

## Linking Climate, Crop, and Economic Models for Adaptation: The Agricultural Model Intercomparison and Improvement Project



**Alex Ruane**, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, New York City  
AgMIP Science Coordinator and Climate Team Lead  
AgMIP PIs: Cynthia Rosenzweig, Jim Jones, Jerry Hatfield, John Antle  
and AgMIP participants all over the world  
*Aspen Global Change Institute – August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014*



AgMIP is an international community of 650+ **climate scientists**, **agronomists**, **economists**, and **IT experts** working to improve assessments of **future food security**

Visit [www.agmip.org](http://www.agmip.org) for more information

*Links to CCAFS,  
Global Yield Gap Atlas, ISI-MIP,  
Global Futures, MACSUR, et al.*





# The Food Security Challenge

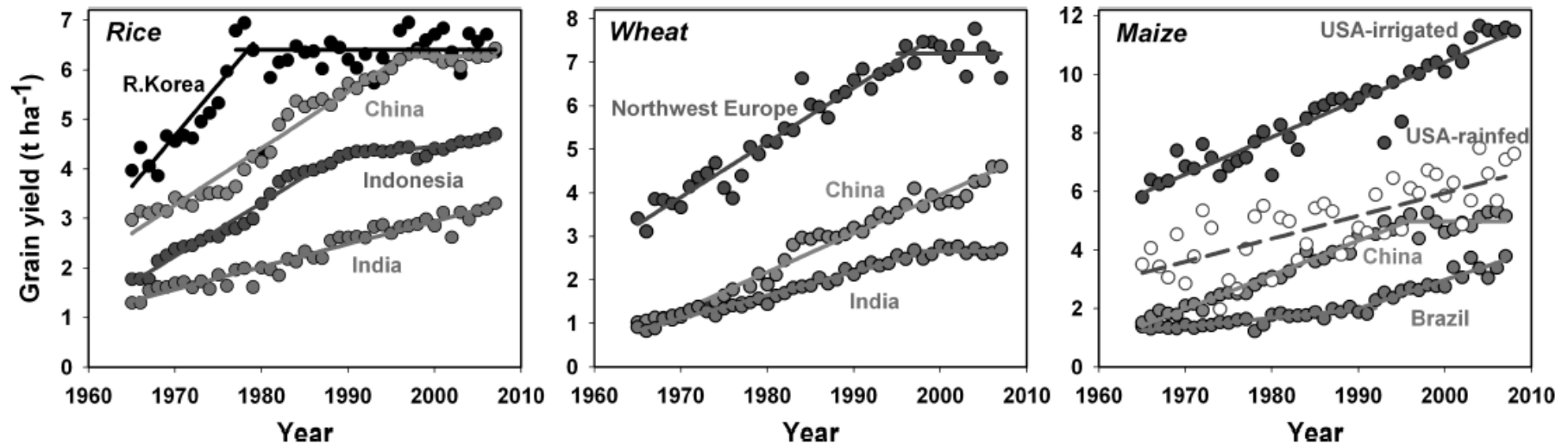


Fig. 2. Grain yield trends of the three major cereals in selected countries. USA maize yields are means for the western Corn Belt and Great Plains states: CO, KS, NE, ND, OK, SD, TX, and WY.

Cassman et al., 2011

Many places produce far less than their potential

Cannot assume that yields will always increase



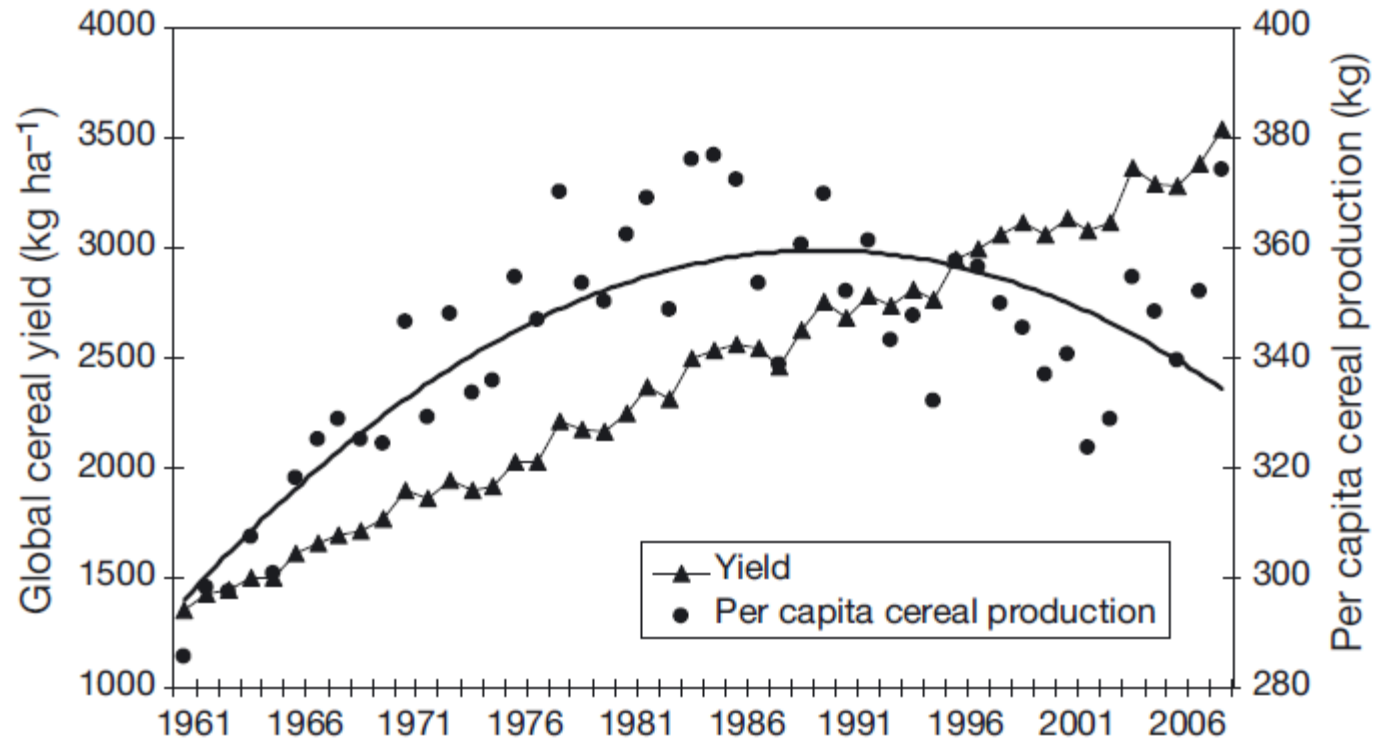
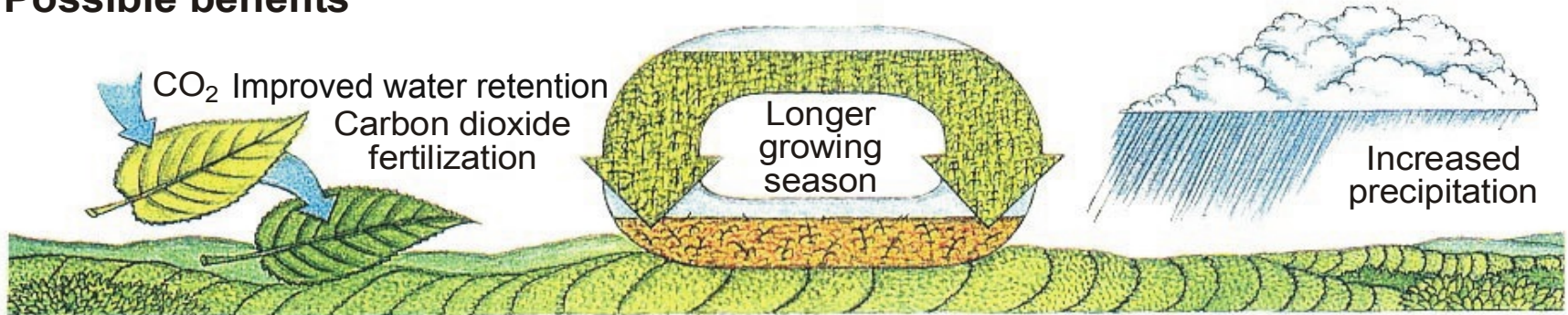


