

Comparison of different calculation procedures and emission factors in the manure management systems of swine production

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper was to perform a sensitivity analysis of different calculation procedures and emission factors to estimate methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) emissions applied to a case study of slurry management of swine production in southern Brazil. The manure management system (MMS) defined was the slurry tank without a natural crust cover. The calculation procedures used were: (i) GES'TIM; (ii) Static mass flow model from Hutchings et al. (2013); (iii) Calculation procedure described by Hamelin et al. (2011); and three variations of the IPCC guideline (IPCC 2006): (iv) IPCC with European default parameters, IPCC (DF-EU); (v) IPCC with Latin American default parameters, IPCC (DF-LA); (vi) IPCC with parameters adjustment to represent Brazilian reality, IPCC (BR). Finally, it was proposed a model guide for future estimations of MMS emissions in Brazil for slurry tanks (Baseline). Results showed significant differences between the upper and lower CH₄ and N₂O estimative.

Keywords: Emissions, calculation procedure, emission factor, CH₄, N₂O.

1. Introduction

Life cycle assessment (LCA) is a methodology widely used to predict the environmental profile of livestock and other agricultural products. Studies from literature (Basset-Mens; van der Werf 2005; Flysjö et al. 2011; Reckmann et al. 2013; Prudêncio da Silva et al. 2010; Prudêncio da Silva et al. 2014; Williams et al. 2006) have shown that the environmental impacts of these activities are mainly due to ammonia (NH₃), nitrous oxide (N₂O), carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrate (NO₃) and methane (CH₄) emissions from crops cultivation by fertilizer usage, enteric fermentation from animal rearing, and manure management systems (MMS).

Regarding to swine production, manure handling is an important stage to mitigate the environmental impacts of this activity. According to Chadwick et al. (2011), the MMS selected by the farmers has a direct influence on the magnitude of gaseous losses and consequently the potential to reduce those emissions. For climate change, MMS represents 18-26% of total CO₂ eq. emissions (Kool et al 2009; Nguyen et al. 2011) which highlights the importance of having reliable data for CH₄ and N₂O emissions.

However, these emissions are difficult to be measured on field because of economic costs and the long period to measure it (Javon 2012). Therefore, many LCA studies uses mathematical models and emission factors (EF) to estimate CH₄, N₂O, NO₃ and NH₃ (Basset-Mens et al. 2007; Dalgaard et al. 2008; Flysjö et al. 2011; Nguyen et al. 2010; Prudêncio da Silva et al. 2014; Ruviaro et al. 2014; ten Hoeve et al. 2014; Wesnæs et al. 2009). There are a few calculations procedures and EFs in literature to estimate these emissions (Deltour et al. 2009; Gac et al. 2007; Hamelin et al. 2011; Hutchings et al. 2013; IPCC 2006; Rigolot et al. 2010), which may generate different results. Thus, it is not easy to choose the procedure and EF that better applies in the product system under analysis since these emissions have a high variability due to differences in system production, temperature, management, soil type, manure composition, windspeed and rainfall (Mkhabela et al. 2009, Sommer et al. 2009).

The aim of this paper was to perform a sensitivity analyzes of different calculation procedures and EFs to estimate CH₄ and N₂O emissions applied to a case study of slurry management of swine production in southern Brazil. In addition, we also proposed a calculation procedure for the Brazilian swine production based on the mathematical models and EFs reviewed.

2. Methods

The manure management system (MMS) defined was the slurry tank without a natural crust cover with a minimum storage period of 120 days with the land application of the stabilized manure (Fatma 2009). This system represents the most common MMS used in Brazil (Brazilian agroindustry; Higarashi et al. 2013; Kunz et al. 2005). The functional unit (FU) was the manure management generated to produce 1 ton of swine live weight, with the system boundaries set from the manure ex-house until its application on field. Only the emissions of CH₄ and N₂O produced from manure were considered. The characterization factors were according to IPCC (2007).

