

# Organic Matter Fractions and Carbon Management Index in Oxisol Under Integrated Agricultural Production Systems

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Received: Feb. 1, 2020

Accepted: Mar. 2, 2020

Published: Mar. 3, 2020

doi:10.5296/jas.v8i3.16325

URL: <https://doi.org/10.5296/jas.v8i3.16325>

## **Abstract**

This work aimed to evaluate the oxidizable and chemical fractions of organic matter and the carbon management index in different integrated agricultural production systems, hay production and native forest areas in an Oxisol. Nine areas with different management systems were evaluated being six managements of the combination between different oat

density (40 and 60 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and grazing frequencies (0, 1 and 2) in autumn-winter and soybean succession in spring-summer, one with natural reseeding ryegrass and forage turnip in autumn-winter and soybean succession in spring-summer and two reference areas. In each soil management systems were collected soil samples composite in the 0-5, 5-10 and 10-20 cm layers and determined the Total Organic Carbon (TOC), humic substances (Fulvic Acids - FA, Humic Acids - HA and humin - HUM), the carbon in the oxidizable fractions (F1, F2, F3 and F4) and Carbon Management Index (CMI). Were observed that chemical, oxidizable fractions and CMI, do not have significant differences between with the various managements each other. For TOC, HA, HUM, F1, F3, F4 and CMI, the managements did not differ from the reference areas indicating maintenance of soil carbon.

**Keywords:** degree of oxidation of organic carbon, integrated crop-livestock system, humic substances, soil management, total organic carbon

## 1. Introduction

The conversion of natural vegetation to the implantation of agricultural activities causes an imbalance in the ecosystem, since the adopted management will influence the physical, chemical and biological processes of the soil. In this way, the understanding of the performance of different soil management systems allows us to subsidize strategies for the maintenance of its long-term effects, in order to guarantee the sustainability and the quality of natural resources (Rossi et al., 2012; Rosset et al., 2016).

The sustainability of any agricultural production system is due to the need to maintain a productive and balanced soil, especially in relation to the improvement of soil attributes and preservation of soil organic matter (SOM). In an attempt to balance the agricultural productivity with the conservation of the environment, farming concepts were developed based on nutrient cycling, soil conservation and crop diversification (Silva et al., 2011).

The development of management strategies based on conservation of soil environment, such as integrated agricultural production systems (IAPS), are aimed at the sustainable intensification. This is based on the spatial and temporal integration of productive components, whose purpose is to achieve higher stages of environmental quality and competitiveness, reducing the pressure on the opening of new areas and contributing to soil improvement (Cordeiro et al., 2015).

One of the ways of assessing soil quality is by quantifying the organic carbon content related to humic (SH) and oxidizable substances from SOM (Ebeling et al., 2011; Rosset et al., 2016), serving as indicators of the fractionated carbon content and sustainability performance management. They are considerable indicators of the processes and the degree of humification of the SOM, presenting around 70 to 90% of the total organic carbon (TOC) of the soil being divided into 3 fractions: humic acids (HA), fulvic acids (FA) and humin (HUM) (Primo et al., 2011; Rosset et al., 2016; Mendonça & Matos, 2017).

Oxidizable fractions, quantified by different degrees of oxidation of the SOM, are used as indicators of the impacts caused by the management about the content and deposition of SOM (Rangel et al., 2008). According to Chan et al. (2001), there are four fractions: F1, F2,

F3 and F4. Fractions F1 and F2 are associated with the formation of macroaggregates and nutrient availability, being the F1 fraction the greater lability in the soil (Guareschi et al., 2013; Rosset et al., 2016) and the F3 and F4 fractions are related to greater chemical stability compounds, resulting from the decomposition and humification of SOM, being the F4 of greater resistance to degradation and consequent longer time permanence in soil (Rangel et al., 2008; Guareschi et al., 2013).

Due to the fact that SOM is the largest deposit of carbon on the land surface, the need for indexes that can assess the ability of the different management systems to maintain or increase soil carbon content are extremely necessary (Primo et al., 2011). Therefore, Blair et al. (1995) presented the carbon management index (CMI). Then, Rangel et al. (2008) proposed some modifications in relation to the determination of this index, as a relative measure of the changes caused by the management when they are compared to a situation considered original/reference, taking into account the lability of SOM and seeking to unite the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of SOM, as a way to evaluate the performance of a given management system (Rossi et al., 2012).

In view of the above, this work aims to evaluate the oxidizable and chemical fractions of organic matter and the carbon management index in different integrated agricultural production systems, hay production and native forest areas in an Oxisol.

