

Open water science for food and water

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Soil moisture Monitoring

Observations are globally sparse with regional imbalances in coverage



However...

Emerging low-cost sensors provide opportunities to monitor soil moisture over large areas at reasonable cost

Soil moisture Monitoring for sustainable agriculture

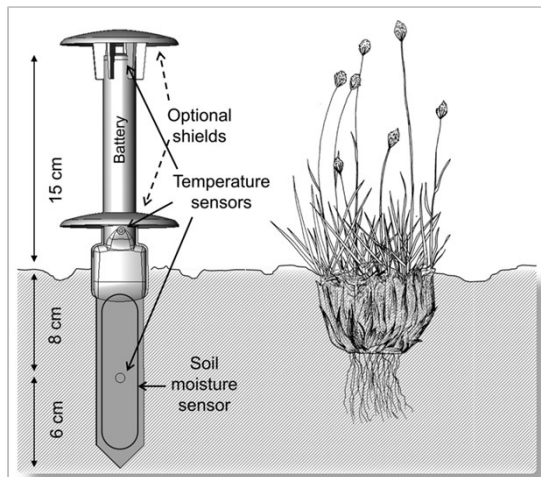


ILVO
Instituut voor Landbouw-,
Visserij- en Voedingsonderzoek



The sensor

TMS4 sensor



Capture climate experienced by small herbaceous plants

- Temperature sensors (3)
- Soil Moisture sensor (1)

SM Sensor: Time domain transmission (TDT)

Can collect data over a long period > 10 years

A Unit is currently ca. 100 EUR for the standard sensor

Variants

TMS standard, extreme and long: 29-45 cm



Buriable TMS: 0,5m, 1m and 2m



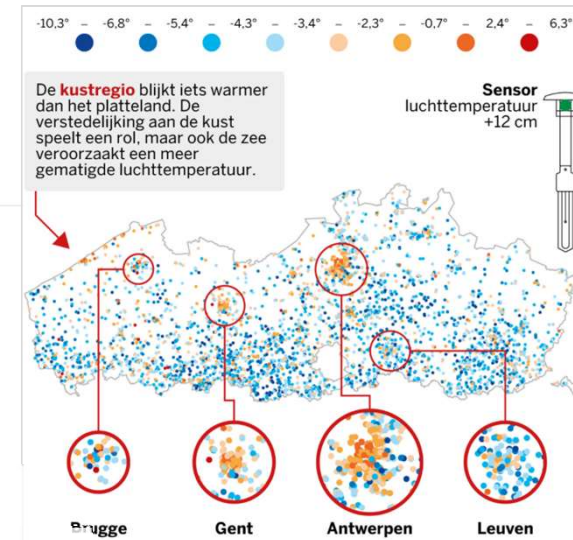
<https://tomst.com/web/en/systems/tms/tms-4/>, Wild et al., 2019

