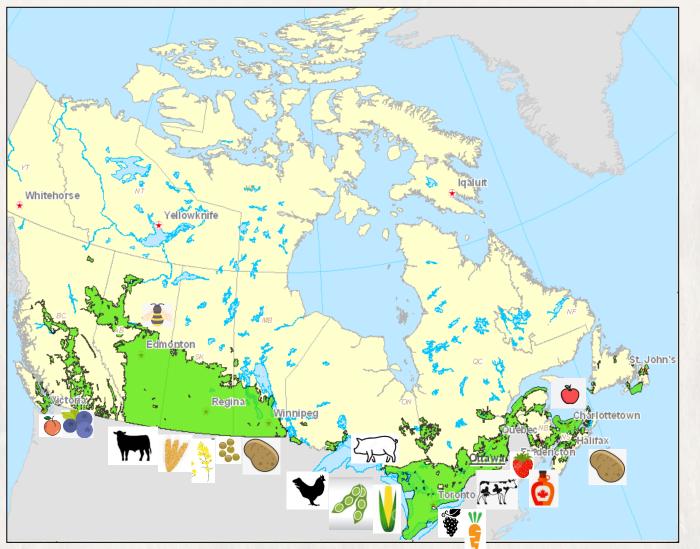
Agriculture and Agriculture et Agri-Food Canada Agroalimentaire Canada



#### Application of Remote Sensing in Operational Agrometeorological Advisory Services

Catherine Champagne, Environmental Scientist National Agroclimate Information Service Science and Technology Branch Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

#### Agriculture and Agri-Food Sector in Canada



- Agriculture and Agri-Food sector employs 2.1 million people, accounts for 8% GDP
- Export focussed: \$61.0 billion per year
- Canada's agricultural land mass large and sparsely populated with a wide diversity of crops
- Agriculture in Canada is largely weather and climate dependent and extremes result in billions of economic costs each year
- Climate change adaptation: vulnerability to changing climate normals could is leading to changes in where and what is grown but brings risks
- Climate change mitigation: reducing emissions from nitrous oxide, methane and sequestration of carbon in soils

#### National Agroclimate Information Service (NAIS)

Science and Innovation in Agroclimate

Development and Application of Geospatial Analytical Tools

Expert Interpretation and Analysis

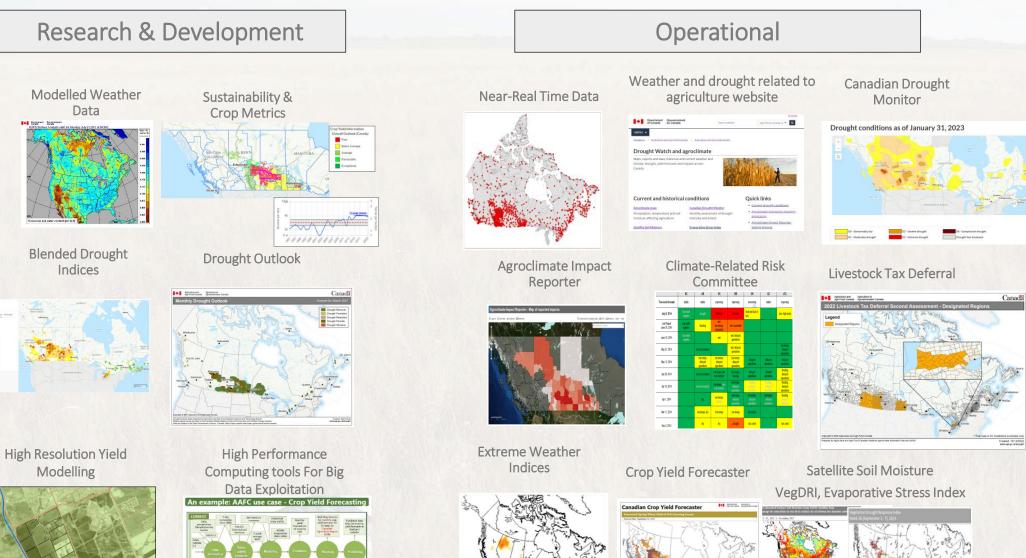
Building Partnerships and Collaborations

- Applied science & operational delivery of information and tools to monitor impact of climate on agriculture
- Monitoring, early warning using authoritative data and models are key to understanding climate risks and impacts
  - NAIS activities focus on four main thematic areas:
    - 1. Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change
    - 2. Increasing the resilience of agro-ecosystems
    - 3. Accelerating Digital Transformation
      - Building and maintaining cross-cutting agroclimate data sets
  - All information made available via **Weather and drought** related to agriculture website:
    - https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-production/weather

#### Some key activities...

WITH DEC

10.01-00 10.01-00 40.01-00 10.01-00 10.01-00 10.01-00



# How Do We Collect Geospatial Information about Agricultural Sector?

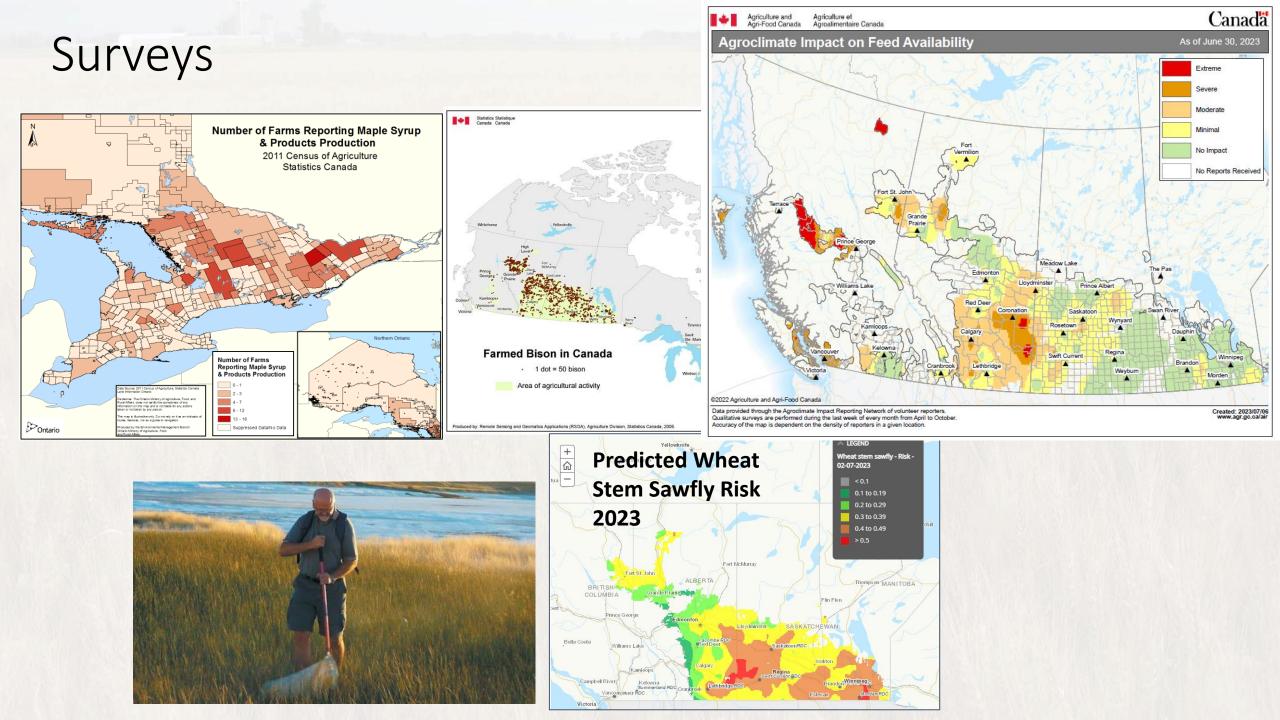
- 1. Surveys Crowd Sourcing
  - Questionnaires (census, statistical surveys)
  - windshield surveys
  - Field data collection

#### 2. Monitoring Stations

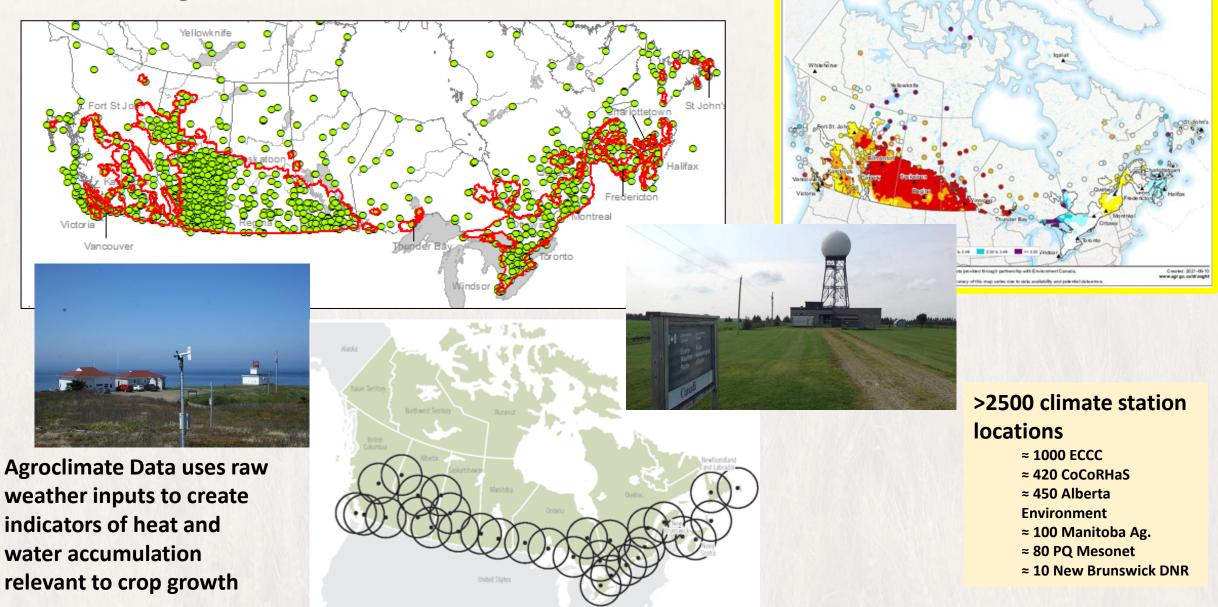
- Automated Weather Stations
- Doppler Radar
- 3. Satellite Remote Sensing
  - Optical, thermal, radar, microwave, gravity satellites
  - Polar orbiting or geostationary
  - Resolution from <1m to >10km
- 4. Models
  - Use statistical or physics based model to simulate information

Many agroclimate services relay on using current data in combination with historical normals for determining risk