## 2. Material and Methods

### 2.1 Location, Climate and Soil of the Study Area

The work was carried out at the Experimental Farm "Professor Antônio Carlos dos Santos Pessoa", belonging to the Western Paraná State University (UNIOESTE), located in the municipality of Marechal Cândido Rondon, state of Paraná, under WGS84 coordinates 24°31'58.24" S and 54°01'12.08" W with an altitude of 390 meters. According to the classification of Köppen, the climate of the region is of type Cfa, subtropical humid of dry winter, with rainfall well distributed throughout the year and hot summers with an annual mean temperature between 22 to 23°C and an average annual rainfall of 1600 to 1800 millimeters (Alvares et al., 2014). The soil of the experimental area is classified as a Oxisol with a very clayey texture, presenting in the layer of 0.00 to 0.10 m values of 681.0 g kg<sup>-1</sup> of clay, 266.5 g kg<sup>-1</sup> of silt and 52.5 g kg<sup>-1</sup> of sand. For the layer 0.10-0.20 m values 751.5 g kg<sup>-1</sup> of clay, 199.1 g kg<sup>-1</sup> of silt and 49.4 g kg<sup>-1</sup> of sand.

### 2.2 Characterization of the Experimental Area

Nine distinct areas were evaluated, consisting of six areas that were cultivated in the autumn-winter with different densities of oats sowing (40 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> and 60 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and grazing frequencies (0, 1 and 2) with soybean succession in spring-summer, one area in the autumn-winter period occurred natural reseeding ryegrass and forage turnip (RNAN) and soybean succession in spring-summer and two management systems as reference areas, being a of hay production with Tifton 85 grass (Haying) and a native forest (Forest) (Table 1).

Table 1. Description of the areas under study

Areas	Description
No-till system (O40)	Cultivated in autumn-winter with oats ( <i>Avena sativa</i> L.) in seeding density of 40 kg ha <sup>-1</sup> during the 2014/2015, 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 agricultural years, using 250 kg ha <sup>-1</sup> of commercial formulation 10-15-15 (N, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> and K <sub>2</sub> O) in the basic fertilization and 120 kg ha <sup>-1</sup> of nitrogen in the form of urea in covered, applied in two parts, at the beginning of tillering and 30 days after the first application. During spring-summer periods, soybean was cultivated with base fertilization of 270 (2014/2015), 290 (2015/2016) and 310 (2016/2017) kg ha <sup>-1</sup> of commercial formulation 02-20-18 (N, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> and K <sub>2</sub> O) and phytosanitary treatments carried out according to the need of the crop.
Integrated agricultural production systems (O40G1)	Crops and managements during autumn-winter and spring-summer equal to A40 area. The difference was that once grazing was performed on oat plants when they were between 0.25 and 0.35 m high and the removal of the animals occurred when they presented rest height from 0.15 to 0.2 m.
Integrated agricultural production systems (O40G2)	Crops and managements during autumn-winter and spring-summer equal to A40 area. The difference was that twice grazing was performed on oat plants when they were between 0.25 and 0.35 m high and the removal of the animals occurred when they presented rest height from 0.15 to 0.2 m.
No-till system (O60)	Crops and managements during autumn-winter and spring-summer equal to A40 area. The differences were in the oat seeding density that was 60 kg ha <sup>-1</sup> .
Integrated agricultural production systems (O60G1)	Crops and managements during autumn-winter and spring-summer equal to A60 area. The difference was that once grazing was performed on oat plants when they were between 0.25 and 0.35 m high and the removal of the animals occurred when they presented rest height from 0.15 to 0.2 m.
Integrated agricultural production systems (O60G2)	Crops and managements during autumn-winter and spring-summer equal to A60 area. The difference was that twice grazing was performed on oat plants when they were between 0.25 and 0.35 m high and the removal of the animals occurred when they presented rest height from 0.15 to 0.2 m.

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Natural reseeded (RNAN)	Intended to fallow during autumn and winter, but because the soil seed bank was natural reseeded of ryegrass and forage turnip species, not being performed phytotechnical managements. During spring-summer periods, soybean was cultivated with base fertilization of 270 (2014/2015), 290 (2015/2016) and 310 (2016/2017) kg ha <sup>-1</sup> of commercial formulation 02-20-18 (N, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> and K <sub>2</sub> O) and phytosanitary treatments carried out according to the need of the crop.
Hay Production (Haying)	Production of hay with Tifton 85 grass ( <i>Cynodon</i> spp.) over the last 10 years and with periodic fertilization of pig liquid manure. Are performed annually six cuts and deposition of 70.72 m <sup>3</sup> ha <sup>-1</sup> of liquid manure of pigs for cutting with maintenance fertilizer.
Secondary Forest (Forest)	Fragment of native forest, classified as Semideciduous Seasonal Forest, kept under permanent preservation with the presence of the species: <i>Anadenanthera colubrina</i> (Vell.) Brenan var. <i>cebil</i> (Griseb.) Altschul, <i>Peltophorum dubium</i> (Spreng.) Taub, <i>Uncaria</i> ssp., <i>Handroanthus</i> ssp., <i>Aspidosperma polyneuron</i> Müll.Arg, <i>Caesalpinia leiostachya</i> (Benth.) Ducke, <i>Ceiba speciosa</i> (St.-Hill.) Ravenna, <i>Euterpe edulis</i> Mart., and other local shrubs and species.

