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HALLE-WITTENBERG



# Application oriented monitoring of agrarian ecosystems and localization of droughts - a question of data integration

Prof. Dr. habil. Christopher Conrad

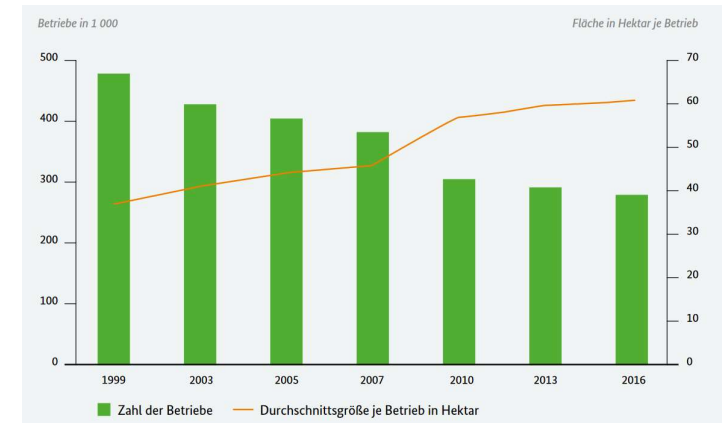
Department of Geoecology

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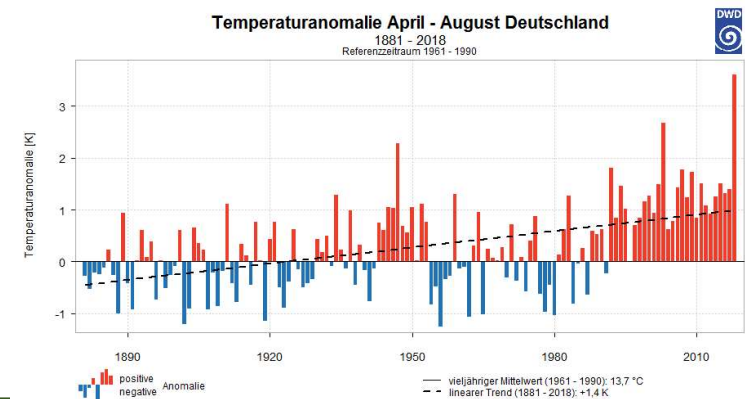
# Immense pressure on agrarian ecosystems



- Task: Economic, social and ecological sustainability
- Ongoing changes increase vegetation periods, provide more CO<sub>2</sub> for production, but also more O<sub>3</sub>, increased number of extreme events (Gömman et al. 2017)
- Major requirements for agricultural sector: Improved monitoring, scientific analysis and consultancy



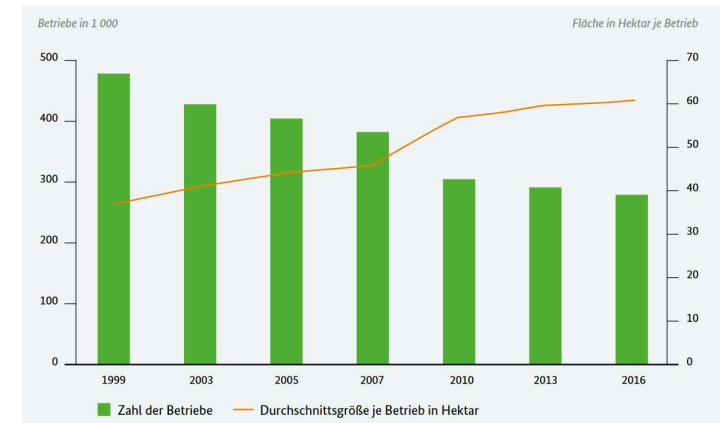
Increasing farm size, [www.bmel.de](http://www.bmel.de)



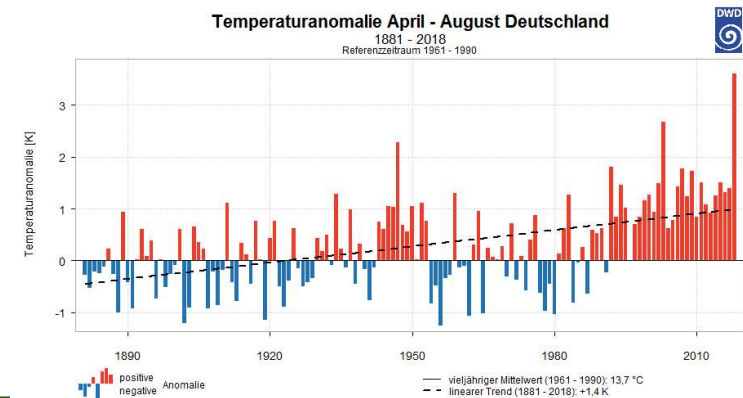
# Immense pressure on agrarian ecosystems



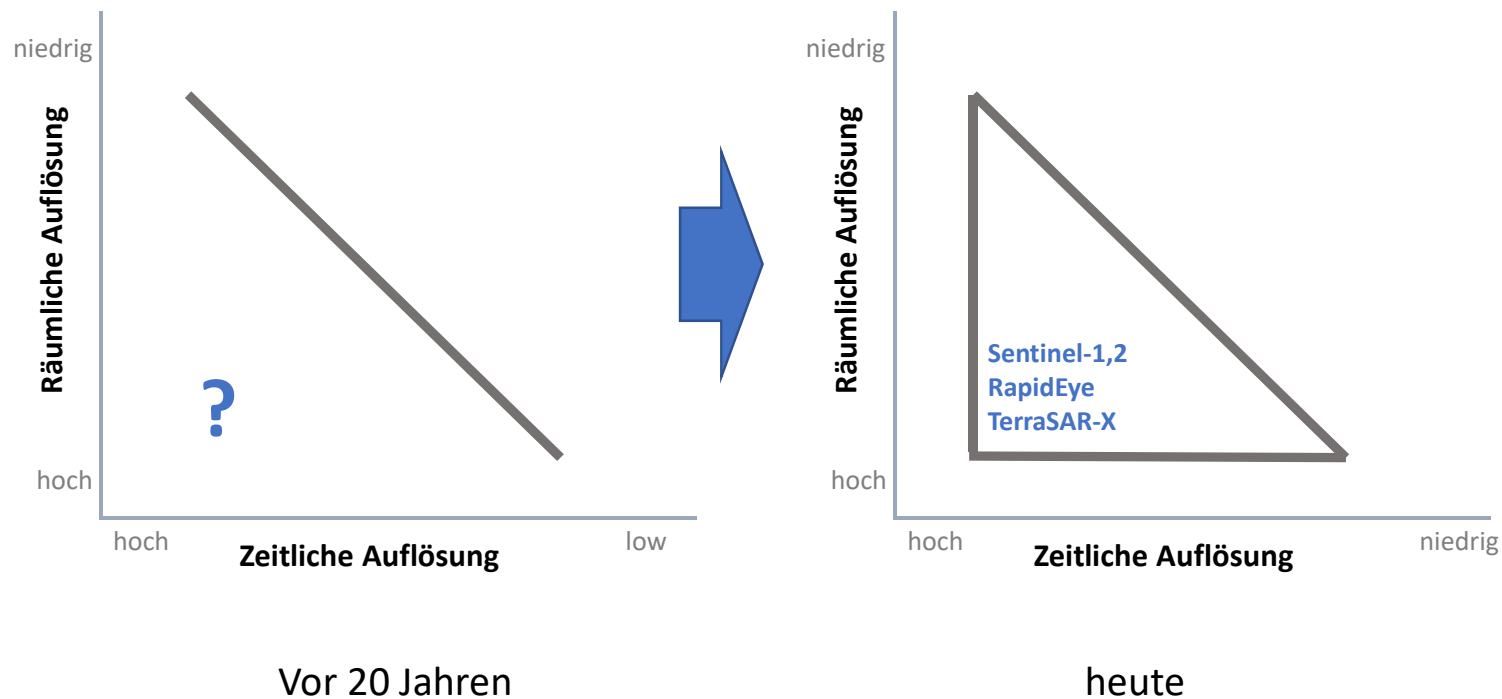
- Remote sensing can be very helpful monitoring tool



