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# Impact of extreme events on crop production under climate change in Belgium

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COST 734

# Importance of climate & weather impacts on crop production

- » With climate change **extreme events** are likely to increase (droughts, heat stress, hail, floods, ...)



- » Common Agricultural Policy: farmers face more **risk** due to
  - » Overall reduction of direct income support to farmers (pillar I)
  - » In case of crop damage payments are reduced by 50% unless the farmer has an insurance

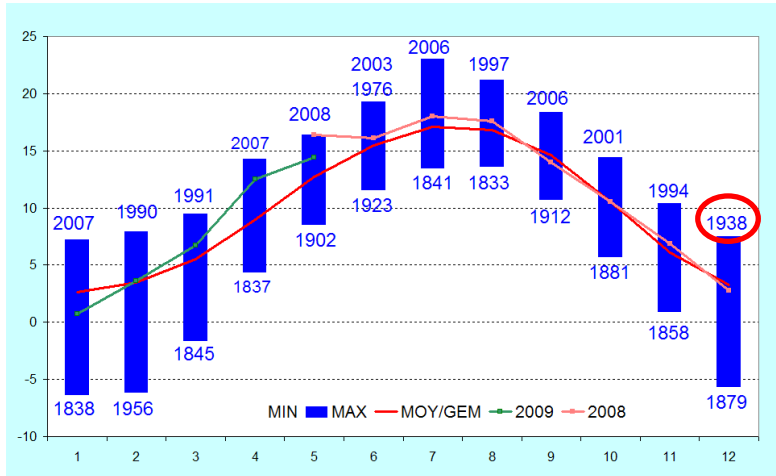
 Demand for climate impact analysis and risk evaluation

# Methods

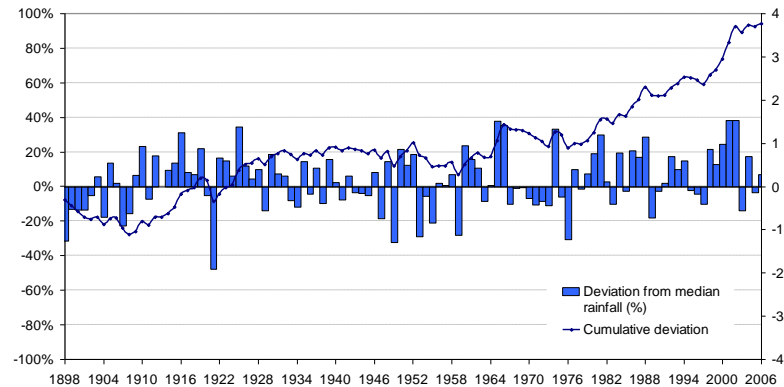
1. Observations & spatio-temporal trend analysis
  - » Meteo (1947 – 2008)
  - » Yields (1960 – 2008)
  - » Insurance (2006 as recent worst year)
2. Statistical analysis & statistical modelling
  - » Single meteo variables
  - » Agri-meteorological Indicators (e.g. drought, heat stress, waterlogging)
  - » Multivariate analysis & General Linear Modelling
3. REGCROP modelling framework
  - » Climate impacts under 3 climate change scenarios
  - » Capturing extreme events

# OBSERVATIONS

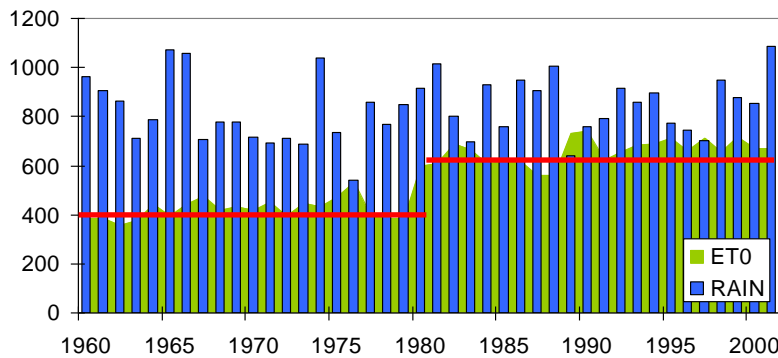
# Meteorological observations



Temperature: **11 months** had extremes after 1990 (RMI data)



Yearly Precipitation: **6.6%** higher than 1960-1990 (**25%** increase in winter precipitation) (RMI data)



Water balance: **31%** less compared to last century due to summer droughts & higher temperatures

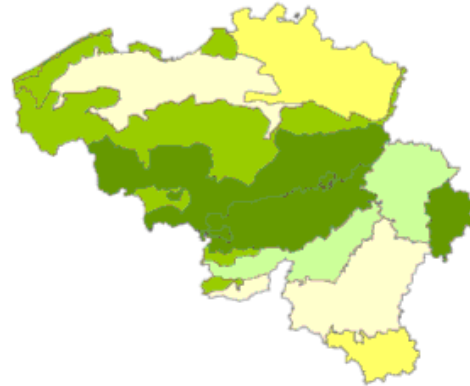
» Climate is changing (temperature, water balance, extreme events)

