

An integrative information aqueduct to  
close the gaps between global satellite  
observation of water cycle and local  
sustainable management of water resources



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Nasta, Ruodan Zhuang, Nicolas Francos, János Mészáros,  
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Blatchford, Chris Mannaerts*



## OBJECTIVES

iAqueduct will integrate the various components ***from the global water cycle observation to local soil and water states*** in an open-source water information system and test and demonstrate their utility on pan-European scale at a set of carefully selected research sites for sustainable management of water resources.

## CONSORTIUM DESCRIPTION



# WP DESCRIPTION

Site1. Twente. NL

Temperate, Hot Summer

Site2. Zala, HU

Cold, Humid, Warm Summer

Site3. Alento, IT

Temperate, Dry Hot Summer

Site4. Corleto, IT

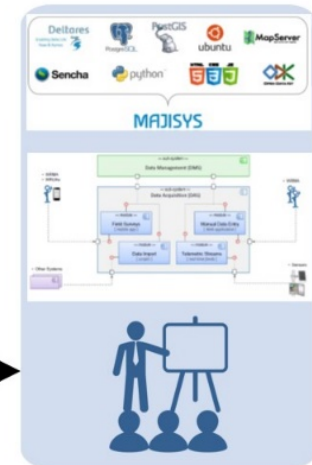
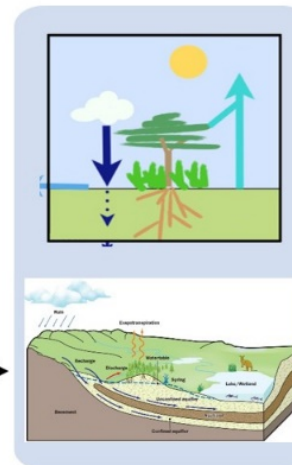
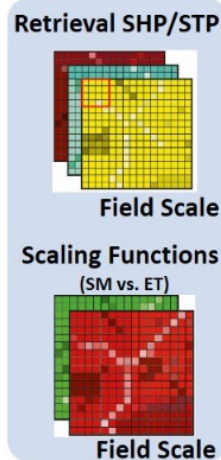
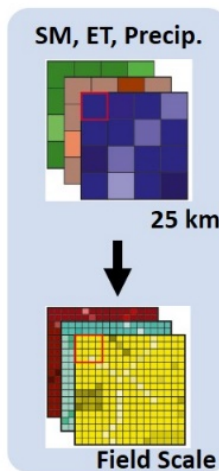
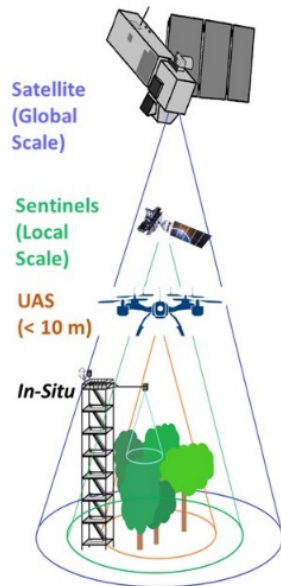
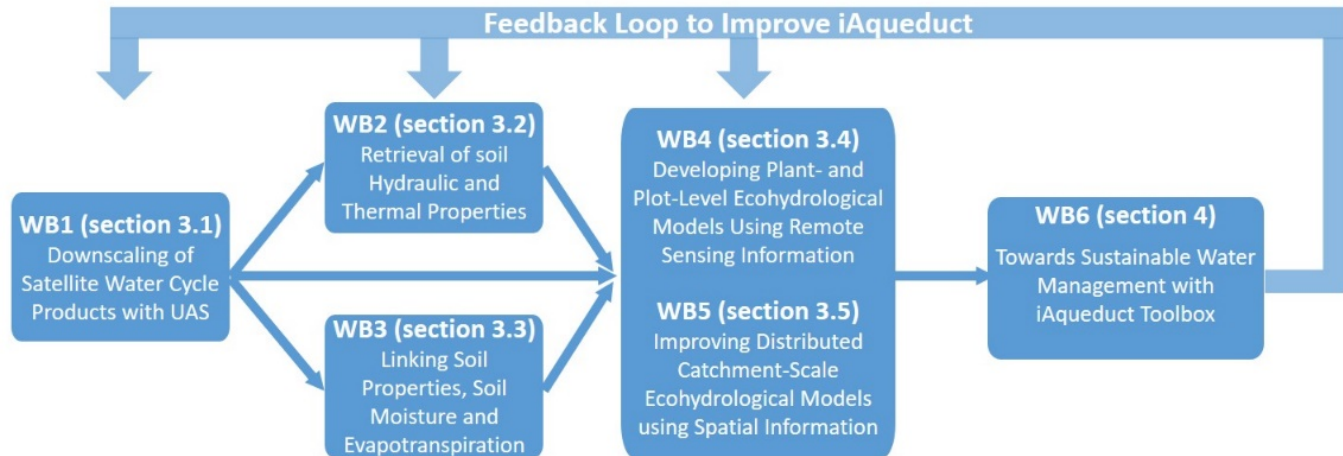
Temperate, Dry Warm Summer

Site5. Barranco del Carraixet, ES

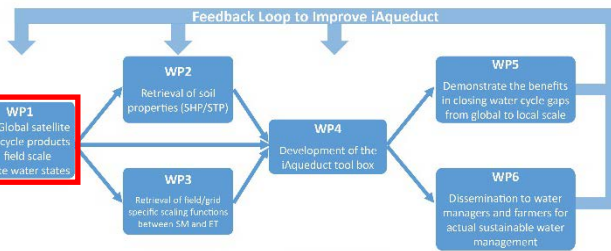
Arid, Steppe, Cold

Site6. K.S. Yoav & Afeka, IL

Arid, Dry Hot Summer



(Su et al. 2020, Water, under review)



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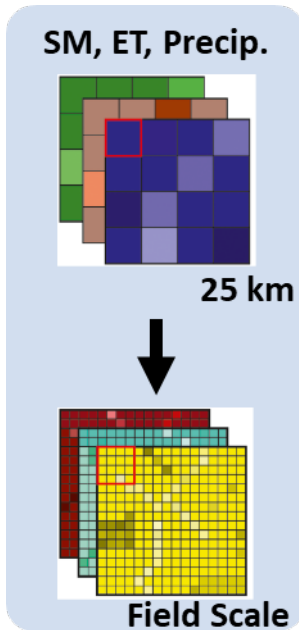
## WP I From Global satellite water cycle products to field scale satellite water states

### Task I.1 Spatial downscaling procedures and data products

- 1) Bayesian statistical bias correction of satellite data based on in-situ observation;
- 2) Development of downscaling methods by the use of Copernicus Sentinel1-2-3 data (concerning evapotranspiration and soil moisture);
- 3) Generation of high resolution water cycle products of soil moisture, vegetation patterns and vegetation stress, using UASs;
- 4) Characterization of the spatio-temporal distribution of soil moisture and evapotranspiration processes (UAS results vs. in-situ measurement);
- 5) Downscaling of the remote sensing data up to the field scale.

### Task I.2 Derive profile soil water content from surface soil moisture information

- 1) Prediction of root-zone SWC with the SMAR-EnKF, from Satellite and UASs;
- 2) The STEMMUS model to analyze the sensitivities of the predicted root-zone SWC.



