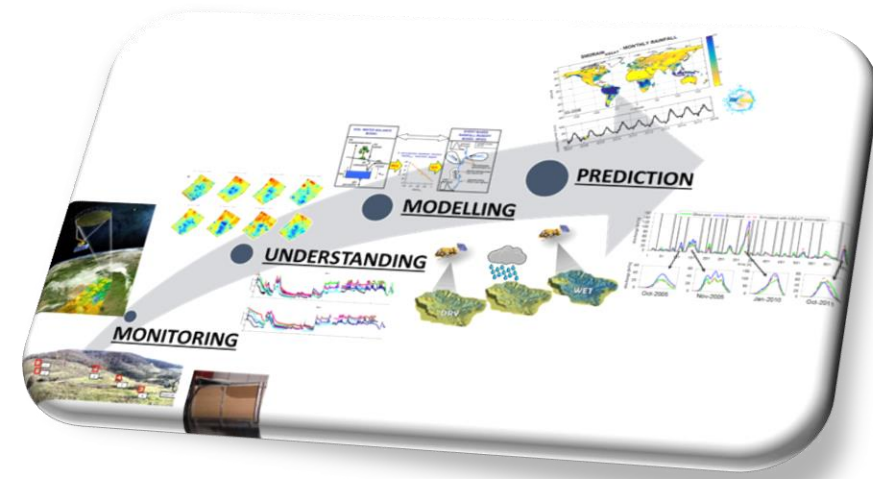




Luca Brocca and the IRPI Hydrology Group

Research Institute for Geo-Hydrological Protection (CNR-IRPI)

Perugia, Italy



# “OBSERVING” SOIL MOISTURE AND IRRIGATION FROM SPACE

Nuclear Technologies for Agriculture 4.0



# IRRIGATION IMPACT ON THE WATER CYCLE



- ❑ We, as human beings, are modifying the water cycle
- ❑ Irrigation is the major water consumer of our planet (70%), over Mediterranean >75%
- ❑ 2+ billion people affected by water stress - a number that will only increase with population growth, continued economic development and climate changing
- ❑ Global blue water availability: 5'000-9'000 km<sup>3</sup>/year  
Global water consumption: 3500-5000 km<sup>3</sup>/year

Abbott et al. (2019 Nature Goescience)  
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41561-019-0374-y>

# IRRIGATION IMPACT ON THE WATER CYCLE

## Potential for sustainable irrigation expansion in a 3 °C warmer climate

Lorenzo Rosa<sup>a,1,2</sup>, Davide Danilo Chiarelli<sup>b</sup>, Matteo Sangiorgio<sup>c</sup>, Areidy Aracely Beltran-Peña<sup>a</sup>, Maria Cristina Rulli<sup>b</sup>, Paolo D'Odorico<sup>a</sup>, and Inez Fung<sup>a,d,1</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720; <sup>b</sup>Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Politecnico di Milano, 20133 Milano, Italy; <sup>c</sup>Department of Electronics, Information, and Bioengineering, Politecnico di Milano, 20133 Milano, Italy; and <sup>d</sup>Department of Earth and Planetary Science, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720

PNAS, Nov 9, 2020; <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2017796117>

ARTICLE

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-019-14075-4> OPEN

## Warming of hot extremes alleviated by expanding irrigation

Wim Thiery<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Auke J. Visser<sup>3</sup>, Erich M. Fischer<sup>1</sup>, Mathias Hauser<sup>1</sup>, Annette L. Hirsch<sup>4</sup>, David M. Lawrence<sup>5</sup>, Quentin Lejeune<sup>6</sup>, Edouard L. Davin<sup>1</sup> & Sonia I. Seneviratne<sup>1</sup>

Nat Communication, Jan 15, 2020; <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-019-14075-4>

ARTICLES

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41561-020-00650-8>

nature  
geoscience

Check for updates

## Moist heat stress extremes in India enhanced by irrigation

Vimal Mishra<sup>1,2</sup>, Anukesh Krishnankutty Ambika<sup>2</sup>, Akarsh Asoka<sup>2</sup>, Saran Aadhar<sup>1</sup>, Jonathan Buzan<sup>3</sup>, Rohini Kumar<sup>4</sup> and Matthew Huber<sup>3</sup>

Nat Geoscience, Oct 26, 2020; <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41561-020-00650-8>

*"We find that in up to 35% of currently rain-fed croplands, irrigation could be expanded as an adaptation strategy to climate change without negative environmental externalities on freshwater resources."*

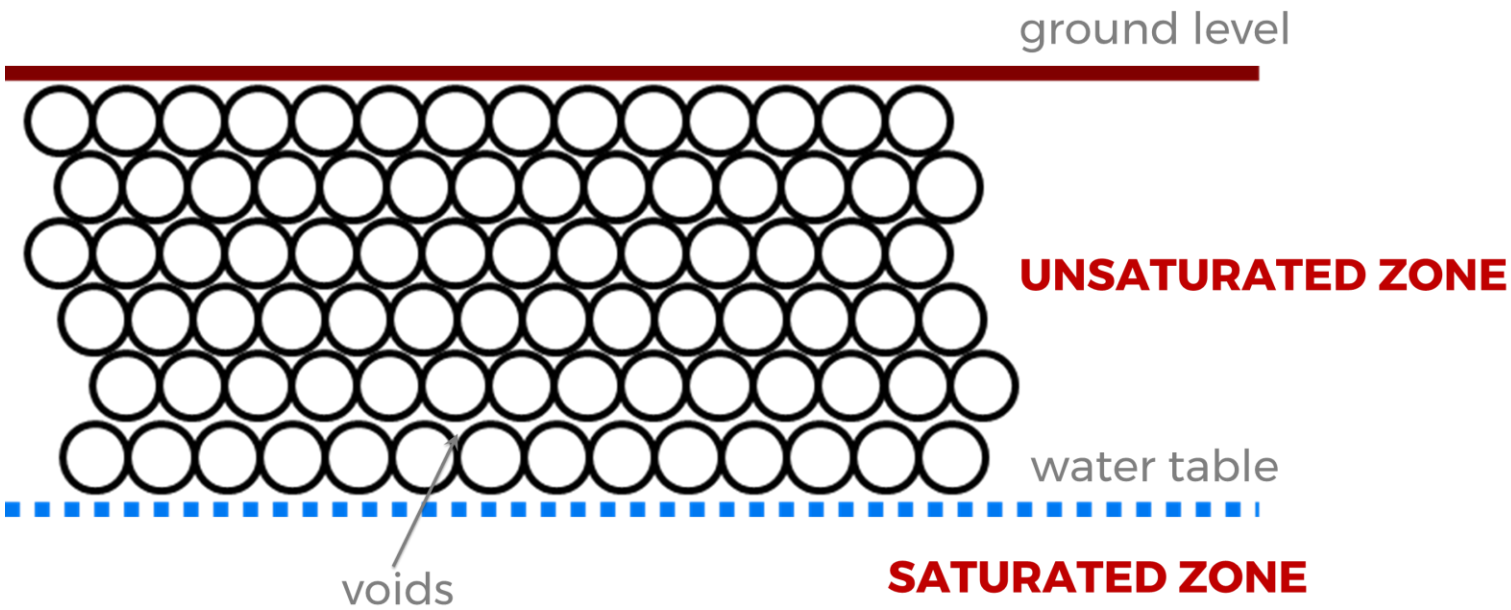
*"Here we provide observational and model evidence that expanding irrigation has dampened historical anthropogenic warming during hot days, with particularly strong effects over South Asia."*

*"heat stress projections in ...regions dominated by semi-arid/monsoon climates that do not include the role of irrigation overestimate the benefits of irrigation on dry heat stress and underestimate the risks."*

**All these studies rely on the global map of irrigation areas dated 2005 (areas equipped for irrigation) and simulated data**

# CAN WE USE SOIL MOISTURE FOR IRRIGATION QUANTIFICATION?

## What is soil moisture?



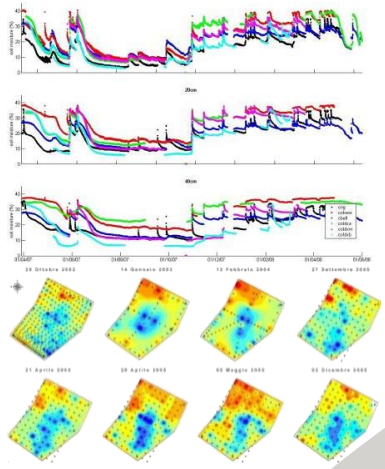
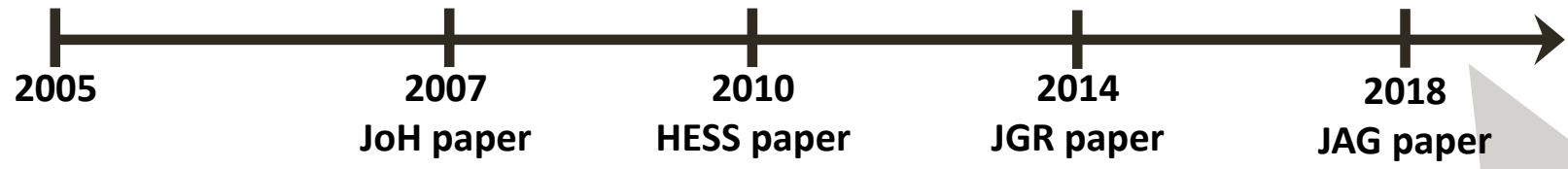
$$\theta = \frac{V_{Water}}{\Delta x \Delta y \Delta z}$$

**Soil Moisture**

Soil moisture is a key variable of the climate system.

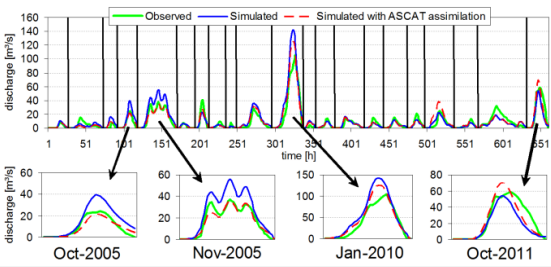
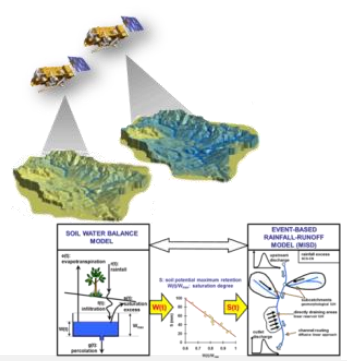
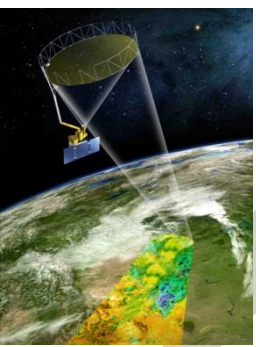
Soil moisture generally refers to the amount of water stored in the unsaturated soil zone.

# 15 YEARS OF RESEARCH ON SOIL MOISTURE!!!



Soil moisture **monitoring** with in situ and remote sensing

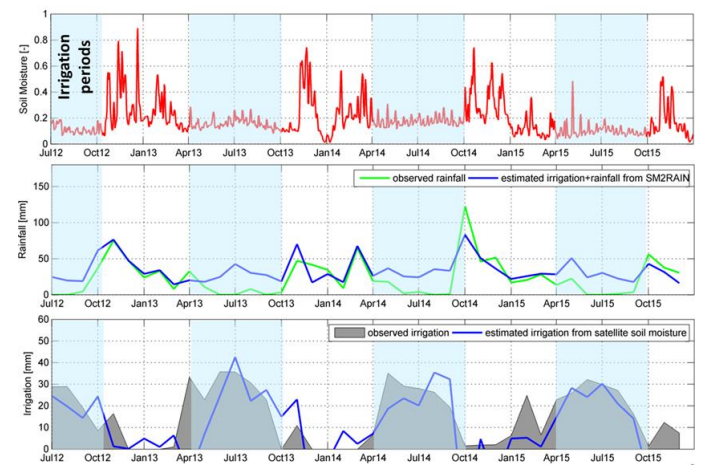
Understanding the spatial-temporal **variability** of soil moisture at different spatial scales



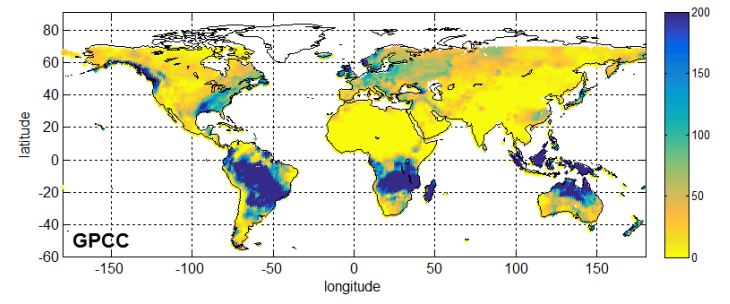
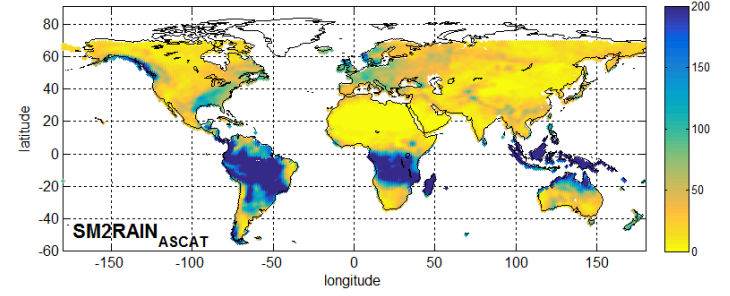
**Irrigation** from space

Detecting rainfall from the bottom up: using soil moisture observations for measuring rainfall (**SM2RAIN**)

