



Water Use Efficiency

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2010-2016 - BSc and MSc – plant physiology and biochemistry
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Saint-Petersburg State University, Russia

2014 – 2015 - MSc training – bioinformatics

2017-2021 - PhD – remote sensing of plant productivity and evaporation
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University of Twente, the Netherlands

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UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.



Zoltán Vekerdy

What shall we talk about?



1. Leaf level processes governing WUE
2. Field (crop) scale WUE
3. Global scale (gross) WUE
4. Climate change and WUE
5. Summary
6. Exercise

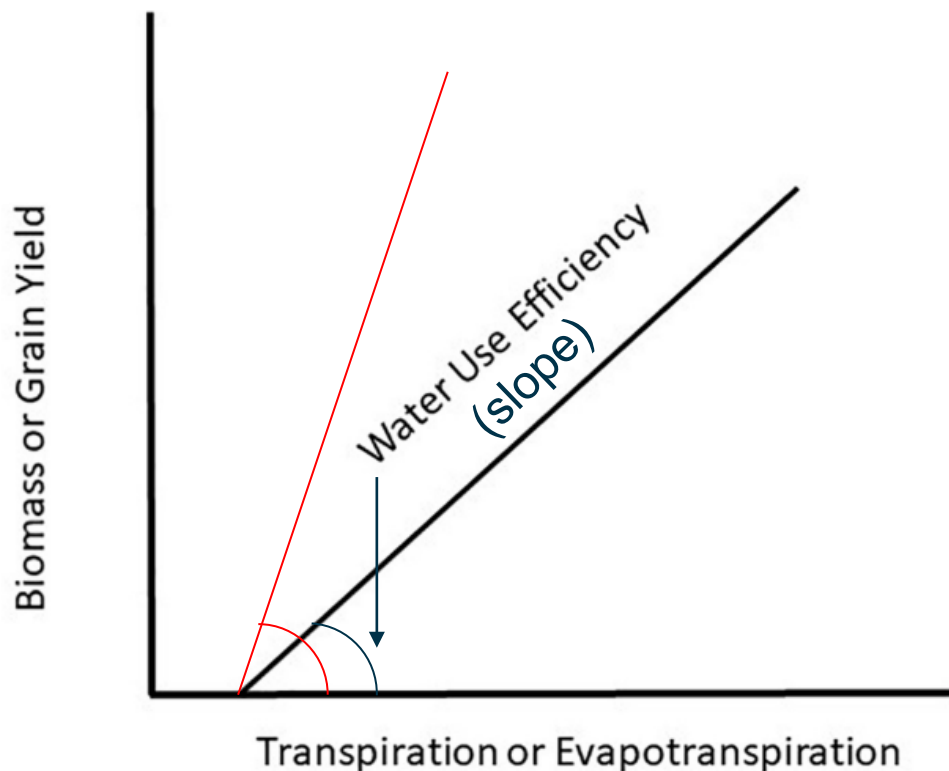


FIGURE 1 | Generalized view of water use efficiency as a function of the water use by a crop relative to biomass or grain production.

Water use efficiency (WUE) is the amount of carbon assimilated as biomass or grain produced per unit of water used by the crop. (Hartfield & Dold, 2019)

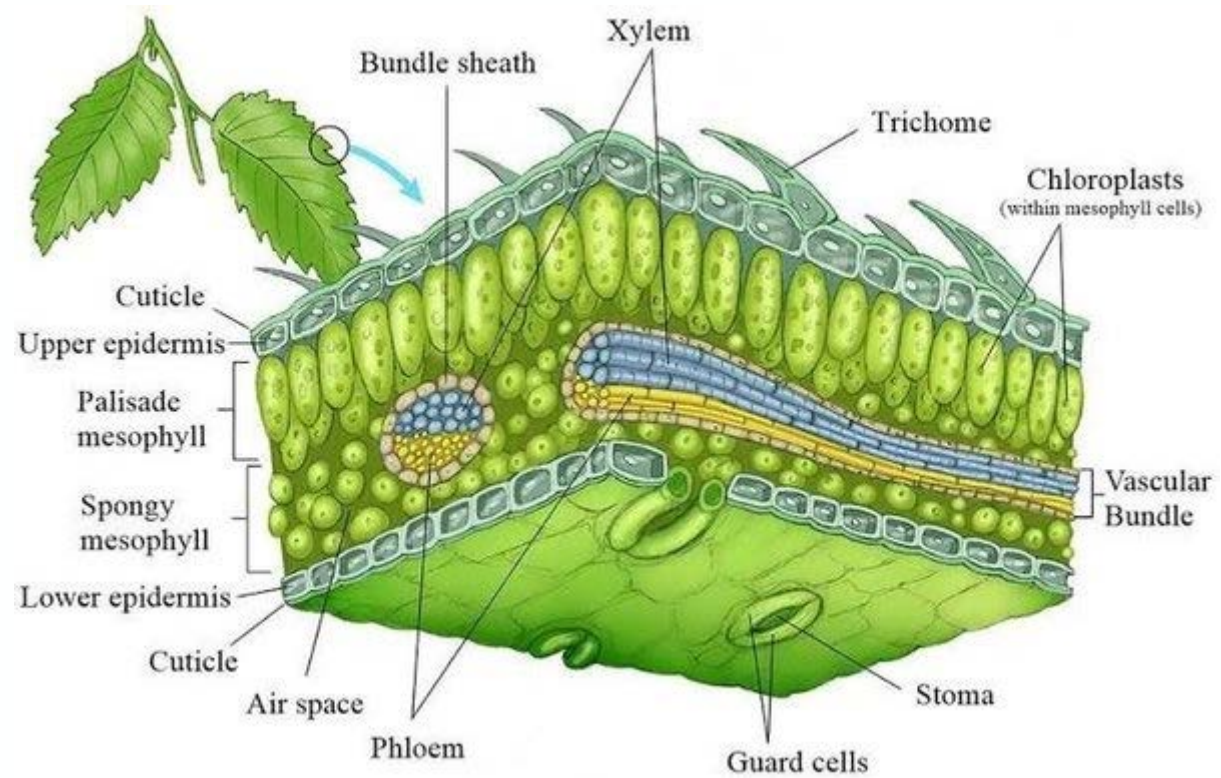
(Hartfield & Dold, 2019)



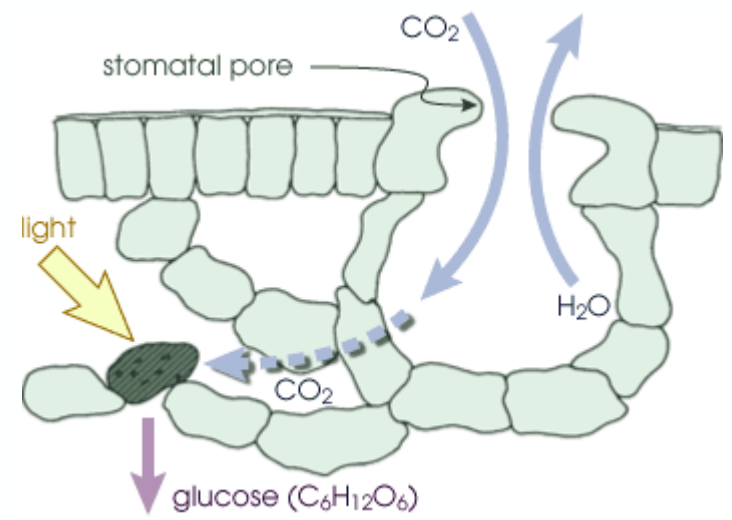
1/6 Leaf level processes governing WUE

1/6

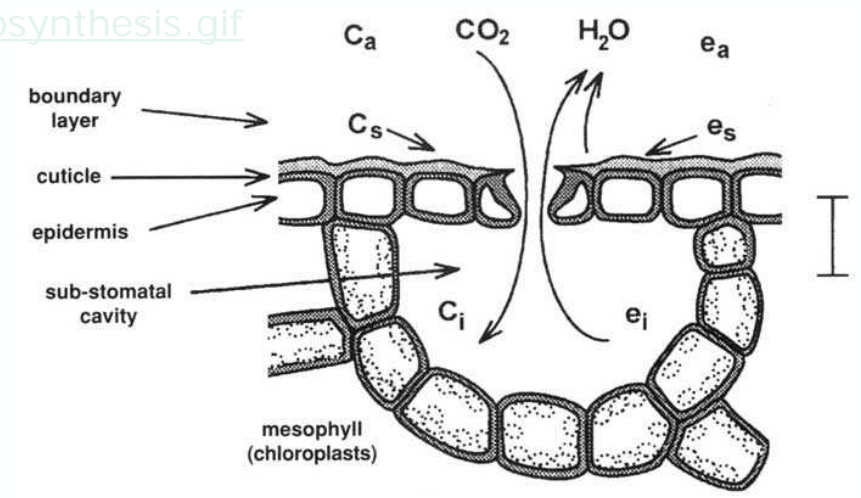
Leaf structure and gas exchange



<https://qph.cf2.quoracdn.net/main-qimg-4f3ec585765cfcb3c57e7f50952a238a-lq>



<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/ContentFeature/LAI/Images/photosynthesis.gif>



