



# **SIMULATING CROP ROTATIONS AND MANAGEMENT ACROSS CLIMATIC ZONES IN EUROPE – AN INTERCOMPARISON STUDY USING FIFTEEN MODELS**

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# CropM WP1: Model inter-comparison and improvement

- WP leaders: K. Christian Kersebaum & Marco Bindi
- Objectives:
  - Identification of major cropping systems and model capabilities in Europe
  - Create a common protocol for model inter-comparisons and a methodological framework for multi-criteria model evaluation
  - Minimum requirements and classification of data sets depending on data quality and consistency to be used for calibration or validation
  - Performing model inter-comparisons to estimate ranges of model results for uncalibrated and calibrated runs
  - Identifying gaps and deficits of model approaches for their improvement
- Expected outputs:
  - Software and publication on data classification (submitted to EMS)
  - Protocoll and methodological framework for multi-criteria model evaluation
  - Model inter-comparison study on crop rotation effects vs. single year simulation
  - Improvement of crop models regarding their spectrum of crops and processes

# ROTATIONEFFECT

Improving yield predictions by crop rotation modelling-?

## Study design

5 agricultural datasets for crop rotations with different treatments  
(in total 303 seasons)

15 modelling teams

Simulating **rotation** and/or **single-years**

(Nmin & water content given for first year only)

Step 1: Model calibration on phenology/biomass of one treatment

Step 2: Model calibration with full data of one treatment

Focus on **yield**, biomass, N uptake, phenology, N-leaching,  
seepage water

# Location of datasets



## Agricultural datasets:

Thibie (FR)

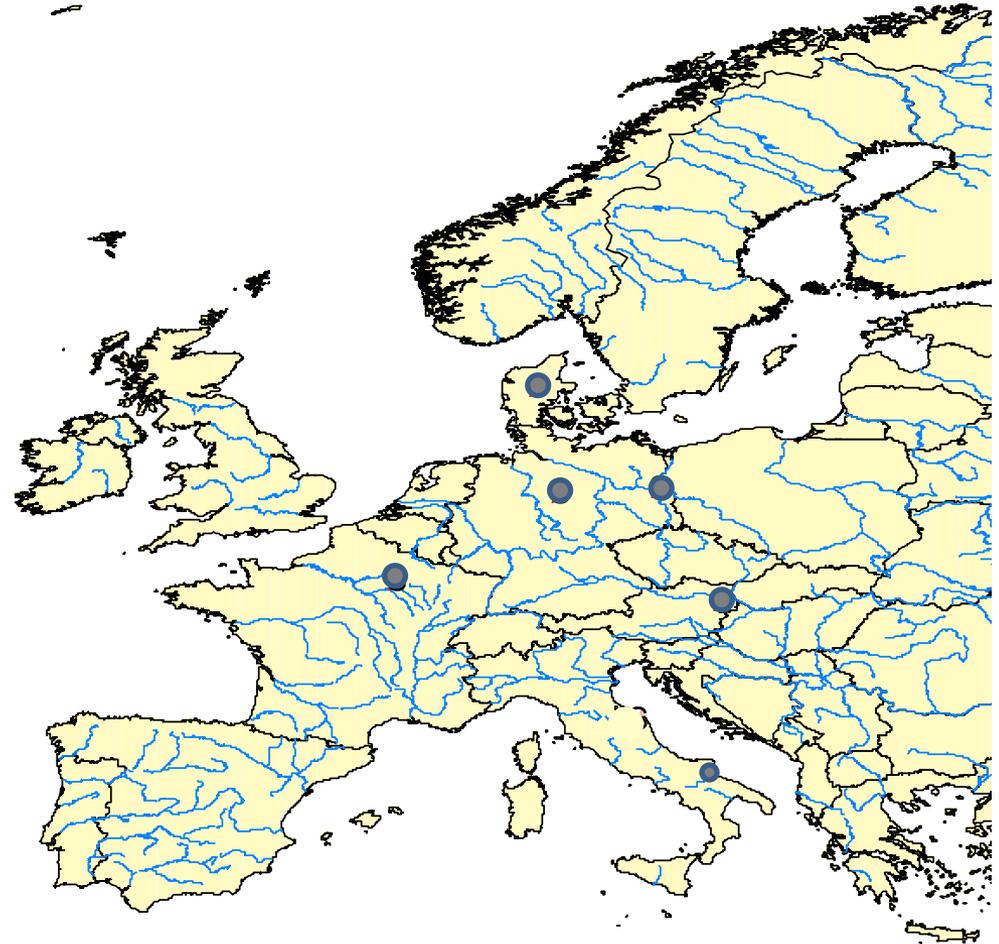
Hirschstetten (AT)

Müncheberg (DE)

Braunschweig (DE)

Foulum (DK)

Foggia (I)



0 1000 2000 3000 4000

# ROTATIONEFFECT: data

## 1) FACE experiment Braunschweig / GERMANY

6 year crop rotation (2000-2005)

**Rotation:** w. barley (WB), ryegrass (RyG, catchcrop), sugar beet (SBt), w. wheat (WW), w. barley, rye grass (catch crop), sugar beet, w. wheat

**4 Treatments:** CO<sub>2</sub>: 374 and 550 ppm, 2 nitrogen treatments (100 and 50%) per CO<sub>2</sub> (6 years)

## 2) Müncheberg / GERMANY

6 year crop rotation (1992-1996), 4 x shifted by one year

**Rotation:** winter wheat (WW), winter barley (WB), winter rye (WR), oil radish (OR, catchcrop), sugar beet, winter wheat (WW), winter barley (WB)

**2 Treatments:** rainfed and irrigated x 4 years

# ROTATIONEFFECT: data

## 3) Lysimeter Hirschstetten / AUSTRIA

7 year crop rotation (1998-2004)