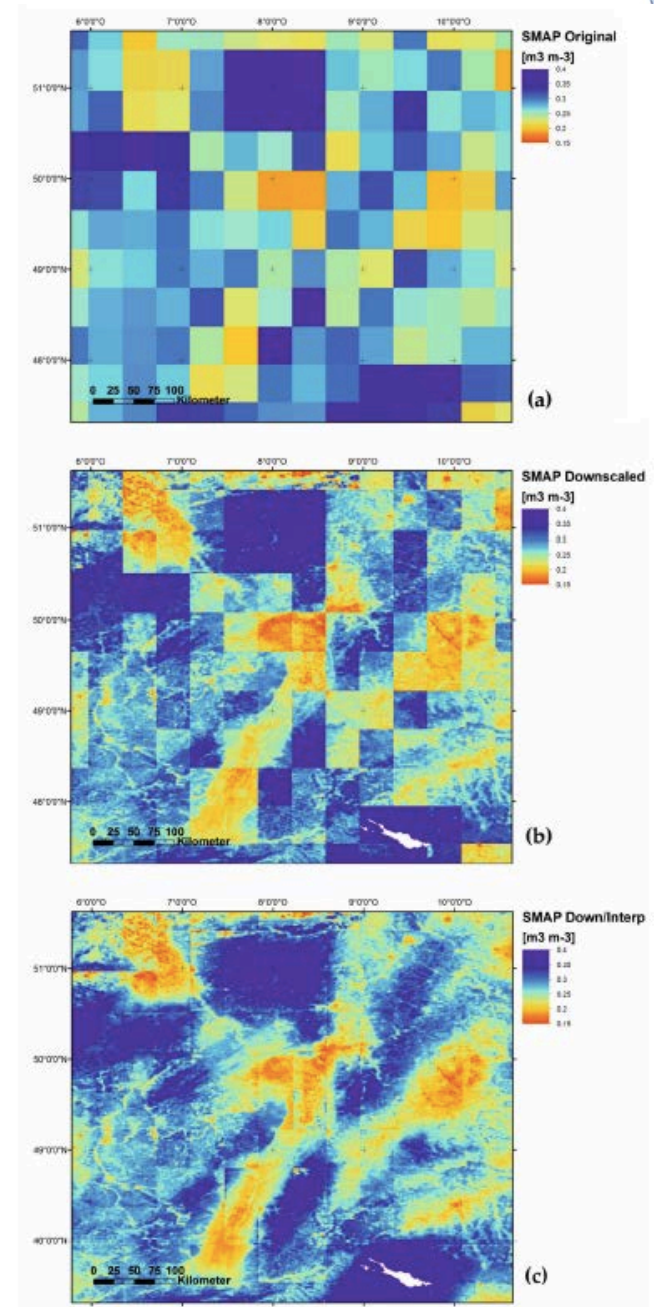
# Example 1: Sub-Grid Soil Moisture Variability Data for Downscaling

Earth observation data with a proven relationship to soil moisture variability such as surface temperature, vegetation, a combination of both, radar backscatter, or even soil texture.

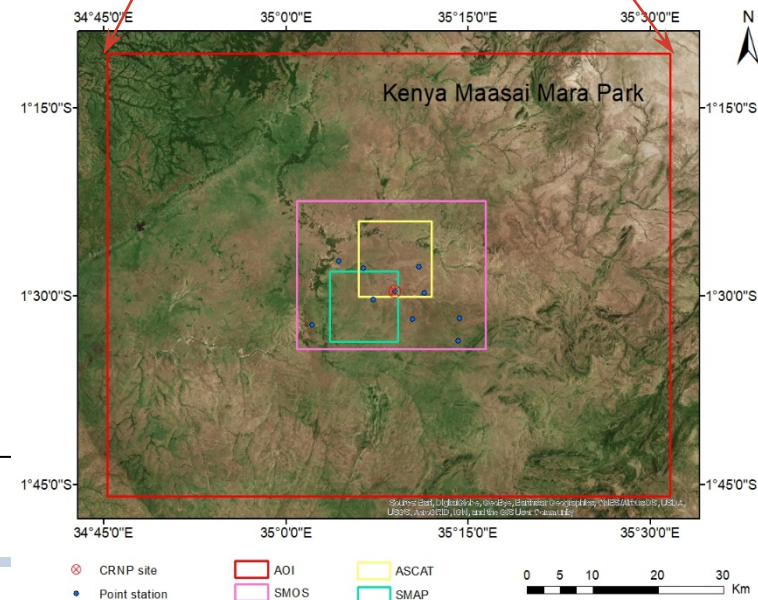
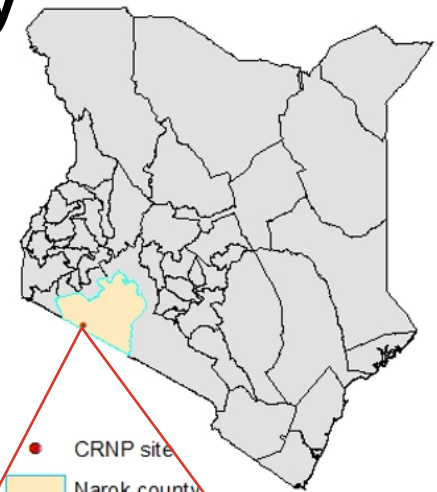
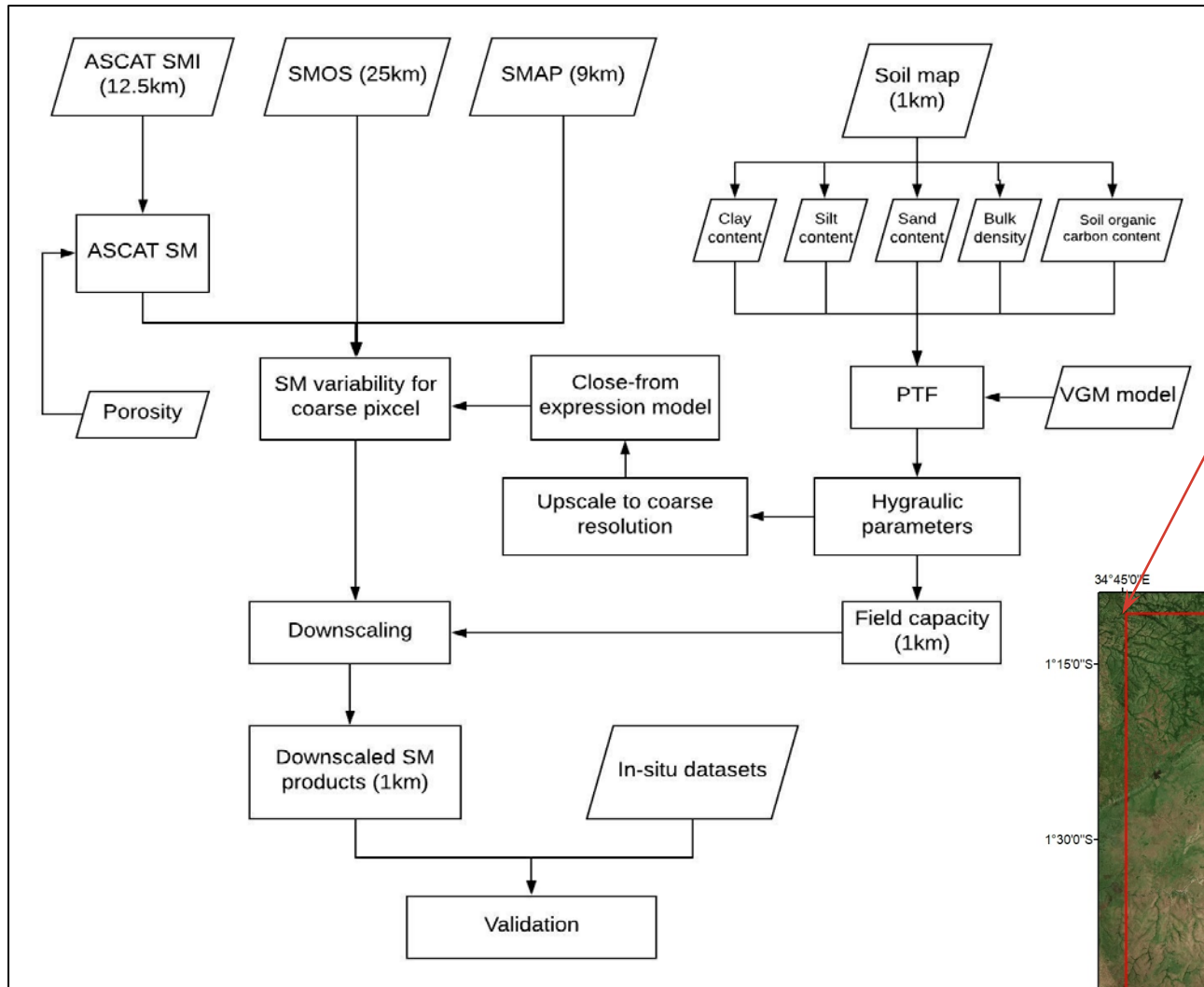
$$\widehat{\theta}_{i,j} = \bar{\theta} + \sigma_{\theta}(\bar{\theta}) \frac{P_{i,j} - \bar{P}}{\sigma_P}$$

where  $P_{i,j}$  is the proxy data at fine scale sub-grid y-location  $i$  and x-location  $j$ ,  $\bar{P}$  is the mean of the proxy, and  $\sigma_P$  is the standard deviation of the proxy

