

Pathways to Progress Reducing Climate Impacts in Agriculture



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Pathways to Progress Reducing Climate Impacts in Agriculture

Today's Speakers



Vice President & Chief Sustainability Officer





<u>USDA</u>

United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Research Service

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Webinar Support



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Climate Change in the Headlines

More Than a Third of Heat Deaths Are Tied to Climate Change, Study Says

Sweeping new research found that heat-related deaths in warm seasons were boosted by climate change by an average of 37 percent.

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Cool drinks were distributed on a New Delhi roadside in 2017. Tsering Topgyal/Associated Press



https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/31/climate/heat-deaths-climate-change.html

https://www.retaildive.com/spons/consumers-demand-action-on-climate-change-and-its-time-for-retailers-to/572572/

https://www.voguebusiness.com/sustainability/fashion-and-carbon-emissions-crunch-time

Consumers demand action on climate change — and it's time for retailers to listen

Published Feb. 21, 2020





SUSTAINABILITY

Fashion and carbon emissions: Crunch time

The international fashion industry must urgently cut emissions by 50 per cent to reach a 1.5 °C target, says a new report from McKinsey and the Global Fashion Agenda.

> BY BELLA WEBB 26 AUGUST 2020





Generation Z Highly Concerned About Climate

Environmental issues top list of Gen Z concerns

Most important challenges facing our world today:





Environmental Social Health

Political

Data: CCI & Cotton Incorporated's 2017 Global Environment Survey; Photo: Getty Images Premium

Customers are more engaged than ever

Sustainability decision-makers believe their customers demand more environmental commitments than ever and will hold companies accountable with the power of their purchase.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, how has customer demand changed for environmentally sustainable business practices and goods/services?

How vocal are your customers about their environmental and sustainability concerns since the COVID-19 pandemic? If you had to guess, what percentage of your customer base would switch to a competitor if your company did not meet its sustainability goals or commitments?

48%



US Cotton Trust Protocol and Sourcing Journal Research (2020)

https://sourcingjournal.com/topics/sustainability/u-s-cotton-trust-protocol-webinar-levis-gap-sustainability-traceability-222246/

https://sourcingjournal.com/webinar/where-to-from-here-us-cotton-trust-protocol-sustainability-covid-19/



100%

Apparel Industry GHG Emissions





1.2 billion tonnes CO2e2% of global budget

Quantis (2018)



3.29 billion tonnes CO₂e6.7% of global emissions

Global Fashion Agenda & McKinsey (2020)



2.1 billion tonnes CO₂e4% of global emissions



Science-Based Targets Initiative



Q Sector guidance Resources Net-zero

COMPANIES TAKING

The world is transitioning to a zero-carbon economy. More than 1,000 businesses are working with the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) to reduce their emissions in line with climate science.



Join the companies taking action

We need a race to the top, led by pioneering companies. This will empower peers, suppliers and customers to follow suit and drive governments to take bolder action.

The change has already begun and action is gaining pace. More than 1,000 companies worldwide are leading the zero-carbon transition by setting emissions reduction targets through the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi).

Today's business climate leaders are located across the globe and working in a range of sectors- meet them below, and join them.

SET A TARGET





Climate Roadmap to Net Zero Preliminary Results

Total Apparel GHG Emissions: 1,393 million tonnes CO₂e



institute





35 Years of Reduced Environmental Impact





U.S. Cotton's Sustainability Goals for 2025



Source: Cotton Incorporated (2018). U.S. Cotton ten-year sustainability goals, Pathways to progress. https://www.cottoninc.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Cotton_Sustainability_2018.pdf

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Goal: 39% Reduction



The Greenhouse Gas Goal of 0.85 lbs. of CO_{2e} per pound of fiber is ambitious since it matches the spirit of the U.S. commitment under the Paris Accord and exceeds our historic trend line by 30% and our current F2M FieldPrints.

This metric does not account for carbon sequestered in the fiber (biogenic carbon) which matches current GHG emissions and would designate cotton as carbon neutral.

Drivers for this GHG improvement include:

- Yield and Nitrogen Use Efficiency gains
- Carbon capture from cover crops & no-till





Common Themes for Improvement

- Yield Increase
- Cover Crops
 - Soil improvement (erosion, quality & carbon)
 - Weed suppression
 - Rainfall capture (water quantity & quality)
- Precision Management
 - Optimizing fertilizer and water use
 - Robots to reduce GHG, energy, labor, and as harvested when boll opens, less field loss and better quality.







