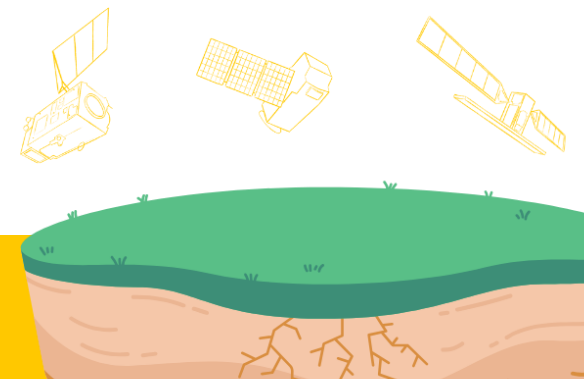




# Land monitoring products for agriculture

A use case for the deployment of COALA products for low impact  
agriculture on the WEkEO EU Copernicus DIAS





# A bit about myself and my research

Dr Francesco Vuolo

Senior scientist



Universität für Bodenkultur Wien

- ✓ **Optical data** (e.g. Sentinel-2)
- ✓ **Land Cover & Use** classification methods
- ✓ **Bio-geophysical variable** retrieval methods
- ✓ Methods for **pre-operational provision of satellite-based products** for precision farming

## Major milestones

### Copernicus Sentinel-2 Level 2-A

**2016:** On-demand atmospheric correction & higher-level products for land monitoring

**2018:** S2 Smoothing and gap-filling

**2020:** Collection of algorithms and tools for vegetation monitoring

**2023:** Implementation, testing and validation completed. Pre-operational





# Links between BOKU, EODC and WEKEO



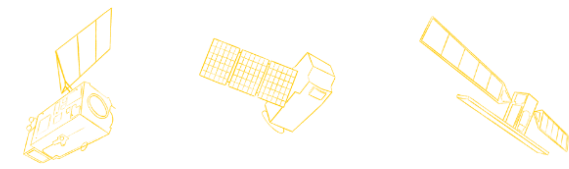
Principal cooperation partner

Federation partner  
Copernicus S1 and S2  
Long term archive

EU Copernicus DIAS



EU Research and Innovation project completed in 2023





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[Home](#) > [CLMS portfolio](#)

## CLMS portfolio



### Land Cover and Land Use Mapping

Land cover classifications complemented by detailed layers on vegetated and non-vegetated land cover characteristics



### Priority Area Monitoring

Tailored land cover and land use information with a higher level of detail for specific areas of interest prone to environmental changes



### Bio-geophysical Parameters

Qualified bio-geophysical products on the status and evolution of the land surface complemented by the long term time series



### Ground Motion Monitoring

Information on the natural and anthropogenic ground motion throughout Europe with millimeter accuracy



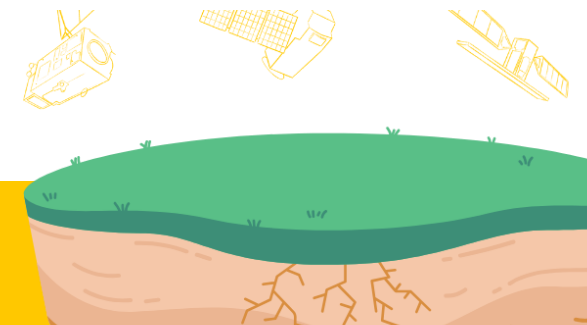
### Satellite Data

Satellite image mosaics from Copernicus and commercial satellite missions monitoring land surface conditions



### Reference and Validation Data

Ground-based observations, geospatial reference data used in CLMS product creation or validation





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Copernicus  
Europe's eyes on Earth

Land  
Monitoring Service

[CLMS portfolio](#)

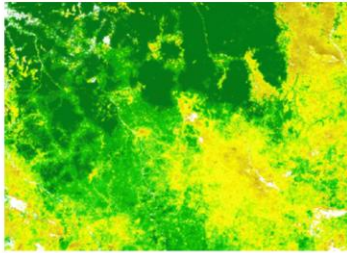
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[Data viewer](#)

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## Vegetation



[View in the data viewer](#)

Main

[Applications & Use cases](#)

[News](#)

[User outreach](#)

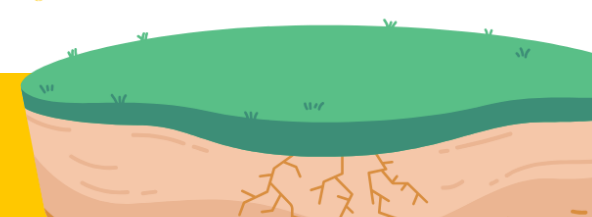
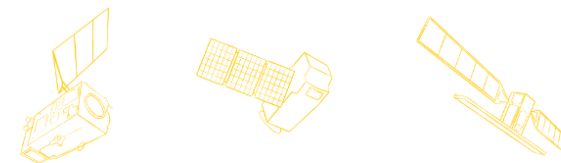
[Roadmap](#)

Whether forest, grassland, shrublands, or agricultural areas, it is safe to say that most of the European continent is covered by vegetation. Plants, just like all other living things, experience cycles of growth and decay which vary both within and in between years. These cycles are affected by environmental conditions such as temperature fluctuations, precipitation levels, wildfires, and human disturbances—factors that are becoming less predictable and more extreme in the modern era of climate change and human urbanization.

The Vegetation product group offers a collection of datasets designed to provide analysis of vegetation status across the globe. It boasts a broad range of datasets—including phenology and productivity parameters (e.g., Start of Growing Season, End of Growing Season, Annual Productivity), seasonal growth trajectories (e.g., Plant Phenology Index), Vegetation Indices (e.g., Leaf Area Index, Fraction of Absorbed Photosynthetically Active Radiation, Normalized Difference Vegetation Index, and Plant Phenology Index), and assessments of the outcome of wildfires (e.g., Burnt Areas)—which support users in applications such as Common Agricultural Policy reporting to urban planning at the regional scale or climate change mitigation at the continental scale. The high-resolution phenology data will also allow for a much more detailed assessment of vegetation responses to disturbances like droughts, storms, wildfires, insect infestations, and human influence.

[Technical summary](#) ▾

[Datasets](#) ▲





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## Datasets

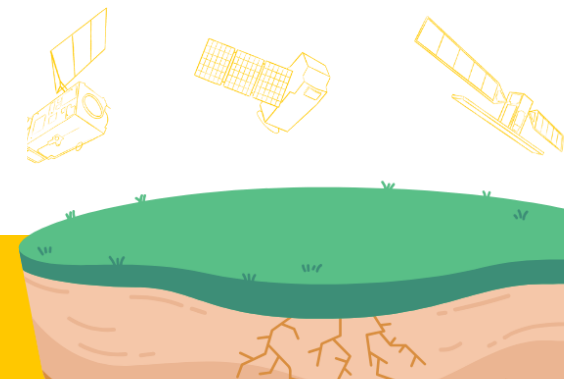
Burnt Area 

Vegetation Cover 

Vegetation Indices 

Vegetation Seasonal Trajectories 

Vegetation Phenology and Productivity Parameters 





# Copernicus monitoring products

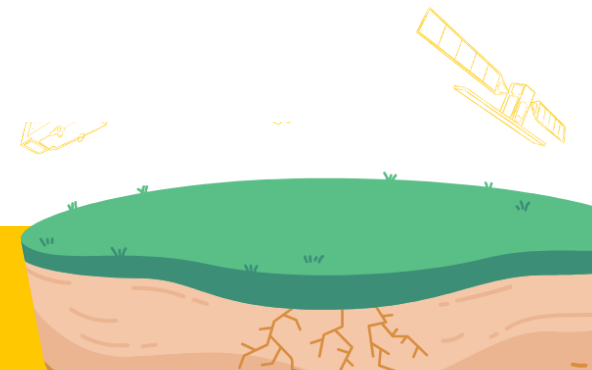
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## Leaf Area Index

AVAIL.	GEOGR. COVERAGE	TEMP. RESOL.	SPATIAL RESOL.	EO DATA SOURCES
2016 - present	Europe	Daily	10 m	Sentinel-2
1999 - 2020	Global	10-daily	1 km	SPOT/VEGET PROBA-V
2014 - present	Global	10-daily	300 m	Sentinel-3/OLCI, PROBA-V





# COALA monitoring products for agriculture

## Services

### COALA Integrated Fertilization Service

- RS-based Crop Monitoring Reports
- Management Zone Map
- Nitrogen Nutrition Index Map
- Crop Yield Forecast and Estimation Maps

### COALA Irrigation Service

- Crop Evapotranspiration maps
- Crop Water Requirement (CWR) maps
- Soil Canopy Water Status Map

