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### **Multi-scale spatialisation of N<sub>2</sub>O emissions by soils and their mitigation potential in the Bourgogne Franche-Comté Region: advantages, limits and paths of exploitation for aiding decisions in the framework of ecological transition at local-regional scales**

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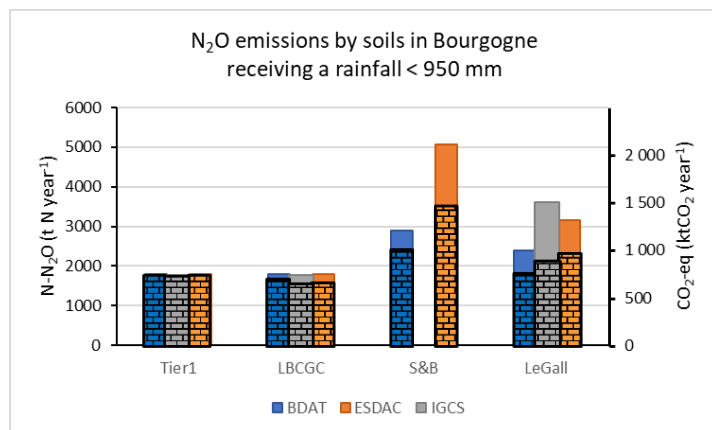
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The French inventory of anthropic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions estimates that emissions by fertilised soils contribute 42% of the N<sub>2</sub>O (nitrous oxide) emitted by the agricultural sector, i.e., 8% of total national emissions [1]. As N<sub>2</sub>O has a global warming potential about 300 times that of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), the assessment of emission potentials and/or reduction of this gas seems essential when defining and implementing policies aimed at reaching the reduction objectives set at international, national and regional levels.

To estimate N<sub>2</sub>O emissions by soils, three inventory methods, with increasing requirements (Tier 1, 2 or 3), are now used according to the recommendations of the IPCC. The method of level 1 takes into account only the quantity of nitrogen (mineral and organic) contributed to the field to which is applied one [2] or more emission coefficients [3], as proposed in the methodology of *Label Bas Carbone en Grandes Cultures en France* (Low Carbon Label of Major Crops in France) [4]. The methods of level 2 adapt emission factors by country on the basis of local references. The method of level 3 employs mechanistic emission models. Furthermore, recent works have highlighted the predominant role of soil pH in the intensity of soil N<sub>2</sub>O emissions. They have therefore opened the path to reducing N<sub>2</sub>O emissions by managing soil pH, associated with calculations of mitigation potentials by utilising this lever [5].

To quantify N<sub>2</sub>O emissions by soils in Bourgogne Franche-Comté, and their mitigation potential, we applied the Tier 1 methodology *sensu stricto*, the Low Carbon Label in Major Crops in France methodology and two models of Tier 2 ([6]; [7]), using different sources of spatial data dealing with soil, climate and crop. In particular, we compared 3 sources of data for the soil properties available on the study area; BDAT, LUCAS maps and IGCS [8,9,10,11,12]. We therefore estimated an average value of N<sub>2</sub>O emissions by soils receiving an annual rainfall less than 950 mm in Bourgogne of 2150 t N-N<sub>2</sub>O year<sup>-1</sup>, between 1800 and 5000 t N-N<sub>2</sub>O year<sup>-1</sup>, according to the databases and calculation methods used (figure 1). Although the Tier 1 methodology applied strictly did not allow forecasting a reduction of N<sub>2</sub>O emissions by acid soils following the input of liming materials, the other calculations performed permitted estimating on average a mitigation of N<sub>2</sub>O emissions of 20% in the region of study, ranging from 6 to 40% (figure 1).



**Figure 1:** Estimation of N<sub>2</sub>O emissions by soils in Bourgogne receiving a rainfall < 950 mm under the conditions of 2018 and after theoretical liming of acid soils.

These estimations were performed with different sources of soil data (BDAT, Lucas Soil, IGCS) and different calculation methodologies.

Tier 1: calculations performed according to the Tier 1 LBLGC: calculations performed according to the methodology proposed by the Low Carbon Label of Major Crops in France Methodology.

S&B: calculations performed according to [7].

Le Gall: calculations according to [6].

Since the calculations were performed spatially, they permit identifying areas of interest in relation to the use of liming acid soils to reduce soil N<sub>2</sub>O emissions. In our case study, these areas are mainly Morvan, the Bresse depression and the Yonne valley. In these areas, the mitigation potential can exceed 50%.

In addition to their formatting for a scientific publication, we are working on the dissemination of these results to political decision-makers so that they are taken into account for the development of a National Low Carbon Strategy in France [13]. To achieve this, we are currently developing the “agriculture” sheet of the regional observation, analysis and air-energy-climate platform, Opteer [14], to facilitate the implantation of quantifiable biotechnical solutions to reduce GHG emissions that can be used by political decision-makers. This entire approach can be transferred to other regions in France and abroad.

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