

# Use of Mohid-Land to model water balance for implementation of deficit irrigation in vineyards

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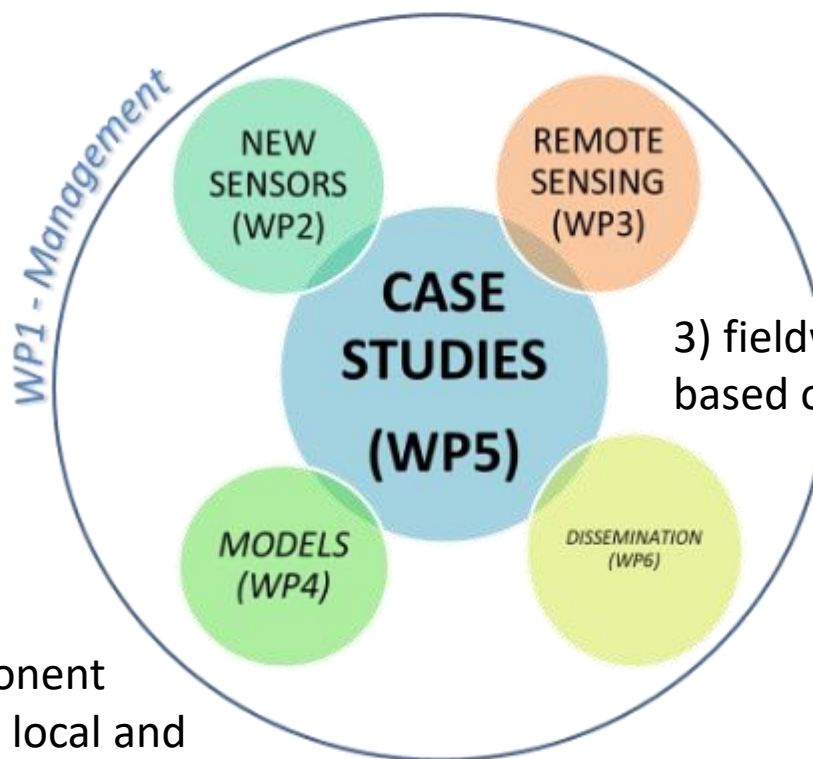
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## Water4Ever - Optimizing water use in Agriculture to preserve soil and water resources

The Water4ever project aims to increase irrigation water and fertilization efficiencies through precision irrigation. The project has 3 major components:

1) technological component devoted to the development of **new measuring technologies** based on **optical sensors**

2) **modelling** component addressing both the local and the catchment scales



3) fieldwork component based on **case studies**

The project aims also to improve modelling at plot and catchment scale in order to quantify the effect of agriculture practices on water availability and quality.

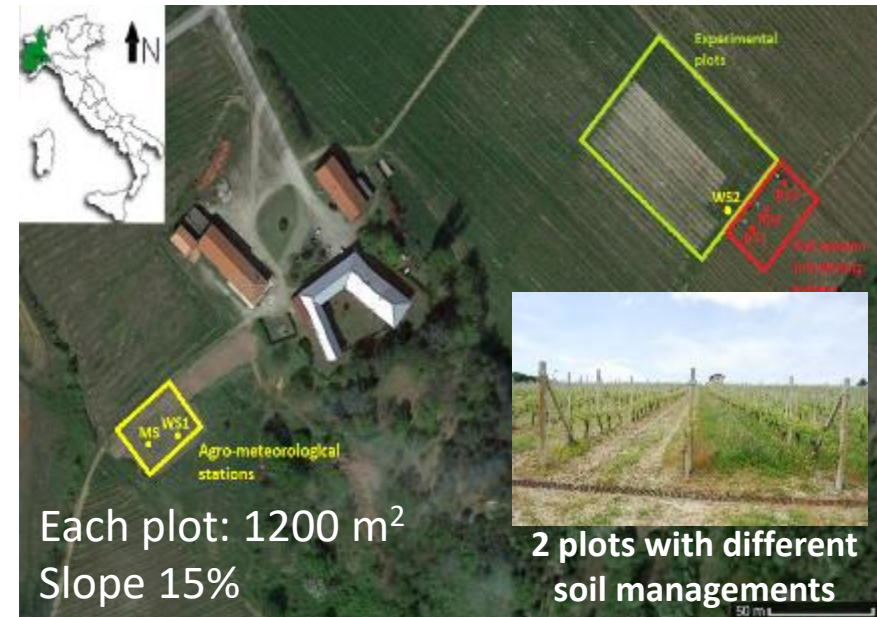
The **case studies (CS)** are dedicated to **vineyards** and fruit trees where the **new sensor** and modelling tools will be combined with **field data obtained by conventional monitoring** and **remote sensing**.

