

# Big Data and Digital Augmentation for Sustainable Agri-Food Systems

Spatial innovations for ecologically sustainable and  
economically viable solutions

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**GEOAGRO**  
[geoagro.icarda.org](http://geoagro.icarda.org)



UNITED NATIONS  
Office for Outer Space Affairs



May 5-10, 2019 Cluj-Napoca, Romania

[icarda.org](http://icarda.org)

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas



GEOAGRO



GBDX  
Leaflet



amazon  
web services



Google Earth Engine



esri



CGIAR

Platform for  
Big Data  
in Agriculture



CGIAR

CGIAR CSI  
Consortium for Spatial Information

[cgiar.org](http://cgiar.org)

A CGIAR Research Center





# Food, Fiber, Packing > Problems

"the way people eat today is often unhealthy for them and for the planet"

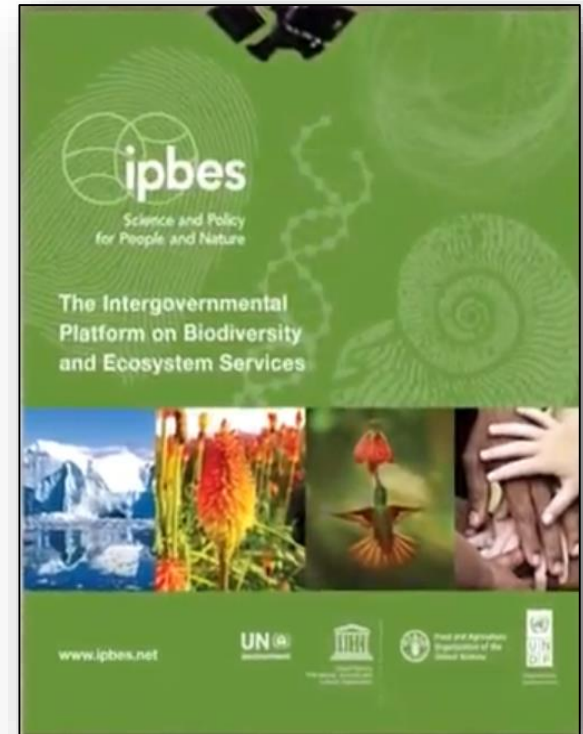
- Kate Brauman

The unhealthy food is single largest source of problems in today's world.

"We can become healthier as individuals by eating more **diverse diets**, with **more vegetables**, and we can also make the planet healthier by **growing food that in more sustainable**

- UN Report 2019 Released May 6, 2019

[icarda.org](http://icarda.org)

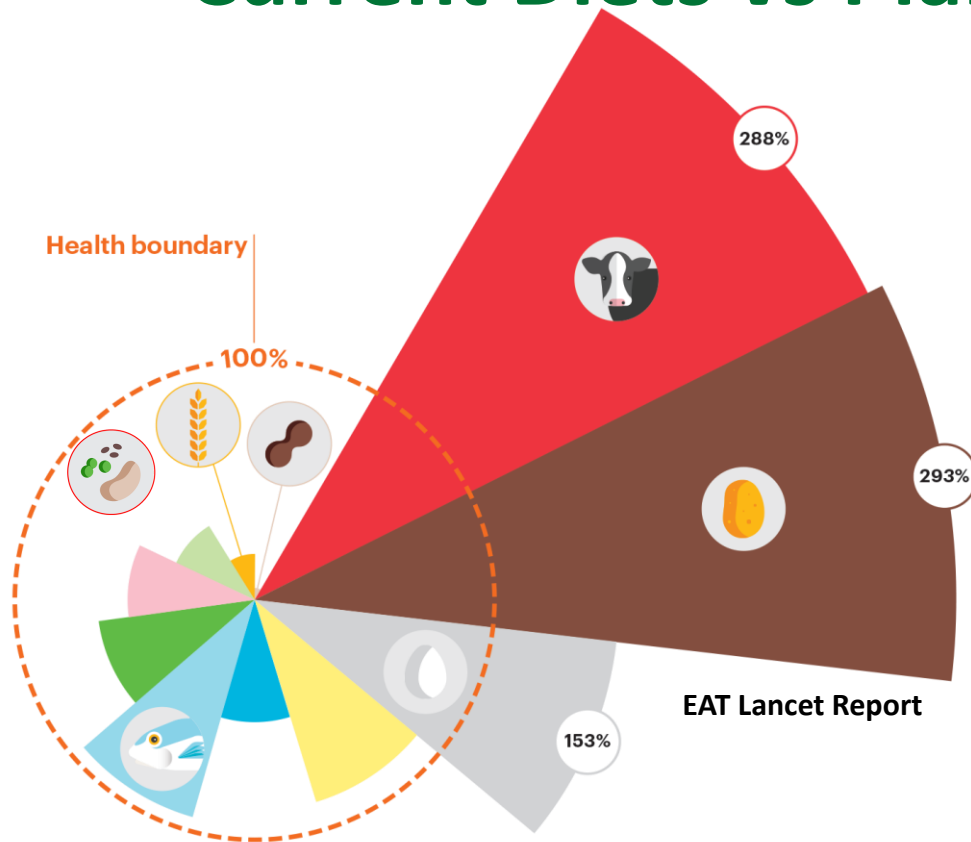


We must **restore nature** and **drive innovation**. Only then will we leave future generations a **healthy and sustainable planet**. - Jonathan Baillie, National Geographic Society.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-48169783>



# Current Diets vs Planetary Health

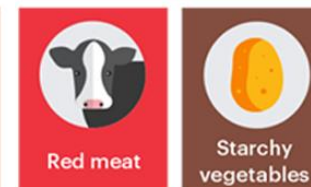


Moving from narrow sense economic benefit to a new ecologically sound functional system for well being...

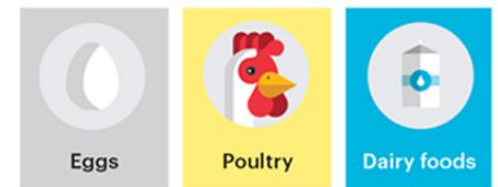
## Emphasized foods



## Limited intake

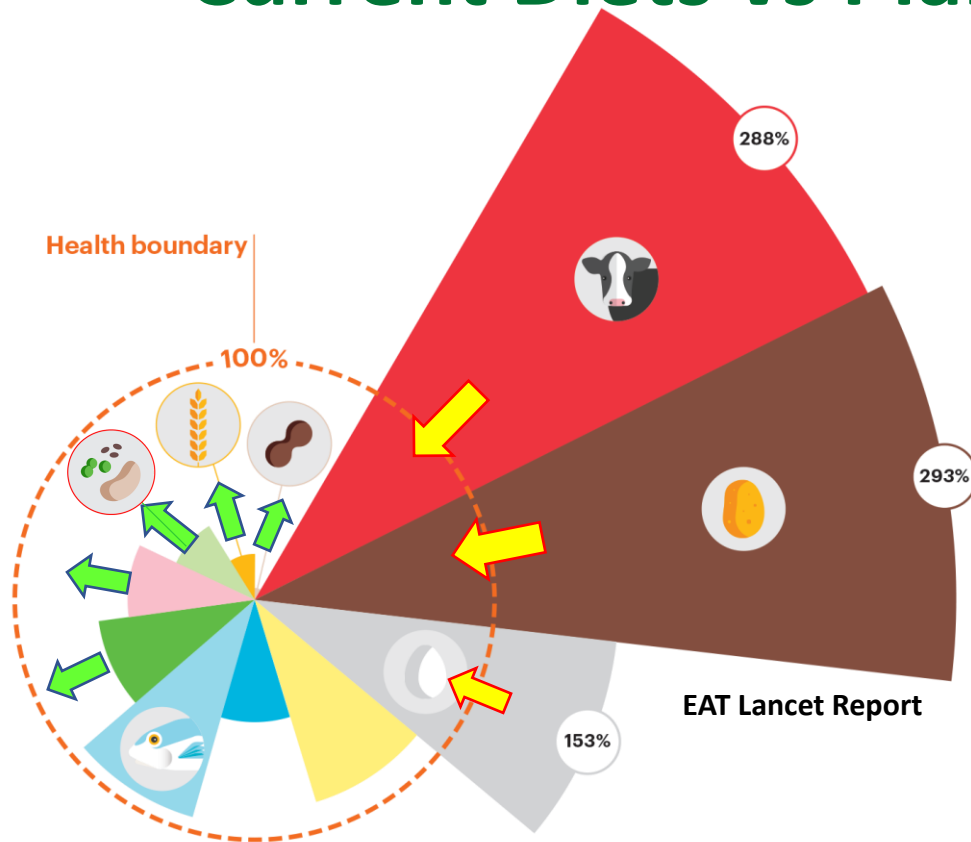


## Optional foods





# Current Diets vs Planetary Health

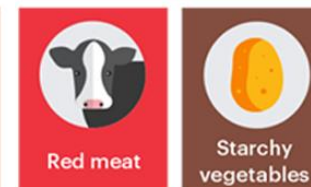


...with diversified cropping systems, conservation, rotation, nutrition focus >> **“more health per acre”**

