

Supplementary material

Title

Enhanced nitrogen imbalances in agroecosystems driven by changing cropping systems in a coastal area
of Eastern China: from field to watershed scale

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Including 8 pages, 8 tables.

Table S1 Cropping system at the Dagu River watershed

Cropping system	Crop rotation ^a	Harvest frequency ^a
Traditional crop with traditional crop rotation (G-G)	wheat-maize	2 times per year
	peanut-wheat-maize	3 times in two years
	garlic – maize	2 times per year
	potato – maize	2 times per year
Vegetable with traditional crop rotation (V-G)	carrot – maize	2 times per year
	onion - maize	2 times per year
	garlic – peanut	2 times per year
	onion – peanut	2 times per year
	potato-potato	2 times per year
	carrot - carrot	2 times per year
	potato - scallion	2 times per year
	cabbage - cabbage	2 times per year
	potato - Chinese cabbage	2 times per year
	white turnip - white turnip	2 times per year
Vegetable with vegetable rotation (V-V)	garlic - cabbage	2 times per year
	ginger	1 time per year
	dasheen	1 time per year
	cucumber	all year
	pepper	all year
Vegetable in facility (GHV)	eggplant	all year
	tomato	all year

^a Data was collected by household interview

Table S2 Cultivated areas of cropping systems in sub watersheds between 1995 and 2015

Sub watershed	Total villages ^a	Sampled villages ^b	Total cultivated area of sampled villages (ha)		Total cultivated area of cropping system (ha)							
			1995	2015	G-G		V-G		V-V		GHV	
					1995	2015	1995	2015	1995	2015	1995	2015
JWR	415	40	6107	5985	4548.6	2513.7	778.1	1795.5	598.5	1496.3	59.9	179.6
ZR	201	20	3122	2903	2061.1	1306.4	493.5	1016.1	290.3	435.5	58.1	145.2
CGR	116	10	1890	1876	1463.3	844.2	225.1	562.8	187.6	356.4	0.0	112.6
XGR	495	50	7610	7506	5779.6	2326.9	750.6	2251.8	900.7	2477.0	75.1	450.4
WGR	415	40	5998	5879	4468.0	2586.8	587.9	999.4	705.5	1763.7	117.6	529.1
CZR	90	10	1422	1102	892.6	418.8	143.3	253.5	66.1	407.7	0.0	22.04
LYR	148	15	3321	3098	2323.5	1239.2	464.7	743.5	278.8	929.4	31.0	185.9
LHR	162	16	3312	3120	2402.4	1029.6	468.0	1092.0	249.6	811.2	0.0	187.2
NJLR	686	50	7923	7500	5250.0	3450.0	1125.0	1650.0	975.0	1800.0	150.0	600.0
TYR	94	10	1945	1521	1201.6	532.4	152.1	501.9	167.3	441.1	0.0	45.63
YXR	158	16	1543	1395	962.6	599.9	251.1	488.3	181.4	293.0	0.0	13.95

^a Number of the total villages in sub-watersheds.

^b Number of the sampled villages in sub-watersheds.

Abbreviations: JWR, Upstream watershed, ZR, Zhu River watershed, CGR, Changguang River watershed, XGR, Xiaogu River watershed, WGR, Wugu River watershed, LYR, Luoyao River watershed, LHR, Liuha River watershed, NJLR, Nanjiaolai River watershed, YXR, Yunxi River watershed, TYR, Taoyuan River watershed; CZR, Chengzi River watershed; G-G, traditional crop with traditional crop rotation, V-G, vegetable with traditional crop rotation, V-V, vegetable with vegetable rotation, and GHV, greenhouse vegetables.

Table S3 N fertilizers application to agricultural fields in Dagu River watershed between 1995 and 2015

