

**METHANE EMISSION AND ITS MITIGATION IN RICE FIELDS UNDER  
DIFFERENT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN CENTRAL JAVA**

**By**

**PRIHASTO SETYANTO**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in  
Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

**August 2004**

*I Would Like to Dedicate This Thesis to My Respected Parents*

*Dr. Achmad Mudzakkir Fagi and Aniek Tuti Rochiani*

*And*

*My Beloved Wife for Her Patience and Support, Andriana Nurwianti*

*Dearest Sons, Raihan Abirega Fagi and Rafid Adrianto Fagi*

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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**Chairman : Associate Professor Rosenani Abu Bakar, Ph.D.**

**Faculty : Agriculture**

The concentration of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), one of the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is increasing at 1% per annum and rice soil is one of the sources that contribute to about 25% of the atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub>. This study was conducted with the objectives of (i) assessing CH<sub>4</sub> emission from rice fields with various rice management practices in Central Java, Indonesia, (ii) identifying potential mitigation methods by taking into consideration the economic analysis of these methods, and (iii) determining the potential CH<sub>4</sub> production and emission from rice soils of Central Java using laboratory incubation method and in-situ field measurements. Field experiments were conducted to investigate the effects of rice cultivars (Memberamo, Cisadane, IR 64 and Way Apo Buru), water management (continuous flooding 5 cm, continuous flooding 1 cm, intermittent irrigation, and pulse irrigation), and crop establishment methods (direct seeding and transplanting) on CH<sub>4</sub> emissions using automatic chamber and continuous sampling technique. These experiments were conducted in four seasons beginning in the wet season of 2001/02 and ended in the dry season of 2003. In determining the potential CH<sub>4</sub> production and emission from rice field of Central Java, soil types under rice were

identified. In-situ measurements of CH<sub>4</sub> fluxes from 13 soil types under rice were made and topsoil samples were incubated for laboratory incubation.

There were no significant differences between cultivars in yield either through direct seeding or transplanting. Cisadane cultivar established through direct seeding emitted significantly higher amount of CH<sub>4</sub> due to higher root and aboveground biomass than transplanting. Since no significant differences in yield between the cultivars were found in this study, Cisadane cultivar should not be used in Central Java. Emission of CH<sub>4</sub> could also be reduced by intermittent (46%) and pulse (62%) irrigation compared to conventional continuously flooded systems. Potential CH<sub>4</sub> production (282 – 6,408 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) for 13 flooded rice soils in Central Java Province was significantly positively related to the in-situ field emission (107 – 799 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>). Measured CH<sub>4</sub> emission estimated was only 16.6% of the potential CH<sub>4</sub> production.

Based on economic analysis of selected data from the field experiments, a few mitigation options could be recommended. During the wet season, for transplanted rice, Way Apo Buru gave the higher incremental benefit of CH<sub>4</sub> mitigation technology adoption, but for direct seeded rice, Memberamo and Way Apo Buru gave the higher benefit. During the dry season, transplanted Cisadane cultivar gave higher benefit than IR 64. Also, during this season, when planted with IR 64, intermittent irrigation gave higher benefit than continuous flooding 1 cm and pulse irrigation. However, further investigation on the mitigation potentials of the management practices need to be done.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**EMISI METANA DAN MITIGASINYA DARIPADA KAWASAN SAWAH PADI  
MELALUI PERBEZAAN PENGURUSAN TANAMAN DI JAWA TENGAH**

**Oleh**

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Kepekatan gas metana ( $\text{CH}_4$ ), yang merupakan salah satu daripada gas rumah hijau, meningkat pada kadar 1% setahun dan sawah padi merupakan salah satu sumber yang menyumbang 25% keseluruhan kepekatan  $\text{CH}_4$  di atmosfera. Objektif daripada kajian ini adalah (i) untuk menilai kepelbagaian amalan pengurusan tanaman terhadap pelepasan  $\text{CH}_4$  di Jawa Tengah, Indonesia, (ii) mengenalpasti potensi kaedah mitigasi dan mengambil kira analisis ekonomi bagi kaedah tersebut, dan (iii) untuk mengenalpasti potensi penghasilan dan emisi  $\text{CH}_4$  daripada sawah padi di Jawa Tengah dengan kaedah inkubasi dan pengukuran secara terus di sawah padi. Kajian lapangan dilakukan untuk mengetahui pengaruh (i) varieti tanaman padi (Memberamo, Cisadane, IR 64 dan Way Apo Buru), (ii) pengurusan pengairan (pengairan berterusan 5 cm, pengairan berterusan 1 cm, pengairan berselang, dan pengairan terputus), dan (iii) cara penanaman padi (tabur terus dan tanam pindah) terhadap pelepasan  $\text{CH}_4$  dengan menggunakan alat pengumpul gas automatik dan teknik persampelan secara berterusan. Kajian ini dilaksanakan selama empat musim bermula pada musim hujan 2001/02 dan berakhir pada musim kemarau 2003. Dalam mengenalpasti potensi penghasilan dan emisi gas  $\text{CH}_4$  daripada sawah padi di Jawa Tengah, jenis tanah sawah dikenalpasti.

Pengukuran terus  $\text{CH}_4$  fluks daripada 13 tanah sawah yang berbeza dilakukan dan bahagian atas daripada tanah diinkubasi di makmal.

