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CMS: Carbon Fluxes from Global Agricultural Production and Consumption, 2005-2011

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Revision Date: July 22, 2015

Summary:

This data set provides global estimates of carbon fluxes associated with annual crop net primary production (NPP) and harvested biomass, annual uptake and release by humans and livestock, and the total annual estimate of net carbon exchange (NCE) derived from these carbon fluxes. NCE estimates are for the combined crop plant harvest and consumption/expiration of fodder by livestock and of food by humans. Estimation of carbon uptake and release from global agricultural production and consumption required compilation and analysis of inventory data from various sources for the years 2005-2011.

The flux estimates were spatially distributed to a global 0.05-degree resolution grid using MODIS land cover data. The quantities of carbon flux in each gridcell are represented in two ways: (1) where the quantities of carbon distributed to each gridcell were divided by the total gridcell area, resulting in average carbon fluxes per unit of total area ($\text{g C/m}^2/\text{yr}$), and (2), where annual carbon fluxes associated with a source were summed over all types for the gridcell (Mg C/yr). The total surface area of the grid cells is provided.

There are eight data files in netCDF format (.nc4) with this data set -- two files (per area and per gridcell) for each of the four flux source types. Data for all years are in each *.nc4 file.

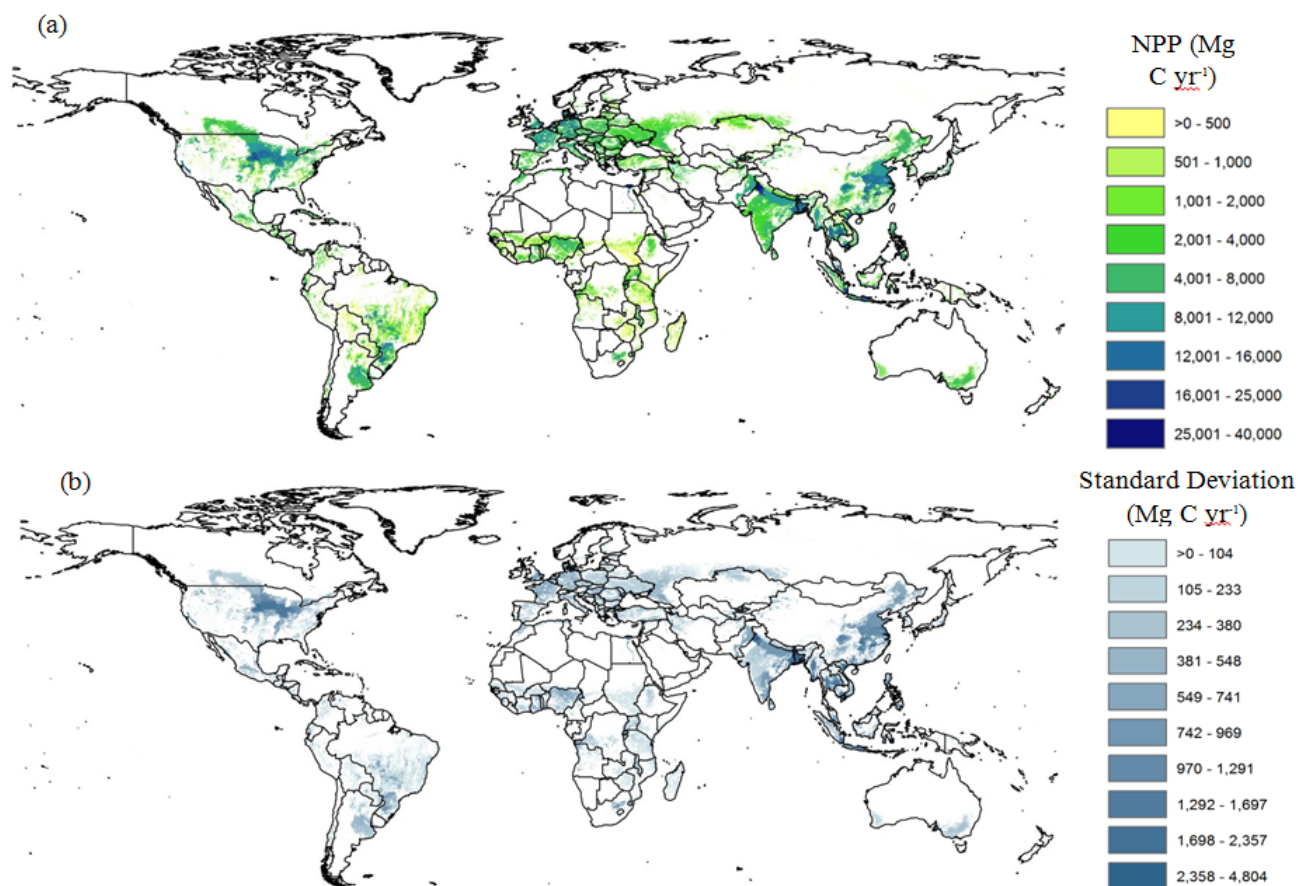


Figure 1. Net primary production (NPP) (a) and associated standard deviation (b) for global croplands in year 2009 at 0.05 degree resolution (Wolf et al. in review).

Data Citation:

Cite this data set as follows:

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These archived data products are related to this publication:

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1. Data Set Overview:

Project: Carbon Monitoring System (CMS)

Investigators: Wolf, J., T.O. West, Y. Le Page, G. Kyle, X. Zhang, G.J. Collatz, and M.L. Imhoff.

The NASA Carbon Monitoring System (CMS) is designed to make significant contributions in characterizing, quantifying, understanding, and predicting the evolution of global carbon sources and sinks through improved monitoring of carbon stocks and fluxes. The NASA CMS will use the full range of NASA satellite observations and modeling/analysis capabilities to establish the accuracy, quantitative uncertainties, and utility of products for supporting national and

