

Interactive comment on “Seasonal variation of gross nitrification rates at three differently treated long-term fertilisations sites” by C. F. Stange and H.-U. Neue

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Received and published: 16 March 2009

Gross nitrification with the BaPS is an indirect measurement involving three sensors. Its simplicity is appealing to gain important knowledge for model purposes for agricultural systems. Nevertheless I am somewhat sceptical whether the precision of the commercial system is sufficient for reliable measurements. A detailed evaluation and the presentation of e.g. test series with blank samples seems necessary to convince sceptical readers (as I have to be). The measured gross nitrification rates should also be discussed in relation to the other N fluxes in the systems. I estimated a gross nitrification rate in the order of 200 kg N / (ha and year). In my understanding this

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corresponds to the amount of nitrate produced in the soil. Looking at this number I am astonished that in the majority of the samples no denitrification was found.

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 6, 1565, 2009.

BGD

6, S488–S489, 2009

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