



# Translating high-throughput field phenotyping into genetic gain

The 3rd Annual - Nordic Plant Phenotyping Network Workshop  
Sweden, November 22nd – 23rd, 2017  
*'High-throughput Field Phenotyping  
– Plant Breeding in the Age of Gadgets and Big Data'*

**José Luis Araus**



# Outline

## Phenotyping

- A bottleneck for breeding
- Current challenges
- Identifying the traits
- Selecting the tools for field phenotyping
- Effective and expensive are not synonyms
- Platforms
- More than traits, tools and platforms

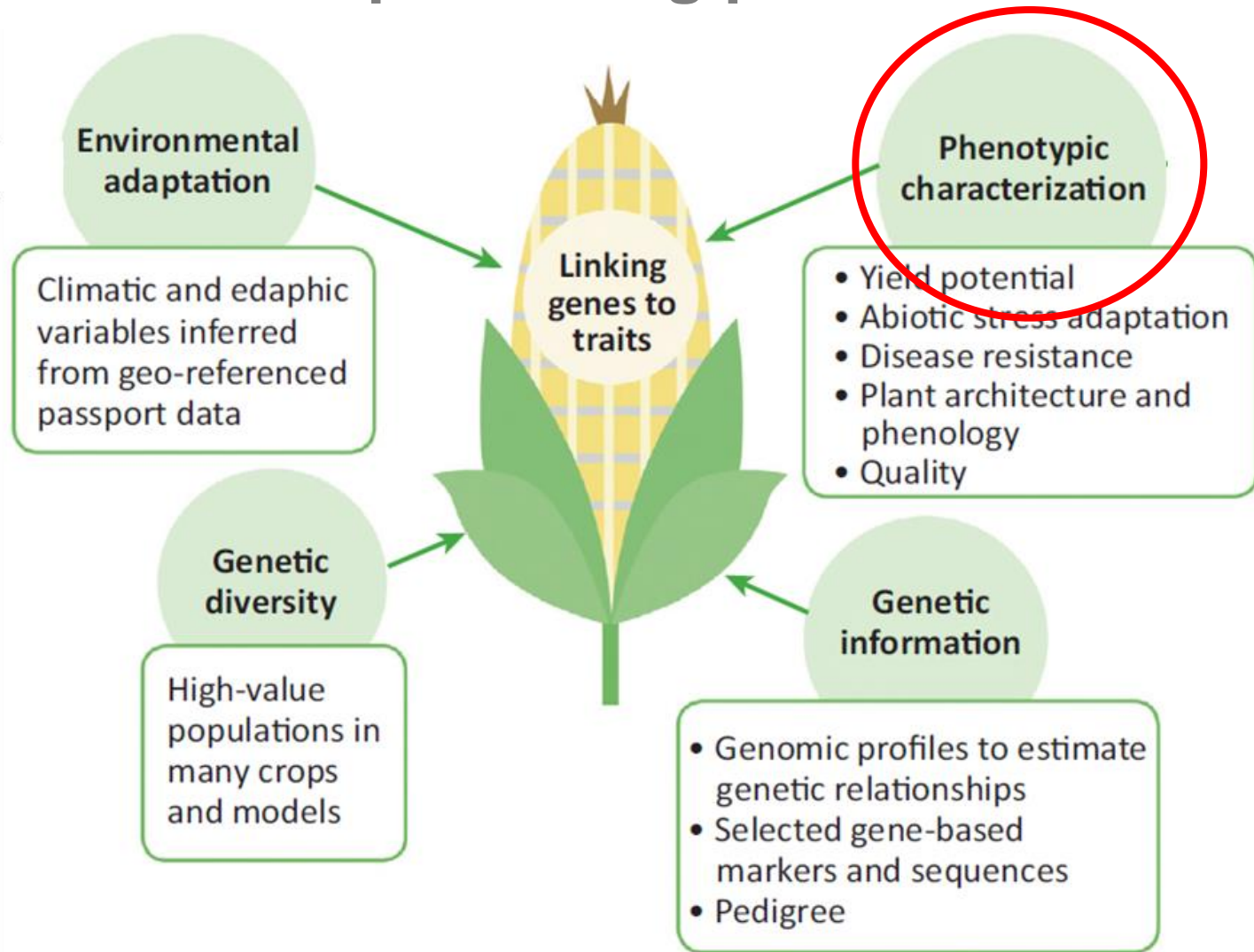


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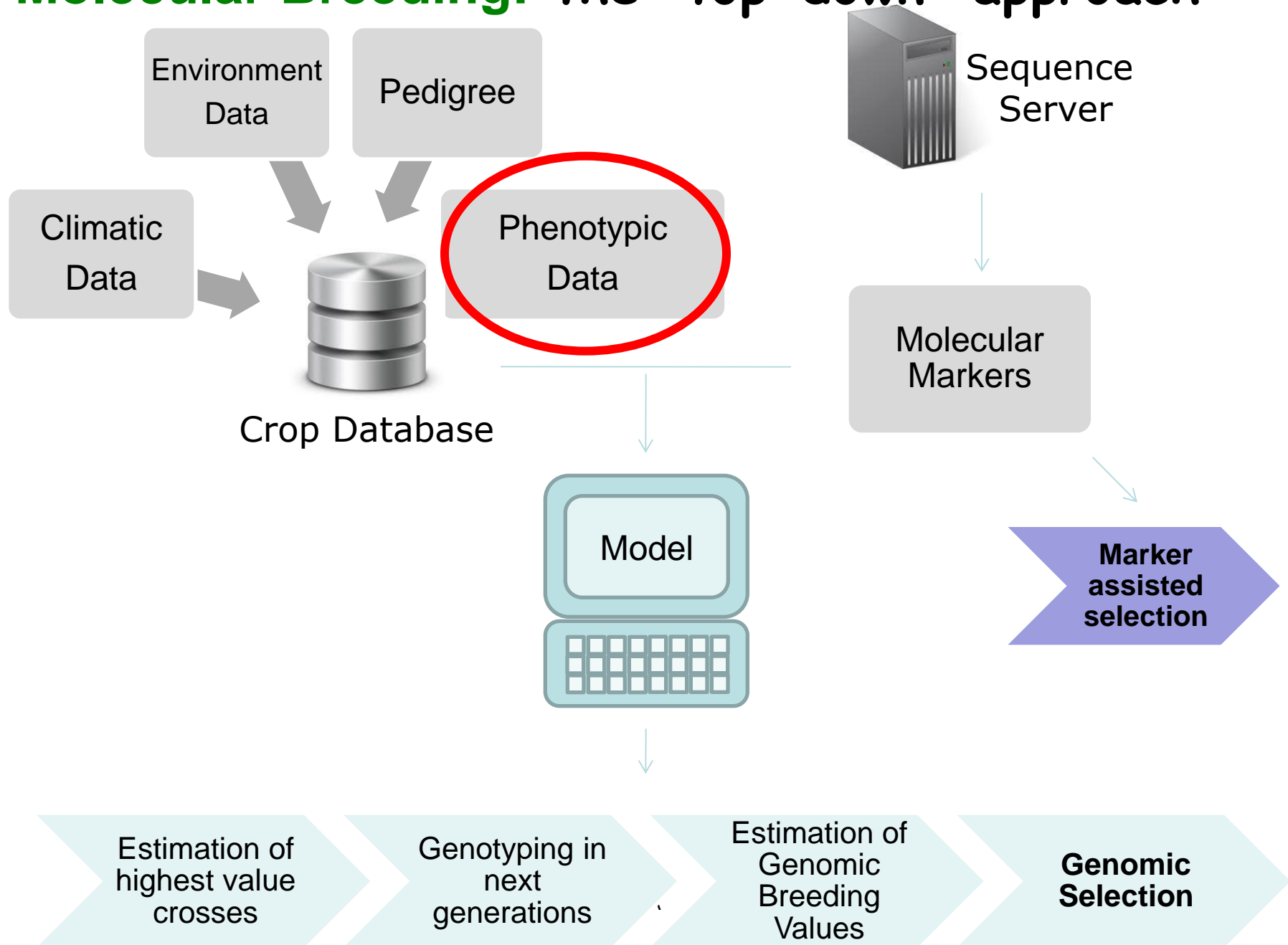
# Crop breeding pillars



*TRENDS in Plant Science*



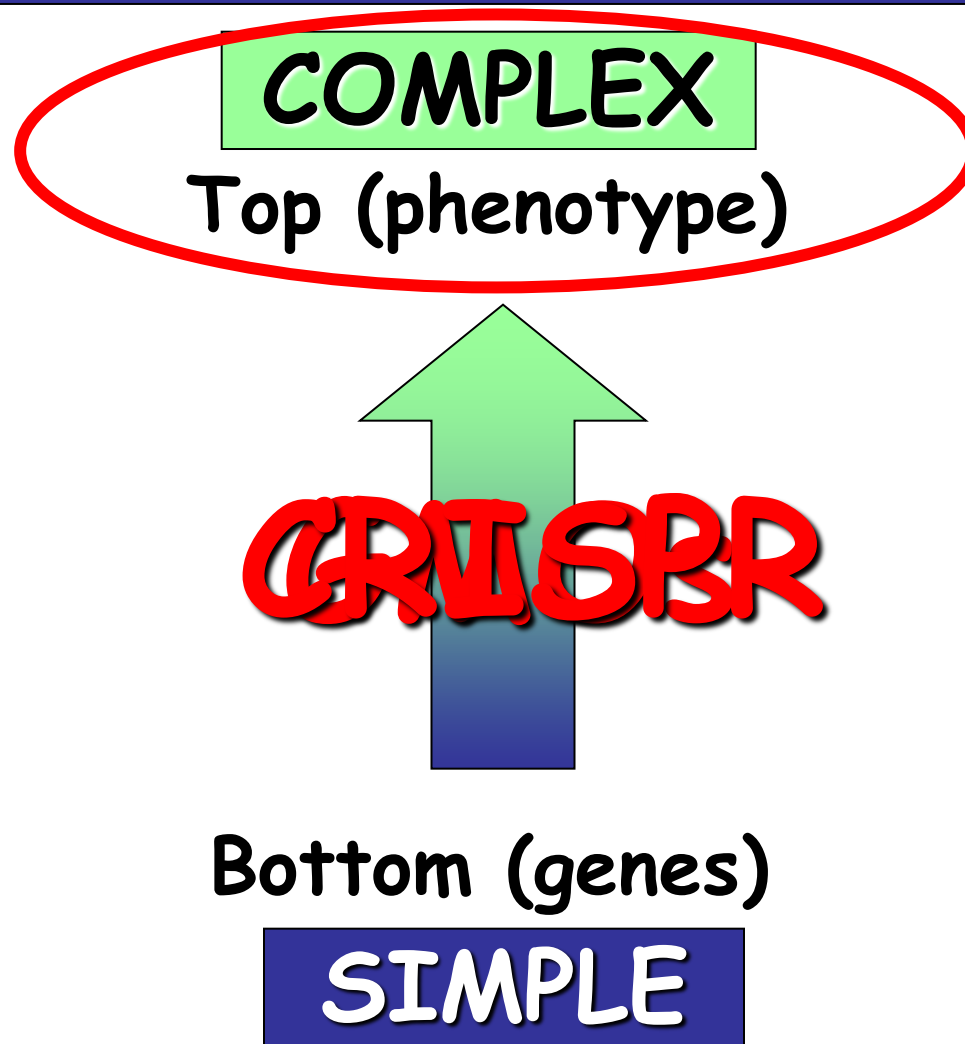
# Molecular Breeding: the “top-down” approach





# Molecular Breeding

## The "bottom-up" approach



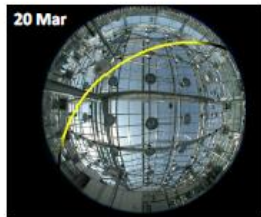


# Phenotyping – still a bottleneck

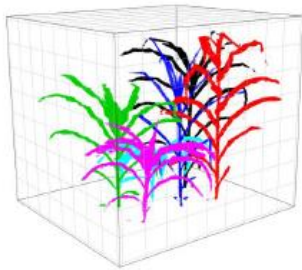
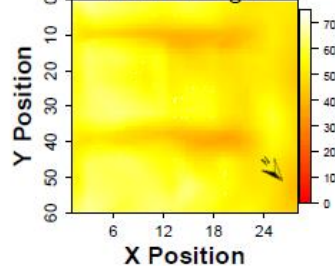
## Controlled Environments



Daily sun paths



Spatial distribution of incident light



3D plant reconstruction

Cabrera-Bosquet et al. 2016 *New Phytologist*



Virtual canopy scene of 1680 plants in the glasshouse

## Field



The world's first Field Scanalyzer is up and running at Rothamsted Research



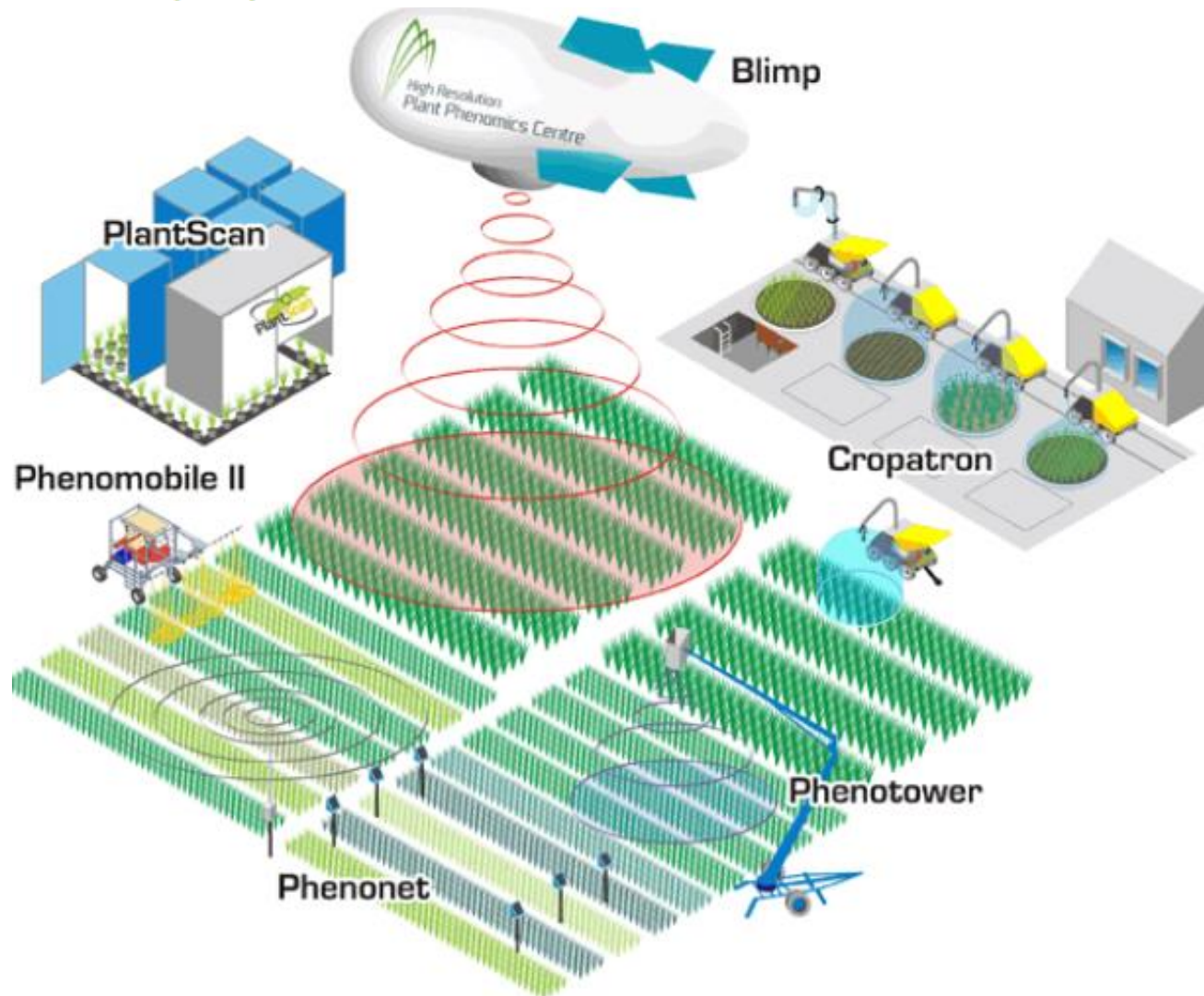
A unique facility for field phenotyping has been officially launched at Rothamsted Research.

Lemmatech, Montes et al 2011, FCR,;  
Romano et al. 2012 *Comp. Elect. Agric.*



# HRPPC Phenomics Technology

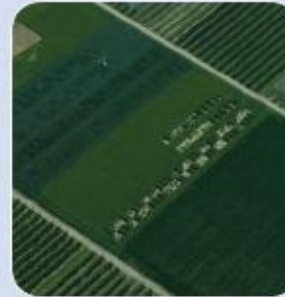
The High Resolution Plant Phenomics Centre (HRPPC) located in Canberra at CSIRO Plant Industry and the Australian National University is developing next generation research tools to probe plant function and performance, under controlled conditions from growth cabinets to the field. These new technologies include the **Phenonet**, **Phenomobile**, **Phenotower**, **Tethered Blimp**, **Cropatron** and the **PlantScan**.





# Plant phenotyping is getting increasing attention

ONE example for a national phenotyping platform  
DPPN – German Plant Phenotyping Network



## Traits

Roots

Structure

Water

Photosynthesis

## Sensors

Shovelomics /  
rhizotrons

Stereo /  
structured light /  
LIDAR

Active & passive  
thermography

NIR spectroscopy  
PAMs / LIFT /  
sun-induced  
fluorescence

## Positioning Systems

Fixed Platforms

**FieldLIFT** / Semi-  
fixes platforms

**FieldCOP** /  
Mobile Platforms

**FieldBEE** and  
**FieldSHIP** /  
Octocopter and  
Zeppelin

## Experiments

FACE  
Infrastructure

Common  
Experiment

## Environmental Sensors

Atmospheric / Soil  
parameters

# Plant phenotyping is developing dynamically





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# Demand and Next Challenges



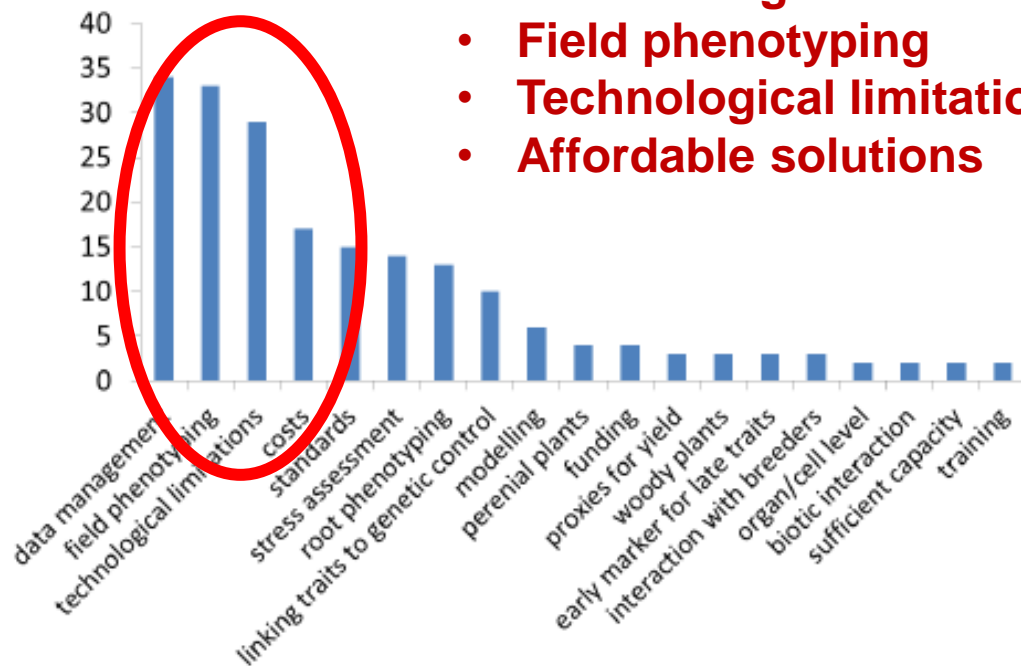
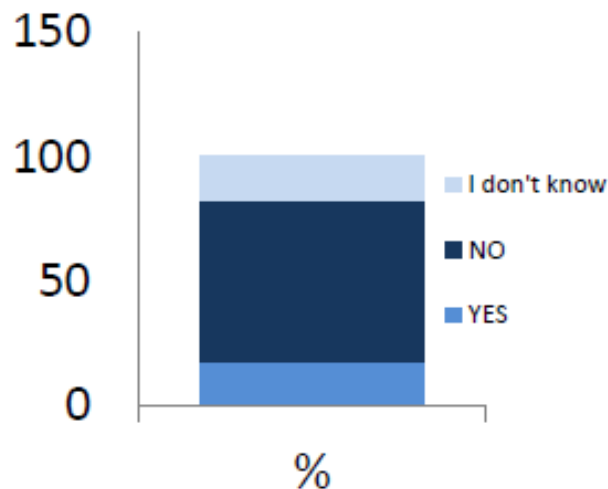
## Plant Phenotyping Survey

197 participants from 38 countries



### Some results

Is there enough capacity?




### What are the next challenges?

- Data management
- Field phenotyping
- Technological limitations
- Affordable solutions



# Phenotyping in Breeding - Challenges

- Align phenotyping in controlled environment with targets for field phenotyping
  - Increase throughput
  - Systems adapted to breeding phases
  - Appropriate level of resolution
  - Low(er) cost, mobile solutions
- 
- Information management
    - Infrastructure and tools adapted to data types and volumes - automation
    - User friendly data management and analysis tools
    - Connection to other data systems - Data integration



CONTROL OVER ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS



'Growth chamber'  
'Greenhouse'  
'Rain-out shelter'  
'Arid or irrigated fields'  
'Rainfed or irrigated fields'  
'Rainfed fields'  
'Large-scale trials'  
'TPE trials'



CORRELATION WITH TARGET  
COMMERCIAL ENVIRONMENT

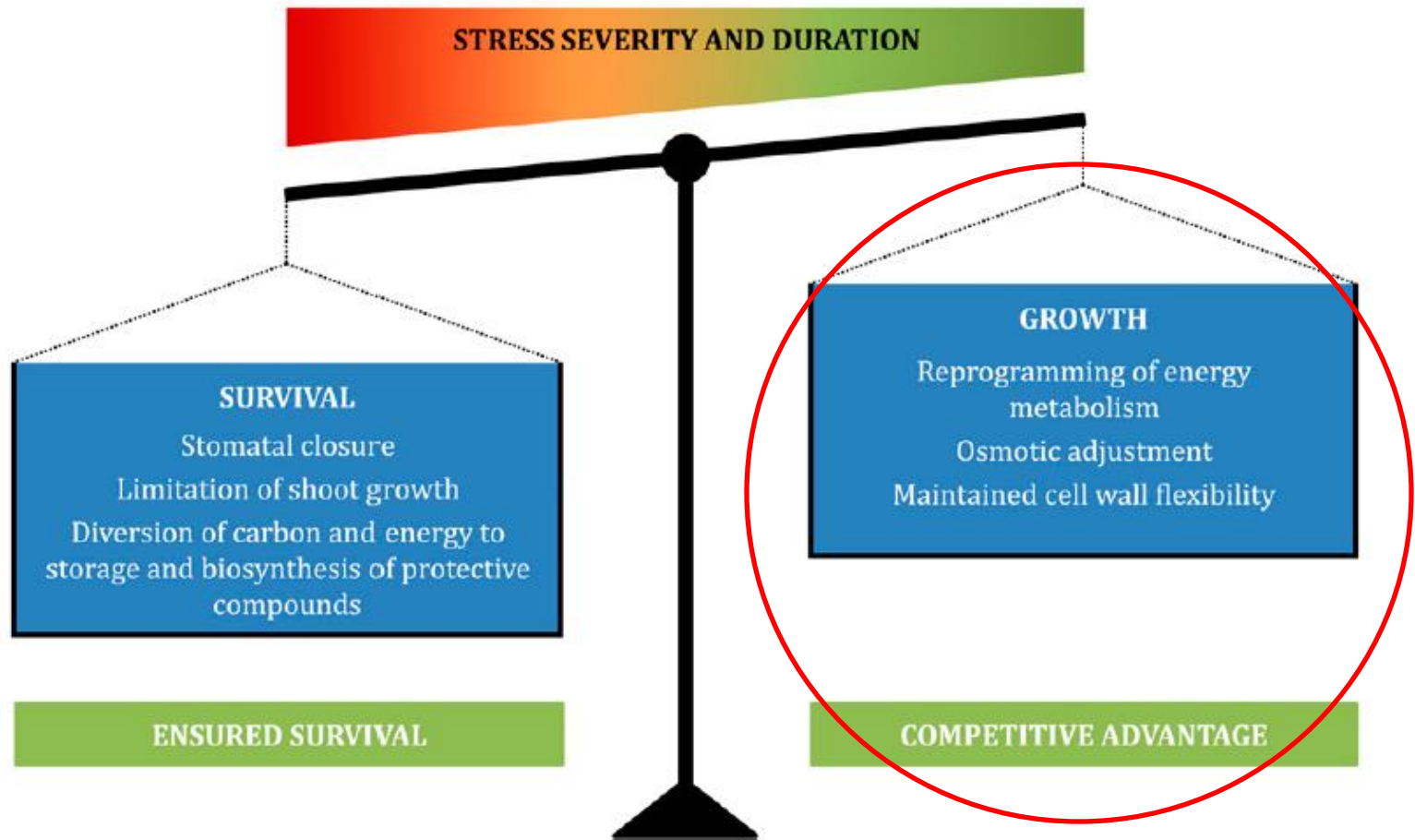




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# Physiological yield Components

## General Determinant

$$\text{Yield} = \text{IR} \times \text{AR} \times \text{PE} \times \text{HI}$$

- IR, Incident Radiation
- AR, Absorbed Radiation
- PE, Photosynthetic Efficiency
- HI, Harvest Index

**Radiation uptake**

**Radiation use efficiency**

**Harvest Index**

## In Water-limiting Conditions (*Passioura 1977*)

$$\text{Yield} = \text{W} \times \text{WUE} \times \text{HI}$$

- W, Water Used
- WUE, Water Use Efficiency
- HI, Harvest Index

**Water use**

**Water use efficiency**

**Harvest Index**

# Maize

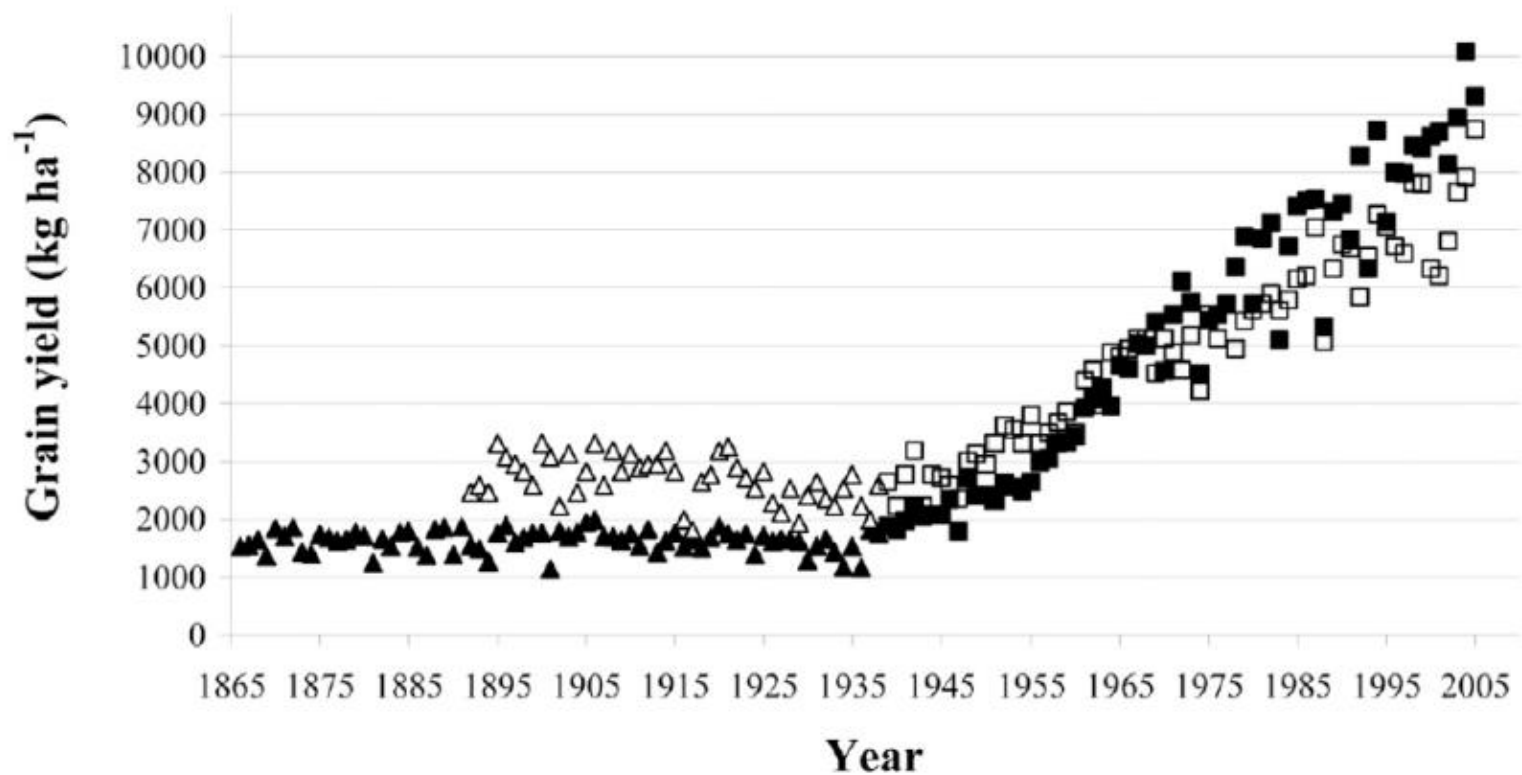


Figure 1. Average U.S. (1865–2005) and Canadian (1892–2005) maize yields in kilograms per hectare (15.5% moisture), 1866 to 1938 (pre-hybrid era; ▲– U.S. yields, △– Canadian yields), 1939 to 2005 (hybrid era; ■– U.S. yields, □– Canadian yields). Data compiled by the USDA and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).