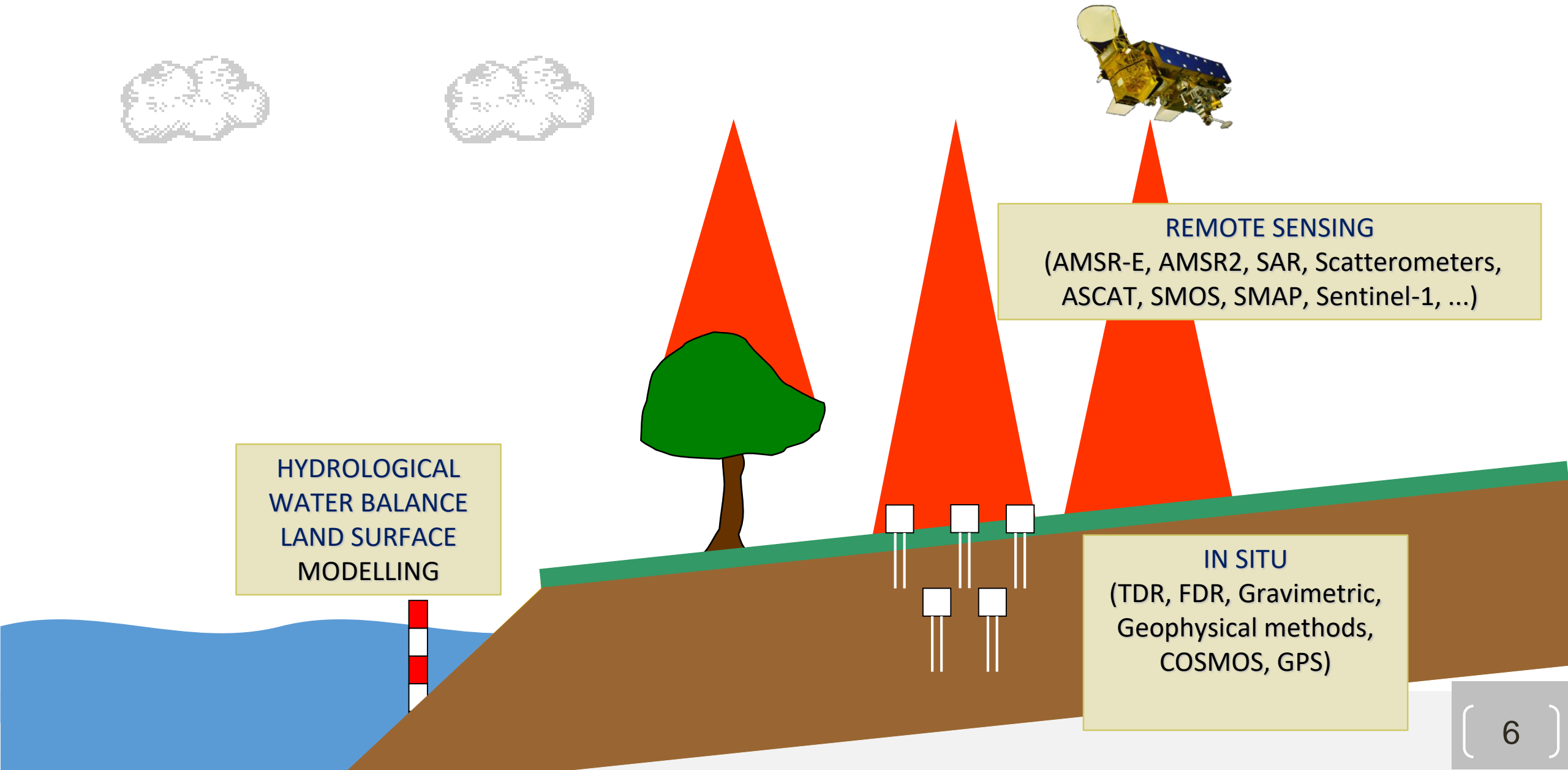
**Assimilation** of in situ and remote sensing soil moisture measurements for **hydrological applications**



MONTHLY RAINFALL - 01-2007



# SOIL MOISTURE MONITORING

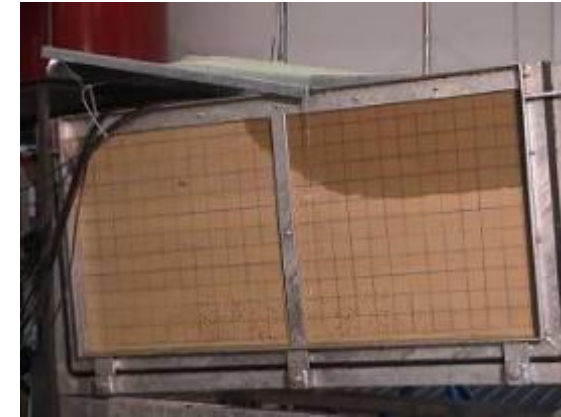


# SOIL MOISTURE MONITORING

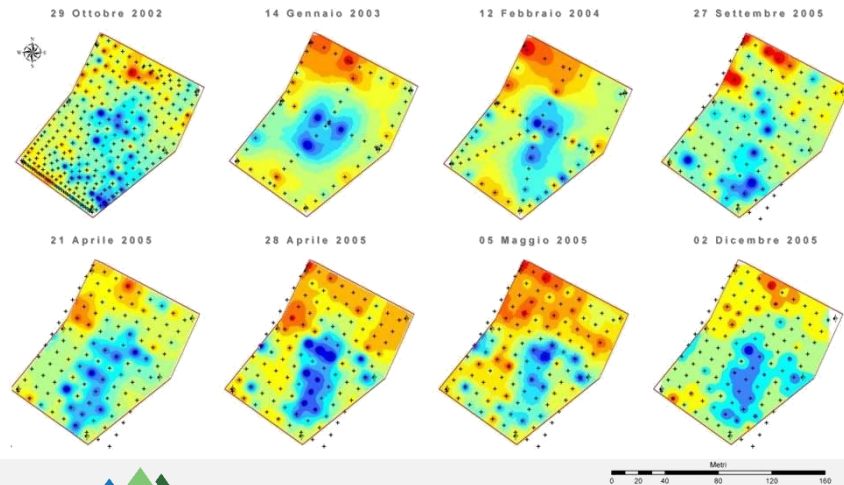
## Experimental catchments



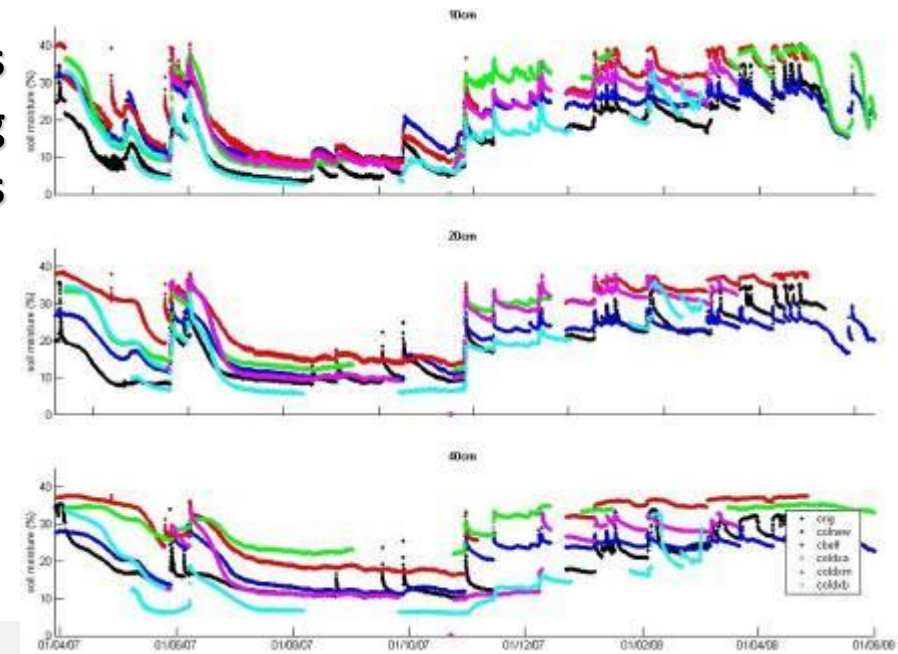
## Laboratory



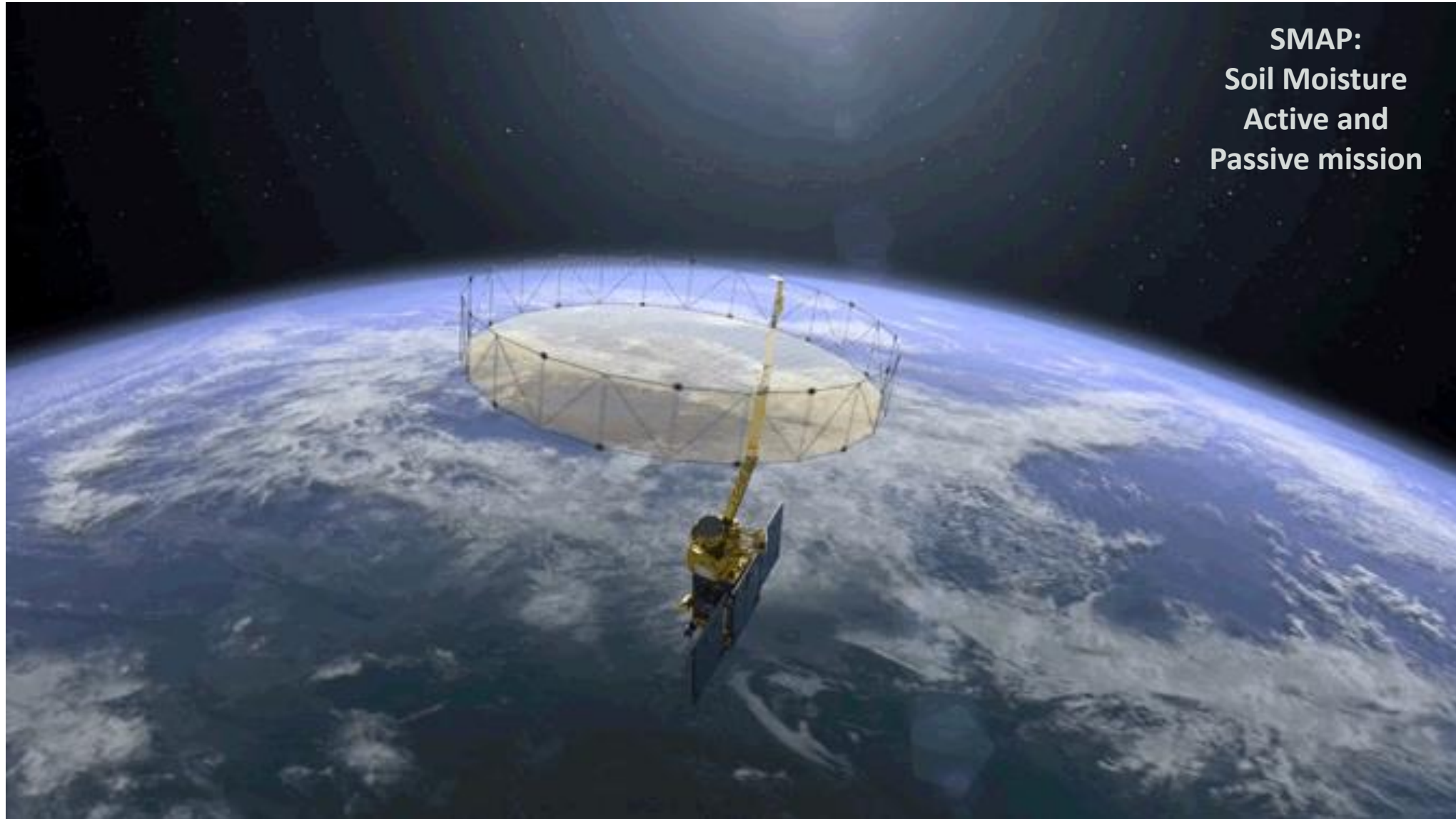
## TDR spot measurements



## Continuous monitoring probes



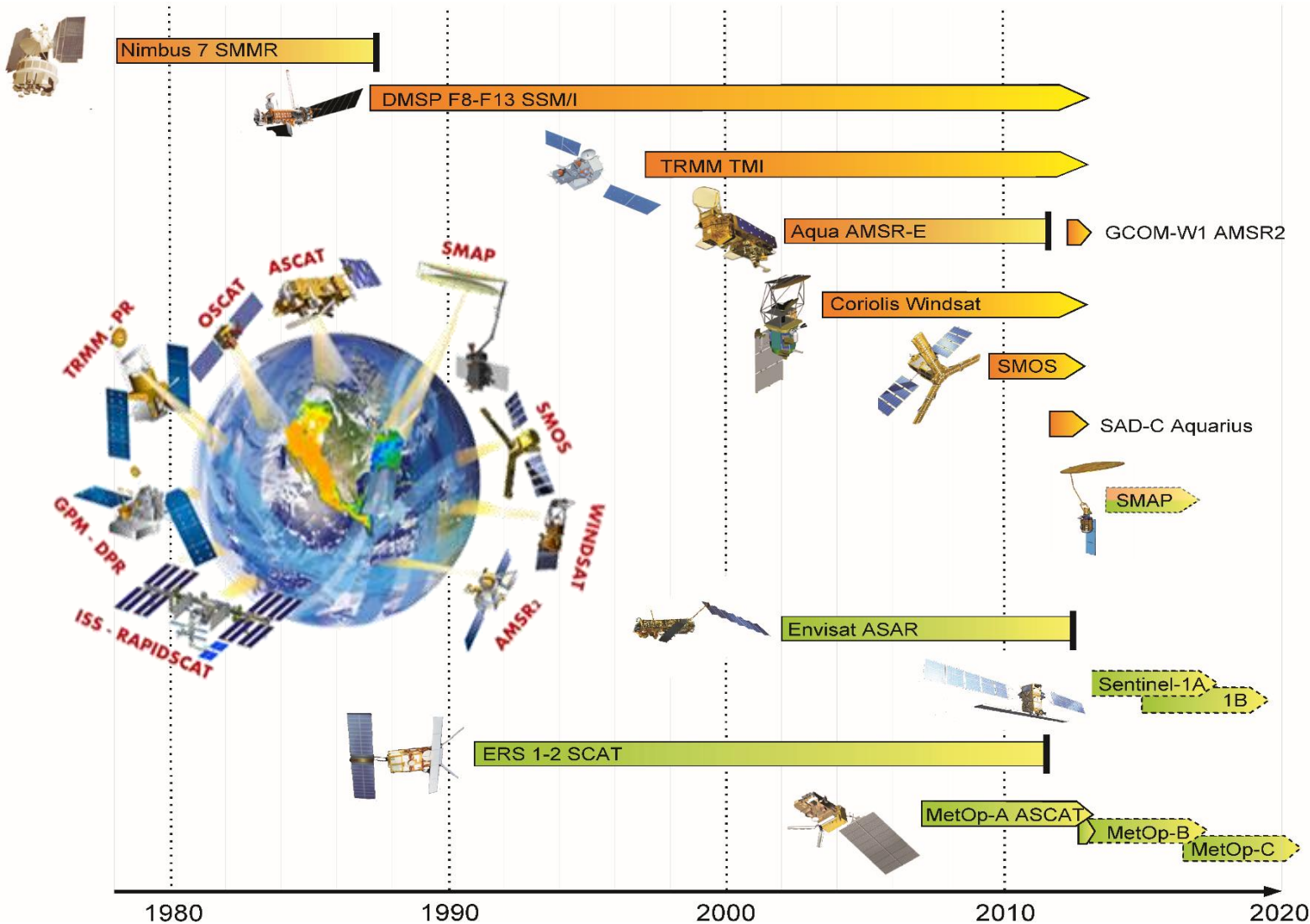
# REMOTE SENSING OF SOIL MOISTURE



**SMAP:  
Soil Moisture  
Active and  
Passive mission**



# REMOTE SENSING OF SOIL MOISTURE

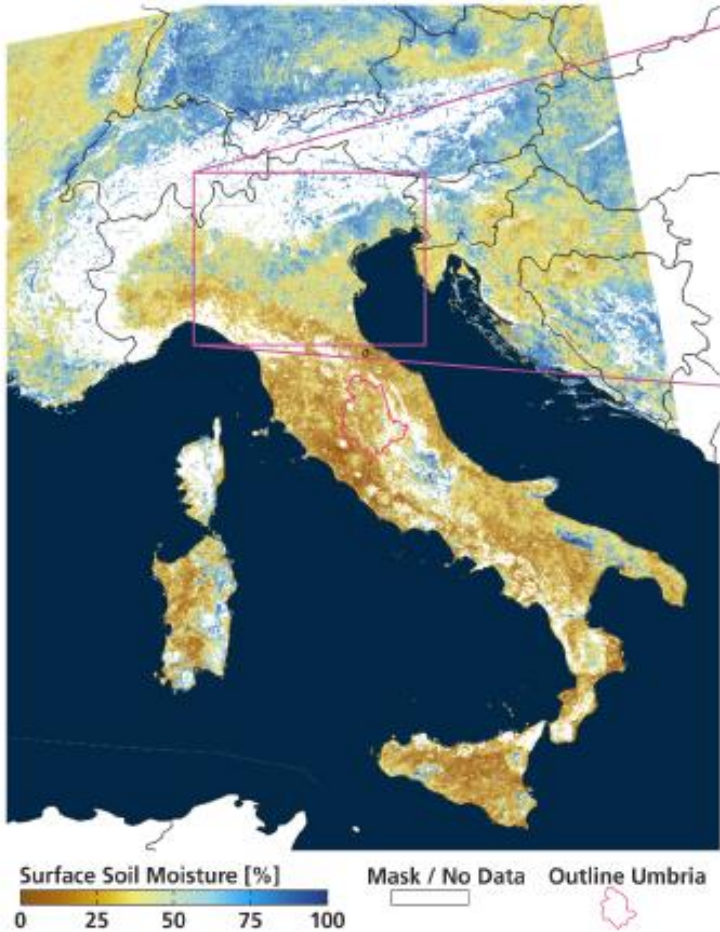


- A constellation of satellite sensors for measuring soil moisture is available
- High temporal and spatial resolution only recently:
  - Sentinel-1
  - CYGNSS
- future missions:
  - FSSCat
  - L-band SAR
  - HYDROTERRA (EE10)

