

Comparison of Greenhouse Gas databases using FoodEx2 codes

Parallel thematic session: Resilience, vulnerability, human and planetary health

From: 28 June 2022, 15:10 to 16:25 BST British Summer Time

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Who am I?

Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Food Policy



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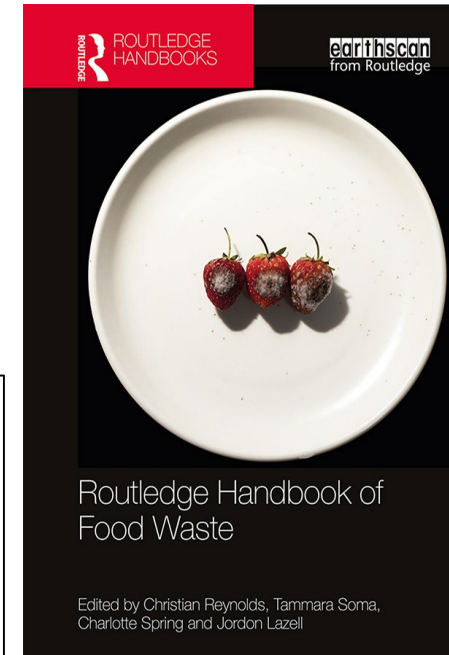


The University
Of Sheffield.
Institute for
Sustainable Food.



UK Data Service

Focus: healthy sustainable diets and food consumption (including waste)



Previously: Food waste politics/history, social sciences approaches

Shameless plug for FLW text book – if you want open access let me know 😊

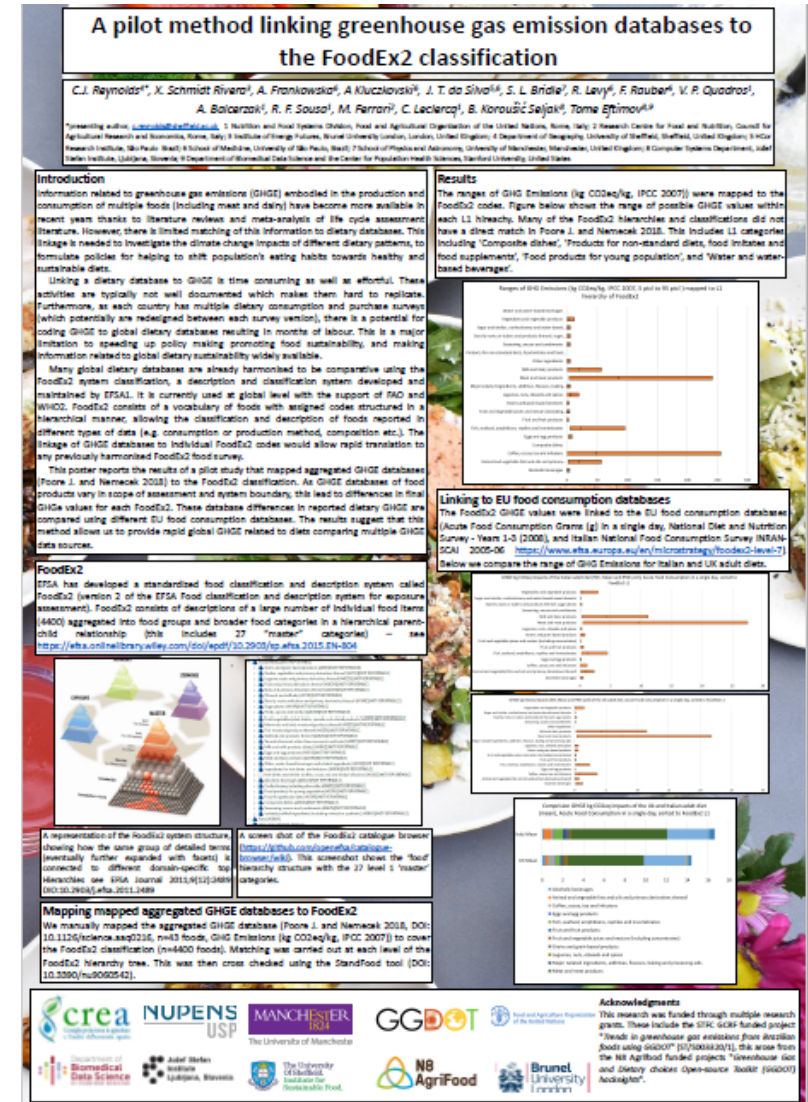
Part of ongoing research...