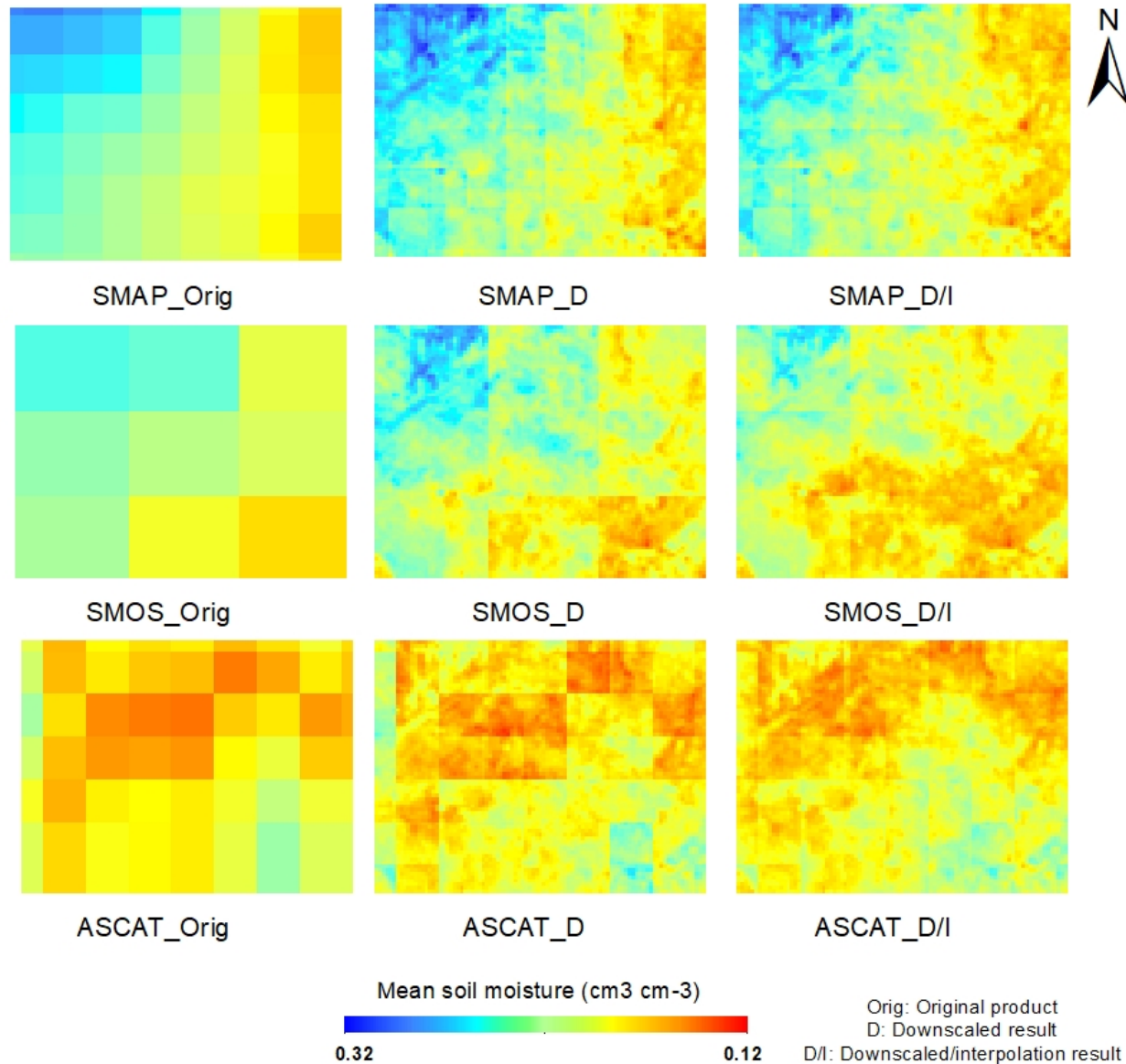
Based on Qu et al. Predicting subgrid variability of soil water content from basic soil information. Geophys. Res. Lett. 2015, 42, 789–796. [CrossRef]



# Example 1: Sub-Grid Soil Moisture Variability Data for Downscaling, Maasai Mara, Kenya



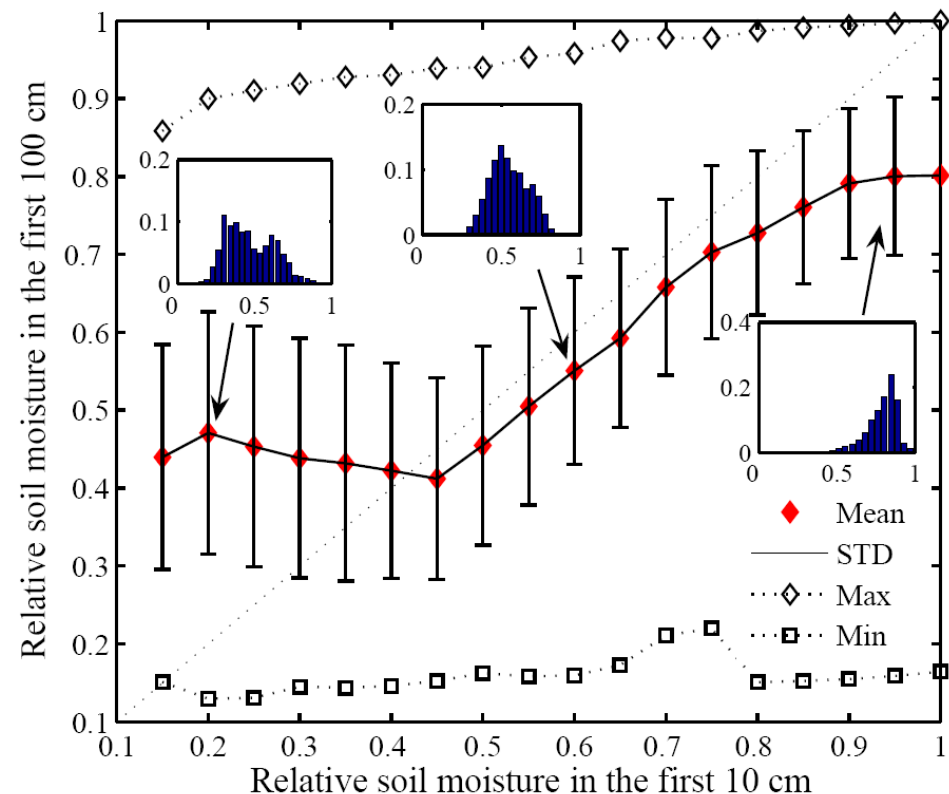
# Example 1: Sub-Grid Soil Moisture Variability Data for Downscaling, Maasai Mara, Kenya



(Liu, et al. 2019, ITC,  
University of Twente)

