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Book of Abstracts



“*Faidherbia-Flux*”, an open observatory for GHG balance and C stocks in a semi-arid agro-sylvo-pastoral system (Senegal)

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The mitigation of climate change by agro-sylvo-pastoral systems is complex to assess or model, owing to high spatial and temporal heterogeneities.

We set a new long-term observatory up for the monitoring and modelling of microclimate, GHG and deep SOC in a semi-arid agro-sylvo-pastoral system (Niakhar, Sénégal), dominated by the multipurpose *Faidherbia albida* tree. Crops were mainly millet and peanut, under annual rotation. Transhumant livestock contributed largely to manure, SOM and soil fertility.

Early 2018, we installed 3 eddy-covariance towers above (i) the whole mosaic, (ii) millet and (iii) peanut and monitored energy, CO₂ balance and evapotranspiration for one full year. The mosaic ecosystem displayed low but significant CO₂ and H₂O fluxes during the dry season, owing to *Faidherbia* in leaf (Fig. 1). When rains resumed, the soil bursted a large amount of CO₂. Just after the raising of millet, CO₂ uptake by photosynthesis increased dramatically, then stabilized before harvest. However, this was compensated by large ecosystem respiration. The annual ecosystem CO₂ balance was close to nil.

This observatory is currently installing soil chambers for GHG fluxes, studying the horizontal variability of SOC by Vis-NIR and of deep soil roots and C using wells. Microclimate (land surface temperature, energy balance and gas exchanges) and light-use-efficiency will be mapped through 3D modelling (Charbonnier et al., 2017; Vezy et al., 2018).

This observatory is open for collaboration.

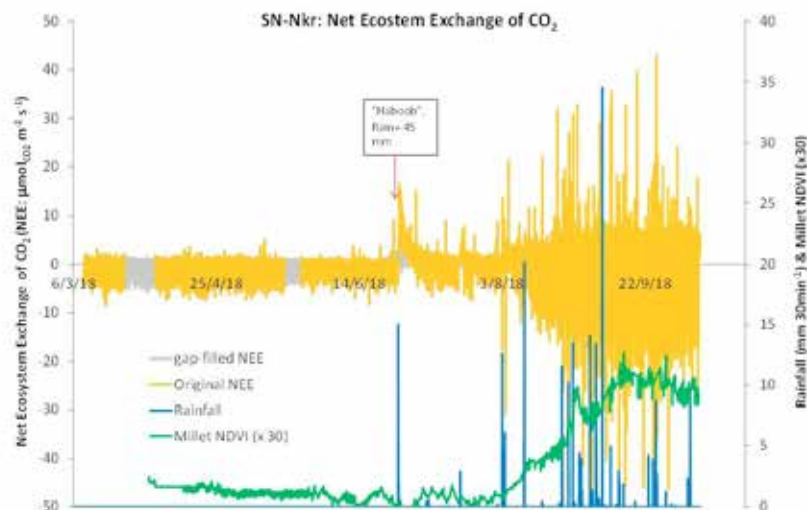


Fig. 1: The Net Ecosystem Exchange (NEE) of CO₂ (or CO₂ flux, negative = uptake during the day; positive = release at night) was very weak during the dry season, maximum photosynthesis (GPP) around 10 mmolCO₂ m⁻² s⁻¹ and maximum ecosystem respiration (Re) around 1.5 mmolCO₂ m⁻² s⁻¹. GPP was from *Faidherbia* trees only at that time. Just after the “Haboob”, a large CO₂ burst was recorded with slow decay during more than one week or so. Other CO₂ peaks in July correspond to smaller rain events. Early August, millet NDVI took off, followed by a large CO₂ uptake, but also ecosystem respiration. [Fluxes filtered out for wet sensor, Planar-fitted, WPL and spectral corrected, quality checked. Gaps are due to power failure. Grey dots are from gap-filling according to Lasslop et al. (2010)]

Keywords: Eddy Covariance, *Faidherbia albida*, Millet, GHG balance, SOM.

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