Long term, consistent data records are key for observing change

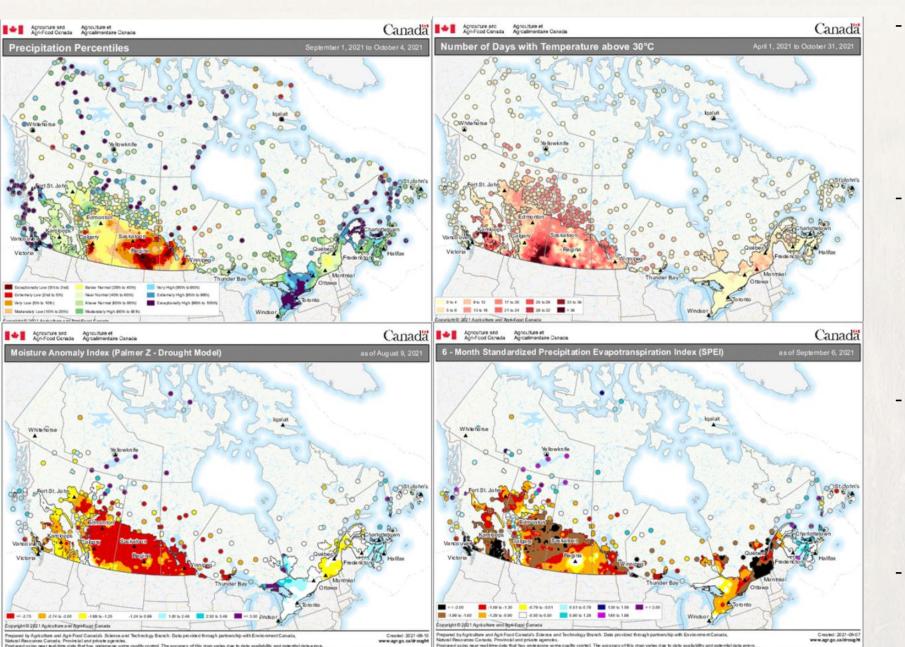


#### "Network of Networks" for Agroclimate Data: Station-Based Monitoring



Canada

#### Near Real Time Monitoring System



- Daily quality control of weather stations fully automated system)
- Use current data, station quality rankings and historical gridded data to produce gap-filled time series for estimation of large number of agroclimate measures:
- Precipitation
  - Percentiles (30, 60, 90, 180 day, Growing Season, Winter)
  - Accumulated (up to 1825 days)
  - Dry Spells
- Temperature
  - Max Temp
  - Min Temp
  - Heat Wave
  - Crop Heat Units
  - Temperature Anomalies
- Drought Indicators:
  - Palmer Z, Hydrological, Soil Moisture, SPEI, SPI

# Satellite Remote Sensing

Different frequencies for different applications:

#### **Optical Data**

Crop Health Leaf Area Index Biomass Crop Residue Cover Crop Types Crop Growth Stage

#### Radar Data (Active)

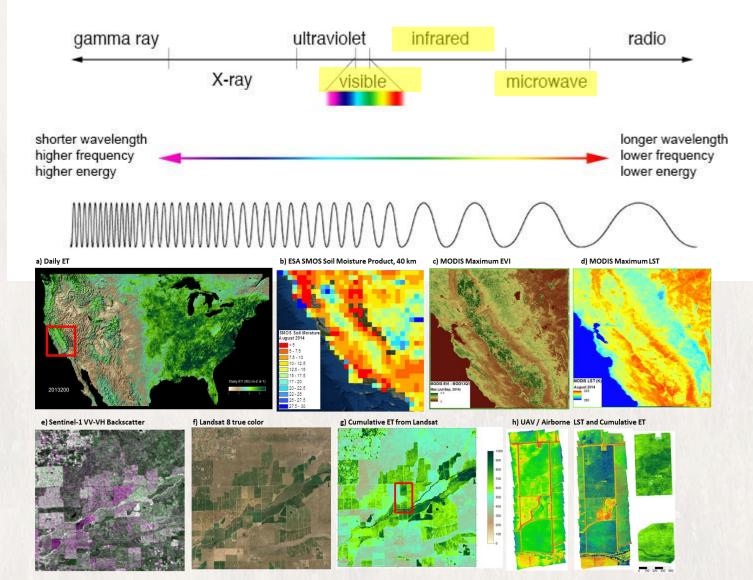
Soil Moisture Surface Hydrology Plant Structure Crop Biomass Surface Roughness/Tillage

#### **Passive Microwave Data**

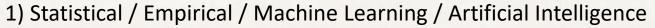
Soil Moisture Vegetation Water Content

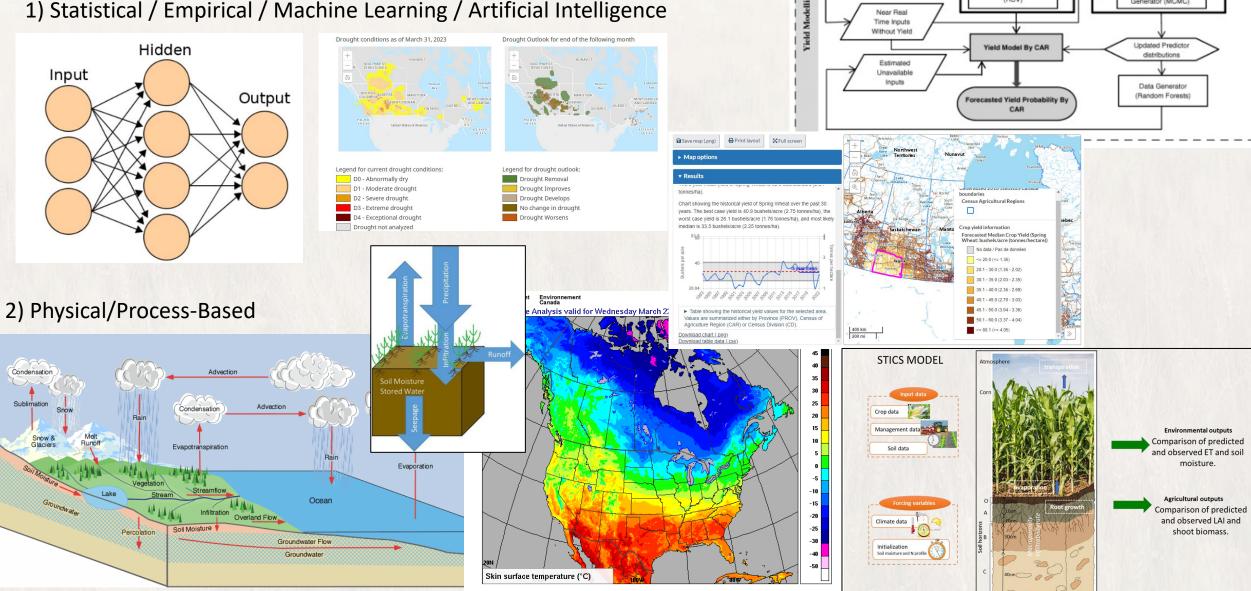
#### Thermal

Temperature Evapotranspiration



### Models





Model Building

Predictor Selection

(RLARS)

Robust Cross Validation

(RCV)

Historical

Inputs With Yield

Near Real

Parameter Distribution

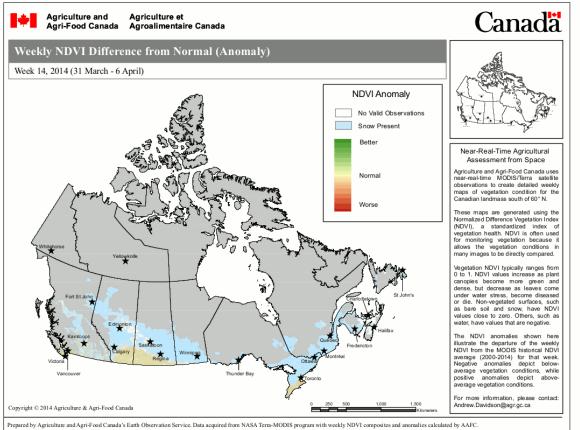
Prior Distribution Generator

(Bayesian)

Posterior Distribution

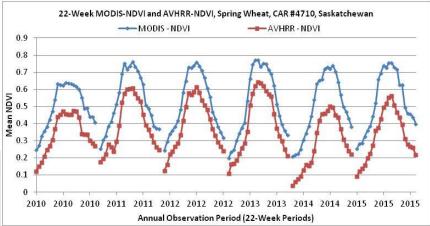
Generator (MCMC)

# Earth Observation for Direct Monitoring of Agroclimate Conditions: Vegetation Indices

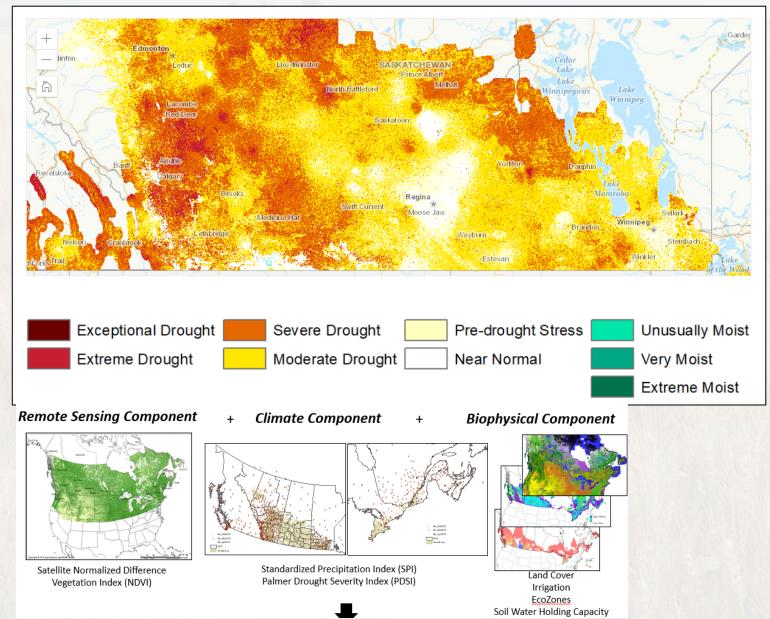


Maximum 7-day NDVI composites from MODIS comparing current conditions to long term average

- Normalize Differenced Vegetation Index (NDVI) and other similar indices use band ratios to quantify different between red/near infrared surface reflectance to monitor plant health at many scales
- Long term data records from "moderate" resolution sensors, such as AVHRR, MODIS and now VIIRS are key to these data sets

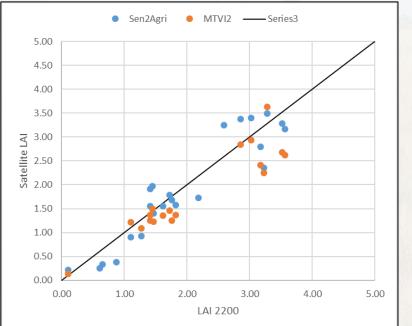


## Vegetation Drought Response Index

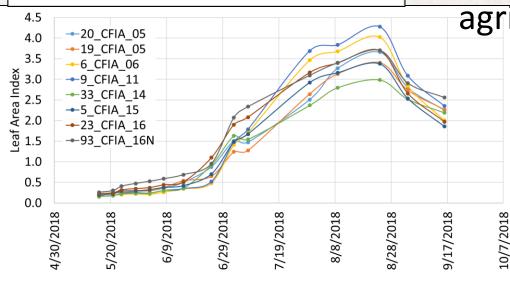


- Combines time series satellite NDVI (MODIS) and station-based drought indicators (Standardized Precipitation Index) and biophysical data (land cover, irrigation, ecozones) to model drought severity at pixel-scale
- Tadesse, T., Champagne, C., Wardlow, B.D., Hadwen, T.A., Brown, J.F., Demisse, G.B., Bayissa, Y.A., Davidson, A.M. (2017). Building the vegetation drought response index for Canada (VegDRI-Canada) to monitor agricultural drought: first results. GIScience and Remote Sensing, [online] 54(2), 230-257. http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15481603.2017.128 6728

