#### Emissions of greenhouse gases from energy use in agriculture, 1

#### forestry and fisheries: 1970-2019 2

Alessandro Flammini<sup>1</sup>, Xueyao Pan<sup>2</sup>, Francesco N. Tubiello<sup>2\*</sup>, Sally Yue Qiu<sup>3</sup>, Leonardo 3

Rocha Souza<sup>4</sup>, Roberta Quadrelli<sup>5</sup>, Stefania Bracco<sup>6</sup>, Philippe Benoit<sup>3</sup> and Ralph Sims<sup>7</sup> 4

5 <sup>1</sup>United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Vienna, Austria

6 <sup>2</sup>Food and Agriculture Organization, Statistics Division, Rome, Italy

- 7 <sup>3</sup> Columbia University, Centre on Global Energy Policy, New York, USA
- 8 <sup>4</sup> United Nations Statistics Division, New York, USA
- 9 <sup>5</sup> International Energy Agency, Paris, France
- 10 <sup>6</sup> University of Gastronomic Sciences, Bra, Italy
- 11 <sup>7</sup> Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand
- 12 \*Corresponding author: Francesco N. Tubiello, francesco.tubiello@fao.org
- 13

14 Abstract. Fossil-fuel based energy use in agriculture leads to CO<sub>2</sub> and non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. We focus on emissions 15 generated within the farm gate and from fisheries, providing information relative to the period 1970-2019 for both 16 energy use as input activity data and the associated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Country-level information 17 is generated from UNSD and IEA data on energy in agriculture (including forestry and fisheries), relative to use 18 of: gas/diesel oil, motor gasoline, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), natural gas, fuel oil and coal. Electricity used 19 within the farm gate is also quantified, while recognizing that the associated emissions are generated elsewhere. 20 We find that in 2019, annual emissions from energy use in agriculture were about 523 million tonnes (Mt CO<sub>2eq</sub> 21 yr<sup>-1</sup>), while including electricity they were 1,029 Mt CO<sub>2eq</sub> yr<sup>-1</sup>, having increased 7% from 1990. The largest 22 emission increases from on-farm fuel combustion were from LPG (32%), whereas significant decreases were 23 observed for coal (-55%), natural gas (-50%), motor gasoline (-42%) and fuel oil (-37%). Conversely, use of 24 electricity and the associated indirect emissions increased three-fold over the 1990-2019 period, thus becoming 25 the largest emission source from energy use in agriculture since 2005. Overall the global trends were a result of 26 counterbalancing effects: marked decreases in developed countries in 2019 compared to 1990 (-273 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq yr<sup>-</sup>

- 27 <sup>1</sup>) were masked by slightly larger increases in developing and emerging economies (+ 339 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> eq yr<sup>-1</sup>). The 28
- information used in this work is available as open data at: https://zenodo.org/record/5153241 (Tubiello and Pan,
- 29 2021). The relevant FAOSTAT (FAO, 2021b) emissions database is maintained and updated annually by FAO.
- 30

#### 31 1. Introduction

- 32 Agricultural production more than doubled over the period 1990-2019, with additional increases of more than 50%
- 33 expected to 2050, to meet projected increases in food demand (FAO, 2018; Calicioglu et al., 2019). Historically,
- 34 productivity increases were achieved through transitions from traditional, extensive agri-food systems to modern,
- 35 intensive production systems, characterized by greater energy use within the farm (Sims et al., 2014; Smil, 2008).
- 36 Direct on-farm energy inputs include fuel to power tractors and other agricultural field machinery, irrigation
- 37 pumps, heat to warm greenhouses and animal shelters. Other uses beyond the farm may include power for forestry
- 38 machinery and fishing vessels (Dubois et al., 2017). On-farm energy use is a significant component of agricultural