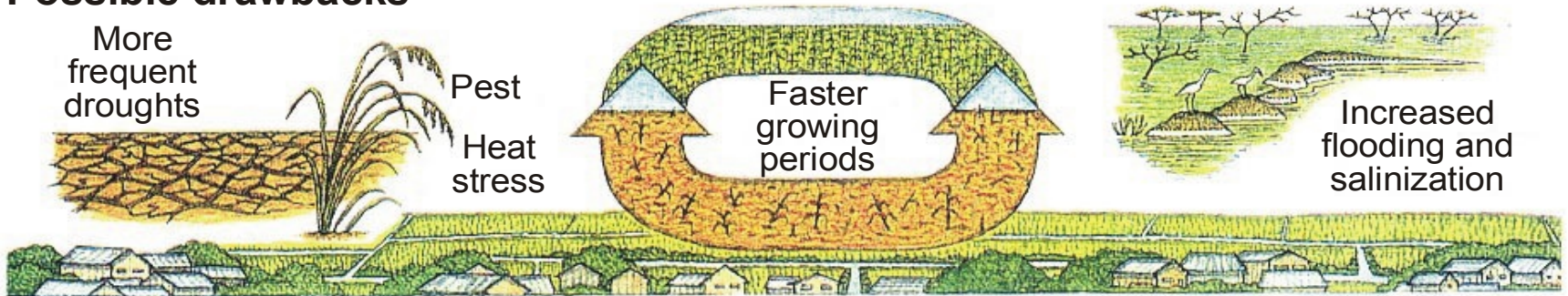
Fig. 1. Average global cereal yields and per capita cereal production (kg) for 1961–2008 (annual global per capita cereal production, calculated as total global production for a given year divided by total global population for that year) (FAO 2010a)

# Biophysical Impacts of Climate Change are complex

## Possible benefits



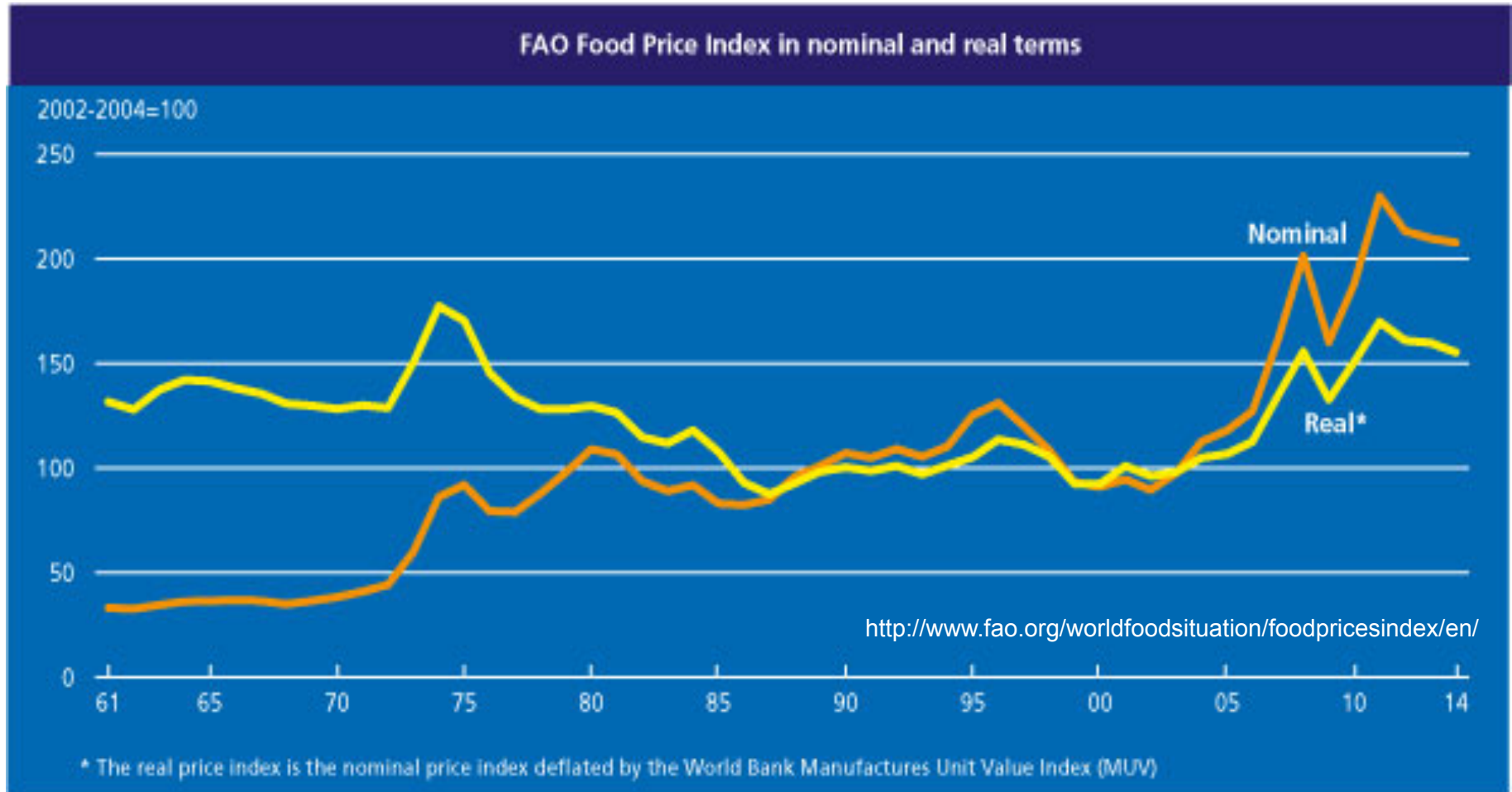
## Possible drawbacks



Based upon Bongaarts, J., Scientific American, 1992

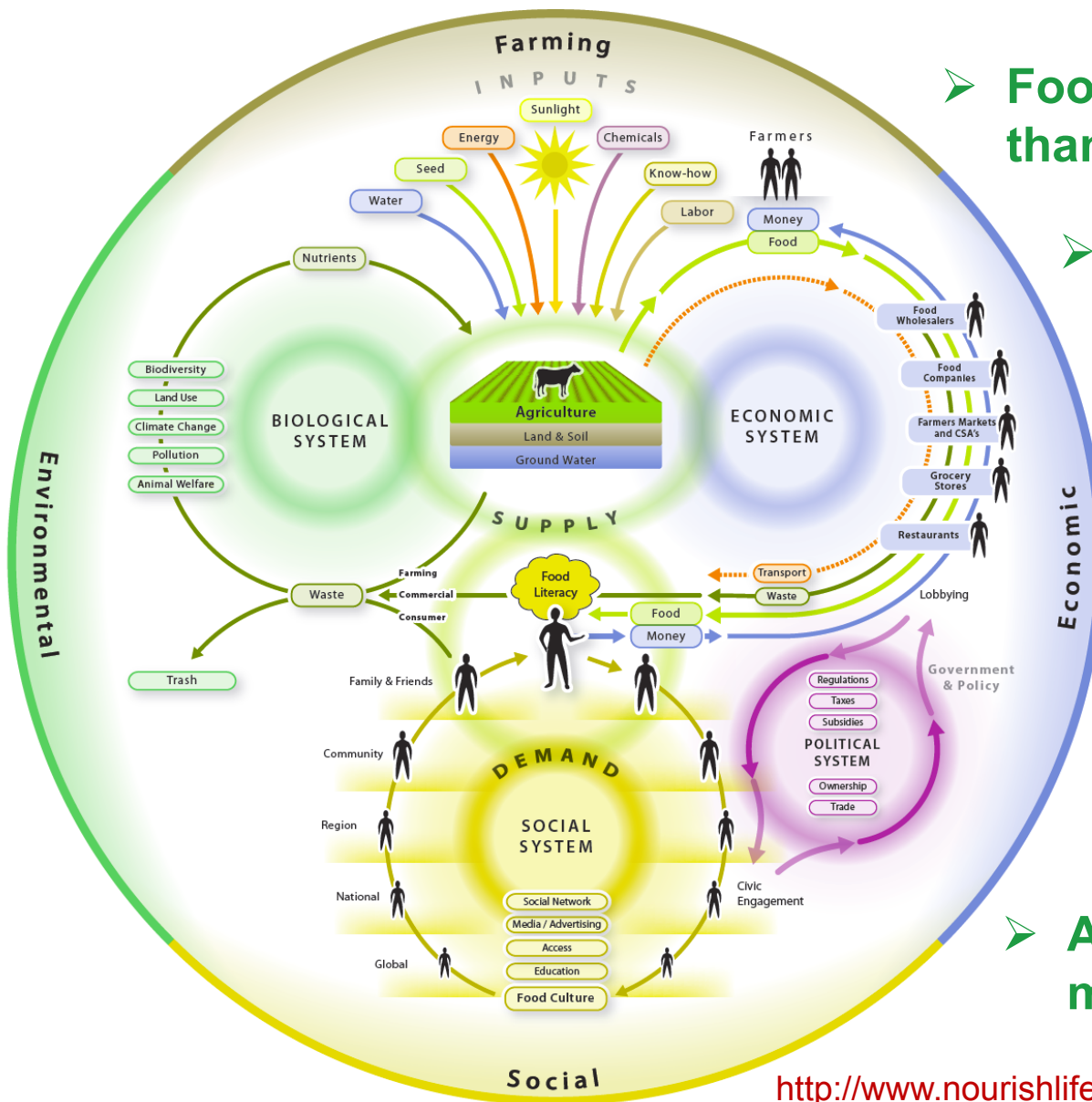
- Niche growing areas are particularly vulnerable
- Additional fertilizers and water transport will be necessary to maintain current crop locations