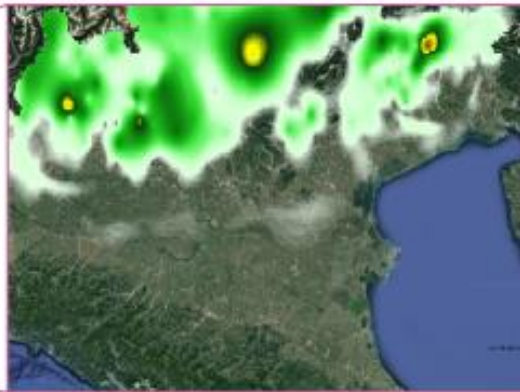
# HIGH RESOLUTION SOIL MOISTURE FROM SENTINEL-1

*Toward Global Soil Moisture Monitoring With Sentinel-1: Harnessing Assets and Overcoming Obstacles*  
Bernhard Bauer-Marschallinger<sup>1</sup>, Member, IEEE, Vahid Freeman<sup>2</sup>, Senmao Cao, Christoph Paulik<sup>3</sup>, Stefan Schauler, Tobias Stachl, Sara Modanesi, Christian Massari<sup>4</sup>, Luca Ciabatta<sup>5</sup>, Luca Brocca<sup>6</sup>, and Wolfgang Wagner<sup>7</sup>, Senior Member, IEEE

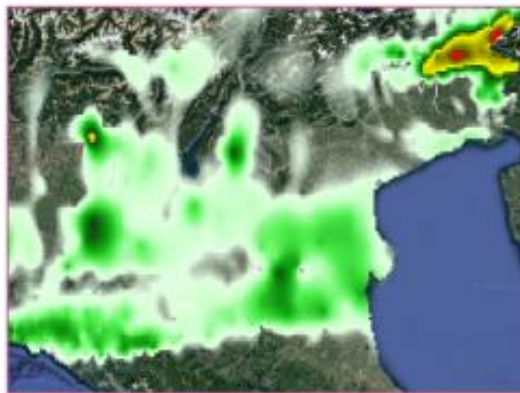
**a) Drought: Italy Summer 2017**  
**Sentinel-1 SSM Monthly Mean**  
2017 July



**b) Rainfall Event: Po Valley 2017 July 11**  
**Observed Cumulative Rainfall**  
2017 July 10 | 0-24h

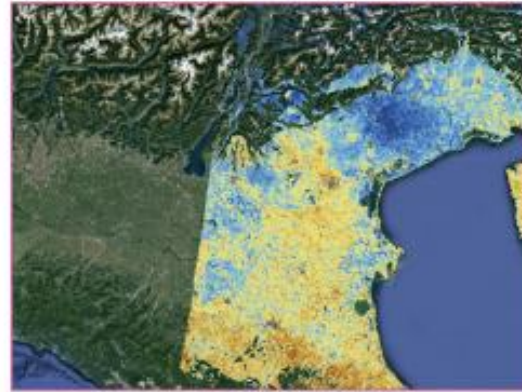


2017 July 11 | 0-24h

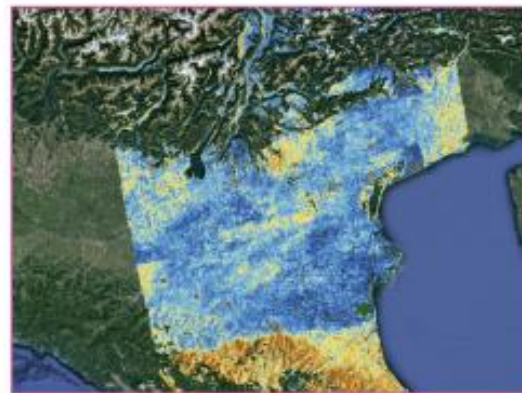


Precipitation [mm]  
0 40 100 200

**Sentinel-1 SSM (single observations)**  
2017 July 10 | 05:18



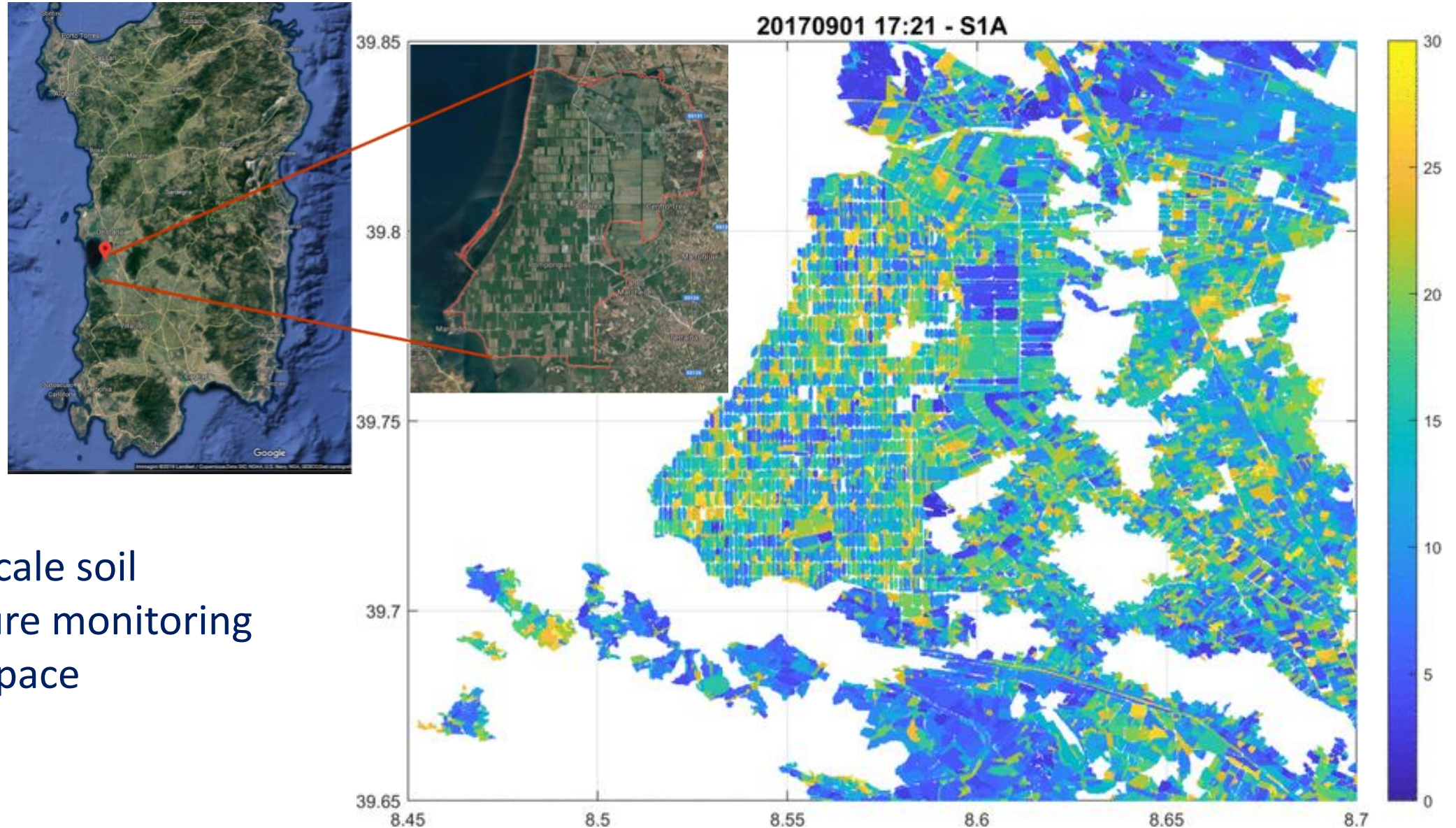
2017 July 11 | 17:04



Surface Soil Moisture [%]  
0 25 50 75 100

Sentinel-1 Soil Moisture

# HIGH RESOLUTION SOIL MOISTURE FROM SENTINEL-1



Field scale soil  
moisture monitoring  
from space

Bazzi et al. (2020 JSTARS)  
<https://doi.org/10.1109/JSTARS.2019.2927430>

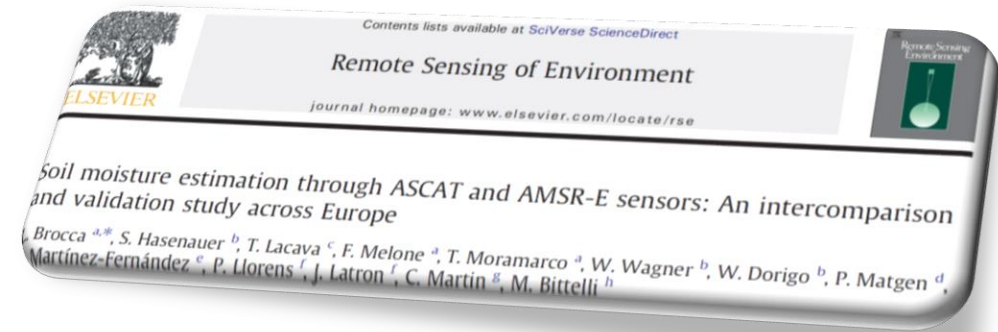
# VALIDATION OF SATELLITE SOIL MOISTURE PRODUCTS



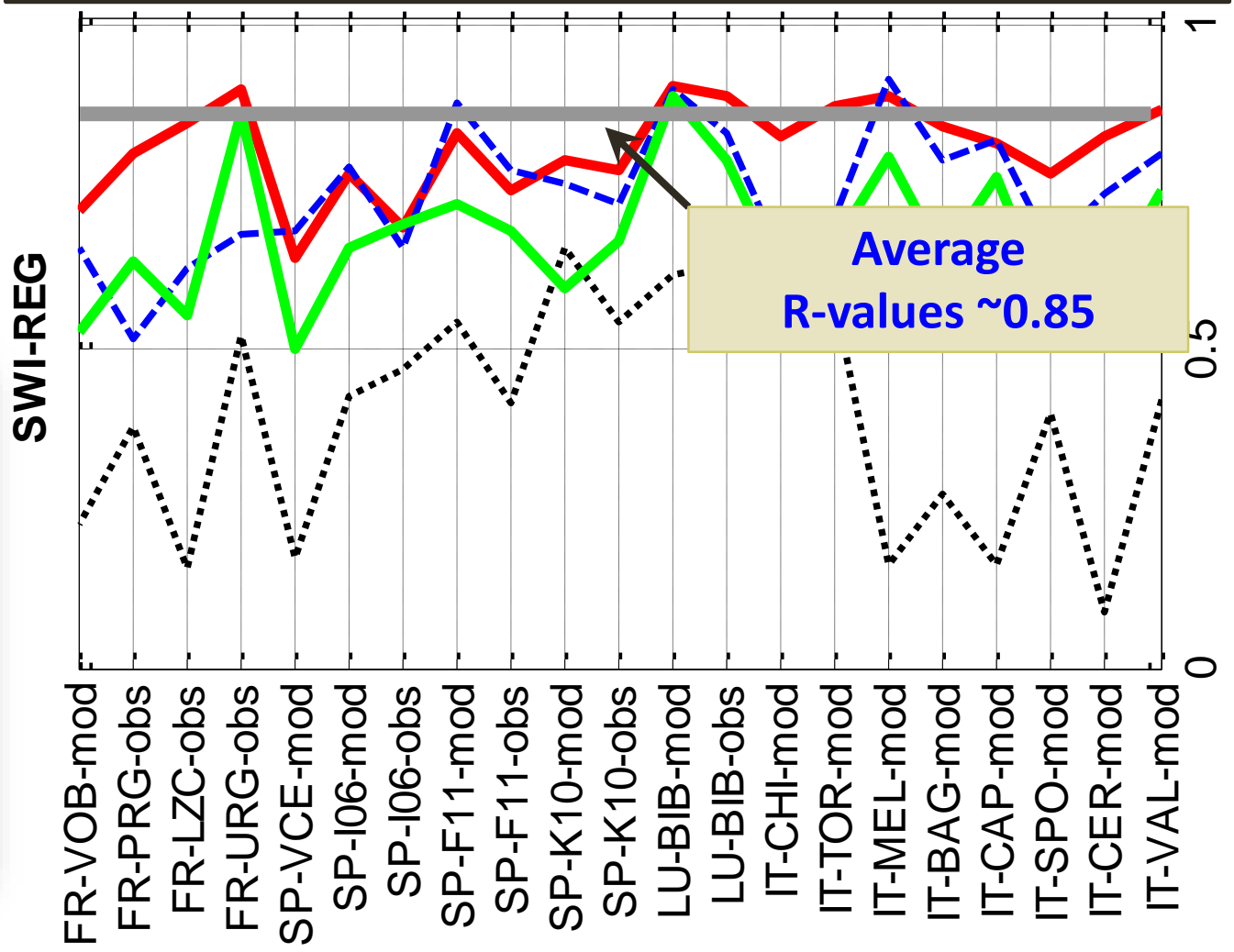
Location	Site	LAT (°)	LON (°)	Elev (m a.s.l.)	Soil texture	Land use	Z (cm)	Data set	MAR (mm)	MAT (°C)
Italy - IRPI	VAL	43.22	12.15	315	sandy loam	grass	10	obs & mod	900	13
	CER	43.56	12.38	300	loamy sand	grass	10	mod	900	13
	SPO	42.88	12.85	435	sandy loam	grass	10	mod	900	13
Italy - UMSUOL	CAP	44.30	11.30	10	sandy loam	grass	10	obs & mod	750	16
Italy - Campania and Calabria	BAG	40.83	15.06	560	sandy loam	grass	30	obs & mod	920	17
	MEL	41.16	14.51	180	sandy clay loam	grass	30	obs & mod	920	17
	TOR	39.51	16.15	100	?	?	30	obs & mod	850	21
	CHI	38.67	16.48	550	?	?	30	obs & mod	850	21
Luxembourg	BIB	49.63	6.23	270	loam	grass	5	obs & mod	860	9
Spain - REMEDHUS	K10	41.35	-5.22	770	sand	corn	5	obs & mod	380	12
	I06	41.38	-5.43	730	sand	bare soil	5	obs & mod	380	12
Spain - Vallcebre	VCE	42.17	1.83	1180	silt loam	grass	20	obs & mod	860	9
France - SMOSMANIA	URG	43.64	-0.44	150	silt	grass	5	obs	?	?
	LZC	43.17	2.73	70	clay loam	grass	5	obs	?	?
	PRG	43.67	0.22	170	silt	grass	5	obs	?	?
France - Valescure	VOB	43.79	4.35	430	sandy	grass	30	obs & mod	1500	12

