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AEGES: ATTENUATION OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN GRASSLANDS



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CONTEXT

Agricultural activity is responsible to over 10% of total anthropogenic emissions of GHG and, among them, for over 70% of global N₂O.

A variety of options exist to mitigate GHG emissions in agriculture. The most prominent options are the improvement of crop and grazing land management in upland soil (agronomic practices, crop selection, tillage and residue management) and the restoration of degraded soils.

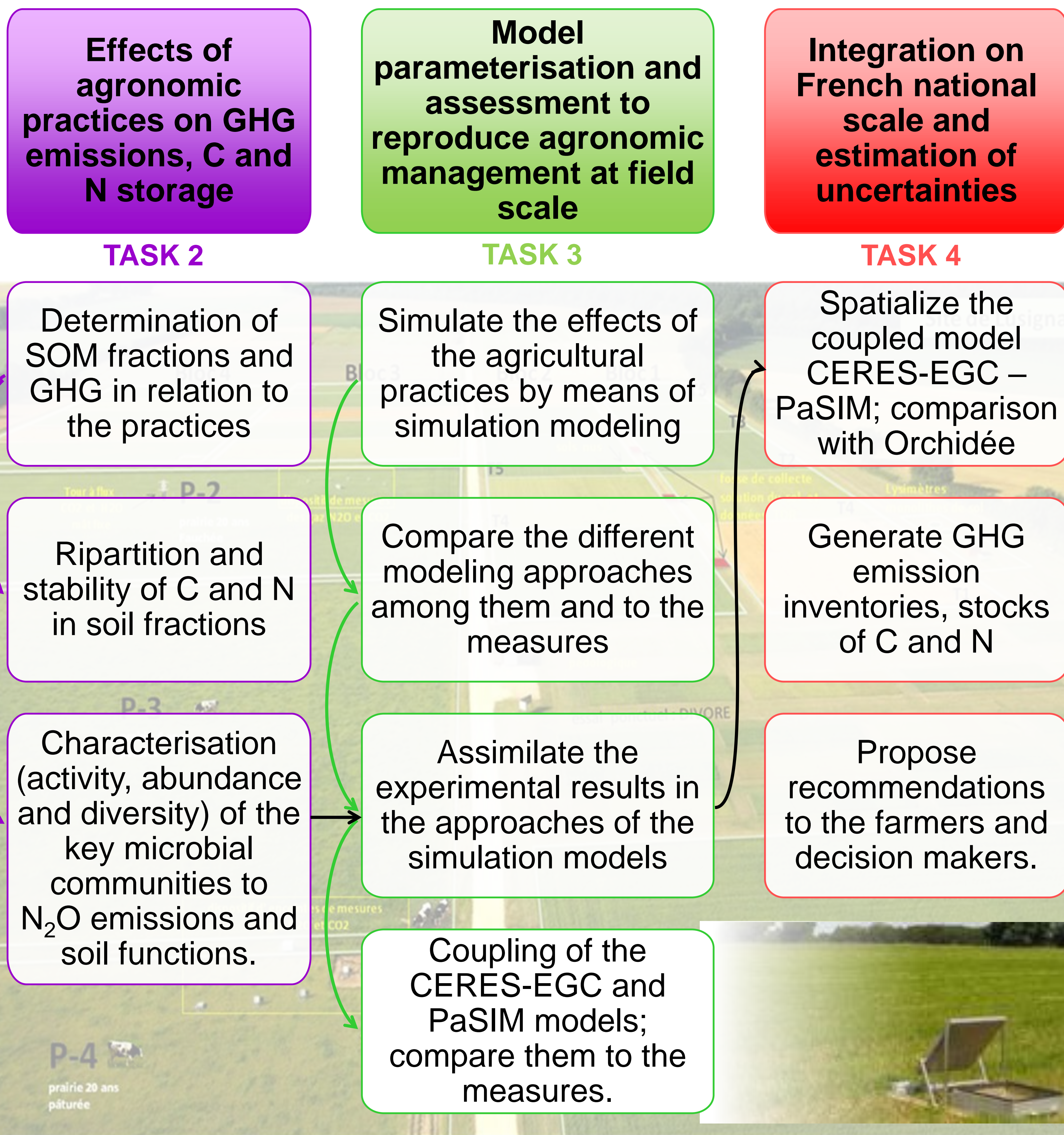
The introduction of temporary grasslands in crop rotations is one of the prominent options to improve both soil organic matter (SOM) and biodiversity, conversely the effects in N₂O emissions, together with the quality of SOM, can be highly variable.

PROJECT AEGES

The main goal is the reduction of uncertainties associated with the prediction of GHG emissions, C storage and N content in the agro-ecosystems at French scale.

The project consist of different objectives:

- Improve the GHG estimation integrating the experimental knowledge on microbial activities (denitrification, nitrification and decomposition) of C and N;
- Study of management's effects on SOM composition, GHG emissions and microbial activity;
- Improve and calibrate simulation models to reproduce the effect of agronomic practices on SOM and GHG at field scale by using data from ongoing long-term experiments;
- Propose management options in order to attenuate GHG emissions from agriculture systems.