<https://www.fao.org/3/W5183E/w5183e04.jpg>

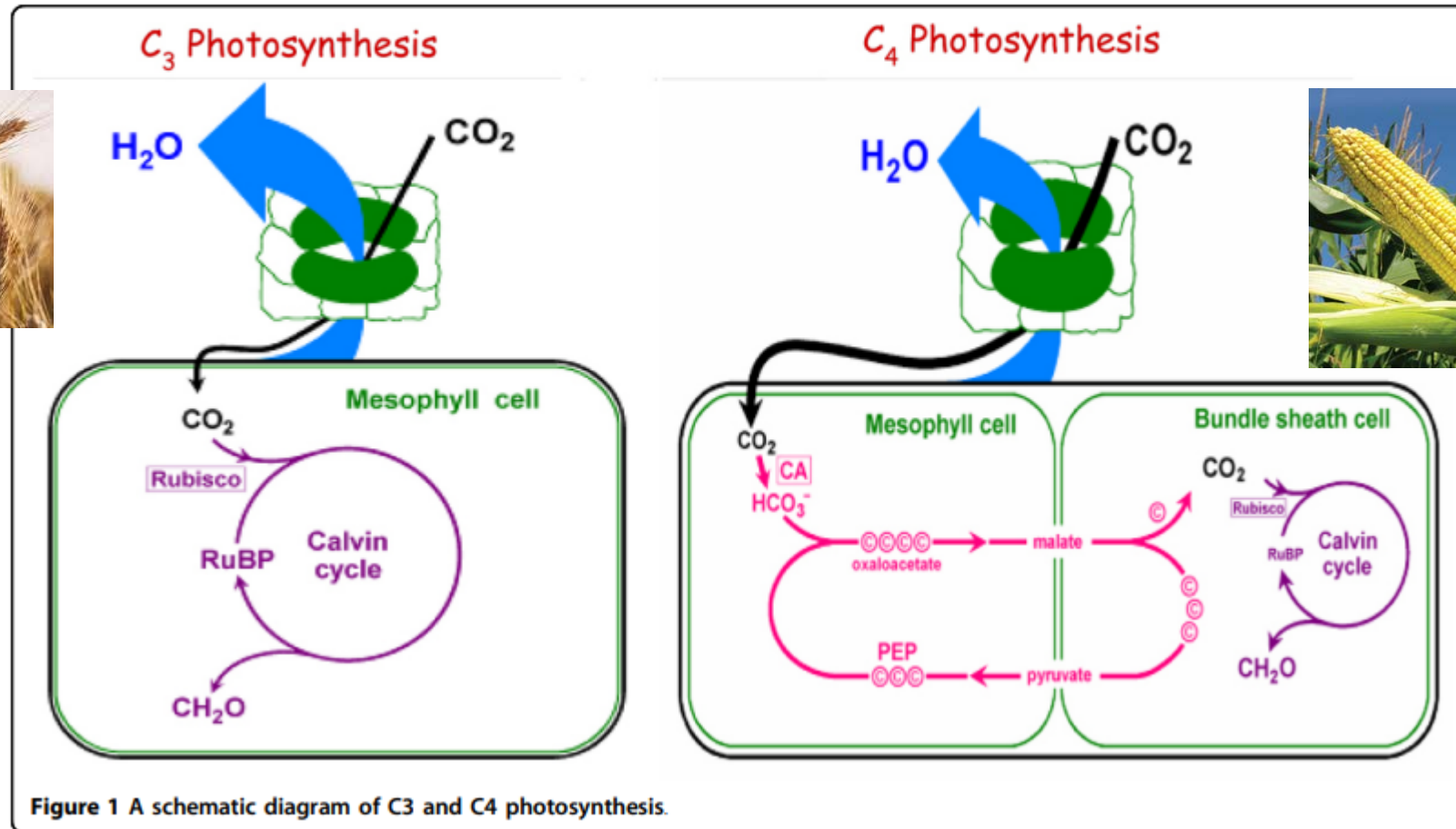
C4 plants have higher WUE

Wang et al. BMC Systems Biology 2012, 6(Suppl 2):S9
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1752-0509/6/S2/S9>

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https://www.world-grain.com/ext/resources/2022/06/22/Wheat_photo-cred-Adobe-stock_E-2.jpg?t=1655908254&width=1080



<https://cdn.britannica.com/167236-050-BF90337E/Ea-corn.jpg>



$$WUE_{instantaneous} = \frac{A_n}{E}$$

A_n – CO₂ assimilation rate
[umol CO₂ m⁻² s⁻¹]

E – evaporation (transpiration) rate
[mol H₂O m⁻² s⁻¹]

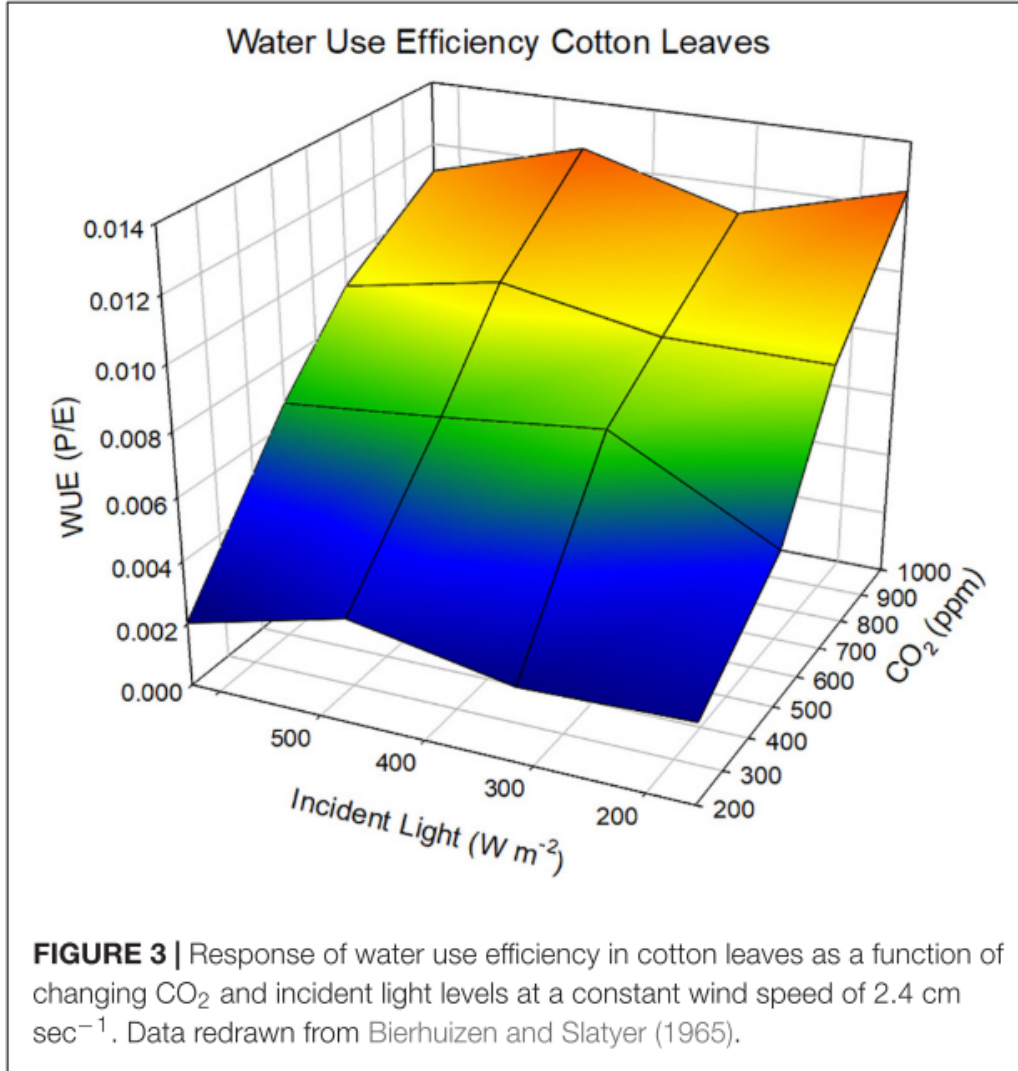
$$WUE_{intrinsic} = \frac{A_n}{g_s}$$

A_n – CO₂ assimilation rate
[umol CO₂ m⁻² s⁻¹]

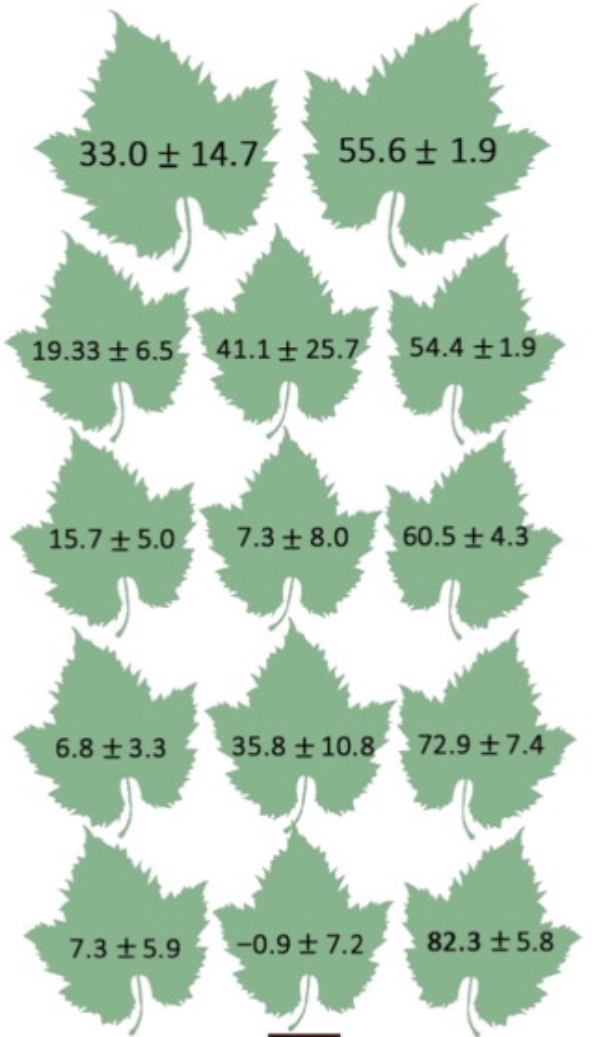
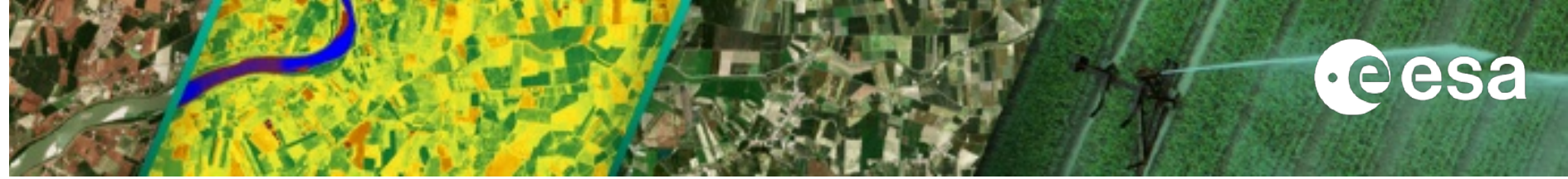
g_s – stomatal conductance
[mol H₂O m⁻² s⁻¹ or
umol CO₂ m⁻² s⁻¹]

<https://nasatlabs.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Photosynthesis-Rate-and-Chlorophyll-a-Fluorescence-Measurement.jpg>