**Rotation:** *mustard (MUS)*, spr. wheat (SW), *mustard (MUS)*, spring barley (SB), w. wheat (WW), *mustard (MUS)*, potatoes (POT), w. wheat (WW, green manure), maize (MAZ), w. wheat (WW)

**Treatments:** 3 different soils

## 4) Foulum / DENMARK

11 year crop rotation (2002 – 2012)

Rotation/year	2002				2003				2004				2005		2006				2007				2008				2009				2010				2011				2012			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4		
2 plough			BAR				RAP					WHB				WHB			BAR				RAP					WHB				BAR			BAR					WHB		
3 plough			WHB				GRV 1 / BAR					GRV 2 / PEA				WHB			WHB				BAR				OAT				WHB			BAR					OAT			
4 plough			WHB				GRV 1 / BAR					GRV 2 / PEA				WHB			WHB				BAR				OAT				WHB			BAR					OAT			
2 No till			BAR				RAP					WHB				WHB			BAR				RAP					WHB				BAR			BAR					WHB		
3 No till			WHB				GRV 1 / BAR					GRV 2 / PEA				WHB			WHB				BAR				OAT				WHB			BAR					OAT			
4 No till			WHB				GRV 1 / BAR					GRV 2 / PEA				WHB			WHB				BAR				OAT				WHB			BAR					OAT			

**Treatments:** crop rotations, residue management and tillage

# ROTATION EFFECT: data

## 5) Thibie / FRANCE

12 year crop rotation (1991 – 2002)

12 Treatments: effects of catch crop establishment and reduced N

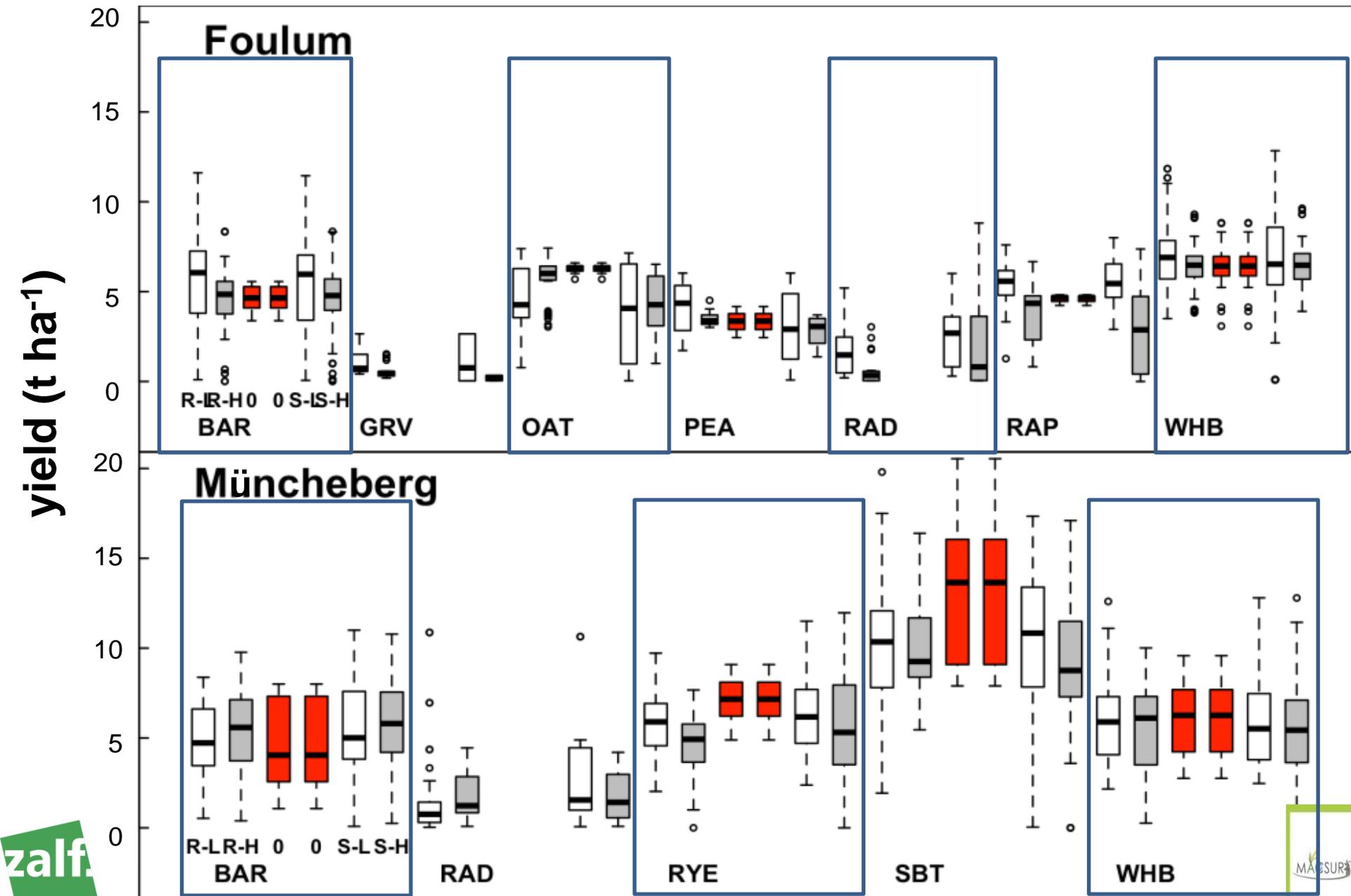
Rotation/year	1991				1992				1993				1994				1995				1996				1997		
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3
1 PWS	catch crop	nitrogen low			WHB	PEA/DAC	WHB	RAD	SBt	BAR	PEA/RAD	WHB	RAD		SBT												
1 PWS		nitrogen low			WHB	PEA/DAC	WHB	RAD	SBt	BAR	PEA/RAD	WHB	RAD		SBT												
1 PWS	bare soil	Nitrogen high			PEA	WHB			SBt		PEA	WHB			SBT												
1 PWS		nitrogen low			PEA	WHB			SBt		PEA	WHB			SBT												
2 SPW	catch crop	nitrogen low		RAD		SBt	WHB	PEA/DAC	WHB	RAD		SBT	WHB	PEA/RAD	WHB	RAD											
2 SPW		nitrogen low		RAD		SBt	WHB	PEA/DAC	WHB	RAD		SBT	WHB	PEA/RAD	WHB	RAD											
2 SPW	bare soil	Nitrogen high				SBt	PEA		WHB			SBT		PEA	WHB												
2 SPW		nitrogen low				SBt	PEA		WHB			SBT		PEA	WHB												
3 WSP	catch crop	nitrogen low			WHB			SBt		PEA	WHB			SBt										PEA			
3 WSP		nitrogen low			WHB			SBt		PEA	WHB			SBt										PEA			
3 WSP	bare soil	Nitrogen high		DAC	WHB	RAD	SBt	WHB	PEA/RAD	WHB		SBt	BAR	PEA/RAD										BAR	PEA/RAD		
3 WSP		nitrogen low		DAC	WHB	RAD	SBt	WHB	PEA/RAD	WHB		SBt	BAR	PEA/RAD										BAR	PEA/RAD		