Using Natural Language Processing and Artificial Intelligence to Explore the Nutrition and Sustainability of Recipes and Food

Marieke van Erp^{1*†}, Christian Reynolds^{2†}, Diana Maynard³, Alain Starke⁴, Rebeca Ibáñez Martín⁵, Frederic Andres⁶, Maria C. A. Leite⁷, Damien Alvarez de Toledo⁶, Ximena Schmidt Rivera⁸, Christoph Trattner⁴, Steven Brewer⁹, Carla Adriano Martins¹⁰, Alana Kluczkovski¹⁰, Angelina Frankowska¹⁰, Sarah Bridle¹⁰, Renata Bertazzi Levy¹¹, Fernanda Rauber¹¹, Jacqueline Tereza da Silva¹⁰ and Ulbe Bosma¹²

<https://doi.org/10.3389/frai.2020.621577>



<http://dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.15990.34889>

The problem: lack of comparable GHGE data

- Multiple Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHGE) databases exist (Each describes the impacts of different agricultural production systems around the world).
- There is a growing need to capture the environmental impacts of dietary choices.
- Direct matching of GHGE databases to dietary databases is very time consuming.
- However, there are standards for comparing dietary databases – one of these is FoodEx2.

Can a harmonised dietary classification system be used to compare/allocate GHGE impacts to food categories?

In this presentation, we aim to assess the reliability of the linking a GHGE database to FoodEx2, by comparing it to similar databases.

What is FoodEx2?

- A comprehensive food classification and description system
- A common language
- Developed and maintained by EFSA
- Clearly defined
- Hierarchical structure
- A food fits in one group only
- For every food there is a group

21 Food groups in total for 4558 FoodEx2 codes

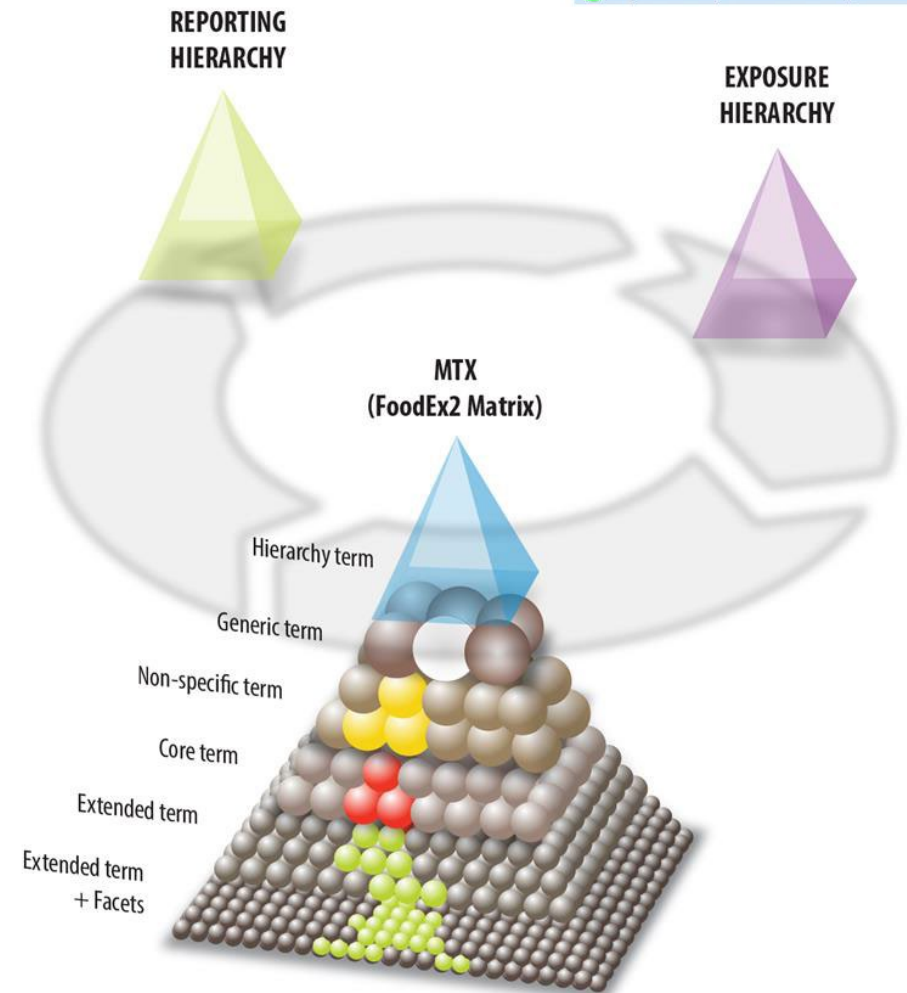
At least 56 food consumption databases have been coded with FoodEx2. see <https://www.globaldietarydatabase.org/>