The calculation procedures used were: (i) GES'TIM (Deltour et al. 2009); (ii) Static mass flow model from Hutchings et al. (2013); (iii) Calculation procedure described by Hamelin et al. (2011); and three variations of the IPCC guideline (IPCC 2006): (iv) IPCC with European default parameters, IPCC (DF-EU); (v) IPCC with Latin American default parameters, IPCC (DF-LA); (vi) IPCC with parameters adjustment to represent Brazilian reality, IPCC (BR). Finally, it was proposed a model guide for future estimations of MMS emissions in Brazil for slurry tanks (Baseline). The input parameters for the mathematical models are shown in Table 1. We assumed a slurry tank without a natural crust cover, therefore we did not consider the direct N₂O emissions in storage (IPCC 2006).

Table 1. Input parameters for the mathematical models.

Parameters/Models	GES'TIM	Hutchings et al. (2013)	Hamelin et al. (2011)	IPCC (DF-EU)	IPCC (DF-LA)	IPCC (BR)	Baseline
Sows (no-FU ⁻¹)	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34
Piglets (no-FU ⁻¹)	8.40	8.40	8.40	8.40	8.40	8.40	8.40
Swine (no-FU ⁻¹)	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
Sows (days-FU ⁻¹)	142	142	142	142	142	142	142
Piglets (days-FU ⁻¹)	38	38	38	38	38	38	38
Swine (days-FU ⁻¹)	112	112	112	112	112	112	112
Manure _{sow} (m ³ -FU ⁻¹)	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37
Manure _{piglet} (m ³ -FU ⁻¹)	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
Manure _{swine} (m ³ -FU ⁻¹)	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Nex _{sow} ^b (kg N-FU ⁻¹)	n.a	1.61	1.64	2.47	3.23	1.59	1.61
Nex _{piglet} ^b (kg N-FU ⁻¹)	n.a	1.33	1.36	3.86	11.88	1.46	1.33
Nex _{swine} ^b (kg N-FU ⁻¹)	n.a	17.49	17.89	57.12	175.84	17.96	17.49
VS _{sow} ^b (kg VS-FU ⁻¹)	n.a	26.52	26.52	21.95	14.31	26.52	26.52
VS _{piglet} ^b (kg VS-FU ⁻¹)	n.a	13.22	13.22	95.76	95.76	13.22	13.22
VS _{swine} ^b (kg VS-FU ⁻¹)	n.a	174.23	174.23	268.80	268.80	174.23	174.23

^a Not applied.

^b VS = volatile solids; Nex = nitrogen excreted.

The methodological guide GES'TIM was elaborated to be reference for the quantification of gas emissions of livestock, soil, energy consumptions, inputs and compensation by carbon storage. The guide provides a homogenized methodological frame, with EFs that are representative of the French agricultural production sectors (Deltour et al. 2009). This method estimate CH₄ and N₂O emissions from manure storage and application in field. Detailed information on GES'TIM model can be found in Deltour et al. (2009), while input parameters considered in this paper are summarized in Table 2. Constant parameters and those that we assume as the same as it was described in the original calculation procedures were not added in this paper. For more details, see Deltour et al. (2009); Hutchings et al. (2013); Hamelin et al. (2011) and IPCC (2006).

In respect to GES'TIM model, we considered the same EFs for CH₄ and N₂O of Deltour et al. (2009) which implicitly assumes that the emissions from swine production in Brazil have the same EFs from swine production in France. These assumptions were also made by Prudêncio da Silva et al. (2014) for broiler chicken production. Therefore, to interpret our results, it should be in mind that there are some differences in the swine production in Brazil and France, such as: in France the manure is stored for some period in housing while in Brazil the manure goes directly to the slurry tanks which decreases the CH₄ emissions in housing (not considered in this paper) but could result in more emissions in storage since more volatile solids (VS) are available for decomposition. Another difference is the period of manure storage, i.e., in Brazil this period is 120 days while in France this period can be somewhat higher (Deltour et al. 2009).