- Long downward trend in real food prices has reversed
- Increasing volatility – lower stocks, higher demand, climate threats

# Expanded 'Food System' Approach

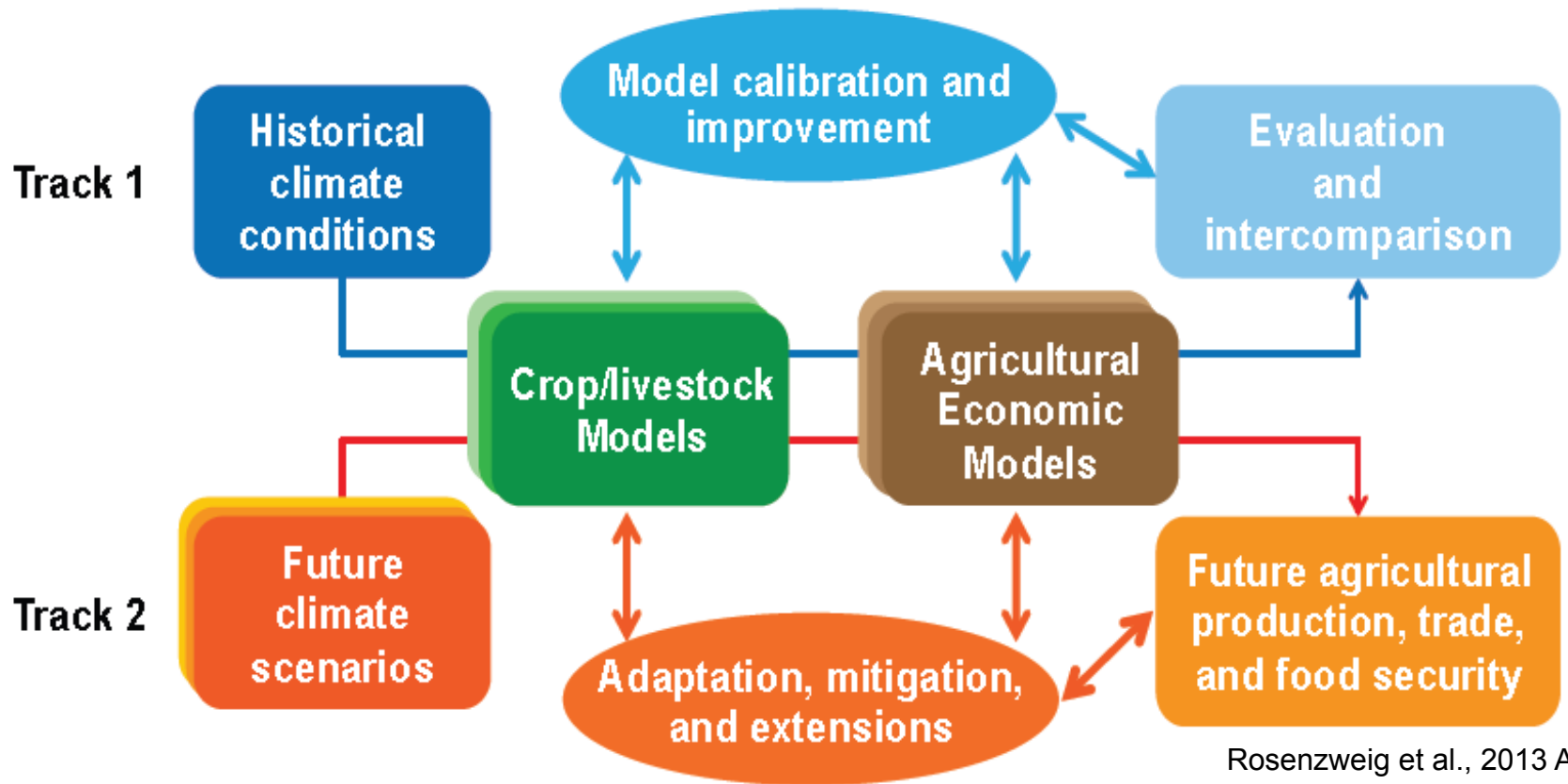


- Food system is much more than supply and demand
- Spans local to global scales with a lot of potentially volatile points
- Very difficult to predict future conditions
- Need to represent complexities via models or scenarios
- Adaptation can build a more resilient system



# Linking disciplinary models





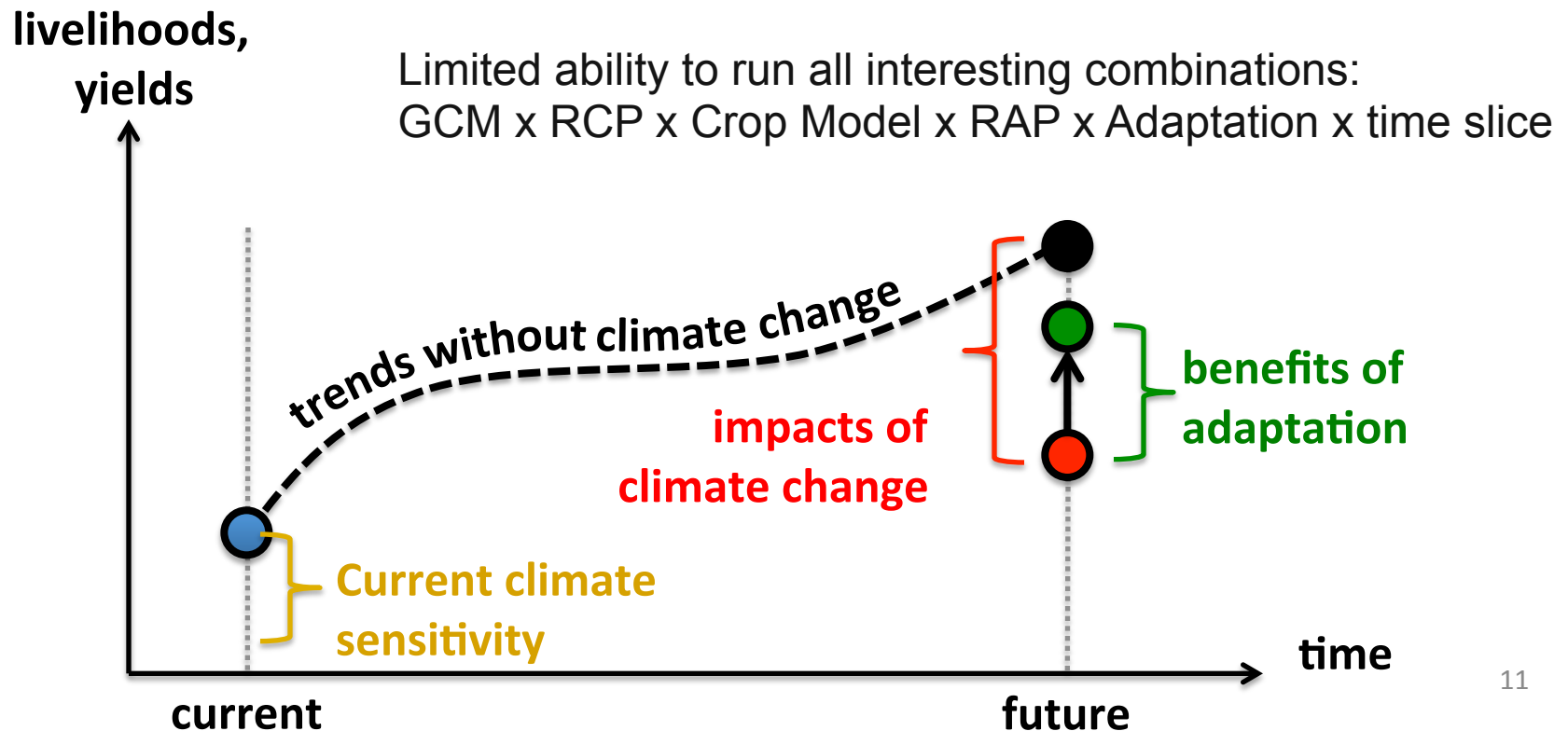
**Track 1: Model Improvement and Intercomparison**