# Leaf Area Index



- LAI retrieval algorithm in Sentinel-2 Toolbox (SNAP) shows good correspondence with ground measurements (based on Neural Network Model) at 20m resolution
- Tool has been translated for Google Earth Engine into the LEAF Toolbox (https://github.com/rfernand387/LEAF-Toolbox) – can be run both as Java Script or using Python API
- Pilot is currently under way to run this for all agricultural regions in Canada





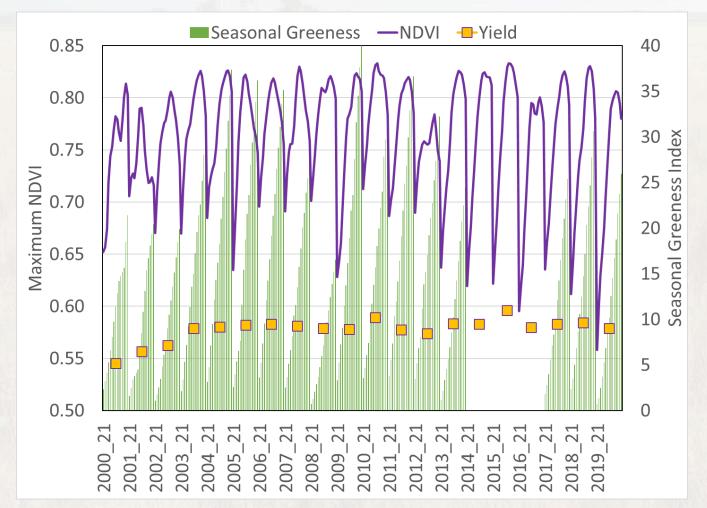
May 11, 2018

July 7, 2018

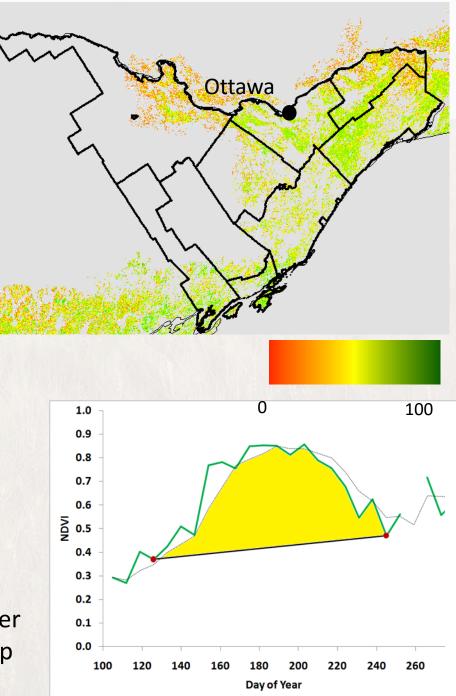
August 24, 2018

Leaf Area Index from Sentinel-2

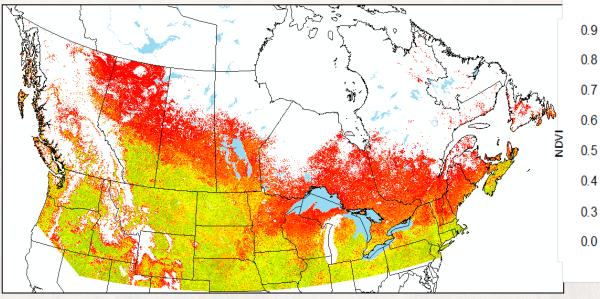
# Seasonal Greenness for Corn in Eastern Ontario



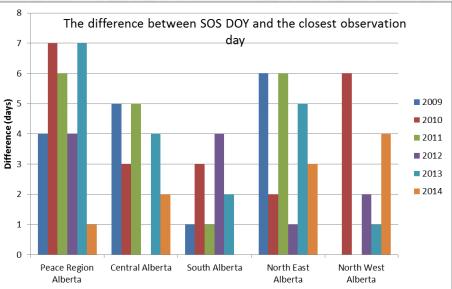
Seasonal Greenness shows potential as it is less cross correlated with other variables in capturing vegetation condition that leads to reductions in crop yield



### **Estimating Growth Stage**



Start of Season estimate from MODIS NDVI Data



Most regions the seeding was estimated within 8 days or less by NDVI over a multi year period for Prairie **Provinces** 

0.7

0.6

0.4

40%

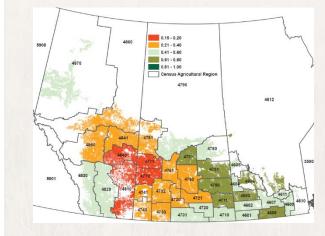
SOS

100

150

Day of Year

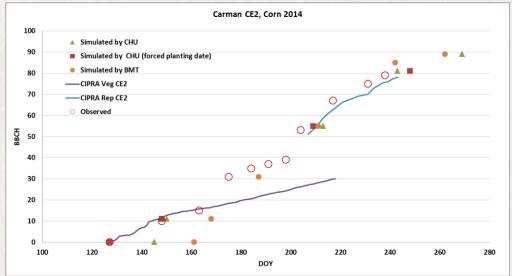
#### 5 Year Correlation Between NDVI and BMT Start of Season



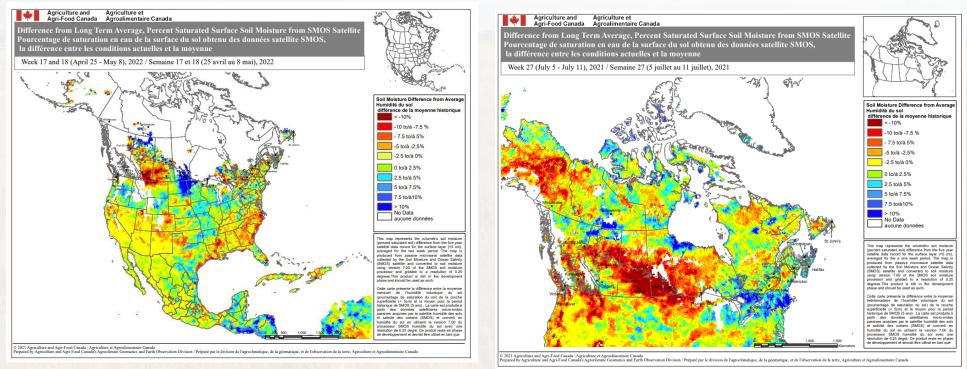
#### Vegetative Growth Stages from Bio-climatological models

MAX

250



# Satellite Soil Moisture from Passive Microwave

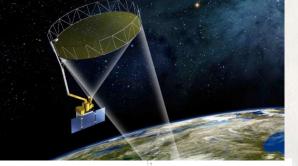


- From Soil Moisture Ocean Salinity Mission (European Space Agency), launched 2009
- Difference from average at weekly, biweekly, monthly accumulation periods
- Detects surface soil moisture but this corresponds with long term moisture deficits when accumulated over longer time periods

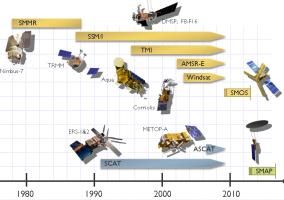
#### Emergence of Satellite Soil Moisture Data Sets



Soil Moisture and Ocean Salinity Mission (SMOS) European Space Agency Launched November 2009 L-Band Microwave Radiometer

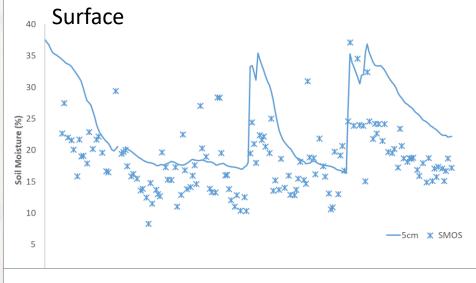


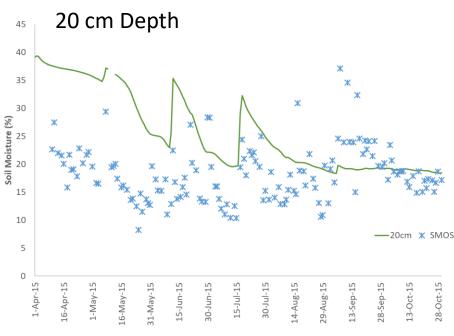
Soil Moisture Active Passive Mission (SMAP) NASA Launched January 2015 L-Band Microwave Radiometer /L-Band RADAR

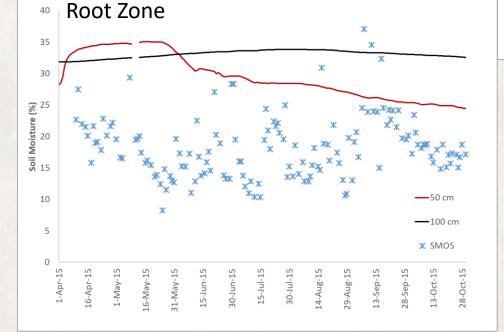


European Space Agency Climate Change Initiative (ESA-CCI) Blend of Active/Passive Microwave soil moisture 1979-2017 (1992-2018)

### Surface Soil Moisture Dynamics: Satellite vs In-Situ

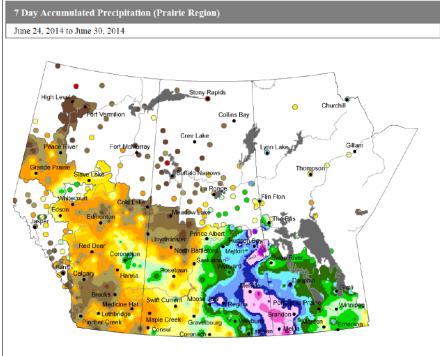






- Satellites capture moisture in top 5 cm with reasonably high accuracy; wetting and drying trends captured well
- Can't directly infer water storage from surface measurements
- Use satellite soil moisture as a proxy for profile soil moisture dynamics

#### **Climate Related Production Risk Monitoring**



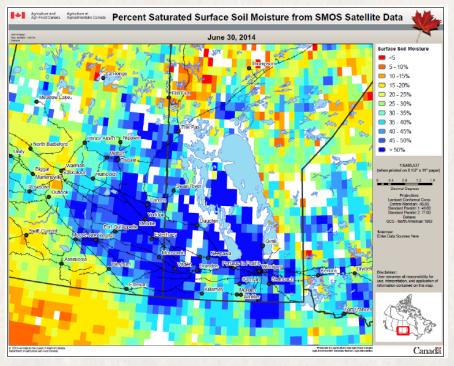


Produced using near real-time data that has undergone initial quality control. The map may not be accurate for all regions due to data availability and data errors.

