

# Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Rice Fields in Indonesia: Challenges for Future Research and Development

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**Abstract** Rice is an essential crop in Indonesia, but it also contributes to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Although several aspects of rice that increase productivity have been well studied and documented, studies are exploring its environmental aspects, including GHG emissions, are still lacking. More research may have been conducted, but only a few studies have been published in peer-reviewed journals. Robust data on GHG emissions from rice fields in Indonesia is still lacking, including factors affecting it and technology to reduce GHG emissions. Publications of GHG emissions research in Indonesia have been downloaded from several search engines, including ScienceDirect and Google Scholar, and searches using certain keywords. These reviewed publications reveal that research has only been conducted within controlled environmental settings. Thus, this review focuses on studies that have been carried out in Indonesia and other countries and assesses water regimes, rice varieties, fertilizer, soil types, and organic matter on GHG emissions in rice fields. More research into factors controlling GHG emissions in rice fields (e.g., water management, rice cultivar, soil types, and fertilizer) is still needed. This review identifies knowledge gaps concerning future research and development in Indonesia. The research should meet the needs, either national or global strategies to cope with climate change, develop sustainable farming practices, which will only succeed if there are government policies. Therefore, this research should involve an intensive interdisciplinary approach that includes both researchers and other stakeholders.

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## 1. Introduction

The relationship between Earth's increasing temperature and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions has been widely acknowledged, and the increase in GHG emissions due to anthropogenic sources has been recognized since the eighteenth century (Forster et al., 2007). The atmospheric concentration of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) were 1,803 ppb and 324 ppb in 2011, respectively. This significantly exceeded pre-industrial levels from 1750 by 150% and 20%, respectively (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC], 2013; Wang et al., 2017). In 2020, these levels reached the concentration of 1,875 ppb CH<sub>4</sub> and 323 ppb N<sub>2</sub>O (Butter & Montzka, 2020). This rapid increase of GHG concentration has resulted in Earth's temperature increases, which has led to global warming and a changing climate. A changing climate has a range of potential ecological, physical, and health impacts, including extreme weather events, rising sea levels, altered crop growth, and effects on human health. Agriculture is one of these significant sources of GHG emissions because it contributes about 13% of global anthropogenic emissions. CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O were two primary GHG emissions that were created from agriculture-related activities. These gases contributed about

60% and 38% of total global GHG emissions (IPCC, 2013; Zhao et al., 2019). Furthermore, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O were responsible for the Earth becoming warmer because their global warming potential is 23 and 298 times greater than CO<sub>2</sub>, respectively (Signor & Cerri, 2013). Rice cultivation is the second major source of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from agriculture, after CH<sub>4</sub> from enteric fermentation. Rice cultivation contributes 493–723 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e year<sup>-1</sup> to global CH<sub>4</sub> emissions (Smith et al., 2014).

Rice is a staple food for more than half of the world's population (Haque et al., 2014). Thus, to meet the world's growing population, rice production is expected to increase by 24% in 2030 (Food and Agricultural Organization [FAO], 2009). This will cause a more rapid increase in GHG emissions from agriculture. In 2014, 31% of global rice-harvesting areas were in South East Asia; this constituted about 48 million hectares (FAO, 2017). CH<sub>4</sub> is produced from flooded rice fields by anaerobic bacteria in a hypoxic condition (Cicerone & Oremland, 1988; Chunmei et al., 2018). N<sub>2</sub>O is produced from the soil through nitrification-denitrification processes that relate to microbial activity in the presence of nitrogen (N) (Butterbach-bahl et al., 2013;

Denmead et al., 2010). Emission from inorganic fertilizer increased by an average of 3.9% year<sup>-1</sup> from 1961–2010 (Tubiello et al., 2013). Seventy percent of these emissions were created by Asian rice cultivation. Eighty million hectares, or about 75% of the world's rice production, were managed by irrigated rice, which is found mostly in Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Thailand (FAO, 2017). In tropical areas, irrigated rice crops can be planted during two or three cropping seasons each year.

Field measurements of N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from soil were initiated in the 1950s, and field measurements of CH<sub>4</sub> began in the early 1980s (Cicerone and Oremland, 1988; Oertel et al., 2016). These measurements presented robust data that increased understanding of how each gas's biogeochemical cycles affected environmental factors. In early 1990, mitigation became a major focus, alongside the Kyoto Protocol in 1992. Since then, a wealth of research has explored the relationship between CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions and rice fields mitigation. Enhanced understanding of the processes involved in CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from irrigated rice resulted in further research that focused on how to reduce these emissions without decreasing the rice yield. As anthropogenic sources, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from rice are complex processes that involve both natural conditions and a management system. The production, oxidation, and transport of CH<sub>4</sub> combine to form the total CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from a rice field (Frenzel et al., 1999; Wang et al., 2017). Methanogenesis is the process responsible for CH<sub>4</sub> production by methanogenic bacteria in anaerobic zones (Horwarth, 2011; Smith et al., 2018), and methanotroph bacteria can oxidize over 50% of the CH<sub>4</sub> produced under aerobic conditions. N<sub>2</sub>O is a by-product of nitrification-denitrification by soil bacteria during the production of ammonium and nitrate (Horwarth, 2011). Factors affecting CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from rice fields include plant physiology; the soil's physical, biological, and chemical properties, temperature; the soil's redox potential; and pH (Pathak et al., 2005; Wang et al., 2017). These factors are

driven by management practices, such as the water regime, organic amendments, fertilizer use, tillage, and variety of rice (Horwarth, 2011; Luo et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2017).

Recent research into GHG emissions from rice fields has mostly focused on Asia, particularly China, India, Japan, the Philippines, and Thailand. Since there are considerable spatial and temporal variations in GHG emissions from soils (Butterbach-bahl et al., 2013), field measurements must be conducted in various areas to eliminate these variations. According to FAO (2017), Indonesia has the largest irrigated rice area, which requires robust field-measurement data on GHG emissions from rice. Agricultural statistics from the Ministry of Agriculture of Indonesia (MOA, 2016) report the rice harvested area to be 13.8 million hectares in 2016 (Fig. 1). The highest harvested area for CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from rice fields was on the island of Java (Fig. 1). According to the national GHG inventory (2017), average emissions from rice fields in Indonesia was 0.18 t CH<sub>4</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>. However, research into GHG emissions in rice fields is limited, so GHG emissions' contribution is not well documented in peer-reviewed publications. Peer-reviewed publications are paramount importance once research has been completed.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has developed guidelines to calculate GHG emissions at the country level, based on categories for reporting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These guidelines provide default emission factors for global needs, which are generated from a database of published literature (Wang et al., 2018). However, since GHG emissions from rice fields result from complex interactions between climatic conditions, soil properties, and management practices, the IPCC encourages countries to generate local emission factors to obtain more accurate and reliable GHG emissions measurements. Since each country has specific climate and soil conditions, each has established field measurements that are addressed in this review. Yagi et al. (2019) has reviewed gaps for southeast Asian countries. The authors state that the review can help formulate strong