**Track 2: Climate Change Multi-Model Assessment**

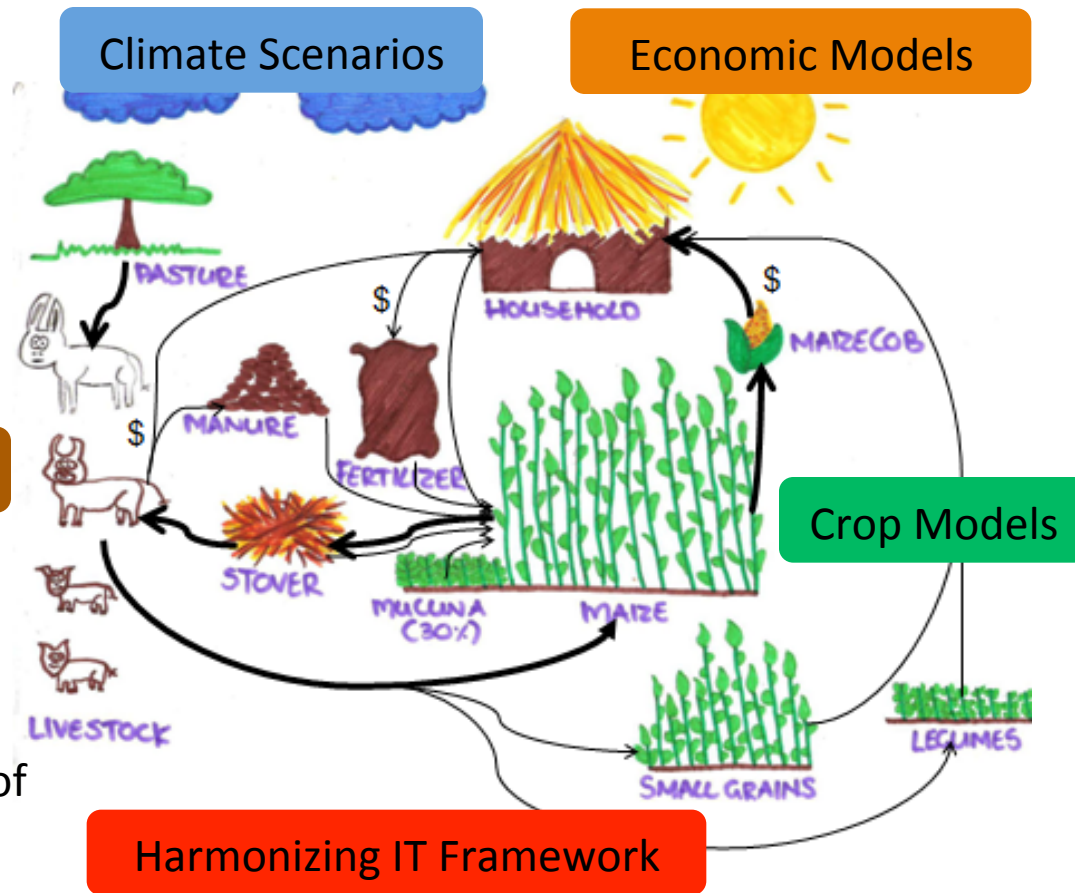
## Enables testing of adaptation strategies



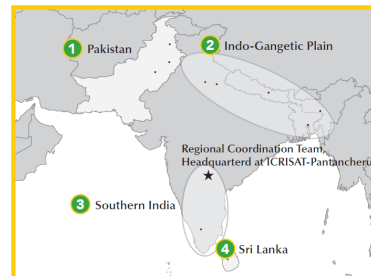
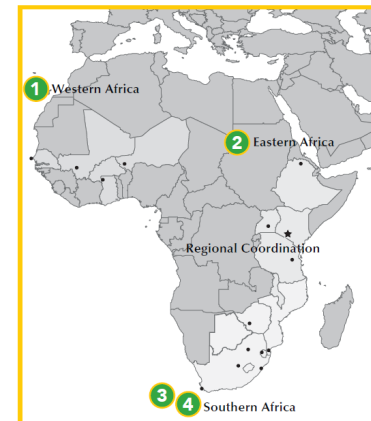
- 1) What is the sensitivity of current agricultural production systems to climate change?
- 2) What is the impact of climate change on future agricultural production systems?
- 3) What are the benefits of climate change adaptations?



# Building a Transdisciplinary Regional Integrated Assessment Framework

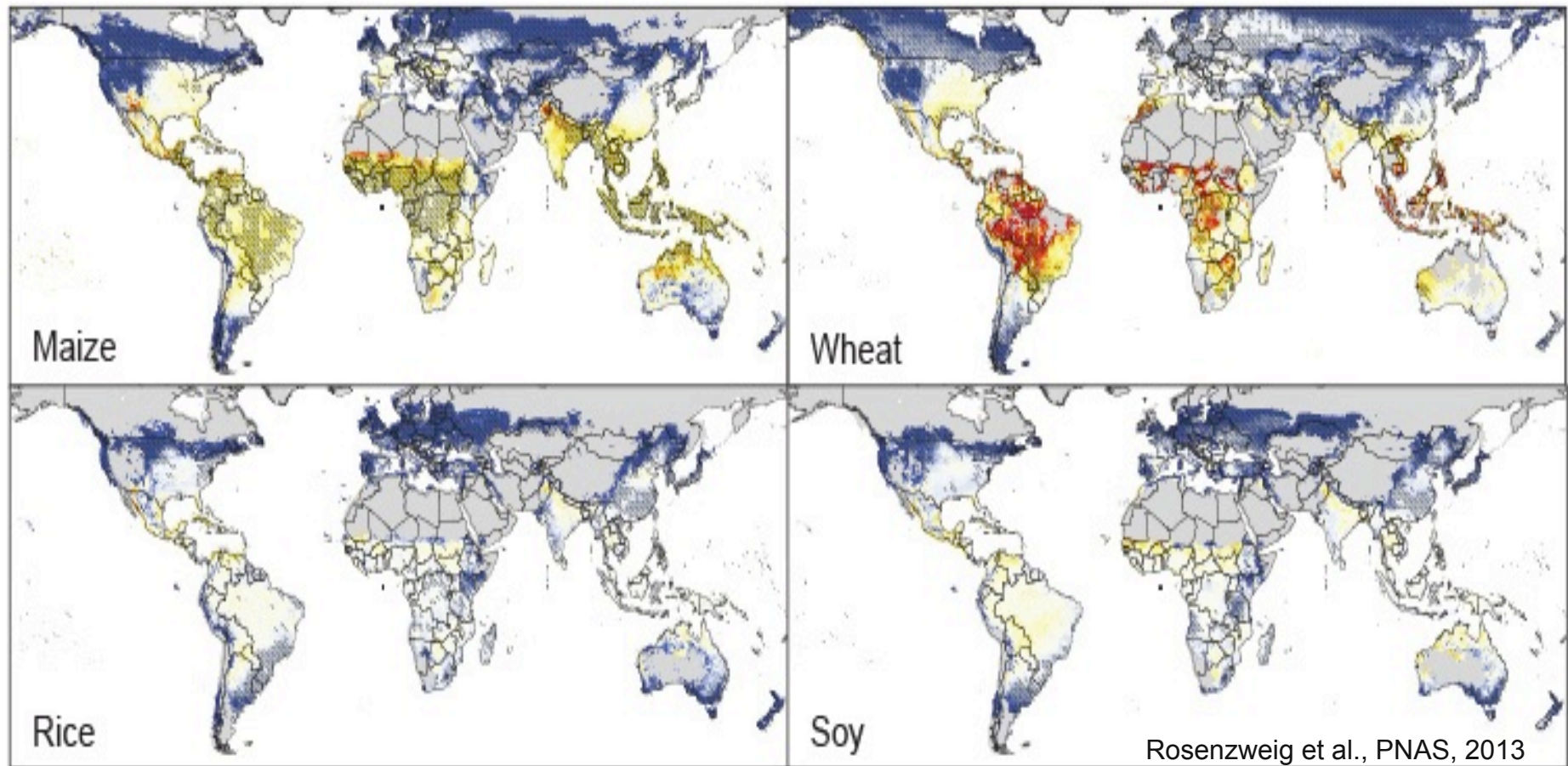


60 institutions  
120+ scientists in  
Sub-Saharan Africa  
and South Asia

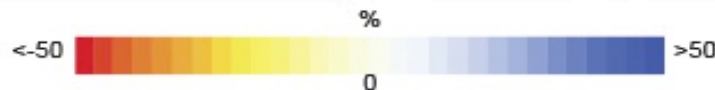


Schematic courtesy of  
Masikati et al.,  
AgMIP CLIP team

**Utilize farm surveys (100+ farms) to enable the evaluation of distributions of gainers, losers, adopters, resilience, and successful strategies in the face of climate change**