- 1 production and growth (Sims et al., 2014; Utz, 2011), however, it often attracts less attention in food-related
- 2 emissions analysis relevant to National Determined Contributions (Tubiello et al., 2021) as the on-farm energy use
- 3 emissions are reported instead under the 'Energy' sector of the national GHG inventories (NGHGI). In fact,
- 4 countries regularly submit to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), containing only
- 5 non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from crop and livestock bio-physical processes. For instance, enteric fermentation in ruminants
- 6 or nitrous oxide from fertilizers on cropland (IPCC, 2006; Tubiello et al., 2019). Within the UNFCCC context,
- 7 emissions from agriculture are currently about 5 Gt  $CO_2eq$  yr<sup>-1</sup>, having increased by roughly 50% since 1961
- 8 (Tubiello, 2019). They are dominated by livestock processes and are fairly equally split between CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O
- 9 components, respectively in single gases units corresponding to annual emissions in 2019 of 140 Mt  $CH_4$  yr<sup>-1</sup> and
- $10 \qquad 7.7 \; \text{Mt} \; \text{N}_2\text{O} \; \text{yr}^{\text{-1}} \; (\text{FAOb}, \; 2021; \; \text{Tubiello} \; \text{et al.}, \; 2021).$
- 11 Energy use in agriculture, forestry and fisheries deserves more attention than paid in current reporting and 12 associated studies, because it is an important food production component deserving analysis in its own right 13 alongside the biophysical crop and livestock processes mentioned above. Additionally, it offers significant 14 opportunities for on-farm mitigation actions directly focussed on  $CO_2$  (Dyer et al., 2014).
- 15 Information on energy consumption in different agricultural operations is available from the literature, albeit there
- 16 is a lack of consistent global data with country detail provided over relevant time series. Available information
- 17 indicates that in-farm energy demand in OECD countries is mainly for crop cultivation, harvesting, heating
- 18 protected crops in greenhouses, crop drying and storage, water pumping and livestock housing (OECD, 2008).
- 19 Furthermore, on-farm use in high-GDP countries (20 GJ/ha) is almost double the use in low-GDP countries (11
- 20 GJ/ha) (FAO, 2011). Fossil fuel energy inputs have reduced labor inputs, or around 152 MJ for every man-hour of
- 21 labor inputs in high-GDP countries, and 4 MJ in low-GDP countries (Sims, 2014).
- 22 Smil (2008) and FAO (2011) estimated global direct and indirect energy use in agriculture in the early 2000s using
- 23 available literature and global estimates at 17 EJ, of which 5 EJ to power machinery; 4 EJ for animal husbandry,
- aquaculture, and fisheries; 2 EJ to manufacture and maintain agricultural machinery; 5 EJ to extract, synthesize
   and distribute fertilizers; 0.5 EJ to manufacture pesticides and herbicides; and 0.3 to manufacture irrigation
- 26 systems. Direct energy use in agriculture was a bit more than half this total, about 9 EJ. In addition to these
- 27 amounts, energy use in agriculture includes electricity from the grid, decentralized renewable sources including
- 28 bioenergy, conventional technologies, mechanical and thermal energy and biodiesel/biofuels. In many traditional
- 29 systems, human labour and draught animal power add significant energy inputs.
- 30 As opposed to GHG emission estimates from global analysis (top-down analysis), this paper focuses on quantifying
- 31 the GHG emissions that arise from the combustion of fossil fuels for energy use in agriculture, forestry and fisheries
- 32 (i.e. capture fishing and aquaculture) with a "bottom-up" approach, i.e. using official statistical data reported by
- 33 countries to the UN Statistics Division. It also provides an overview of total emissions and key trends at the global,
- 34 regional and country level.
- 35 The dataset and the related analysis refers to one single 'agriculture' sector, which covers the three agricultural
- 36 sub-sectors: agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Some additional disaggregated information is provided for fishing
   37 alone.
- 38 As detailed in the methods section, our quantification focuses mostly on farm and on fishing activities, assuming
- 39 that emissions associated to energy used in forestry is negligible—i.e., it focuses on energy use for farm operations,
- 40 for aquaculture and for powering fishing vessels. We include additional estimates of the emissions associated to

the off-site generation of electricity used on the farm, tracking results both separately for electricity and on-site fossil fuel use, as well as in the aggregate. The analysis does not include all other indirect energy uses that are typically addressed in life-cycle analyses, such as embedded energy for manufacturing of agriculture machinery (FAO, 2011; Sims et al. 2015; FAO, 2018).

5

## 6 2. Materials and methods

7 Data on energy use in agriculture forestry and fisheries, by fuel type, over the annual time series 1970-2019, were 8 available from UNSD and IEA. These Agencies regularly collect energy data from member countries, including 9 for use in agriculture, forestry and fishing. Biofuels, renewables, and other energy carriers derived from biomass, 10 were analyzed but not considered for calculating GHG emissions, since they were assumed to be carbon neutral 11 (IPCC, 2006). In particular, UNSD energy consumption data were used to estimate GHG emission from agriculture 12 as a whole, while IEA data were used to provide a breakdown for GHG from fisheries for information purposes. 13 UNSD data are publicly available through the UNDATA portal, while access to IEA data is restricted, and the 14 latter was kindly made available by IEA for this analysis. Energy use data from the UNSD Energy Statistics 15 Database (UNSD, 2020) included the following fuels, over the period 1970-2019: Diesel oil; Motor gasoline; 16 Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG); Natural gas, including Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG); Fuel oil; Hard coal. Energy 17 use data from the IEA Energy Statistics included Diesel oil and Fuel oil used in fisheries.

18

## 19 2.1 Gap filling

20 The energy use data sourced from UNSD were gap filled for both improving the quality of available time series 21 by country and generating data for missing countries. The original set had several missing data points especially 22 for Africa (FAOb, 2021). First, a simple linear gap-filling method was applied to estimate data points missing 23 within intervals with data points, over the time period 1970-2019. Conversely, gap-filling of values for carrying 24 backward and forward values without an available interval was performed by applying sub-regional trends. Finally, 25 time series for countries with no data were generated with a multivariate approach, i.e., by computing the sub-26 regional energy use in agriculture divided by the sub-regional total energy use, and applying the coefficient to the 27 time series of national total energy use, which was available in the UNSD database without major gaps. We 28 validated our gap-filling method by performing random substitutions of existing values and computing the 29 associated error, which was on average below 5%.

30

## 31 2.2 Emissions Estimates

The activity data on energy use described in previous sections served as input for estimates of GHG emissions, made following the Tier 1 method of the Guidelines of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2006). In particular, we used default fuel-specific CO<sub>2</sub> emission factors for off-road mobile combustion sources (e.g., tractors, harvesters and other mobile machinery) and stationary combustion sources (i.e., irrigation pumps, space heating), within the following formula:

- 37
- $38 \qquad E_i = AD_i * EF_i \tag{1}$
- 39

- 1 Where  $E_i$  are the emissions (in t CO<sub>2</sub> yr<sup>-1</sup>) for energy carrier *i*, computed by multiplying the amount of fossil fuel
- 2 type  $AD_i$  (GJ yr<sup>-1</sup>) by the relevant emission factor  $EF_i$  (t  $CO_2$  GJ<sup>-1</sup>). The default emission factors applied to relevant
- 3 fuel categories were those for stationary combustion in the residential and agriculture/forestry/fishing farms
- 4 categories, assumed by IPCC to be used for power generation (heat and/or electricity) (Tab. 2). Fuels reported in
- 5 metric tons were converted to GJ by assuming a net calorific value of 43.0 GJ/t for diesel, 44.3 GJ/t for gasoline,
- 6 47.3 GJ/t for LPG, 44.2 Gg/t for natural gas liquids, 40.4 GJ/t for fuel oil, 25.8 for coal<sup>1</sup> (IPCC, 2016).
- 7 Finally, country-specific grid emission factors needed to estimate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from electricity used were taken
- 8 from IEA (2014) and imputed from 2013 to 2019. They were complemented with CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O country-specific
- 9 grid emission factors estimated by the authors on the basis of the default emission factors for stationary combustion
- 10 in the energy industries, according to IPCC (2006). As our calculations (not shown) indicated, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O
- 11 emissions, calculated as a proportion of  $CO_2$  emissions, are only a minor share (< 5%) of total GHG emissions
- 12 from electricity.

Emissions from fisheries were estimated as a separate item (until 2018), using dedicated IEA data, and for information purposes only, i.e., they were assumed to represent additional information, since energy used in agriculture, forestry and fisheries are already included in the UNSD energy statistics. Fisheries statistics from IEA were limited to OECD countries. Only diesel and fuel oil for powering fishing vessels and aquaculture were reported under fisheries, since these two fuels represent the bulk of energy used in the sector (followed by heat).

- 18 Uncertainties were derived by applying ranges for GHG emission factors provided by IPCC 2006 to fuels
- considered and an error of 5% for emissions associated with electricity consumption (calculated based on the global
   energy mix for electricity generation in the IEA database).
- 21

## 22 **2.3** Limitations and uncertainty

23 There are limitations and uncertainties associated with the estimates presented herein. First, we note that the input 24 data on energy refers to use in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, without further breakdown. While we refer often 25 to the associated emissions as generated within the farm gate, they include components of unknown relative 26 magnitude that are in fact generated through forestry and fisheries activities. For the latter, we have provided a 27 partial and incomplete breakdown in the database, using IEA fisheries data. Second, the underlying data on energy 28 use have significant geographical gaps, especially in Africa, as well as temporal gaps, particularly before 1990. 29 Out of 233 countries and territories, 51 were imputed in the energy emissions FAOSTAT database. However, these 30 are all small countries and their total share of global GHG emissions from energy use in agriculture is less than 31 1%. As mentioned above, the error associated with activity data gap-filling was on average below 5%. The 32 uncertainty is the original energy consumption data is much smaller for some countries than for others, depending 33 on whether the activity data are collected using specific surveys, where a sense of the uncertainty can be measured, 34 or whether national statistical offices use proxies and/or assumptions. The uncertainty also varies by product, 35 depending on what administrative data may be available for them (sales, taxes, etc.), or even on whether they are 36 traded in the formal or informal sector (or not traded at all). According to the default uncertainty for activity data 37 set by IPCC energy guidelines, the uncertainty is measured mainly from two aspects:1) the adequacy of the 38 statistical coverage of all source categories and 2) the adequacy of the scope of all fuels (both traded and non-39 traded). In our case, using the level of uncertainty for stationary non-energy intensive industries and 'well

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> We assumed that coal used in agriculture is mostly 'bituminous coal.'

- 1 developed statistical systems' (energy statistics), an uncertainty associated with the activity data of  $\pm 5\%$  can be
- 2 assumed (IPCC, 2006, Volume 2, Chapter 2, Table 2.6). For estimates of GHG emissions, we applied default IPCC
- 3 methods and uncertainty values for EFs to compute the error propagation in equation (1) above, finding an
- 4 uncertainty range in emissions of -7 to 16%. The overall resulting uncertainty ranges are between -9 to +17%
- 5 (IPCC, 2006, Volume 1, Chapter 6, Equation 6.4) and they are presented in Fig. 3.
- 6

# 7 2.4 Data availability

8 The GHG emission data presented herein cover the period 1970-2019, at the country level, with regional and global 9 aggregates. Significant gaps in some countries and regions, especially Africa, imply that specific regional estimates 10 may be systematically underestimated. Additionally, statistics on energy consumption and emissions from fisheries 11 are highly uncertain and likely underestimates, considering that significant amounts of fuel consumed by small 12 vessels, constituting a majority of the global fishing fleet, are not typically reported in official statistics.

Data on energy use in agriculture and associated emissions used in this work are available as open data at: https://zenodo.org/record/5153241 (Tubiello and Pan, 2021). A thorough description of the dataset and metadata information are available through FAOSTAT at <a href="https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/GN">https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/GN</a>. The relevant

- 16 FAOSTAT (FAO, 2021) database is maintained and updated annually by FAO.
- 17

## 18 **3.** Results

19 Our estimates indicated that world-total GHG emissions from energy use in agriculture including electricity were 20 above 1 billion tonnes in 2019 (1,029 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq yr<sup>-1</sup>; 7% greater than in 1990). The average annual increase was 21 0.2% over the period 1990-2019 and was consistent with the overall growth in agricultural emissions within the 22 farm gate. Almost half of the estimated emissions (496 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq yr<sup>-1</sup>) arose from combustion of fossil fuels for 23 power generation of electricity used on the farm. The most important energy sources after electricity were 24 gas/diesel oil and coal, while motor gasoline, typically associated to field machinery and irrigation in developing 25 countries, contributed a mere 5% of the total (Fig. 1). Emissions from electricity grew rapidly over the study period 26 (mean annual growth rates of more than 6%), overtaking gas diesel oil and motor gasoline as the main emission 27 source by roughly the year 2012. This, together with an increase of LPG use, suggests a global transition towards 28 cleaner on-farm energy use, considering grid electricity is typically associated to lower emissions per energy 29 compared to single fossil fuel sources.