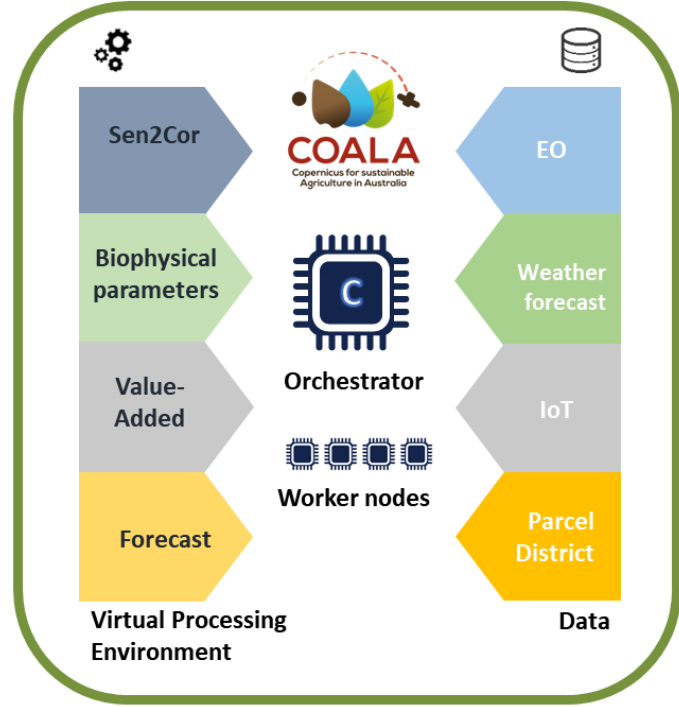
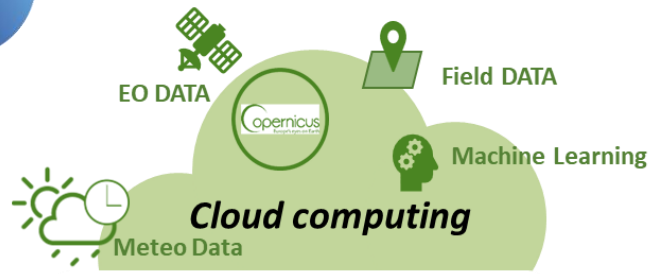
### COALA Integrated Water Management Serv.

- Crop Evapotranspiration maps
- Crop type map
- Irrigated area maps

## Core data products

- Crop Evapotranspiration maps
- Crop Water Requirement (CWR) maps
- Soil and Canopy Water Status (SCWS)
- Irrigated area maps
- Management Zone Map (MZM)
- Nitrogen Nutrition Index map
- Variable Rate Fertilisation map
- Crop yield forecast & estimation maps
- Crop type map
- RS-based Crop Monitoring Report
- Other Products





**COALA SERVICES on DIAS**

GeoJSON RESTful API



GeoJSON response

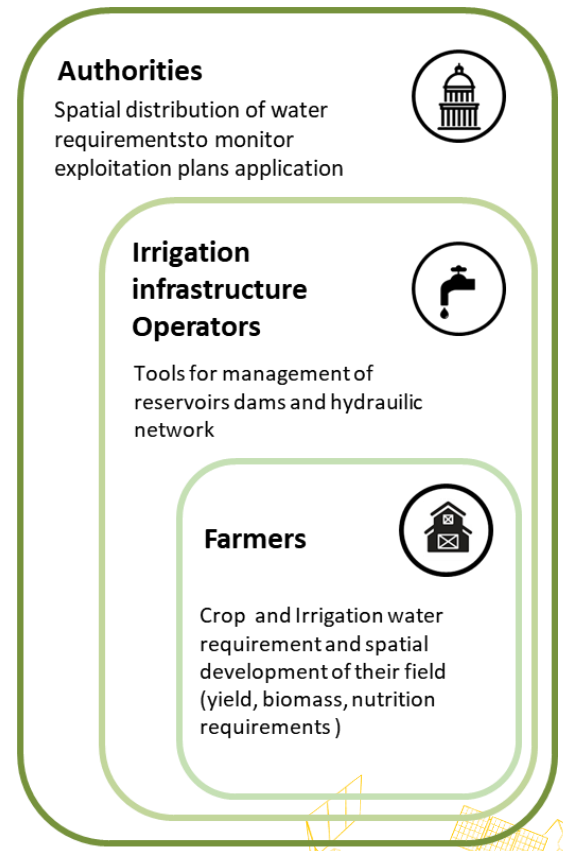


**Intermediaries**

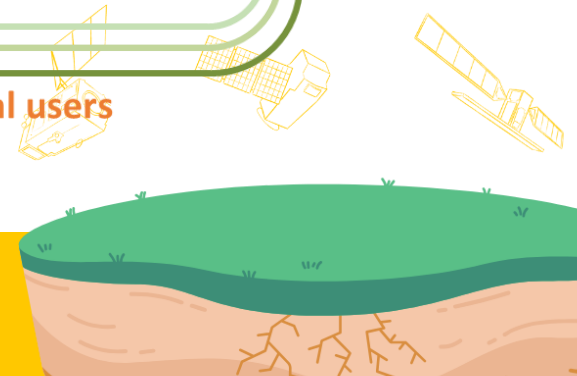
Parcel & field data



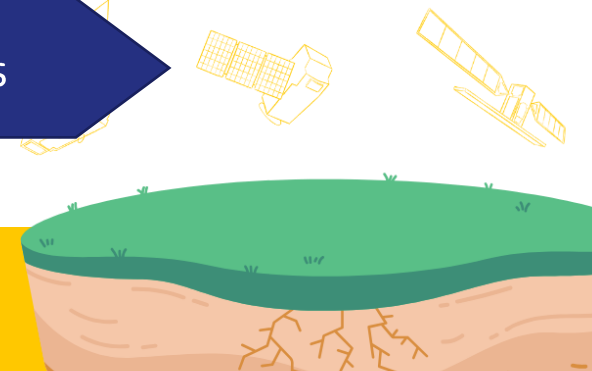
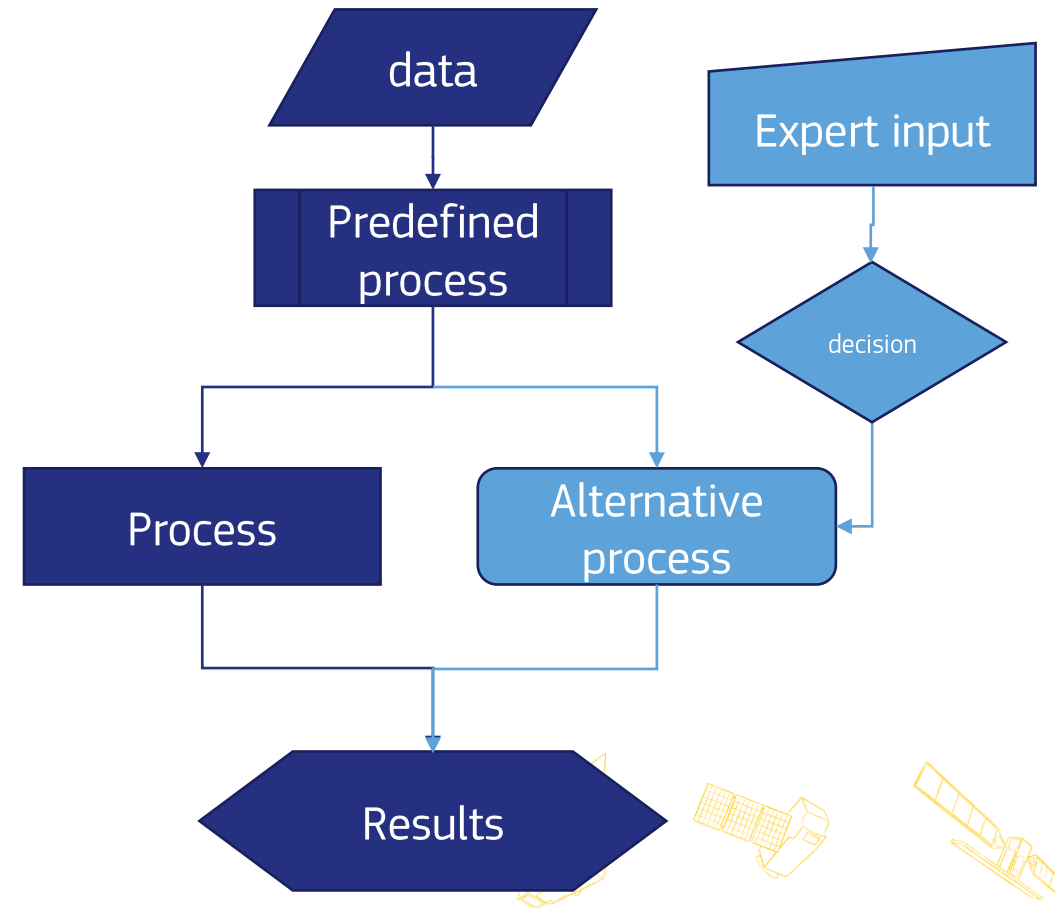
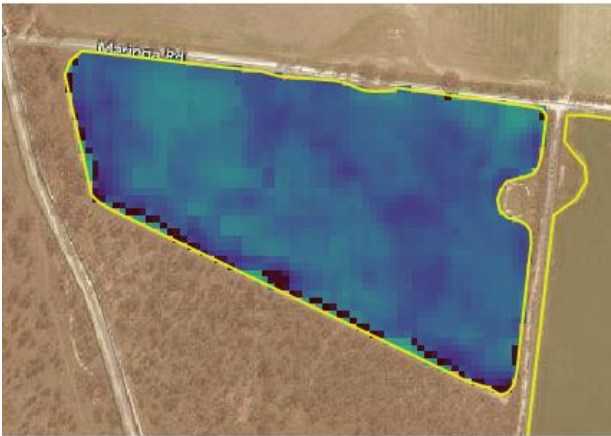
User-readable information