international policy, regulatory, and management activities. CMS will maintain a global emphasis while providing finer scale regional information, utilizing space-based and surface-based data and will rapidly initiate generation and distribution of products both for user evaluation and to inform near-term policy development and planning.

This data set provides estimates of carbon fluxes associated with annual crop net primary production (NPP), harvested biomass, and consumption of harvested biomass by humans and livestock. These estimates were combined for a single estimate of net carbon exchange (NCE) and spatially distributed to 0.05-degree resolution using MODIS land cover data.

Crop-specific carbon contents ranging from 0.41 to 0.63 were used for the harvested portion of the plant (e.g., grain, fruit, or other plant part) versus the stover and below-ground biomass, and crop biomass associated with harvest losses was included in estimates of crop NPP. The basis of these calculations was annual harvested biomass (Y) of 92 crops for years 1961-2011, which was compiled from FAOSTAT (FAO, 2013) for all reporting nations. A literature review was conducted to revise existing crop-specific dry matter fractional content (DM_f), harvest index (HI), and root-to-shoot ratio (RS) for all included crops.

Livestock carbon emissions were estimated based on annual livestock feed consumption, enteric fermentation, and manure management. Annual livestock populations of meat and milk-producing cattle, meat and milk-producing buffaloes, meat and egg-laying chickens, swine, sheep, turkeys, ducks, geese and guinea fowl, goats, horses, mules, asses, camels, and other camelids (i.e. llamas and alpacas) were compiled for years 1961-2011 from FAOSTAT (FAO, 2013). For purposes of tracking the use of all harvested crop carbon and estimating amounts of livestock forage, total livestock feed was disaggregated into fodder (i.e. biomass harvested by humans from croplands) and forage (i.e. biomass grazed or scavenged by livestock from non-cropland sources).

Carbon consumed and expired by humans was quantified using data on total food supply, supply chain losses, and food intake. Food consumption surveys are available for a number of individual countries but global coverage is not available in a single report. Food supply, as opposed to food consumption, for all reporting nations is provided by FAOSTAT. Because of large gaps between per capita food supply and food survey reports of per capita food intake, FAOSTAT food supply data were modified to approximate reported food consumption. National per capita human food supply (FS) quantities by item, excluding fish, seafood, and orchard crop products, were compiled for years 1961 to 2011 from FAOSTAT (FAO, 2014a). Nations with reported human populations but missing food supply data were assigned per capita food supplies of a neighboring nation with similar climate and development status.

