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Crop residue burning practices across north India inferred from household survey data: bridging gaps in satellite observations

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Abstract

In north India, agricultural burning adversely affects local and regional air quality during the post-monsoon season (October to November), when the prevailing meteorology is favorable for smog and haze formation. While the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS), aboard NASA's Terra and Aqua satellites, provides a nearly 20-year record of global fire activity, the sensor cannot adequately capture small, short-lasting agricultural fires due to its moderate spatial resolution (500 m to 1 km) and limited overpasses (twice daily for each satellite), as well as the hazy conditions that typically obscure the north India land surface at this time of year. Moreover, current global fire emissions inventories based on MODIS observations can differ by up to an order of magnitude in this region. Here we incorporate household survey data to bridge gaps in MODIS observations and calculate improved fire emissions over the states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar during the 2003-2018 post-monsoon burning seasons. We develop a method that adjusts MODIS Fire Radiative Power (FRP) for: (1) additional small fires detected by the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) at 375-m spatial resolution and (2) cloud/haze gaps in satellite observations; and (3) partial-field burns and (4) the diurnal cycle of fire activity using household survey responses. Adjusting FRP for the fire diurnal cycle yields the largest boost to emissions due to the short lifetime of the fires (~1/2 hour) and the brief windows of satellite detection. Using our adjusted FRP, we estimate on average 10.8 Tg dry matter (DM) burned each year, yielding emissions of 68 Gg organic carbon (OC), 5.8 Gg black carbon (BC), 821 Gg CO, and 15.4 Tg CO_2. On average, our OC+BC emissions are ~250% higher than estimates from five widely used global fire emissions inventories. Our estimate for Punjab, which contributes two-thirds of emissions in the region, is consistent with our bottom-up validation using burn rates from the household survey and government crop production statistics in 2016 and 2017. We spatially disaggregate the state-level emissions to construct a gridded inventory at daily, 0.25° x 0.25° resolution over north India from 2003-2018. Our inventory, SAGE-IGP (**S**urvey Constraints on FRP-based **Ag**ricultural Fire **E**missions in the **I**ndo-**G**angetic **P**lain), can improve assessments of the impacts of agricultural burning on air quality, public health, and regional climate, thus supporting effective policy

development to reduce these negative outcomes.

1. Introduction

Agricultural fires are an important seasonal source of outdoor emissions that degrade air quality in north India (Liu *et al* 2018, Cusworth *et al* 2018, Vadrevu *et al* 2011). The practice of agricultural burning in this region gained traction with the rise of combine harvester use in the mid-to-late 1980s (Badarinath *et al* 2006, Liu *et al* 2019b). Mechanical harvesting generates abundant root-bound and loose crop residues that are difficult to manage manually, and steady increases in crop production have added to the volume of excess residues. For many farmers, burning is a convenient, cost-effective method to remove crop residues and quickly transition between the monsoon (*kharif*) and winter (*rabi*) crops. Recent bans and intervention efforts, such as Happy Seeder technology, aim to reduce post-monsoon fires (Sidhu *et al* 2015, Tallis *et al* 2017, Shyamsundar *et al* 2019), which has increased by ~40-142% from 2003-2016 in the western Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP) (Liu *et al* 2019a, 2019b). Both satellites and ground-based monitors have detected enhanced aerosol loading downwind of smoke plumes from agricultural fires across north India in recent years (Badarinath *et al* 2009, Kaskaoutis *et al* 2014, Liu *et al* 2018, Jethva *et al* 2018, Sarkar *et al* 2018). Emission of gases and aerosols from open fires not only degrades regional air quality and increases risk to acute respiratory infection and other lung and cardiac diseases (Bikkina *et al* 2019, Chakrabarti *et al* 2019), but may also damage crops due to elevated surface ozone exposure (Burney and Ramanathan 2014, Sinha *et al* 2015, Ghude *et al* 2016).

Much of the focus so far has been on agricultural fires in Punjab and Haryana, two northern states that account for over 90% of post-monsoon fire intensity in India (Vadrevu *et al* 2013, Sarkar *et al* 2018, Liu *et al* 2019b). Less is known about burning practices elsewhere in north India, such as Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Bihar, where many farmers also follow a rice-wheat rotation (Singh *et al* 2011). This study examines crop residue burning practices in four states: Punjab, Haryana, UP, and Bihar. One difficulty in monitoring agricultural fires in this region is the coarse spatio-temporal resolution of satellite measurements (Liu *et al* 2019a). The small size and duration of the fires, as well as increasing haziness from the smoke itself, also complicate interpretation of satellite observations (Thumaty *et al* 2015, Cusworth *et al* 2018, Liu *et al* 2019a). These challenges may lead to gross underestimation of fire emissions driving atmospheric models (Cusworth *et al* 2018, Dekker *et al* 2019). To date, such modeling studies have relied on global fire emissions inventories due to the lack of inventories specific to India, but emissions estimates, including those for aerosols, in the global inventories can differ by an order of magnitude (Liu *et al* 2019a). Here we use survey data to help constrain satellite-based estimates by filling observational gaps.

Our goals in this study are two-fold: (1) to use household survey data to improve estimates of post-monsoon agricultural fire emissions and (2) to better understand the drivers, consequences, and farmer perceptions of crop residue burning across north India. We develop a FRP-based approach incorporating satellite and household survey data to adjust state-level MODIS FRP for small fires from VIIRS, cloud/haze gaps in satellite observations, partial burns, and the diurnal cycle in fire activity. We validate our FRP-based estimates using survey burn rates, government statistics on crop production, and fuel-related factors from the literature.

Finally, we spatially disaggregate total dry matter (DM) burned to construct a daily, gridded 0.25° x 0.25° emissions inventory for Punjab, Haryana, UP, and Bihar from 2003-2018.

2. Data and Methods

2.1 Study region

Many agricultural regions across the Indian IGP are double-cropped with a rice-wheat rotation, which is critical to the food security and livelihood of over 400 million inhabitants across north India (Kumar *et al* 2015). In this study, we focus on four states in north India: Punjab, Haryana, UP, and Bihar (Figure 1a). Punjab and Haryana, the western IGP states and "breadbasket" of India, have ~1.5 times higher rice yields than UP and Bihar (Palanisami *et al* 2019).

2.2 Household survey

In a household survey in 2017, we asked over 2000 farmers in the four target states about agricultural practices pertaining to rice harvests, burning of rice residues, and wheat sowing for the 2016-17 growing season. For each village, we used a stratified purposive sampling technique to select a subset of 20 households that represent the village-level distribution of landholding sizes and social classes (Palinkas *et al* 2015). We hired two survey teams to conduct the surveys on a mobile-based application in Hindi (Haryana, UP, and Bihar) and Punjabi (Punjab). In particular, we asked farmers about the method of harvesting rice (mechanical or manual) and subsequent burning of rice residues (Table S1). In 2018, we repeated the survey with 90% of the same participants for the 2017-18 growing season and expanded our list of questions to determine the farmers' primary reasons for crop residue burning, as well as details on their burning practices: (1) start year of burning, (2) method of burning (complete or partial burn of field), (3) time of day for burning, (4) wait time (in days) from harvest to burning, and (5) reasons for burning.

2.3 Satellite datasets

We use the MODIS Collection 6 gridded products for active fires (MOD14A1/MYD14A1, 1 km), surface reflectance (MOD09GA/MYD09GA, 500 m), and land cover (MCD12Q1, 500 m), all available from the Google Earth Engine platform (Gorelick *et al* 2017), to derive daily fire intensity and surface reflectance in agricultural regions across the IGP (Table S6). We also use the higher spatial resolution active fire product (VNP14IMGML, 375m) from the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS), aboard the Suomi Near-Polar Orbiting Partnership (S-NPP) and available from 2012.

As our fire metric, we rely on the daily maximum Fire Radiative Power (FRP), a proxy for fire intensity. The Fire Radiative Energy (FRE), or the time integral of FRP, scales linearly to dry matter burned (Wooster *et al* 2005).

Following Zhang *et al* (2014) and Liu *et al* (2019b), we estimate the start, midpoint, and end of the cumulative FRP during each post-monsoon burning season from 2003-2018:

$$k_{\beta} = arg\ min_k \left[\left(\frac{\hat{y}_k}{\hat{y}_n} - \beta\right) > 0\right], \text{ where} \quad (1)$$
$$\{k \mid k \in \mathbb{N}, 1 \leq k \leq n\}$$

where $\hat{y}_k$ is the sigmoid-smoothed partial sums of the sequence of daily FRP over day 1 to k, n is the total number of days in the burning season, and k_{β} is the first day by when $\hat{y}_k$, normalized by the seasonal sum of FRP $\hat{y}_n$, has surpassed breakpoint β. We take β = 0.1, 0.5, and 0.9 to represent the start, midpoint, and end, respectively, of the burning season. Unlike Liu *et al* (2019b), here we test the effect of sigmoid smoothing on estimating β and its trends. For sigmoid smoothing, we use the nonlinear squares *nls* function in the R stats package to fit a sigmoidal curve to the partial sums of FRP:

$$\hat{y}_k = {}^{1}/_{[1 + e^{a+bt}]} \quad (2)$$

where a and b are shape parameters to be optimized and t is a sequence from 1 to n representing days in the burning season.

