# Defining Agro-Ecological Units

Douglas Muchoney, FAO

Forum of Experts in SEEA Experimental Accounting 2018

Glen Cove, New York

18-20 June 2018

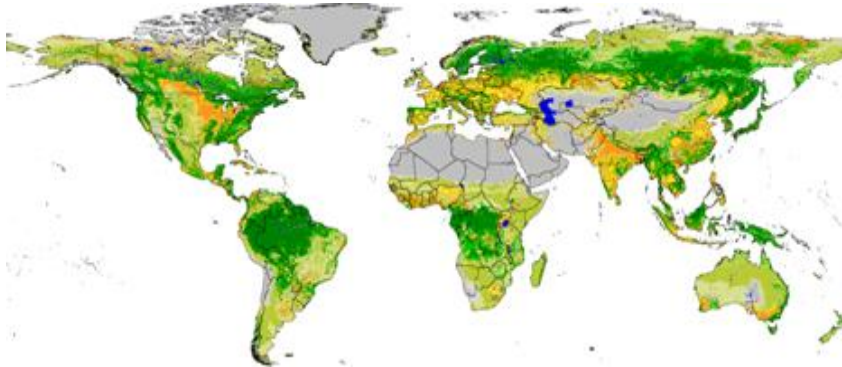

# GAEZ - Global Agro-Ecological Zones

- By FAO and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA).

- GAEZ database is publicly available through a WEB portal.



http://gaez.fao.org/Main.html

# GAEZ Data Portal capabilities

- Designed to facilitate access to the GAEZ database and resources

- Enables users management

- Delivers terabytes of spatial data, maps, tables, statistics, metadata, reports

- Fully documented (Data model, User's Manual, GAEZ definitions, FAQ, limitations, and hints available)

- Compliant with FAO definitions, classifications and standards, ISO metadata standards to feed FAO GeoNetwork