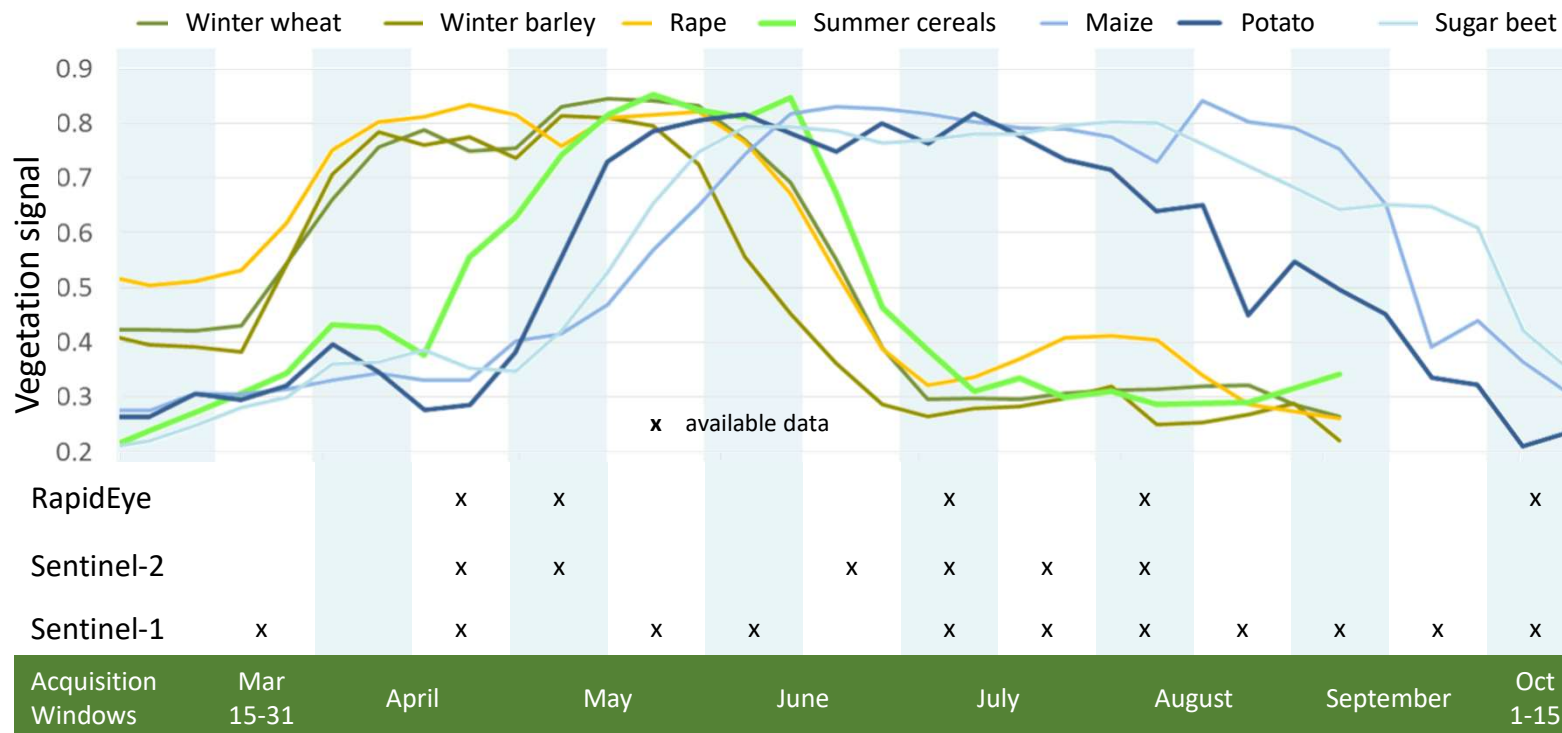
Increasing farm size, [www.bmel.de](http://www.bmel.de)



# New technical opportunities



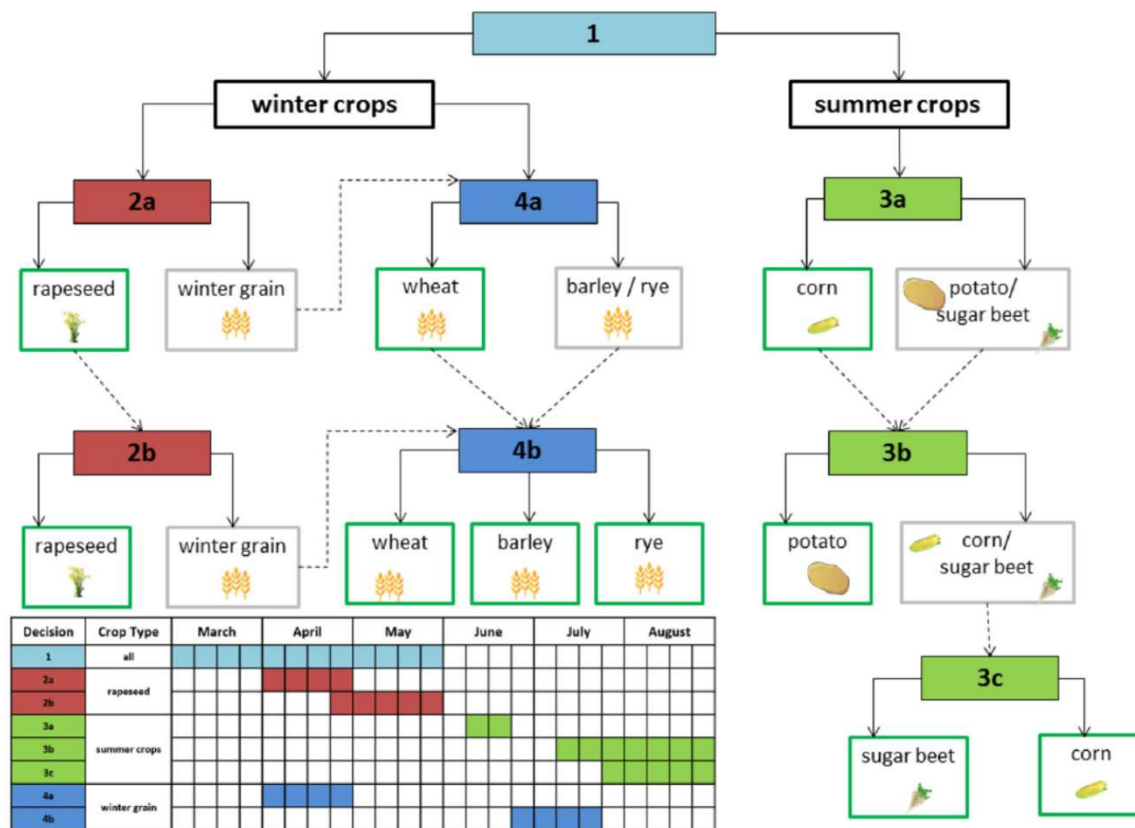
# Multi- “sensor/temporal/stage” analysis