2.4 Statistical adjustments of agricultural fire emissions using satellite and survey data

Liu *et al* (2019a) found that MODIS cannot capture > 75% of small, short-lasting fires in Punjab and Haryana. While that study developed a hybrid MODIS-Landsat algorithm (ModL2T) to improve the spatial allocation of burned area (BA) and BA-based fire emissions, the low temporal resolution of Landsat (every 16 days) and the possible conflation of harvested area and burned area suggests that FRP-based algorithms may enable fire emissions estimates at finer temporal resolution and with lower commission errors. Here we first derive daily state-level post-monsoon fire emissions from 2003-2018 for Punjab, Haryana, UP, and Bihar from MODIS FRP (Sections 2.4.1-2.4.2). Then, we disaggregate the state-level emissions to a gridded, 0.25° x 0.25° inventory (Section 2.4.3). We estimate emissions by state first rather than by grid cell to limit inconsistencies between neighboring grid cells and for computational efficiency.

2.4.1 Adjustment of FRP based on survey data and additional satellite observations

Using both satellite and household survey data, we adjust the MODIS FRP to account for small fires, cloud/haze gaps, partial burning, and limited satellite overpasses. For each state and year, we derive an adjusted daily FRP timeseries over a 4-month period, September to December. This extended study period for post-monsoon fires allows us to accommodate the different timing of each state's fire season and to ensure stability in smoothing FRP timeseries. Figure 2 shows the graphical depiction of each step detailed below.

1. MODIS observations of FRP. We first sum daily MODIS Terra and Aqua FRP during each post-monsoon burning season and over each state. This step assumes that the agricultural fires in this region are short-lived (~ 1/2 hour), following Thumaty *et al* (2015), and that the instruments detect different fires at the overpass times, Terra at 10:30 a.m. and Aqua at 1:30 p.m. Here we use the maximum FRP from the MOD/MYD14A1 gridded active fire product and apply an agricultural mask derived from MCD12Q1 to ensure that only cropland fires are considered. We adjust Terra and Aqua FRP separately for Steps 2-3 but sum the adjusted Terra and Aqua FRP at the end of Step 3.

2. Use of VIIRS observations for small fires. Next, we incorporate the FRP observations from VIIRS, which at 375 m has a finer spatial resolution than the MODIS products (1 km) and so can more accurately capture fine-scale fire activity than MODIS. To account for these missing small fires, we diagnose those VIIRS active fires that do not intersect with MODIS/Aqua active fires within a 1-km buffer and then add VIIRS FRP of these fires to MODIS/Aqua FRP. We use only MODIS/Aqua FRP because VIIRS does not observe active fires during the MODIS/Terra overpass. Because VIIRS observations are available only from 2012-2018, we derive the incremental VIIRS boost for 2003-2011 for the entire state by taking the average ratio of additional VIIRS FRP and MODIS/Aqua FRP over 2012-2018 and then scaling up the MODIS/Aqua FRP over the earlier years by that ratio. We also boost MODIS/Terra FRP uniformly by the same ratio from 2003-2018 to account for missed small fires during the morning overpass.

3. Filling in gaps of observed FRP due to clouds and haze. The evolution of fire activity over the burning season as detected by MODIS is not smoothly varying but is instead characterized by dips or gaps in regional total FRP. Cusworth *et al* (2018) suggest that this large day-to-day variability in FRP is due in large part to clouds, haze, and/or smoke, occasionally obscuring the fire activity on the ground. To test this hypothesis, we check whether these dips or gaps in the summed FRP timeseries for each state correspond with MODIS observations of surface reflectance (MOD/MYD09GA) in the red visible band, ρ_1. As noted above, surface reflectance in this band is sensitive to clouds or haze and so would be expected to anticorrelate with the area within which satellites can "see" fires during the burning season. We then take advantage of ρ_1 measurements to gauge the extent to which clouds or haze interferes with fire detection, and we iteratively fill in the cloud/haze gaps in the statewide data for each fire season. Additional details on cloud/haze gap filling procedure is described in Supplementary Section S3.2.

4. Boosting FRP with survey data on partial burning. The survey data reveal that in the four states, 30-57% of farmers piled the loose crop residue in the center of the field before setting the residue on fire, resulting in partial burning of the field. Taking the practice into account has importance in constructing fire emission inventories for three reasons. First, partial burns, covering small, discrete areas, are less likely to be observed from space than complete burns (Liu *et al* 2019a). Second, only loose residues are set on fire in partial burns, yielding less DM burned than in complete burns (Kumar *et al* 2015). Third, the $PM_{2.5}$ emissions factor, with respect to the mass of rice residue burned, has been observed in partial burns to be on average ~1.92 times that for complete burns due to the incomplete, smoldering combustion of wetter residues (Lasko and Vadrevu 2018).

To overcome these challenges, we assume as an upper bound that all partial fires have been missed by satellite detection (Liu *et al* 2019a). For each state, we boost the daily FRP by the partial-burn fraction derived from survey data and normalized by operational landholding area. To account for the lower mass of DM burned in partial burns, we also apply a scaling factor to the partial-burn FRP, since FRP is linearly proportional to DM burned (Wooster *et al* 2005). Here we scale partial-burn FRP by 0.75, or the approximate fraction of total crop residues that are piled in the center of the field and burned. This factor assumes a rice plant height of ~101 cm (Mahajan *et al* 2009), of which 20-22 cm are left standing after harvest (Mahajan *et al* 2009).

Our resulting estimates of FRP from partial fires are then distributed uniformly in time across each burning season.

5. Adjustment to take into account the diurnal cycle of fire activity. The two satellites associated with MODIS each have one daytime overpass per day – Terra at 10:30 a.m. and Aqua at 1:30 p.m. Typically, Aqua detects over five times as many fires as Terra in northwest India during the post-monsoon (Liu *et al* 2019a). These overpass times can miss the peak burning times of individual agricultural fires, which are small and short-lived, each lasting only about half an hour (Thumaty *et al* 2015). Here we adjust the satellite-derived FRP to reflect those fires unseen by satellites. We also take advantage of the survey data to adjust the FRP captured by MODIS to reflect the diurnal variation of agricultural fire activity, separated into four time periods: early morning (4-10 a.m.), mid-day (10 a.m.-2 p.m.), evening (2-6 p.m.), and late night (6-11 p.m.). For example, the survey data reveal that 8-41% of IGP farmers typically set fires between 10 a.m.-2 p.m., depending on the state. Additionally, the Terra and Aqua/S-NPP daytime overpasses only partly overlap with the mid-day burning window, assuming that all fires last half an hour. Accounting for variance in when satellites see each fire and how long each fire burns, we estimate that satellite-derived FRP captures just ~1.5 hours of fire activity over this 4-hr mid-day time interval. To correct for this discrepancy, we take the total mid-day FRP as 2.67 times the satellite-derived FRP. This 2.67 factor assumes linearly increasing FRP from the Terra to Aqua overpass over 45-minute blocks during the 4-hr mid-day window. We further adjust daily total FRP by assuming that all fires outside the mid-day window are undetected and by adding FRP increments according to the temporal distribution implied by the survey data. We weight these increments by the operational landholding area with reported burning in each time window.

As a post-processing step, we remove anomalous FRP spikes that often occur outside the burning season and are likely contaminated by false satellite detections. An anomalous day is tagged if its FRP exceeds three times the maximum FRP in a 2-day buffer window (4 days in total) and is above the 25th percentile of daily FRP from September-December of that year.

To account for agricultural fires that extend eastward from Haryana into the state of Rajasthan along the Ghaggar-Hakra River, we also include Ganganagar and Hanumangarh, two districts in north Rajasthan. We follow the same methods as described above but use survey data from Haryana for Steps 4-5.

2.4.2 Conversion to dry matter burned and emissions

For the final step in constructing our improved fire inventory, we follow Kaiser *et al* (2012) to convert FRP in each grid cell to dry matter burned and then to emissions for various chemical species, as is done in constructing the Global Fire Assimilation System (GFAS) emissions inventory:

$$E_i = FRE \times \alpha \times EF_i \qquad (3)$$

where E_i is the emissions of species i (g species), FRE is the fire radiative energy (MJ), or the time integral of FRP, α is a conversion factor dependent on land use/land cover (kg DM MJ^{-1}) that yields DM burned, and E_i is the emissions factor for species i (g species kg^{-1} DM). To convert FRP to FRE, we multiply the adjusted daily FRP by the lifetime of the agricultural fires, which we assume to be 30 minutes, or 1.8 x 10^4 s day^{-1}, in this region (Thumaty *et al* 2015). Following Kaiser *et al* (2014) and Liu *et al* (2015), we use a conversion factor α for agricultural fires of 0.41 kg MJ^{-1}.

To validate the DM burned derived from adjusted FRP, we focus on Punjab, which accounts for > 85% of MODIS-observed FRP during the post-monsoon in the study region. We use a bottom-up method, following Aalde *et al* (2006), that involves burn rates from the household survey and government crop production estimates from the Indiastat data portal (Indiastat.com), and crop-specific parameters from literature for 2016 and 2017:

$$E_i = f_{burned} \times CP \times RC \times f_{DM} \times f_{CC} \times EF_i \qquad (4)$$

where f_{burned} is the fraction burned, CP is crop production in kg (in this case, of *kharif* rice), RC is residue-to-crop ratio, f_{CC} is combustion completeness, and f_{DM} is the mass fraction of DM burned of total from crop production (Table 1). Here, fuel loading (FL) is the product of CP, RC, and f_{DM} over the cultivated area (A) in units of g m^{-2}; fuel consumption (FC) is the product of fuel loading and f_{CC}:

$$FL = \frac{CP \times RC \times f_{DM}}{A} \qquad (5)$$

$$FC = FL \times f_{CC} \qquad (6)$$

We also consider the IPCC recommended fuel load of 550 g m^{-2} for rice residues (Aalde *et al* 2006). Following the FRP-based method for estimating adjusted DM burned, here we also adjust the DM for partial burns using survey data.