# More erect leaves in maize



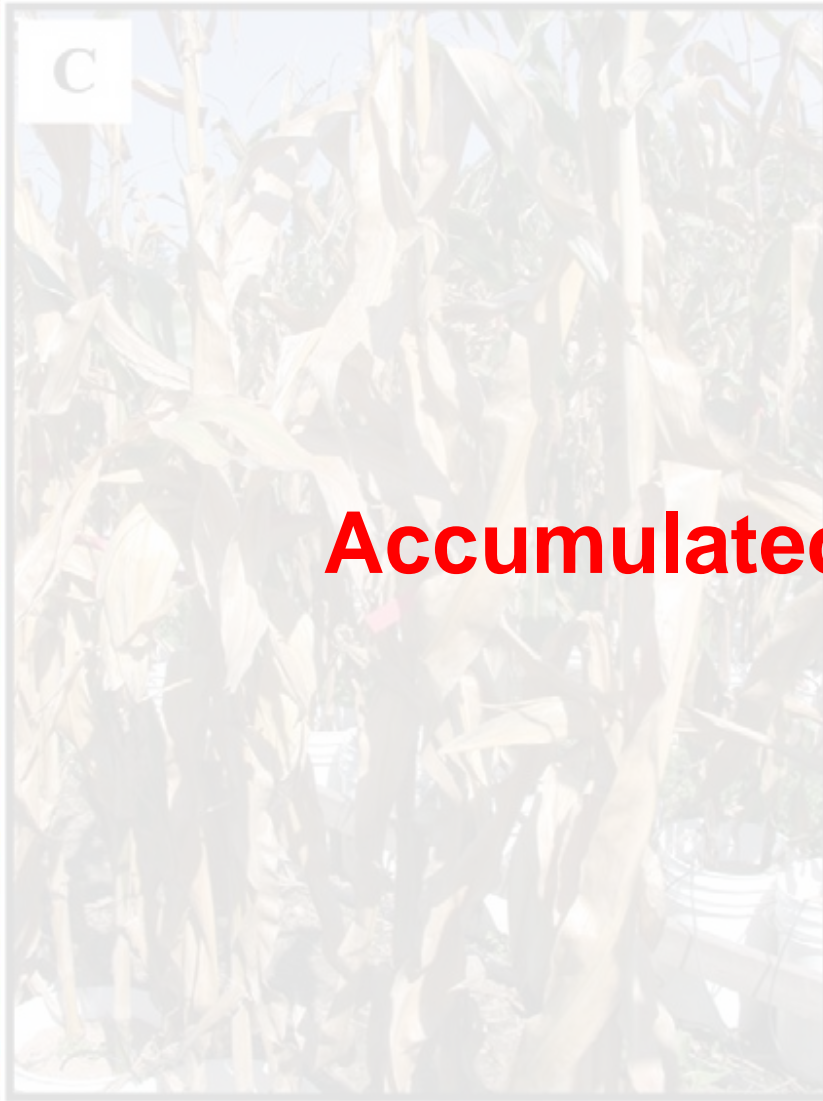
1930s



1990s

**Radiation use efficiency**

# Stay-green in maize



1930s

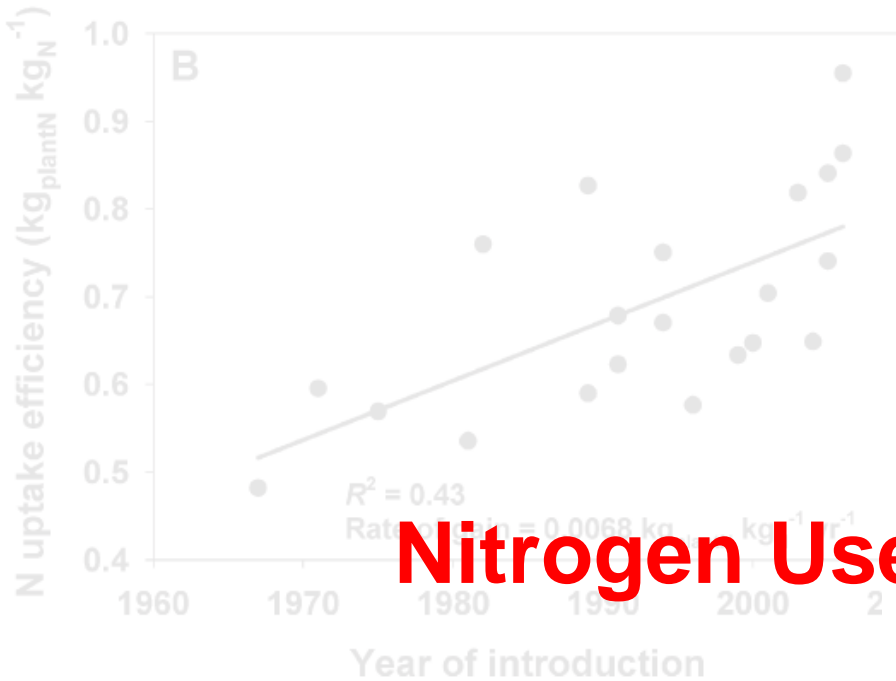


1990s

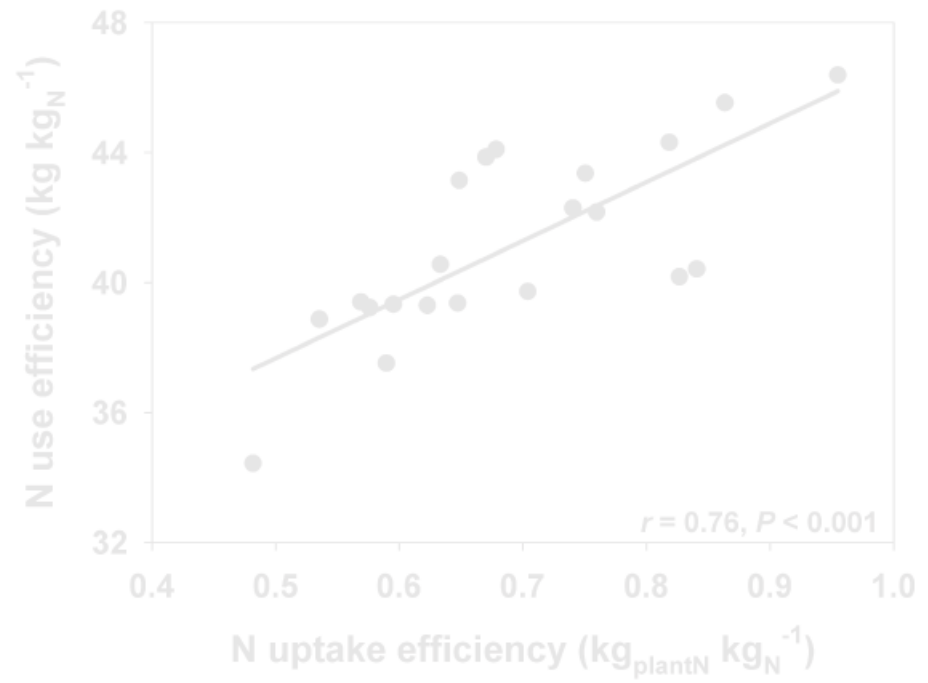
**Accumulated radiation**



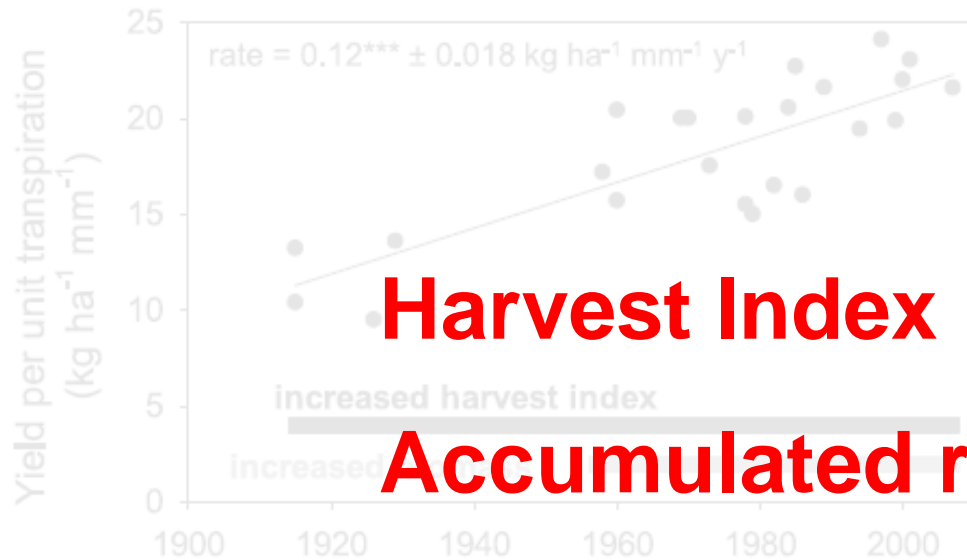
# Stay-green – higher planting density



## Nitrogen Use Efficiency



# Wheat



## Water use efficiency

	annual rate of change
anthesis biomass (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	24 ± 7.6*
maturity biomass (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	19 ± 5.7*
radiation use efficiency (g MJ <sup>-1</sup> )	0.012 ± 0.007***
shoot N (kg N ha <sup>-1</sup> )	0.40 ± 0.076***
shoot N per unit soil N (unitless)	0.002 ± 0.0004**
N nutrition index (unitless)	0.001 ± 0.00002***



# higher stomatal conductance - transpiration

TABLE 1

Inadvertent increase of stomatal conductance ( $g_s$ ) and net assimilation rate ( $A$ ) overtime by plant breeders in different crop species as documented by historical series field experiments conducted in different world growing regions for irrigated (I) and rainfed (R) conditions

Crop	Region/country	History Span	Number varieties	Years of Testing	$g_s$ (in mmol $H_2O\ m^{-2}\ s^{-1}$ )	Correlations <sup>1</sup>					References
						Yield/RO	$g_s$ /RO	$g_s$ /yield	$A$ /RO	$A$ /yield	
Spring wheat - I	Sonora, Mexico	1962–1988	8	3	400–630	0.92***	0.89**	0.93***	0.25	0.02	Lu <i>et al.</i> , 1998
Spring wheat - I	California, USA	NA	13	1	NA	NA	NA	0.64**	NA	0.18**	Lu <i>et al.</i> , 1998
Durum wheat - I	Sonora, Mexico	1967–1989	7	2	NA	NA	NA	0.79**	NA	0.52	Fisher, unpubl. <sup>2</sup>
Spring wheat - I	Sonora, Mexico	1962–1988	8	2	345–570	NA	NA	0.89***	NA	0.85**	Fisher <i>et al.</i> , 1998
Pima cotton - I	Arizona, USA	1949–1992	8	2	690–860	0.94***	0.83**	0.92***	0.46	0.49	Lu <i>et al.</i> , 1998
Soybean - R	Ontario, Canada	1934–1992	14	4	1.25–1.55 <sup>3</sup>	0.78**	0.67**	0.57*	0.84**	0.57*	Morrison <i>et al.</i> , 1999
Winter wheat - I	Beijing, China	1945–1995	18	1	400–1300	0.65*	NA	0.67**	NA	0.61*	Jiang <i>et al.</i> , 2003
Rice – I <sup>4, 5, 6</sup>	Tohoku, Japan	1893–1991	10	1	600–1200	0.82**	0.35	NA	0.54	NA	Zhang and Kokubun, 2004
Durum wheat - I	Foggia, Italy	1900–2000	14	2	250–425	0.86***	0.27	NA	0.56**	NA	De Vita <i>et al.</i> , 2007
Durum wheat - I	Sardinia, Italy	1900–2000	20	2	2.0–2.3 <sup>7</sup>	NA	–0.54**	–0.69***	NA	NA	Giunta <i>et al.</i> , 2008
Winter wheat - R	Fars, Iran	1940–2000	15	2	150–250	0.88**	0.66**	0.63*	0.45	0.48	Miri, 2009
Winter wheat - R <sup>8</sup>	Henan, China	1981–2008	18	2	215–389	0.69**	NA	0.69**	0.42**	0.65**	Zheng <i>et al.</i> , 2011
Winter wheat - I	Shandong, China	1969–2006	15	3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.69**	Xiao <i>et al.</i> , 2012
Spring wheat - I <sup>5</sup>	Chillan, Chile	1920–2008	14	2	420–830	0.70**	0.51**	0.29*	NA	NA	del Pozo <i>et al.</i> , 2014
Tomato – I <sup>5,6</sup>	California, USA	1930–2000	8	1	800–1200	0.28	0.50	0.33	0.56	0.33	Barrios-M and Jackson, 2014
Winter wheat - I	Shaanxi, China	1940s–2010s	8	2	NA	0.85**	NA	NA	0.77**	NA	Sun <i>et al.</i> , 2014
Winter wheat - R	Shaanxi, China	1940s–2010s	8	2	NA	0.67*	NA	NA	0.67*	NA	Sun <i>et al.</i> , 2014
Spring wheat - R	Parana, Brazil	1940–2009	10	2	475–630	NA	NA	0.83**	NA	0.88**	Beche <i>et al.</i> , 2014

Water use

The historical timeframe (history span) of these studies covers all years of varietal release (release order or RO) for production by respective breeding programs.

<sup>1</sup>Coefficient of correlation between yield, release order,  $g_s$  and  $A$  are indicated with (\*), (\*\*), and (\*\*\*) symbols indicating levels of significance of alpha = 0.05, 0.01, and 0.001, respectively; NA = No data available.

<sup>2</sup>Presented in Fisher and Edmeades (2010).

<sup>3</sup>Stomatal conductance expressed in  $cm/m^{-2}$ .

<sup>4</sup>Gas exchange measured three weeks after heading; data from high nitrogen treatment presented, only.

<sup>5</sup>Values of  $g_s$  estimated from published graph data.

<sup>6</sup>Correlation coefficients calculated from original published data.

<sup>7</sup> $\log_{10}$  of leaf resistance being used in this study with negative  $r$  values between leaf resistance vs. year of release or yield.

<sup>8</sup>Among two locations of historical series, gas exchange parameters were measured only in Zhenzhou, a rainfed location.

# Effect of water stress / heat on Harvest Index





# Crop yield depends

- Amount of resources captured (%RlxGLD, Ptrans)
- Efficiency on the use of resources (RUE, WUE)
- Dry matter partitioning (harvest index)

also of:

Agronomical yield components...

**Table 3.** The summary of cereal traits quantifiable with sensors mounted on field buggies and the primary effect contributing to yield.

Trait	Primary Effect	Sensor Technology
<i>Canopy structure</i>		
Leaf area index	RI	LiDAR, 2D and 3D RGB photogrammetry, ToF camera, spectral vegetation indices
Biomass	WUE/RUE	LiDAR, 2D and 3D RGB photogrammetry, ToF camera
Tillering	HI	LiDAR, 2D and 3D RGB photogrammetry, ToF camera
Canopy height	WUE/HI	LiDAR, 2D and 3D RGB photogrammetry, ToF camera
Awn presence	WUE/HI	LiDAR, 2D and 3D RGB photogrammetry, ToF camera
Leaf rolling	WUE/RI	LiDAR, 3D RGB photogrammetry and ToF camera
Leaf angle	RI	LiDAR, 3D RGB photogrammetry and ToF camera
Early vigour	WUE/WU	LiDAR, 2D RGB photogrammetry, spectral vegetation indices
Tissue damage	WU/RI	RGB camera, multi/hyperspectral camera
Leaf glaucousness/waxes	WUE/HI	Multi/hyperspectral camera
Pubescence	WUE/HI	Multi/hyperspectral camera
Grain fertility (number)	HI	Very high resolution RGB images
<i>Function</i>		
Water loss/stomatal control	WUE/WU	Thermal camera, infra-red temperature sensor
Photosynthesis	RUE	Chlorophyll fluorescence, LIFT, PRI, estimation from biomass accumulation (see above)
<i>Phenology</i>		
Stay green/senescence	HI/RI	LiDAR, multi/hyperspectral camera, thermal camera
Flowering date	HI	LiDAR, high resolution RGB images
<i>Biochemistry</i>		
Stem carbohydrates	HI	hyperspectral camera
Nutrient content (e.g., N)	NUE	Multi/hyperspectral camera
Carotenoids, xanthophylls, anthocyanins, water indices	WU/RI	Multi/hyperspectral camera

Deery et al. 2014 *Agronomy*

HI = harvest index; LIFT = laser-induced fluorescence transients; NUE = nitrogen-use efficiency; PRI = photochemical reflectance index; RGB = red, green and blue; RI = radiation interception; RUE = radiation-use efficiency; ToF = time of flight; WU = water-use; WUE = water-use efficiency.



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## Sensors

- Spectral
- Thermal
- Digital



## Flight plan software

- 'GPS Positioning'
- 'Flight control'
- Telemetry

## Aerial platform

- Payload
- Cost
- Safety

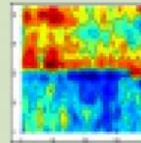


## Lab. analysis - NIRS



## Field variability

'Crop variability'  
↓  
'Variation in biomass'  
↓  
'Experimental layout'



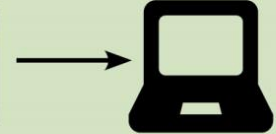
## Phenotyping

- Biomass
- Senescence
- 'Plant water status'
- 'Disease incidence'

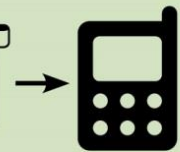
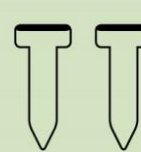


## Environmental data

- Meteorological



- Soil



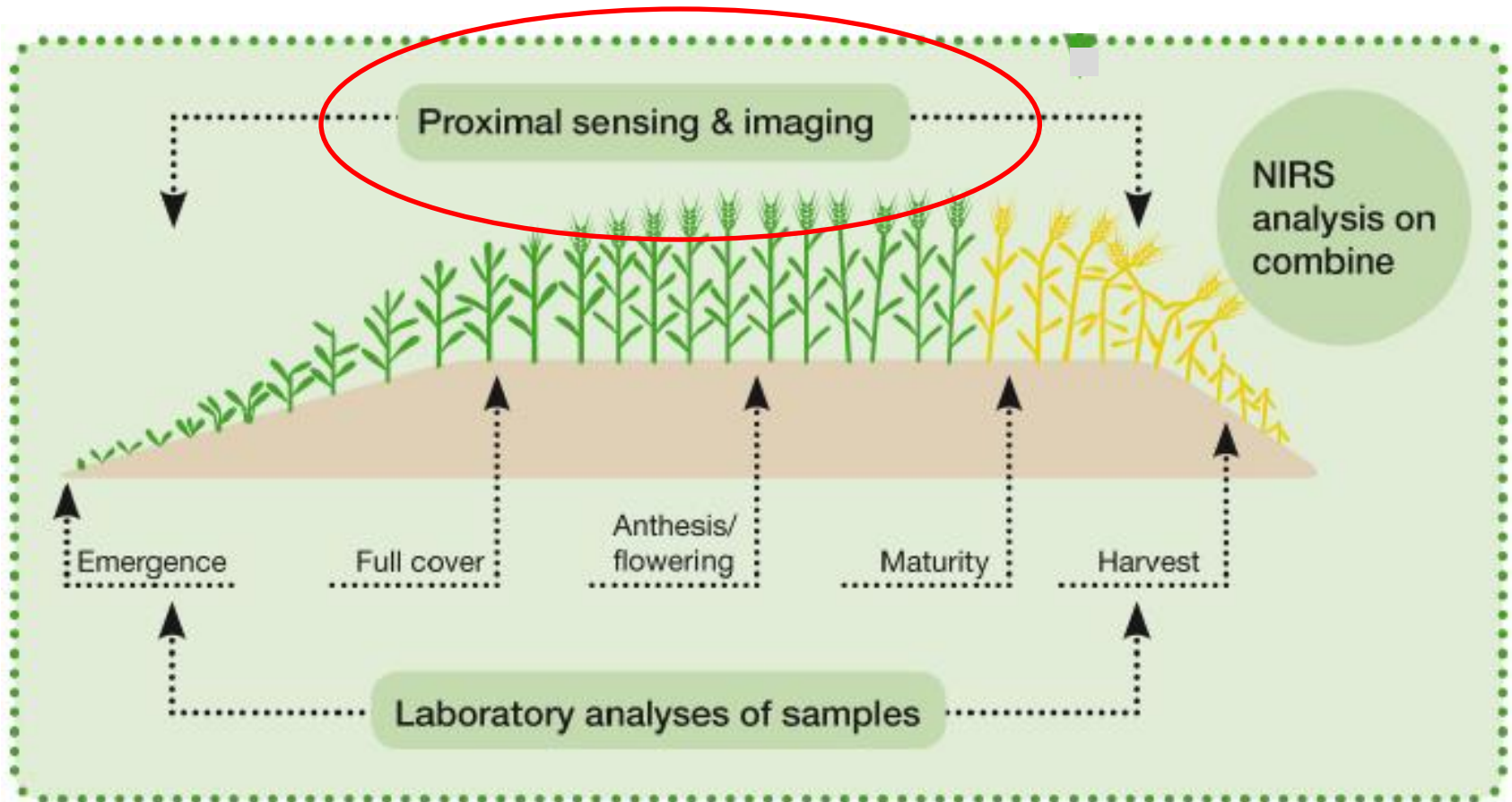
Data processing

Genomic data

Data analysis



# Different categories of traits



# Canopy senescence – visual score

## Measurement:

- score from 0-10, divide the % of estimated total leaf area that is dead by 10
- initiation & rate of canopy senescence



1 (10%)



3 (30%)



5 (50%)



7 (70%)



9 (90%)



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# ***Spectroradiometers***

# Spectroradiometers – active sensors

## GreenSeeker

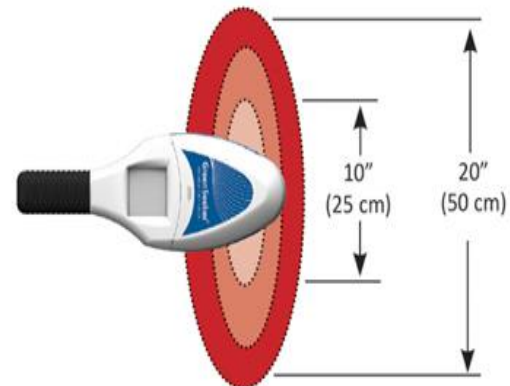
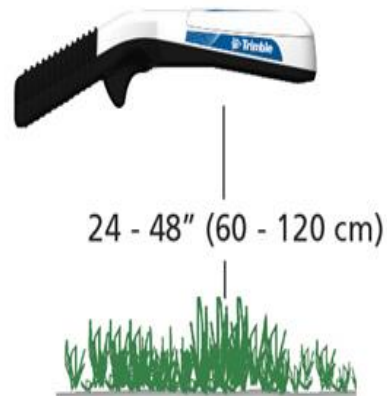