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Life Cycle Assessment Overview





LCA Goal, Scope Functional Units





Overall Results for a Knit Collared Shirt



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Energy & Greenhous Gas Emissions for Cotton Production





Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Carbon Capture

Net -113 kgs of CO₂ eq. captured per 1,000 Kg cotton





Nitrogen Fertilizer Contribution to GHG Emissions

Fertilizer contributes 60% to the overall global warming potential of cotton production

35% of GWP from nitrous oxide emissions from N volatilization Global Warming Potential [kg CO2 eq./1000 kg cotton fiber]



Crop rotation
Reference system
Field emissions
Fertilizer
Irrigation
Pesticides
Ginning
Packaging
Field fuel use
Transportation



Fertilizer Contribution to Energy Use

Fertilizer contributes 46% to the overall primary energy demand for cotton production



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Fertilizer Production Process & Alternatives

Haber-Bosch process

Ammonia production consumes almost 1.2% of total primary energy and contributes 0.93% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (<u>Gilbert and Thornley, 2010</u>).

 $\mathrm{N}_2 + 3\,\mathrm{H}_2 \longrightarrow 2\,\mathrm{NH}_3 \quad \Delta H^\circ = -91.8 \ \mathrm{kJ/mol}$



Journal of Cleaner Production Volume 135, 1 November 2016, Pages 1379-1395



Production methods with lower fossil fuel inputs and lower GHG emissions



Fig. 9. Global warming values of various ammonia production methods according to CML 2001.

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2016.07.023

Get rights and content

Bicer, Y., Dincer, I., Zamfirescu, C., Vezina, G., Raso, F.. (2015). Comparative life cycle assessment of various ammonia production methods. Journal of Cleaner Production. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2016.07.023 Gilbert, P., & Thornley, P. (2010). Energy and carbon balance of ammonia production from biomass gasification. https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/files/33615474/FULL_TEXT.PDF



US Nitrogen Fertilizer Per Pound of Cotton



Nitrogen required per pound of cotton is on a downward trend in the U.S.



Fieldprint Calculator

5	1
seconds per year of data entered causing longer th	nan normal results processing
times. Selecting "No" will turn WEPS off. Please cli	ck on ፀ for more
information.	
Save	
Location	
Soil	
Crop Rotation	
Management	
Product Transportation/Hauling	
Drying	
Planted But Not Harvested	0
Conservation Practices	0
Farm Demographics	
	*

••••

Click and drag to move. Double Click to zoom in.





Land Use Soil Water Quality Conservation Energy Soil Carbon Use Greenhouse Irrigation Gas Emissions Water Use R Grower Index National Average State Average



U.S. Cotton's Sustainability Goals for 2025



Source: Cotton Incorporated (2018). U.S. Cotton ten-year sustainability goals, Pathways to progress. https://www.cottoninc.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Cotton_Sustainability_2018.pdf

Conservation Practices for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Cotton Production

M. Arlene Adviento-Borbe Delta Water Management Research Unit, USDA-ARS, Jonesboro, AR arlene.advientoborbe@usda.gov 1 (870) 253-3130







The Global Greenhouse Gases Emissions by Gas



Greenhouse gas – GHG

- Carbon dioxide CO₂
 - ✓ Anthropogenic fossil fuel, burning
 - ✓ Natural deforestation, land clearing, soil degradation
- Methane CH₄
 - ✓ Anthropogenic agriculture, burning, livestock, manure
 - ✓ Natural wetlands, peats
- Nitrous oxide N₂O
 - ✓ Agriculture
 - ✓ Natural
- Fluorinated gases (F-gases) HFCs, PFCs, SF₆
 ✓ Industries, refrigeration



Data source: NOAA, 2020; IPCC 2001, 2014

RESEARCH LINIT

Global Warming Potential: GHG Emission in Unit of CO₂ Equivalent

GWP is a relative measure of how much heat a methane or nitrous oxide gas traps in the atmosphere. It is time integrated radiative forcing due to pulse emission of GHG gas relative to 1 kg of CO_2 .

Depends on:

- Absorption of infrared radiation of gas
- Atmospheric lifetime of gas
- Spectral location of its absorbing wavelengths

100 Year Global warming Potential of Different Greenhouse Gases



Global Greenhouse Gases Emissions by Economic Sector



Agriculture – major source of GHG emissions, excluding ecosystem C sequestration

- Cultivation of crops
- Livestock
- Deforestation

The U.S. Greenhouse Gases Emissions by Gas and Economic sector in 2019



Sources of Greenhouse Gases in Agriculture

- CO₂ emission— soil respiration, plant decomposition
- N₂O emission denitrification and nitrification
- CH₄ emission methanogenesis

Row Crops & Climate Change: What is the Connection?