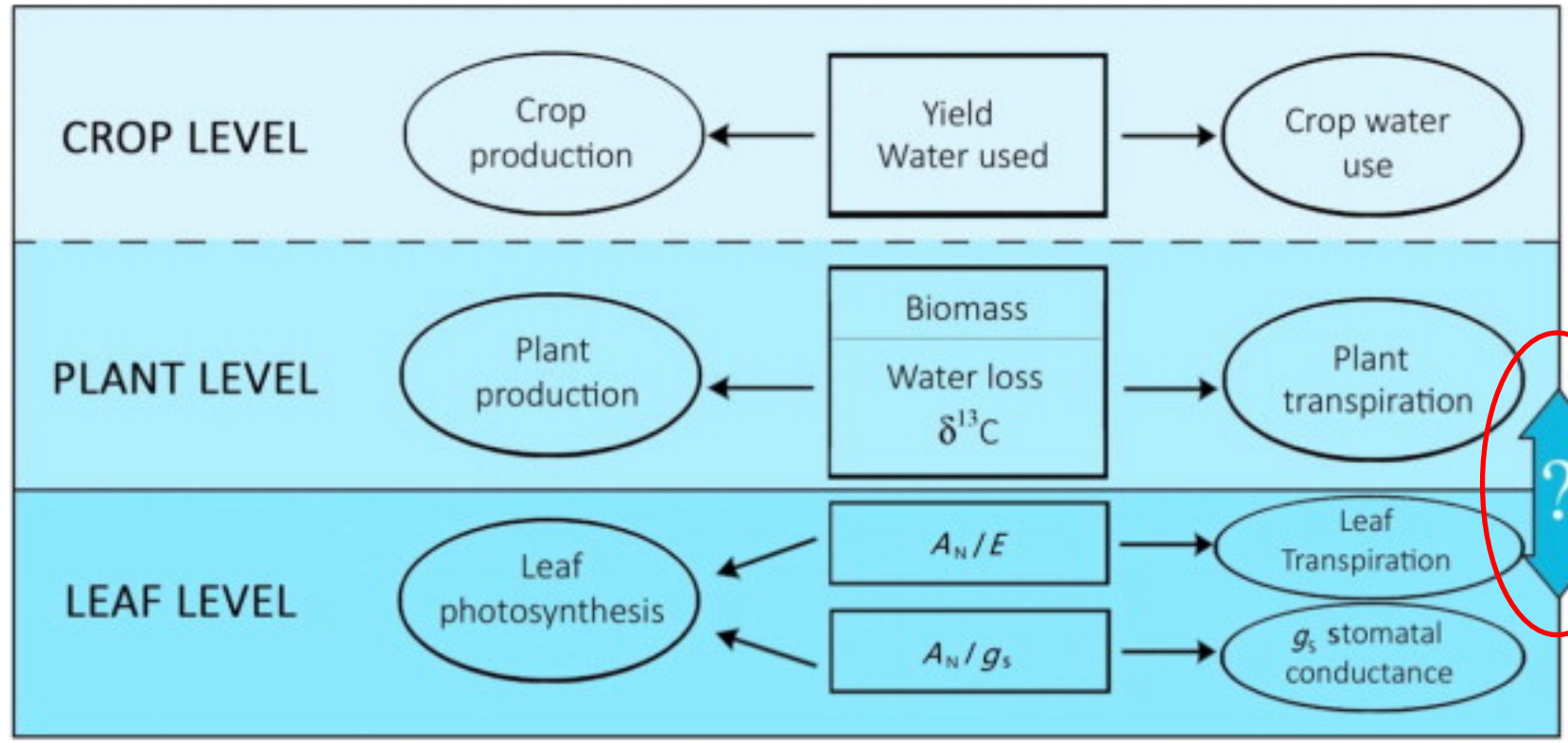
leaf WUE (of C3 plants) in response to CO₂



(Hartfield & Dold, 2019)



MEASUREMENT LEVELS OF GRAPEVINE WATER USE EFFICIENCY



(Medrano et al., 2015)



- leaf gas exchange through stomata:
 - CO_2 goes easily in as $C_i \ll C_a$ (0.04%)
 - H_2O goes out $e_i > e_a$ (0-4%)
 - single conductance, target of high WUE genotypes
- components are measured by gas exchange instruments
- instantaneous
- varies in a plant
- upscaling is questionable



2/6 Field (crop) scale WUE

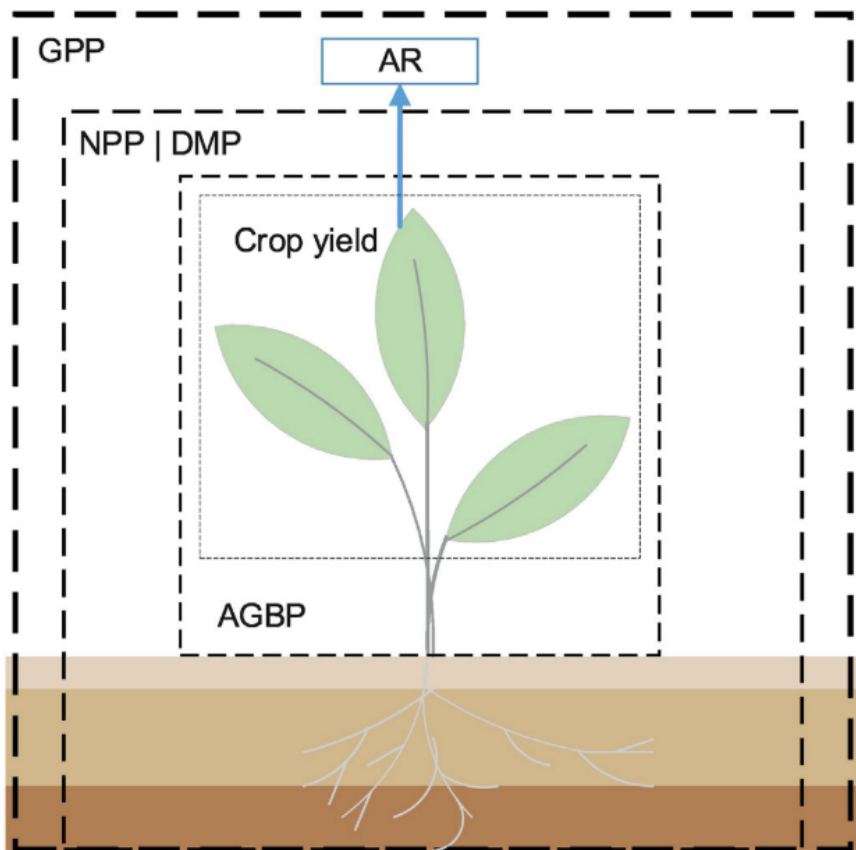
Crop water productivity (CWP) is the ratio of **crop yield** to total **actual evapotranspiration** (ET_a) in the growing season days in between *Start Of growing Season* (SOS) and *End Of growing Season* (EOS) (Blatchford et al., 2019, RSE)

$$CWP (kg m^{-3}) = \frac{Crop\ yield\ (kg\ ha^{-1})}{10 \times \sum_{i=SOS}^{EOS} ET_a\ (mm)}$$

this is fresh (not dry) yield

10 converts ET_a from mm to m³ ha⁻¹

M.L. Blatchford, et al.



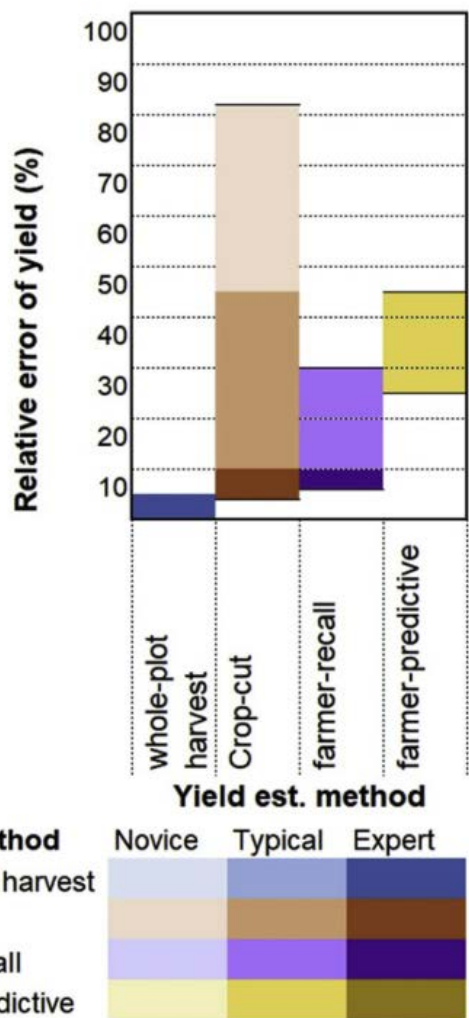
quantile	meaning	units
GPP	Gross primary productivity	$\mu\text{mol CO}_2 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$
AR	Autotrophic (plant) respiration	$\mu\text{mol CO}_2 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$
NPP (~DMP)	Net primary productivity	$\mu\text{mol CO}_2 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$
DMP (~NPP)	Dry matter productivity	$\text{kg DM ha}^{-1} \text{ day}^{-1}$
AGBP	Aboveground biomass productivity	$\text{kg DM ha}^{-1} \text{ day}^{-1}$
Crop yield	yield	$\text{kg FW ha}^{-1} \text{ season}^{-1}$

DM – dry matter – CH_2O or $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6$
 FW – fresh matter (weight)

In the exercise
 - make the unit conversions
 - make variable conversions

Fig. 1. Distinction between GPP, NPP, DMP, AGBP and crop yield products, where each box compares the plant parts associated with each product.

(Blatchford et al., 2019, RSE)



$$CWP (kg m^{-3}) = \frac{Crop\ yield\ (kg\ ha^{-1})}{10 \times \sum_{i=SOS}^{EOS} ET_a\ (mm)}$$

(Blatchford et al., 2019, RSE)

Fig. 2. Relative error associated with in-situ methods of crop yield estimation. All methods provide estimates for at field scale for cropping season.

