects of climate change, we will therefore have to think about reducing emissions. Globally, agriculture is directly responsible for 24% of annual greenhouse gas emissions and induces 17% additional emissions through deforestation for additional agricultural land; mainly in developing countries (FAO, 2017). Developing countries currently account for about three-quarters of direct emissions and are expected to be the fastest-growing sources of emissions in the future (Leytem *et al.*, 2011).

Among the agricultural activities often stated as particularly emitting, rice cultivation holds a particular place, in particular due to the production of methane by flooded soils, this representing 92% of the overall warming power of rice (Faraco *et al.*, 2010). According to estimates from the Institute of Research for Development (IRD), to feed the world population, rice production must increase by 60% over the next 30 years. This data is particularly worrying in view of the significant emissions methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) from rice fields Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions caused by rice cultivation are significant, around 16% (IPCC, 2014).

Rice is grown in a wide variety of climatic, soil and hydrological conditions. Lowland rice fields, whether irrigated or not, are considered one of the most significant sources of CH₄ and N₂O emissions. Thus, these practices have attracted considerable attention due to their contribution to global warming. climatic (Bouwman *et al.* , 200 2) . According to Yao

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et al. (2012), agricultural soils fertilized with nitrogen represent approximately 81% of anthropogenic N_2O emissions into the atmosphere, even though this gas has a warming power 300 times greater than CO_2 .

In recent years, the States of developing countries have included in their governance program the objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, although it is not possible to stop to feed. This initiative necessarily involves supporting research on the different levels of emissions in the rice-growing basins of these countries in order to propose solutions to reduce this GHG emission. Due to the complexity and variability of agricultural systems, uncertainties persist in the assessment of GHG emissions, making a research effort in this area necessary. Studies on GHG emissions from rice fields have been carried out for more than two decades in developed countries. The available database of published articles contains hundreds of articles describing field measurements in various rice growing regions around the world. These evaluation methodologies have been adapted according to the conditions and realities of each system. This review focuses on the different places where GHG emissions have been evaluated, the methodological approaches, their evolution, the constraints linked to each of them as well as the possible solutions envisaged to reduce GHGs. The objectives of this study are:

- Examine the levels of GHG emissions from rice fields on different continents and the methodological approaches employed.
- Identify the different mitigation solutions adopted for emissions in rice fields

2. The different countries having carried out GHG measurements

Most major rice producing countries have determined the level of methane (CH_4) and nitrous oxide (NO_2) emissions. Figure 1 below shows countries on different continents that have carried out work to quantify GHG emissions. During our exploratory study, we were able to count seven countries on the Asian continent, namely: China, Taiwan, Burma, South Korea, India, Japan and Vietnam. With regard to Europe, we selected France and Spain and only the United States has quantified the emissions linked to rice cultivation on the American continent. In Africa, the documents we were able to obtain are those from three countries such as: Kenya, Egypt, Zimbabwe and Tanzania. It should be noted that no West African country is among them.

