



Agri-environmental indicators (UC1b)

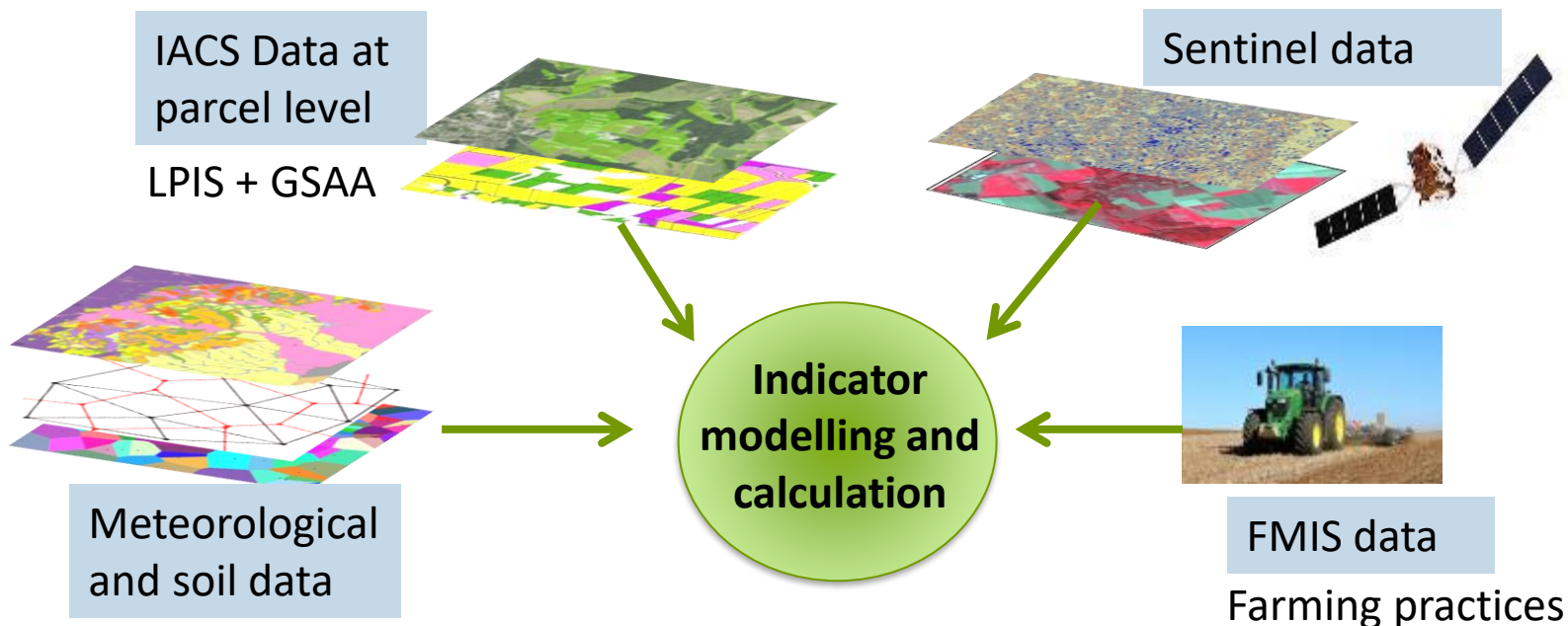
04/03/2021 – Sen4Cap Closing meeting



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No. 842009

Objectives and principles

- To propose indicators in order to measure the impact of agricultural practices on environment
 - Based on published scientific methods & former EU projects (DiverImpact, Sensagri, Farmland)
 - Based on data widely available in Europe
 - Based on Sen4Cap software standards



Multi actor approach

INRAE-CESBIO

Scientific and agronomic approaches - EO expertise

IGN

GIS/mapping expertise
Software development

ASP

IACS data provision

DAA(DK), FEAGA (SP), RVO (NL)