As we will see, our top-down estimates of fuel load agree well with bottom-up validation for the 2016 and 2017 post-monsoon burning seasons (Section 3.2). We then extend these bottom-up estimates to 2003-2018 by first calculating the ratio of survey burn rates to the satellite-derived, adjusted FRP for 2016-17 and then applying this ratio to all years in the satellite FRP record.

Finally, application of emissions factors from Andreae (2019) allows us to quantify emissions of black carbon (BC) and primary organic carbon (OC), as well as of CO_2 and CO, from the agricultural fires. For OC and BC from partial burns, we additionally scale DM by a factor of 1.92 to account for the higher $PM_{2.5}$ emissions factor in these fires relative to complete burns (Lasko and Vadrevu 2018), as described in Section 2.4.1. We compare the resulting statewide emissions estimates with five global inventories: (1) Global Fire Emissions Database (GFEDv4s; van der Werf *et al* 2017), (2) Fire Inventory from NCAR (FINNv1.5; Wiedinmyer *et al* 2014), (3) Global Fire Assimilation System (GFASv1.2; Kaiser *et al* 2012), (4) Quick Fire Emissions Dataset (QFEDv2.5r1; Darmenov and da Silva 2013), and (5) Fire Energetics and Emissions Research (FEERv1.0-G1.2; Ichoku and Ellison 2014). GFEDv4s and FINNv1.5 are primarily derived from burned area (BA) and active fire area (AFA), while GFASv1.2, QFEDv2.5r1, and FEERv1.0-G1.2 are FRP-based. More details about these inventories are given in Supplementary Sections S4.1-4.2.

2.4.3 Constructing a spatially and temporally explicit gridded emissions inventory

The steps described so far yield total seasonal emissions for each state for 2003-2018. We next disaggregate the state-level DM emissions to daily, 0.25° x 0.25° spatial resolution to create a gridded inventory, SAGE-IGP. We start with total state-level emissions rather than the finer gridded resolution to limit noise and ensure convergence in our cloud/haze gap-filling step and to aggregate survey responses from sparsely located households.

First, we allocate the seasonal DM emissions spatially according to the fraction of MODIS Terra + Aqua unadjusted FRP in each grid cell for the season. Second, we approximate the evolution of fire activity over the season in each grid cell as Gaussian, using the dates of three breakpoints, or k, where β = 0.1, 0.5, and 0.9 (defined in Section 2.2.1):

$$\mathrm{g(x)} = e^{-0.5\left[\frac{\left(x-k_{\beta=0.5}\right)}{(k_{\beta=0.9}-k_{\beta=0.1})/2.5}\right]^2} \tag{7}$$

where g is the value of the Gaussian on day x. Because the day of peak burning varies spatially within the state (Liu *et al* 2019b), we cannot simply impose uniform daily variability across the state using our daily DM emissions. For each grid cell, the corresponding Gaussian distribution, whose maximum value is 1, is multiplied by the spatially-allocated DM emissions from Step 1. Finally, we iteratively nudge the gridded DM emissions until convergence such that (1) the daily total of our gridded inventory matches the state-level adjusted DM emissions, and (2) the spatial allocation of our gridded inventory matches that of the MODIS Terra + Aqua unadjusted FRP on a seasonal basis. One caveat is that this step assumes all grid cells within each state are equally obscured by clouds. With our gridded inventory, we also provide an ancillary dataset of gridded hourly fractions of fire activity, based on household survey data (Supplementary Section S3.3, Figure S3).

2.5 Ground and satellite-based measurements of aerosols

We use ground and satellite-based measurements of aerosols to check whether we improve the temporal distribution of fire emissions over current global inventories. We focus on October-November 2017, when a hazy/cloudy period lasted for almost 3 weeks during the post-monsoon fire season. The Aerosol Robotic Network (AERONET) site in Kanpur, India (26.51°N, 80.23°E) provides a long record of ground-based aerosol optical depth (AOD) measurements (from 2001-present), which have been used to infer the properties and transport of smoke aerosols emitted from post-monsoon agricultural fires across the IGP (Kaskaoutis *et al* 2014). As an ancillary dataset, we use the Aerosol Index (AI) from the Ozone Measuring Instrument (OMI) aboard the Aura satellite, gridded to a spatial resolution of 1° x 1°. The OMI AI reliably indicates enhancements in absorbing aerosols, such as those in soot and smoke, using radiances at the 354 and 388-nm ultraviolet wavelengths (Torres *et al* 2007, Kaskaoutis *et al* 2014). We spatially average daily AI over Punjab but exclude those days with only one observation across the state.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Crop residue burning across the Indo-Gangetic Plain: drivers, consequences, and farmer *perceptions*

Figure 3 shows the average temporal evolution of fire activity, crop phenology, and rainfall in Punjab, Haryana, UP, and Bihar derived from satellite data. The total post-monsoon fire intensity in Punjab is on average one to two orders of magnitude higher than that in Haryana, UP, and Bihar. Punjab is a highly productive state with larger fields and higher use of combine harvesters, thereby yielding more excess residues that need to be managed. As shown by the NBR time series, the lower maximum winter greenness in eastern IGP (0.42-0.48) compared to western IGP (0.62-0.68) confirms the gap in winter crop production and yield between these two regions (Jain *et al* 2017); maximum monsoon greenness is more homogenous across all states (0.5-0.62). In the western IGP, the summer monsoon follows the pre-monsoon fire season from March to May and precedes the post-monsoon fire season from October to December. In the eastern IGP, the pre-monsoon fire season follows the earlier monsoon onset and thus starts in mid-March rather than mid-to-late April. As the monsoon continues through October, the post-monsoon fire season occurs later and extends to December.

Traditionally, farmers across the IGP have harvested rice in the post-monsoon season manually. By 2017, 61-71% of households surveyed in UP and Bihar still followed this practice, while 62-93% of households in Punjab and Haryana had transitioned to fully mechanized harvesting, namely using combine harvesters (Figure 4). The large amounts of loose and intact residues generated from combine harvesters are difficult to clear manually and thus often burned (Tallis *et al* 2017). As crop production increases and mechanization spreads across eastern IGP, burn rates will also likely increase. In 2017, over a quarter of surveyed farmers burned crop residue after rice harvests, with post-monsoon fire activity concentrated in Punjab: 53% of farmers in Punjab burned rice residue, compared to 9-30% in Haryana, Bihar, and UP (Figure 4). At the household level, the year-to-year persistence in burning varies: in 2016, higher percentages of farmers in Punjab (82%), Haryana (20%), and UP (14%) burned rice residue compared to 2017, while a lower percentage of farmers in Bihar (18%) burned. However, the decline in the burn rate in Punjab is much less pronounced (89% to 71%) when weighted by operational landholding area, suggesting that farmers with larger fields continued to burn residues in 2017.

Based on 474 responses, we find that IGP farmers started to burn rice residues as early as 1957, with the most rapid growth occurring after the mid-1990s (Figure 1a). The 10-yr period with the highest rate of households adopting the practice of crop residue burning took place more than a decade earlier in Punjab (mid-1990s to early 2000s) than in Haryana, Bihar, and UP (mid-2000s to 2010s). The time of burning varies spatially: peak burning occurs roughly evenly between mid-day (10am-2pm) and evening (2-6pm) in Punjab and Haryana but mainly in the evening in UP and Bihar (Figure 1b). Liu *et al* (2019a) found that the method of burning also varies spatially: crop residues are primarily managed by complete burning in Punjab and northern Haryana and more commonly by partial burning in central and southern Haryana. This conclusion is supported by the increasing fraction of partial burning from western to eastern IGP (30% in Punjab to 57% in Bihar) (Figure 1c). Consistent with Kim Oanh *et al* (2011), we find that the type of burning is associated with the method of harvest, with 68% of fields with complete burns – and conversely, only 19% of those with partial burns – were harvested fully mechanically in the IGP.

Relative to Punjab, the more recent adoption of crop residue burning at the household-level in Haryana, Bihar, and UP, along with the current low rate of burning (12-46%) among survey households in these states, suggests high potential growth in agricultural fire activity (Figure 1a, Table S4). For example, assuming a future scenario in which all households across the IGP harvest rice mechanically, the rate of crop residue burning in terms of landholding area would increase by just 2-27% in Punjab and Haryana, compared to 2016-2017, but by 67-207% in UP and Bihar (Table S4). These values assume that the proportion of burned versus unburned fields relying on mechanized harvesting remains constant in each state.

Nearly 90% of farmers surveyed across the IGP believe that rice residue burning impacts the air quality of nearby cities (Table S3). Nevertheless, for farmers, the positive effects of burning, namely saving time and cost in rice residue management, ultimately outweigh the potential negative effects, including what the farmers fear could be damages to soil health and lower crop yield. We find that 56-92% farmers burn rice residue to overcome the short turnaround time to prepare the land to sow the next crop (Figure S1a). Nearly three quarters of households wait 10 or fewer days after rice harvests to burn the crop residue, underscoring the quick transition from the *kharif* to *rabi* crops (Figure S1b). Other factors that play a role in the decision to burn crop residue include the unsuitability of the rice residue as cattle feed (42-76% of farmers), difficulty in cutting and managing the residue (61-80%), absence of technology to manage the residue (29-64%), and lack of incentive from the government to not burn, especially in Punjab, where 81% of surveyed farmers cite this factor (Figure S1a). In addition to circumventing the short transition period between crops, 80% of farmers say that burning saves cost in cutting and managing rice residue (Table S3). On the other hand, more farmers believe that crop residue burning negatively (39-44%) rather than positively (7-29%) affects soil health in terms of crop yield, fertilizer usage, and soil color and texture.