Brocca et al. (2011 RSE)  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2011.08.003>

# VALIDATION OF SATELLITE SOIL MOISTURE PRODUCTS



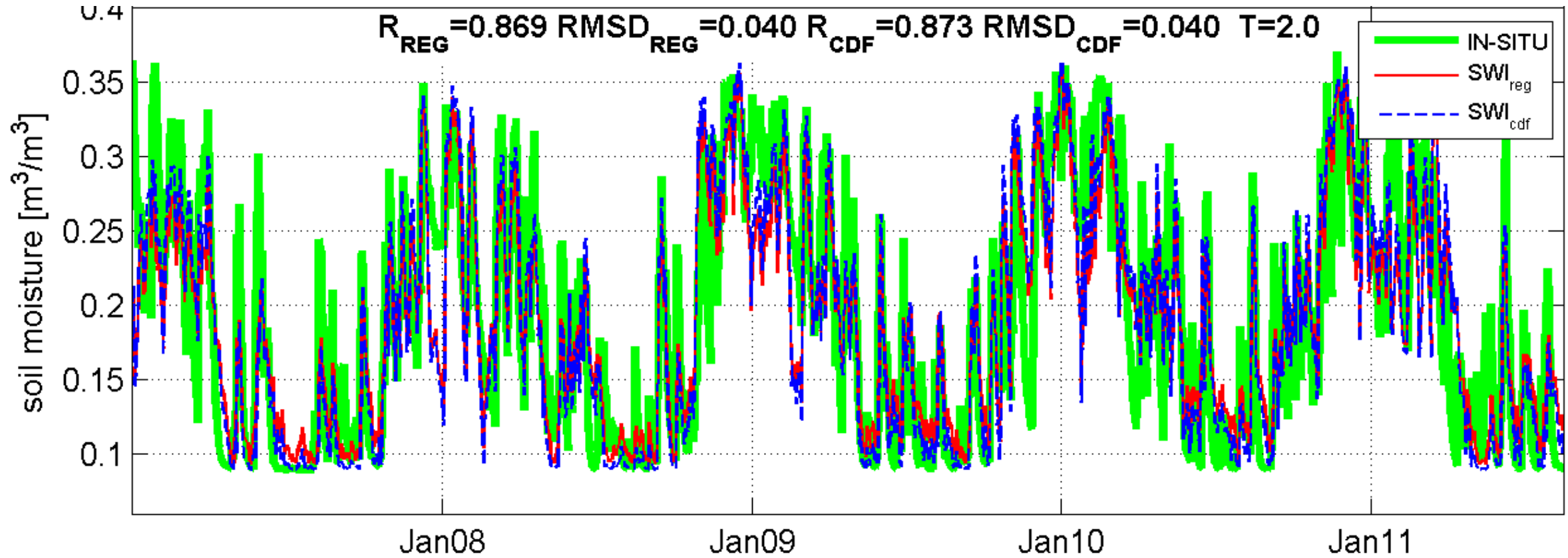
Correlation between satellite products and ground data



— ASCAT    - - - AMSRE-LPRM    ..... AMSRE-NASA    — AMSRE-PRI

Brocca et al. (2011 RSE)  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2011.08.003>

# VALIDATION OF SATELLITE SOIL MOISTURE PRODUCTS



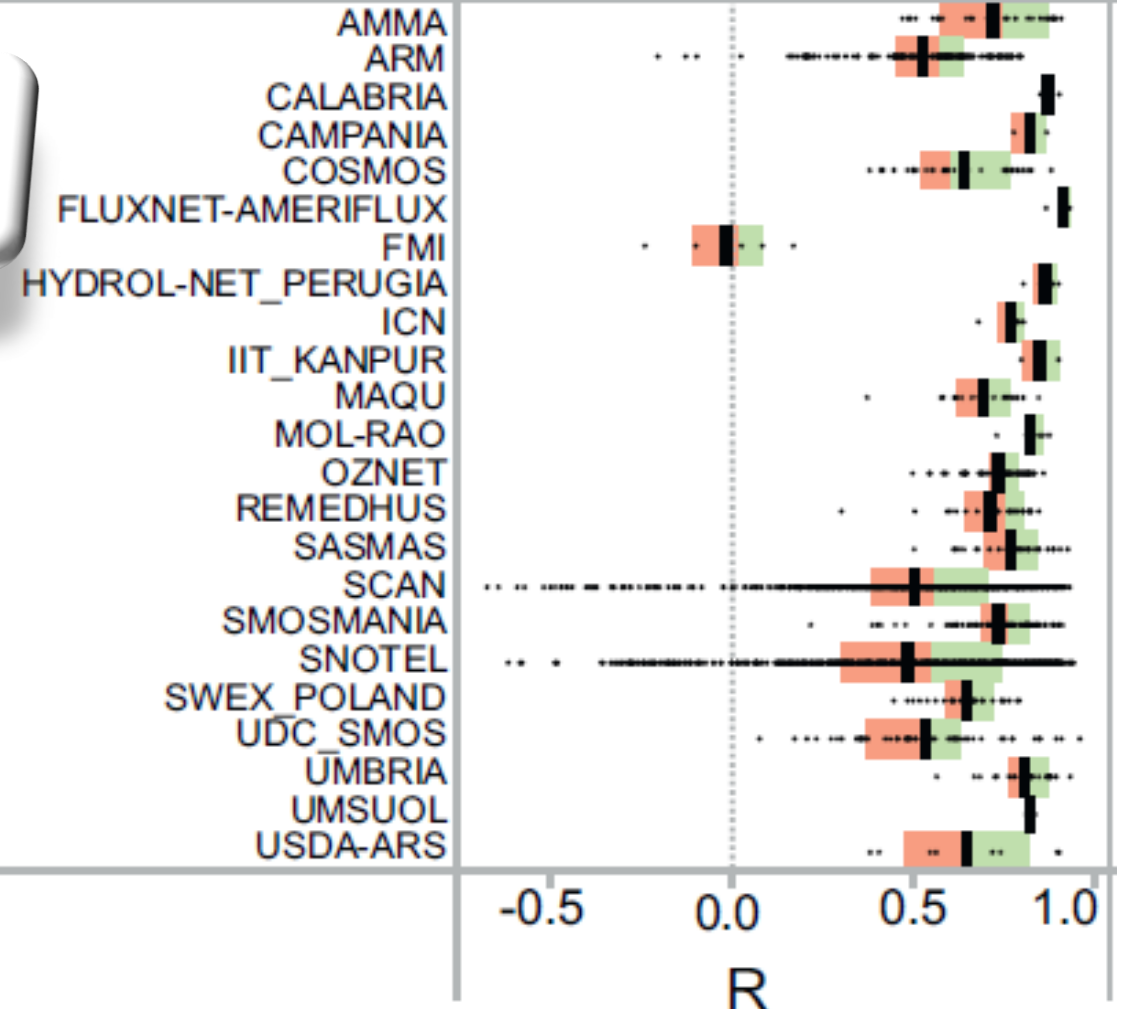
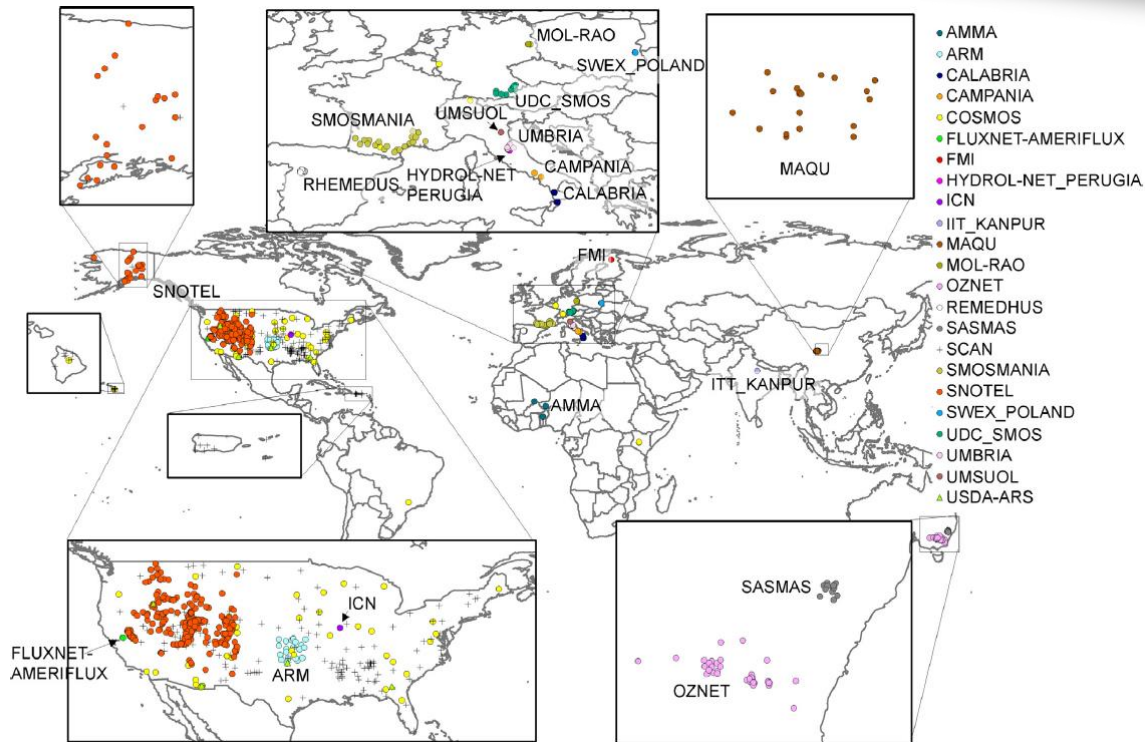
**ITALY**

Brocca et al. (2011) RSE  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2011.08.003>

# VALIDATION OF SATELLITE SOIL MOISTURE PRODUCTS

Validation of the ASCAT Soil Water Index using in situ data from the International Soil Moisture Network

Christoph Paulik\*, Wouter Dorigo, Wolfgang Wagner, Richard Kidd



1'800'000 measurements !!!

Paulik et al. (2014 JAG)  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jag.2014.01.007>

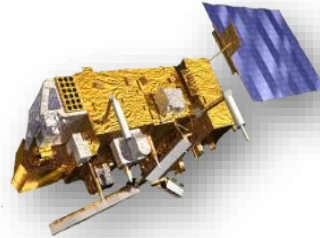
# OPERATIONAL SOIL MOISTURE PRODUCTS (EUMETSAT H SAF)

Large-scale surface soil moisture observed by radar scatterometer (ASCAT)

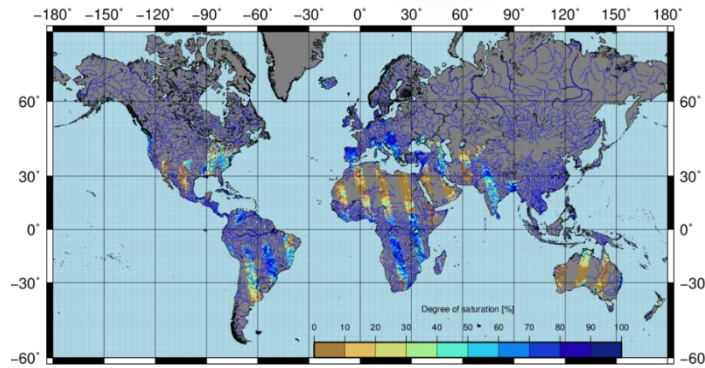
Resolution 25 km (Sampling 12.5 km)

Daily coverage, 0-5 cm

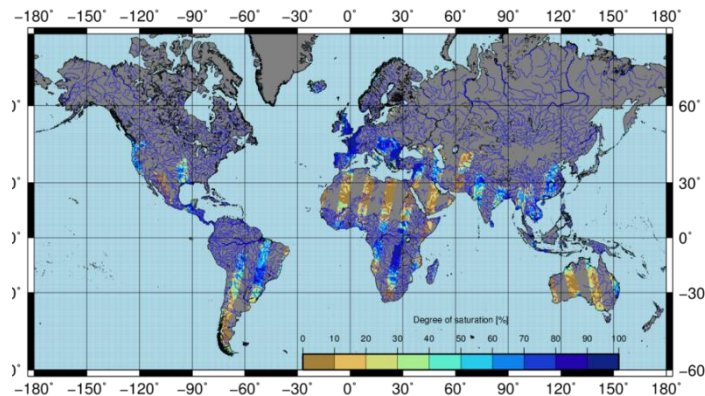
2007 – ongoing



16-12-2020 02:20



15-12-2020 14:10

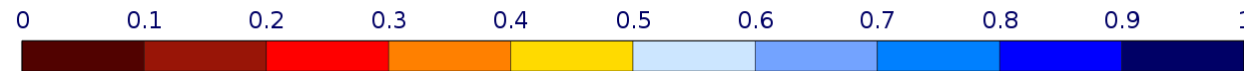
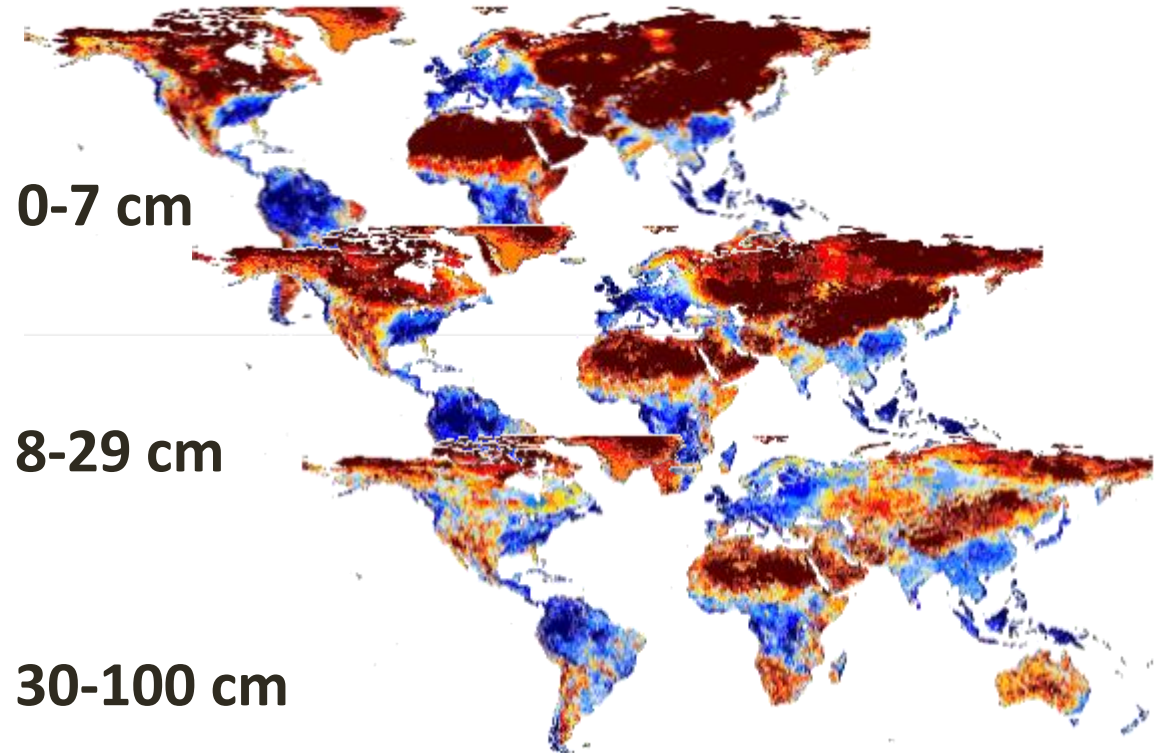