**Hatched areas indicate  
>70% model agreement**



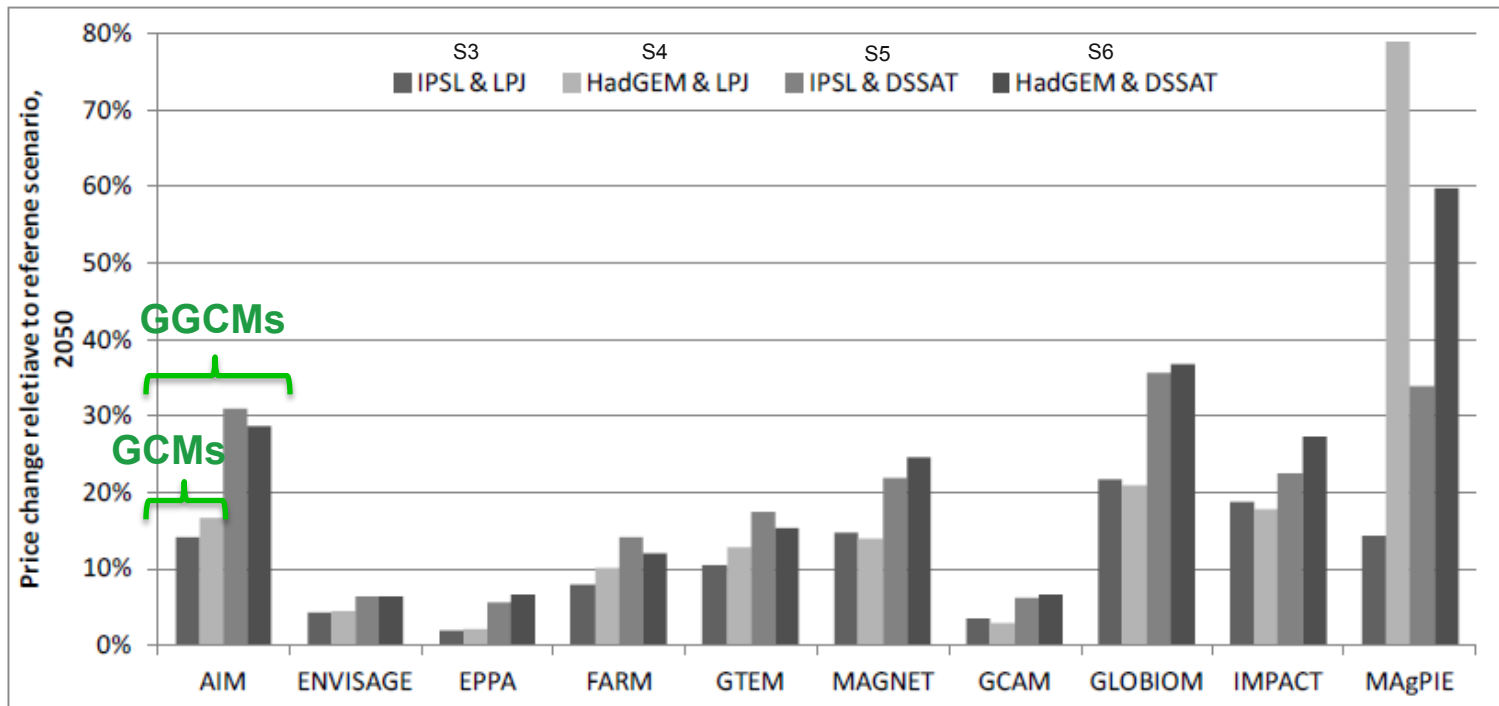
**2080s RCP.5**

*median of 7 GGCMs and 5 GCMs – from AgMIP-led agricultural contribution to ISIMIP*

***New global gridded activities have 10+ models, with historical validation, carbon-temperature-water-nitrogen sensitivity tests***



## Effects of climate change on agricultural prices (2050 RCP8.5 relative to results without climate change in 2050)



Source: Model results as of February 15, 2013

Note: All changes relative to the reference scenario for the same year.

AgMIP Global Economics Model Intercomparison

10 Global Economics Models, 2 GCMs, 2 crop models

Von Lampe et al., *Agricultural Economics*, 2013

Baseline from SSP2

**Climate change is projected to exert upward pressure on agricultural prices, but with large uncertainty that we are connecting to model approaches**

**Model uncertainty: GEM > GGCM > GCM**  
**Partial Equilibrium Models generally respond more than CGEs**

# Creating consistent agricultural scenarios

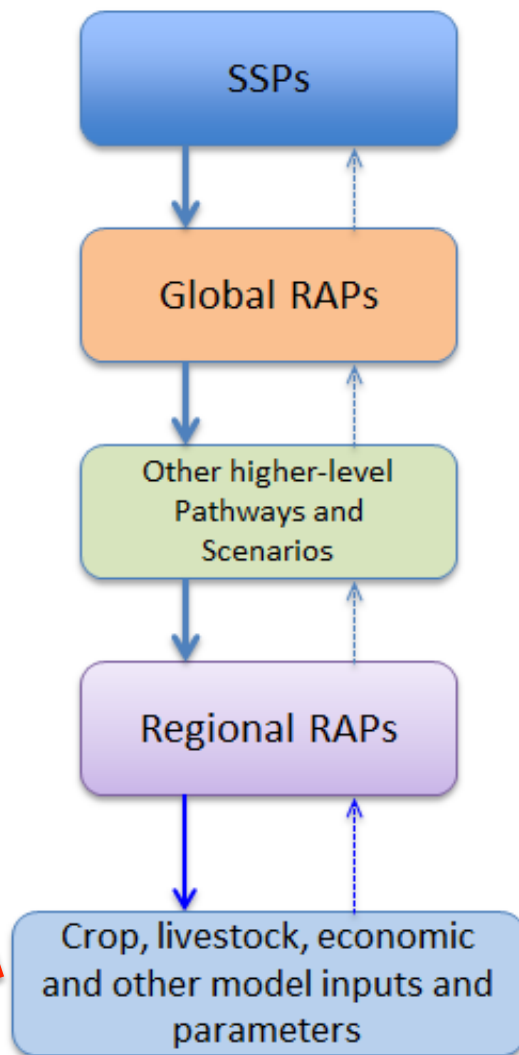




Need to add agricultural sector details to gauge development baseline before agricultural adaptations

Drivers

**Adaptation packages**



Consistency

Representative Agricultural Pathways (RAPs):  
*improved seeds, fertilizer subsidies, crop insurance, agricultural labor, household size,*

Antle, et al., in prep.



**RAPs have common narrative across scales:** Scenarios for each scale/model link to provide required parameters

## Point-based crop models:

Seeds, irrigation, fertilizer, soil fertility factors, post-process factors (improvements in non-modeled parameters; e.g., pests)

