



Fuzzy-logic based multi-site crop model evaluation

Gianni BELLOCCHI

French National Institute for Agricultural Research, Clermont-Ferrand, France

Marco ACUTIS, University of Milan, Italy

Roberto FERRISE, University of Florence, Italy

Mike RIVINGTON, James Hutton Institute, Aberdeen, United Kingdom

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A Review of Methodologies to Evaluate Agroecosystem Simulation Models

F. MARTORANA and G. BELLOCCHI

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Review article

Validation of biophysical models: issues and methodologies. A review

Gianni BELLOCCHI^{1*}, Mike RIVINGTON², Marcello DONATELLI¹, Katja Richter³



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Agricultural Systems

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/agrins

An evaluation of the statistical methods for testing the performance of crop models with observed data

J.M. Yang^a, J.Y. Yang^{b,*}, S. Liu^{b,c}, G. Hoogenboom^d

Journal of Applied Remote Sensing

Derivation of biophysical variables from Earth observation data: validation of statistical measures

Katja Richter
Clement Atzberger
Tobias B. Hank
Wolfram Mauser

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Environmental Modelling & Software 26 (2011) 328–336

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Technical assessment and evaluation of environmental models and software: a letter to the Editor

Alexandrov^{a,*}, D. Ames^b, G. Bellocchi^c, M. Bruen^d, N. Crout^e, M. Erechtkoukova^f, A. Hildebrandt^g, J. Iqbal^h, M. J. Odehⁱ, J. Palomares^j, M. Rötter^k, S. T. Purucker^k, M. Rivington^l

Ecological Modelling 220 (2009) 1395–1410

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Ecological Modelling

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Validation of the models WARM, CropSyst, and WOFOST for rice production in the Philippines

M. Acutis^b, Gianni Bellocchi^c, Marcello Donatelli^{d,1}

Ecological Modelling 221 (2010) 960–964

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Ecological Modelling

Robustness based on the explored conditions

Spanish Journal of Agricultural Research 2009 7(3), 680-686
ISSN: 1695-971-X

Validation of strategies for rice modelling in the Philippines

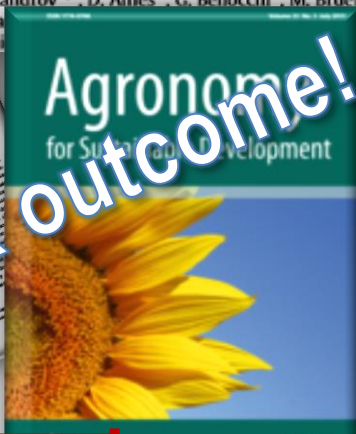
M. Boschetti³ and M. Acutis⁴

Expert System

MACSUR outcome!

Deliberative process for comprehensive evaluation of agroecological models: A review

Abstract: This review of the literature on the validation of agroecological models is intended to provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of the art in this field. The review is structured around the following key issues: (i) the need for a comprehensive evaluation of agroecological models; (ii) the need for a common framework for the evaluation of agroecological models; (iii) the need for a common terminology for the evaluation of agroecological models; (iv) the need for a common methodology for the evaluation of agroecological models; (v) the need for a common set of metrics for the evaluation of agroecological models; (vi) the need for a common set of thresholds for the evaluation of agroecological models; (vii) the need for a common set of limitations for the evaluation of agroecological models; (viii) the need for a common set of intercorrelations for the evaluation of agroecological models; (ix) the need for a common set of disaggregation and aggregation for the evaluation of agroecological models.