Volumetric soil moisture (roots region) by assimilation the large scale soil moisture product in NWP model (IFS-ECMWF)

Resolution 16 km

Daily coverage, 4 soil layer

1992 – ongoing





# OPERATIONAL SOIL MOISTURE PRODUCTS (COPERNICUS)

## COPERNICUS C3S SOIL MOISTURE 1978 to present, 1/10-day, 0.25-degree

## SOIL WATER INDEX: 2007 to present, 1/10-day, 0.1-degree

Burnt Area	NDVI
Dry Matter Prod.	<b>Soil Water Index</b>
FAPAR	Surf. Soil Moisture
FCOVER	VCI
Leaf Area Index	VPI
Land Cover	

**SWI product updates**  
SWI reformatting to netCDF4  
Mon, 24 Sep 2018  
Quality information on the SWI product available  
Mon, 24 Sep 2018

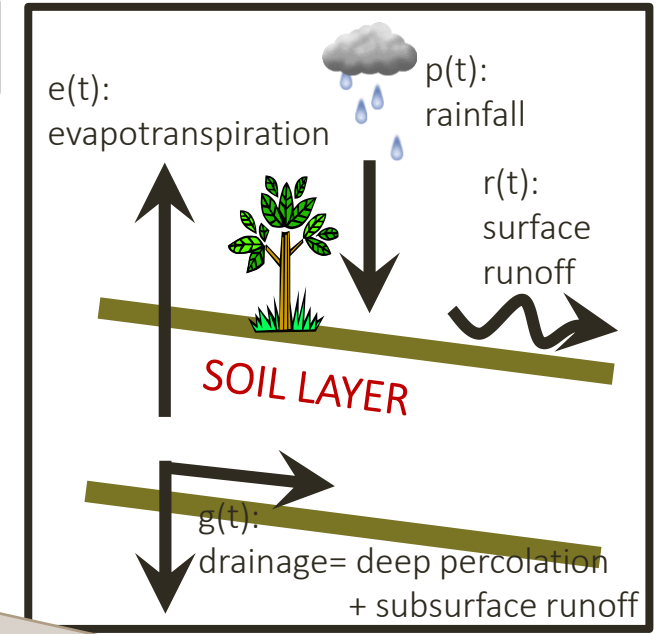
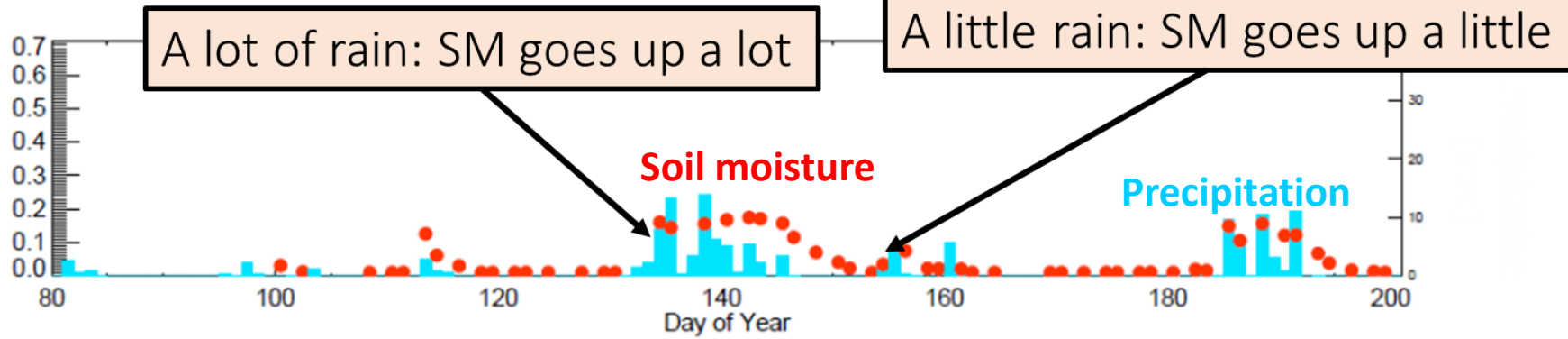
## SURFACE SOIL MOISTURE: 2014 to present, 5-day, 1 km

Burnt Area	NDVI
Dry Matter Prod.	Soil Water Index
FAPAR	<b>Surf. Soil Moisture</b>
FCOVER	VCI
Leaf Area Index	VPI
Land Cover	

**SSM product updates**  
Early Access - Surface Soil Moisture at 1km resolution over Europe  
Mon, 24 Sep 2018

**Surface Soil Moisture**  
Surface Soil Moisture (SSM) is the relative water content of the top few centimetres soil, describing how wet or dry the soil is in its topmost layer, expressed in percent saturation. It is measured by satellite

# SM2RAIN: RAINFALL ESTIMATION FROM SOIL MOISTURE



relative soil moisture

$$Z^* ds(t)/dt = p(t) - r(t) - e(t) - g(t)$$

soil water capacity = soil depth X porosity

evapotranspiration

1 equation  
3 parameters ( $Z^*, a, b$ ) +  $s(t)$   
... very SIMPLE!

During rainfall, surface runoff and evapotranspiration are assumed to be negligible (demonstrated in Brocca et al., 2015 JHH):

$$g(t) = as(t)^b$$

$$r(t) = 0$$

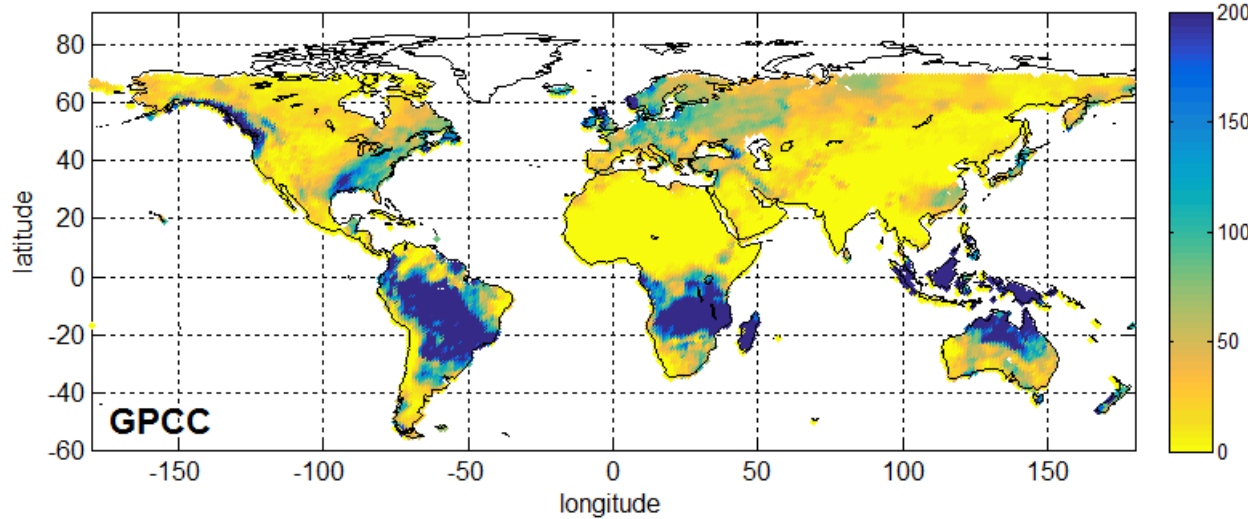
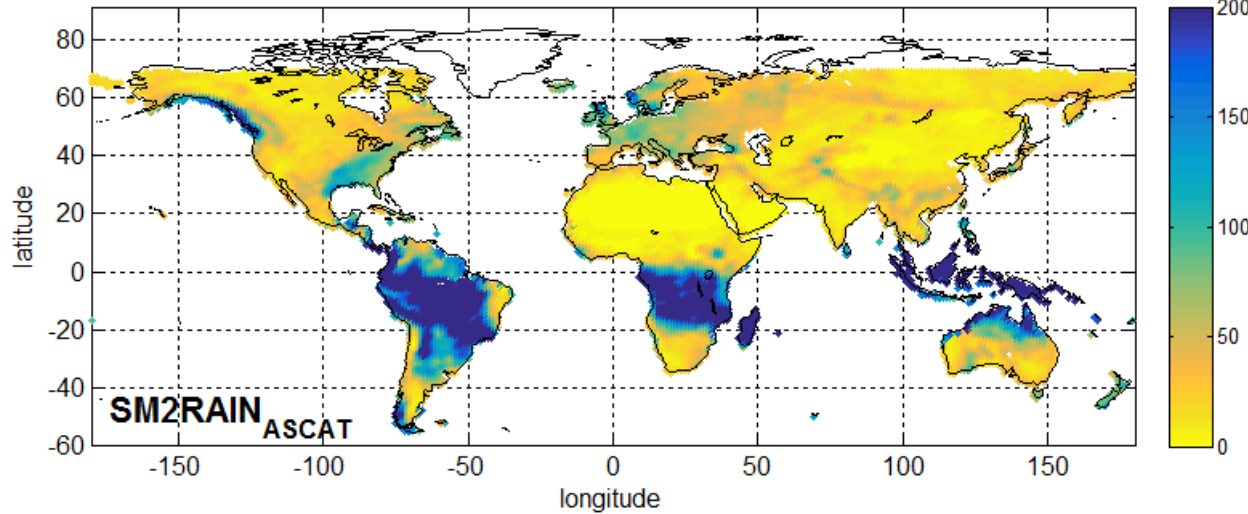
$$e(t) = 0$$



$$p(t) = Z^* ds(t)/dt + as(t)^b$$

# SM2RAIN: RAINFALL ESTIMATION FROM SOIL MOISTURE

MONTHLY RAINFALL - 01-2007



SM2RAIN is a new “bottom-up” approach (Brocca et al., 2014 JGR) for estimating the ACCUMULATED RAINFALL from satellite (and in situ) soil moisture observations



Brocca et al. (2014 JGR)

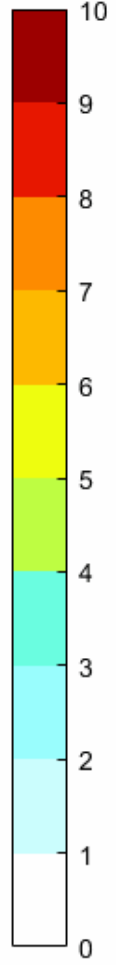
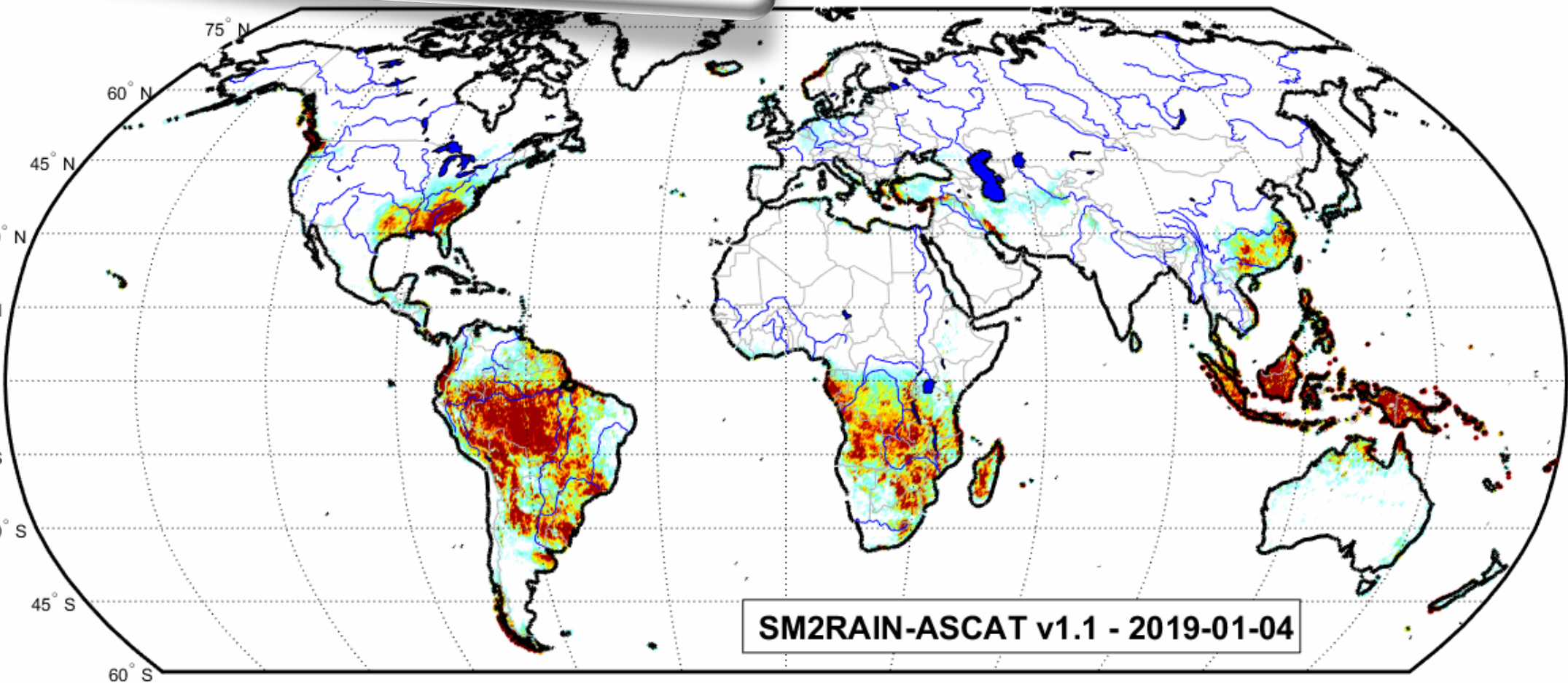
<https://doi.org/10.1002/2014JD021489>

