



Agriculture's contribution to national emissions

Analysis of national reports to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Meryl Richards, Eva "Lini" Wollenberg, Sonya Buglion Gluck

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Key Messages

- Agriculture contributes a range of 0-98% of countries' greenhouse gas emissions, with an average of 30%.
- Emissions from agriculture make up more than 50% of national emissions in 42 countries and more than 20% in 91 countries.
- 39% of emissions from agriculture come from only 4 countries: China, India, Brazil, and the USA
- Total emissions from agriculture per country are similar between Annex 1 and non-Annex 1 countries, but agriculture contributes a smaller portion of total emissions in Annex 1 countries (12%, compared to 35% in non-Annex 1 countries).

Agriculture is an important source of greenhouse gas emissions globally, but how do emissions differ among countries? The relative contribution of agriculture to countries' emissions budgets can inform priority setting for global programs and policy. It also indicates which countries are likely to have the most interest in reducing their agriculture-related emissions

This info note offers an overview of the distribution of agricultural emissions among countries and the relative contribution of agriculture to national emissions. It is based on three data sources: the FAOSTAT database of greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) global emission estimates for 2010 and national reports to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).1

Agricultural emissions include methane (CH_4) and nitrous oxide (N_2O) emissions from livestock, manure management, flooded rice cultivation, agricultural soils and fertilizers, and burning of crop residues and savannas, as well as carbon dioxide (CO_2) from liming

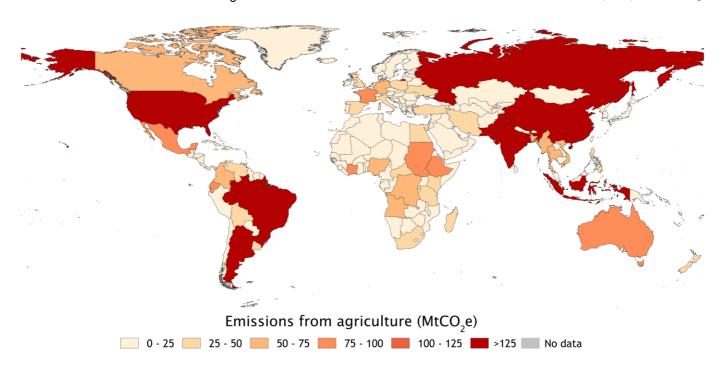


Figure 1. Total emissions from agriculture by country1

and urea application. CO_2 emissions and uptakes associated with agricultural soils, biomass, and land use change are accounted for in the land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector and not included in this analysis.

Distribution of emissions among countries

Most agricultural emissions come from just a few countries: 39% of global non-CO₂ agricultural emissions come from: China, India, Brazil, and the US (Appendix 1). Russia and South Africa contribute an additional 2 and 1%, respectively. The vast majority of countries have low emissions (less than 25 MtCO₂e per year) (Fig. 1, Fig. 2).

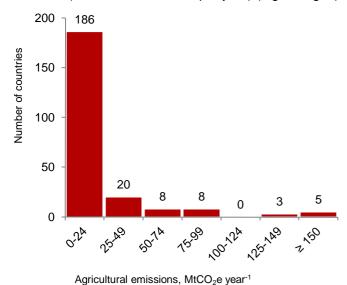


Figure 2. Histogram of countries' agricultural emissions1

Average total agricultural emissions per country are slightly higher in UNFCCC Annex 1 countries compared to Non-Annex 1 countries (Fig 3). Annex 1 also countries

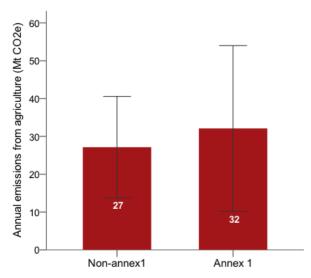


Figure 3. Country averages of emissions from agriculture. Bars represent 95% confidence intervals around the mean for each group of countries. show a wider range.

Regionally, South America, Eastern Asia (including China) and South Asia make the largest contributions to agricultural emissions: 17, 15, and 13%, respectively. North America contributes 9% (Appendix 3).