**Final users**



# Example of the Management Zone Map

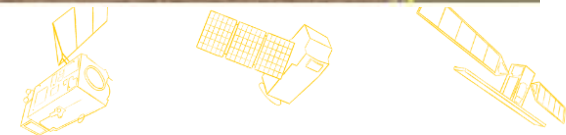
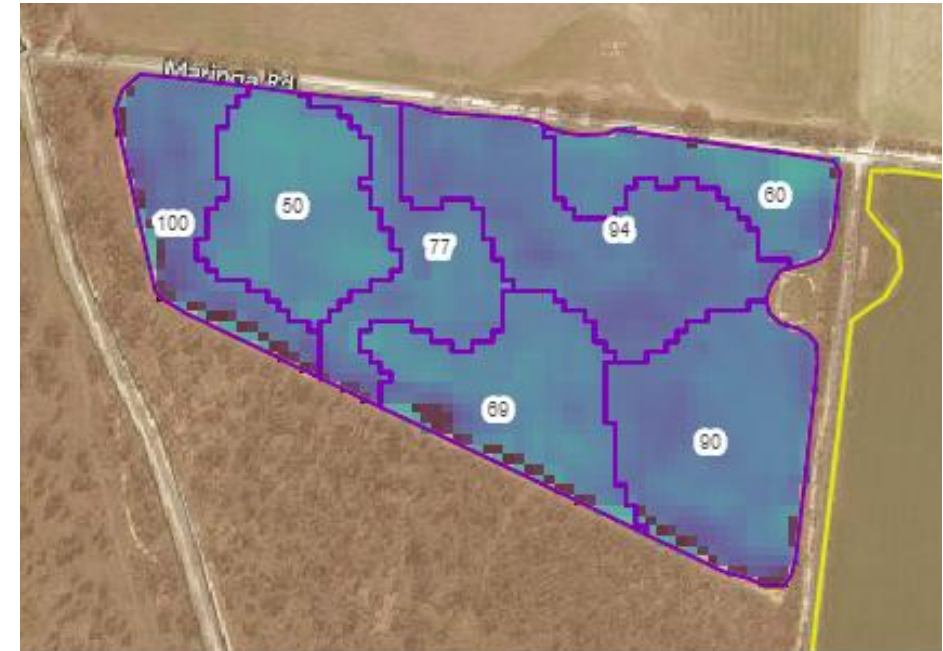


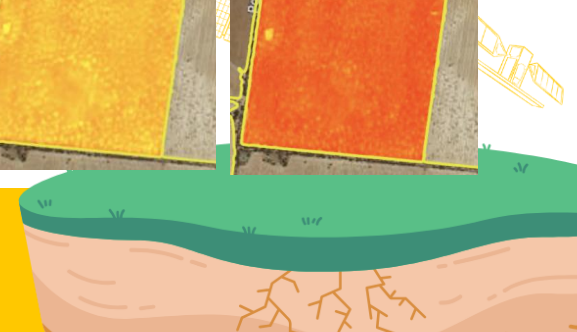
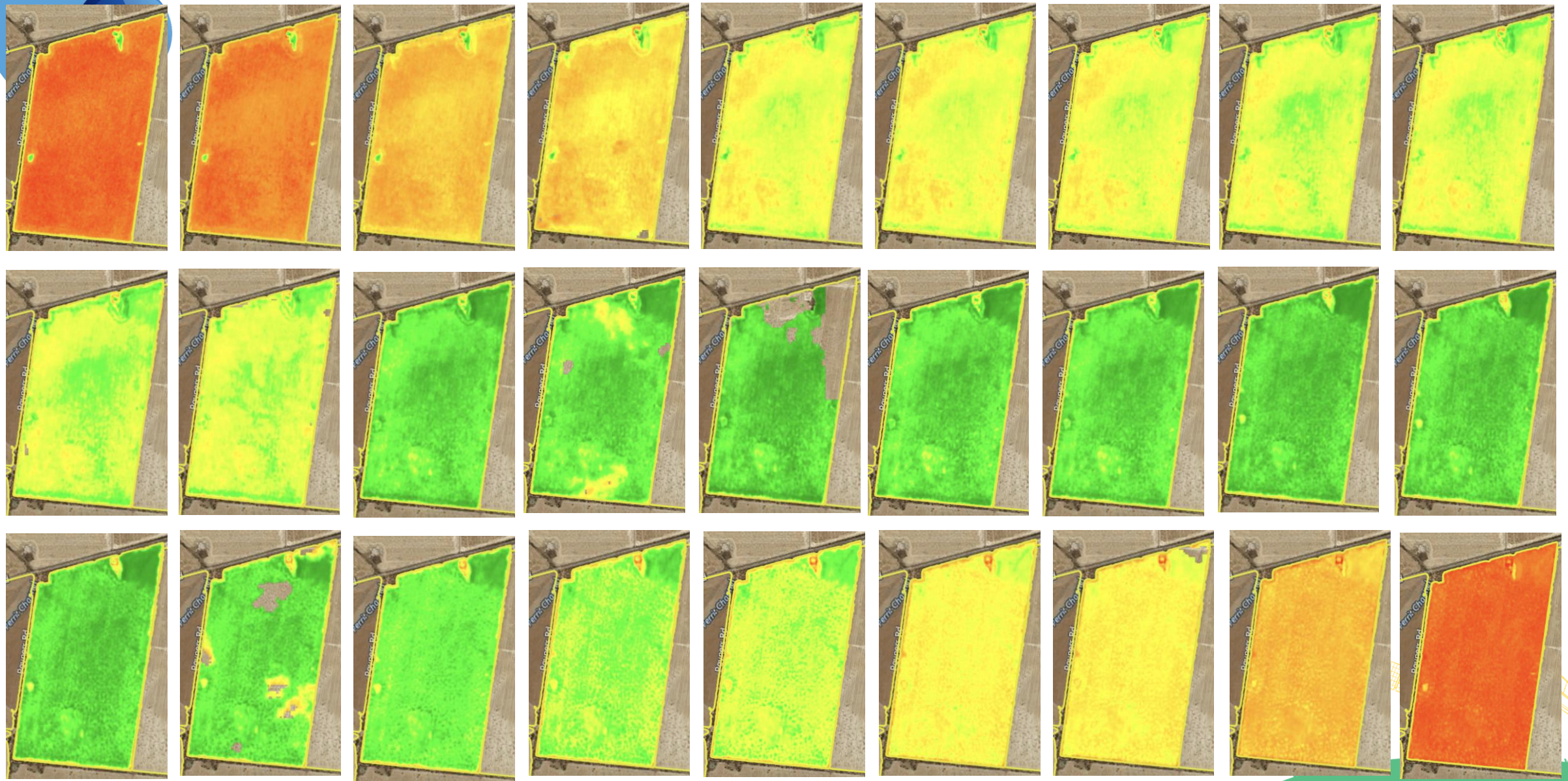