Crop		Inorganic fertilizer (kg ha ⁻¹) ^a						Organic fertilizer (kg ha ⁻¹) ^a					
		1995			2015			1995			2015		
		Ave	Min	Max	Ave	Min	Max	Ave	Min	Max	Ave	Min	Max
Traditional crop	Wheat	937.5	750.0	1124.9	1499.9	1124.9	1874.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Maize	468.7	337.5	600.0	750.0	450.0	900.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Peanut	1124.9	825.0	1349.9	1499.9	1124.9	1874.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Open-field vegetable	Onion	1312.4	1124.9	1499.9	1874.9	1499.9	2249.9	20249.0	17999.1	22498.9	29998.5	22498.9	41247.9
	Carrot	1537.4	1199.9	1874.9	1499.9	1124.9	2249.9	23623.8	17999.1	29248.5	59997.0	48747.6	67496.6
	Garlic	1349.9	1124.9	1724.9	1949.9	1499.9	2399.9	22498.9	17999.1	26998.7	44997.8	37498.1	48747.6
	Cabbage	1312.4	1124.9	1499.9	1874.9	1499.9	2249.9	14624.3	13499.3	17999.1	59997.0	56247.2	66746.7
	Ginger	1499.9	1199.9	1724.9	2249.9	1949.9	2624.9	22498.9	17999.1	29248.5	47997.6	44997.8	51747.4
	Potato	1312.4	1124.9	1724.9	1874.9	1649.9	2249.9	13499.3	8999.6	17999.1	29998.5	26998.7	35998.2
	Dasheen	1237.4	1124.9	1499.9	2249.9	1949.9	2249.9	24748.8	22498.9	26998.7	40498.0	23998.8	44997.8
	Chinese cabbage	862.5	675.0	1124.9	1874.9	1649.9	2249.9	15749.2	13499.3	17999.1	35998.2	26248.7	50997.5
	White turnip	862.5	1124.9	1499.9	1874.9	1649.9	2249.9	19124.0	15749.2	22498.9	29998.5	26248.7	35248.2
	Scallion	1237.4	750.0	1499.9	1874.9	1649.9	2249.9	14624.3	11249.4	17999.1	59997.0	44997.8	67496.6
	Cucumber	9374.5	7499.6	11249.4	14999.3	13499.3	18749.1	67496.6	44997.8	89995.5	134993.3	112494.4	149992.5
	Eggplant	8999.6	7499.6	11999.4	14999.3	13499.3	18749.1	134993.3	119994.0	149992.5	89995.5	74996.3	134993.3
Greenhouse vegetable	Pepper	9374.5	8249.6	11999.4	14999.3	13499.3	18749.1	101244.9	89995.5	112494.4	104994.8	74996.3	134993.3
	Tomato	11249.4	7499.6	13499.3	14999.3	13499.3	11249.4	119994.0	104994.8	134993.3	119994.0	74996.3	149992.5

^a Data of fertilizer applications to fields was collected through household interview.

“-” No data

Ave,	average	value,	Max,	maximum	value,	Min,	minimum	value
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Table S4 Nitrogen fertilizer application to crops at field of the Dagu River watershed between 1995 and 2015

Crop		Inorganic fertilizers (%)						Organic fertilizers (%) ^a				
		Ammonium bicarbonate		Urea		Ammonium nitrate		Compound		Pig manure	Cow manure	Poultry manure
		1995	2015	1995	2015	1995	2015	1995	2015	1995-2015		
Traditional crop	Wheat	28.0	—	—	—	47.2	25.0	24.8	75.0			
	Maize	—	—	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—			
	Peanut	25.7	—	—	—	22.4	25.0	51.9	75.0			
	Onion	15.1	—	—	—	23.5	50.0	61.4	50.0			
	Carrot	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.0	100.0			
Open-field vegetable	Garlic	12.0	20.0	10.0	—	33.3	48.0	44.7	32.0			
	Cabbage	20.0	—	—	—	48.0	50.0	32.0	50.0			
	Ginger	15.1	—	—	—	23.5	65.0	61.4	35.0			
	Potato	15.0	—	20.0	—	42.5	50.0	22.5	50.0	35.0	10.0	55.0
	Dasheen	0.0	—	30.0	20.0	53.5	44.0	16.5	36.0			
	Chinese cabbage	8.0	—	—	—	74.2	0.0	17.8	100.0			
	White turnip	10.0	—	—	—	14.0	25.0	76.0	75.0			
	Scallion	5.0	—	20.0	—	43.5	—	31.5	100.0			
	Cucumber	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.0	100.0			
	Eggplant	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.0	100.0			
Greenhouse vegetable	Pepper	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.0	100.0			
	Tomato	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.0	100.0			

^a Organic fertilizer species applied to different vegetables showed no differences between 1995 and 2015.

“—” No data.

