

ANIMALCHANGE

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

THEME 2: FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, AND BIOTECHNOLOGIES



Grant agreement number: FP7- 266018

DELIVERABLE 6.2

Deliverable title: Report on the extent to which manure management might help decrease GHG gas from animal agriculture

Abstract:

Objective

Deliverable D6.2 reviews the greenhouse gas mitigation potential of manure management options in both extensive and intensive ruminant systems and in pig and poultry systems from the project regions (Europe, Latin America and Africa).

Methods

Based on published and unpublished data from the research institutions, the mitigation potential of mitigation options, the potential size of the reduction in GHG emissions for manure management has been quantified by desktop studies. The diversity of livestock production systems, and their associated manure management, is discussed on the basis of three regional cases (Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Europe) with increasing levels of intensification and priorities with respect to nutrient management and environmental regulation. GHG mitigation options for production systems based on solid and liquid manure management are presented, and potentials for positive and negative interactions between pollutants, and between management practices, are discussed.

Results & Implications

Ongoing intensification and specialization of livestock production leads to increasing volumes of manure to be managed, which are a source of the greenhouse gases methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O). Growth in livestock populations are projected to occur mainly in intensive production systems where the largest potentials for manure GHG mitigation may be found. Net emissions of CH₄ and N₂O result from a number of microbial activities in the manure environment. Their relative importance depends not only on manure composition



and local management practices with respect to treatment, storage and field application, but also on ambient climatic conditions.

Integrated crop and livestock production systems are suggested to improve nutrient use efficiency and to reduce GHG emissions in mixed farming systems. In extensive ruminant systems, the priority is to improve nutrient use efficiency both for increasing crop yields (improved livestock manure storage conditions, targeted use of manure nutrients, development of anaerobic storage) and reducing GHG emissions per unit animal product (improved animal breeds, improved animal nutrition through pasture intensification). In intensive ruminant systems and monogastric systems, improving capacity of livestock manure storage and containment is a key issue. Where farm effluents are to some extent 'wasted' by direct discharge into water courses, infrastructure is required to enable farmers to store livestock manures. Containment is also an issue in large-scale intensive livestock production, where NH₃ emissions in particular represent a threat to natural environments and human health in addition of being an indirect source of N₂O. With intensive systems, the imbalance between nutrients in livestock manure and need of land available for manure recycling is also a challenge as spreading of manure N in excess of crop requirements increases the potential for environmental losses, including emissions of NH₃, N₂O and other N compounds.

Due date of deliverable: *M30*

Actual submission date: *M35*

Start date of the project: March 1st, 2011

Duration: *48 months*

Organisation name of lead contractor: *CIRAD*

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Revision: *V1*

Dissemination level: *PU*



Table of contents

| | | |
|--------|--|----|
| 1. | INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| 2. | LIVESTOCK SYSTEM AND MANURE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, WESTERN EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA | 3 |
| 2.1. | LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS AND MANURE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA..... | 3 |
| 2.2. | LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS AND MANURE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN WESTERN EUROPE . | 4 |
| 2.3. | LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS AND MANURE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN LATIN AMERICA | 5 |
| 3. | GHG MITIGATION POTENTIALS BY MANURE MANAGEMENT | 5 |
| 3.1. | HOUSING | 5 |
| 3.1.1. | Diet manipulation and nutrient balance..... | 5 |
| 3.1.2. | Manipulation of storage temperature | 5 |
| 3.2. | SOLID MANURE..... | 6 |
| 3.2.1. | Composting..... | 6 |
| 3.2.2. | Cover of solid manure during storage..... | 6 |
| 3.3. | LIQUID MANURE..... | 6 |
| 4. | GHG MITIGATION POTENTIALS BY TREATMENT MANURE AND LAND SPREADING..... | 7 |
| 4.1. | TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES..... | 7 |
| 4.1.1. | Manure separation | 7 |
| 4.1.2. | Anaerobic digestion..... | 7 |
| 4.1.3. | Aeration..... | 7 |
| 4.1.4. | Additives and acidification | 7 |
| 4.2. | LAND SPREADING | 8 |
| 4.2.1. | Application method, rate and timing | 8 |
| 4.2.2. | Use of nitrification inhibitors..... | 8 |
| 5. | CONCLUDING REMARKS | 16 |
| 6. | REFERENCES | 17 |
| 7. | ANNEX 1 | 22 |



1. Introduction

AnimalChange will provide scientific guidance on the integration of adaptation and mitigation objectives and design of sustainable development pathways for livestock production in different parts of the world.