## SPAD





New!  
**GreenSeeker®**  
HANDHELD CROP SENSOR



# Spectroradiometers – passive sensors



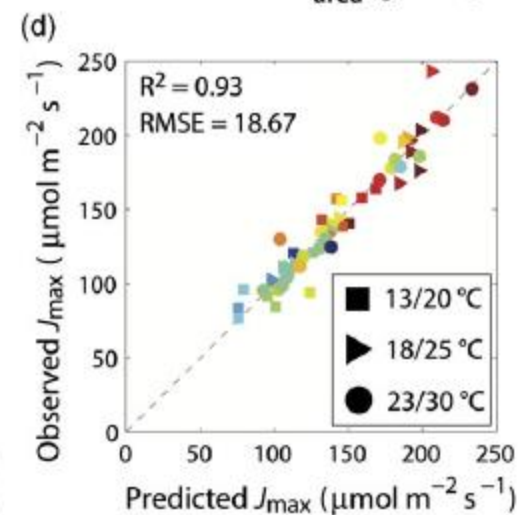
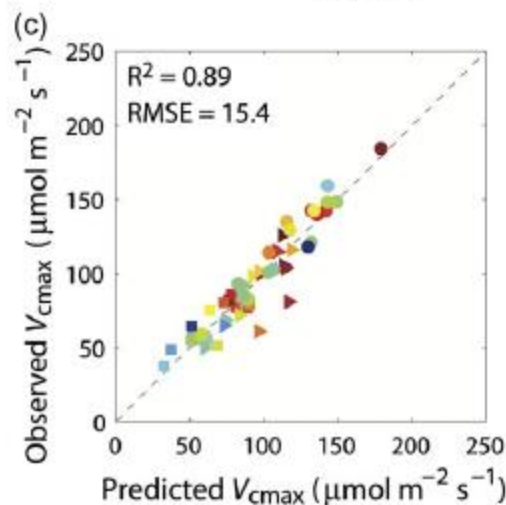
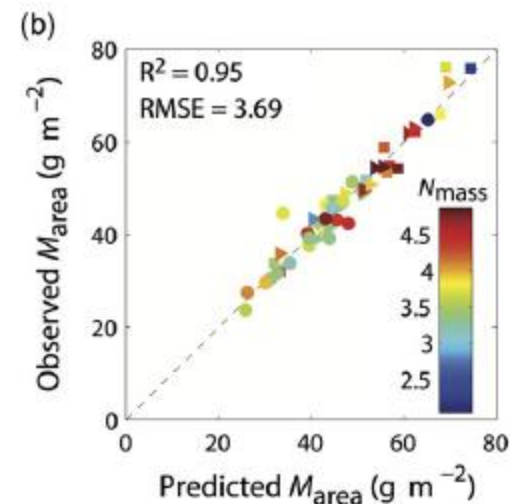
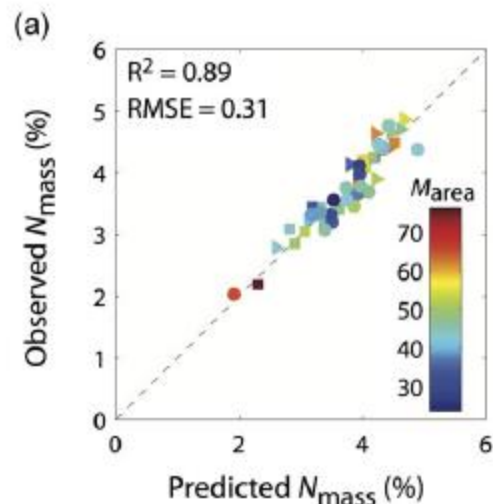
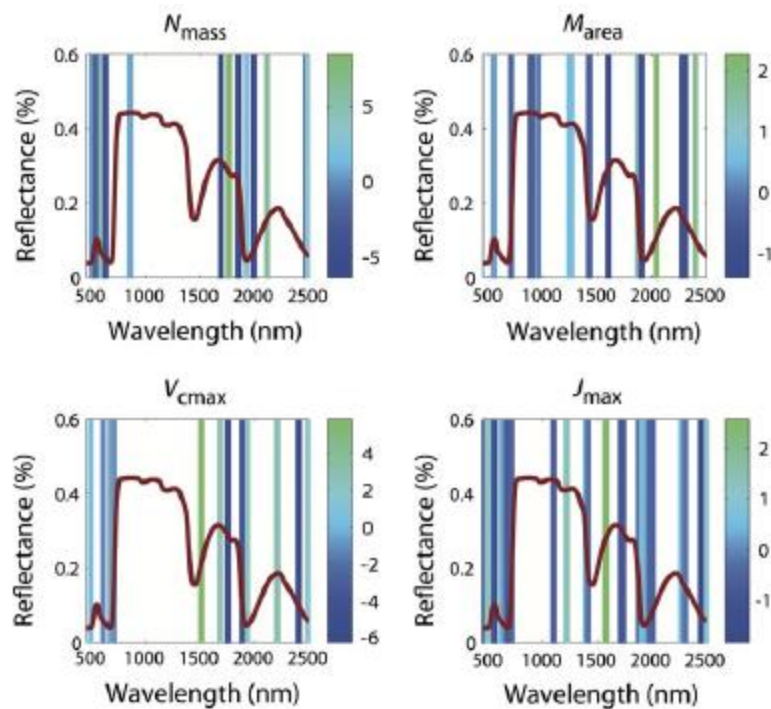
Full-range ( $\lambda$  350 –  
2500 nm) Vis/NIR  
Spectroradiometers

# Spectroradiometrical Indices

***Some indices for remote sensing of crop status.***

Physiological parameter	Radiometric Index
Leaf area, [Chl], Green Biomass, etc.	$NDVI = \frac{R_{NIR} - R_{Red}}{R_{NIR} + R_{red}}$ $SR = R_{NIR} / R_{red}$ $SAVI = \frac{R_{NIR} - R_{Red}}{R_{NIR} + R_{red} + L} (1 + L)$ <p>(where L=0.5 for most crops)</p>
Chl degradation	$NPQI = \frac{R_{415} - R_{435}}{R_{415} + R_{435}}$
Car/Chl	$SIPI = \frac{R_{800} - R_{435}}{R_{415} + R_{435}}$
PRUE	$PRI = \frac{R_{531} - R_{570}}{R_{531} + R_{570}}$
Water Content	$WI = \frac{R_{900}}{R_{970}}$





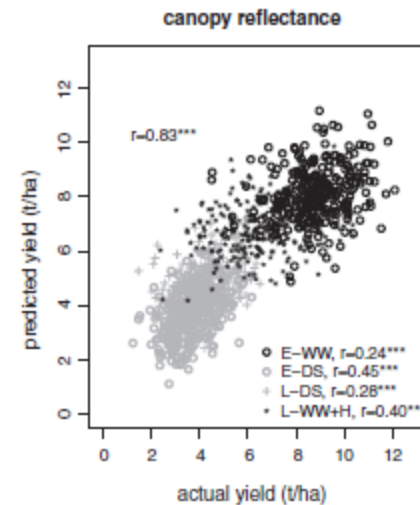
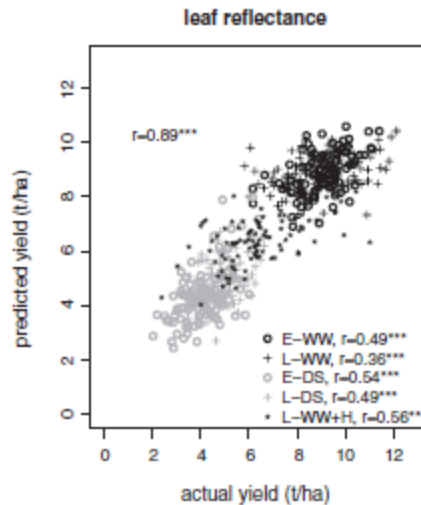
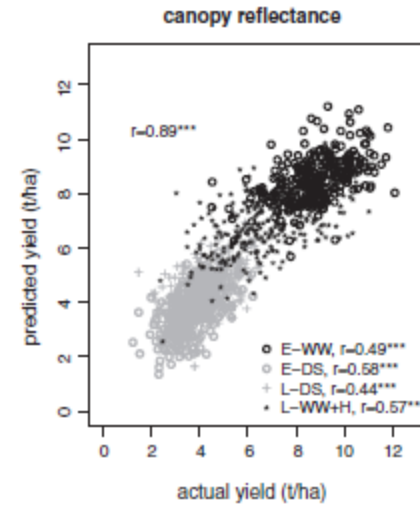
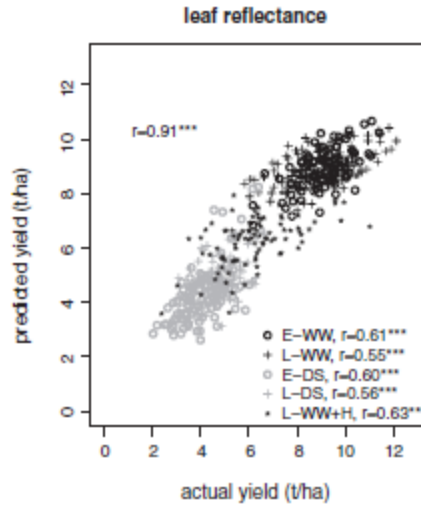
# RESEARCH PAPER

## Leaf optical properties reflect variation in photosynthetic metabolism and its sensitivity to temperature

Shawn P. Serbin\*, Dylan N. Dillaway†, Eric L. Kruger and Philip A. Townsend

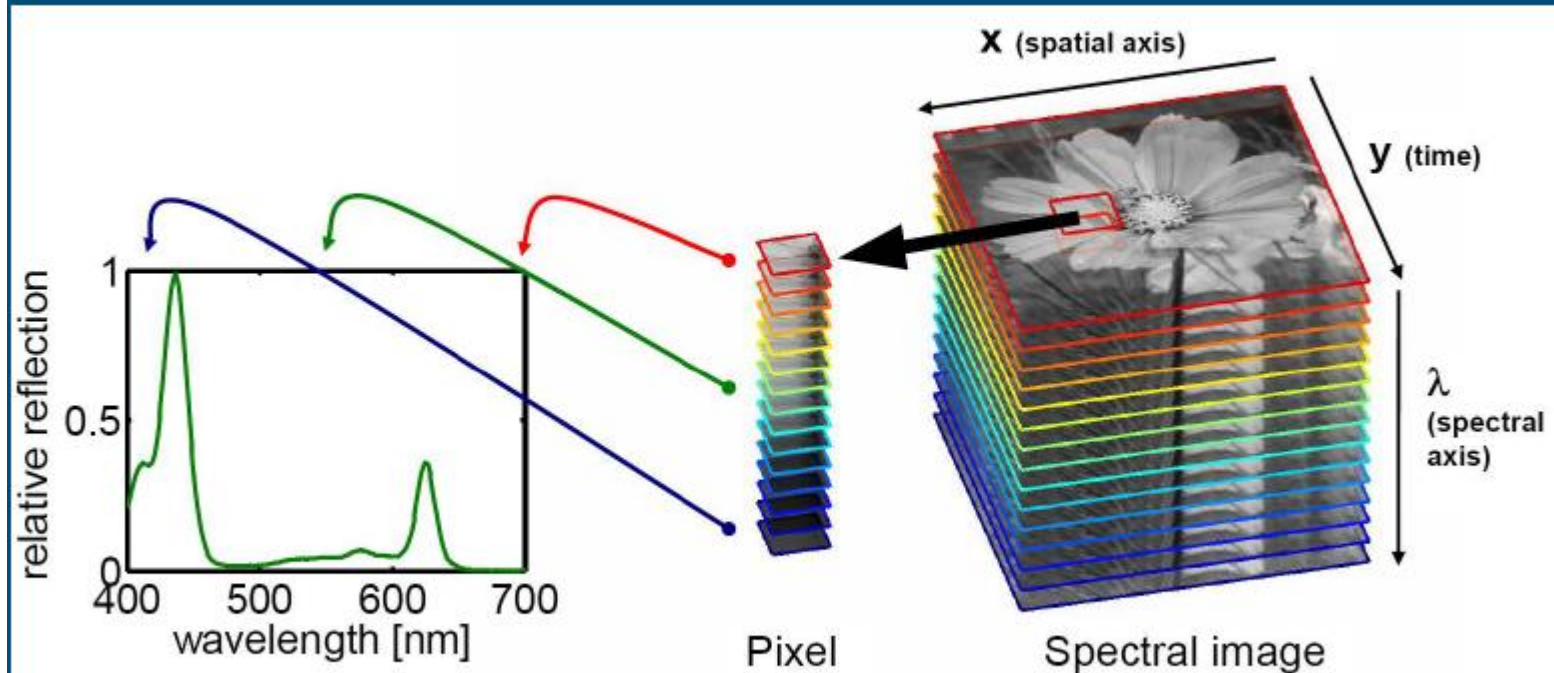
# Direct spectroradiometrical assessment of GY in the field (using Full-range $\lambda$ 350 – 2500 nm Vis/NIR Spectroradiometers)

V.S. Weber et al. / Field Crops Research xxx (2012) xxx–xxx



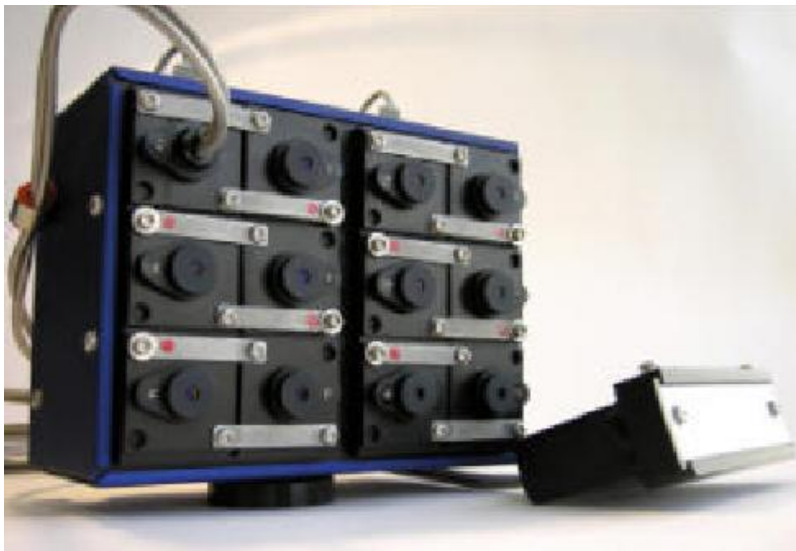
# Multispectral – hyperspectral imaging

## Hyperspectral imaging





Mini Tetracam

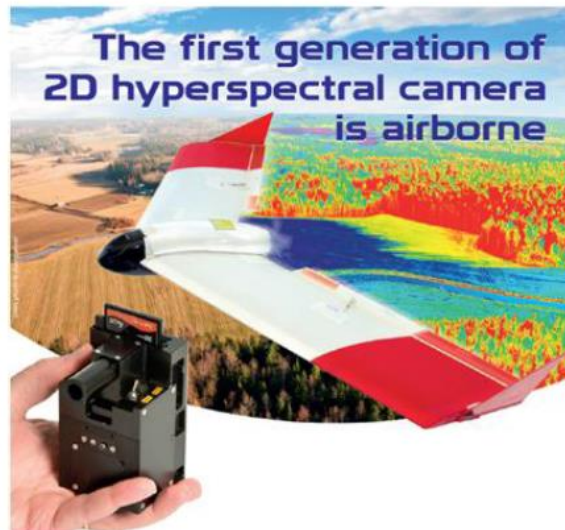


Micro Tetracam



Rikola Ltd.

## Hyperspectral Camera for UAVs



First in the world, Rikola's camera is frame based hyperspectral solution providing full 2D images at every exposure.

- Lightweight < 600 g
- Small and robust: handheld size
- High accuracy image mosaics at low cost
- Approx. 30X faster than LCTF based devices

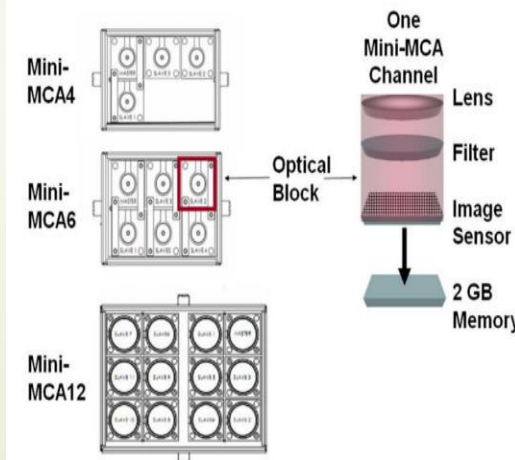
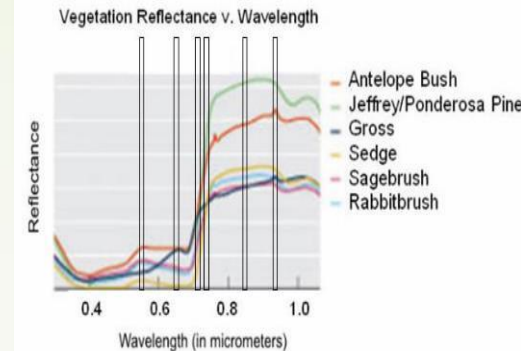
# Tetracam mini-MCA 11+ILS



# Tetracam mini-MCA 11+ILS

## Example Spectral Index Calculations

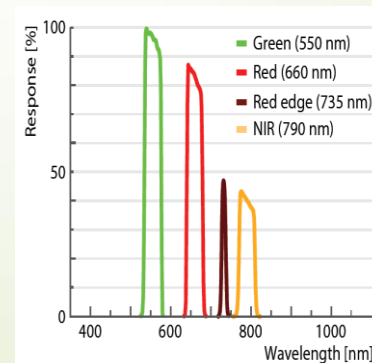
- $NDVI = (R_{840} - R_{670}) / (R_{840} + R_{670})$
- $PRI = (R_{550} - R_{570}) / (R_{550} + R_{570})$
- $SAVI = (R_{840} - R_{670}) / (R_{840} + R_{670} + L) \cdot (1 + L) \quad (L=0.5)$
- $MCARI = [(R_{700} - R_{670}) - 0.2 \cdot (R_{700} - R_{550})] \cdot (R_{700} / R_{670})$
- $WBI = (R_{900} / R_{950})$
- $RDVI = (R_{840} - R_{670}) / ((R_{840} + R_{670})^{1/2})$
- $EVI = 2.5 \cdot ((R_{840} - R_{670}) / (R_{840} + 6 \cdot R_{670} - 7.5 \cdot R_{450} + 1))$
- $ARI2 = R_{840} \cdot [(1/R_{550}) - (1/R_{700})]$
- $CRI2 = (1/R_{550}) - (1/R_{700})$
- $WI = (R_{950} / R_{900})$
- $SR = (R_{900} / R_{670})$
- $SIPI = (R_{840} - R_{450}) / (R_{840} - R_{670})$
- $NPCI = (R_{670} - R_{450}) / (R_{670} + R_{450})$





# Other multispectral sensors available with 4-6 bands (at 500-1000 USD per sensor band)

- Tetracam 4 band ADC, ADC lite, and microMCA 4 or 6, customizable filters from 400-1000 nm, with or without ILS, optional thermal camera integration, and GPS units available separately.
- HiPhen AirPhen 6 sensor customizable bandwidth filters multispectral sensor with GPS and optional thermal camera integration.
- AIRINOV Multispec 4C NDVI-NDRE and NDVI-PRI 4 band sensors with GPS and ILS sensors integrated
- Parrot Sequoia 4 band + RGB sensor with integrate ILS, GPS and IMU



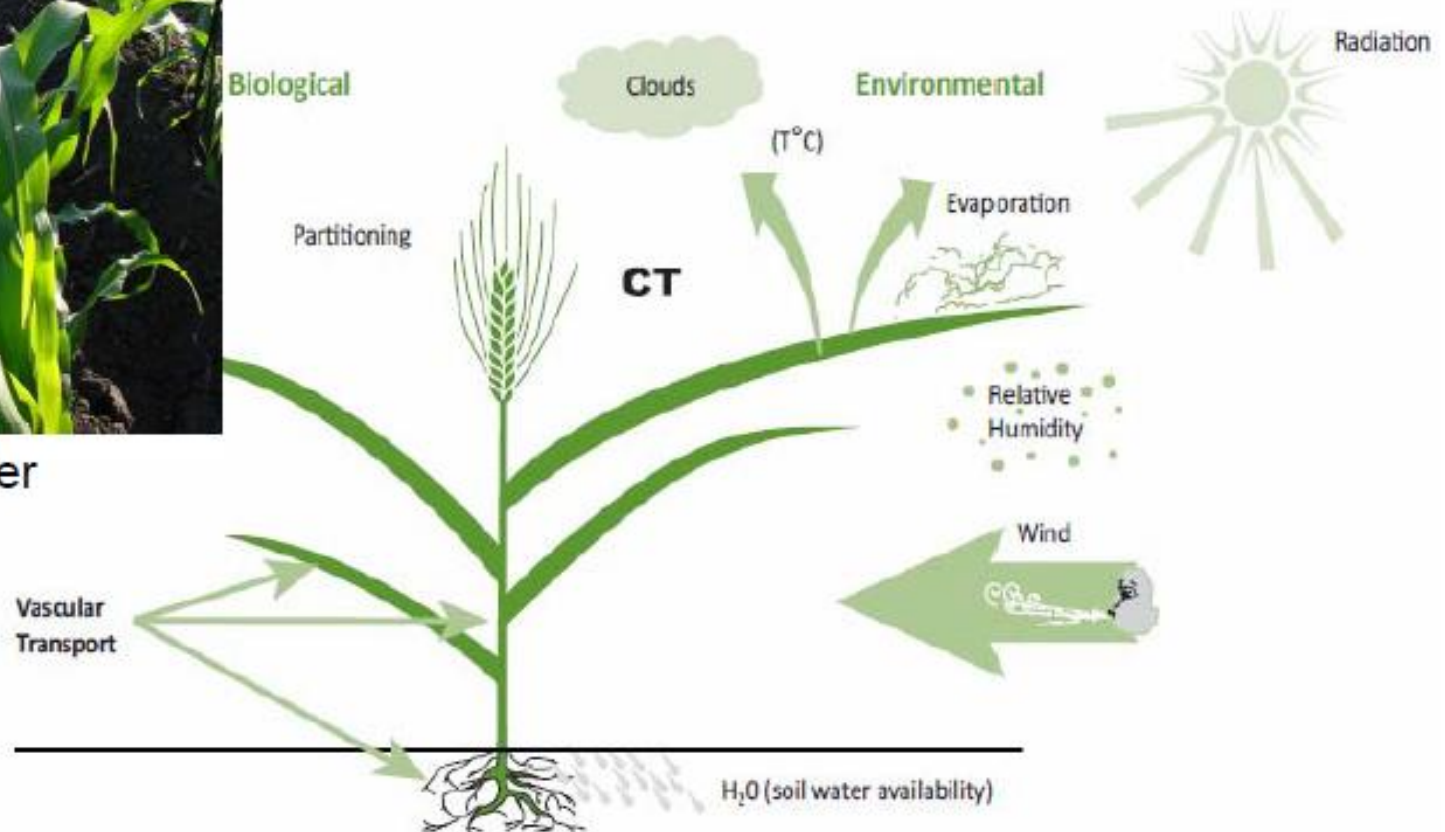
# ***Thermal sensors***

# Transpiration as a cooling system: IR thermometry



IR Thermometer

With quiet air (i.e. limited air-cooling), differences of several degrees in fully irradiated leaves with changes in stomatal conductance



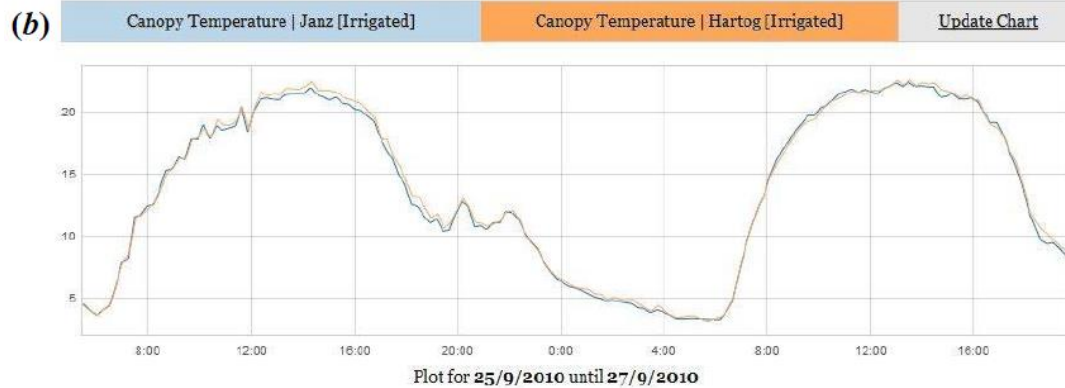
Reynolds, Pask & Mullan 2012

Figure 6.1. Biological (physiological) and environmental factors affecting canopy temperature (Adapted from Reynolds *et al.*, 2001).





Multi Variable Comparison Graph



**Fig. S2.** Use of the Phenonet in monitoring of canopy temperature for multiple genotypes: (a) infra-red thermometers (Melexis®, 10 deg field of view) used for monitoring canopy temperature at the Yanco MEF; and (b) screen shot of the Phenonet visualisation and analysis system for near-real time recording of canopy temperature (here of wheat cultivars Janz (blue) and Hartog (orange) assessed under irrigated conditions).