3.2 Adjusted emissions from agricultural fires using satellite and survey data

Figure 2 shows an example of daily timeseries of MODIS FRP adjusted for small fires, cloud/haze gaps in satellite observations, partial burning, and thke fire diurnal cycle for Punjab for the 2017 post-monsoon season. The VIIRS small fires boost increases MODIS FRP on clear-sky days and overall by 90%, while the cloud/haze gap fill further increases the overall MODIS + VIIRS FRP by 84%, with the greatest adjustment during cloudy/hazy periods, such as from October 30 to November 17 (Figure 2). The household survey data implies that partial field burning adds 33% more FRP. Accounting for the fire diurnal cycle results in a further 500% boost in FRP, by far the most uncertain of the adjustments. This boost is due to the large number of short-lasting fires inferred from the survey data that occur outside the satellite overpass times, leading to “missing,” or unobserved fire activity in this region (Liu *et al* 2019a). Our FRP estimates are not sensitive to the assumption that fires last just half an hour. For example, if we assume instead that fires last an hour, the 2.67 factor to account for fires seen outside the satellite overpasses during mid-day survey period would be halved, and the FRP to FRE conversion factor would double, thereby yielding no change in our estimate of DM burned.

Using the adjusted FRP, we estimate on average 10.8 ± 2.7 Tg DM burned, or 68 ± 17 Gg OC, 5.8 ± 1.5 Gg BC, 821 ± 206 Gg CO, and 15.4 ± 3.9 Tg CO_2, in the IGP per post-monsoon burning season from 2003-2018 (Figure 5a-b). Punjab comprises 68% of total DM burned and 65% of aerosol emissions. Importantly, our FRP-based estimates of DM burned calculated from adjusted FRP in 2016-2017 are consistent with our bottom-up estimates based on burn rates from the household survey and Indiastat and IPCC fuel loadings (Figure 6a). Overall, DM burned increased by 84% from 2003 to 2018. In contrast, without adjustment, the apparent 16% increase in MODIS Terra + Aqua FRP is not statistically significant. The discrepancy in trends arises because as fire intensity increases, haze cover also likely increases and obscures fires at a higher rate. Our cloud/haze gap fill compensates for the ~28% decline in the satellite observable fraction (Figure S2b), contributing on average more than twice as much FRP boost in later years (2013-2018) than in previous years (2003-2012).

Figure 6b compares the 2003-2018 timeseries of OC+BC emissions from this study to five global fire emissions inventories during the post-monsoon season. The average seasonal OC+BC emissions can differ by > 90 Gg between the minimum (GFASv1.2, GFEDv4s) and maximum (FEERv1-G1.2) values. Our estimates are closest in magnitude to FINNv1.5, higher than GFEDv4s, GFASv1.2, and QFEDv2.5r1 but lower than FEERv1-G1.2.

To further examine the utility of our adjusted FRP approach, we compare our daily DM burned with different global inventories in the context of aerosol loading in Punjab from October-November 2017 (Figure 7). In 2017, an almost 3-week cloudy/hazy period persisted from October 30 to November 17, with minimal fire activity detected during the second and third weeks of November. Using a model combined with satellite data, Dekker *et al* (2019) suggested that residential and commercial combustion was the most important driver of extreme pollution over the IGP from November 11-19, 2017. However, we argue that agricultural fire activity during this period is grossly underestimated and likely also a key emissions source. Our reasoning is as follows. First, three global inventories — GFASv1.2 (used in Dekker *et al* (2018)), FINNv1.5, and QFEDv2.5r1 — all show a hiatus in fire activity bounded by two local maxima in fire activity (Figure 7a-b). This hiatus coincides with the cloudy/hazy period and low satellite observable fraction (mostly < 70%) during the Aqua overpass time, or when most post-monsoon fires occur (Figure 7b; Vadrevu *et al* 2011). Second, the variations in aerosol loading during this time period closely follow the Gaussian-like temporal evolution expected of post-monsoon fires (Figure 7c; Kaskaoutis *et al* 2014, Liu *et al* 2019b). Enhancements in both daily AOD (> 1) at Kanpur and mean OMI AI (> 1.5) over Punjab throughout the cloudy/hazy period suggest that fire activity continued during this time although obscured from satellite detection.

While GFASv1.2 and QFEDv2.5r1 include cloud correction algorithms to account for observation gaps (Kaiser *et al* 2012, Darmenov and da Silva 2013), our study demonstrates that more rigorous correction is needed during persistent cloudy/hazy conditions. We iteratively gap fill this hiatus in observed FRP in 2017, resulting in daily DM burned that follows a Gaussian-like distribution similar to that in other years, and more closely matches the bottom-up approach based on the household survey burn rates and Indiastat rice production (Figure 7a; Liu *et al*, 2019b). However, the 13-37% underestimate of DM burned in 2017 using our FRP-based approach compared to the bottom-up method suggests that our cloud/haze gap fill adjustments to MODIS FRP may still be somewhat conservative (Figure 6).

3.2.1. Limitations and uncertainties in constructing spatio-temporal explicit emissions

Figure 5c shows average total DM burned from 2003-2018 over the IGP from our gridded 0.25° x 0.25° inventory. While our adjusted FRP approach leads to a more realistic seasonal, state-level budget for DM emissions than current global inventories, we note several limitations. First, the disaggregated emissions inventory contains statistical noise from the iterative cloud/haze gap adjustments and our assumption that the temporal distribution of emissions is Gaussian within each grid cell. Further analysis using AOD observations with back trajectory modeling could help to constrain the daily variability in fire emissions. Second, the household survey sample sizes for Haryana, UP, and Bihar are only 10-29% of that for Punjab, leading to uncertainty in the implications of the survey for these states (Figure 1). While we are confident in the survey-derived partial burn and fire diurnal cycle fractions for Punjab, the burn rate used for validation is more uncertain, given that recent bans on agricultural burning in Punjab may have led to underreporting. Third, we adjust FRP to account for the fire diurnal cycle and partial fields burns by assuming a uniform spatial and temporal distribution across each state. More detailed on-the-ground data may help to constrain the spatio-temporal variability in these two parameters. Fourth, as with current global fire emissions inventories, we lack information to provide detailed uncertainty estimates for our gridded emissions. Thus far, only the emissions factors for different species allow for a detailed uncertainty analysis based on standard deviations from the laboratory and field studies compiled by Andreae (2019) and Lasko and Vadrevu (2018).

In our adjusted FRP approach, the fraction of cloud/haze gap-fill FRP to satellite-observed FRP can be taken as the relative uncertainty of satellite-derived FRP from year to year (Figure S4). This uncertainty anti-correlates with the satellite observable fraction (Figure S2b). A further 5-9% uncertainty stems from the static VIIRS FRP boost factor applied to years from 2003-2011, when no VIIRS observations are available (Table S7). For the survey-based components, we use a bootstrap hold-out method to estimate 10-18% uncertainty in partial burn fractions and 14-42% in the diurnal cycle boost for the four states (Table S8).

3.3 Differences in fire activity, fuel consumption, and emissions factors assumed in inventories and the consequences for emissions estimates

Global fire emissions inventories ingest different combinations of MODIS burned area and active fire products. For example, GFEDv4s, a bottom-up inventory, relies primarily on the MCD64A1 burned area product with the MCD14ML active fire product for its small fire boost, while GFASv1.2, QFEDv2.5r1, and FEERv1.0-G1.2 use FRP from the MOD/MYD14 active fire products (Liu *et al* 2020). In Figure S5, we compare the spatial patterns of burned area (MCD64A1) and active fire pixels (MxD14A1) stacked by year, in which for each pixel any occurrence of burning for a given post-monsoon season is assigned a value of 1. The stacked values for MCD64A1 are more spatially uneven than MxD14A1 and tend to cluster, which may reflect classification bias in this product caused by the conflation of harvest and burning. This conflation becomes especially problematic as rice production increases (Liu *et al* 2019b), because the greater drawdown in satellite-observed greenness after rice maturation may artificially inflate total burned area.

In contrast, MxD14 can capture smaller, fragmented burns but may miss fires occurring outside overpass times and result in inconsistent detection from year to year. In constructing GFAS, Kaiser *et al* (2012) surmised that FRP observed during the MODIS overpasses is representative of daily fire activity. While this is a reasonable assumption for large wildfires, the short duration of fires in north India makes this approach problematic. Some top-down inventories, such as GFASv1.2, also rely on bottom-up inventories, such as GFEDv4s, to linearly scale FRP to DM (Kaiser *et al* 2012). Consequently, biases in bottom-up estimates of DM burned can propagate to top-down inventories.

The bottom-up approach to calculate DM burned mainly depends on two variables: burned area and fuel consumption, which is the mass of biomass burned per unit area. We next explore how the range in these two components in different datasets affects estimates of DM burned and the resulting aerosol emissions for the 2003-2016 time period. We consider (1) burned area estimates from GFEDv4s, FINNv1.5, and ModL2T (Liu *et al* 2019a); (2) fuel consumption estimates from GFEDv4s, FINNv1.5, Indiastat, and IPCC (Table S9); and (3) emissions factors used by GFEDv4s, FINNv1.0, GFASv1.0, and QFEDv2.4 (Table S10; van der Werf *et al* 2017, Wiedinmyer *et al* 2011, Kaiser *et al* 2012, Darmenov and da Silva 2013), and from Andreae (2019). We find that the DM burned calculated using our best estimates of burned area (ModL2T) and fuel consumption (Indiastat) is consistent with the adjusted FRP approach of this study (7.3 Tg) (Figure 8). This indicates that ModL2T burned area has utility for deriving agricultural fire emissions, but only when paired with reasonable fuel consumption estimates. The average out-of-box GFEDv4s DM burned (3.2 Tg) is 56% lower than this study, while that of FINNv1.5 (7.9 Tg) is comparable. However, the FINNv1.5 fuel consumption is more than twice that estimated from Indiastat and IPCC recommendation for rice residues (Table S9), compensating for its 37-55% lower burned area compared to other estimates. If we apply FINNv1.5 fuel consumption to GFEDv4s and ModL2T burned area, the resulting DM burned is ~2-3 times as high as this study's FRP-based estimates (Figure 8).