Human respiration was estimated by multiplying intake carbon by the average ratio of respiration to intake carbon, 0.88, calculated from values reported by West et al. (2009). Total amounts of carbon in human food intake and respiration were summed at the national, regional, and global levels.

To estimate carbon uptake and emissions at a subnational scale, crop carbon data was downscaled and spatially distributed to 0.05-degree resolution using the MODIS Land Cover Type 5, version 5.1 MCD12Q1 data product, following methods documented by West et al. (2014). Native 500-m MODIS data was initially gridded to 0.05-degree resolution, commensurate with the MODIS MCD12C1 product for climate modeling.

Spatial distribution of human carbon fluxes was based on the 0.04-degree resolution Gridded Human Population of the World data set (SEDAC, 2005).

2. Data Characteristics:

Spatial Coverage

Global

Spatial Resolution

0.05-degree resolution

Temporal Resolution

Annual data.

Temporal Coverage

The data cover the period 2005-01-01 to 2011-12-31.

Site boundaries: (All latitude and longitude given in decimal degrees)

Site (Region)	Westernmost Longitude	Easternmost Longitude	Northernmost Latitude	Southernmost Latitude
Global	-180	180	83.637	-59.463

Data File Information

There are eight data files in netCDF format (.nc4) with this data set. The file names and general descriptions are provided in Table 1. The variables for each file and variable descriptions are provided in Table 2.

All quantities of carbon distributed to each grid cell were divided by the total grid cell area, resulting in average carbon fluxes per unit of total area in files 1, 4, 6, and 8 (g C/m²/yr).

Table 1. Data file names and general descriptions

File Number	File Name	Units	Description
1.	NCE_2005_2011_gCm2.nc4	g C/m ² /yr	Gridded annual net carbon exchange (NCE) associated with crop plant harvest and consumption of fodder by livestock in fodder and food by humans. All quantities of carbon distributed to each gridcell were

			divided by the total gridcell area, resulting in average carbon fluxes per unit of total area.
2.	NCE_2005_2011_MgC.nc4	Mg C/yr	Gridded annual net carbon exchange (NCE) associated with crop plant harvest and consumption of fodder by livestock in fodder and food by humans summed over each gridcell.
3.	crop_2005_2011_gCm2.nc4	g C/m2/yr	Gridded annual carbon fluxes associated with global crop plant net primary productivity (NPP) and harvest, summed over all crop types. All quantities of carbon distributed to each gridcell were divided by the total gridcell area, resulting in average carbon fluxes per unit of total area.
4.	crop_2005_2011_MgC.nc4	Mg C/yr	Gridded annual carbon fluxes associated with global crop plant net primary productivity (NPP) and harvest, summed over all crop types for each gridcell.
5.	human_2005_2011_gC/m2.nc4	g C/m2/yr	Gridded annual carbon fluxes associated with global human populations. All quantities of carbon distributed to each gridcell were divided by the total gridcell area, resulting in average carbon fluxes per unit of total area.
6.	human_2005_2011_MgC.nc4	Mg C/yr	Gridded annual carbon fluxes associated with global human populations summed for each gridcell.
7.	lvstk_2005_2011_gCm2.nc4	g C/m2/yr	Gridded annual carbon fluxes associated with global livestock, summed over all livestock types. All quantities of carbon distributed to each gridcell were divided by the total gridcell area, resulting in average carbon fluxes per unit of total area.
8.	lvstk_2005_2011_MgC.nc4	Mg C/yr	Gridded annual carbon fluxes associated with global livestock, summed over all livestock types

