# Nitrous oxide emissions from the soil under different fertilization systems on a long-term experiment

T. Sosulski, E. Szara, W. Stępień, M. Szymańska

Department of Soil Environment Sciences, Warsaw University of Life Sciences-SGGW, Warsaw, Poland

## ABSTRACT

The research aimed at the assessment of N<sub>2</sub>O emission from agricultural soils subject to different fertilization conditions. It was carried out on a long-term experiment field in Skierniewice in Central Poland maintained with no alterations since 1923 under rye monoculture. The treatments included mineral (CaNPK), mineral-organic (CaNPK + M) and organic (Ca + M) fertilization. Measurements were conducted during the growing periods of 2012 and 2013. N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from the soil were measured *in situ* by the means of infrared spectroscopy using a portable FTIR spectrometer Alpha. N<sub>2</sub>O fluxes over the measurement periods showed high variability with range 0.13–11.20 g N<sub>2</sub>O-N/ha/day (median 2.87, mean 3.16) from mineral treated soil, 0.23–11.06 g N<sub>2</sub>O-N/ha/day (median 3.64, mean 3.33) from mineral-organic treated soil and 0.25-12.28 g N<sub>2</sub>O-N/ha/day (median 3.14, mean 3.55) from organic treated soil. N<sub>2</sub>O fluxes from manure-treated soils were slightly higher than those from soils treated exclusively with mineral fertilizers. N<sub>2</sub>O fluxes were positively correlated with soil temperature, air temperature, and content of both,  $NO_3^-$  and  $NH_4^+$ , in the soil (0–25 cm) and, to a lesser degree, negatively correlated with soil moisture. Based on the measured N<sub>2</sub>O flux and its relationship with environmental factors it can be concluded that both, nitrification and denitrification the are important sources of N2O in mineral soils of Central Poland, where the average soil water-filled pore space during the growing period range from 22-35%. Under the climate, soil and fertilization conditions in Central Poland, the N<sub>2</sub>O emission from cultivated soils during the growing period is approximately estimated as 0.64-0.73 kg N/ha.

Keywords: N<sub>2</sub>O emission; rye monoculture; static experiment; organic-mineral fertilization

Nitrous oxide ( $N_2O$ ) emission from agricultural soils is well addressed in the international scientific literature, including assessment of the influence of various agricultural engineering factors (Bouwman et al. 1993, Kaiser and Ruser 2000, Ruíz-Valdiviezo et al. 2013), and the development of emission models of various complexity (Farquharson and Baldock 2008, Metivier et al. 2009). The soil moisture, temperature, content of both,  $NO_3^-$ -N and organic carbon, and fertilization are described as the most important factors determining  $N_2O$  flux from the soil (Tiedje et al. 1982, Mogge et al. 1999, Dobbie and Smith 2003). In Poland, Włodarczyk et al. (2004) studied the effect of denitrification on  $N_2O$  emission from the soil. It is estimated, however, that only approximately 10% of a rable soils in Poland have properties favoring intensive denitrification (Goliński et al. 2000). Bateman and Baggs (2005) demonstrated that nitrification could be a dominant source of N<sub>2</sub>O in the soils with soil water-filled pore space below 60%. N<sub>2</sub>O flux from the soil and its determinants have not been comprehensively evaluated in the climate, soil and fertilization conditions of Poland.

Long-term fertilization experiments are well established in evaluation of the impact of mineral and organic fertilization on the nitrogen compounds changes in the soil (Dendooven et al. 1996). This study quantifies soil  $N_2O$  emission from a long-term fertilization experiment with rye monocul-

Supported by the National Science Center Poland, Project No. N N305 060640.

ture in the climate and soil conditions of Central Poland and analyzes the relationship between the N<sub>2</sub>O emission and environmental factors.

# MATERIAL AND METHODS

The research was carried out on a long-term experiment field in Central Poland (Skierniewice) belonging to the Warsaw University of Life Sciences-SGGW, maintained with no alterations since 1923 under rye monoculture. The soil is Luvisols (FAO 2006) soil of the type of loamy sand with the following fractions in the 0–25 cm layer: sand (> 0.05 mm) – 87%, silt (0.002–0.05 mm) – 5%, clay (< 0.02 mm) – 7%. The average annual temperature and precipitation are 8°C and 520 mm, respectively.