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### 2.3 Field Sampling and Performed Analysis

Soil samples were collected in March 2017, at the end of the soybean cycle and almost one year after forage sowing. In each area plots of 50 m<sup>2</sup> were defined and five single samples collected with the aid of an auger Dutch type, which were homogenized to form a composed samples on layers of 0.00 to 0.05, 0.05-0.10, and 0.10-0.20 m. All analysis were performed based on the composite samples collected and were determined the chemical soil attributes, total organic carbon content and granulometric physical fractions of the soil.

We determine the Total Organic Carbon (TOC) by wet oxidation using potassium dichromate solution 0.167 mol l<sup>-1</sup> and concentrated sulfuric acid with heating in a digester block, according to Mendonça and Matos (2017).

To carry out the fractionation of humic substances (HS), or chemical, the method based on differential solubility and subsequent determination of carbon each fraction was used, these being: humin (HUM), fulvic acid (FA) and humic acid (HA), established by the International Society of Humic Substances and adapted by Mendonça & Matos (2017). After determination of the carbon content in HS the following ratios were calculated: HA/FA (indicates the mobility of the carbon in the soil and the degree of humification) and carbon alkaline extract (AE)/HUM (indicates illuvial of organic matter in soil profile) for verifying the humidification processes of the SOM and humification index (HI), proposed by Canellas & Santos (2005), calculated by the formula  $HI = [(FA+HA+HUM)/TOC] \times 100$ .

The oxidizable fractionation was obtained by degrees of oxidation, as established by Chan et

al. (2001) and adapted by Mendonça & Matos (2017), which are obtained four fractions with decreasing degrees of lability F1, F2, F3 and F4 subsequently determining the carbon in the F1 fraction was considered as labile carbon (LC) and the non-labile carbon (NLC) obtained by difference:  $TOC = NLC - LC$ . Subsequently order to obtain indexes to facilitate understanding of the dynamics of the fractions obtained, the following ratio were performed:  $F1/F4$ ,  $(F1+F2)/(F3+F4)$  and  $LC/TOC$ .

For carbon management index (CMI) was considered the proposed Rangel et al. (2018), adapted from Blair et al. (1995), using the carbon content in the fraction F1 as labile carbon (LC) and the non-labile carbon (NLC) with the basis for the calculation of the indexes that precede the determination of CMI. The proposed Rangel et al. (2018) for CMI was obtained from the following indices: Carbon compartment index (CCI)=management of the  $TOC$ /reference of the COT; lability (L)= $LC/NLC$ ; lability index (IL)=management of the  $L$ /reference of the  $L$ ; and subsequently determining the CMI by the formulas  $CCI \times IL \times 100$ . Because it is a study that used two areas as reference areas (Forest and Haying) for the calculation of CMI, the native forest area was used as reference (CMI=100), since it deals with the environment without anthropic interference.

#### 2.4 Statistical Analysis

The experimental design was a completely randomized design, considering nine treatments (managements systems) with four sample units randomly collected within each area (Ferreira et al., 2012), totaling 36 plots experiments. The data were submitted to analysis of variance (ANOVA) and when significant by the F test ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) the means of the managements by the reference areas were compared by Dunnett's test and between managements by Tukey test, with software Genes (Cruz, 2013).

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1 Total Organic Carbon and Chemical Fractions

The managements that presented the same letter "A" differ by the Tukey test ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) from those that did not present this letter (Table 2). Differences were observed for TOC, 0.10-0.20 m, FA, 0.00-0.05 m, HA/FA, 0.00-0.05 m, and HI, 0.05-0.10 m, in which the managements O60G1, O40, A60 and O60G2 respectively, presented the highest values when compared to the others (Table 2).

Table 2. Total organic carbon (TOC) and the chemical fractions of soil organic matter, ratio between chemical fractions (HA/FA and AE/HUM), alkaline extract (AE) and humification index (HI) in different soil managements systems

Areas	TOC	FA	HA	HUM	HA/FA	AE	AE/HUM	HI
	g kg <sup>-1</sup>					g kg <sup>-1</sup>		%
	0.00-0.05 m							
O40	27.32 ab	3.31 bA	3.58 ab	14.08 b	1.09 abAB	6.89 b	0.49 ab	77.32 ab