Data Variables

Table 2. Data File Variables

Variable	Units/format	Description
VARIABLES IN ALL FILES		
Lat	decimal degrees	Latitude at the center of the 0.05-degree x 0.05-degree grid cell described in that row
lngtd	decimal degrees	Longitude at the center of the 0.05-degree x 0.05-degree grid cell described in that row. Negative longitudes are west of the Prime Meridian
VARIABLES IN FILE # 1		
grdclkm2	km2	Total surface area of the grid cell in square kilometers
NCEgCm2	g C/m2/yr	Annual net carbon exchange distributed to the gridcell, in grams carbon / square meter
NCESDgCm2	g C/m2/yr	Standard deviation of net carbon exchange distributed to the gridcell, in grams carbon / square meter
VARIABLES IN FILE # 2		
NCEMgC	Mg C/yr	Annual net carbon exchange distributed to the gridcell, in megagrams carbon
NCESDMgC	Mg C/yr	Standard deviation of net carbon exchange distributed to the gridcell, in megagrams carbon
VARIABLES IN FILE # 3		
grdclkm2	km2	Total surface area of the grid cell in square kilometers
cropkm2	km2/yr	Annual total harvested crop area assigned to the grid cell, in square kilometers
hvtgCm2	g C/m2/yr	Annual amount of harvested crop biomass per unit area distributed to the grid cell, in grams carbon/square meter
hvtSDgCm2	g C/m2/yr	Standard deviation of the annual harvested crop biomass distributed to the grid cell, in grams carbon/square meter
NPPgCm2	g C/m2/yr	Annual amount of crop NPP distributed to the grid cell, in grams carbon/square meter
NPPSDgCm2	g C/m2/yr	Standard deviation of the annual crop NPP distributed to the gridcell, in grams carbon / square meter
cropareaPCT	%/yr	Annual percent of grid cell crop area to total surface area
VARIABLES IN FILE # 4		

cropkm2	km2/yr	Annual total harvested crop area assigned to the grid cell, in square kilometers
hvstMgC	Mg C/yr	Annual amount of harvested crop biomass distributed to the gridcell, in megagrams carbon
hvstSDMgC	Mg C/yr	Standard deviation of the annual harvested crop biomass distributed to the gridcell, in megagrams carbon
NPPMgC	Mg C/yr	Annual amount of crop NPP distributed to the gridcell, in megagrams carbon
NPPSDMgC	Mg C/yr	Standard deviation of the annual crop NPP distributed to the gridcell, in megagrams carbon

VARIABLES IN FILE # 5

grdclkm2	km2	Total surface area of the grid cell in square kilometers
intakegCm2	g C/m2/yr	Annual amount of human food intake distributed to the grid cell, in grams carbon / square meter
intakeSDgCm2	g C/m2/yr	Standard deviation of human food intake distributed to the grid cell, in grams carbon / square meter
respgCm2	g C/m2/yr	Annual amount of carbon dioxide respired by humans distributed to the grid cell, in grams carbon / square meter.
respSDgCm2	g C/m2/yr	Standard deviation of carbon dioxide respired by humans distributed to the gridcell, in grams carbon / square meter

VARIABLES IN FILE # 6

intakeMgC	Mg C/yr	Annual amount of human food intake that was distributed to the grid cell, in megagrams carbon
intakeSDMgC	Mg C/yr	Standard deviation of human food intake that was distributed to the grid cell, in megagrams carbon
respMgC	Mg C/yr	Annual amount of carbon dioxide respired by humans that was distributed to the grid cell, in megagrams carbon.
respSDMgC	Mg C/yr	Standard deviation of the amount of carbon dioxide respired by humans distributed to the grid cell, in megagrams carbon

VARIABLES IN FILE # 7

grdclkm2	km2	Total surface area of the grid cell in square kilometers
feedgCm2	g C/m2/yr	Annual amount of livestock feed intake distributed to the gridcell, in grams carbon / square meter
feedSDgCm2	g C/m2/yr	The standard deviation of livestock feed intake distributed to the gridcell, in grams carbon / square meter.
foddergCm2	g C/m2/yr	Annual amount of livestock fodder intake distributed to the gridcell, in grams carbon / square meter
fodderSDgCm2	g C/m2/yr	Standard deviation of livestock fodder intake distributed to the gridcell, in grams carbon / square meter
foragegCm2	g C/m2/yr	Annual amount of livestock forage distributed to the grid cell, in grams carbon / square meter
forageSDgCm2	g C/m2/yr	Standard deviation of livestock forage distributed to the grid cell in grams carbon / square meter.
CH4gCm2	g C/m2/yr	Amount of livestock methane emissions distributed to the grid cell, in grams carbon / square meter. Methane emissions include manure management and enteric fermentation.
CH4SDgCm2	g C/m2/yr	Standard deviation of livestock methane emissions distributed to the grid cell, in grams carbon / square meter
CO2gCm2	g C/m2/yr	Amount of livestock carbon dioxide emissions distributed to the grid cell, in grams carbon / square meter. Carbon dioxide emissions include those from manure management and respiration.
CO2SDgCm2	g C/m2/yr	Standard deviation of livestock carbon dioxide emissions distributed to the grid cell, in grams carbon / square meter