The mineral (CaNPK), mineral-organic (CaNPK + M) and organic (Ca + M) fertilization systems were studied. Each treatment had 5 replications with an experimental plot area of 36 m<sup>2</sup>.

Mineral fertilizers were applied at the following rates: 90 kg N (ammonium nitrate), 26 kg P (triple superphosphate) and 91 kg K/ha (potassium chloride 50%) in both, mineral and mineral-organic fertilization systems. Manure was applied at the dose of 30 t/ha at 4-year intervals and at 20 t/ha yearly in the treatment subject to mineral-organic and organic fertilizing, respectively. Consequently, the annual doses of nitrogen applied in the mineralorganic and organic fertilization systems can be respectively approximated as 127.5 kg N/ha and 100 kg N/ha. Liming at 1.43 t Ca/ha was applied to all investigated treatments every fourth year. N<sub>2</sub>O emission from the soil was measured in situ by means of the infrared spectroscopy using a portable FTIR spectrometer model Alpha (Brucker Optic GmbH, Ettlingen, Germany). The N<sub>2</sub>O flux from the soil was calculated as an increase in the N2O concentration in the chamber ( $\emptyset = 29.5$  cm, h = 20 cm) after a 10 min exposure to the soil surface. The results were extrapolated to 24 h and 1 ha. Measurements were conducted in 2012 (30 measurements, 22 March to 22 October) and 2013 (28 measurements, 19 April to 23 October) in all replications. N<sub>2</sub>O emission was expressed in mg N/ha/day.

Ploughing layer soil sampling was conducted on all measurement dates in all replications. The  $NH_4^+$ -N/NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>-N content was measured using the Skalar San Plus analyzer (Breda, Netherlands), after fresh soil extraction in 0.01 mol/L CaCl<sub>2</sub> with soil/extractant ratio of 1:10. The soil moisture was assessed for each object as a decrease in the sample weigh after oven-drying in 105°C. Atmospheric and soil temperatures were measured by the Experimental field's meteorological station.

Statistical analyses were performed with the IBM SPSS Statistics 21.0. The Mann-Whitney test and Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons were used (P < 0.05). The Pearson correlation coefficients were calculated at P < 0.05.

#### RESULTS

The highest content of organic carbon and total nitrogen was found in the soil treated annually with manure (10.6 g C/kg and 0.96 g N/kg), followed by the soil under mineral-organic (8.8 g C/kg and 0.88 g N/kg) and mineral fertilization systems (5.68 g C/kg and 0.56 g N/kg). Soil pH in 1 mol/L KCl of these objects ranges from 5.8 to 6.2, with the highest values in the treatments under organic fertilization system.

The average content of mineral nitrogen in the soil under mineral and mineral-organic fertilization systems was higher in 2012 than in 2013, whereas the mineral nitrogen content in the manure-treated soil was found similar in both years (Table 1).

The average soil mineral N content was higher under mineral-organic fertilization system than under the mineral or organic ones but the differences were not statistically significant. In 2012, the average  $NO_3^-$ -N soil content was higher (under mineral and organic fertilization systems) or similar (under mineral-organic fertilization) to the  $NH_4^+$ -N soil content. In 2013, the content of  $NH_4^+$ -N in the soil was higher than that of  $NO_3^-$ -N on all investigated treatments. The changes in the soil content of  $NO_3^-$ -N and  $NH_4^+$ -N during the study period are presented in Figure 1. Fluctuations in mineral N content in the soil treated exclusively with manure were lower than those in the soil under mineral-organic and mineral fertilization systems. The spring application of ammonium nitrate led to an immediate increase in the content of both mineral forms of nitrogen in the soil under mineral and mineral-organic fertilization systems to the highest levels observed during the investigation period. In 2012, the content of mineral N in the soil under the mineral-organic fertilization system continued to increase after ammonium nitrate spring fertilization till the third decade of May. After a peak of mineral N soil content subsequent