http://gaez.fao.org/Main.html

# GAEZ Data Portal

- Brief summary of content:
  - *5 thematic areas (Land and water resources; Agro-climatic resources; Suitability and potential yields; Actual yields and production; Yield and production gaps)*
  - *> 300,000 global datasets at mainly 5 arc-minutes, also core layers at 30 arc-seconds*
  - 11 crop groups, 49 crops, 92 crop types and 280 Crop/LUTs
  - yield and production gap analysis for 17 crops/commodities
  - *5 water supply types*
  - *4 Input levels (High, Intermediate, Low, Mixed)*
  - *Historical 1961-2000, 30 year average (1961-1990) and Future, 2020s, 2050s, 2080s)*
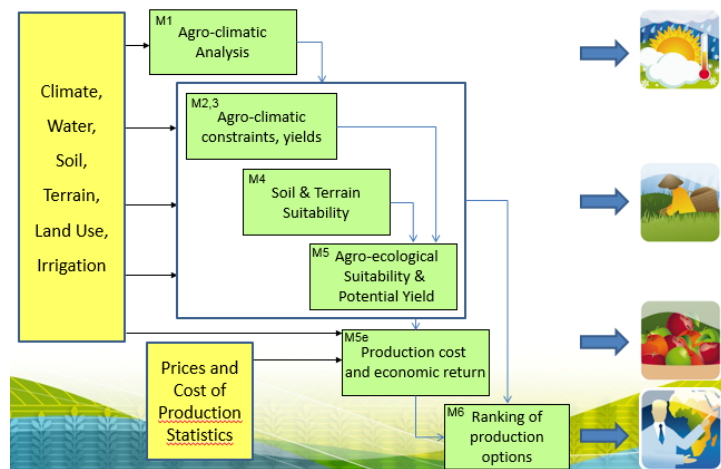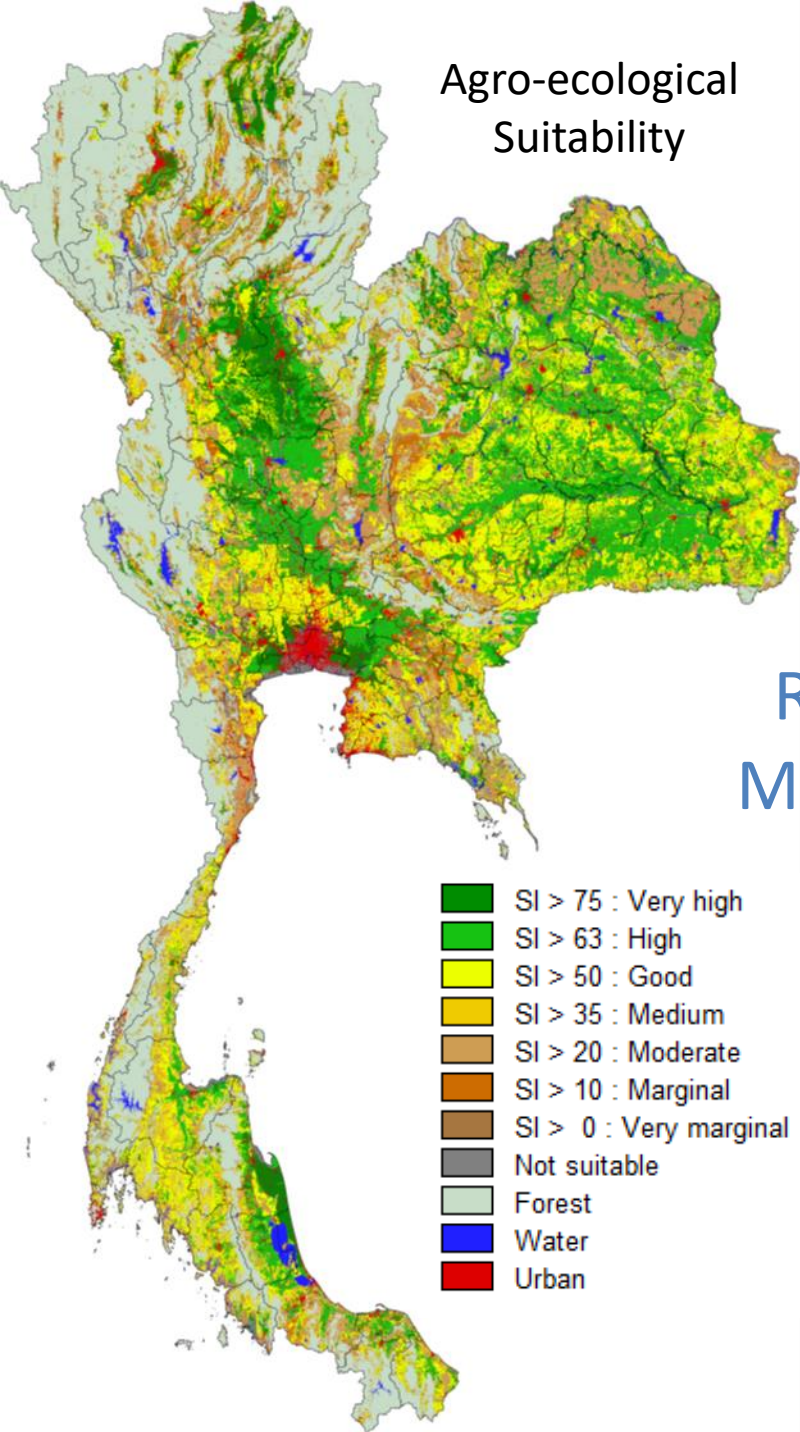
# National AEZ: Thailand
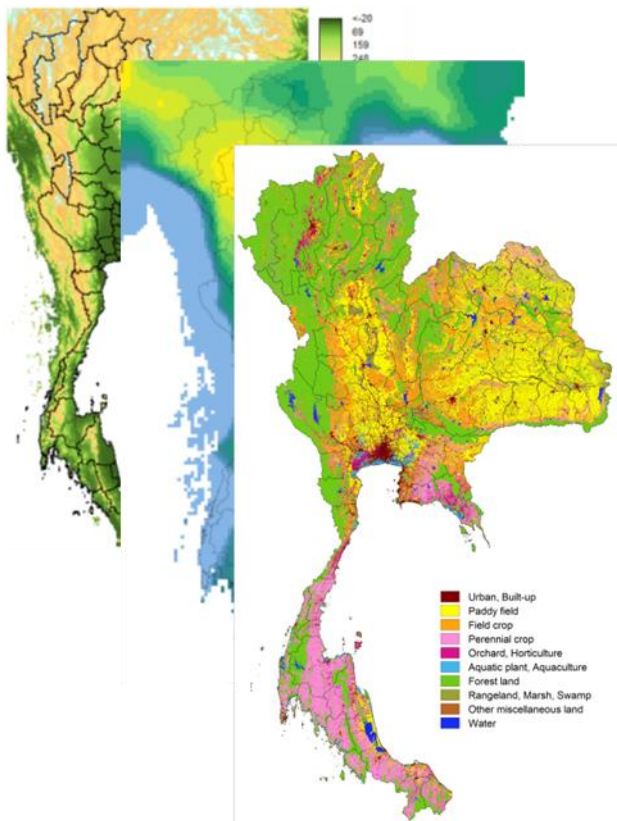
**Agro-ecological assessment of crop suitability and productivity**