- At the same time, use and hence emissions from natural gas, fuel oil and coal were rather constant over the period 1990-2019, about 38, 123, and 25 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq yr<sup>-1</sup> on average. While data for on farm energy use were rich in coverage, trends in emissions from use of diesel oil and fuel oil in fishing vessels were limited by data paucity. Within such limitations, we find a small, decreasing share of emissions from fishing vessels compared to worldtotal energy use in agriculture, with a total contribution in 2018 (the breakdown of energy used in fisheries is
- available only until 2018) of about 27 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq (3%).
- 36 In terms of total emissions, the top 15 countries (out of 199 countries covered by the dataset) are responsible for
- 37 54% of global GHG emissions in 2019. No country from Africa or Oceania were among the top 10 GHG emitters.
- 38 As these are typically densely populated countries, an analysis of GHG emission per person (done on the basis of
- 39 population data also available in FAOSTAT) led to the same result. Of the 10 top emitters, three are from Asia,

- 1 two from North America, two from Europe, and three from Latin America. However, in terms of GHG emission
- 2 from energy use in agriculture per person, no Asian country appears in the top 10.
- 3 China and India were the largest emitters in 2019. Although gas/diesel oil was responsible for the most GHG
- 4 emissions in Asia, in China and India, most of the on-farm emissions from on-farm energy use originate from coal
- 5 (50% and 88% respectively).
- 6

# 7 3.2 Regional Distributions and Trends

8 Our results indicate that on-farm energy use is an important and increasing component of GHG emissions in 9 agriculture, corresponding to 892 Mt  $CO_2eq$  yr<sup>-1</sup> out of 6,604 Mt  $CO_2eq$  yr<sup>-1</sup> on-farm emissions in 1990 and 962 10 out of 7,214 Mt  $CO_2eq$  yr<sup>-1</sup> in 2019. Emissions declined in Annex I countries over the period 1990-2019, especially 11 energy from coal (-88%) and fuel oil (-77%). Such decline was more than counterbalanced by increases in energy 12 use in non-Annex I parties (NAI), with significant increases in emissions from electricity (three-fold increases

13 since 1990) (Fig. 2).

14 Asia and Europe were the largest emitters among FAO regions, although with starkly different trends over 1990-

- 15 2019. Indeed, while emissions in Europe decreased over the whole period, from 730 Mt  $CO_2eq yr^{-1}$  in 1970 to 410
- 16 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq yr<sup>-1</sup>in 1990, and further decreased to 145 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq yr<sup>-1</sup> in 2019, emissions in Asia nearly doubled over
- 17 1990 to 2019, from 380 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq yr<sup>-1</sup> to 629 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq yr<sup>-1</sup>, while they were 453 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq yr<sup>-1</sup> in 1970. Africa
- 18 was a significant emission source in 2019, having more than doubled since 1990, from 18 MtCO<sub>2</sub>-eq to 48 Mt
- 19 CO2eq yr<sup>-1</sup>. Emissions increased more than 55% in Latin America, but only 18% in North America. The smallest
- 20 contributor to global emissions was Oceania, despite increases by nearly 55% from 1990 (Fig. 4). Top emitting
- 21 countries in 2019 in terms of energy use in agriculture were China (233 Mt  $CO_2eq yr^{-1}$ ), followed by India (212
- 22 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq yr<sup>-1</sup>) and the USA (79 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq yr<sup>-1</sup>). The top 10 emitting countries were responsible for nearly two-
- 23 thirds of the world total (Fig. 5).
- 24 Emissions from mobile combustion in agriculture (typically tractors or other field machinery) represent a large
- 25 share in most continents. In 2019, gas/diesel oil burning was the largest CO<sub>2</sub> on-farm emission source in all the
- 26 continents: 55% in Asia, 48% in Africa, Northern America (57%), Oceania (88%), and Latin America (76%). The
- 27 second-largest emitter is motor gas in Africa (21%), Ocean (7%) and North America (23%), coal in Asia (31%),
- 28 natural gas (13%) in Europe, and fuel oil (9%) in Latin America.
- In countries dominated by fisheries as the main agricultural sub-sector, the result are significantly different, with diesel oil and fuel oil as the main sources of GHG emissions. For example, in Faroe Island, gas diesel oil generated
- 31 75% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, followed by fuel oil (18%) and electricity (7%). Greenland had 63% CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from
- 32 gas/diesel oil, followed by fuel oil (20%) and motor gasoline (17%).
- 33

## 34 **3.3 Indicators**

35 We developed indicators by cropland area and agricultural production value to help us disentangle effects of

36 country agricultural size, both in terms of area and economy. We defined GHG emission intensity per unit cropland

37 as the total GHG emissions from energy use in agriculture divided by total cropland area of a country. Likewise,

- 38 energy GHG intensity per production value was computed by dividing total GHG from national energy use in
- 39 agriculture by total agricultural value added. (Fig. 6). Data for denominators of both indicators were taken from
- 40 FAOSTAT (FAO, 2021a,b).