Fertilization -		2012				2013			
		NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> -N	$NH_4^+$ -N	N <sub>min</sub>	N <sub>2</sub> O-N	$NO_3^N$	$NH_4^+$ -N	N <sub>min</sub>	N <sub>2</sub> O-N
CaNPK	mean	5.04	3.85	8.89	3.00	3.42	3.76	7.18	3.32
	median	3.60	2.55	6.40	2.85	3.19	3.12	6.54	3.02
	min–max	0.07-15.66	0.03-18.84	0.39-30.11	0.13-11.20	0.75-10.67	0.89-12.64	2.00-21.89	0.14-10.65
CaNPK + M	mean	7.23	7.47	14.70	3.44	4.81	5.17	9.98	3.84
	median	5.07	3.41	8.90	3.13	4.13	4.21	8.37	3.53
	min–max	0.25-32.50	0.05-30.73	0.58-56.57	0.40-9.93	1.20-14.80	1.17 - 18.44	2.54-32.12	0.23-11.06
Ca + M	mean	5.78	2.88	8.66	3.69	3.86	4.62	8.48	3.40
	median	6.13	2.94	9.25	3.06	3.73	4.44	8.27	3.15
	min-max	0.39-13.4	0.12 - 8.42	1.33-18.33	0.33-12.28	1.30 - 8.01	0.89-10.07	4.00-14.39	0.25-9.04

Table 1. Content of mineral N (NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>-N/NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N) in soil (mg N/kg) and N<sub>2</sub>O-N emission from soil (g N/ha/day) in different fertilization systems

CaNPK - mineral, CaNPK + M - mineral-organic, Ca + M - organic fertilization systems

to the application of ammonium nitrate (enhanced by manure mineralization in the CaNPK + M treatment) a decrease in the soil content of both mineral N forms was observed (until the third decade of June 2012 and mid-May 2013). Further changes in NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>-N and NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N soil content were of lower amplitude. After a period of intensive N uptake by rye resulting in a notable decrease in NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>-N/ NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N content in the soil, a gradual increase in the soil content of both mineral N forms was

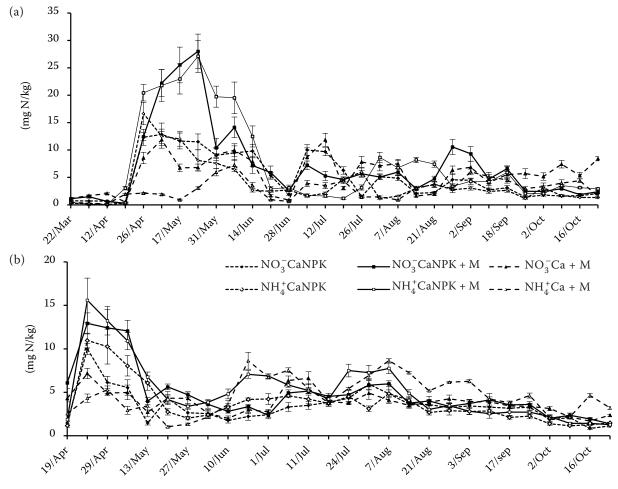


Figure 1. Soil content of  $NO_3^-N$  and  $NH_4^+-N$  under different fertilization systems in 2012 (a) and 2013 (b). CaNPK – mineral, CaNPK + M – mineral-organic, Ca + M – organic fertilization systems

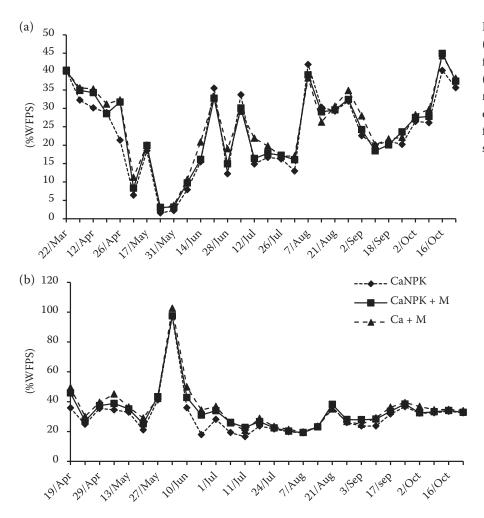


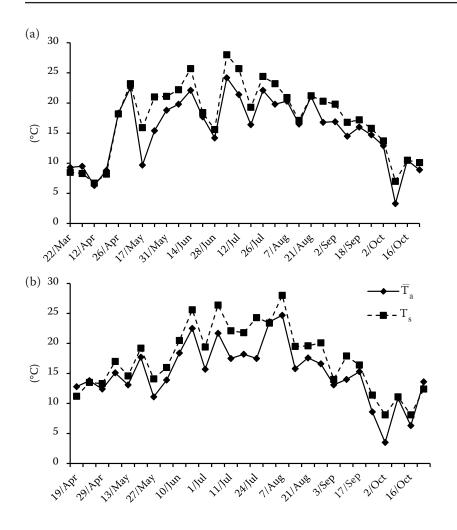
Figure 2. Moisture of soil (0–25 cm) under different fertilization systems in 2012 (a) and 2013 (b). CaNPK – mineral, CaNPK + M – mineral-organic, Ca + M – organic fertilization systems; WFPS – soil moisture