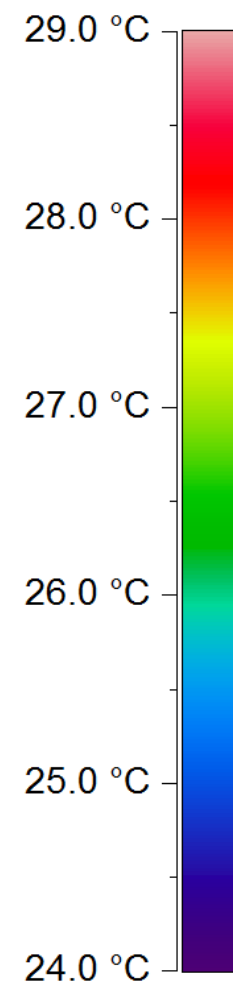
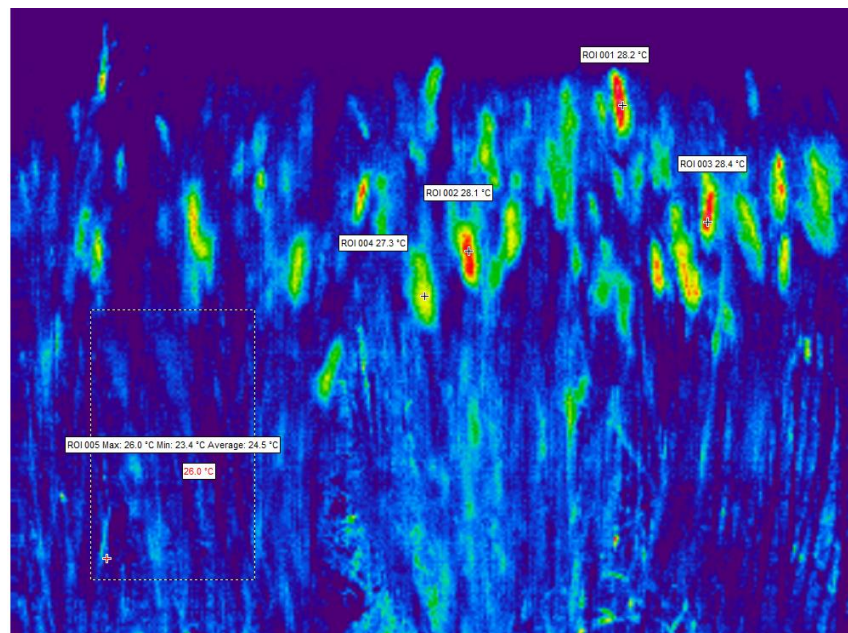
# Thermal cameras



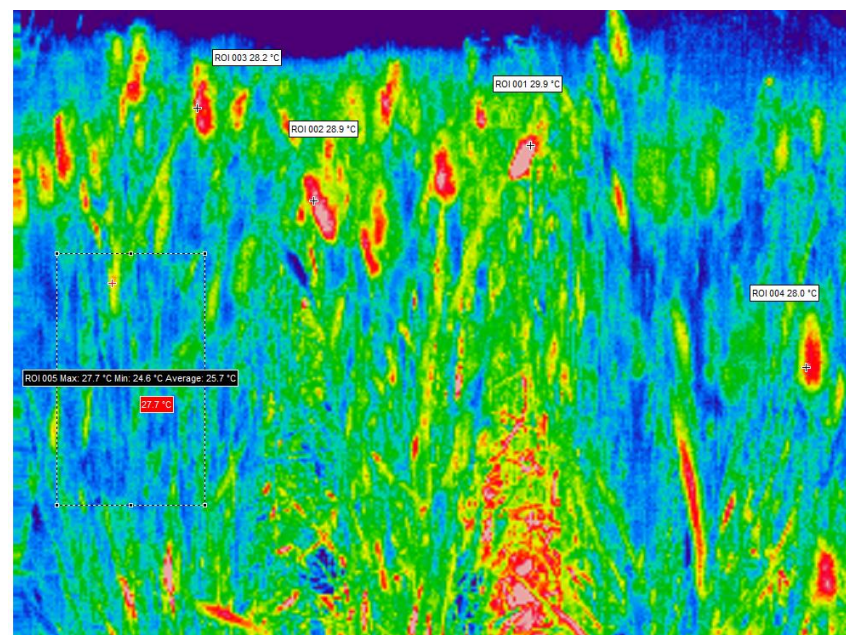


# Ears/shoots

Supplemental  
irrigation

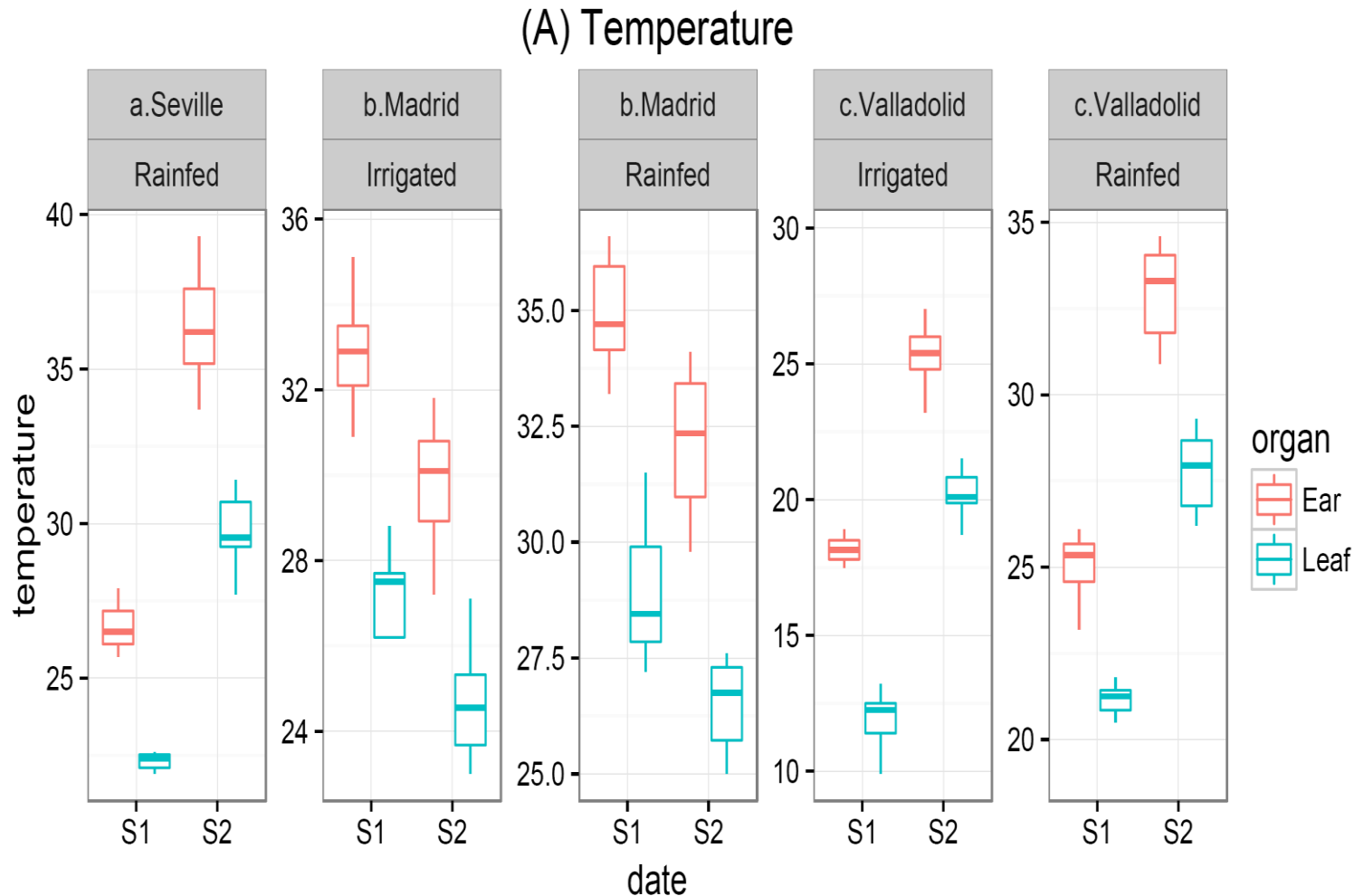


Rainfed





# Temperature differences between flag leaves and ears under rain fed or irrigated conditions



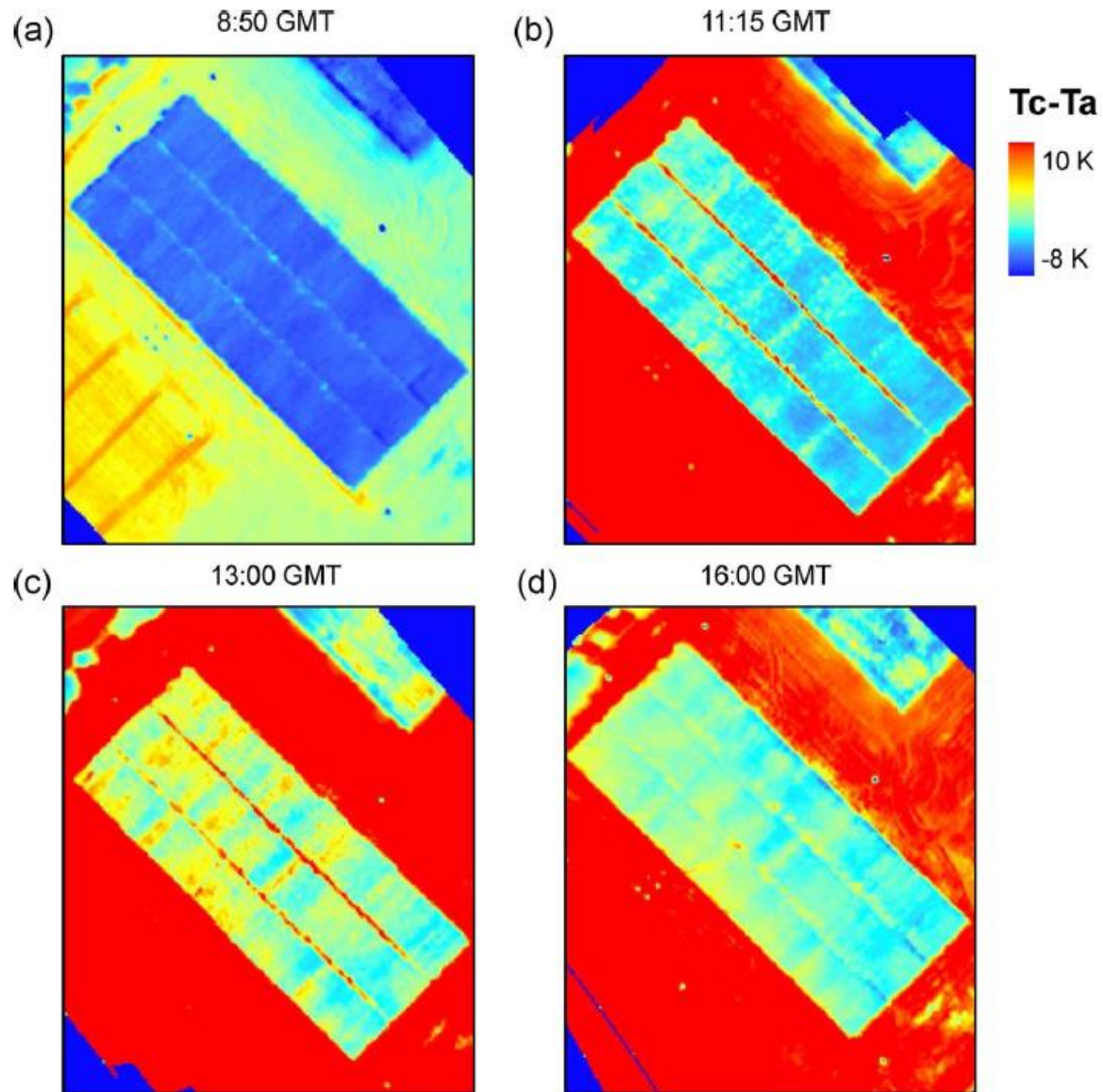


Fig. 14. Thermal images acquired over the corn field at 0.4-m pixel resolution showing the  $T_c - T_a$  changes at four different times of day. The greatest thermal variability between corn variety plots is obtained at midday, continuing during the afternoon.

# New thermal image + RGB fusion sensors on the market



**FLIR  
Duo Pro R**



**TEAX ThermalCapture  
Fusion Zoom**

TeAx is an international distributor for the FLIR Duo Pro R

## **Dual-Sensor Imaging**

High resolution thermal and 4K color imagers integrated into a single powerful, convenient package.

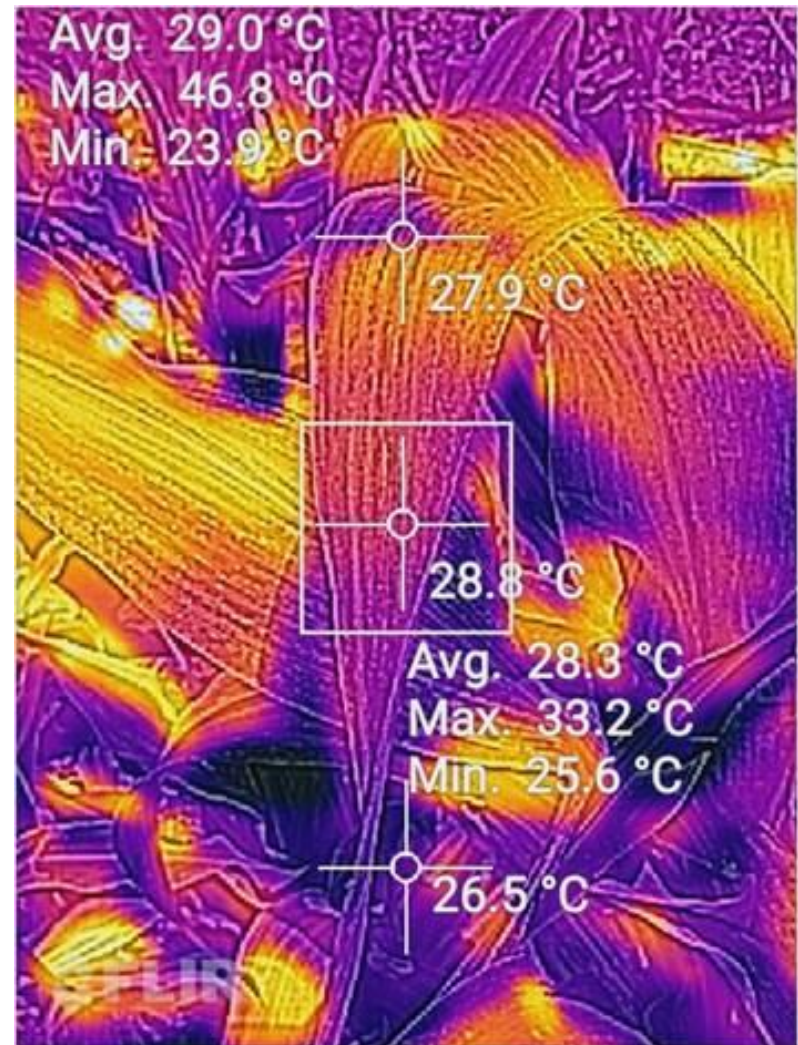
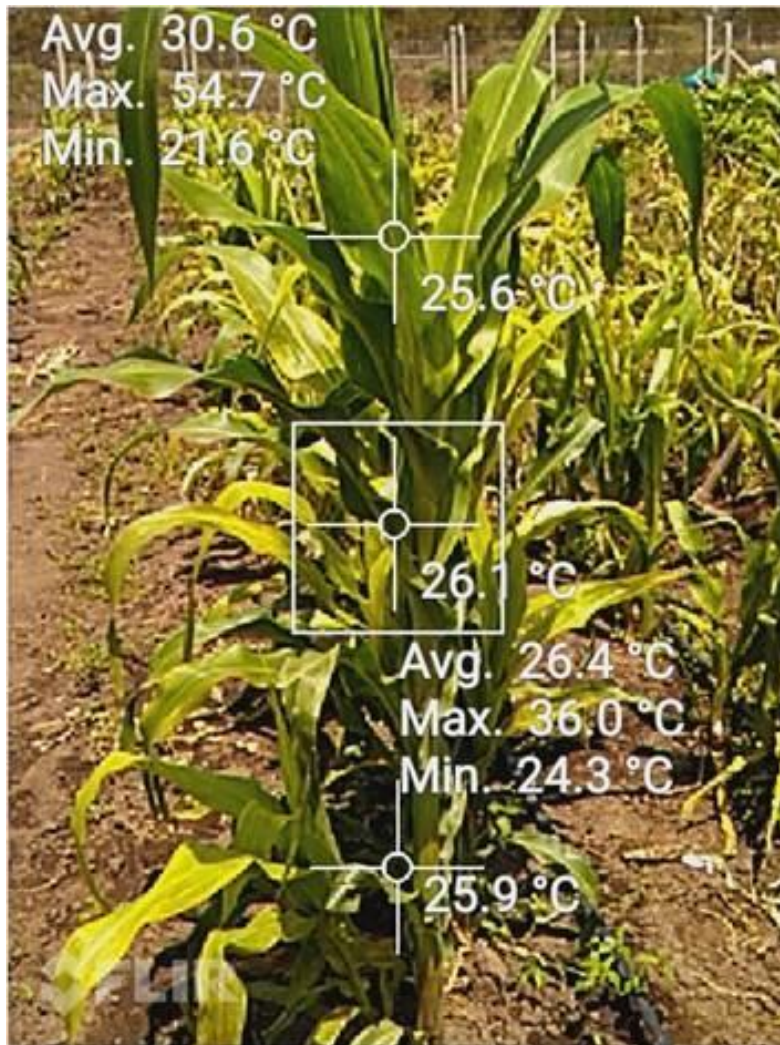
TC Fusion Zoom is being delivered to global clients already. Watch its powerful transparent overlay capacities in the video.

Perfectly aligned thermal and visual images  
Stores full 14bit raw digital radiometric data  
Optical vibration-compensation  
10x times visual optical zoom





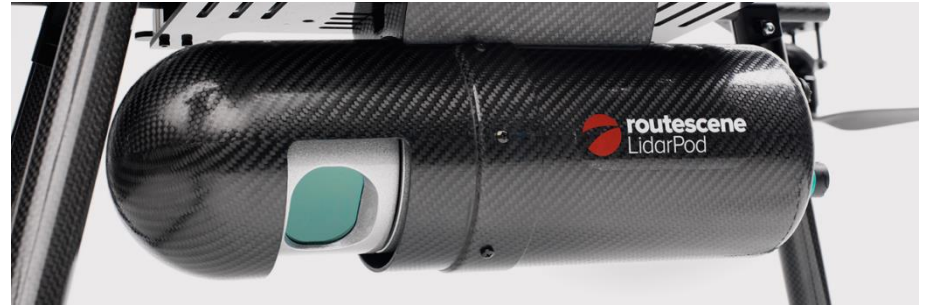
**Pictures taken from the camera using the thermal plus RGB fusion, thermal temp point measurements over RGB, and plain thermal camera modes**



***LiDAR***



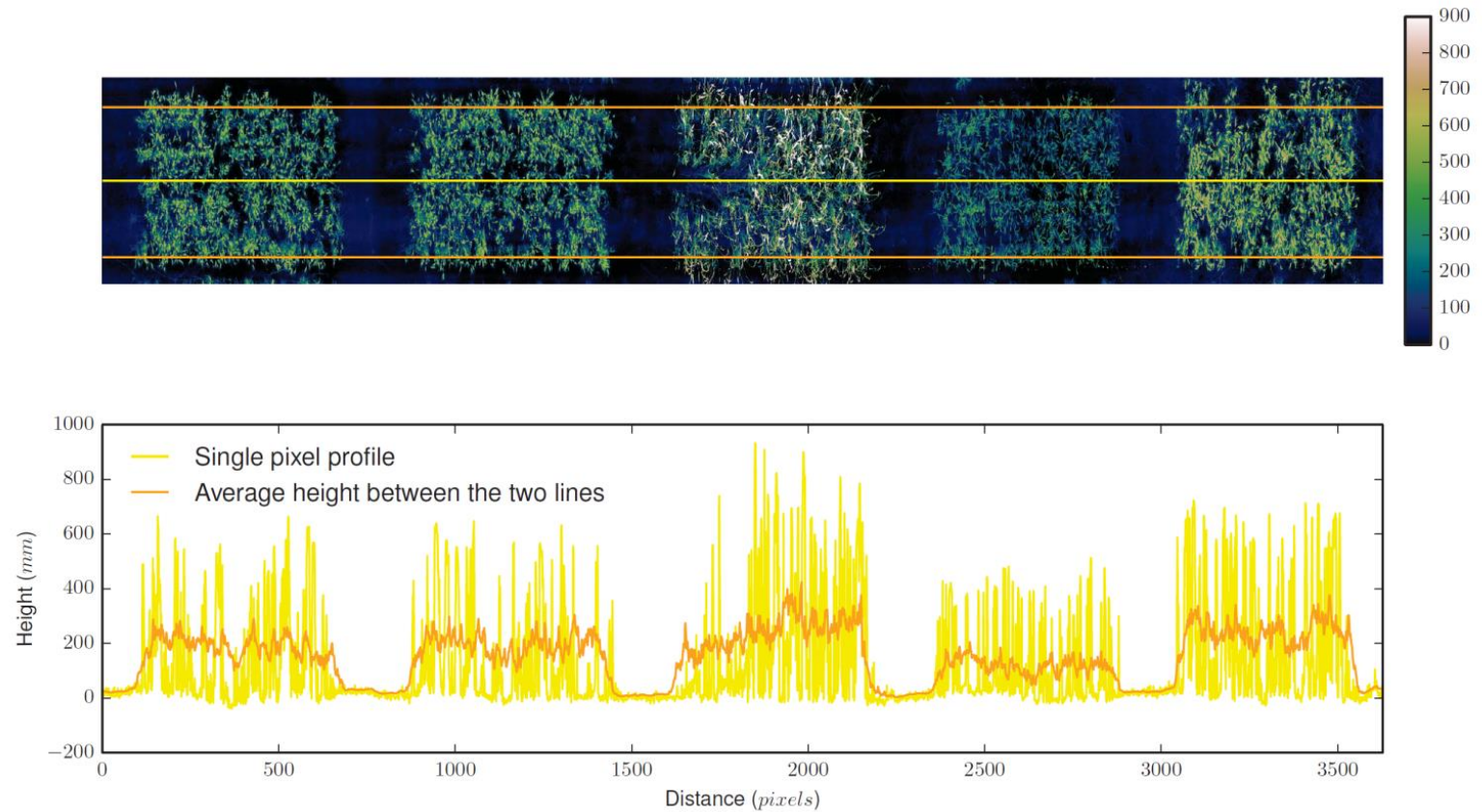
# LiDAR – Light Detection and Ranging



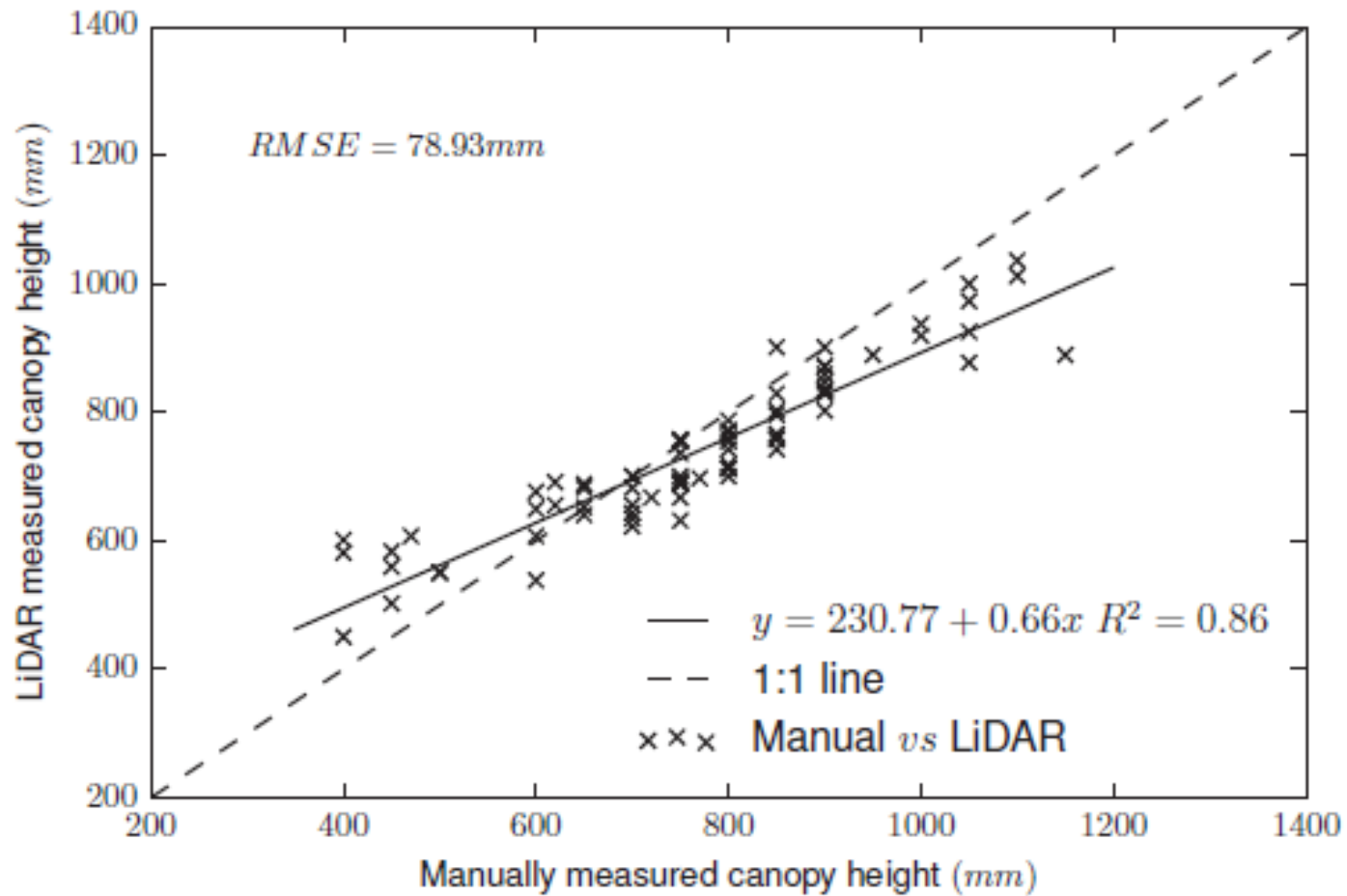
the environment is scanned with a pulsed laser beam and the reflection time of the signal from the object back to the detector is measured.

# LiDAR

**Figure 4.** Profile of the LiDAR elevation. The yellow line in the graph represents the profile of the single-pixel width transect across the plots, denoted in yellow in the image; while the orange line in the graph represents the average height of all the pixels between the two orange lines in the image.



# LiDAR





# LiDAR

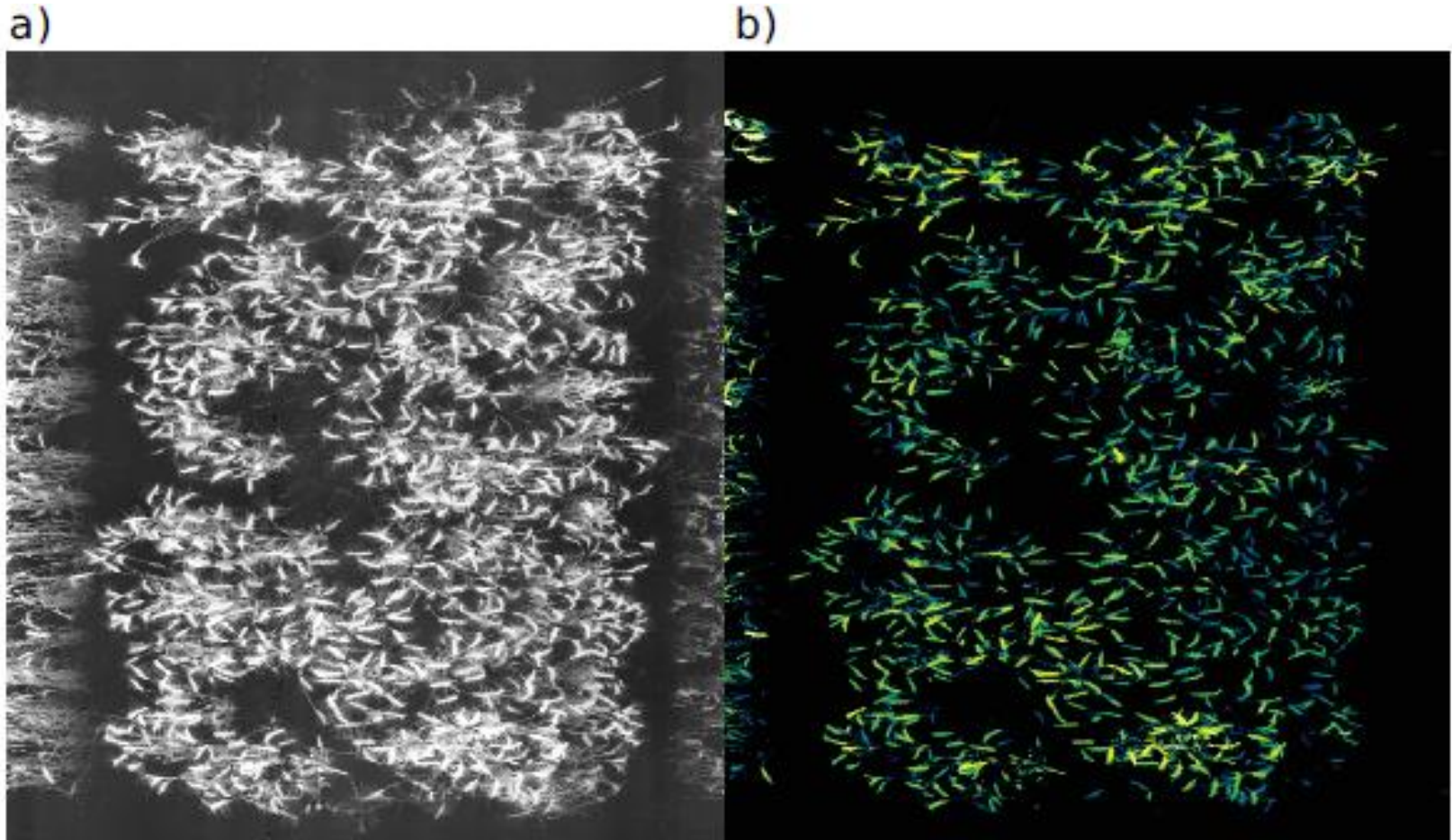


Figure 6. An example of the application of LiDAR for counting spikes in wheat. The LiDAR elevation image (a) can be segmented into an image showing only the top fraction of the image, which clearly shows the spikes (b). A simple particle count algorithm can be used to count the number of elements per area.