Elaboration of new metrics

Setting of thresholds

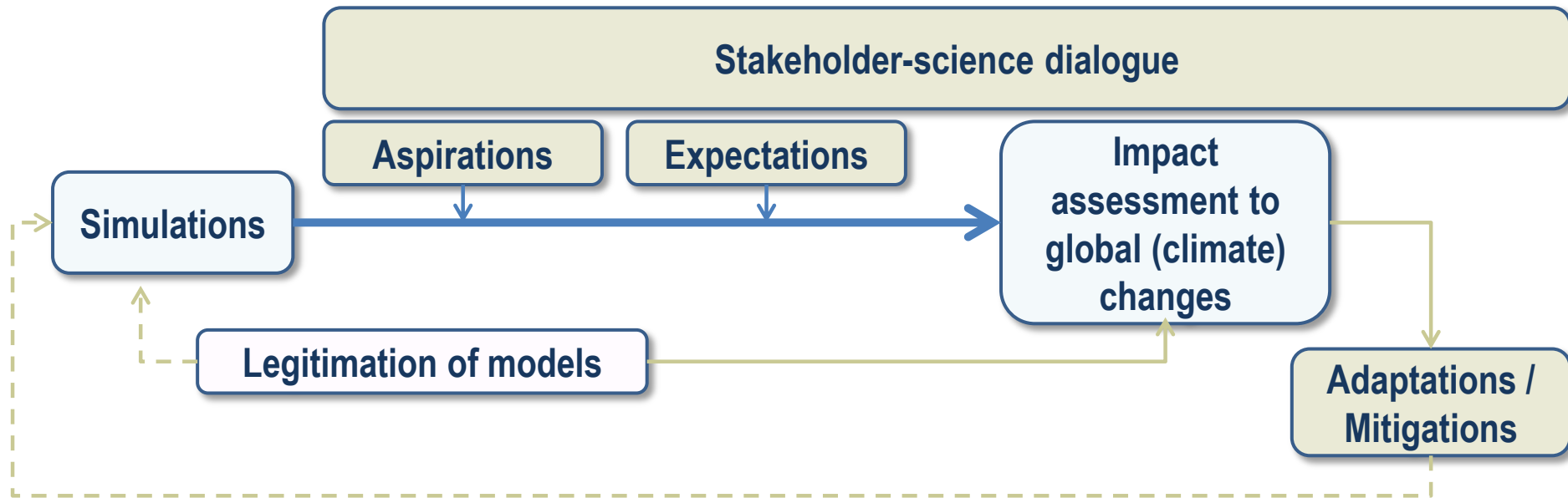
Meaning and limitations

Intercorrelation

Disaggregation

Aggregation

Deliberative process in model-based climate change studies

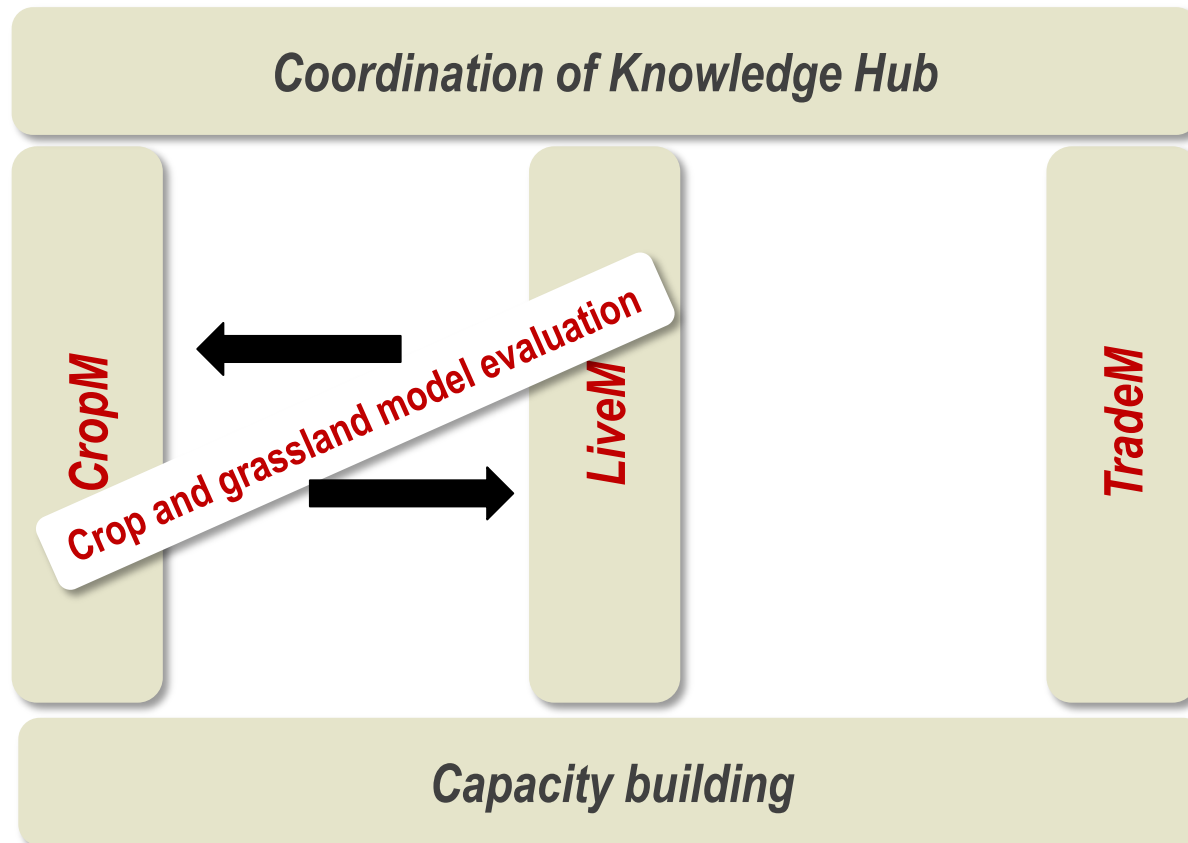


Bellocchi et al., 2006, *Ital. J. Agrometeorol.*

Rivington et al., 2007, *Environ. Modell. Softw.*

Bellocchi et al., 2015, *Agron. Sustain. Dev.*

MACSUR cross-cutting activities



CropM-LiveM

- *Definition of model performance indicators*
- *Elaboration of model evaluation protocols*

