Environmental Implications of Jatropha Biofuel from a Silvi-Pastoral Production System in Central-West Brazil



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"Standardization of Environmental Life Cycle

**Assessments of Biofuels**"

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# Outline

- Some background on Jatropha LCA
- The silvi-pastoral system
  - Co-production with cattle
  - Detoxification
  - Other innovations
- Results
- Future directions

### Previous work...

a .....

Environ, Sci. Technol. 2010, 44, 8684-8691

by 2020 (6).

Commercial airlines have co

with blends of biobased and co

several feedstocks including I

estimates that jet fuels derive

CO2 emissions by 80% relative t could reduce emissions by app

CJF baseline. However, actual e by substituting CIF with SPK de

practices, as well as coproduct odologies, and land use cha

reduction is achievable only u

for eaxmple, if there is net car

use change or under certain

However, if land use change (

are high, may lead to net incr

have shown in the case of gro

position as a major biofuel a exporter makes it a potential

roughly 40 000 ha of Jatropha

large plantations and small-scal

has been a major push by EMBI

research and support organization

Prior investigations into Jatrop on conditions in Asia, leaving

where, particularly Latin Amer ther, while biofuels for ground

a good deal of attention from

research about biofuels for av

expansion, Jatropha is now c subtropical regions (15). This

plant's ability to survive in hars

to cite latropha's potential no

but also as a tool to help al

developing regions by providing (16), By 2008, Jatropha projects

50 countries across Asia, Africa

However, investment appe

to find optimal varieties and ide

(15, 17). Claims of the plant's

areas with very few inputs have

(9, 15). Inputs such as fertilizer

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each input affects the crop's en

A. LUC in Biofuel LCAs. L

issue in biofuel LCA. Current a

into direct (dLUC) and indires

distinction that falls in line w

Direct land use change (dLUC)

within the system boundary: I

of natural vegetation with bi

cultivation incurs an upfront

changing land cover, it create

10 1021/ex101912

adding to life-cycle energy a

over one million ha (12).

Native to Central America,

We focus on production in

duction (12). At the time of t

then reductions will be smalle

### **Greenhouse Gas Emissions and** Land Use Change from Jatropha Curcas-Based Jet Fuel in Brazil

ROBERT E. BAILIS\* AND JENNIFER E. BAKA Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. 195 Prospect St New Haven. Connecticut 06517, United States

Received June 7, 2010. Revised manuscript received October 12, 2010. Accepted October 12, 2010

This analysis presents a comparison of life-cycle GHG emissions from synthetic paraffinic kerosene (SPK) produced as jet fuel substitute from jatropha curcas feedstock cultivated in Brazil against a reference scenario of conventional iet fuel. Life cycle inventory data are derived from surveys of actual Jatropha growers and processors. Results indicate that a baseline scenario, which assumes a medium yield of 4 tons of dry fruit per hectare under drip irrigation with existing logistical conditions using energy-based coproduct allocation methodology, and assumes a 20-year plantation lifetime with no direct land use change (dLUC), results in the emissions of 40 kg CO2e per GJ of fuel produced, a 55% reduction relative to conventional jet fuel. However, dLUC based on observations of land-use transitions leads to widely varying changes in carbon stocks ranging from losses in excess of 50 tons of carbon per hectare when Jatropha is planted in native cerrado woodlands to gains of 10-15 tons of carbon per hectare when Jatropha is planted in former agro-pastoral land. Thus, aggregate emissions vary from a low of 13 kg CO2e per GJ when Jatropha is planted in former agro-pastoral lands, an 85% decrease from the reference scenario, to 141 kg COre per GJ when Jatropha is planted in cerrado woodlands, a 60% increase over the reference scenario. Additional sensitivities are also explored, including changes in yield, exclusion of irrigation, shortened supply chains, and alternative allocation methodologies

### I. Introduction

This paper presents a life-cycle assessment of synthetic paraffinic kerosene (SPK) derived from jatropha curcas feedstock (hereafter referred to as Jatropha) based on growing conditions in Brazil. SPK is a drop-in substitute for jet fuel that can be produced from vegetable oil (1, 2). Direct combustion of jet fuel for commercial aviation is responsible for roughly 2% of global CO2 emissions (3). Additional forcing associated with aviation increases the net impact from 3 to as much as 6% of anthropogenic forcing (ref 4, cited in ref 5). Further, aviation is among the fastest growing transportation sectors, with annual growth rates of 5% projected for the coming decade (5). The International Air Transport Association (IATA), which represents the majority of the world's commercial airlines, has pledged "carbon neutral growth" beginning in 2020 and further defined an "aspira-