O40G1	25.01 b	3.22 bAB	3.32 b	13.51 b	1.03 abB	6.54 b	0.49 ab	80.15 ab
O40G2	24.31 b	2.93 bAB	3.63 ab	13.75 b	1.23 abAB	6.56 b	0.49 ab	83.97 ab
O60	25.40 b	2.62 bB	3.66 ab	15.85 ab	1.40 A	6.28 b	0.41 ab	87.57 ab
O60G1	27.21 ab	3.05 bAB	3.50 ab	16.56 ab	1.16 abAB	6.55 b	0.40 ab	84.89 ab
O60G2	24.73 b	3.01 bAB	3.71 ab	13.71 b	1.24 abAB	6.72 b	0.50 ab	82.41 ab
RNAN	23.52 b	3.10 bAB	3.24 b	14.16 b	1.05 abAB	6.33 b	0.45 ab	87.27 ab
Forest	31.73 a	4.57 a	4.40 a	19.13 a	0.96 a	8.97 a	0.47 a	88.58 a
Haying	25.49 b	3.15 b	3.19 b	16.21 b	1.01 b	6.34 b	0.39 b	88.45 b
0.05-0.10 m								
O40	22.11 b	2.82 b	3.12 b	13.01 b	1.12 ab	5.93 b	0.46 ab	86.26 abAB
O40G1	21.57 b	2.73 b	3.08 b	12.79 b	1.13 ab	5.82 b	0.46 ab	86.52 abAB
O40G2	21.42 b	2.52 b	3.08 b	11.02 b	1.23 ab	5.60 b	0.51 ab	77.60 bB
O60	20.68 b	2.43	3.16 ab	11.68 b	1.30 a	5.59 b	0.48 ab	83.47 abAB
O60G1	23.62 ab	2.74 b	3.14 ab	13.55 b	1.18 ab	5.88 b	0.45 ab	82.06 abAB
O60G2	23.10 b	2.66 b	3.57 a	14.29 b	1.34 a	6.23 b	0.44 ab	89.05 abAB
RNAN	19.59 b	2.80 b	2.73 b	13.44 b	0.98 ab	5.53 b	0.41 ab	96.94 abA
Forest	27.11 a	3.60 a	3.89 a	17.68 a	1.09 a	7.48 a	0.42 a	92.84 a
Haying	21.76 b	3.00 b	2.82 b	13.15 b	0.95 b	5.82 b	0.45 b	87.21 b
0.10-0.20 m								
O40	21.29 abB	2.85 ab	3.08 ab	13.45 ab	1.08 ab	5.93 ab	0.44 ab	91.17 ab
O40G1	22.38 abAB	2.71 b	3.15 ab	12.80 ab	1.16 ab	5.86 ab	0.46 ab	83.45 ab
O40G2	23.03 aAB	2.55 b	3.03 ab	11.90 ab	1.21 ab	5.58 b	0.47 ab	76.02 ab
O60	22.05 abB	2.47 b	3.23 ab	16.83 a	1.30 a	5.69 ab	0.36 ab	102.64 a
O60G1	25.55 aA	2.66 b	3.01 ab	15.76 ab	1.14 ab	5.66 b	0.37 ab	83.89 ab
O60G2	22.78 aAB	2.58 b	3.27 a	14.52 ab	1.27 a	5.84 ab	0.42 ab	89.49 ab
RNAN	21.68 abB	2.83 ab	2.72 ab	12.93 ab	0.97 ab	5.55 b	0.44 ab	85.34 ab
Forest	23.51 a	3.30 a	3.42 a	13.92 a	1.04 a	6.72 a	0.48 a	87.84 a
Haying	20.13 b	2.58 b	2.47 b	11.36 b	0.96 b	5.05 b	0.45 b	81.52 b

Note: Presence of the same lowercase letters in the columns does not differ from the reference areas by the Dunnett's test at a 5% probability level. Presence of the same

uppercase letters in the columns do not differ from each other for the managements evaluated by the Tukey test, at a 5% probability level.

The results of TOC in the O60G1 management in depth are related to root concentration by the crops and grazing in winter, corroborating the deposition of residues, and, consequently increasing the carbon content in depth (Piñeiro et al., 2010; Martins et al., 2015). Schiavo et al. (2011) and Dortzbach et al. (2015) also observed differences in TOC levels between the management at different depths and, associated to this, there was a higher root increase by forage plants.

The result of the fraction FA in O40 management is related to the deposition and the action on the mineralization of waste deposited on the surface by the action of soil microorganisms, contributing to the formation of low molecular weight compounds that increase the content of that fraction in soil (Primo et al., 2011).

Considering the result of the HA/FA ratio in the O60 management, we observed an increase in the levels of HA compared to the FA. This shows an evolution of soil organic matter, and can be linked to the soil management or simply to the characteristics of the soil, due to better specific conditions for the increase of the fraction HA (Rosset et al., 2016).

The results observed in HI in the RNAN management indicate a higher degree of humification and, consequently, a higher composition of the humic substances, exceeding the range of 70 to 90% found in the literature about the participation of the contents of soil organic carbon (Primo et al., 2011; Rosset et al., 2016; Mendonça & Matos, 2017). Probably due to the presence of forage turnip that has high nitrogen cycling capacity, and tends to enhance the decomposition of waste.

The managements which presented the same lowercase letter of the reference areas did not differ by Dunnett's test ( $p < 0.05$ ), and when these were not present, they differed in a higher or lower amount (Table 2). We observed differences in the managements with reference areas in O60 for the variables FA, in the layer 0.05-0.10 m, and HA/FA in the layer 0.00-0.05 m, that differed in lower and upper, respectively, of reference areas (Table 2). In the other layers and variables, we observed similar results only in the haying in the majority of the management, with the forest and in some cases with both reference areas.

The differences observed in the managements in relation to the forest area are due to the short/limited time of experimentation: three years only. Before implementing the experiment, the area was managed in a conventional system with periodical rotation of soil, deteriorating the carbon content and the low residue deposition on soil (Loss et al., 2014; Martins et al., 2015).