Per-capita emissions from agriculture show a distribution similar to total agricultural emissions: most countries produce less than 1 tCO₂e per person annually (Fig. 4). Countries with higher per-capita emissions tend to be those with large livestock populations relative to their human populations, such as Mongolia, New Zealand, Australia and some South American countries (Fig. 5). It should be noted that these calculations account only for agricultural production, not consumption. Countries that export agricultural commodities, especially beef, would therefore have higher per-capita emissions.

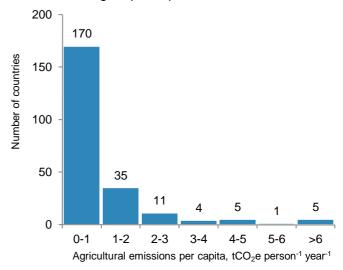


Figure 4. Histogram of agricultural emissions per capita^{1,3}

Contribution of agriculture to national emissions

Agriculture contributes an average of 30% (\pm 27%) of countries' total² greenhouse gas emissions. This is higher than the IPCC global estimate of agriculture's contribution to emissions (10-12%) because of the large number of countries where agricultural emissions are low but relatively important in national greenhouse gas budgets.

In 42 countries, agriculture contributes more than half of greenhouse gas emissions; all of these are Non-Annex 1 countries (Fig. 6). In 91 countries—only 5 of which are Annex 1 Parties to the UNFCCC—agriculture contributes ≥20% of greenhouse gas emissions (Appendix 3).

The importance of agricultural emissions within countries shows a different geographical picture from the distribution of emissions among countries (Fig. 6). Whereas African nations have low emissions, agriculture generally contributes a large percentage of a country's total emissions.

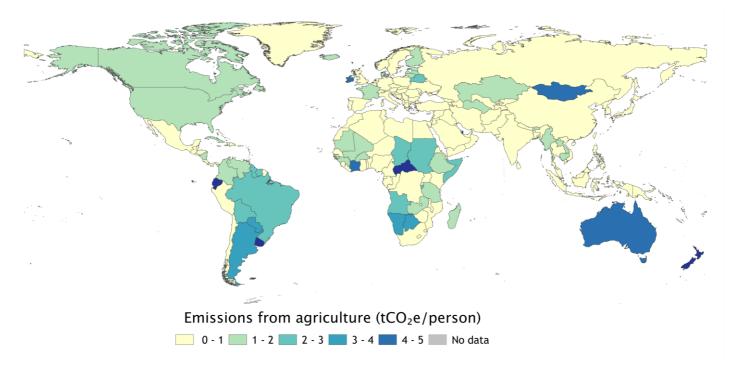


Figure 5. Per-capita emissions from agriculture by country³

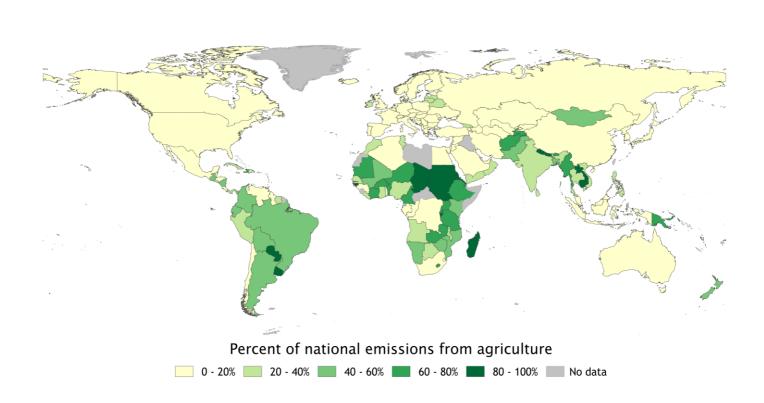


Figure 6. Agriculture's contribution to total national emissions.²

The two regions with the highest average contribution of agricultural emissions are West and East Africa. However, agricultural emissions are also of high importance in Southern Asia and South America—regions that contribute substantially to global agricultural emissions.

Agriculture's contribution to national emissions per country for the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries (19% \pm 16%) is smaller than the global average (30% \pm 27%). In contrast, agriculture contributes a larger share of national greenhouse gas emissions in Non-Annex 1 countries (35% \pm 29%) than in Annex 1 countries (12% \pm 8%) (Fig. 7).