- 1 Our results indicate that energy GHG emissions per unit cropland have been fluctuating but have been substantially
- 2 stable over the last two decades. Nonetheless, significant differences can be noted among regions (Fig. 7). While
- 3 Europe has decreased significantly its energy-related GHG emission intensity in agriculture (-57%) in the period
- 4 1990-2018, Africa, Central America and Asia have increased it substantially (+88%, +51% and +44%
- 5 respectively). This means that more GHG emissions are associated with the cultivation of one unit of cropland in 6 these regions. In absolute terms, the lowest energy intensity per unit of cropland in 2018 was achieved in Africa
- 7 (0.16 t  $CO_2$ eq ha<sup>-1</sup>), followed by Oceania (0.38 t  $CO_2$ eq ha<sup>-1</sup>), South America (0.42 t  $CO_2$ eq ha<sup>-1</sup>) and Europe (0.48
- 8 t CO<sub>2</sub>eq ha<sup>-1</sup>). A clear diverging trend can be noticed between Annex I and non-Annex I countries, with the former
- 9 significantly decreasing the energy-related agricultural emissions intensity, and the latter significantly increasing
- 10 them (Fig. 8).
- 11 In terms of energy-related GHG emissions to agricultural value added, the picture is substantially different, with
- 12 Europe having significantly improved its energy intensity since 1990 (-68%), followed by Asia (-61%), Latin
- 13 America and the Caribbean (-54%), Northern America (-53%) and Oceania (-45%), while Africa's intensity
- 14 remained substantially stable over the last two decades.

15 This picture is significantly different when analyzing energy-related emission per capita (Fig. 9). Per capita, the 16 emission intensity is lowest in most African countries and India, while it is high in Canada, Australia and

17 Argentina, among others.

- 18 In 2019, high levels of GHG emissions per capita (from energy used in agriculture) were estimated for Faro Islands,
- 19 Greenland and Iceland. In those territories, emissions from gas/diesel oil take more than two-thirds of the total.

20 Fishing is one of the most responsible factors contributing to the high per capita emission from energy use in

- 21 agriculture in Faroe Island, as fishing vessels take almost one-third of energy use at national level. Fishing is also
- 22 the primary industry in Iceland. For Greenland, fishing is the second-largest industry by employment. Though
- 23 Greenland has the highest ratio of using renewable energy (70%), fishing remains a sector depending on traditional
- 24 fossil fuels.
- 25

## 26 **4.** Discussion

27 Emissions from energy use in agriculture are only about one-fifth of the total in CO<sub>2</sub>eq generated from crop and 28 livestock production (Tubiello et al. 2019), however they represent an important contribution in terms of CO<sub>2</sub> gas, 29 the other process emitting  $CO_2$  on the farm being the drainage of organic soils. They are therefore of great 30 importance to GHG mitigation in agriculture. In terms of comparing these results with the existing literature, we 31 note that our approach covers only 7.2 of the 8-10 EJ usually estimated for total fuel consumption within the farm 32 gate (Arizpe et al., 2011; FAO, 2011; Smil, 2008). Additionally, our estimates of energy use in fisheries is 33 admittedly incomplete (0.3 EJ) compared to amounts reported in other studies (Buhaug et al., 2009; FAO, 2011). 34 The reason is that we focused only on electricity and on the most relevant fuels consumed in agriculture, but not 35 all. Specifically for fisheries, the relatively low coverage is also due to the fact that still few countries report

- 36 disaggregated energy consumption statistics for fisheries alone.
- 37 Electricity generation and gas/diesel oil used in agriculture were the two most important emissions sources,
- responsible for roughly 40% of the total on average during the period 1990 -2019. Electricity is used for different
- 39 agriculture purposes: irrigation, processes that require heat or mechanical power, such as drying or milling. LPG,
- 40 natural gas, and heavy fuel oil are typically used for heat generation and, in some rare cases, for motive power.

1 Apart from some sharp variation of their total consumption in agriculture between consecutive years, mainly at the 2 beginning of the '90s, probably due to reporting issues of important consumer countries such as India and the 3 dissolution of the USSR, their emissions remained relatively stable. Compared to other emissions, coal and fuel 4 oil emissions decreased over the last few years, while agricultural production still increased. This can be explained 5 by updated energy use structure - the increased uptake of cleaner energy carriers such as electricity and LPG over 6 fuel oil and coal for heating. China, for example, one of the major emitting countries, decreased emissions from 7 fuel oil use by 48%, while increased emissions due to diesel use by around 59 % and emissions due to electricity 8 use by over 170% over the same period 1990-2019. There is anyway still a long way to go to decrease emissions 9 in the agricultural sector in China, due to its still very high reliance on coal as a heat source. 10 Unlike other regions, Europe's emissions went significantly down, partly because less energy was consumed by

primary production in absolute terms. Also, Europe has gradually moved from high GHG emitting energy carriers such as coal and fuel oil towards cleaner ones, such as natural gas and electricity. This is confirmed by the additional analysis done using the energy-related GHG intensity indicators. This analysis shows how Europe has been steadily improving its agricultural GHG intensity (both in terms of unit of cropland and of unit of agricultural production value), thus providing a good example for other regions.

16

### 17 5. Conclusions

18 This paper provides details of a new dataset added to the existing section of FAOSTAT, which contains 19 information about emissions due to agricultural activities, and which was just opened publicly online (July 2021). 20 It also provides an analysis of energy-related GHG intensity in agriculture, per unit of cropland and per unit of 21 agricultural production value, which has not been published yet. It complements the analysis with selected GHG 22 emission intensity indicators, which are derived directly from FAOSTAT. The calculation makes use of official 23 statistics as reported by countries to the UN, applying IPCC Tier 1 default emission factors for fuels and IEA 24 country-specific emission factors for electricity generation (considering the national energy mix) and relies on 25 official energy consumption in agriculture data reported by countries to the UNSD and the IEA. Further to the 26 above, the share of emissions on fisheries' energy use is estimated and reported separately as a subset. These 27 estimated emission shares provide references to their relevance compared with total emissions but should be used 28 with relevant uncertainties taken into consideration.