# SM2RAIN: GLOBAL RAINFALL PRODUCTS

SM2RAIN-ASCAT

**SM2RAIN-ASCAT (2007-2018): global daily satellite rainfall data from ASCAT soil moisture observations**  
Luca Brocca<sup>1</sup>, Paolo Filippucci<sup>1</sup>, Sebastian Hahn<sup>2</sup>, Luca Ciabatta<sup>1</sup>, Christian Massari<sup>1</sup>, Stefania Camici<sup>1</sup>, Lothar Schüller<sup>3</sup>, Bojan Bojkov<sup>3</sup>, and Wolfgang Wagner<sup>2</sup>  
Open Access Earth System Science Data

Data Period: 2007-2019  
Spatial\Temporal Resolution: 12.5 km\1-day



Brocca et al. (2019) ESSD  
<https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-11-1583-2019>

SM2RAIN-ASCAT v1.1 - 2019-01-04

Freely available @ Zenodo  
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.2591214>

# WE HAVE A PROBLEM WITH SM2RAIN ☹️

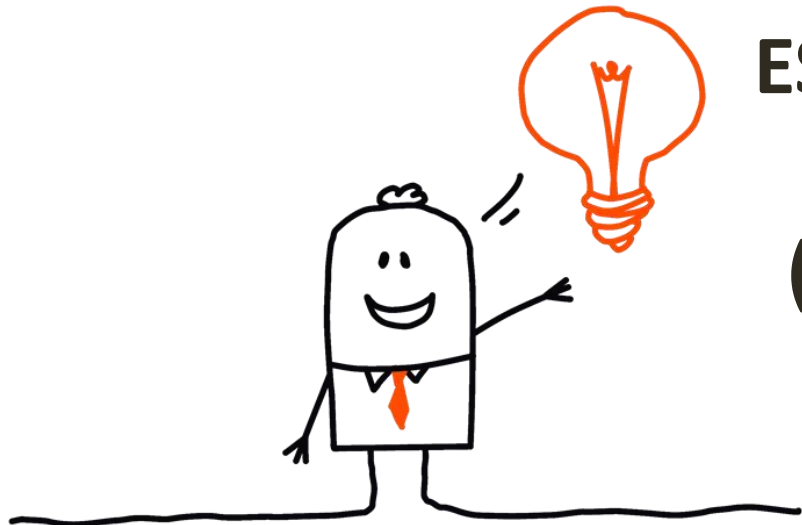
**Reviewer comment in one of our SM2RAIN paper**

Through soil moisture you don't see rainfall, but the total amount of water entering into the soil.

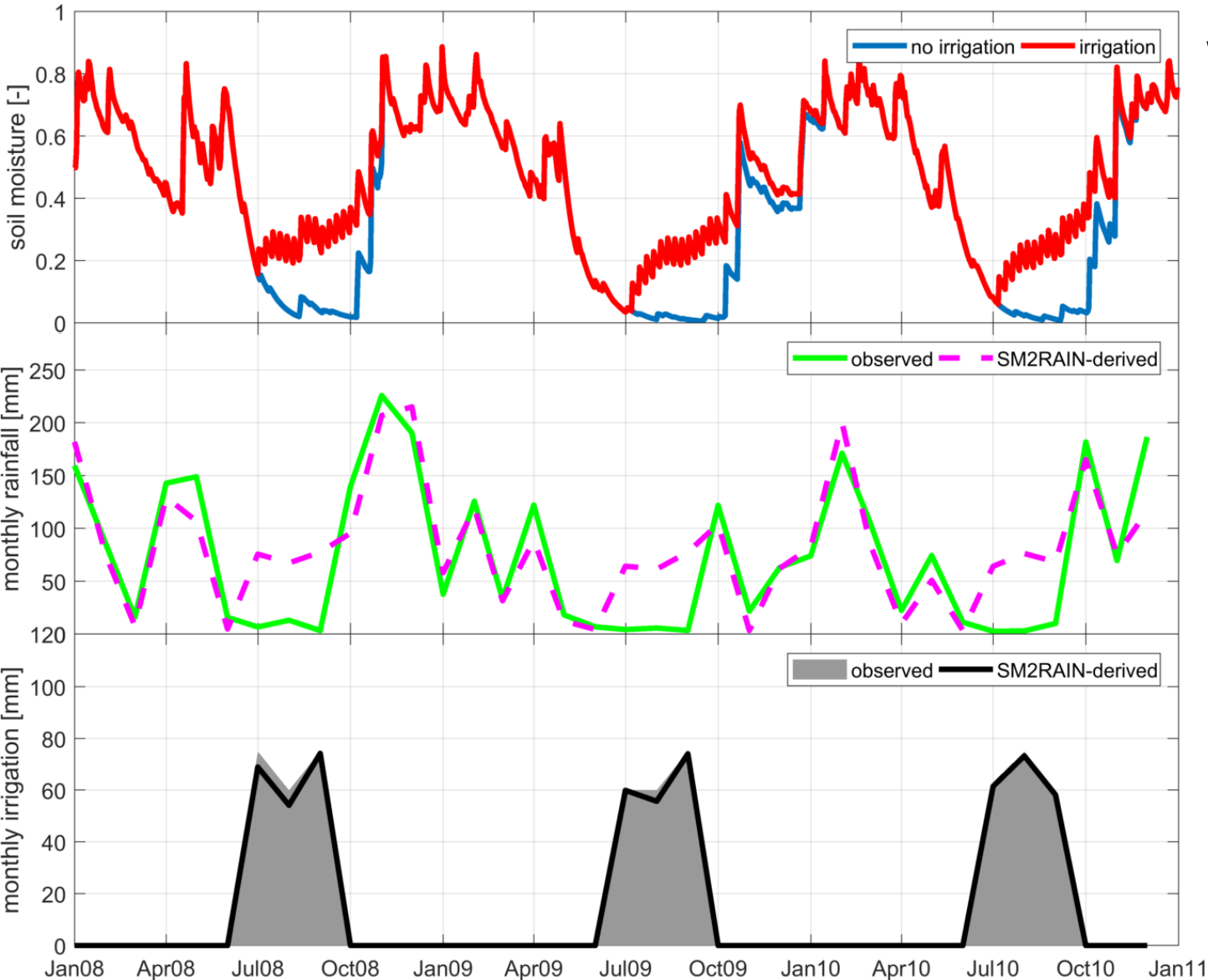
**You are getting WRONG results over irrigated areas**

**CAN WE USE SOIL MOISTURE FOR ESTIMATING IRRIGATION WATER VOLUMES?**

**(The missing variable in the WATER CYCLE)**



# IRRIGATION WATER FROM SOIL MOISTURE OBSERVATIONS

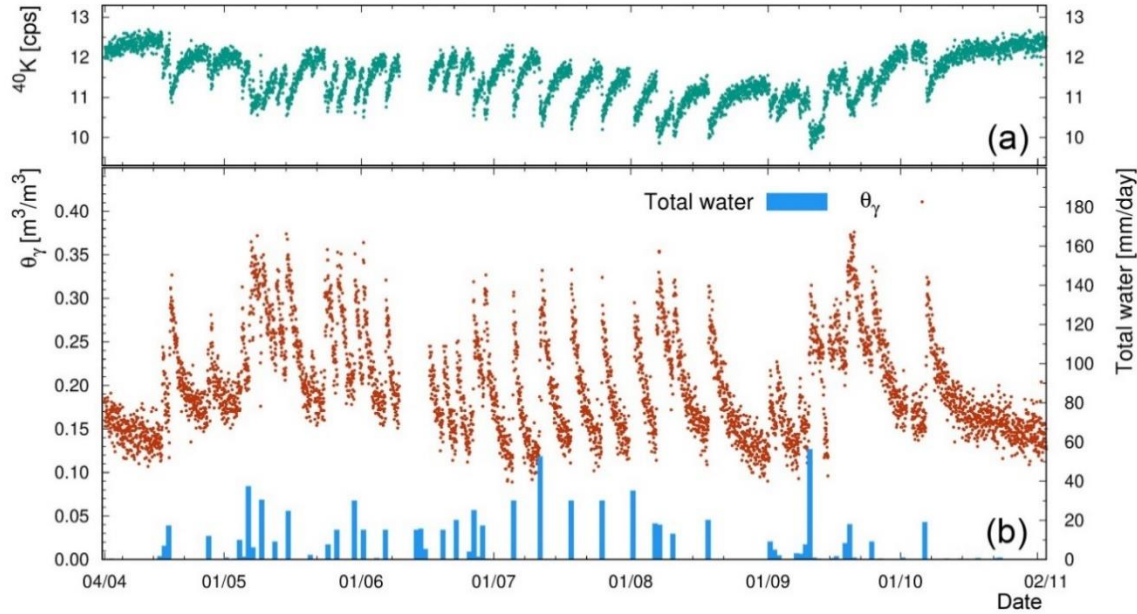


We simulate soil moisture without (blue line) and with (red line) irrigation

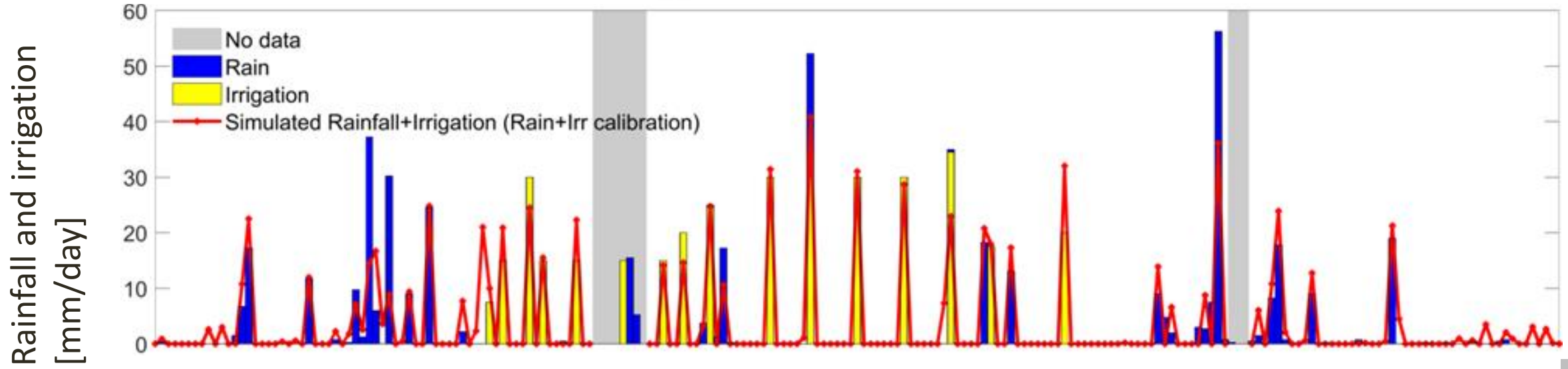
We apply SM2RAIN to synthetic soil moisture to obtain SM2RAIN-derived rainfall+irrigation (magenta line), compared with observed rainfall (green line).

We subtract observed rainfall (green line) from SM2RAIN-derived rainfall+irrigation (magenta line) to obtain irrigation (black line), compared with observed irrigation (grey area)

# IRRIGATION WATER FROM IN SITU SOIL MOISTURE OBSERVATIONS



Emilia Romagna (Italy)

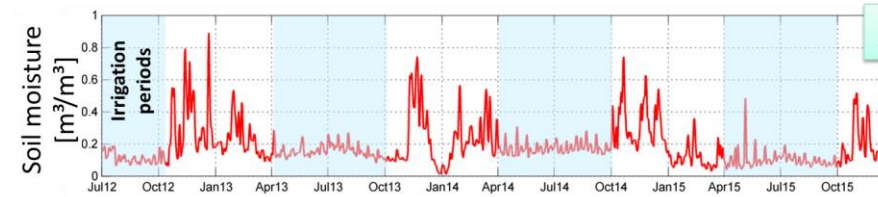
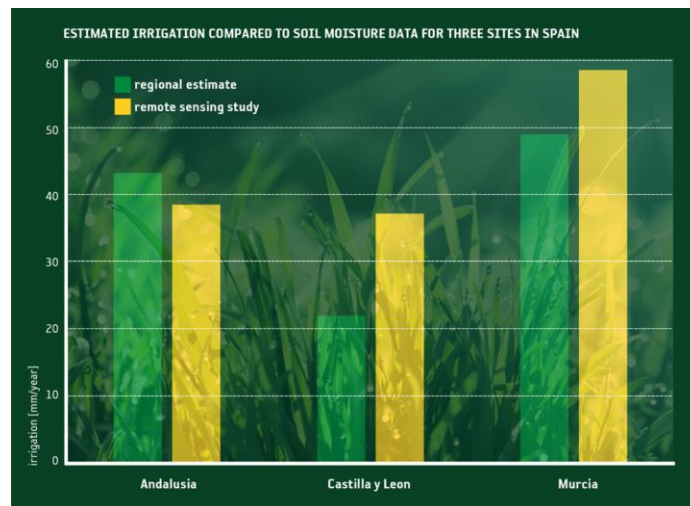
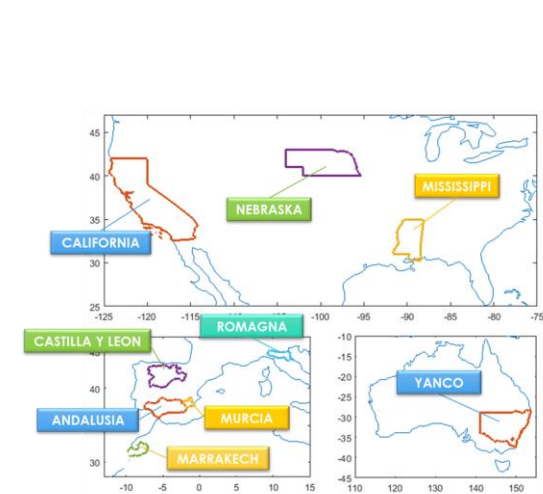


Filippucci et al. (2020 ADWR)  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.advwatres.2019.103502>