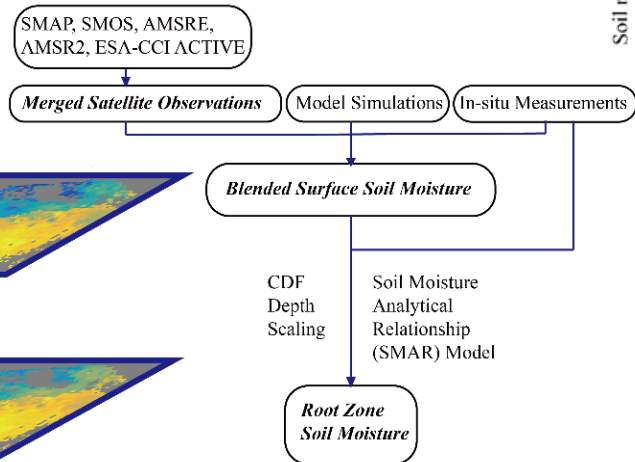
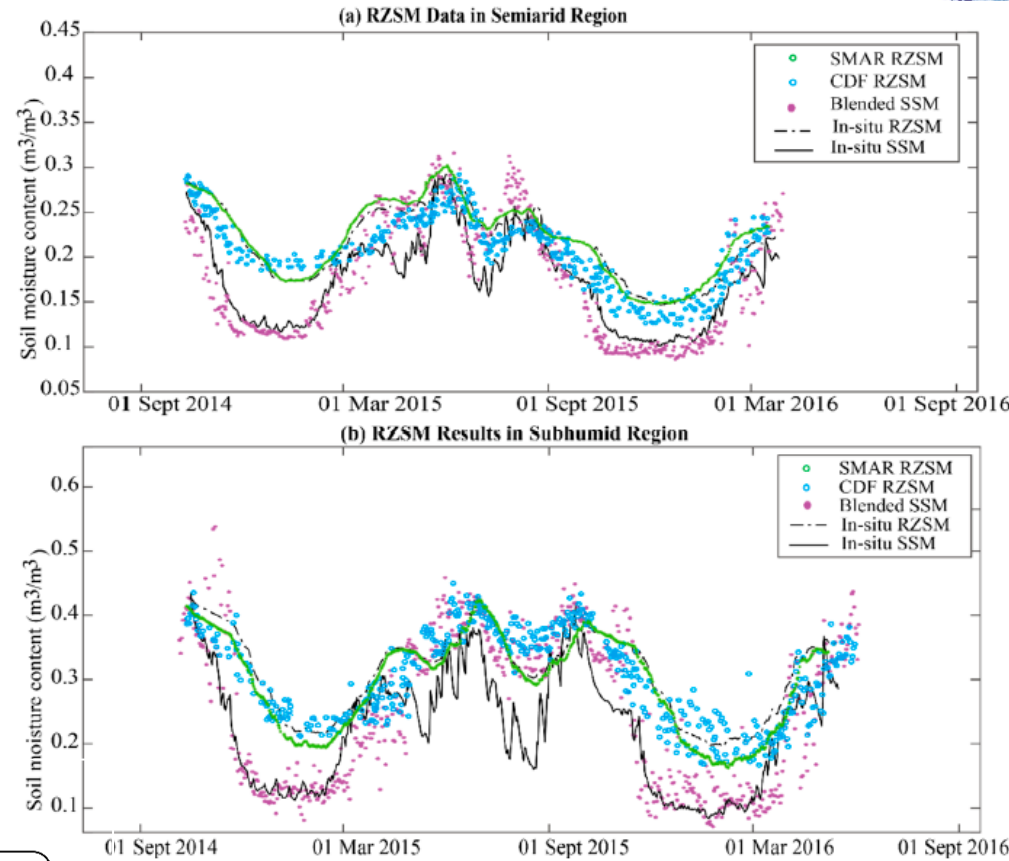
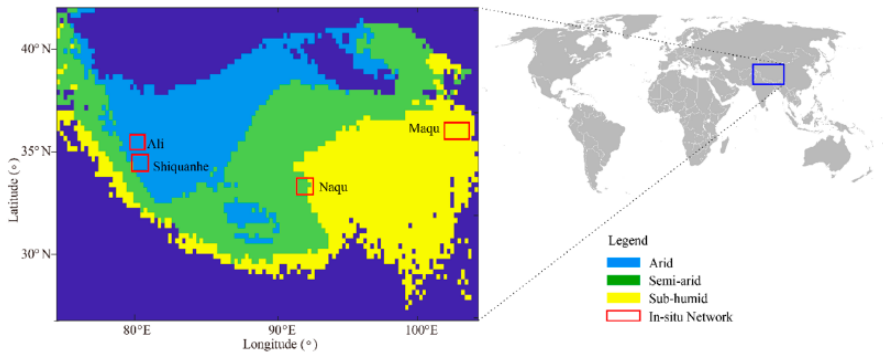
# Characteristics of relative soil moisture in deep and shallow layers

- Developing a relationship between the relative soil moisture at the surface to that in deeper layers of soil would be very useful for remote sensing applications.
- This implies that prediction of soil moisture in the deep layer given the superficial soil moisture, has an uncertainty that increases with a reduced near surface estimate.

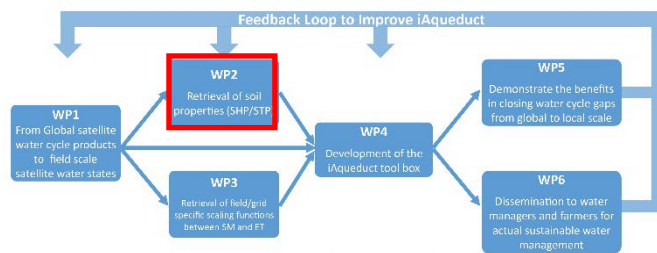


Manfreda et al. (AWR – 2007)

# Example 3: RZSM over Tibetan Plateau



(Zhuang et al. 2020, Remote Sensing)



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## WP2 Retrieval of soil properties (SHP/STP)

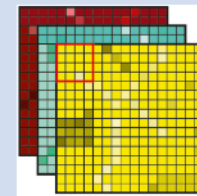
Task 2.1 Collection of field scale data

Task 2.2 Soil spectroscopy and  
hyperspectral remote sensing

Task 2.3 Basic PTF functions

Task 2.4 Advanced PTF functions

### Retrieval SHP/STP

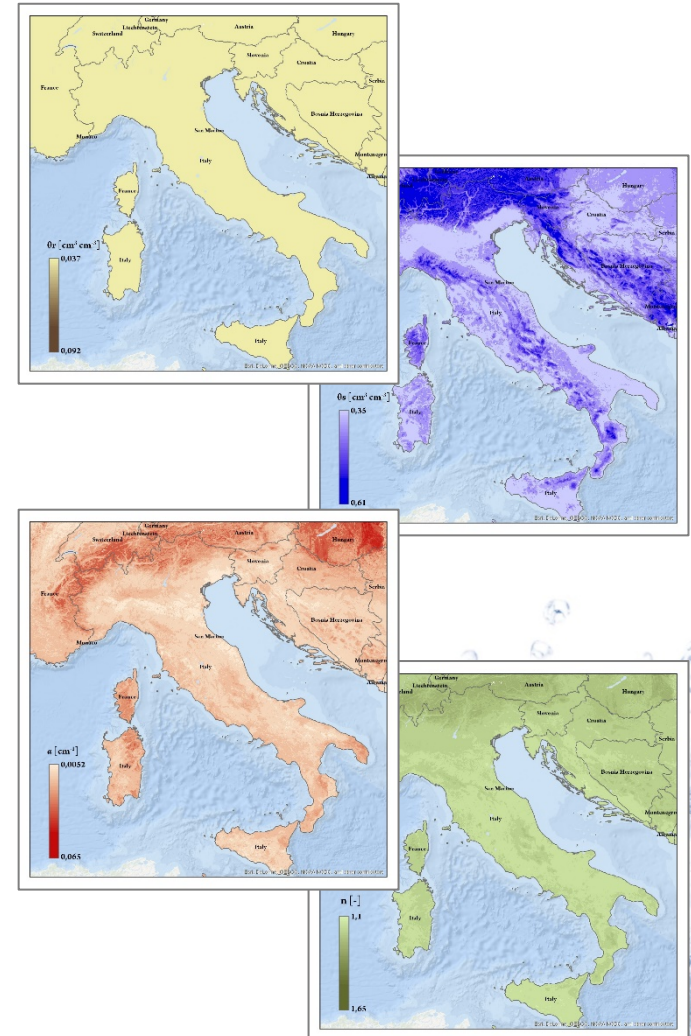


Field Scale

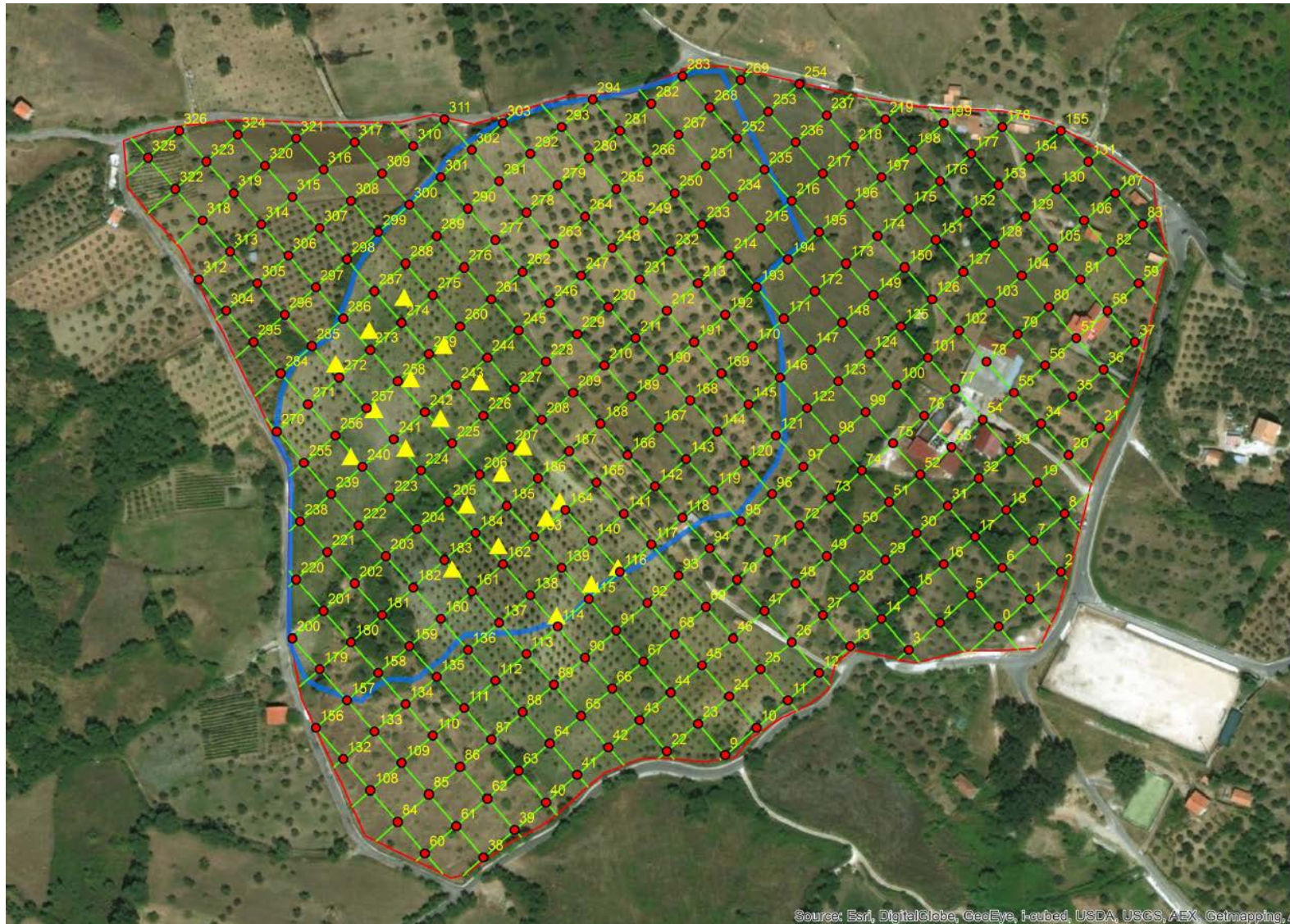
STF - spectrotransfer functions  
SPTF - spectral pedotransfer functions  
PTF - Pedotransfer functions  
EU-STF - LUCAS  
EU-PTF - EU-HYDI