FoodEx2
efsa

Example

- ▼ ▲ Grains and grain-based products [A000J]
 - > ▲ Cereals and cereal primary derivatives [A000K]
 - ▼ ▲ Bread and similar products [A004V]
 - ▼ ○ Leavened bread and similar [A0BY0]
 - > ● Wheat bread and rolls [A004X]
 - ▼ ● Rye only bread and rolls [A005F]
 - Rye bread, refined flour [A005G]
 - Rye bread, wholemeal [A005H]



Example of FoodEx2 coding

Organic yoghurt, cow milk, semi skimmed, with cereals and raspberries

Facets

● Corn flakes: **A00DD**
(Processed maize-based flakes)

● Raspberries: **A01EP**
(Raspberries (red and yellow))

● Instant oats: **A00DJ**
(Oat rolled grains, instant)

● **FoodEx2 core term** Yoghurt, cow milk, flavoured: **A02NH**
(Yoghurt, cow milk, flavoured)

Organic production: **A07SE**
(Organic production)

Fat related qualitative information: **A077G**
(Semi-skimmed)

In a cup: **A07NT** (Cup/pot)
Made from glass: **A07PF** (Glass)

FoodEx2 code string : **A02NH#F04.A00DD\$F04.A00DJ\$F04.A01EP\$F10.A077G\$F21.A07SE\$F18.A07NT\$F19.A07PF**

Source: https://www.hapih.hr/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/loannidou_FoodEx-2-klasifikacija-hrane.pdf

FoodEx2 is linked to many global dietary datasets

33 countries via FAO/WHO GIFT <https://www.fao.org/gift-individual-food-consumption/en/>

21 countries via The EFSA Comprehensive European Food Consumption Database <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/data-report/food-consumption-data#the-efsa-comprehensive-european-food-consumption-database>

407 data sets via <https://www.globaldietarydatabase.org/>

FoodEx2 offers an opportunity to link many datasets to environmental impacts in a quick and comparable manner.

FAO/WHO GIFT | Global Individual Food consumption data Tool



The advantage of Poore and Nemecek (2018)

The Poore and Nemecek (2018) database provides 5% and 95% confidence intervals as well as **mean global impacts**

43 food categories meta-analysis comparing various types of food production systems.