### CS Portugal – Irrigated vineyard - Vinha do Nilo (Companhia da Lezirias)



**Climate:** Dry sub-humid **MAP:** 669 mm  
**Soil:** Haplic Fluvisol  
**Precipitation:** 527 (2017) – 370 (2018)  
**Irrigation:** 358 (2017) – 242 (2018)

### CS Italy – Rainfed vineyard – Tenuta Cannona



Each plot: 1200 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Slope 15%

2 plots with different  
 soil managements

**Climate:** Mediterranean **MAP:** 852 mm  
**Soil:** Dystric Cambisol  
**Precipitation:** 778 (2016) – 493 (2017)





Vinha do Nilo: (a) Vegetative season – (b) Dormancy season



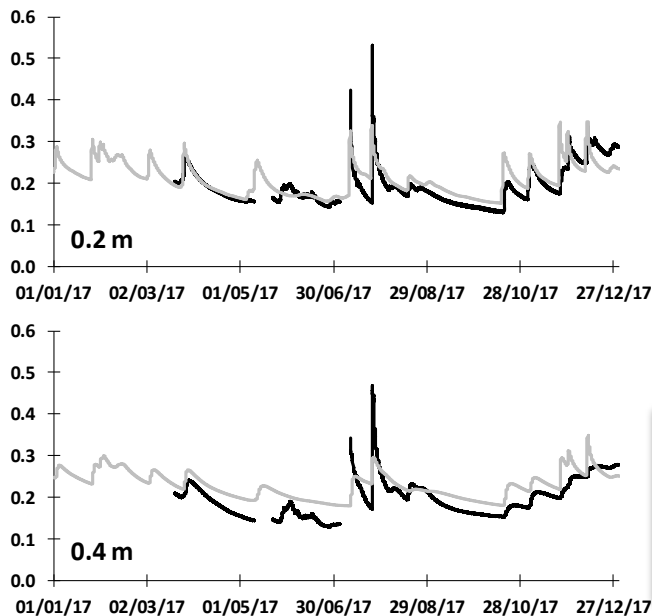
Tenuta Cannona: (c) Conventional tillage plot – (d) Grass cover plot(GC)

The [MOHID-Land model](#) has been **calibrated** and implemented at plot scale to obtain **water balance estimation** for the vineyards

Water inputs (**precipitation** and **irrigation**), **meteorological** variables and **soil water content** at different depths have been monitored in both plots during two years (2017-2018), using field sensors.

### Vinha do Nilo

- Climate data
- Irrigation data
- SWC probes (-10, -20, -30, -40, -50, -60, -70, and -80 cm).



### Tenuta Cannona

- Meteorological data
- SWC in the CT and GC plot in the inter-rows:
- 2 positions: T & NT
- 4 depth (-10 cm; -20 cm; -30 cm; -40 cm)
- Runoff monitoring