- 29
- 30

### 1 6. References

- Ahokas, J., Rajaniemi, M., Mikkola, H., Frorip, J., Kokin, E., Praks, J., Poikalainen, V., Veermäe, I. and Schäfer,
   W.: Energy use and sustainablility of intensive livestock production, in Sustainable Energy Solutions in
   Agriculture, p. 50, CRC Press, 2014.
- Angelou, N., Elizondo Azuela, G., Banerjee, S. G., Bhatia, M., Bushueva, I., Inon, J. G., Jaques Goldenberg, I.,
  Portale and Sarkar, A.: Global tracking framework (Vol. 2), Overview (English), Sustain. Energy Wash. DC
  World Bank Group, 2013.
- 8 Arizpe, N., Giampietro, M. and Ramos-Martin, J.: Food Security and Fossil Energy Dependence: An International
- 9 Comparison of the Use of Fossil Energy in Agriculture (1991-2003), Crit. Rev. Plant Sci., 30(1–2), 45–63,
   10 https://doi.org/10.1080/07352689.2011.554352, 2011.
- Boissy, J., Aubin, J., Drissi, A., Bell, J. G. B. and Kaushik, S.: Environmental impacts of plant-based salmonid
   diets at feed and farm scales, Aquaculture, 321, 61–70, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aquaculture.2011.08.033, 2011.
- 13 Bosma, R., Anh, P. T. and Potting, J.: Life cycle assessment of intensive striped catfish farming in the Mekong
- Delta for screening hotspots as input to environmental policy and research agenda, Int. J. Life Cycle Assess.,
   16(9), 903, https://doi.org/10.1007/s11367-011-0324-4, 2011.
- Buhaug, Ø., Corbett, J., Endresen, Ø., Eyring, V., Faber, J., Hanayama, S., Lee, D., Lee, D., Lindstad, E., Mjelde,
  A., Pålsson, C., Wanquing, W., Winebrake, J. and Yoshida, K.: Second IMO Greenhouse Gas Study 2009,
- 18 International Maritime Organization., 2009.
- 19 Bundschuh, J. and Chen, G.: Sustainable Energy Solutions in Agriculture, CRC Press, London, 2014.
- 20 Calicioglu, O.; Flammini, A.; Bracco, S.; Bellù, L.; Sims, R. The Future Challenges of Food and Agriculture: An
- 21 Integrated Analysis of Trends and Solutions. Sustainability 2019, 11, 222. https://doi.org/10.3390/su11010222
- Cao, L., Diana, J., Keoleian, G. and Lai, Q.: Life Cycle Assessment of Chinese Shrimp Farming Systems Targeted
   for Export and Domestic Sales, Environ. Sci. Technol., 45, 6531–8, https://doi.org/10.1021/es104058z, 2011.
- 24 Dalgaard, T., Olesen, J. E., Petersen, S. O., Petersen, B. M., Jørgensen, U., Kristensen, T., Hutchings, N. J.,
- Gyldenkærne, S. and Hermansen, J. E.: Developments in greenhouse gas emissions and net energy use in Danish
  agriculture How to achieve substantial CO2 reductions?, Environ. Pollut., 159(11), 3193–3203,
  https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2011.02.024, 2011.
- Desjardins, R. L., Vergé, X. P. C., Hutchinson, J. J., Smith, W. N., Grant, B. B., McConkey, B. G. and Worth, D.
   E.: Final Report to the Agri-Environmental Indicator Project, AAFC East. Cereal Oilseed Res. Cent., 2005.
- Dubois, O., Flammini A., Kojakovic A., Maltsoglou I., Puri M., Rincon L.: Energy access : food and agriculture.
   State of Electricity Access Report. Washington, D.C. : World Bank Group., 2017.
- Dyer, J. and Desjardins, R.: A Review and Evaluation of Fossil Energy and Carbon Dioxide Emissions in Canadian
   Agriculture, J. Sustain. Agric. J Sustain. AGR, 33, 210–228, https://doi.org/10.1080/10440040802660137,
   2009.
- Dyer, J. A., Desjardins, R. L. and McConkey, B. G.: The fossil energy use and CO2 emissions budget for Canadian
   agriculture, in Sustainable Energy Solutions in Agriculture, Taylor & Francis /CRC press, 2014.
- 37 Ellingsen, H. and Aanondsen, S.: Environmental Impacts of Wild Caught Cod and Farmed Salmon A Comparison
- 38 with Chicken, Int. J. Life Cycle Assess., 11, 60–65, https://doi.org/10.1065/lca2006.01.236, 2006.
- 39 energypedia: Literature Analysis: Energy in Agriculture,
- 40 https://energypedia.info/wiki/Literature\_Analysis:\_Energy\_in\_Agriculture, 2020a.

- FAO: Energy-smart food for people and climate, Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO),
   http://www.fao.org/3/i2454e/i2454e00.pdf, 2011.
- 3 FAO: Energy Smart Agriculture, E-Agric. http://www.fao.org/e-agriculture/blog/energy-smart-agriculture, 2018.
- FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO: The state of food security and nutrition in the world 2017: Building
   resilience for peace and food security. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome., 2017.
- 6 FAOa: FAOSTAT Production Indices, http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/QI, 2021.
- 7 FAOb: FAOSTAT Emissions Agriculture, Energy Use, http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/GN, 2021.
- 8 GoS: Foresight project on global food and farming futures Challenge D: Meeting the challenges of a low emissions
- 9 world, The Government Office for Science, London, UK.
- 10 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/288329/11-
- 11 546-future-of-food-and-farming-report.pdf, 2011.
- 12 IEA: CO2 Emissions from Fuel Combustion 2014, International Energy Agency, 2014.
- IPCC: 2006 Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (NGHGI), the Institute for Global Environmental
   Strategies (IGES), Hayama, Japan on behalf of the IPCC. : https://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2006gl/.
- 15 Jackson, T. and Hanjra, M. A.: Energy, water and food: exploring links in irrigated cropping systems, in