Testing Paying Agencies

Chambers of agriculture

access to FMIS data,
farmer consent,
promotion of indicators

National Biodiversity Agency

Indicator promotion
and dissemination

User Case 1b

FR ministries Agri and Env

Policy making and
assessment

DG Agri, Env, Clima

EU objectives
and
CAP monitoring

EEB and NGO

Social expectation
and CAP impact

3
meetings

2
meetings

1
meeting

1
meeting

2
meetings

Selection of indicators to be processed

- Discussion with key stakeholder (European Commission) based on a preliminary selection of 13 candidate indicators

- **Selection of 3 indicators**

- Carbon storage => climatic change
- Nitrate Lixiviation => water quality
- Biodiversity



- Indicators may be computed at various TIERS,

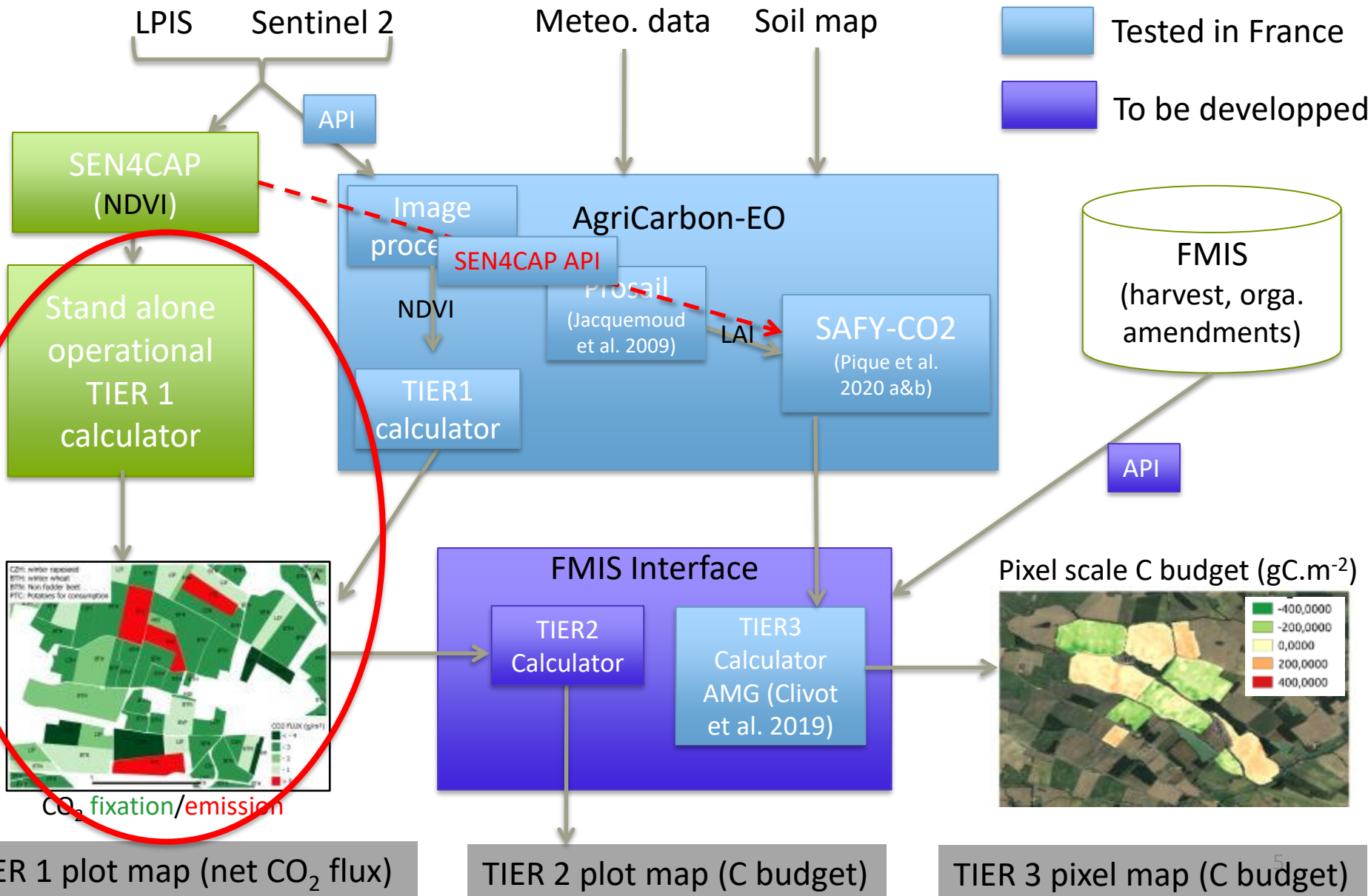
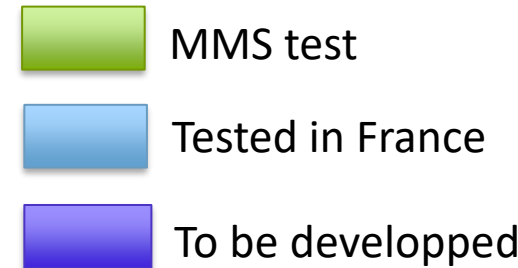
- TIER 1 : easily feasible but less accurate
- TIER 2 : better result but more difficulties to get
- TIER 3 : best results, less operational