# Yield – Meteo observations

- » Temporal variability
- » Spatial variability
- » Implications for crop production



Winter wheat



Winter Barley

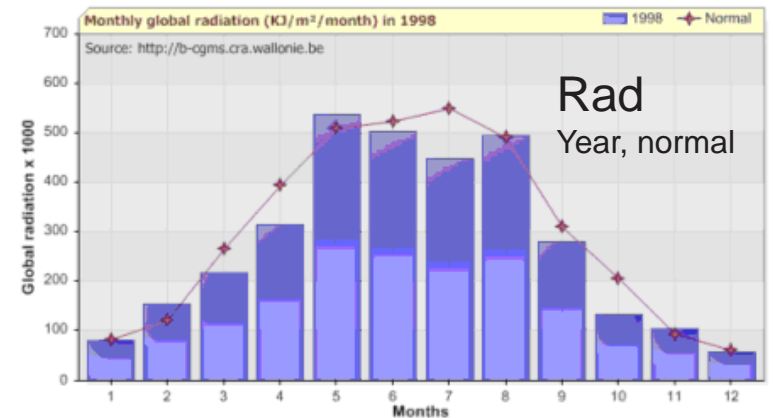
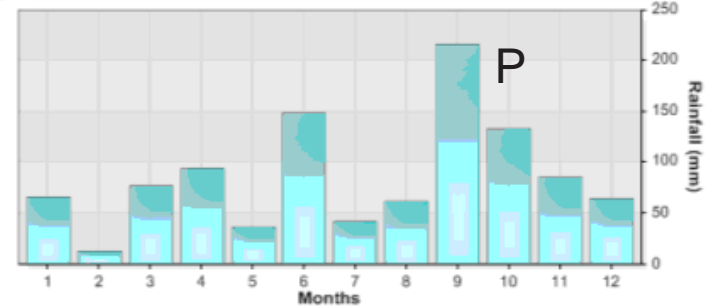
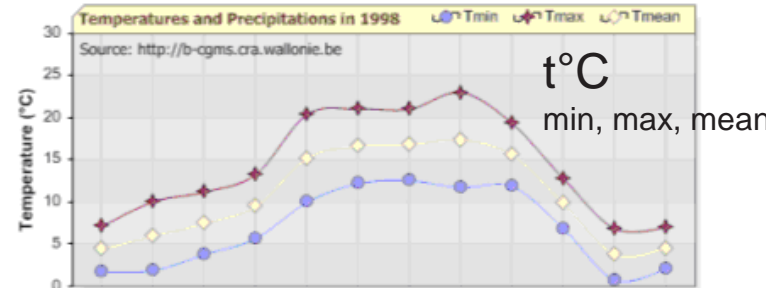


Sugar Beet



Potato (Bintje)

(data from BE-CGMS, 2006)

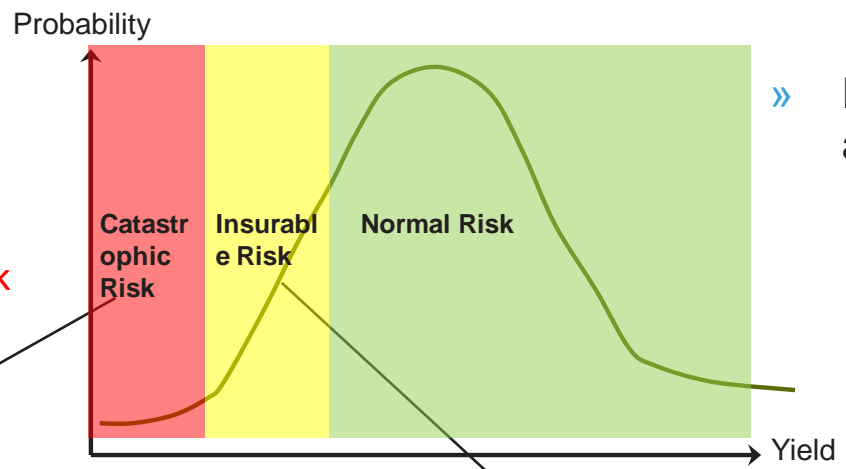




# Insurance observations

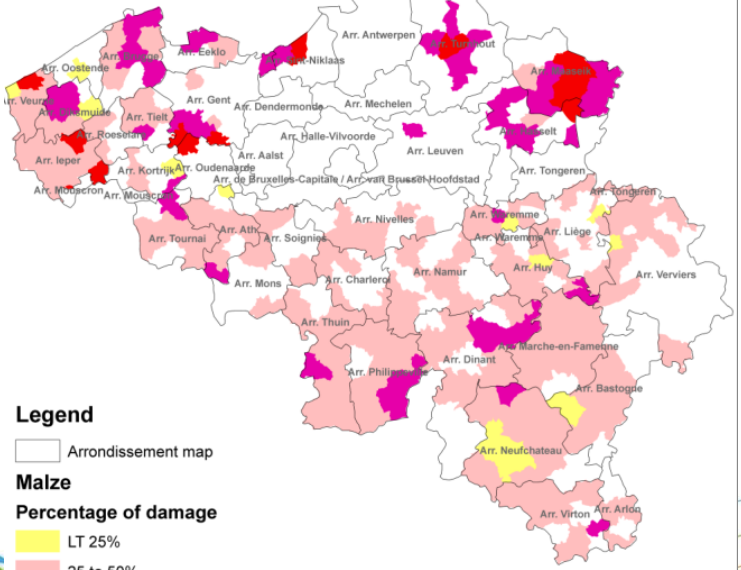
- » Risk Segmentation
  - » 1 - Normal risk
  - » 2 - Insurable risk
  - » 3 - Catastrophic risk