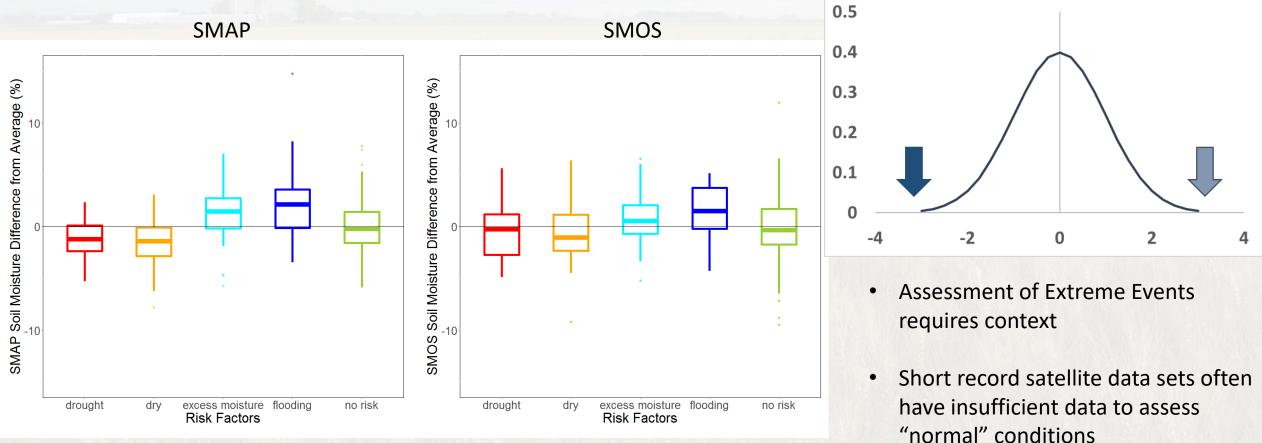
Convright © 2014 Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	ATL
Two-week forecast	stable	stable	improving	improving	worsening	stable	improving
July 8, 2014	low water supplies	drought	flooding	flooding	heat and lack of rain		rain, high winds
Last Report June 24, 2014	low water supplies	flooding	wet, low temps, unseeded	wet, unseeded			
June 10, 2014	low water supplies		wet	wet, delayed operations			
May 27, 2014		low soil moisture		wet, delayed operations			low temps, delayed operations
May 13, 2014		low temps, delayed operations	low temps, delayed operations	low temps, delayed operations	delayed operations	delayed operations	delayed operations
Apr 29, 2014		low soil moisture	low temps, low soil moisture	low temps, flooding	delayed operations	delayed operations	flooding, delayed operations





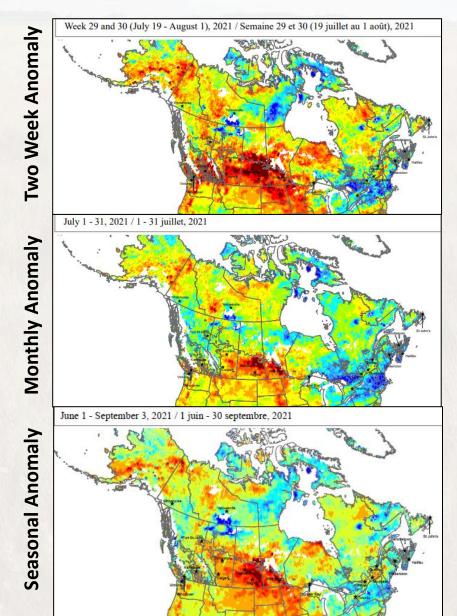
## Quantifying Climate Related Risk



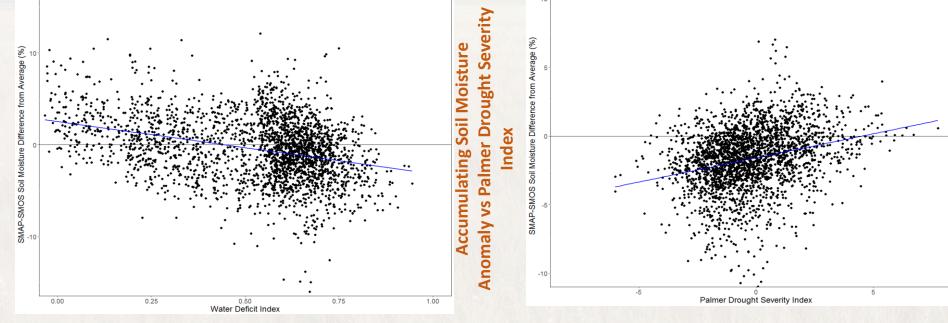
Champagne, C.; Zhang, Y.; Cherneski, P.; Hadwen, T. Estimating Regional Scale Hydroclimatic Risk Conditions from the Soil Moisture Active-Passive (SMAP) Satellite. Geosciences 2018, 8, 127.

### Drought from L-Band Passive Microwave

- Surface soil moisture is very responsive to fluctuating temperature/precipitation conditions and less indicative of long term water storage
- Assimilation of satellite soil moisture into land surface models can capture root zone soil moisture but these values are heavily dependent on other model parameters (primarily soil water holding capacity) which are not well characterized in many areas.
- Analysing soil moisture anomalies over different time scales can better capture agriculturally relevant water deficits (timing, intensity, persistence)

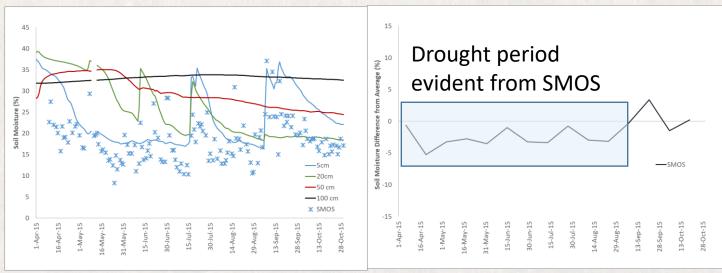


# Scale and Severity of Drought Impacts Observed by Satellite Data

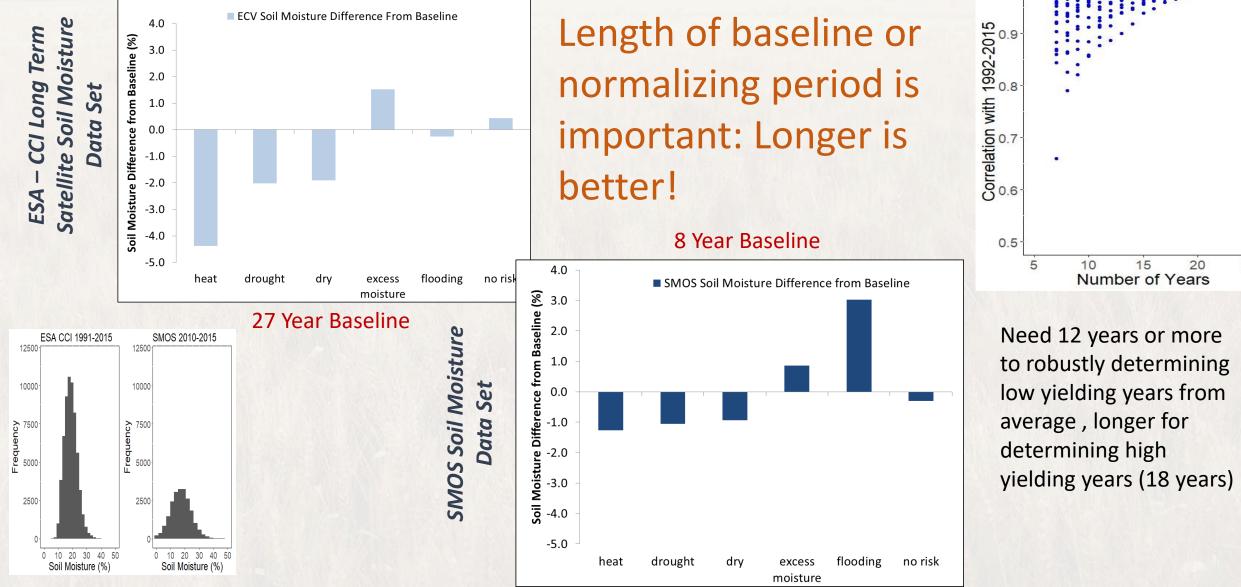


Soil Moisture Anomaly vs Crop Water Demand Index

Satellite surface soil moisture most sensitive to drought processes driven by evaporative demand than long term soil moisture shortages



