Methane from rice paddies: isotopic signals, microbial pathways and fluxes

Fact Sheet

Project Information

RICEOTOPES
Grant agreement ID: ENV4970408

Funded under
Specific programme of research and technological development in the field of environment and climate, 1994-1998

Start date End date
1 November 1997 31 October 1999

Total cost
€ 0,00

EU contribution
€ 0,00

Coordinated by
UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
United Kingdom

Objective

The overall objective of RICEOTOPES is to improve the understanding of the relationships between the mechanisms that control methane emissions from rice paddies and temporal variations in the 13C/12C and 2D/1H ratios of the methane. Recent work in a Chinese rice paddy has shown that the temporal variations in isotopic composition (delta13C and deltaD) of the CH4 emissions are large. These variations are related to the processes of production, transport and oxidation of methane in rice paddies, but the quantitative relationships with these processes have still to be established. Achieving this goal is necessary in order to be able to interpret...
observed isotopic ratios in atmospheric CH4 in the main ricegrowing areas of the world, so as to improve the modelling of regional and global fluxes from this source. The principal experimental approaches to be used in RICEOTOPES are: CH4 flux measurements by static chambers throughout 3 growing seasons and the periods of soil drying at harvest, with intercomparisons with the eddy correlation technique during campaigns at selected times during the seasons; measurement of isotopic signatures (13C, D) of the CH4 emitted from rice paddies using high-precision isotope ratio mass spectrometry (IRMS) and tunable diode laser absorption spectroscopy (TDLAS); 14C tracer studies and use of microbiological inhibitors to establish the relative amounts of CH4 produced by different pathways, and the percentage reduction of methane emission due to CH4 oxidation. The results will be modelled, by adapting an existing mathematical model of diffusion and reaction of CH4 and O2 in saturated systems.

An additional small study will investigate the emission of nitrous oxide from the paddy at times (flooding and drying out) when the soil aeration regimes are changing rapidly: conditions in which significant fluxes of this other greenhouse gas are thought to be possible.

The field work will be located in Europe (N. Italy), because of logistical requirements associated with long-term continuous measurement of fluxes, and the need for frequent sampling of air and soil for transport to laboratories in the Partners' home countries for manipulations and analysis. However, the characteristics of CH4 emission from paddy soils of this region have been shown previously to be typical of those prevailing in major rice-growing regions of the world, and the applicability of the results will be global. The proposed work will bring together 6 groups that have already been successfully involved in the investigation of rice paddies, methane flux measurements, isotope studies and microbial pathways and processes for methane production and oxidation, and modelling.

Fields of science

natural sciences > chemical sciences > electrochemistry > electrolysis
natural sciences > physical sciences > optics > spectroscopy > absorption spectroscopy
natural sciences > chemical sciences > organic chemistry > aliphatic compounds
natural sciences > chemical sciences > analytical chemistry > mass spectrometry
natural sciences > mathematics > applied mathematics > mathematical model

Programme(s)

FP4-ENV 2C - Specific programme of research and technological development in the field of environment and climate, 1994-1998
Topic(s)

01020102 - Tropospheric physics and chemistry

Call for proposal

Data not available

Funding Scheme

CSC - Cost-sharing contracts

Coordinator

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Address

Darwin building, king's building, mayfield road
EH9 3JG Edinburgh

EU contribution

No data

Participants (5)

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Italy

EU contribution

€ 0,00

Address

Via enrico fermi 1, tp 460
21020 Barasso
FRAUNHOFER-GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FOERDERUNG DER ANGEWANDTEN FORSCHUNG E.V.

Germany

EU contribution

€ 0,00

Address

Kreuzeckbahnstrasse 19
82467 Garmisch-partenkirchen

No data

MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FOERDERUNG DER WISSENSCHAFTEN E.V.

Germany

EU contribution

€ 0,00

Address

55020 Mainz

No data
Natural Environment Research Council
United Kingdom
EU contribution
€ 0,00
Address
Bush estate
EH26 0QB Midlothian

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