## Global gridded crop models:

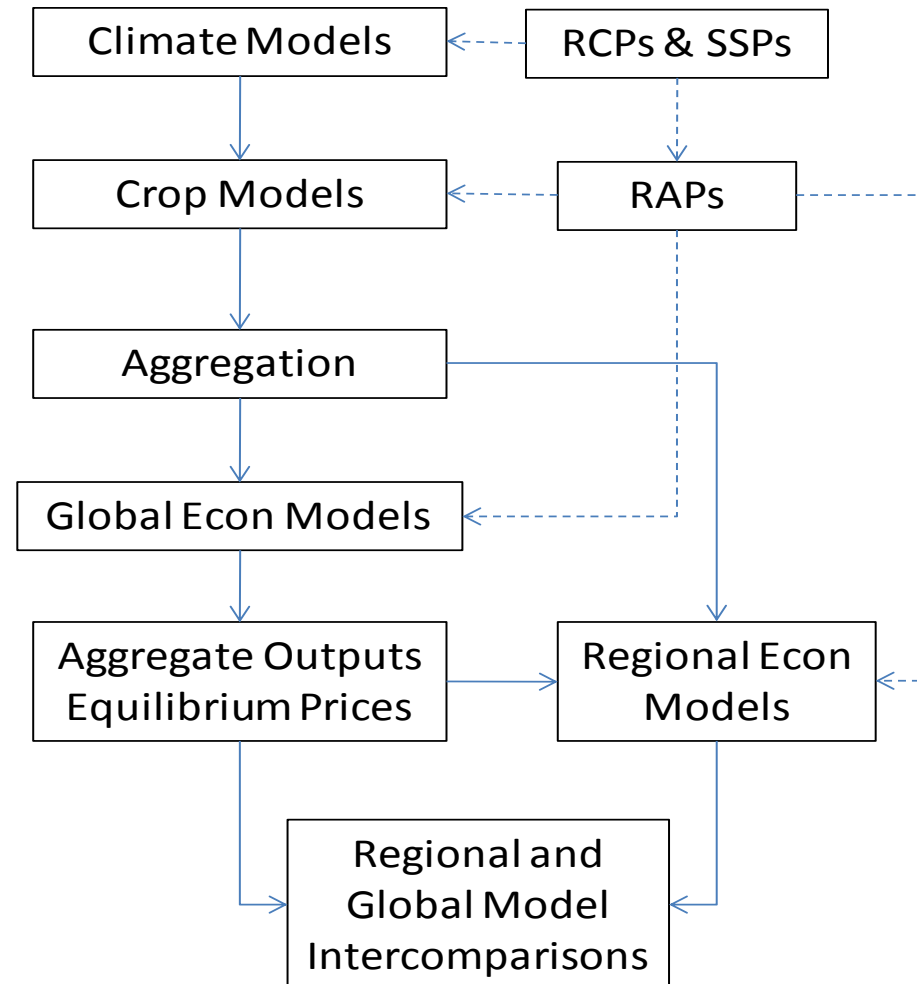
Seeds, fertilizer, irrigation, productivity multipliers (improvements in non-modeled parameters; e.g., pests)

## Regional Economic models:

Fertilizer subsidies, commodity prices, crop insurance, labor availability, mechanization, household size, off-farm income, etc.

## Global Agricultural Economic models:

Productivity trends, land use, irrigation (each model has slightly different needs)

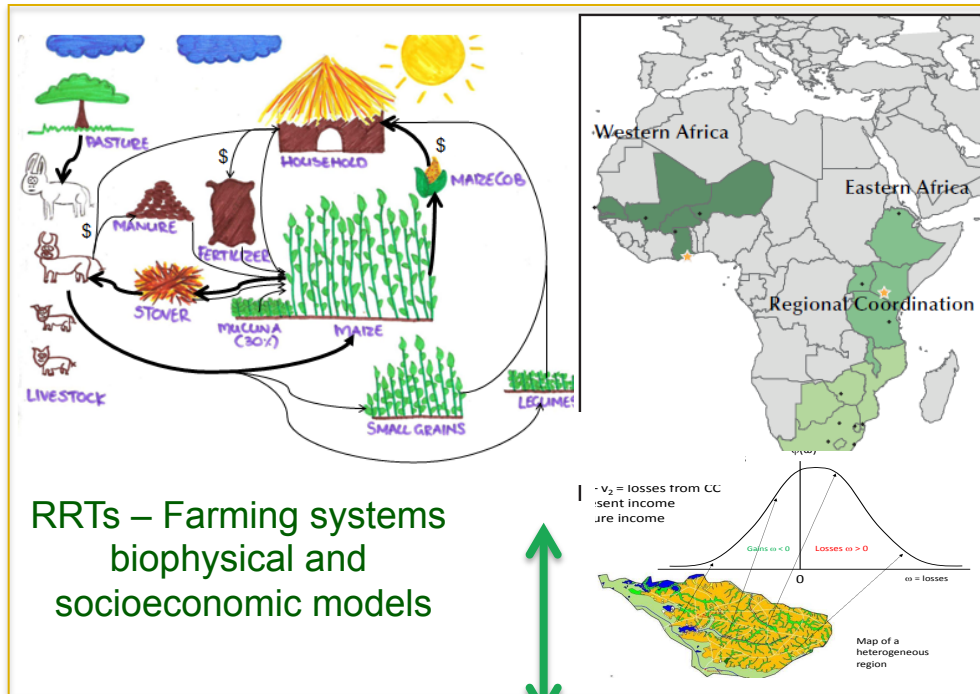




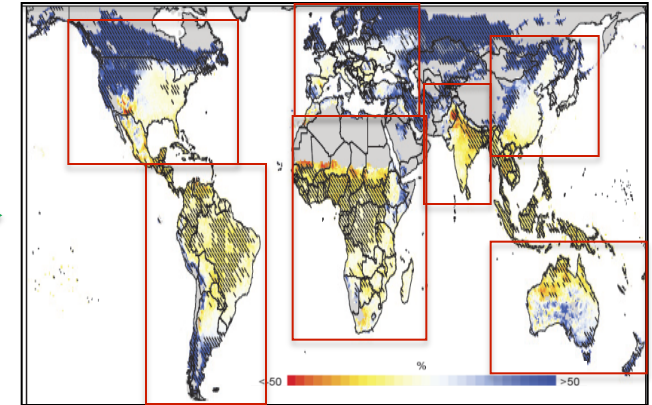
# Coordinating across scales



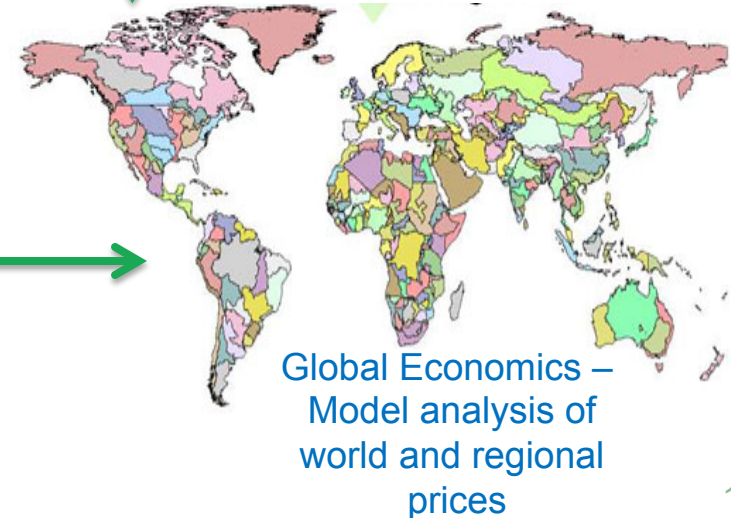
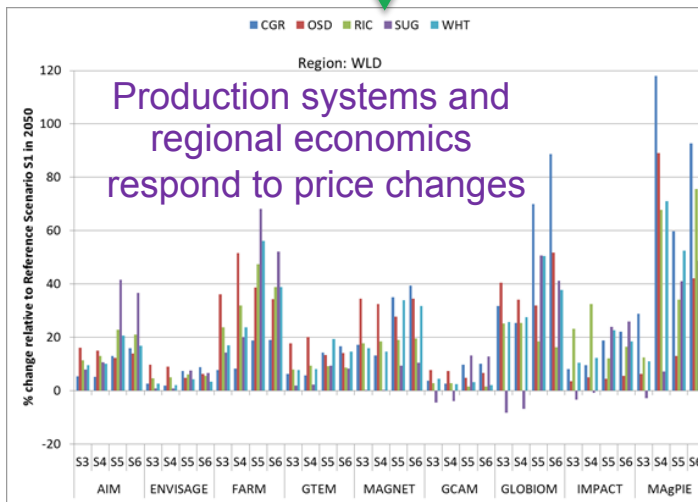




RRTs – Farming systems biophysical and socioeconomic models



GGCMI -- High-resolution gridded crop modeling for gap-filling and aggregation in each region