## How Sensitive to Drought Conditions are Satellite Soil Moisture Anomalies?

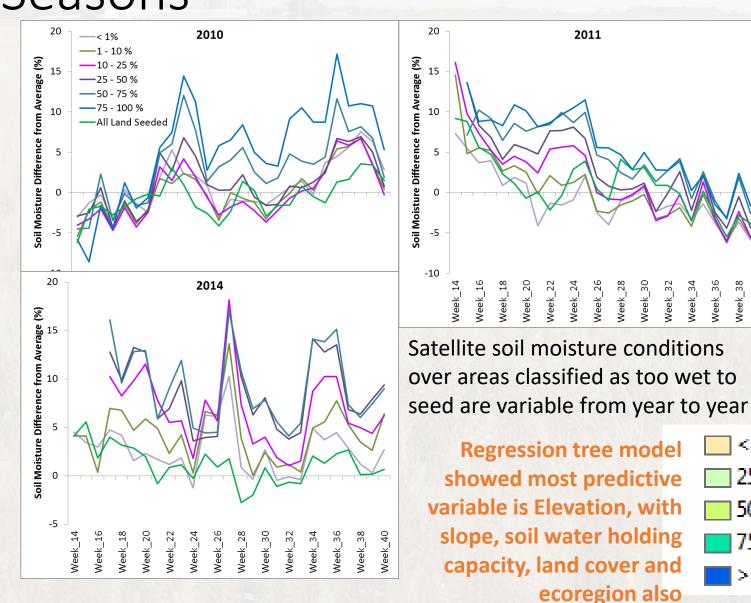


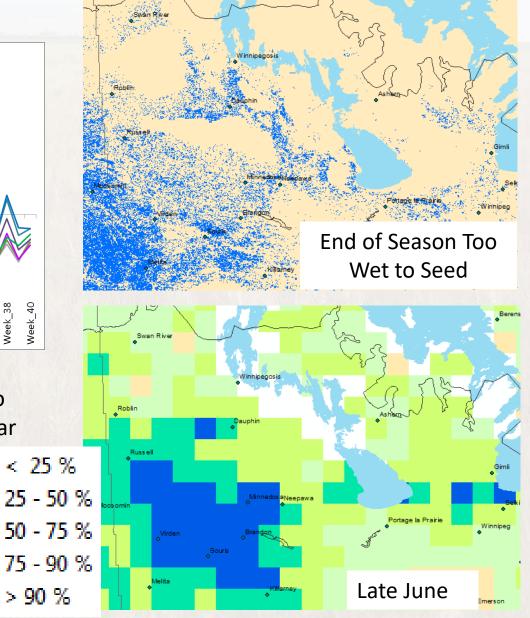
25

### SMOS Soil Moisture Evolution During Wet Growing Seasons

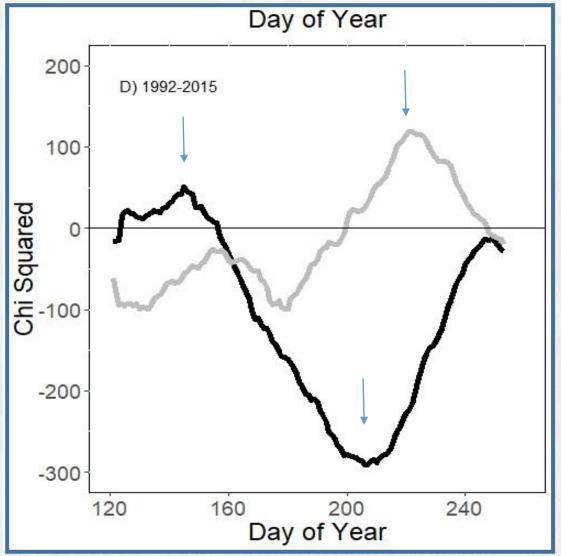
Neek\_38 Week\_40

Veek\_36



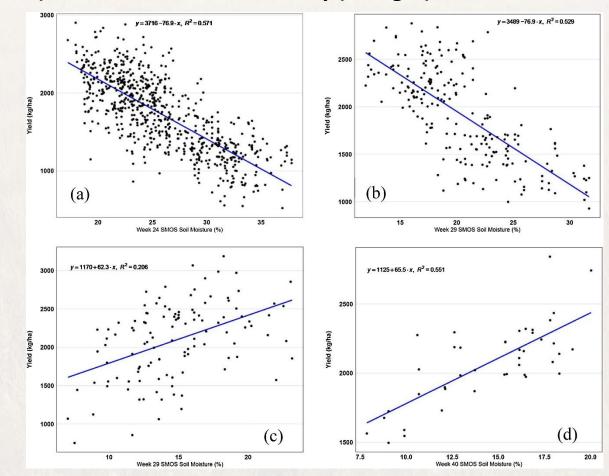


### Sensitivity of Crop Yield to Soil Moisture



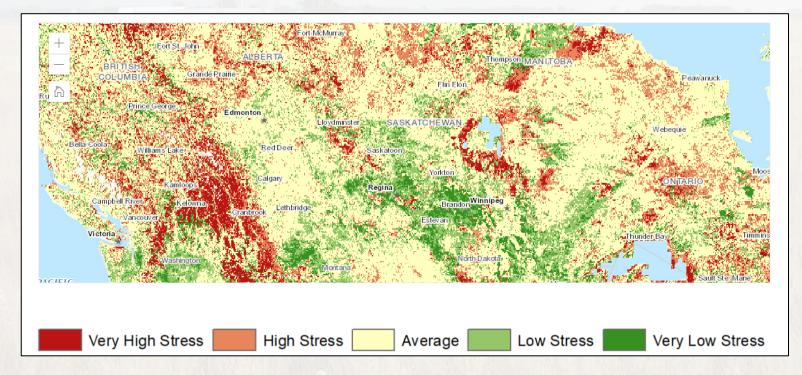
Champagne, C., White, J., Berg, A., Belair, S., Carrera, M. (2019). Impact of soil moisture data characteristics on the sensitivity to crop yields under drought and excess moisture conditions, 11(4), http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/rs11040372

Low yields associated with high spring soil moisture (excess) and low soil moisture in July (drought)



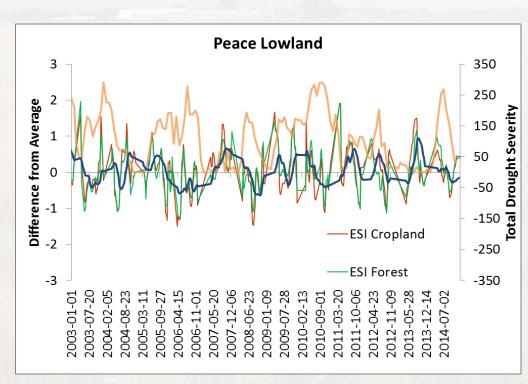
White, J., Berg, A.A., Champagne, C., Warland, J., Zhang, Y. (2019). Canola yield sensitivity to climate indicators and passive microwave-derived soil moisture estimates in Saskatchewan, Canada, 268 354-362. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.agrformet.2019.01.004

### Evaporative Stress Index (ESI)

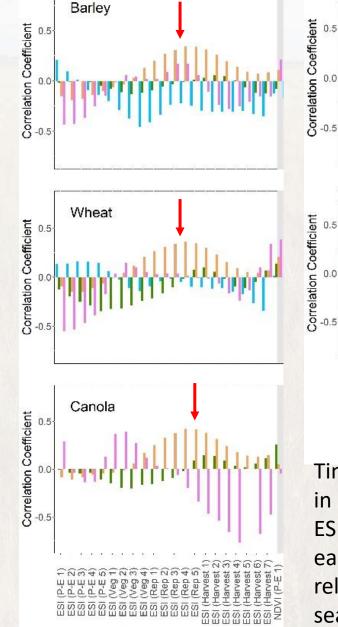


- Based on thermal/optical data from MODIS sensor quantifying rates of evapotranspiration at surface
- Data produced by NASA and distributed through SERVIR global
- Mapping daily evapotranspiration at field to continental scales using geostationary and polar orbiting satellite imagery. Hydrology and Earth System Sciences, 15, 223-239 (2011). Anderson, M.C., Kustas, W.P., Norman, J.M., Hain, C.R., Mecikalski, J.R., Schultz, L., González-Dugo, M.P., Cammalleri, C., D'Urso, G., Pimstein, A., & Gao, F.

# Application of ESI



- Evaporative stress fluctuates in time with lows when high temperatures and low rainfall lead to dry periods; clearer trends are illustrated with temporal moving average
- Temporal trend shows higher evaporative • stress during drought periods; in some cases high peaks in evaporative stress leading into more severe drought periods



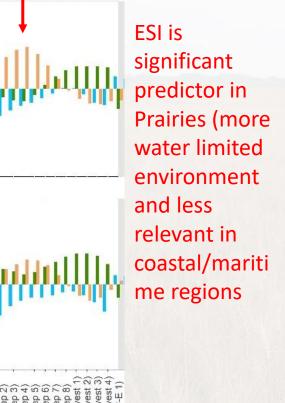
Soybean

Corn

0.5

-0.5

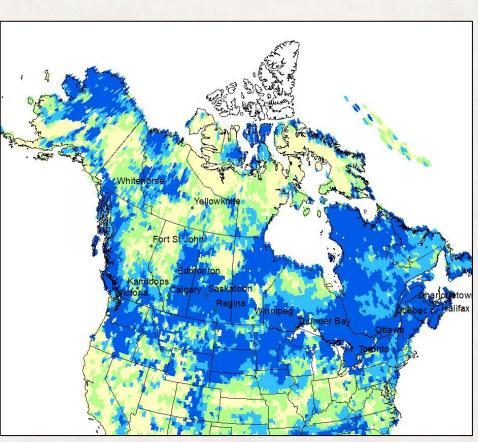
0.5

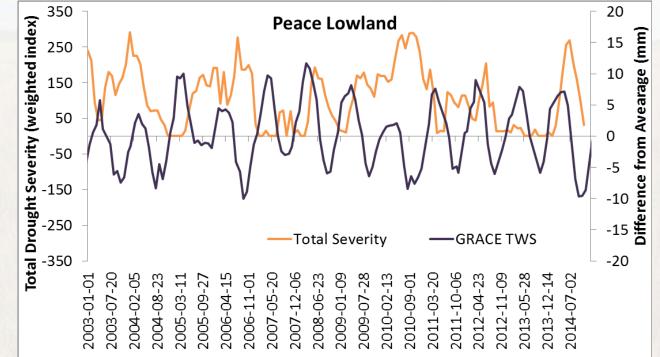


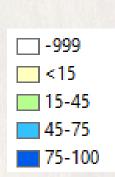
Timing of ESI as a predictor of crop yield in different regions for different crops. ESI has a negative relationship with yield early in the season and a positive relationship with yield later in the season, during late vegetative growth and seed reproduction.

## GRACE: Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment

Total Water
 Storage Data set
 from NASA



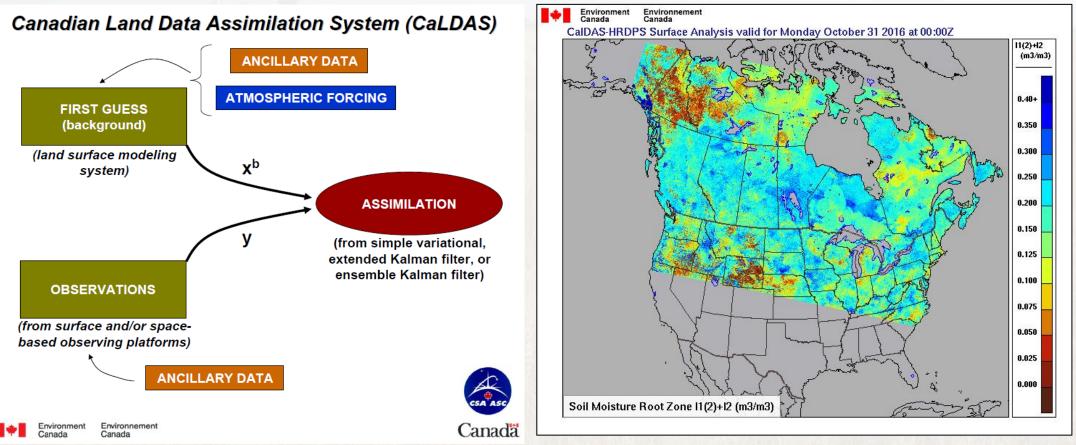




GRACE + GRACE FO has continuous data series from 2003 – present

Trends well with long term drought anomalies

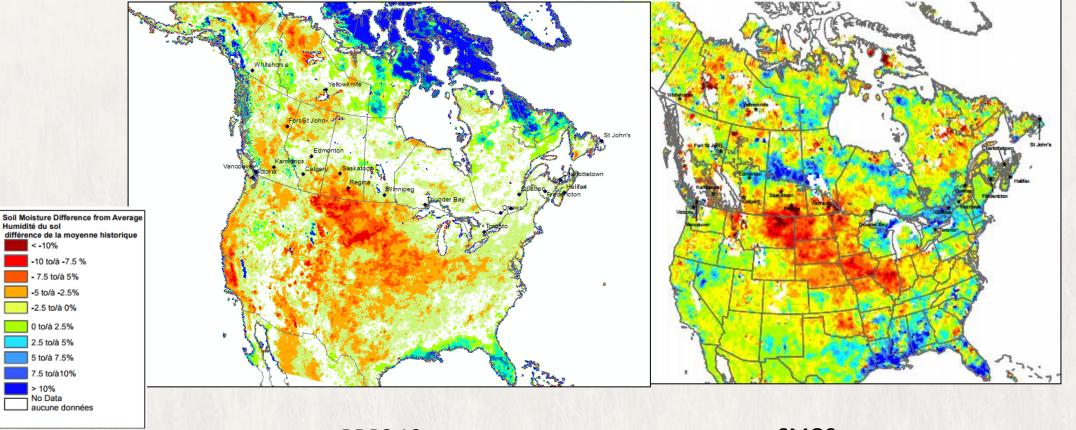
## Combining EO with Models: Land Data Assimilation



 Assimilation used to improve land surface characterization on global circulation models - provides improved meteorological data for climate services as alternative/supplement to station based data.