0.914 Example: Cropland  
 0.895 in the TERENO  
 0.892 Harz/Central  
 German Lowland  
 Observatory

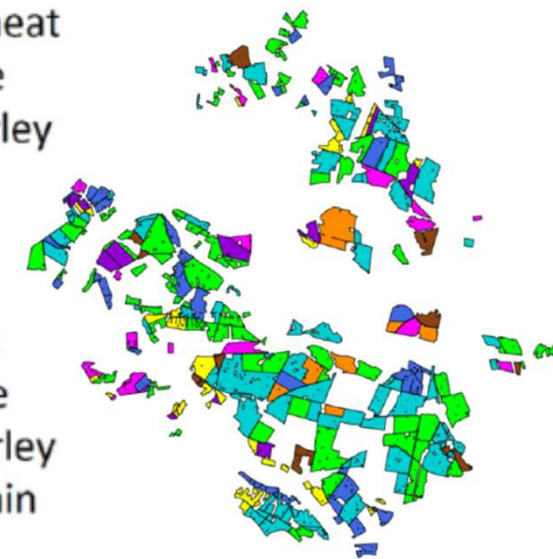


# Innovative sequential masking



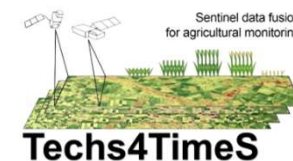
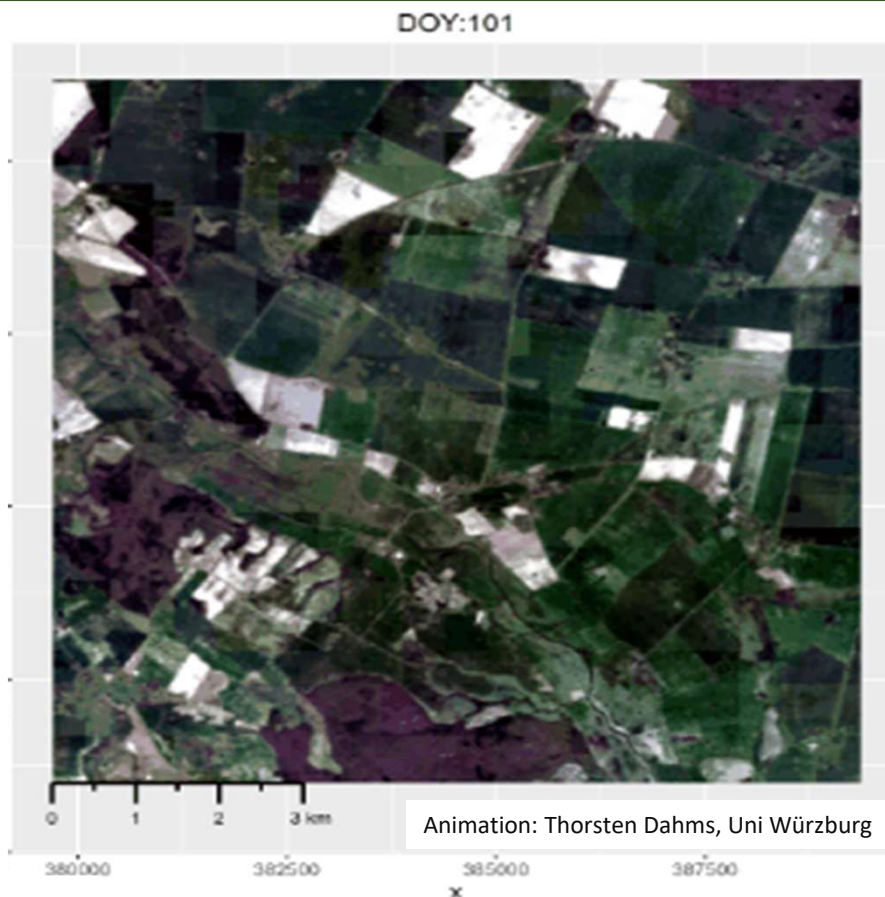
Crop map of TERENO DEMMIN 2018

- Winter Wheat
- Winter Rye
- Winter Barley
- Rapeseed
- Corn
- Potato
- Sugar Beet
- Wheat/Rye
- Wheat/Barley
- Winter Grain



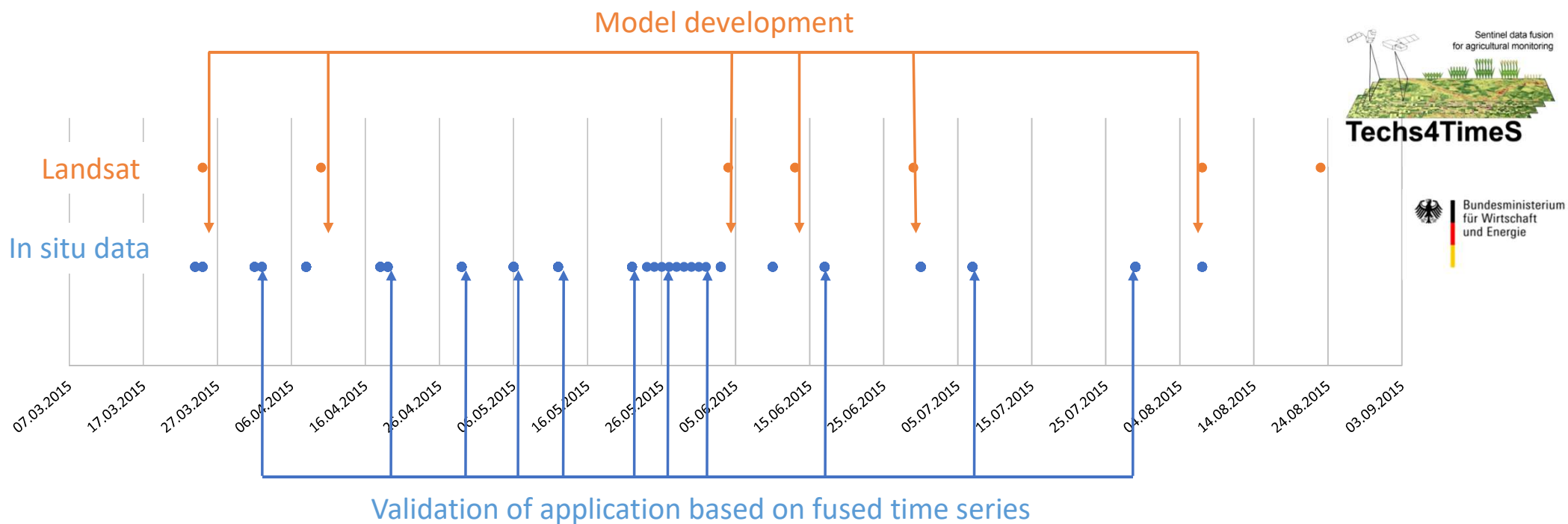
Heupel, K., Spengler, D., & Itzerott, S. (2018). A Progressive Crop-Type Classification Using Multitemporal Remote Sensing Data and Phenological Information. *PFG - Journal of Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Geoinformation Science*, 86(2), 53–69.

# Dense time series of remote sensing information



Gao, F., Masek, J., Schwaller M. and Hall, F. On the blending of the Landsat and MODIS surface reflectance: predict daily Landsat surface reflectance. IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing. 44 (8): 2207-2218. 2006.

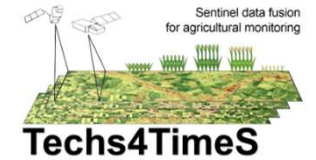
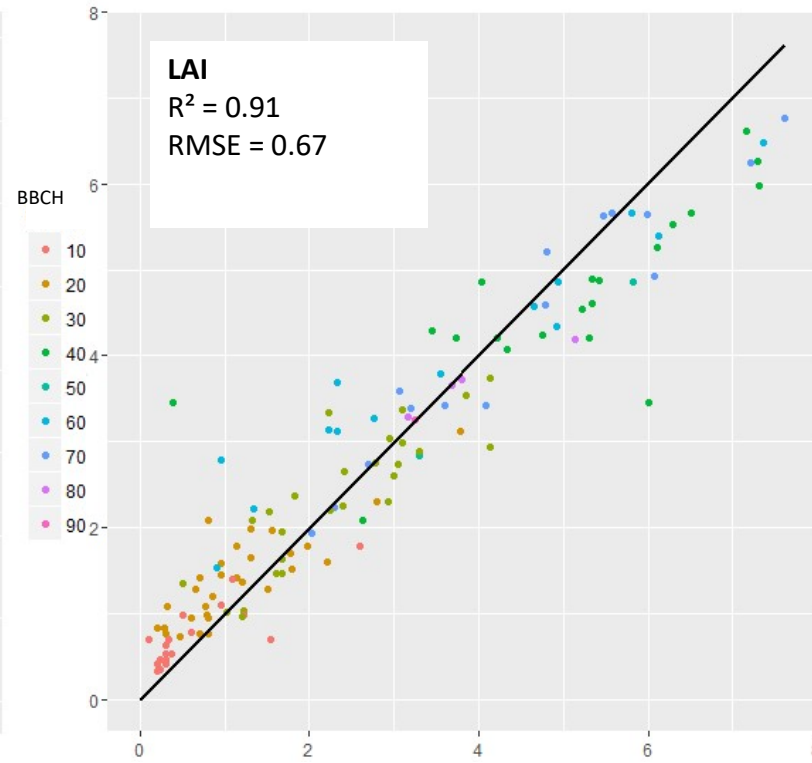
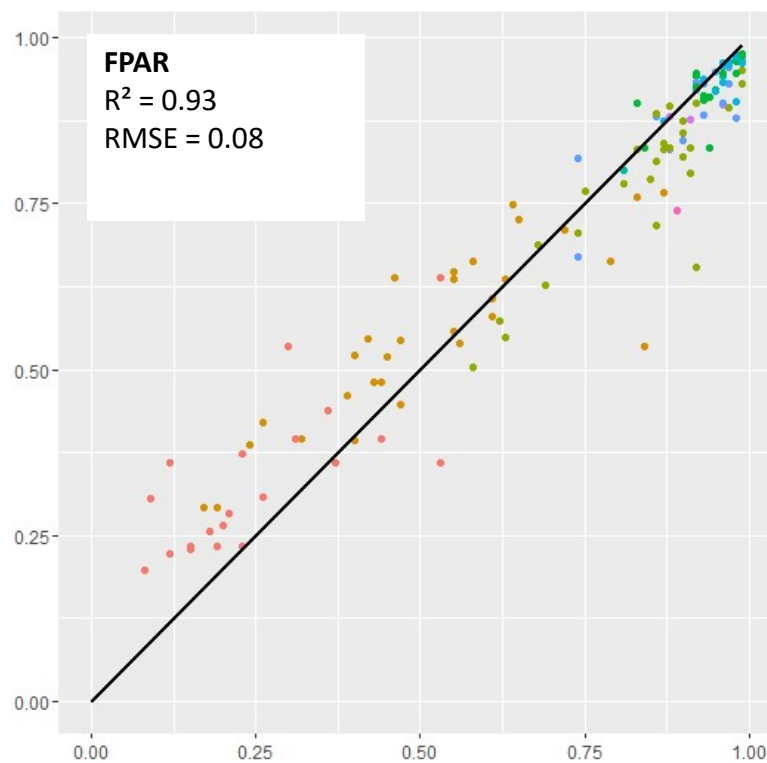
# Dense observations of biophysical parameters