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with Jenn Baka

### tional goal" of 50% CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions from 2005 level by 2050 (6). To meet these goals, airlines may rely on several options: improving technical and operational efficiency, fleet turnover, and retrofits, as well as biofuels (7). Biofuel among the largest contributo emission reductions, with IATA

### BIOENERGY

GCB Bioenergy (2011), doi: 10.1111/j.1757-1707.2011.01100.x

### Carbon impacts of direct land use change in semiarid woodlands converted to biofuel plantations in India and Brazil

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### Abstract

We present an analysis of direct land use change (dLUC) resulting from the conve semiarid woodlands in Brazil and India to Jatropha curcas, a perennial biofuel ci sites examined include prosopis woodlands, managed for woodfuel productio periodic coppicing, in southern India, and unmanaged caatinga woodlands Brazilian state of Minas Gerais. The jatropha plantations under consideration pruned and unpruned stands and ranged from 2 to 4 years of age. Stocks of ca aboveground (AG) pools, including woody biomass, coarse debris, leaf lit herbaceous matter, as well as soil organic carbon (SOC) were evaluated. The plantations store 8-10 tons of carbon per hectare (t Cha-1) in AG biomass and litt managed with regular pruning in both India and Brazil. Unpruned trees, only es in Brazil, store less biomass (and carbon), accumulating just 3 t Cha-1 in AG po two woodlands that were replaced with jatropha show substantial differences in pools: prosopis contains ~11 t Cha-1 in AG stocks of carbon, which was very clo jatropha stand which replaced it. In contrast, caatinga stores ~35t Cha-1 in AG b Moreover, no change in SOC was detected in land that was converted from Pro jatropha. As a result, there is no detectable change in AG carbon stocks at the South India where jatropha replaced prosopis woodlands. In contrast, large losse carbon were detected in Central Brazil where jatropha replaced native caating, lands. These losses represent a carbon debt that would take 10-20 years to repa Keynords: biofuels, Cantinga woodlands, direct land use change (dLUC), greenhouse gas e

Jatropha curcas, Prosopis juliflora

Received 16 December 2010 and accepted 15 January 2011

### Introduction

This paper presents an analysis of direct land use change (dLUC) resulting from the conversion of woodlands to biofuel plantations at semiarid sites in both India and Brazil. Each country is currently pursuing biofuel policies that call for rapid expansion of oilseedbased biofuel production in the near future. For example. Brazilian policy calls for a 40% blend of biodiesel by 2035 (Government of Brazil, 2006) and India's biofuel mandate calls for a 20% blend of biodiesel by 2017 (Government of India, 2009). In addition to production for the domestic market, export-oriented production to meet demand in other countries may increase future cultivation. This is particularly true in Brazil, which is

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### with Heather McCarthy

already a major exporter of cane soybeans (a common feedstock for l in the US and EU, USDA FAS, 200 biodiesel export constitutes a maj the government's national biofuel p ernment of Brazil, 2006).

To date, research on carbon b based biofuel has focused largely and postharvest processes like oil version to fuel. While land use c knowledged as having a potential life-cycle emissions, there has been search quantifying the actual effect Instead, LUC research focuses indi (iLUC), or on dLUC estimated with those published in the IPCCs 'Gui

seedcake (JSC), and cogeneration and is exploring an alternative refining process. Collectively, these innovations significantly lower the environmental impacts associated with biofuel production relative to the reference scenario of fossilbased jet fuel. Biofuels and Aviation. Biofuels are used primarily in

ground transport; however, there is substantial interest in developing biofuels for aviation.<sup>11</sup> The aviation sector is currently responsible for approximately 2% of global green-