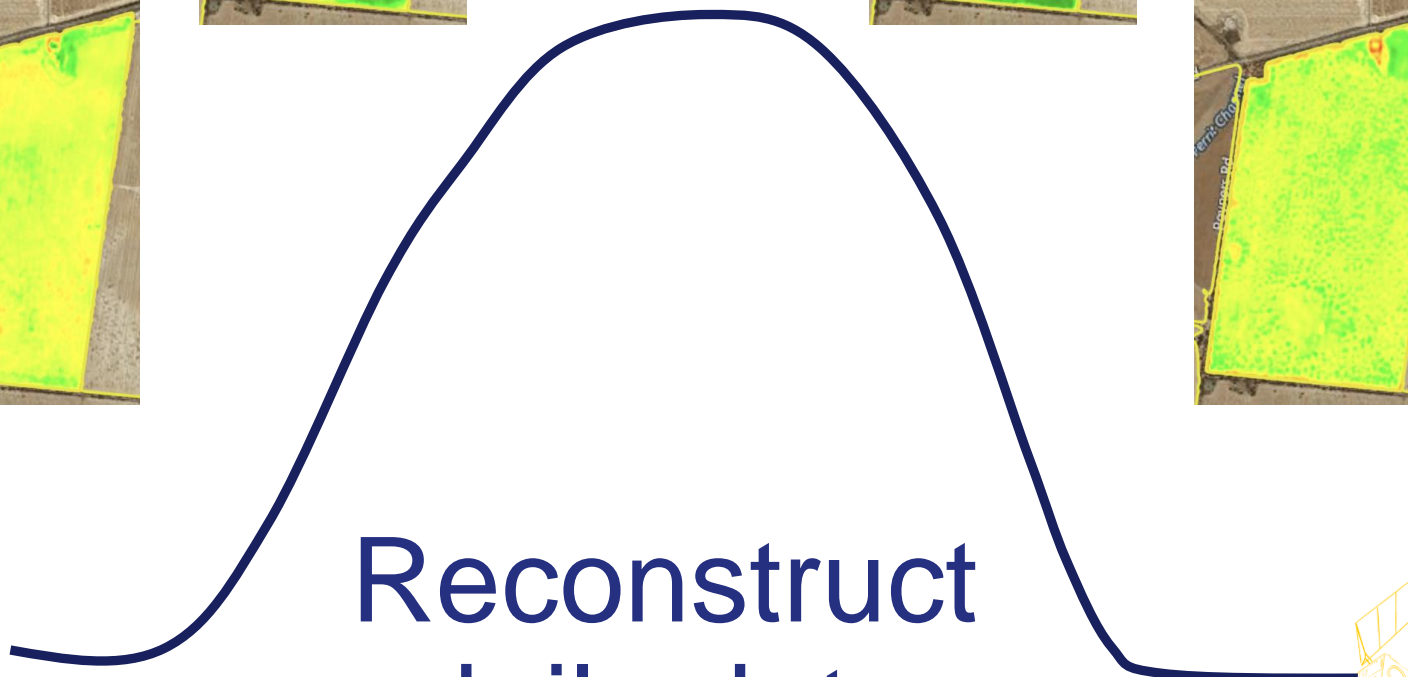
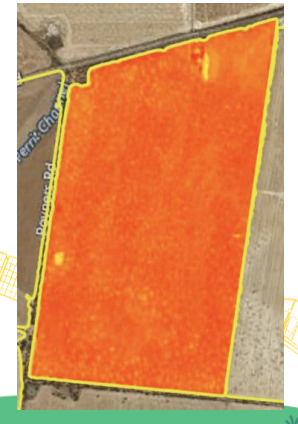
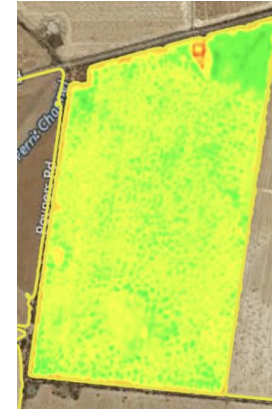
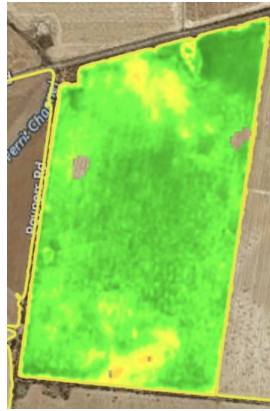
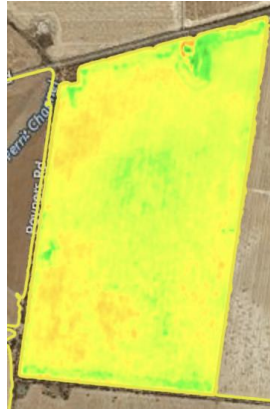
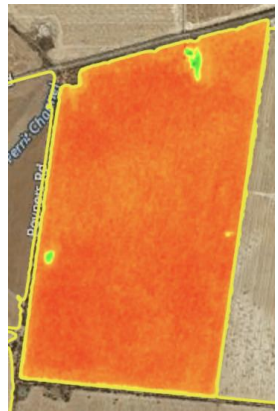
# Example of the Management Zone Map

A map that shows the plant growth variability (within-field)

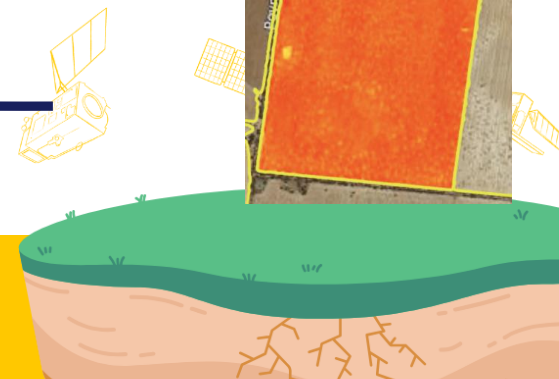
Good for spatial managing of seeding, fertilization and harvesting