PhD Thorsten Dahms, Uni Würzburg



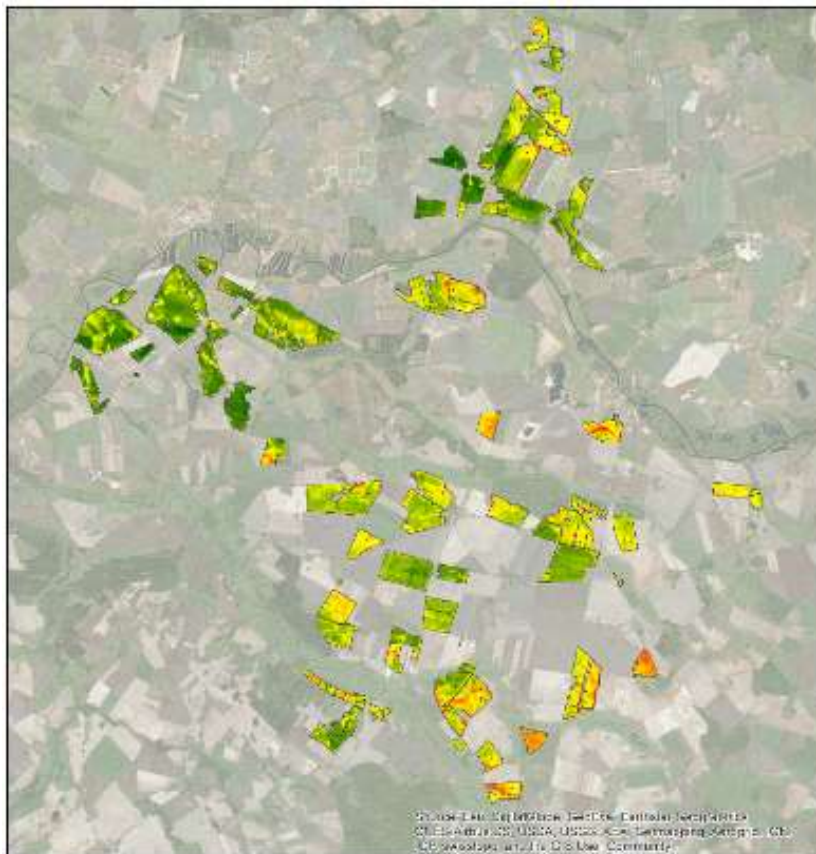
# Example FPAR/LAI of Winter Wheat



Measured (x-axis) vs. Modelled biophys. Parameter (y-axis)

PhD Thorsten Dahms, Uni Würzburg

# Site-specific biomass modelling and yield estimations



Utilization of a light use efficiency model:

Integration of remote sensing-based biophysical parameters with climate data and crop-specific information

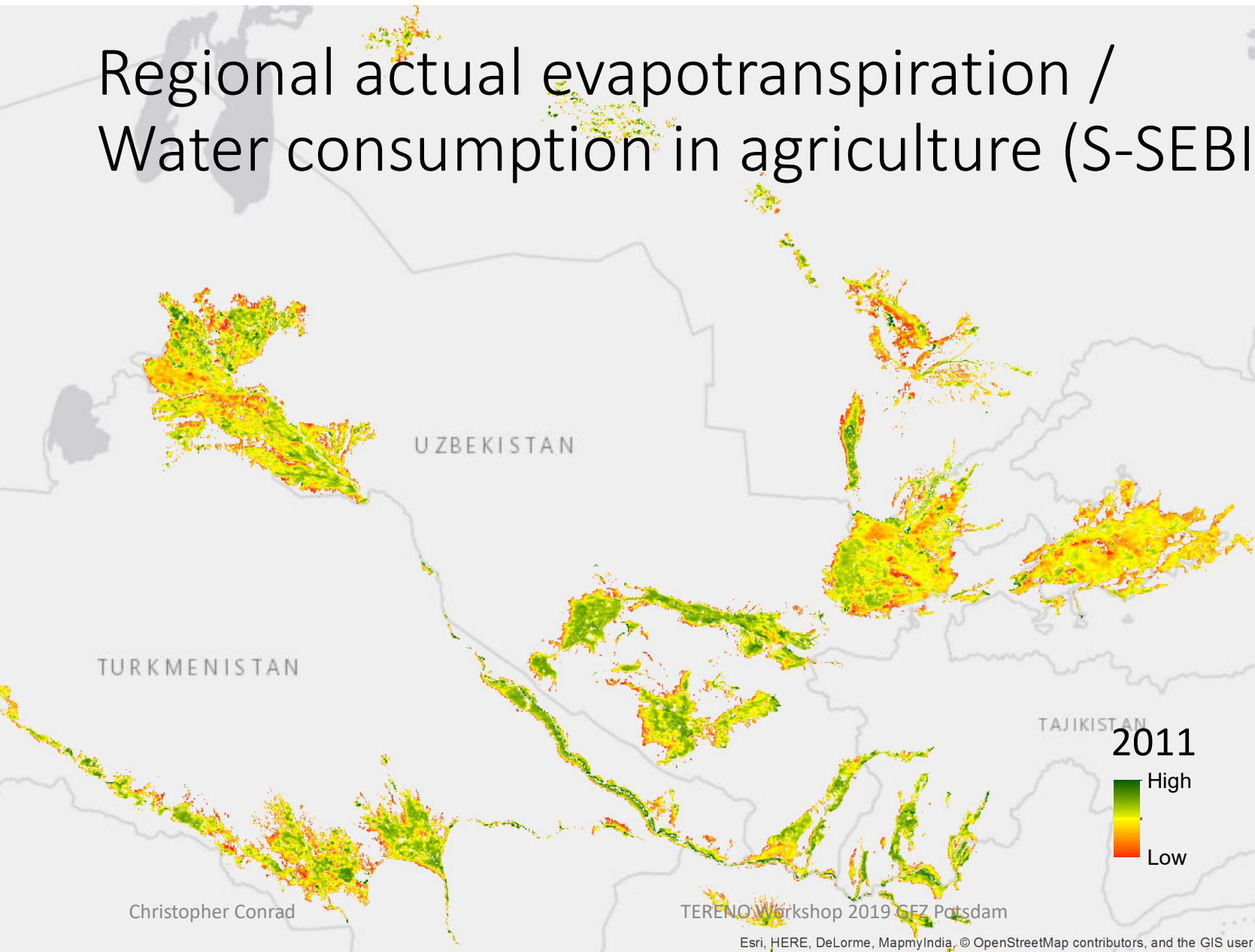
Application:

Yield level map  
(based on multi-annual data)

- Support of soil sampling and fertilization



# Regional actual evapotranspiration / Water consumption in agriculture (S-SEBI)



Schönbrodt-Stitt, S.; Conrad, C.; Dimov, D.; Ergashev, I.; Löw, F.; Morper-Busch, L.; Muminov, S.; Ruziev, I.; Schorcht, G.; Solodky, G.; Sorokin, D.; Stulina, G.; Toshpulatov, R.; Zaitov, S.; Kitapbayev, A.; Unger-Shayesteh, K. (2018): **The WUEMoCA Tool for Monitoring Irrigated Cropland Use and Water Use Efficiency at the Landscape Level of the Aral Sea Basin.** In: Novel Methods and Results of Landscape Research in Europe, Central Asia and Siberia, Vol. 4 Optimising Agricultural Landscapes, 4 (72), 351 - 356.