house gas (GHG) emissions.12 However, it is among the fastest growing segments of the transport sector, particularly in developing countries. Various measures to cut aviation emissions have been introduced including biofuels. The most common pathway used to produce jet fuel with biomass i through hydro-processed esters and fatty acids (HEFA), which yield a synthetic paraffinic kerosene (SPK) that closely sembles conventional jet fuel (CJF).11 Test flights were conducted and several airlines have carried out commercial flights using blends of HEFA-based SPK.<sup>13,14</sup> Several HEFA pathways are being explored including "catalytic-treating" (HEFA-CHT) and "catalytic decarboxylation" (HEFA-CDC).15,16 The end products are very similar, but the proces and coproducts are quite different. As we discuss in more detail below, HEFA-CHT requires more hydrogen and more raw materials than HEFA-CDC and also produces more coproducts. As a result, the life cycle impacts of the two pathways are

different, but the magnitude and, in some cases, direction of the difference is sensitive to allocation methodologies. Several life cycle assessments (LCAs) have been conducted of SPK produced via the HEFA-CHT pathway including SPK derived from jatropha.<sup>17–19</sup> However, no assessments have yet been conducted of the HEFA-CDC pathway, although a few

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fossil fuel reference scenario in most categories including 62-75% reduction town new Terretore and in more experies and a second seco explicitly accounts for avoided deforestation, results in larger improvements. Results are robust across allocation methodologies improve with higher planting density, and persist if yield is reduced by half. Questions about environmental sustainability of biofuels have

Environmental Implications of Jatropha Biofuel from a Silvi-Pastoral

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Production System in Central-West Brazil

ABSTRACT: We present a life cycle assessment of synthetic paraffinic

kerosene produced from Jatropha curcas. The feedstock is grown in an

intercropping arrangement with pasture grasses so that Jatropha is coproduced

with cattle. Additional innovations are introduced including hybrid seeds,

detoxification of jatropha seedcake, and cogeneration. Two fuel pathways are

examined including a newly developed catalytic decarboxylation process.

Sensitivities are examined including higher planting density at the expense of

cattle production as well as 50% lower yields. Intercropping with pasture and detoxifying seedcake yield coproducts that are expected to relieve pressure on Brazil's forests and indirectly reduce environmental impacts of biofiel

production. Other innovations also reduce impacts. Results of the baseline

essment indicate that innovations would reduce impacts relative to the

### ■ INTRODUCTION

Rob Bailis\* and Goksin Kavlak

**G** Supporting Information

Questions about environmental sustaination of convers nave been raised repeatedly by academiss, civil society groups, and governments.<sup>1-3</sup> Food security and land use change (LUC) are topics of particular concern.<sup>55</sup> To address these concerns, policies have been developed that favor cultivation on marginal land.6 Jatropha cureas (hereafter jatropha) seemed to be an ideal crop for this application.7 However, early experiences with jatropha showed that, although it can survive in marginal conditions, it is not likely to be commercially viable unless cultivated on more favorable land.8 Independent of debates over biofuels, agricultural intensification, particularly cattle production in the tropics, has been identified as a way to reduce negative LUC.<sup>9,10</sup> This study examines the environmental impacts of a biofuel production system currently being implemented in the Central-Western Brazilian state of Mate Grosso do Sul, in which jatropha is intercropped with cattle pasture. The project has also introduced a number of other innovations including hybrid seeds, detoxification of jatropha

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7/23/14



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# Jatropha WTW GHGs using generic Brazilian conditions in 2009 (no LUC)



## What about LUC?



# **Project-based LCA**

- Site-specific silvi-pastoral production
- Utilizing existing pasture

   160 Mha of pasture in Brazil
   10 Mha is "degraded"
- Multiple innovations
- Generalizable to other perennial species?





# Innovations

- 1. Silvipastoral production
  - Co-produce oilseeds and cattle
- 2. Detoxify press-cake and use animal feed
- 3. Use hybrid seeds
- 4. Oil extraction with locally produced ethanol
- 5. Cogeneration using husks and shells
- 6. Alternative refining pathway

# Goal and Scope

Compare environmental impacts of conventional jet fuel to Jatropha-SPK\* produced in a novel silvi-pastoral system

• System boundaries

Farm + Oil Extraction + Refining

- Functional unit
  - 1 GJ of fuel
- Treatment of co-products
  - Mass, energy, and economic allocation
  - System expansion

### Innovations

- 1. Co-produce oilseeds and cattle
- 2. Detoxify press-cake and use animal feed
- 3. Use hybrid seeds
- 4. Oil extraction with locally produced ethanol
- 5. Cogeneration using husks and shells
- 6. Alternative refining pathway

- Stocking 2 AU\* per ha
- Inputs nourish pasture and Jatropha



\* AU = Animal Unit - 450 kg live weight

- Annual productivity per ha:
  - Jatropha 1.95 tons dry seed plus co-products
  - Pasture 10-17 t/ha
  - Cattle 2 UA (900 kg)





• Cattle produced here displace cattle produced elsewhere

...where and by how much?