## a) 3D Soil Hydraulic Database of Europe at 250 m resolution

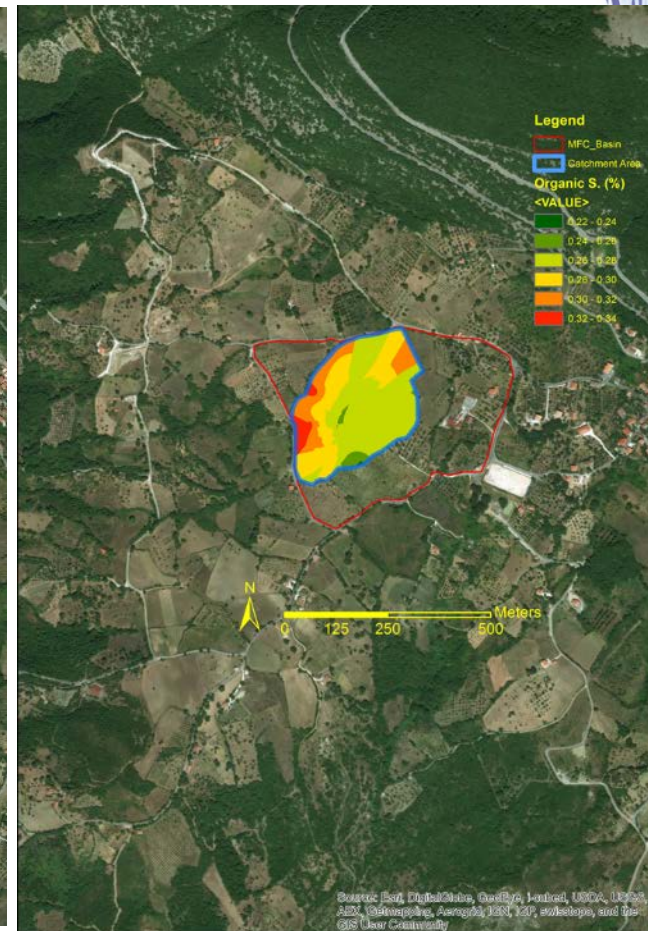
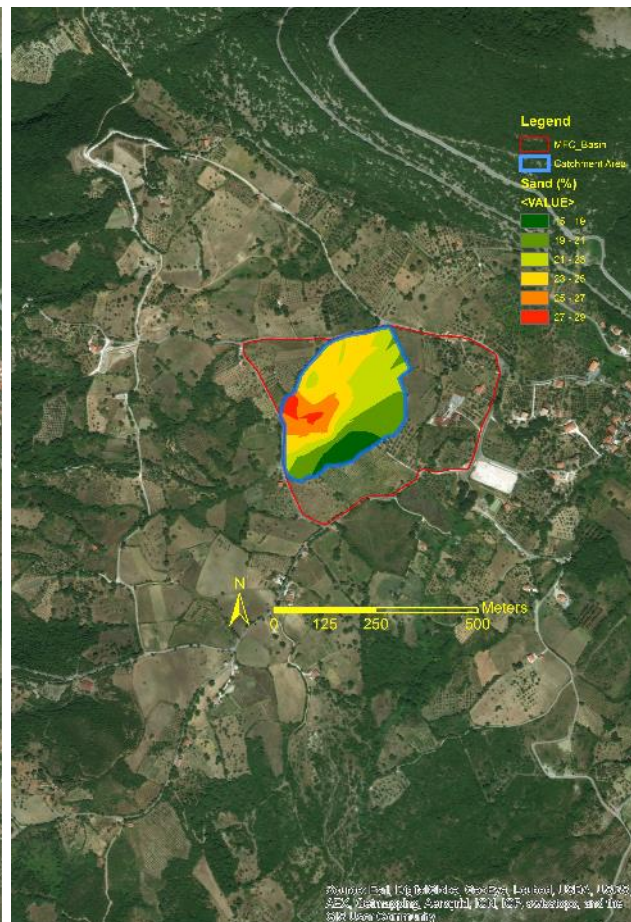
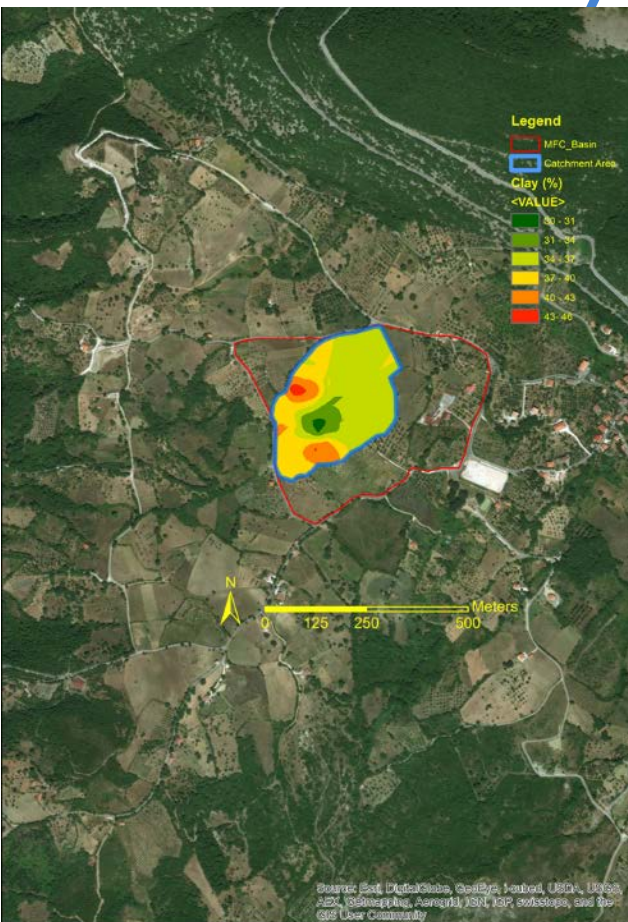
EU-SoilHydroGrids	
<b>Predicted soil hydraulic property</b>	THS, FC, WP, KS, MRC (VG), MRC + HCC (MVG)
<b>Horizontal coverage</b>	Europe
<b>Vertical coverage</b>	0, 5, 15, 30, 60, 100, 200 cm
<b>Resolution</b>	250 m, 30 arcseconds (~ 1 km at the Equator)
<b>Projection</b>	ETRS-LAEA
<b>Format</b>	GeoTIFF
<b>Input soil information</b>	SoilGrids 250 m and 1 km (Hengl et al., 2017)
<b>Soil property considered for the calculations</b>	clay, silt and sand content, organic carbon content, bulk density, pH in water, depth to bedrock
<b>Pedotransfer functions (PTFs) used for the calculations</b>	EU-PTFs: PTF6 (THS), PTF9 (FC), PTF12 (WP), PTF16 (KS), PTF22 (MRC), PTF 19 (MRC+HCC) (Tóth et al., 2015)
<b>Database used to derive PTFs</b>	EU-HYDI (Weynants et al., 2013)
<b>Availability of the dataset</b>	<a href="http://mta-taki.hu/en/eu_soilhydrogrids_3d">http://mta-taki.hu/en/eu_soilhydrogrids_3d</a> <a href="https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/">https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/</a>
<b>Information about the dataset</b>	Tóth et al. (2017)