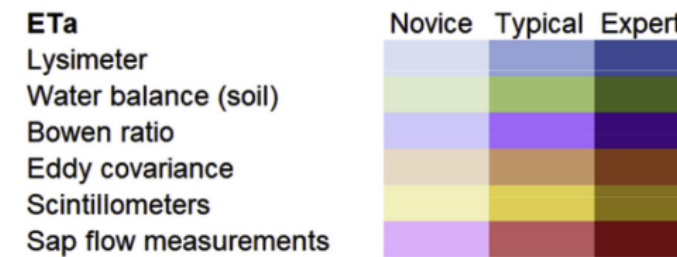
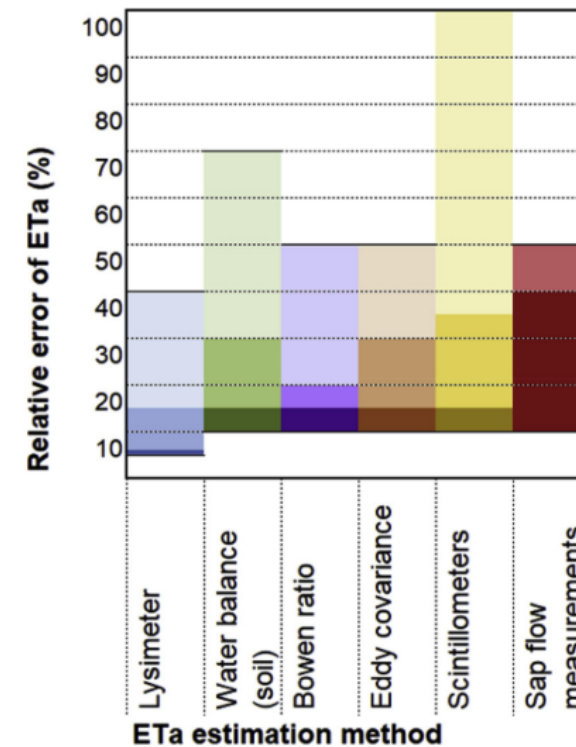
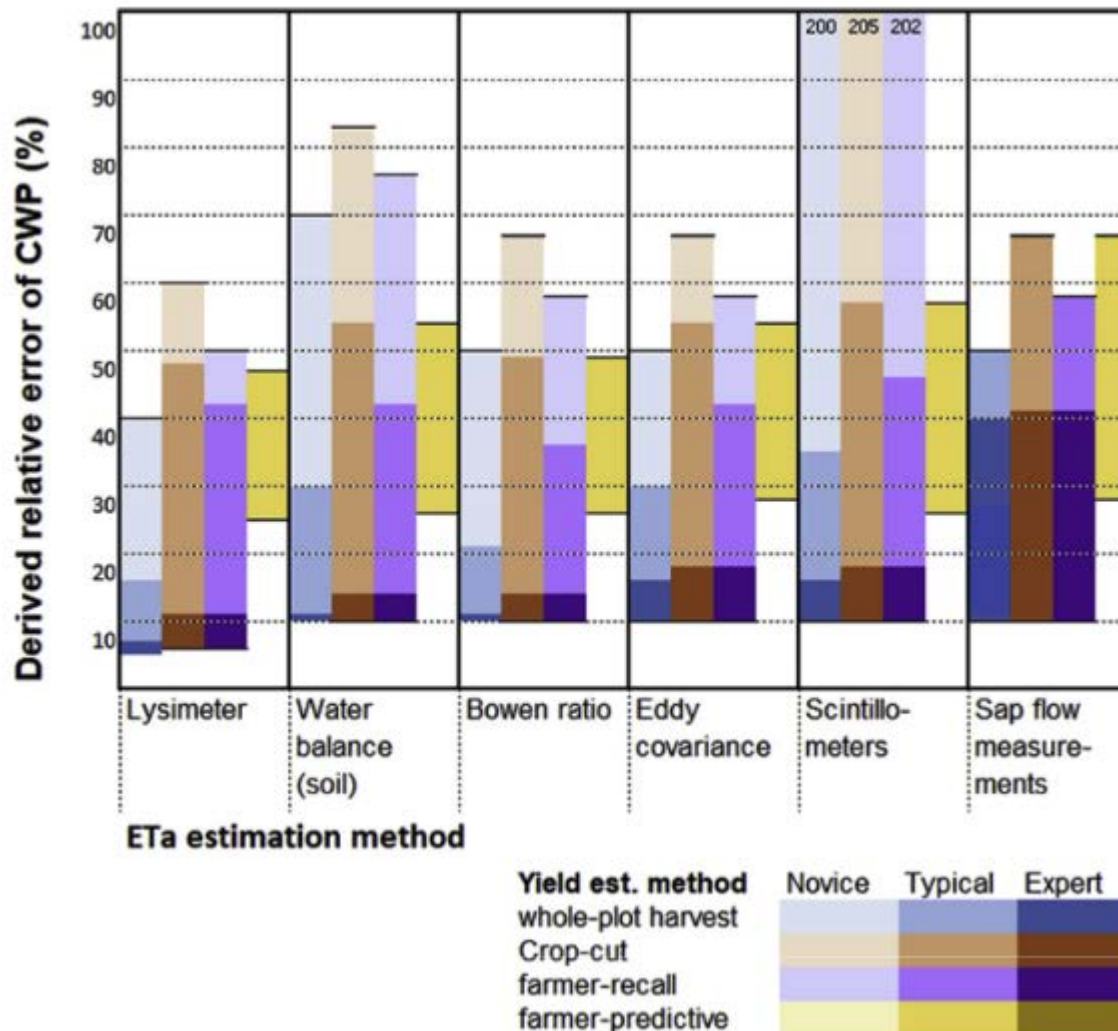


Fig. 3. Relative error associated with in-situ methods of ET_a estimation used for irrigation performance, adapted from Allen et al. (2011).

Crop water productivity (CWP) "measurement" accuracy



$$CWP (kg m^{-3}) = \frac{Crop\ yield\ (kg\ ha^{-1})}{10 \times \sum_{i=SOS}^{EOS} ET_a\ (mm)}$$



(Blatchford et al., 2019, RSE)



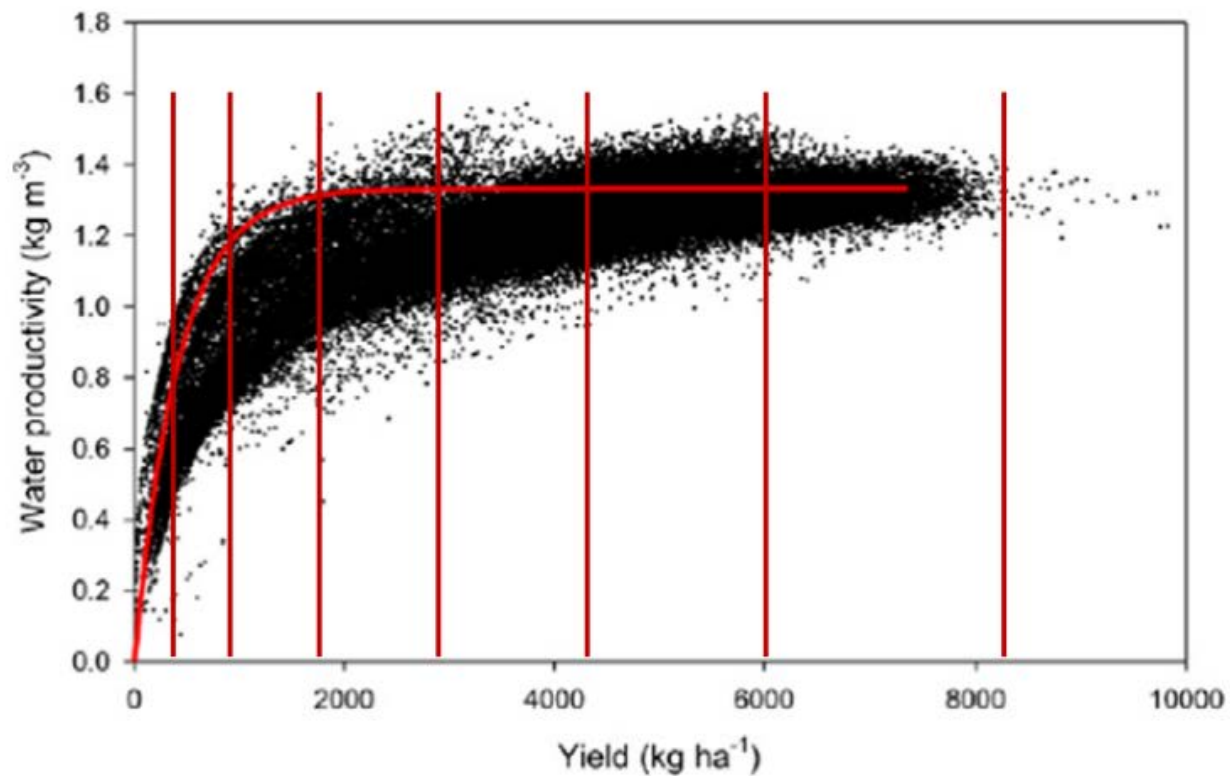


Fig. 3. Relationship between land and water productivity for maize fields in the Doukalla irrigation system, Morocco. The x-axis is subdivided in 'yield-zones' to reflect different local growing conditions and hence define a spectrum of target values of CWP (adjusted after Sadras et al., 2015).

(Bastiaanssen and Steduto., 2016)

- mulching (plastic/straw)
- irrigation (furrow/drip)
- crop arrangement (row distance)
- crop rotation
- intercropping
- agroforestry

What is the best way to maximize
 $WUE = \text{yield} / ET_a$?

Cultivation practices to maximize WUE: mulching

straw



plastic



<https://agriculturalinformation4u.com/advantages-and-disadvantages-of-mulching/>

Cultivation practices to maximize WUE: irrigation

furrow (flood) 50%



sprinkler – 70%



<http://www.tyagiindustries.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/sprinkler-irrigation-system-500x500.jpg>