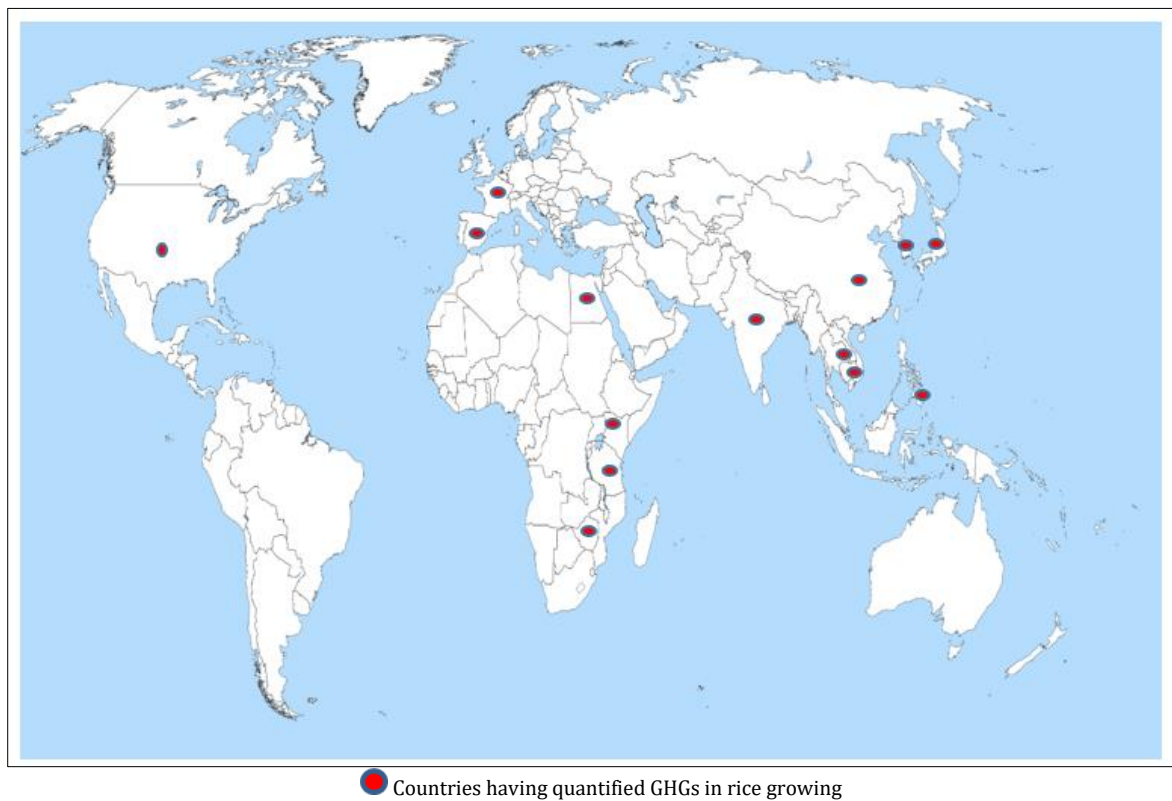


Figure 1 World map representing the countries having estimated GHGs in rice cultivation (Google; 2024)

3. The different methodological approaches used for GHG quantification

3.1. Gas chromatography (GC)

The measurement technique involves an enclosure called a manual or automated chamber. Chambers are usually placed on "bases" permanently fixed into the ground. The rooms are constructed from polyvinyl chloride (PVC) to avoid oxidation (Rochette and Ericksen -Hamel, 2008; Parkin And Venterea , 2010). Sampling is carried out by inserting a polypropylene syringe into the septa of the chamber and slowly drawing a sample of gases which are transferred to glass vials previously evacuated and sealed with a butyl rubber septum for storage (Christiansen, 2011 Butterbach - Bahl *et al.*, 2013). Various studies have identified that exetainers with pre-evacuated butyl rubber septa as a gas storage tool are the most suitable (Glatzel & Well , 2008 ; Spötl , 2004). Rochette and Bertrand (2003) found that storage in polypropylene syringes led to a loss of 16% of N₂O over 24 hours. The gas chromatography (GC) is equipped with an electron capture detector (ECD) for N₂O, an ionizing flame detector (FID) for methane and carbon dioxide and a thermal conductivity detector (TCD) for oxygen and high carbon dioxide concentrations (Rochette and Bertrand, 2005; Leytem *et al* 2011).

3.2. Spectroscopic methods (PAS)

Spectroscopic instruments are also substitutes for the chromatographic technique. This is due to their portability, low maintenance and ease of use (Iqbal *et al.* , 2012). These devices are suitable for direct use in the field by allowing direct measurements of the fluxes emitted in the rooms (Leytem *et al.* , 2011).