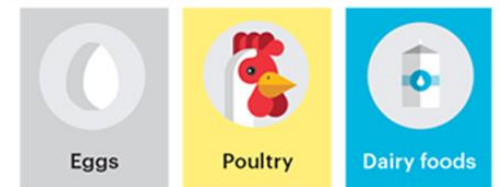
Emphasized foods



Limited intake



Optional foods





# Changing diet pattern >> cropping systems >> Sustainable living

Sustainable alternatives for future food systems

## Pulses for the people and planet



Daal/Falafal

Chicken

Mutton

Beef

**Water used** 1,250 liters 4,325 5,520 13,000

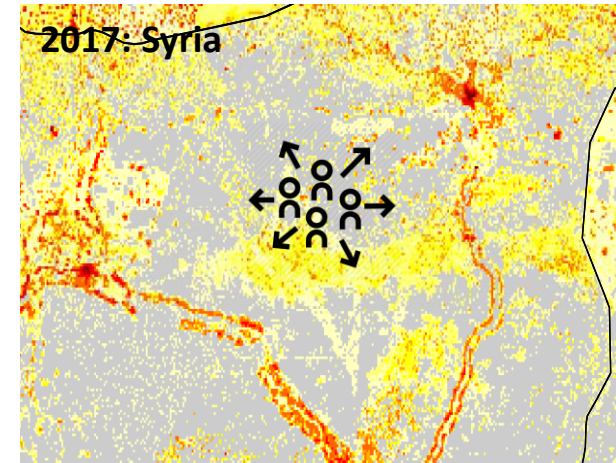
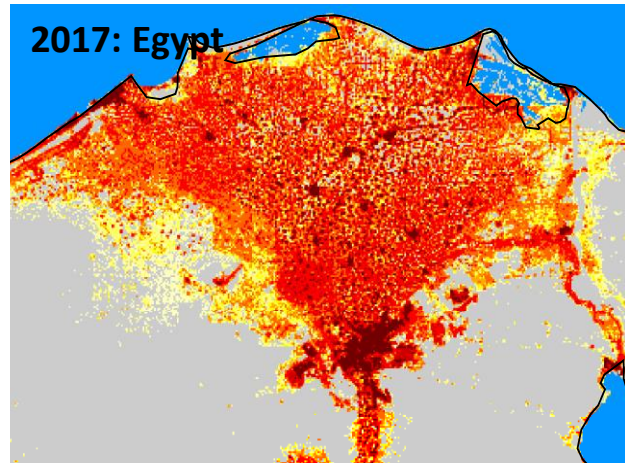
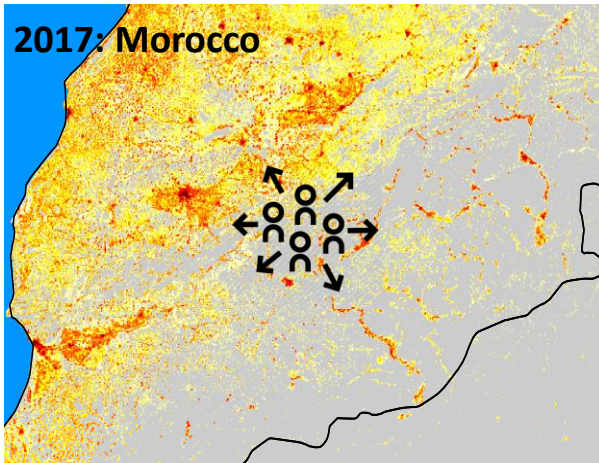
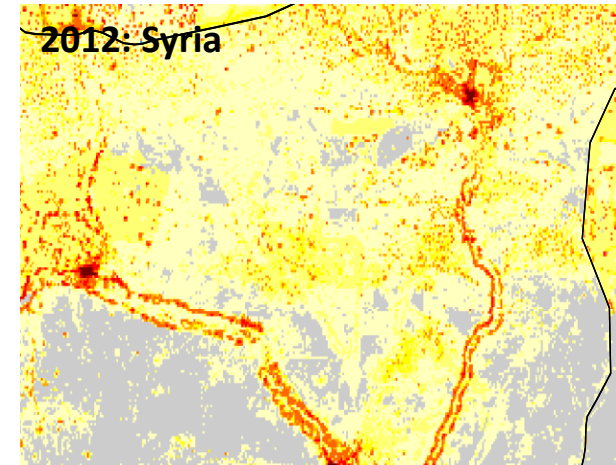
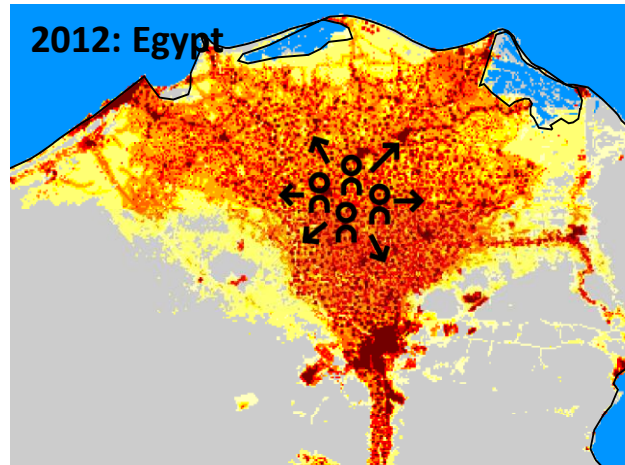
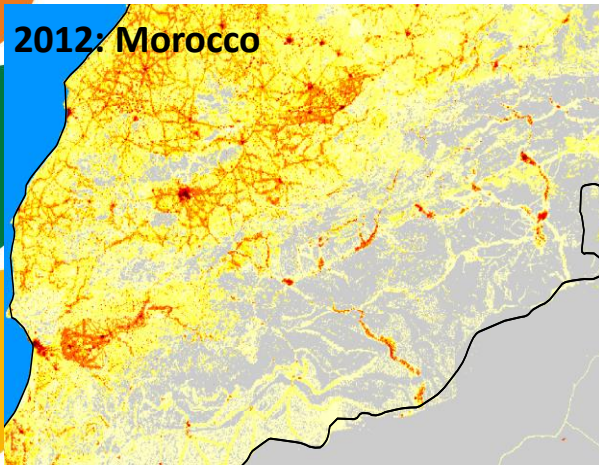
There is a need for paradigm  
shift from **more calories per  
acre to more health per acre.**





# Changing diets, demography and agri-food systems

>> need better understanding the nexus between food, water, energy, economy and health

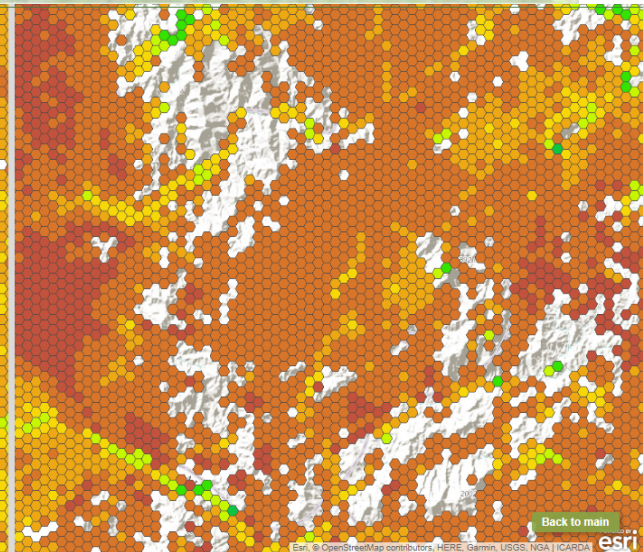
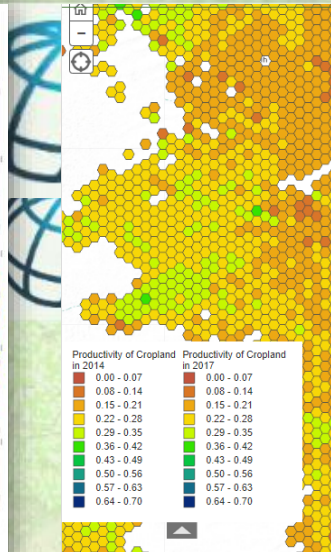
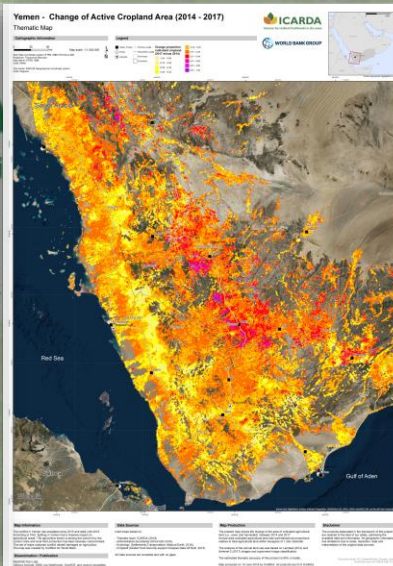
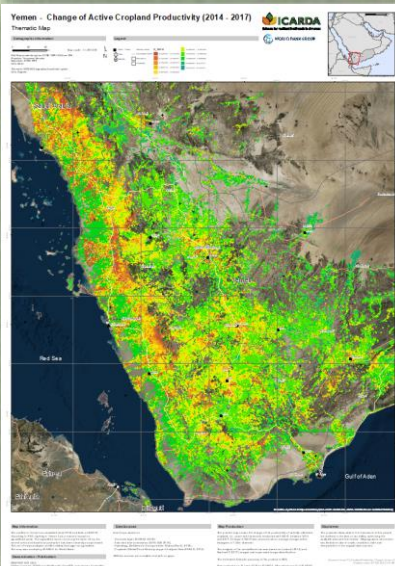
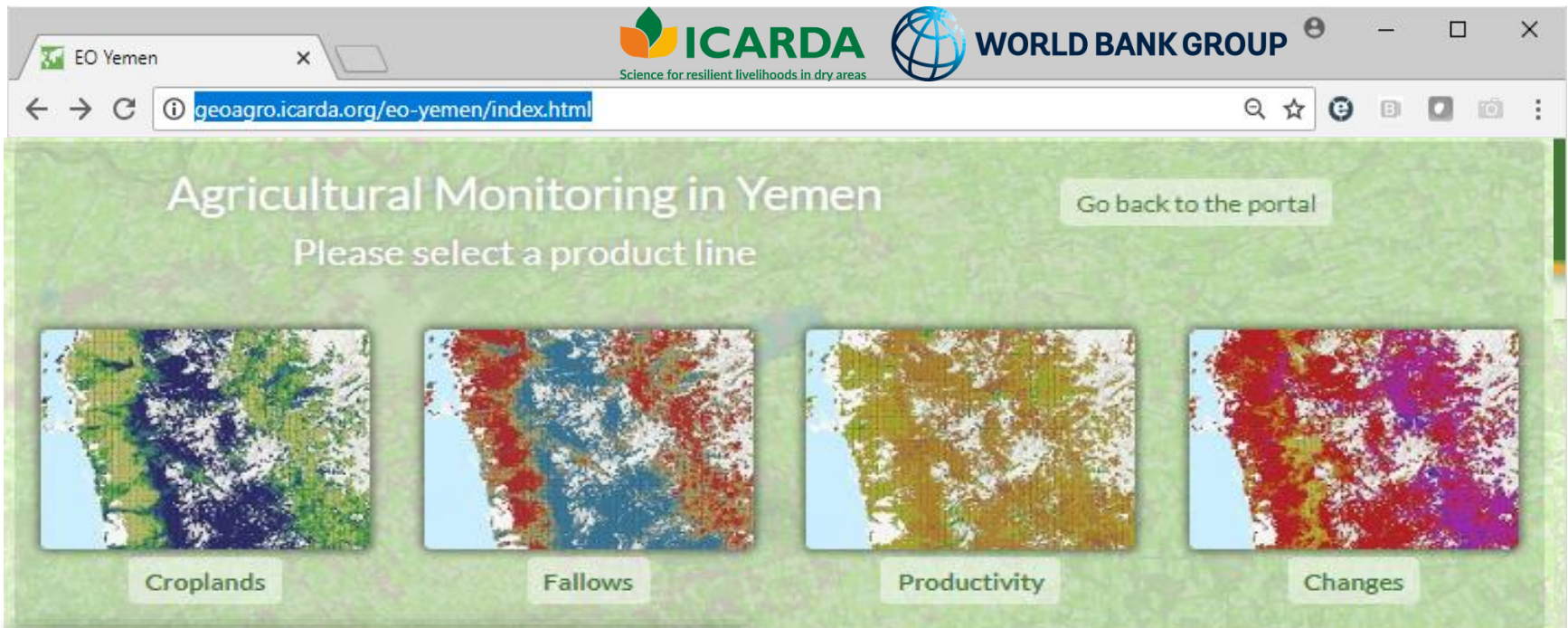


Key factors: the way we eat, we grow, we live



# Increasing land degradation and fragile ecosystems

>>need monitoring them for development





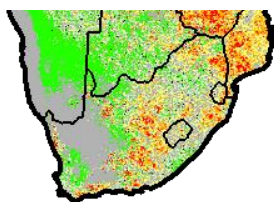
# Impact on the land use change and planetary health