We also calculate the percent contribution of burned area, fuel consumption, and emissions factors to the range in OC, BC, CO, and CO_2 agricultural fire emissions. We find that fuel consumption is the most uncertain component (54-66%), followed by burned area (24-29%) and emissions factors (5-22%) (Table S11). We also diagnose a 16-27% decline ($p < 0.05$) in GFEDv4s and FINNv1.5 fuel consumption from 2003-2016 (Table S9), while that based on Indiastat is relatively constant (+3%, $p = 0.3$). Here we will focus on the fuel load component of fuel consumption (see Eq. 6) since combustion completeness is not readily observable using satellite data. In Indiastat, the increase in rice production implies a higher fuel load, but the concurrent increase in rice area cancels out this effect. The discrepancy between the two satellite products and Indiastat can be explained by assumptions in GFEDv4s and FINNv1.5 regarding vegetated fraction and fuel load. First, both global inventories use satellite-derived sub-pixel-level vegetated fraction to scale fire pixels such that only the vegetated fraction of each pixel counts toward the total burned area. Overall, these vegetated fractions increased by 9% ($p < 0.05$) in Punjab from 2003-2016, consistent with the increase in rice area reported by Indiastat. Second, we would also expect to see a positive trend fuel load in FINNv1.5 and GFEDv4s due to the increase in rice production. However, FINNv1.5 assumes a constant fuel load for each region and land cover type (Wiedinmyer *et al* 2011), while GFEDv4s models carbon fluxes to calculate fire emissions at monthly time steps, using climatological fuel loads (van der Werf *et al* 2010).

The shift in peak burning from October to November in Punjab (Figure S6) means that a higher fraction of post-monsoon burned area in GFEDv4s is multiplied by the lower fuel consumption historically characteristic of this state in November.

Taken together, fuel consumption and the fire diurnal cycle represent two important sources of uncertainty in agricultural fire emissions in global inventories. While the survey constraints in this study cannot be applied globally due to the expense of conducting such surveys, our work suggests that global inventories should consider satellite-derived or government statistics of crop production, yield, and area to constrain fuel loads. Geostationary satellite fire observations can also be useful to constrain the diurnal cycle of fire activity, where such data are available.

4. Conclusion

In summary, we combine household survey results with satellite observations to revise estimates of post-monsoon agricultural fire emissions across north India from 2003-2018. To do so, we develop an approach based on MODIS FRP, adjusted for small fires from VIIRS, cloud/haze gaps in satellite observations, partial-field burns, and the diurnal cycle of fire activity. Regionally, we estimate average emissions of 68 Gg OC, 5.8 Gg BC, 821 Gg CO, and 15.4 Tg CO_2. Our estimates of DM burned for Punjab, which contributes two-thirds of emissions, closely match the bottom-up validation estimates using state-level government statistics and survey burn rates from 2016 and 2017. Importantly, our cloud-gap fill leads to an 84% increase in DM burned in Punjab from 2003-2018; without this adjustment, the trend in MODIS FRP is only 16% and not statistically significant. Here we constrain the fire diurnal cycle and fuel consumption, two components that contribute most to bias and disagreement across this region among standard global fire emissions inventories used in atmospheric studies. Our results suggest that additional information from household surveys and crop statistics can help constrain these two components. We construct a daily, 0.25° x 0.25° emissions inventory over the IGP by disaggregating state-level DM burned. Our emissions inventory, SAGE-IGP, may be used with atmospheric transport models to estimate smoke exposure downwind and evaluate the associated public health burden and climate impacts. Potential expansion of crop residue burning among smallholder farms in north India, where satellites poorly capture fire activity, makes regional, survey-constrained inventories such as ours valuable for improving emissions estimates.

Data Availability

The CHIRPS rainfall and MODIS/VIIRS land cover, active fire, and surface reflectance datasets are publicly available through Google Earth Engine (http://earthengine.google.com/). MODIS/VIIRS datasets are freely available from NASA's Earthdata platform (https://earthdata.nasa.gov/).

The gridded daily, 0.25° x 0.25° agricultural fire emissions inventory from this study (SAGE-IGP) will be available from Harvard Dataverse at https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/JUMXOL.

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Zhang X, Kondragunta S and Roy D P 2014 Interannual variation in biomass burning and fire seasonality derived from geostationary satellite data across the contiguous United States from 1995 to 2011 *J. Geophys. Res. Biogeosciences* **119** 1147–62 Online: https://doi.org/10.1002/2013JG002518

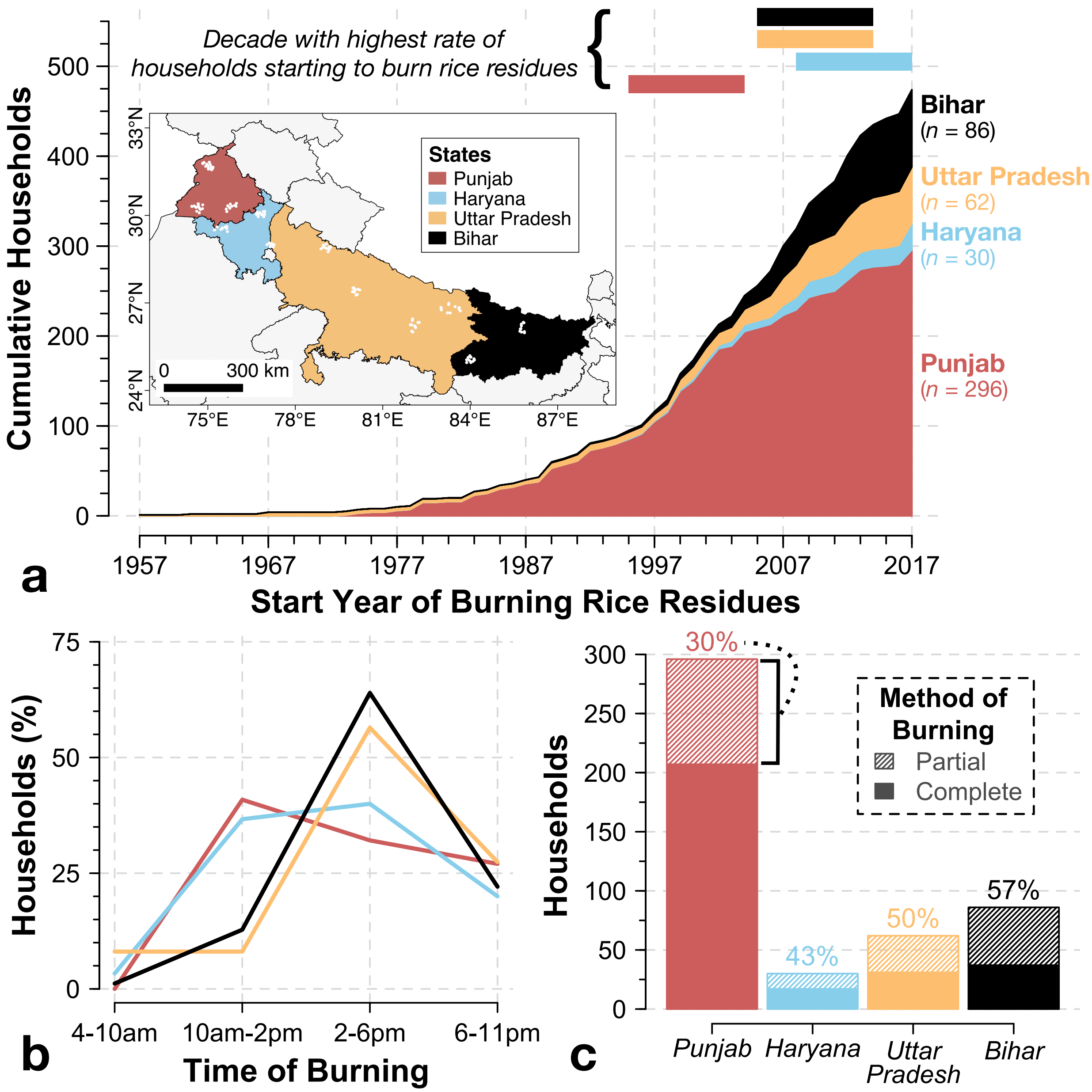

Figure 1. Temporal and methodological characteristics of rice residue burning across the Indo-Gangetic Plain, inferred from household survey data for the 2017-18 growing season: (**a**) Cumulative distribution of number of households burning rice residues, ordered by start year of burning with stacked contours representing contributions of four different states. The colored bars at top denote the 10-yr period for each state with the highest rate of households starting to burn rice residues. White dots in inset panel show the locations of surveyed households that harvested rice in the four states (Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar). (**b**) Diurnal cycle of rice residue burning from early morning to late night, color coded by state. (**c**) Method of burning rice residues, separated into complete and partial burning of fields. Percentages represent the fraction of households that use partial burning.