***RGB images***

# Digital photography



green biomass





# Numerical representation of color

There are a number of different systems for representing a given color.

- RGB: Red, Green and Blue

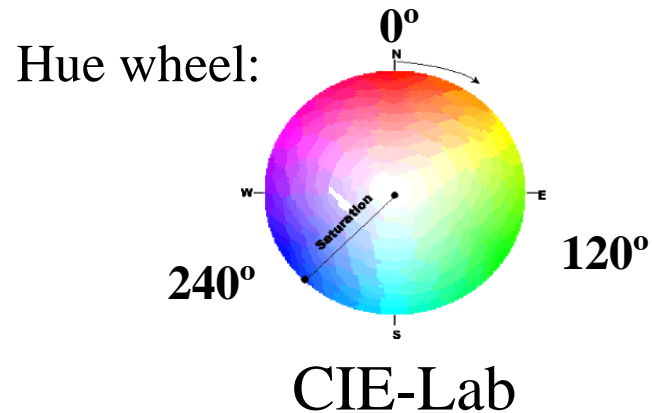


related with color reproduction by computer screens, etc.

- HIS

Hue, Intensity, Saturation

Practical for image analysis

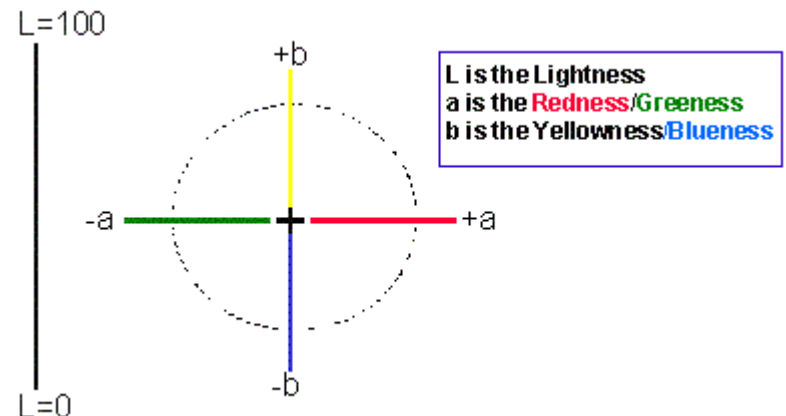


- CIE-lab

~ sensitivity of human visual system

Consistent distance

→ practical for arithmetics



# RGB image processing: vegetation indices



**CIMMYT Maize Scanner for RGB field-based phenotyping (released at <http://github.com/george-haddad/CIMMYT>)**

Calculates a number of RGB based indexes for estimating disease impacts, crop vigor, LAI, biomass at the leaf and canopy scale, including Breedpix (GA and GGA), Triangle Greenness Index (TGI), and Normalized Green Red Difference Index (NGRDI)

*Kefauver et al.*



# RGB, Green Area, Greener Green Area

MLN plot score 3.0



Maize Leaf Plot RGB



GA (healthy pixels)



GGA (very healthy pixels)

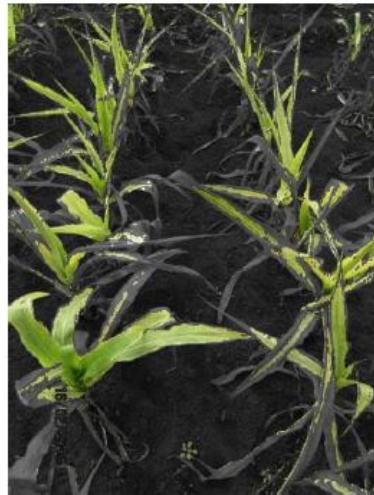


NGRDI (vigor index)

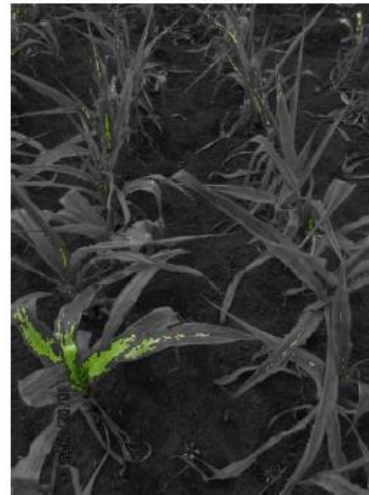
MLN plot score 4.0



Maize Leaf Plot RGB



GA (healthy pixels)

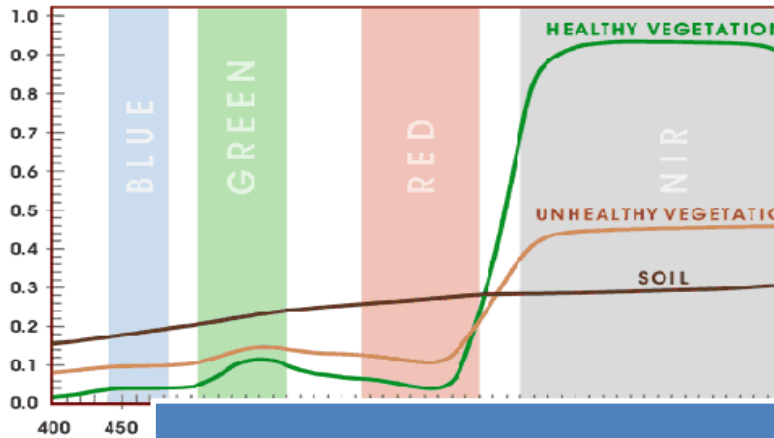


GGA (very healthy pixels)



NGRDI (vigor index)





**RGB indexes have a more limited spectral range**

but they have an excellent spatial resolution

❖ In most of these studies, RGB indexes outperformed NDVI



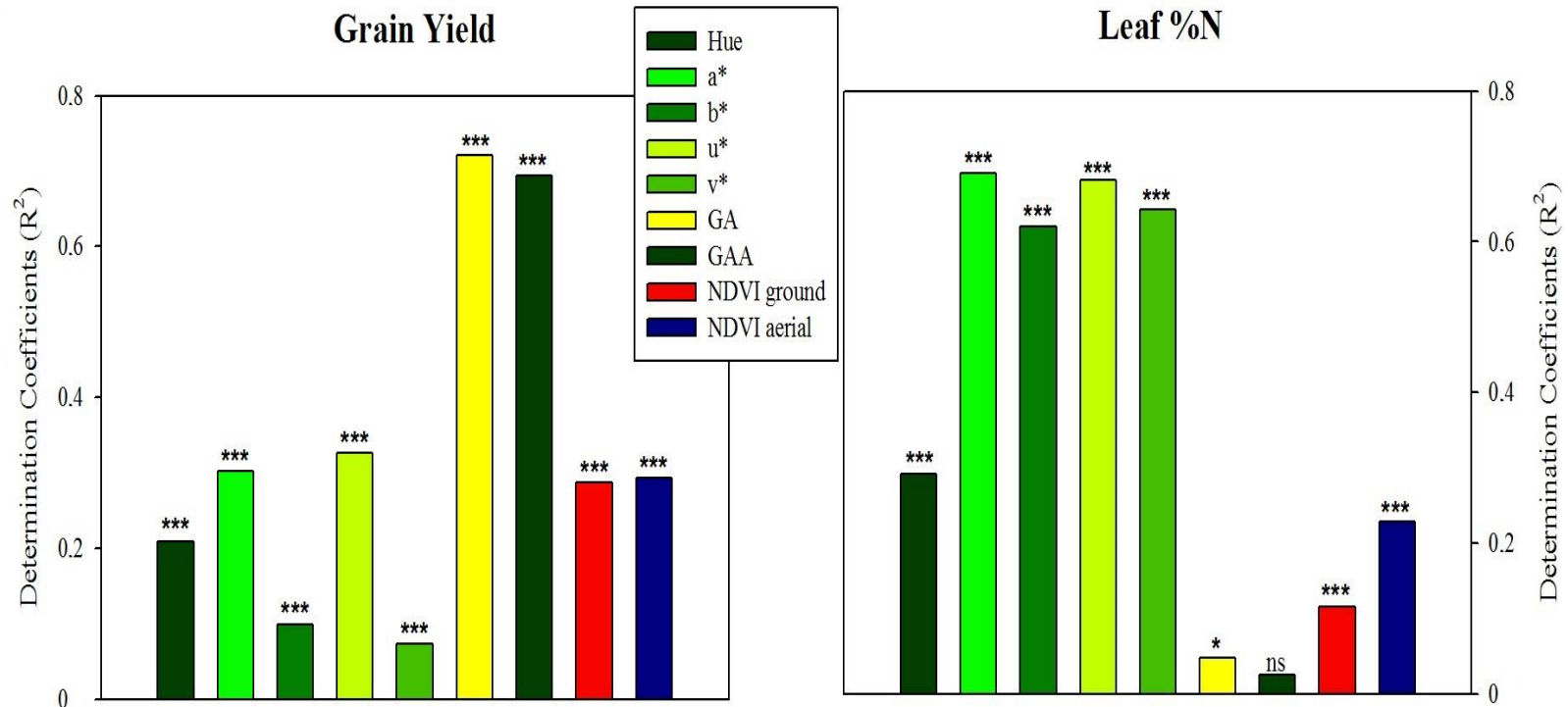
- ❖ NDVI may be more affected by:
- Canopy architecture
  - Crop density
  - Spikes and soil



**because of their effect on the reflectance at longer wavelengths.**

# RGB vs Spectral indices

## N fertilization treatments in maize



## Vegetation Indexes

\*\*\*,  $P < 0.001$ ; \*\*,  $P < 0.01$ ; \*,  $P < 0.05$ ; ns, not significant

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

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ScienceDirect

Grain yield losses in yellow-rusted durum wheat estimated using digital and conventional parameters under field conditions

Omar Vergara-Díaz<sup>a</sup>, Shaun C. Kefauver<sup>a,\*</sup>, Abdelhalim Elazab<sup>b</sup>, María Teresa Nieto-Taladriz<sup>c</sup>, José Luis Araus<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Unit of Plant Physiology, Department of Plant Biology, Faculty of Biology, University of Barcelona, Diagonal 645, 08028 Barcelona, Spain  
<sup>b</sup>National Institute for Agricultural and Food Research and Technology (INIA), CITA de la Coruña 15, 20040, Madrid Spain

Low-cost assessment of wheat resistance to yellow rust through conventional RGB images

B. Zhou, A. Elazab, J. Bort, O. Vergara, M.D. Serret, J.L. Araus<sup>\*</sup>

Unitat de Fisiologia Vegetal, Facultat de Biologia, Universitat de Barcelona, Av. Diagonal 645, 08028 Barcelona, Spain

# Phosphorus deficiency in maize



Pearson correlations ( $R^2$ ) of the different remote sensing indices against grain yield.

<u>RGB Indices / ground</u>		<u>RGB Indices / aerial</u>		<u>Multispectral Indices</u>	
Intensity	0.007	Intensity	0.384 ***	NDVI.ground	0.745 ***
Hue	0.684 ***	Hue	0.753 ***	NDVI	0.677 ***
Saturation	0.032	Saturation	0.055	SAVI	0.677 ***
Lightness	0.042	Lightness	0.277 ***	OSAVI	0.639 ***
$a^*$	0.669 ***	$a^*$	0.779 ***	RDVI	0.687 ***
$b^*$	0.029	$b^*$	0.085 *	EVI	0.008
$u^*$	0.617 ***	$u^*$	0.762 ***	PRI	0.165 **
$v^*$	0.189 **	$v^*$	0.000	MCARI	0.204 **
GA	0.771 ***	GA	0.795 ***	TCARI	0.060
GGA	0.770 ***	GGA	0.701 ***	ARI2	0.018
				CRI2	0.008
				WBI	0.358 ***



# Wheat – yellow rust

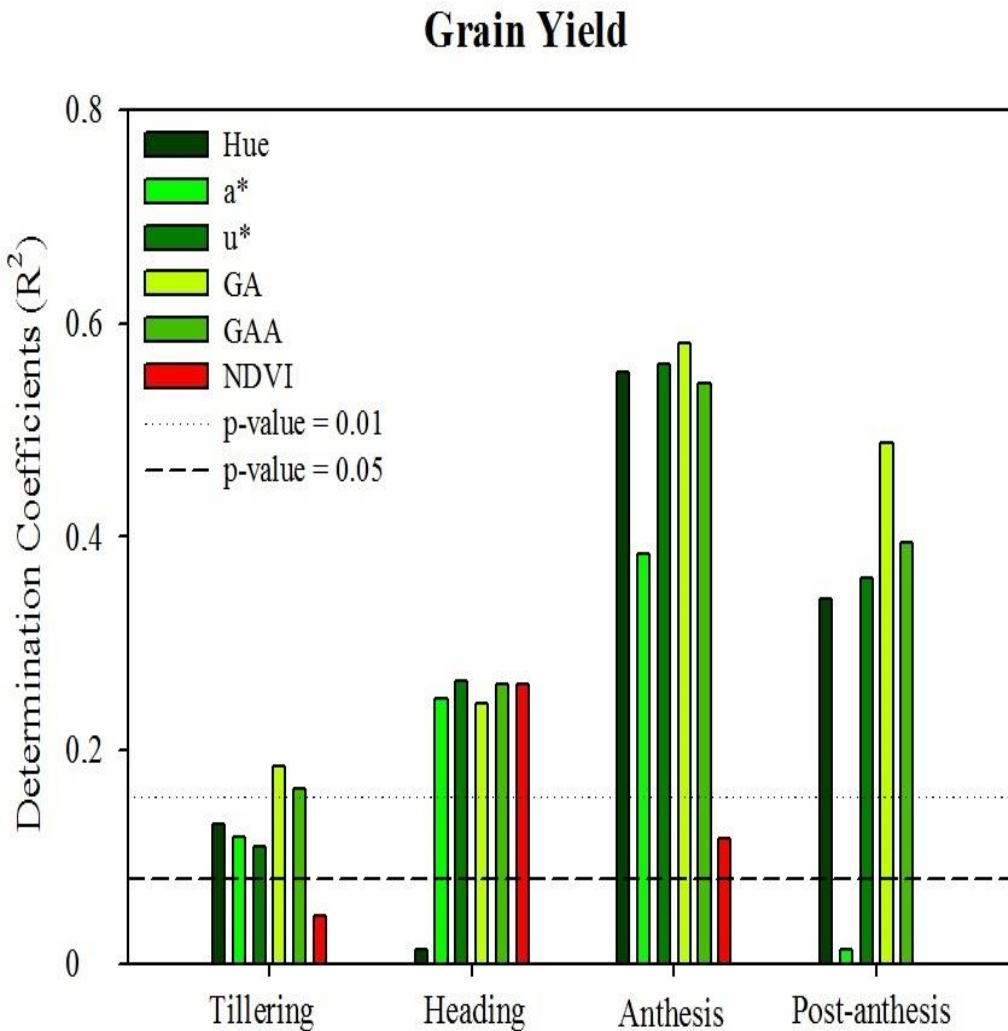


Fig. 1 – Wheat leaves damaged by yellow rust during 2012–2013.

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Available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

ScienceDirect

ELSEVIER

**Grain yield losses in yellow-rusted durum wheat estimated using digital and conventional parameters under field conditions**

Omar Vergara-Díaz<sup>a</sup>, Shawn C. Kefauver<sup>a,\*</sup>, Abdelhalim Elazab<sup>a</sup>, Maria Teresa Nieto-Taladriz<sup>b</sup>, José Luis Araus<sup>a</sup>

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# Other applications of RGB images: harvest index

## Kernels



- ☐ Size
- ☐ Uniformity/abortion rate
- ☐ Kernel weight
- ☐ Rot index

## Ears

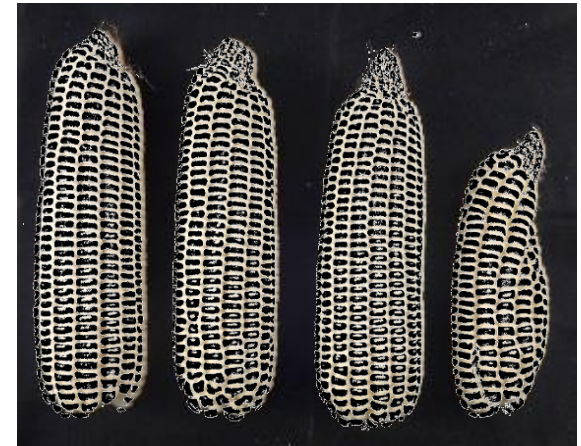


- ☐ Number
- ☐ Rows
- ☐ Size

## Stress stage

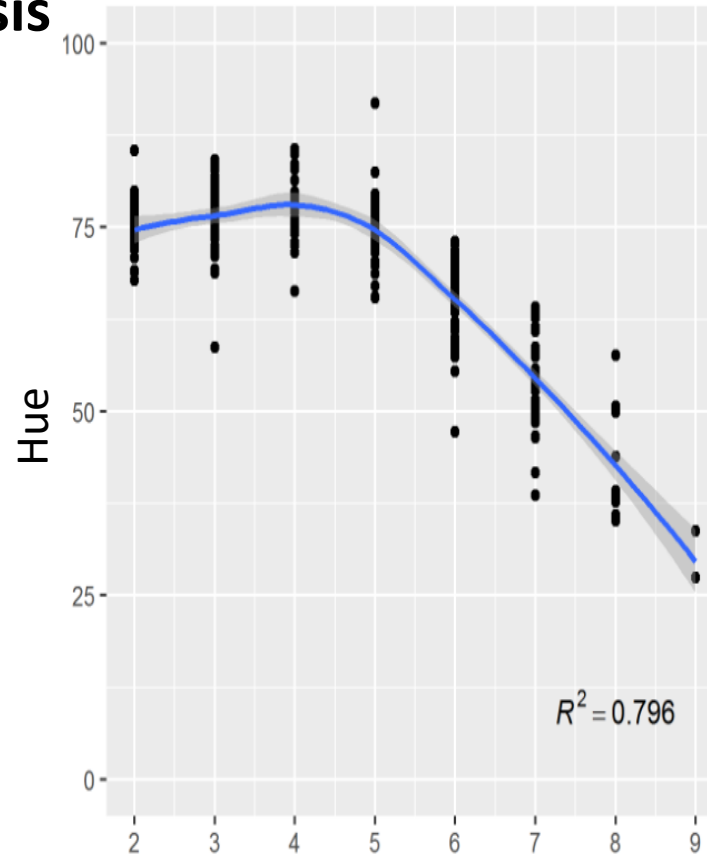
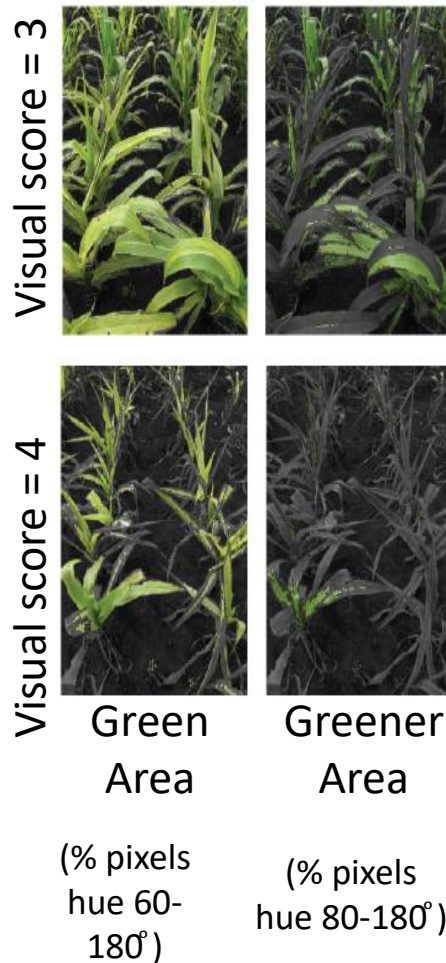


- ☐ Flowering stress
- ☐ Grain filling stress



# Image analysis for diseases

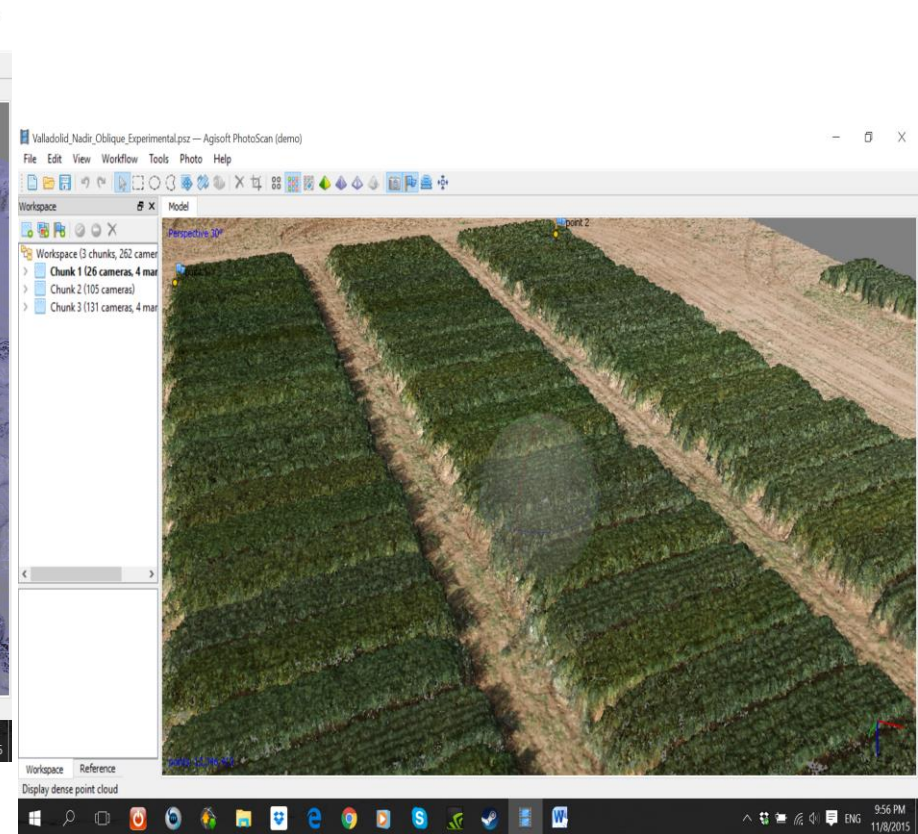
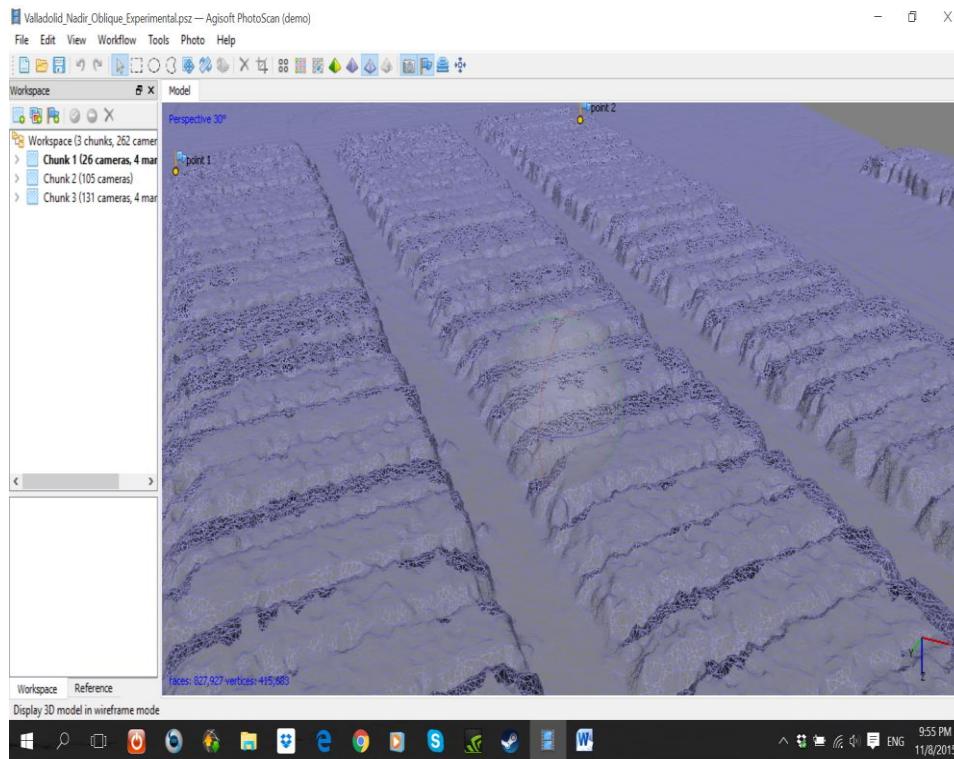
## Maize lethal necrosis





# Other uses RGB images

**3D modelling done in Agisoft: the blue 3D mesh (left) and the combination of the 3D model and the color photos creates the color 3D image (right).**



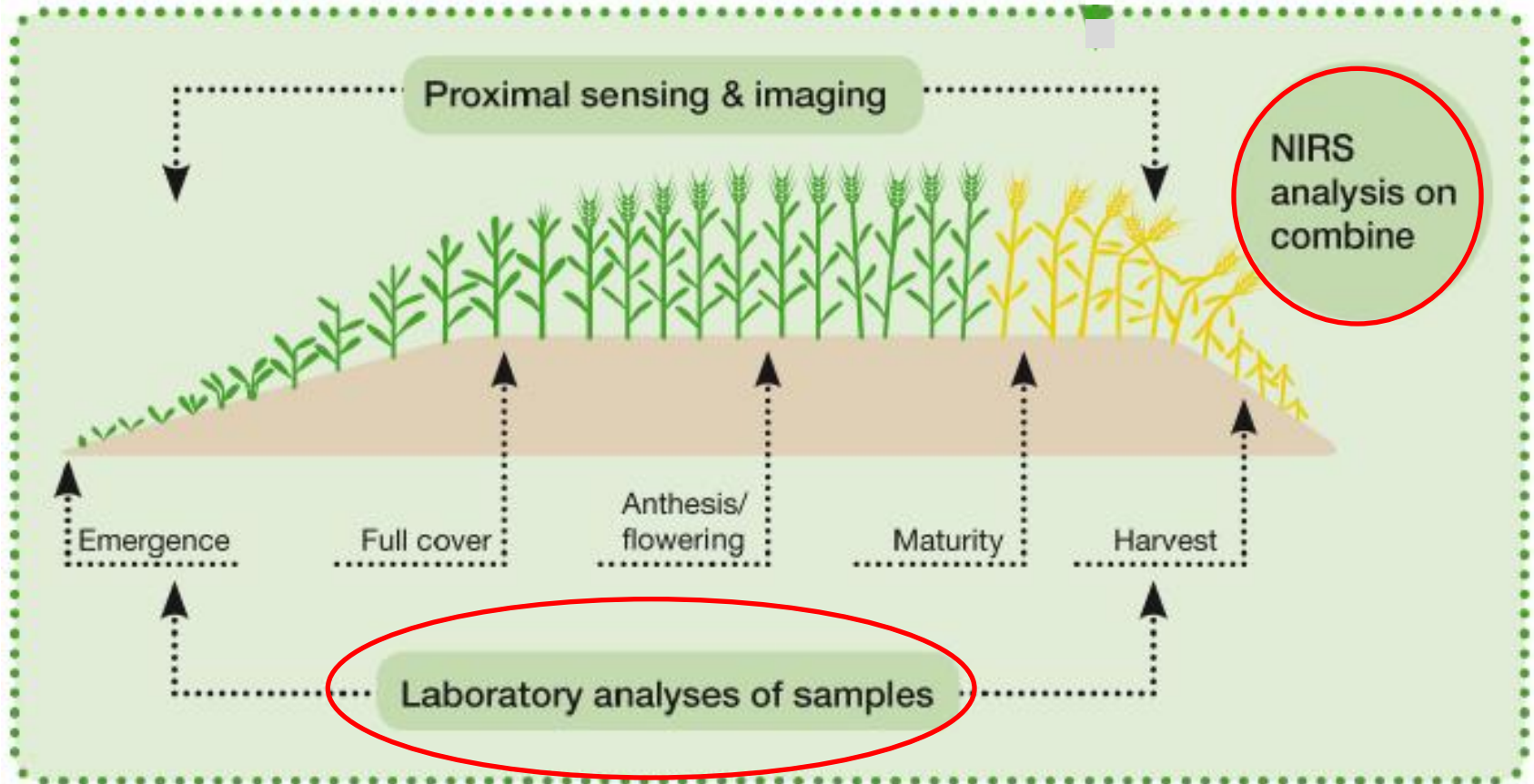
S.C. Kefauver

# Applications and limitations of sensors

**Table 2.** Applications and limitations of common sensors mounted on field buggies.

Sensor Type	Applications	Limitations
RGB Cameras	Imaging canopy cover and canopy colour. Colour information can be used for deriving information about chlorophyll concentration through greenness indices. The use of 3D stereo reconstruction from multiple cameras or viewpoints allows the estimation of canopy architecture parameters.	No spectral calibration, only relative measurements. Shadows and changes in ambient light conditions can result in under- or over-exposure and limit automation of image processing.
LiDAR and time of flight sensors	Canopy height and canopy architecture in the case of imaging sensors (e.g., LiDAR). Estimation of LAI, volume and biomass. Reflectance from the laser can be used for retrieving spectral information (reflectance in that wavelength).	Integration/synchronization with GPS and wheel encoder position systems is required for georeferencing.
Spectral sensors	Biochemical composition of the leaf/canopy. Pigment concentration, water content, indirect measurement of biotic/abiotic stress. Canopy architecture/LAI with NDVI.	Sensor calibration required. Changes in ambient light conditions influence signal and necessitate frequent white reference calibration. Canopy structure and camera/sun geometries influence signal. Data management is challenging.
Fluorescence	Photosynthetic status, indirect measurement of biotic/abiotic stress.	Difficult to measure in the field at the canopy scale, because of the small signal-to-noise ratio, though laser-induced fluorescence transients (LIFT) can extend the range available, while solar-induced fluorescence can be used remotely.
Thermal sensors	Stomatal conductance. Water stress induced by biotic or abiotic factors.	Changes in ambient conditions lead to changes in canopy temperature, making a comparison through time difficult, necessitating the use of references. Difficult to separate soil temperature from plant temperature in sparse canopies, limiting the automation of image processing. Sensor calibration and atmospheric correction are often required.
Other sensors: electromagnetic induction (EMI), ground penetrating radar (GPR) and electrical resistance tomography (ERT)	Mapping of soil physical properties, such as water content, electric conductivity or root mapping.	Data interpretation is challenging, as heterogeneous soil properties can strongly influence the signal.