>> land use pattern, water balance and climate



0 800 1,600

ICARDA-GU©2015



- Large fluctuation in water balance
- Climate variability and extreme events
- Dominance of mono-cropping / few commodity focus
- Depleted soil organic carbon



# Data driven decisions for diversified systems

>> with farm focus (rural welfare)

**Geo Big Data** for building inclusive agroecosystems for  
ecologically sustainable and economically viable  
options for more food, nutrition and health

Ecological intensification  
Target specific interventions  
Bridging the gaps  
Inputs use efficiency  
Agricultural policy  
Halt degradation  
Technology scaling

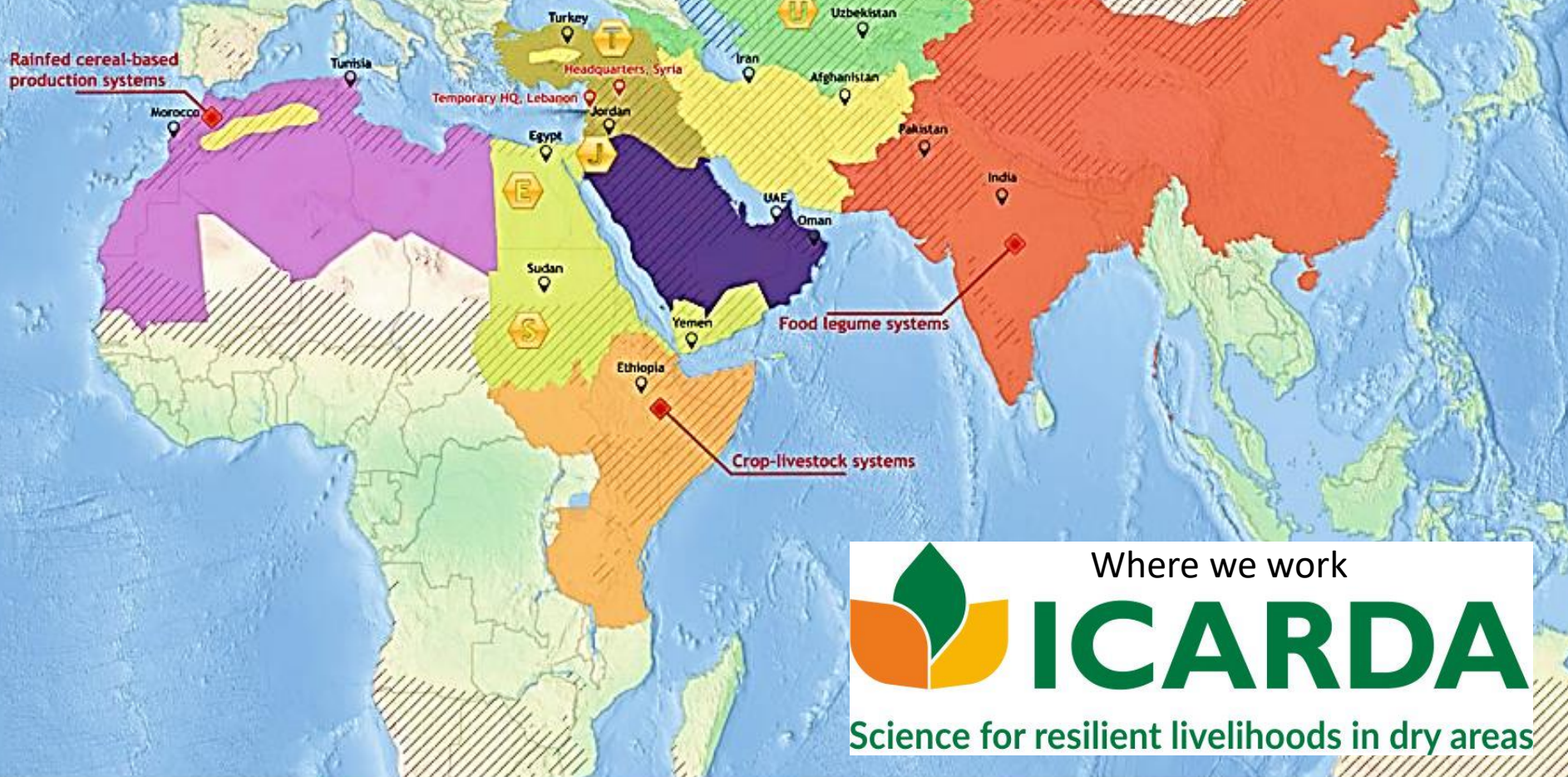
- food and nutritional security
- resilience and risk reduction
- agro-ecosystem sustainability
- adaption and mitigation
- citizen science and collective actions
- Equitable trade and social security

Food and Nutrition

<<<more health per acre>>>  
people, animals and soil



Rainfed cereal-based production systems



Food legume systems

Crop-livestock systems



Research Platform



Thematic Research Location



Regional/Country Office



Non-tropical dry areas



High input irrigated systems



Winter wheat, winter barley, and cereal rust diseases



Building resilience in marginal lands



Heat-tolerant cereal and food legume varieties



Cold agroecosystems

Regional Programs:

Arabian Peninsula

Central Asia & Caucasus

Highlands

Nile Valley & Red Sea Program

North Africa

South Asia & China

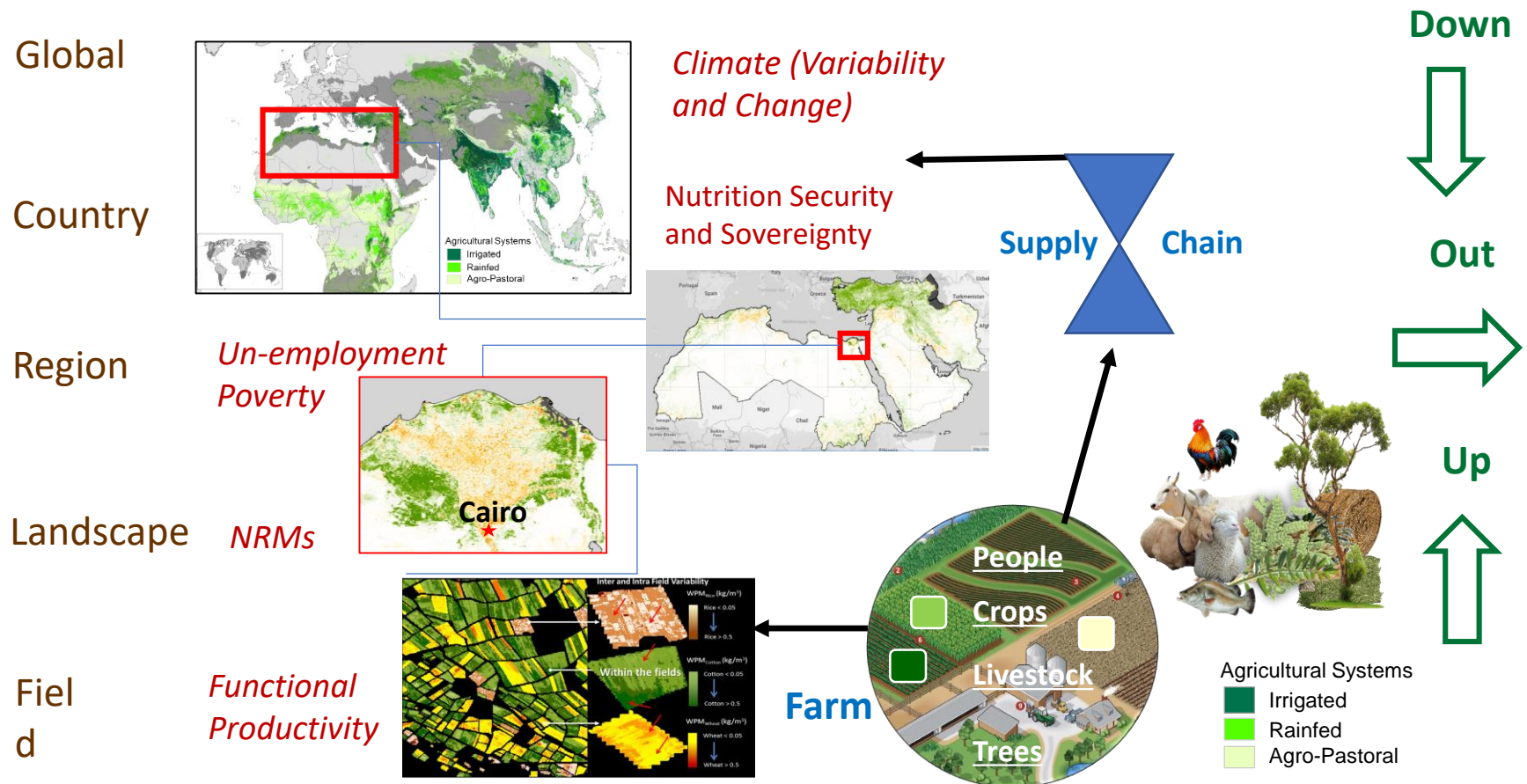
Sub-Saharan Africa Program

West Asia



# Integrated Agroecosystems combining Component Research & Systems Research

A multi-scale and multi-criteria R4D





# New 9: 5 SRPs + 4 CCTs

## Strategic Research Priorities

Adoption of the SRPs in operational projects



**Genetic Resources:** Minimize genetic diversity to develop germplasm resistant to heat, drought, cold, disease, high yield; Develop international public goods (open access)



**Adaption to Climate Change:** Conventional and molecular breeding to develop climate-smart crops; GEOAGRO



**Building resilience:** Improve livestock farming systems to address economic, social, and environmental challenges



**Promoting value chains:** Agriculture as an income-generating business for many poor smallholder households



**Enhancing water, land, and forest productivity:** Rainfed, irrigated, and agro-pastoral farming; Reversal of environmental degradation; Enhance intensification