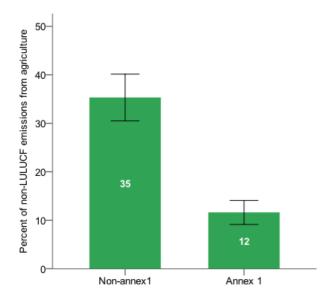


Figure 7. Agriculture's contribution to national emissions: comparison of Non-Annex 1 and Annex 1 countries. Bars represent 95% confidence intervals around the means.

Future data needs

Estimates of agricultural emissions are highly uncertain; the data sources used in this analysis often differed by a factor of two or more (Appendix 1). This is due to the inherent difficulty of estimating emissions from agriculture, which requires detailed data not available in all countries, such as accurate livestock populations and crop-specific fertilizer use.

Better estimates—such as those based on Tier 2 and 3 methods—and up-to-date estimates would allow for more precise tracking of the distribution of emissions among countries and the relative importance of agriculture to national emissions. Importantly, they would also allow countries to monitor changes in emissions and demonstrate emission reductions resulting from shifts to more efficient and lower-emissions agricultural production. This would also allow for improved tracking of agriculture's contributions to and mitigation of climate change on a global level.

Notes on methodology

- ¹ The data presented in Figures 1 through 5 are averages of non-CO₂ emissions from agriculture from EPA (2012) for 2010, FAO (2015) for 2010, and National Communications to the UNFCC. Where data from one of these sources were not available for a given country, we used the sources available to calculate the average. Emissions inventories from National Communications are not all from the same year; where a country had not conducted an inventory since 2000, we did not include the National Communication in the average.
- ² The data presented in Figures 6 and 7 are from National Communications to the UNFCCC. Communications from all years were included. In calculating total emissions, we excluded emissions from land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF), as emissions in this sector are often negative (indicating net CO₂ absorption), which would skew the calculation of agriculture's contribution to the total. These results may be very different if LULUCF emissions were included.
- ³ Population data for 2010 from FAOSTAT.

Further reading

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- [US-EPA] United States Environmental Protection Agency. 2012. Global anthropogenic non-CO2 greenhouse gas emissions: 1990 – 2030. EPA 430-R-12-006. Washington, DC: US-EPA. www.epa.gov/climatechange/EPAactivities/economic s/nonco2projections.html)
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Appendix 1 Agricultural emissions by country