Gunther Schorcht, Greenspin

# Drought year 2018

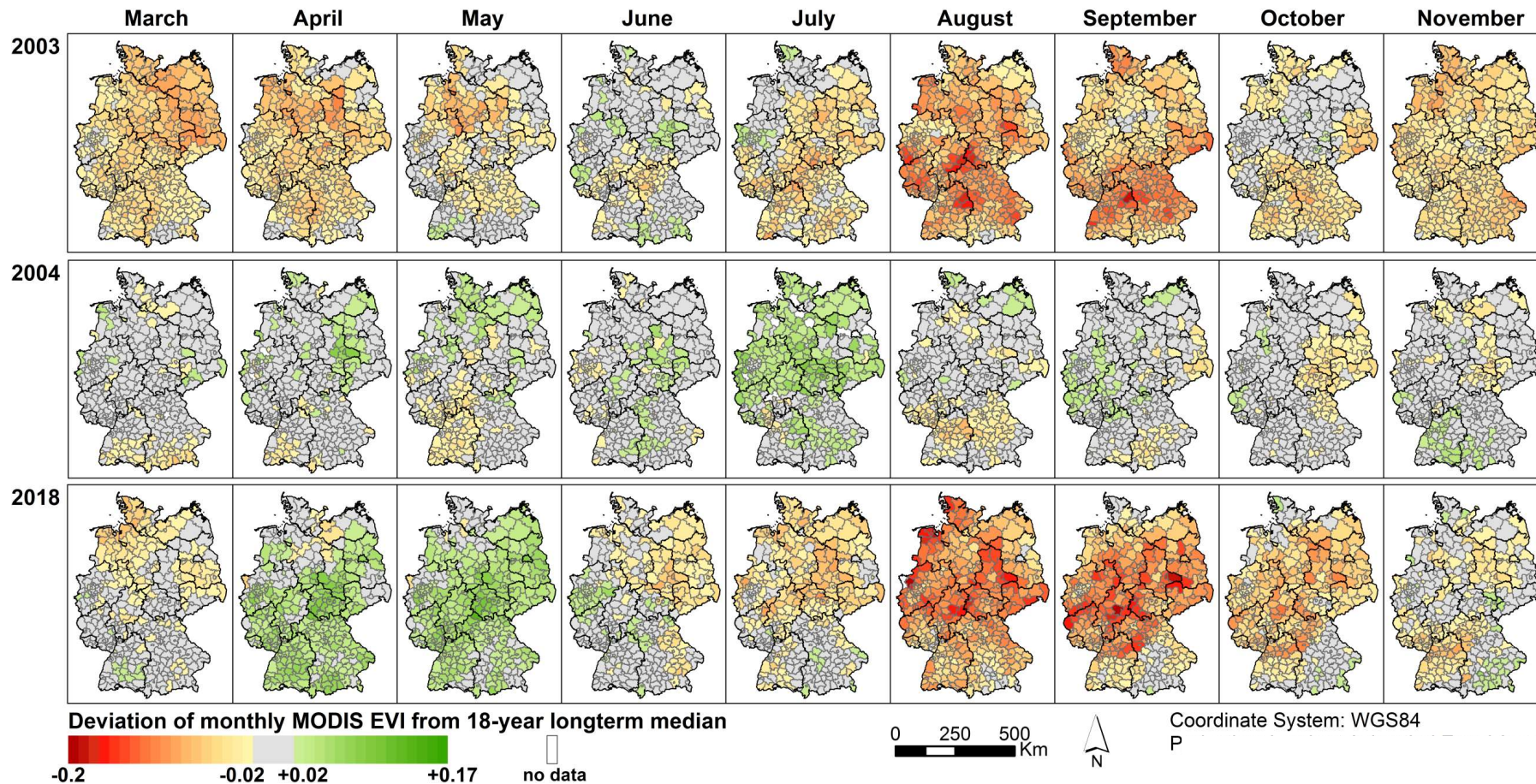


Deviation of the vegetation signal in June 2018 from the medium-term average (19 years of MODIS) Source: Sophie Reinermann, DLR

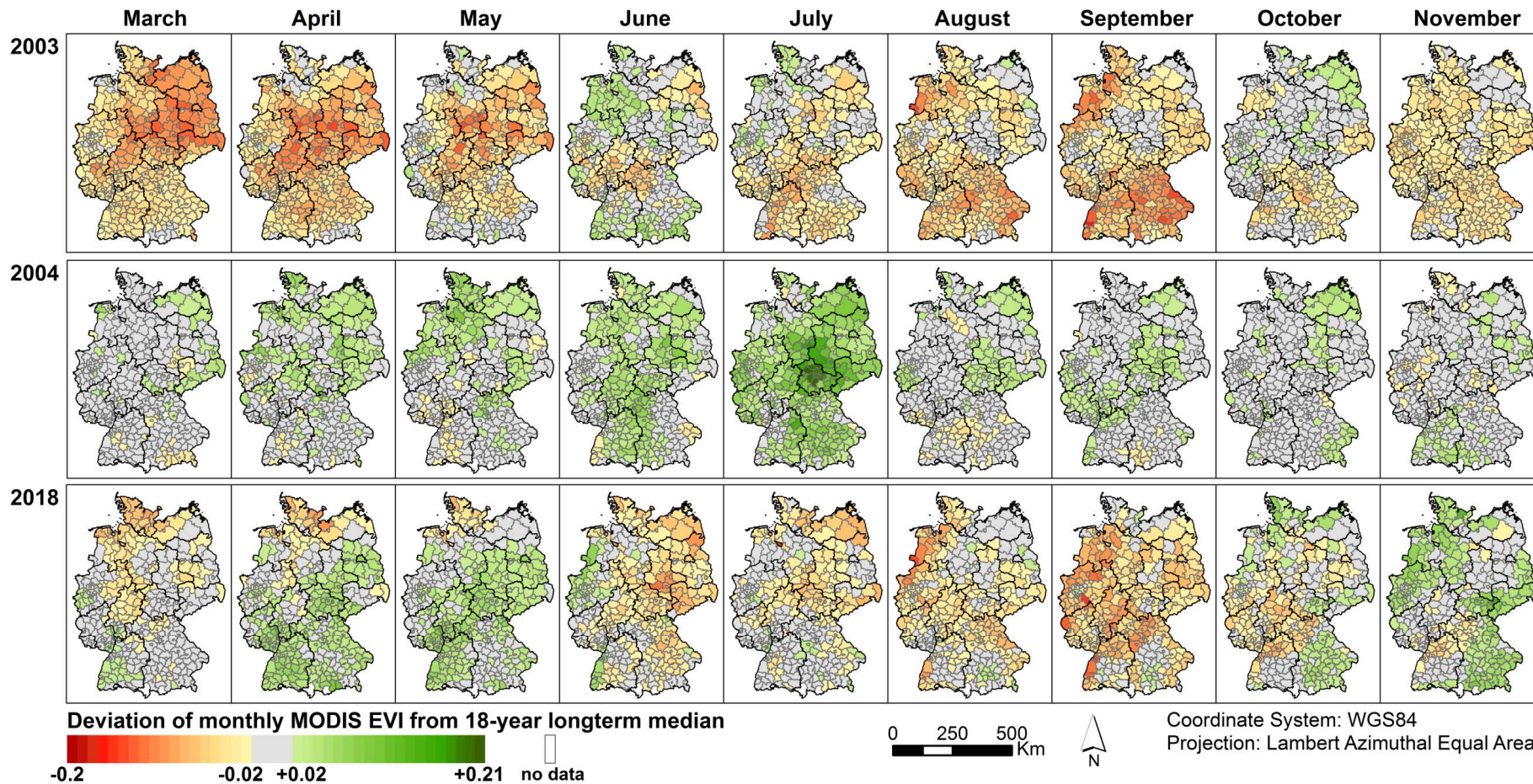


Impact of severe drought and heat wave Sources: „Mitteldeutsche Zeitung“ and „Volksstimme“ 2018