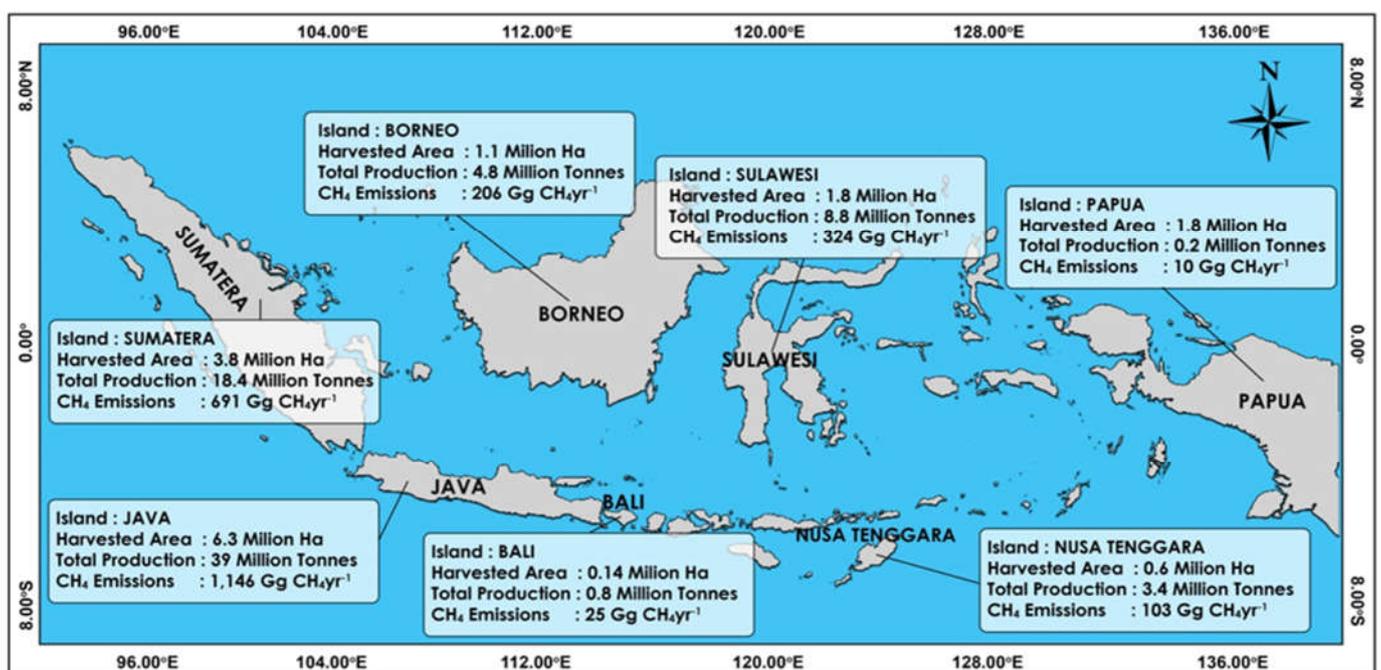


Figure. 1 Rice-harvested areas, production, and GHG emissions in Indonesia, summarized from Indonesia Agricultural Statistics (2016) and the Indonesia Ministry of Agriculture's internal report on GHG inventory (2017).



Figure. 2. Automatic chamber installation at Indonesian Agricultural Environment Research Institute, Jakenan, Central Java.

policy and mitigation measures. Thus this review is conducted to have more focuses and assess research that has already been conducted in Indonesia, based on published literature. It also explores this same focus in other countries, particularly in terms of the effect of water regimes, rice varieties, fertilizer, soil types, and organic matter on GHG emissions from rice fields. This provides a gap analysis that can be utilized for future research and development.

### Current research on GHG emissions in Indonesia and other countries

#### The effect of water regimes on GHG emissions from rice fields

The ways in which water-regime practices affect  $\text{CH}_4$  and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  emissions from rice fields is already well known (Yagi & Minami, 1990; Bouwman, 1991; Sass et al., 1992). Flooded conditions are profitable for  $\text{CH}_4$  production in soil (Adhya et al., 2000; Yan et al., 2005; Ma et al., 2010), but the production does not immediately occur after flooding. Instead, it takes time to reduce the molecular oxygen and electron acceptors that are trapped in the soil pores. Methanogenesis will take place after the soil is moist enough or under a redox value of between 150–200 mV or 70%–80% of water-filled-pore space (Jain et al., 2004). Therefore, the duration of flooding and drying, either during or prior to crop establishment, is important (Horwarth, 2011). Continuous flooding (CF) during a whole season produces the highest  $\text{CH}_4$  emissions, compared to multiple opportunities for drainage, mid-season drainage, intermittent irrigation, early-season drainage, or alternate wetting and drying (AWD), yet shown the opposite in  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  emissions (Wang et al., 1999; Yan et al., 2000; Jain et al., 2004; Zou et al., 2005; Peyron et al., 2016; Carrijo, et al., 2017; Oo et al., 2018). Although mid-season drainage during rice growth reduces  $\text{CH}_4$  emissions (Wang et al., 1999), this is less than with two periods of drainage (Yan et al., 2000). Early-season drainage reduces  $\text{CH}_4$  emissions by 35.7%, while AWD reduces emissions by 52.8% (Oo et al., 2018). In

2013, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) proposed safe AWD as an alternative irrigation technique that could reduce rice paddies' high water consumption. This is also expected to reduce  $\text{CH}_4$  emissions by 70%.

Setyanto et al. (2018) carried out a three-year field experiment to measure AWD's feasibility under local environmental conditions in a tropical region. The research was conducted during wet and dry seasons in Jakenan, Central Java, and it investigated AWD in terms of GHG emissions, rice productivity, and water use. Three water-management treatments were tested: CF, flooding when the natural water level declined 15 cm below the soil surface (defined as AWD), and site-specific AWD (AWDS). Gas measurements were conducted on a weekly basis. The results revealed that both AWD and AWDS reduce  $\text{CH}_4$  emissions by 35% and 38%, respectively, compared to CF. AWD and AWDS also both reduced total water use. However, there were no significant differences in seasonal  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  emissions and grain yield.

In Indonesia, irrigated rice areas covered approximately 4.8 million hectares in 2016, and they had yearly growth of 0.6% (MOA, 2016). When water is sufficiently available, which is highly supported in technical and semi-technical irrigated rice, farmers tend to manage their fields in a CF condition. Since 2007, the government has introduced intermittent irrigation for rice cultivation as a water-saving measure, alongside other intensification techniques. One of these intensification techniques is the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) concept, which was introduced in 2008. Water-management research into GHG emissions in Indonesia was first initiated by Nugroho et al. (1994) in Taman Bogo, Lampung, South Sumatra. This research combined chemical N fertilizer with an organic fertilizer, which was arranged in a split-plot design. The main plot was for water management (CF and intermittent irrigation), while three subplots only applied chemical N fertilizer and three plots applied both chemical fertilizer and organic material (rice straw, *sesbania rostrata*, or cow manure) at a

rate of 5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>. The results suggest that neither water nor fertilizer management create emissions. However, this research was only conducted over the course of one season, so variations between seasons remain unknown. Other research shows differences in total emissions between dry and wet seasons.

