



# Identifying and Tackling Environmentally Harmful Agricultural Subsidies in the WTO

## The Case of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

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*Fostering International Cooperation on Environmentally Harmful Agricultural Subsidies: A Deep Dive Roundtable, 21 June 2024*

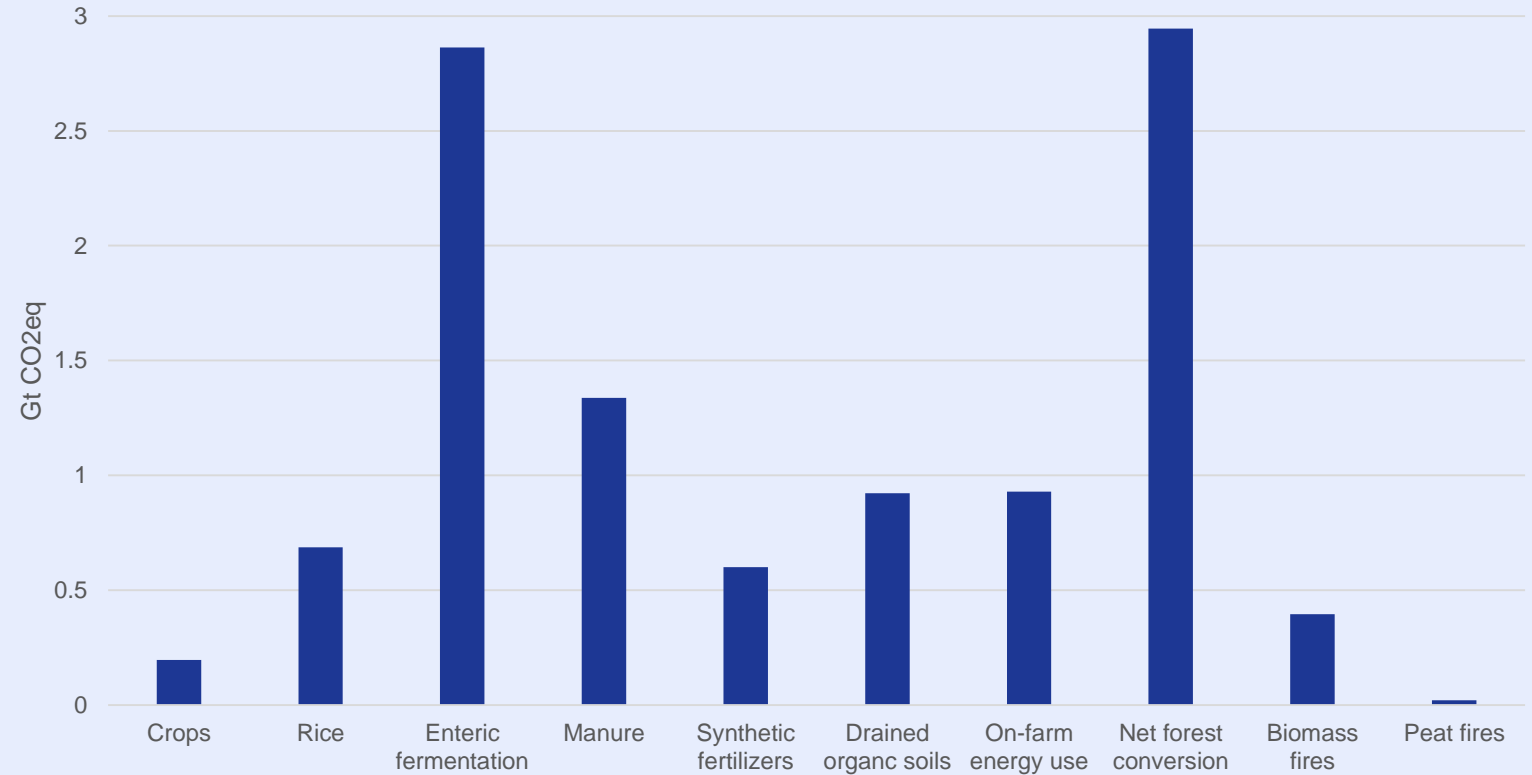


## **Agriculture continues to be a major source of global GHG emissions**

- **Accounting for around 20% of global emissions at 10.9 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>eq in 2021**
- **While overall emissions from agriculture have declined since 2000 ...**
  - On-farm emissions have increased by 14% ...
  - ... and emissions from land use change have declined by around 30% (but fluctuate considerably)