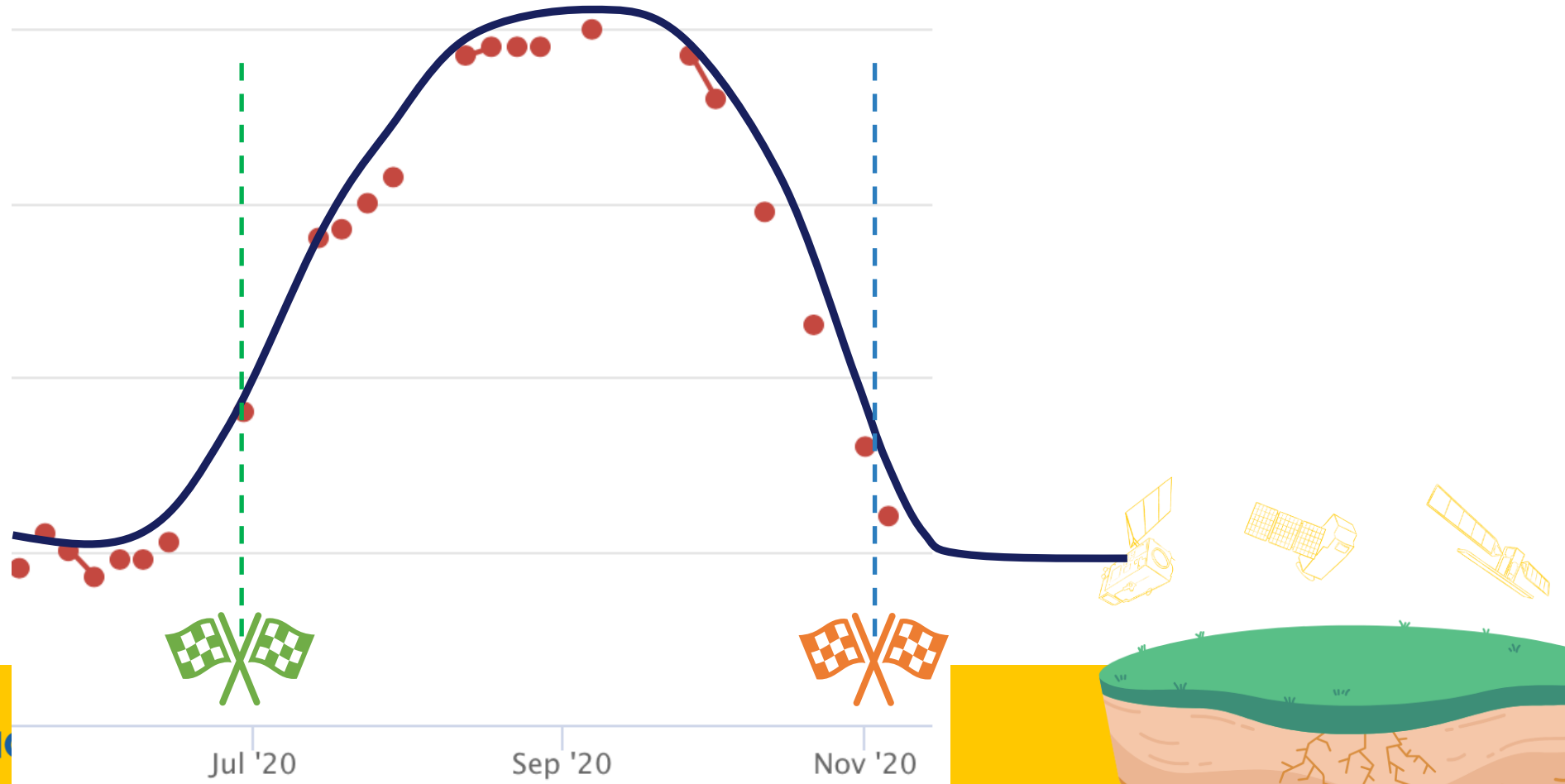




Reconstruct  
daily data

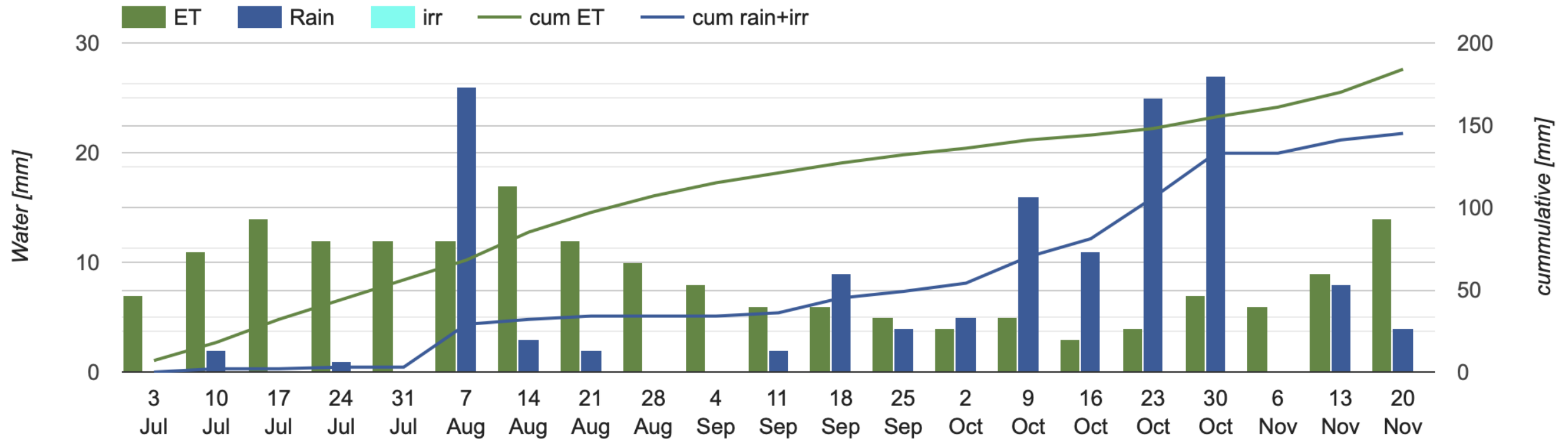


# Derive phenological stages

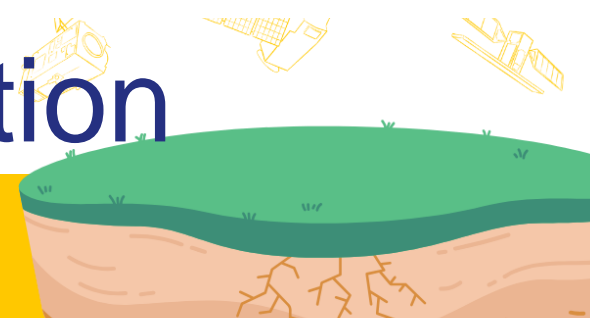


# Calculate ET

## WATER BALANCE SINCE PLANTING

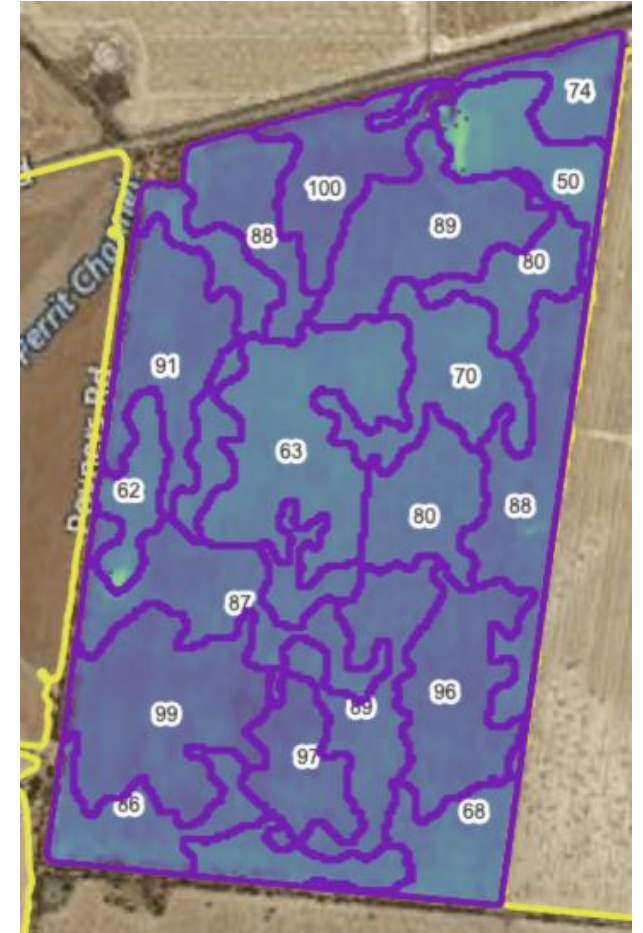


# Total transpiration





Apply segmentation algorithm



Vector data





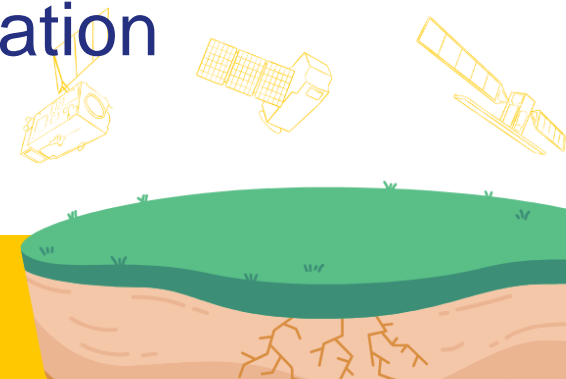
# Processes involved

**Regular  
processing**

- Atmospheric correction
- Biophysical indicator retrieval
- Cloud masking

**On-the-fly  
Triggered by a  
request**

- L2A and indicators gathering
- Time series data smoothing (daily resolution, per pixel)
- Land surface phenology (start of season, end of season)
- Daily crop transpiration and accumulation
- Image segmentation



# Crop evapotranspiration

<https://api.coalaproject.eu/api/indicator/et/rasterData>

geometry={ "type": "Point", "coordinates": [16.333500,48.236470] }

srcSrid=4326

&buffer=2000

&date=now

&period=10

&format=image/png

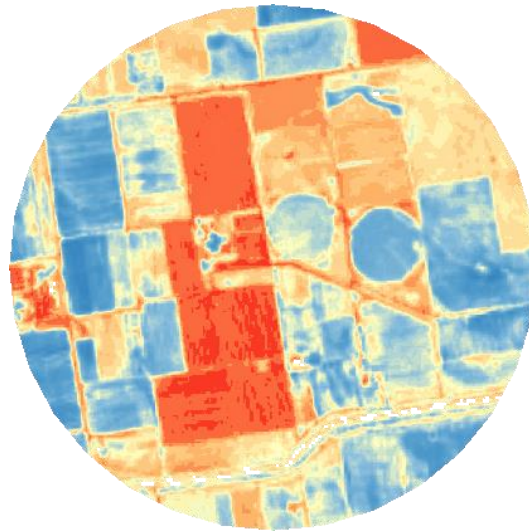
colorMap=1

windMeasureHeight=2

cropHeight=0.5

leafResistance=100

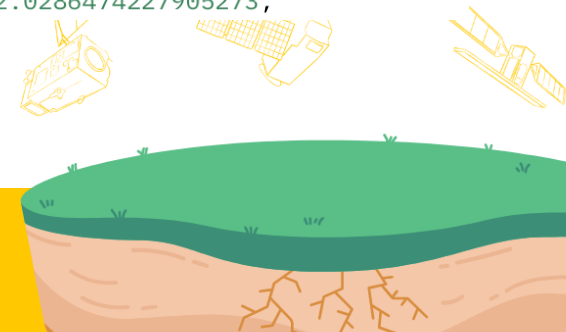
&token=\*\*\*



```

    "date": "2023-07-13",
    "raster": null,
    "count": 1,
    "sum": 0.8612145781517029,
    "mean": 0.8612145781517029,
    "stddev": 0,
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    "max": 0.8612145781517029,
    "cover": 1
  },
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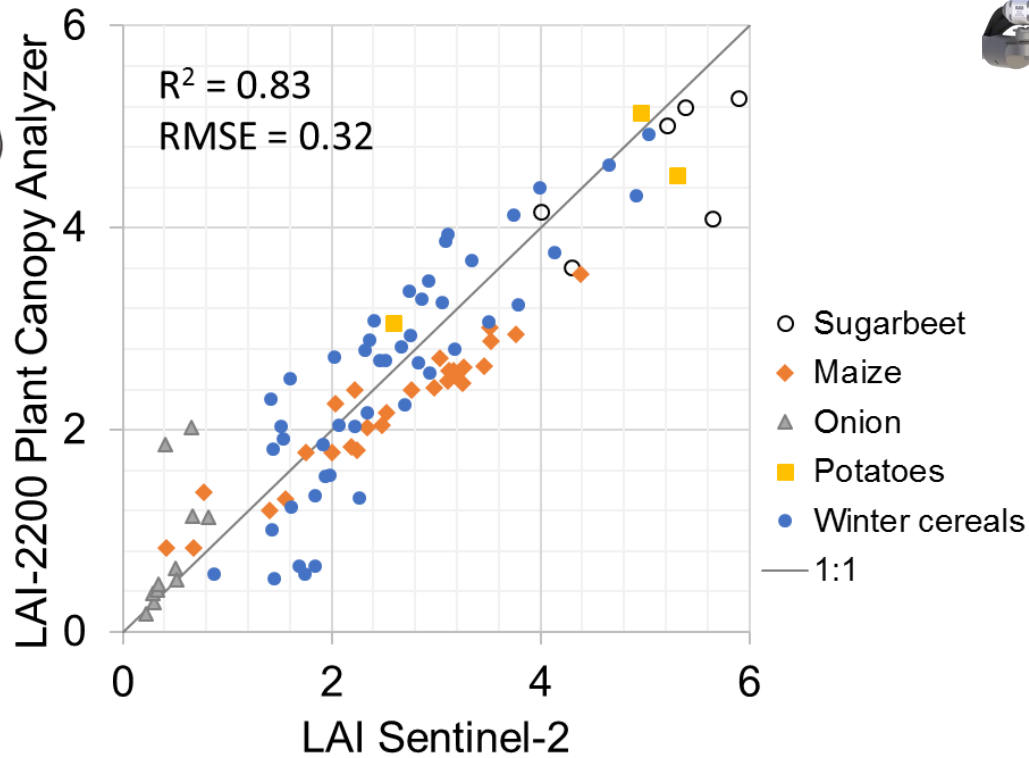
```