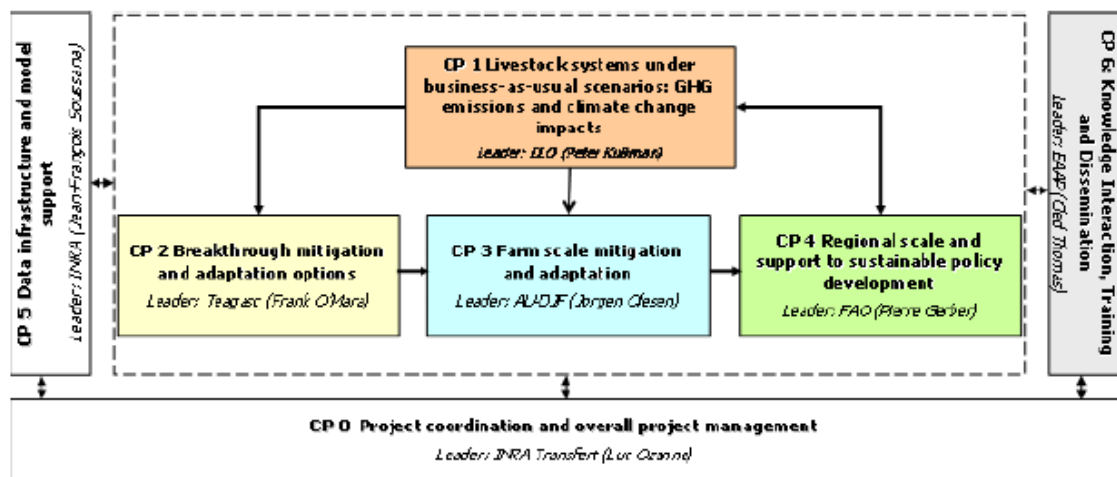
In Component 2, (see fig. 1), an important part of AnimalChange focuses on the options for mitigation and or adaptation. It identifies at the animal and field scales the most promising options available to animal agriculture, and assesses interactions between them. The work will extend to determining and investigating the size of the mitigation potential for the various options, the variation around this mitigation potential, and the causes of this variation with a view to trying to implement more robust and dependable mitigation strategies.

Component 2 gather three Workpackages:

WP 6 -Breakthrough biophysical mitigation options

WP 7 -Breakthrough biophysical adaptation options

WP 8- Integrating adaptation and mitigation options



The current deliverable (D6.2) is part of WP6. WP 6 objective is to identify new and forthcoming mitigation options and quantify both the potential size of the reduction in GHG emissions obtainable and the uncertainty associated with this reduction. It will provide the data on mitigation options that will power the modeling activities in Components 3 and 4. WP6 focus on mitigation in both extensive and intensive ruminant systems and monogastric systems. In the first task “Manure management” mostly desktop studies, and limited experimental evidence (AU-DJF, CIRAD) is reviewed. Based on published and unpublished data existing in the institutions the mitigation potential of promising technologies is assessed having in scope the framework of farm-scale models to be developed in Component 3 on GHG emissions from manure as influenced by specific manure treatment processes (including anaerobic digestion to produce CH₄ and use it as a source of energy) and management strategies. The uncertainty analysis of Component 1 will be adopted for a critical assessment of mitigation potentials. Specifically, knowledge about biogas and energy generation potentials of manure from intensive farming of pigs, broilers and cattle in Europe will be collected. In Africa and South America, the knowledge about biogas yields is sparse and it has been proposed to carry out a screening examination of the biogas potentials of excretal returns from the different animal categories in these regions.



This deliverable (D6.2) is a step in this process. It reports on the extent to which manure management can decrease emissions of CH₄ and N₂O in animal production systems, in Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe and South America. It describes manure management practices in different livestock systems and GHG mitigation measures by handling and treatment of manure.

Three meetings were held in relation to this deliverable during the annual meetings of AnimalChange Edinburgh, 2012; Dublin, June 2013, Dublin GAAAC 2013 and a collective paper (see annex 1) was published in an international journal (Petersen *et al.*, 2013).

Section 2 focuses on livestock system and manure management system in Sub-Saharan Africa, Western Europe and Latin America. Section 3 describes GHG mitigation potentials via changes in manure management. Section 4 describes measures of GHG mitigation by treatment of the manure and land spreading. Finally, Section 5 provides some concluding remarks.



2. Livestock system and manure management system in Sub-Saharan Africa, Western Europe and Latin America

GHG emissions from manure management vary with manure type, manure management practices, manure management systems and the proportion of manure managed in each systems. In addition, climatic conditions play an important role in GHG emissions from manure.

Manure management can lead to methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) emissions. CH₄ is released from all manure environments from the anaerobic decomposition of organic material occurring with manure storage both in liquid systems and compacted manure (Osada *et al.*, 2000; Chadwick *et al.*, 2011). In addition, higher ambient temperature and moisture content also favor CH₄ emission. Frequent removal of manure under cool temperate climates had been proposed to reduce CH₄ emissions (Sommer *et al.*, 2009). CH₄ emission is affected by type of treatment, storage facility, climate and composition of the manure directly related to animal types and diets. Manure CH₄ emissions are lower in regions with dry systems manure handling (drylot, solid storage, Africa, Latin America). In liquid manure systems, the proportion of manure CH₄ emissions in total CH₄ emissions is considerable, particularly in regions where animals are confined (e.g. West- Europe).