} Empirical approaches

} Modelling approach

Carbon indicators

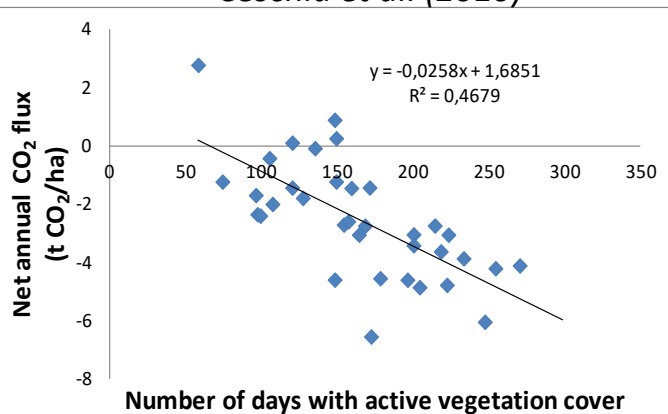
Level of readiness



Carbon indicator Tier 1 : principle

- Objective: estimate empirically the net annual CO₂ flux at parcel level
 - The net annual CO₂ flux is related to number of days of vegetation
 - Method valid only on arable land for 13 family crops

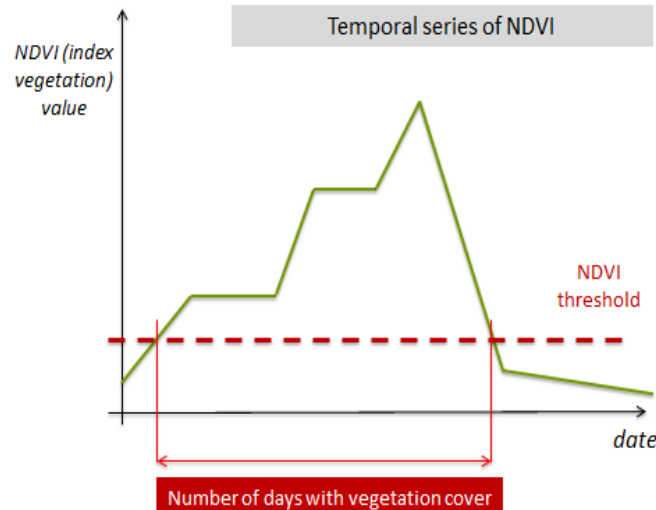
Ceschia et al. (2010)



Simple relation between number of days with active vegetation and CO₂ flux



Araya et al. (2017)