- **Input:** resource databases; crop requirements and crop suitability criteria; crop calendars; crop statistics; industry and research data of potential attainable yields.

- **Output:** Mapped suitability and attainable yields by single crop and selected multi-cropping systems.
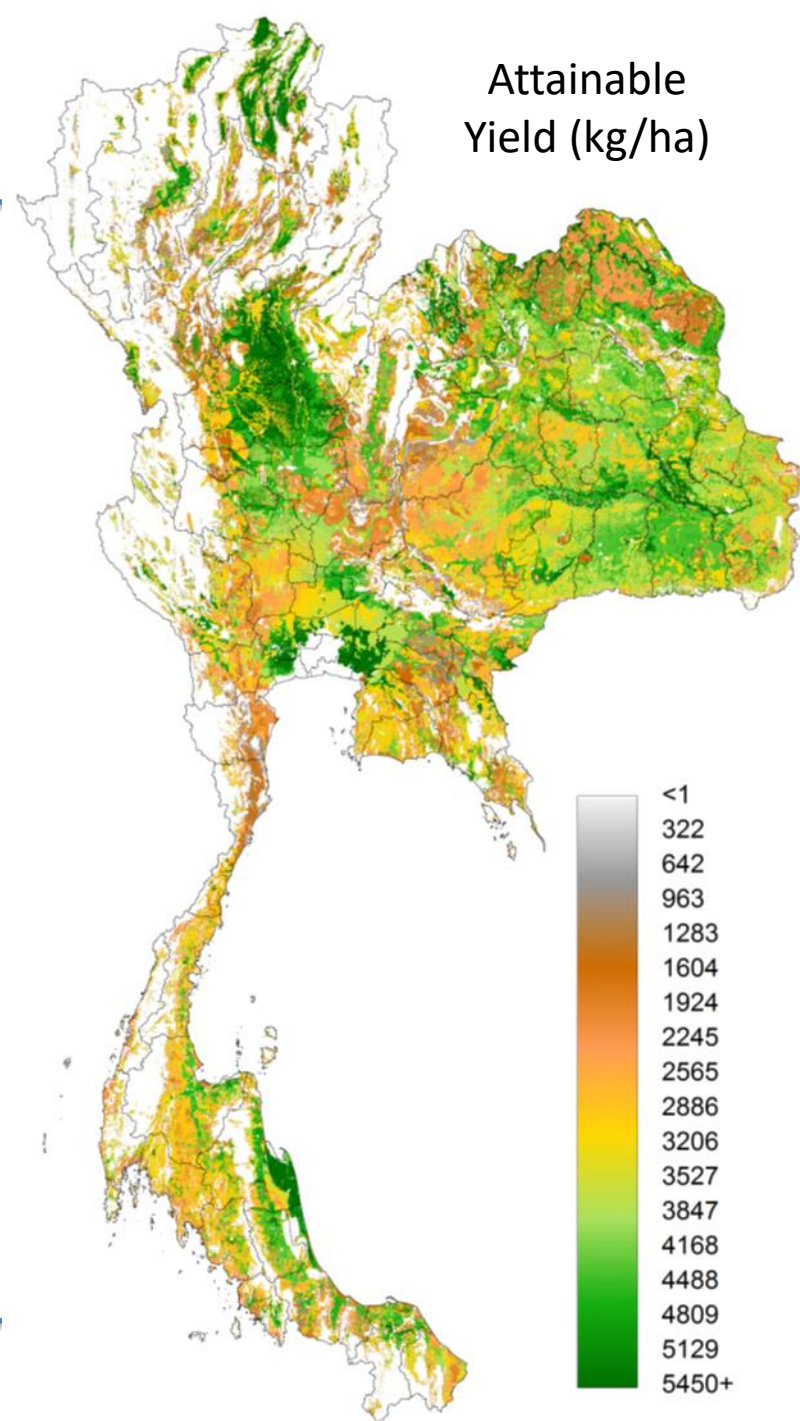
http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7077e.pdf