Previous applications



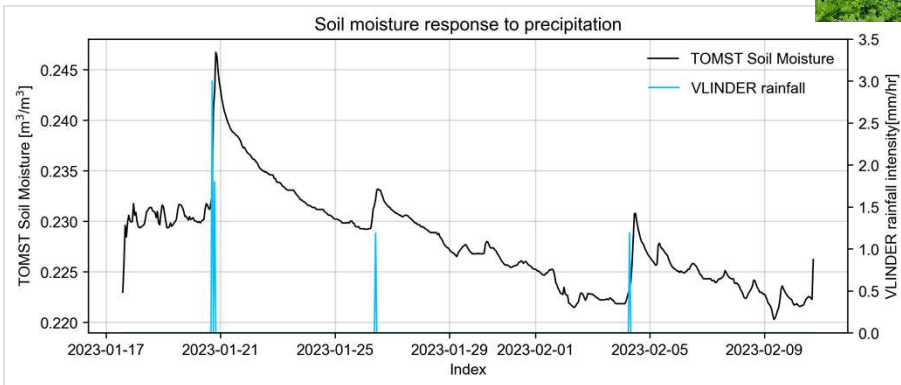
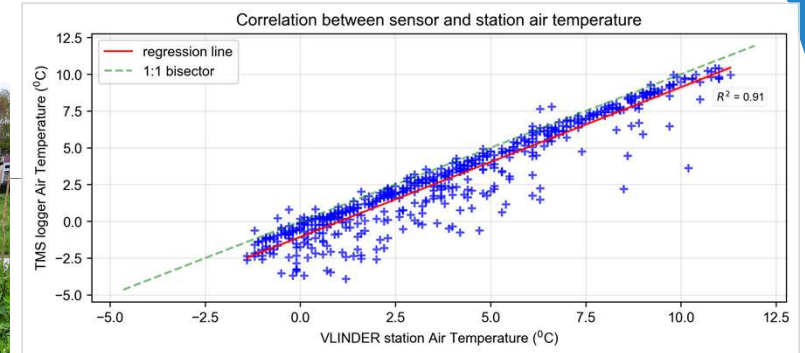
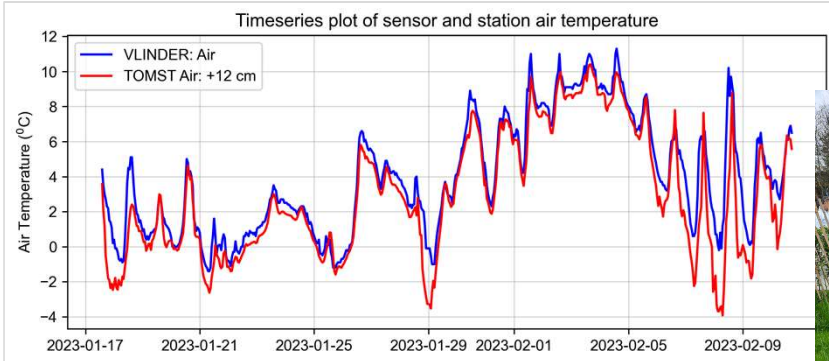
Curious noses in the Garden

- Large-scale citizen science project
- 5,000 sensors installed in gardens across gardens, parks, nature reserves and farms across Flanders to develop data driven recommendations to reduce the impacts of heat, drought and extreme precipitation
- Very popular with microclimate scientists
- @TOMSTloggers



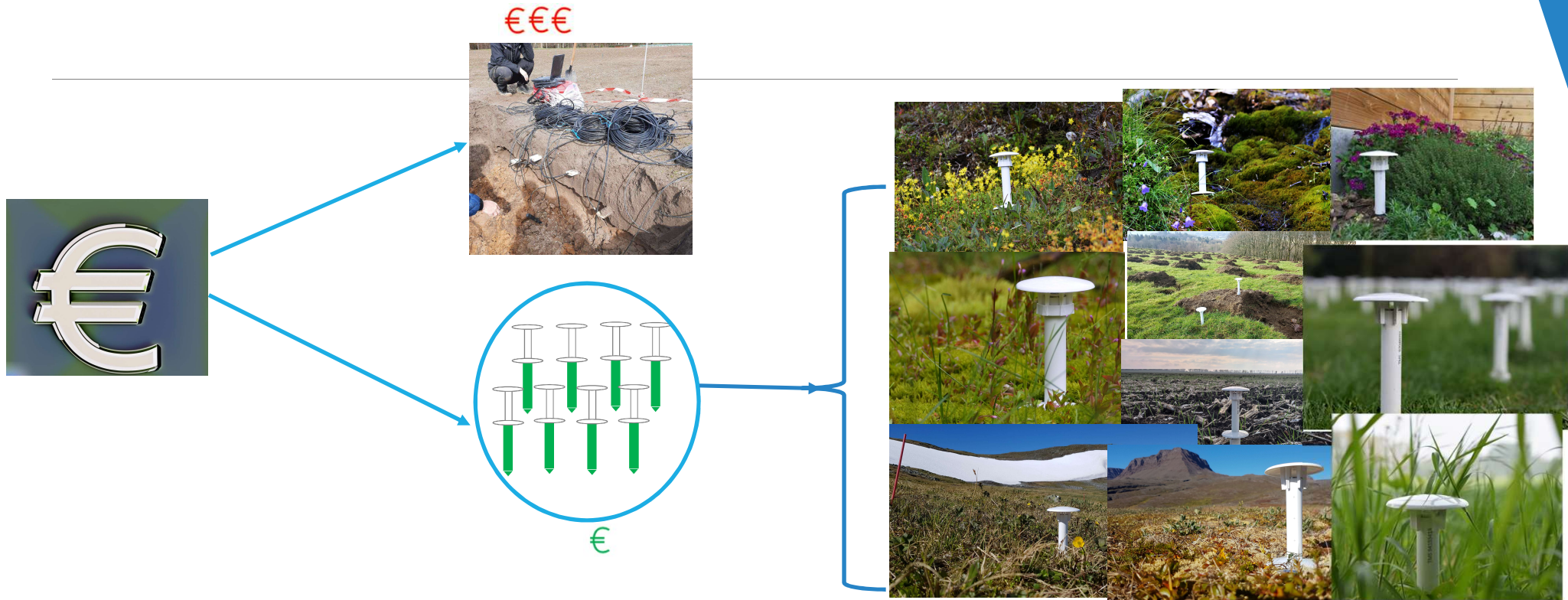
Twitter, curieuzeneuzen.be, <https://the3dlab.org/>