3.3. The calculation method according to the IPCC guideline

This method is based on calculations defined by the guidelines of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2006. These calculations are based on software or GHG calculators such as SECTOR, EXACT and Cool Farm Tool (Hillier *et al.* , 2011 , 2013 ; Grewer *et al.* , 2018 ; Vetter *et al.* , 2018 ; Wassmann *et al.* , 2019 ; Lai *et al.* , 2021). The SECTOR tool is one of the greenhouse gas (GHG) calculators for croplands. This calculation is based on the values obtained from the methodology approved by the Tier 2 approach of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in 2006 and refined in 2019 (IPO, 2006 ; IPCC, 2019 ; Wassmann *et al.* , 2019). This calculator was developed by the GHG mitigation platform in the rice sector of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). This tool is available in Excel and its use requires information on the cultivated area, yield and management practices (Primitiva *et al.* , 2022).

4. Results obtained for greenhouse gas emissions in rice growing

Using different evaluation methods, several authors were able to determine the quantities of CH₄, NO₂ and CO₂ emitted in rice fields. It appears that N₂O and CH₄ emissions depended more on fertilization and the level of irrigation for rice fields subject to normal water management and a nitrogen fertilizer application rate (Wang and *al.*, 1999, Hou *et al.* , 2000 and Sun *et al.* , 2016). Studies carried out in an irrigated rice field have shown that the use of urea and ammonium sulfate as fertilizers is an important factor in greenhouse gas emissions (Sabyasachi *et al.* , 2002). Table 1 below shows the quantities of greenhouse gases determined by country. Gas emissions vary from one continent to another. Methane emissions in Asia range from 13 to 4370 kg CO₂ CO₂eq. ha⁻¹ and those of nitrous oxide is 0.10 to 473.0 kg CO₂ eq . ha⁻¹. Rice cultivation for the European countries selected emits between 0.38 kg to 0.11 Mt CO₂eq for methane and 6.03 kg/ha to 46.74 Mt CO₂eq for nitrous oxide. In Africa, methane emissions vary by 0.35 kg·ha⁻¹ to 630.70 kg CO₂-eq ha⁻¹ and 0.2 kg·ha⁻¹ to 53.64 kg CO₂-eq ha⁻¹ for nitrous oxide There is a chronic lack of data on rice cultivation in relation to GHG emissions in Côte d'Ivoire.

Table 1 Quantities of greenhouse gases determined by country

Country	Greenhouse gas	Quantities	Authors
France	CH ₄	0.11 Mt CO ₂ e	CITEPA, 2012
	N ₂ O	46.74 Mt CO ₂ e	
India	CH ₄	24.5 to 37.2 kg ha ⁻¹ day ⁻¹	Sabyasachi <i>et al.</i> ,2002;
	N ₂ O	0.037 to 0.186 kg ha ⁻¹ day ⁻¹	
China	CH ₄	1633.8 kg CO ₂ eq. ha ⁻¹	