Source: Federal Govt



- » Demand for **impact** analysis and **risk** evaluation
  - ⇒ farmers, government, insurance companies

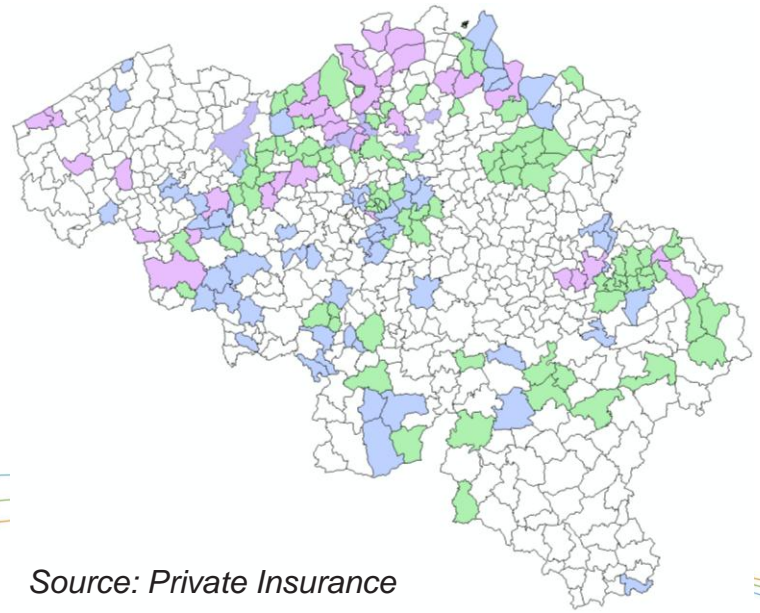
Belgian Calamity Fund  
Extreme **Yields** from FADN



- Legend**
- Arrondissement map
  - Malze**
  - Percentage of damage**
  - LT 25%
  - 25 to 50%
  - 50 to 75%
  - GT 75%

Source: Federal Govt

» Private Insurances: Claims for **Flood, Hail & Torrential Rain**



Source: Private Insurance  
Intro & Obj - Methods - Res & Disc - Conclusions

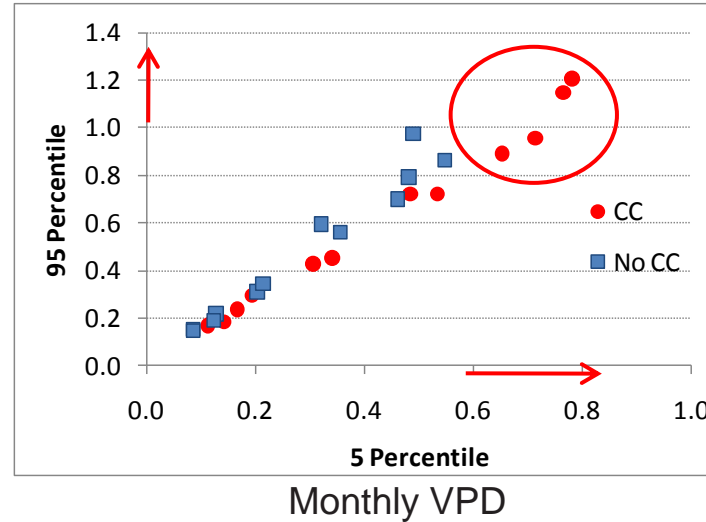
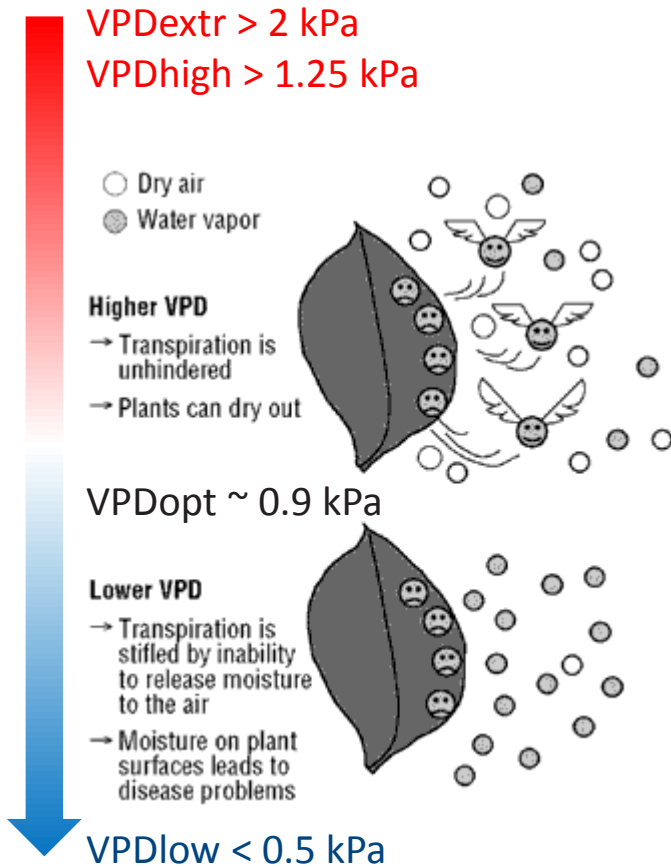


