



Fertilizer Balance on the Landscape

for

Aggregate of 140 crops

Metadata and Technical Documentation

Abstract:

Chemical fertilizers, manure and leguminous crops have been key to agricultural intensification. However, they have also led to widespread nutrient pollution and the degradation of lakes, rivers and coastal oceans. Excess nutrients also incur energy costs associated with converting atmospheric nitrogen and mining phosphorus.

Excess nutrients are not evenly distributed across regions or crops. We find that ~50% of the excess nitrogen and phosphorus is concentrated in only 24% and 21% of the world's cropland area, respectively. China, India, and the United States together account for ~64 to 66% of excess nitrogen and phosphorus. Furthermore, rice, wheat, and maize alone are responsible for ~58 to 60% of the excess nitrogen and phosphorus of the 17 crops we analyzed globally. Using a yield-response model, we estimate that nitrogen and phosphorus applied to wheat, rice, and maize could be reduced by 14 to 29% and 13 to 22%, respectively, while maintaining current yields. Targeting reductions in fertilizer use to a small set of crops and countries could therefore have a large effect on global nitrogen and phosphorus pollution. Further efficiency gains are possible by altering the timing, placement, and type of fertilizer.

Citation:

West, P. C., Gerber, J. S., Engstrom, P. M., Mueller, N. D., Brauman, K. A., ES Cassidy, PM Engstrom, M Johnston, GK MacDonald, DK Ray, Siebert, S. (2014). Leverage points for improving global food security and the environment. *Science*, 345(6194), 325-328.
<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/345/6194/325.abstract>

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Data Products:

The following data products are included for 140 crops, listed below, globally for *elemental* nitrogen and phosphorus:

- Nitrogen balance on landscape in kilograms
- Phosphorus balance on landscape in kilograms

List of crops included:

- 'alfalfa', 'almond', 'apple', 'apricot', 'artichoke', 'asparagus', 'avocado', 'bambara', 'banana', 'barley', 'bean', 'greenbean', 'beetfor', 'berrynes', 'blueberry', 'broadbean', 'buckwheat', 'cabbagefor', 'cabbage', 'canaryseed', 'carob', 'carrot', 'cashewapple', 'cassava', 'castor', 'cauliflower', 'cerealnes', 'cherry', 'chestnut', 'chickpea', 'citrusnes', 'clover', 'cocoa', 'coconut', 'coffee', 'cowpea', 'cranberry', 'cucumberetc', 'currant', 'date', 'eggplant', 'fig', 'flax', 'fornes', 'fruitnes', 'tropicalnes', 'garlic', 'gooseberry', 'grapefruitetc', 'grape', 'grassnes', 'groundnut', 'hazelnut', 'hemp', 'hempseed', 'hop', 'jute', 'kiwi', 'legumenes', 'greenbroadbean', 'lemonlime', 'lentil', 'lettuce', 'linseed', 'lupin', 'maize', 'greencorn', 'maizefor', 'mango', 'millet', 'mixedgrain', 'mixedgrass', 'mushroom', 'mustard', 'rubber', 'nutnes', 'oats', 'oilpalm', 'oilseedfor', 'oilseednes', 'okra', 'olive', 'greenonion', 'onion', 'orange', 'jutelikefiber', 'melonetc', 'papaya', 'peachetc', 'pear', 'pea', 'greenpea', 'pepper', 'persimmon', 'pigeonpea', 'pineapple', 'pistachio', 'plantain', 'plum', 'poppy', 'potato', 'pulsenes', 'pumpkinetc', 'quince', 'rapeseed', 'rasberry', 'rice', 'rootnes', 'rye', 'ryefor', 'safflower', 'cotton', 'sesame', 'sisal', 'sorghum', 'sorghumfor', 'sourcherry', 'soybean', 'spinach', 'stonefruitnes', 'strawberry', 'stringbean', 'sugarbeet', 'sugarcane', 'sunflower', 'sweetpotato', 'tangetc', 'taro', 'tea', 'tobacco', 'tomato', 'triticale', 'turnipfor', 'vegetablenes', 'vegfor', 'walnut', 'watermelon', 'wheat', 'yam'

Formats:

All data are provided in the following formats:

- .tif : Geotiff (More information: <http://trac.osgeo.org/geotiff/>)

Resolution:

- Spatial: Five minute by five minute resolution latitude by longitude(~10km x 10km at equator)

- Temporal: Data represents the year 2000 largely as a collection of data from 1999, 2000. Data for some countries is as old as 1994 or as recent as 2001. See table below.

Map Projection:

- Data presented as five-minute, 4320 x 2160 cell grid
- Spatial Reference: GCS_WGS_1984
- Datum: D_WGS_1984
- Cell size: 0.0833333 degrees
- Layer extent:
 - Top : 90
 - Left: -180
 - Right: 180
 - Bottom: -90

Methods:

Excess nutrients are calculated as a simple mass balance, which is similar to recent efforts to estimate nutrient balances (Liu *et al.*, MacDonald *et al.*). Chemical fertilizer and manure data sets are inputs for both nitrogen and phosphorous models. The nitrogen has additional inputs from nitrogen deposition (Dentener *et al.*) and nitrogen fixation by legumes. Nitrogen fixation is scaled as a function of yields using a range of *Nfix* values from the literature (Smil 1999) and yields (Monfreda *et al.* 2008). Nutrient removal from harvest is estimated as the product of yield (Monfreda *et al.* 2008), dry fraction (Monfreda *et al.* 2008), and nutrient density (USDA).