# Different categories of traits





# Stable isotopes: $\Delta^{13}\text{C}$ & Yield

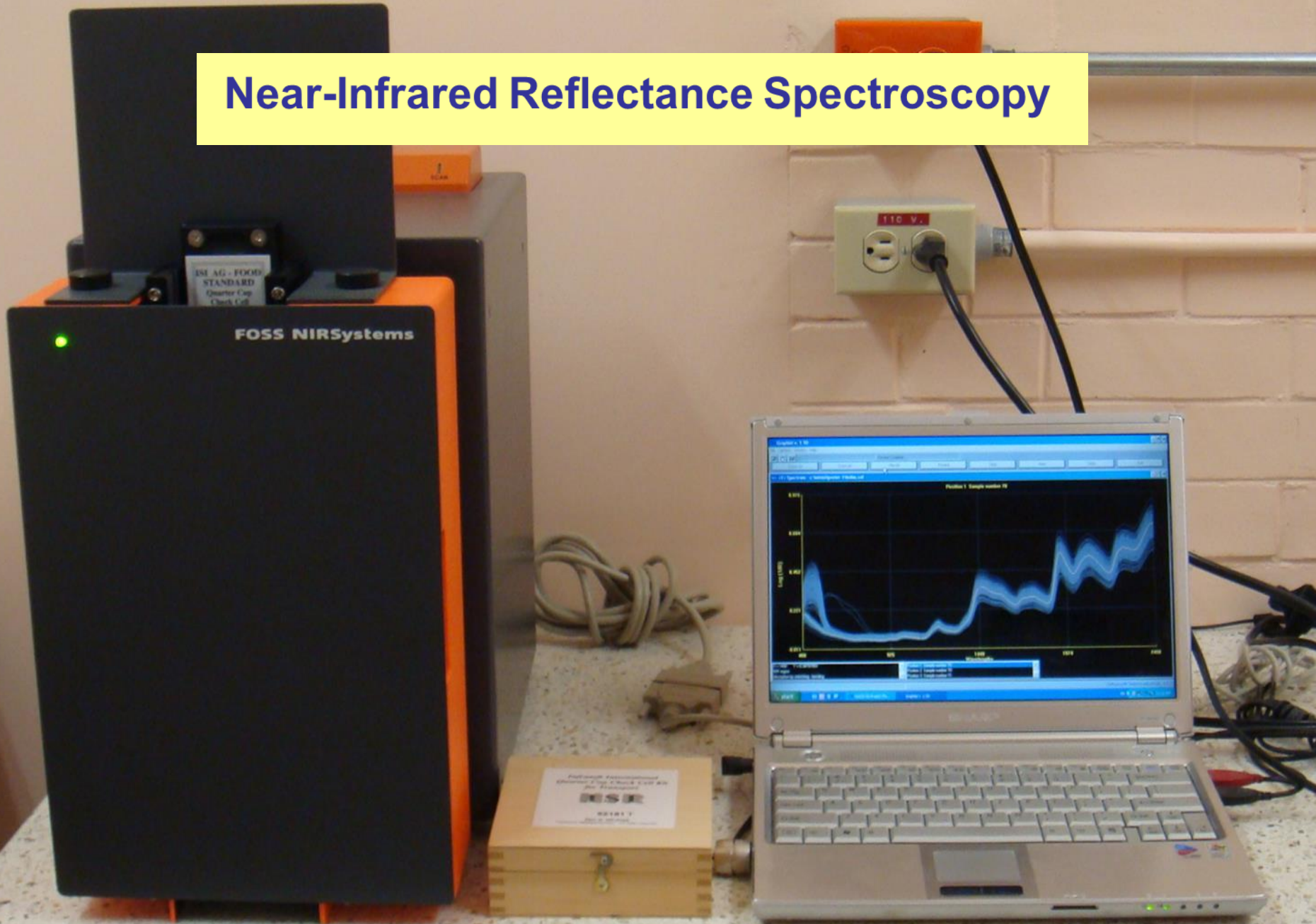


*'Drysdale (2002) and Rees (2003) are drought tolerant wheat varieties bred by CSIRO scientists using innovative gene selection criteria. The DELTA technique gives plant breeders the ability to breed varieties of wheat that more efficiently exchange atmospheric carbon dioxide for water during photosynthesis'*

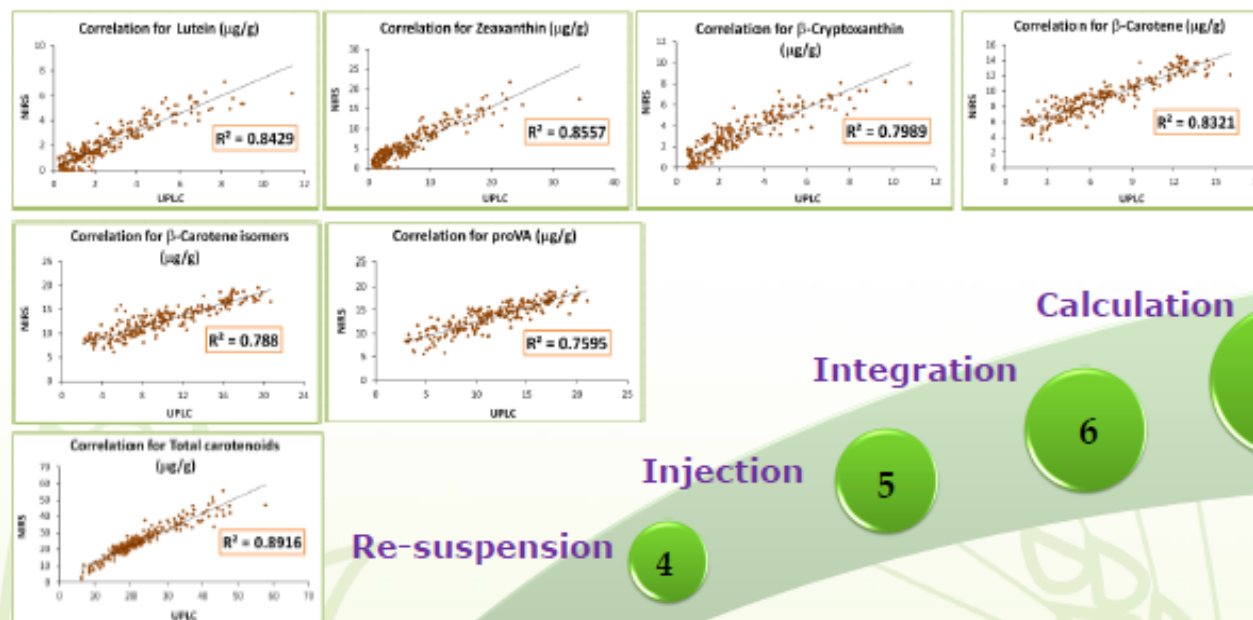


They were selected for low  $\Delta^{13}\text{C}$  increased WUE as crop mostly grows on storage water which exhausted through the growing season

# Near-Infrared Reflectance Spectroscopy



# UPLC and NIR for carotenoids in maize



UPLC



Factor	UPLC	NIRS
Accuracy	Quant. Qual.	Quant.
Time of analysis	~3 h	~4 min
Cost/sample	37.10 US	2.62 US
Risk		
Waste generation		
HR	3 people	1 person



# Comparative of cost and time

Technique	IRMS		EA	AACC Method	NIRS-prediction			
Parameter	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	N content	Ash content	$\delta^{13}\text{C}^*$	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	Ash	N
Cost per sample	10€	20€	3€	1.5€	0.5€			
Time	<10 min	<10 min	<10 min	≈24 h	≈3 min			
Equipment	EA-IRMS		EA	Muffle furnace	NIR spectrometer			



\*previously reported by Clark *et al.* 1995; Ferrio *et al.* 2001; Kleinebecker *et al.* 2009

# Outline

## Phenotyping

- A bottleneck for breeding
- Current challenges
- Identifying the traits
- Selecting the tools for field phenotyping
- Effective and expensive are not synonyms
- **Platforms**
- More than traits, tools and platforms



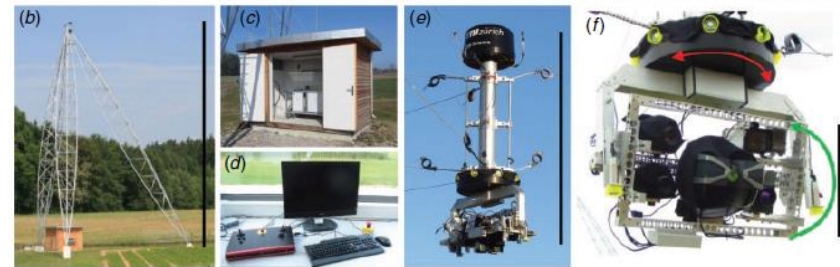
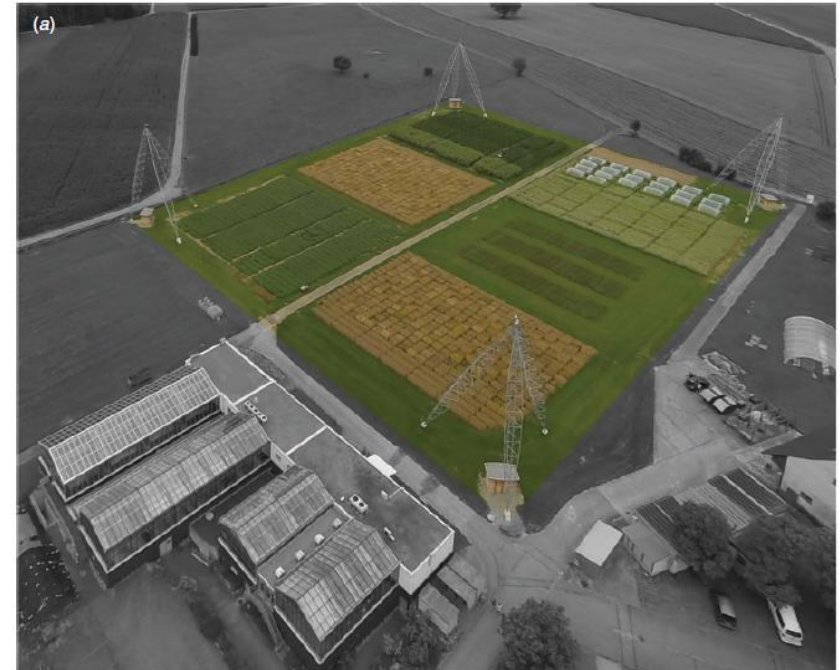
# Fixed field phenotyping platforms



Field scanner at Rothamsted Research, Harpenden



The world's largest robotic field scanner (white steel box) is mounted on a 30-ton steel gantry moving along 200-meter steel rails over 1.5 acres of energy sorghum at the Maricopa Agricultural Center. (Photo: Susan McGinley)



The ETH field phenotyping platform FIP: a cable-suspended multi-sensor system



# Cranes - towers

## The canopy: structure-function relationships



flexible system – cherry picker



SLR-cameras on a sliding bar  
+ hyperspectral imaging

Laser / LIDAR – detailed maps of the outer canopy

3D Stereo imaging: structural features – e.g. leaf orientation

Hyperspectral imaging:

- NDVI - chlorophyll
- PRI - photosynthetic efficiency - influenced by chlorophyll and canopy structure

Stereo imaging – quantitative description of relevant canopy elements

# Phenomobiles



Description	
1	Frame with 1.5 m ground clearance
2	Wheel encoders (~1-mm accuracy)
3	Real time kinematic GPS (~2-cm accuracy)
4	Height adjustable boom (max 3 m)
5	Removable light bank
6	Three LiDAR sensors
7	Four RGB stereo cameras
8	Spectrometer/hyperspectral camera
9	Infra-red thermometers/infra-red thermal camera
10	Generator and electronics
11	Two wheel drive hydraulic drive system

Deery *et al.* 2014 *Agronomy*

Rebetzke *et al.* 2013 *Funct. Plant Biol.*



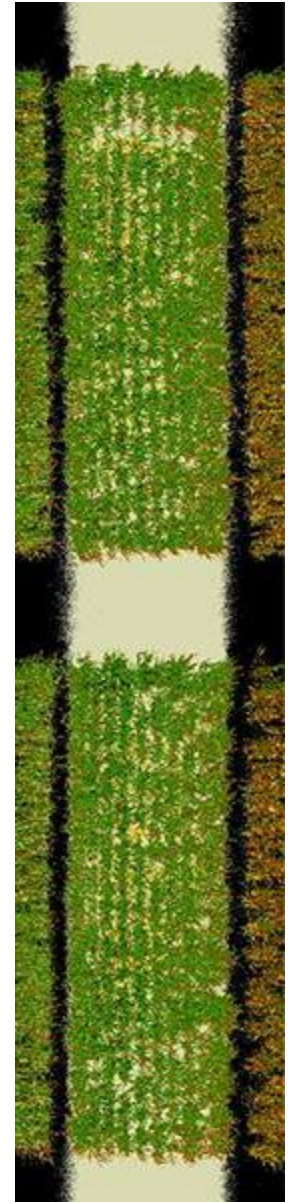
# PHENOMOBILE LITE

Advanced high throughput field phenotyping buggy



## Typical Applications

The Phenomobile Lite has been successfully validated to be a surrogate for the non-destructive field phenotyping of both wheat and rice yielding estimates of canopy height, fractional ground cover, greenness vertical distribution, leaf area, plant counts, visual assessments, and with optional NDVI GreenSeeker, canopy density and greenness.





# Phenocart



# Aerial platforms



M. Reynolds, Ciudad Obregon, Mexico



# University of Barcelona Current HTPP



Multispectral Tetracam 11+ILS



TEAX ThermalCapture FLIR  
Tau 640 Camera

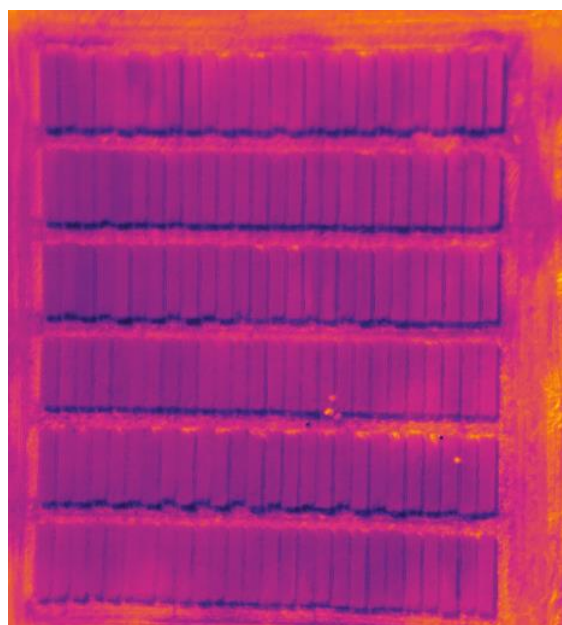


Lumix GX7 16 MP RGB camera

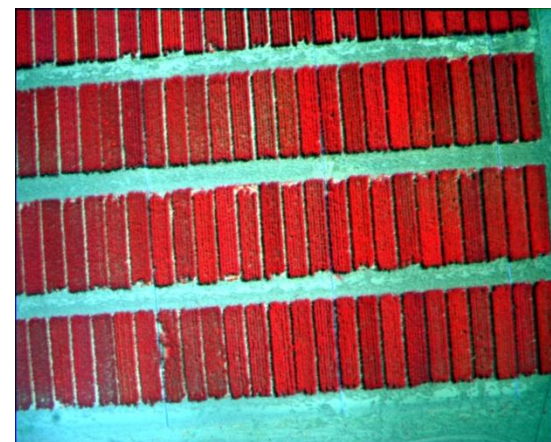




RGB

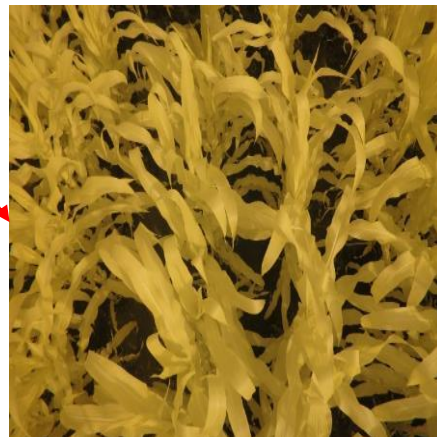


Thermal



Multispectral

# In the case of projects where UAVs are prohibited...



RGB camera  
(Sony QX1)

- Images taken with a *phenopole*.
- Zenithal.
- More canopy area evaluated
- Soil (and sky) background effect reduced.



NDVI modified camera  
(Canon S100)





Naivasha, Kenya



**Table 1. Comparison of hand-held, cart, and tractor-based proximal sensing.**

Characteristic	Hand-held	Cart	Tractor
Initial cost	Low	Low	High
Cost of operation	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Ease of maneuvering within field trials	High	Moderate	Low
Ease of maintaining a precise sensor height	Moderate	High	High
Ease of simultaneously deploying multiple sensors	Low	High	High
Ease of simultaneously deploying multiple sets of sensors over different rows	Low	Moderate	High
Ease of stop-and-go operation	High	High	Moderate
Maximum clearance	High	Moderate	Moderate
Risk of person or vehicle interfering with reflectance or thermometric sensor readings	Low	Low	Moderate
Risk of soil compaction	Low	Low	Moderate
Risk of damage to plants in a closed canopy	Low	Moderate	High
Ease of adjustment for different row spacings	High	Medium	Low
Ease of transport	High	Medium	Low

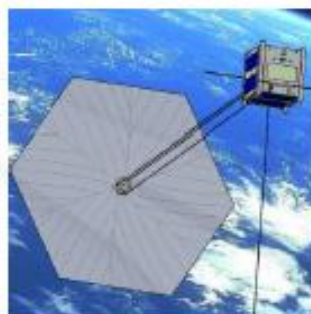
# 2016 Nano/Microsatellite Applications and Associated Examples



Credit: <http://space.skyrocket.de>

## Communications ITF 2

Mass: 1.3 kg  
Launched: 12/2016



Credit: JAXA

## Technology Waseda-SAT 3

Mass: 1.3 kg  
Launched: 12/2016



Credit: Satellogic

## Earth Observation NuSat 1 (Aleph-1)

Mass: 37 kg  
Launched: 5/2016



Credit: Earth Observation Portal

## Scientific RAVAN

Mass: 5 kg  
Launched: 11/2016



Credit: <http://space.skyrocket.de>

## Technology CELTEE 1

Mass: 1.3 kg  
Launched: 11/2016

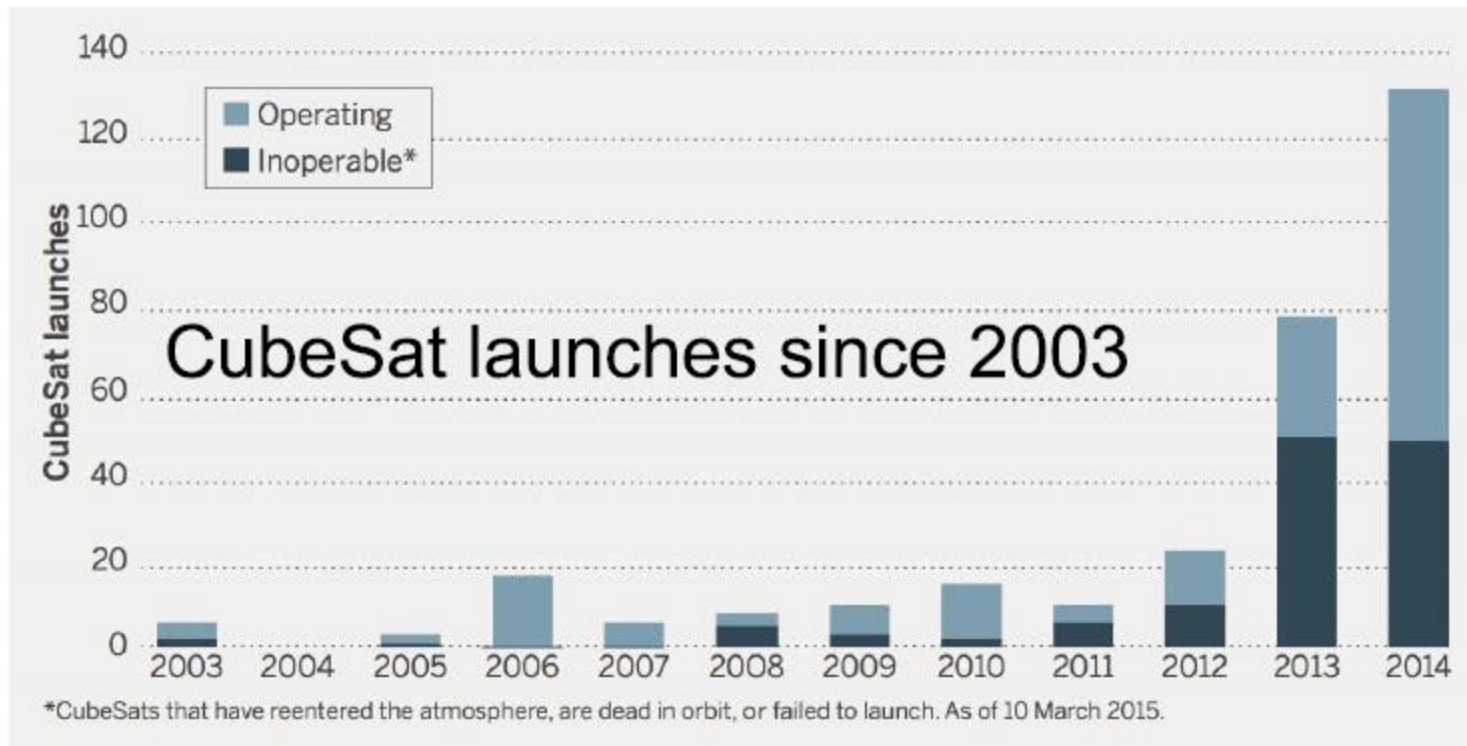


Credit: Spire

## Remote Sensing Lemur-2

Mass: 5 kg  
Launched: 5/2016

# A Golden Age for smallholder remote sensing...



Hand, *Science News*, 2015

Lobell, CIMMYT 50





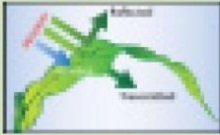
# Outline

## Phenotyping

- A bottleneck for breeding
- Current challenges
- Identifying the traits
- Selecting the tools for field phenotyping
- Effective and expensive are not synonyms
- Platforms
- More than traits, tools and platforms

## Sensors

- Spectral
- Thermal
- Digital



## Flight plan software

- 'GPS Positioning'
- 'Flight control'
- Telemetry

## Aerial platform

- Payload
- Cost
- Safety

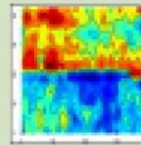


## Lab. analysis - NIRS



## Field variability

'Crop variability'  
↓  
'Variation in biomass'  
↓  
'Experimental layout'



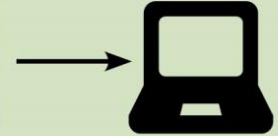
## Phenotyping

- Biomass
- Senescence
- 'Plant water status'
- 'Disease incidence'