Apply threshold on NDVI profile to get number of days with active vegetation

class Agricultural Parcels

«codeList»
EmpiricalCarbonCropTypeValue

+ beet
+ maize
+ pea
+ potatoe
+ rapeseed
+ sorgho
+ springBarley
+ springHardWheat
+ springSoftWheat
+ sunflower
+ triticale
+ winterBarley
+ winterHardWheat
+ winterSoftWheat

Concerned crop families

Run of the carbon Tier1 calculator

- Install open library and open software (Python) with a command line
- Executable files (Windows and Linux) to run the tool and fill out boxes
- Very simple to use

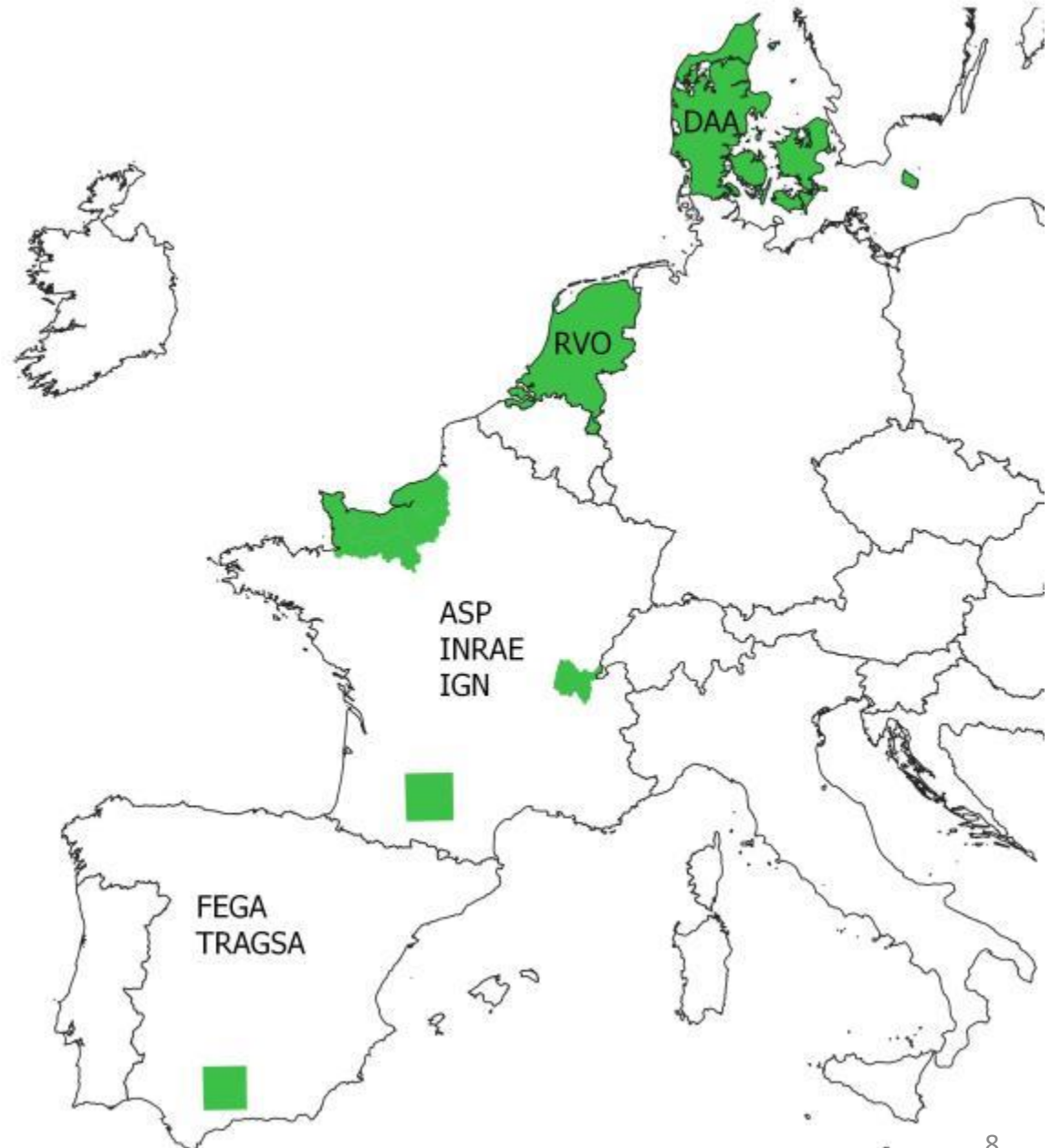
The screenshot shows a software window titled "UC1b : Computer of carbon indicator Tier 1". The interface is divided into four main sections:

- 1. Enter NDVI temporal series file :** Includes a text field "Select the File :" with the path "D:/NIVA/WP2/UC1b-A", a "Browse ..." button, and a "Submit" button.
- 2. Enter threshold :** Includes a "Threshold :" text field with the value "0.3" and a "Submit" button.
- 3. Enter indicator computation period :** Includes "Period start :" and "Period end :" dropdown menus with values "15/09/18" and "15/11/19" respectively, and a "Submit" button.
- 4. Process :** Includes status indicators "CSV : OK", "Threshold : OK", and "Period : OK", a "PROCESS" button, and an "EXIT" button.

Computation of
CO₂ flux at parcel
level

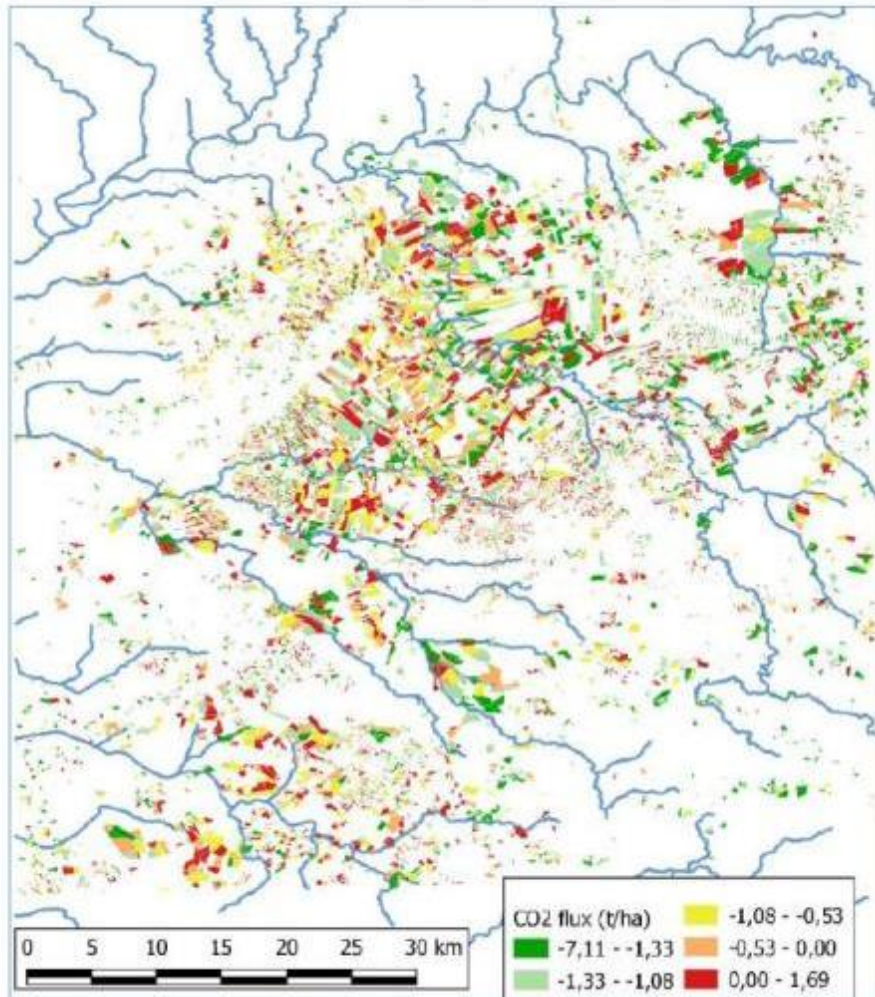
Involved countries across EU MMS test

- France
- Spain
- Netherlands
- Denmark (planned)



Carbon Tier 1 : Testing results

Spain (Seville)



France (Ain)