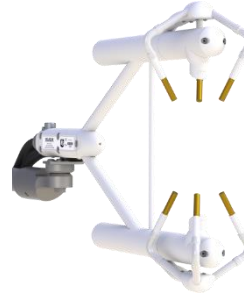


# Examples of Validation

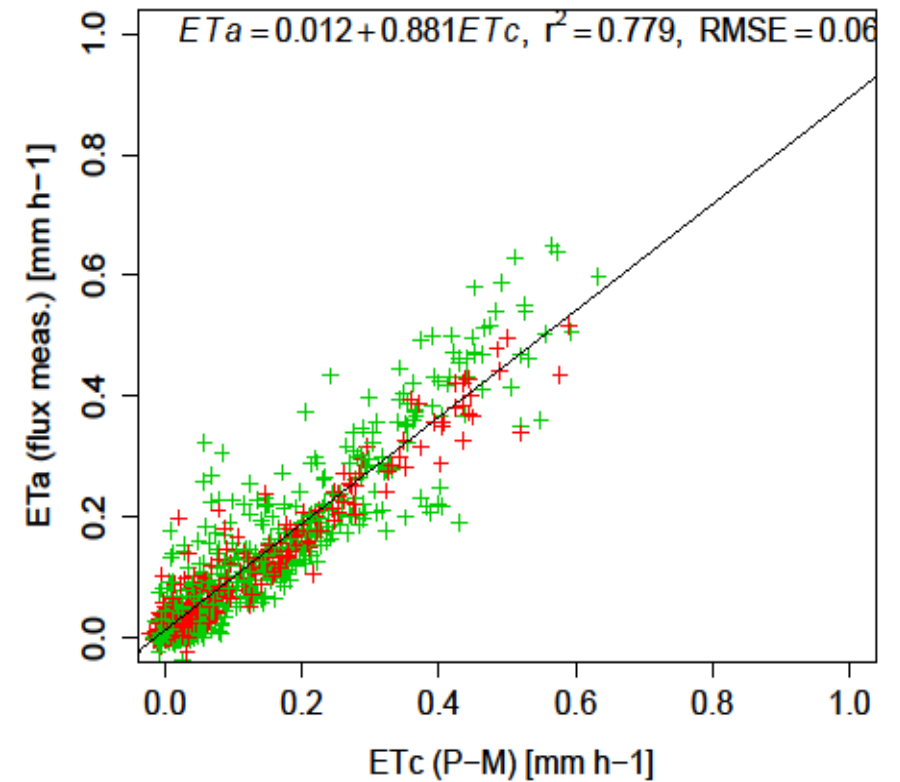
## Leaf Area Index



sentinel-2



## Evapotranspiration



sentinel-2

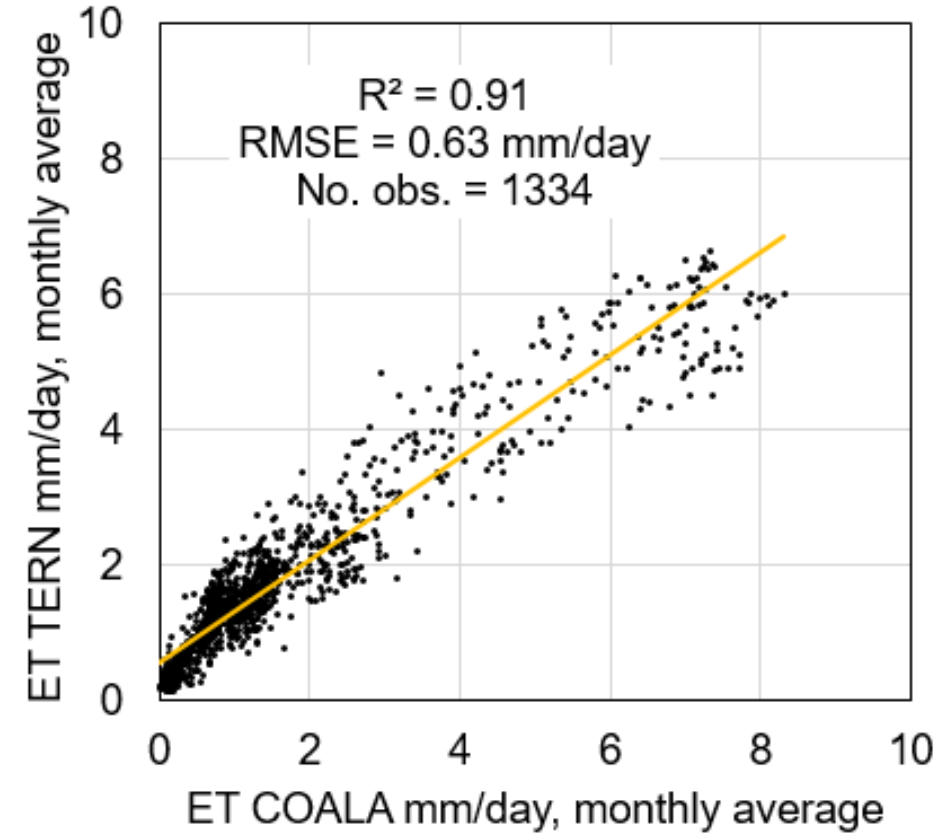


# COALA vs TERN product

- Actual evapotranspiration data for the entire Australian continent from TERN

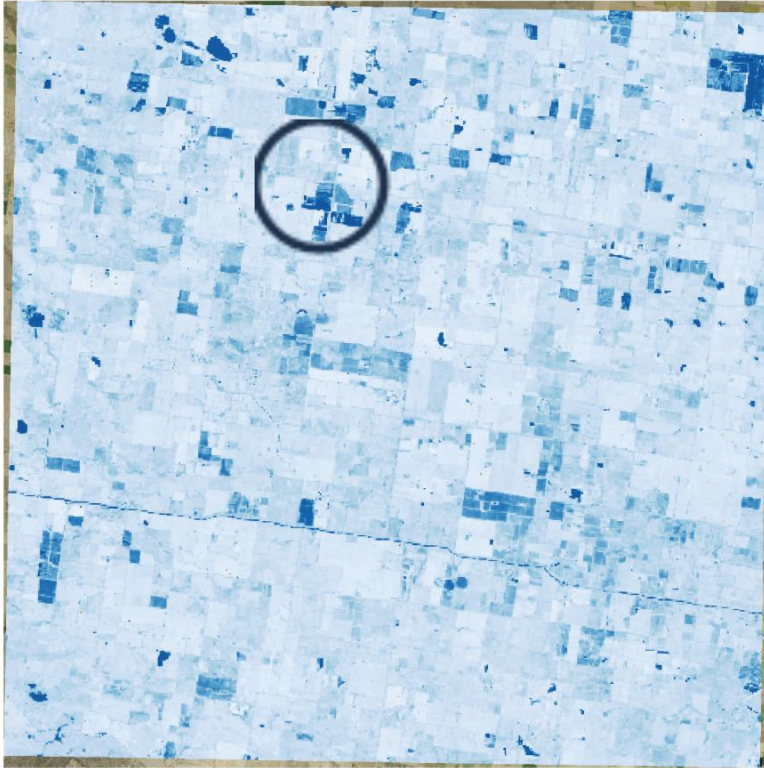
<https://www.tern.org.au/news-australia-wide-aet-data/>

Scatterplot of randomly selected points.  
Monthly averages from  
Oct. 2022 to Aug 2023