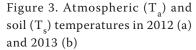
observed, most markedly in the manure-treated soil (CaNPK + M, Ca + M). In 2013, the increase in  $NH_4^+$ -N soil content was distinctly higher than that of  $NO_3^-$ -N. The dominance of  $NH_4^+$  over  $NO_3^-$  was probably caused by a permanent reduction in the nitrifying bacterial flora as a result of the summer flood.

A decrease in the soil content of both forms of mineral N was noted from the beginning of September, probably as a result of decreased intensity of N compounds transformation and N uptake by germinated rye. An increase in the mineral N content observed in the end of the vegetation period in the soil treated exclusively with manure is explained by treatment application at that time.

The soil moisture observed across various fertilization systems was similar and varied over time as depicted in Figure 2. The average soil moisture in 2013 exceeded that in 2012 by approximately 36%. The air and soil temperatures are presented in Figure 3. In most instances, the average daily soil temperature values slightly exceeded the respective air temperature values.

N<sub>2</sub>O flux over the measurement periods showed high variability with range 0.13–11.20 g N<sub>2</sub>O-N/ ha/day (median 2.87, mean 3.16) from mineral treated soil, 0.23–11.06 g N<sub>2</sub>O-N/ha/day (median 3.64, mean 3.33) from mineral-organic treated soil and 0.25-12.28 g N<sub>2</sub>O-N/ha/day (median 3.14, mean 3.55) from organic treated soil. In both 2012 and 2013, the differences in  $N_2O$  emission from the soil under diverse fertilization systems were of no statistical significance (Table 1). Daily N<sub>2</sub>O emission from the soil is depicted in Figure 4. Spring application of ammonia nitrate resulted in high N<sub>2</sub>O emission from the soil. Simultaneously, increased N<sub>2</sub>O emission was observed from the soil fertilized exclusively with manure regardless of lower mineral N content in the manure treated soil. During the flooding at the beginning of June 2013 no rapid increase in soil N<sub>2</sub>O emission was noted. This phenomenon can be explained by the low mineral N content in the soil and low temperature (Figures 1 and 3). From the end of May to the end of the second decade of June 2012, N<sub>2</sub>O emission from the soil treated exclusively with ma-





nure exceeded that from the soil subject to mineral fertilization only, as revealed in the majority of measurements. Similar situation was observed at the end of August/beginning of September 2012. In 2013, the dynamics of  $N_2O$  emission from the soil was found similar across different fertilizations systems. On some occasions in the second half of the vegetation period, N<sub>2</sub>O emission from the soil under mineral and mineral-organic fertilization systems reached or even exceeded the N<sub>2</sub>O emission from the soil during the spring nitrogen peak in the soil (Figure 4). This finding can be explained by high correlation between  $N_2O$  emission and the air and soil temperatures, the latter being higher in the second half of the growing period than in spring.

The N<sub>2</sub>O fluxes from the soil were positively correlated with the soil and atmospheric temperatures (r = 0.77, P < 0.01 and r = 0.73, P < 0.01, respectively), the soil NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> content and soil NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> content (r = 0.61, P < 0.01 and r = 0.47, P < 0.01, respectively) (Table 2). The relationship between N<sub>2</sub>O emission from the soil and the soil moisture was described by a

negative correlation coefficient, low in terms of the absolute value and significance.

#### DISCUSSION

Emission of  $N_2O$  from manure-treated soils (Ca + M, CaNPK + M) slightly exceeded the emission from the soil subject to pure mineral fertilization (CaNPK). The difference was determined by a unique interplay between the weather and soil factors. Kaiser and Ruser (2000) obtained similar results on a sandy loam soil. According to Cannavo et al. (2004), additional oxygen consumption in organic treated-soil promotes denitrification. In a study by Mogge et al. (1999), N<sub>2</sub>O emission from cattle slurry-treated soil was 40% higher than that from the soil under mineral fertilization. As reported by Sánchez-Martín et al. (2008), N<sub>2</sub>O emission is related to organic carbon content in the soil. The authors hypothesize that denitrification is an important source of N<sub>2</sub>O in C-poor soil. This can be explained by the results of Tiedje et