Country	Emissions from	Per capita emissions from		Japan Zambia
Country	agriculture, MtCO₂e¹	agriculture, tCO₂e per per-		Peru
		son ¹		Paraguay
China, mainland	702.4 - 820.0	0.52 - 0.60		Chad
Brazil	441.8 - 596.1	2.26 - 3.05		Kazakhstan
India	350.6 - 647.0	0.29 - 0.54		Nepal
United States	356.8 - 526.3	1.14 - 1.69		Burundi
Indonesia	84.2 - 246.8	0.35 - 1.03		
Russia	93.0 - 158.2	0.65 - 1.10		Belarus
Pakistan	71.6 - 133.7	0.41 - 0.77		Morocco
Argentina	105.9 - 144.8	2.62 - 3.59		Uganda
Australia	87.4 - 104.0	3.90 - 4.64		Mali
Sudan (former)	57.6 - 123.0	1.26 - 2.70		Romania
Ethiopia	38.5 - 96.4	0.44 - 1.11	Somalia	
France	70.5 - 103.9	1.12 - 1.64	Uzbekistan	
Mexico	61.7 - 92.2	0.52 - 0.78	Cambodia	
Ecuador	13.9 - 210.1	0.93 - 14.01	Ireland	
			Burkina Faso	
Côte d'Ivoire	4.8 - 194.5	0.25 - 10.25	Mozambique	
Viet Nam	60.6 - 88.4	0.68 - 0.99	Netherlands	
Myanmar	26.6 - 132.2	0.51 - 2.55	Republic of Ko-	
Nigeria	54.4 - 99.8	0.34 - 0.62	rea	
Colombia	59.2 - 76.1	1.27 - 1.64	Malaysia	
Germany	59.2 - 69.5	0.71 - 0.84	Niger	
Thailand	51.9 - 70.7	0.78 - 1.07	Cuba	
DRC Congo	8.5 - 151.8	0.14 - 2.44	Cameroon	
Canada	56.0 - 65.5	1.64 - 1.92	Guatemala	
Bangladesh	40.5 - 74.8	0.27 - 0.49	Chile	
Angola	22.6 - 104.5	1.15 - 5.35	Guinea	
United Kingdom	44.1 - 52.1	0.71 - 0.84	Afghanistan	
Tanzania	33.9 - 50.7	0.75 - 1.13	Zimbabwe	
Iran	41.7 - 56.4	0.56 - 0.76	Mongolia	
Philippines	37.0 - 50.7	0.40 - 0.54	Laos	
Central African	40.7	400 4005	Saudi Arabia	
Republic	18.7 - 60.2	4.29 - 13.85	Syria	
South Africa	30.6 - 51.8	0.59 - 1.01	Senegal	
Spain	36.4 - 41.7	0.79 - 0.90	Belgium	
Turkey	32.3 - 41.6	0.45 - 0.58	Nicaragua	
New Zealand	34.6 - 37.7	7.93 - 8.63	Greece	
Venezuela	30.9 - 39.6	1.06 - 1.36	Denmark	
Italy	30.6 - 39.4	0.51 - 0.65	Malawi	
Poland	31.2 - 36.7	0.82 - 0.96	Turkmenistan	
Kenya	14.4 - 37.4	0.35 - 0.92	Ghana	
Egypt	28.4 - 35.4	0.36 - 0.45	Namibia	
Ukraine	28.6 - 36.0	0.62 - 0.78		
Madagascar	22.6 - 44.8	1.07 - 2.12	Hungary	
Qatar	0.1 - 84.9	0.07 - 48.49	Portugal	
Bolivia	15.2 - 42.0	1.50 - 4.13	Algeria Dominican Re-	
Uruguay	24.1 - 32.1	7.14 - 9.53	public	