Agro-ecological Suitability

Attainable Yield (kg/ha)

Rain-fed Major Rice

SI > 75 : Very high
SI > 63 : High
SI > 50 : Good
SI > 35 : Medium
SI > 20 : Moderate
SI > 10 : Marginal
SI >  0 : Very marginal
Not suitable
Forest
Water
Urban

<1
322
642
963
1283
1604
1924
2245
2565
2886
3206
3527
3847
4168
4488
4809
5129
5450+
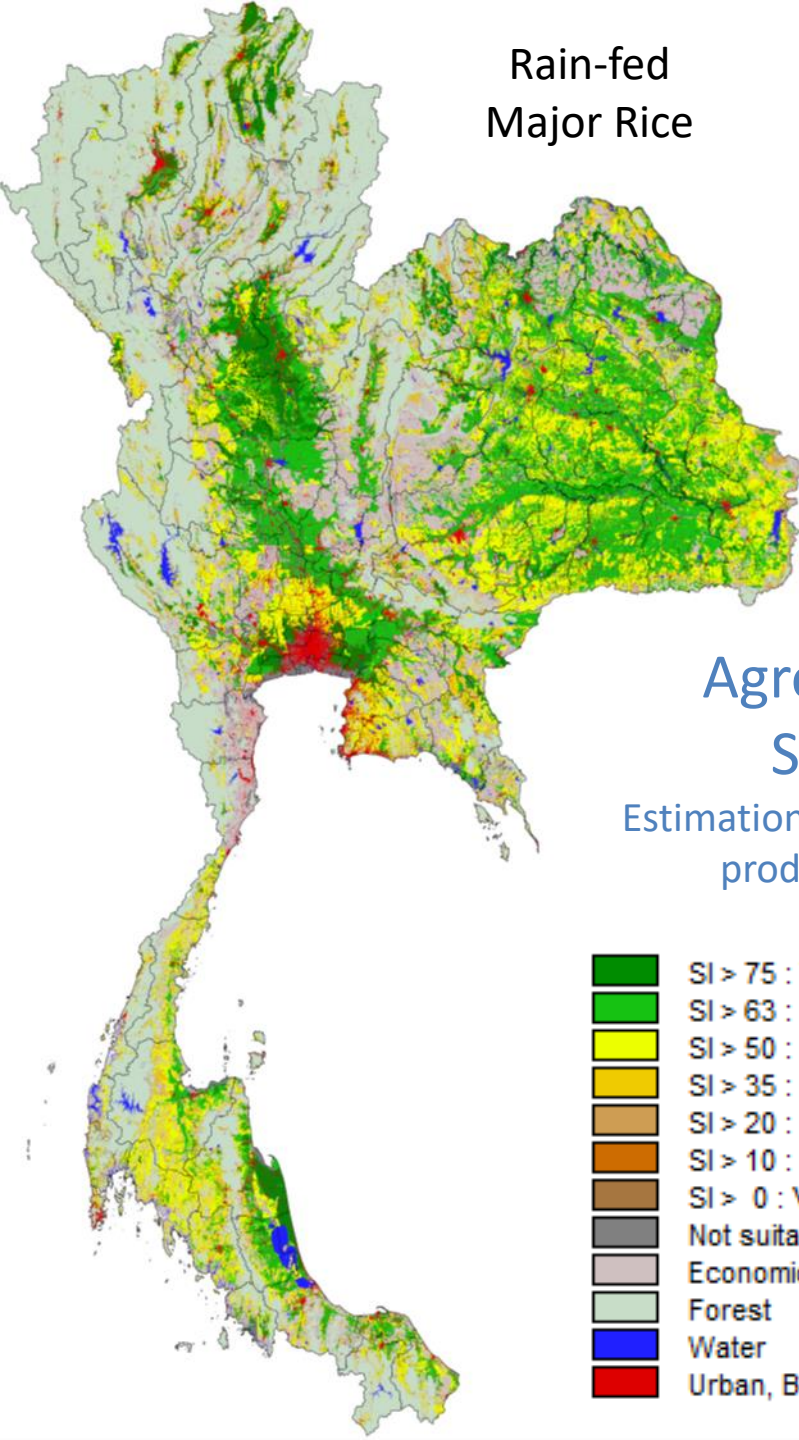
Rain-fed
Major Rice