drip – 95%



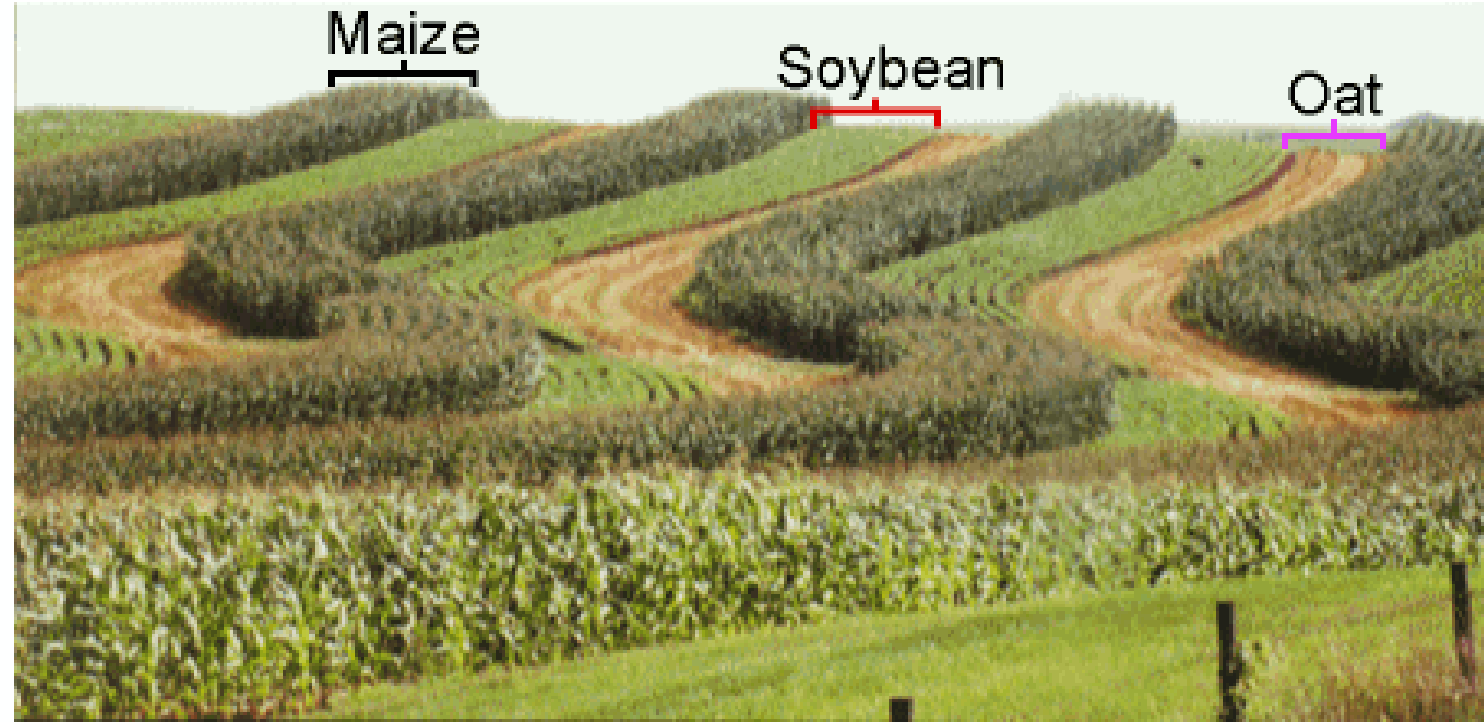
<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/drip-irrigation-duration.jpg>

https://d9-wret.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/assets/palladium/production/s3fs-public/styles/search_result/public/thumbnails/image/wss-banner-irrigation-furrow.png?itok=vCvLvX3-

Cultivation practices to maximize WUE: intercropping

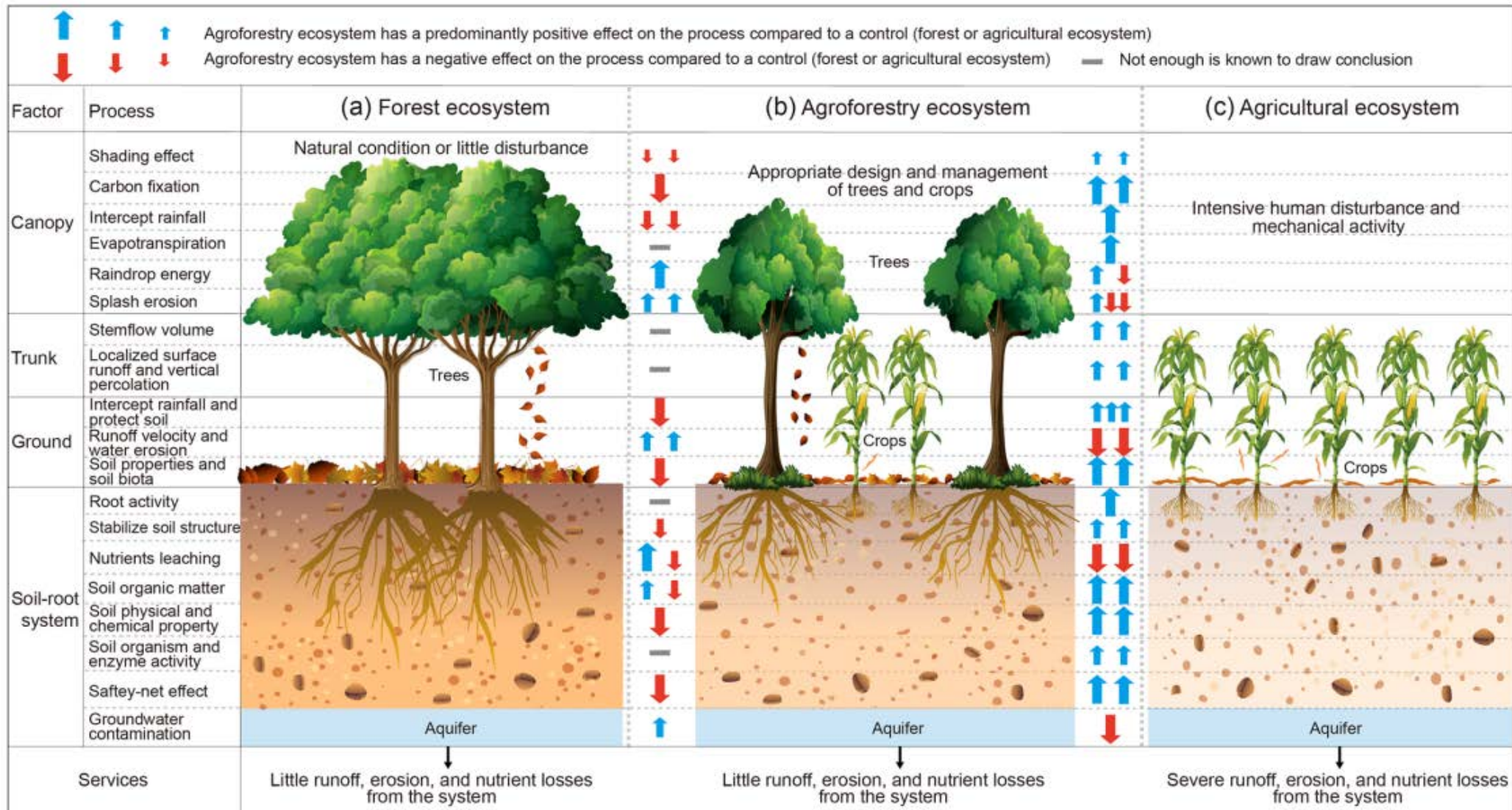


https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/agfuse-web/production/article_feature_images/aaf320dd674f4ee56c95e21225e05221.jpg



<https://masters-sms.agron.iastate.edu/Content/Students/sample/classes/Sample/lesson09/images/stripcrop1.gif>

Cultivation practices to maximize WUE: agroforestry



(Zhu et al., 2020)

Lessons learnt from crop (field) level

- we need the whole growing season
 - instantaneous does not work anymore as was with leaves
- many ways to measure yield and evapotranspiration
- cultivation practices reduce soil component of evapotranspiration
 - mathematically best way is to create a drought 😊 (but this is not a cultivation practice advice)



3/6 Global scale (gross) WUE

$$WUE = \frac{\sum GPP}{\sum ET}$$

GPP – gross primary productivity (g C m⁻² s⁻¹), annual sum

ET – evapotranspiration (kg H₂O m⁻² s⁻¹), annual sum

$$ET = \frac{LE}{\text{heat of water vaporization}}$$

how many grams of carbon are assimilated per 1 kg of transpired (evaporated) water

Example of Gross Biomass Water Productivity

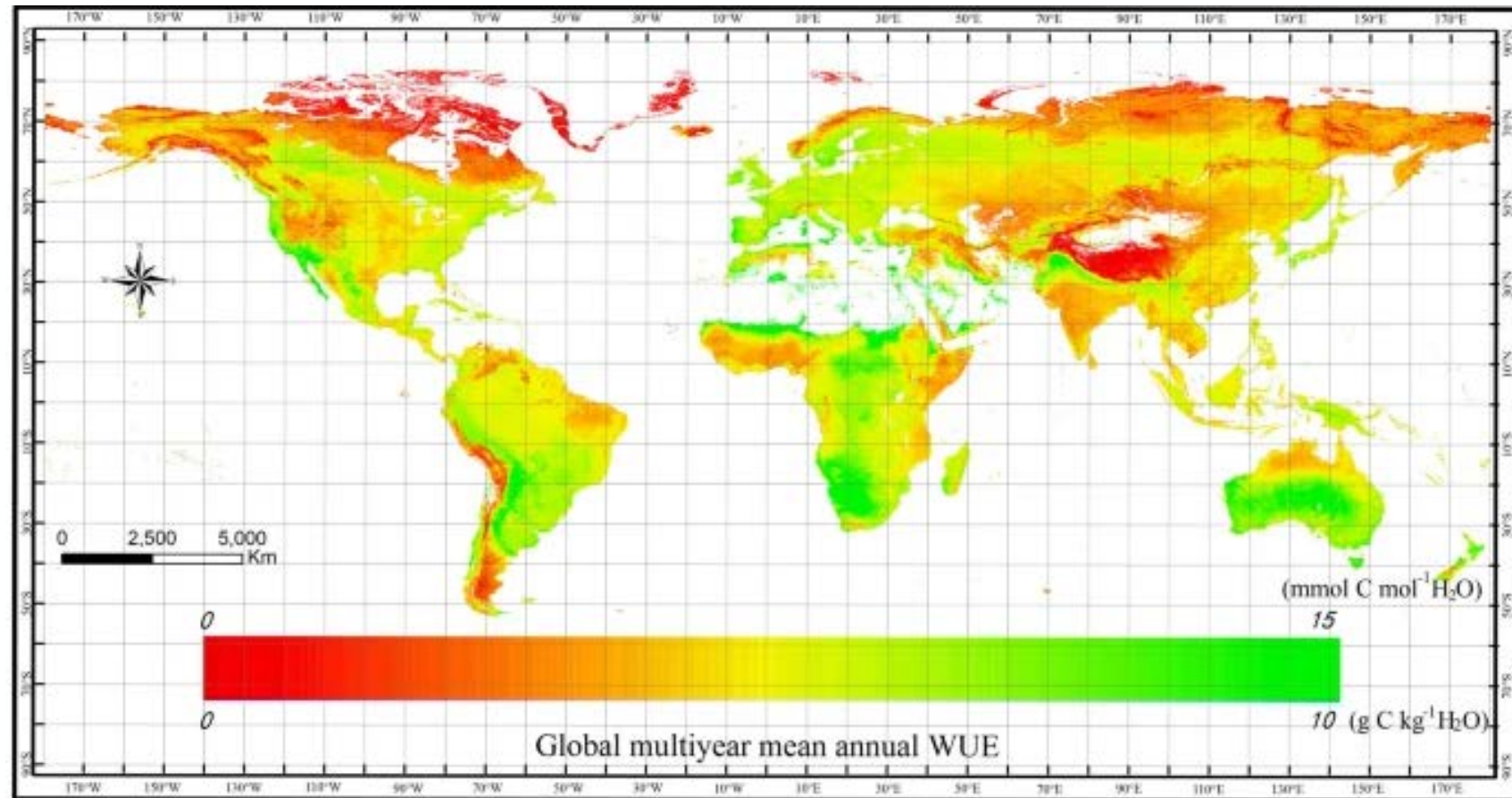
Gross biomass water productivity can also be referred to as ecosystem WUE (Tang et al., 2014). It's multi-year (2000-2013) mean global distribution is:

Based on:

MODIS-based GPP/ET

- GPP – from MOD17 product
- ET – from MOD16 product

Flux tower data for
of the annual sum



Source: <https://www.nature.com/articles/srep07483/figures/4>

FAO WaPOR portal (Africa + Middle East)



wapor.apps.fao.org/catalog/WAPOR_2/1



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

WaPOR

The FAO portal to monitor WAtER Productivity through Open access of Remotely sensed derived data



[Back to map](#) > [Catalog](#)

WaPOR 2.1

[My WaPOR](#) [Info](#) [Feedback](#)

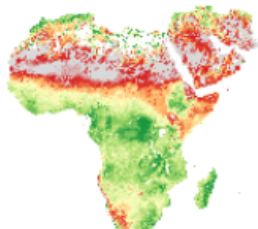
CONTINENTAL (250m)

NATIONAL (100m)

SUB-NATIONAL (30m)

Water Productivity Water Land Climate Ancillary

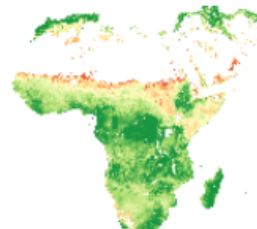
Gross Biomass Water Productivity



WATER PRODUCTIVITY

The annual Gross Biomass Water Productivity expresses the quantity of output (total biomass production) in relation to the total volume of water consumed in the year (actual evapotranspiration).

Net Biomass Water Productivity



WATER PRODUCTIVITY

The annual Net Biomass Water Productivity expresses the quantity of output (total biomass production) in relation to the volume of water beneficially consumed (by canopy transpiration) in the year, and thus net of soil evaporation.

Reminder: we need two components GPP and ET



$$WUE = \frac{\sum GPP}{\sum ET}$$

photosynthesis models
evapotranspiration models

GPP – gross primary productivity (g C m⁻² s⁻¹), annual sum

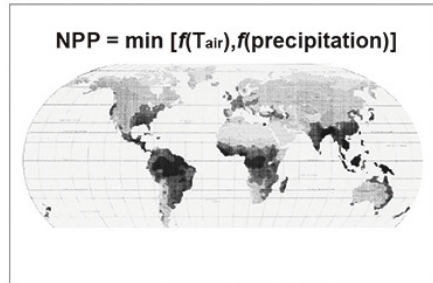
ET – evapotranspiration (kg H₂O m⁻² s⁻¹), annual sum

$$ET = \frac{LE}{\text{heat of water vaporization}}$$

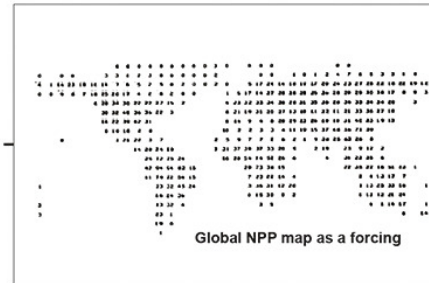
how many grams of carbon are assimilated per 1 kg of transpired (evaporated) water

What is global photosynthesis?

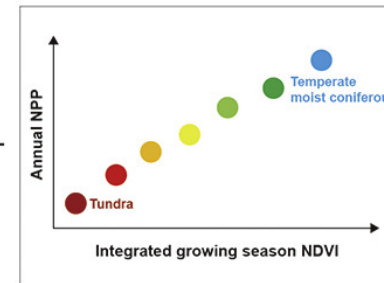
Miami model (Lieth, 1973)



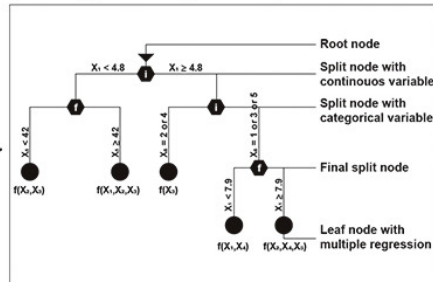
Land into 3D tracer transport model (Fung et al., 1983)



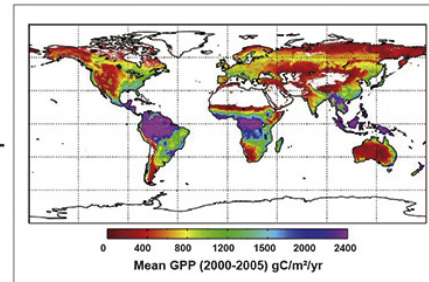
NDVI into productivity model (Goward et al., 1985)



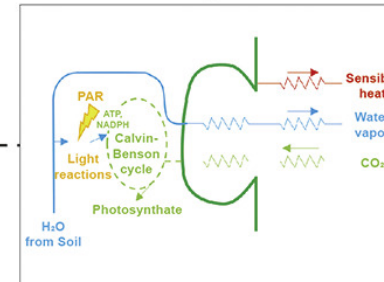
Machine learning (Jung et al., 2009)



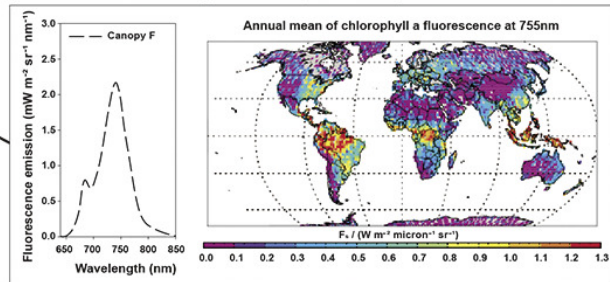
LUE based MODIS GPP (Running et al., 2004)



Physiology into global land model (Sellers et al., 1997)



Sun-induced chlorophyll fluorescence (Frankenberg et al., 2011)



(Ryu, Berry, Baldocchi, 2019)

Copernicus Global Land Service

Providing bio-geophysical products of global land surface



- Home
- Products
- Use cases
- Product Access
- Viewing
- Library
- Get Support



- Burnt Area
- Dry Matter Prod.**
- FAPAR
- FCOVER
- Leaf Area Index
- Land Cover
- NDVI
- Soil Water Index
- Surf. Soil Moisture
- VCI
- VPI

Dry Matter Productivity

<https://notebooks.terrascope.be/>

DMP product updates

Geolocation correction in Sentinel-3-based vegetation products

How to estimate evapotranspiration with RS

1. Surface energy-balance models (SEB)

- SEBS: Surface Energy Balance System (Su, 2002)
- TSEB: Two-Source Energy Balance (Kustas and Norman, 1996)

2. Time rate of change in surface temperature [geostationary satellites]

- ABL: Atmospheric Boundary Layer (Diak, 1990)

3. Combination: time rate of change + SEB

- ALEXI: Atmosphere-Land Exchange Inverse (Anderson et al., 1997, 2007)

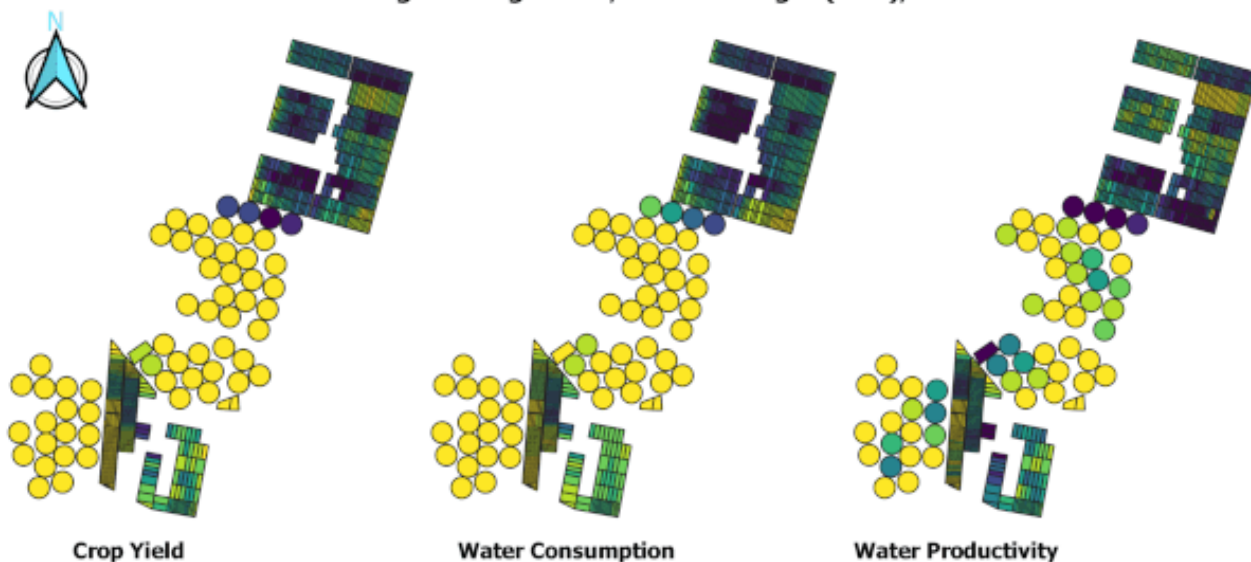
4. Spatial variability methods [wet (cold) / dry (hot) pixels]

- SEBAL: Surface Energy BALance (Bastiaanssen et al., 1998)
- METRIC: Mapping EvapoTranspiration with high Resolution and Internalized Calibration (Allen et al., 2007)
- Vegetation indices (VIs):
 - as a proxy of FAO crop coefficient (K_c) or Priestley and Taylor alpha (α_{PT})
 - “triangle method” (T_s/VI)

