

Results on life cycle assessments to determine impacts of agronomic management choices in the Cauca and Honduras CSV

Introduction

The intense management of the crops, that characterizes current agricultural cropping systems, has resulted in increased concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHGs) such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O).

In this study, we used the field-scale agricultural assessment model - Cool Farm Tool (CFT), to model GHG emissions and uptake estimates (Hillier et al., 2011). This tool combines different algorithms that integrate climate, soil and crop data and presents outputs on carbon footprints in a format that is accessible to non-experts. Furthermore, the CFT provides the possibility to compare GHG emissions and uptake estimates from different production sites and systems. Finally, the tool CFT enables crop producers and stakeholders to take a more informed and holistic approach to environmental sustainability in the agricultural sector.

Material and Methods

Site description. This study was part of the "Results of the life cycle assessments to determine the impacts of lifestyle choices on the Climate Smart Village (CSV) project". The CCAFS and CIAT teams developed the method of data collection. The methodology was in collaboration with local stakeholders (Ecohabitats Foundation – Cauca region and Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) Honduras region) who were the intermediaries with the CSV and the agronomic management information provided by the farmers (Annex 1). The first step was to structure the survey (Annex 2). The second step was to choose a sample of villages to be surveyed. The third step was to identify and conduct a survey of farmers who cultivated land in the study area, regardless of the location of the farm and the size of the cultivated area. The surveyed farmers provided data different crops used to run CFT, which estimated the GHG emissions and uptake and the mitigation potential of different agronomic management practices adopted within the climate smart village (CSV).

Results and Discussion

GHG emissions and uptake estimation

Results from the Honduras and Cauca CSVs show that, the highest GHG emissions were associated with the following agronomic practices: i) Crop residue management (i.e., left untreated in pits); ii) Inorganic fertilizer application; iii) Pesticides application rates (Figures 1 and 2). However, the contents of fertilizer and pesticides applied influenced the amount of GHG emissions. For example, in the Cauca region, the application rate of inorganic fertilizer ranged between 100 to 1540 kg ha⁻¹ for coffee and sugarcane crop compare to lower fertilizer application rates observed in Honduras which ranged between 0 to 0.7 kg ha⁻¹ for beans, coffee, maize and mixed vegetable.

Current results show that several changes in farm agronomic management practices such as the incorporation of residues and organic fertilization could reduce GHG emissions in CSVs. In addition, farmers could split apply fewer doses of inorganic fertilizer to mitigate GHG emissions. On the other hand, stakeholders in regional corporations, associations of farmers and environmental research centers may also need to learn how to use tools such as the CFT for rapid assessments of GHG sources, sinks and mitigation options. Furthermore, tools such as the CFT provide a practical, reliable way to assess agricultural resources use, and offer a means to engage growers and stakeholders in identifying efficient agronomic management practices.

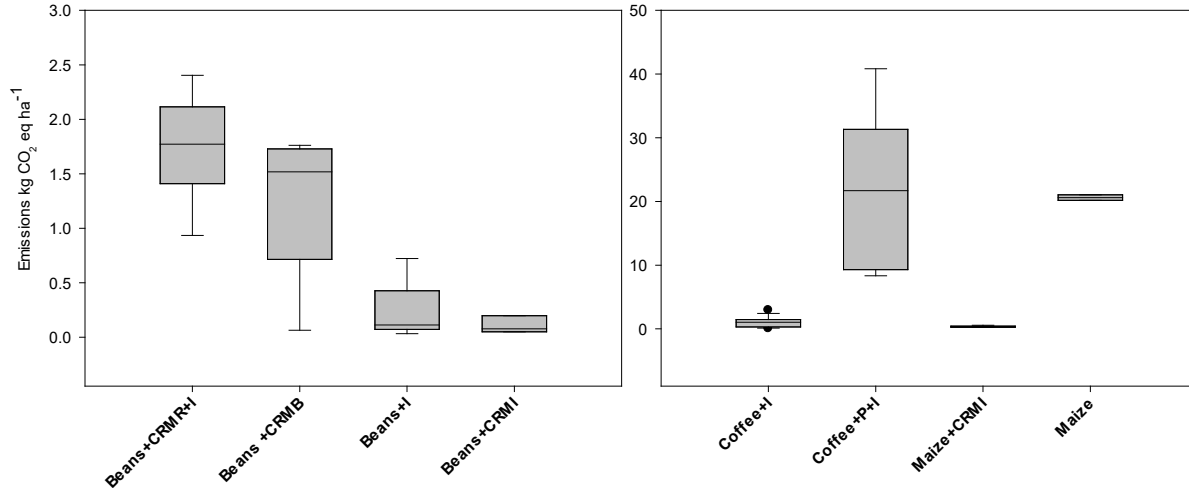


Figure 1. Greenhouse gas emissions from different crops system in the Honduras CSV.* CRM: Crop residue management – Removed; CRMB: Crop residue management – Burned; CRM: Crop residue management – Incorporated; I: Inorganic fertilizer; P: Pesticide application.