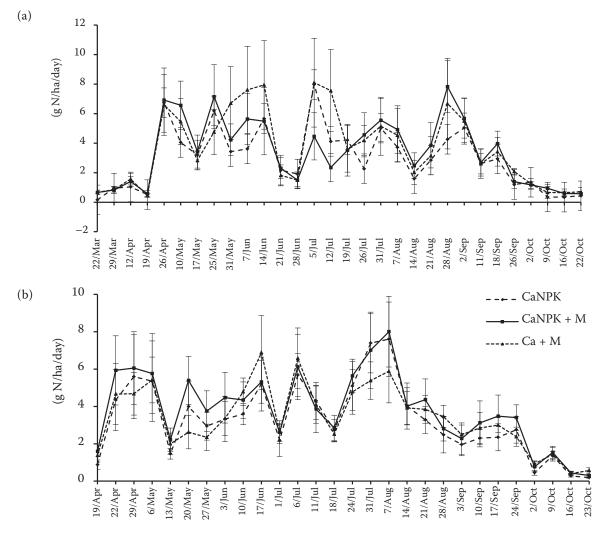


Figure 4. N<sub>2</sub>O-N emission from soil under different fertilization systems in 2012 (a) and 2013 (b). CaNPK – mineral, CaNPK + M – mineral-organic, Ca + M – organic fertilization systems

al. (1982), who demonstrated that organic carbon is more important than oxygen in determining the denitrifying enzyme content in habitats. The availability of organic carbon does not only support the activity of denitrifiers per se, but also has an indirect effect of causing microsite anaerobiosis, due to increased respiratory demand for oxygen. Therefore increased availability of labile carbon would favor complete denitrification to  $N_2$ . The use of an organic fertilizer instead of an inorganic one could contribute to a reduction in N<sub>2</sub>O emission. Organic fertilizers mitigated N<sub>2</sub>O emission from Scottish grassland (Ball et al. 2004) as compared to mineral fertilizers. The use of organic fertilizer instead of an inorganic one could contribute to a reduction in N<sub>2</sub>O emission. In our study, N<sub>2</sub>O flux from the organic treatment was insignificantly higher than that from the mineral one, regardless of similar nitrogen doses applied under different fertilization systems. Organic carbon content in manure-treated soil (Ca + M) was nearly two-fold higher than in the soil under mineral fertilization system (CaNPK). Based on the research by Tiedje et al. (1982) it is suggested that the high content of organic carbon and total nitrogen in the soil treated exclusively with manure promotes the growth of bacteria whose metabolism results in N<sub>2</sub>O production it the soil.

Several attempts were made to model  $N_2O$  emission and/or its causative processes in various agroecosystems (Zheng et al. 2008). According to Dobbie and Smith (2003) the key factors affecting  $N_2O$  emission from the agricultural soil included the soil moisture, temperature and  $NO_3^-$ -N content. In our study,  $N_2O$  emission from the soil was positively correlated with soil and air temperatures,  $N_2O$  flux being considerably higher in July than in March or October (Table 3). On the contrary, upon the climate conditions of Germany, high

Fertilization	$NO_3^N$	$NH_4^+-N$	%WFPS	T <sub>a</sub>	Τ <sub>s</sub>
CaNPK	0.66**	0.48**	-0.28*	0.73**	0.78**
CaNPK + M	0.59**	0.56**	$-0.24^{*}$	0.69**	0.72**
Ca + M	0.76**	0.46**	-0.33*	0.80**	0.82**
Mean	0.61**	0.47**	-0.25**	0.73**	0.77**

Table 2. Correlation coefficients between N<sub>2</sub>O-N emission form soil and mineral N content in soil, soil moisture (%WFPS), atmospheric temperature ( $T_a$ ) and soil temperature ( $T_s$ )

\**P* < 0.05; \*\**P* < 0.01; CaNPK – mineral, CaNPK + M – mineral-organic, Ca + M – organic fertilization systems

 $\rm N_2O$  emission from the soil was observed even in February and October (Kaiser et al. 1998), and up to 50% of emission took place in the winter (Kaiser and Ruser 2000). This phenomenon is attributed to the lack of freezing/thawing cycles (Mogge et al. 1999).