Some metrics

$$CRM = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n O_i - \sum_{i=1}^n P_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n O_i}$$

$$MAE = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n |P_i - O_i|}{n}$$

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (P_i - O_i)^2}{n}}$$

← simple

← absolute

← squared

difference-based metrics

non-parametric →

$$MdAE = \text{median}_{i=1, \dots, n} |P_i - O_i|$$

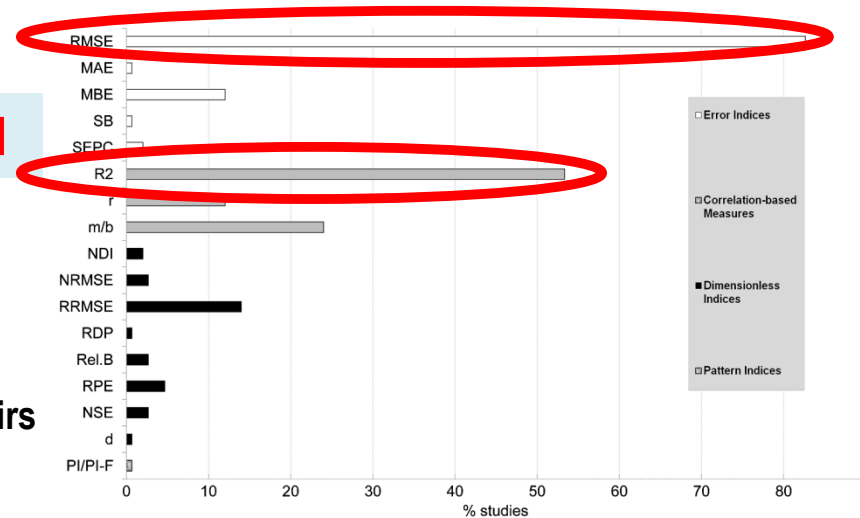
association-based metrics

$$r = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (P_i - \bar{P}) \cdot (O_i - \bar{O})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (P_i - \bar{P})^2 \cdot \sum_{i=1}^n (O_i - \bar{O})^2}} \quad r^2, \text{slope, intercept}$$

$$EF = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (P_i - O_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (O_i - \bar{O})^2}$$

$$d = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (P_i - O_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (|P_i - \bar{O}| + |O_i - \bar{O}|)^2}$$

combined



P = predicted; O = observed; i = ith O/P pair; n = number of O/P pairs

Richter et al., 2012, J. Appl. Remote Sens.

Setting of thresholds

| Performance measure | Unit | Value range and purpose | Reliability criteria |
|---|---------------|---|----------------------|
| Coefficient of determination (R^2) of the linear regression estimates versus measurements | dimensionless | 0 (absence of fit) to 1 (perfect fit): the closer values are to 1, the better the model | > 0.8 |
| Willmott (1982) index of agreement (d) | dimensionless | 0 (absence of agreement) to 1 (perfect agreement): the closer values are to 1, the better the model | > 0.8 |
| Mean absolute error over the mean of the measured values ($MAE(\%)$) | % | 0 (optimum) to positive infinity: the smaller $MAE(\%)$, the better the model performance | < 20 |

Key issues and factors

| Key validation issues | Major factors to investigate | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | Modelling objective | Model inputs | Model outputs | Model structure | Modelling conditions |
| Validation purpose | X | | X | | X |
| Robustness of results | | | X | | X |
| Interpretation of phenomena | | X | X | X | |
| Model comparison | | | | X | |
| Model predictions | X | | X | | X |
| Model complexity | | X | X | X | |
| Data accuracy | | X | X | | |
| Time histories | | | X | | |

Fuzzy-logic based indicators

Model Quality Indicator (MQI_s)

MQI_s

membership function
 $S[x, a = 0; b = 1]$

membership function
 $S[x, a = \min(F, U); b = \max(F, U)]$

membership function
 $S[x, a = \min(F, U); b = \max(F, U)]$

Complexity
 F Partial U
 0 ↔ 1

Agreement
 F Partial U
 0 ↔ 1

F
 F
 U
 U

F
 U
 F
 U

0.00
 0.75
 0.25
 1.00

| expert weight | Correlation coefficient (R) F Partial U $\geq 0.90 \leftrightarrow \leq 0.70$ | Index of agreement (d) F Partial U $\geq 0.90 \leftrightarrow \leq 0.70$ | Probability of equal means ($P(t)$) F Partial U $\geq 0.10 \leftrightarrow \leq 0.05$ |
|---------------|---|--|---|
| 0.00 | F | F | F |
| 0.20 | F | F | U |
| 0.60 | F | U | F |
| 0.80 | F | U | U |
| 0.20 | U | F | F |
| 0.40 | U | F | U |
| 0.80 | U | U | F |
| 1.00 | U | U | U |