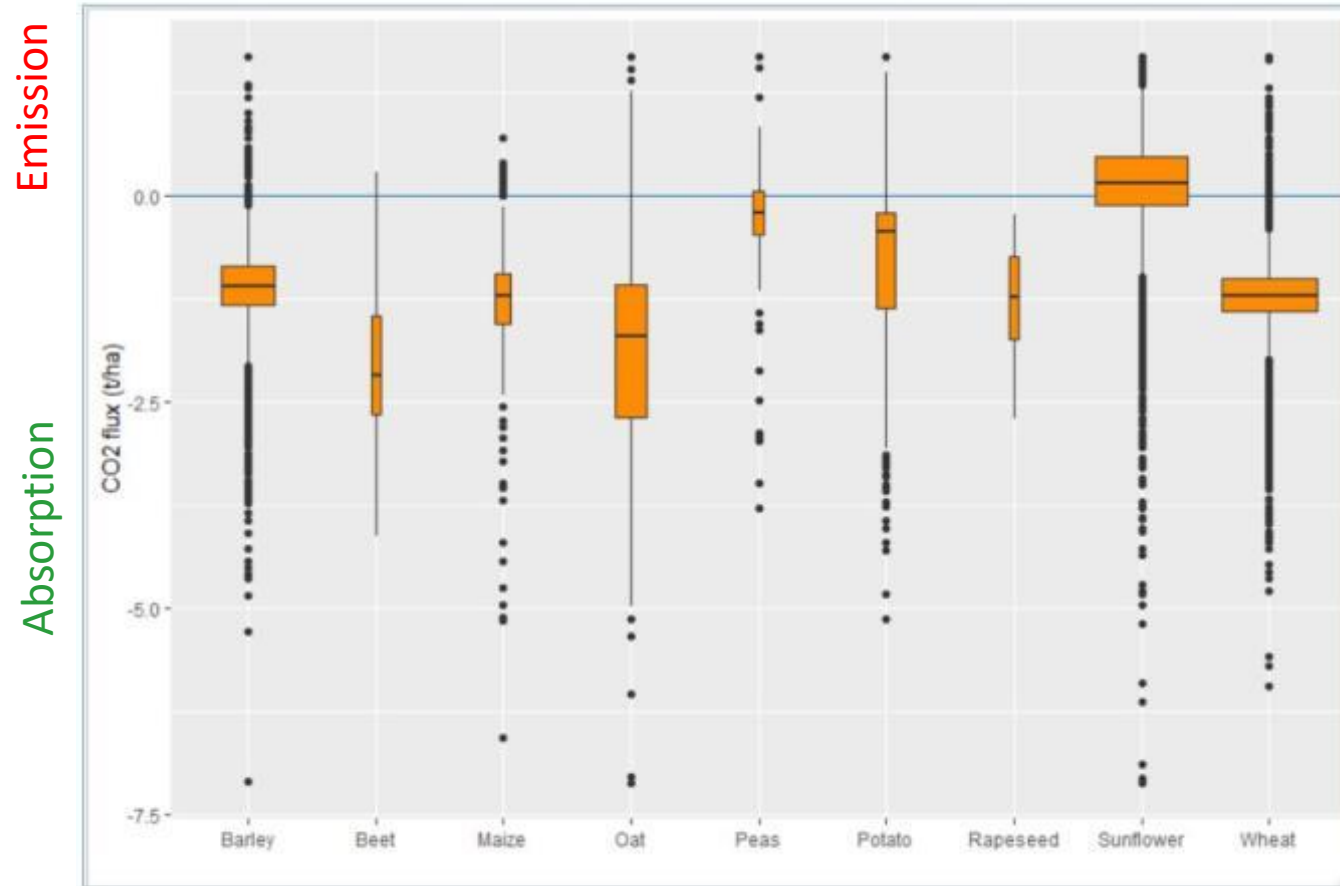
Negative values = annual CO₂ fixation

Positive values = annual CO₂ losses



Tier 1 : Spanish Test results