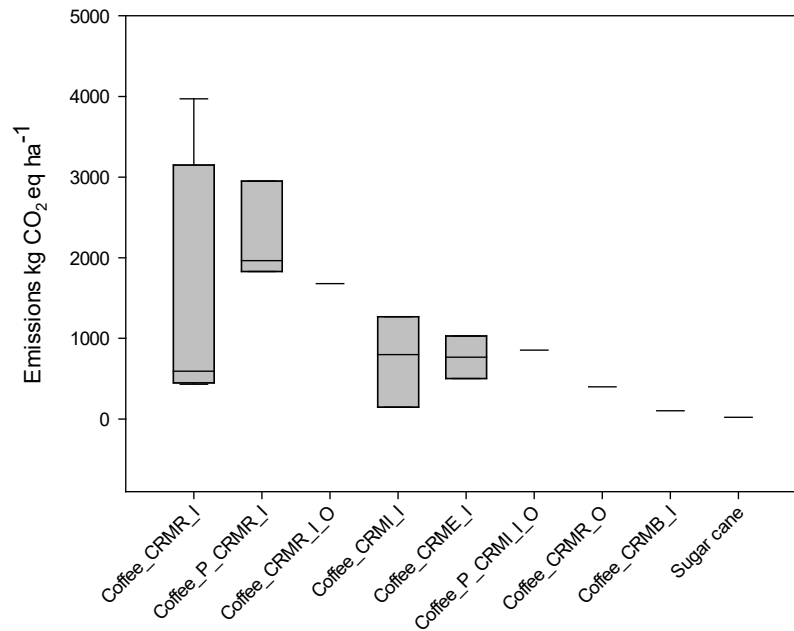


Figure 2. Greenhouse gas emissions from different crops system in the Cauca CSV. * CRMR: Crop residue management – Removed; CRMI: Crop residue management – Incorporated; CRME: Crop residue management – Exported off farm; CRMB: Crop residue management – Burned; I: Inorganic fertilizer; P: Pesticide application; O: Organic fertilizer.

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PARAMETRIZACION CALCULADORAS EN LOS TESAC

7. Sistemas de cultivo

	Opción 1.		Opción 2.		Opción 3.		Opción 4.	
	Antes- TESAC	Después- TESAC	Antes- TESAC	Después- TESAC	Antes- TESAC	Después- TESAC	Antes- TESAC	Después- TESAC
7.1	tipo de cultivos relevantes	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]
7.2	descripción del cultivo							
7.3	Área del cultivo							
7.4	fecha de inicio del cultivo							
7.5	fecha de finalización del cultivo							
7.6	rendimiento de cultivos (kg/ha)							
7.7	tipos de productos primarios de los cultivos							
7.8	tipos de productos secundarios							
Uso de insumos químicos								
Fertilización								
7.10	Aplicación de DAP por año							
7.11	Duración por año							
7.12	No específico							
7.13	Urea (Ton/ha/año)							
7.14	Compost							
7.15	Fosforo (P2O5)	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]
7.16	Potasio (K2O)							
7.20	método de aplicación							
Plaguicidas								
7.17	Herbicida (Ton/ha/año)							
7.18	Insecticida (Ton/ha/año)	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]
7.19	Fungicida (Ton/ha/año)	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]
7.20	método de aplicación	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]
7.21	inhibidores de la germinación por emergencia							
7.22	# aplicaciones de pesticida							
Riegos								
7.22	Riego por goteo	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	Seco/goteo	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]
7.23	Método de riego							
7.24	tipo de combustible usado	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]
7.25	# de operaciones por ciclo							
7.26	% de área regada							
7.27	Probabilidad de bombeo							
7.28	Distancia horizontal							
7.29	agua subterránea (cm)							
Cambios en el manejo de cultivos								
		Hace cuanto tiempo fue realizado este cambio (años)	% de tierra que donde se ha realizado el cambio de práctica					
7.30	Cambios de labranza	[Seleccione una opción]						
7.31	Cultivos de cobertura	[Seleccione una opción]						
7.32	Compost	[Seleccione una opción]						
7.33	Adición de estiércol	[Seleccione una opción]						
7.34	Incorporación de residuos	[Seleccione una opción]						
		Antes- TESAC	Después- TESAC					
7.35	Manejo de residuos de cosecha	[Seleccione una opción]	[Seleccione una opción]					
7.36	Quema de residuos							
7.37	residuo quemado							
7.38	residuo pastoreado/antiguo quemado							
7.39	residuo pastoreado/antiguo abandonado							
7.40	residuo pastoreado/incorporado							