



Quantifying intra and inter-annual variation of MODIS derived leaf area index time-series 2000-2008

A. Lanorte, F. De santis, and R. Lasaponara
IMAA - CNR, Italy (lasaponara@imaa.cnr.it)

The Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) is a key instrument aboard NASA's Terra and Aqua satellites. Terra MODIS and Aqua MODIS image the entire Earth's surface every one to two days and provide vital information for global-change research. MODIS derived leaf area index (LAI) is an important parameter for describing vegetation canopy structure in the terrestrial ecosystem on the global, continental, and regional scales.

In this study we analyse intra and inter-annual variation of MODIS derived leaf area index time-series 2000-2008 data for Mediterranean ecosystems of Southern Italy. The objective is to explore seasonal trends in the phenology of southern Italy woodlands and shrublands and inter-annual long-term variations related to plant's photosynthesis process or growth status.