During handling, storage and spreading oxidized nitrogen leads to N₂O emission and to ammonia (NH₃) volatilization and nitrate leaching (NO₃⁻). N₂O emissions are influenced by the amount of N excreted and in dry manure handling systems (drylot, solid systems) by the interfaces between oxic-anoxic states.

2.1. Livestock systems and manure management systems in Sub-Saharan Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa is characterized by extensive subsistence farming. Cropping systems are dominated by corn, sorghum and millet and cotton production, and the area available for grazing is limited. Livestock consists mainly of cattle at 0.08-4.8 TLU ha⁻¹ (Anon. 2007), where 1 TLU (tropical livestock unit = 250 kg liveweight; Hoffmann *et al.*, 2001). During the dry season, animals are confined and fed crop residues. When the agricultural season begins, shepherds lead their livestock to graze pastures either near the farm or through transhumance.

There is a diversity of animal manure systems across farms (Manlay *et al.*, 2002; Blanchard *et al.*, 2013). The main priority is recycling of organic matter and nutrients for crop production. Garbage piles with domestic waste, daily sweepings and faeces from small ruminants, may be produced in the homestead area. Confining animals helps produce organic fertilizers in significant quantities by facilitating manure collection. Some farmers add bedding material and feed leftovers to the pen or animal shed (Landais and Guérin, 1992, Landais and Lhoste, 1993, Ganry *et al.*, 2001), which further increases the quantity and nutrient content of manure since nutrients in urine are trapped by the litter. Household compost may be produced in pits near the homestead area based on animal faeces, feed and crop residues, and domestic waste (Ganry *et al.*, 2001).

Estimates of nutrient cycling and losses associated with manure management in South Mali indicate that 46 % of the N in crop residues and faeces is returned to the soil of common pastures or areas of transhumance, while 13% is lost in gaseous forms at the time of excretion. Organic manure produced on the farm represents 24% of the N and 17% is lost through leaching or in gaseous form during handling and storage of manure and compost



(Blanchard *et al.*, 2013). The N cycling efficiencies were close to those reported by Rufino *et al.* (2007) of 13-28%. With the rising price of mineral fertilisers, reduction in fertiliser subsidies, and programs promoting organic manure quality, there is an increasing focus on efficient use of nutrients in livestock manure.

Manure management systems for dairy and beef production according to the definitions by IPCC 2006 is burned for fuel (6.9% and 6.2 % respective), or managed in drylots (34.5 and 34.3 respective), pastures or ranges (39.7% and 46.6 % respective) or as solid storage (18.5 % and 13 % respective; FAO, 2013) (Tables 1 and 2).

Mitigation options proposed are to cover the pit and compost on floors (Rufino *et al.* 2006), limit the storage time (Tittonell *et al.*, 2010) and confine the animals by improving forage availability and quality (Landais and Lhoste, 1993).

2.2. Livestock systems and manure management systems in Western Europe

European livestock production is increasingly intensive, with specialization and mechanization leading to larger farms (Burton and Turner, 2003). Intensive systems are dominated by cattle, pigs and poultry, with less than 10% of animal feed produced on the farm (Kruska *et al.*, 2003). The geographic uncoupling of feed production leads to the concentration of nutrients in livestock-intensive areas

Large proportions of the total nutrient intake are excreted: 60-70% of ingested N for fattening pigs and laying hens, and 70-90% for cattle depending on physiological stage (Peyraud *et al.*, 2012). Manure is commonly used as a fertilizer on the farm, but transfer between farms is also seen in regions with high livestock densities. Regulations allow to prevent discharge to rivers and streams. The EU Nitrates Directive stipulates a maximum annual application of 170 kg ha⁻¹ of manure N (EC, 1991). Derogations exist that allow higher rates for crops with a high N uptake potential. Nutrient recycling is a challenge for large livestock farms with little or no land.

In Western Europe, 26.6 -47.6 % of livestock excreta (respectively for dairy or beef production) are deposited during grazing and thus not handled. The remaining is collected in housing systems, a percentage that tends to increase (FAO, 2013). Manure management systems producing solid manure represent 29.5 and 25.9 % of excreta for dairy and beef production, respectively. The remainder is handled as slurry that is either stored in pits beneath animal confinements or in outside tanks (Oenema *et al.*, 2007; 41.6 and 22.1 %, respectively, for dairy and beef production, FAO, 2013). However, the proportion of manure in liquid form varies considerably between countries. It is generally higher (>65%) in central and northern Europe, even reaching more than 95% in the Netherlands, and lower (<50%) in UK, France and some parts of Eastern Europe where housing systems are often associated with bedding materials (Tables 1 and 2).

Farmers adopt liquid manure management systems for easier handling, higher percentage of plant-available N (higher mineral N-to-organic N ratio), reduced straw requirements since the availability and the price of straw is a constraint. There also several options for treatment with a potential to improve manure quality and reduce losses towards the environment (mechanical separation, aeration of slurry, biogas production).