Data validation



Measurements over large scales

- How can we improve coverage with limited resources?



Twitter: @Serega_XP, @juliekemppinen@ecoevo_social, @ADThomas_1970, @Jlembrechts, @PaulKardol, @JoovanOppen

Soil moisture Monitoring

SoilTemp provides a harmonized database for storage of TMS measurements with a footprint in all continents

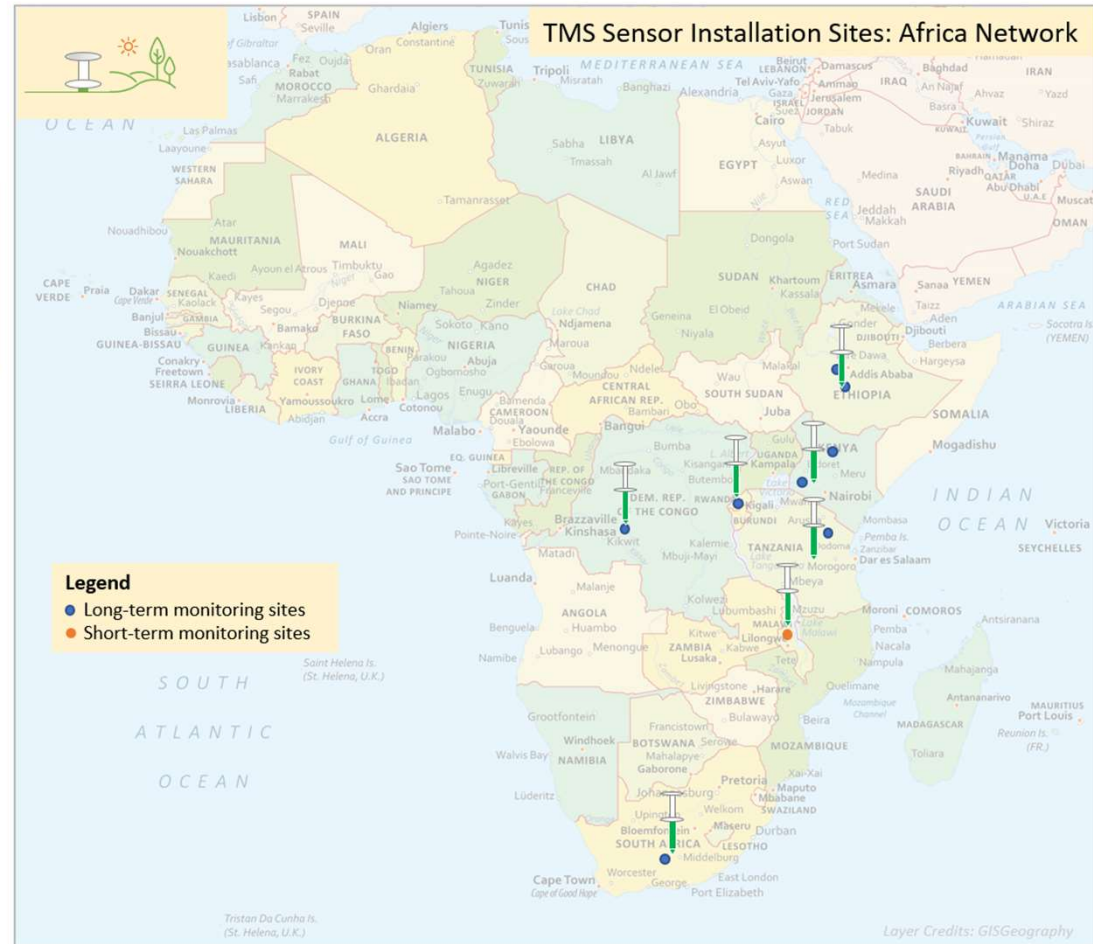
...including Antarctica!