Husin (1994) conducted research in West Java that combined water management (CF, intermittent flooding, and saturated soil) and two rice varieties (Cisadane, IR64). This research concluded that water management and rice variety both strongly affect diurnal and seasonal CH<sub>4</sub> emissions. CH<sub>4</sub> gas samples were taken on a weekly basis at three times of day (3–5 am, 7–9 am, and 1–3 pm). Soil temperature at a depth of 5 cm also strongly affects the diurnal variation. The intermittent system suppressed emissions by 50% without reducing the grain yield, whereas saturation suppressed 70% of emissions but slightly reduced the yield. This research also found that ambient CH<sub>4</sub> concentration was higher at an early stage of the rice-growing period (around 6.7 ppmv), compared to the fallow period (around 1.7 ppmv).

Lumbanraja et al. (1997) also investigated the effect of water management (CF and rainfed) combined with a chemical fertilizer and rice straw during two rainy seasons. Rice-straw application increased CH<sub>4</sub> emissions, both in irrigated and rainfed rice, but rainfed rice emitted 27%–37% less CH<sub>4</sub> than the CF rice field.

Comprehensive research has also been conducted by Setyanto et al. (2000). This long-term study was conducted in Jakenan, Pati, Central Java, between 1993 and 1998, which is a total of ten rice-growing seasons and incorporates both dry and wet seasons. Since an automatically closed chamber was used, the data were quite smooth. Gas samples were captured and analysed every four minutes for 24 hours during the rice-growing season. Seasonal CH<sub>4</sub> emissions were two-fold higher in irrigated fields than in rainfed fields. The impact of organic manure was relatively small in rainfed rice during the dry season, but rice straw increased emissions by 40% in the wet season. There was also a trend toward higher CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from organically fertilized plots than from mineral-fertilized plots. Early-maturing rice cultivars had the lowest

Table 1. Population of denitrifying bacteria in continuously flooded (CF) and intermittently drained (ID) plots in South Kalimantan (Hadi et al., 2010).

Soil depth (cm)	Denitrifying bacteria (×10 <sup>5</sup> MPN g <sup>-1</sup> soil)	
	CF	ID
0–5	6.4 B	5.6 c
5–10	1.6 B	5.0 bc
10–15	9.8 B	1.8 b
15–20	0.2 A	0.4 a

Numbers followed by the same capital letter are not different between depth in CF-treatment, while numbers followed by the same small letter are not different between depths ID-treatment according to Fisher's LSD test.

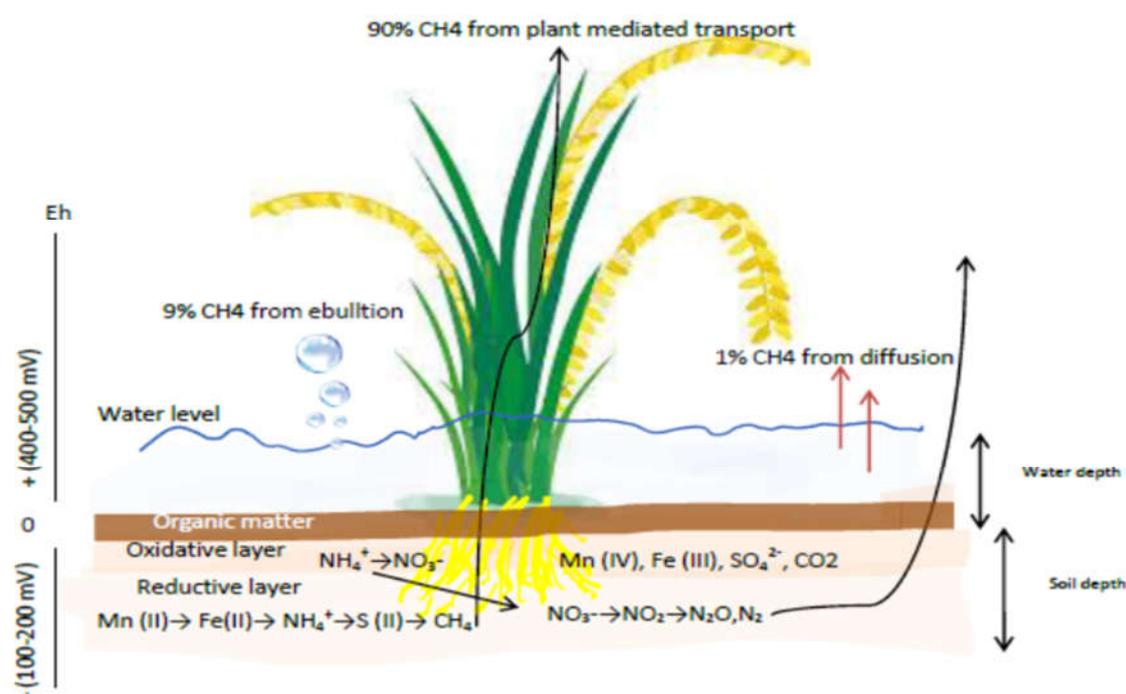


Figure 3. Graphic depicting methane release from a rice field.

emissions compared to late-maturing rice cultivars. The authors concluded that increasing the growing days of a cultivar increased the emissions emitted, which resulted in high seasonal emissions.

Hadi et al. (2010) conducted research in Japan and South Borneo, Indonesia, to determine water management's impact on CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions and on microbial properties. These authors suggested that intermittent irrigation suppressed GHG emissions without any significant changes in the soil's microbial population. The study focused on rice fields comprised of alluvial soil. Intermittent irrigation was performed with seven-day intervals, starting at the tillering or heading stages and continuing until harvesting. As stated by many other researchers, the soil redox potential indicated the production of CH<sub>4</sub>. A high redox potential limits CH<sub>4</sub> production by methanogens, as shown in the plot that underwent intermittent irrigation. Furthermore, soil depth affected denitrifying bacteria population, as the fewest were found in the lowest soil depth (15–20 cm).