2.3. Livestock systems and manure management systems in Latin America

In central and south America, a small proportion of the dairy manure is burned for fuel (0.4 %). The majority of dairy production manures is deposited on pasture or range (53.5 %) or managed in drylot (41.5 %) and a small portion is handled in solid form (4.7 %). There is no management of liquid manures (slurry or uncovered anaerobic lagoon; [FAO, 2013](#)) (Tables 1 and 2).

With beef production, without animal containment systems, manure for the most part is directly deposited on pastures or range (91.8 %). A small proportion is managed in drylot (4.8 %) or solid form (3.2 %).

In the more intensive livestock systems, pigs, poultry and even cattle, the farms that are focused on the production of milk or meat are becoming better monitored. There is a growing interest for conventional measures to mitigate the impacts (e.g. composting, biogas, etc.) and for crop fertilization by manure. On the other hand, these mitigation measures have a high cost and are unevenly distributed across farms.

For grazing livestock systems, GHG mitigation can be obtained through increases in production efficiency through changes in animal breeds and improved breeding and through pasture intensification that can lead to a lower production of manure per unit of meat and milk produced.

Another measure is the use of additives that may improve feed efficiency. For instance, the supply of mineral salts to grazing livestock is an important practice for farmers.

3. GHG mitigation potentials by manure management

3.1. Housing

3.1.1. Diet manipulation and nutrient balance

Diet has a direct effect on CH₄ emissions from enteric fermentation and an indirect effect on CH₄ emissions during storage, by affecting manure composition ([Hindrichsen et al., 2005](#)). Decreased digestibility of dietary nutrients is expected to increase organic matter concentration in manure, which may increase manure CH₄ emission.

The effect of diets on denitrification and N₂O emission is related to the animal protein balance. An excess dietary protein will increase N excreted in manure and N₂O emission following land application. A reduction in manure N concentration will also reduce manure N₂O emissions ([Misselbrook et al., 1998](#)). Inclusion of some natural compounds (such as tannins from pasture legumes, e.g. from birdsfoot trefoil) in the diet can increase the proportion of N excreted as organic N by faeces and reduce the excretion of urea-N in urine, thereby reducing the potential for NH₃ and N₂O emissions ([Misselbrook et al., 2005](#)). However, such dietary changes may also affect the animal protein supply.

3.1.2. Manipulation of storage temperature

Higher ambient temperature and higher manure moisture content favor CH₄ emissions (



Table 3). Cooling of slurry below slatted floors to 10°C has been found to reduce CH₄ emissions by 30-46% compared to the situation without cooling (Sommer *et al.*, 2004; Groenestein *et al.*, 2012). Efficacy will depend on the methanogenic potential of the slurry. Studies find significant (50-86%) reductions in GHG emissions (CH₄+N₂O) from pig housing with frequent manure removal (Groenestein *et al.*, 2012).

3.2. Solid manure

3.2.1. Composting

During composting, microorganisms under exothermic and aerobic conditions, transform degradable organic matter into CO₂ and water. This process has several benefits to manure handling, odor control, manure moisture and pathogen control, organic matter stabilization, etc. Composting of solid manure is used as bedding in dairy production systems to reduce cost of production and provide cow comfort (Husfeldt *et al.*, 2012). Aeration may reduce CH₄ emissions, but increase N₂O and NH₃ emissions (Pattey *et al.*, 2005; Webb *et al.*, 2012). Manure can either be left undisturbed during the composting process, mechanically turned, or actively aerated. Combined CH₄ and N₂O emissions are generally lower after forced aeration and turning compared to passive composting (Table 4)

3.2.2. Cover of solid manure during storage

Covering solid manure during storage with straw or a plastic sheet reduces N₂O and CH₄ emissions (Table 4). Yamulki (2006) reports reductions of -42 to -11% for N₂O emission with straw cover on farmyard manure, and -45 to -50% for CH₄ emission (comparison with uncovered manure in CO₂ equivalents).

However, different studies report both a reduction (-17 to -98%) and an increase (+111%) in CH₄ and N₂O emissions after covering poultry and cattle solid manure with a plastic sheet (Chadwick, 2005, Hansen *et al.*, 2006, Thorman *et al.*, 2006). Covering heap manure may also reduce ammonia emissions (Chadwick, 2005; Webb *et al.*, 2012).

3.3. Liquid manure

3.3.1. Cover of slurry during storage

Covers on slurry during storage are mainly adopted to reduce NH₃ emissions. N₂O emissions from liquid manure are negligible during storage without surface crust (VanderZaag *et al.*, 2009). Potentials for nitrification and denitrification can develop and lead to N₂O emissions if crust dries and oxygen enters the crust (Sommer *et al.*, 2000; Petersen *et al.*, 2013).

Reported values (Table 5) show that covering slurry (from cattle or pigs) with either a solid cover or a straw cover often results in lower CH₄ emissions (to -28 to +37% with straw cover and -70 to -14% with solid cover), higher N₂O emissions (+57 to +100% with straw cover and -50 to +30% with solid cover), and in general a reduction of overall GHG emissions in CO₂ equivalents when compared to uncovered slurry (VanderZaag *et al.*, 2009; Guarinon *et al.*, 2006; Berg *et al.*, 2006; Amon *et al.*, 2007; Clemens *et al.*, 2006).