The calculation procedure developed by Hutchings et al. (2013) describes the static mass flow of the manure nutrients, i.e. nitrogen and phosphorus (not considered in this paper) and the emissions of NH₃, N₂O, N₂, and NO₃. Therefore, to estimate CH₄ emissions we used the same model and parameters used in the IPCC (BR). In Hutchings model, the indirect N₂O emissions from NH₃-N and NO_x-N volatilization are not considered.

The calculation procedure from Hamelin et al. (2011) is based on IPCC (2006), however the authors included the estimative of N₂-N and NO_x-N and consider a different equation to estimate the NH₃-N loss in storage and manure application in field.

The scenarios following the IPCC guide differs from each other by the input parameters considered in the equation used to estimate the excreted N (N_{ex}), and the VS content in manure and methane producing capacity (B₀) used to estimate CH₄ emissions. For IPCC (BR) different EFs for the N₂O emission in field and the N loss due to NH₃-N volatilization were also applied (Table 2).

Table 2. Input parameters to estimate CH₄ and N₂O.

Parameters/Models	GES'TIM	Hutchings et al. (2013)	Hamelin et al. (2011)	IPCC (DF-EU)	IPCC (DF-LA)	IPCC (BR)	Baseline
<i>Input parameters for CH₄ emissions in storage/field</i>							
B ₀ (m ³ CH ₄ (kg VS excreted) ⁻¹)	n.a ^a	0.29	0.29	0.45	0.29	0.29	0.29
MCF (kg·kg ⁻¹)	n.a	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42
Conversion factor of m ³ CH ₄ to kg CH ₄ (kg·m ⁻³)	n.a	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67
EF _{CH₄,St} (g CH ₄ ·m ⁻³ ·d ⁻¹)	61.81	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Storage period (days)	120	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
<i>Input parameters for N₂O emissions in storage/field</i>							
E ₁ ^b	n.a	0	0	0	0	0	0
E ₂ ^c	n.a	0.085 ^d	0.05 ^d	0.48	0.48	0.05 ^d	0.085 ^d
E ₃ ^e	n.a	n.a	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
E ₄ ^f	n.a	0.256 ^g	0.149 ^g	0.48	0.48	0.05 ^d	0.256 ^g
E ₅ ^h	n.a	0.013 ⁱ	0.013 ⁱ	0.01	0.01	0.013 ⁱ	0.013 ⁱ
E ₆ ^j	n.a	n.a	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075
EF _{CH₄,Field} (g CH ₄ ·ha ⁻¹ ·m ⁻³ ·d ⁻¹)	0.078	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
EF _{N₂O,Field} (g N ₂ O·ha ⁻¹ ·m ⁻³ ·d ⁻¹)	1.632	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Application rate (m ³ ·ha ⁻¹)	38.8	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Area _{sow/piglet} (ha)	0.01	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Area _{swine} (ha)	0.14	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a

^a Not applied.

^b Emission factor for direct N₂O emissions in storage without a natural crust cover (EF₃ in IPCC 2006, Table 10.21, chapter 10).

^c Emission factor for NH₃ emissions in storage (Frac_{GasMS} in IPCC 2006, Table 10.22, chapter 10 / NH₃StoreRate in Hutchings et al. 2013 / NH₃-N in Hamelin et al. 2011).

^d Values from Basset-Mens; van der Werf (2005), 0.05 kg NH₃-N (kg N)⁻¹ or 0.085 kg NH₃-N (kg TAN)⁻¹.

^e Emission factor for indirect (NH₃-N+NO_x-N) N₂O emissions in storage/field (EF₄ in IPCC 2006, Table 11.3, chapter 11).

^f Emission factor for NH₃ emissions in field (Frac_{LossMS} in IPCC 2006, Table 10.23, chapter 10 / NH₃FieldRate in Hutchings et al. 2013 / NH₃-N in Hamelin et al. 2011).

^g Values from Basso (2003), Basso et al. (2004), 0.149 kg NH₃-N (kg N)⁻¹ or 0.256 kg NH₃-N (kg TAN)⁻¹.