	N ₂ O	473.0 kg CO ₂ eq . ha ⁻¹	Yan <i>et al.</i> , 2009; Yan <i>et al.</i> , 2003; Chen <i>et al.</i> , 2013; Zhang <i>et al.</i> , 2023; Feng <i>et al.</i> , 2013
Japan	CH ₄	2185 to 4370 kg CO ₂ ha ⁻¹	Harada <i>et al.</i> , 2007; Minamikawa <i>et al.</i> , 2006
	N ₂ O	47 to 83 kg CO ₂ ha ⁻¹	
Burma	CH ₄	13 to 55 kg CH ₄ ha ⁻¹	Win and Kyaw Win, 2020
	N ₂ O	0.10 to 0.27 kg NO ₂ ha ⁻¹	
Vietnam	CH ₄	34.6 to 749.1 Kg/ha	Tariq <i>et al.</i> , 2017
	N ₂ O	0.1 to 2 Kg/ha	
Etats-Unis	CH ₄	308 to 6126 kg CO ₂ eq ha ⁻¹	Advent-Borbe <i>et al.</i> , 2013 ; Pittelkow <i>et al.</i> , 2013
	N ₂ O	490 à 1 915 kg CO ₂ eq ha ⁻¹	
Kenya	CH ₄	630.70 kg CO ₂ -eq ha ⁻¹	Jane, 2020
	N ₂ O	53.64 kg CO ₂ -eq ha ⁻¹	
Egypte	CH ₄	390 kg CO ₂ -eq ha ⁻¹	Farag <i>et al.</i> , 2013
	N ₂ O	3.56 kg CO ₂ -eq ha ⁻¹	
Zimbabwe	CH ₄	0.35 to 1.4 kg-ha ⁻¹	George <i>et al.</i> , 2013
	N ₂ O	0.2 to 0.6 kg-ha ⁻¹	
Tanzania	CH ₄	88.7 and 220.6 kg ha ⁻¹	Primitive <i>et al.</i> , 2022
	No. 2 O	Not detected	
Taiwan	CH ₄	163 to 728 t	Shang- Shyng , 2009 Yang and Chang, 2001
	No. 2 O	29493 to 61471 t	
Spain	CH ₄	0.38 to 125 Kg/ha	Swamp <i>et al.</i> , 2017
	N ₂ O	6.03 to 14.24 Kg/ha	
South Korea	CH ₄	706 to 2328 kg CO ₂ -eq ha ⁻¹	Ahn <i>et al.</i> , 2014; Berger <i>et al.</i> , 2013
	N ₂ O	0.02 to 0.88 kg CO ₂ -eq ha ⁻¹	

5. Possible solutions considered

The literature reveals several proposals made for the mitigation of different gases emitted in rice cultivation. Indeed, the promotion of the use of organic manure and urea by micro dose of N₂O is approximately 30% (Kuikman *et al.* , 2003). Also, intermittent irrigation and application of fertilizers deep in the soil would reduce greenhouse gas emissions in irrigated rice cultivation (Uprety *et al.* , 2012). Thus, adequate fertilizer management practices can sequester 0.3 tonnes C ha⁻¹ year⁻¹ and irrigation would sequester approximately 0.2 tonnes C ha⁻¹ year⁻¹ (Conant *et al.* , 2001). Organic fertilizers based on cattle manure further reduce N₂O emissions from the field. Applying fertilizer in small doses reduces N₂O emissions from the field. Fractional application of fertilizers reduces N₂O and CH₄ emissions and promotes the promotion of organic farming (Uprety *et al.* , 2012). Studies have shown that the application of nitrification inhibitors will significantly delay methane emissions (Keerthisinghe *et al.* , 1993). Likewise, straw burning and the incorporation of rice straw before cultivation leads to a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. This significantly reduces methane emissions (Wassmann and Pathak , 2007).

Furthermore, the association of mycorrhizas with rice cultivation facilitates access to nutrients by the plant by improving yield. Mycorrhizae lead to an improvement in carbon storage in the soil and thus reduce CO₂ emissions (Lal *et al.* , 1998; Smith *et al.* , 2008).

6. Conclusion

There is no data on rice cultivation in relation to GHG emissions in Côte d'Ivoire. In most countries in the sub-Saharan region, and even other African countries, the net effects of emissions are not known. Due to the lack of information on the level of GHG emissions in Africa, and the diversity of lowland rice farming systems, the quantification of GHG emissions is necessary to identify and propose sustainable management practices that offer opportunities to reduce GHG emissions. This makes it difficult to design mitigation measures adapted to local conditions. In the current state of cultivation practices such as the use of mineral fertilizers, water management practices, the variety of types of development, and the type of fertilizer would be interdependent to explain the factors influencing the level of greenhouse gas emissions in the rice-growing lowlands of the Ivory Coast. Research into sustainable agriculture specifically in rice cultivation must be on the agenda as we fight climate change in our countries. And research would benefit from focusing on this area which remains little known to farmers. This will provide knowledge on the level of emissions of these gases from our rice fields in order to develop potential methods that could help to intensify rice cultivation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Compliance with ethical standards

Disclosure of conflict of interest

No conflict of interest to be disclosed.

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