# ROTATIONEFFECT: model applications

## Results of 15 modelling teams

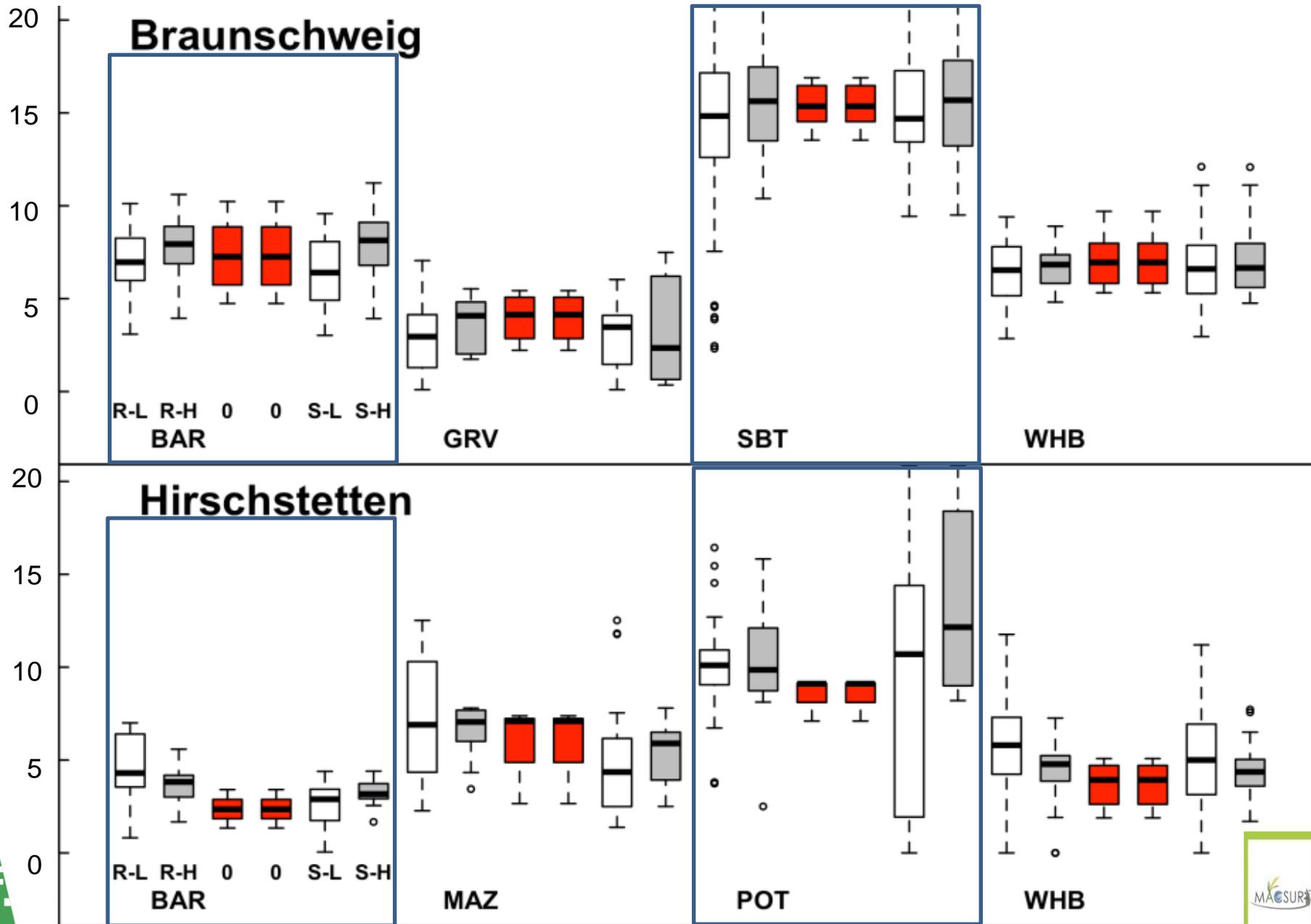
	Crop	#models ROTATION / SINGLE	#datasets	#observations (seasons)
DSSAT 4.6	MAIZE	6 / 7	1	3
DSSAT	WHEAT	9 / 12	5	96
WOFOST	BARLEY	9 / 11	5	37
LPJmL	RYE	9 / 9	1	12
CROPSYST	OAT	6 / 7	1	8
Daisy	SBEET	9 / 9	3	64
FASSET	POTATO	6 / 6	1	3
SPACSYS	RAPE	8 / 8	1	4
MONICA	RADISH	4 / 4	3	42
Theseus	PEA	7 / 9	2	52
Simplace (Lintul5)	GRASS	6 / 6	3	14
HERMES				
SWIM				
STICS				
APSIM				