### **The effect of rice varieties on GHG emissions from rice fields**

Rice crops play an essential role in releasing CH<sub>4</sub> from soil into the atmosphere. Previous studies have indicated that CH<sub>4</sub> emissions are up to 20 times higher from soil that is planted with rice than from unplanted soil (Nouchi & Mariko, 1993; Dannenberg & Conrad, 1999; Brye et al., 2017), which illustrates rice plants' significant role in emissions. Three mechanisms release CH<sub>4</sub> from soil into the atmosphere: diffusion through floodwater, ebullition, and plant-mediated diffusion (Smart et al., 2016). Many researchers have stated that around 90% of methane from rice fields is released through rice cells via aerenchyma (which acts as a chimney), while 8%–9% is released by ebullition, and only 1%–2% is released through diffusion (Holzapfel-pschorn et al., 1986; Schutz et al., 1989; Nouchi et al., 1990; Neue & Sass, 1994; Butterbach Ball et al., 1997; Le Mer & Roger, 2001). It is illustrated in Figure 3. Varying GHGs emissions from rice varieties are reported in several studies conducted in China, Japan, India, Italy, and the United States of America (Lindau et al., 1994; Ball et al. 1997; Bhattacharyya et al., 2019; Brye et al., 2017). Some varieties emitted less CH<sub>4</sub> than other varieties, depending on their characteristics. This led to the suggestion that selected varieties should be used to reduce methane emissions. A study by Gogoi et al. (2008) demonstrated that traditional rice cultivars with a longer vegetative growth stage produced higher methane fluxes than high-yielding varieties. Baruah et al. (2010) also showed that high-yielding rice varieties emitted less CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O than traditional varieties. These GHG emissions significantly positively correlate with leaf area, leaf number, tiller number, and the root's dry weight.

There are hundreds of registered and (mostly local) unregistered rice varieties in Indonesia, including varieties for upland rice, certain pest and disease resistance, and certain levels of stress resistance (e.g., drought, floods, acidity). Research into low methane rice varieties in Indonesia currently focuses on the identifying phase, and there is little research into the breeding phase.

In 1997, Nugroho et al. measured the effect of eight popular rice varieties in Indonesia at that time. These rice varieties were Bengawan Solo, IR 74, IR 64, Atomita 4, Cisanggarung, Way Seputih, Kapuas, and Walanai. The

authors stated that differences in CH<sub>4</sub> emissions among these rice varieties were affected by the amounts and constituents of root exudates and root systems, as well as by activities leading to oxidization of the root environments. Wihardjaka (2007) also measured rice cultivar's effect, but this study specifically focused on a rainfed rice field. Seven rice varieties with different maturity were tested. The moderate-duration varieties included IR 64, Cisantana, Sintanur, and Way Apo Buru, while the short-duration varieties included Dodokan and Silugonggo. The study also tested Mentik, which is a local deeper-duration variety. All the varieties received the same amount and type of fertilizer. Agronomic measurements were then performed, such as plant height, tiller number, and root weight. Way Apo Buru emitted less methane than the other six varieties, and it had a relatively high yield. Wihardjaka and Sarwoto (2015) tested another eight new rice varieties: Inpari 14, Inpari 15, Inpari 17, Inpari 18, Inpari 20, Ciherang, Situ Bagendit, and IR 64. Inpari 18 had the lowest CH<sub>4</sub> emissions, while Inpari 15 had the highest. Inpari 18 and Inpari 17 had the higher yields.

### **The effect of fertilizer on GHG emissions from rice fields**

Fertilized agricultural soil contributes to 38% of annual global N<sub>2</sub>O emissions (IPCC, 2013; Zhao et al., 2019). Increased N, both in the form of organic and synthetic fertilizers, has increased this anthropogenic source of N<sub>2</sub>O. The amount of N transforms during nitrification and denitrification processes, which then increases during these activities. This ultimately leads to higher levels of N<sub>2</sub>O emissions (IPCC, 2013). N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from anthropogenic N inputs produces both direct pathways (i.e., directly from the soil to which N is added) and indirect pathways through volatilization of compounds such as NH<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>. This also subsequently occurs during redeposition, as well as through leaching and runoff (IPCC, 2013).

Some studies have indicated that the application of different levels of synthetic urea fertilizer can increase CH<sub>4</sub> emissions. For instance, meta-analysis data has shown that adding high levels of N (with an average of 249 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup>) can decrease CH<sub>4</sub> emissions by 15%, while adding a low level of inorganic fertilizer N (with an average of 79 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup>) can increase CH<sub>4</sub> emissions by 18% and this is also relative to instances in which no N fertilizer is applied (Adviento-Borbe & Linnquist, 2016; Linnquist et al., 2012; Xie et al., 2009). Other studies suggest that applying synthetic fertilizer decreases CH<sub>4</sub> emissions, compared to organic fertilizer (Yuan et al., 2018), that adding nitrogen decreases CH<sub>4</sub> emissions compared to not adding N, or that there are no significant relationship exists (Bronson et al., 1997; Wang et al., 1993).

Nitrogen fertilizers are the most popular agents in rice production because they increase grain yields. Urea and ammonium sulphate are two forms of N fertilizers, and they account for 80%–90% of the total demanded by rice cultivation (Food and Agriculture Organization, <http://apps.fao.org/>). Other fertilizers that are used in rice production, such as silica or iron materials in any form, also play a role in the rice yield and in GHG emissions. Linnquist et al. (2012) report that applying sulphate fertilizers at average rates of 208 and 992 kg S ha<sup>-1</sup> reduces CH<sub>4</sub> emissions by 28% and 53%. CH<sub>4</sub> emissions can be

significantly reduced by 40% if urea replaced by ammonium sulphate at the same N rate, but this action may increase N<sub>2</sub>O emissions. The application of steel slag fertilizer with a high silica content could also reduce CH<sub>4</sub> emissions (Ali et al., 2008; Susilawati et al., 2015). Using dicyandiamide (DCD) or other nitrification inhibitors leads to lower emissions of both CH<sub>4</sub> (-18%) and N<sub>2</sub>O (-29%) (Linguist et al., 2012). Limited field measurements also indicate that fertilizer placement at either the soil surface or more deeply (deep placement) also brought contradictory results in terms of CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions. These findings suggest that the impact of synthetic fertilizer on GHG emissions might differ, depending on management practices utilized across the rice field.

Nugroho et al. (1994) measured CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from a paddy field in Taman Bogo, Lampung that had been subjected to several fertilizers. There were six plots, three of which were chemical fertilizers plots (Urea+ (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, Urea, and (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and three of which were modified with urea and organics materials (rice straw, *sesbania rostrata*, and cow dung manure). CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from the plots that included organic materials were relatively higher than plots that only used chemical fertilizer. The effects of organic fertilizers on CH<sub>4</sub> emissions and rice yields were less prominent because the plots still used urea. This research also found that CH<sub>4</sub> was mainly emitted (more than 50%) in the first half of the rice-growth period, due to the high temperatures experienced in the tropics (Indonesia).

Wihardjaka (2010) investigated the effect of rice straw and nitrification inhibitors on N<sub>2</sub>O emissions for rainfed lowland rice. The study was conducted during the 1999 dry season in Jakenan, Pati, Central Java. The field experiment was designed as a factorial randomized block with three replication and two factors of treatments related to rice straw (without rice straw, fresh straw, and composting straw) and nitrification-inhibitor materials (without nitrification inhibitor, neem cake, and carbofuran). Interactions between rice straw and nitrification-inhibitor materials decreased N<sub>2</sub>O emissions significantly in a lowland rainfed rice field. The application of neem cake and carbofuran decreased N<sub>2</sub>O emissions by 48.6% and 41.3%, respectively.