VARIABLES IN FILE # 8

feedMgC	Mg C/yr	Annual amount of livestock feed intake distributed to the gridcell, in megagrams carbon
feedSDMgC	Mg C/yr	The standard deviation of livestock feed intake distributed to the gridcell, in megagrams carbon
fodderMgC	Mg C/yr	Annual amount of livestock fodder intake distributed to the gridcell, in megagrams carbon

fodderSDMgC	Mg C/yr	Standard deviation of livestock fodder intake distributed to the gridcell, in megagrams carbon
forageMgC	Mg C/yr	Annual amount of livestock forage distributed to the grid cell, in megagrams carbon
forageSDMgC	Mg C/yr	Standard deviation of livestock forage distributed to the grid cell in in megagrams carbon
CH4MgC	Mg C/yr	Amount of livestock methane emissions distributed to the grid cell, in megagrams carbon. Methane emissions include manure management and enteric fermentation.
CH4SDMgC	Mg C/yr	Standard deviation of livestock methane emissions distributed to the grid cell, in megagrams carbon
CO2MgC	Mg C/yr	Amount of livestock carbon dioxide emissions distributed to the grid cell, in megagrams carbon. Carbon dioxide emissions include those from manure management and respiration.
CO2SDMgC	Mg C/yr	Standard deviation of livestock carbon dioxide emissions distributed to the grid cell, in megagrams carbon

Spatial Data Properties

[netCDF format (.nc4) with each of the 7 bands representing a separate year]

Spatial Representation Type: Raster

Pixel Depth: 32 bit

Pixel Type: float

Number of Bands: 7

Band Information: time

Raster Format: netCDF

No Data Value: -9999999

Scale Factor: 1

Offset: none

Number Columns: 7,199

Column Resolution: 0.05 degree

Number Rows: 2,829

Row Resolution: 0.05 degree

Spatial Reference Properties

xll corner: -179.975

yll corner: -59.438

Cell Geometry: area

Point in Pixel: center

3. Data Application and Derivation:

The spatial distribution of these fluxes may be used for global carbon monitoring, estimation of regional uncertainty, and for use as input to Earth system models.

Through downscaling and spatial distribution of carbon uptake, release, and NCE associated with individual sources, net carbon fluxes at national and sub-national may be derived. The result of this effort is a spatially and methodologically consistent dataset of carbon uptake and release from global croplands (Wolf et al., In review).

4. Quality Assessment:

Limitations: There is no incorporation of soil carbon in the global agricultural carbon budget.

5. Data Acquisition Materials and Methods:

Estimation of carbon uptake and release from global agricultural production and consumption required compilation and analysis of inventory data. Inventory data refers to global, national, or subnational data that is collected through ground measurements, surveys, statistical estimation, or a combination thereof. The inventory data and application of these data to estimate carbon uptake and release are described below.

Estimating global crop carbon uptake

Crop-specific carbon contents ranging from 0.41 to 0.63 were used for the harvested portion of the plant (e.g., grain, fruit, or other plant part) versus the stover and below-ground biomass, and crop biomass associated with harvest losses was included in estimates of crop NPP. The basis of these calculations was annual harvested biomass (Y) of 92 crops for years 1961-2011, which was compiled from FAOSTAT (FAO, 2013) for all reporting nations. Coconut, oil palm, date palm, banana, plantain, sugar cane, and cassava were included in the compilation, but crops produced by broadleaved trees were excluded. For ten large nations, state- or province-level major crop production data were compiled for available years between 2000 and 2011 (USDA, 2011, 2013; Statistics Canada, 2013), and the proportions of major crop production in each state were used to improve the spatial distribution of inventory data.