# observed and simulated crop yields

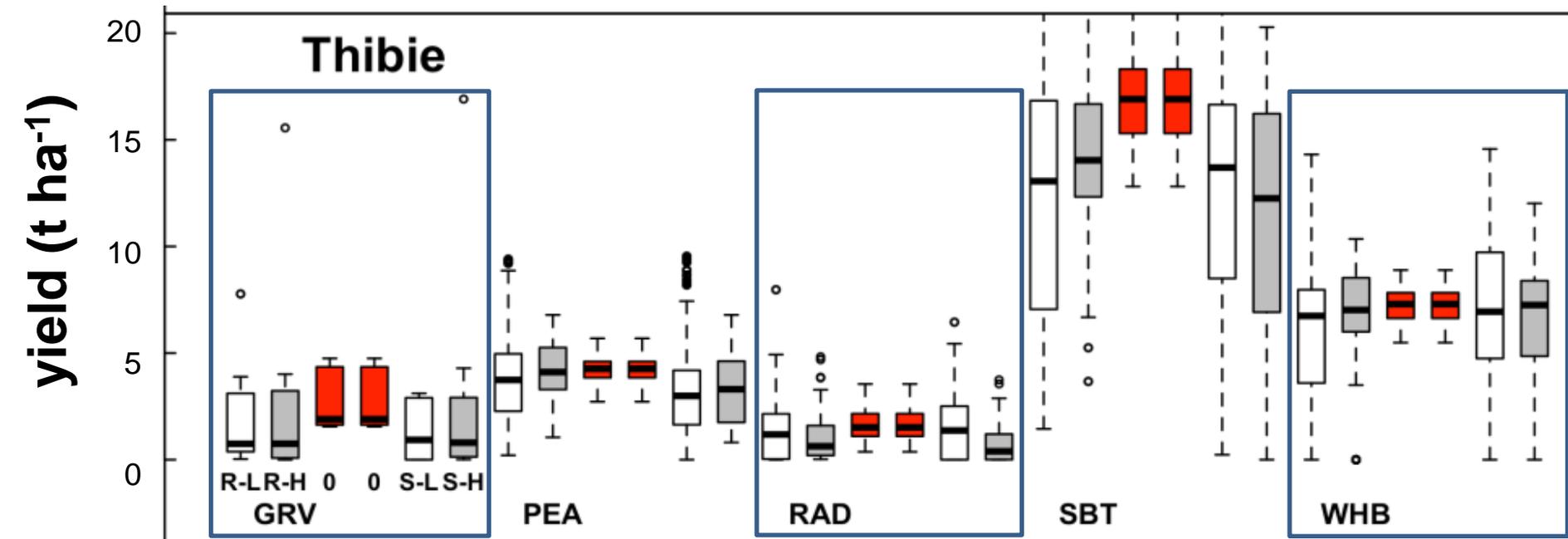


# observed and simulated crop yields

yield (t ha<sup>-1</sup>)