Big  
Data

ICTs



# Data growing exponentially

>> it demands new technical and strategic approaches  
untap its huge potential

44 zettabytes



unstructured data

structured data

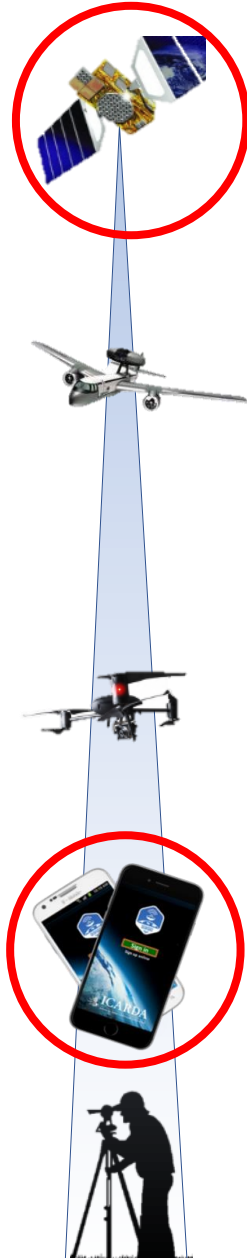
You are here

icarda.org  
2010

2018/2019

2020

Source: Robin Lougee IBM Research





# Earth Observation>> BIG DATA >>> Smart decisions...

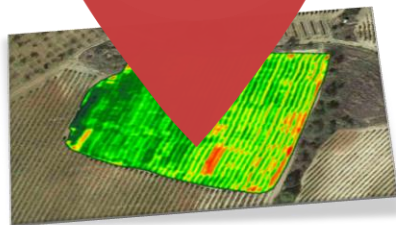




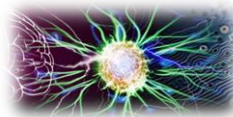
# New era of analytics



Farm  
Focus



Local  
intelligence  
**Cognitive  
Systems  
Era**



Conscious  
Systems  
Era

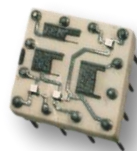


Data driven

**Programmable  
Systems  
Era**



**Tabulating  
Systems  
Era**



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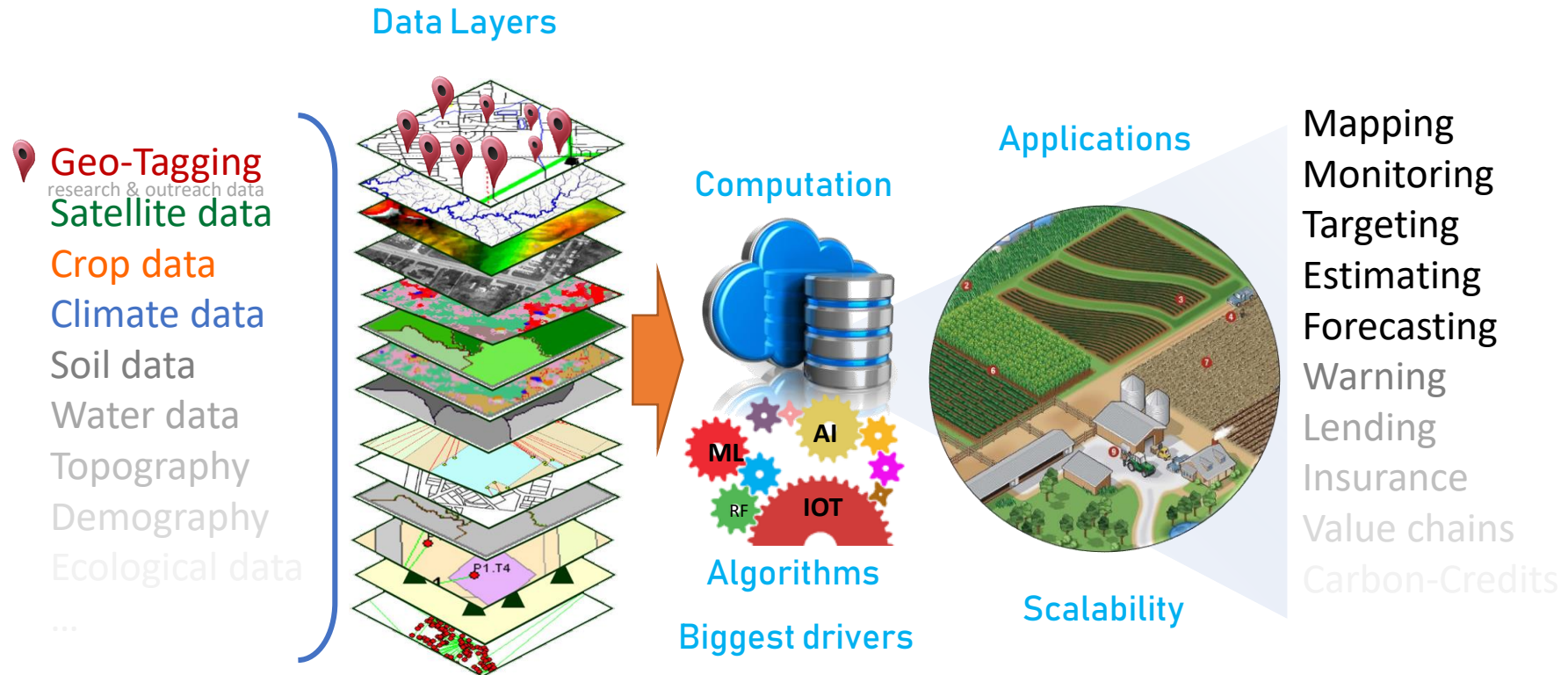


**BACK**   
**TO THE FUTURE**

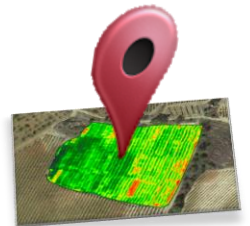


# Digital Augmentation

Combining Big Data Science and Citizen Science to accelerate diversified intensification



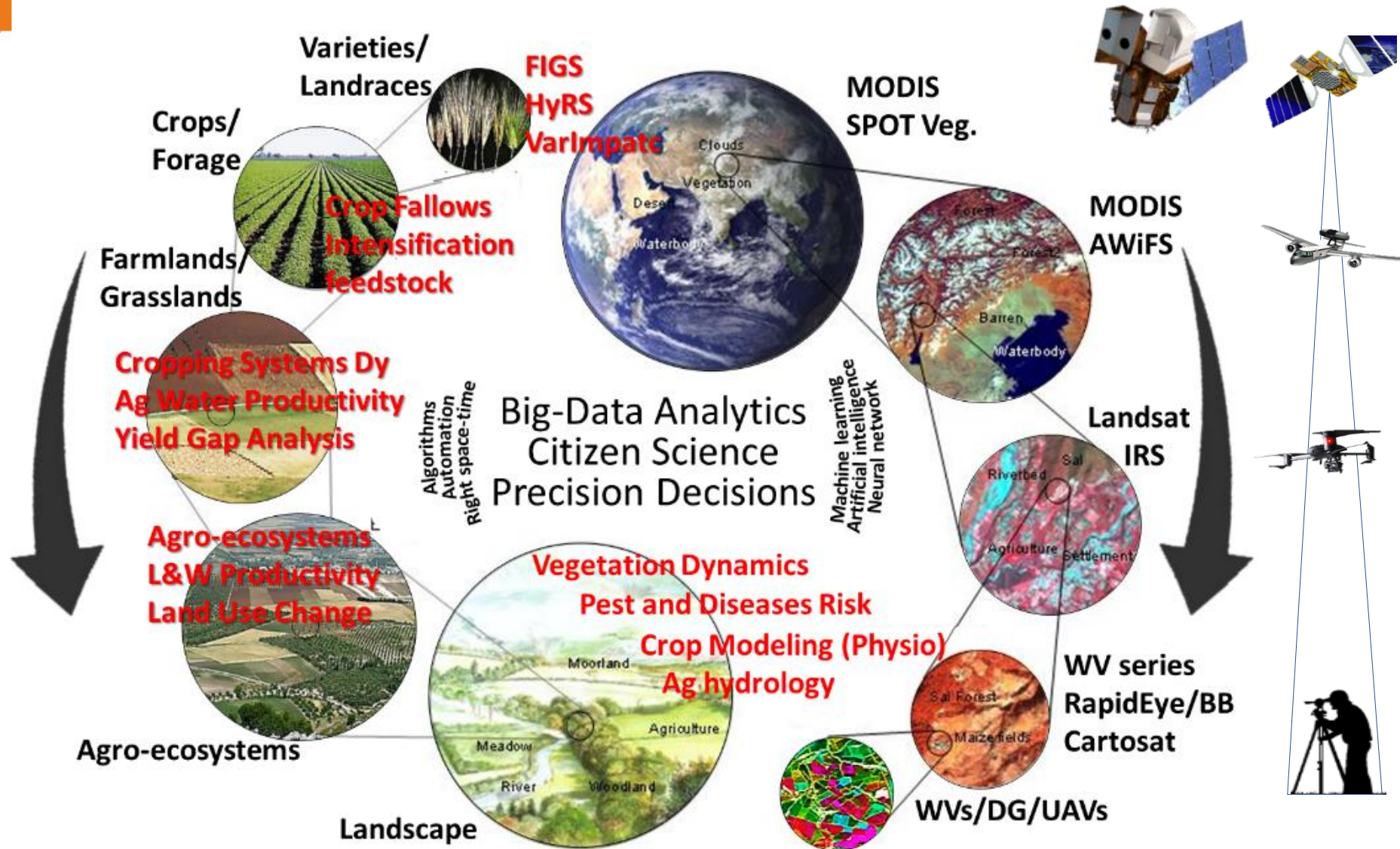
## Geo-tagging and Agro-tagging





# Cross-cutting disciplines and trade offs

Role of Earth Observation to overcome the limitation and gaps





# Earth Observation Systems for Agro-Ecosystem Research

## ACTIVE SATELLITE SENSORS AND CHARACTERISTICS

### Very High Resolution (Up to - 1 m)

Satellite Sensors	Resolution			Swath (km)
	Spatial (m)*	Temporal (days)	Spectral (Bands)	
GEOSAT-1	1.65 (0.41)	1	B, G, R, IR, P	15.2
IKONOS	3.2 (0.82)	14	B, G, R, IR, P	11.3
PLEIADES-1A	2 (0.5)	1	B, G, R, IR, P	20
PLEIADES-1B	3 (0.5)	1	B, G, R, IR, P	20
Quick Bird	2.4 (0.6)	3.5	B, G, R, IR, P	16.5
WorldView-1	(0.4)	1.2	P	17.6
WorldView-2	1.8 (0.4)	1.2	P, C, B, G, Y, R, RE, IR (2)	16.4
CARTOSAT-2	1	5	P	9.6
CARTOSAT-2a	<1	4	P	9.6
CARTOSAT-2B	<1	4	P	9.6
SKYSAT-1	2 (0.9)	<1 (hourly)	B, G, R, IR, P	8
KOMPSAT-3	2.8 (0.7)	14	B, G, R, IR, P	16.8
KOMPSAT-2	4 (1)	14	B, G, R, IR, P	15
OrbView-3	4 (1)	3	B, G, R, IR, P	14

### High Resolution (1 to 5 m)

Satellite Sensors	Resolution			Swath (km)
	Spatial (m)*	Temporal (days)	Spectral (Bands)	
CARTOSAT-1	(2.5)	5	P	30
PORMOSAT-2	8 (2)	1	B, G, R, IR, P	24
SPOT-5	5, 20 (2.5, 5)	2-3	B, G, R, IR, SW, P	68 to 80
SPOT-6 (1.5)	6 (1.5)	2-3	B, G, R, IR, P	60
RapidEye	5	5	B, G, R, RE, IR	77
RESOURCESAT-1	5.8	5	G, R, IR	23, 70
GOKTURK-2	10, 20 (2.5)	2-3	B, G, R, IR, SW, P	20
TH-2	10 (2)		B, G, R, IR, P	60
EROS-A	(1.8)	2-1	P	14
Theos	15 (2)	5	B, G, R, IR	86
BEOSAT-1	32 (4)	1	R, G, IR	800
PROBA/HRC	18, 34 (5)	7	18	15