Rain-fed
Maize
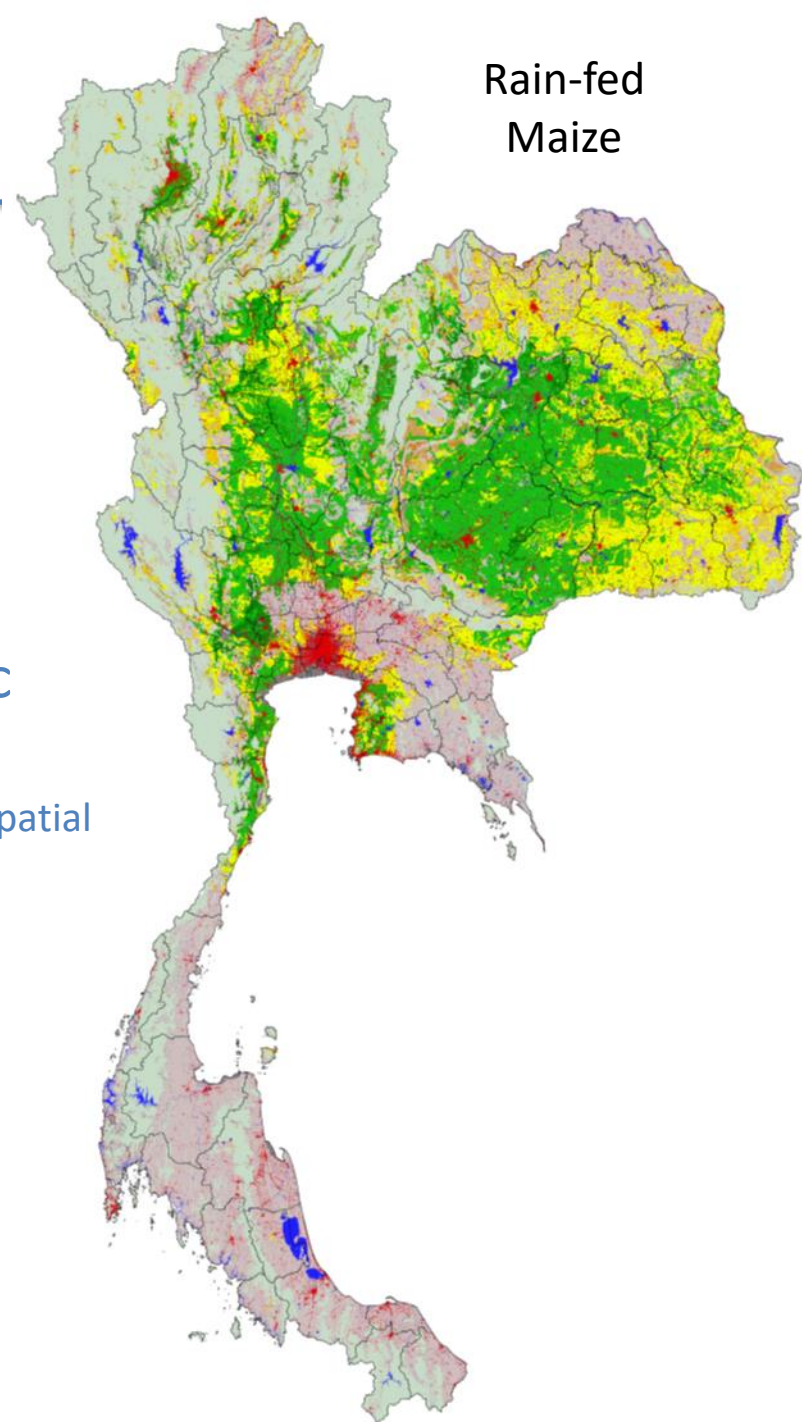
Agro-economic
Suitability