Impact can vary 50-fold among producers of the same product, creating substantial mitigation opportunities

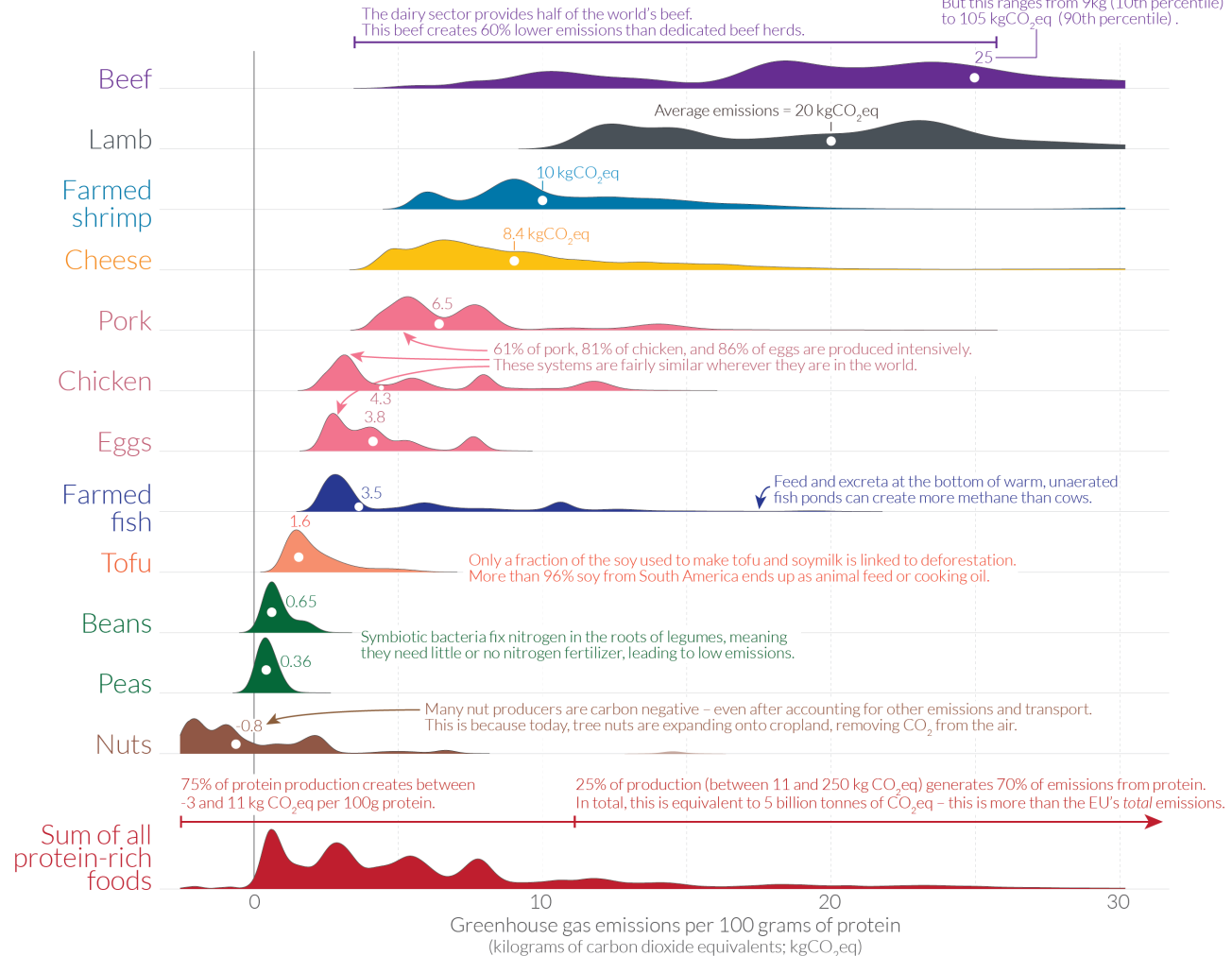
How does the carbon footprint of protein-rich foods compare?