# STATISTICAL RELATIONSHIPS between meteo, climate change & yield

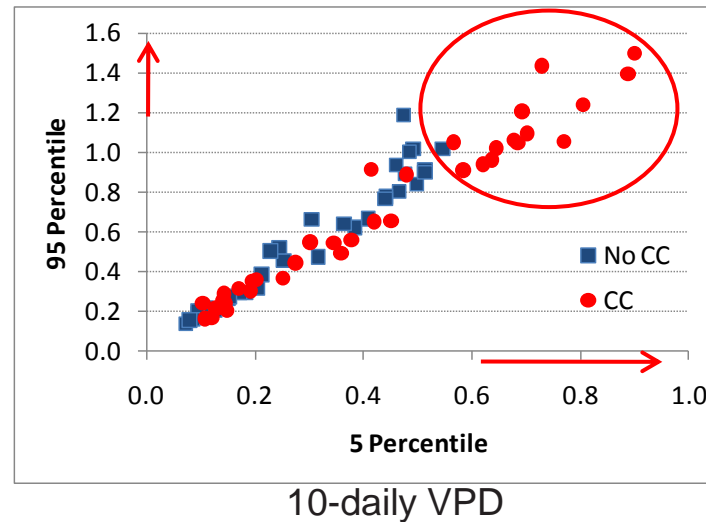


# Temporal relationships VPD & CC

» VPD: difference between saturated and actual air moisture

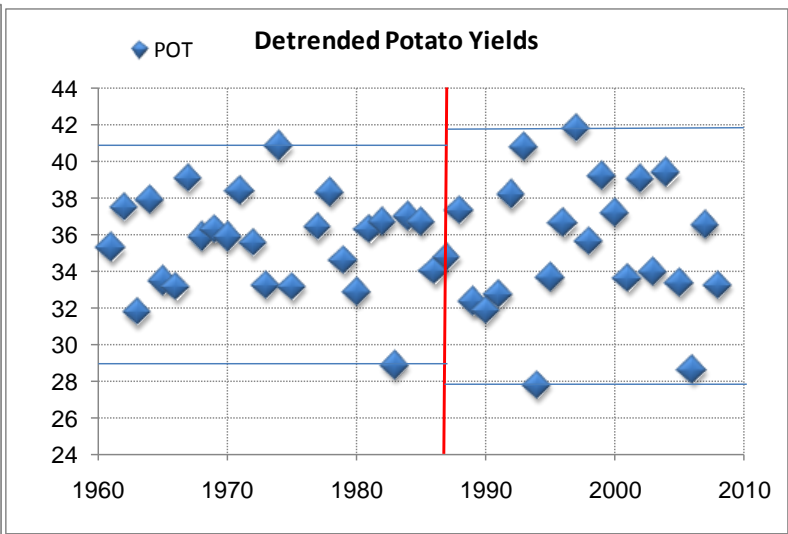
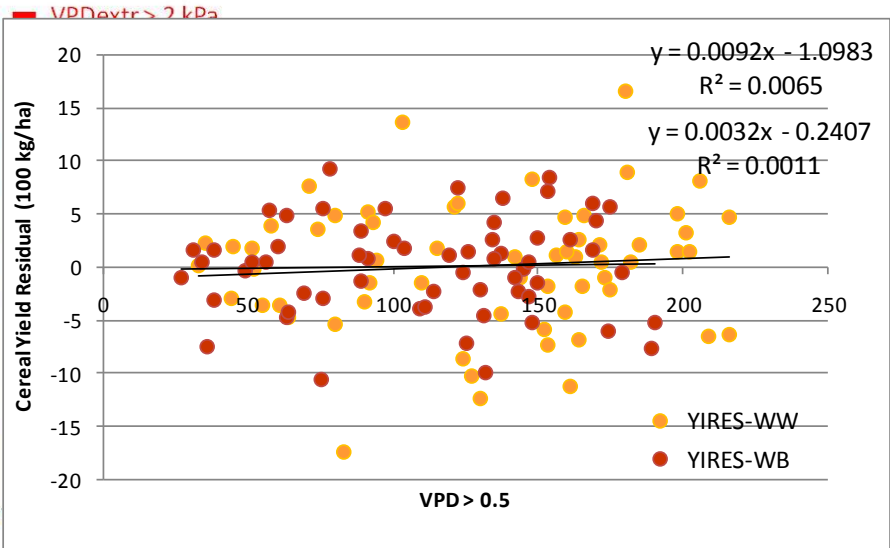
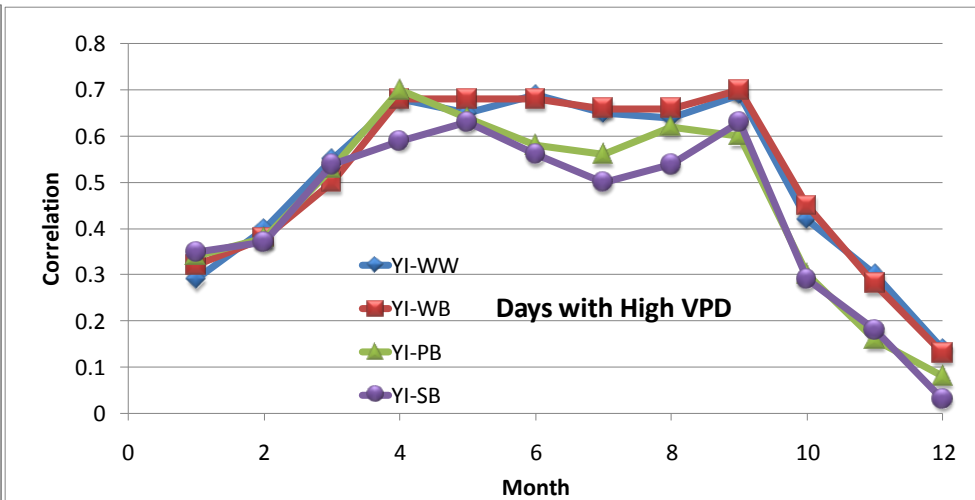
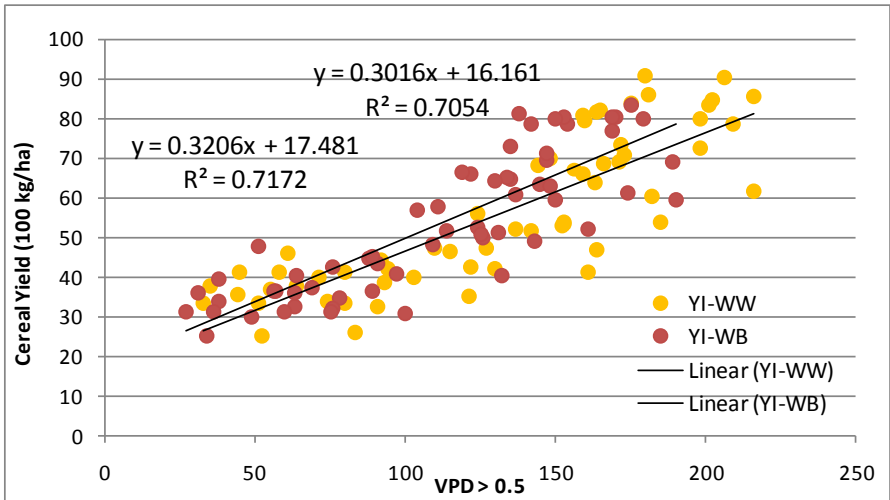


According to RMI  
CC > 1987  
No CC < 1987



- » With CC stretch towards VPDopt but increased risk for VPDextr
- » Temporal aggregation masks extreme events (diff monthly – 10-daily)

# Temporal relationships Yield - VPD



Cereal yield vs days with VPD > 0.5

- » Significant relations between yield and VPD
- » NO relation between yield residuals and VPD