Susilawati et al. (2015) investigated the effects of steel slag applications on CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions, as well as on the rice yield, using two major Indonesian soil types (Inceptisols and Vertisols). Steel slag is a by-product of the steel industry that contains high levels of iron, silica, and calcium. These materials act as electron acceptors in the redox system, while organic C acts as the electron donor (Burgin et al., 2011). The study took place at two different sites that use Inceptisols and Vertisols soil, and it was conducted during both dry and rainy seasons. The first experiment (during the dry season) consisted of two treatments (control and steel slag at 1 t ha<sup>-1</sup>), and the steel slag in the second experiment (rainy season) was split into two subplots that accommodated the additional 1 and 2 t ha<sup>-1</sup> steel slag. All the treatments were replicated five times. Overall, although steel-slag application tended to decrease CH<sub>4</sub> emissions at both sites, there was no significant difference. The application of 1 and 2 t ha<sup>-1</sup> steel slags in Inceptisols from Jakenan decreased CH<sub>4</sub> emissions by 9.1% and 18.7%, respectively. There was also evidence that N<sub>2</sub>O emissions decreased at both sites during the rainy season. This decreased by 34 and 38% for Inceptisols and Vertisols, respectively, after application of t ha<sup>-1</sup> steel slags. The rice yield also increased by 4.8%–5.6% in Jakenan and by 0.3%–

5.6% in Wedarijaksa. There was a significant difference in CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions between both sites and, therefore, between soil types. The amount of oxidizing agent in the soil is a critical factor in reducing CH<sub>4</sub> emissions in flooded rice fields, so it is important to maintain the plow layer's oxidative conditions.

Wihardjaka and Poniman (2015) measured sulfur's contribution to rice productivity and atmospheric GHG in lowlands. In this study, applying sulphur-containing fertilizers led to competition on hydrogen between methane-producing bacteria (methanogens) and sulphate-reducing bacteria. This subsequently inhibited methane production. The formation of sulphate ions, which is a by-product of ZA (ammonium-sulphate fertilizer) hydrolysis, slows the potential decrease in soil redox. This is due to the oxidation process of sulphites to sulphates, during which the soil Eh (redox potential) tends to be high. For methanogen, sulphate and sulphite are toxic. ZA fertilization in paddy fields reduces methane emissions by 25%–35% (Jain et al., 2004), but nitrogen fertilization inefficiency leads to high N<sub>2</sub>O emissions. However, applying S-containing fertilizer in the form of ZA or S-elements suppresses the release of N<sub>2</sub>O. Thus, applying S-elements (S<sup>0</sup>) with 115 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup> to rainfed lowland rice in Central Java reduced N<sub>2</sub>O emissions by 45%–52%. The use of sulphur-coated urea fertilizer increased N fertilization efficiency and reduced the release of N<sub>2</sub>O.

#### The effect of soil types on GHG emissions from rice fields

Soil-type characteristics play the most significant role in GHG-emissions production. Studies have shown that different soil types' original conditions produce different amounts of GHG emissions (Lindau et al., 1991; Minami, 1995; Watanabe & Kimura, 1999; Huang et al., 2002; Wang et al., 2017). The soil texture and clay mineralogy both affect the percolation rate, which ultimately affects CH<sub>4</sub> emissions in waterlogged paddy soils. Additionally, soil cracks that occur during clay soil's drying period help release trapped CH<sub>4</sub>. Field measurements by Yagi and Minami (1990) stated that CH<sub>4</sub> emissions decreased in peaty soils, alluvial soils, and andosols. Other soil properties (e.g., total N, soil texture [clay and sand fractions], CEC, available K, and active Fe content) all significantly affect potential methane production in the topsoil and subsoil (Mitra et al., 2002).

Regulation of CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O production and consumption in soil is also determined by the availability of electron acceptors and donors (Ro et al., 2011). Electron acceptors (e.g., Fe<sup>3+</sup>, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, and sulphate) are reduced during anaerobic periods, and they are regenerated (oxidized) during aerobic periods (Neubauer et al., 2007). Soil also provides the carbon substrates that microbes need to produce CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O and to enhance plant growth.

Subadiyasa et al. (1997) measured methane emissions from paddy fields in Bali that had soil from volcanic ash to ascertain the influence of rice straw, fertilizer application, and rice varieties. This experiment took place in Gianyar (Inceptisols) and Tabanan (Alfisols) using a factorial design and three replications. The treatments focused on the application of rice-straw (S0: without straw, S1: with 5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> straw), the inorganic fertilizer used (F0: without inorganic fertilizer, F1: 250 kg urea + 100 kg TSP [Triple Superphosfat] + 50 kg KCl ha<sup>-1</sup>), and the rice variety (V1: IR 64, V2: local variety of Krueung Aceh). There were no significant differences in methane emissions between the two rice

varieties, but methane emissions were significantly higher in the plot treated with rice straw than in the plot without rice straw. This was the case both with and without inorganic fertilizer in both places. Total emissions tended to be higher with Tabanan (Alfisols) than with Gianyar (Inceptisols). This was also true for grain yields, regardless of the rice variety.

Setyanto et al. (2002) conducted research to investigate the potential of CH<sub>4</sub> production in selected soil types in Java. The authors determined the limiting factors of CH<sub>4</sub> production, and they tested 11 soils types based on FAO soil classifications (brown Regosol, red Latosol, dark-brown alluvial, grey-yellowish alluvial, brown Latosol, grey Hydromorph Association, dark-gray Grumosol, brown-reddish Mediterranean, dark-brown Mediterranean, dark-gray Grumosol and Lithosol Association, and brown-greyish Grumosol). To ascertain potential production, soil samples were measured using the incubation method on a laboratory scale. There were two treatments: the potential CH<sub>4</sub> production in soil with original organic matter and with the addition of reducible carbon sources (glucose to enhance their CH<sub>4</sub> production capacity). The result of the potential CH<sub>4</sub> production from soil with original organics sources was then divided into three groups. The highest potential CH<sub>4</sub> production capacity ranged from 7.75–37.66 mg CH<sub>4</sub> kg<sup>-1</sup> (gray-yellowish alluvial and gray Hydromorph Association), the medium-capacity ranged from 0.44–3.54 mg CH<sub>4</sub> kg<sup>-1</sup> (brown-greyish Grumosol, red Latosol, dark-gray Grumosol and Lithosol Association, brown Latosol, and dark-brown alluvial), and the low capacity ranged from 0.19–0.28 mg CH<sub>4</sub> kg<sup>-1</sup> (dark-gray Grumosol, dark-brown Mediterranean, brown-Regosol, and the brown-reddish Mediterranean). After glucose was added, the groups were changed, all the soil types showed an increase of potential CH<sub>4</sub> production at least 12 times, compared to the untreated soils. The dark-gray Grumosol produced the highest CH<sub>4</sub> level, while the brown-greyish Grumosol produced the lowest level. This finding demonstrates that the soil's chemical and physical properties significantly influence CH<sub>4</sub> production. Adding an organic substrate also changed the potential production due to the soil properties. Subsequently, stepwise multiple regression analysis of CH<sub>4</sub> production potential and soil properties showed that the soil's pH strongly influences CH<sub>4</sub> production; the Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, MnO<sub>2</sub>, and SO<sub>4</sub> content; and silt. This finding indicates that the potential CH<sub>4</sub> production of soil with original organic matter can differ after the addition of other substrates.