5. Land surface models (LSM) + soil-vegetation-atmosphere transfer (SVAT) models



Irrigated Sugarcane, Office du Niger (Mali), 2009

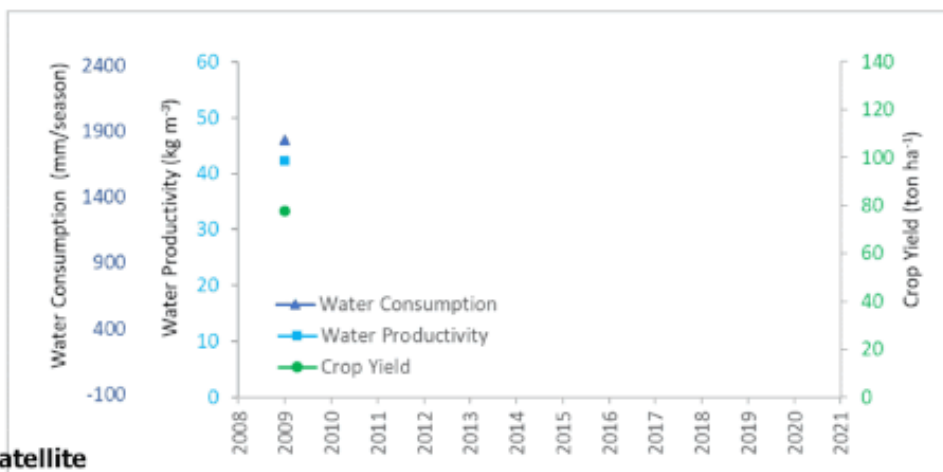


0 2.5 5 km

Performance Level



Data Source: WaPOR
Background: Google Satellite



WaterPIP

Water Productivity Improvement in Practice

FEED THE WORLD

Lessons learnt from global level

- we need the whole growing season
 - instantaneous does not work anymore as was with leaves
- no ways to measure, only models and remote sensing
- several definitions (gross, net, dry mater)



4/6 Climate change and WUE

Climate change consequences

1. CO₂ concentration rise (420 ppm -> ?)
2. Air temperature rise (2.6 - 4.8 degrees)
3. Water holding capacity of air rise (7% per degree) => higher intensity of precipitation
 - Precipitation increase (?)
 - Global dimming => more diffuse radiation
 - Evaporation increase

factor	direction	GPP	ETa	WUE
CO ₂	up	up	down	up
Air temperature	up (< optimum)	up	down	up
	up (> optimum)	down	up	down
Radiation	diffuse	up	down?	up



5/6 Summary



Summary

criteria	leaf	crop (field)	global
name	WUE	CWP	GWP
	Water use efficiency	Crop water productivity	Gross [biomass] water productivity
components are measurable	+	+	-/+
requires seasonal integration	-	+	+
Earth Observation	-	+/-	+

- Allen, Richard G., Luis S. Pereira, Terry A. Howell, and Marvin E. Jensen. 2011. “Evapotranspiration Information Reporting: I. Factors Governing Measurement Accuracy.” *Agricultural Water Management* 98 (6): 899–920. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agwat.2010.12.015>
- Blatchford, Megan L, Chris M Mannaerts, Yijian Zeng, Hamideh Nouri, and Poolad Karimi. 2019. “Status of Accuracy in Remotely Sensed and In-Situ Agricultural Water Productivity Estimates: A Review.” *Remote Sensing of Environment* 234 (September 2018): 111413. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2019.111413>.
- Hartfield & Dold, 2019, Water-use efficiency: Advances and challenges in changing climate, *Frontiers in Plant Science*, doi: <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2019.00103>
- Ryu, Youngryel, Joseph A. Berry, and Dennis D. Baldocchi. 2019. “What Is Global Photosynthesis? History, Uncertainties and Opportunities.” *Remote Sensing of Environment* 223 (March): 95–114. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2019.01.016>
- Tang, X., Li, H., Desai, A. et al., 2014, How is water-use efficiency of terrestrial ecosystems distributed and changing on Earth?. *Sci Rep* 4, 7483. <https://doi.org/10.1038/srep07483>




6/6 Exercise




3 tasks



 0-unit_conversions.ipynb

 1-wue-france.ipynb

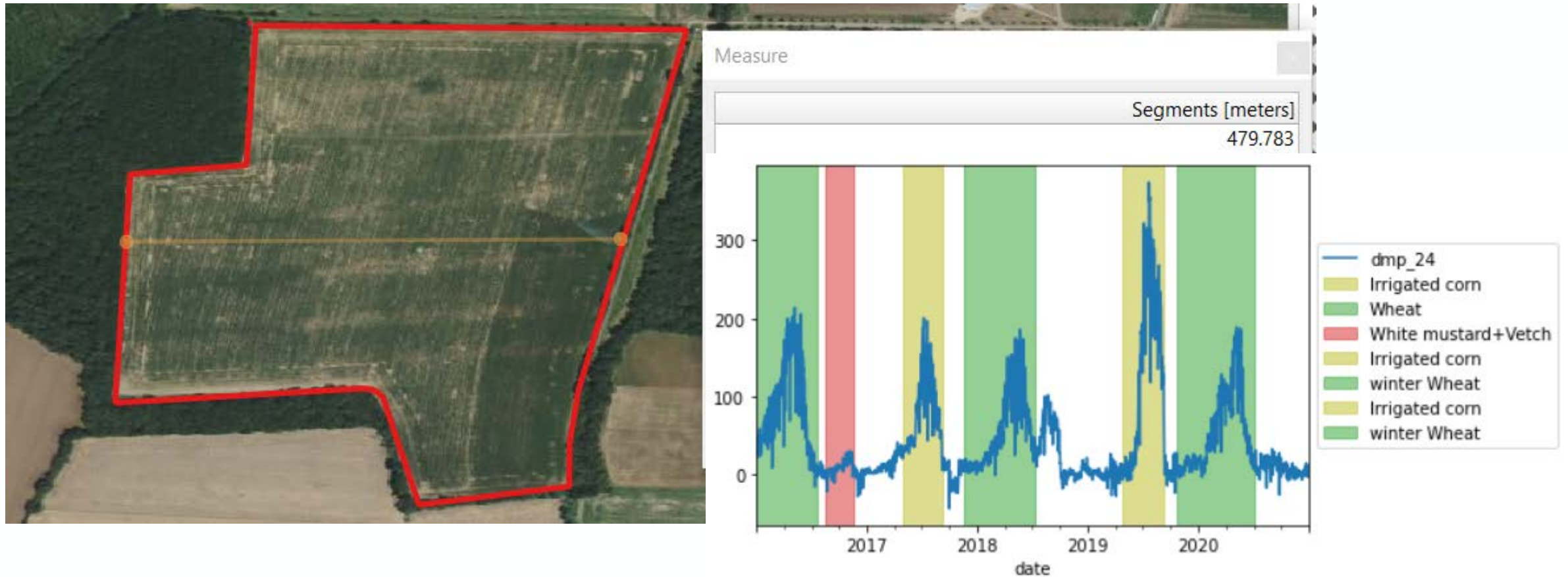
 2-wue-koszeg.ipynb

https://mybinder.org/v2/gh/Prikaziuk/esa_training_2022.git/HEAD

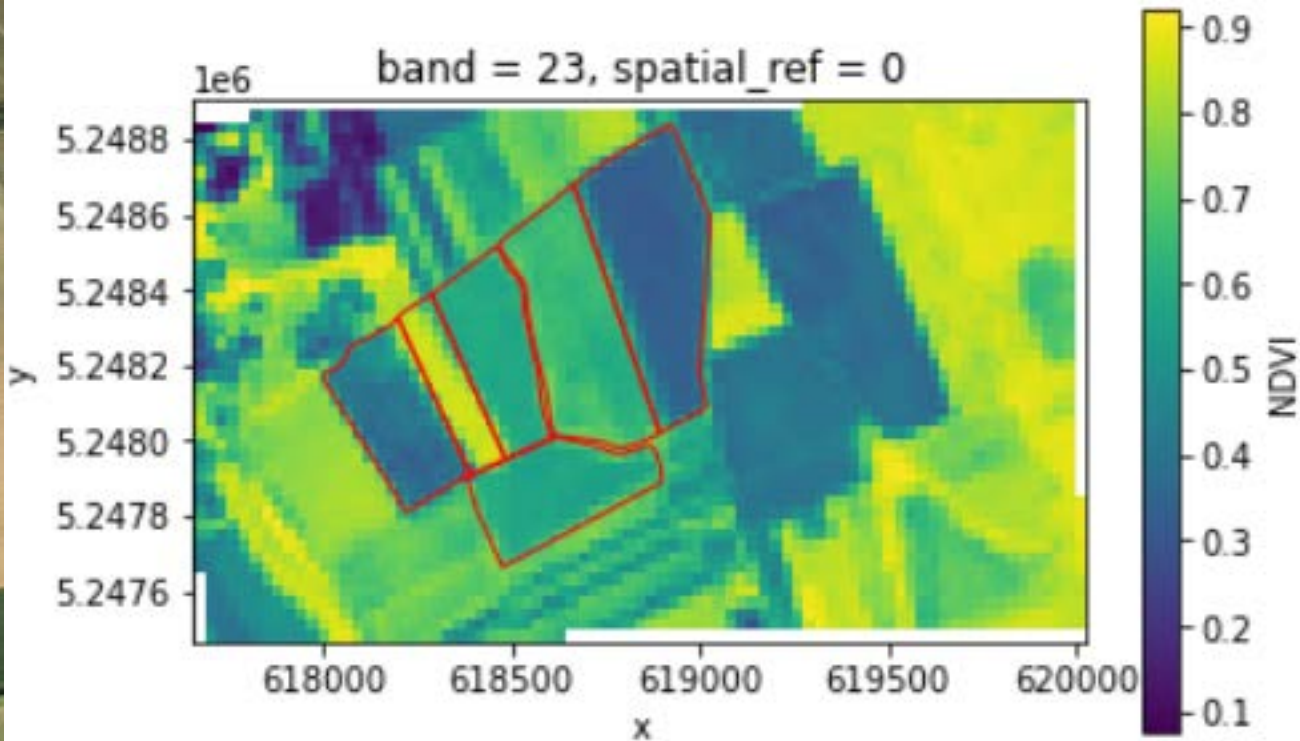


French eddy-covariance ICOS site (FR-Lam) – cropland with wheat-corn rotation
measurements of GPP, ET and SOS and EOS