More than 8,000 observations globally and growing

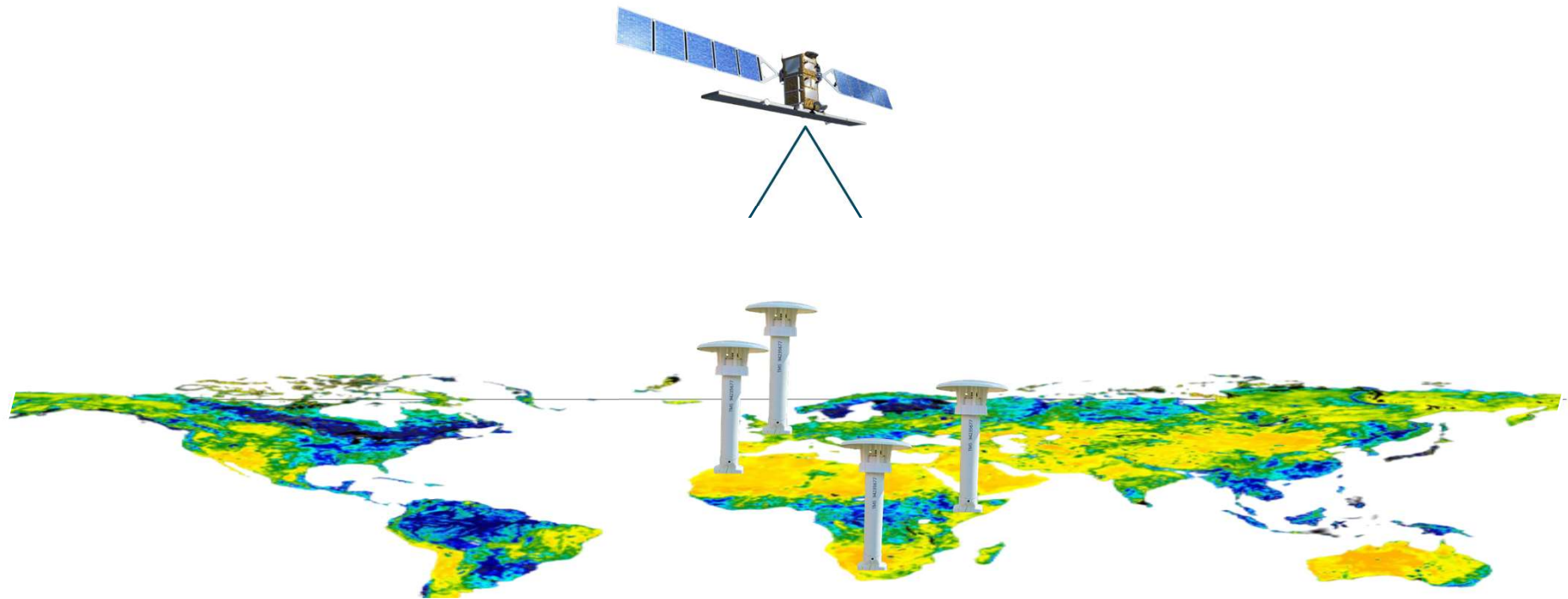


International partnerships

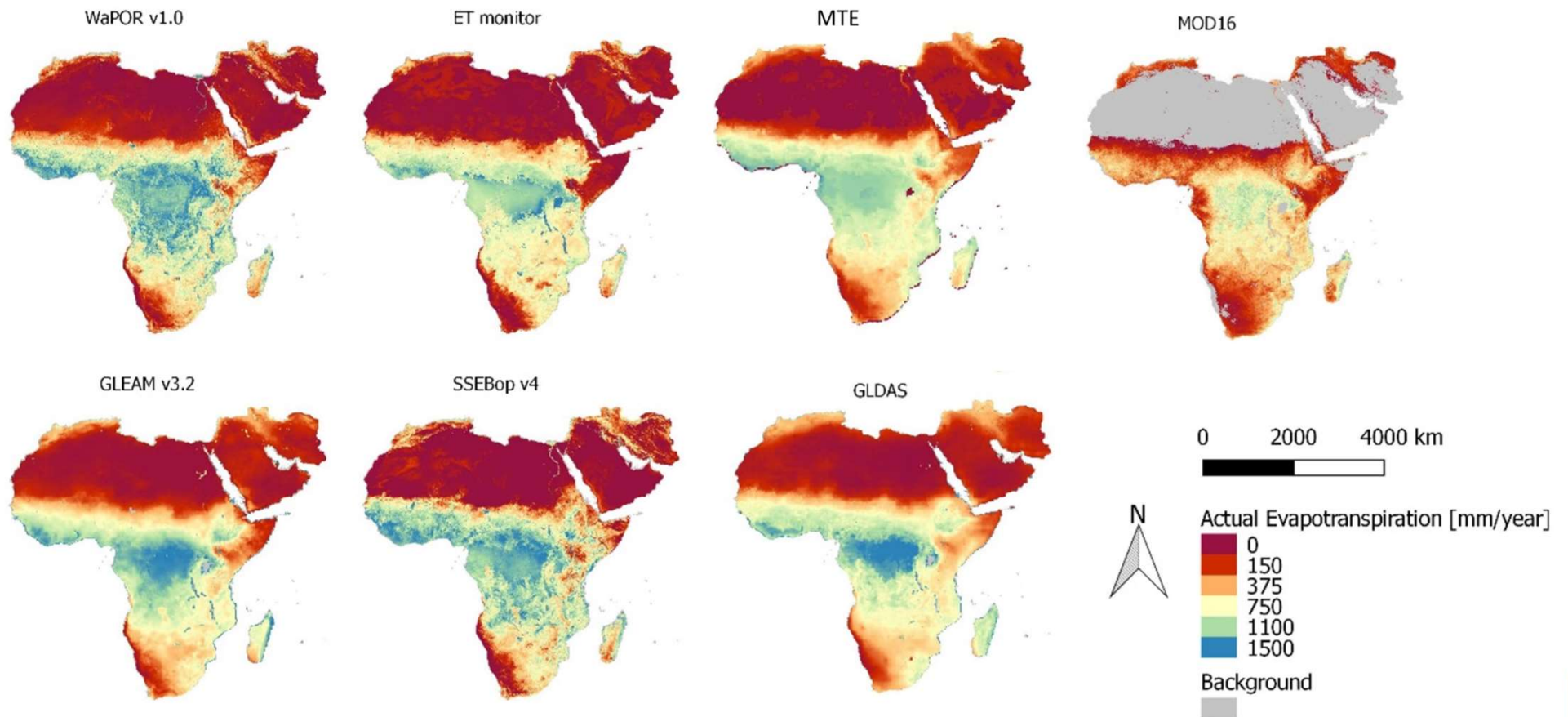
Linking to UNESCO-IHP



Integration with remote sensing and models




Several ET products based on Remote Sensing



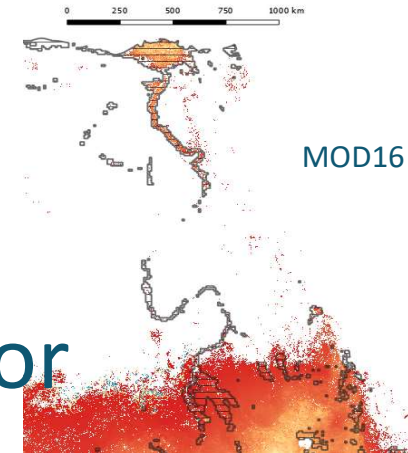
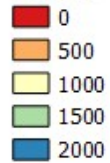
Spatial comparison