(Yield-scaled Global warming potentials)

Relationship of Yield-Scaled N₂O emissions & N Crop Uptake

The increase in N₂O emissions was <u>exponential</u> when N fertilizer was applied in excess of crop N demand.

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N surplus, kg ha⁻¹

Mitigation Strategies to Reduce GHG Emissions in Row Cropping

1. 4R N management (source, rate, timing, placement)

- 2. Nitrification (and urease?) inhibitors
- 3. Biological nitrification inhibition
- 4. Crop diversification crop rotations
- 5. Irrigation water management
- 6. Crop varieties
- 5. Plant growth promoting microbes

Mitigation Strategies to Reduce GHG Emissions: Challenges

aerobic

anaerobic

Nitrification is oxidation of ammonium to nitrite and subsequently to nitrate

of ammonium to nitrite **Denitrification** is the reduction of nitrate to N₂ gas ate

Processes causing Arsenic (As) uptake from flooded rice fields

As(V) = less mobile and thus less bioavailable for uptake and incorporation in to the rice grain

1. GHG emissions are produced under different microbial/crop controls and processes but which occurring simultaneously in soils.

2. Emissions from soils are highly variable in time and space hence difficult to accurately estimate using commonly used practice.

3. N loss through leaching, runoff and volatilization and converted to N_2O offsite is difficult to measure (*indirect* N_2O *emissions*).

Mitigation Strategies to Reduce GHG Emissions: Challenges

aerobic

anaerobic

Nitrification is oxidation of ammonium to nitrite and subsequently to nitrate

to nitrite **Denitrification** is the reduction of nitrate to N_2 gas

Processes causing Arsenic (As) uptake from flooded rice fields

As(V) = less mobile and thus less bioavailable for uptake and incorporation in to the rice grain

4. GHG emission models are often substantially different and the reasons for this are uncertain.

5. Many GHG mitigation strategies are available, but their efficacy varies by location and some strategies have tradeoffs with other GHG and crop yield.

6. Multiple mitigation practices are likely needed in some fields (i.e., irrigation, N addition, crop rotation).

Arkansas Cotton Production

Arkansas cotton is typically produced using conventional furrow irrigation (roughly 50% of total irrigated fields).

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Conservation Management Practices

Minimum tillage

Vegetative buffer strip

Cover cropping

Non-irrigated cropping

Long-Term Field Study

Four Longterm field treatments

• Judd Hill Foundation Research Farm, Trumann, AR

- Established in 2018
- Collaborative research with Cotton Incorporated in 2020

CONVENTIONAL Practice

- Cultivated
- Clear water furrows
- Winter fallow

CONSERVATION practice

- Low furrow tillage
- Winter rye cover
- Vegetative buffer strip

IRRIGATED

RAINFED

IRRIGATED

RAINFED

DELTA WATER MANAGEN

Objectives of the Study

The overarching goal of this study is to explore the long-term environmental and agronomic impacts of conservation practices on GHG emissions, water use, water quality and yield in irrigated cotton production.

- 1. Asses the impacts of conservation practices on lint yield under irrigated and non-irrigated cropping.
- 2. Quantify the seasonal and annual greenhouse gas emissions from conservation practices managed under irrigated and non-irrigated cropping.

Cropping Practices & Irrigation Management

Conservation system:

- A. Cover cropping:
- Winter rye (Secale cereal sp.); 60 lb ac⁻¹ (55 kg ha⁻¹)
- Planting dates: 23 Oct 2018, 1 Oct 2019, 9 Sep 2020
- Termination dates: 30 Mar 2019, 2 Apr 2020
- Chemical rates: 32 oz. Liberty + 40 oz. Roundup at 12-gal water ac⁻¹
- B. Vegetative buffer strip:
- Switch grass, Bermuda grass, wild grasses
- Planting dates: early April
- 2 to 3 times moving during growing season