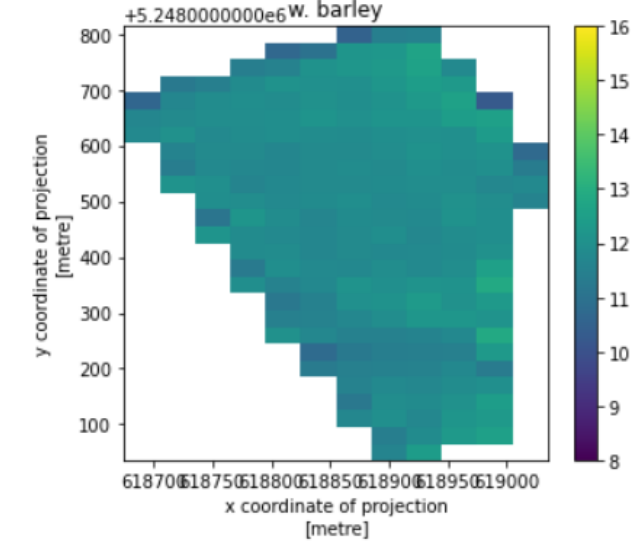
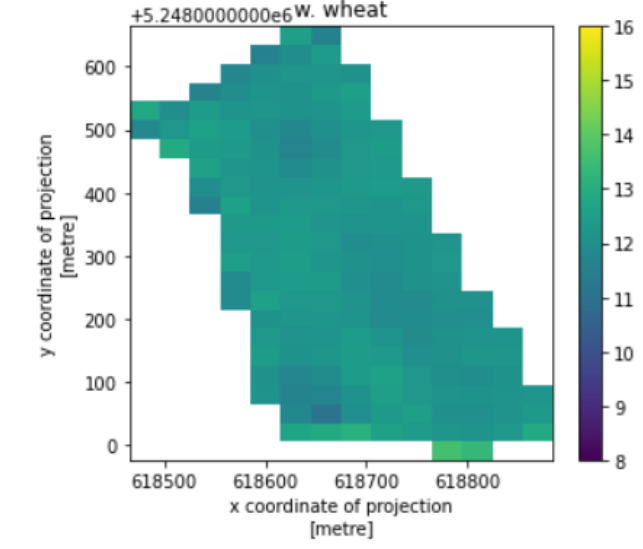
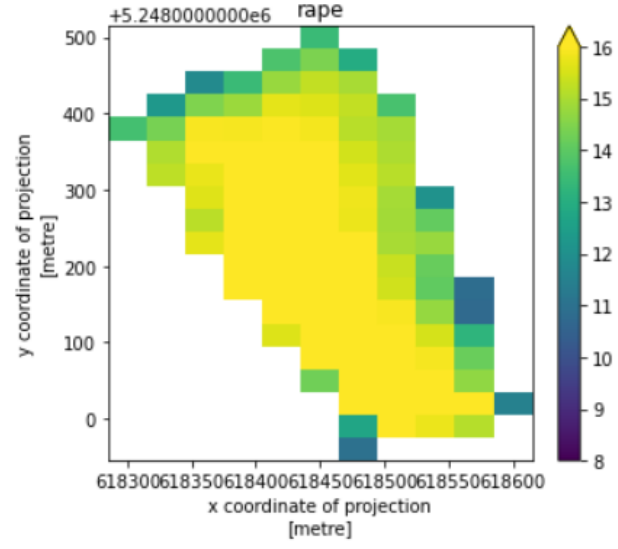
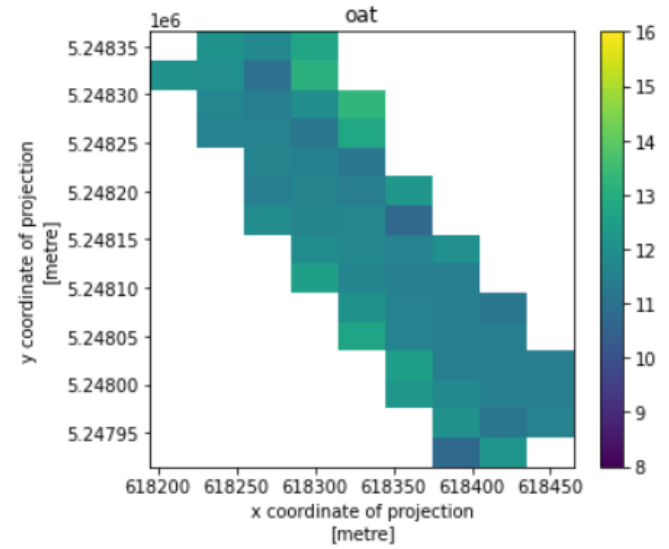
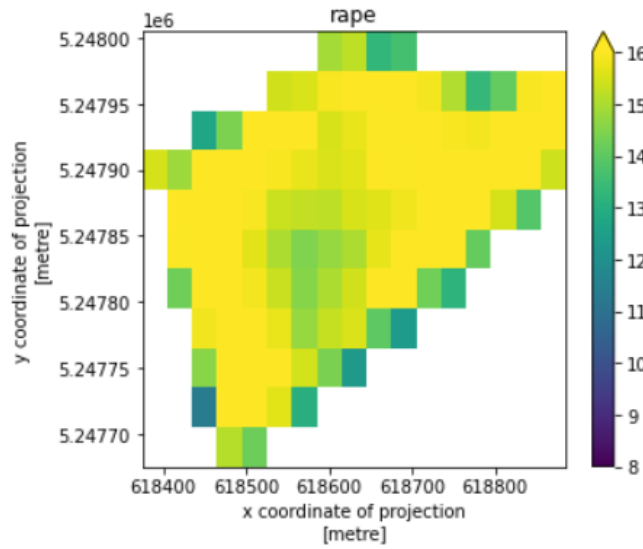
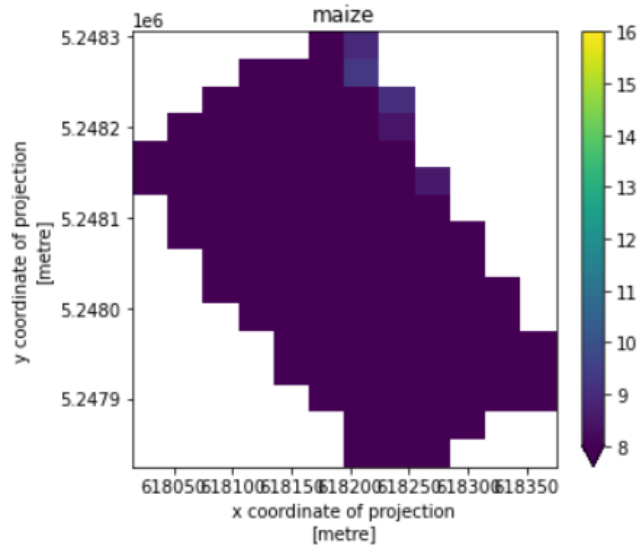
Compute WUE (GWP) for 5 seasons - point exercise



Compute a map of WUE (GWP) for 2022 growing season



2-wue-koszeg – result: WUE map for 2022



Спасибо!

Merci!

Danke!

¡Gracias!

Thank you!

شكريه

Köszönöm

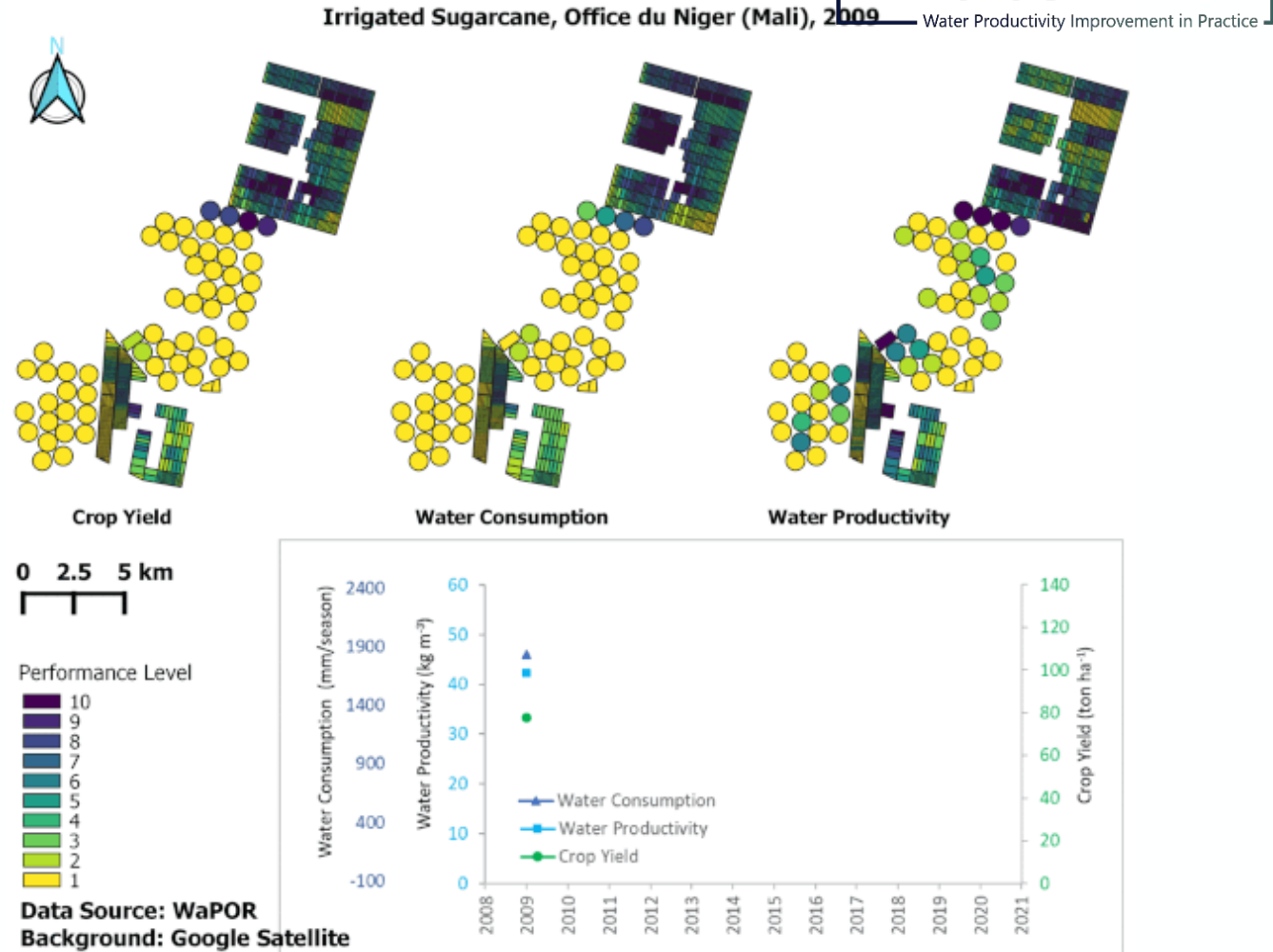
Ευχαριστώ!

Grazie!

Bedankt!

Application: longer term performance assessment

- Client: Policy and program design
- User pain: Unsustainable land and water resources management
- Proposed service: Long-term assessment of yield and water consumption
- Service helps to: Identify plots/area with low productivity (low sugarcane production per unit water and/or land area used), aiming toward sustainable use of water and land resources.



Longer term Irrigation performance assessment – Office du Niger, Mali (2009 – 2020)