^h Emission factor for direct N₂O emissions in field (EF₁ in IPCC 2006, Table 11.1, chapter 11).

ⁱ Values from Gonzatto (2012), 0.013 kg N₂O-N (kg N)⁻¹.

^j Emission factor for indirect (NO₃ leaching) N₂O emissions in field (EF₅ in IPCC 2006, Table 11.3, chapter 11).

3. Results

The results showed that IPCC (DF-LA) has the highest CO₂ eq. emissions while lower emissions were estimated through the calculation procedure described by Hutchings et al. (2013), see Table 3 and Figure 1.

Table 3. Results per FU (percentage of the contribution per column are given in parentheses).

Emissions per source/Models	GES'TIM	Hutchings et al. (2013)	Hamelin et al. (2011)	IPCC (DF-EU)	IPCC (DF-LA)	IPCC (BR)	Baseline
<i>Emissions in storage (in kg CO₂ eq.)</i>							
CH ₄	865.3 (82.7)	436.5 (81.7)	436.5 (69.3)	1223.6 (77.1)	773.0 (41.5)	436.5(73.0)	436.5 (75.6)
direct N ₂ O	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)
indirect (NH ₃ -N+NO _x -N) N ₂ O	n.c ^a	n.c	4.9 (0.8)	142.6 (9.0)	429.2 (23.0)	4.9 (0.8)	5.5 (0.9)
<i>Emissions in field (in kg CO₂ eq.)</i>							
CH ₄	0.1 (0.0)	n.c	n.c	n.c	n.c	n.c	n.c
direct N ₂ O	181.6 (17.3)	97.7 (18.3)	120.8 (19.2)	154.5 (9.7)	465.0 (24.9)	121.5 (20.3)	97.7 (16.9)
indirect (NH ₃ +Nox) N ₂ O	n.c	n.c	51.5 (8.2)	30.9 (1.9)	93.0 (5.0)	13.9 (2.3)	15.2 (2.6)
indirect (NO ₃ leaching) N ₂ O	n.c	n.c	16.0 (2.5)	34.8 (2.2)	104.6 (5.6)	21.0 (3.5)	22.3 (3.9)
Total	1046.9 (100.0)	534.2 (100.0)	629.7 (100.0)	1586.4 (100.0)	1864.8 (100.0)	597.9 (100.0)	577.1 (100.0)

^a Not considered.

CH₄ emissions in storage contributed with 41.5-82.7% of total CO₂ eq. Indirect N₂O emissions in storage had a contribution of 0.8-23.0% of total CO₂ eq. Only in GES'TIM model the CH₄ emissions due to manure application in field were estimated, however this emission had minor contributions (0.005%). Direct N₂O emissions in manure application represented 9.7-24.9% while the indirect N₂O emissions (i.e. from volatilization of NH₃-N+NO_x-N and NO₃ leaching) participated with 1.9-8.2% of total emissions.

4. Discussion

Higher climate change potential was observed in IPCC (DF-LA), as displayed in Figure 1, greater CO₂ eq. emissions for this calculation procedure was mainly due to direct and indirect N₂O emissions. This occurred because in this model the default values for N excretion rate used in Equation 10.30 from IPCC (2006) are very high, which results in higher values for the excreted N (N_{ex} in Table 1) when compared to the other models. Comparing to the default values for Western European the N rate for Latin American countries are 3 and 1.3 times (values not showed) higher for the market and breeding swine, respectively. The greater amount of N_{ex} in IPCC (DF-LA) were also the main responsible for higher indirect N₂O emissions due to NO₃ leaching in this model. Another issue that resulted in greater indirect N₂O emissions in IPCC (DF-LA) and IPCC (DF-EU) was the default values for N loss due to volatilization of NH₃-N and NO_x-N considered in IPCC (2006). Ammonia and the nitrogen oxides emissions have greater influence in the results due to the nutrient balance and the indirect N₂O emissions