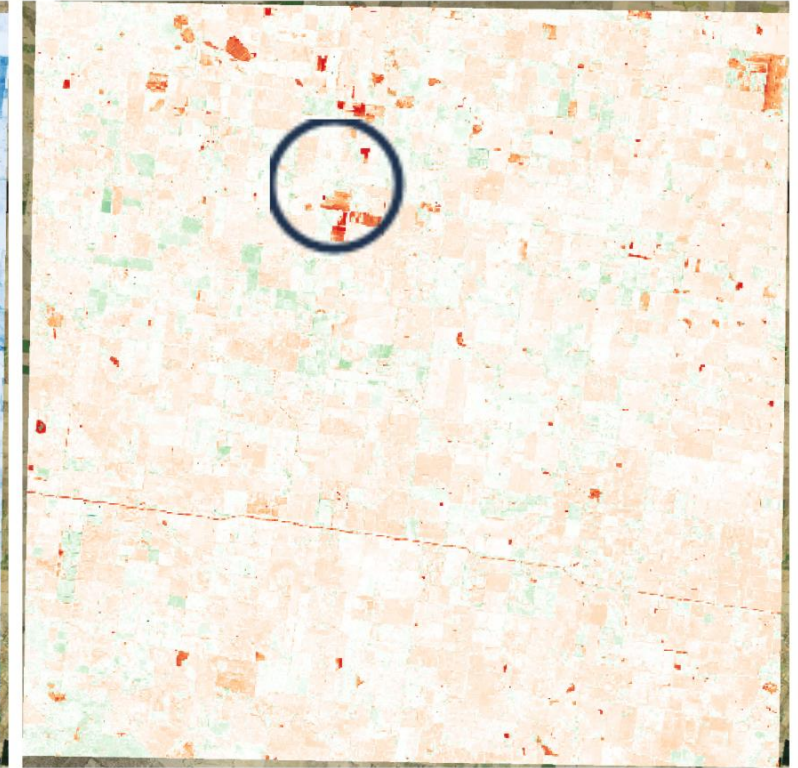
# COALA vs TERN product



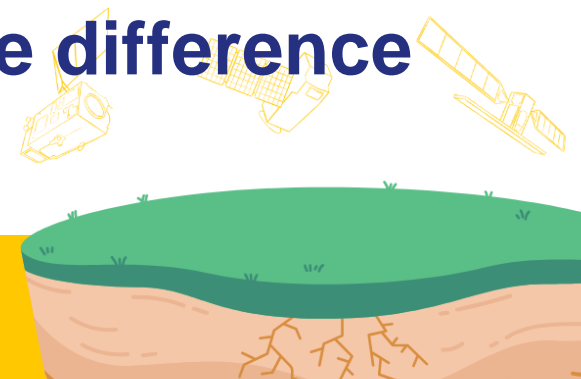
**TERN**  
**Monthly ET Dec 2022**



**COALA**

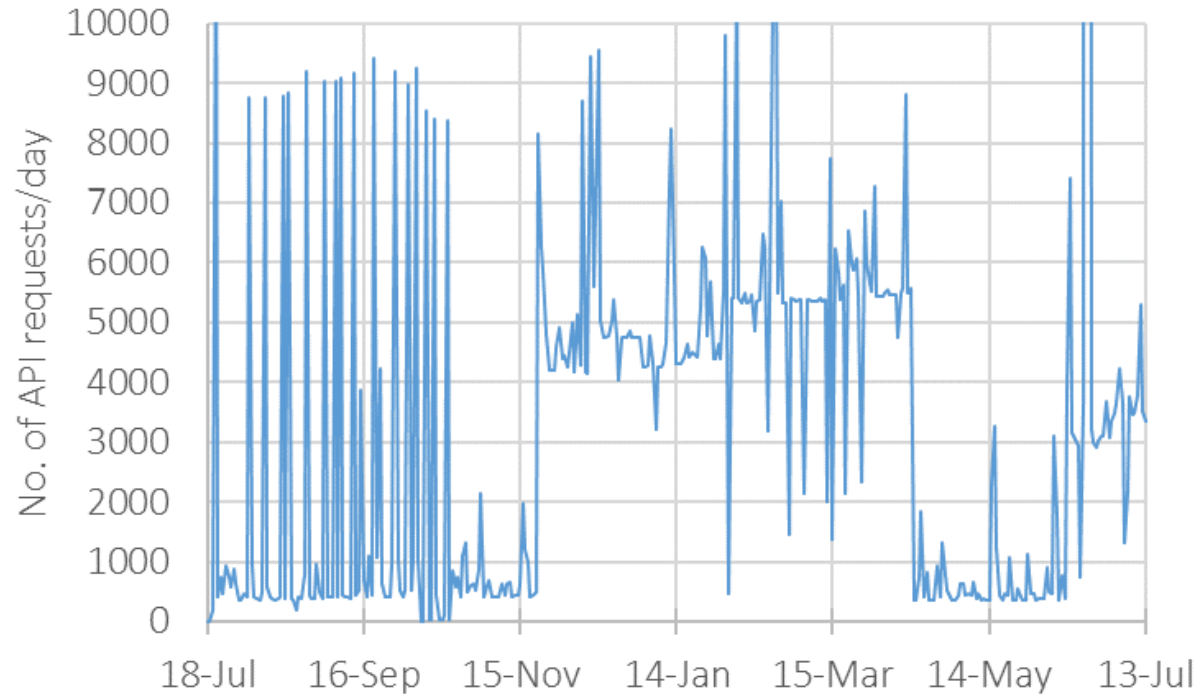


**image difference**





# Current deployment

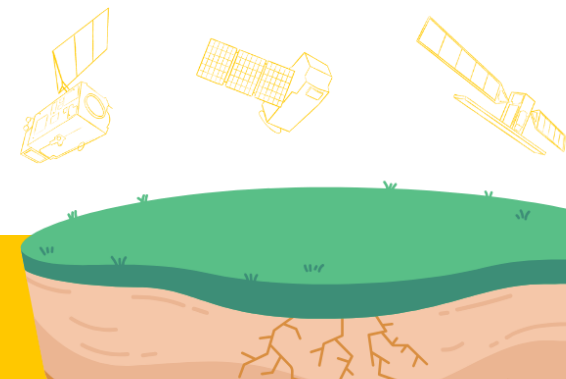


No. of API requests/day.

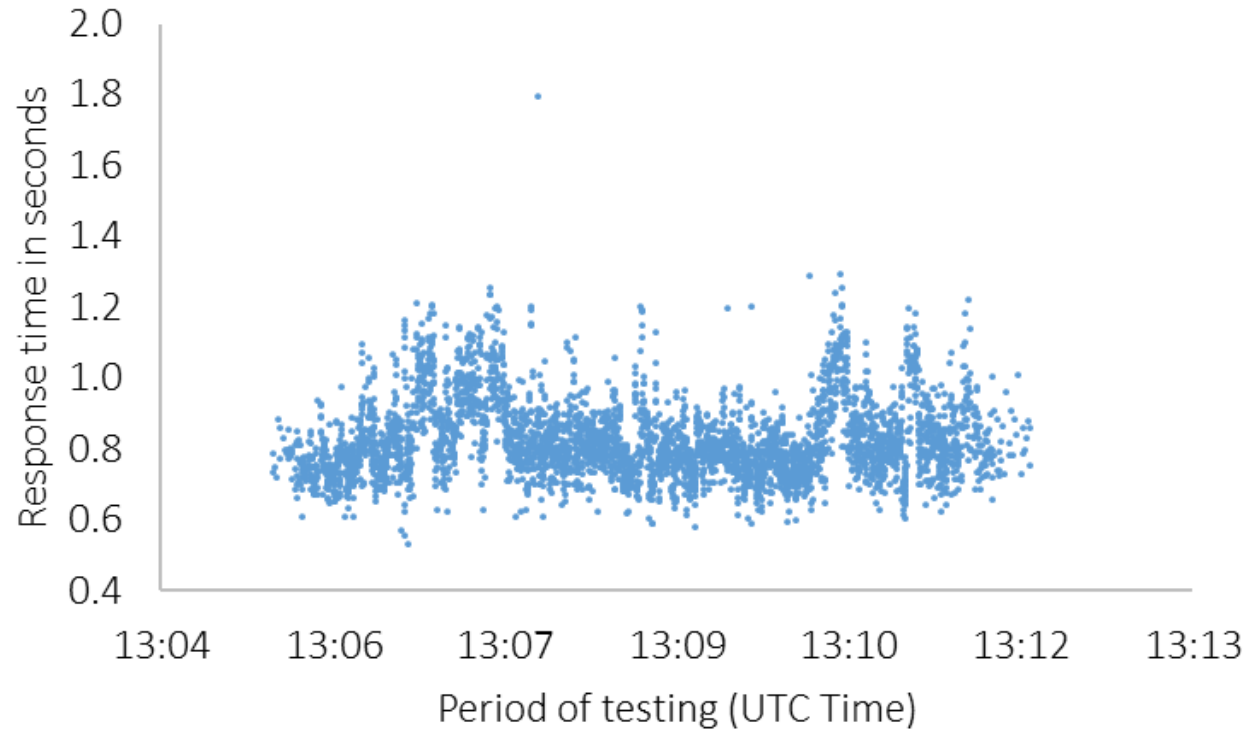
During irrigation time in Australia, COALA received about 5000 requests/day

Activation of various indicators for 114 unique Sentinel-2 granules for a total coverage of about 1 million square kilometres across multiple years, geographic regions, and products (disk space used is 14TB).

The system handles around 5000 API requests per day on average with peaks of about 14000 requests/day.



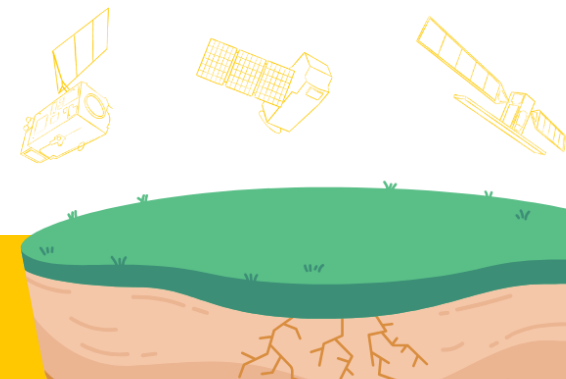
# Response time



400 repetitions of 10 concurrent queries at unique random locations across the Sentinel-2 granules located in Europe and Australia.