Our World in Data

Greenhouse gas emissions from protein-rich foods are shown per 100 grams of protein across a global sample of 38,700 commercially viable farms in 119 countries.

The height of the curve represents the amount of production globally with that specific footprint. The white dot marks the median greenhouse gas emissions for each food product.

Producing 100 grams of protein from beef emits 25 kilograms of CO₂eq, on average. But this ranges from 9kg (10th percentile) to 105 kgCO₂eq (90th percentile).



Note: Data refers to the greenhouse gas emissions of food products across a global sample of 38,700 commercially viable farms in 119 countries. Emissions are measured across the full supply chain, from land use change through to the retailer and includes on-farm, processing, transport, packaging and retail emissions. Data source: Joseph Poore and Thomas Nemecek (2018). Reducing food's environmental impacts through producers and consumers. *Science*. OurWorldinData.org – Research and data to make progress against the world's largest problems. Licensed under CC-BY by the authors Joseph Poore & Hannah Ritchie.

Matching P&N (2018) to FoodEx2

43 food categories matched to 4558 FoodEx2 code (Kg of Co2e per 100g)

All products were matched by hand, using the closest raw product; if it was a product with multiple ingredients, we took the largest ingredient by weight. GHGE Values corrected for hydration and processing.

N	O	P	Q
L7_Foo	L7_FoodEx2_desc	level	Category
A000J	Grains and grain-based products	1	Wheat & Rye (Bread)
A000K	Cereals and cereal primary derivatives	2	Wheat & Rye (Bread)
A000L	Cereal grains (and cereal-like grains)	3	Wheat & Rye (Bread)
A001X	Mixture of grains	4	Wheat & Rye (Bread)
A0D9Y	Barley and similar-	4	Barley (Beer)
A000P	Barley grains	5	Barley (Beer)
A002K	Barley grain, pearled	6	Barley (Beer)

N	O	P	Q
L7_Foo	L7_FoodEx2_desc	level	Category
A000P	Potatoes and similar-	5	Potatoes
A00ZT	Potatoes	4	Potatoes
A011P	Potato boiled	5	Potatoes
A011R	Potato baked	5	Potatoes
A00ZX	Main-crop potatoes	5	Potatoes
A00ZV	New potatoes	5	Potatoes
A0DPM	Andigena	4	Potatoes
A00ZY	Tropical root and tuber vegetables	3	Cassava
A04JX	Cassava roots and similar-	4	Cassava
A00ZZ	Cassava roots	5	Cassava

GHGE Databases matched to FoodEx2

Reducing food's environmental impacts through producers and consumers




J. POORE  AND T. NEMECEK 

SCIENCE · 1 Jun 2018 · Vol 360, Issue 6392 · pp. 987-992 · DOI:10.1126/science.aag0216

<https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aag0216>

Data Article

SHARP-Indicators Database towards a public database for environmental sustainability

Elly Mertens ^a  , Gerdine Kaptijn ^a, Anneleen Kuijsten ^{a, b}, Hannah van Zanten ^c, Johanna M. Geleijnse ^{a, b}, Pieter van 't Veer ^{a, b} 

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2019.104617>

Carbon footprint of self-selected US diets: nutritional, demographic, and behavioral correlates



Donald Rose , Martin C Heller, Amelia M Willits-Smith, Robert J Meyer

The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, Volume 109, Issue 3, March 2019, Pages 526–534, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajcn/nqy327>

<https://doi.org/10.1093/ajcn/nqy327>

Footprints of foods and culinary preparations consumed in Brazil

Josefa Maria Fellegger Garzillo, Priscila Pereira Machado, Maria Laura da Costa Louzada, Renata Bertazzi Levy, Carlos Augusto Monteiro,

<https://doi.org/10.11606/9788588848405>

“City”

43 food categories matched to 4558 FoodEx2 code matched by authors

“SHARP”

945 food categories matched to FoodEx2

“Rose/Heller”

608 food categories

357 categories linked to FICD to National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), this resulted in 608 linked to FoodEx2 (using Global Dietary Database concordance).