Wihardjaka and Harsanti (2011) conducted almost identical research to Setyanto et al. (2002). However, Wihardjaka and Harsanti used different soil types: namely,

Grumosol, Mediterranean, Nitosol, alluvial, and Planosol. Additionally, CH<sub>4</sub> production potential was not grouped in the same way as in the Setyanto et al. study. CH<sub>4</sub> production from the above soils ranged from 0.05–0.96 mg CH<sub>4</sub> g soil<sup>-1</sup>. When the group was categorized according to Setyanto's criteria, there was low-to-medium potential production. The ways in which the soil's properties influenced CH<sub>4</sub> production differed from the previous study. The Wihardjaka and Harsanti study found out that the contents of P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, K<sub>2</sub>O, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, and pH significantly increase CH<sub>4</sub> production, whereas soil iron content was negatively correlated.

### The effect of organic matter on GHG emissions from rice fields

Organic amendments have been widely accepted to improve soil fertility for global rice production. In addition to improving soil fertility and enhancing crop productivity, the application of organic matter in the soil triggers processes such as the priming effect, methanogenesis, nitrification, and denitrification, all of which lead to GHG emissions (Thangarajan et al., 2013). Methanogenesis is the production of CH<sub>4</sub> by microbes (methanogens) in the soil, which occurs under anaerobic conditions. Nitrification and denitrification are two contrasting microbial processes in the soil's N cycle, and they can lead to N<sub>2</sub>O emissions. Organic amendments in any form provide a source of readily available C and N, which is believed to induce higher CH<sub>4</sub> emissions and influence N<sub>2</sub>O emissions (Bouwman et al., 2002; Cicerone et al., 1992; Huang et al., 2004; Humphreys et al., 2019; Janz et al., 2019; Yang & Chang, 2000).

Despite the relationship between organic matter and GHG emissions, adding organic matter to soil is also important because it enriches soil organic carbon (SOC), which is associated with soil organic matter (SOM). SOM is the organic fraction of the soil that is made up of decomposed plant and animal materials, as well as microbial organisms in a stable form. Agricultural soil is one of five world carbon pools, and it is estimated to have soil C stock of 2,400 gigatons for 2 m of soil depth (2,400 × 10<sup>15</sup> g) (Batjes, 1996). SOC sequestration has been considered a possible means of mitigating climate change because this takes atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and converts it into longer-life soil carbon (Lal, 2003, 2004). A small increase in soil C stocks is believed to play a role in mitigating GHG emissions because the soil can store two to three times more carbon than the atmosphere (Minasny et al., 2017).

The application of organic material in agricultural cultivation practices has been integrated into Indonesia's government policies over the last ten years. The government

Table 2. Significant differences on GHG emissions and rice yields between OM treatments

Organic matter application	CH <sub>4</sub> (kg/ha/season)	Yield (t/ha)
Compost 5 t/ha	252.6 a	3.5 a
Rice straw 5 t/ha	445.3 ab	3.2 a
Bio-compost 5 t/ha	167.3 b	3.4 a
Without OM	195.0 b	2.8 a

Values in each column are the mean of five replications. Different letters presented vertically indicate significant differences between means at P = 0.01, according to Tukey's HSD test.

has given this as a subsidies policy in the form of well-decomposed organic matter (e.g., compost). Although farmers' practices often involve using plant residue as an organic fertilizer, some also practice biomass burning. Organic farming has also become famous among Indonesian farmers. Many studies have been conducted that focus on modifying organic matter. A three-year study of an experimental plot was conducted by Setyanto and Kartikawati (2011) to measure the effect of an entirely organic farming practice, compared to a mix organic-inorganic fertilized farming. The results showed that using a high level of organic fertilizer, combined with intermittent irrigation, has the lowest global warming potential (GWP). However, this also resulted in the lowest yield. Ariani et al. (2017) investigated the effect of different types of organic fertilizer on GHG emissions and yield over the course of three rice-growing seasons. These authors found a significant difference ( $p < 0.01$ ) when 5 t ha<sup>-1</sup> rice straw was added, compared to compost, bio-compost, or without OM. However, they failed to find a significant difference in yield. After three seasons, rice straw increased the highest SOC content by 2%, while compost and bio-compost only resulted in 1% of SOC increase.

### Challenges for future research and development in Indonesia

In recent years, the number of studies into GHG emissions and agriculture in Indonesia has grown, but there is still a lack of peer-reviewed papers. As this country is comprised of thousands of islands, there is substantial spatial variability in terms of microclimates, ecosystems, and cultures. This condition has also led to substantial differences in farmers' practices. Agricultural GHG emissions currently contribute about 6% and 13% to the Indonesia's GHG emissions (including and excluding Land Use and Land Use Change and Forestry [LULUCF], respectively) (Ministry of Environment and Forestry [MoEF], 2017). Several mitigation options have been introduced in Indonesia, but gaps remain. Thus, research should focus on but not limit itself to explorations of high sources of emissions, such as rice cultivation, N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from managed soil, and enteric fermentation (three of the IPCC's [2013] 11 categories of GHG emissions from agriculture). Furthermore, research should identify feasible mitigation strategies and technologies that maintain or increase rice productivity.

Managing rice fields by alternating anaerobic and aerobic conditions using various water regimes is a recognized means of significantly reducing methane emissions, but this still fails to increase yields. Thus, more research is needed to investigate synthetic fertilizers (their types and levels) and the ways in which they interact with other components, such as the water regime. Consequently, the significant effects on GHG emissions and crop yields will be better understood. A pot experiment conducted by Song et al. (2021), which combined AWD and phosphorus (P) fertilizer, resulted in an increased of grain yield (without reducing grain quality), decreased irrigation water use, and decreased irrigation events. Furthermore, this improved water-use efficiency (WUE) and partial factor productivity of applied P (PFPP). AWD irrigation increased the grain yield, mainly due to increased spikelets per plant and filled grains. The number of irrigation events was also reduced with AWD, which led to reduced water use. Yagi et al. (2019) analysed potential

technical mitigation options in Southeast Asia, concluding that the application of biochar reduced both CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions by 20% (40%--7%), while significantly increasing the rice yield by 28% (8%--52%). Initial research in China into combining AWD and zeolite suggests increased in N uptake, rice grain yield, economic benefit, and water productivity (Sun et al., 2019).