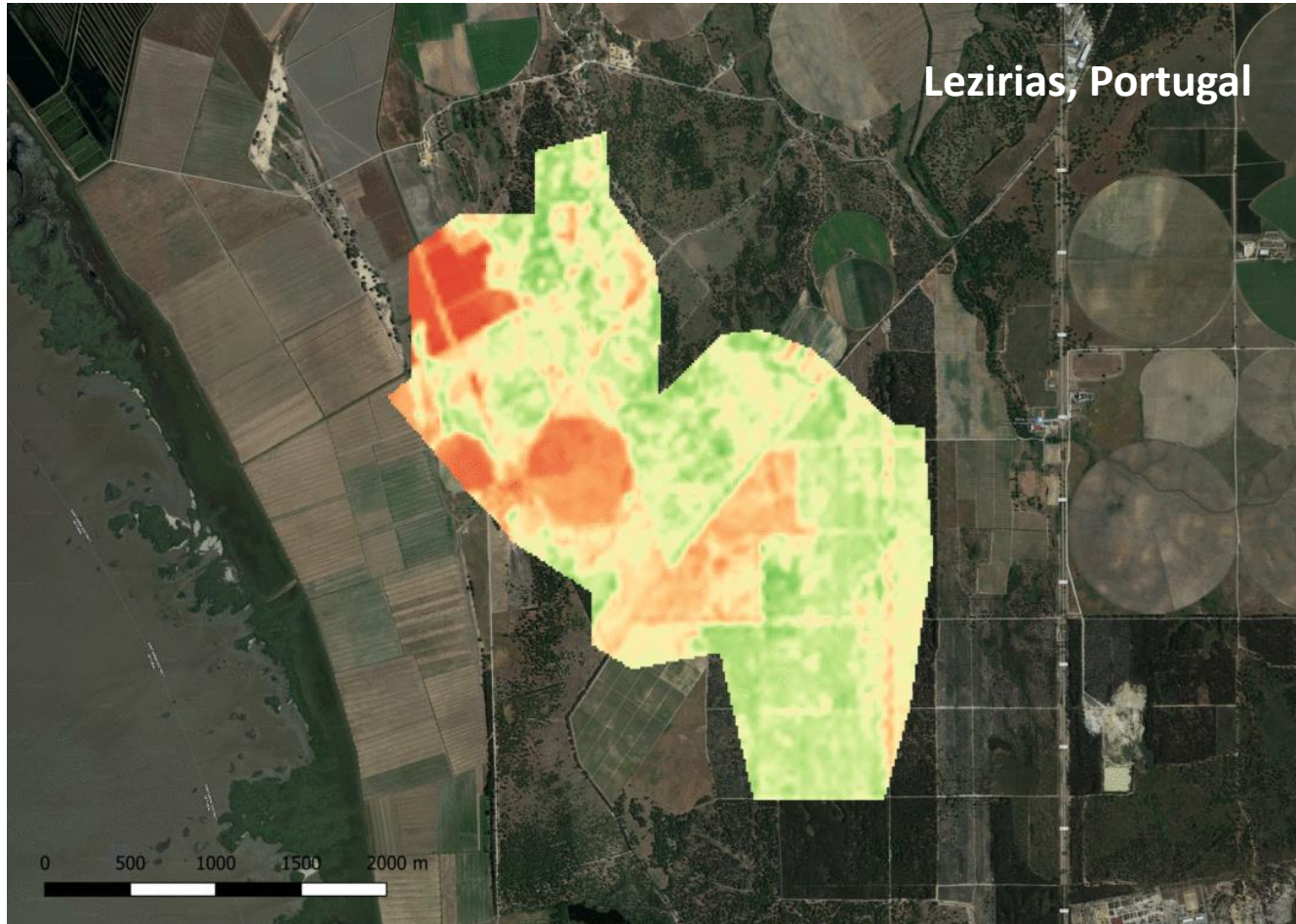
Irrigation was monitored with a flow meter installed on the irrigation pipe.





The **vegetative development** of the vineyards has been estimated from remote imagery provided by Deimos using their **service4EO** platform.

**LAI maps (30m)** were obtained from Landsat 8 satellite images



$$LAI = -\frac{1}{a_2} \ln \left( \frac{a_0 - SAVI}{a_1} \right)$$

where

$$SAVI = \frac{(\rho_{850} - \rho_{650}) * 1.5}{\rho_{850} + \rho_{650} + 0.5}$$

is the “Soil Adjusted Vegetation Index”