A literature review was conducted to revise existing crop-specific dry matter fractional content (DM_y), harvest index (HI), and root-to-shoot ratio (RS) for all included crops. A range of reported values of DM_y, HI, and RS for ten major crops was recorded and used to estimate standard deviation around final estimates. The average carbon content of stover and roots has previously been assigned values of 0.40 or 0.42 (Johnson et al., 2006, 2014; Wilhelm et al., 2007) or has been incorporated into a whole-plant average value of 0.45 (Hicke and Lobell, 2004; Bolinder et al., 2007; West et al., 2011). In this effort, a value of 0.44 was used to represent the carbon content of stover and roots (CC_{cell}) of all crops, based on reported carbon contents in roots and stover of rice, soy, wheat, maize, and sorghum, at maturity (McKendry, 2002; Abiven et al., 2005; Jensen et al., 2005; Amos and Walters, 2006; Roy et al., 2012). This value is similar to the molecular mass balance carbon content of cellulose. In contrast to stover and roots, harvested plant portions were assigned crop-specific carbon contents (CC_y) derived from reported nutritional composition.

Annual crop-specific harvested biomass Y was multiplied by the appropriate crop specific DM_y to obtain the harvested dry weight (Y_{dw}). Y_{dw} was then converted to units of carbon (Y_c) by multiplying by the crop-specific CC_y. Total harvestable biomass (H_{dw}) is the sum of harvested yield Y_{dw} and biomass contained in harvest losses (HL). H_{dw} was converted to units of carbon (H_c) by multiplying by the crop-specific CC_y. Aboveground biomass in units of dry weight (AGB_{dw}) was estimated from H_{dw} using crop specific HI.

Aboveground biomass carbon is the sum of residue carbon and Y_c. Belowground carbon was estimated by multiplying AGB_{dw} by the crop-specific RS and by CC_{cell}. Crop NPP carbon (NPP_c) is the sum of total aboveground and belowground crop carbon. Total Y_c and NPP_c for all included crops were summed at the national, regional and global levels.

Standard deviations of Y_c and NPP_c for each crop were calculated by developing a probability density function (PDF) for model parameters with multiple reported values (i.e. HI, RS, DM_y, CC_{cell}, and CC_y) and then conducting a Monte Carlo analysis on the complete mathematical model used to calculate Y_c and NPP_c. The PDFs were developed by compiling a range of values through a literature review, including the mode and minimum and maximum likely values for each model parameter. PDFs were assumed to be normally distributed, and variability in coefficients assumed to be independent.

Estimating livestock intake and emissions

Livestock carbon emissions were estimated based on annual livestock feed consumption, enteric fermentation, and manure management. Annual livestock populations of meat and milk-producing cattle, meat and milk-producing buffaloes, meat and egg-laying chickens, swine, sheep, turkeys, ducks, geese and guinea fowl, goats, horses, mules, asses, camels, and other camelids (i.e. llamas and alpacas) were compiled for years 1961-2011 from FAOSTAT (FAO, 2013). Annual producing populations of egg-laying chickens and milk-producing cattle and buffalo were subtracted from conspecific total populations to estimate populations raised for meat production. For ten large nations, subnational livestock population data reported by each nation were compiled for available years between 2000- 2011 (USDA, 2013; FAO, 2014b), and the proportions of national populations present in each state or province were used to improve the spatial distribution of inventory data. Accounting of livestock carbon fluxes was conducted similar to methods used by IPCC (2006), EPA (2010), and West et al. (2011).

Estimating livestock consumption of fodder and forage

For purposes of tracking the use of all harvested crop carbon and estimating amounts of livestock forage, total livestock feed was disaggregated into fodder (i.e. biomass harvested by humans from croplands) and forage (i.e. biomass grazed or scavenged by livestock from non-cropland sources). Fodder was further subdivided into (i) market feed items derived from primary harvests (e.g., grains, brans, crop byproduct feeds), (ii) hay and fodder crops (e.g., harvested quantities of alfalfa, clovers, grasses, corn and sorghum silage), and (iii) crop residue feed, consisting of crop stover collected from the field for livestock feed. Annual national quantities of all market feed items available, including imports, are reported by FAOSTAT (FAO, 2014a). These quantities were converted into units of carbon, using fractional dry weight and carbon contents. Crop residue feed quantities were estimated by applying crop-specific regional percentages of residues collected for feed (Krausmann et al., 2008) to the crop- and country-specific estimates of annual residue production. Total annual fodder intake per nation (F_{Dc}) is the sum of market feeds, hay and fodder crop production, and crop residues collected for feed. At the national level, annual fodder intake was subtracted from total livestock feed to estimate the livestock forage intake (F_{Gc}), including grazing and scavenging.