### Medium resolution (5 - 30 m)

Satellite	Multispectral resolution (m) B, s		Swath width (km)
ASTER (15m)			
VNIR (Visible Near Infrared)	15	VIR (4)	60
SWIR (Shortwave Infrared)	30	SW (6)	60
TIR (Thermal Infrared)	60	TIR (5)	60
CBERS-2			
WFI	260	R, IR	890
CCD	20	B, G, R, IR	113
IRMSS	(2.7)	P	27
LANDSAT 5TM - 7ETM	30 (14.8)	B, G, R, IR, SW1, TIR, SW2, P	185
Nigerlasat-X	22	G, R, IR	-
Resourcesat-2/Lias-III	23.5	R, G, IR, SW	141
Delmas-1	22	G, R, IR	600
UK-DMC-2/SLIM6	22	G, R, IR	618
BISAT-1	26 (12)	R, B, G, IR, P	640
Nigerlasat-1	32	G, R, IR	640
ALSA-1	32	G, R, IR	640
UK-DMC/EC (DMC)	32	G, R, IR	600
EO-1/ALI-MS	30	B (2), G, R, IR (3), SW (2), P	37
EO-1/Hyperion	30	220 bands	7.7
ASTER (15m)	15, 30, 90	B, G, R, IR (2) SW(6), TIR (4)	60
LANDSAT 7ETM+	30m (14.8)	B, G, R, IR, SW (2), TIR, P	185
SPOT-4	20 (10)	G, R, IR, SW, P	60
SPOT-3	20 (10)	G, R, IR+P	60
JERS-1	24 (18)	G, R, IR, IR	75
SPOT-2	20 (10)	G, R, IR	60
SPOT-1	20 (10)	G, R, IR	60
Landat 5/MSS	80	G, R, IR, IR	185
Landat 5/TM	30, 120	B, G, R, IR, SW, SW, TIR	185
RESURS-01-1	45	G, R, IR	600

### Low or Medium resolution

Satellite	Multispectral resolution (m) B, s		Swath width (km)
Landat 5	30 (14.8)	P, C, B, G, R, IR, SW (3)	185
VIIRS	375, 750	220, s	3000
ASAR	(12.5)	VV 1	5 - 406
MERIS	300	15 b, s	1150
Metasat MSG			
GERB	40000	7	-
SEVIRI	1000, 3000	12	-
SPOT5/VEGETATION 2	1000	B, R, IR, SW (4)	2250
MODIS	250, 500, 1000	36	2330
SPOT4/VEGETATION 1	1000	B, R, IR, SW (4)	60
IRS-1D/ WIFS	188	R, IR (2)	774
Orbview-2/ SeaWiFS	1130	B(2), G (3), IR (8)	2800
IRS-1C/ WIFS	188	R, IR (2)	810
RESURS-01-1/ MSU-S	240	G, R, IR (3)	600
RESURS-01-1/ MSU-SK	170, 600	R, G, IR(2), TIR	600
ResourceSat/AWIFS	56	R, G, IR, SW	740
Landat 2/ MSS	80	G, R, IR, IR	185
Landat 2/ RBV	80	G, R, IR	185
Landat 1/ MSS	80	G, R, IR, IR	185
Landat 1/ RBV	80	G, R, IR	185

### Radar Satellites

Satellite	Bands	Band (Polarity)	Swath width (km)
Sentinel-1			
COSMO-SKYMED 4	1, 5, 15, 30, 100	X-B (HH, VV, HV, VH)	10, 40, 30, 100, 200
TanDEM-X	1, 3, 16	X-B (HH, VV, HV, VH)	1500
COSMO SKYMED 2	1, 5, 15, 30, 100	X-B (HH, VV, HV, VH)	10, 40, 30, 100, 200
RADARSAT 2	3, 8, 12, 18, 25, 30, 40, 50, 100	C-B (HH, HV, VH, VV)	5 - 500
COSMO-SKYMED 1	1, 5, 15, 30, 100	X-B (HH, VV, HV, VH)	10, 40, 30, 100, 200
Terra SAR-X	1, 3, 16	X-B (HH, VV, HV, VH)	1500
ALOS (PALSAR)	10, 20, 30, 100	VH	70
ENVISAT (ASAR)	12.5	C-B (VV)	5 - 406
RADARSAT 1 (SAR)	8.25, 30, 35, 50, 100	C-B (HH)	50 - 500
ERS 2 (AMI)	25	C-B (VV)	100
ERS 1 (AMI)	25	C-B (VV)	100

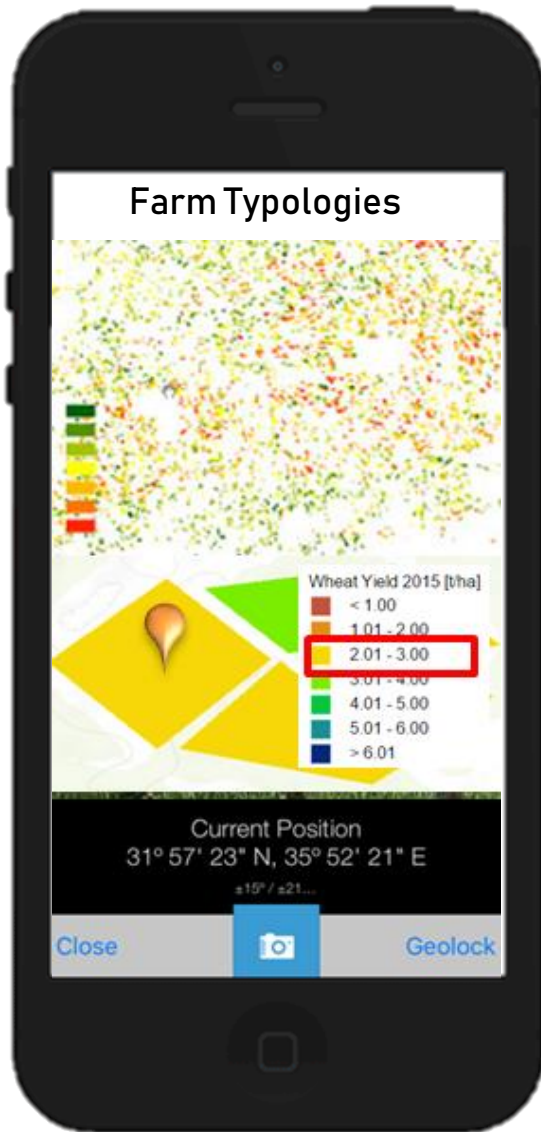
\*=Resolution in parenthesis is panchromatic

+ = Bands: B-Blue, G-Green, R-Red, IR-Infra Red, C-Coastal blue, Y-Yellow, SW-Shortwave Infrared, M-Mid infrared, P-Panchromatic, H-Horizontal, V-vertical



# Technologies are mature to make better decisions

>> but need strong, committed and collective actions to see the results



Thousands of research and outreach data points in each season across the agro-ecosystems

Open source near real-time earth observation data at field, farm and landscape scales

Enormous power of cloud computing, open access, algorithms and analytics to process data on time

Smart phone enabled apps and cloud web-GIS for decision making at point, farm and administrative units



Google Earth Engine

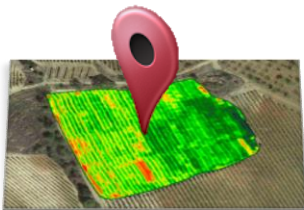


# Paradigm shift towards **economically viable** **ecologically sustainable** options

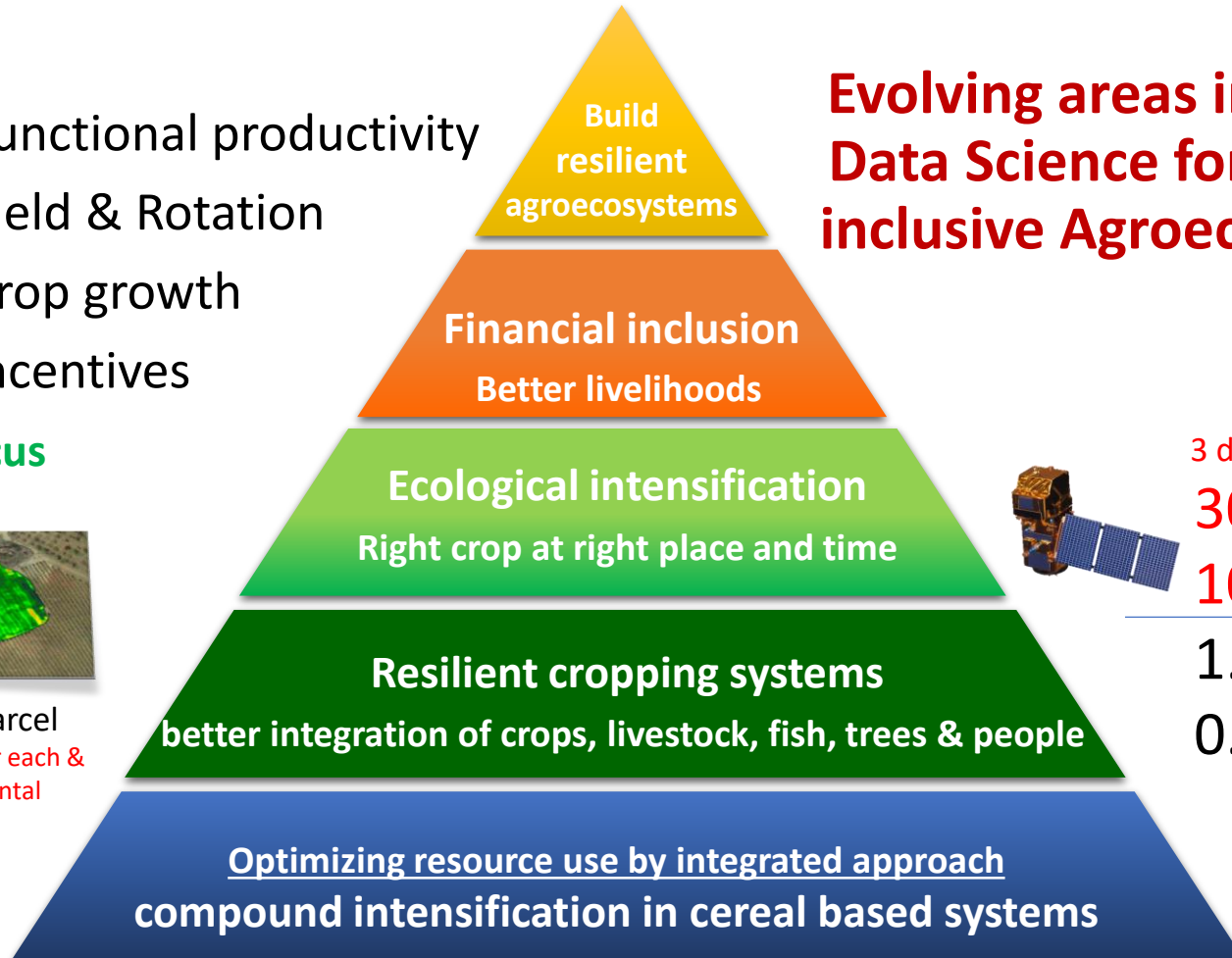


1. Functional productivity
2. Yield & Rotation
3. Crop growth
4. Incentives

## Farm Focus



Pixel/Farm/Parcel  
A single entity for each &  
every developmental  
entry point