Although organic amendments could increase yields, they could also simultaneously increase emissions, especially when adding fresh rice straw. However, there is also evidence that decomposed fresh straw or compost could also decrease emissions. However, this finding requires further investigation. Research into low-methane varieties of rice remains a major topic for investigation, even in other countries. Thus, research should be conducted that involves breeders and a wider framework, as this would constitute a multidisciplinary consortium. This will be expensive work, but it will ultimately be worthwhile. Mitigation using specific low-emission rice varieties will be cost-effective because production costs and transactional costs will be lower, compared to water-management practices. A study by Song et al. (2020) asserts that different types of rice (lowland and upland) react differently to AWD's application, based on their dry root weight and root-oxidation activities. This study analysed differences in the transcriptome profiles of these rice varieties' roots. Similarly, Gutierrez et al. (2013) assessed eight Japonica cultivars' effect on CH<sub>4</sub> emissions and productivity in typical mono-rice paddy soil in Korea. These authors concluded that CH<sub>4</sub> fluxes do not correlate with apparent plant-growth parameters, yet they are highly correlated with methanogens and methanotrophs. This suggests that CH<sub>4</sub> emissions may be directly affected by each cultivar's substrate-producing potential and gas-transport capacity, rather than by external plant-growth variables (e.g., cultivar growing period). This result opposes research by Bhattacharyya et al. (2019), whose study concludes that a short-duration cultivar emits less CH<sub>4</sub> than a long-duration cultivar. In this study, CH<sub>4</sub> emission rates were lowest in short-duration cultivars, followed by medium cultivars and long-duration cultivars. The rate of CH<sub>4</sub> emission was mainly controlled by aerenchyma orientation, root exudation, and biomass production rate, all of which are key specific traits of a cultivar.

Anthropogenic activities that elevate soil-trace emissions play an important role in the atmospheric balance of the trace gas. GHG emissions from rice fields comprise a complex set of interactions between climatic conditions, soil properties, and management practices. The soil is a correction factor, which is used in IPCC emission calculations. Research has proven that different soil types have different potentials for GHG production, depending on several factors. Setyanto et al. (2002) and Wihardjaka and Harsanti (2011) have stated that specific soil types' potential production differs between the origin and those with added substrate. Thus, management practices play an important role. Meta-analysis by Shakoor et al. (2021) similarly emphasizes the ways in which agricultural management practices (e.g., fertilization, amendments to organic matter) affect CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions. This study asserts that emissions were considerably dependent on soil attributes, such as soil pH, water-filled pore space (WFPS), soil texture, crop types, and climate zones. The most important factors to predict accurate GHG emissions were soil pH and soil texture.

Future research should focus on how management practices plays the role on specific soil types. Furthermore, there is a need for long-term research focusing on organic amendments and carbon sequestration from rice fields. Yagi et al. (2019) have stated that long-term observation (ideally for 20 years) is needed to accurately evaluate changes in SOC stocks in soil. There is also currently a dearth of information in the literature evaluating SOC stock changes, using long-term observations together with CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from paddy fields in South East Asia. Tirol-Padre et al. (2018) and Cha-un et al. (2017) both assert that SOC stock changes do not significantly affect periods of AWD experiment on rice uplands and crop rotation, respectively. A study in Arkansas, the USA by Humphreys et al. (2019) evaluated the effects of SOM on CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from rice fields that were subjected to CF conditions across several silt-loam soils. The results showed that CH<sub>4</sub> emissions increased linearly ( $P < 0.05$ ) as SOM and total carbon concentration increased ( $R^2 = 0.81$  and  $0.85$ , respectively). In Korea, Shin et al. (2019) have shown that the use of biochar pellets (blended with animal manure compost) resulted in higher carbon sequestration in soil, compared to the control (animal manure compost only) after a rice-growing period.

This raises the question of how the combination of water regime, rice cultivar, fertilizer management, and soil type compares to each single effect, and how these factors will ultimately affect GHG emissions. When all these individual questions have been answered, robust data can be generated that determines country-specific emission factors that can model and calculate emissions. In their research in Bangladesh, Islam et al. (2018) found that combining the application of AWD and fertilization management (either deep fertilizer placement or using urea briquettes at lower rates than conventional broadcast fertilizer) can increase grain yields and nitrogen-use efficiency, which leads to lower N<sub>2</sub>O emissions. An economical and social-scientific approach needs to be employed with regards to respected technologies because this will generate acceptable mitigation technologies for farmers. This mitigation technology will only be meaningful if it is accepted by the farmer, which relies on them obtaining economic profit despite the environmental benefits. As Ishfaq et al. (2020) also notes, an AWD system is both environmentally friendly and economically viable.

Measurements of CH<sub>4</sub> in Indonesia have mostly employed the manual chamber method. These chambers usually covered less than one square metre, and the manual chamber method is extremely limited in terms of sampling time and interval since this usually only includes 1–3 sampling times each day and mostly on a weekly or bi-weekly basis during a period of rice growth. Rice fields are relatively heterogeneous in terms of chemical and physical factors, water depth, SOC, and other biotic/abiotic factors. The small-scale coverage of CH<sub>4</sub> field measurements poses a challenge to upscaling the observed GHG flux. Therefore, continuous techniques would measure wide-scale GHG emissions more effectively. These techniques include eddy covariance (EC) observations, automated chambers, and satellite observation. Further research into crop-soil simulation models that are based on GIS should also be employed to assess GHG emissions from rice fields. Automated GHG efflux systems facilitate accurate measurements, minimal disturbance of the soil surface, and high-resolution datasets for extended periods of time (Pavelka et al., 2018). A study of rice fields in

Japan, conducted at Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, compared two methods of closed chamber (CC) and EC. The study suggested that each method has different strengths and weaknesses, which can complement each other. Ultimately, using a combination of both methods enables better understanding of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from paddy fields. Measurements using the CC method resulted in higher CH<sub>4</sub> flux averages than using EC (Chaichana et al., 2018). Li et al. (2020) used modified Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectrodiameter (MODIS) data to capture spatial patterns in rice paddies over several years accurately. The authors then designed an auto-thresholding and single vegetation index (normalized difference vegetation index [NDVI])-based procedure to estimate rice paddies' spatial distribution in China. This spatial pattern of rice paddies is an essential parameter that is now used to study GHG emissions, agricultural resource management, and environmental monitoring.

### The proposed future framework for research and development

Currently, Indonesia's approach to climate change focuses more on adaptation than mitigation, and the primary focus is on farming practices that adapt to climate change and that have the secondary benefit of mitigating climate change. Adaptation actions that have a secondary benefit in terms of mitigation (by helping farmers improve farm productivity) sometimes incur higher advance costs. This can include labor and mechanization costs (Campbell et al., 2014). According to Smith et al. (2007), the implementation of mitigation technology faces several constraints and challenges. Most Indonesian farmers lack education because they live in villages that maintain strong cultural traditions. Cultivation techniques are mostly based on local knowledge, so farmers often experience difficulties obtaining new knowledge that is brought in from outside their community. Mitigation actions often introduce additional activities, both on and off the farm, which generate additional transactional costs. This makes farmers unwilling to practice these new activities. MacLeod et al. (2010) outline four adoption levels with regards to GHG-mitigation technologies: Maximum technical: Farmers will willingly adopt a technology if they fully understand the necessary technical concept;

1. High feasibility: A form of mitigation technology may be adopted in the presence of government regulation;
2. Central feasibility: A form of mitigation technology will not be adopted unless a government subsidy is provided;
3. Low feasibility: The possibility of adopting the technology is extremely low if it is only accompanied by training and public schooling.