\* UA = Unidade Animal = 450 kg live weight 7/23/14 Bailis - RCN "LCA"

- Co-produced cattle might displace:
  - Cattle in managed, natural, or degraded pasture
  - Cattle grazing in recently deforested land



Land use in Mato Grosso do Sul (2006)

- Emissions from 1 AU:
  - Enteric fermentation: 56 kg CH<sub>4</sub> per year
  - Manure: 1 kg  $CH_4$  and 1.2 kg  $N_2O$  per year
  - Inputs: NPK, diesel...
  - Land cover change:
    - Degraded small increase in C
    - Managed pasture no change C
    - Forest large C emissions avoided Stocking rate in forest regions 0.9 AU/ha Carbon stocks ~ 150 t-C/ha (IPCC)

Cederberg et al (2011):

- ~6% of Brazil's cattle were produced on recently cut forest in LAR
- 44 kg CO2e/kg cattle averaged over all regions
- 352 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e per FU



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### Including Carbon Emissions from Deforestation in the Carbon Footprint of Brazilian Beef

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Supporting Information

### INTRODUCTION

Greenbouse gas (GHG) emissions resulting from land use change (LUC) have been estimated at around 17% of total anthropogenic GHG emissions in 2004.<sup>4</sup> A key driver of deforestation is the expansion of pastures for beef production in South America and estimates indicate that LUC, mainly deforestation, caused by the growing livestock sector is the source of approximately 6% of global GHG emissions.<sup>2</sup>

source of approximately on of global carics emissions. Brazil is the world's second largest bedy producer, with experihoming increased 7.4 Molecular global part decade, and the world' MPT characteristic and the second largest second largest the second largest fractars weight (CW), of which 2.4 We was expected. The Legal Amazon region (LAR, an administrative unit which includes the ine states of Acc, Amapi, Amazons, Pari, Rondina, Roratina, Tocantins, Mato Grasso and most of Maranhao state) is of growing importance for Bealin beder production (see Supporting Information, SI). In 2006, nearly 25% of Brazil's bed production came from the nine states of Acc, Amapi, Amazone, Pari, Bondina, Brazina, Tocantins, Mato Grasso and most of Maranhao state) is of growing inportance for Bealin beder production (see Supporting Information, SI). In 2006, nearly 25% of Brazil's bed production came from spragment on ghaving strateget.<sup>4</sup> There has been a steady expension of parture area in the LAR were recent decades, at the expense of natural forestic; gross deforestation rates in this region and several studies show that pasture is the main subsequent  $M^{-1}$ .

At present, there is widespread interest in better understanding various products' life cycle GHG emissions, so-called "carbon P

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footprints<sup>2</sup> (CF), a term used for example by the British Standards Institution and in International Organization for Standardzation (ISO) working documents to describe the GHC emissions attributable to providing a specific product or service. The main purpose of estimating CFs is to provide information for policy-making, for supply chain management, and to facilitate a shift by retailers and consumers toward lowcathon products.<sup>12</sup>

The products of the product of the p

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1773

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## 2. Press-cake detox

- Press-cake detoxification
  - 1 dry ton of seed yields 250kg of Jatropha seedcake (JSC)
    - 60% protein
  - Assume product displaces soymeal
    - 19% domestic animal feed market in Brazil (USDA)
    - Corn has bigger market share
    - maybe more realistic to displace maize?