Sweden	6.6 - 8.1	0.70 - 0.87	Gambia 1.3	3 - 1.6	0.79 - 0.93
Czech Republic	5.6 - 8.4	0.53 - 0.80	Armenia 1.3	2 - 1.5	0.40 - 0.50
Austria	6.7 - 7.6	0.80 - 0.90	Swaziland 0.9	9 - 1.6	0.77 - 1.34
Sri Lanka	4.7 - 10.9	0.23 - 0.53	Macedonia 0.9	9 - 1.4	0.40 - 0.68
Azerbaijan	7.0 - 7.2	0.77 - 0.80	Liberia 0.4	4 - 2.6	0.10 - 0.65
Botswana	1.8 - 13.9	0.91 - 7.08	Oman 1.	1 - 7.3	0.39 - 2.59
Iraq	5.7 - 7.6	0.19 - 0.25	Suriname 0.8	8 - 1.4	1.48 - 2.63
Benin	4.5 - 10.8	0.47 - 1.13	Brunei Darus- salam 0.	1 - 1.8	0.33 - 4.47
Serbia	5.8 - 9.5	0.60 - 0.98	Jordan 0.0		0.09 - 0.20
Yemen	5.9 - 7.2	0.26 - 0.32	Lebanon 0.0	6 - 1.1	0.14 - 0.25
Mauritania	4.6 - 7.5	1.28 - 2.07	Fiji 0.8		0.88 - 1.13
Finland	5.7 - 6.1	1.06 - 1.14	Timor-Leste 0.5		0.45 - 1.01
Tajikistan	4.8 - 6.7	0.63 - 0.88	Bhutan 0.8		0.71 - 1.40
Bulgaria	4.8 - 6.2	0.65 - 0.84	Puerto Rico 0.8		0.21 - 0.21
Tunisia	4.3 - 7.6	0.40 - 0.72	Djibouti 0.		0.61 - 0.97
Switzerland	5.2 - 5.7	0.66 - 0.73	Luxembourg 0.0		1.10 - 1.40
Honduras	4.8 - 5.8	0.63 - 0.77	Gabon 0.4		0.23 - 0.67
DPR Korea	3.3 - 6.8	0.13 - 0.28	Cyprus 0.4		0.34 - 0.74
Lithuania	4.5 - 5.1	1.46 - 1.65	Iceland 0.4		1.36 - 2.13
Norway	4.4 - 4.6	0.90 - 0.94	Kuwait 0.		0.02 - 0.15
Papua New Guinea	3.2 - 5.6	0.46 - 0.82	Vanuatu 0.3		1.19 - 1.69
Haiti	3.9 - 4.8	0.40 - 0.48	Montenegro 0.3		0.52 - 1.37
Taiwan	3.7 - 3.7	0.16 - 0.16	Trinidad and To-		
Eritrea	3.4 - 4.0	0.59 - 0.70	bago 0.3		0.21 - 0.25
Panama	3.4 - 3.5	0.92 - 0.96	Comoros 0. Occupied Pales-	1 - 0.5	0.20 - 0.69
Togo	2.2 - 5.0	0.35 - 0.80	tinian Territory 0.3	3 - 0.3	0.07 - 0.07
Costa Rica	0.9 - 5.7	0.19 - 1.23	Cabo Verde 0.	1 - 0.3	0.28 - 0.67
El Salvador	3.0 - 3.7	0.48 - 0.60	New Caledonia 0.2	2 - 0.2	0.87 - 0.87
Croatia	2.5 - 3.6	0.59 - 0.82	Mauritius 0.	1 - 0.2	0.10 - 0.19
Congo	0.3 - 7.3	0.08 - 1.77	Western Sahara 0.2	2 - 0.2	0.35 - 0.35
Rwanda	1.4 - 4.2	0.13 - 0.39	Belize 0.0	0 - 0.3	0.01 - 0.88
Kyrgyzstan	2.2 - 4.0	0.41 - 0.75	Réunion 0.2	2 - 0.2	0.18 - 0.18
Georgia	2.2 - 3.6	0.50 - 0.81	Falkland Islands	4 04	47.5
Bosnia and Her-			(Malvinas) 0.		1 - 47.51
zegovina	2.2 - 2.8	0.56 - 0.74	Guadeloupe 0.		0.30 - 0.30
Slovakia	2.3 - 3.1	0.42 - 0.57	Samoa 0.		0.45 - 0.80
United Arab Emirates	1.5 - 4.0	0.18 - 0.47	Malta 0.		0.19 - 0.22
Latvia	2.3 - 2.8	1.08 - 1.33	Singapore 0.0		0.00 - 0.04
Libya	1.9 - 2.5	0.31 - 0.42	Tonga 0. Antigua and Bar-	1 - 0.1	0.84 - 1.01
Sierra Leone	2.0 - 421.0	0.35 - 73.19	buda 0.0	0 - 0.1	0.29 - 0.84
Jamaica	0.6 - 2.7	0.22 - 0.99	French Guiana 0.	1 - 0.1	0.27 - 0.27
Albania	1.4 - 2.5	0.43 - 0.79	Solomon Islands 0.	1 - 0.1	0.40 - 0.92
Lesotho	1.5 - 2.2	0.73 - 1.10	Grenada 0.0	0 - 1.8	0.10 - 0.85
Moldova	1.5 - 2.1	0.41 - 0.60	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0 - 0	0.12 - 0.12
Slovenia	1.4 - 2.1	0.67 - 1.01		0 - 0	0.12 - 0.12
Israel	1.3 - 2.5	0.17 - 0.34		0 - 0	0.14 - 0.14
Guinea-Bissau	1.5 - 1.9	0.95 - 1.19		0 - 0	0.00 - 0.04
Guyana	1.3 - 2.1	1.62 - 2.61		0 - 0	0.23 - 0.70
Estonia	1.2 - 2.4	0.93 - 1.83		0 - 0	0.13 - 0.25
		1100	r renon Folynesia (0 – 0	0.00 - 1.05