The most relevant changes in management, when compared to the witness areas, were observed in the layer of 0.10-0.20 m, especially in the forest, with the highest concentration of winter forage roots and summer crops, they collaborate to maintain the TOC contents and the fractions HA and HUM by the deposition of waste in depth and less human disturbance (Gazolla et al., 2015). According to Rasse et al. (2005), the soil carbon content that comes from the roots of the plants has a longer permanence time, approximately 2.4 times more

compared to the aerial parts of the plant, and periodic "pruning" by grazing contributes beneficially to the increase in soil carbon content due to the increase in roots.

All types of management have a predominance of carbon in the fraction HA compared to FA. This indicates a greater humification for all, due to the edaphic conditions for the conversion of labile compounds to more recalcitrant forms of SOM (Cunha et al., 2007). This predominance of HA is related to the addition of residues with a low C/N ratio on the soil surface, contributing to a greater biological activity, increasing the carbon mineralization and the production of soluble phenolic compounds that, through polycondensation, form HA, contributes to the increase of their contents in relation to the fraction of FA (Souza et al., 2016).

The HUM in all the management has significantly lower values in the first layers in relation to the forest area, due to the deterioration of that fraction by the old management adopted, periodic rotation of soil and low addition of residue. But in the layer of 0.10-0.20 m, all the management provided similar results to those in the forest area. We think that, with more productive cycles of additional organic matter, the HUM content in the superficial layers can be recovered.

Also in relation to HUM, the highest carbon content was observed regardless of the depth when compared to HA and FA, indicating greater carbon protection due to its recalcitrance to degradation. This predominance may be indicative of improvements on moisture retention, better soil aggregation and higher cation retention, characteristics of great importance when it comes to sustainable production systems (Gazolla et al., 2015).

According to Grinhut et al. (2007) and Barreto et al. (2008), the predominance of the HUM fraction is related to its insolubility and resistance to biodegradation, favored by the formation of stable clay-humic complexes and the predominant mineralogical composition of the soil, which favors organomineral interactions, and increases the protection of the functional groups of easy decomposition, making them less accessible to microorganisms (Santos et al., 2013).

Gazolla et al. (2015), evaluating pasture, no-tillage system and IAPS areas also observed predominance of the HUM fraction, being such characteristics related, in very clayey soils under tropical climate, the protection and interaction of SOM with the mineral fraction of the soil.

The HA/FA ratio is an indicator of the humus quality and expresses the degree of evolution of SOM humification process. We observed that the management did not differ in comparison with reference areas, and in some cases even higher, not being observed values lower than 1.0, only in the areas of hay, in the last two layers, and in the forest the surface layer. The values higher than 1.0 show a maintenance in the HA content to the detriment of the FA fraction, evidencing better preserved soils and thus contributing to soil sustainability and quality (Gazolla et al., 2015), which can be explained by edaphic conditions, such as soil pH, clay content and climate (Ebeling et al., 2011; Martins et al., 2015).

Gazolla et al. (2015), evaluating pasture, no-tillage system, IAPS and Brazilian savannah

areas, also observed values of HA/FA ratio in the IAPS areas above 1.0. This result indicates performance on the addition of carbon in more resistant forms and preservation of edaphic conditions by the management adopted.

The values of AE in managements compared with reference areas, in particular the forest plot, are related to the low content of FA and HA fractions in the surface layer. This deterioration is due to the previous management adopted with periodic conventional tillage that decreases the addition of SOM. In depth it is possible to observe better results of the transformation of the deposited residues for the formation and increment of these fractions.

For the AE/HUM ratio it is possible to highlight the low values found (<1.0), indicating predominance of the HUM on the FA and HA, due to the high stability between the SOM and the mineral matrix, reflecting a lower degree of perturbation edaphic, and beneficial changes in such environments by adding waste and to favor the stabilization and mineralization of SOM (Valladares et al., 2011; Martins et al., 2015).

Rosset et al. (2016), evaluating areas with different time of no-tillage system adoption (6, 14 and 22), an area with 12 years of no-tillage system and 4 more years of *Brachiaria* cultivation (*Urochloa ruziziensis*) intercropped with corn, pasture in a Oxisol presented results similar to those observed in the AE/HUM ratio.

The values obtained for the HI in the managements plots, when comparing them to plot areas of reference, corroborate the affirmations of Silva & Mendonça (2007) and Mendonça & Matos (2017), that humic substances contribute with about 70 to 90% of the total organic carbon in soil, and in some cases even higher than as we observed in this study.

### 3.2 Oxidizable Fractions, Labile and Non-labile

We observed differences between the managements, in different layers, for F1 in O60, O60G1 and O60G2, F1/F4 in O60, (F1+F2)/(F3+F4) in O60 and O40G1 and LC/TOC in O60, O40G2 and O60G2 at which these presented the higher values compared to the others (Table 3). In the other variables and layers there were no differences between the managements when they are compared to each other.