# Spatial pattern of EVI anomalies in Germany CORINE class grassland



# Spatial pattern of EVI anomalies in Germany CORINE class cropland



Christopher Conrad

TERENO Workshop 2019 GFZ Potsdam

# Temporal pattern of EVI anomalies in Germany

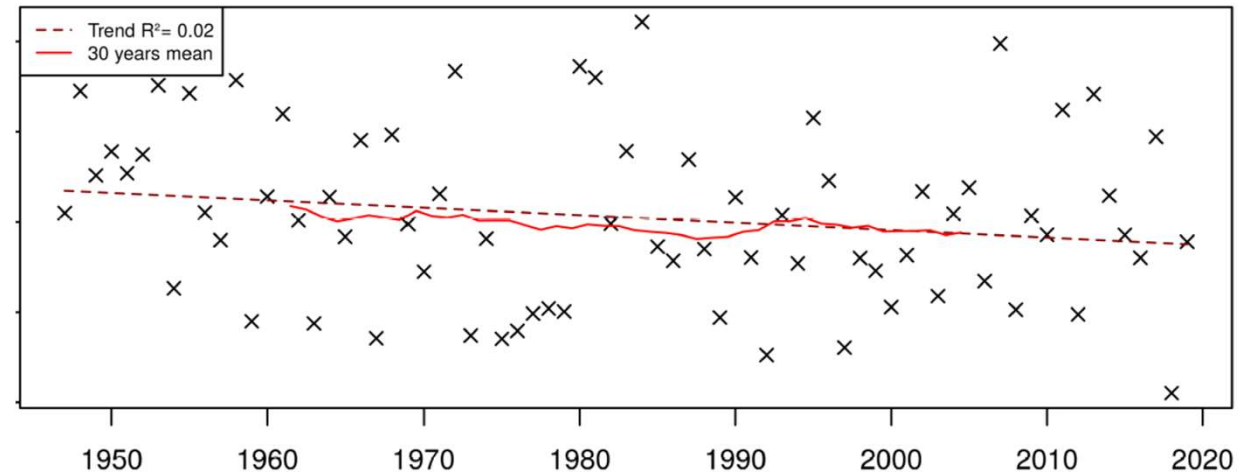
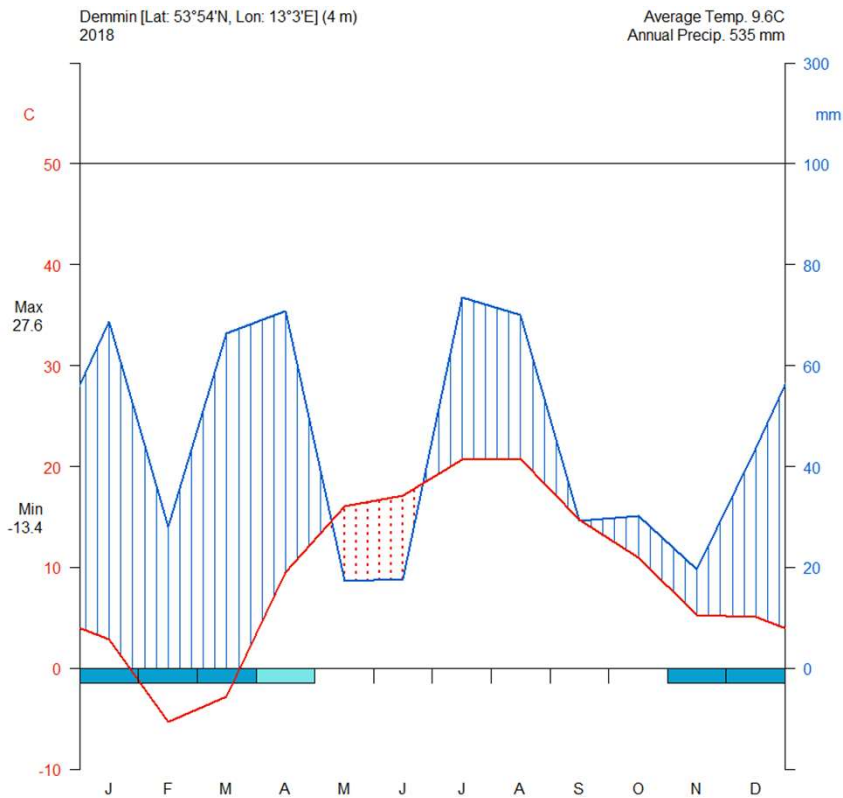


Reinermann, S., Gessner, U., Asam, S., Kuenzer, C., & Dech, S. (2019). The Effect of Droughts on Vegetation Condition in Germany: An Analysis Based on Two Decades of Satellite Earth Observation Time Series and Crop Yield Statistics. *Remote Sensing*, 11(15), 1783. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rs11151783>

Source: Sophie Reinermann, DLR



# What happened? Example DEMMIN



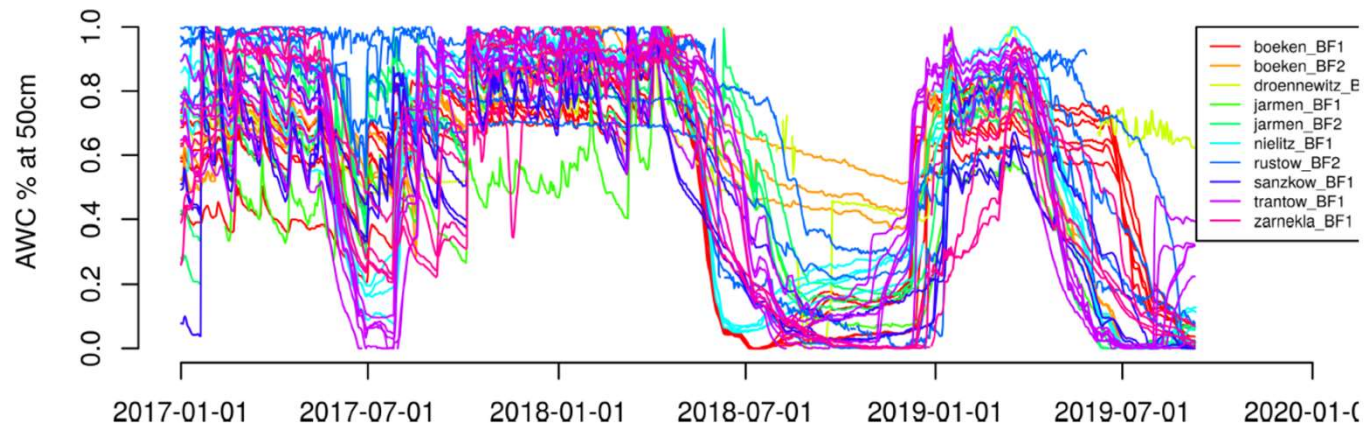
- Late spring drought visible in DEMMIN data

Christian Hohmann, GFZ





# What happened? Example DEMMIN

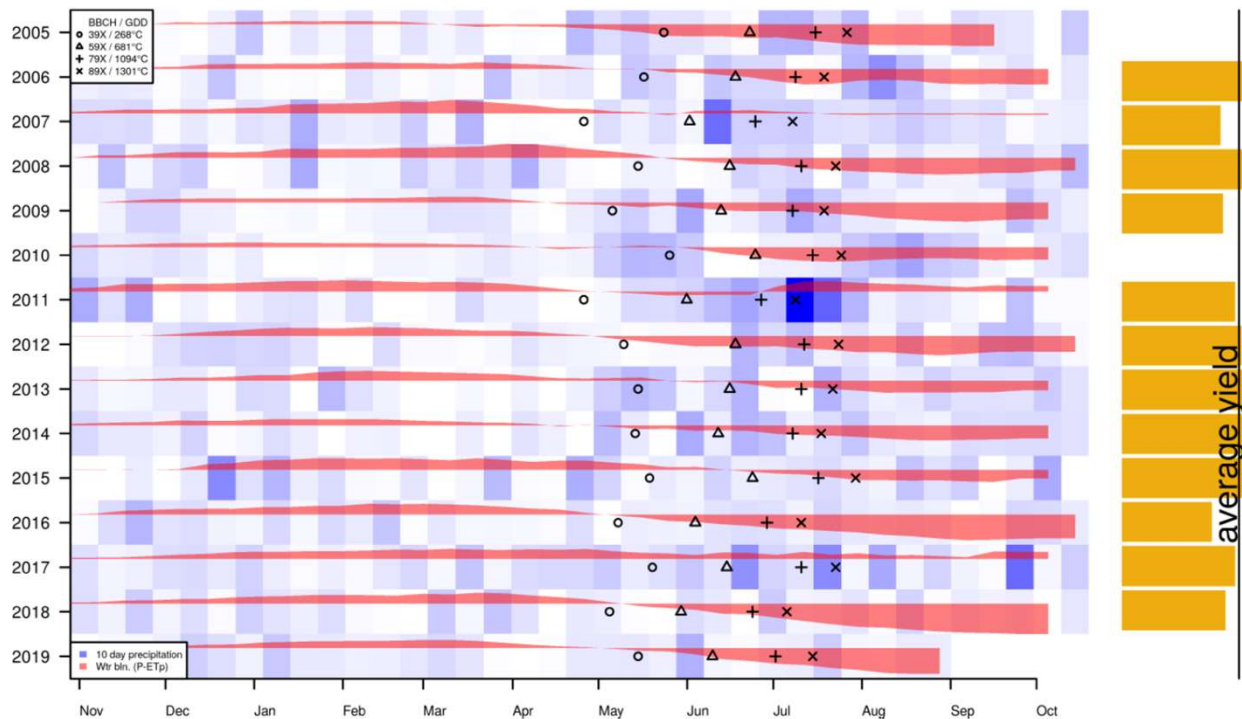


- Dry storages
- Reduced yields

Available water capacity measured through soil moisture sensors in the field:  
Moist year  $\leftrightarrow$  dry year,  
Source: Christian Hohmann, GFZ



# What happened? Example DEMMIN



- 2016 lower yields than in 2018?