The development of agricultural adaptation and mitigation practices will require significant investment in technological innovation, which must be linked to increasingly efficient inputs and the creation of incentives and monitoring systems that actively include smallholder farmers (Vermeulen et al., 2012). Interdisciplinary approaches are needed to ensure researchers' and other stakeholders' needs are balanced with the longer-term global climate issue. This should align with global or national strategies to achieve synergy between research and adaptation mitigation practices (Suckal et al., 2015). This is summarized in Figure 4. A study by (Suarma et al. 2018) on

the importance of participatory implementation within climate change-related policies in Indonesia revealed that the participatory method effectively evaluates climate change-related policies. Community participation from government, private sector, and local communities should be included in the program evaluation, to build a strong trust, effectiveness, and fairness of a program that leads to a successful program or policy.

As a non-annex I party, Indonesia is obliged to report its GHG emissions status to the UNFCCC every four years and its current mitigation achievement every two years. These reports require robust data from scientific research, which is then developed and tested multi-locally to ensure the emissions calculations are accurate. This is the first requirement for scientific research of GHG emissions in agriculture, and the second is that research should focus on providing farmers with simple, cost-effective, and sustainable farming techniques. To develop effective GHG mitigation strategies, future research should quantify the global warming potential (accounting for both CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions) and GHG intensity (per yield produced), investigate potential combinations of mitigation practices (e.g., water management and organic amendment), determine the social requirements and economic feasibility of these practices, facilitate technical assistance, and set up an institutional arrangement for monitoring. These pivotal aspects are presented in Figure 4, which outlines a future

framework for GHG research and development. Following these steps and publishing all results in peer-reviewed publications will provide robust data about GHG emissions in rice fields.

### Conclusion

Robust data concerning rice cultivation and GHG emissions in Indonesia has not been published in peer-reviewed periodicals, which has resulted in a lack of scientific information regarding this global issue. The research should provide a reliable, accurate, and robust dataset regarding GHG emissions from field measurements, which has ultimately identified the need for country-specific emission factors and also provide farmers with simple, cost-effective, and sustainable farming techniques. Existing gaps in research exploring GHG emissions from rice fields have also been presented in this study. More research regarding this issue in Indonesia is needed to obtain more robust scientific evidence about controlling factors for GHG emissions in rice fields. This evidence and data can inform national emission estimations and influence future mitigation measures. Based on this review, rice-production systems' soil types and management practices play critical roles in GHG emissions. This review has also outlined a variety of factors, such as fertilizer application, water-management practices, crop variety, and soil type, all of which influence the level of GHG

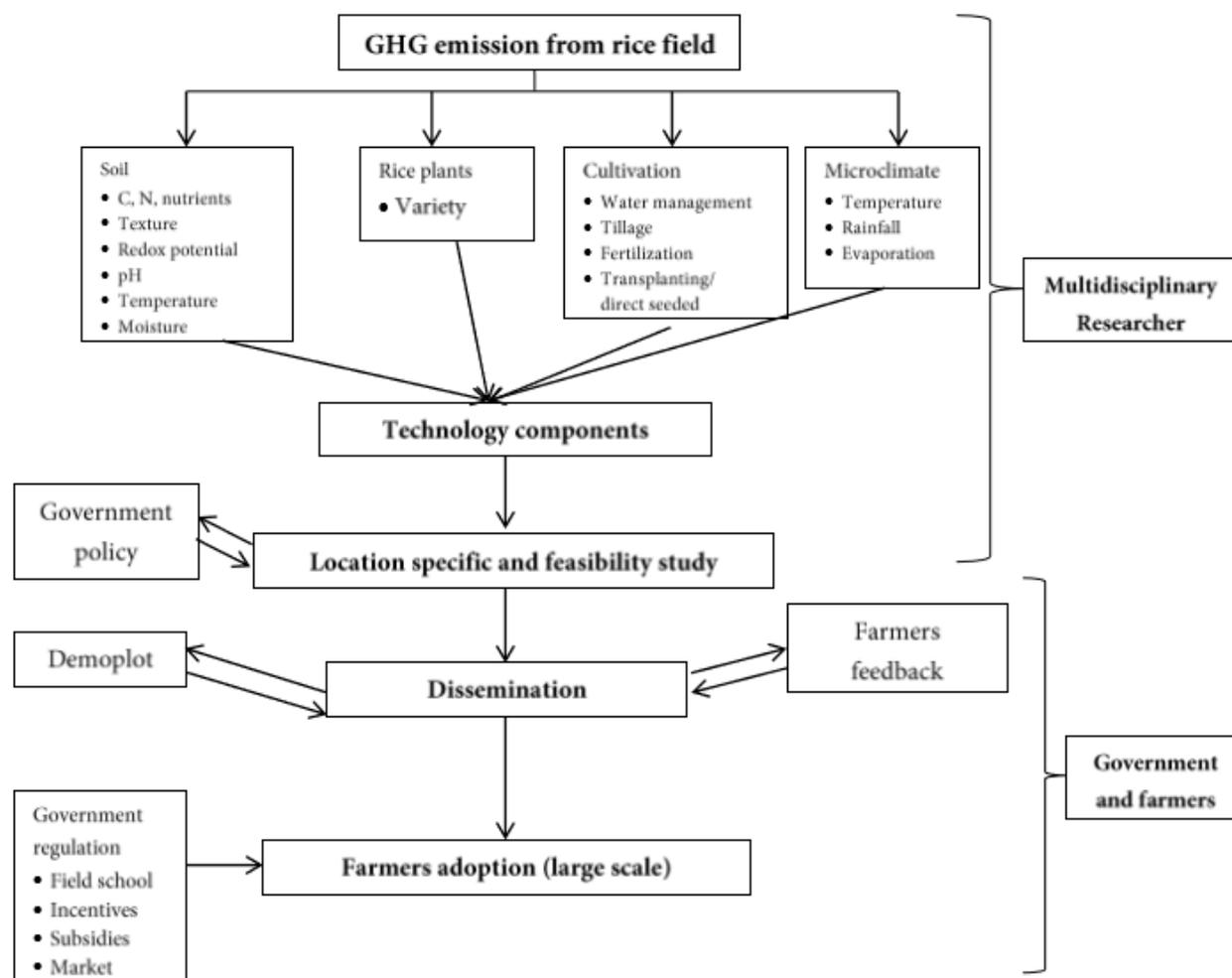


Figure 4. Framework for future agricultural research and development on mitigation and adaptation technology

emissions from rice fields worldwide. However, more evidence from Indonesia is needed. Several studies have been conducted, but these have mostly been plot experiments, so more research is needed to enhance understanding of wide-ranging farming fields. Economic benefits and social aspects must be addressed to fulfil national commitments. In conclusion, research exploring sustainable rice cultivation, particularly GHG emissions, should be conducted using a wider framework and a multidisciplinary approach that focuses on scientific evidence. This will help develop strong strategies in the development.

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