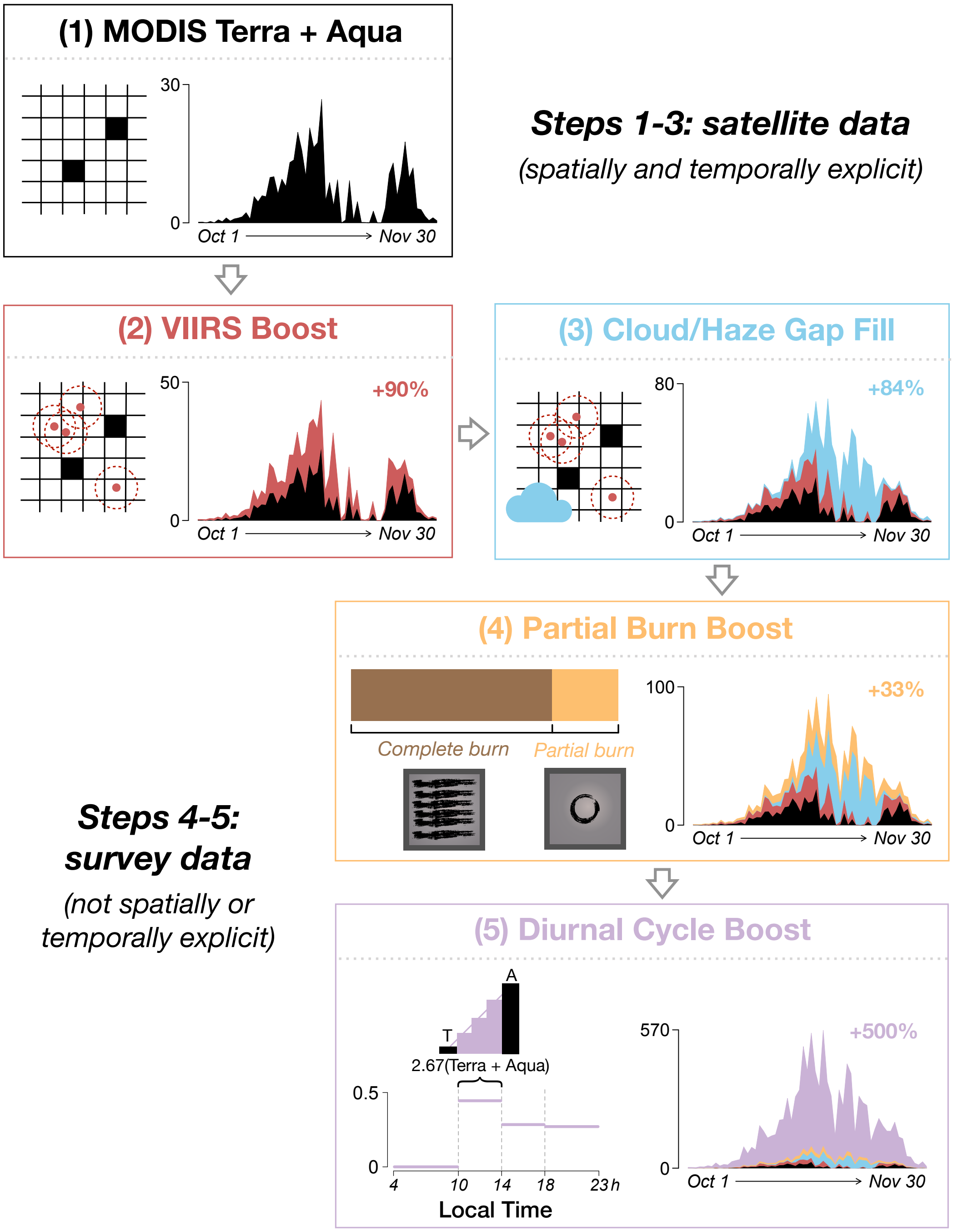

Figure 2. Pictorial flowchart for FRP adjustments using satellite and survey data for Punjab in the sample year 2017: The units for the daily FRP timeseries is GW. Percentages denote the FRP increase relative to the previous step. Checkerboards in Steps 1-3 denote a 1-km grid with MODIS FRP observations in black, VIIRS hotspots with a 1-km buffer in red, and clouds/haze cover in blue. Squares in Step 4 show the difference between complete versus partial burns, where black striations depict burning within the field. In Step 5, the plot on the left shows the diurnal cycle of fire activity, with horizontal lines showing the survey fractions (same as Figure 1b but weighted by landholding area) and vertical bars depicting our adjustment of mid-day satellite FRP. Detailed methods for each step are described in Section 2.4.1.

Table 1. Parameters for estimates of agricultural fire emissions based on burned area, active fire area, and Fire Radiative Power (FRP).

Parameter	Description	Value	Units	Source
FRE	Fire Radiative Energy	*varies*	MJ	Derived from MODIS FRP
α	Conversion factor from FRE to dry matter burned	0.41	kg MJ^{-1}	Kaiser *et al* (2014)
f_{burned}	Fraction of rice residues burned	*varies*	unitless	Derived from survey data
CP	Crop production (*rice*)	*varies*	kg	Indiastat
A	Area cultivated (*rice*)	*varies*	m^2	Indiastat
RC	Residue to crop ratio (*rice*)	1.4-1.8	unitless	Bouwman *et al* (2000); Ravindranath *et al* (2005); Jain *et al* (2014)
f_{DM}	Mass fraction of dry matter burned from total rice production	0.82-0.88	unitless	Bouwman *et al* (2000); Jain *et al* (2014)
f_{CC}	Combustion completeness	0.89 (CB), 0.67 (PB)	unitless	Lasko & Vadrevu (2018)
EF	Emissions factor	e.g. 4.9 (OC), 0.42 (BC)	g species kg^{-1} DM	Andreae (2019)
	PB to CB ratio for aerosol-based emissions factors	1.92	unitless	Lasko & Vadrevu (2018)

CB = complete burn, PB = partial burn

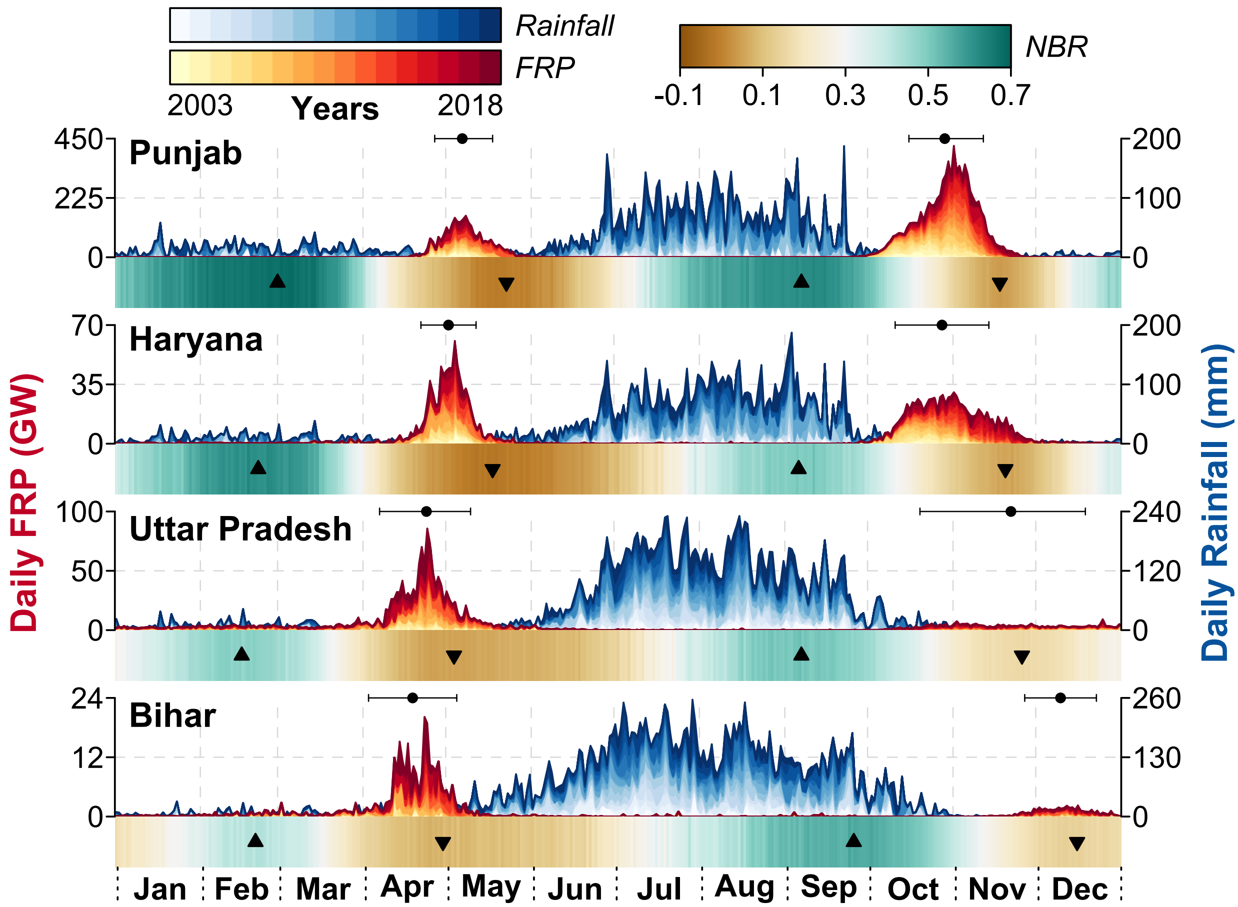

Figure 3. Satellite-derived daily vegetation greenness, fire intensity, and rainfall in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar from 2003-2018: The Normalized Burn Ratio (NBR), a proxy for vegetation greenness, and Fire Radiative Power (FRP), a proxy for fire intensity, are derived from MODIS over agricultural regions. FRP and rainfall are stacked by year, while NBR is shown as the weighted average across all years, with weights based on the usable fraction, or fraction of agricultural area that is cloud and haze-free on that day in each year. Segmented bars denote the approximate start, midpoint, and end of the pre-monsoon (March-May) and post-monsoon (Oct-Dec) burning seasons in each state. Upward triangles denote the timing of maximum monsoon and winter greenness; conversely, downward triangles denote the timing of minimum pre-monsoon and post-monsoon greenness.