Cropping Practices & Irrigation Management

- RCBD with 3 replications
- Four cropping systems:
 - Conventional, Irrigated vs Rainfed
 - Conservation, Irrigated vs Rainfed
- Cotton cultivar: ST 4946GLB2, Phytogen 300, Phytogen 360 W3FE
- Soil type: Dundee silt loam
- N fertilizer rate: 101 kg N, 92 kg P and 92 kg K ha⁻¹
- Irrigation application: 6 times (irrigated)
- Rainfed: 22-24 times rain (2-3 heavy rain) during growing season; 27-35 times rain (2-6 heavy rain) during fallow
- Measurements:
 - Lint yield
 - CO₂, N₂O, CH₄ fluxes
 - Water quality of surface runoff : pH, EC, Turbidity, soluble N and P, TSS, SSC, hardness and alkalinity

Measurements of Field CO₂, N₂O, & CH₄ Emissions

30.5 cm diameter vented flux chamber

 Base (permanently installed)
 Chamber lid (vent tube, fan, thermocouple)

- 12 mL gas vial double sealed with silicon
- Multi-point valves GC-2014 gas chromatograph with a ⁶³NI ECD, TCD, and FID detectors

Flux chamber method:

- Within and between rows chamber
- 5 data points for GHG flux estimate
- Seasonal and annual emissions
- daily to weekly gas sampling (event-related emissions i.e., plowing, irrigation/rain, N fertilization)

Cotton Cropping

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Average Lint Yield

19-21% average lint yield difference between irrigated (IR) and rainfed (RA) systems

Lint yield values following same letter are not significant at P-level <0.05.

N₂O Emission Profiles in the Four Cropping Systems: May 2020-Jan. 2021

Date of sampling

CO₂ Emission Profiles in the Four Cropping Systems: May 2020-Jan. 2021

Date of sampling

Seasonal N₂O & CO₂ Emissions in the Four Cropping Systems

Seasonal GHG emissions followed by similar letter are not significantly different at *P*-level < 0.005.

Growing Seasonal N₂O & CO₂ Emissions in the Four Cropping Systems

Cropping systems	N ₂ O emissions	CO ₂ emissions	Global Warming Potential
	kg CO ₂ eq ha ⁻¹ season ⁻¹	kg CO ₂ eq ha ⁻¹ season ⁻¹	kg CO ₂ eq ha ⁻¹ season ⁻¹
Conventional - Irrigated	509 <i>a</i>	6366 <i>a</i>	6875 <i>a</i>
Conventional - Rainfed	186 <i>a</i>	5182 <i>a</i>	5368 <i>a</i>
Conservation - Irrigated	337 <i>a</i>	6056 <i>a</i>	6393 <i>a</i>
Conservation - Rainfed	482 <i>a</i>	6239 <i>a</i>	6721 <i>a</i>

Seasonal GHG emissions followed by similar letter are not significantly different at *P*-level < 0.005.

Metrics to Measure Global Warming Potentials (GWP): Area-Scaled vs. Yield-Scaled

Area – scaled GWP

 $= \frac{Total N_2O, CH_4, and CO_2 emissions, CO_2 equivalent}{Total area covered, ha}$

 $\mathsf{GWP} = \frac{CO_2 equivalent}{ha}$

Yield – scaled GWP

 $= \frac{Total N_2O, CH_4, and CO_2 emissions, CO_2 equivalent}{Crop yield per hectare}$

$$GWP_{Y} = \frac{CO_2 equivalent}{ton}$$

Global Warming Potential of N₂O & CO₂ Emissions in the Four Cropping Systems

Global & US N₂O Emission Datasets in Crops

Сгор	N ₂ O emissions kg N/ha/year	References
Row crops	<1-10	Maaz et al. 2021. Global Change Biology. 27:2343–2360
Vegetables	<1 – 25	Maaz et al. 2021. Global Change Biology. 27:2343–2360
Rice	<5	Maaz et al. 2021. Global Change Biology. 27:2343–2360
Other cereals	<1-28	Maaz et al. 2021. Global Change Biology. 27:2343–2360
Cotton – Arkansas	0.5 – 1.7	This study
Cotton – Texas	0.006 - 2.83	Bronson et al. 2018. J Environ. Qual. 47:70-78
Cotton – Tanzania	0.191 – 1.15	Bwana et al. 2021. Sci. Total Environ. 147301 p.
Cotton – Australia	0.510 - 10.6	Peter Grace et al. 2016. Soil Res. 54: 598-603
Cotton – China	0.072 - 0.51	Kuang et al. 2018. Field Crops Res. 229:17-29