**Evolving areas in Geo Big Data Science for building inclusive Agroecosystems**



3 days revisit

30m

10m

1.0m

0.3m

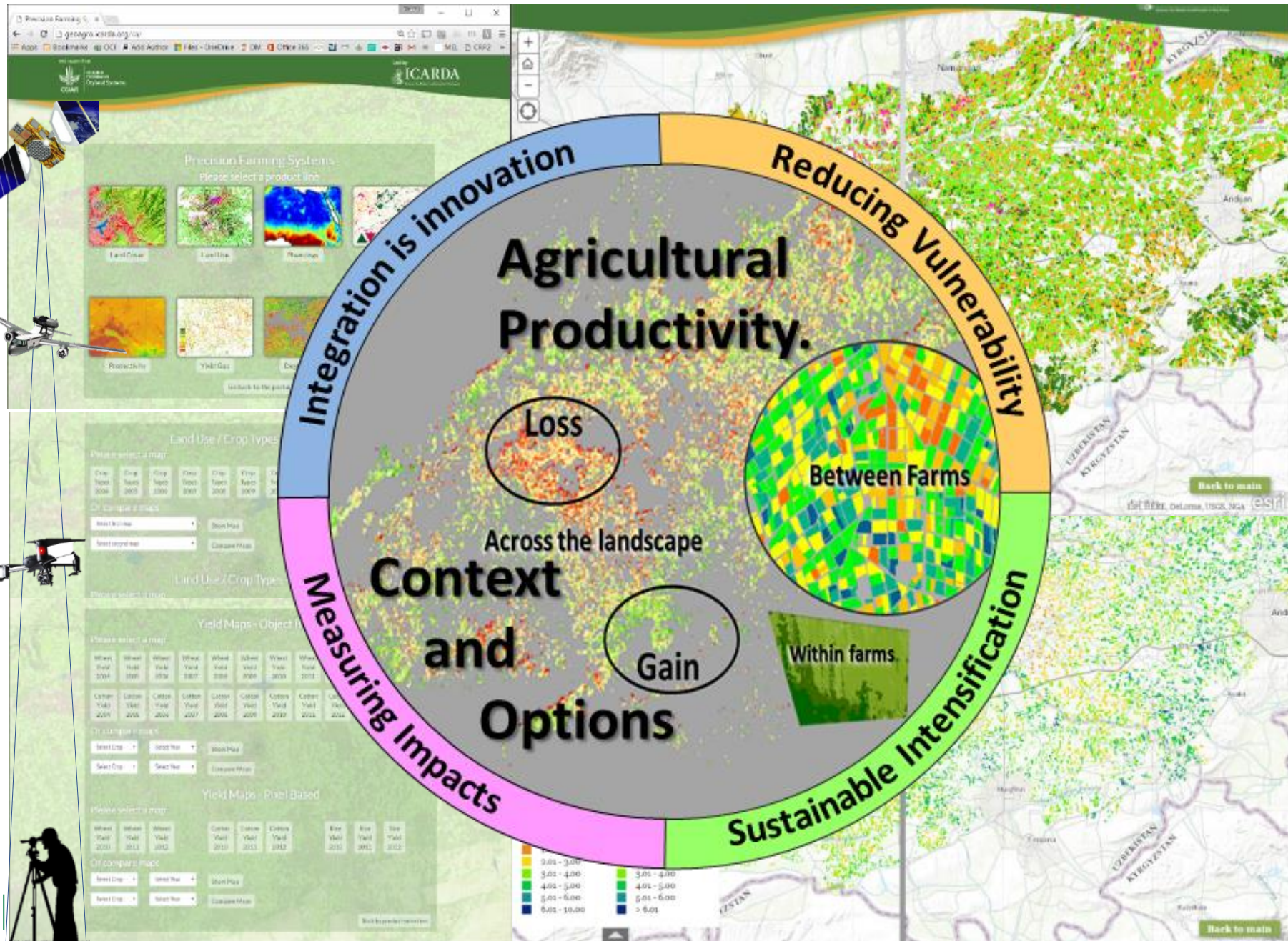
Open source

Agreements

<Biggest drivers



# Quantification of Farming Systems @ multiple-scales





**Fingerprinting of the farming systems to make spatially informed decisions for timely actions**

**For example: use case of rice based systems for pulses**





# Quantifying the Dynamics of rice crops

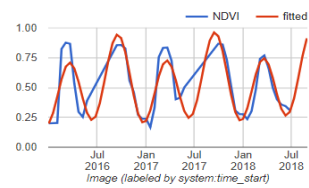
>> figure printing of the farms and typologies



## Jamdigri-moved

Jamdigri	
FID	11
BATCH	1
SchemeName	Jamdigri
District	BANKURA
Block	JOYPUR
Scheme_Typ	MDTW
Village_Mo	Jamdigri
Lat	23.07006
Long	87.47454
PhysicalPr	100
HODate	November 6, 2015

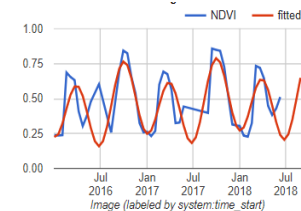
Directions: [To here](#) - [From here](#)



## Pakurseni LDTW

Pakurseni LDTW	
FID	115
BATCH	2
SchemeName	Pakurseni LDTW
District	PASCHIM MIDNAPORE
Block	NARAYANGARH
Scheme_Typ	TW
Village_Mo	Pakurseni
Lat	22.19834
Long	87.44147
PhysicalPr	100
HODate	July 18, 2016

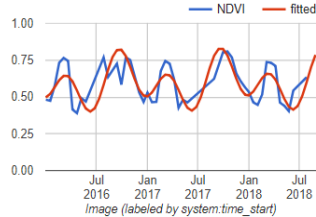
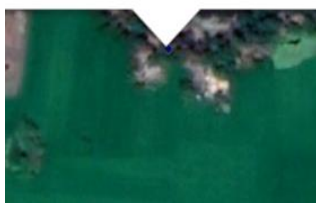
Directions: [To here](#) - [From here](#)



## Hariharpur

Hariharpur	
FID	40
BATCH	1
SchemeName	Hariharpur
District	PASCHIM MIDNAPORE
Block	SABANG
Scheme_Typ	Mini(E) RLI
Village_Mo	Hariharpur
Lat	22.138147
Long	87.630084
PhysicalPr	100
HODate	March 23, 2015

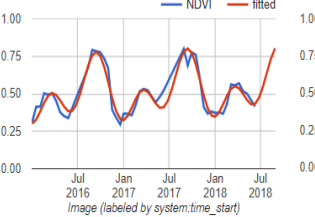
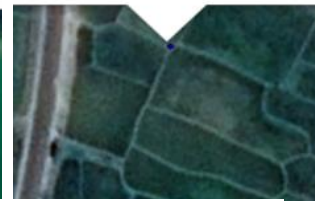
Directions: [To here](#) - [From here](#)



## Kalisara LDTW

Kalisara LDTW	
FID	24
BATCH	1
SchemeName	Kalisara LDTW
District	BIRBHUM
Block	MAYURESWAR I
Scheme_Typ	LDTW
Village_Mo	Kalisara
Lat	24.05688
Long	87.84444
PhysicalPr	100
HODate	June 29, 2016

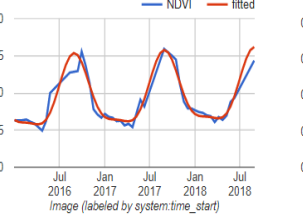
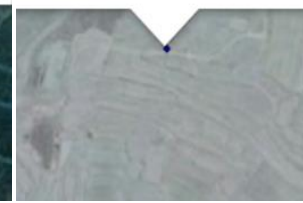
Directions: [To here](#) - [From here](#)



## Kundra - IV PDW

Kundra - IV PDW	
FID	294
BATCH	3
SchemeName	Kundra - IV PDW
District	BIRBHUM
Block	RAJNAGAR
Scheme_Typ	PDW
Village_Mo	Kundra
Lat	23.965694
Long	87.356806
PhysicalPr	100
HODate	November 14, 2017

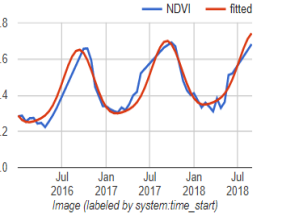
Directions: [To here](#) - [From here](#)



## Gosain Bundh SFMIS-moved

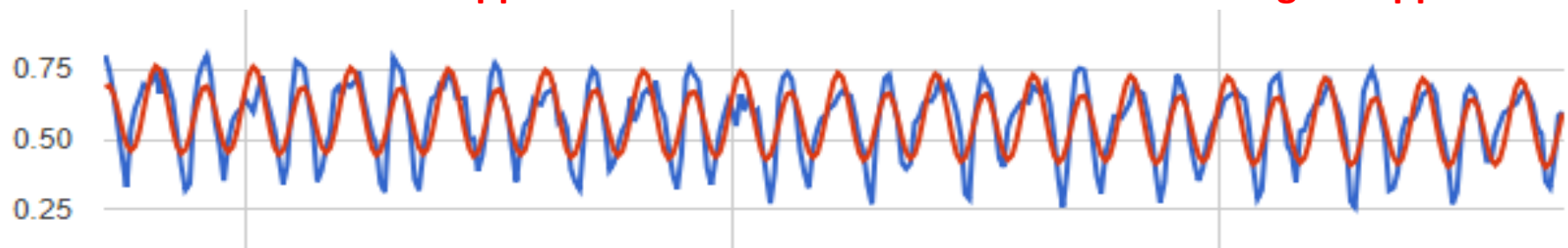
Gosain Bundh SFMIS	
FID	71
BATCH	2
SchemeName	Gosain Bundh SFMIS
District	PURULIA
Block	KASHIPUR
Scheme_Typ	SFMIS(40ha)
Village_Mo	Uluberia
Lat	23.477367
Long	86.790317
PhysicalPr	100
HODate	September 10, 2015

Directions: [To here](#) - [From here](#)