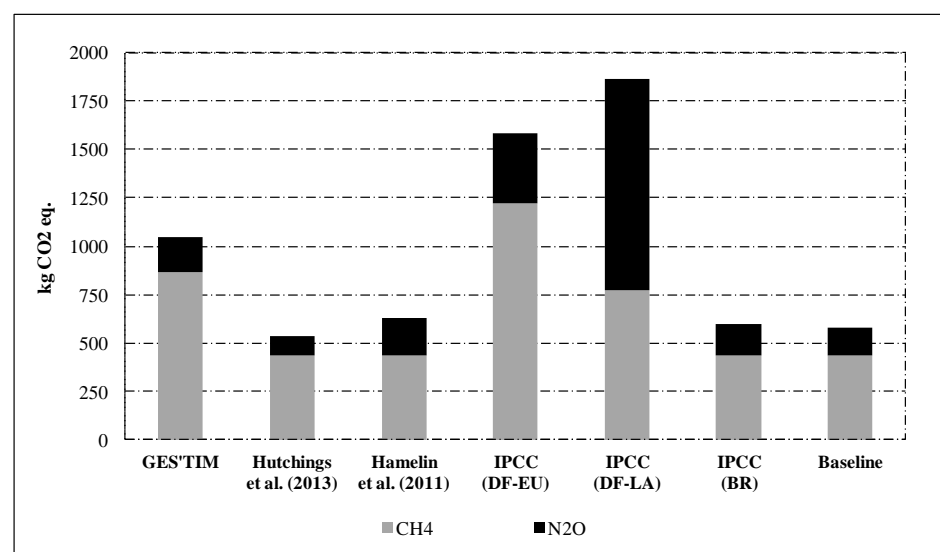


Figure 1. Comparison of mathematical models for CH₄ and N₂O emissions in manure management.

The higher CH₄ emissions in storage stage for IPCC (DF-EU) (Figure 1), compared to the other models, were mainly due to the methane producing capacity (B₀ in Table 1). Most probably, this is also the reason for greater amounts of CH₄ emitted in GES'TIM model. The B₀ for Latin American countries is lower than for Western European (IPCC 2006). Although we assume the same B₀ (i.e. 0.29 m³ CH₄ (kg VS excreted)⁻¹) in IPCC (DF-LA), Hutchings et al. (2013), Hamelin et al. (2011), IPCC (BR) and Baseline models, IPCC (DF-LA) had higher CH₄ emissions due to the VS content used as input parameter.

Regarding the proposed model to estimate CH₄ and N₂O emissions from the MMS in Brazil, it can be noticed a need for a more site-specific data for the EF used for direct N₂O emissions in storage stage and for the constant input parameters used to estimate the proportion of organic N mineralized in slurry tanks and the coefficient factor used for NO₃ leaching emissions.

5. Conclusion

The results showed great differences for both emissions per FU according to the calculation procedure used. The model with lower CO₂ eq. emissions was from Hutchings et al. (2013), it showed a reduction of 71.4% when compared to the IPCC (DF-LA). CH₄ emissions in Baseline, IPCC (BR), Hutchings et al. (2013), and Hamelin et al. (2011) were 64.3% lower than in IPCC (DF-EU). While for N₂O emissions, the calculation procedure described by Hutchings et al. (2013) represented a 91.1% of reduction when compared to IPCC (DF-LA). The range in terms of CO₂ eq. emissions for CH₄ was 436.5-1223.6 kg while for N₂O was 97.7-1091.8 kg.

For CH₄ emissions, the differences were due to the methane producing capacity (B₀) and VS content. For N₂O the amount of excreted N considered and the N loss due to volatilization of NH₃-N and NO_x-N were the main reasons that significantly increased these emissions in IPCC (DF-EU) and IPCC (DF-LA).

Analyzing the models and based on our judgment, the calculation procedure used in Hutchings et al. (2013) seemed to be the preferable because it considers the effect of the mineralized organic N in the emissions, allowing future comparisons with other MMS, such as composting and biogas. We suggest that future LCA studies also consider different options to estimate the CH₄ and N₂O emissions. Regarding to the Brazilian model proposed in this study, there is a need to develop site-specific data.

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