Agreement

| | Ratio of relevance parameters (R_p) F Partial U $\geq 0.10 \leftrightarrow \leq 0.50$ | AIC relative weight (w_k) F Partial U $\geq 0.70 \leftrightarrow \leq 0.30$ |
|------|---|---|
| 0.00 | F | F |
| 0.50 | F | U |
| 0.50 | U | F |
| 1.00 | U | U |

Complexity

Multi-site, Model Quality Indicator (MQI_m)

MQI_m

membership function
 $S[x, a = \min(F, U); b = \max(F, U)]$

membership function
 $S[x, a = 0; b = 1]$

Agreement

Complexity

Robustness

| expert weight | Correlation coefficient (R) F Partial U $\geq 0.90 \leftrightarrow \leq 0.70$ | Index of agreement (d) F Partial U $\geq 0.90 \leftrightarrow \leq 0.70$ | Probability of equal means ($P(t)$) F Partial U $\geq 0.10 \leftrightarrow \leq 0.05$ |
|---------------|---|--|---|
|---------------|---|--|---|

| | | | |
|------|---|---|---|
| 0.00 | F | F | F |
| 0.20 | F | F | U |
| 0.60 | F | U | F |
| 0.80 | F | U | U |
| 0.20 | U | F | F |
| 0.40 | U | F | U |
| 0.80 | U | U | F |
| 1.00 | U | U | U |

membership function
 $S[x, a = \min(F, U); b = \max(F, U)]$

| Ratio of relevance parameters (R_p) F Partial U $\geq 0.10 \leftrightarrow \leq 0.50$ | AIC relative weight (w_k) F Partial U $\geq 0.70 \leftrightarrow \leq 0.30$ |
|---|---|
|---|---|

| | | |
|------|---|---|
| 0.00 | F | F |
| 0.50 | F | U |
| 0.50 | U | F |
| 1.00 | U | U |

| Index of robustness (I_R) F Partial U 1 \leftrightarrow 10 |
|--|
|--|

| | |
|------|---|
| 0.00 | F |
| 1.00 | U |

| Complexity F Partial U 0 \leftrightarrow 1 | Agreement F Partial U 0 \leftrightarrow 1 | Robustness F Partial U 0 \leftrightarrow 1 |
|--|---|--|
| 0.00 | F | F |
| 0.25 | F | F |
| 0.50 | F | U |
| 0.75 | F | U |
| 0.25 | U | F |
| 0.50 | U | F |
| 0.75 | U | F |
| 1.00 | U | U |

membership function
 $S[x, a = \min(F, U); b = \max(F, U)]$

Synthetic indicators

*Aggregation rules:
fuzzy-logic based weighing system*

I. Agreement

- Correlation coefficient
- Index of agreement
- Probability of equal means

II. Complexity

- Ratio of relevant parameters
- Parameters-agreement criterion

III. Stability (robustness)

- Index of robustness

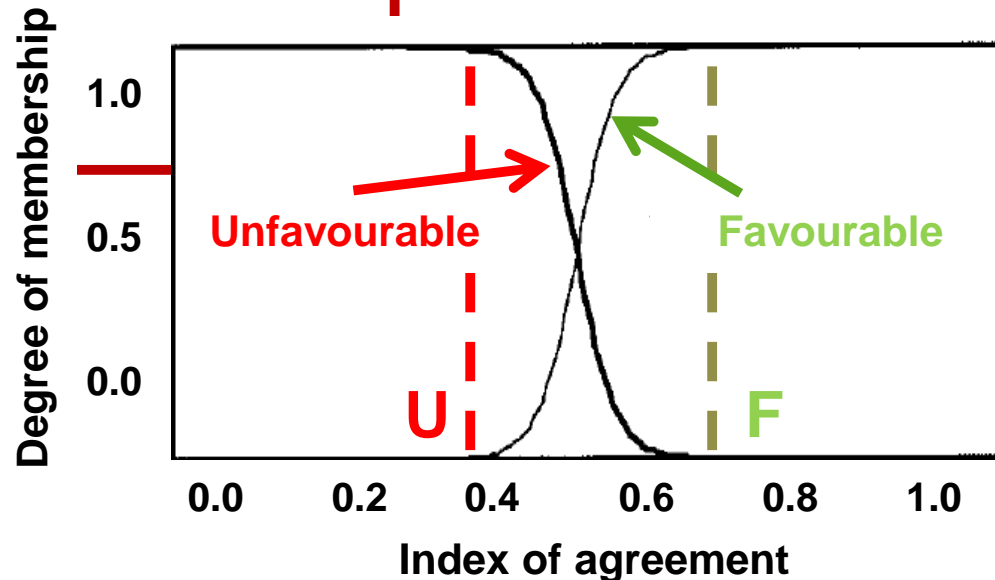
*Hindrances to overcome:
thresholds and weights*