- To provide soil physico-chemical and hydraulic parameters for running models of different complexity. (Nunzio Romano, 2019)



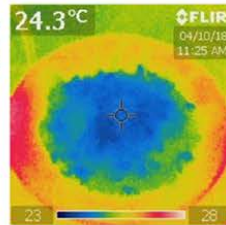
# Preliminary Results: Soil Texture



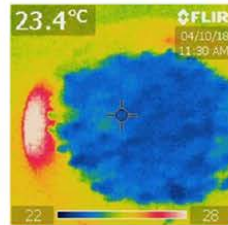
(Romano et al, 2019)



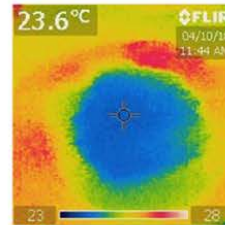
- a) shows a Spectral Measurement through ASD spectrometer, and b) shows a measurement of Temperature using a FLIR camera (Eyal et al, 2019)



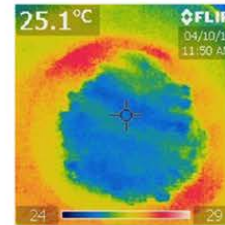
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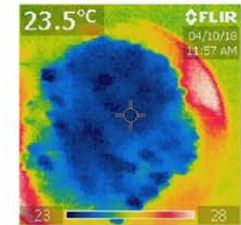
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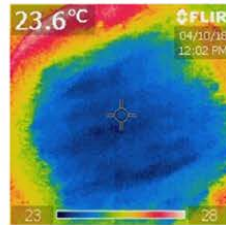
IR\_1187\_P7



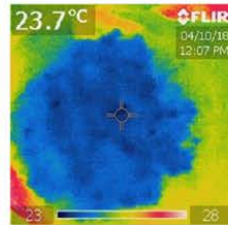
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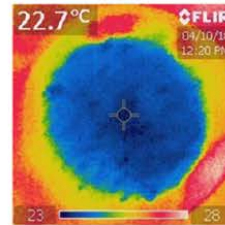
IR\_1189\_P10



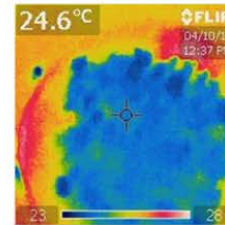
IR\_1190\_P1



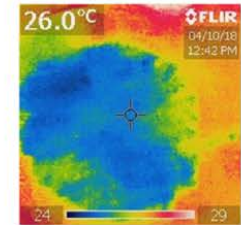
IR\_1191\_P18A



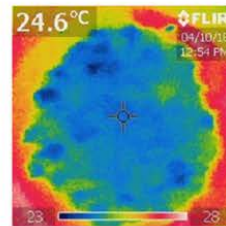
IR\_1193\_P2



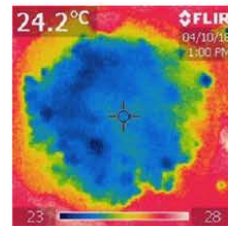
IR\_1194\_P5



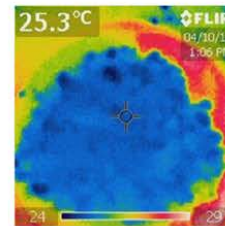
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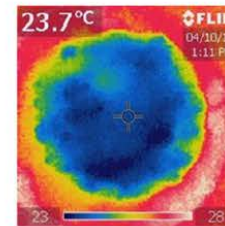
IR\_1196\_P19



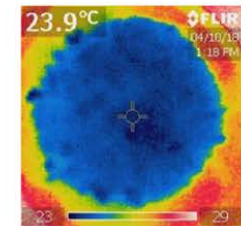
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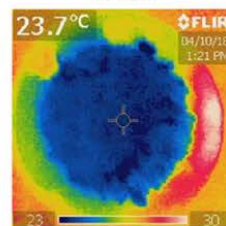
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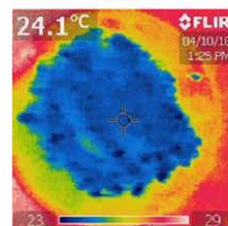
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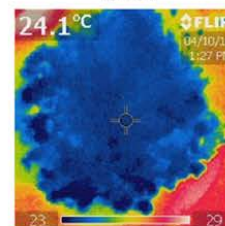
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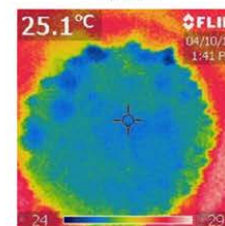
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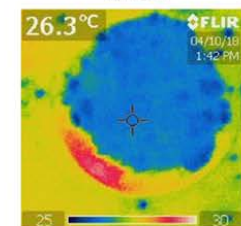
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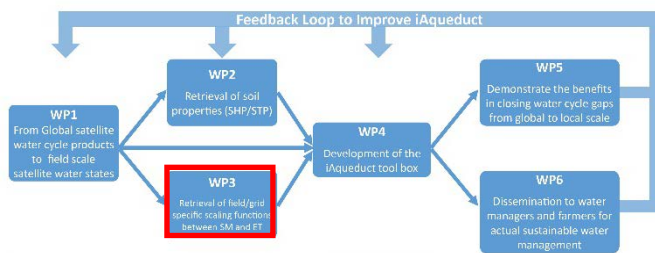
IR\_1203\_P12A



IR\_1204\_P3



IR\_1205\_P4



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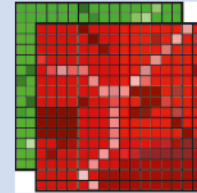


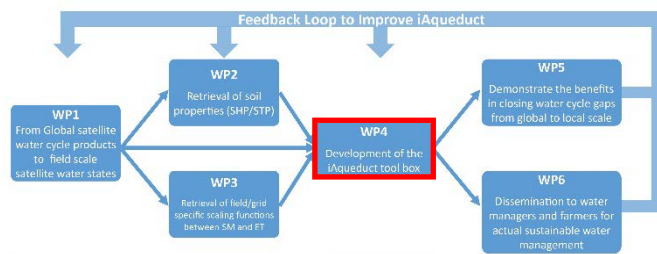
**WP3**  
Retrieval of field/grid  
specific scaling  
functions between  
soil moisture and  
evapotranspiration

**Task 3.1** Field/grid specific scaling  
functions between soil moisture and  
evapotranspiration

**Task 3.2** Generalizing scaling  
functions between soil moisture and  
evapotranspiration

**Scaling Functions  
(SM vs. ET)**





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## WP4 Development of the generic (iAqueduct tool box)

### Task 4.1 Intercomparison of models, soil and vegetation parametrizations and soil parameters

- 1) A minimalist soil-vegetation-atmosphere model will be developed;
- 2) The coupling of the soil moisture dynamics and plant activities (ET and carbon fixation);
- 3) For crops, yield will be determined from the total accumulated crop biomass employing the harvest index, with biomass growth rate depending on the growing conditions;
- 4) machine learning algorithms will be experimented to speed up the usually computational intensive process-based computations.

### Task 4.2 iAqueduct toolbox

- 1) The existing open-source software system MajiSys water information system as the core ;
- 2) The iAqueduct toolbox which consists of water flow processes in relations to the models, soil and vegetation parametrizations and soil parameters as well as forcing fields.