Global Economics – Model analysis of world and regional prices

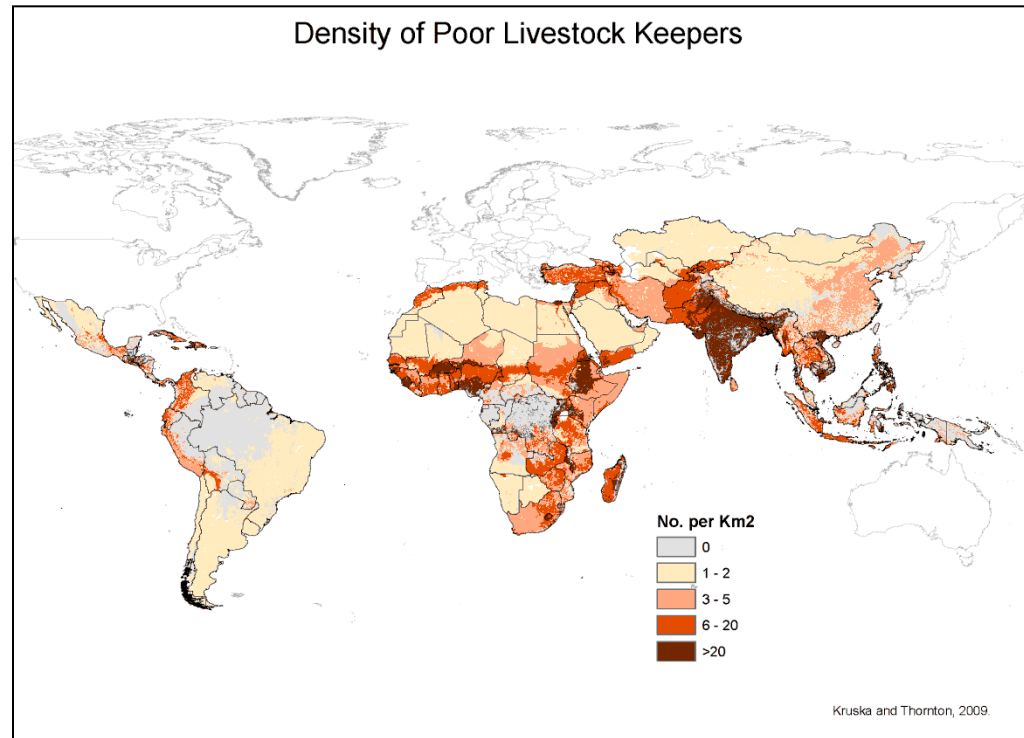


A wide-angle photograph of a terraced rice field. The foreground and middle ground are filled with lush green rice plants. In the background, there are rows of taller corn plants. Three people are visible in the middle ground, working in the rice field. The text "Acknowledging what we do not know" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

**Acknowledging what we do not know**



- Water Resources, Inland and Coastal Flooding
- Grasslands, Rangelands, and Livestock
  - Examining livestock effects to understand land-use competition
- Mitigation
- Soil Degradation
- Pests/Diseases
- Ozone
- Near-term climate scenarios
  - Developing statistical approaches



**Need to factor in whether results are likely to be optimistic or pessimistic**



# Recognizing What We Have Learned





- **Tremendous interest** in agricultural research community in interdisciplinary multi-model research and assessment
- **Median of crop model ensembles** best reproduces observed conditions
- **Crop responses to CO<sub>2</sub>, temperature, and water** remain key sources of uncertainty
- **Regional integrated assessments** are extending methods for projecting changes in farm systems
- **Global crop yield impacts** project greater vulnerability in lower latitudes and are vulnerable even in earlier decades; **model uncertainty now explicitly characterized**
- **Limitations in fresh water** for irrigation may compound climate impacts in many regions, while abundance could help in others.
- Climate change projected to exert **upward pressure on agricultural prices.**
- **Crop and economic model uncertainty** is large and generally greater than global climate model uncertainty, **depending on scales and methods**
- **Limited ability to run the number of scenarios and tests required for complete understanding of biophysical and societal uncertainties**





A photograph of a terraced agricultural field. The foreground and middle ground show terraced plots filled with green crops, likely rice seedlings. Several people are visible working in the fields. In the background, there is a dense forest covering a hillside under a clear blue sky. Power lines are visible across the top of the image.

**Thank you!**

**More info at [www.agmip.org](http://www.agmip.org)**



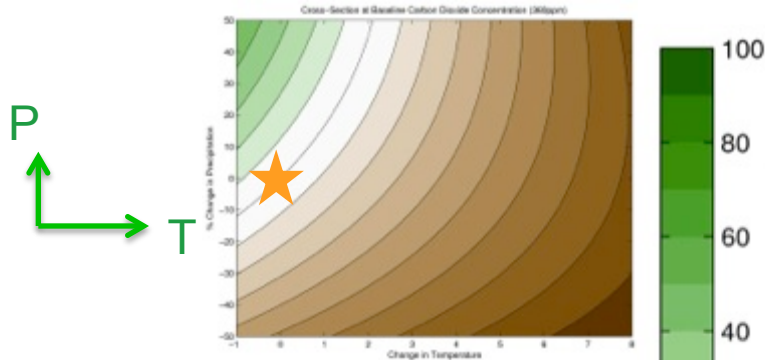
# Crop Model Intercomparison Pilot Studies and Integrated Assessment Regions



- AgMIP has conducted Intercomparisons of wheat (27+ models), maize (22+), Rice (18+), and sugarcane (3+) models – uncertainties remain substantial
- Pilots under development: Millet/Sorghum, Potato, Grasslands, Bioenergy
- Regions under development: North America, Latin America/Caribbean, Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia, Australia



This row proxy for climate variability

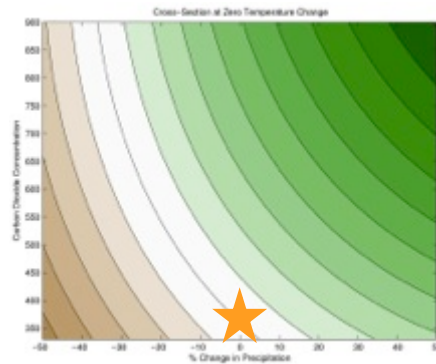


**Left:** Cross Sections of Emulated Impacts Response for 30-year mean Peanut yield in Henry County (% change in yield)

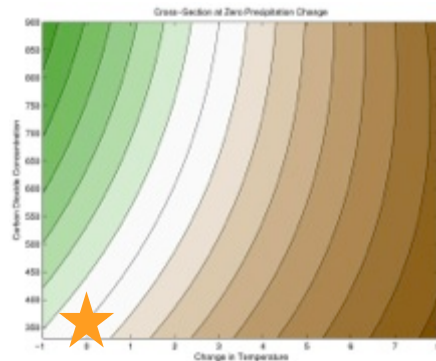
**Below:** 20 CMIP5 GCM  $\Delta T$  and  $\Delta P$  projections over Henry County, AL; 2 RCPs and 3 time slices

From Ruane et al., 2014

[CO<sub>2</sub>]  
↑  
P

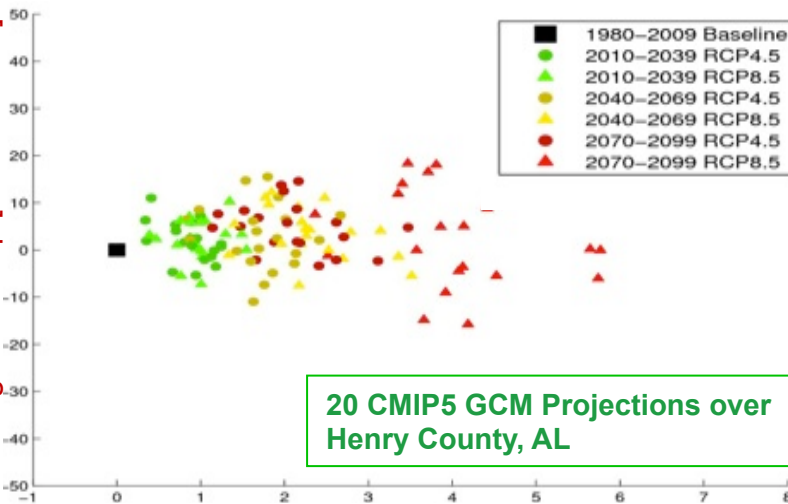


[CO<sub>2</sub>]  
↑  
T



★ = baseline

%Change in Precip [-50% to 50%]



20 CMIP5 GCM Projections over Henry County, AL

Change in Temperature [-1 °C to +8 °C]

Cross Sections of Hypercube Emulator for percentage changes in 30-year mean Peanut yield, from Ruane et al., 2014.