### 2. Press-cake detox

- Press-cake detoxification
  - Substitution on a protein basis
    - 1 kg Jatropha presscake ≈ 1.3 kg soymeal
  - 0.7 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e/kg soymeal (Ecolnvent, 2010)
  - 16-18 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e per FU via soymeal displacement

# 3. Hybrid seeds

- Yield
  - Originally expected 3.5 kg/tree
  - Revised down to 2.4 kg/tree
    - Tested sensitivity @ 1.2 kg/tree
- Spacing
  - 8x1 with large alleys for pasture
  - Considered monoculture @ 4x1





- Improved yields
- Vigor and uniformity
- Reduced input costs
- Enhanced logistics & processing

# 4. Ethanol as solvent

- Replace hexane or pentane
  - Saves energy and reduces emissions



# 5. Cogeneration

Cogen using seedcake and husks



# 6. Alternative refining pathways



Catalytic decarboxylation (AliphaJet)

From http://www.uop.com/green-jet-fuel/

From http://www.syngest.com/AliphaJet/images/img\_flow\_graphic.jpg

### Results (system expansion not shown)



# Results

• Reduced impacts in most indicators

 Improvements are robust across allocation methodologies

 Improvements persist if yields are 50% lower than expected

# Remaining questions

- Carbon dynamics:
  - trees, pasture, and soil?
- Reality check on results:
  - Soy and cattle displacement
- The project failed and SG pulled out of Brazil...why?
- What are future prospects for silvipastoral-based production of oilseed feedstocks?



"A Gol aircraft is fueled with bio-kerosene in Rio; in particular, macaúba fruit and cane sugar, used to produce biofuel." From p. 141 of *this month's* GOL in-flight magazine

# Thanks! Obrigado! Gracias!

• S AIRBUS for funding the Jatropha research

Collaboration with Goksin Kavlak (Yale), SG Biofuels, JetBio and Rio Pardo Bioenergia

# Land use change

• Little impact shifting from managed/degraded pasture to Jatropha:

1 t-C per ha lost from managed pasture ~11.6 kg CO2e/GJ lost over 20 years

### 3 t-C gained in degraded pasture ~5.0 kg CO2e/GJ gained over 20 years

	GH	G reduction requirements in a sample of existing sustainability in	itiatives	5	
Initiative	Allocation	GHG Reduction requirement	ILUC	LUC	Time frame
US-RFS	Displacement method	Conventional biofuels: <b>20% lifecycle GHG threshold</b> (below gasoline) Advanced biofuels: 50% lifecycle GHG threshold Biomass-based diesel: 50% lifecycle GHG threshold Cellulosic biofuel: 60% lifecycle GHG threshold	Yes	Yes	100 year with 2% discount rate OR 30 year with 0% discount rate
CA-LCFS	GREET methodology	10% reduction in GHG emissions across fleet	Yes	Yes	30 year project horizon
UK RTFO	Substitution approach preferred but economic also permitted	Targets to overall level of GHG saving achieved by the biofuel supplied in each obligation period: <b>2008–2009, 40%, 2009–</b> <b>2010, 45%, 2010–2011, 50%, etc.</b> The level of GHG saving is an overall target for all fuels and feedstock reported by a fuel supplier Will follow the EC-RED Directive	х	Yes	No dLUC with a carbon payback time over 10 years
Dutch NTA 8080	Based on energy content	For heat and power: at least 70% if reference case is Dutch mixture of electricity or coal, or at least 50% if reference case is natural gas. For transportation fuels: at least 50%; for flows of biomass for which in the EC-RED "a typical GHG emission saving of less than 50% is included as transition period till 2012, a minimum of 35%	X	Yes	Annualized emissions based on 20 years
EC-RED	Based on energy content	At least <b>35% GHG emission</b> reduction compared to reference fuel Rising to <b>50% on January 2017 and 60% in 2018</b> for biofuels and bioliquids produced in installations in which production started on or after January 2017.	Х	Yes	Annualized emissions with 20 yrs timeframe
RSB 7/23	Guidelines under 석倖velopment	Biofuel shall have lower GHG emissions than the fossil fuel baseline and shall contribute to the minimization of overall GHG emissions. The threshold (10, 40 and 70% reductions are under discussion) will be set at the conclusion of the test period	?	Yes	Based on IPCC methodology 27

### Scenarios

Scenario	Description
Fossil fuel reference	Average US kerosene-based jet fuel
Baseline Jatropha SPK	Jatropha in Brazilian conditions with no innovations
CJO co-production with cattle	Energy Allocation Mass Allocation Economic Allocation No accounting for cattle Accounting for cattle but no avoided LUC Accounting for cattle and avoided LUC