In our study, N<sub>2</sub>O emission from the soil was positively correlated with the soil  $NO_3^--N$  and  $NH_4^+-N$ content. N<sub>2</sub>O emission from the soil was better correlated with the soil content of NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>-N (product of nitrification and precursor of denitrification) than with the soil content of  $NH_4^+$ -N. The relatively high correlation between N<sub>2</sub>O emission from the soil and NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>-N soil content suggests that the nitrification can be an important source of the soil N<sub>2</sub>O in Poland. The N<sub>2</sub>O flux from the soil could be more significantly correlated with the soil  $NH_4^+$ -N content than with the soil  $NO_3^-$ -N content, as shown by Fu et al. (2012). According to Liu et al. (2007),  $NH_4^+$ -N enhances the N<sub>2</sub>O emission from the soil only at lower soil moisture. The high emission of  $N_2O$  from both the soil with high mineral N content following spring fertilization and that with low mineral N content in the second half of the vegetation period (higher air/soil temperatures) suggests that N<sub>2</sub>O flux depends on the amount of mineral N as well as on the intensity of its transformation in the soil.

In our study, the relationship between N<sub>2</sub>O emission from the soil and the soil moisture was described by a low negative correlation coefficient (r = -0.253, P = 0.01). In contrast to our results, Smith et al. (1998) demonstrated that the  $N_2O$  flux from the soil increased with soil moisture increasing over 60-90% water-filled pore space. In our study, comparably high soil moisture was evidenced only at the beginning of June 2013 and it was not accompanied by a rapid increase in N<sub>2</sub>O emission from the soil. This finding is explained by very low soil  $NO_3^-$ -N content at that time, subsequent to an intensive nitrogen uptake by plants in the preceding period. Bateman and Baggs (2005) evidenced that all N<sub>2</sub>O emitted at 70% WFPS was produced during denitrification, whereas nitrification was the main process producing N<sub>2</sub>O at 35–60% WFPS. Given that the majority of measurements in our study revealed soil moisture below 50% WFPS, it can be concluded that nitrification was a key source of  $N_2O$  emission and that both, denitrification and nitrification are important sources of N<sub>2</sub>O from light sandy soils of Central Poland.

The  $N_2O$  emission from cultivated light sandy soils of Central Poland during the growing period was estimated as 0.64 kg  $N_2O$ -N/ha in the mineral fertilization system and 0.72 kg  $N_2O$ -N/ha in the organic and mineral-organic fertilization systems.

Table 3. Average daily  $N_2O-N$  emission from soil (March–October) and total  $N_2O-N$  emission from soil during growing period in 2012 and 2013 in different fertilization systems

Period								Growing	
Treatment	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	Х	period
(g N/ha/day)									(g N/ha)
CaNPK	0.6	3.2	3.8	3.7	4.6	3.7	2.5	0.6	635.3
CaNPK + M	0.7	3.7	4.8	4.2	4.4	4.8	3.0	0.8	731.3
Ca + M	0.8	3.2	4.0	4.9	5.0	2,2	2.9	0.8	712.8
Mean	0.7	3.4	4.2	4.3	4.7	4.2	2.8	0.7	693.1

CaNPK - mineral, CaNPK + M - mineral-organic, Ca + M - organic fertilization systems

## REFERENCES

- Ball B.C., McTaggart I.P., Scott A. (2004): Mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions from soil under silage production by use of organic or slow-release fertilizer. Soil Use and Management, 20: 287–295.
- Bateman E.J., Baggs E.M. (2005): Contributions of nitrification and denitrification to N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from soils at different waterfilled pore space. Biology and Fertility of Soils, 41: 379–388.
- Bouwman A.F., Fung I., Matthews E., John J. (1993): Global analysis of the potential for N<sub>2</sub>O production in natural soils. Global Biogeochemical Cycles, *7*: 557–597.
- Cannavo P., Richaume A., Lafolie F. (2004): Fate of nitrogen and carbon in the vadose zone: *In situ* and laboratory measurements of seasonal variations in aerobic respiratory and denitrifying activities. Soil Biology and Biochemistry, *36*: 463–478.
- Dendooven L., Poulton P.R., Powlson D.S., Weigel A., Ritzkowski E.M., Körschens M., Kubát J., Klir J., Mercik S. (1996): Dynamics of carbon and nitrogen in long-term field experiments with organic and inorganic fertilizer applications in soil with different texture under different climatic regimes. Transactions of the 9<sup>th</sup> Nitrogen Workshop. Braunschweig, 205–209.
- Dobbie K.E., Smith K.A. (2003): Nitrous oxide emission factors for agricultural soils in Great Britain: The impact of soil water-filled pore space and other controlling variables. Global Change Biology, 9: 204–218.
- FAO (2006): World Reference Base for Soil Resources. A Framework for International Classification, Correlation and Communication. World Soil Resources Report, 103. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, 116.
- Farquharson R., Baldock J. (2008): Concepts in modelling N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from land use. Plant and Soil, 309: 147–167.
- Fu X.Q., Li Y., Su W.J., Shen J.L., Xiao R.L., Tong C.L. Wu J. (2012): Annual dynamics of  $N_2O$  emissions from a tea field in southern subtropical China. Plant, Soil and Environment, *58*: 373–378.
- Goliński J., Stępniewska Z., Stępniewski W., Ostrowski J., Szmagara A. (2000): A contribution to the assessment of potential denitrification in arable mineral soils of Poland. Journal Water and Land Development, 4: 175–183.
- Kaiser E.A., Kohrs K., Kücke M., Schnug E., Heinemeyer O., Munch J.C. (1998): Nitrous oxide release from arable soil: Importance of N-fertilization, crops and temporal variation. Soil Biology and Biochemistry, *12*: 1553–1563.