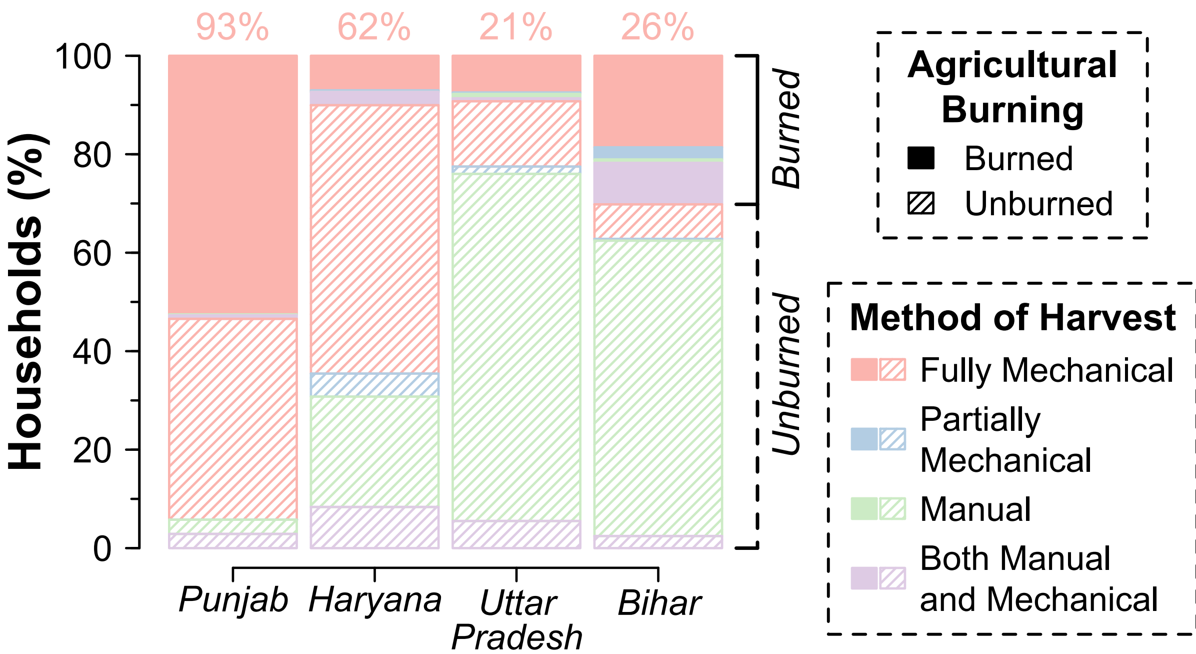

Figure 4. Mechanized harvesting of rice related to crop residue burning across the Indo-Gangetic Plain inferred from household survey data: The percentage of households that burned and did not burn rice residues, separated by the method of harvest, for the 2017-18 growing season. Percentages above bars denote the fraction of households using fully mechanical methods (combine harvesters) to harvest *kharif* rice.

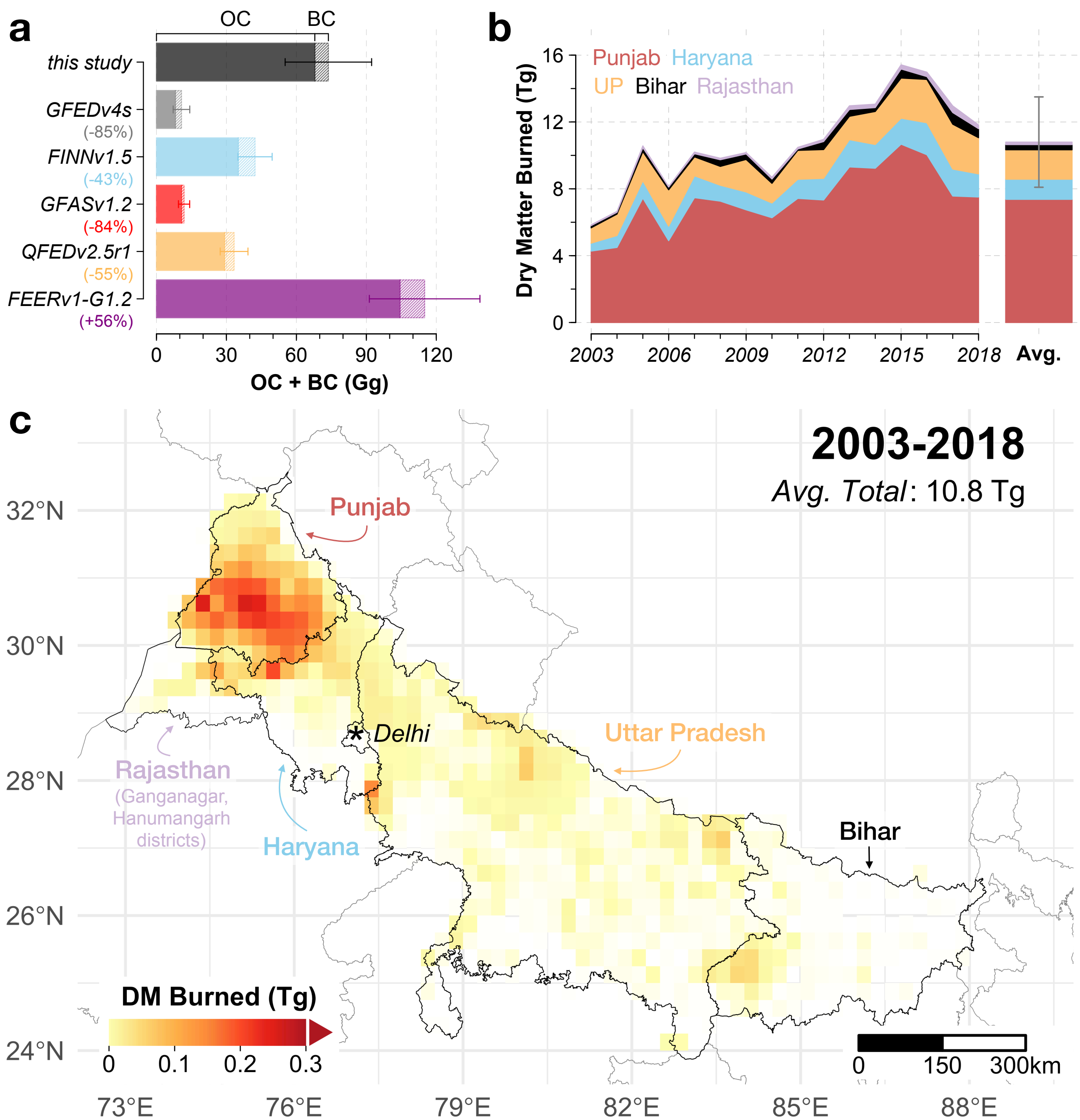

Figure 5. Post-monsoon agricultural fire emissions over the IGP from 2003-2018: (a) Comparison of average OC+BC emissions (±1σ) from this study (SAGE-IGP) with five global fire emissions inventories. On the y-axis, percentages denote the difference in OC+BC emissions from each inventory relative to this study. (**b**) Time series of annual dry matter (DM) burned, and average DM burned from 2003-2018, with stacked contours showing contributions by state. Vertical bars denote ±1σ for the total DM burned across all years. (**c**) Average state-level DM burned in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar, disaggregated to 0.25° x 0.25° spatial resolution using the top-down adjusted FRP approach from this study. DM burned is also estimated for two Rajasthan districts, Ganganagar and Hanumangarh, which border Punjab and Haryana. Inset shows the average total DM burned from 2003-2018.