# Climate change & (meteorological) variables

Meteo Indicator	Statistical Parameter	Winter Wheat				Winter Barley				Potatoes				Sugar Beet			
Yield (100 kg/ha)	<i>p</i>	< 0.001				< 0.001				< 0.001				< 0.001			
	M0 [SD]	43.5	11.2			42.2	11.3			287.5	59.5			453.4	87.9		
	M1 [SD]	77.8	8.4			72.5	7.9			428.6	45.8			637.2	57.3		
Yield Residuals (100 kg/ha)	<i>p</i>	0.081				0.442				0.652				0.825			
	M0 [SD]	-0.98	6.28	Correlation Yield YIRES		-0.33	4.54	Correlation Yield YIRES		-1.19	35.29	Correlation Yield YIRES		-0.49	63.21	Correlation Yield YIRES	
	M1 [SD]	1.86	5.28			0.62	4.59			3.23	38.47			2.83	35.71		
Growing days VPD > 0.5 (kPa)	<i>p</i>	< 0.001				< 0.001				< 0.001				< 0.001			
	M0 [SD]	49.9	22.8	0.83	0.08	41.3	19.1	0.78	0.03	64.3	32.0	0.71	-0.07	68.5	35.3	0.66	-0.10
	M1 [SD]	91.8	11.9			76.5	10.6			110.1	10.4			119.8	12.3		
Σ THU (°C)	<i>p</i>	< 0.001				< 0.001				< 0.001				< 0.001			
	M0 [SD]	1651.4	116.6	0.58	0.08	1385.1	112.0	0.35	-0.03	1327.6	125.2	0.37	-0.24	1709.5	144.2	0.38	-0.30
	M1 [SD]	1910.0	138.8			1610.7	139.8			1483.3	89.9			1872.3	108.5		
Σ PET (mm)	<i>p</i>	< 0.001				< 0.001				< 0.001				< 0.001			
	M0 [SD]	507.5	56.0	0.67	0.20	445.8	50.1	0.66	0.12	490.6	64.5	0.32	-0.18	538.2	68.5	0.34	-0.21
	M1 [SD]	597.8	40.8			521.3	33.6			556.3	38.0			610.3	42.9		
Average of Tmin (°C)	<i>p</i>	< 0.001				< 0.001				< 0.001				< 0.001			
	M0 [SD]	4.7	0.6	0.59	-0.06	4.2	0.6	0.59	-0.05	10.0	0.6	0.52	-0.16	9.8	0.6	0.59	-0.20
	M1 [SD]	6.0	0.7			5.5	0.7			11.1	0.7			10.9	0.7		
Growing days rain < 0.2 mm (number)	<i>p</i>	< 0.001				< 0.001				0.0045				0.0047			
	M0 [SD]	132.6	18.0	0.43	0.37	122.0	17.0	0.83	0.20	79.5	13.2	0.08	-0.32	94.9	14.8	0.17	-0.37
	M1 [SD]	151.9	20.7			138.5	19.5			89.9	13.0			106.6	14.9		
Growing days rain > 15 mm (number)	<i>p</i>	0.242				0.203				0.013				0.021			
	M0 [SD]	6.0	3.3	0.10	-0.27	5.3	3.1	-0.03	-0.18	3.7	2.3	0.36	0.21	4.6	2.5	0.37	0.21
	M1 [SD]	7.0	2.8			6.4	2.9			5.2	2.0			6.2	2.4		

- » Significant **differences** between pre-1987 (No CC) and post-1987 (CC)
  - » NOT for yield residuals, and not for high rainfall days in winter crops
- » Significant **correlations** between between T-related meteo and **yields**
  - » NOT for yield residuals
- » Significant **correlations** between P-related meteo and **yield residuals**
  - » Summer crops relate positively to rain during the growing season
  - » Winter crops relate positively to dry days during the growing season

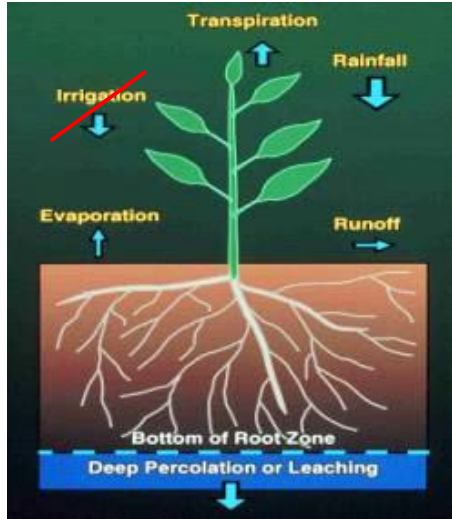


# REGCROP MODELLING FRAMEWORK

to capture relationships between meteo,  
climate change & yield

# REGCROP: Dynamic Coupling of

Water balance  
(ET<sub>0</sub> driven)



Biomass growth  
(Rad driven)