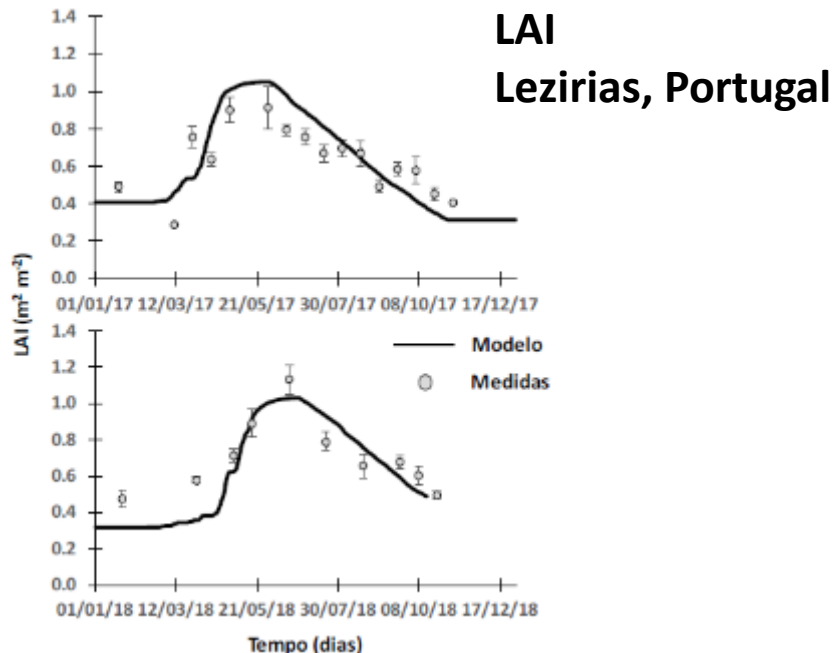
MOHID-Land is a physically-based, spatially distributed, continuous, variable time step model: water flows in porous media are calculated using a finite volume method by means of Richards equation.

In the MOHID-Land model, the partition of the cultural evapotranspiration ( $ET_c$ ) in transpiration potential ( $T_p$ ) and potential evaporation ( $E_p$ ) is done in function of the LAI.

$$T_p = ET_c (1 - e^{(-\lambda LAI)})$$

$$E_p = ET_c - T_p$$

The **field** and **remote datasets** were used to **calibrate** and **validate** the MOHID-Land model



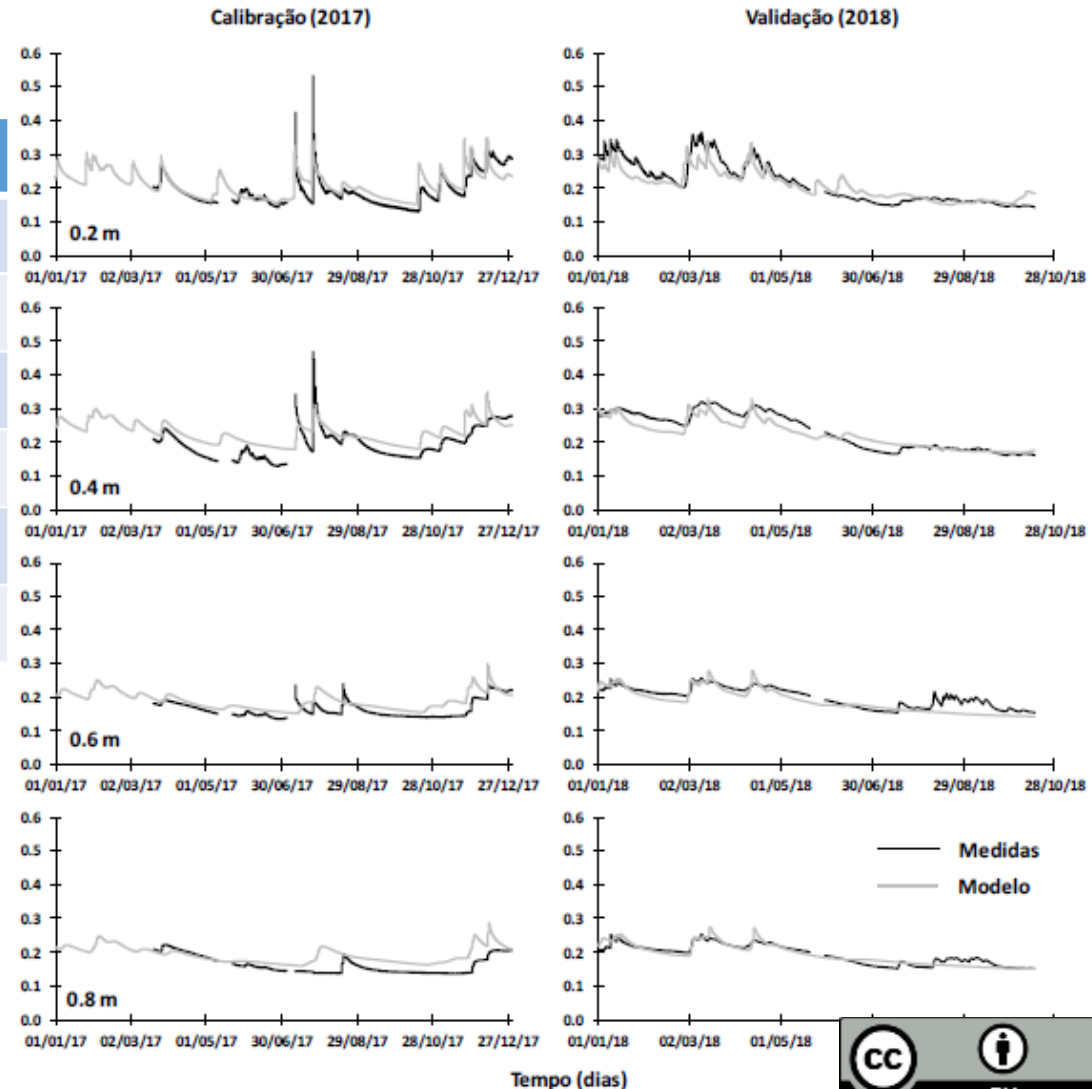
	LAI	
	2017 (cal)	2018 (val)
R <sup>2</sup>	0.846	0.896
RMSE	0.139	0.125
NRMSE	0.206	0.210
PBIAS	-4.22	7.10
NSE	0.365	0.602