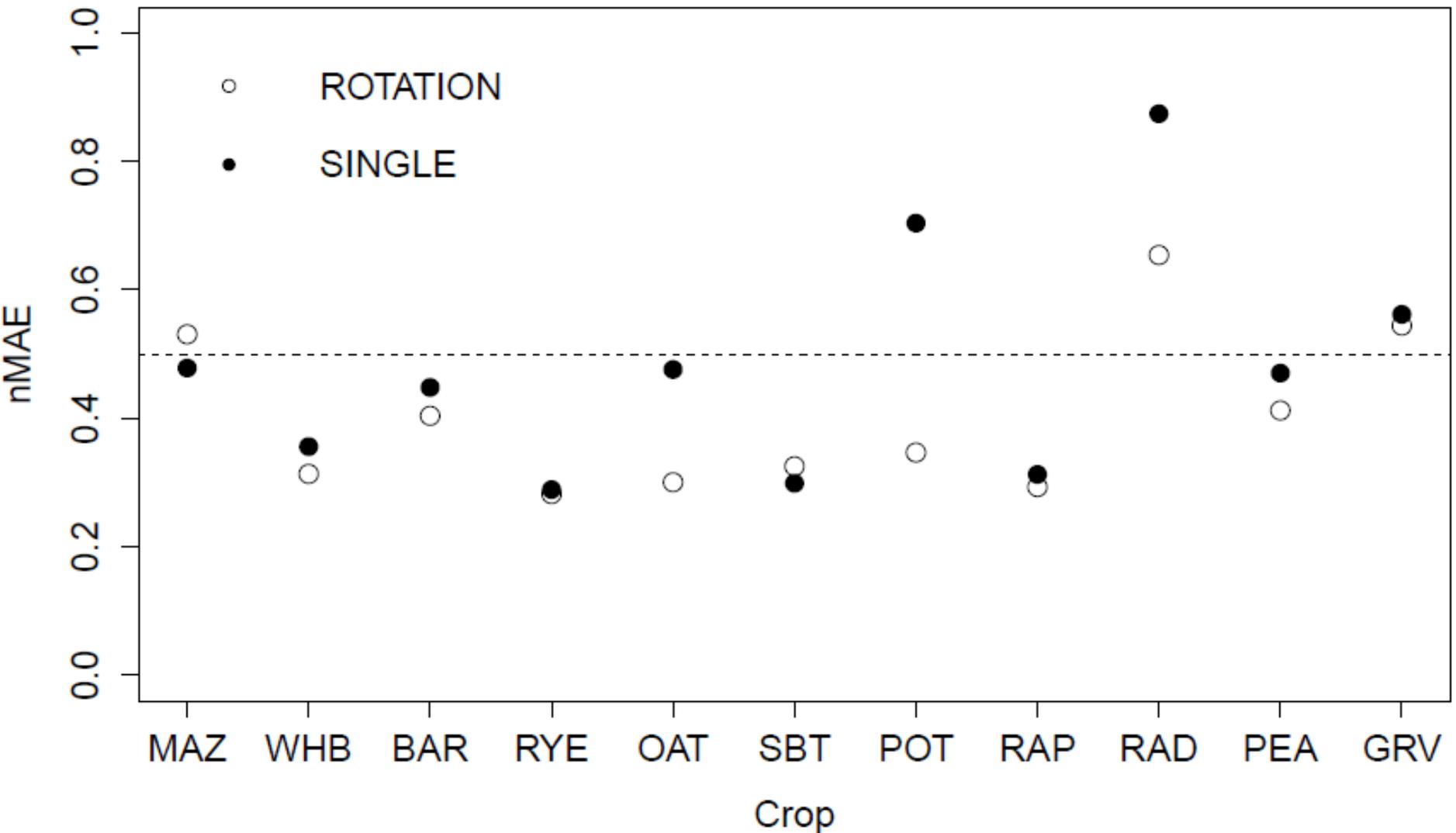


# observed and simulated crop yields



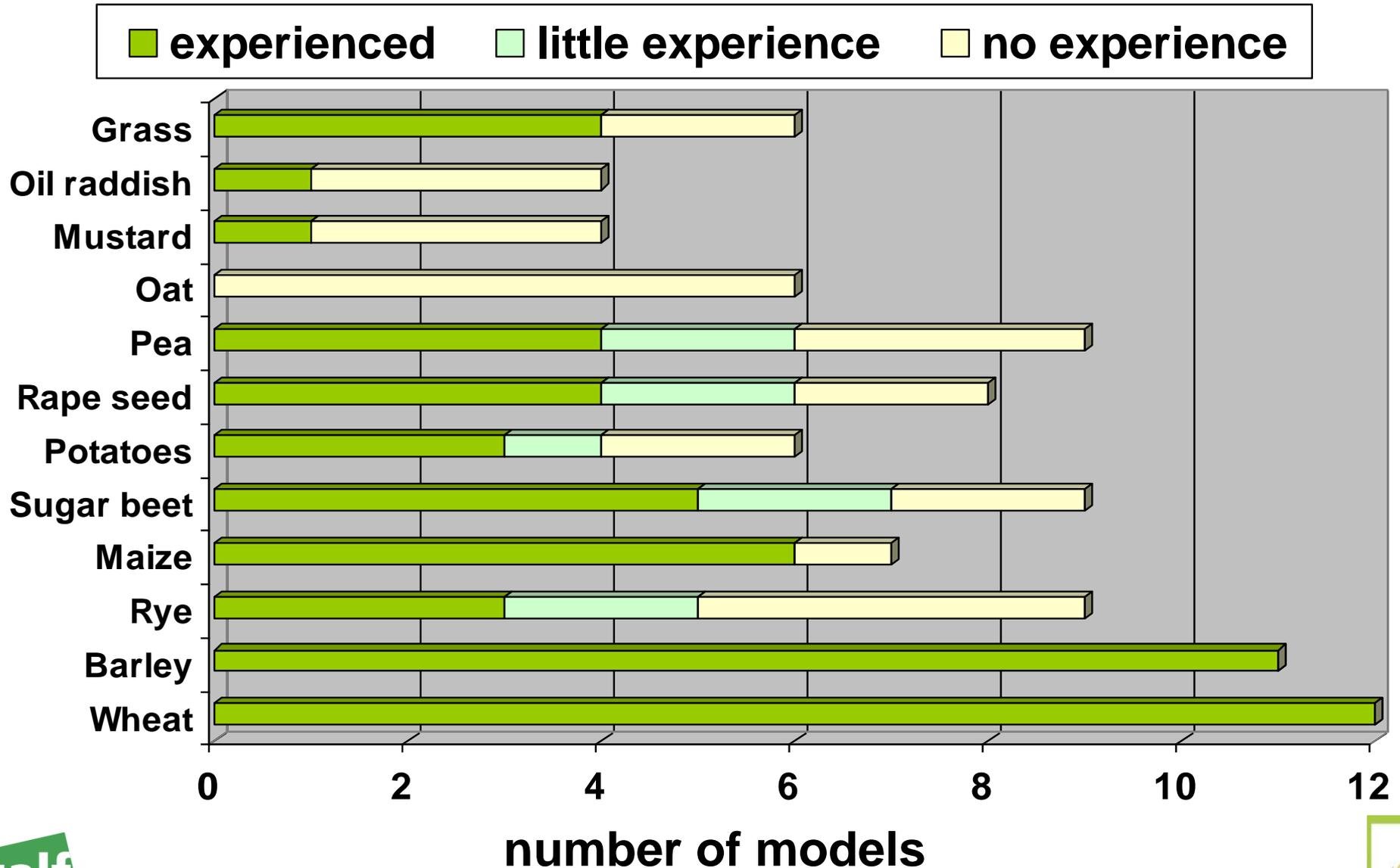
Across all sites, treatments and crops, the ROTATION results was shown to perform slightly better compared to the SINGLE but significantly only for one (IA) out of three indices