Martinique	0	-	0	0.10	-	0.10
Bahrain	0	-	0	0.00	-	3.14
Saint Lucia	0	-	0	0.12	-	0.23
Bahamas Equatorial Guin-	0	-	0	0.06	-	0.06
ea	0	-	0	0.02	-	0.03
Faroe Islands	0	-	0	0.38	-	0.38
Liechtenstein	0	-	0	0.49	-	0.64
Micronesia	0	-	0	0.15	-	0.24
Montserrat Saint Kitts and	0	-	0	4.10	-	4.10
Nevis Sao Tome and	0	-	0	0.15	-	2.39
Principe United States	0	-	0	0.07	-	0.10
Virgin Islands British Virgin	0	-	0	0.15	-	0.15
Islands	0	-	0	0.29	-	0.29
Cook Islands Netherlands An-	0	-	0	0.06	-	16.67
tilles	0	-	0	0.04	-	0.04
Seychelles Wallis and Fu-	0	-	0	0.05	-	0.18
tuna Islands	0	-	0	0.85	-	0.85
American Samoa	0	-	0	0.08	-	80.0
Andorra	0	-	0	0.00	-	0.06
Anguilla	0	-	0	0.00	-	0.00
Aruba	0	-	0	0.00	-	0.00
Bermuda	0	-	0	0.07	-	0.07
Cayman Islands	0	-	0	0.01	_	0.01
Channel Islands	0	-	0	0.00	_	0.00
Gibraltar	0	-	0	0.00	_	0.00
Greenland	0	-	0	0.08	_	0.08
Guam	0	_	0	0.02	_	0.02
Holy See	0	_	0	0.00	_	0.25
Isle of Man	0	_	0	0.02	_	0.02
Maldives	0	_	0	0.00	_	0.00
Marshall Islands	0	_	0	0.00	_	0.00
Mayotte	0	_	0	0.00	_	0.00
Monaco	0	_	0	0.00	_	0.00
Nauru	0	_	0	0.12	_	0.60
Niue	0	_	0	1.00	_	1.42
Norfolk Island	0	_	0	0.00	_	0.00
Northern Mariana	Ü		Ü	0.00		0.00
Islands	0	-	0	0.00	-	0.00
Pitcairn Islands Saint Helena,	0	-	0	0.00	-	0.00
Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Saint Pierre and	0	-	0	0.18	-	0.18
Miquelon	0	_	0	0.07	_	0.07
San Marino	0	_	0	0.00	_	0.11
Svalbard and Jan						
Mayen Islands	0	-	0	0.00	-	0.00
Tokelau Turks and Caicos	0	-	0	0.42	-	0.42
Islands	0	-	0	0.00	-	0.00

Tuvalu 0 - 0 0.00 - 0.56

¹Range reflects minimum and maximum of emissions data from FAOSTAT, EPA and UNFCCC National Communications.

Appendix 2 Percent of national emissions from agriculture

		_	
	Agriculture's	New Zealand	46%
Country	contribution to	Argentina	45%
	total emissions ¹	Colombia	45%
Chad	98%	Zimbabwe	43%
Cambodia	92%	Pakistan	42%
Burundi	91%	Bangladesh	41%
Madagascar	90%	Namibia	41%
Nepal	88%	Senegal	39%
Guinea-Bissau	88%	Malawi	38%
Grenada	87%	Angola	37%
Laos	86%	Fiji	37%
Comoros	85%	Timor-Leste	37%
Sudan (former)	84%	Ghana	36%
Uruguay	82%	Morocco	35%
Paraguay	81%	Cuba	35%
Eritrea	81%	Panama	34%
Vanuatu	81%	Oman	34%
Rwanda	80%	Samoa	34%
Burkina Faso	79%	Viet Nam	33%
Niger	79%	Peru	32%
	78%	Liberia	32%
Uganda Afghanistan	78%	Ireland	30%
Afghanistan		Cabo Verde	30%
Papua New Guinea	77%	Nigeria	29%
Cameroon	75%	Philippines	29%
Côte d'Ivoire	72%	Georgia	29%
Zambia	72%	El Salvador	28%
Tanzania	71%	Dominica	28%
Haiti	71%	Suriname	27%
Myanmar	70%	Belarus	26%
Tajikistan	70%	Montenegro	26%
Benin	68%	Sri Lanka	25%
Djibouti	66%	Saint Kitts and Nevis	25%
Mauritania	65%	Botswana	24%
Bhutan	64%	India	23%
Lesotho	63%	Dominican Republic	23%
Tonga	63%	Yemen	23%
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	63%	Lithuania	23%
Kiribati	62%		
Ethiopia	61%	Thailand	22%
Guatemala	60%	Tunisia	22%
Kenya	59%	Latvia	22%
Mozambique	59%	Indonesia	20%
·	59%	Venezuela	20%
Nicaragua Bolivia		Guinea	20%
	54%	Albania	20%
Ecuador	51%	Armenia	20%
Mali	48%	Jamaica	19%
Mongolia	48%	France	18%
Brazil	46%	Syria	18%