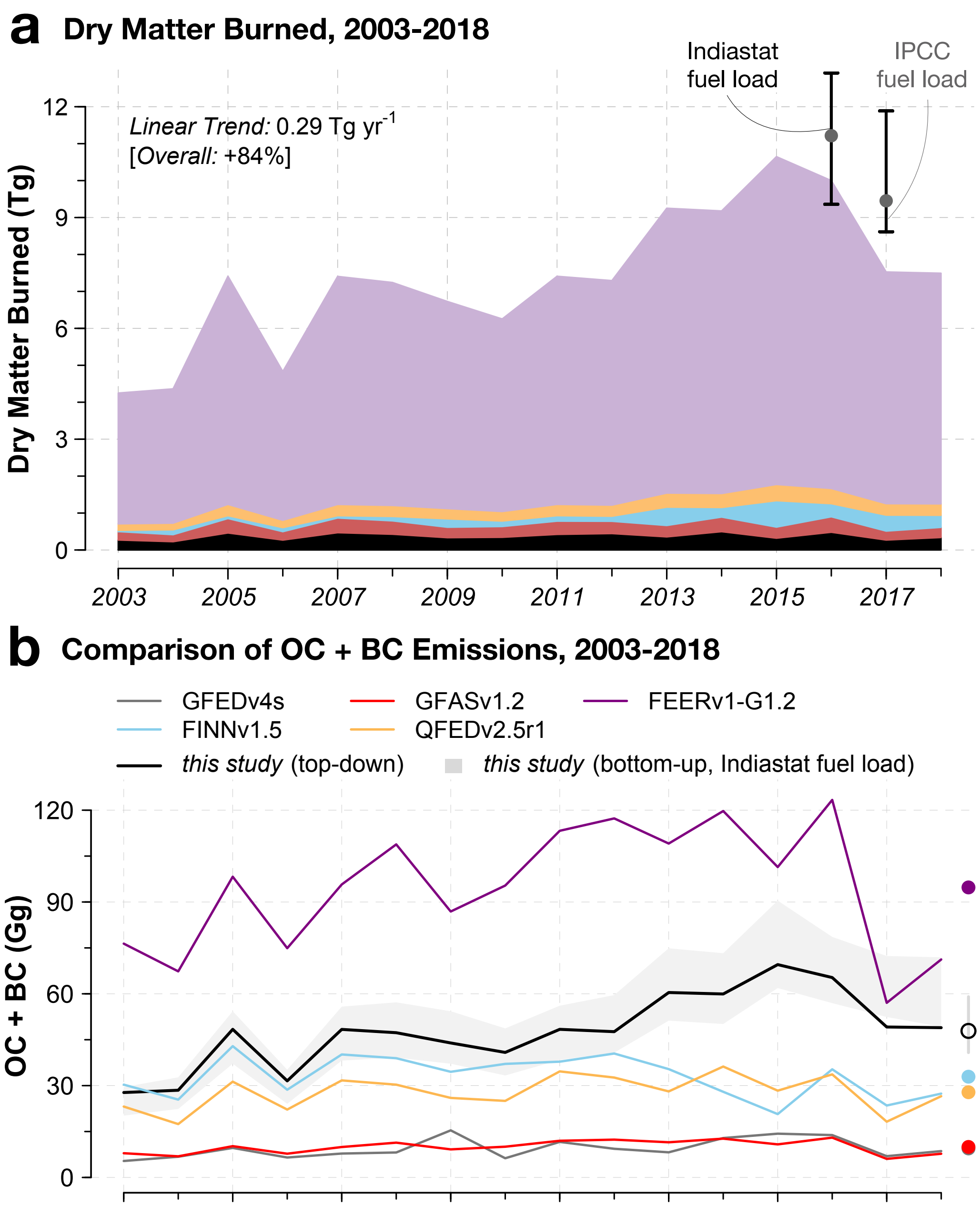

Figure 6. Dry matter (DM) burned from adjusted FRP and comparison of OC+BC emissions for Punjab, India, from 2003-2018: (**a**) Post-monsoon DM burned (Tg), derived using an FRP-based approach with both satellite and survey data. Stacked colored contours represent the FRP adjustments illustrated in Figure 2. Black bars (Indiastat) and gray dots (IPCC) denote the range of post-monsoon DM burned derived using a bottom-up approach with survey data for 2016 and 2017. (**b**) Comparison of post-monsoon OC+BC emissions from this study and five global fire emissions inventories. Dots on the right show average OC+BC emissions for this study and all inventories. The gray envelope for this study's bottom-up estimate denotes ranges in the residue-to-crop ratio and fraction of DM burned tuned to 2016-17 survey burn rates (see Table 1), and the grey bar at right shows the average across years.

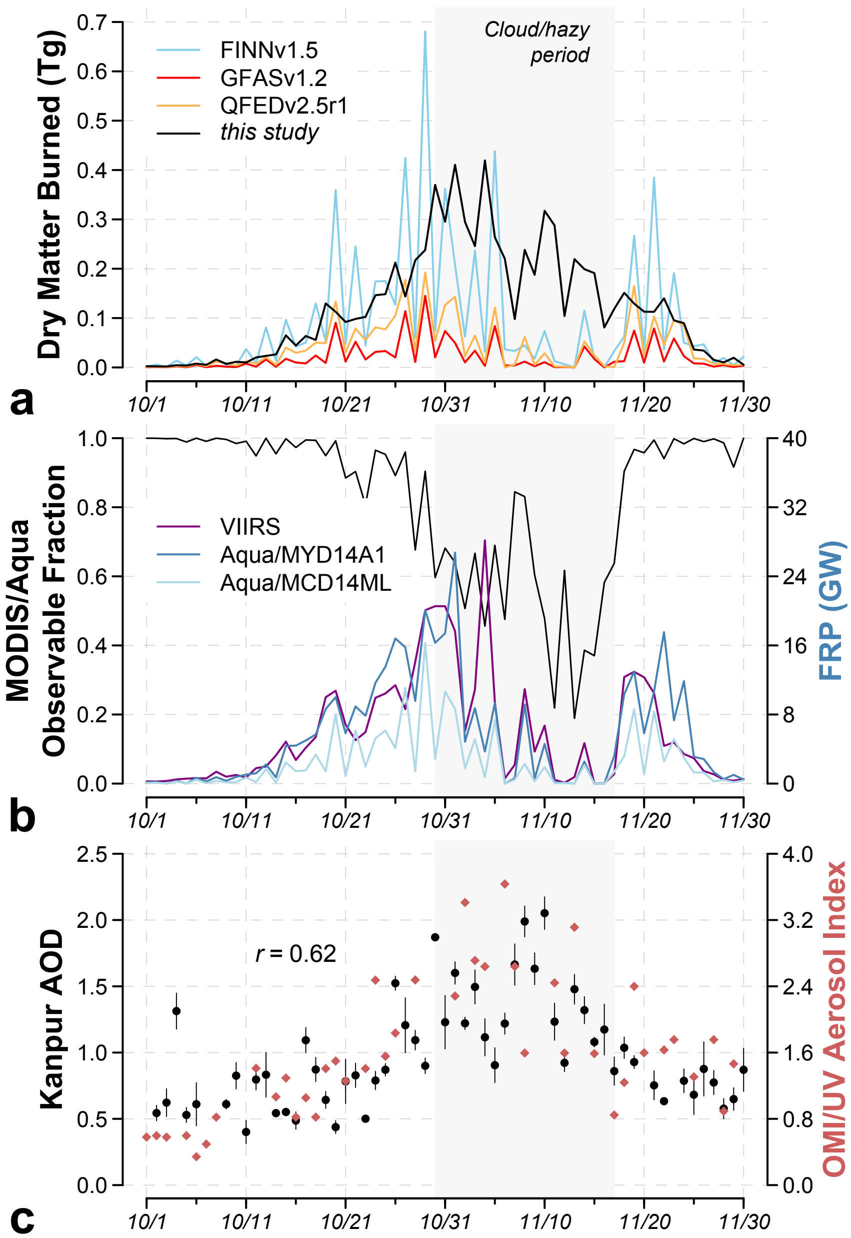

Figure 7. Daily fire emissions and intensity in Punjab, India, and aerosols observed over Punjab and in Kanpur, India, during the 2017 post-monsoon burning period: (**a**) DM burned from this study and three fire emissions inventories: GFASv1.2, QFEDv2.5r1, and FINNv1.5. (**b**) Fire intensity as measured by FRP from MODIS/Aqua (MYD14A1 gridded maximum FRP and MCD14ML FRP from individual active fire hotpots) and from VIIRS (VNP14IMGML), overlaid with the MODIS/Aqua "observable fraction" f_o, or the degree to which MODIS/Aqua can "see" active fires. The cloudy/hazy period from October 30 to November 17 is highlighted in light gray. (**c**) Daily mean AOD (±1σ) at 500 nm from the AERONET site in Kanpur (black) and OMI/UV Aerosol Index (AI, red) over Punjab. The correlation r between the AOD and AI timeseries is shown inset.

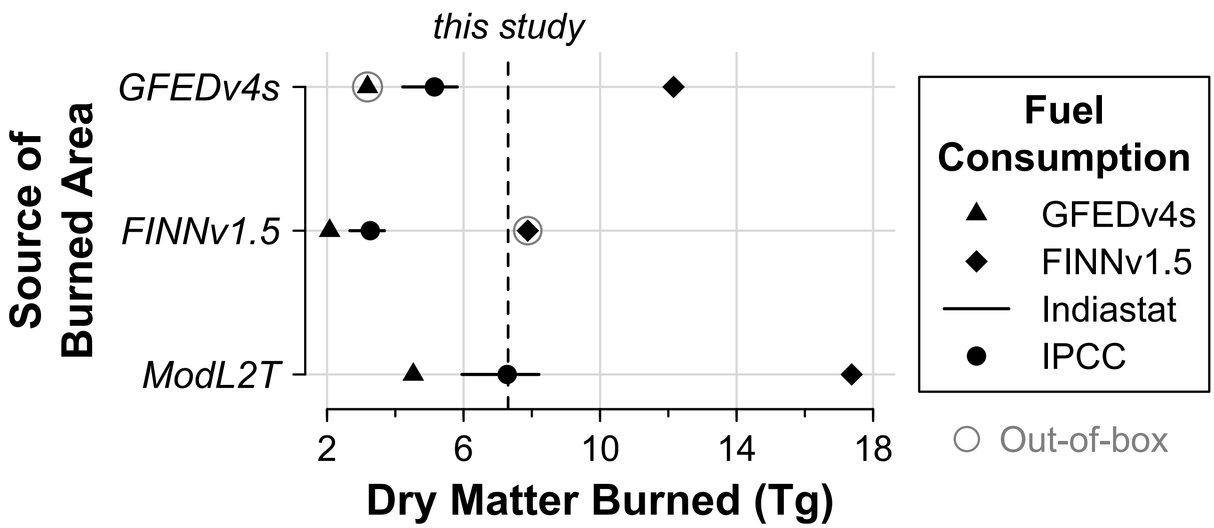

Figure 8. Comparison of average dry matter (DM) burned derived from different combinations of bottom-up burned area and fuel consumption estimates for the 2003-2016 post-monsoon burning seasons in Punjab, India: Three sources of burned area (GFEDv4s, FINNv1.5, and ModL2T (Liu et al., 2019)) and four fuel consumption estimates (GFEDv4s, FINNv1.5, Indiastat, IPCC (2006)) provide a range of DM estimates (Tg). The out-of-box DM averages from GFEDv4s and FINNv1.5 are circled. The average DM estimated from the top-down approach developed in this study is shown as the vertical dashed line.