**Livestock and land use change remain the major contributors to agricultural GHG emissions**

**Composition of agricultural GHG emissions, 2021**



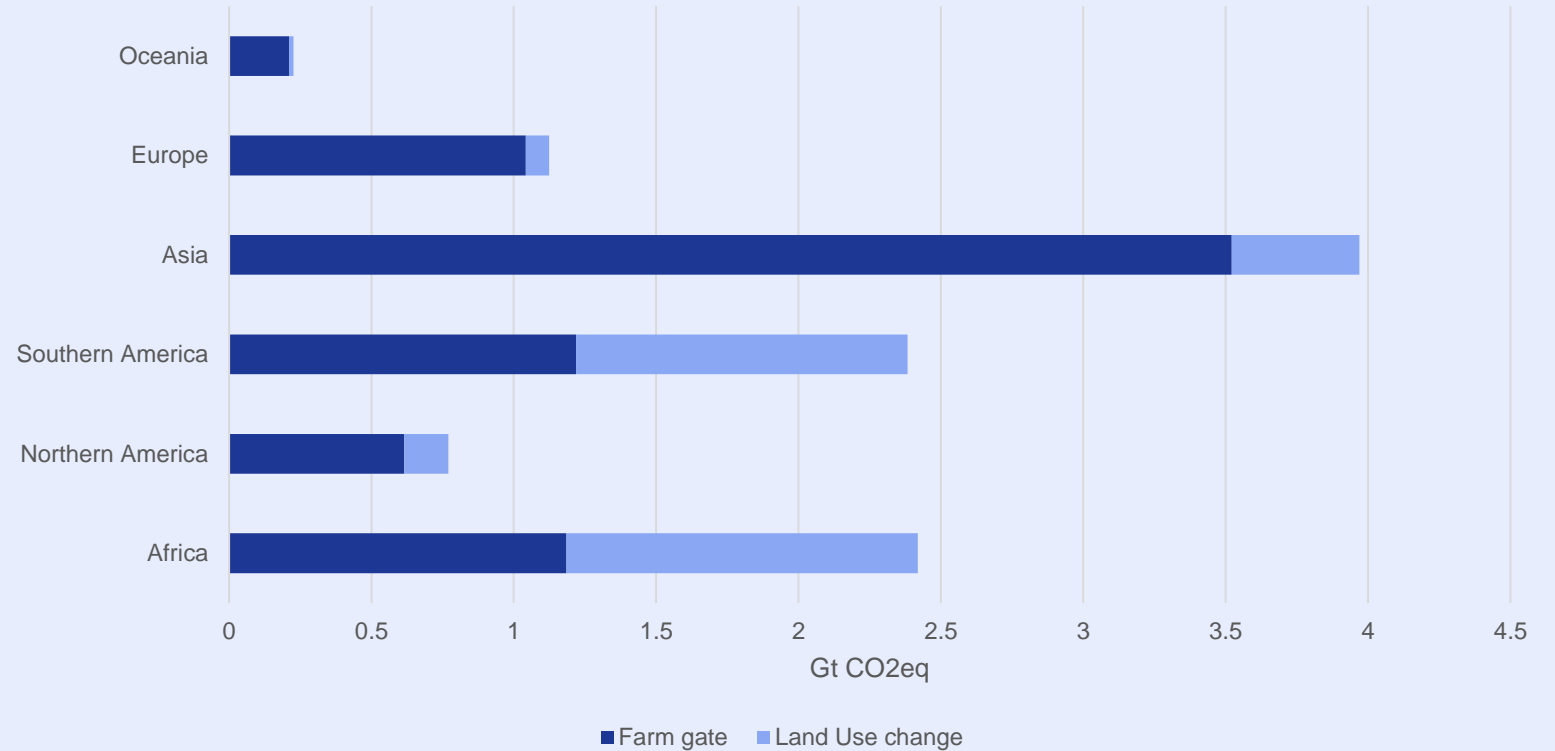
Source: FAO

**Emission intensities have been declining in general, but some remain very high**

- **Result of steady increases in production efficiencies, research and new technologies**
- **But emission intensity of livestock production remains very high**
  - 28 and 24 kg CO<sub>2</sub>eq/kg for beef and sheep meat, respectively
  - Compared to, for example, 1.6 and 5 kg CO<sub>2</sub>eq/kg for pig meat and chicken meat, respectively

# Significant regional differences in emissions and emission profiles

## Regional GHG emissions, 2021



Source: FAO



## **Tradeoffs with other objectives are particularly challenging**

- **Need to recognise multiple objectives of agricultural support**
  - Food security and nutrition, livelihoods and incomes, environmental sustainability
  - Climate, water, biodiversity challenges also intricately linked
- **Complexity of food systems and high degree of heterogeneity**
  - Ruminant livestock, intensification of cropland and livestock production and land use change are key issues for GHG emissions



## **Implications for reducing the climate impacts of agricultural subsidies**

- **Environmental pathways matter**
- **Need to focus reform efforts on subsidies that drive increases in GHG-intensive products, inputs and practices**
- **“Eliminate/reduce/re-purpose/re-direct” debate is critically important**
  - Focus support on sustainable management practices, productivity growth, uncoupled payments, and payments for environmental public goods
- **But improving awareness and understanding of available information and analysis while filling strategically important knowledge gaps is essential**



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# Thank you for your attention!

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