Kyrgyzstan	18%
Denmark	17%
Gambia	17%
Australia	16%
Egypt	16%
Chile	16%
Moldova	16%
Sao Tome and Principe	16%
Romania	15%
Azerbaijan	15%
Congo	15%
Iceland	15%
Hungary	14%
Mexico	13%
Sweden	13%
Serbia	13%
Croatia	13%
Antigua & Barbuda	12%
Nauru	12%
China, mainland	11%
Spain	11%
Turkmenistan	11%
Portugal	11%
Switzerland	11%
Cook Islands	11%
South Africa	10%
Bulgaria	10%
Slovenia	10%
Liechtenstein	10%
United Kingdom	9%
Iran	9%
Poland	9%
Austria	9%
Finland	9%
Norway	9%
Costa Rica	9%
Bosnia & Herzegovina	9%
Swaziland	9%
Cyprus	9%
Palau	9%
United States	8%
Canada	8%
Ukraine	8%
Kazakhstan	8%
Uzbekistan	8%
Netherlands	8%
Belgium	8%
Greece	8%
Germany	7%
Turkey	7%
Turkey	1 /0

Italy	7%
Honduras	7%
Slovakia	7%
Estonia	7%
Macedonia	7%
Jordan	7%
Saint Lucia	7%
Russia	6%
Algeria	6%
Czech Republic	6%
Lebanon	6%
Luxembourg	6%
Gabon	6%
Seychelles	5%
DRC Congo	4%
Saudi Arabia	4%
DPR Korea	4%
Mauritius	4%
Republic of Korea	3%
Malaysia	3%
Togo	3%
Israel	3%
Malta	3%
Japan	2%
United Arab Emirates	2%
Guyana	2%
Barbados	2%
Tuvalu	2%
Andorra	1%
San Marino	1%
Qatar	0%
Kuwait	0%
Trinidad and Tobago	0%
Belize	0%
Singapore	0%
Bahrain	0%
Monaco	0%
Niue	0%

Niue 0%

¹Because these figures are based on national reports to the UNFCCC, data are not all from the same year. Total country emissions do not include LULUCF.

Appendix 3 Agricultural emissions by region

Region	Emissi agricultu			Per capita emissions from agriculture, tCO₂e per person		
South America	764.8	-	1010.0	1.94 -	2.56	
Eastern Asia	766.5	-	878.4	0.48 -	0.55	
South Asia	561.9	-	938.8	0.33 -	0.56	
Northern America	413.0	-	582.3	1.19 -	1.68	
South-Eastern Asia	314.3	-	627.1	0.53 -	1.05	
Eastern Africa	213.5	-	381.0	0.64 -	1.15	
Eastern Europe	209.2	-	298.4	0.71 -	1.01	
Western Africa	174.4	-	322.6	0.57 -	1.06	
Western Europe	169.4	-	206.7	0.89 -	1.08	
Northern Africa	124.1	-	203.1	0.59 -	0.97	
Oceania	122.4	-	141.7	4.57 -	5.29	
Central America and Mexico	111.2	-	118.5	0.69 -	0.74	
Northern Europe	100.1	-	106.7	1.01 -	1.08	
Southern Europe	97.3	-	120.3	0.63 -	0.78	
Western Asia	82.4	-	179.9	0.36 -	0.78	
Middle Africa	71.1	-	373.7	0.57 -	2.99	
Southern Africa	53.8	-	62.3	0.92 -	1.06	
Central Asia	53.2	-	65.6	0.86 -	1.06	
Caribbean	23.9	-	35.2	0.57 -	0.85	
Melanesia	4.3	-	7.1	0.50 -	0.82	
Polynesia	0.2	-	0.3	0.30 -	0.47	
Micronesia	0.0	_	0.1	0.06 -	0.24	



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