MAJISYS



# What is the State-of-the-Art?

## SPAC MODELS III – Minimalist approach

### Hydrological sub-model

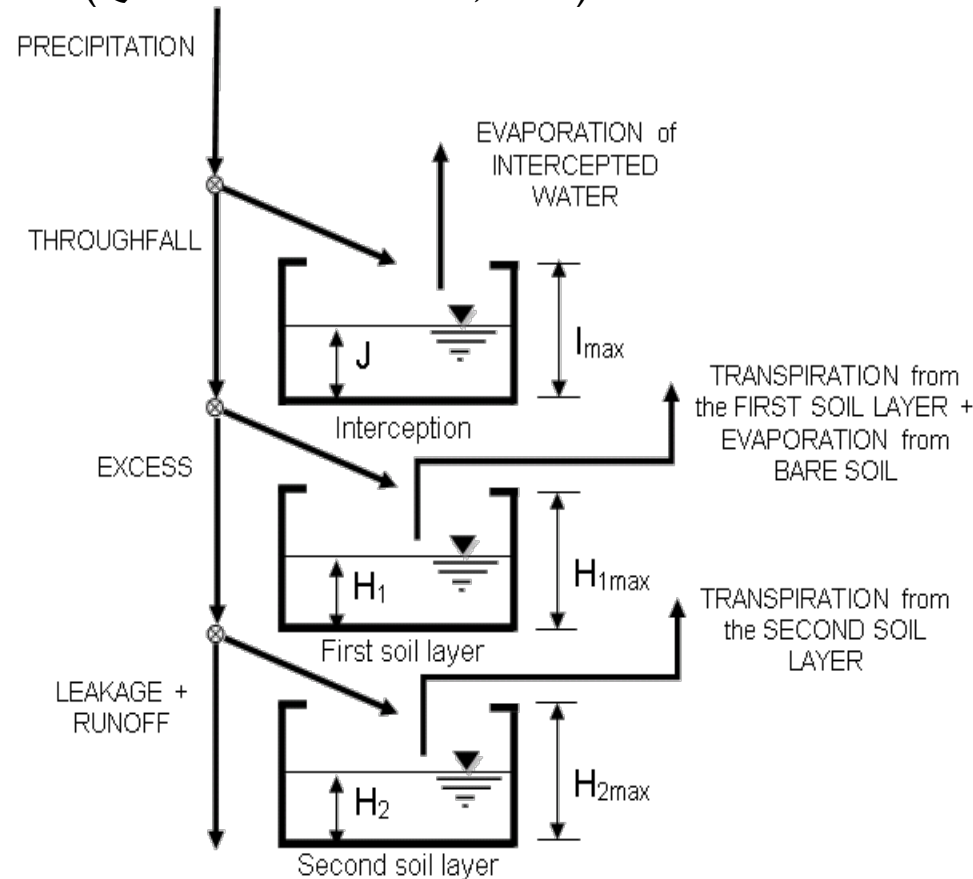
(Quevedo and Francés, 2012)

### Dynamic Vegetation sub-model

(Pasquato et al., 2014)

Based on the Light Use Efficiency

The ultimate goal is to explore the advantages and disadvantages of the different approaches to modelling soil-vegetation-atmosphere interactions when aiming at reducing the reliance on in-situ observations and at taking full advantage of UAS, airborne and satellite observations



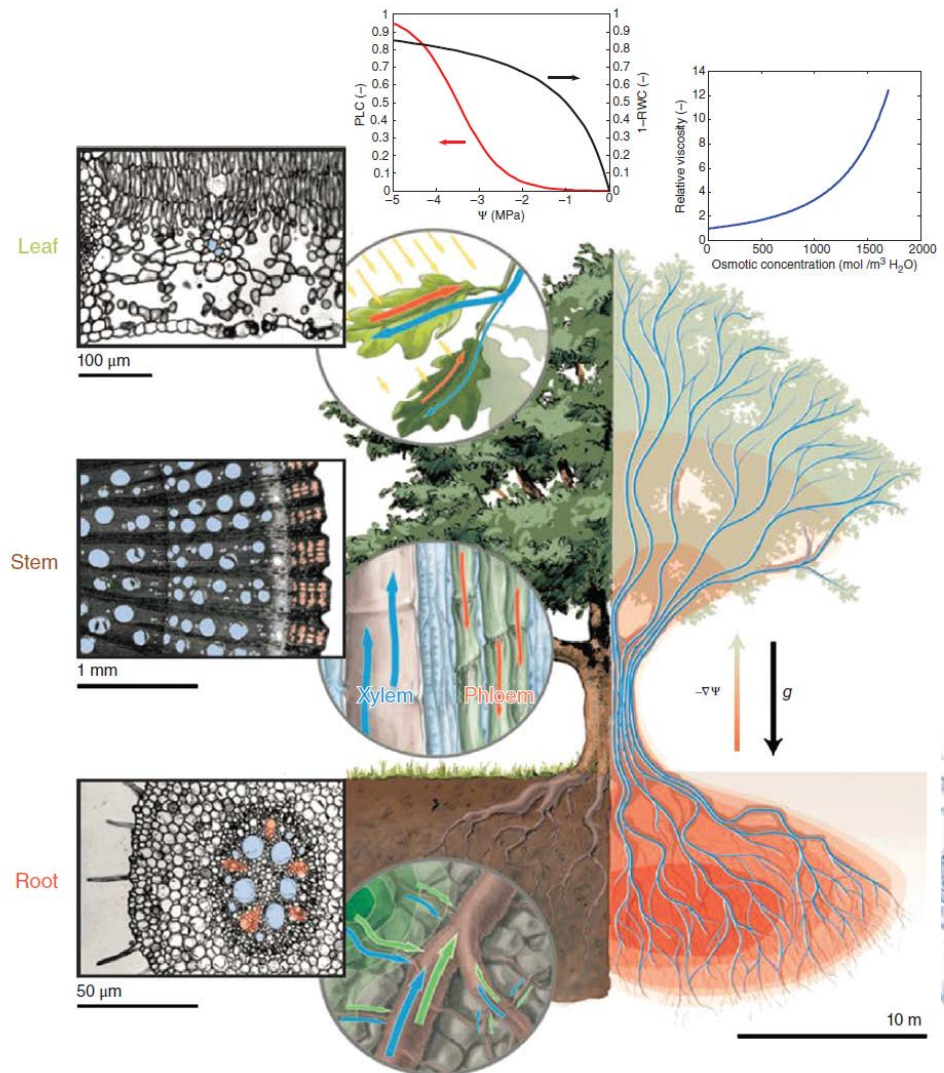
## SPAC MODELS II – Leaf-to-plant, layered

Focus on water balances and fluxes

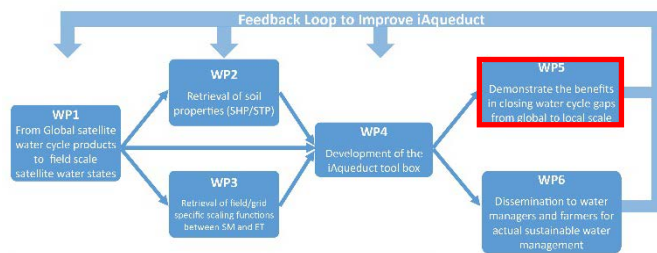
Energy in some (stomatal) models

Can be lumped (big leaf + soil bucket models) or resolved layers wise (two big leaves or canopy layers + soil layers)

(Manzoni, Vico, Porporato, Katul, 2013 AWR)



(Fatichi, et al. 2016)



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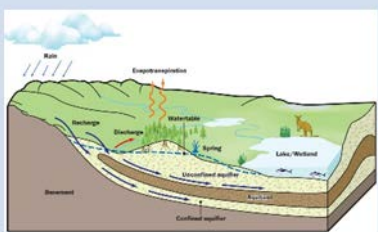
TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY  
Pursuing the Unknown



## WP5

### Demonstrate the benefits in closing water cycle gaps from global to local scale

- The aim of this WP is closing water cycle gaps by improving hydrological model implementations using spatial information;
- Discharge provides only limited insight on the spatial behavior of the catchment (Conradt et al., 2013 HESS);
- The development of distributed hydrological models and the availability of spatio-temporal data (WP1-3) appear as key alternative to overcome those limitations and can facilitate a spatial-pattern-oriented model calibration (Ruiz-Pérez et al., 2017 HESS);
- This WP will advance how to effectively handle spatio-temporal data when included in model calibration and how to evaluate the accuracy of the simulated spatial patterns;
- Numerical experiments will be conducted for calibration of a parsimonious distributed ecohydrological daily model in ungauged basins using exclusively spatio-temporal information obtained from WP1 and other remotely sensed information.