The **calibration process** involved adjusting hydraulic parameters of the soil and growth of the culture, in order to reduce the deviations between simulations and observed values of **LAI** and **soil water content**

Vinha do Nilo - Portugal

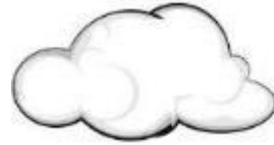
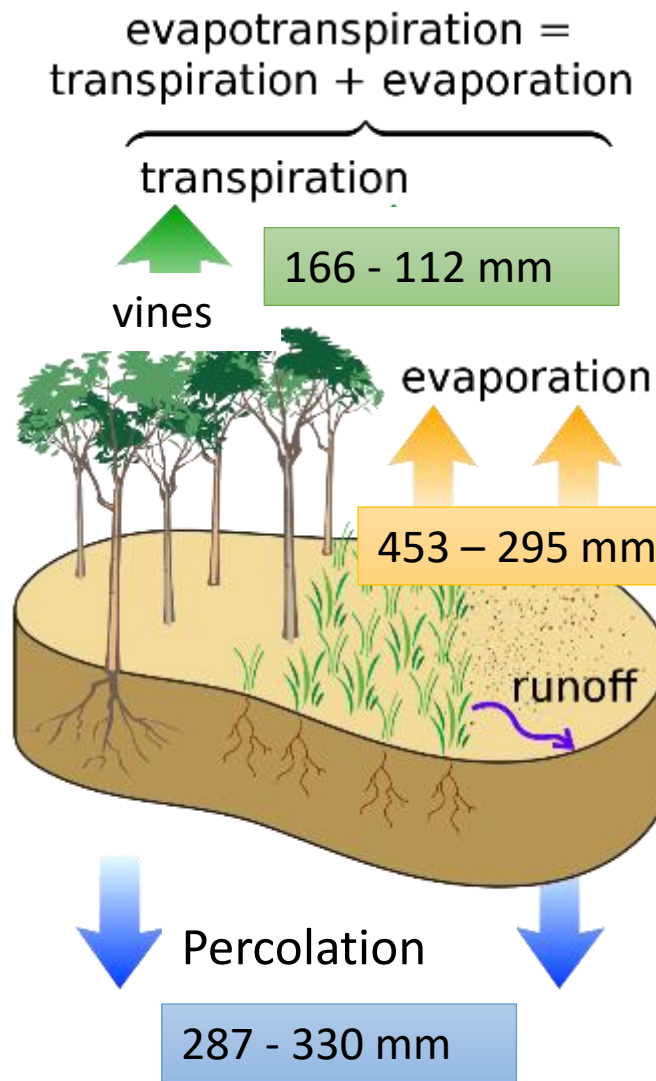
	Soil water content	
	2017 (cal)	2018 (val)
R <sup>2</sup>	0.800	0.853
RMSE	0.033	0.029
NRMSE	0.016	0.012
PBIAS	-11.25	3.25
NSE	0.425	0.706