Yield-Scaled GWP of N₂O & CH₄ Emissions in Agriculture

Crops	Location	Yield-scaled GWP of N ₂ O and CH ₄ kg CO ₂ eq per ton yield	Reference
Cotton	Arkansas, US	397	Adviento-Borbe et al. 2021 (<i>this study</i>)
Rice	China	2240	Shang et al. 2010
	Thailand	1083	Towprayoon et al. 2005
	Philippines	636	Bronson et al. 1997
Maize	Nebraska, US	75	Adviento-Borbe et al., 2005
	Japan	76	Yan et al., 2001
	Malaysia	425	Khalil et al., 2002
Wheat	Germany	228	Russer et al. 2001
	China	414	Wei et al., 2010
Free stall barn Dairy cow operation*	Idaho, US	6135	Leytem et al., 2012
	Pennsylvania, US	68	Adviento-Borbe et al., 2010
	Texas, US	1851	Borhan et al., 2011

*unit is expressed as kg CO₂eq per cow per year

Summary

- Lint yields were similar in conservation and conventional systems however, yields were reduced under rainfed irrigation management.
- N₂O and CO₂ emissions during the growing season mainly constitute total GHG emissions.
- N₂O emissions were influenced by fertilizer N application and irrigation/rainfall during the growing season. CO₂ emissions were influenced by soil organic C.
- Contributions of growing season N₂O and CO₂ emissions were 18% and 48% of the total GHG emissions.
- Yield-scaled GHG emissions in cotton were within the ranges of GHG emissions of row crops.
- The success of conservation strategy depends on the overall performance of the cropping practice in a production farm, hence integrated farming should focus on all aspects of cropping systems.

Cotton Incorporated (Project No.:20-213)

University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture (USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture: Project ARK02355)

College of Agriculture, Engineering and Technology, Arkansas State University

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Pathways to Progress Reducing Climate Impacts in Agriculture

Sustainability Goals for U.S. Cotton

Topics > Sustainability > Cotton Sustainability

ADD TO LIST

Commitment & Innovation Define U.S. Cotton Production

U.S. cotton producers are leading the way in responsible cotton production practices.

Through the support of research and implementation of technology. U.S. cotton production is on the path to continual improvement, maximizing efficiencies while minimizing inputs.

Download U.S. Cotton Ten-Year Sustainability Goals: Pathways to Progress.

Sustainability Goals for U.S. Cotton

U.S. cotton producers are leading the way in responsible cotton production practices.

Learn more at cottonworks.com/ sustainability-goals-us-cotton

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Cotton Sustainability Basics

Topics > Sustainability > Cotton Sustainability

ADD TO LIST

Sustainable Cotton Production

More sustainable cotton production means using our natural resources — water, land, and energy — more efficiently. U.S. cotton producers are leading the way in responsible cotton production practices that dramatically reduce water use, land use, soil loss, and energy use while increasing soil health and yield per acre. Key to these advances in the sustainability of cotton production has been the development of innovative technologies, management systems, and conservation approaches driven by science-based environmental goals and targets.

Let's take a closer look at the issues, progress, prospects, and goals for increased efficiency in the use of the three key natural resources in cotton production:

Cotton Sustainability Basics

Learn more about the issues, progress, prospects, and goals for increased efficiency in the use of the three key natural resources in cotton production: water, land, and energy.

Go to cottonworks.com/ cotton-sustainability-basics

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Topics > Sourcing & Manufacturing > Fiber Science

ADD TO LIST

Basic Information for Developing or Adjusting Sourcing Strategies

The United States imports textiles from more than 80 countries. Brands, retailers, and companies importing apparel and other textiles have many choices when it comes to the geography of sourcing cotton and cotton products. As companies develop or adjust their sourcing strategies, it is helpful to understand vital information about cotton, trade in cotton and production, and manufacturing practices that can affect sourcing and traceability.

Many companies are searching for information about cotton production in China and how this may be affected by current regulations by U.S. Customs and Border Protection:

Sourcing Cotton Webinars

Basic Information for Adjusting Sourcing Strategies

If business conditions, regulations, or compliance requirements have you rethinking your cotton sourcing strategy, this webinar takes you through basic information essential to evaluating your cotton sourcing plan.

Download PDF: Sourcing Cotton: Basic Information for Adjusting Sourcing Strategies

Webinar originally played 2/10/21

Understanding Chinese Cotton & U.S. Import Regulations

Learn how cotton flows through each stage of China's supply chain and how a leading trade association for U.S. importers is helping companies assess the situation

Download PDF: Sourcing Cotton: Understanding Chinese Cotton & U.S. Import Regulations

Webinar originally played 3/9/21

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