# Rel. MAEs of rotation vs. single year simulation (uncal)

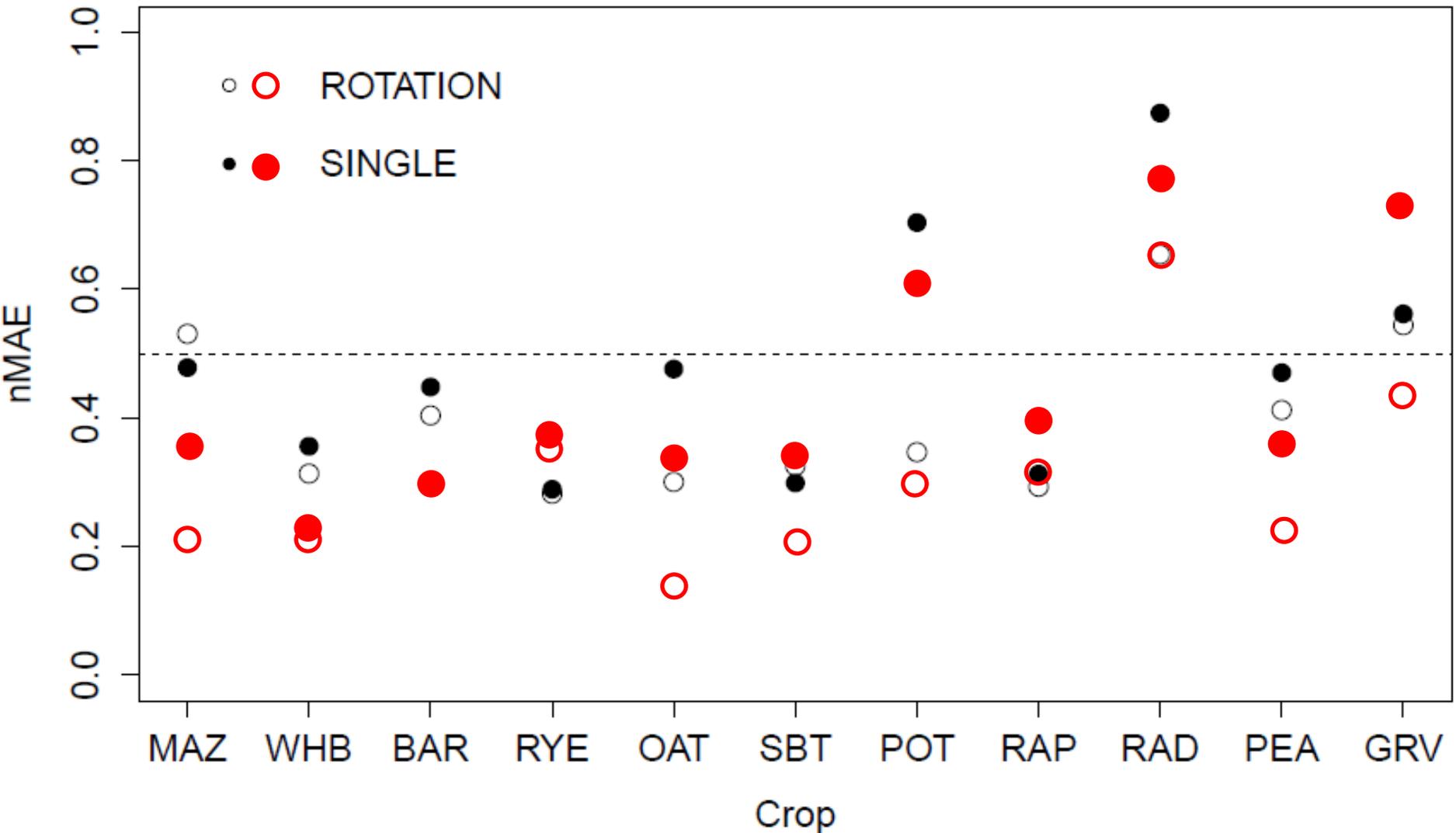


Crop specific performance is significantly better for ROTATION for nMAE and RMSE  
not for rRMSE for uncalibrated results