16 Sustainable Energy Solutions in Agriculture, p. 24, CRC Press, , 2014.

- Jaques, A. P.: Trends in Canada's greenhouse gas emissions (1990-1995), Air Pollution Prevention Directorate,
   Pollution Data Branch, Environment Canada, Ottawa, 1997.
- d'Orbcastel, E. R., Blancheton, J.-P. and Aubin, J.: Towards environmentally sustainable aquaculture: Comparison
  between two trout farming systems using Life Cycle Assessment, Aquac. Eng., 40(3), 113–119, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aquaeng.2008.12.002, 2009.
- Pelletier, N. and Tyedmers, P.: Feeding farmed salmon: Is organic better? Aquaculture, 272, 399–416,
   https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aquaculture.2007.06.024, 2007.
- Pimentel, D.: Energy Inputs in Food Crop Production in Developing and Developed Nations, Energies, 2,
   https://doi.org/10.3390/en20100001, 2009.
- Sims, R. E. H., Flammini A., Puri, M., Bracco, S.: Opportunities for agri-food chains to become energy-smart, p.
   212, FAO and USAID, 2015.
- Sims, R. E. H. and Flammini, A.: Energy-smart food technologies, practices and policies, in Sustainable Energy
   Solutions in Agriculture, p. 48, CRC Press, 2014.
- 30 Smil, V.: Energy in Nature and Society, MIT Press, 2008.
- Tubiello F N et al.: Greenhouse gas emissions from food systems: Building the evidence base, Environ. Res. Lett.
   16 065007, 2021
- Tubiello, F. and Pan, X.: Emissions from energy used in agriculture (on-farm) ZENODO,
   https://zenodo.org/record/5153241, 2021
- Tullberg, J. N.: Energy in crop production systems, in Sustainable Energy Solutions in Agriculture, vol. 3, p. 15,
   CRC Press, Florida, United States, , 2014.
- 37 Utz, V.: Modern Energy Services for Modern Agriculture: A Review of Smallholder Farming in Developing
- 38 Countries, GIZ-HERA Poverty-oriented Basic Energy Services.
- 39 https://energypedia.info/images/f/fd/Energy\_Services\_for\_Modern\_Agriculture.pdf, 2011.

Wang, L.: Energy efficiency technologies for sustainable food processing, Energy Effic., 7(5), 791-810,
 https://doi.org/10.1007/s12053-014-9256-8, 2014.

#### TABLES

	CO <sub>2</sub>			CH4			N <sub>2</sub> O		
	Default	Lower	Upper	Default	Lower	Upper	Default	Lower	Upper
	(kg/TJ)			(kg/TJ)			(kg/TJ)		
Gas/Die sel oil	74100	72600	74800	4.15	1.67	10.4	28.6	14.3	85.8
Motor gasoline	69300	67500	73000	80	32	200	2	1	6

Table 1. Fuel-specific emission factors for agriculture off-road mobile combustion sources and machinery applied (IPCC 2006)

	CO <sub>2</sub>			CH4			N <sub>2</sub> O		
	Default (kg/TJ <sup>3</sup> )	Lower	Upper	Default (kg/TJ)	Lower	Upper	Default (kg/TJ)	Lower	Upper
Liquefie d Petroleu m Gases	63100	61600	65600	5	1.5	15	0.1	0.03	0.3
Natural gas	56100	54300	58 300	5	1.5	1.5	0.1	0.03	0.3
Residua l fuel oil	77400	75500	78800	10	3	30	0.6	0.2	2
Other bitumin ous coal	94600	89500	99700	300	100	900	1.5	0.5	5

Table 2. Fuel-specific emission factors for stationary combustion in the residential and agriculture/forestry/fishing/fishing farms categories applied (IPCC 2006)

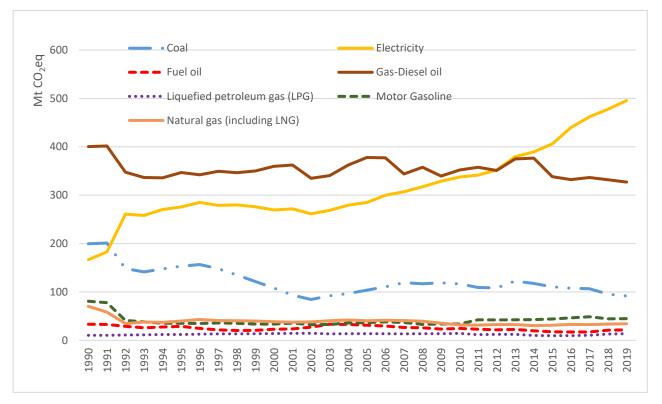
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The default emission factors regard 4-stroke motor gasoline engines.
<sup>3</sup> kg of greenhouse gas per TJ on a Net Calorific Basis

## 2 FIGURE LEGENDS

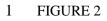
4	Figure 1.	Global	GHG emissions fr	om energy	y use in	agriculture	e from	1990 to 2019,	by energy c	arrier
~	01.00	) a					DIGD	0001		