#### Soil Moisture for Drought Monitoring

Calculation of Drought indicators using CMC soil moisture data



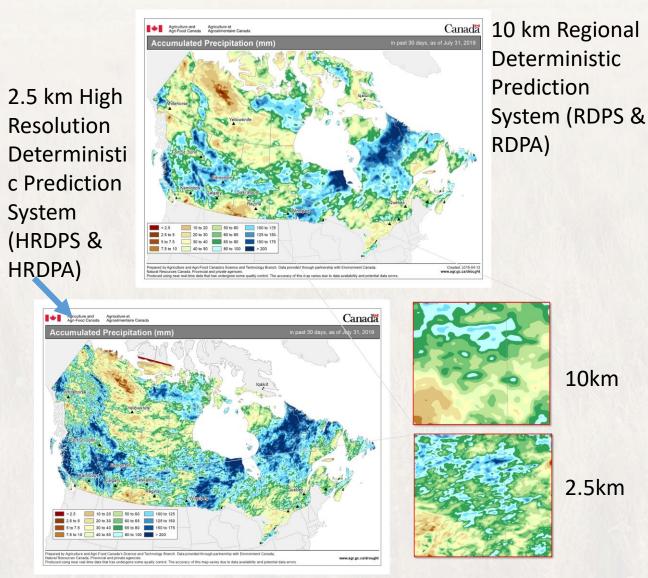
RDPS 10 cm



Soil Moisture Difference from Average June 2017

System to calculate drought indicators – build portal to view data sets

# Numerical Weather Data: Near-term forecast, analysis and Re-Analysis Data



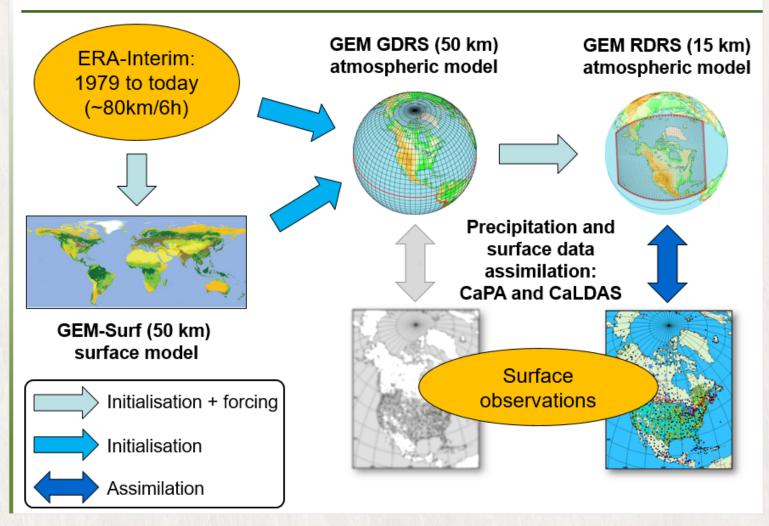
- Initial conditions and near term forecasts from ECCC Numerical Weather Prediction system combine Global Environmental Multiscale Model (GEM) with land surface prediction systems
- Canadian Precipitation Analysis (CaPA) produces an optimal estimate of precipitation using deterministic models incorporating in situ gauges and Doppler radar estimates



# Regional Reanalylsis (RDRS)

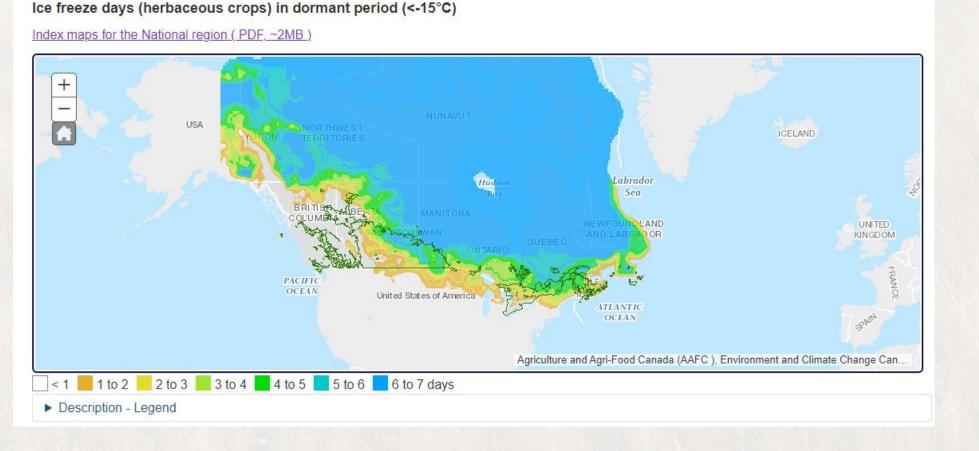
- 39-Year Precipitation and Ground Surface Reanalysis
- Regional: RDRS
  - Modified REPS control member config. (cover Arctic Ocean)
  - GEM 4.8, LAM, 15-km
  - 12-h cycle/24-h reforecast
  - Coupled with CaLDAS/CaPA
- 1980-2018 Selected Variables
   Made Available and have been processed to 24 hour values
- Using as historical baseline for calculating drought indicators, agroclimate anomalies

#### Methodology



### Agroclimate Forecasts

- Extreme Weather Indicators
  - Indicators of temperature, precipitation, heat & wind at forecasts from 1-4 weeks ahead (from Environment Canada 32 day forecasts), updated daily



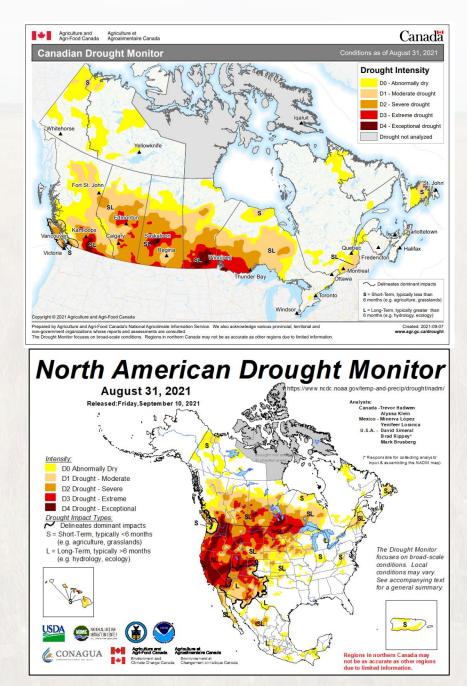
#### Drought Monitoring in Canada

- AAFC is the lead for drought monitoring in Canada. Drought indicators are key to this activity and research and development are ongoing.
- Process is collective through the North America Drought Monitor, ongoing since 2003.
- Uses a convergence of evidence approach to analyse drought severity based on percentiles; inputs include agroclimate indices calculated using Versatile Soil Moisture Budget Model (Palmer, SPEI, SPI), satellite based indicators, modelled precipitation analysis data, regional expert reports

Drought categories are based on percentiles, which relate to the statistical return period.

D1- Moderate Drought D2 – Severe Drought D3 – Extreme Drought D4 – Exceptional Drought

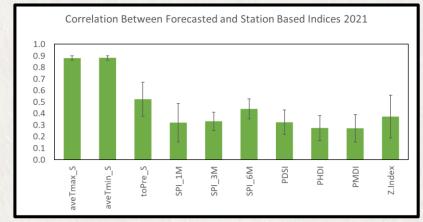
1 in 5 year event 1 in 10 year event 1 in 20 year event 1 in 50 year event



# **Drought Outlook Forecasts**

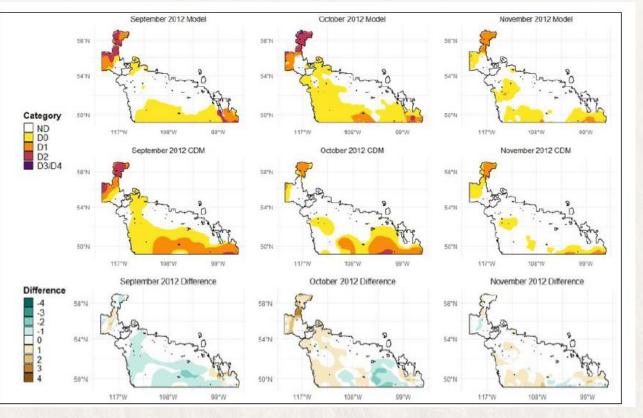
Drought conditions as of March 31, 2023 Drought Outlook for end of the following month + NUNAVUT NUNAVUT NORTHWEST NORTHWEST TEBRITORIES TERRITORIES 6 a Labrado Labrade Hudsor Sea Bay Sea Bay BRITISH ALBERTA MANITOBA MANITOBA COLUMBIA NEWFOUNDLA NEWFOUNDL SASKATCHEWAN AND LABRAD AND LABRAI OUFBEC QUEBEC ON TARIO ON TARIO PACIFIC PACIFI OCEAN OCEAN United States of America United States of America ATLANTIC ATLANTIC OCEAN OCEAN Legend for current drought conditions: Legend for drought outlook: D0 - Abnormally dry **Drought Removal** D1 - Moderate drought **Drought Improves** D2 - Severe drought **Drought Develops** D3 - Extreme drought No change in drought D4 - Exceptional drought **Drought Worsens** Drought not analyzed

- Indicators used in drought forecast model as dominant predictors tend to be mid-term for separating drought/no drought (6 month range)
- Indicators for determining severity of each drought class are in the 9-12 month range



 Available on website https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agriculturalproduction/weather/canadian-drought-outlook and at https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/2c82daab-f6d9-4b19-96b5-238249e09fb9

# Development of High Resolution Monitoring and Forecasting System – Jacob Mardian (UofG)

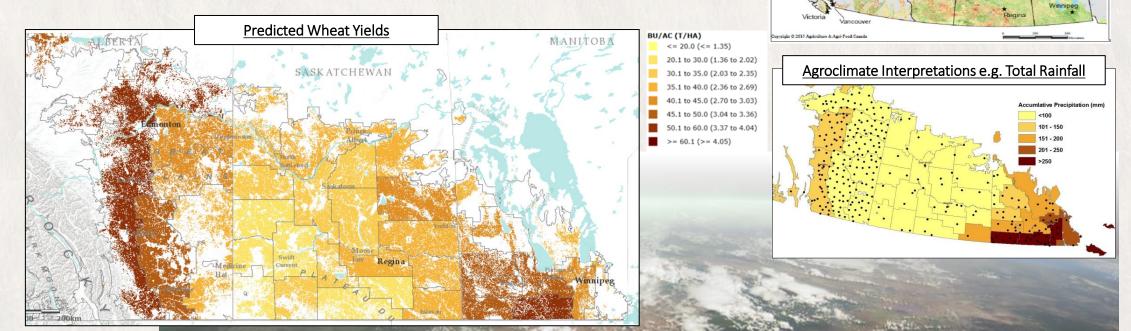


- Using an eXtreme Gradient Boosted Decision Tree model at 5km grid cells to predict Canadian Drought Monitor categories
- Model was trained over agricultural regions of 3 Prairie provinces for 2005 – 2009 and evaluated using data from 2010 to 2019.
- Used Shaley Additive Explanation variable importance metric to evaluate explanatory value of each input variable
- Includes spatial and temporal propagation metrics
- Can be expanded to include both real time and forecasted variables

From Mardian, J., C. Champagne, A. Berg and B. Bonsal (in review). Machine Learning Framework for Predicting and Understanding the Canadian Drought Monitor in Water Resources Research.