The model showed **satisfactory to good efficiency**





## Vinha do Nilo - Portugal



### Precipitation

527 - 370 mm

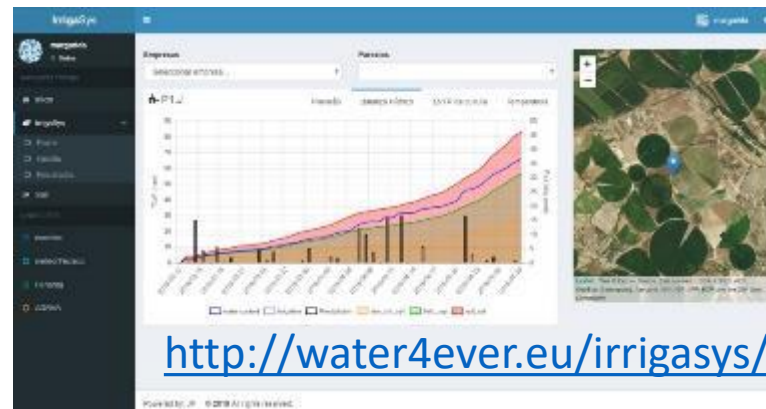


### Irrigation

358 - 242 mm

The applied  
irrigation induced  
water stress  
between 5 and 8%.

MOHID-Land model is used to compute the soil water dynamics in the IrrigaSYS Decision Support Irrigation System combining hydrological and meteorological modeling tools to improve irrigation water use.



<http://water4ever.eu/irrigasys/>

(credit: M.W. Toews, CC BY 4.0,  
modified)

## Italian study case



$K_s = 547-1502$   
 $\text{mm h}^{-1}$

Just after tillage



$K_s = 30-362$   
 $\text{mm h}^{-1}$

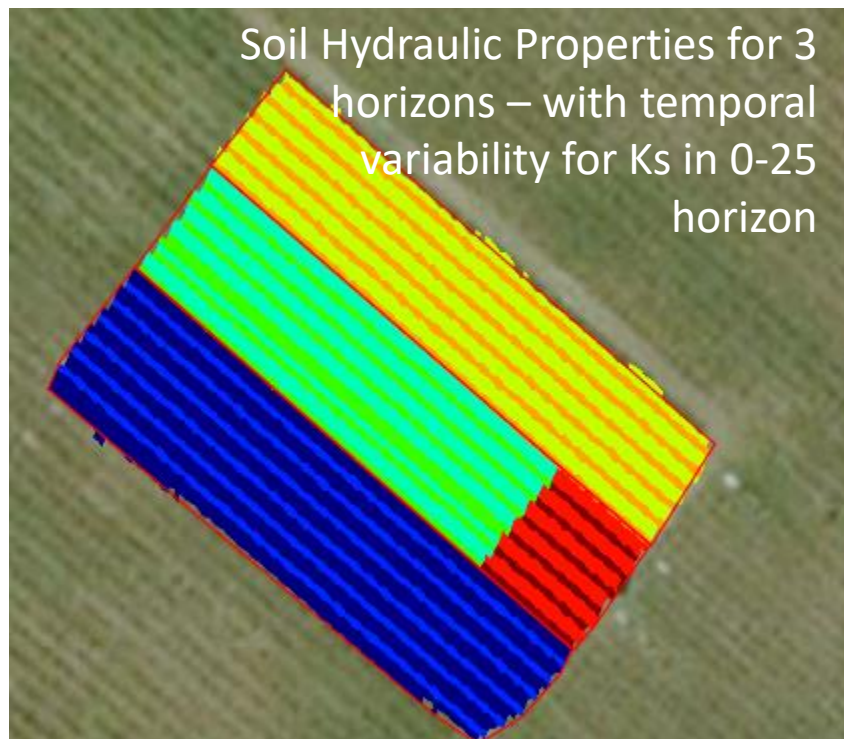
After 1-3 tractor passages



$K_s$  vary temporally and according to soil management – influencing water infiltration