“Garzillo”

329 food categories

linked to the Brazilian Food Consumption Survey which was matched to FoodEx2

(All databases normalised to kg of Co2e per 100g)

Correlations

Database	n	Spearman correlation	p-value
Sharp	945	0.699	< 0.001
Rose/Heller	608	0.572	< 0.001
Garzillo	329	0.610	< 0.001

Table 1. Correlation between “City” database to other databases

Visualisation of matches

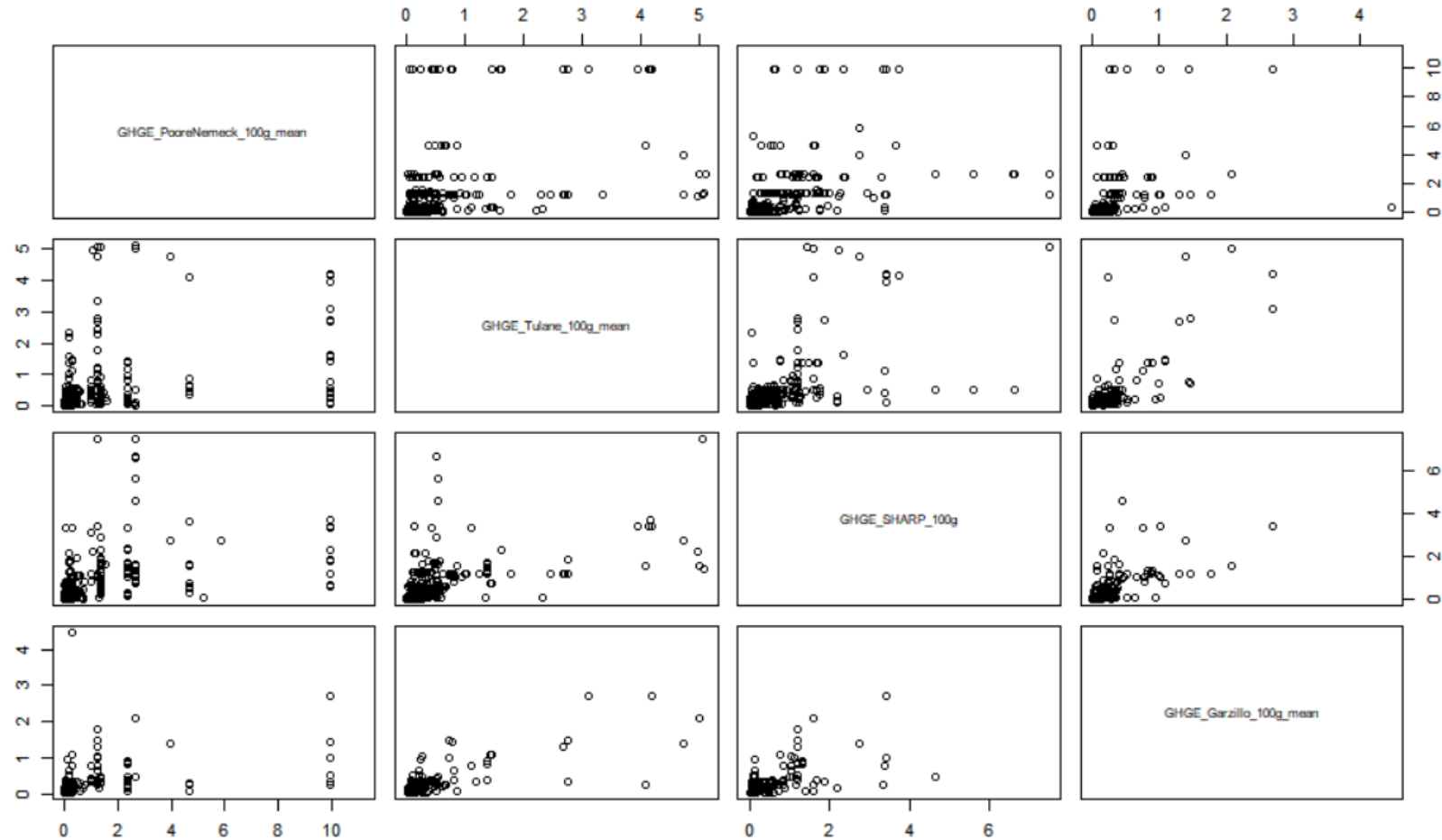


Figure 1. Scatterplot displaying the relationship between GHGE from multiples sources (Reynolds/Takacs, Rose/Heller, Sharp, Garzillo)

Differences in “City” and SHARP

Of the 945 food items with GHGE in “City” and SHARP, 50% (n = 476) were ranked in the same quintile. The kappa statistics was 0.536 ($p < 0.001$).

Of the 469 food items not ranked into the same quintiles,

- 44% (n=206) were within p5 and p95 confidence interval values of City

- 31% (n=144) were lower than the p5 confidence interval values of City

- 25% (n= 119) were higher than p95 confidence interval values of City.

The food items with the biggest differences between mean values for “City” and SHARP are wheat and rye; fish and seafood; pig meat; fruits; nuts and pulses.

These food items will be further investigated in the next update of the data, aiming to increase reliability to estimate GHGE from food consumption.

So what does this mean practically?

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Ingredient, dish, keyword...

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Beef bourguignon



Beef bourguignon

By [Barney Desmazery](#)

★★★★★ 62 ratings [Rate](#) [47 comments](#)

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Prep: 45 mins

Cook: 3 hrs and 30 mins

Plus overnight marinating

Easy

Serves 6

The secret to this rich beef casserole is to use all wine and no stock. Our ultimate beef bourguignon recipe is an instant comforting classic, full of satisfying flavours.

SHARP 62.76kg of Co2e (Beef is 87% of the footprint)