Carbon flux in the test area
(only for recommended crops in Annex I):



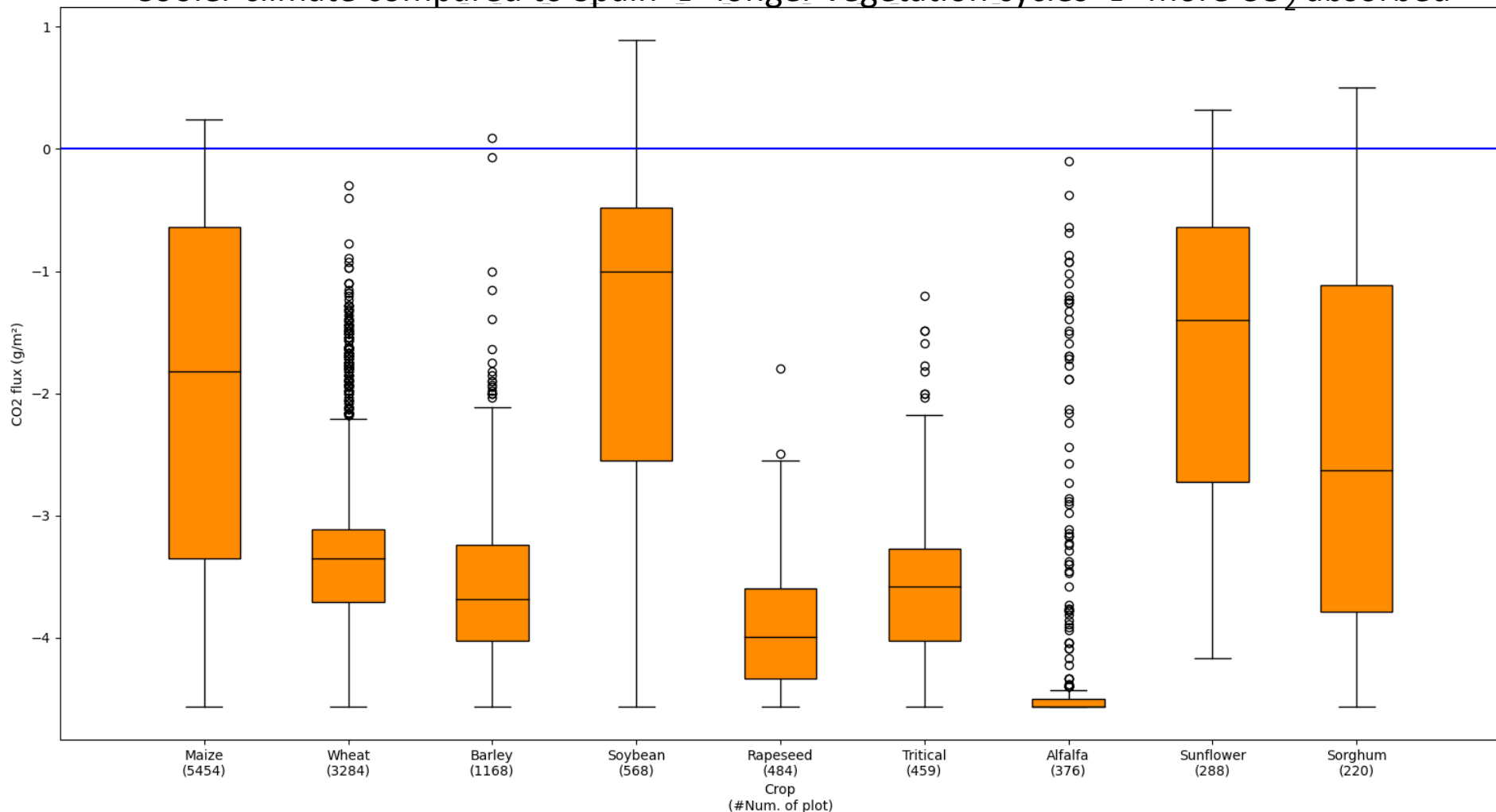
According to this test:

- Median CO2 flux by crop is usually negative (absorption)
- Sunflower is the exception (shorter vegetation cycle)
- Beet is the most effective crop in CO2 fixation
- The lower species population (box width), the bigger IQR* dispersion (box height).

* IQR for interquartile range

Tier 1 : Ain Department test results

Cooler climate compared to Spain → longer vegetation cycles → more CO₂ absorbed



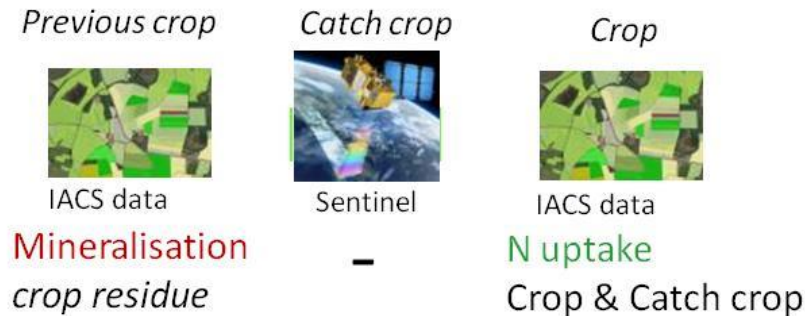
More CO₂ absorption in Ain Compared to Spain (fluxes are more negative)

Winter crops (long veget. cycles) are fixing more CO₂ than summer crops (as expected)

Progress concerning the other indicators

- Risk of Nitrate leaching (to be coded soon in AgriCarbon-EO) ➔ plot scale

- TIER1 :



- TIER2 : same as TIER1 + climatic data + catch crop type (FMIS)

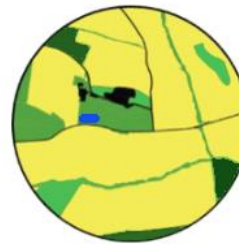
- Biodiversity indicator (to be tested soon in France) ➔ Landscape

TIER 1: proportion of SNH



AEI
Crops
Artificial surfaces

TIER 2: proportion + type of SNH



Woods, hedges, grassland, ponds
Crops
Artificial surfaces

TIER3:

Same as TIER 2
+ data on
pesticides
intensity
(FMIS)

Conclusions

- 3 indicators (Carbon, Nitrate and Biodiversity) addressing 3 categories of environmental issues/ecosystem services implemented operationally at pixel plot/landscape levels
- They are based on Sen4Cap standards and developed in open source for the 3 Tiers
- TIER 1 could easily be implemented everywhere thanks to the IACS data + the Sentinel data
- Carbon TIER 1 is available on the Github and was successfully tested in FR, SP, DK and NL.
- Other tiers are under development and will be available soon. TIERs 2 and 3 will offer higher levels of accuracy/reliability but requires additional data (FMIS or other pedoclimatic data)
- The SEN4CAP API could be used to calculate the C & N indicators in AgriCarbon-EO

THANKS for Your attention !



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