

## Enteric methane emission models for diverse beef cattle feeding systems in South-east Asia: A meta-analysis

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### **Abstract**

Prediction models for enteric methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) emissions from beef cattle proposed by various groups may not perform with similar accuracy for the low- and middle-income countries in South-east Asia (SE-Asia) because beef cattle in these countries are raised under different climatic conditions with diverse feeding systems, and have different CH<sub>4</sub> emission characteristics. The objectives of this study were to: i) predict CH<sub>4</sub> emission (g d<sup>-1</sup> animal<sup>-1</sup>), yield [g kg<sup>-1</sup> dry matter intake; DMI<sup>-1</sup>], intensity [g kg<sup>-1</sup> average daily gain<sup>-1</sup>], and CH<sub>4</sub> conversion factor (Y<sub>m</sub>) using an intercountry database of individual animal records from SE-Asia; ii) evaluate the impact of different dietary forage contents (all-, high- and low-forage) representing the diverse feeding systems on CH<sub>4</sub> emission, yield, intensity and Y<sub>m</sub> in SE-Asia; and iii) cross-validate equations from this study with published data. A total of 398 individual animal observations of beef cattle from SE-Asia were used for this analysis. Linear models developed by incrementally adding covariates revealed that CH<sub>4</sub> emission model using only DMI fitted to all data had a root mean square prediction error (RMSPE) of 16.9%. Subsets containing data with 100% forage in the diet (all-forage), 50–85% (high-forage) and < 50% (low-forage) had an RMSPE of 16.5%, 14.7%, and 17.4%, respectively. Linear multiple equation based on DMI and dietary NDF concentration (DMI + NDF\_C, RMSPE = 15.2%; all-data) improved prediction accuracy over that of DMI alone. The DMI + NDF\_C models for all-forage (RMSPE = 14.6%) and high-forage subsets (RMSPE = 13.3%) except for low-forage (RMSPE = 16.4%), improved the precision and accuracy of CH<sub>4</sub> emission prediction. Methane yield and CH<sub>4</sub> emission intensity could not be reliably modelled with the current database. The present study provides improved CH<sub>4</sub> prediction models for beef cattle managed under diverse feeding systems in SE-Asia and affirmed that region-specific models are needed to reliably predict beef cattle CH<sub>4</sub> emission at national or regional levels, particularly for low- and middle-income countries.

### **References/ Publications**

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