# LCA methodologies

### • Our approach:

- Collect primary data
- Follow accepted LCA protocols
  - Allocate with system expansion when possible
- Use LCA software common to industry and academia
- Undergo extensive peer review

# Allocation

Milling Products	Mass (kg per ton of dry seed)	mass %	energy (MJ /kg)	energy %	Value (R\$/ton)	value (%)
shells	390	28%	19	22%	100	5%
husks	380	28%	19	22%	100	4%
CJO	360	26%	39.6	43%	1681	71%
Cake (or meal)	250	18%	18.3	14%	700	20%
TOTAL (fruit)	1380		24		621	



Fonte: IBGE, Censo Agropecuário 1940/2006.

# **Allocation factors**

Table S1: Factors used to allocate impacts among co-products by energy, mass or economic value (8x1 spacing)<sup>a</sup>

	Mass		Energy		Economic v	alue
	Units produced				Economic	
	per ton of dry		Calorific value		value	
1. Crop production	<u>seed</u>	%	(MJ/unit)	%	(R\$/unit) <sup>b</sup>	%
Jatropha fruit (inc. husk)	1380 kg	88%	12.2	96%	0.39	64%
Cattle (carcass wt) <sup>c</sup>	111 kg	12%	7.8	4%	2.66	36%
2. Oil Extraction <sup>d</sup>						
CJO	360 kg	59%	39.6	67%	1.70	71%
JSC	250 kg	41%	18.3	22%	0.55	20%
Electricity to grid	640 kWh	NA	3.6	11%	0.12	9%
3 a. Oil refining: HEFA-CHT <sup>e</sup>						
J-SPK	174 kg	56%	44.3	58%	10	53%
Other hydrocarbons	133 kg	43%	42.0	42%	18	47%
3 b. Oil refining: HEFA-CDC <sup>f</sup>						
J-SPK	238	80%	44.3	86%	10	97%
Other hydrocarbons	58	20%	28.7	14%	2.1	3%



### **Reference** scenario

• Fossil jet fuel





# Sensitivity to spacing and yield

			allocation n	nethodology						
	economic energy			ma	ass	no allocation		system expansion		
impact category <sup>b</sup>	CHT	CDC	CHT	CDC	CHT	CDC	CHT	CDC	CHT	CDC
GHG	-24%	-34%	-33%	-45%	-30%	-42%	-41%	-51%	82%	78%
ODP	8%	5%	-19%	-14%	-15%	-12%	-23%	-18%	-12%	-38%
РСО	6%	6%	-19%	-20%	-17%	-18%	-22%	-23%	-8%	-7%
ACID	8%	9%	-14%	-16%	-13%	-14%	-17%	-18%	-161%	-192%
EUT	12%	12%	-16%	-16%	-14%	-14%	-19%	-19%	-19%	-14%
NRE	5%	7%	-13%	-17%	-11%	-15%	-17%	-21%	-22%	-51%

Table 2. Differences in Impacts between  $8 \times 1$  Intercropping and  $4 \times 1$  Monoculture<sup>*a*</sup>

<sup>*a*</sup>Negative entries (shaded) indicate the  $4 \times 1$  monoculture system performs better than the  $8 \times 1$  intercropping system. <sup>*b*</sup>Impact categories are defined in Figure 2.

### Table 3. Relative Increase in Each Category of Impacts Resulting if Yield Is 50% Lower than Expected with Inputs Held Constant in the 8 × 1 Intercropping Scenario

	ec	on	ene	ergy	mass		no alloc		syst	exp
impact <sup>a</sup>	CHT	CDC	CHT	CDC	CHT	CDC	CHT	CDC	CHT	CDC
GHG	15%	21%	35%	48%	31%	42%	47%	59%	9%	9%
ODP	30%	21%	63%	46%	59%	40%	75%	59%	37%	122%
РСО	27%	28%	59%	60%	54%	54%	68%	69%	23%	21%
ACID	22%	25%	51%	56%	45%	51%	59%	63%	554%	659%
EUT	31%	32%	65%	66%	59%	61%	73%	74%	75%	56%
NRE	19%	27%	43%	57%	37%	50%	57%	70%	71%	168%

<sup>*a*</sup>Impact categories are defined in Figure 2.

### Results – system expansion