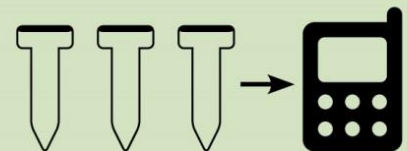


## Environmental data

- Meteorological



- Soil



Data processing

Genomic data

Data analysis

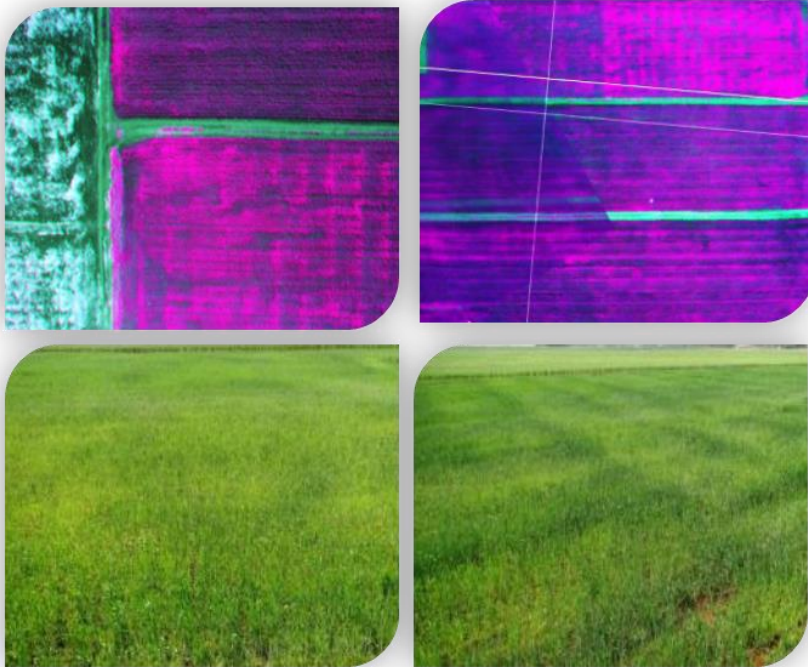
# Environmental variability



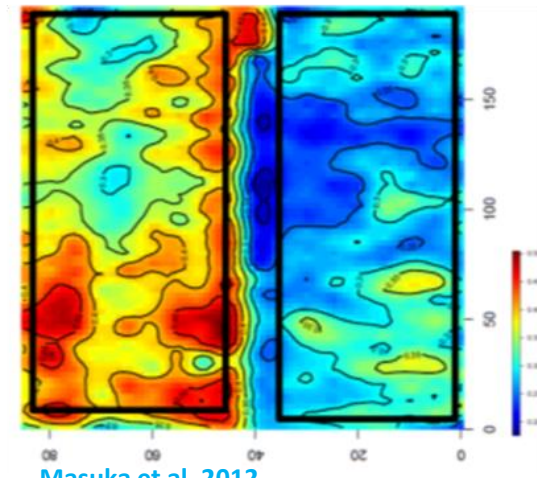
**Within-site variability**



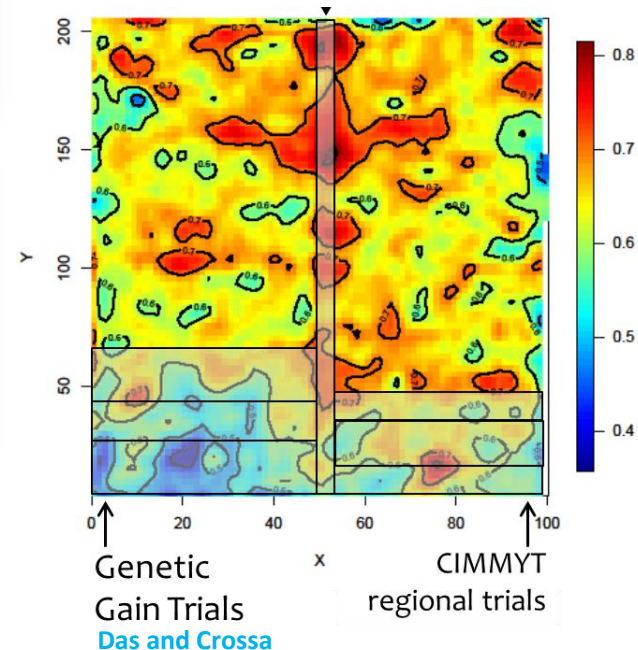
# Measuring / reducing spatial variability



Cairns and Zaman-Allah



Masuka et al. 2012



# Reducing field variability: managed growth conditions

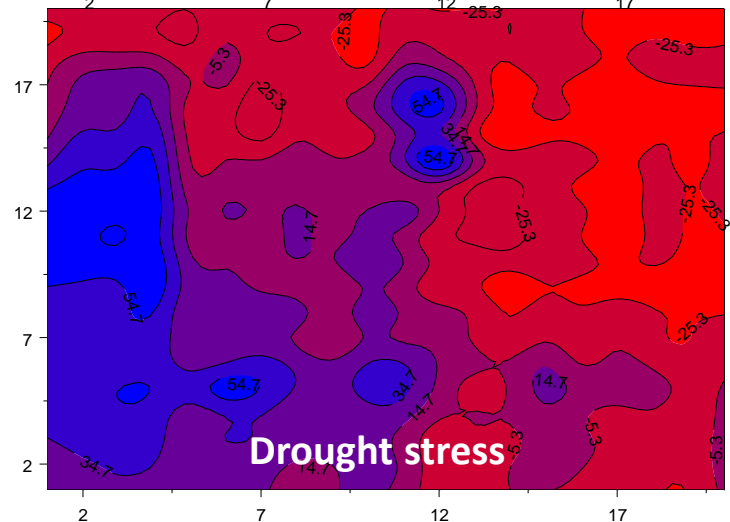
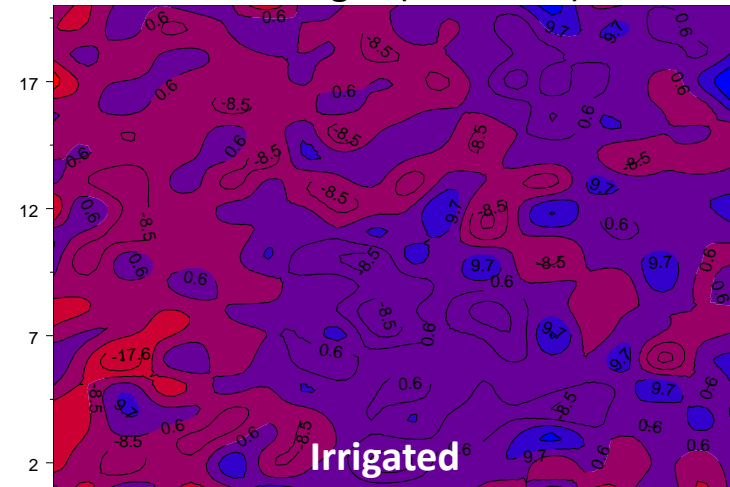
Variance components <sup>†</sup>	Well-watered	Drought stress	Combined drought and heat stress
$\sigma_g^2$	0.35	0.12	0.07
$\sigma_{g \times e}^2$	0.24	0.36	0.12
$\sigma_e^2$	0.48	0.39	0.18
No. of locations	7	7	3
H	0.84	0.64	0.50

Cairns *et al.* 2013 *Crop Sci.*

Test environment	Variance components <sup>‡</sup>		
	$\sigma_g^2$	$\sigma_{ge}^2$	$\sigma_e^2$
Early maturity group			
Optimal	28.02 ± 11.14	24.17 ± 8.24	47.81 ± 13.95
Managed drought	14.39 ± 9.30	14.58 ± 4.17	71.04 ± 8.08
Random abiotic stress	10.29 ± 8.32	23.37 ± 11.76	66.34 ± 14.75
Low N	19.01 ± 10.66	23.86 ± 11.30	57.13 ± 14.18
Late maturity group			
Optimal	22.26 ± 4.50	22.41 ± 7.11	55.34 ± 7.85
Managed drought	17.57 ± 9.43	15.72 ± 8.33	66.70 ± 13.52
Random abiotic stress	10.28 ± 7.28	18.25 ± 6.39	71.47 ± 11.23
Low N	15.69 ± 6.95	15.35 ± 4.77	68.95 ± 8.84

Weber *et al.* 2012 *Crop. Sci.*

Plant Height (Residuals)



Burgueño and Wilcox

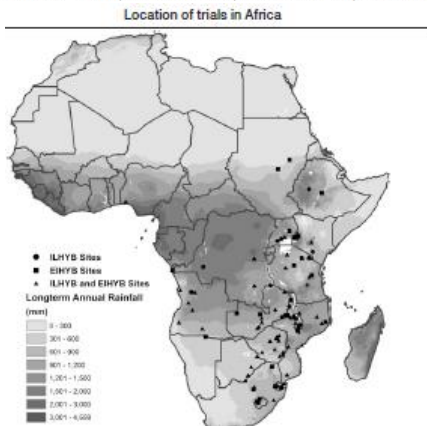
# Managed-stress screening

Table 2. Mean and standard deviation of maize grain yield, variance components, and broad-sense heritability ( $H$ ) of grain yield under optimal, managed drought, random abiotic stress, and low-N conditions from 2001 to 2009 as well as predictions of  $H$  assuming testing in five trials (in italics).

Test environment	$N_{\text{Gen}}^{\dagger}$	$N_{\text{C}}^{\dagger}$	$N_{\text{Env}}^{\dagger}$	Grain yield (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Variance components <sup>‡</sup>			$H$ (whole set)	Predicted $H$ ( $N_{\text{Env}} = 5$ )
					$\sigma_g^2$	$\sigma_{ge}^2$	$\sigma_{\varepsilon}^2$		
Early maturity group									
Optimal	219	17	201 (217)	5.53 ± 0.61	28.02 ± 11.14	24.17 ± 8.24	47.81 ± 13.95	0.92 ± 0.04	0.85 ± 0.07
Managed drought	210	5	17 (22)	2.29 ± 0.96	14.39 ± 9.30	14.58 ± 4.17	71.04 ± 8.08	0.44 ± 0.21	0.52 ± 0.21
Random abiotic stress	204	13	74 (88)	1.85 ± 0.22	10.29 ± 8.32	23.37 ± 11.76	66.34 ± 14.75	0.55 ± 0.22	0.49 ± 0.22
Low N	219	6	44 (49)	2.04 ± 0.59	19.01 ± 10.66	23.86 ± 11.30	57.13 ± 14.18	0.63 ± 0.21	0.63 ± 0.20
Late maturity group									
Optimal	229	14	175 (187)	6.26 ± 0.39	22.26 ± 4.50	22.41 ± 7.11	55.34 ± 7.85	0.91 ± 0.03	0.68 ± 0.06
Managed drought	216	5	22 (24)	2.11 ± 0.35	17.57 ± 9.43	15.72 ± 8.33	66.70 ± 13.52	0.56 ± 0.19	0.49 ± 0.16
Random abiotic stress	229	10	63 (80)	1.73 ± 0.42	10.28 ± 7.28	18.25 ± 6.39	71.47 ± 11.23	0.61 ± 0.19	0.38 ± 0.16
Low N	220	6	34 (37)	1.82 ± 0.53	15.69 ± 6.95	15.35 ± 4.77	68.95 ± 8.84	0.62 ± 0.14	0.49 ± 0.12

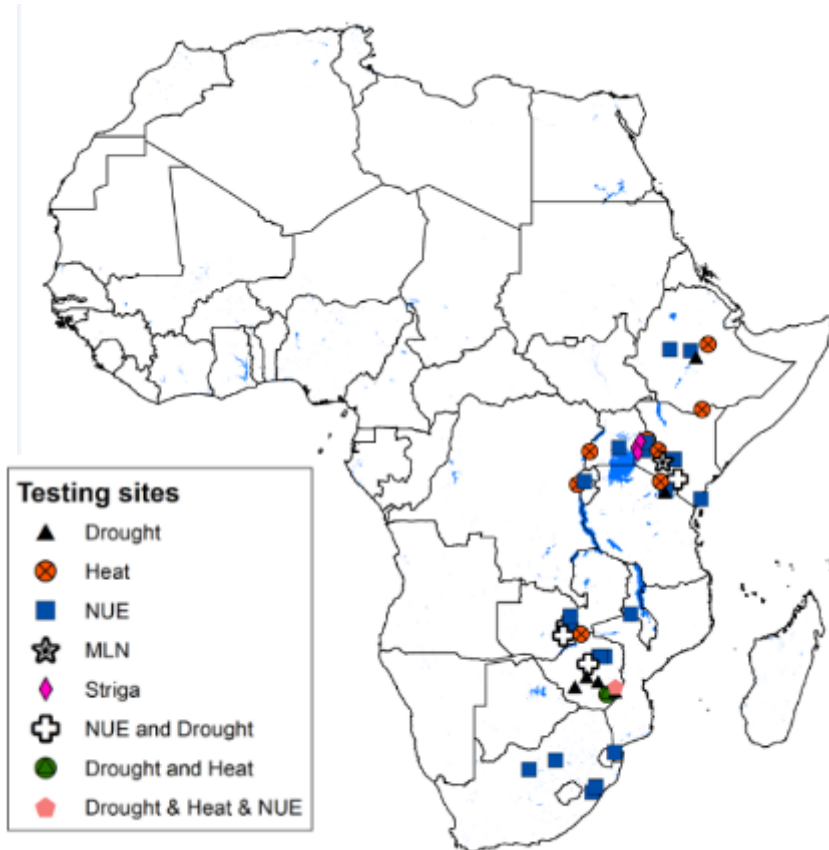
<sup>†</sup>Total number of genotypes ( $N_{\text{Gen}}$ ), countries ( $N_{\text{C}}$ ), and environments constituting all location-trial combinations ( $N_{\text{Env}}$ ). The total number of environments excluding and including (in parenthesis) those with repeatability ( $w^2$ ) < 0.15 is given.

<sup>‡</sup>Variance components expressed as percentage of the phenotypic variance including the genotype ( $\sigma_g^2$ ), the genotype × environment ( $\sigma_{ge}^2$ ), and the residual variance ( $\sigma_{\varepsilon}^2$ ).





# Large testing network



updated from Prasanna et al. 2013



Drought\* - 61 ha



Low nitrogen - 48.5 ha



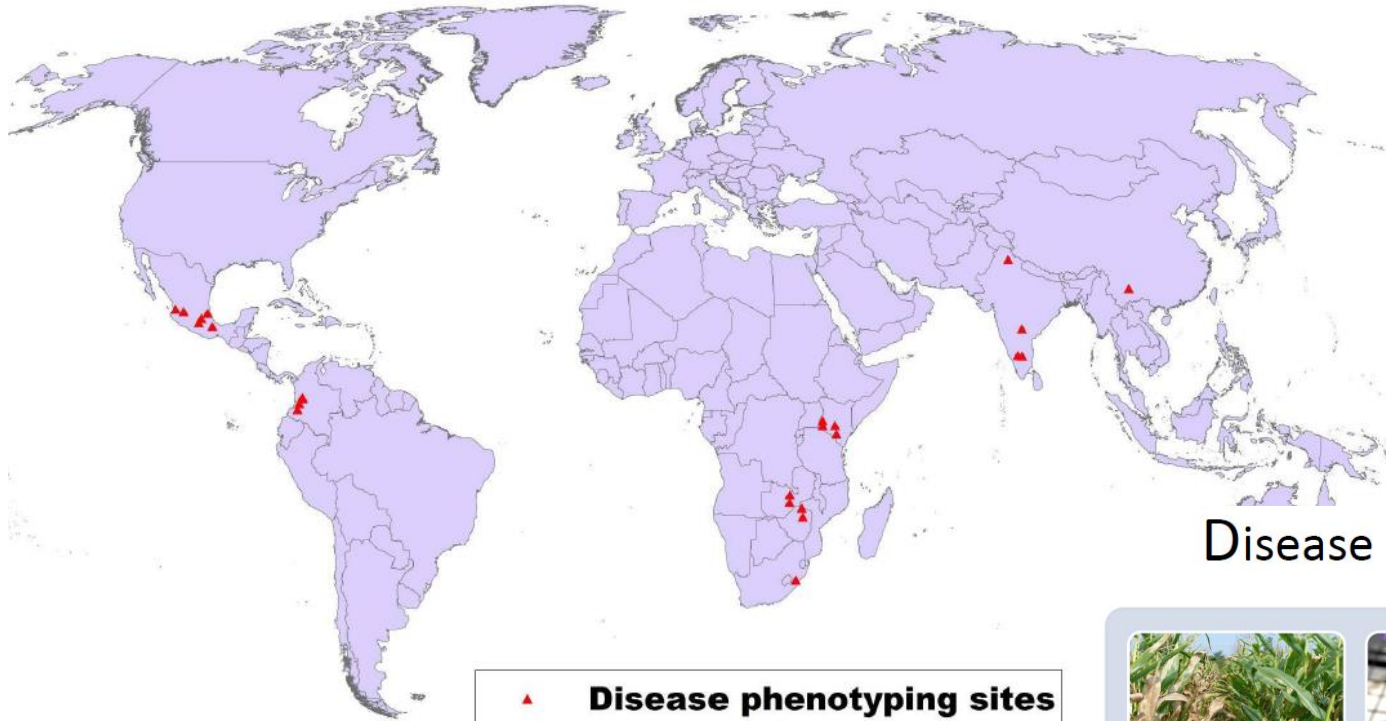
Heat - 13.5 ha



MLN - 17 ha

\*Including CFT sites

# Disease phenotyping sites



Disease stress imposition



Natural  
infestation  
**Hotspot**



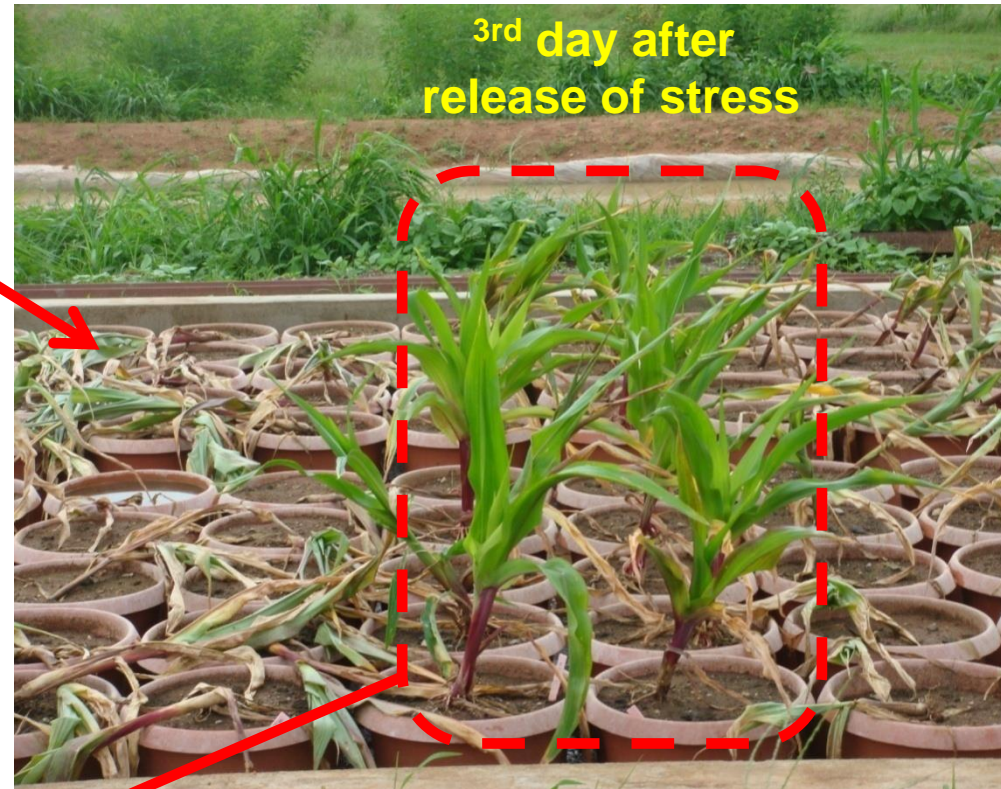
Artificial  
infestation  
**Inoculation**



Facilitated  
infestation  
**Misting**



# Water-logging at vegetative growth stage



Adapted from Zaidi



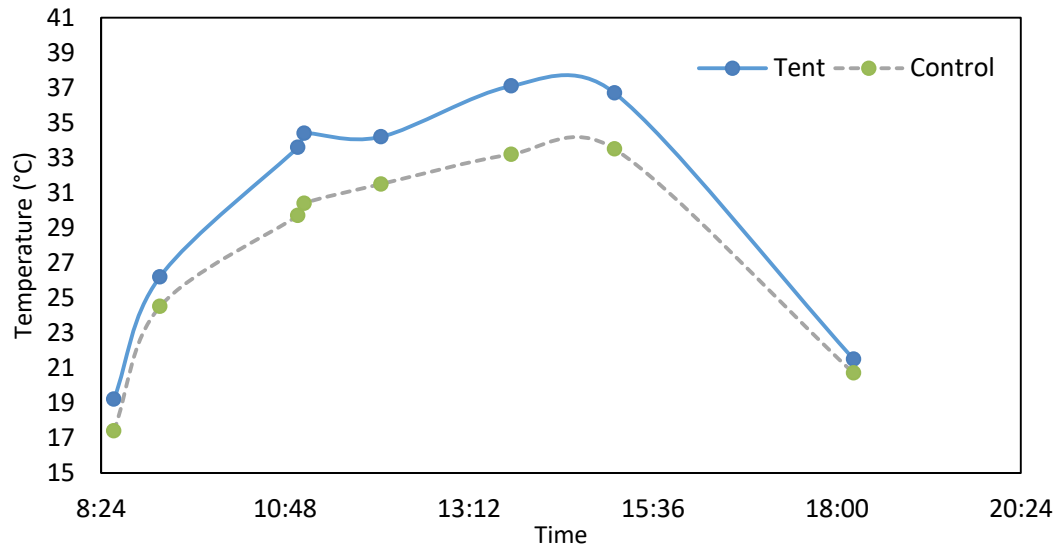
# Root phenotyping

- ▶ **Structural traits:** root depth, length, volume, root-length density, dry weight
- ▶ **Functional traits:** water use during stress (WU) & Transpiration efficiency (TE)



Adapted from Zaidi

# Heat stress



**a) 2-4 days heading**

**b) 2 days anthesis**

**c) 2-4 days A+10**





# Heat stress

Normal sowing



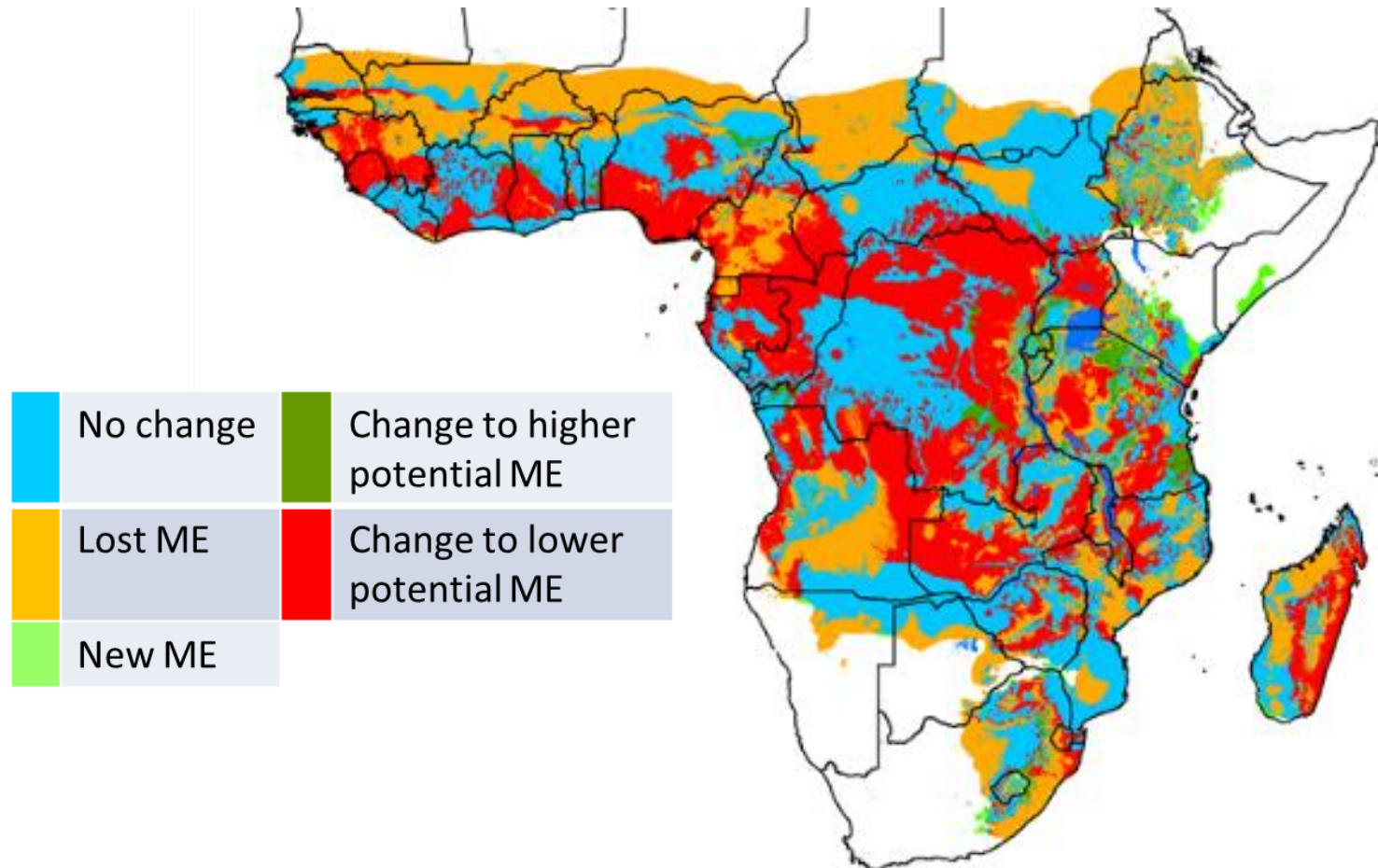
Late sowing (heat stress)



**CENEB CIMMYT, Obregón, México 2015-2016**



# Aligning breeding programs to future environments



Sonder et al. *submitted*

# Harmonized phenotyping protocols for stresses



PHENOTYPING FOR ABIOTIC  
STRESS TOLERANCE IN MAIZE:

## DROUGHT STRESS

M. Zaman-Allah, P.H. Zaidi, S. Trachsel,  
J.E. Cairns, M.T. Vinayan and K. Seetharam



PHENOTYPING FOR ABIOTIC  
STRESS TOLERANCE IN MAIZE:

## HEAT STRESS

P.H. Zaidi, M. Zaman-Allah, S. Trachsel, K. Seetharam,  
J.E. Cairns and M.T. Vinayan



PHENOTYPING FOR ABIOTIC  
STRESS TOLERANCE IN MAIZE:

## WATERLOGGING STRESS

P.H. Zaidi, M.T. Vinayan and K. Seetharam  
CIMMYT Asia Maize Program, Hyderabad, India





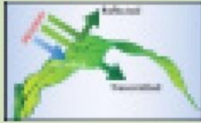
# Summary

- Resource (radiation, water, nitrogen..) uptake and use efficiency are paramount to increase GY and adaptation
- A wide array of remote sensing techniques are already available
- Low-cost methodological approaches make high-throughput field phenotyping feasible
- Spatial variability may be monitored with remote sensing techniques
- Quality management of the field trials is required



### Sensors

- Spectral
- Thermal
- Digital



### Flight plan software

- 'GPS Positioning'
- 'Flight control'
- Telemetry

### Aerial platform

- Payload
- Cost
- Safety

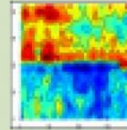


### Lab. analysis - NIRS



### Field variability

'Crop variability'  
↓  
'Variation in biomass'  
↓  
'Experimental layout'