**Fallows in Double cropped area**

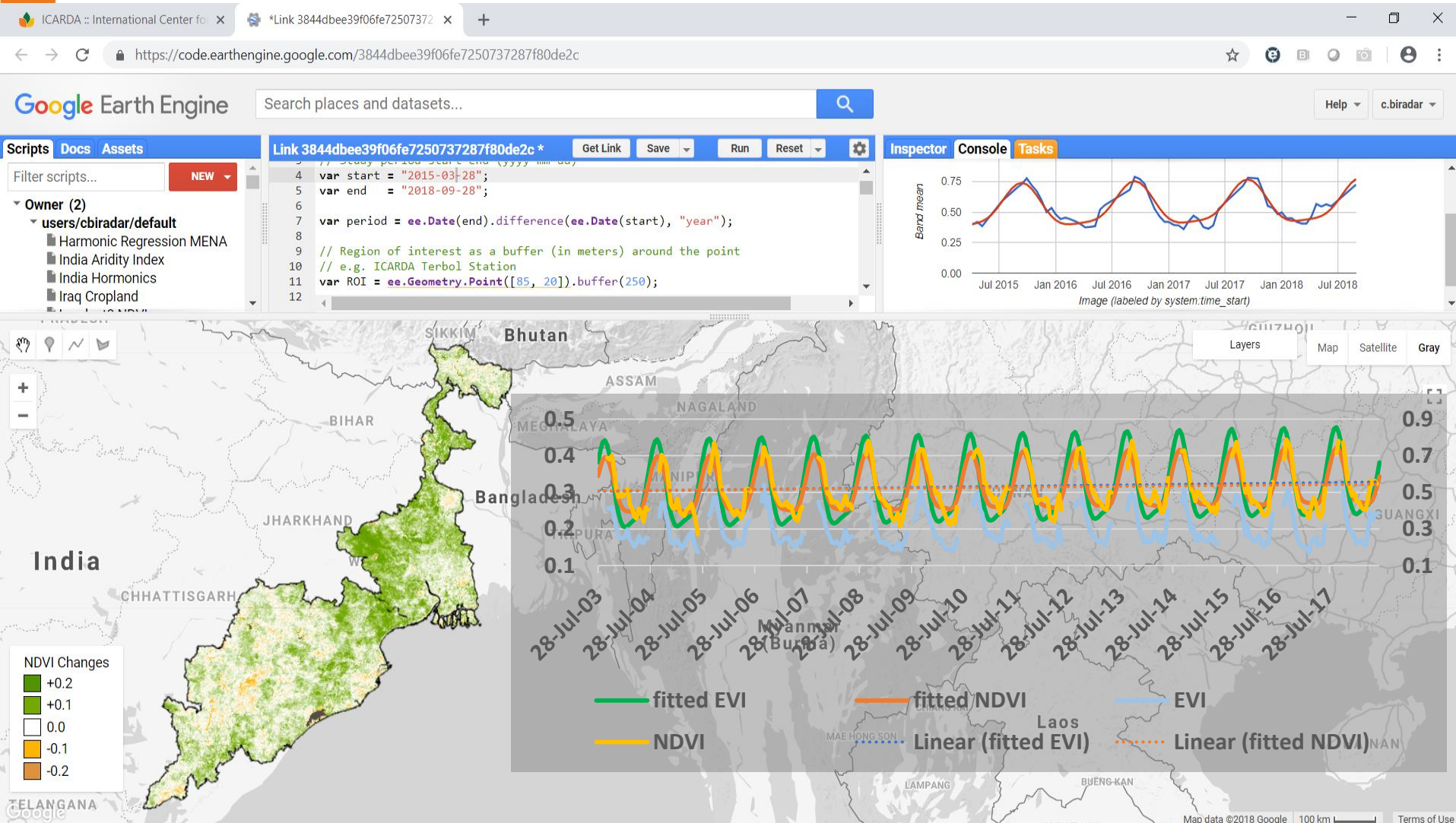
**Fallows in Single cropped area**





# Timely Tracking for precision decisions

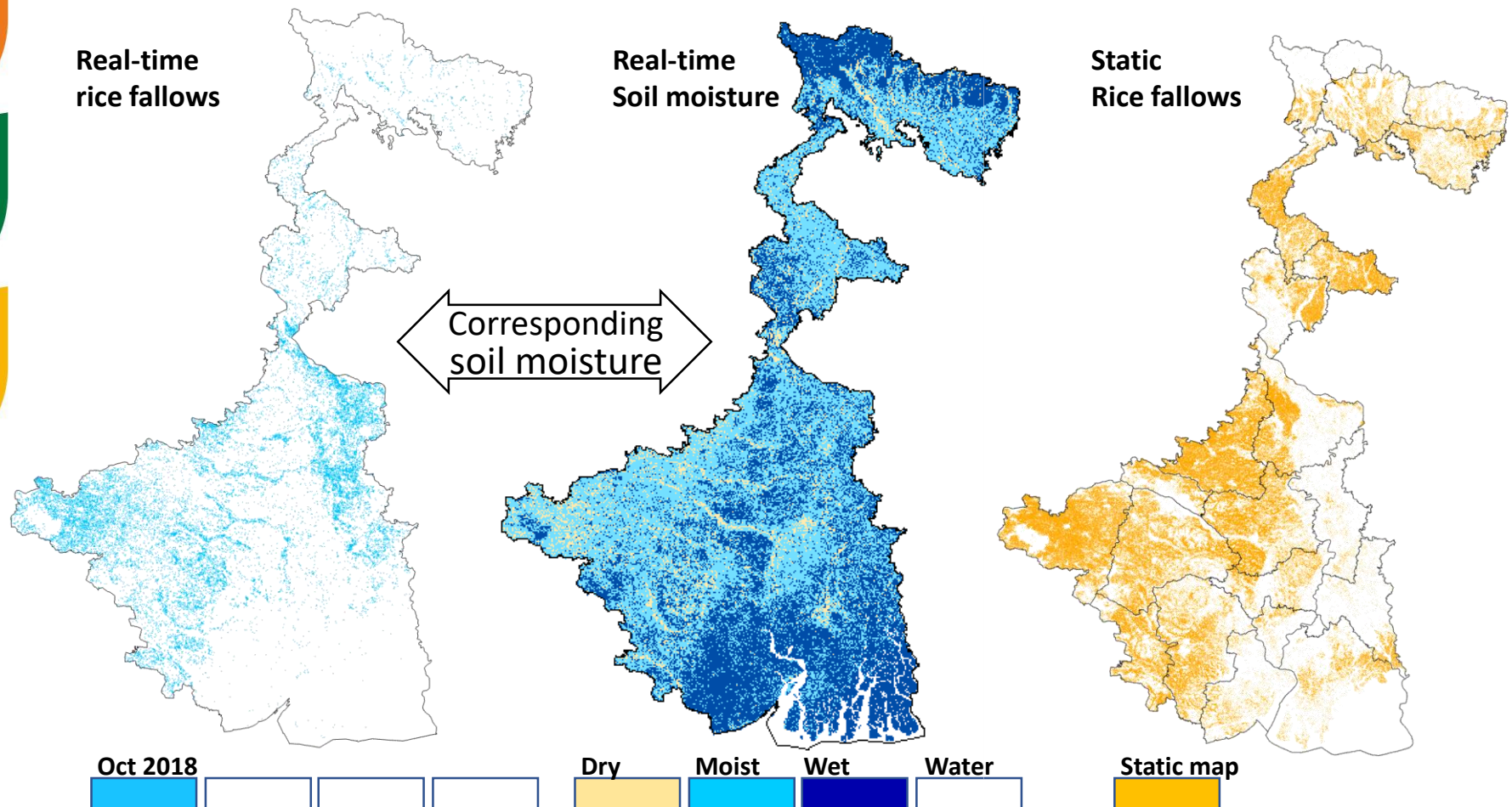
>> near real-time mapping and monitoring





# Sustainable intensification of the cereal-based systems

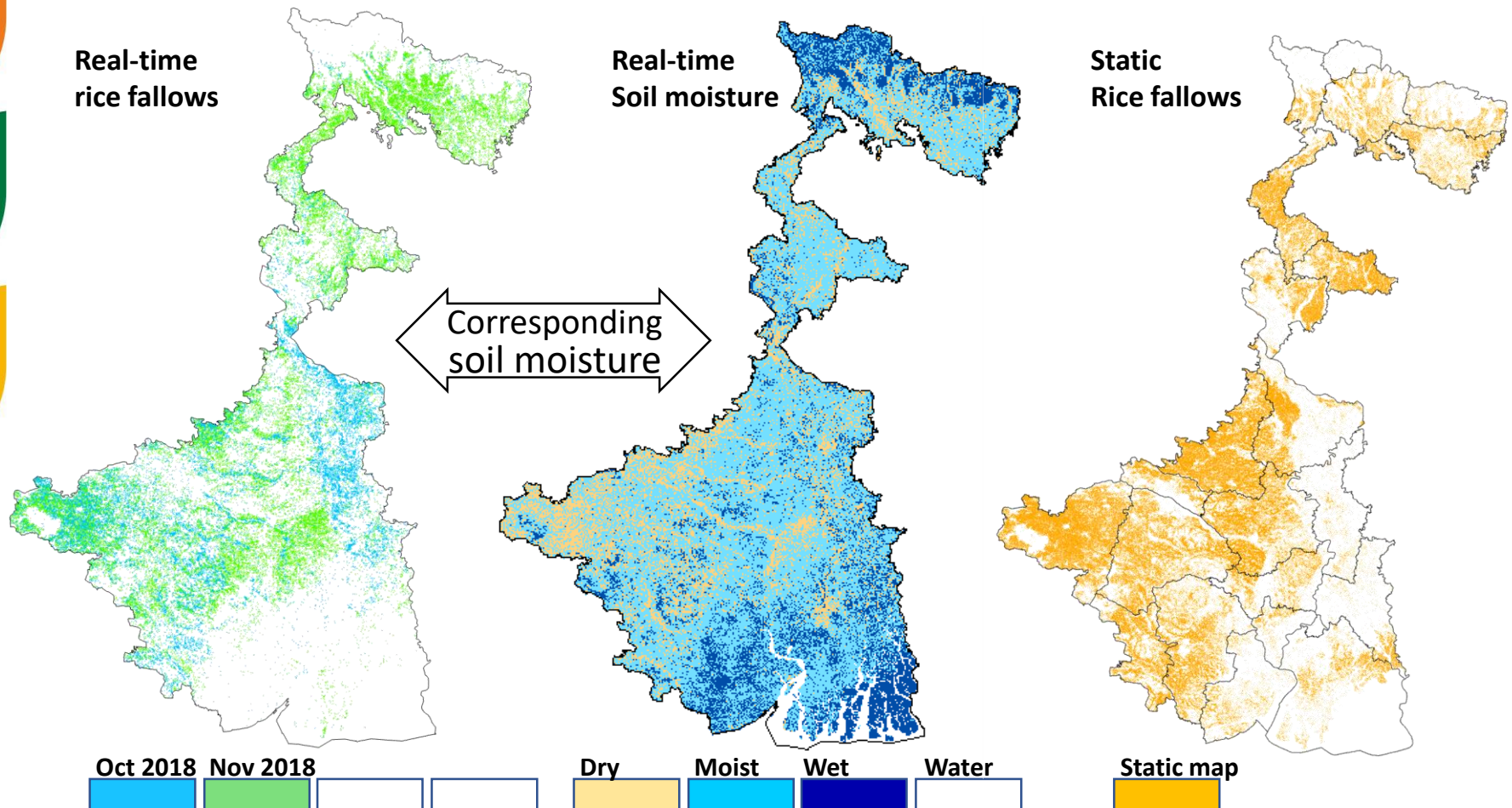
Real-time monitoring to target site specific interventions (package of practices)





