

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your reply and the suggestions. In reply to your suggestions:

"How does NO_x lead to ammonium sulphate formation? I would just write ammonium nitrate."

I looked it up in the paper I quote (Zhang et al., 2012) and they write: 'NH₃ in the atmosphere can combine with H₂SO₄ (from SO₂ oxidation) and HNO₃ to produce ammonium sulfate and nitrate particles.'. Also, they write that 'and laboratory studies have shown that gamma_N₂O₅ is one order of magnitude smaller for nitrate than for sulfate aerosols because the nitrate inhibits N₂O₅ dissociation (Wahner et al., 1998; Mentel et al., 1999; Bertram and Thornton, 2009)'.
Therefore I'd like to keep the ammonium sulphate formulation.

"Are these mole fractions based on the N applied?"

Indeed this is based on N applied. I will change this to:

'Part of the applied fertiliser N will be lost as NO, with mole fractions ranging from 0.55 % to 2.5 %'

"is it < 0.3 or <0.35? Make values in each sentence consistent."

These refer to different cases. The <0.3 is specific for the India comparison, and an illustration of the correlation I find between observed and simulated NO₂ columns. The <0.3 is a threshold I set to exclude cases from my comparison.

"Is it responding linearly to changes in total NO_x emissions, or just to changes in soil NO_x emissions, because they are a relatively minor contribution to total NO_x? I think the latter makes more sense and the text should be revised accordingly."

This is responding linearly to change in total NO_x emissions. In the chemical regime where most anthropogenic NO_x emissions are emitted NO₂ columns change more or less linearly with NO_x emissions. We find, however, that for the low-NO_x areas where soil NO_x emissions are located, that this does not hold, and we need to account for the non-linearities.

Kind regards and thank you for editing,
Geert Vinken