using land cover elements – irrigated areas

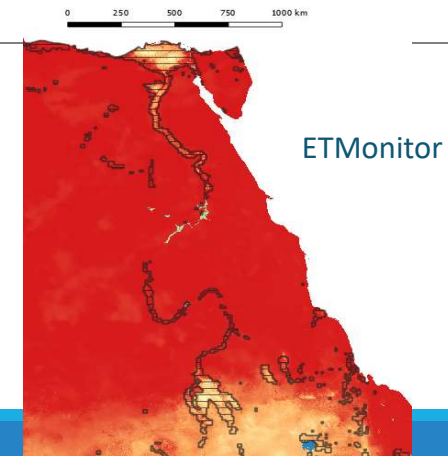
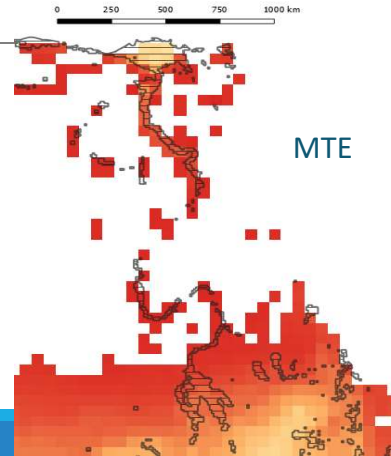
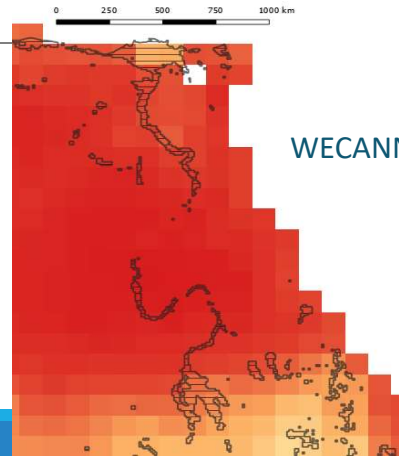
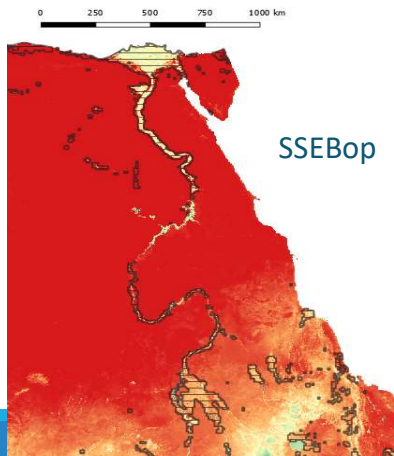
Legend

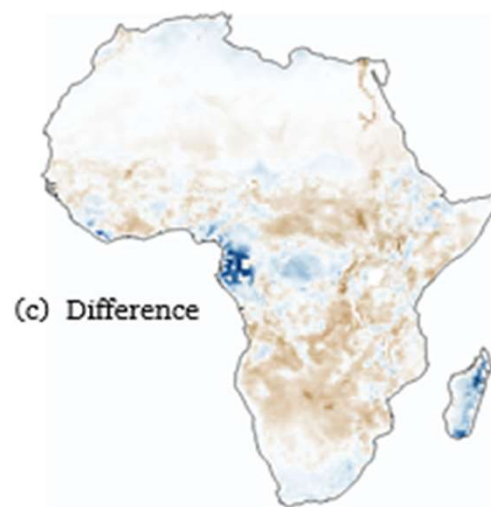
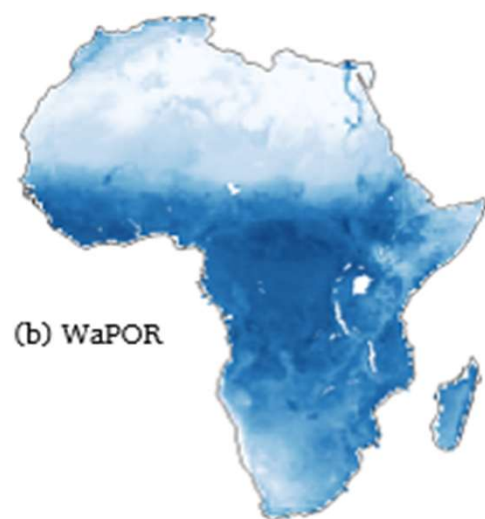
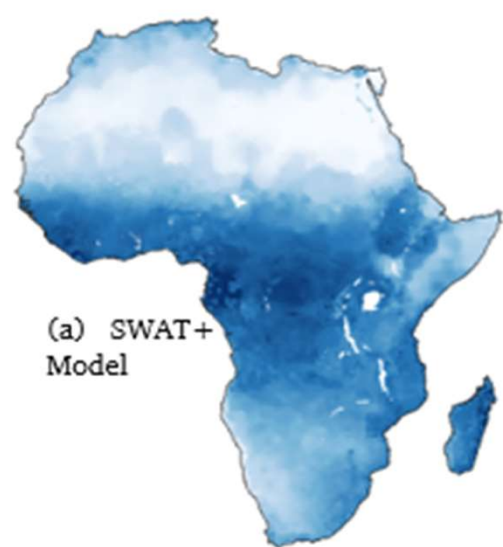
 areas actually irrigated

ET (mm)



Best performing products are:
WaPOR, SSEBop, ETMonitor





ET (mm year⁻¹)

0 50 400 900 2000

ET Difference (mm year⁻¹)

-1200 -800 -400 400 800 1200

Drought, soil moisture,
monitoring, remote sensing

Thank you

for your time