4. GHG mitigation potentials by treatment manure and land spreading

4.1. Treatment technologies

4.1.1. Manure separation

Manure separation is a process where a fraction of slurry particles is isolated by one of several mechanical separation processes (Burton, 2007). Storage of the liquid fraction may result in lower N₂O emissions than untreated slurry if crust formation is prevented. However, N₂O emissions from the solid fraction during storage can be high (Fangueiro *et al.*, 2008), and thus overall N₂O emissions during storage may increase significantly after separation without additional measures. Separate storage of the liquid and solid fractions after manure separation have in most cases, resulted in lower CH₄ emissions (Table 6).

Likewise, combined CH₄ and N₂O emissions from storage of both separation products have usually, but not always, been lower than from untreated manure (Dinuccio *et al.* 2008; Mosquera *et al.*, 2011). Slurry separation requires additional measures to achieve GHG mitigation during subsequent storage: cover solid and liquid fractions or anaerobic digestion of solid fraction (Sutaryo *et al.*, 2012).

4.1.2. Anaerobic digestion

Anaerobic digestion optimises the methanogenesis from manure. Degradable organic matter in manure and other organic substrates is transformed into biogas (mainly CO₂ and CH₄).

The process provides energy substituting fossil fuel. It reduces the potential for CH₄ emissions during subsequent storage. But an enriched methanogenic microflora in digested slurry will continue to produce CH₄ at high rates during the cooling phase (Sommer *et al.*, 2000). CH₄ emission must be collected to retain potential GHG mitigation. Studies show a reduction in CH₄ (-32 to -68%), and in GHG emission in CO₂ equivalents (-14 to -59%) from storage of digested manure compared to untreated cattle slurry (Table 6).

4.1.3. Aeration

Studies reported a reduction in CH₄ emission (-35 to -99%) with aeration of cattle and pig slurry (Amon *et al.*, 2006; Martinez *et al.*, 2003). Amon *et al.* (2006) reported, however, an increase in N₂O emission (by 144%) with aeration of cattle slurry (Table 6).

The overall potential for loss of N as NH₃ or denitrification products will be high during aeration, and N₂O emissions as high as 19% of total N in pig slurry have been reported (Chadwick *et al.*, 2011). Hence, measures to conserve N during aeration would be needed to ensure GHG mitigation via this treatment.

4.1.4. Additives and acidification

Chemical additives change the chemical environment of slurry and may alter the formation of CH₄ and N₂O (Table 6). Martinez *et al.* (2003) reported reductions in CH₄ emission of 47-64% by different chemical additives in pig slurry (NX13, Staloston or Biosuper). In 2012, around 10% of the total slurry volume in Denmark was acidified to a pH around 6 by one of several technologies. Acidification by sulphuric acid reduce CH₄ emissions from cattle slurry by 67-87% (Petersen *et al.*, 2012), and from pig slurry by 94-99%, (Petersen; unpublished results) during 3-month storage periods.

4.2. Land spreading

4.2.1. Application method, rate and timing

Emissions of CH₄ after land spreading of manures are insignificant (Collins *et al.*, 2011) relative to the large losses from manure storage and enteric fermentation. Measures to reduce N₂O emissions after land spreading include choice of application method, and optimising rate and timing of application to match crop requirements, and a complex interaction with soil type and soil moisture (Thomsen *et al.*, 2010).

Choice of manure application technique appears to have little impact on direct N₂O emissions and indirect emissions due to NH₃ emissions and nitrate leaching (Velthof *et al.*, 2010). There is an increase of N₂O emissions curvi-linearly when N application rates exceed crop N requirements (Van Groenigen *et al.*, 2004; Cardenas *et al.*, 2010). Proper timing of application has been shown to influence both direct and indirect N₂O emissions after land spreading of manures (Weslien *et al.*, 1998; Chambers *et al.*, 2000; Thorman *et al.*, 2007).

4.2.2. Use of nitrification inhibitors

Synthetic nitrification inhibitors have been developed to promote plant N uptake by reducing losses via NH₃ leaching or denitrification. Research has re-focussed to mainly consider effects of nitrification inhibitors on both direct and indirect N₂O emissions from N amendments to soil (Di and Cameron, 2012).

Laboratory studies (Hatch *et al.*, 2005) report greater inhibition of N₂O than field studies. Dittert *et al.*, (2001) suggests that soil conditions, variations in temperature or leaching/runoff after excessive rainfall, reduces the effect of nitrification inhibitors. Efficiency of nitrification inhibitors declines linearly with soil temperature above 10°C (higher nitrification rates and rapid nitrification inhibitors degradation; Subbarao *et al.*, 2006).