Non-dimensionality

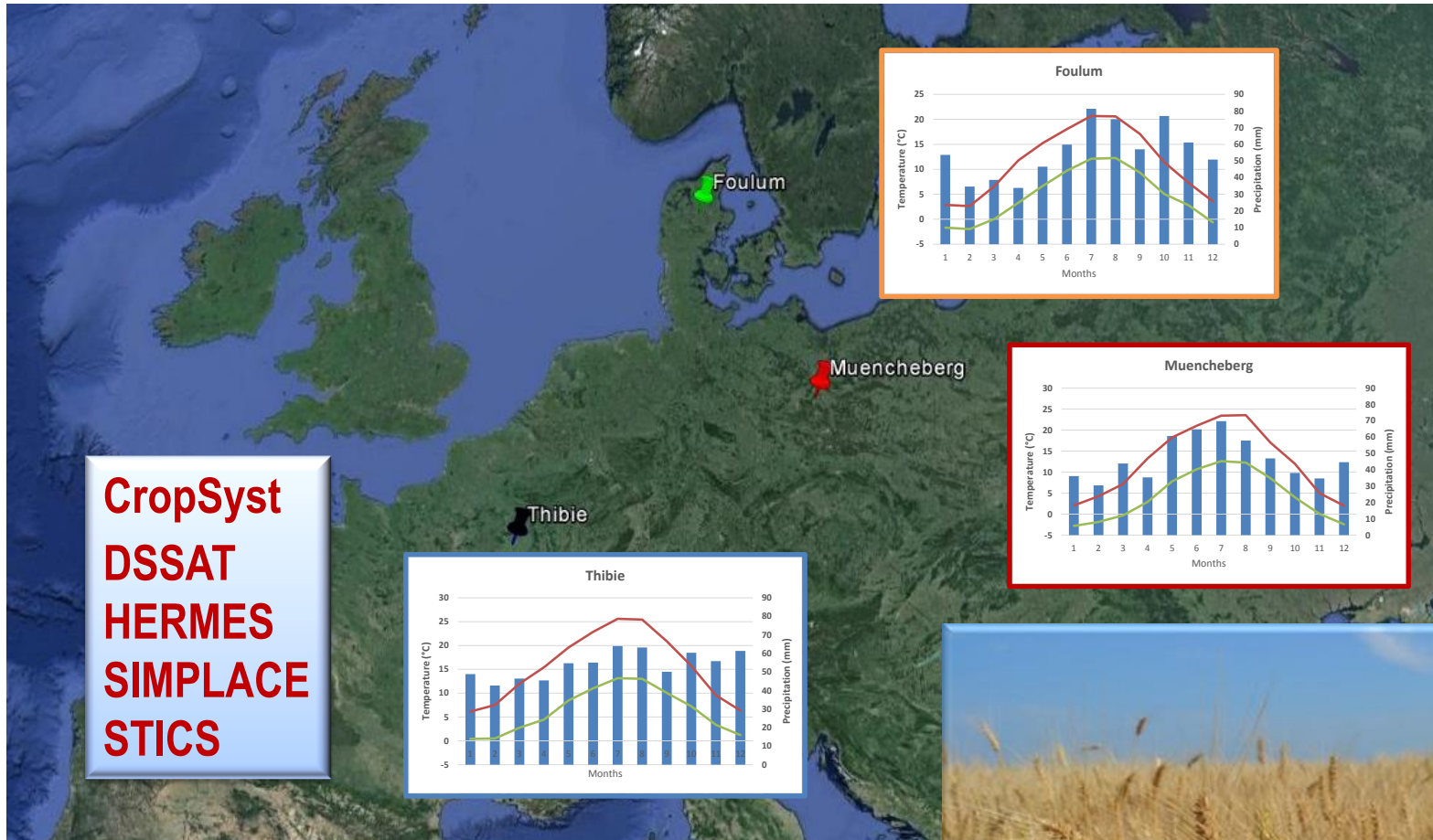
Lower and upper bounding

(best) 0 – 1 (worst)