# Introduction

- ▶ General research question for hydrological modelling: **is it profitable to use RS info for model calibration?**

- ▶ NDVI at plot scale:

ECOHYDROLOGY  
*Ecohydrol.* 8, 1024–1036 (2015)  
Published online 6 October 2014 in Wiley Online Library  
(wileyonlinelibrary.com) DOI: 10.1002/eco.1559

## Comparing two approaches for parsimonious vegetation modelling in semiarid regions using satellite data

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<sup>2</sup> Geography Department, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK

<sup>3</sup> Civil and Environmental Engineering, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA

Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci., 12, 1175–1187, 2008  
www.hydrol-earth-syst-sci.net/12/1175/2008/  
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Hydrology and  
Earth System  
Sciences

## A conceptual dynamic vegetation-soil model for arid and semiarid zones

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<sup>1</sup>Institute for Water Engineering and Environment, Polytechnical University of Valencia, Spain

Journal of Environmental Management 231 (2019) 653–665



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Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

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journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/jenvman](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jenvman)

Research article

Managing low productive forests at catchment scale: Considering water, biomass and fire risk to achieve economic feasibility

María González-Sanchis<sup>a,\*</sup>, Guiomar Ruiz-Pérez<sup>b</sup>, Antonio D. Del Campo<sup>a</sup>, Alberto García-Prats<sup>a</sup>, Félix Francés<sup>c</sup>, Cristina Lull<sup>a</sup>

<https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-21-6235-2017>

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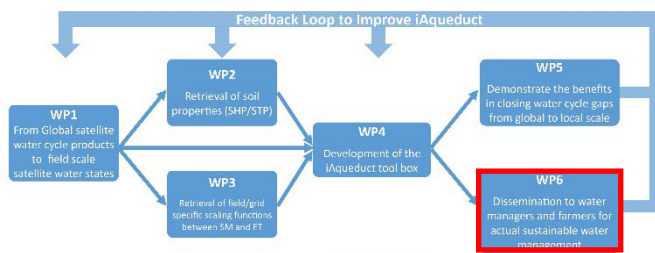


Hydrology and  
Earth System  
Sciences



Calibration of a parsimonious distributed ecohydrological daily model in a data-scarce basin by exclusively using the spatio-temporal variation of NDVI

Gulomar Ruiz-Pérez<sup>1,6</sup>, Julian Koch<sup>2,3</sup>, Salvatore Manfreda<sup>4</sup>, Kelly Caylor<sup>4</sup>, and Félix Francés<sup>6</sup>



## WP6 Disseminate generated knowledge and tools for actual sustainable water management



- The aim of WP6 is to disseminate and communicate the generated knowledge and tools to water managers, companies and farmers for actual sustainable water management.
- In order to be effective, stakeholders will be engaged in the entire project for the effective transfer of the project achievements and will be consulted for the actual needs for real life water management.
- We will use the 2018 summer European drought as a concrete retrospective application to demonstrate the advantage of using detailed water cycle information for water management.



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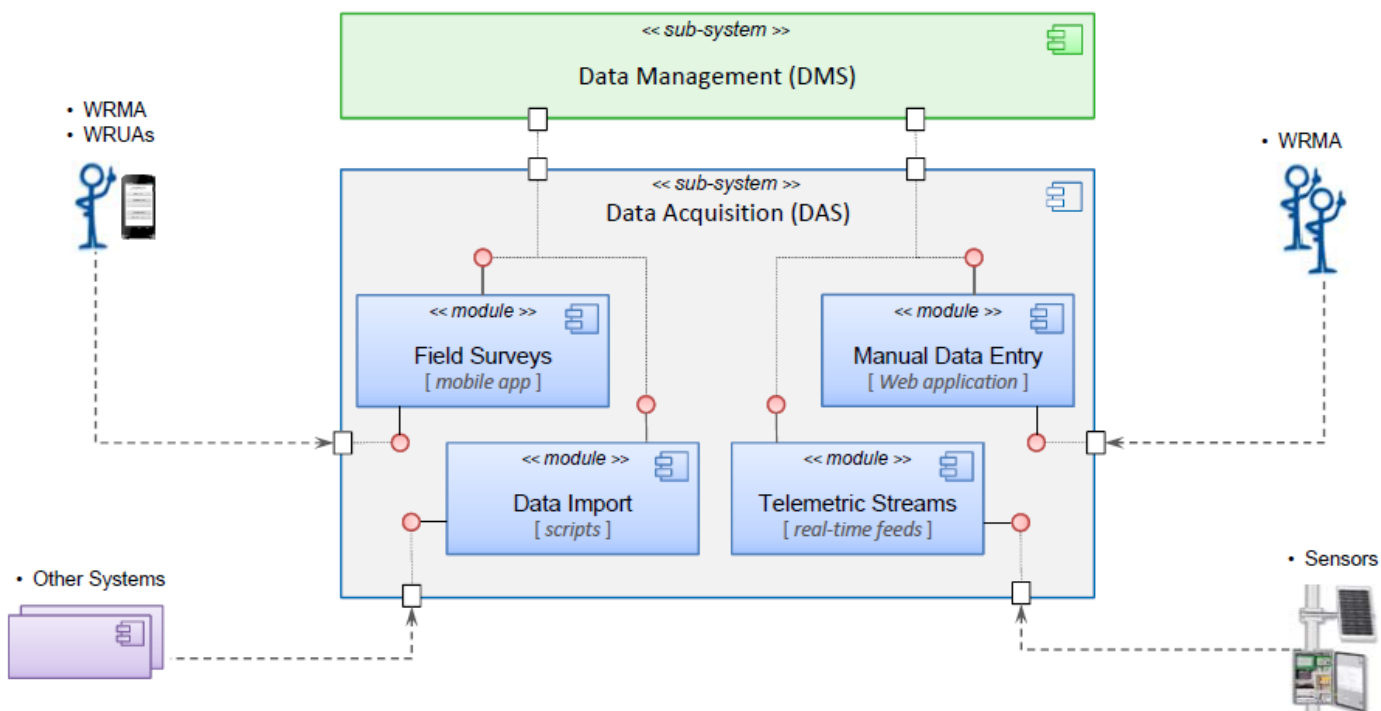


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# MAJISYS



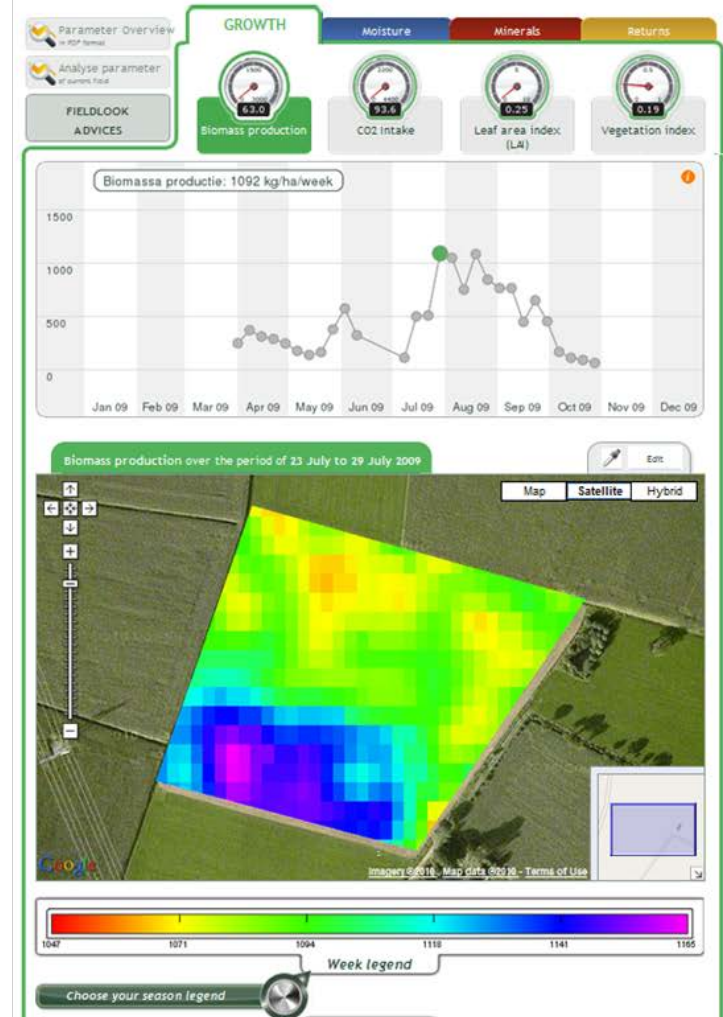
## Growth

- biomass production (kg/ha)
- CO<sub>2</sub> intake (kg/ha)
- leaf area index LAI (m<sup>2</sup> leaf/m<sup>2</sup> ground)
- vegetation index NDVI

## Moisture

- evaporation shortage (mm/week)
- current evaporation (mm/week)
- surplus rain (mm/2 weeks)
- reference evaporation

# EXAMPLE





# Thanks for your attentions!

<https://www.costharmonious.eu/iaqueduct-water-jpi/>