### Canadian Crop Yield Forecasting System

- National model used within AAFC to forecast end of season crop yields based on earth observation based Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) and climate based indicators
- Climate based indicators come from ~450 weather stations in Canada. Heat and water accumulation and evapotranspiration are modelled using Versatile Soil Moisture Budget Model. These inputs and used as predictors in the yield forecast model
- The model uses a robust linear regression using top ranked predictors from a leave one out cross validation process
- Predictors identified from historical training data are used to predict current year's yield
- Model has been adapted by Statistics Canada to replace the July and September Farm Survey



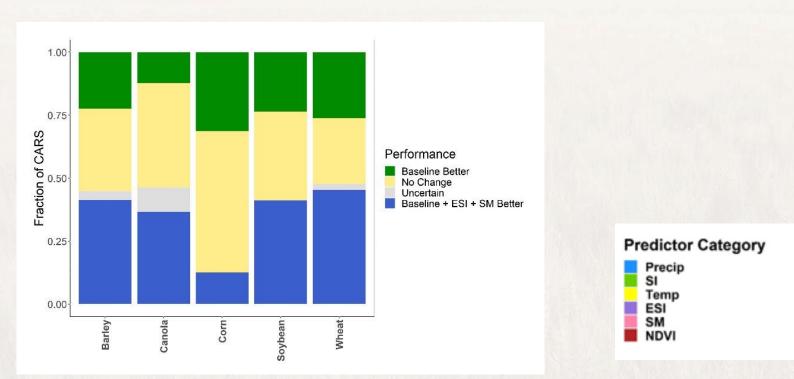
Satellite-Based Weekly Crop Conditions

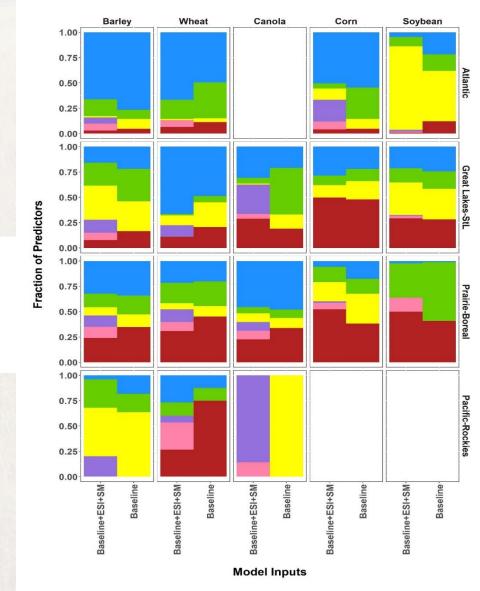
Yellowknife

NDVI Anoma

Snow Preser

# Improving Yield Forecasts with Multifrequency EO

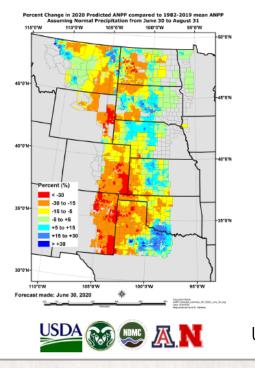




- Inclusion of satellite soil moisture and ESI improved crop yield prediction in many regions particularly for canola, barley and wheat
- SM was selected as a predictor in different regions for different crops, often displacing weather related variables or NDVI

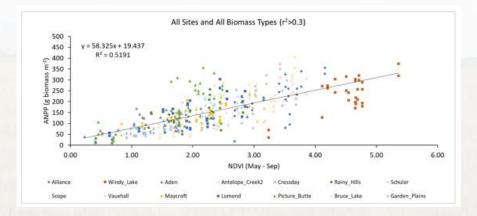
### Grass-Cast Canada

### "Grass-Cast" – the Grassland Productivity Forecast

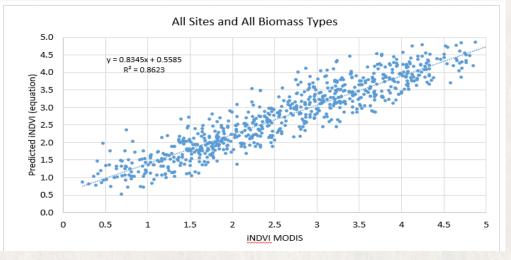


Based on **observed weather** to date + **future weather scenarios**... we expect **grassland productivity** in *your* area... to be **X% higher** or **lower** than your area's long-term average.

Dannele Peck, Bill Parton & Melannie Hartman USDA Climate Hubs & Colorado State University

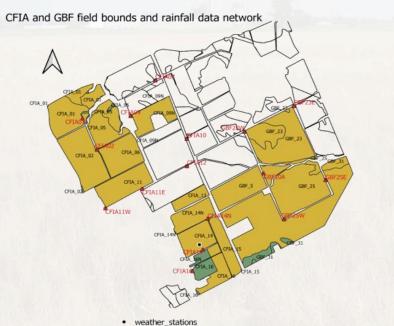


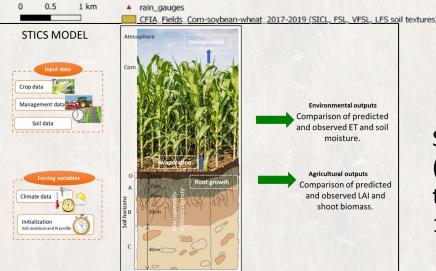
### iNDVI vs. AET and MNDVI equation



• Developed relationship between grassland biomass, actual ET and NDVI to build an ensemble predictive model for grassland productivity in Canada

# **Optimization of Crop Models**





- Use gridded climate data, remotely sensed Leaf Area Index and Surface Soil Moisture to optimize crop models
- Optimize seeding date, seeding density, soil moisture initial conditions and soil water content at field capacity
- Initial work focused on adjusting crop models to estimate ET and soil moisture to accept remotely sensed estimates

Saadi, Sameh & Pattey, Elizabeth & Jégo, Guillaume & Champagne, Catherine. (2022). Prediction of rainfed corn evapotranspiration and soil moisture using the STICS crop model in eastern Canada. Field Crops Research. 287. 108664. 10.1016/j.fcr.2022.108664.

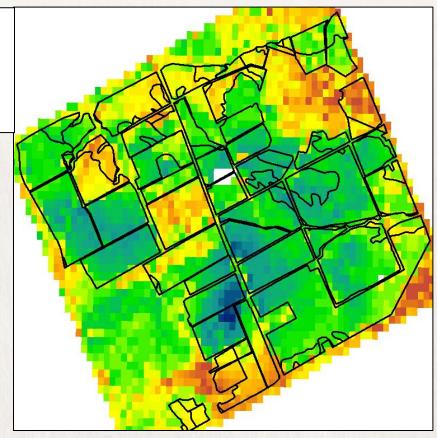
## Earth Observation Data for Model Optimization



- 10m resolution Leaf Area Index derived from time series Sentinel-2 data
- Evaluated several methods: Index (MTVI-2), Sentinel-2 Agri/SNAP Toolbox and LEAF Toolbox (Google Earth Engine)

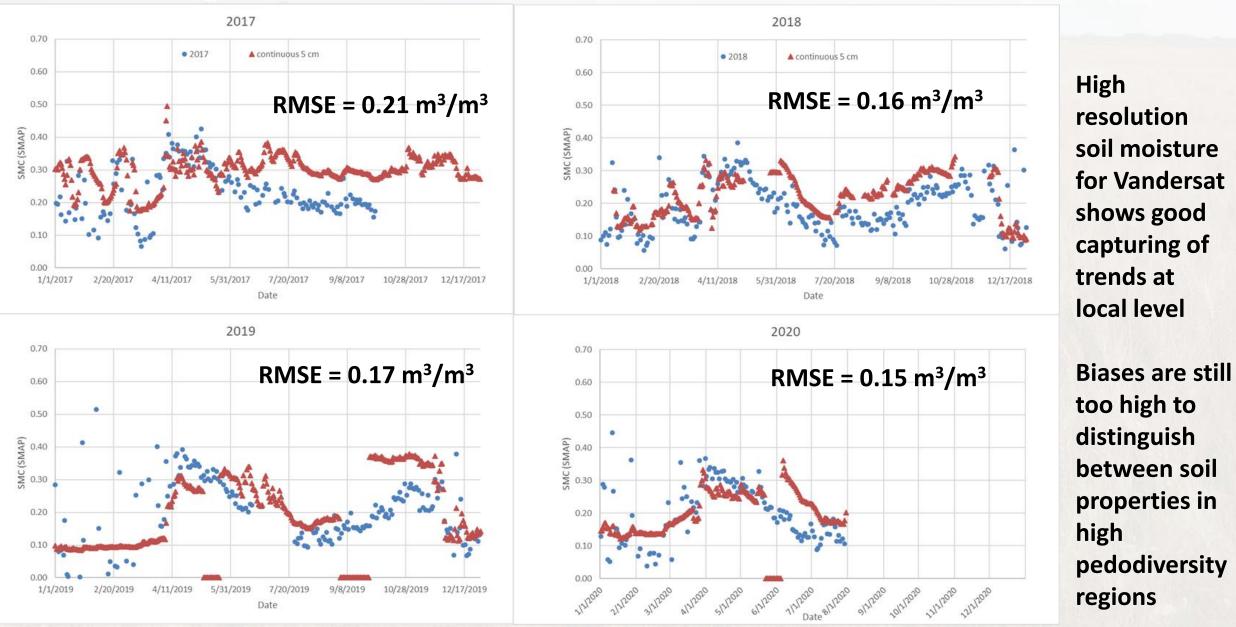
EO data sets can be used to optimize unknown variables in model (seeding date/density or soil texture / soil moisture) initialization (Jégo et al 2012, Field Crops Research)

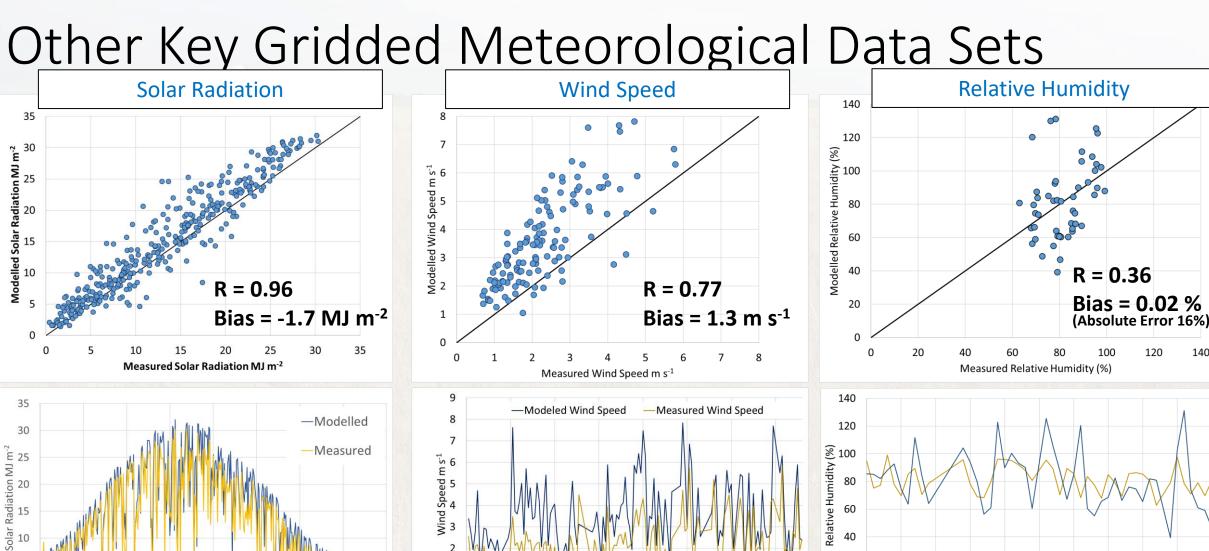
50 %

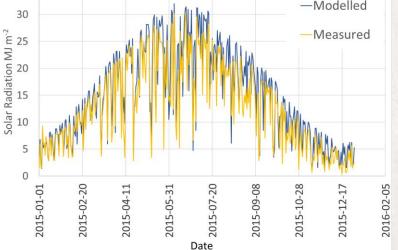


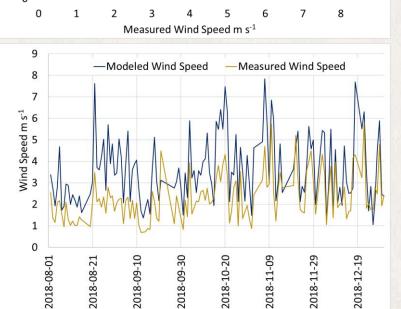
- 100m resolution surface soil moisture from Vandersat (SMAP + Sentinel-1)
- Compared against coarse resolution from SMOS/native SMAP & ground measurements