**Model Quality
Indicator**



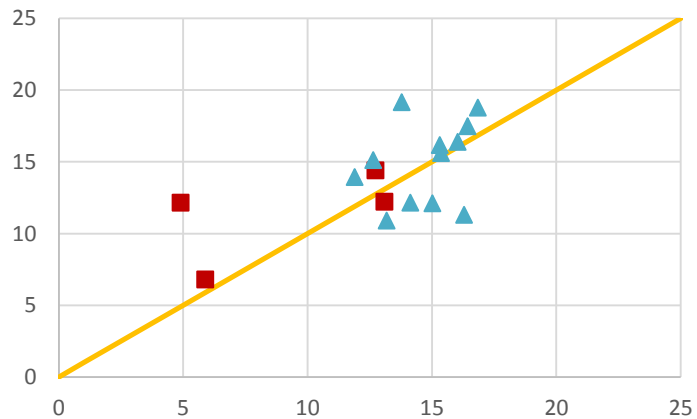
CropM wheat simulations: yield, above-ground biomass at maturity



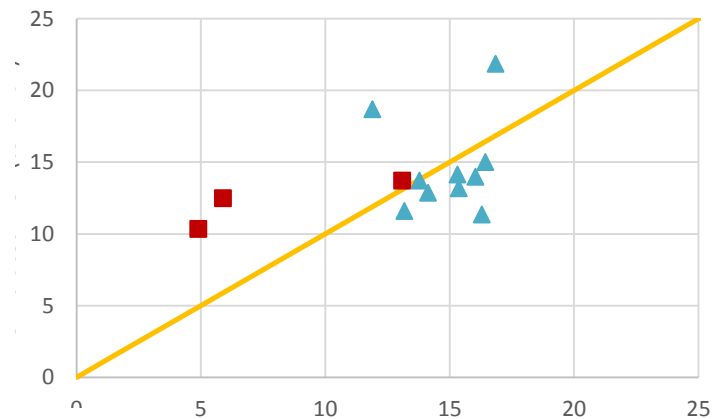
CropSyst
DSSAT
HERMES
SIMPLACE
STICS



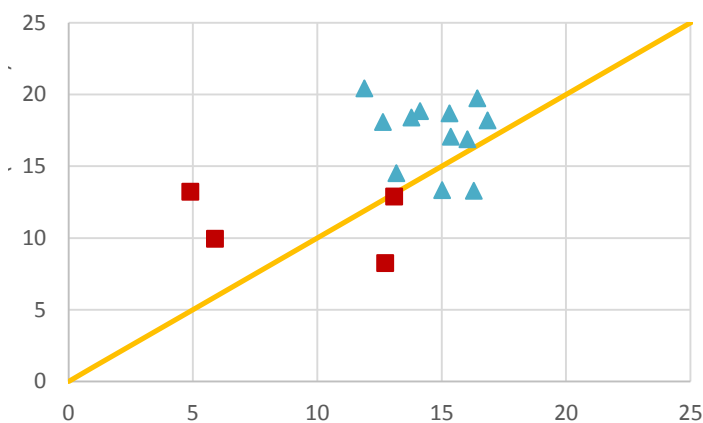
Model M1



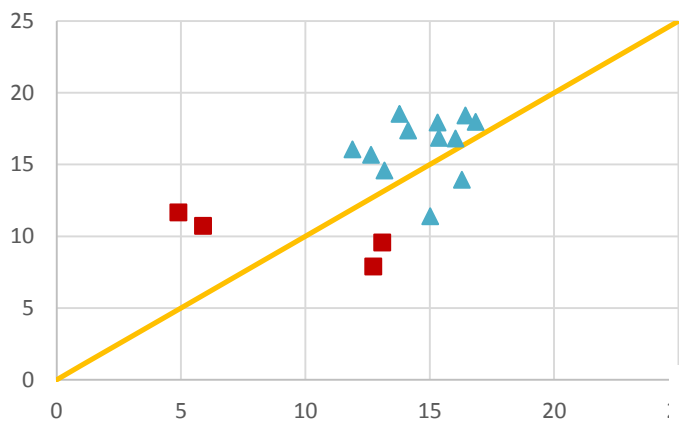
Model M2



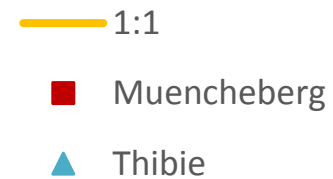
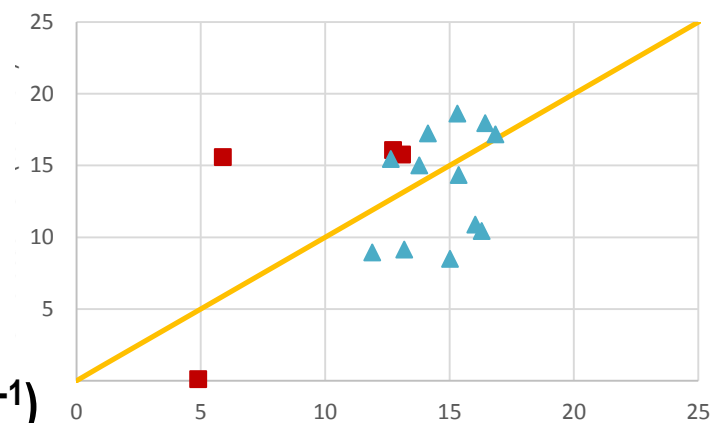
Model M3



