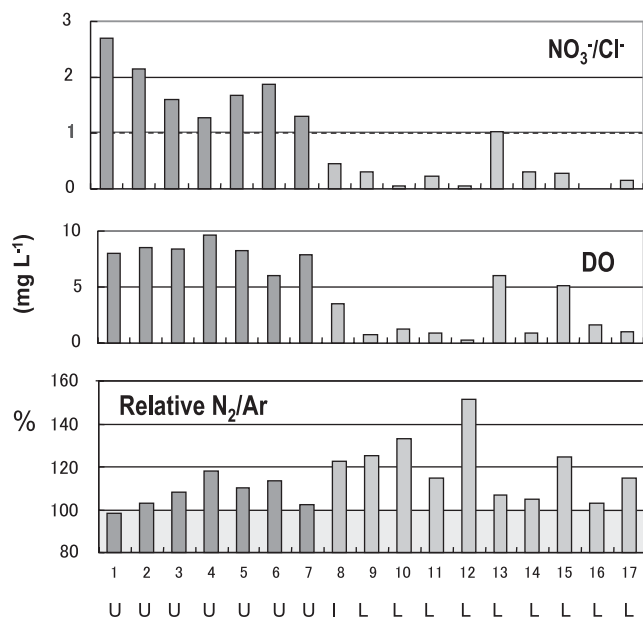


# Spatial differences in soil properties, crop yield and methane emission from paddy rice cascade, Northwest Vietnam

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hydrological budgets agreed well with observed  $\text{NO}_3^-$  concentration in streams, indicating that the stream  $\text{NO}_3^-$  concentration is regulated simply by the N and water balance with negligible denitrification in this district. In contrast, decreased  $\text{NO}_3^-$  concentrations are invariably observed in lowlands; the lower position of slope, where more humid condition prevails. A transect study in an agricultural region showed marked decreases in  $\text{NO}_3^-/\text{Cl}^-$  ratio and dissolved oxygen concentration and significant increases in dissolved  $\text{N}_2/\text{Ar}$  ratio in ground water in lowland regions, strongly suggesting  $\text{NO}_3^-$  removal by denitrification. Forest sites having a groundwater table shallower than ca. 1m also tend to have evidence of denitrification.

Water discharge almost always passes through the groundwater in lowland before flowing out to rivers, where denitrification is probably active in common. In the light of this fact, it is highly likely that a large part of nitrogen discharged from land surface may be removed by denitrification in the river basin scale. Detailed and systematic researches are required to know the actual quantitative importance of denitrification and the boundary conditions regulating this process.



**Fig. 1:**  $\text{NO}_3^-/\text{Cl}^-$  ratio, dissolved oxygen, and dissolved  $\text{N}_2/\text{Ar}$  ratio in groundwater for the sites along an upland-lowland transect in an agricultural region (Kamagaya, Chiba), Japan.

The notation of U, I and L in the x-axis denote upland, intermediate, and lowland zones, respectively.

## Spatial differences in soil properties, crop yield and methane emission from paddy rice cascade, Northwest Vietnam

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In tropical mountainous regions of Northern Vietnam, most of the population depends on the cultivation of paddy rice in lowlands and crops such as maize and cassava in upland areas with relatively steep slopes. Intensive cultivation of upland crops enhances large nutrient losses through erosion in the upland areas. However, in the lowland areas, sediment deposition can enhance soil fertility depending on the quality of the sediments, and influence the crop productivity. To access the spatial differences in soil properties, crop yield and methane ( $\text{CH}_4$ ) emission at cascade level affected by either sediment induced or farmers' fertility practice, field experiment was

conducted in Cheing Khoi watershed, Son La Region, North Vietnam. The experiment was conducted during the spring crop season (February to July, 2011) with two different cascades (one cascade consists of 5 different paddy rice fields) wherein half of each cascade was fertilized with farmer recommendation practice, while no fertilizer was applied on the other half each. Methane gas emission was measured at 3 replication in each field weekly and paddy rice growth (tiller number and height), water quality was measured monthly. At the final harvest, yield component parameters were determined with 3 replications.

The results of the analysis of variance showed that the effect of farmer practices with fertilizer application and different cascade position as well as by their interaction had significantly differences on all yield, yield component parameters and CH<sub>4</sub> emissions in both cascades. Rice yield in the middle of cascade showed better performance than the other field positions in fertilized and unfertilized fields in both cascades. The observed grain yields for non-fertilized fields averaged over both cascades, accounted for 0.55, 0.64 and 0.47 kg m<sup>-2</sup> in top, middle and bottom fields, respectively, while for fertilized fields, grain yield of 0.72, 0.79 and 0.63 kg m<sup>-2</sup> were obtained. Higher rate of CH<sub>4</sub> emission was found in middle field of cascade 1 (2.3 and 2.96 mg CH<sub>4</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>, in non-fertilized and fertilized plot, respectively) and higher in bottom field of cascade 2 (2.36 and 3.71 mg CH<sub>4</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>) until active tillering stage. The differences in crop yield and CH<sub>4</sub> emission requires different crop management practices for each cascade position in order to improve rice production in this watershed area.

## **Influence of different Ca amendments on CH<sub>4</sub> emission under Na-salinized paddy soil**

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Salinity is among the factors suggested to influence methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) emission from rice fields. Rice fields represent one of the main sources of greenhouse gas CH<sub>4</sub>, occupying 10% of global anthropogenic CH<sub>4</sub> emission. About 30% of world's rice areas are affected by salinity. Therefore the objectives of this study were to evaluate the influence of salinity and different Ca amendments upon CH<sub>4</sub> emission under Na-salinized soil. Pot experiment was conducted in RCB design with 3 replications. There were three levels of salinity; 0, 30 (S30) and 90 (S90) mmol L<sup>-1</sup> NaCl and two Ca amendments; gypsum (GM) and poultry manure (PM) with 230 kg Ca/ha. A salt tolerant Indica variety Dolfak was used in this experiment. For all plots, nutrient level was adjusted to 70 kg N/ha, 40 kg P/ha and 70 kg K/ha. To confirm the effect of different salinity levels on CH<sub>4</sub> emission, 20 g of soils were incubated with 0, 10(S10), 30(S30), 60(S60) and 90(S90) mmol L<sup>-1</sup> NaCl for 3 weeks at 30 °C.

The incubation experiment showed higher CH<sub>4</sub> emission in S10 and S30 than in control, while that of S60 and S90 was lower than control, though it was not statistically significant.

In the pot experiment, there was no significant difference in CH<sub>4</sub> emission between control (316 kg CH<sub>4</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> season<sup>-1</sup>) and PM (338 kg CH<sub>4</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> season<sup>-1</sup>) but significantly different compared to GM (140 kg CH<sub>4</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> season<sup>-1</sup>) for the non-salinity treatments. GM showed 56% lower in CH<sub>4</sub> emission than control and PM. In salinity treatments, S30 without amendments was not significantly different from control and PM. All treatments in S90 showed minimal CH<sub>4</sub> emission. Plant growth was significantly suppressed due to the saline treatment, especially at S90 no grain could be harvested. As different salinity level was compared, CH<sub>4</sub> emission of S30 was lower than control but not significantly different, while S90 was significantly lower than control and S30. 90% of CH<sub>4</sub> emission in rice fields are transported by plants mediated transport system. Since CH<sub>4</sub> production was not significantly inhibited at the incubation experiment, the growth inhibition due to salinity was strongly influencing the CH<sub>4</sub> emission and led to suppression of CH<sub>4</sub> emission. Therefore, from these results, it can be concluded that sa-