# model experience regarding single crops

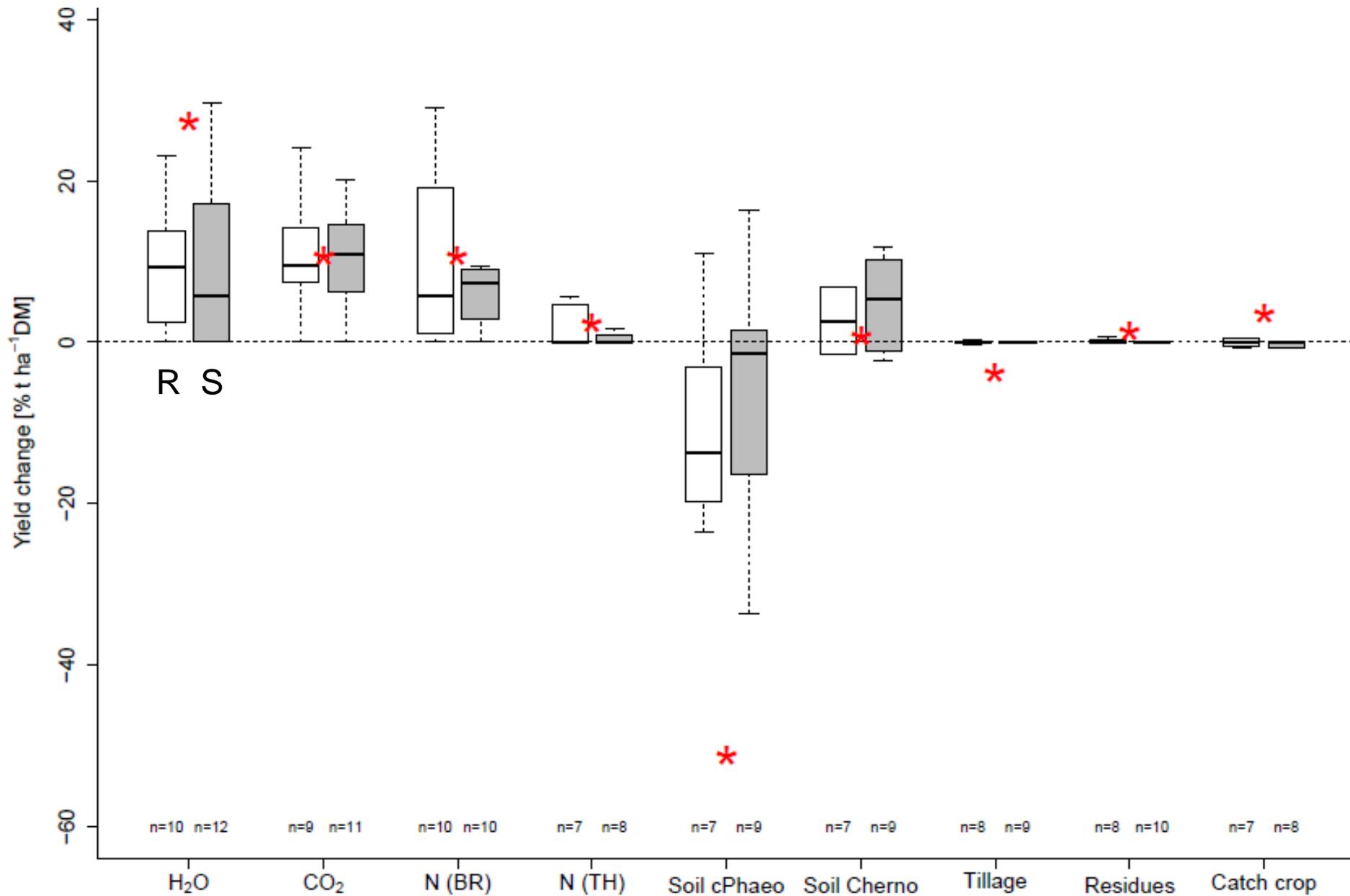


# relative MAEs of rotation vs. single year simulation



Crop specific performance is significantly better for ROTATION for nMAE, RMSE and rRMSE for calibrated results

# Yield responses to different treatments



# Mediterranean site for crop rotation analysis

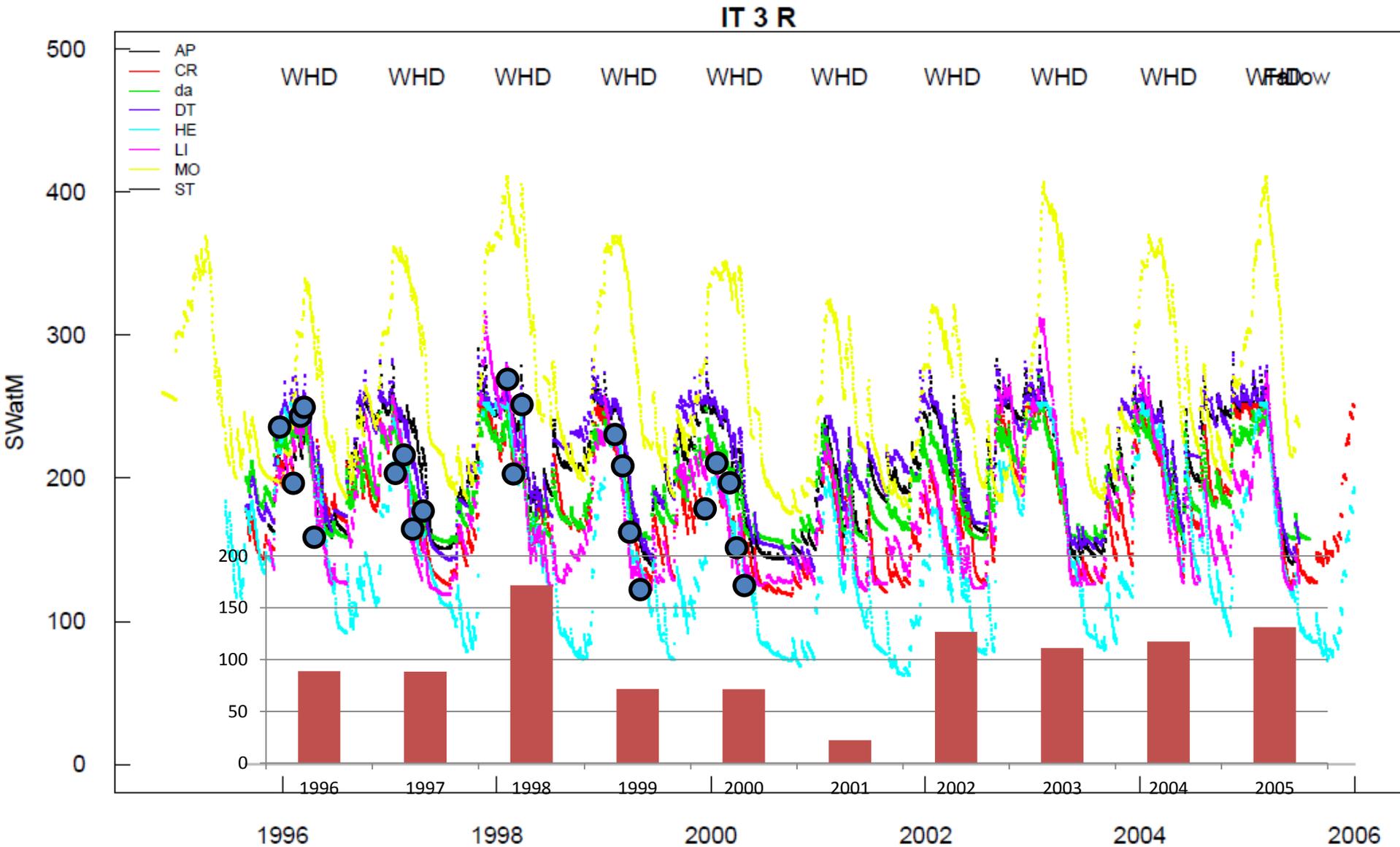
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Location: Foggia/Italy