### Satellite Soil Moisture Data









Date

Date

2018-12-01

2018-11-26

2018-11-21

—Measured\_RH —Modelled RH

2018-12-11

2018-12-16

2018-12-21

2018-12-26

2018-12-06

40

20

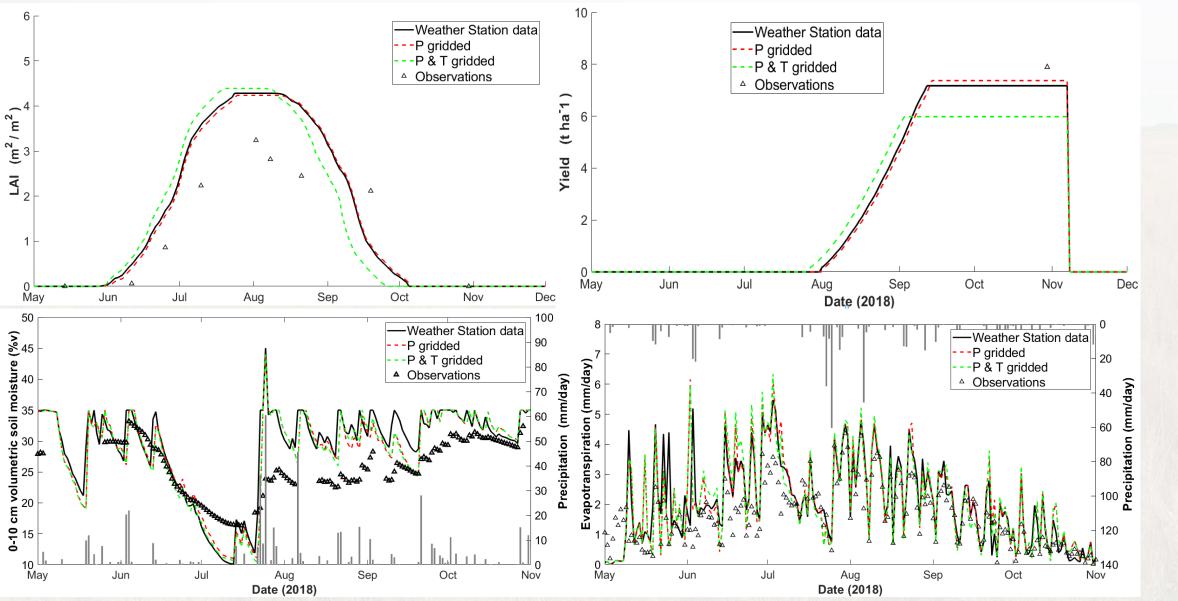
0

2018-11-06

2018-11-16

2018-11-11

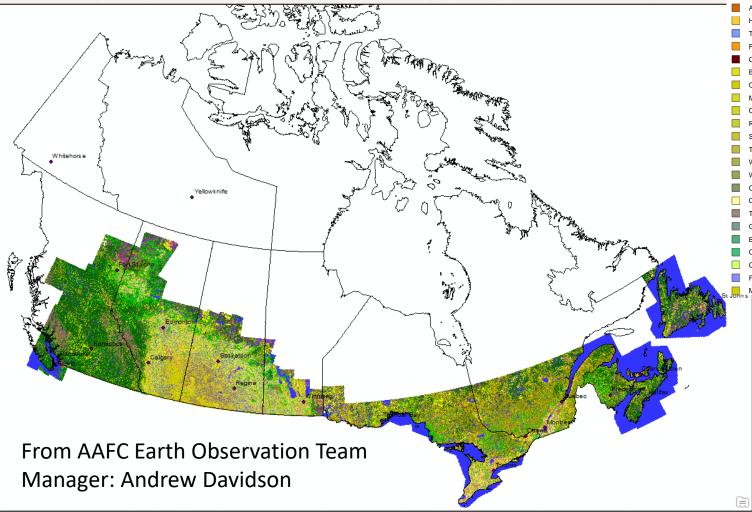
140



 Evaluated impact of using gridded precipitation and temperature data from HRDPS/HRDPA in STICs crop model for field site in Ottawa ON (results shown for 2018)
 Impact on Crop Models

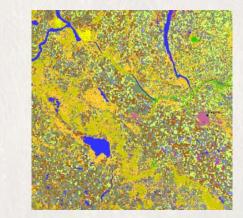
# Other Key EO Data Sets: Crop Inventory

- Created annually using field observations, and multitemporal optical remote sensing (Landsat) and radar remote sensing (Radarsat-2)



#### Legend





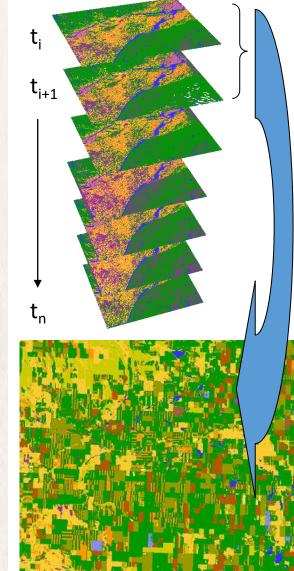
Working on cover crops, tillage, growth stage, grasslands, biomass

# Agricultural Land Use Change

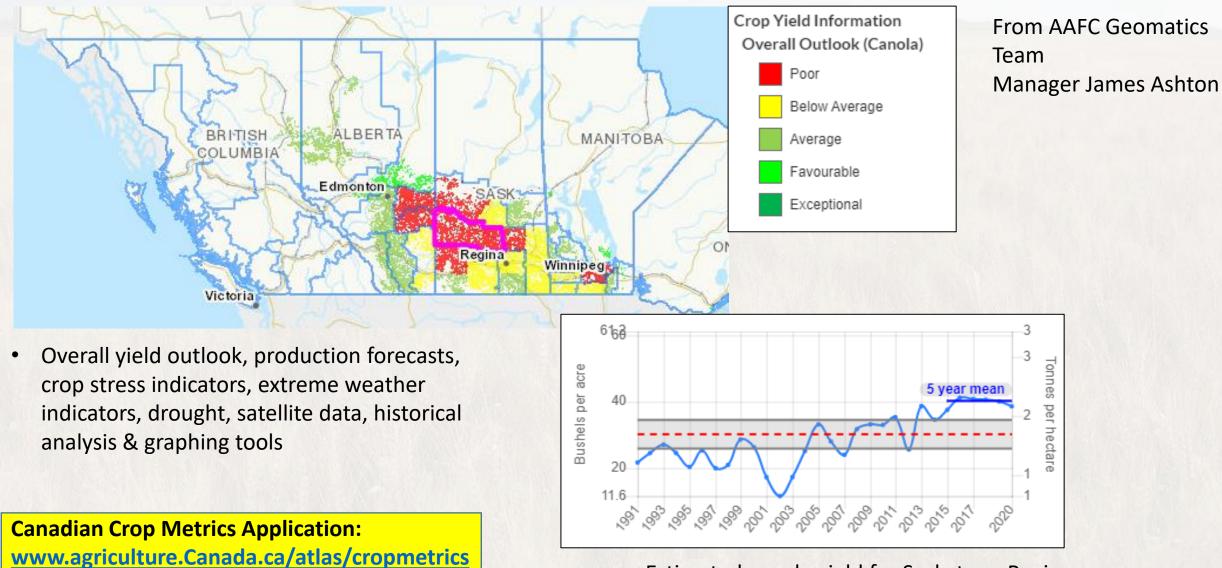
• Land use change indicators will indicate "where", "how much" and "how" agricultural land use has changed.

### Importance

- Allows annual land use changes to be tracked between important cover types.
  - Forest to agriculture,
  - Grassland to cropland,
  - Urbanization of agricultural land,
  - Perennial to annual crops.
- Such changes are key to estimating carbon sinks and sources in agricultural landscapes
- Allows spatially specific integration with other bio-physical data sets (i.e. detailed soils).



### **Tools: Canadian Crop Metrics Application**



Estimated canola yield for Saskatoon Region



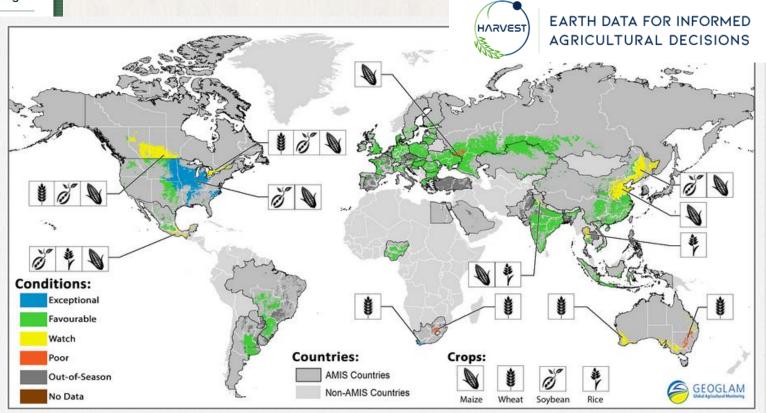
## **Global Crop Monitoring**



#### Joint Experiment of Crop Assessment and Monitoring

The overarching goal of JECAM is to reach a convergence of approaches, develop monitoring and reporting pr best practices for a variety of global agricultural systems. JECAM will enable the global agricultural monitoring or compare results based on disparate sources of data, using various methods, over a variety of global coroping s intended that the JECAM experiments will facilitate international standards for data products and reporting, eve supporting the development of a global system of systems for agricultural crop assessment and monitoring. The initiative is developed in the framework of GEO Global Agricultural Monitoring (GEOSS Task AG0703 a) and A Management (GEOSS Task AG0703 b). Take successful national monitoring and improve methods to expand this globally

Produce crop forecasts based on scientifically sound, geospatial data to reduce spurious market speculation that follows environmental and political events



## Take home messages

- The National Agroclimate Information Service leverages raw weather and climate data to translate this to
  information useful for assessing risks, monitoring production and analysing the sustainability of the agricultural
  sector in Canada key tools for mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Station networks, satellites, modelled data, crowd sourcing all have a role to play in getting full picture of climate related impacts to agriculture and beyond
- Improving the spatial resolution and richness of indicators will strengthen our ability to respond to extreme weather as it happens; earth observation and integration of this data into models is critical to providing this information
- User-friendly tools, simplified data sets make these accessible to diverse user groups to interpretation and decision making

• Find everything at: <u>https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-production/weather</u>





Agroalimentaire Canada

### Canada

### Catherine Champagne

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