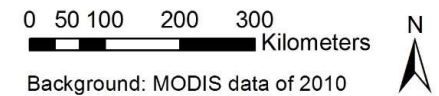
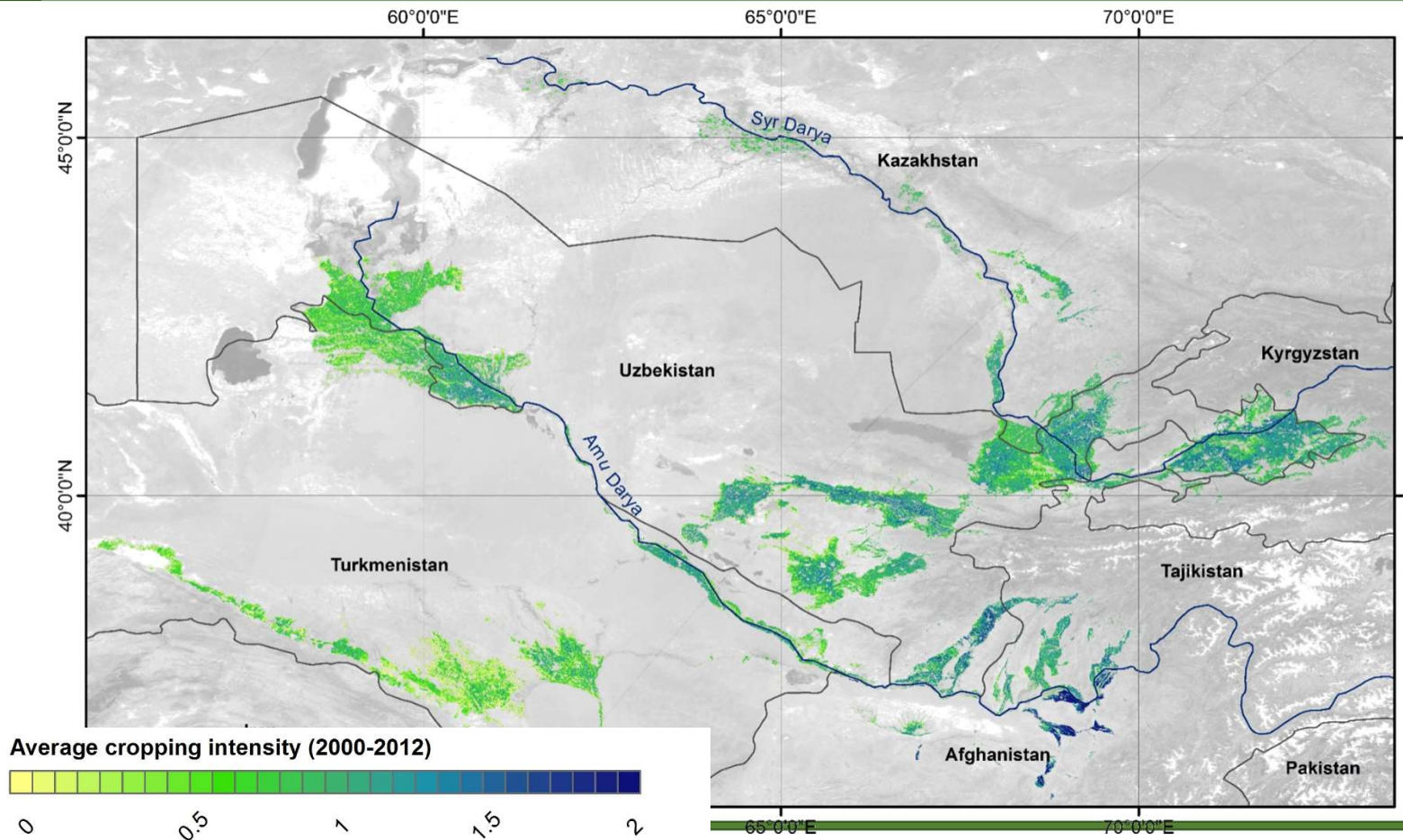
Wheat yields of two farmers in DEMMIN in comparison to the climatic water balance  
Source: Christian Hohmann, GFZ

# What happened? Example DEMMIN



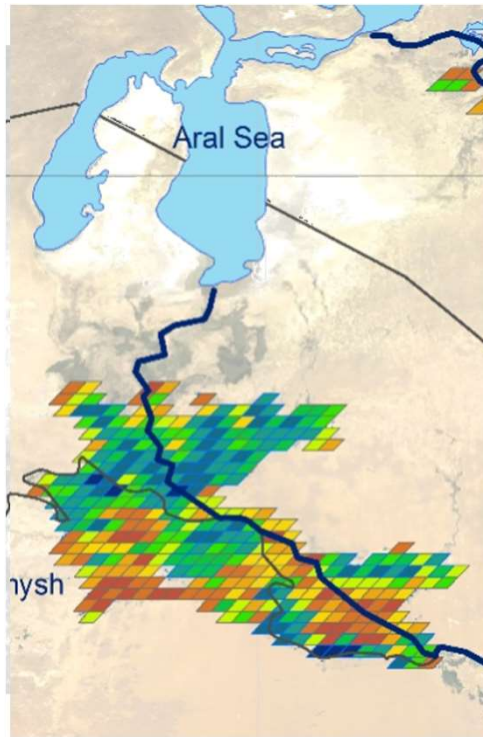
- High diversity of biomass development on the fields
- Influence of soil texture (and field capacity) on crop growth (LAI)

# Example: Average Cropping Intensity in the Aral Sea Basin 2000-2012 (MODIS)

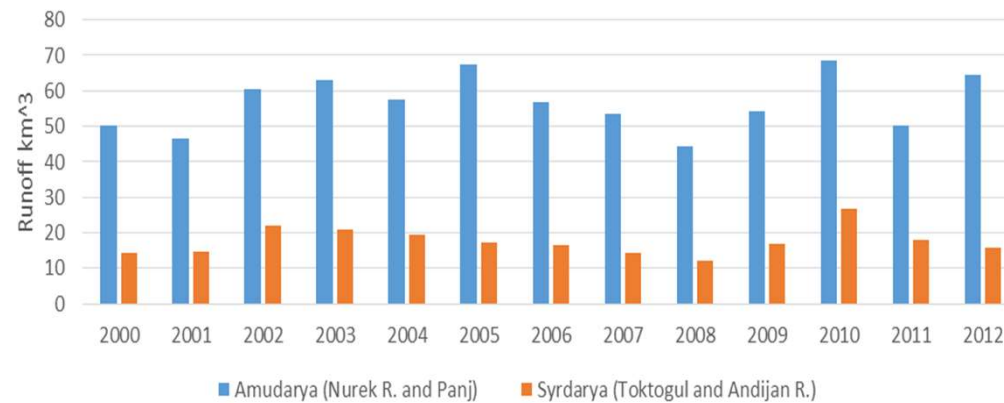
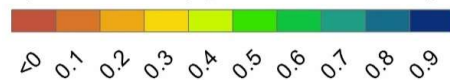


Conrad, C., Schönbrodt-Stitt, S., Löw, F., Sorokin, D., & Paeth, H. (2016). Cropping intensity in the Aral Sea Basin and its dependency from the runoff formation 2000-2012. *Remote Sensing*, 8(8), 1–26.