Tidak terdapat perbezaan diantara varieti padi yang diuji dalam menghasilkan padi daripada cara tabur terus atau tanam pindah. Cisadane dengan tabur terus melepaskan  $\text{CH}_4$  dalam jumlah yang paling banyak kerana jumlah akar dan biomas bahagian atas pokok padi lebih tinggi daripada cara tanam pindah. Ini menyebabkan varieti Cisadane tidak sesuai ditanam di Jawa Tengah. Pelepasan  $\text{CH}_4$  dapat juga dapat dikurangkan dengan cara pengairan berselang (46%) dan pengairan terputus (62%) jika dibandingkan dengan pengairan berterusan. Potensi penghasilan  $\text{CH}_4$  ( $282 - 6408 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$ ) daripada 13 jenis tanah sawah padi di Jawa Tengah adalah sangat berkaitan dengan pelepasan secara terus ( $136 - 799 \text{ kg CH}_4 \text{ ha}^{-1}$ ) dari kawasan padi sawah. Pelepasan  $\text{CH}_4$  secara terus adalah hanya 16.6% daripada potensi penghasilan dari dalam tanah.

Beberapa kaedah mitigasi dapat dicadangkan berdasarkan analisis ekonomi daripada data terpilih hasil kajian lapangan. Pada musim hujan, dengan cara tanam pindah, Way Apo Buru memberikan keuntungan tertinggi apabila kaedah mitigasi diterapkan, tetapi untuk cara tanam tabur terus, Memberamo dan Way Apo Buru memberi keuntungan tertinggi. Pada musim kemarau pula, Cisadane ditanam dengan cara tabur terus memberikan keuntungan tertinggi dibandingkan dengan IR 64. Selain itu, pada musim ini juga, apabila ditanam dengan IR 64, kaedah pengairan berselang memberikan keuntungan tertinggi daripada pengairan berterusan 1 cm dan pengairan terputus. Kajian lain untuk melihat potensi mitigasi daripada pengurusan tanaman perlu dilakukan.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my profound gratitude to the Chairman of the Supervisory Committee, Associate Professor Datin Dr. Rosenani Abu Bakar, and Co-Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Professor Dr. Mohd. Khanif Yusop, Associate Professor Dr. Che Fauziah Ishak and Dr. Rizaldi Boer for their scholastic and active guidance, valuable advice, and encouragement during the research work and preparation of this dissertation.

I gratefully acknowledge the Project Manager of PAATP (Participatory Development of Agricultural Technology Project), IAARD (Indonesia Agency of Agricultural Research and Development), Department of Agriculture, Republic of Indonesia for the scholarship and the opportunity given to me in pursuing my postgraduate program at the Department of Land Management, Faculty of Agriculture, Universiti Putra Malaysia.

The author wishes to express his grateful appreciation to Mr. Johari Sasa, as the former Head of Research Station for Agricultural Environment Preservation (RESAE) at Jakenan, for his permission to use the experimental field and facility, and also I expressed my appreciation to the new head of RESAE, Mr. Husein Suganda, for giving me the opportunity to continue the experiments at the experimental farm. I deeply appreciate the help I received from Ms. Suharsih, and Titi Sopiawati; without their help in monitoring the continuous working of the CH<sub>4</sub> auto sampling and data handling, I probably could not have finished my work on time. Given this opportunity, I also would like to extend my deep appreciation to Jumari, Yarpani, Sudarmin, Suyoto and Suryanto

for helping with the field setup, data recording in the field, and laboratory activities. Without their help it would be impossible for me to conduct the experiment. This thesis would not have been possible without their support.

I would like to express special thanks to the technical staffs and research assistants of soil chemistry laboratory of Land Management Department, Faculty of Agriculture UPM; Zila, Kak Farida, Kak Rusnah, Kak Umi, Sabri, Abid, and Liza; I thanked them for doing the following activities with me; in-lab party, chatting, joking, cooking and, gossiping..hi..hi..hi, it was good fun.

To the Indonesian student association especially my friends at UPM tennis court; Dr. Prama, Arif, Darius, Siswanto, Dr. Misnawi, Dr. Budiatman, Arifin, Zulkifli, and to all other members, my grateful thanks to them for the joyful time practicing tennis together.

I would like also to express my gratitude to my close friends at Serdang; Eni, Emi, Mirna, Taufik, Edi, Cholil, Saleh, Wijo, and Margono. Our discussion about life and experience made me wiser by knowing other people's thought and opinions. To my family at No. 9 Jln. 5/2 Serdang Jaya; Abah Bujang Nuli and Ibu Anggraeni Ranim, where I stayed since the first semester of my PhD study at UPM; thank you very much for providing me a nice, small and clean room, and also sadness and happiness that both of you always share with me. Thanks also for taking care of me like your own son. I would not forget your kindness.

Last but not least, I would like to express my deepest thanks to my beloved wife, Andriana Nurvianti, my handsome sons Raihan Abirega Fagi and Rafid Adrianto Fagi, my father Dr. Achmad Mudzakkir Fagi, my mother Aniek Tuti Rochiani, and my sisters Dyah Pitaloka, Sri Endang Wijayanti and Angelita Pujilestari for their encouragement, patience, moral support and inspiration given to me during the period of my study in Malaysia. I would like to express my deepest thanks to my mother in law, Indah Mulyanti, for taking care of my wife and sons since the first time I took my post graduate study at UPM. And above all, Allah SWT, the Most Gracious and Merciful who gave me the strength to complete the work and made all things well.

I certify that an Examination Committee met on August 10, 2004 to conduct the final examination of Prihasto Setyanto on his Doctor of Philosophy thesis entitled “Methane Emission and its Mitigation in Rice Fields under Different Management Practices in Central Java” in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

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## **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.

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