TEST SITES (SOERE ACBB observatory):

- Temporary grasslands (crop-grassland rotations) Lusignan, Poitou-Charentes
- Permanent grasslands: Theix-Laqueuille, Auvergne
- Crop rotations: Grignon, Yvelines

MANAGEMENT TESTED:

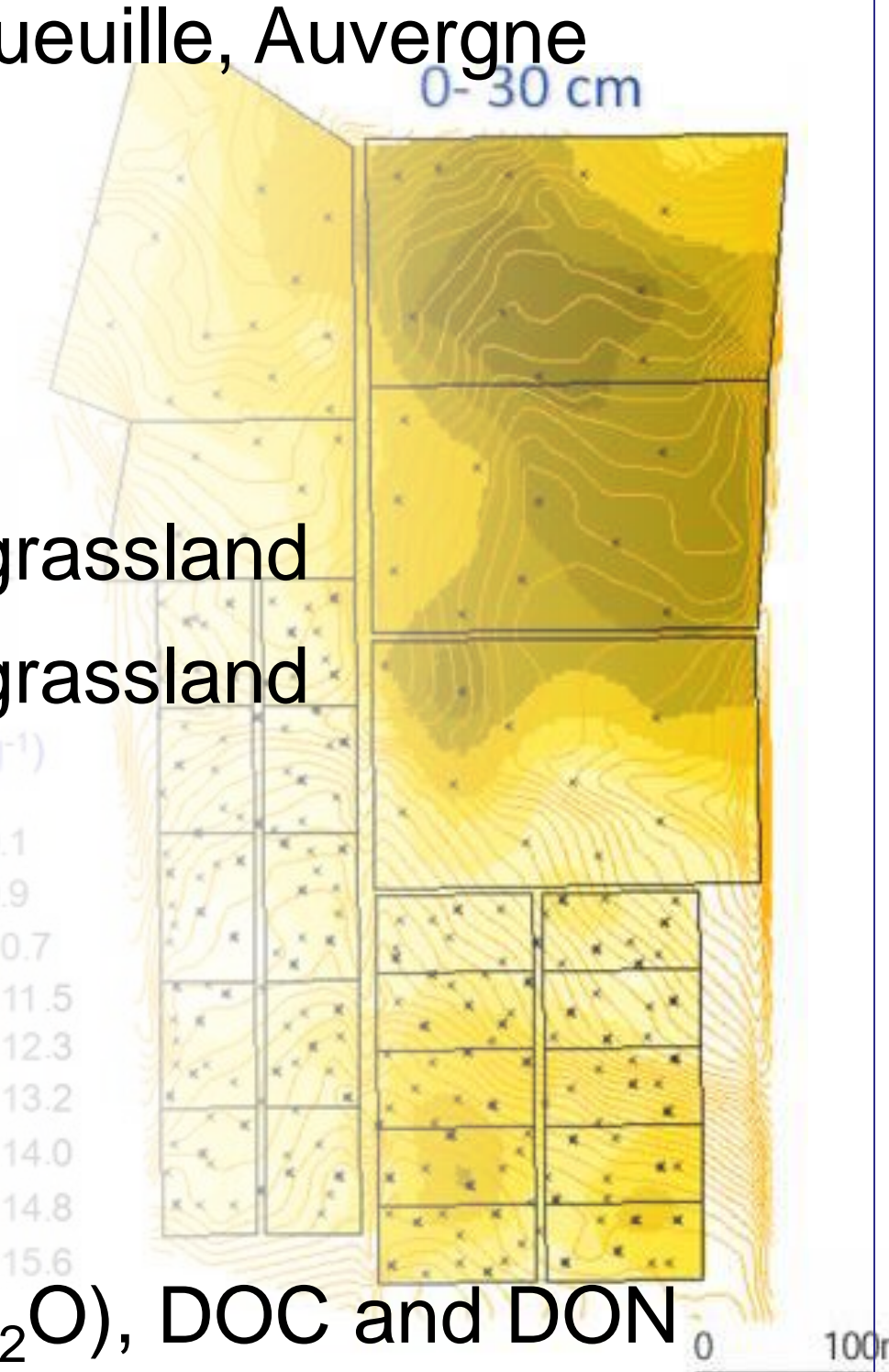
- Crop-grasslands rotations:
 - 3 years of crops + 3 years of grassland
 - 6 years of crops + 3 years of grassland
- Livestock load: high vs low
- Load of N fertilisation
- Pastures vs cutting

DATA:

- Fluxes of GHG (N₂O, CO₂, CH₄, H₂O), DOC and DON
- C, N and SWC content in different layers
- Physical and chemical soil characteristics
- Crop parameters, aboveground and root biomass
- Microorganism characteristics (nitrifiers and denitrifiers)
- Solid deposit
- Management and meteo data

SPATIALISED DATA (FRENCH SCALE):

- 8 × 8 km meteo data from Safran model
- Management from Agreste cultural practices
- Soil maps from Donesol (1:250000)



MODELING APPROACHES

PASIM a biogeochemical and mechanistic model for the grasslands ecosystem at field scale; able to simulate fluxes of C, N, energy, water and the dynamics and the interactions of grasslands, atmosphere and livestock.

CERES-EGC a mechanistic crop model with the main domain in the agro-ecosystem; able to reproduce biogeochemical dynamics (C, N, water) and environmental losses such as N₂O, NO₃⁻, NH₃, NO and CO₂.

ORCHIDÉE is a model employed to extend the emissions at regional or global scale in different ecosystem, used here to compare the estimations of CERES-EGC – PaSIM coupled model.



Project founded by the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME)

In the **REACTIF** call (Research on climate change mitigation by agriculture and forestry)