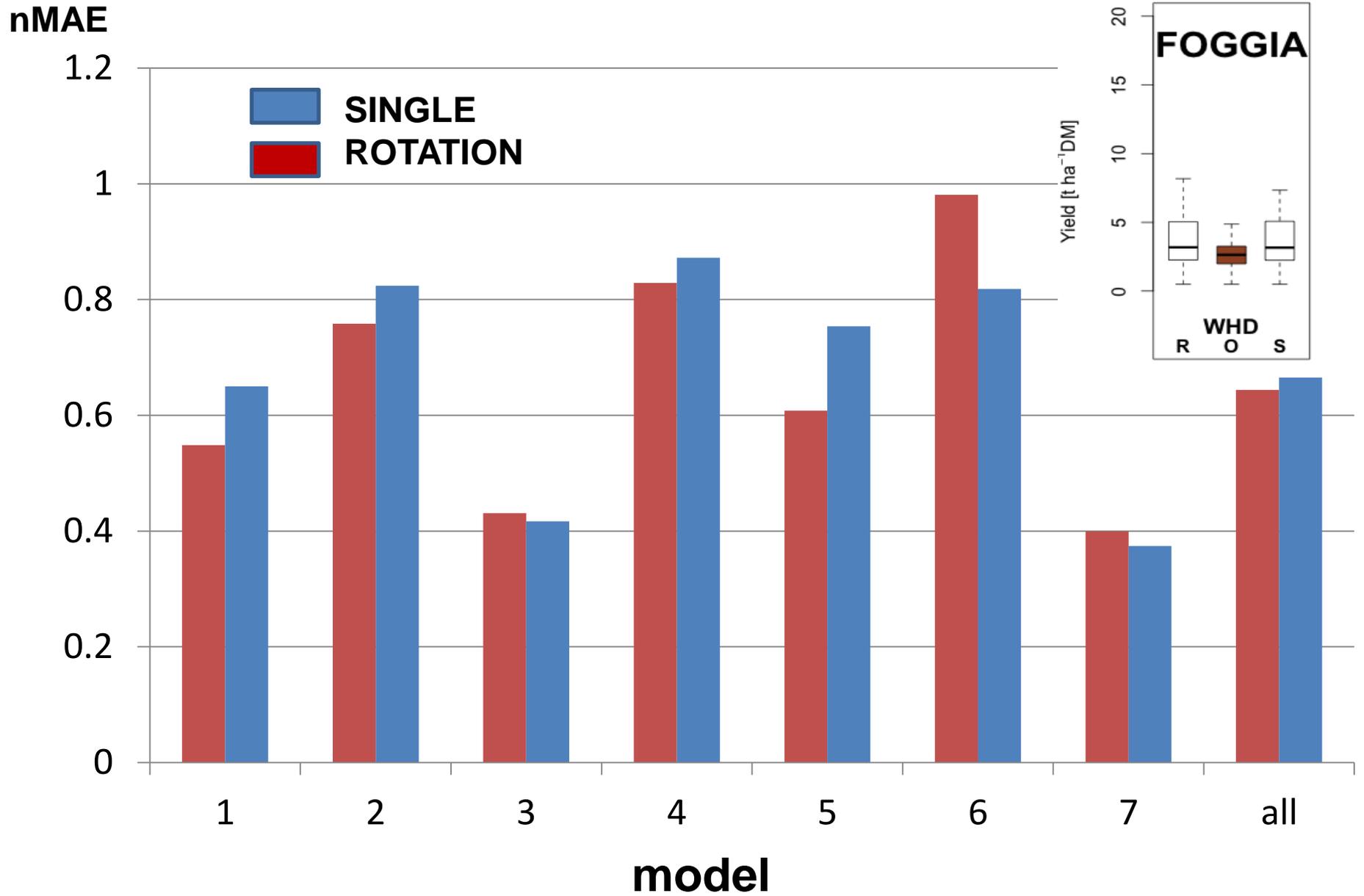
Crop rotation: 11 years durum wheat monoculture

Treatments: 4 treatments with different nitrogen applications (0, 50, 100, 150 kg N/ha) to straw/stubble in autumn

# Soil water content at Foggia (0-60 cm)



# nMAE of models with ROTATION and SINGLE mode at Foggia



# conclusions

- Not all models are capable to run continuous crop rotations
- Continuous simulation via rotation does slightly improve the performance of yield prediction compared to year-by-year calculations for the uncalibrated models.
- Yield predictions of some crops show high uncertainties since they are not yet well parameterized.
- This may reduce quality of continuous runs and explains partly low differences between continuous and single-year runs.
- Calibration improved performance for specific crops and resulted in significantly better performance though continuous simulation.

# conclusions

- Carry over effects were limited due to high nitrogen supply and water availability. Therefore, we selected an additional dry site for analysis.
- Model responses to CO<sub>2</sub> and N supply were similar to observed reactions, while response to water supply and soils was underestimated.
- Tillage and residue management showed no short term effects
- Although crop yields were mostly negatively affected by winter water deficit, the performance of the models in ROTATION mode was again only insignificantly better for the uncalibrated Mediterranean site regarding MAE and IA, but not for RMSE for the uncalibrated run.
- **Continuous crop rotation is only beneficial if all crops in the rotation are adequately parameterized and calibrated.**

All models are wrong,  
some models are useful G.E.P.Box, 1979

Thank you  
for your attention



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