Table 1 . Relative importance (%) of manure management systems for dairy production in world regions (FAO 2013)

| Manure management system | North America | Russian Federation | Western Europe | Eastern Europe | Near East and North Africa | East and South east Asia | Oceania | South Asia | Central South America | Sub-Saharan Africa |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Burned for fuel | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 3,6 | 1,5 | 0,0 | 20,0 | 0,4 | 6,9 |
| Daily spread | 9,5 | 0,0 | 2,3 | 1,4 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 1,2 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 |
| Drylot | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 39,4 | 29,1 | 0,0 | 54,4 | 41,5 | 34,5 |
| Uncovered anaerobic lagoon | 27,2 | 0,0 | 0,1 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 4,6 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 |
| Liquid / Slurry | 26,3 | 0,0 | 41,6 | 10,2 | 0,0 | 3,1 | 0,1 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 |
| Pasture/range | 11,8 | 22,5 | 26,6 | 17,0 | 46,1 | 30,7 | 94,2 | 23,5 | 53,5 | 39,7 |
| Solid storage | 25,2 | 77,5 | 29,5 | 71,3 | 10,9 | 35,7 | 0,0 | 2,0 | 4,7 | 18,5 |



Table 2 . Relative importance (%) of manure management systems for beef production in world regions (FAO 2013)

| Manure Management system | North America | Russian Federation | Western Europe | Eastern Europe | Near East and North Africa | East and South east Asia | Oceania | South Asia | Central south America | Sub-Saharan Africa |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Burned for fuel | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 9,3 | 0,6 | 0,0 | 20,0 | 0,2 | 6,2 |
| Daily spread | 0,0 | 0,0 | 4,2 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 |
| Drylot | 12,8 | 0,0 | 0,1 | 0,0 | 34,5 | 33,9 | 0,0 | 58,2 | 4,8 | 34,3 |
| Uncovered anaerobic lagoon | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 |
| Liquid / Slurry | 0,7 | 0,0 | 22,1 | 65,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 |
| Pasture/range | 43,4 | 0,0 | 47,6 | 33,0 | 42,8 | 27,7 | 100,0 | 20,3 | 91,8 | 46,5 |
| Solid storage | 43,2 | 0,0 | 25,9 | 2,0 | 12,9 | 37,8 | 0,0 | 1,4 | 3,2 | 13,0 |



Table 3. Effect of different mitigation options during housing on CH₄, N₂O and GHG emissions in CO₂ equivalents as a percentage change compared to the untreated manure.

| Mitigation options | Animal category | Manure management system | N ₂ O | CH ₄ | CH ₄ and N ₂ O | Reference |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Frequent manure removal | Pigs | | -39 | -56 | -51 | Amon <i>et al.</i> , 2007 |
| | Pigs | | | -40 | | Haeusserman <i>et al.</i> , 2006 |
| | Weaned pigs | | 0 | -50 | -50 | Groenestein <i>et al.</i> , 2011 |
| | Fatteners | | 0 | -86 | -86 | Groenestein <i>et al.</i> , 2011 |
| Cooling | Pigs | Slurry | | -31 | | Sommer <i>et al.</i> , 2004 |
| | Fatteners | Slurry | | -43 | | Groenestein <i>et al.</i> , 2011 |
| | Nursing sows | Slurry | | -46 | | Groenestein <i>et al.</i> , 2011 |
| | Gestating sows | Slurry | | -33 | | Groenestein <i>et al.</i> , 2011 |
| | Weaned pigs | Slurry | | -30 | | Groenestein <i>et al.</i> , 2011 |



Table 4. Effect of different mitigation options during housing on CH₄, N₂O and GHG emissions in CO₂ equivalents as a percentage change compared to the untreated manure.

| Mitigation options | Animal | Manure management system | N ₂ O | CH ₄ | CH ₄ and N ₂ O | Reference |
|---------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Forced composting | Cattle | Farmyard manure | -35 | -90 | -78 | Amon <i>et al.</i> , 2001 (Summer) |
| | Cattle | Farmyard manure | -41 | +32 | -7 | Amon <i>et al.</i> , 2001 (winter) |
| | Cattle | Farmyard manure | +44 | -81 | -34 | Pattey <i>et al.</i> , 2005 |
| | Cattle | Farmyard manure | | -28 | | Hao <i>et al.</i> , 2001 |
| Straw cover | Cattle | Farmyard manure (conventional farm) | -42 | -45 | -42 | Yamulki, 2006 |
| | Cattle | Farmyard manure (organic farm) | -11 | -50 | -14 | Yamulki, 2006 |
| Plastic sheet cover | Cattle | Solid manure | -70 | -6 | -36 | Chadwick, 2005 |
| | Cattle | Solid manure | +2000 | -81 | -17 | Chadwick, 2005 |
| | Cattle | Solid manure | -54 | +120 | +111 | Chadwick, 2005 |
| | Pigs | Solid fraction of digested manure | -99 | -87 | -98 | Hansen <i>et al.</i> , 2006 |
| | Poultry | Poultry manure | -32 | | | Thorman <i>et al.</i> , 2006 |
| | Poultry | Poultry manure | +304 | | | Thorman <i>et al.</i> , 2006 |



Table 5. Effect of different mitigation options during housing on CH₄, N₂O and GHG emissions in CO₂ equivalents as a percentage change compared to the untreated manure.