Model M4

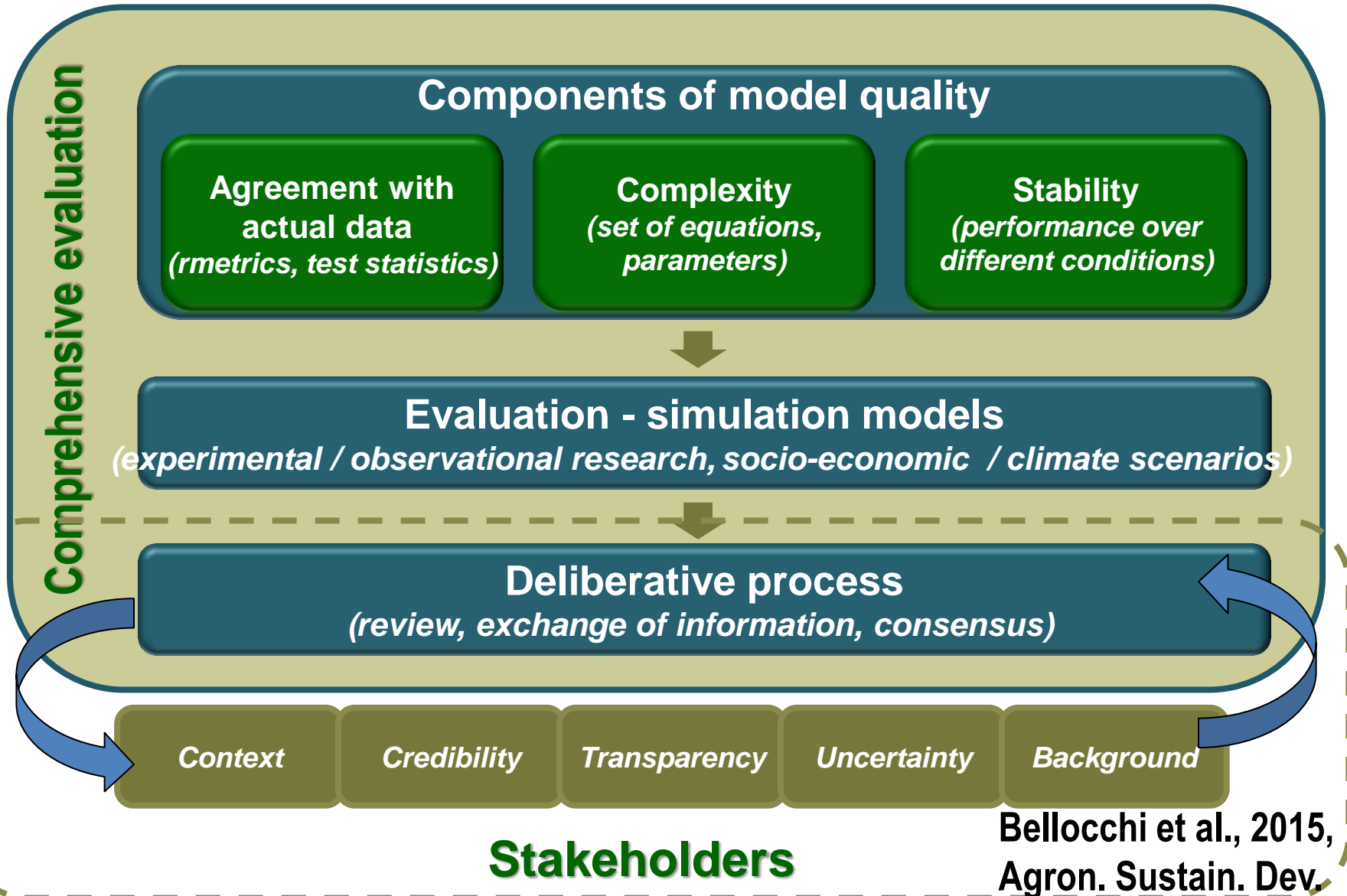


Model M5

Observed AGB ($t\ ha^{-1}$)Simulated AGB ($t\ ha^{-1}$)