### Phenotyping

- Biomass
- Senescence
- 'Plant water status'
- 'Disease incidence'

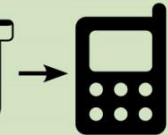
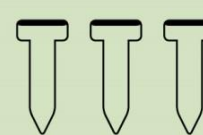


### Environmental data

- Meteorological



- Soil



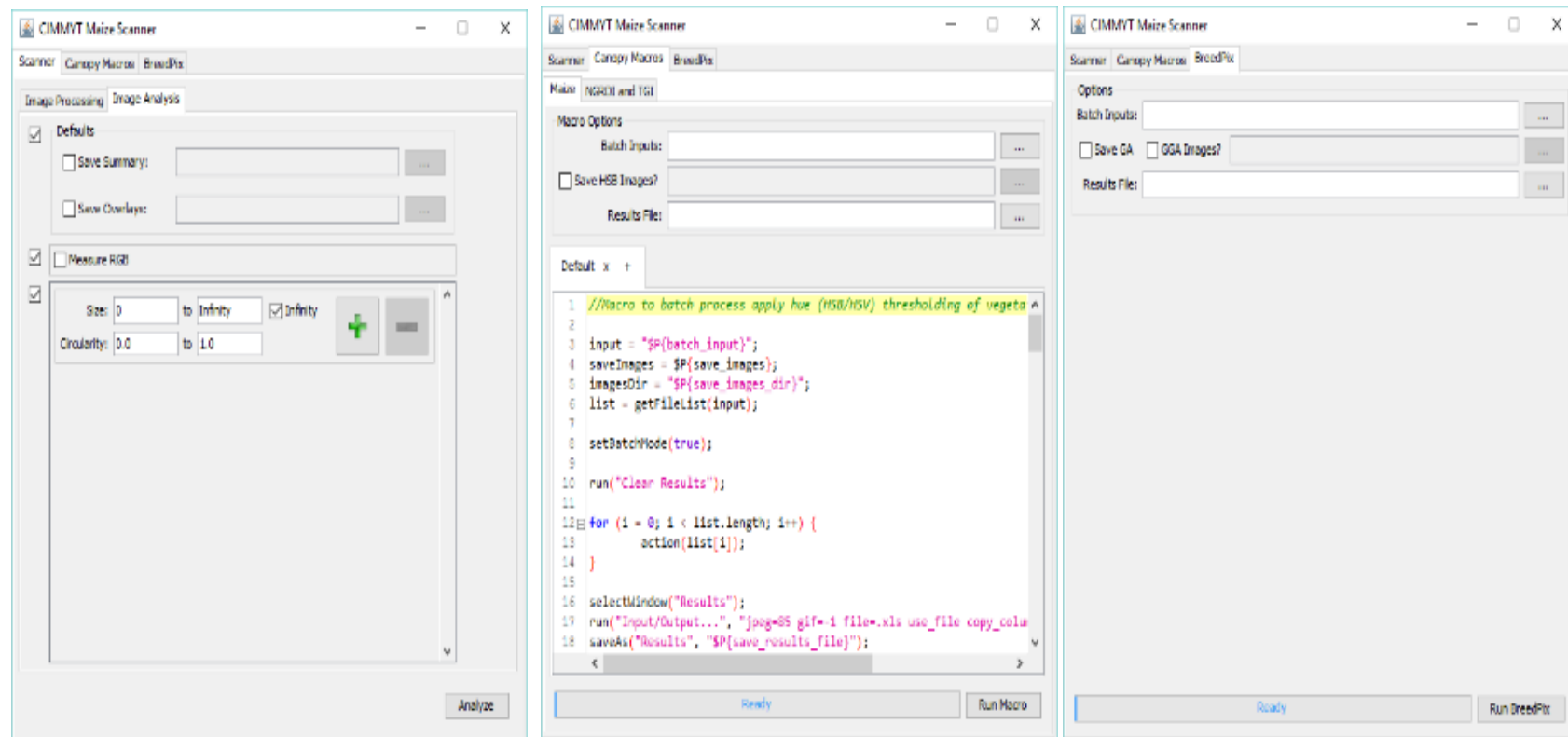
Data processing

Genomic data

Data analysis

# **HTEP data processing tools, Open-source plug-ins, FIJI (Fiji is Just ImageJ)**

Data collection as a bottleneck is over. In the age of BIG DATA, too much data needs new tools in order to overcome the data-to-decision obstacles.



## CIMMYT Maize Scanner for RGB field-based phenotyping (released at <http://github.com/george-haddad/CIMMYT>)

Calculates a number of RGB based indexes for estimating disease impacts, crop vigor, LAI, biomass at the leaf and canopy scale, including Breedpix (GA and GGA), Triangle Greenness Index (TGI), and Normalized Green Red Difference Index (NGRDI)

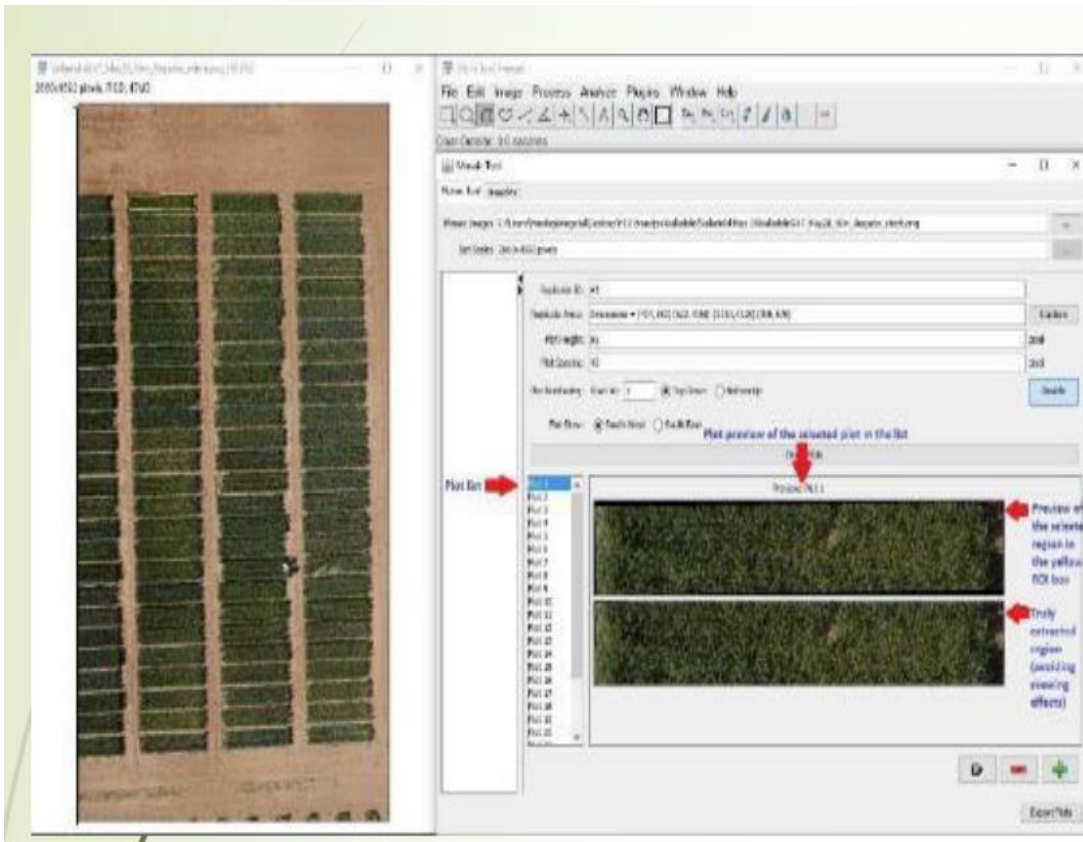


# MosaicTool (Plugin for FIJI)

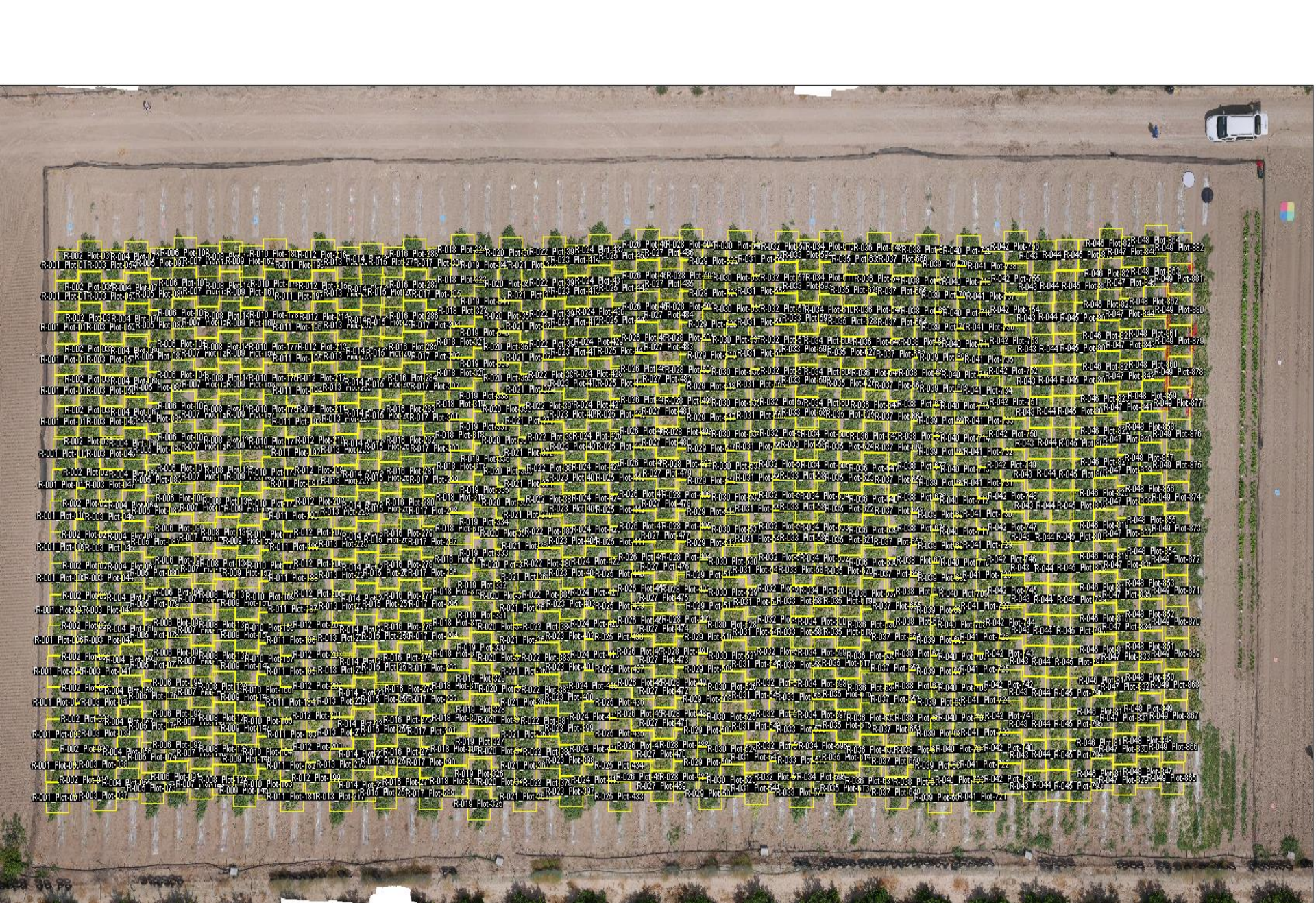
Semi-automatic image segmentation for UAV plant phenotyping studies.



Allows for the extraction and processing of ~1000 plots per hour with quality control















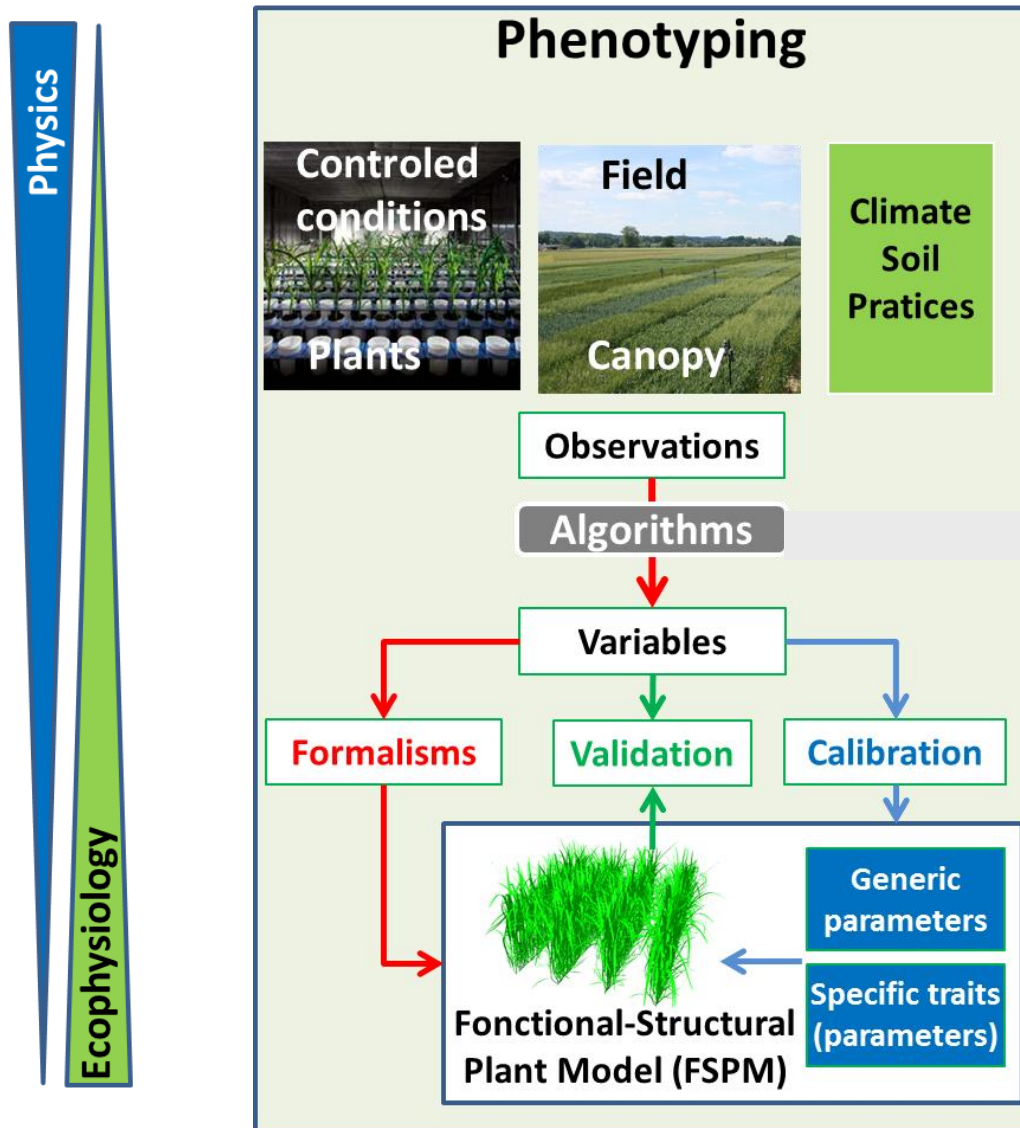
# **Future bottlenecks**

## **Data explosion**

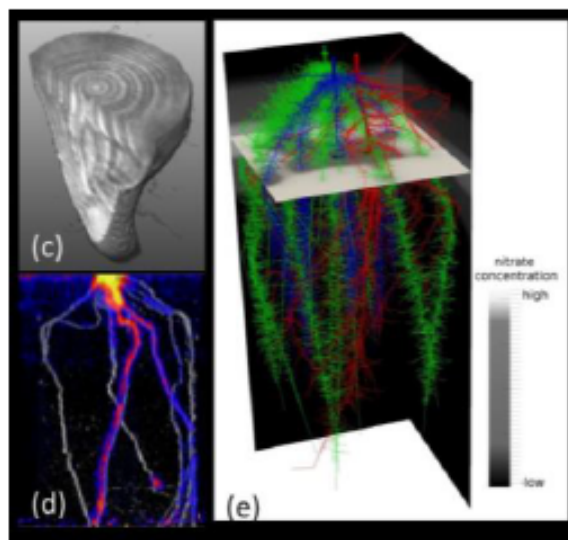
- **We generate far too much data to handle manually**
- **Simple summary statistics do not suffice**
- **Advanced analysis tools, models, selection indexes are required**



# Phenotyping will contribute and benefit from crop modeling (FSPMs)

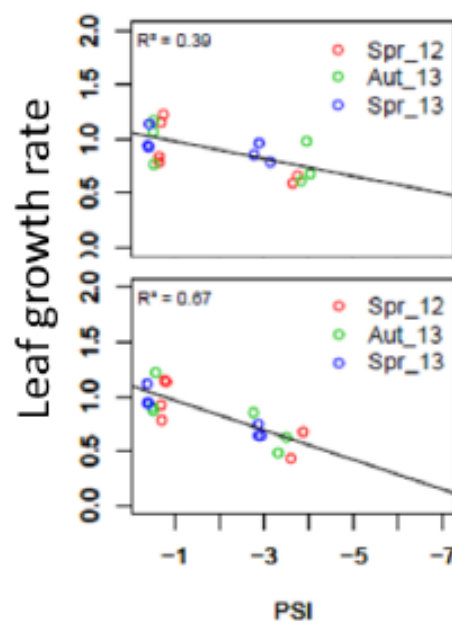


Disentangling complex traits



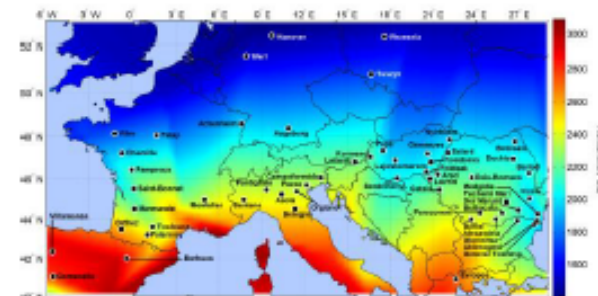
What is the relationship between root structure and nutrient use efficiency?

Genetic analysis of complex traits



What is the sensitivity of leaf growth to drought?




























Crop – climate optimisation



Which genotype would work best in which environment scenario?



# Mobile Apps

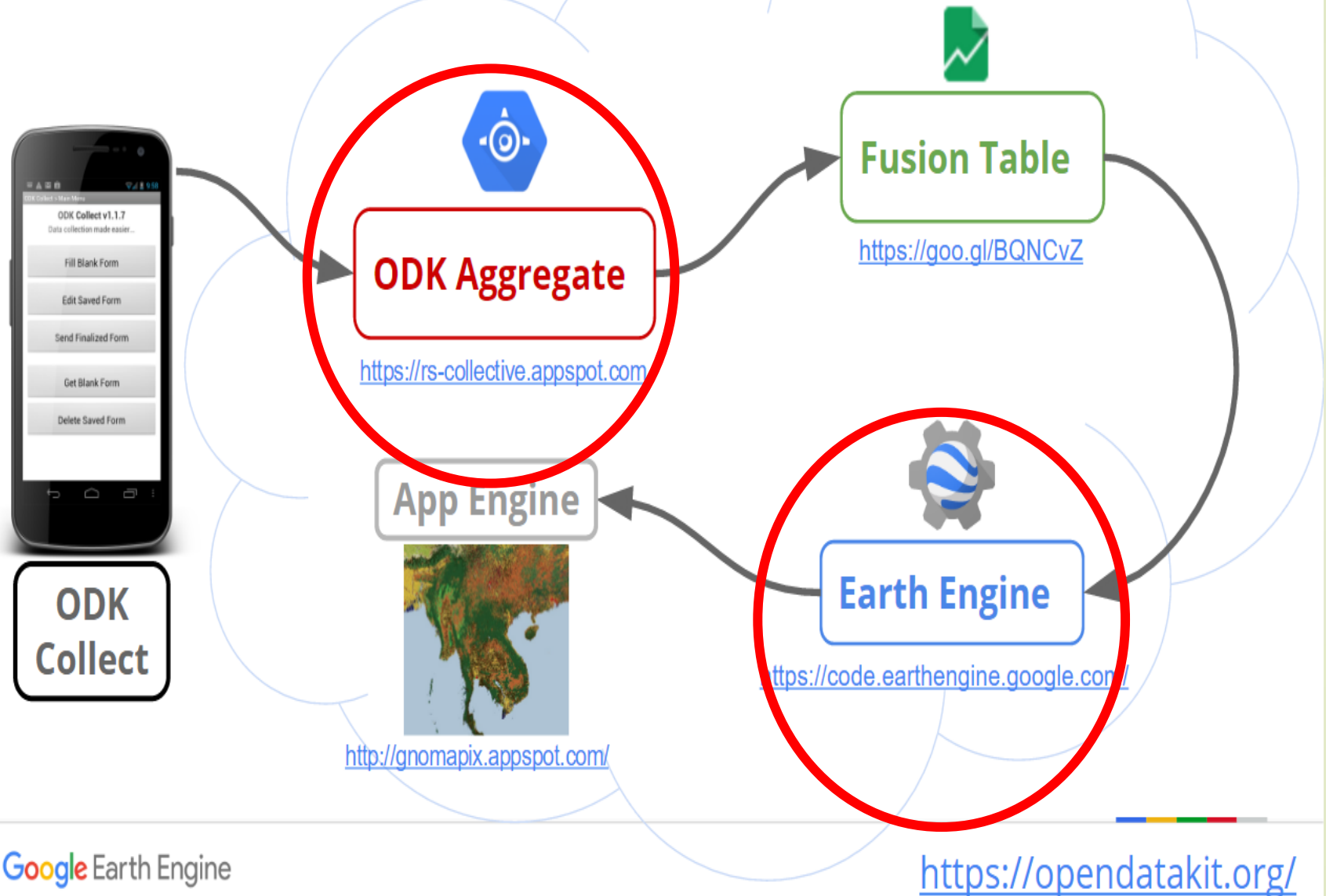
 <p>FarmGenius New Holland Agriculture</p> <p>★★★★☆</p>	 <p>Farm Clan®: vida en G5 Entertainment</p> <p>★★★★☆</p>	 <p>maíz simulador criá Great Games Studio</p> <p>★★★★☆</p>	 <p>tractor de granja co The Game Object</p> <p>★★★★☆</p>	 <p>Bienes Farm Tractor Digital Toys Studio</p> <p>★★★★☆</p>	 <p>AlcuzApp Oliver Alouza Software</p> <p>★★★★★</p>	 <p>Ensilado Transport Glow Games</p> <p>★★★★☆</p>	 <p>Moderno Granja Sin Beta Games Studio</p> <p>★★★★☆</p>	 <p>cosecha simulador Raydix - 3D Games Me</p> <p>★★★★☆</p>
 <p>Alimentad de cultivo Magnum Games Studic</p> <p>★★★★☆</p>	 <p>Granja Camión Anir Kick Time Studios</p> <p>★★★★☆</p>	 <p>Farm Tractor Simul Tapinator, Inc. (Ticke:1</p> <p>★★★★☆</p>	 <p>granjero sim camio Prism apps and Games</p> <p>★★★★☆</p>	 <p>Granja Tractor Drive Kick Time Studios</p> <p>★★★★☆</p>	 <p>Carrera de caballos Bemu Games</p> <p>★★★★☆</p>	 <p>Simulador agricultu MAS 3D STUDIO - Racir</p> <p>★★★★☆</p>	 <p>Happy Farmer - Ech SOFTGAMES - Free Mo</p> <p>★★★★☆</p>	 <p>Farm Tractor Simul Game Glass Studio</p> <p>★★★★☆</p>
 <p>Manuales RIAN INTA</p> <p>★★★★★</p>	 <p>Forage Harvester S Smashing Geeks</p> <p>★★★★☆</p>	 <p>Girasol Rendimiento INTA</p> <p>★★★★★</p>	 <p>AppSofia Chile Reset Chile</p> <p>★★★★★</p>	 <p>Farm Transport Tr Extreme 3D Games - Si</p> <p>★★★★☆</p>	 <p>Granjero Zombi - M SOFTGAMES - Free Mo</p> <p>★★★★☆</p>	 <p>FIMA Agrícola 2016 ABAMOBILE SOLUTION</p> <p>★★★★☆</p>	 <p>Simulador de tractor Top 3D Gamers</p> <p>★★★★★</p>	 <p>Zombi Burbuja Tira Monster Games Studio</p> <p>★★★★★</p>



# Open Data Kit (ODK)

- There's an opportunity for mobile and cloud technologies to enable timely and efficient data collection.
- Open Data Kit (ODK) is a suite of tools that enable efficient and timely data collection on cell phones. ODK is designed to let users own, visualize, and share data without the difficulties of setting up and maintaining servers. The tools are easy to use, deploy, and scale. They also go beyond open source - they're based on open standards and supported by a larger community.

# Mobile to Cloud pipeline





# Acknowledgements



**AGL2016-76527-R**



INSTITUTO  
TECNOLÓGICO  
AGRARIO

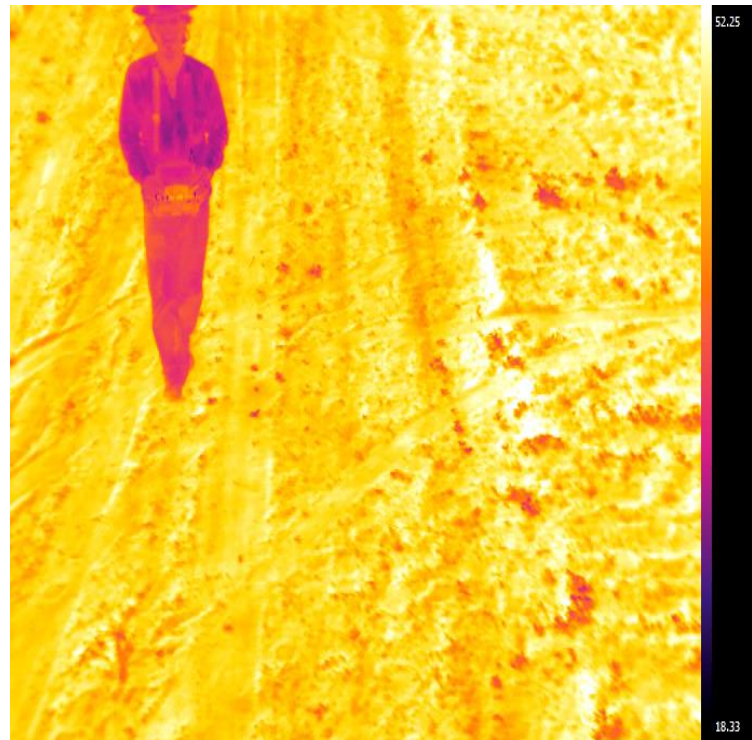
Junta de Castilla y León  
Consejería de Agricultura y Ganadería



INSTITUCIÓ CATALANA DE  
RECERCA I ESTUDIS AVANÇATS



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y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria



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- <http://integrativecropecophysiology.com>,

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Maria D. Serret

Jill Cairns  
M. Zaman-Allah  
B.M. Prasanna



thank you very much  
mange tak!  
tack så mycket!  
tusen takk!