| Mitigation options | Animal category | Manure management system | N ₂ O | CH ₄ | CH ₄ and N ₂ O | Reference |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Straw cover | Cattle | Slurry (straw layer 15 cm) | +57 | -25 | -23 | VanderZaag <i>et al.</i> , 2009 |
| | Cattle | Slurry (straw layer 30 cm) | +100 | -27 | -24 | VanderZaag <i>et al.</i> , 2009 |
| | Cattle | Slurry (straw layer 7 cm) | | +37 | | Guarino <i>et al.</i> , 2006 |
| | Cattle | Slurry (straw layer 14 cm) | | +3 | | Guarino <i>et al.</i> , 2006 |
| | Pigs | Slurry (straw layer 7 cm) | | +7 | | Guarino <i>et al.</i> , 2006 |
| | Pigs | Slurry (straw layer 14 cm) | | -28 | | Guarino <i>et al.</i> , 2006 |
| | Pigs | Slurry (straw layer 6-8 cm) | | +22 | +238 | Berg <i>et al.</i> , 2006 |
| Solid cover | Pigs | Slurry (warm period, 50 days) | +30 | -32 | +1 | Amon <i>et al.</i> , 2007 |
| | Pigs | Slurry (warm period, 200 days) | -4 | -70 | -52 | Amon <i>et al.</i> , 2007 |
| | Pigs | Slurry (cold period, 50 days) | -50 | -37 | -48 | Amon <i>et al.</i> , 2007 |
| | Cattle | Slurry (winter) | -13 | -14 | -13 | Clemens <i>et al.</i> , 2006 |
| | Cattle | Slurry (summer) | +20 | -16 | -11 | Clemens <i>et al.</i> , 2006 |
| | Cattle | Digested slurry (winter) | +2 | -29 | -4 | Clemens <i>et al.</i> , 2006 |
| | Cattle | Digested slurry (summer) | -19 | -14 | -16 | Clemens <i>et al.</i> , 2006 |



Table 6. Effect of different mitigation options during housing on CH₄, N₂O and GHG emissions in CO₂ equivalents as a percentage change compared to the untreated manure.

| Mitigation options | Animal | Manure management system | N ₂ O | CH ₄ | CH ₄ and N ₂ O | Reference |
|---------------------|--------|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Manure separation | Pigs | Slurry (5°C) | 0 | -8 | -8 | Dinuccio <i>et al.</i> , 2008 |
| | Pigs | Slurry (25°C) | | +3 | +41 | Dinuccio <i>et al.</i> , 2008 |
| | Cattle | Slurry (5°C) | 0 | +4 | +4 | Dinuccio <i>et al.</i> , 2008 |
| | Cattle | Slurry (25°C) | 0 | -9 | -9 | Dinuccio <i>et al.</i> , 2008 |
| | Cattle | Slurry | +1133 | -34 | -23 | Fangueiro <i>et al.</i> , 2008 |
| | Cattle | Slurry + wooden lid | +10 | -42 | -39 | Amon <i>et al.</i> , 2006 |
| | Pigs | Slurry | | -93 | -29 | Mosquera <i>et al.</i> , 2011 |
| | Cattle | Slurry | | -42 | +25 | Mosquera <i>et al.</i> , 2011 |
| | Pigs | Slurry | | -18 | | Martinez <i>et al.</i> , 2003 |
| | Cattle | Slurry | | -40 | | Martinez <i>et al.</i> , 2003 |
| Anaerobic digestion | Cattle | Slurry | -9 | -32 | -14 | Clemens <i>et al.</i> , 2006 |
| | Cattle | Slurry | +49 | -68 | -48 | Clemens <i>et al.</i> , 2006 |
| | Cattle | Slurry + wooden lid | +41 | -67 | -59 | Amon <i>et al.</i> , 2006 |
| Aeration | Cattle | Slurry | +144 | -57 | -43 | Amon <i>et al.</i> , 2006 |
| | Pigs | Slurry (periode 1) | | -99 | | Martinez <i>et al.</i> , 2003 |
| | Pigs | Slurry (periode 2) | | -70 | | Martinez <i>et al.</i> , 2003 |
| Dilution | Pigs | Slurry | | -35 | | Martinez <i>et al.</i> , 2003 |
| | Cattle | Slurry | | -57 | | Martinez <i>et al.</i> , 2003 |
| Additives | Pigs | Slurry + NX ₂₃ | | -47 | | Martinez <i>et al.</i> , 2003 |



| | | | | |
|--------|---|--|-----|-------------------------------|
| Pigs | Slurry + Stalosan | | -54 | Martinez <i>et al.</i> , 2003 |
| Pigs | Slurry + Biosuper | | -64 | Martinez <i>et al.</i> , 2003 |
| Cattle | Slurry (Sulphuric acid, pH 5.5) | | -87 | Petersen <i>et al.</i> , 2012 |
| Pigs | Slurry (Sulphuric acid, in House pH 5.6) | | -99 | Petersen <i>et al.</i> (subm) |
| Pigs | Slurry (Sulphuric acid, in store, pH 6.6) | | -94 | Petersen <i>et al.</i> (subm) |