- 5 (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq). Source: FAOSTAT, based on data from IEA and UNSD, 2021
- 6
- Figure 2. GHG emission trends from 1990 to 2019 for Annex I and Non-Annex I by energy carrier (Mt
   CO<sub>2</sub>eq). Source: FAOSTAT, 2021
- 9
- 10 Figure 3. Trend in global GHG emissions (from 1990 to 2019) and global GHG emissions from energy
- 11 use in agriculture by energy source (average 1990 2019) with uncertainty ranges (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq).
- 12 Source: FAOSTAT, based on data from IEA and UNSD, 2021
- 13
- 14 Figure 4. GHG emissions from energy use in agriculture from 1990 to 2019, by region (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq).
- 15 Source: FAOSTAT, based on data from IEA and UNSD, 2021
- 16
- Figure 5. Top 10 countries emitting GHG from energy used in agriculture in 2019 (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq) Source:
  FAOSTAT, based on data from IEA and UNSD, 2021
- 19
- 20 Figure 6. GHG emission from energy use in agriculture per gross agriculture production value 1991-
- 2018 (Kt CO<sub>2</sub>eq/1,000 current USD). Source: FAOSTAT, based on data from IEA and UNSD, 2021
  22
- Figure 7. GHG emission from energy use in agriculture per unit of cropland by continents 1990-2018
- $24 \qquad (Kt CO_2 eq/ha).$
- 25 Source: FAOSTAT, based on data from IEA and UNSD, 2021
- 26
- 27 Figure 8. GHG emission from energy use in agriculture per unit of cropland by Annex I and Non-Annex
- I countries, 1990-2018 (Kt CO<sub>2</sub>eq/ha). Source: FAOSTAT, based on data from IEA and UNSD, 2021
- 30 Figure 9. GHG emission from energy used in agriculture per capita in 2019 (t CO2eq/person). Source:
- 31 Emissions data from FAOSTAT, 2021. Population data from the World Bank
- 32 (https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL), complemented with UNDESA population data
- 33 for Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Guadeloupe, French Guyana, Martinique, Niue, Réunion, Romania,
- 34 Palestine, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

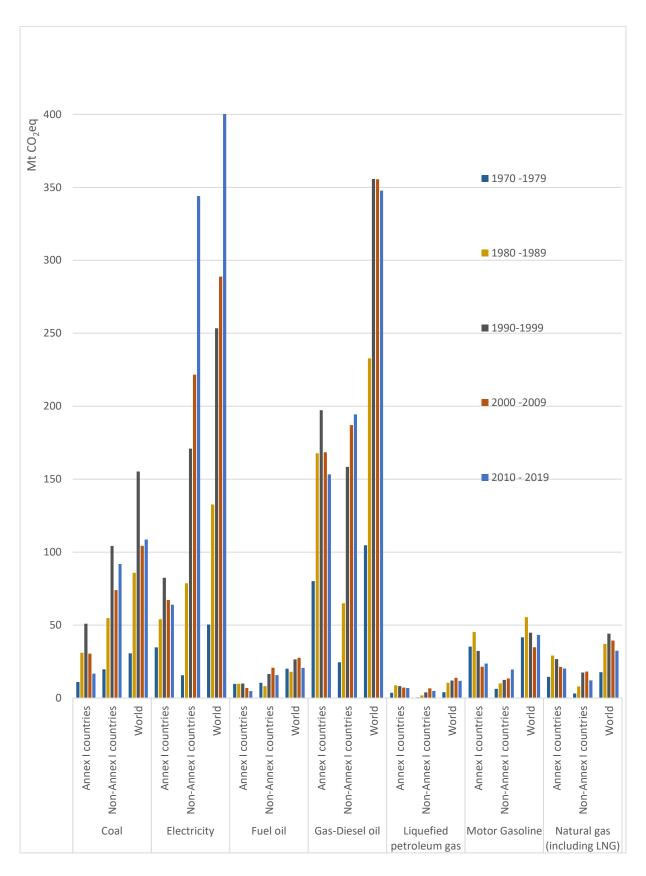
1 FIGURE 1



LL

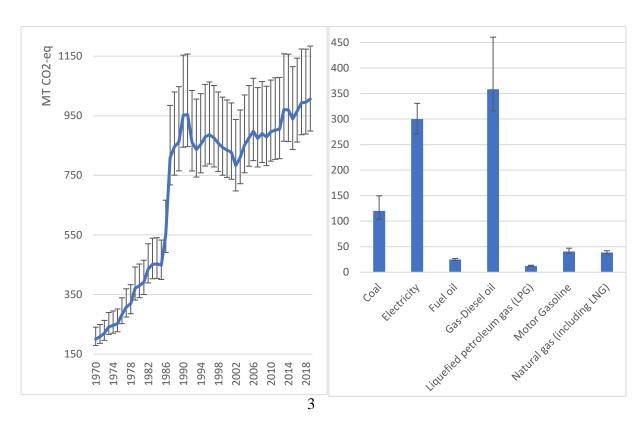












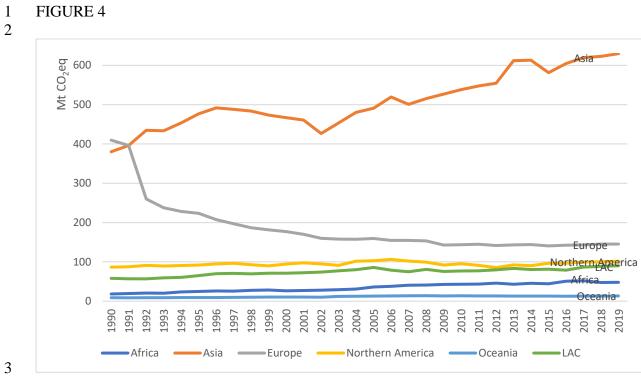


FIGURE 4

FIGURE 5