# Sustainable intensification of the cereal-based systems

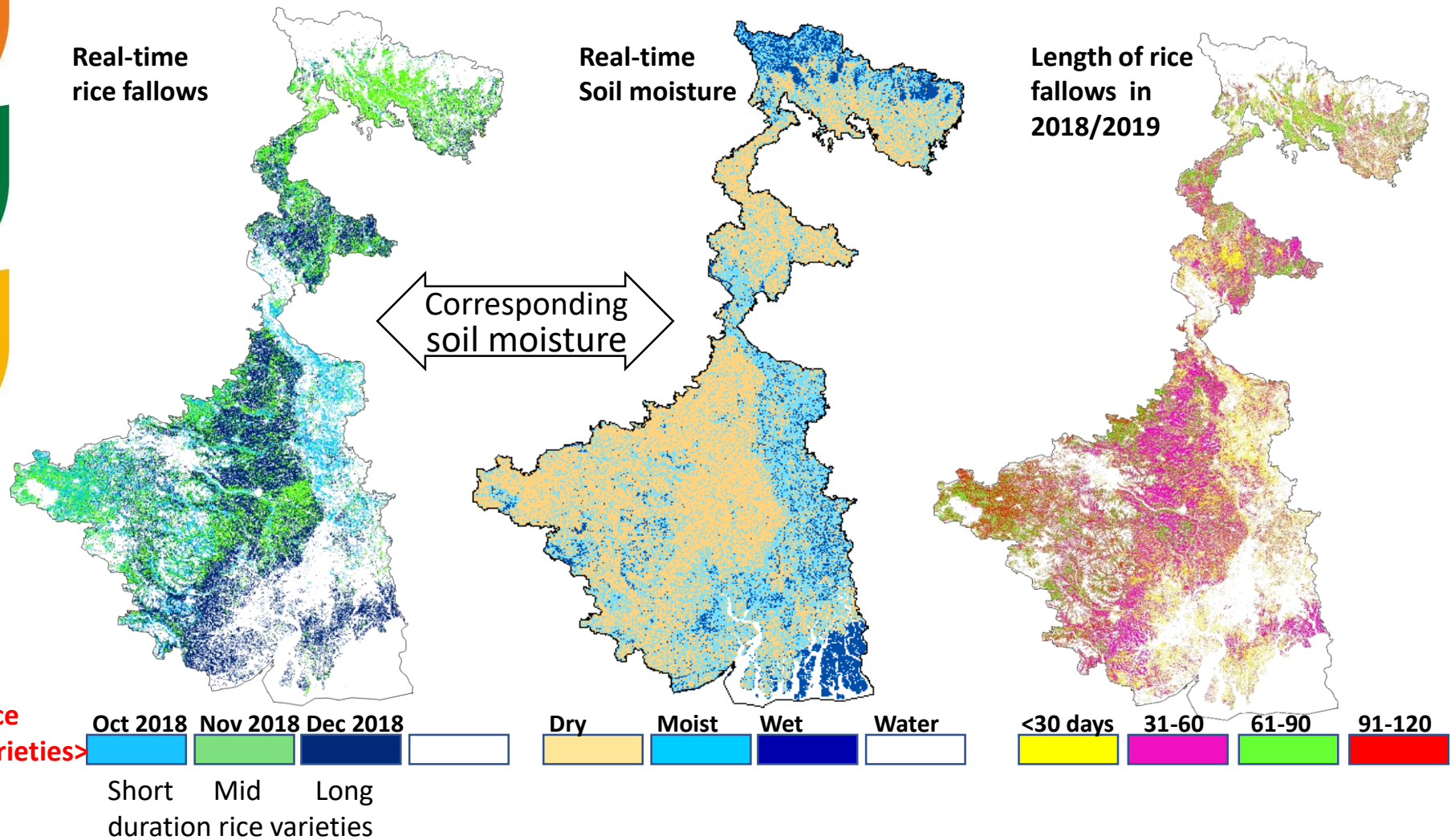
Real-time monitoring to target site specific interventions (package of practices)





# Sustainable intensification of the cereal-based systems

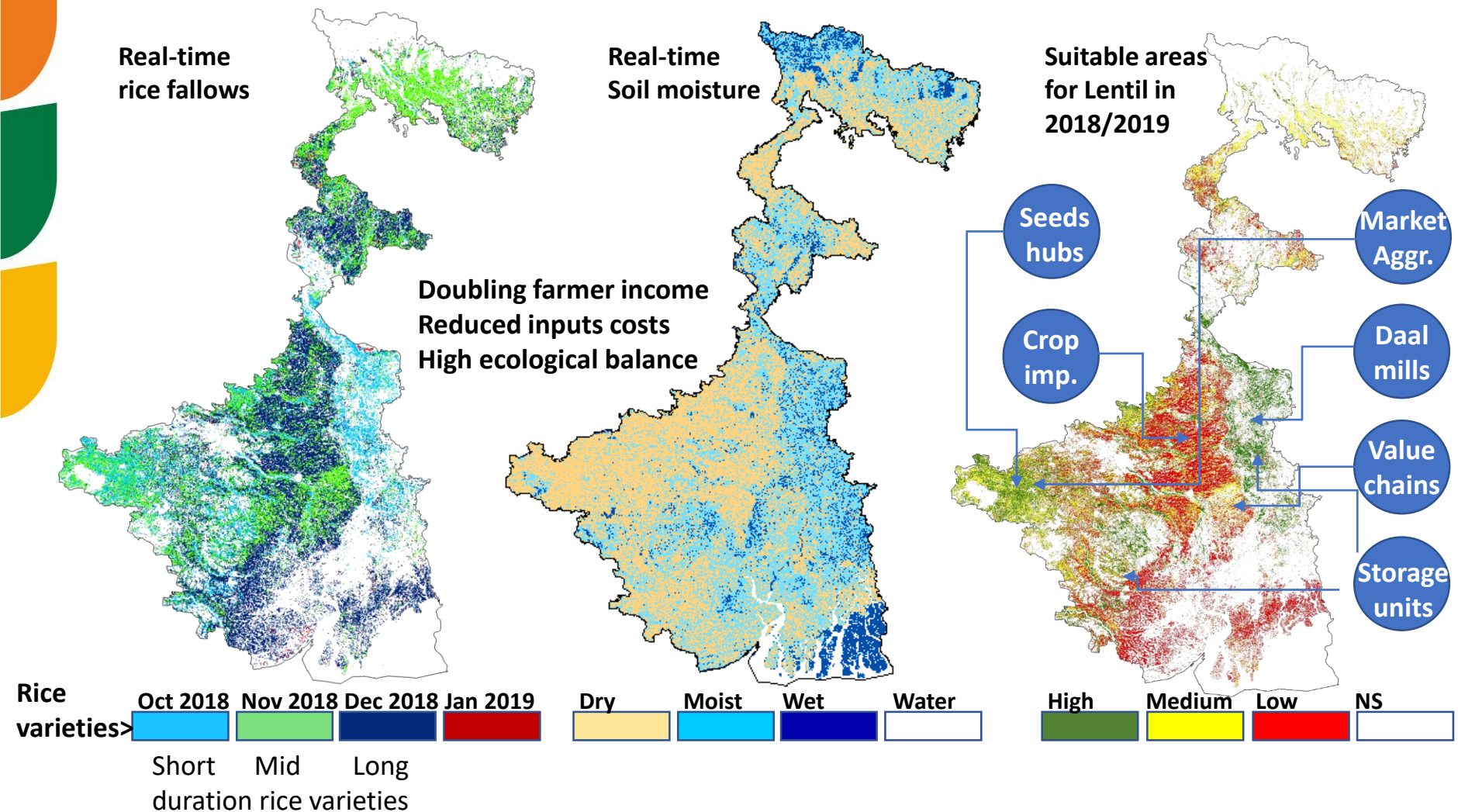
Real-time monitoring to target site specific interventions (package of practices)





# Sustainable intensification of the cereal-based systems

Real-time monitoring to target site specific interventions (package of practices)



**Small farms field the world:** food grown in small farms are more healthy, tasty, nutritious and it helps rebuilding living soils and resilient agroecosystems



# Dry to Green



Rice fallows

Rice fallows

## Lentil in Rice-based Cropping Systems

Irrigated

Rainfed

Rice – **EE Lentil** – Boro rice

Rice – **EE Lentil**

Rice – **Relay E Lentil** – Boro rice

Rice – **Relay E Lentil**

Rice fallows

Rice fallows

Rice fallows

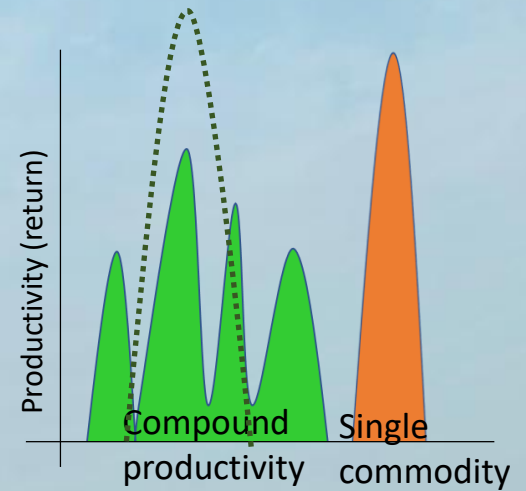
Rice fallows

Rice fallows



# Dry to Green

- Rice fallow under pulses
- Increased income (2-3 times)
- Increased resource use efficiency
- Rebuilding healthy soil and biota
- Better nutrition and health
- Addressing 8 of the 17 SDGs





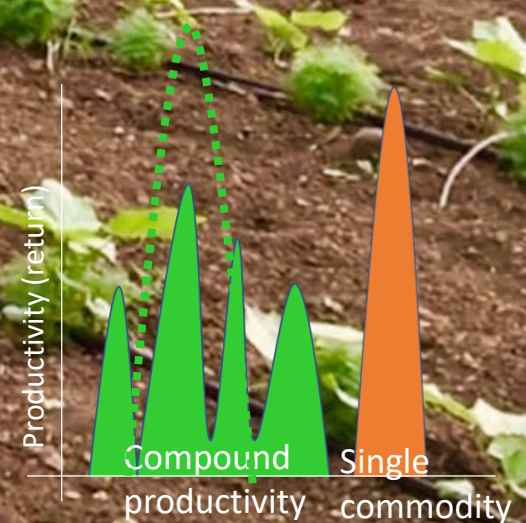
# Way forward

- Agri-food systems is **single largest user of land and water resources** and is also **single strangest lever to achieves SDGs** (everything is linked to 'healthy food')
- Location specific analytics required to close the GAPS\* to achieve “**more health per acre**”- which **need collective and coordinated efforts**;
- Recent advances in **Earth Observation**, Open-Access, Machine Learning, Cloud Computing, Smartphone, and Citizen Science making Big-Data analytics much **smarter, interoperable and useful** ever before for making spatially informed precision decisions.
- Data driven multiscale informatics are required to build “**inclusive agroecosystems**” for growing food sustainable way for **better world**

\*gaps of productivity, data, nutrition, health



**Planting multiple crops for monthly income while main crop continue to grow**  
(Salad greens, radish, leafy amaranth, cilantro, dill, spinach in Cotton crop)





# Production follows functions

Lets leverage technology to rebuild functional agri-food systems to achieve UN SDGs for All



## Thank You

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Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam  
"the world is one family".