- Kaiser E.A., Ruser R. (2000): Nitrous oxide emissions from arable soils in Germany – An evaluation of six long-term field experiments. Journal of Plant Nutrition and Soil Science, 163: 249–260.
- Liu X.J., Mosier A.R., Halvorson A.D., Reule C.A., Zhang F.S. (2007): Dinitrogen and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions in arable soils: Effect of tillage, N source and soil moisture. Soil Biology and Biochemistry, 39: 2362–2370.
- Mogge B., Kaiser E.A., Munch J.C. (1999): Nitrous oxide emissions and denitrification N-losses from agricultural soils in the Bornhöved Lake region: Influence of organic fertilizers and land-use. Soil Biology and Biochemistry, *31*: 1245–1252.
- Metivier K.A., Pattey E., Grant R.F. (2009): Using the ecosys mathematical model to simulate temporal variability of nitrous oxide emissions from a fertilized agricultural soil. Soil Biology and Biochemistry, *41*: 2370–2386.
- Ruíz-Valdiviezo V.M., Mendoza-Urbina L.D., Luna-Guido M., Gutiérrez-Miceli F.A., Cárdenas-Aquino M.R., Montes-Molina J.A., Dendooven L. (2013): Emission of  $CO_2$ ,  $CH_4$  and  $N_2O$ and dynamics of mineral N in soils amended with castor bean (*Ricinus communis* L.) and piñón (*Jatropha curcas* L.) seed cake. Plant, Soil and Environment, 59: 51–56.
- Sánchez-Martín L., Vallejo A., Dick J., Skiba U.M. (2008): The influence of soluble carbon and fertilizer nitrogen on nitric oxide and nitrous oxide emissions from two contrasting agricultural soils. Soil Biology and Biochemistry, *40*: 142–151.
- Smith K.A., Thomson P.E., Clayton H., Mctaggart I.P., Conen F. (1998): Effects of temperature, water content and nitrogen fertilisation on emissions of nitrous oxide by soils. Atmospheric Environment, 32: 3301–3309.
- Tiedje J.M., Sexstone A.J., Myrold D.D., Robinson J.A. (1982): Denitrification: Ecological niches, competition and survival. Antonie Van Leeuwenhoek, *48*: 569–583.
- Włodarczyk T., Stępniewski W., Brzezińska M., Stępniewska Z. (2004): Nitrate stability in loess soils under anaerobic conditions-laboratory studies. Journal of Plant Nutrition and Soil Science, 167: 693–700.
- Zheng X., Mei B., Wang Y., Xie B., Wang Y., Dong H., Xu H., Chen G., Cai Z., Yue J., Gu J., Su F., Zou J., Zhu J. (2008): Quantification of  $N_2O$  fluxes from soil-plant systems may be biased by the applied gas chromatograph methodology. Plant and Soil, 311: 211–234.

Received on December 30, 2013 Accepted on October 7, 2014

#### Corresponding author:

Tomasz Sosulski, Ph.D., Warsaw University of Life Sciences-SGGW, Department of Soil Environment Sciences, Nowoursynowska 159, 02 776 Warsaw, Poland e-mail: tomasz\_sosulski@sggw.pl