Table 3. Oxidizable fractions (F1, F2, F3 and F4), ratios between the oxidizable fractions (F1/F4 and (F1+F2)/(F3+F4)), non-labile carbon (NLC) and the proportion of labile carbon/total organic carbon (LC/TOC) in different soil managements systems

Areas	F1	F2	F3	F4	F1/F4	(F1+F2)/ (F3+F4)	NLC	LC/TOC
	-----g kg <sup>-1</sup> -----						g kg <sup>-1</sup>	%
	0.00-0.05 m							
O40	4.70 bB	6.34 ab	7.94 ab	8.34 ab	0.63 ab	0.73 ab	22.62 ab	17.28 abB
O40G1	6.37 abAB	4.88 b	5.97 ab	7.79 ab	0.89 ab	0.83 ab	18.64 b	25.51 abAB
O40G2	6.90 abAB	4.82 b	5.49 ab	6.37 ab	1.28 ab	1.16 ab	17.41 b	29.04 abA

O60	6.56 abAB	5.83 b	7.89 ab	5.12 ab	1.93 ab	1.00 ab	18.84 b	26.05 abAB
O60G1	7.65 abA	3.62 b	7.76 ab	8.18 ab	0.96 ab	0.71 ab	19.56 ab	28.23 abAB
O60G2	7.50 abA	3.38 b	7.40 ab	6.45 ab	1.18 ab	0.82 ab	17.23 b	30.44 abA
RNAN	5.76 bAB	3.54 b	6.97 ab	7.26 ab	0.82 ab	0.67 ab	17.77 b	24.49 abAB
Forest	7.81 a	8.79 a	7.95 a	7.18 a	1.09 a	1.10 a	23.92 a	24.60 a
Haying	6.58 b	4.07 b	9.34 b	5.49 b	1.30 b	0.74 b	18.91 b	26.07 b
0.05-0.10 m								
O40	4.01 abB	4.66 b	7.68 ab	5.76 ab	0.76 aAB	0.66 bAB	18.10 ab	17.74 abB
O40G1	6.25 abAB	4.10 b	4.32 a	6.91 ab	0.97 abAB	0.95 abAB	15.32 b	29.52 abAB
O40G2	4.89 abAB	4.53 b	5.68 a	6.32 ab	0.78 aAB	0.80 bAB	16.53 b	22.90 abAB
O60	6.80 abA	3.86 b	5.14 a	5.96 ab	1.36 abA	0.99 aA	13.88 b	32.84 bA
O60G1	5.60 abAB	4.48 b	5.40 a	8.13 a	0.70 aAB	0.75 bAB	18.02 ab	23.76 abAB
O60G2	6.09 abAB	3.33 b	5.73 a	7.95 a	0.85 aAB	0.69 bAB	17.01 b	26.38 abAB
RNAN	3.65 abB	3.81 b	4.71 a	7.42 a	0.49 ab	0.62 bB	15.94 b	18.65 abB
Forest	5.78 a	8.78 a	5.95 a	6.60 a	0.92 a	1.17 a	21.33 a	21.34 a
Haying	5.80 b	2.75 b	9.21 b	3.83 b	1.52 b	0.66 b	15.96 b	26.58 b
0.10-0.20 m								
O40	4.97 ab	3.75 b	6.84 ab	5.74 ab	0.86 ab	0.72 bAB	16.32 ab	23.44 ab
O40G1	6.20 ab	5.17 a	4.18 a	6.83 ab	0.96 a	1.06 aA	16.18 ab	27.82 ab
O40G2	4.91 ab	5.06 a	6.21 ab	6.85 ab	0.73	0.77 bAB	18.12 a	21.46 a
O60	5.37 ab	4.83 a	4.72 a	7.13 b	0.84	0.87 abAB	16.69 ab	24.30 ab
O60G1	6.39 ab	3.84 b	7.05 ab	8.26	0.78	0.67 bAB	19.15 a	25.14 ab
O60G2	4.92 ab	4.97 a	5.15 a	7.74	0.64	0.79 bAB	17.85 a	21.68 a
RNAN	5.06 ab	2.97 b	7.19 ab	6.46 ab	0.83	0.61 bB	16.62 ab	23.38 ab
Forest	5.29 a	7.25 a	6.86 a	4.12 a	1.37 a	1.16 a	18.23 a	22.51 a
Haying	6.03 b	1.64 b	8.19 b	4.28 b	1.45 b	0.62 b	14.11 b	29.94 b

Note: Presence of the same lowercase letters in the columns does not differ from the reference areas by the Dunnett's test at a 5% probability level. Presence of the same uppercase letters in the columns do not differ from each other for the managements evaluated by the Tukey test, at a 5% probability level.

In relation to the values of F1 and LC/TOC, the highest results observed in the above

mentioned management can be related to rapid decomposition and mineralization of the residues by the microorganism of the soil, which increases labile carbon content easily, consequently improving short-term nutrient cycling, in addition to the outstanding contribution to the formation and stabilization of transient aggregates (Santos et al., 2013).

For the F1/F4 and (F1+F2)/(F3+F4) ratios, the high values observed are related to the depth of root deposition, which, due to their longer residence time, tend to corroborate the increase of carbon in the more recalcitrant fractions of soil (Rasse et al., 2005) Moreover, the closer to 1.0, the better it is the distribution of the carbon contents between the labile and recalcitrant fractions in the soil (Loss et al., 2014).