| Model | Aboveground biomass at maturity: performance metrics, modules and indicator | | | | | |
|-------|---|-----------|-----------|------------------|------------------|------------|
| | $\overline{P(t)}$ | \bar{r} | \bar{d} | $\overline{R_p}$ | $\overline{w_k}$ | I_R |
| M1 | 0.23 | 0.46 | 0.64 | 0.32 | 1.99E-13 | 65.4 |
| M2 | 0.20 | 0.46 | 0.60 | 0.28 | 2.66E-11 | 6.0 |
| M3 | 0.01 | -0.25 | 0.70 | 0.53 | 0.12 | 149.5 |
| M4 | 0.08 | -0.36 | 0.25 | 0.50 | 0.88 | 344.6 |
| M5 | 0.08 | 0.49 | 0.60 | 0.37 | 1.34E-08 | 377.6 |
| | Agreement | | | Complexity | | Robustness |
| M1 | 0.8000 | | | 0.7975 | | 1.0000 |
| M2 | 0.8000 | | | 0.7975 | | 0.6049 |
| M3 | 1.0000 | | | 1.0000 | | 1.0000 |
| M4 | 0.8640 | | | 0.5000 | | 1.0000 |
| M5 | 0.8640 | | | 0.8944 | | 1.0000 |
| | MQI _m | | | | | |
| M1 | 0.8976 | | | | | |
| M2 | 0.7471 | | | | | |
| M3 | 1.0000 | | | | | |
| M4 | 0.8428 | | | | | |
| M5 | 0.9640 | | | | | |

Model evaluation / deliberative process

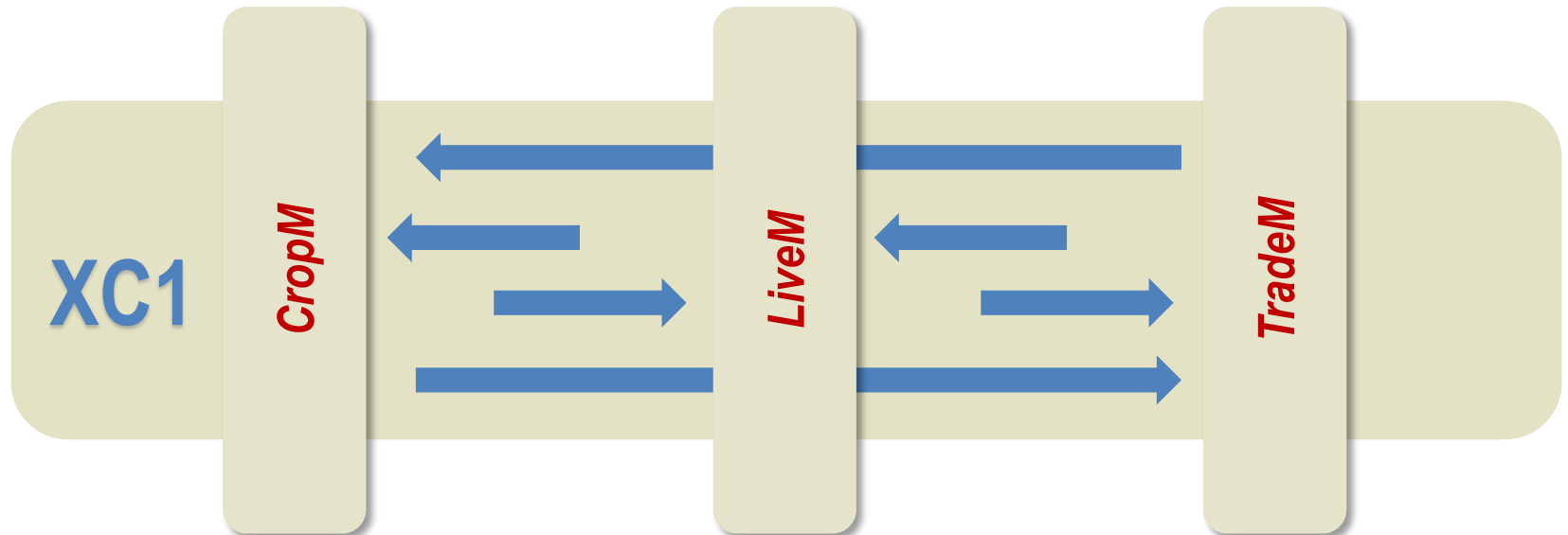


Towards a consolidated, internationally-agreed protocol to evaluate models: what does go forth?

❖ Review of settings

- ❖ Selection of metrics
- ❖ Attribution of thresholds and weights

❖ Extension to multiple outputs



Literature sources

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Title

C and N Models Intercomparison and Improvement to assess management options for GHG mitigation in agrosystems worldwide

Acronym

CN-MIP



Adaptation de l'agriculture et de la forêt au changement climatique