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Climate-based models of phenology and primary productivity in the grassland biome: does plant functional diversity matter ?

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Using examples from tropical semi-arid grasslands and temperate alpine tundra, I examine the performance of different models to track seasonal and multiannual dynamics of canopy 'greenness' and primary productivity. The usefulness and feasibility of incorporating plant functional diversity parameters into these modelling frameworks is discussed. The potential of long time series of remotely-sensed data to calibrate and validate these models is illustrated.