Comparing the managements with parcel areas of reference, it is observed in the 0.10-0.20 m layer, for F4 variable in managements O60G1 and O60G2 and F1/F4 in O40G2, O60, O60G1, O60G2 and RNAN results statistically superior and inferior with respect to reference areas. In the other layers and variables, similar results were observed in most of the managements: in some cases only the haying, in others the forest and, in some other cases both reference areas (Table 3).

For F1 it is possible to observe that even with little time of implantation of the evaluated manures they were able to provide similar values to the control areas, especially the forest, by the input of residues from different origins, possibly due to accelerated decomposition and mineralization of these residues due to low C/N ratio (<30:1) (Batista et al., 2014).

Guareschi et al. (2013), evaluating areas of native forest, pasture planted with *Brachiaria decumbens*, no-tillage system with 3 years, no-tillage system with 15 years and no-tillage system with 20 years of implantation in the central west region of Brazil, obtained results similar to those observed in the F1 fraction.

For F2 it is possible to observe in the evaluated layers for most of the managements, that they were statistically inferior to the forest, except in the layer 0,10-0,20 m for O40, O40G1, O40G2, O60 and O60G2, being able to reflect the little time of the conversion of the fraction easily labile to the labile or by the very nature of the deposited material because it is more resistant to degradation. Consequently, it takes more time to liberate carbon into the soil in labile forms.

Rosset et al. (2016), evaluating the soil quality from the chemical and oxidizable fractions of organic matter in areas with different times of adoption of the no-tillage system (6, 14 and 22 years), an area with 12 years of no-tillage system and 4 years more of cultivation of forage (*Urochloa ruziziensis*) intercropped with corn and pasture and native forest area, also obtained similar results for the values of fraction F1 and F2.

The highest concentration of carbon, regardless of the evaluated layer, is observed in fractions F3 and F4, and only in the forest it is possible to observe impartiality between the fractions. These results may indicate a higher performance for the formation of substances with higher molecular weight and chemical stability, resulting from the decomposition and humification of the deposited residues to increment SOM (Stevenson, 1994), mainly due to the higher C/N ratio of the remains of crops and deposited animal waste deposited by the

management.

According to Chan et al. (2001) and Guareschi et al. (2013), F3 and F4 fractions are more resistant in the soil and present a longer residence time compared to F1 and F2 fractions. As noted in the study, it is corroborated a lower variation in moisture content and temperature, therefore creating an environment more favorable for the maintenance of organic matter levels and the same stability.

For the F1/F4 and (F1+F2)/(F3+F4) relationships, the values obtained in the great majority of the managements, regardless of the evaluated layer, were lower than 1.0, demonstrating the predominance of difficult degradation carbon, due to its higher resistance to oxidation by the action of microorganisms, as well as the fact that the very clayey texture provides greater protection against degradation by microorganisms (Guareschi et al., 2013).

According to Rosset et al. (2016) when smaller values were obtained within the relations F1/F4 and (F1+F2)/(F3+F4), it may mean a lower input of plant material of greater lability, which may not be related with the quality of residues deposited on the ground, but with the rapid transformation of the labile carbon into recalcitrant form in order to recover the contents within the fractions F3 and F4 that were affected by the old management adopted.

We observed the predominance of the NLC fraction in relation to the LC(F1), indicating formation of more recalcitrant carbon reserves in the soil, since this fraction has a slower cycle and acts both as a nutrient reserve and in the chemical stability of microaggregates in the soil (Guareschi et al., 2013), confirming what we saw in the F1/F4 relationships and (F1+F2)/(F3+F4) that is beginning the recovery of the most resistant soil carbon by the management.

For the LC/TOC ratio the values obtained indicate lower residue permanence in the evaluated manures, and they explain the results, probably due to the grazing intensity or the accelerated decomposition by the microorganisms, due to climatic factors and C/N ratio of the residues, contributing to the conversion of LC into more recalcitrant fractions, in this case the NLC.

### 3.3 Carbon Management Index

We observed differences between the managements, in the 0.00-0.05 and 0.05-0.10 m layers, in all indexes and in O60G2, O60G1 and O60 the highest values were found among the others (Table 4). It is possible to observe in the surface layers the improvements within the indices are linked to the results observed within the oxidizable fractions.

Table 4. Carbon compartment index (CCI), lability (L), lability index (IL) and carbon management index (CMI) in different management systems

Areas	CCI	L	IL	CMI
0.00-0.05 m				
O40	0.60 B	0.21 abB	0.64 abB	39.32 abB
O40G1	0.82 abAB	0.35 abAB	1.06 abAB	88.53 abAB