5. Concluding remarks

The key of GHG mitigation is containment of nutrients by limiting leakage and atmospheric losses, as the closing of nutrient cycles also serves to prevent direct and indirect GHG emissions. Develop mixed farm with integrated crop and livestock production has been suggested to improve nutrient use efficiency in American ([Russelle *et al.*, 2007](#)), European ([Ryschawy *et al.*, 2012](#)) and tropical conditions ([Ogburn and White, 2012](#)). Priority is, in subsistence farming to improve nutrient use efficiency for increasing crop yields (improved livestock manure storage conditions, targeted use of manure nutrients, development of anaerobic storage). In intensive livestock production, improving capacity of livestock manure storage and containment is an issue. But NH₃ emissions represent a threat to natural environments and human health ([Sutton *et al.*, 2011](#)). Containment of nutrients and closing of nutrient cycles is a key to GHG mitigation by constraining inputs for food and feed production. The imbalance between nutrients in livestock manure and need of land available for manure recycling is a challenge, in developing countries, as well as in regions where livestock production is already highly intensified. Changes in livestock numbers projected by 2050 ([Bouwman *et al.*, 2012](#)) include dramatic increases in South and Central America (cattle), Africa (cattle, sheep/goats) and South Asia (cattle, pigs, sheep/goats). Will they allow making investments in facilities and processing technologies for better management of manure?



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7. Annex 1

Animal, page 1 of 17 © The Animal Consortium 2013
doi:10.1017/S1751731113000736



1 Manure management for greenhouse gas mitigation

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9 (Received 21 November 2012; Accepted 25 March 2013)

10
11 *Ongoing intensification and specialisation of livestock production lead to increasing volumes of manure to be managed, which are*
12 *a source of the greenhouse gases (GHGs) methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O). Net emissions of CH₄ and N₂O result from a*
13 *multitude of microbial activities in the manure environment. Their relative importance depends not only on manure composition*
14 *and local management practices with respect to treatment, storage and field application, but also on ambient climatic conditions.*
15 *The diversity of livestock production systems, and their associated manure management, is discussed on the basis of four regional*
16 *cases (Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, China and Europe) with increasing levels of intensification and priorities with respect to*
17 *nutrient management and environmental regulation. GHG mitigation options for production systems based on solid and liquid*
18 *manure management are then presented, and potentials for positive and negative interactions between pollutants, and between*
19 *management practices, are discussed. The diversity of manure properties and environmental conditions necessitate a modelling*
20 *approach for improving estimates of GHG emissions, and for predicting effects of management changes for GHG mitigation, and*
21 *requirements for such a model are discussed. Finally, we briefly discuss drivers for, and barriers against, introduction of GHG*
22 *mitigation measures for livestock production. There is no conflict between efforts to improve food and feed production, and efforts*
23 *to reduce GHG emissions from manure management. Growth in livestock populations are projected to occur mainly in intensive*
24 *production systems where, for this and other reasons, the largest potentials for GHG mitigation may be found.*

25 **Keywords:** methane, nitrous oxide, storage, treatment, farm model

27 Implications

28 Livestock manure is a source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emis-
29 sions, mainly as methane and nitrous oxide. GHG emissions
30 are biogenic and regulated by manure characteristics, and
31 therefore emissions can be manipulated via handling, treatment
32 and storage conditions. Globally, livestock production systems
33 vary widely and this is also true for GHG mitigation potentials,
34 but generally efforts to conserve nutrients in manure for crop
35 production will also reduce GHG emissions. Future growth in
36 livestock production is projected to occur mainly in confined
37 animal feeding operations, which also appear to have the
38 greatest potential for GHG mitigation.

39 Introduction

40 Since the mid 20th century, there has been a growing
41 pressure on land resources for production of food and feed

42 for livestock and, increasingly, crops for energy production
43 (Hoogwijk *et al.*, 2005). To fulfil the demand for meat, milk
44 and eggs, livestock production in developing countries is
45 expanding, especially in peri-urban areas (Gerber *et al.*,
46 2005), and worldwide becomes more specialised (Steinfeld
47 *et al.*, 2006). In consequence of these trends, increasing
48 volumes of livestock manure are produced, which are a
49 source of greenhouse gases (GHGs) contributing to radiative
50 forcing (Forster *et al.*, 2007). Using a life cycle approach, the
51 relative contribution of global livestock production to
52 anthropogenic GHG emissions was estimated to be 18%
53 (Steinfeld *et al.*, 2006), whereas a similar analysis for the
54 European Union arrived at 12.8%, or 9.1% without land use
55 and land use change-related emissions (Leip *et al.*, 2011).

56 GHG emissions from agriculture are biogenic, and the
57 GHG balance of manure management reflects a multitude of
58 microbial activities, that is: emissions of methane (CH₄) are
59 the net result of methanogenesis and CH₄ oxidation; nitrous
60 oxide (N₂O) is a product of several processes, but may also

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