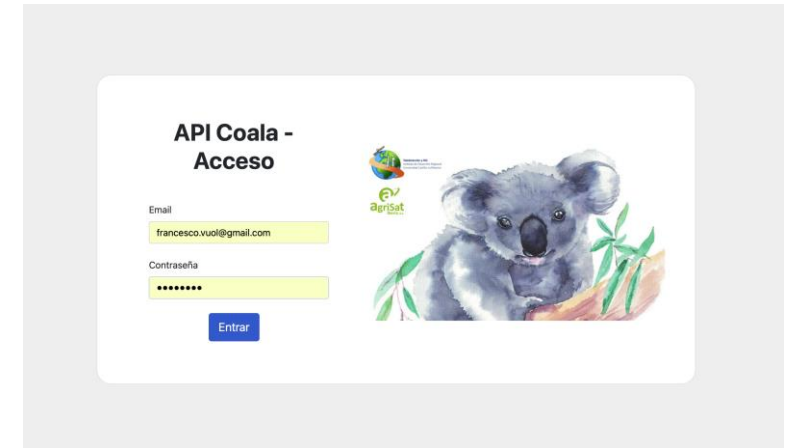
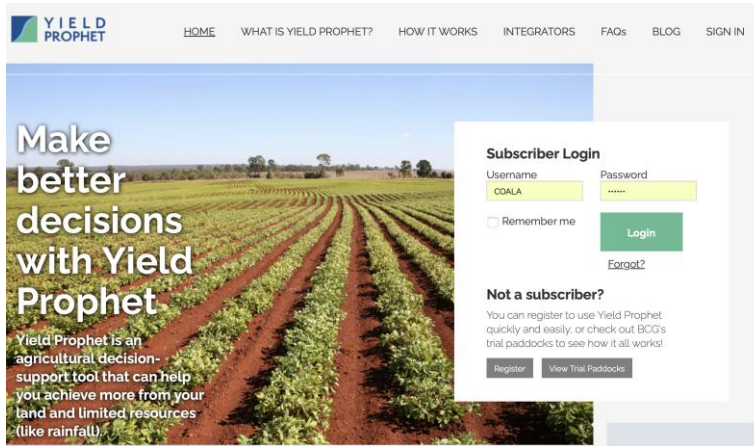
The response time to obtain daily time series (length of 50 days) of ET ranged between 0.6 to 1.2 seconds, with an average time of 0.8 seconds.

Test of COALA API response time.

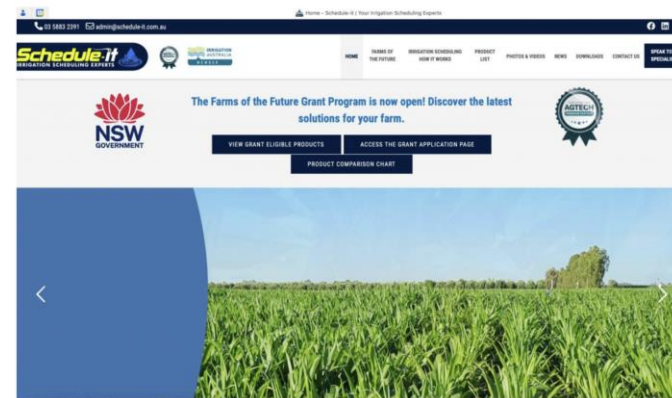




# Demonstrated integration of products



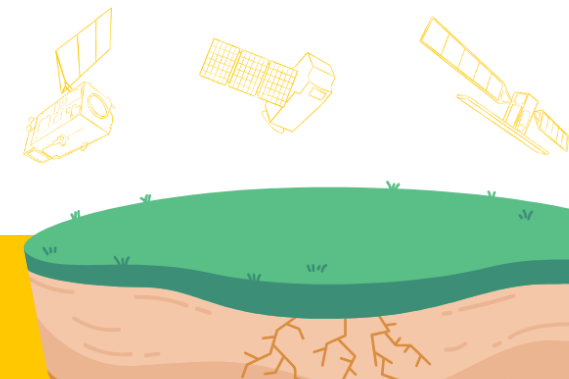
The implementation on the schedule it platform is ongoing and results will be presented at the final meeting and in the final report.



COALA indicators for a specific geometry.

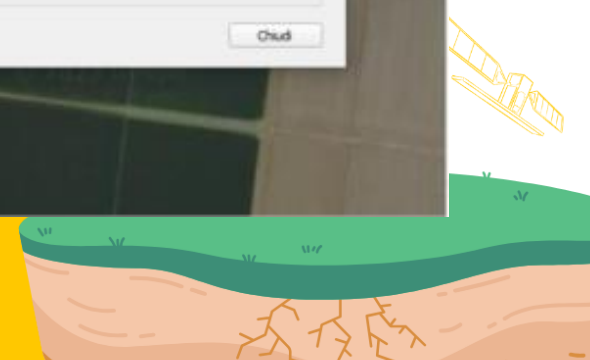
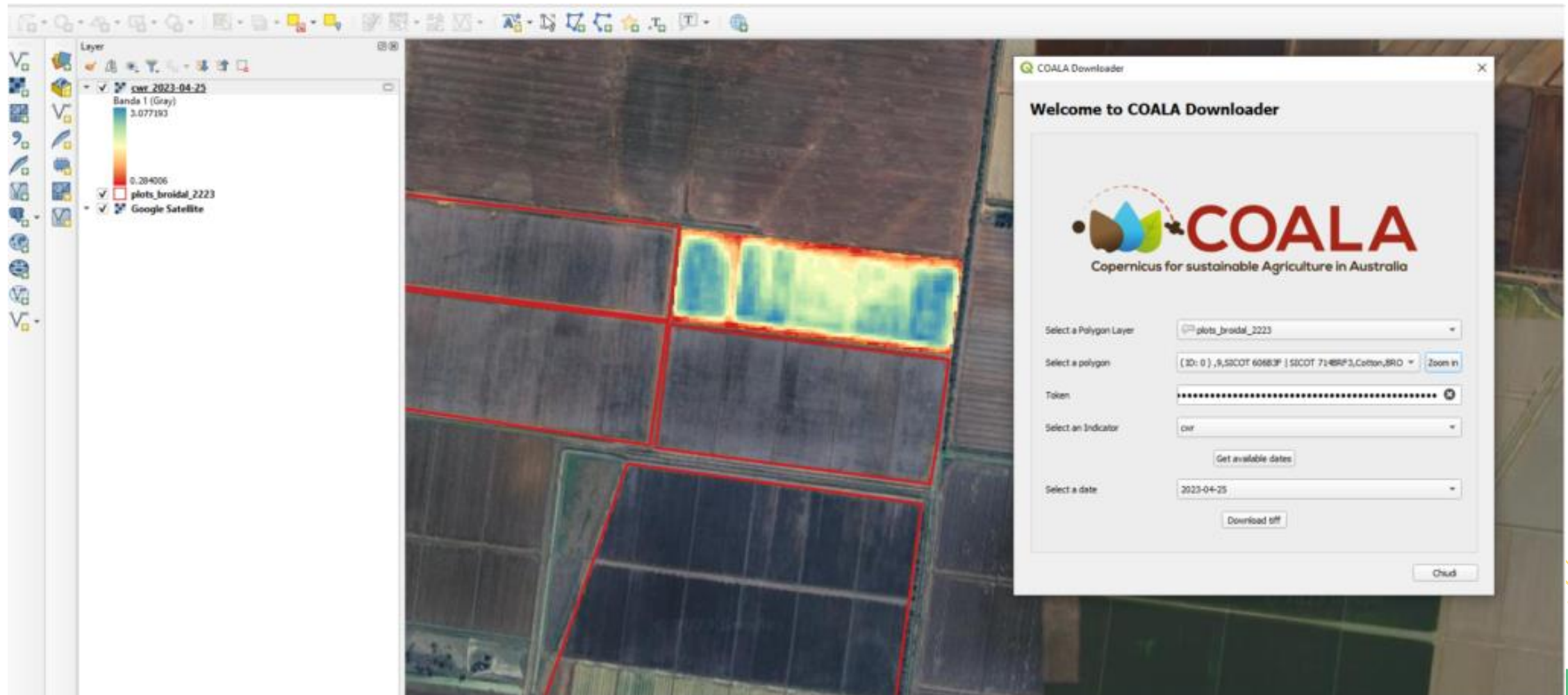


Figure 1.16- Screen capture of the COALA QGIS Plug-in for downloading COALA indicators.





# QGIS Plug in





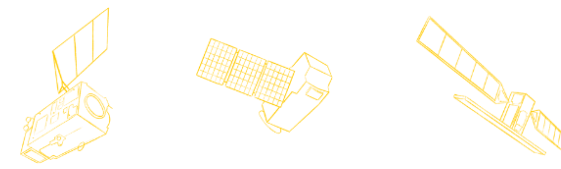
# Unique offer

Fast delivery of value-added products while maintaining high quality and accuracy in the derived information.

**VALUE**  
enhanced efficiency, accuracy, scalability, customization, and cost savings



COALA has received funding from Horizon 2020 European Program - H2020-SPACE-2018-2020/DT-SPACE-06-EO-2019/ Type of action: RIA - under the Grant Agreement No 870518

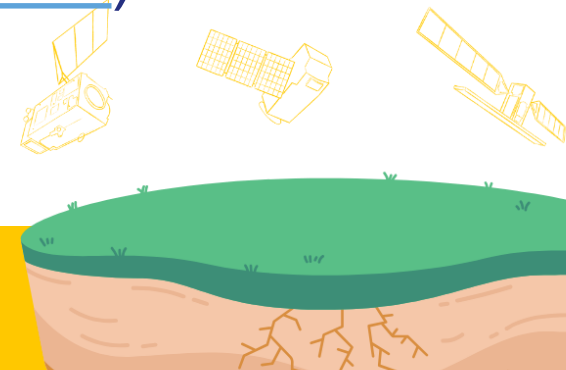




# Roadmap

The COALA enabling platform is operational and available in Australia and Europe on a project-by-project basis under a defined service level agreement for commercial and research exploitation.

Links to documentation, examples of use and a token for testing (on pre-defined geographical areas) are provided at the Horizon EU COALA project website ([www.coalaproject.eu](http://www.coalaproject.eu))





Thank you for your attention!