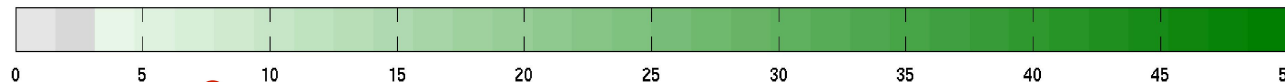
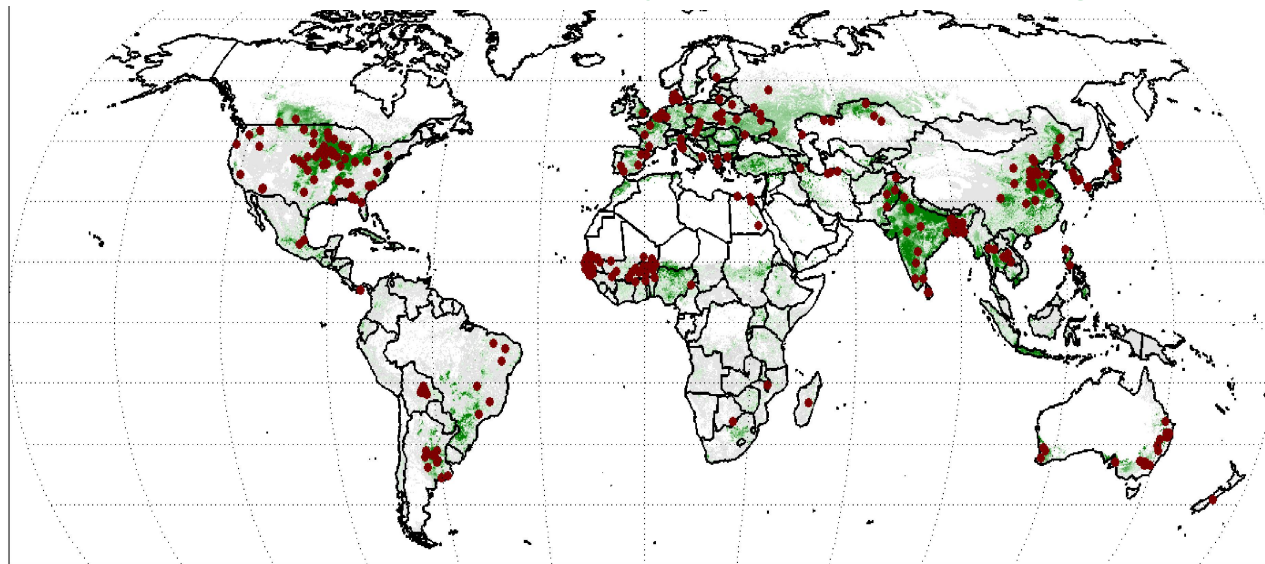
For more information, see [www.agmip.org/c3mp](http://www.agmip.org/c3mp)

# The Coordinated Climate-Crop Modeling Project (C3MP)

Alex Ruane, Sonali McDermid, Nicholas Hudson, Cynthia Rosenzweig, L. R. Ahuja, Saseendran S. Anapalli, Jakarat Anothai, Senthold Asseng, Dumont Benjamin, Federico Bert, Patrick Bertuzzi, Virendra S. Bhatia, Marco Bindi, Ian Broad, Davide Cammarano, Ramiro Carretero, Uran Chung, Giacomo De Sanctis, Thanda Dhiwayo, Frank Ewert, Roberto Ferrise, Thomas Gaiser, Guillermo Garcia, Sika Gbegbelegbe, Vellingiri Geethalakshmi, Edward Gerardeaux, Richard Goldberg, Brian Grant, Edgardo Guevara, Holger Hoffmann, Huanping Huang, Flavio Barbosa Justino, Asha S. Karunaratne, Ann-Kristin Koehler, Soora Naresh Kumar, Arunachalam Lakshmanan, Xiaomao Lin, Qunying Luo, Graciela Magrin, Yuji Masutomi, Theodoros Mavromatis, Greg McLean, Santiago Meira, Monoranjana Mohanty, Marco Moriondo, Lamyaa Negm, Francesca Orlando, Isik Ozturk, Zhiming Qi, Johanna Ramarohetra, Helene Raynal, Gabriel Rodriguez, Vaishali Sharda, Lu Shuo, Ward Smith, Afshin Soltani, K. Srinivas, Dillip Kumar Swain, Fulu Tao, Kindie Tesfaye, Maria I. Travasso, Giacomo Trombi, Federico E. Viscarra, Enli Wang, Hong Wang, Lee Byun-Woo, Yang Xiaoguang, Ban Ho Young, Jin I. Yun, and Zhigan Zhao

As of Global 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Workshop -- October 28, 2013

## All C3MP Submitted Sites and Major Croplands (Percentage Area)



● C3MP submitted site archive as of 02/01/2014

Area fractions from Monfreda et al., 2008

## C3MP sites

*Each ran 99*

*sensitivity tests:*

$\Delta T = -1$  to  $+9$  C

$\Delta P = -50$  to  $+50\%$

$[CO_2] = 330$  to  $900$  ppm

## C3MP Archive

*1000+ simulation sets*

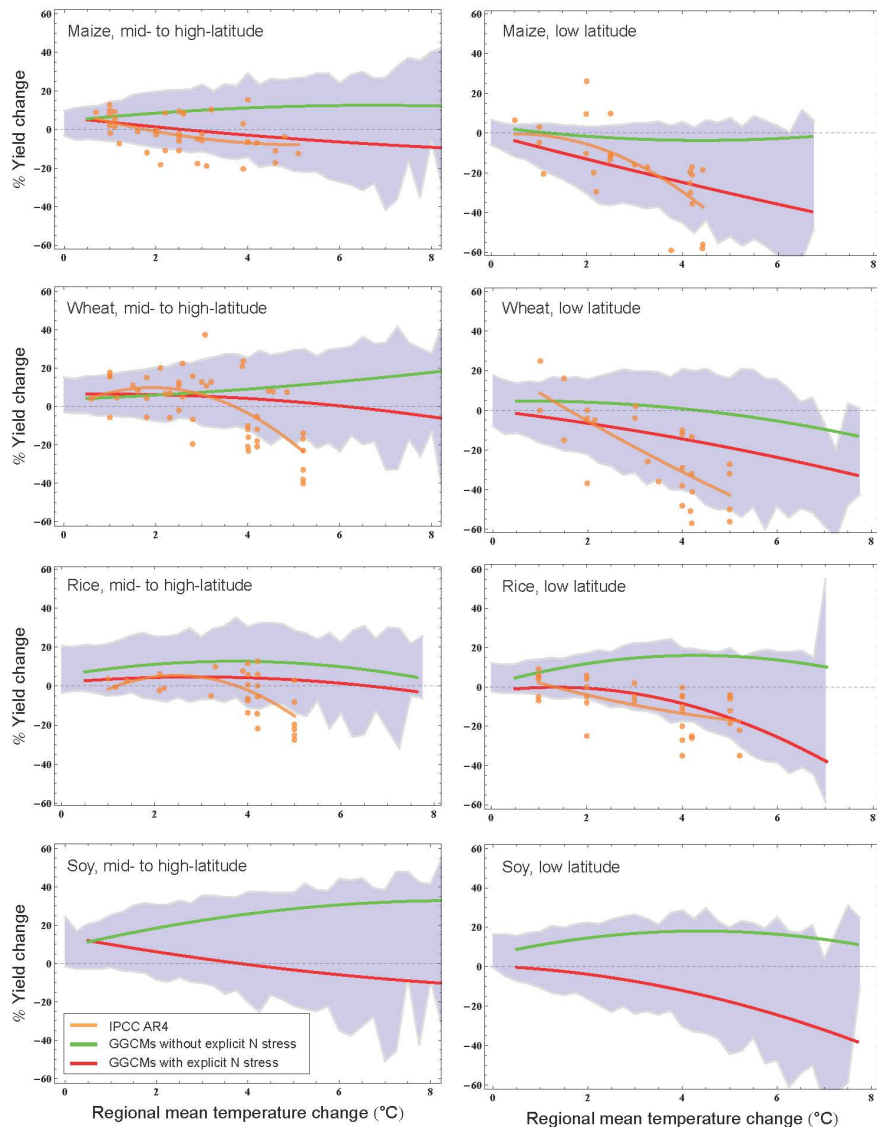
• 51 countries

• 19 crop models

• 14 crops

*Documentation of irrigation,  
N levels, growing season,  
calibration, key publication,  
and other key site attributes*





- In contrast to previous assessments, AgMIP global gridded crop model results with realistic nitrogen fertilization show steadily decreasing yields for wheat, maize, and soybean in mid and high-latitude regions even for small temperature increases
- Crops in lower latitudes show greater vulnerability
- For the first time, crop model uncertainty has been characterized, highlighting the need for continuing rigorous model evaluation and improvement.

(from Rosenzweig et al., 2013; PNAS)

# Temporal Scales of Agricultural Sector Stakeholder Interest