Table S5 Grain yield and seed rate of crop at the field scale between 1995 and 2015

Sampled crop		Grain yield (kg ha ⁻¹) ^a						Seed rate (kg ha ⁻¹) ^a		
		1995			2015					
		Ave	Min	Max	Ave	Min	Max	Ave	Min	Max
Traditional crop	Wheat	6749.7	4499.8	9749.5	7499.6	5999.7	10499.5	224.9	187.4	299.9
	Maize	7499.6	5999.7	8999.6	8999.6	6749.7	10874.5	37.5	33.7	41.2
	Peanut	5249.7	3749.8	7124.6	5999.7	4499.8	8249.6	187.4	149.9	262.4
	Onion	52497.4	18749.1	28498.6	63746.8	26248.7	37498.1	6.0	4.5	7.5
	Carrot	63746.8	14999.3	18749.1	74996.3	33748.3	44247.8	6.0	0.0	0.0
	Garlic	14999.3	19499.0	27748.6	18749.1	14999.3	26248.7	2248.9	1874.1	2623.7
Open-field vegetable	Cabbage	48747.6	63746.8	78746.1	59997.0	59997.0	97495.1	6.0	4.5	7.5
	Ginger	31498.4	20249.0	26248.7	37498.1	25498.7	37498.1	899.6	749.6	1124.4
	Potato	56247.2	49497.5	60747.0	67496.6	59247.0	75746.2	2248.9	1874.1	2998.5
	Dasheen	34498.3	41247.9	56247.2	41247.9	53247.3	71996.4	1124.4	899.6	1499.3
	Chinese cabbage	59997.0	21748.9	34498.3	71246.4	33748.3	44247.8	6.0	4.5	9.0
	White turnip	52497.4	30748.5	41997.9	63746.8	38998.1	54747.3	7.5	6.0	9.0
Greenhouse vegetable	Scallion	49497.5	19499.0	27748.6	63746.8	47997.6	59997.0	7.5	4.5	9.0
	Cucumber	202489.9	187490.6	254987.3	224988.8	194990.3	262486.9	30.0	24.0	36.0
	Eggplant	172491.4	172491.4	269986.5	187490.6	224988.8	277486.1	30.0	24.0	36.0
	Pepper	224988.8	142492.9	194990.3	254987.3	172491.4	217489.1	30.0	24.0	36.0
	Tomato	239988.0	209989.5	269986.5	299985.0	254987.3	337483.1	30.0	24.0	36.0

^a Data was collected by household interview.

Ave, average value, Max, maximum value, Min, minimum value.

Table S6 N content in grain and straw of sampled crop

Sampled crop		N contain in grain g N kg ⁻¹ ^a	Straw/yield ratio ^b	N content in straw g N kg ⁻¹ ^b
Traditional crop	Wheat	14.1	1.5	5.8
	Maize	17.9	1.2	5.2
	Peanut	19.4	0.8	18
	Onion	1.8	0.05	1.2
	Carrot	1.9	0.1	2.2
	Garlic	7.2	0.5	0.6
Open-field vegetable	Cabbage	2.4	0	0
	Ginger	2.7	0.5	4.3
	Potato	3.2	0.5	3
	Dasheen	3.5	2	0.1
	Chinese cabbage	2.7	0	0
	White turnip	1.4	0.1	1.9
	Scallion	2.7	0	0
	Cucumber	1.3	0.2	0.2
Greenhouse vegetable	Eggplant	1.8	0.5	0.6
	Pepper	2.2	0.5	0.4
	Tomato	1.4	0.1	0.5

^a Data was obtained from National Institute for Nutrition and Health Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2018.

^b Data was provided by Qingdao Agricultural Technology Extension Station.

Table S7 Parameters for the calculation of N losses at the field scale between 1995 and 2015

Sampled crop		Ammonia volatilization (%) ^a				Denitrification/nitrification (%) ^b				Leaching (%) ^b		Surface runoff (%) ^b									
		Inorganic fertilizers		Organic fertilizers		Inorganic fertilizers		Organic fertilizers													
		1995	2015	1995	2015	1995	2015	1995	2015	1995	2015	1995	2015								
Traditional crop	Wheat	12.2	17.1	—	—					9.7 (2.1) ^{2, 4, 5}		1.0 ⁶									
	Maize	13.7	13.7	—	—																
	Peanut	17.2	17.1	—	—																
	Onion	17.1	12.1	28.0	28.0																
	Carrot	22.1	22.1	28.0	28.0																
	Garlic	12.1	12.1	28.0	28.0																
Open-field vegetable	Cabbage	12.1	12.1	28.0	28.0					15.8 (5.6) ⁷		6.1 (1.3) ^{8, 9}									
	Ginger	17.1	9.0	28.0	28.0	4.2 (0.6) ¹⁻³		2.9 (0.2) ¹⁻³													
	Potato	11.6	12.1	28.0	28.0																
	Dasheen	8.8	11.6	28.0	28.0																
	Chinese cabbage	7.1	22.1	28.0	28.0																
	White turnip	19.1	17.1	28.0	28.0																
	Scallion	11.6	22.1	28.0	28.0																
	Cucumber	22.1	22.1	28.0	28.0																
	Greenhouse vegetable	Eggplant	22.1	22.1	28.0									28.0					42.7 (10.9) ^{5, 10, 11}		
Pepper		22.1	22.1	28.0	28.0																
Tomato		22.1	22.1	28.0	28.0																

^a Data was calculated based the N loss rates in different fertilizer species.^b Data showed no differences between 1995 and 2015.