$$BIO = LUE * MIN(DR, WL, TR, VPDR) * BE * 0.5 * RAD * [1 - e^{-0.65 * LAI}]$$

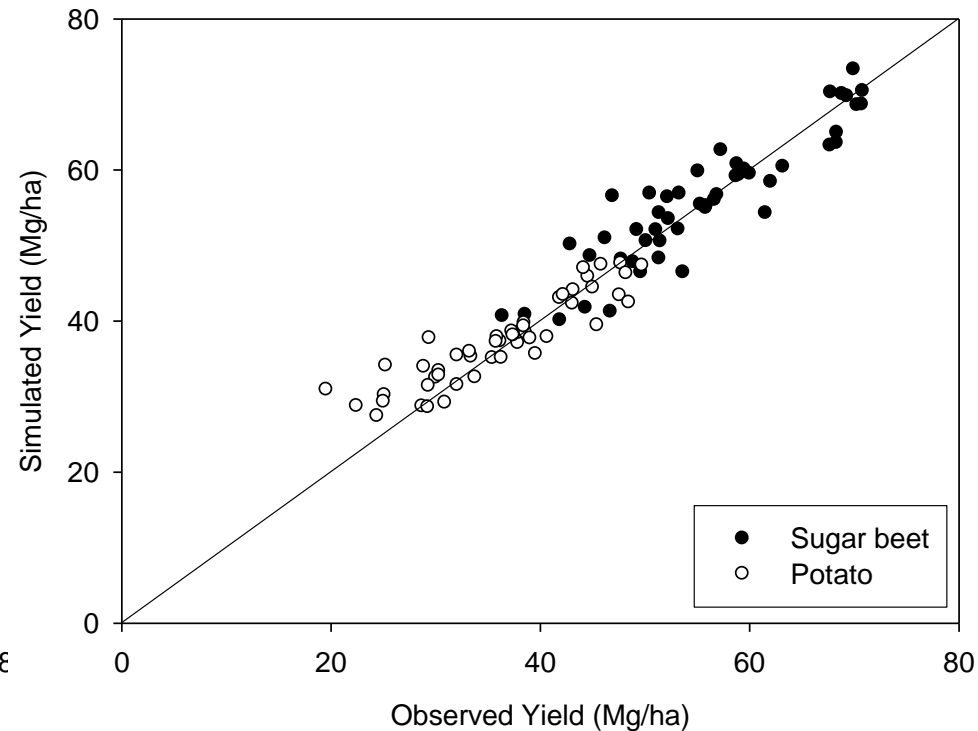
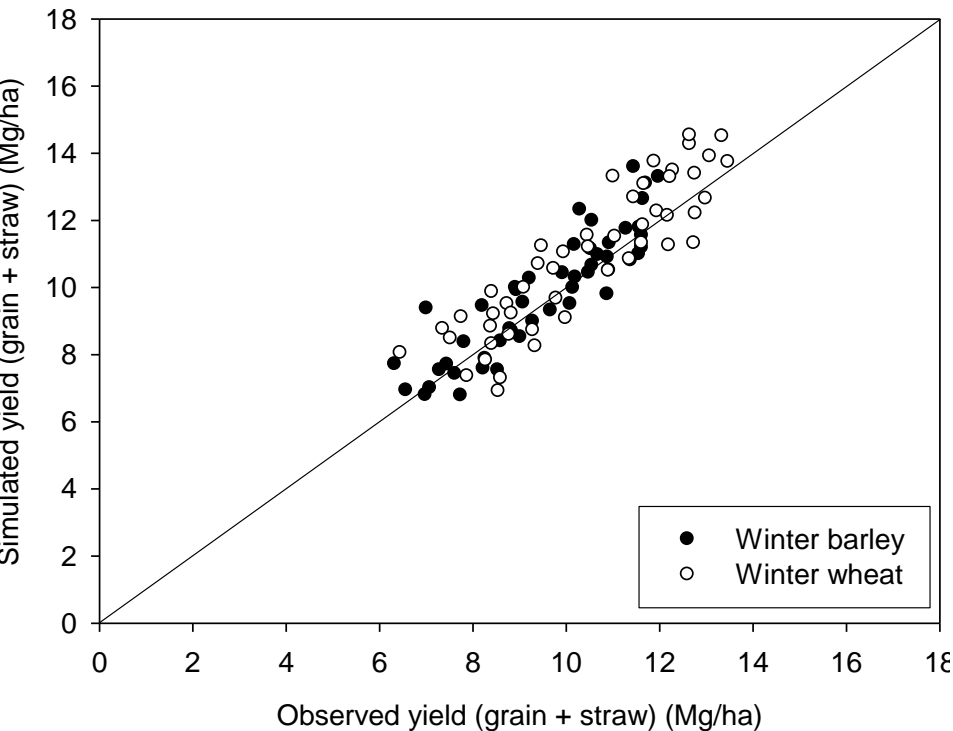
- $\theta_t = \theta_{t-1} + P + (GW + I) - RO - ET_{crop}$
- Water balance corrected for:
- Water use (efficient at higher CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations)
  - Reduced growth under water stress (shortage or water logging)

- Monteith equation corrected for:
- Temperature increases
  - Growth stress (VPD, WL, DR, TR)
  - Changing CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations
- Phenological stadia: in cumulative temperature days with base and maximum temperature as boundaries of phenological activity

Source: Gobin, 2010

Output: water balance, yield , heat/drought/waterlogging stress

# REGCROP goodness of fit on historical data

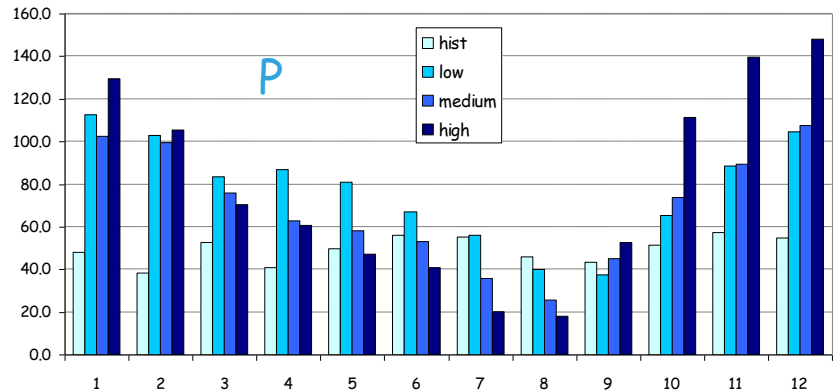
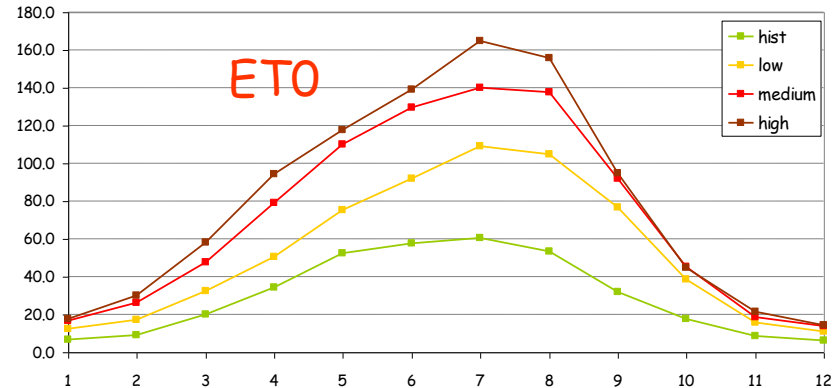


