

Interactive comment on “Net global warming potential and greenhouse gas intensity in rice agriculture driven by high yields and nitrogen use efficiency: a 5 year field study” by X. Zhang et al.

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Dear Reviewer#2, Thank you very much for your critical comments and great support! Please see the attached point-by-point answers and the manuscript with tracking system for your further evaluation. Sincerely yours, Zhengqin (on behalf of all authors) Referee #2 General Comments The authors have attempted to test agro-ecosystem dependent variables against a comprehensive set of controls related with the global perspective of GWP, and have tried to relate the study with the food security. The scope of this study is too large to detail all the measurements and their dynamics. Provided this paper is revised, it could be useful for relevant farming community, interesting to

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the scientific community and potentially important for the climate change studies. This paper should be published after filling up the significant gaps identified and correcting the specific and/or technical problems in the manuscript: There are two major problems which need to be resolved before this research is published: 1. The C contents of the biomass (harvested crop=grains/paddy + straw) have gone un-accounted for in equations, although grain yield has been accounted for in equation 3 for GHGI calculation. However, in either case the crop straw is not mentioned (accounted). Crops grains as well as the wheat and rice straw accumulate a significant amount of C. As well, it is not clear how the total C balance of the agro-ecosystem was calculated. It is unclear how wheat grain and rice paddy and their straws have been accounted for in C balance and GWP calculations. The relative contributions of different GHGs on a global time scale are not even briefly mentioned. The “N” in the abbreviation “NGWP” is redundant. Instead negative GWP (cooling) and positive GWP (warming) could be simpler to be used. 2. As the measurements were made from the same plots over years, therefore, repeated measures ANOVAs should be used, although year could also be taken as a fixed variable at the same time to see differences between years. A: Thank you very much for your patience and your great support. We have tried our best to revise our manuscript according to your valuable comments. Please see the following point-by-point answers. 1. We determined the C balance by calculating the SOC changes in the integrated soil-crop system in this study as adopted by several researches (Shang et al., 2011; Zhang et al., 2014). We may adopt an alternative approach for calculating the C balance as suggested considering the C inputs from all parts including grains, straws, root exudates, manures etc. and outputs such as heterotrophic respiration. We compared these approaches and they agreed well with each other as reported by our previous publication (Zhang et al., 2014). We added some information according to your comments. Harvests included crop grains as well as the rice and wheat straws were removed out of the field for all the treatments in this study. Revised accordingly Page 5, Lines 119-120. 2. We deleted the “N” and “net” according to the Referee’s suggestion. Thus, we use GWP for all of our updated terminology. Thank you for your

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comments. 3. Considering the Referee's suggestion, we have made correction in Table 3. A repeated-measures multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) was used to test cultivation patterns, cropping years and their interaction on GHG emissions and grain yields for the three annual rice-wheat rotations. Thank you very much for your indication. We therefore corrected the corresponding description according to the new MANOVA results. Specific Comments 1. Authors have presented the conclusion in the abstract in a clear, concise and comprehensive manner A: Thank you very much for your comment! 2. 5 years field study for this experiment is appropriate as it provides larger data set for processing to conclude with less uncertainty A: Thank you so much for your support. 3. The terms GWP and Food Security are very important and need to be defined in introduction section A: You are right. This is our major aim. We revised this point accordingly. Page 3, Lines 39-43 and Lines 52-55. 4. Please provide a brief rationale for this research with Food Security A: You are right. Thank you very much! Revised accordingly Page 3, Lines 39-50. 5. The comments by the other referee are tired not be repeated here A: Yes, thank you. 6. It could be very interesting if the GWPs be related to the annual (or seasonal) temperature and precipitation. A: Thank you for your comment. The annual temperature and precipitation were similar over three years in this study. Further observations are essential to find out their relationship. 7. Fig. 1 may not be needed in this paper as the climate is not discussed in results section or related with other variables A: Daily mean air temperature and precipitation were provided accordingly as Supplementary resource 1. 8. In the title, "Net" is redundant A: Thank you for your comment. We have deleted the "Net" in the title and the corresponding texts. Page 18885 Line 6: add "equivalent" before "emissions" Line 7, 8: putting the abbreviations in brackets could be more meaningful Line 13: ", i.e., N1, N2, N3 and N4," is redundant as these are already defined earlier Line 24: why is the word "cost" here? Page 18886 Line 4, 5, 6: Conclusion cannot be made on the basis of hypothesis, therefore, please remove this conclusion. Page 18887 Basal fertilizers- what was rate? Page 18888 Line 7: space or "." Is required after mL Line 13: why different size brackets are used when same sized could be used? Table 2. The 2ND column

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CH4 values could be rounded off to no decimal point while the SD could be rounded off to a single decimal point. A: We are sorry for the inconvenience. Revised accordingly Page 2, Lines 21-23, Line 26, Page 3, Line 50, Page 4, Line 77 and Table 2. The basal fertilizers rate was presented in Table 1 and Page 5, lines 112-116.

Thank you once again for your critical comments and great support!
Sincerely yours, Zhengqin (on behalf of all authors)
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Please also note the supplement to this comment:  
<http://www.biogeosciences-discuss.net/12/C9632/2016/bgd-12-C9632-2016-supplement.pdf>

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