Estimating human carbon intake and emissions

Carbon consumed and expired by humans was quantified using data on total food supply, food waste, and food intake. Food supply, as opposed to food consumption, for all reporting nations is provided by FAOSTAT. There are large gaps between per capita food supply and food survey reports of per capita food intake. Therefore, FAOSTAT food supply data were modified to approximate reported food consumption and food supply chain losses reported by Gustavsson et al. [2011, 2013]. National per capita human food supply (FS) quantities by item, excluding fish, seafood, and orchard crop products, were compiled for years 1961 to 2011 from FAOSTAT (FAO, 2014a). Nations with reported human populations but missing food supply data were assigned per capita food supplies of a neighboring nation with similar climate and development status.

Food supply quantities were converted to units of carbon (F_{Sc}) by multiplying by item- specific fractional dry matter (DM_fs) and carbon content (CC_fs). Food supply chain losses were estimated to account for their contribution to the ultimate fate of carbon removed from the land. The total amount of carbon lost and wasted 263 from the food supply chain (F_{Lc}) was estimated by multiplying F_{Sc} by FL and AR. Total food intake carbon (F_{Ic}) per nation was estimated as the difference between F_{Sc} and F_{Lc}.

Respiration (HCO₂) was estimated by multiplying intake carbon by the average ratio of respiration to intake carbon, 0.88, calculated from values reported by West et al. (2009). Total amounts of carbon in human food intake and respiration (F_{Ic} and HCO₂) were summed at the national, regional, and global levels. Standard deviations were calculated for F_{Ic} and HCO₂. PDFs for food intake of 16 different groups of food commodities were developed from the mode and pooled standard deviation (Taylor, 1997) for each food group reported for 19 European countries by the Comprehensive European Food Consumption

Database (European Food Safety Authority, 2014), assuming a normal distribution for each. PDFs for DMFs and CCfs were developed from a range of values within each food group. A Monte Carlo analysis was conducted for the full mathematical model. The resulting standard deviations for FIC of each food item in each nation and year were combined by summing in quadrature (Taylor, 1997).

Spatial distribution of carbon fluxes

To estimate carbon uptake and emissions at a subnational scale, crop carbon data was downscaled and spatially distributed to 0.05-degree resolution using the MODIS Land Cover Type 5, version 5.1 MCD12Q1 data product, following methods documented by West et al. (2014). Native 500-m MODIS data was initially gridded to 0.05-degree resolution, commensurate with the MODIS MCD12C1 product for climate modeling.

Spatial distribution of human carbon fluxes was based on the 0.04-degree resolution Gridded Human Population of the World data set (SEDAC, 2005). These data were initially reprocessed to 0.05-degree resolution for consistency with the land cover data. Food intake and respiration were distributed using the relative population densities.

Estimating net carbon exchange (NCE)

The estimate of cropland NCE follows methods developed by West et al. (2010), West et al. (2011), and Hayes et al. (2012) for North America. Carbon uptake by crops in the field is harvested, transported, consumed, and emitted back to the atmosphere. Gridded estimates of NCE are equal to the sum of carbon uptake and release that was previously distributed to each grid cell. All quantities of carbon distributed to each grid cell were divided by the total grid cell area, resulting in average carbon fluxes per unit of total area. If the release of carbon in situ is considered to occur within the same year the crop was planted, the sum of NPP uptake and carbon released through decomposition in situ is equal to the harvested and removed biomass. Gridded estimates of standard deviation per grid cell were developed from a quadrature summation of different carbon components within each grid cell, as previously discussed.

Changes in soil carbon were not included in this analysis.

6. Data Access:

These data are available through the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) Distributed Active Archive Center (DAAC).

Contact for Data Center Access Information:

E-mail: uso@daac.ornl.gov

Telephone: +1 (865) 241-3952

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