City 166.58kg of Co2e (Beef is 95% of the footprint)

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Bangers and mash with onion gravy



Bangers and mash with onion gravy

By [Barney Desmazery](#)

★★★★☆ 17 ratings [Rate](#) [7 comments](#)

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Prep: 20 mins

Cook: 50 mins

More effort

Serves 4

Make sausages and mash with love and you're in for a real treat. We've perfected this recipe to make it the very best it can be

Nutrition: Per serving

SHARP 8.77kg of Co2e (Sausages is 62% of the footprint)
City 7.11kg of Co2e (Sausages is 77% of the footprint)

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Classic Victoria sandwich recipe



Classic Victoria sandwich recipe

By [Barney Desmazery](#)

★★★★★ 995 ratings [Rate](#) [852 comments](#)

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Prep: 40 mins

Cook: 20 mins

plus cooling

Easy

Cuts into 10 slices

The perfect party cake, a Victoria sponge is a traditional bake everyone will love. Makes an easy wedding cake, too

SHARP 11.34kg of Co2e (Butter is 88% of the footprint)
City 3.77kg of Co2e (Butter is 24% of the footprint)

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Broccoli salad



Broccoli salad

By [Liberty Mendez](#)

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Prep: 10 mins

Cook: 3 mins

plus cooling

Easy

Serves 2

Enjoy this crunchy, vegan broccoli salad for lunch or as a side. It's sweet, sharp and full of different textures and colours

SHARP 0.95kg of Co2e (Broccoli is 30% of the footprint)
City 1.07kg of Co2e (Broccoli is 14% of the footprint)

Many thanks to all the co-authors

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<https://www.city.ac.uk/prospective-students/courses/postgraduate/food-policy>

Parallel thematic session: Resilience, vulnerability, human and planetary health

From: 28 June 2022, 15:10 to 16:25 BST British Summer Time

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