# The dependency of cropping intensity from natural runoff



Spearman's rho (upstream runoff vs. CI)



Source SIC-ICWC Regional Information System on Water and Land Resources in the Aral Sea basin (CAREWIB). <http://www.cawater-info.net>

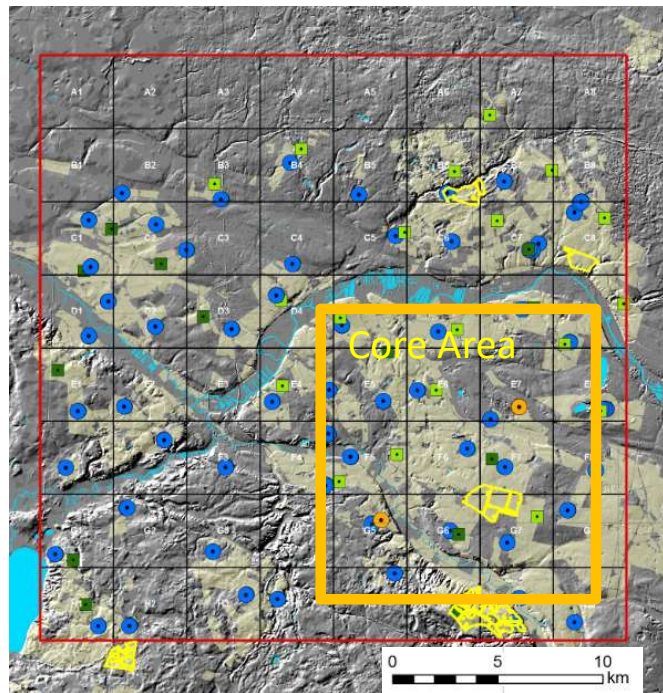
Conrad, C. et al. (2016)



# Data integration – ecological in situ data



DEMMIN is the German validation site for remote sensing products in an agricultural landscape



- Bodenfeuchtemessstation
- Klimastation (GFZ)
- Klimastation (DLR)
- Phänologie-Stationen (DWD)



Excellent RS data basis

Environmental measurement network:

- ~40 meteorological stations
- ~6 Soil moisture observation points

Eddy Covariance System

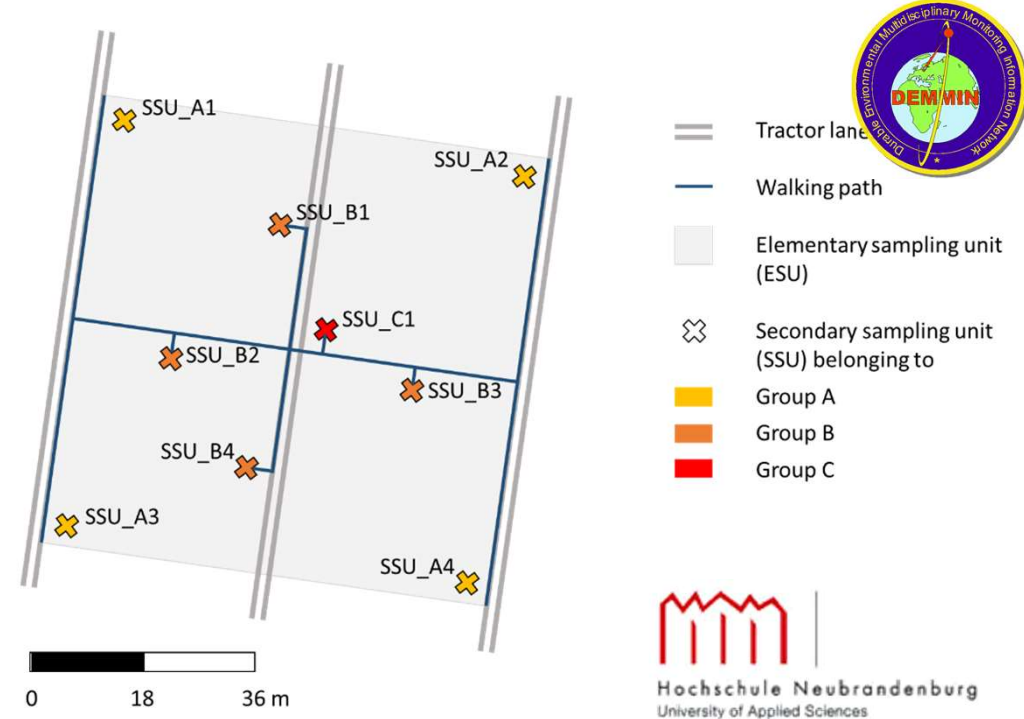
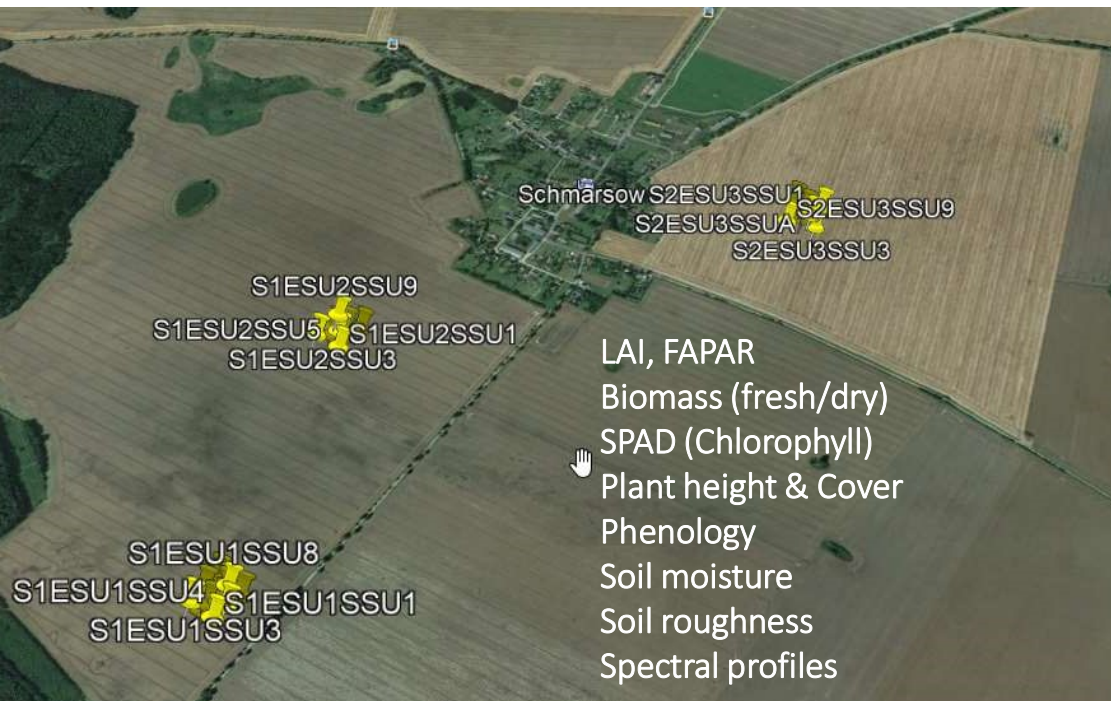
Lysimeter station

Soil maps, phenological observations (DWD)



**JECAM**  
 Joint Experiment for Crop Assessment and Monitoring  
[www.jecam.org](http://www.jecam.org)

# Data integration – ecological in situ data



- Standardized data acquisition (Reader)
- Field lab with leaf scanner and dry oven
- Field data pool (LAI 2200, ...)



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# Summary and conclusions

- New technical possibilities for Agricultural Monitoring improved the options for deriving soil and vegetation status as well as energy, water and gas exchange at the land surface, or phenological changes.
- The data allow assessments of climate impacts, but also farming practices or ecosystem services.
- Data integration is essential for
  - Modeling of parameters (increase accuracy)
  - Validation
  - Driver analysis/understanding reasons
  - Services for real applications





# Conclusions

Even through drought detection appears to be simple (NDVI@work):

- Vegetation signals are composite of various factors, e.g. agricultural practices
  - in Germany for instance increased EVI at the end of the drought year 2018 may be attributed to increased cultivation of intermediate crops
  - In future: irrigation?
- more detailed analyses are methodological challenging and require improved integration of geodata:
  - ⇒Scientific Earth system modeling
  - ⇒Risk assessments
  - ⇒Early warning systems

**Strengthen University Cooperation with TERENO**



# Contributors to this presentation:

- [Sophie Reinermann](#), Dr. [Sarah Asam](#), Prof. Dr. [Erik Borg](#), DLR
- [Christian Hohmann](#), Dr. [Daniel Spengler](#), Dr. [Sibylle Itzerott](#), GFZ
- [Thorsten Dahms](#), Uni of Würzburg
- [Jakob Zabel](#), Uni Halle-Wittenberg

Many colleagues, project members, data providers, etc.

## Thank you for your attention!



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# Thank you for your attention!

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- a question of data integration

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