In the 2 plots with different management, field-surveys to obtain hydraulic properties with  $K_s$  seasonal values (surface) were conducted in **CT** and **GC**



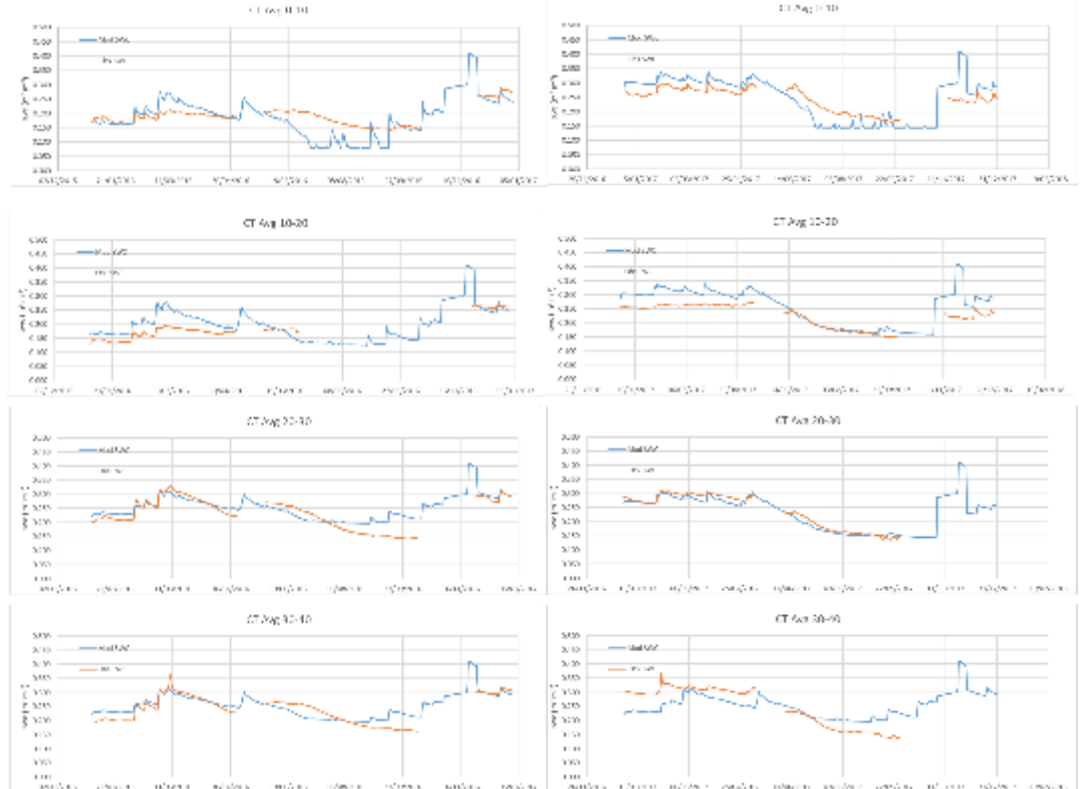
The Italian study case was also used to estimate the water balance in two growing seasons with warm conditions, in order to evaluate the different behaviour with respect to the adopted soil management and the needing to introduce irrigation in a region where vines are traditionally rainfed.