- » Model efficiency: 68% (WW) – 84% (SB)
- »  $R^2$ : 0.80 (cereal) - 0.83 (P) - 0.84 (SB)

# Three climate scenarios compared to 1960-1989

## SELECTION OF 3 SCENARIOS

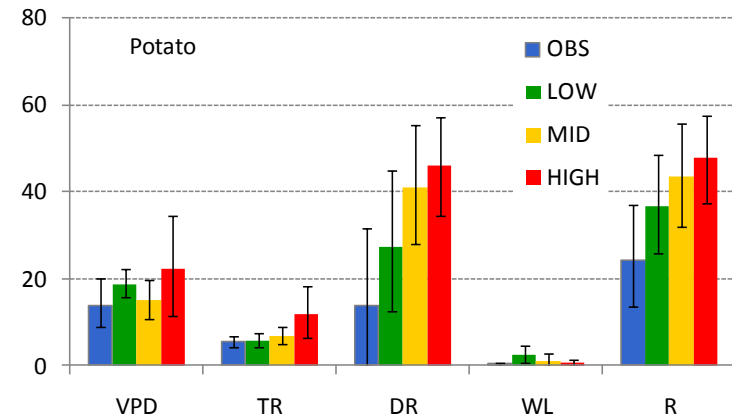
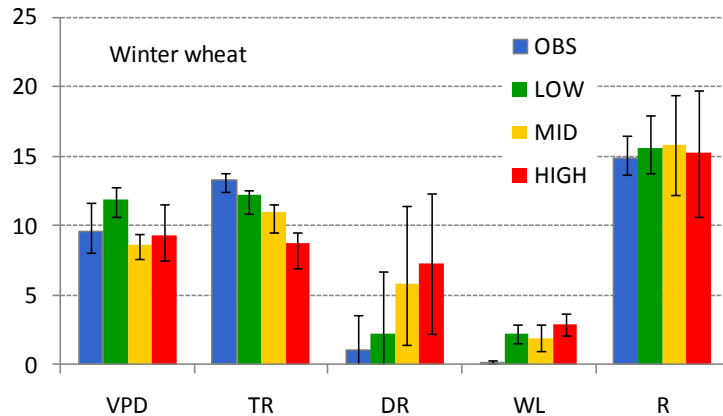
- PRUDENCE (FP5; *Christensen et al., 2007*):  
Downscaling of GCMs to RCMs  
RCM predictions for Grid 25 – 50 km  
3 GCMs (HADCM, ECHAM(/OPYC), HADAM)  
10 RCMs ; 28 Ensembles
- Daily hindcasted datasets:  $n = 21$   
Comparison for P (*Ntegeka & Willems, 2008*)  
Comparison for ET0, M (*Gobin, 2010*)
- Simulations for 8 crops, 3 soils, observed & 3 climate change scenarios ( $n = 3480$ )  
Three soil types (clay, loamy sand & loam) to capture regional variability (*Gobin, 2010*)
- REGCROP (Observed versus simulated)
  - Model efficiency: 68% (WW) – 84% (SB)
  - $R^2$ : 0.80 (cereal) - 0.83 (Potato) - 0.84 (SB)





# Climate impacts on Biomass Production

- » Yield reduction calculated for 3 climate change scenarios and observations
  - » Based on heat stress (VPD, TR), drought (DR), water logging (WL)
  - » Overall biomass reduction (R)



- » **Winter cereals**
  - » Reduction may be up to 15%, no pronounced difference with CC scenarios, but variability increases
  - » Positive effect of temperature, but negative of waterlogging
  - » Ideally harvest before drought and heat stress occurs
- » **Summer crops**
  - » Serious yield reductions, expected to increase with climate change
  - » Major contributors are drought and increased heat stress

# Conclusions

## » Observations

- » Climate is changing - spatio-temporal **variability** in yields & meteo
- » Demand for climate impact analysis and **risk** evaluation (insurance)

## » Statistical Modelling

- » Meteo variables & indicators related to **temperature** explain the yield at the national level (General Linear Model:  $R^2$  from 0.70 - 0.74)
- » Meteo variables & indicators that influence the **water balance** tend to explain the yield variability

## » REGCROP Modelling Framework for climate impacts & weather related stress

- » Model captures **stress** due to drought, heat & waterlogging dynamically linked to the growing season cycle
- » **Summer** crops: serious impact of drought & heat; **winter** cereals: impact may be positive but risk of waterlogging

 Climate impact & risk analysis necessitates a multi-modal approach

# Thank you for your attention!

» More Information:

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