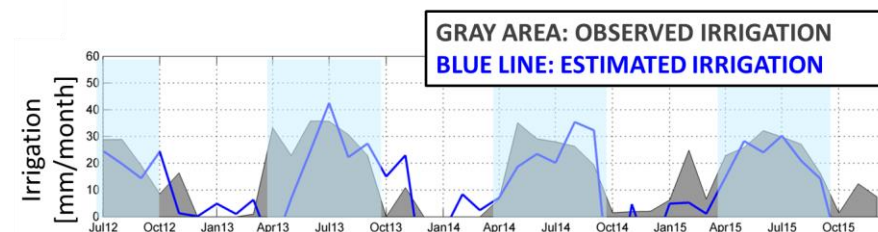
# REMOTE SENSING OF IRRIGATION FROM SOIL MOISTURE OBSERVATIONS



Authors	Year	Doi	Location
Brocca et al.	2018	10.1016/j.jag.2018.08.023	“Global”
Jalilvand et al.	2019	10.1016/j.rse.2019.111226	Iran
Zaussinger et al.	2019	10.5194/hess-23-897-2019	United States
Filippucci et al.	2020	10.1016/j.advwatres.2019.103502	Italy
Dari et al.	2020	10.3390/rs12162593	Spain
Zohaib & Choi	2020	10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.136719	Global
Abolafia-Rosenzweig et al.	2019	10.1029/2019MS001797	United States



AMSR2, Iran (Urmia Lake)





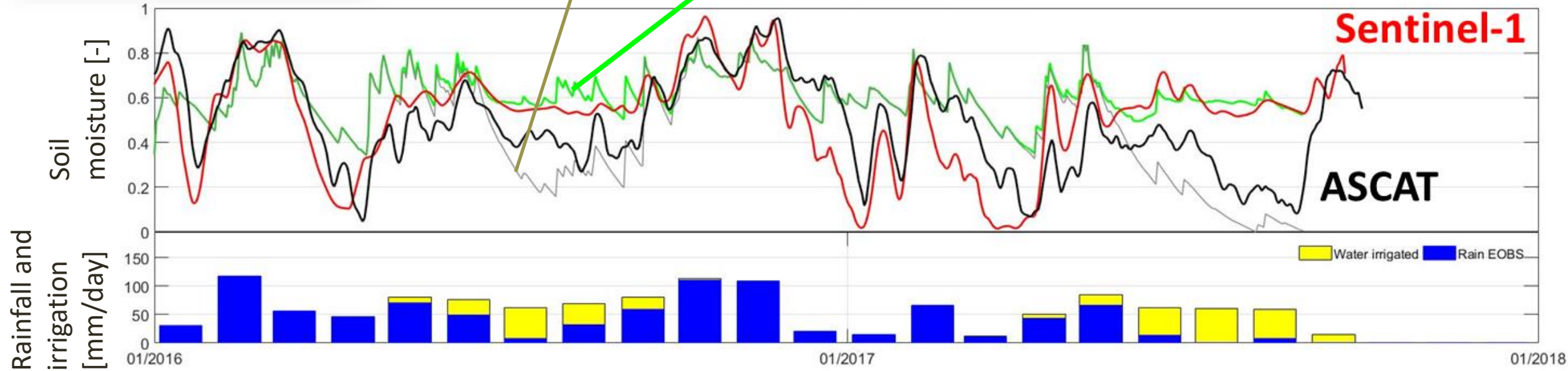
# SPACE-IRR

We have won the “BayWa Smart Farming Challenge” at 2018 COPERNICUS MASTER for the idea “SPACE-IRR – How Much Water for Irrigation?”



Simulated SM without IRRIGATION

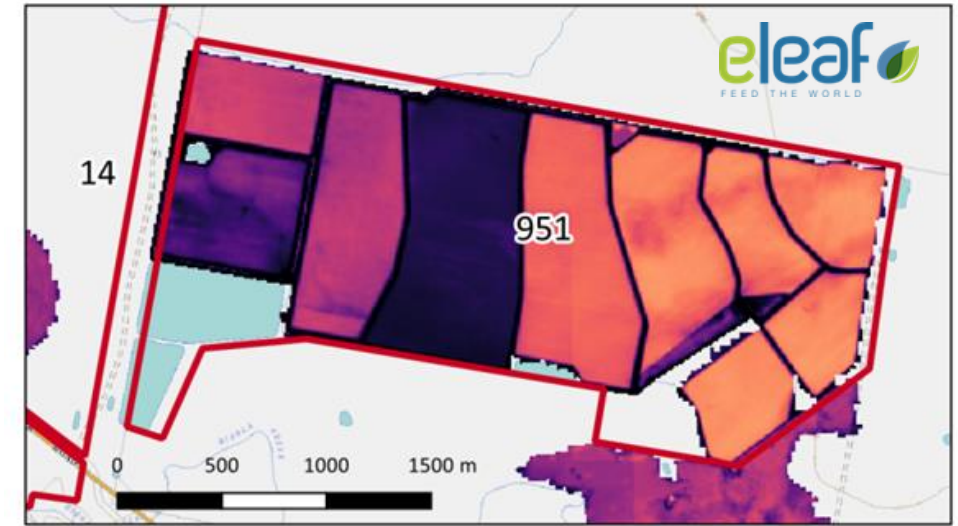
Simulated SM with IRRIGATION



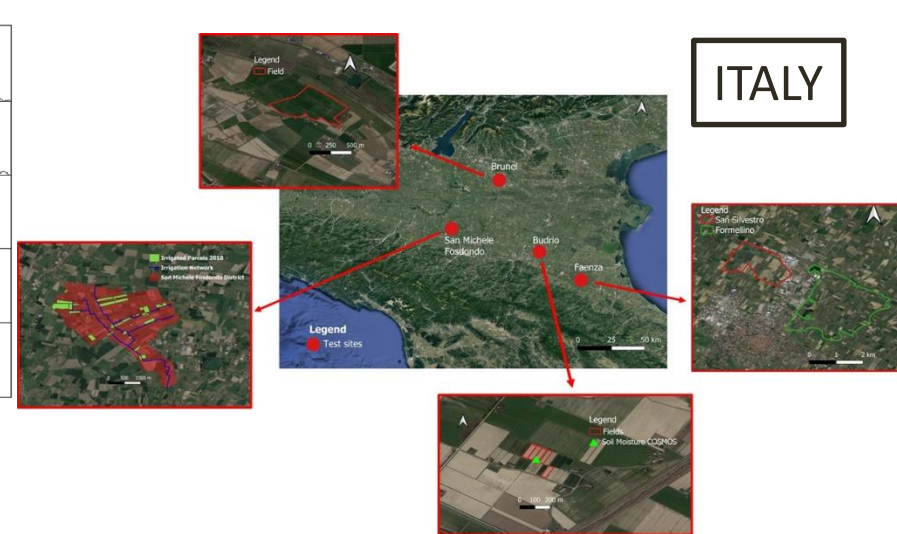
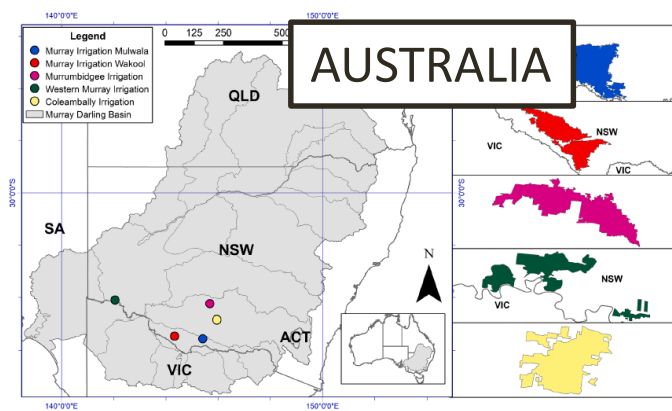
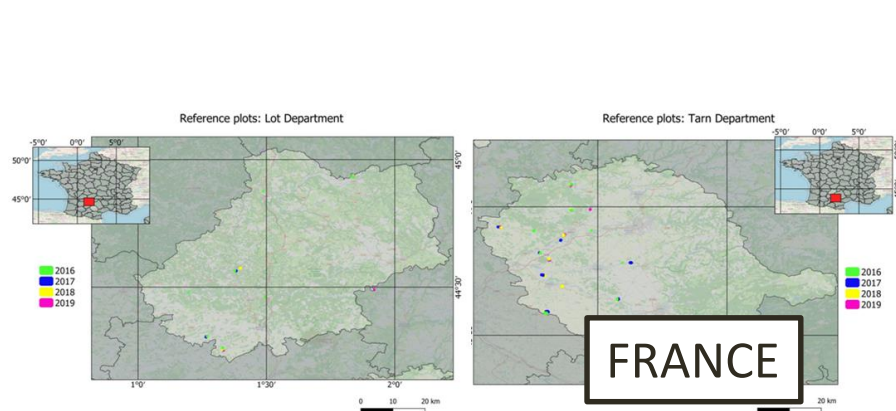
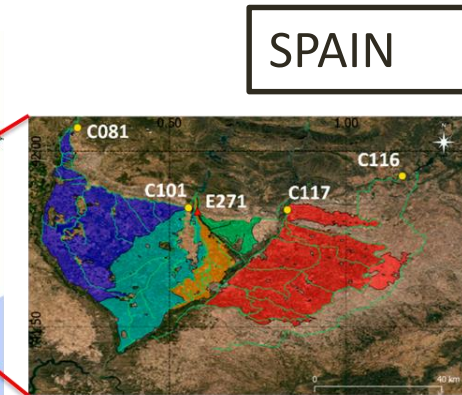
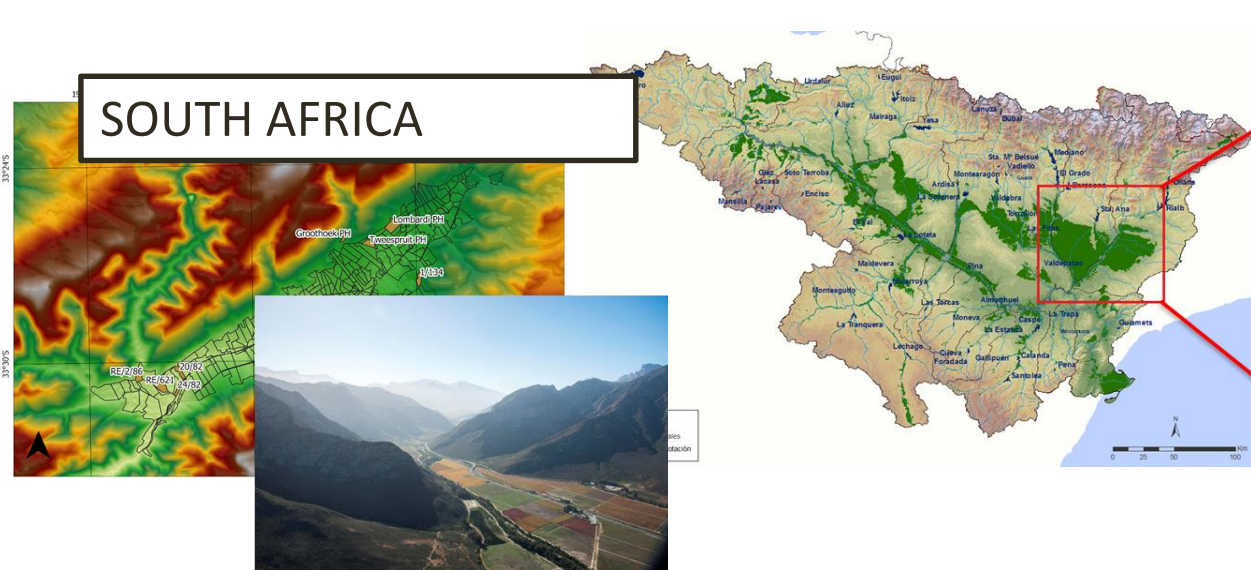
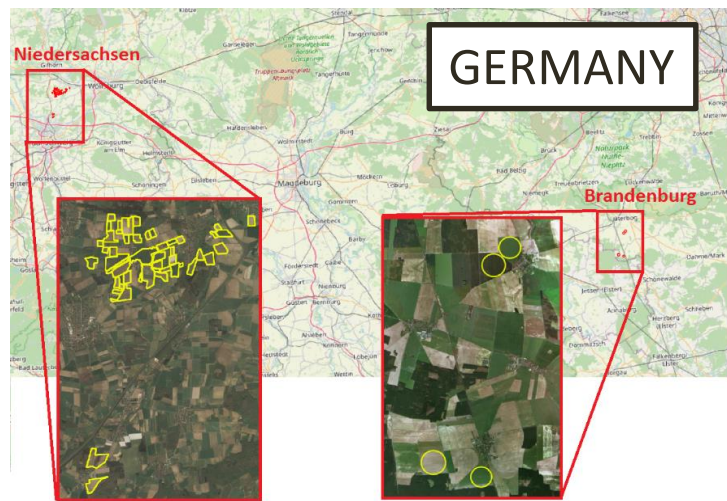
**Sentinel-1 (S1) seems to be able to see the irrigation signal at small spatial scale**