Tenuta Cannona - Italy

## SWC CT 2016 (calibration) SWC CT 2017 (validation)

	Soil water content CT	
	2016 (cal)	2017 (val)
R <sup>2</sup>	0.567	0.536
RMSE	0.037	0.025
PBIAS	2.199	1.108
NSE	0.443	0.787

Validations' results were  
**very good for CT...**



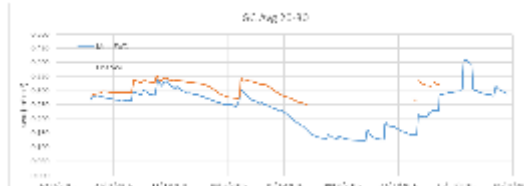
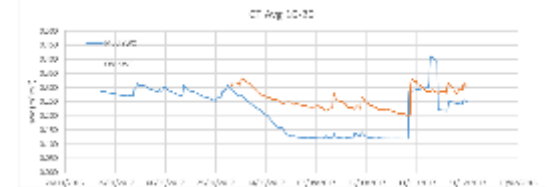


## Tenuta Cannona - Italy

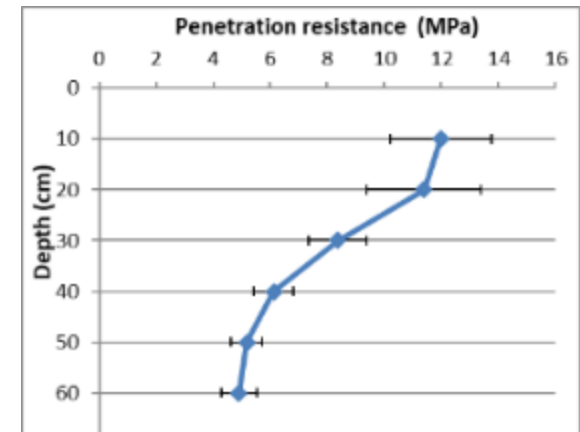
The performance was lower for **GC**

### Soil water content GC

	2016 (cal)	2017 (val)
$R^2$	0.228	0.672
RMSE	0.029	0.048
PBIAS	-2.134	-8.745
NSE	0.971	-0.341



Preliminary results showed the needing of take into account , in modelling at field scale, the effects of inter-row's soil managements, because it directly affects water uptake, evapotranspiration and the seasonal variability of  $K_s$  due to soil compaction.



Evaluation of hydraulic conductivity and compaction along the soil profile

Tenuta Cannona - Italy



Precipitation



transpiration

75 – 109 mm

evaporation

313 – 304 mm

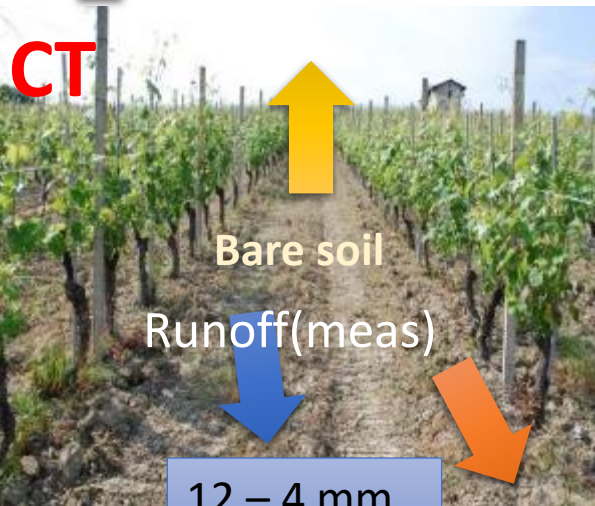
778 – 493 mm

evaporation

381 - 332 mm

82 - 98 mm

transpiration



Bare soil

Runoff(meas)

12 – 4 mm

Percolation

378 – 76 mm

Vs



Grass cover

Runoff(meas)

5.6 – 2 mm

Percolation

308 - 62 mm

Soil loss (meas)

1057 – 4 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>

Soil loss (meas)

107 – 0.4 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>

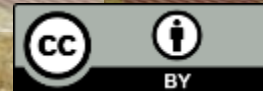
In 2017, a very dry season, the model calculated that water infiltration was 15% - 13% of precipitation in CT and GC, respectively.

Calibration of MOHID-Land model was performed using remote sensing data (LAI), and in-field monitoring (SWC and Ks)

The MOHID-Land model was able to reproduce successfully measured values of water content in the soil over two years in different study cases.

To obtain more accurate results in vineyards, it is necessary to consider the effects of the adopted inter-row's soil managements.

The performance of MOHIDLand in modelling soil water dynamics in a permanent culture like vines can be considered acceptable to support the IrrigaSys decision support system, using the Portuguese study case as reference for weekly irrigation recommendation in the region.



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