“-” No data.

Values in brackets are the standard deviations. Superscript number is reference

Table S8 N fertilizer N input and grain N removal in response to crop type between 1995 and 2015

Crop type		N fertilizer input, kg N ha ⁻¹												Grain N removal, kg N ha ⁻¹					
		Inorganic fertilizer						Organic fertilizer											
		1995			2015			1995			2015			1995			2015		
		Ave	Min	Max	Ave	Min	Max	Ave	Min	Max	Ave	Min	Max	Ave	Min	Max	Ave	Min	Max
Traditional crop	Wheat	234.4	187.5	281.2	300.0	225.0	375.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	120.8	80.5	174.5	134.2	107.4	187.9
	Maize	215.6	155.2	276.0	345.0	207.0	414.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	105.7	84.6	126.9	126.9	95.2	153.3
	Peanut	225.0	165.0	270.0	300.0	225.0	375.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	101.8	72.7	138.2	116.4	87.3	160.0
	Onion	262.5	225.0	300.0	468.7	375.0	562.5	147.3	130.9	163.6	218.2	163.6	300.0	94.5	33.7	51.3	114.7	47.2	67.5
	Carrot	230.6	180.0	281.2	225.0	168.7	337.5	171.8	130.9	212.7	436.4	354.5	490.9	121.1	28.5	35.6	142.5	64.1	84.1
Open-field vegetable	Garlic	337.5	281.2	431.2	487.5	375.0	600.0	163.6	130.9	196.4	327.3	272.7	354.5	108.0	140.4	199.8	135.0	108.0	189.0
	Cabbage	328.1	281.2	375.0	468.7	375.0	562.5	106.4	98.2	130.9	436.4	409.1	485.4	117.0	153.0	189.0	144.0	144.0	234.0
	Ginger	300.0	240.0	345.0	630.0	546.0	735.0	163.6	130.9	212.7	349.1	327.3	376.4	85.0	54.7	70.9	101.2	68.8	101.2
	Potato	393.7	337.5	517.5	468.7	412.5	562.5	98.2	65.5	130.9	218.2	196.4	261.8	180.0	158.4	194.4	216.0	189.6	242.4
	Dasheen	433.1	393.7	525.0	675.0	585.0	675.0	180.0	163.6	196.4	294.5	174.5	327.3	120.7	144.4	196.9	144.4	186.4	252.0
	Chinese cabbage	258.7	202.5	337.5	281.2	247.5	337.5	114.5	98.2	130.9	261.8	190.9	370.9	162.0	58.7	93.1	192.4	91.1	119.5
	White turnip	155.2	202.5	270.0	375.0	330.0	450.0	139.1	114.5	163.6	218.2	190.9	256.4	73.5	43.0	58.8	89.2	54.6	76.6
	Scallion	371.2	225.0	450.0	281.2	247.5	337.5	106.4	81.8	130.9	436.4	327.3	490.9	133.6	52.6	74.9	172.1	129.6	162.0
	Cucumber	1406.2	1124.9	1687.4	2249.9	2024.9	2812.4	490.9	327.3	654.5	981.8	818.2	1090.9	263.2	243.7	331.5	292.5	253.5	341.2
	Eggplant	1349.9	1124.9	1799.9	2249.9	2024.9	2812.4	981.8	872.7	1090.9	654.5	545.4	981.8	310.5	310.5	486.0	337.5	405.0	499.5
Greenhouse vegetable	Pepper	1406.2	1237.4	1799.9	2249.9	2024.9	2812.4	736.4	654.5	818.2	763.6	545.4	981.8	405.0	256.5	351.0	459.0	310.5	526.5
	Tomato	1687.4	1124.9	2024.9	2249.9	2024.9	2812.4	872.7	763.6	981.8	872.7	545.4	1090.9	336.0	294.0	378.0	420.0	357.0	472.5

“-” No data.

Ave, average value, Max, maximum value, Min, minimum value.

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