# IRRIGATION+ PROJECT

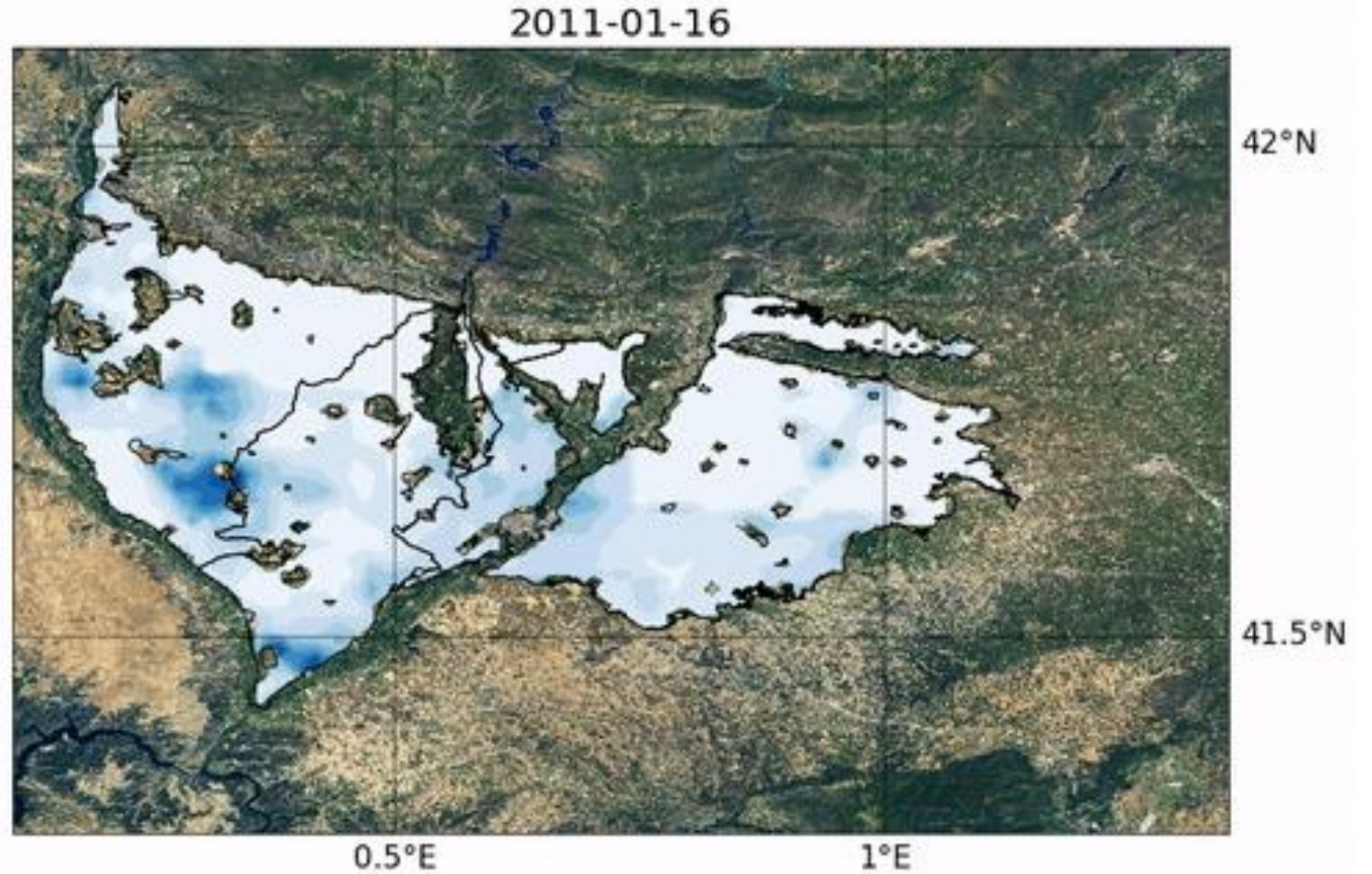
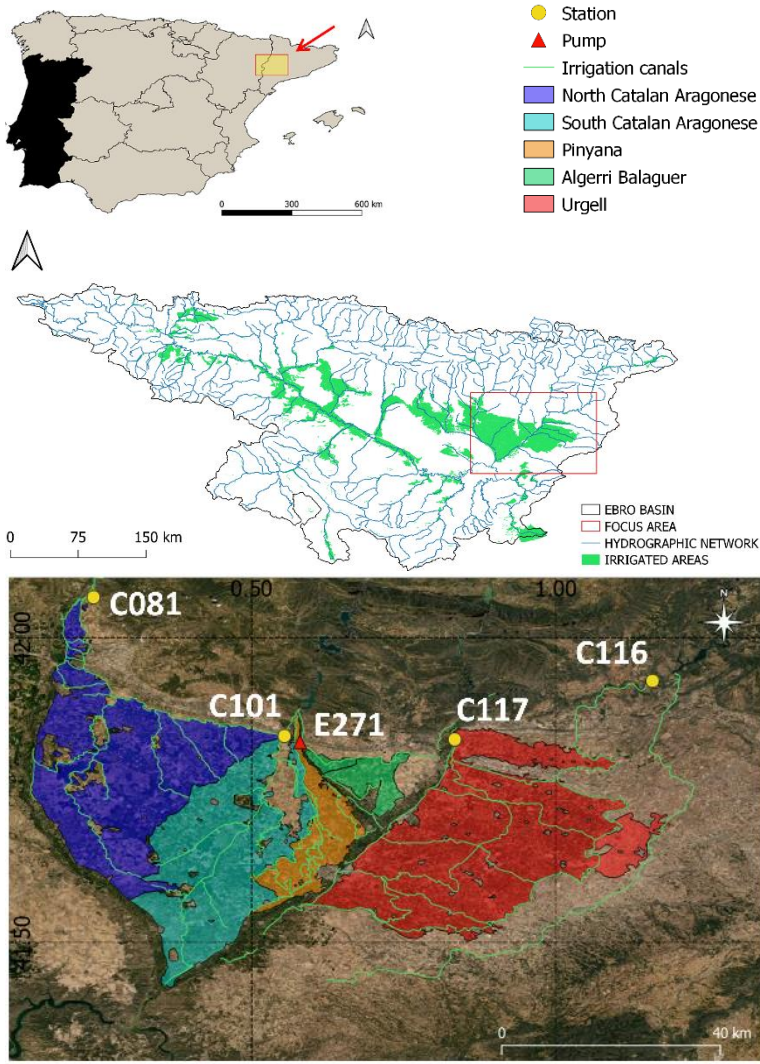
The **IRRIGATION+** ESA project aims to explore, develop and validate advanced EO-based algorithms and techniques for irrigation mapping, quantification and detection of seasonal timing of irrigation from field to regional/global scale.



# IRRIGATION+ PROJECT

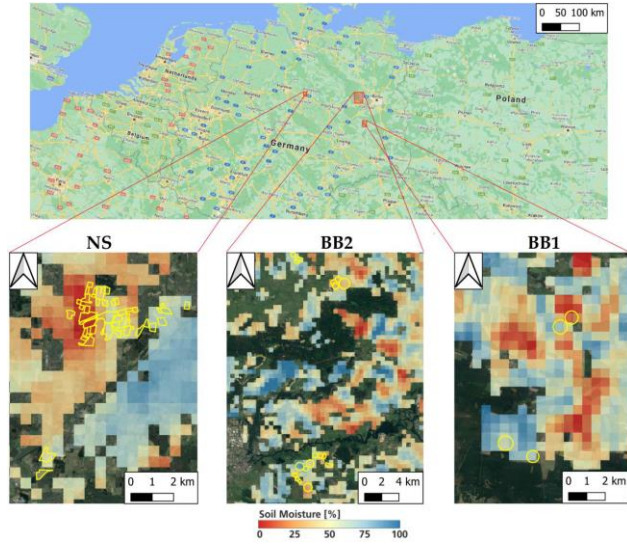
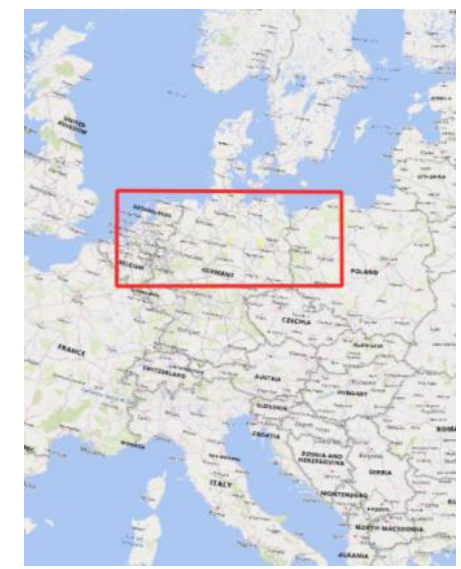


# IRRIGATION+ FIRST RESULTS

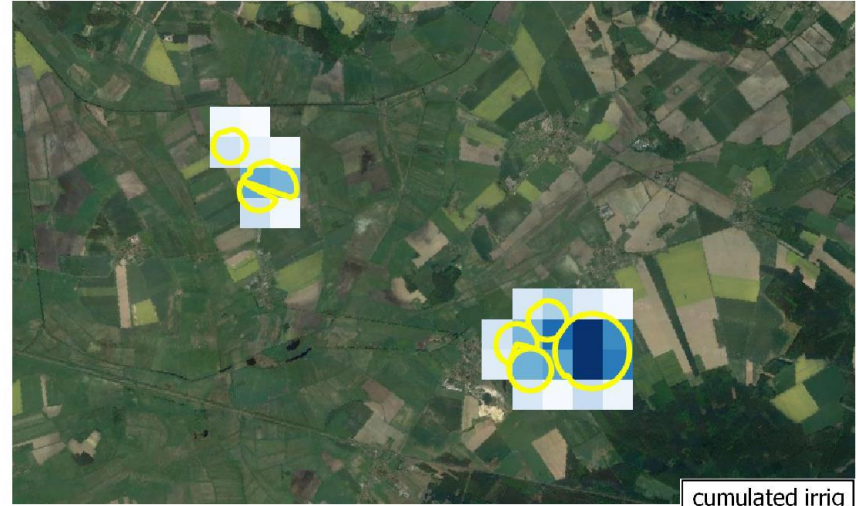


Dari et al. (2020 RS)  
<https://doi.org/10.3390/rs12162593>

# IRRIGATION+ FIRST RESULTS



**REPORTED**



**ESTIMATED**



Zappa et al. (2020 ESA EO4WATER)

<https://livestream.com/esa/events/9394033/videos/213543876>

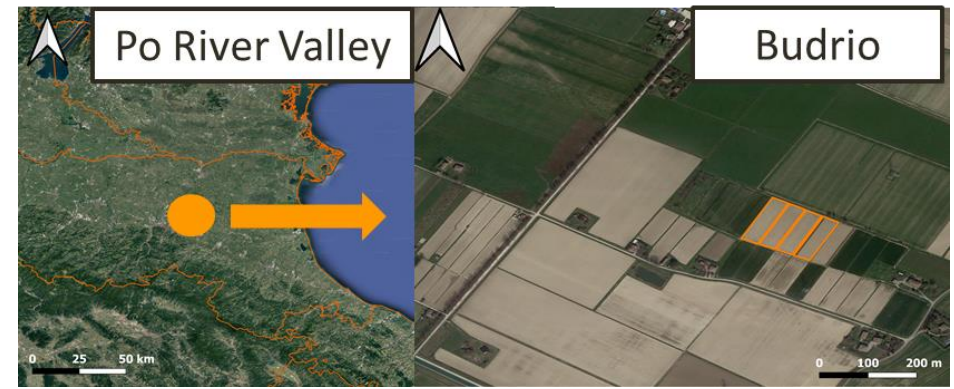
# IRRIGATION+ FIRST RESULTS

## Data Assimilation

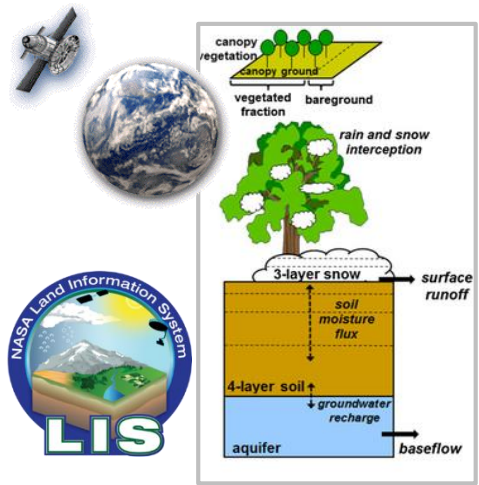
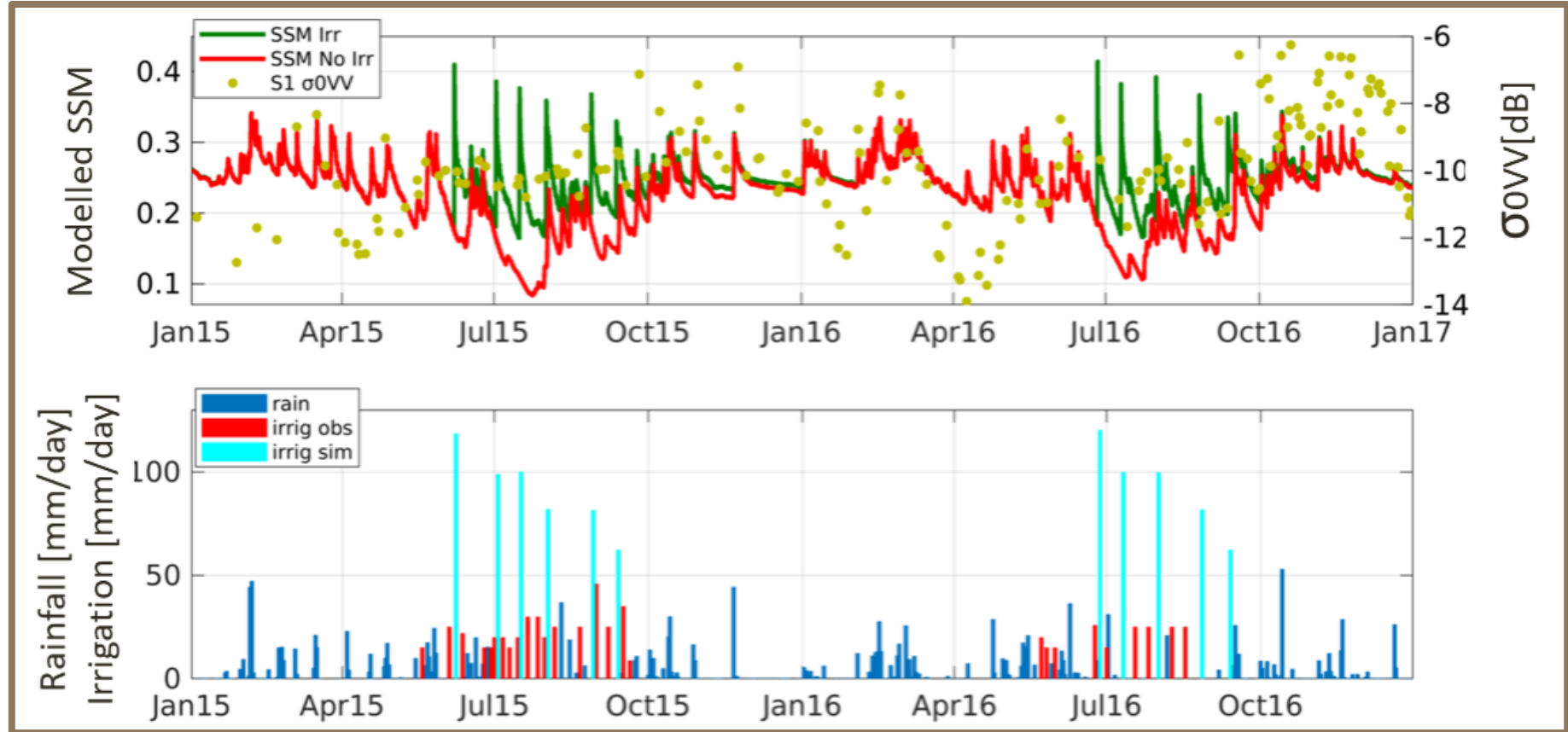
$$x^+ = x^- + K(y - h(x^-))$$

Noah MP v.3.6  
with/without irrigation  
(DOI: 10.1175/2009JHM1116.1)

+  
Water Cloud Model (WCM)  
(DOI:10.1029/RS013i002p00357)



Sentinel-1  
backscatter ( $\sigma^0$ )  
VV- VH



Modanesi et al. (EO4WATER, 2020)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0fRDBGedJA>

# KEEP HOME MESSAGE

## ADDITIONAL INFO

<http://hydrology.irpi.cnr.it/research/irrigation/>

✉ [luca.brocca@irpi.cnr.it](mailto:luca.brocca@irpi.cnr.it)  
[idrologia@irpi.cnr.it](mailto:idrologia@irpi.cnr.it)

🌐 <http://hydrology.irpi.cnr.it>

🐦 @Hydrology\_IRPI

- ❑ Irrigation is (very likely) the most important unknown in the water cycle
- ❑ High resolution hydrological modelling (DTE Hydrology) cannot be separated from the knowledge of human intervention on the water cycle (including irrigation)
- ❑ Remote sensing has potential to provide information on irrigation (where, when and how much)

How much water is used for irrigation?