O40G2	0.88 abAB	0.42 abAB	1.29 abAB	117.10 abAB
O60	0.84 abAB	0.36 abAB	1.11 abAB	100.92 abAB
O60G1	0.98 abA	0.40 abAB	1.21 abAB	119.32 abAB
O60G2	0.96 abA	0.44 abA	1.34 abA	129.82 abA
RNAN	0.74 bAB	0.32 abAB	0.99 abAB	73.43 abAB
Forest	1.00 a	0.33 a	1.00 a	100.00 a
Haying	0.84 b	0.35 b	1.08 b	91.47 b
0.05-0.10 m				
O40	0.69 abB	0.22 abB	0.80 abB	60.88 abB
O40G1	1.08 abAB	0.43 abAB	1.56 abAB	172.56 abAB
O40G2	0.85 abAB	0.30 abAB	1.09 abAB	93.87 abAB
O60	1.18 abA	0.50 bA	1.85 bA	233.28 bA
O60G1	0.97 abAB	0.31 abAB	1.15 abAB	112.97 abAB
O60G2	1.05 abAB	0.36 abAB	1.33 abAB	146.44 abAB
RNAN	0.63 B	0.23 abB	0.85 abB	55.01 abB
Forest	1.00 a	0.27 a	1.00 a	100.00 a
Haying	1.00 b	0.36 b	1.33 b	134.11 b
0.10-0.20 m				
O40	0.94 ab	0.31 a	1.07 ab	106.67 ab
O40G1	1.17 ab	0.39 ab	1.33 ab	156.36 ab
O40G2	0.93 ab	0.29 a	0.95 a	91.52 a
O60	1.02 ab	0.32 ab	1.10 ab	112.37 ab
O60G1	1.21 ab	0.34 ab	1.16 ab	141.18 ab
O60G2	0.93 ab	0.28 a	0.96 a	93.88 a
RNAN	0.96 ab	0.31 ab	1.05 a	100.18 a
Forest	1.00 a	0.29 a	1.00 a	100.00 a
Haying	1.14 b	0.43 b	1.46 b	167.26 b

Note: Presence of the same lowercase letters in the columns does not differ from the reference areas by the Dunnett's test at a 5% probability level. Presence of the same uppercase letters in the columns do not differ from each other for the managements evaluated by the Tukey test, at a 5% probability level.

The values obtained by the F1 fraction, which is the basis of calculation for these indices and differences, were observed in the first layers of the soil, and may have relation to the decomposition of animal and vegetable waste in the superficial and deep layers corroborated for the increment of carbon in the labile and non-labile form providing improvement on the abovementioned indices between the different managements.

Comparing the managements with the reference areas observed in O40, from the layer 0.00-0.05 and 0.05-0.10 m, results were lower than the control areas for CCI. In the other areas and layers, no differences were observed in most of the treatments with the reference areas (Table 4).

In CCI the values obtained in the managements were close to 1.0 indicating proximity of the TOC contents in relation to the reference. This shows the potential to increase the carbon content in the soil of the evaluated managements, even with the short time of adoption, provided by the deposition of residues of different natures and less anthropic action on edaphic disruption, and thus, less degradation and higher maintenance of soil carbon (Rangel et al., 2008).

In the results obtained for L, we observe that the highest proportion of NLC in relation to LC, provided values that were less than 1.0, which indicates a higher conversion of carbon in most recalcitrant fractions. For IL, values above 1.0 were observed in all managements indicating lability of the managements evaluated in relation to reference areas, and an increase in soil carbon bioavailability (Rangel et al., 2008).

In relation with the values obtained for the CMI in all the layers and managements to maintain or increase of the soil carbon content, the results were similar to those obtained by Schiavo et al. (2011), who evaluated areas with a different time of adoption in a Oxisol of clay texture, found values near to reference area, 101.77 and 111.61 for the layers of 0.00-0.05 and 0.10-0.20 m, respectively, for an area with integration and pasture formed by species of the genus *Urochloa*.

Silva et al. (2011) evaluating the total carbon and nitrogen stocks of the labile and recalcitrant fractions of SOM and CMI, in the IAPS, after four and eight years of implantation, comparing with several management systems such as pasture, no-tillage system and forest areas, it got to the IAPS with eight years similar CMI values that in the native forest area.

While Isernhagen et al. (2017), evaluating different management in the Cerrado and Amazonia Transition region, on a Oxisol of clayey texture obtained lower results than those observed in the present study for areas with crop-livestock-forest integration with three years of implantation, obtaining CMI values of 53, 57 and 62 for the layers of 0.00-0.05, 0.05-0.10 and 0.10-0.20 m, respectively.

It is possible to emphasize that the evaluated management contributed to the maintenance of the soil carbon contents. However, it is worth noting that the efficiency of a system in the recovery of soil quality depends, besides the characteristics of this management, on the degradation process of the soil, such as overpasses, soil exploitation and low production of residues (Reis et al., 2016; Isernhagen et al., 2017).

#### 4. Conclusions

The different configurations of IAPS, in particular O60G1 and O60G2, provided changes in the total organic carbon, fractions of humic substances, oxidizables fractions and carbon management index when compared to the other managements and these do not greatly differ from reference areas. Demonstrating that they are alternatives to be adopted by the producers who seek to replace hay production areas by IAPS in a sustainable way, in order to preserve the quality of the soil.

#### Acknowledgements

This study was financed in part by the Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior - Brasil (CAPES) - Finance Code 001. We want to give thanks to the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES) by the scholarship and resources for conducting the research and the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) for the productivity scholarship granted to the Dr. Paulo Sérgio Rabello de Oliveira.

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