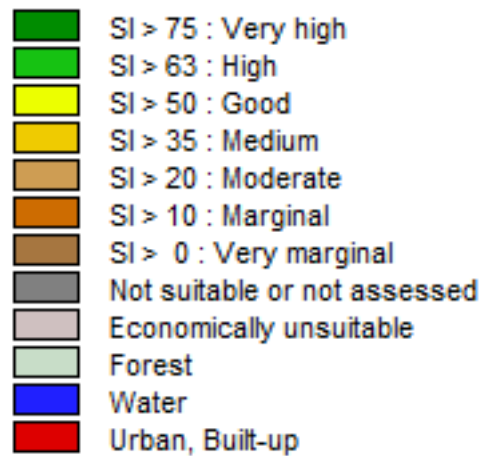Estimation of 'optimized' spatial
production structure

- SI > 75 : Very high
- SI > 63 : High
- SI > 50 : Good
- SI > 35 : Medium
- SI > 20 : Moderate
- SI > 10 : Marginal
- SI > 0 : Very marginal
- Not suitable or not assessed
- Economically unsuitable
- Forest
- Water
- Urban, Built-up

# Land Resources Information Management System (LRIMS)

- Integrated processing environment where **physical and socio-economic** data are analyzed;
- Help identify sustainable land management practices;
- Allows implementation of an integrated and interactive approach to land use planning;
- Support for technicians and policy makers;
- Enables assessment and modeling of land suitability and responses to potential agricultural production;
- Developed and applied in Libya; Currently under development in Laos, Afghanistan and Macedonia
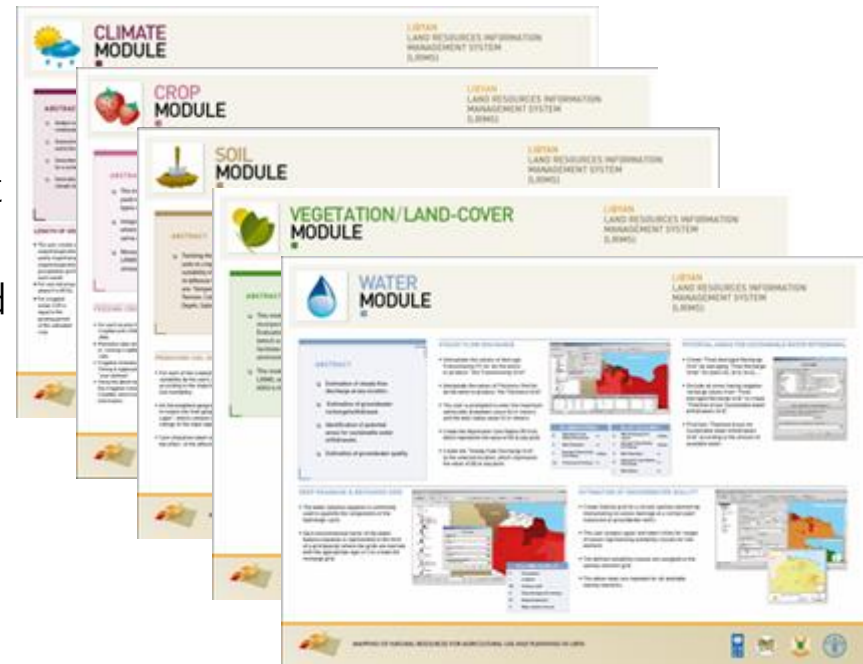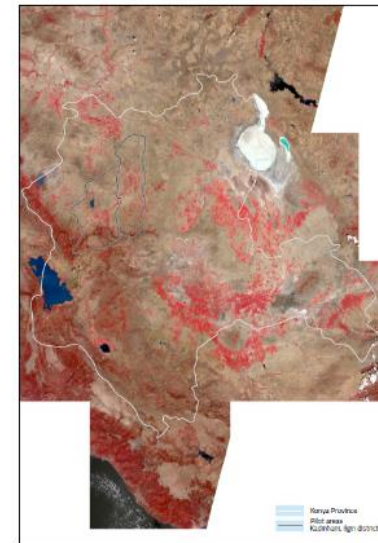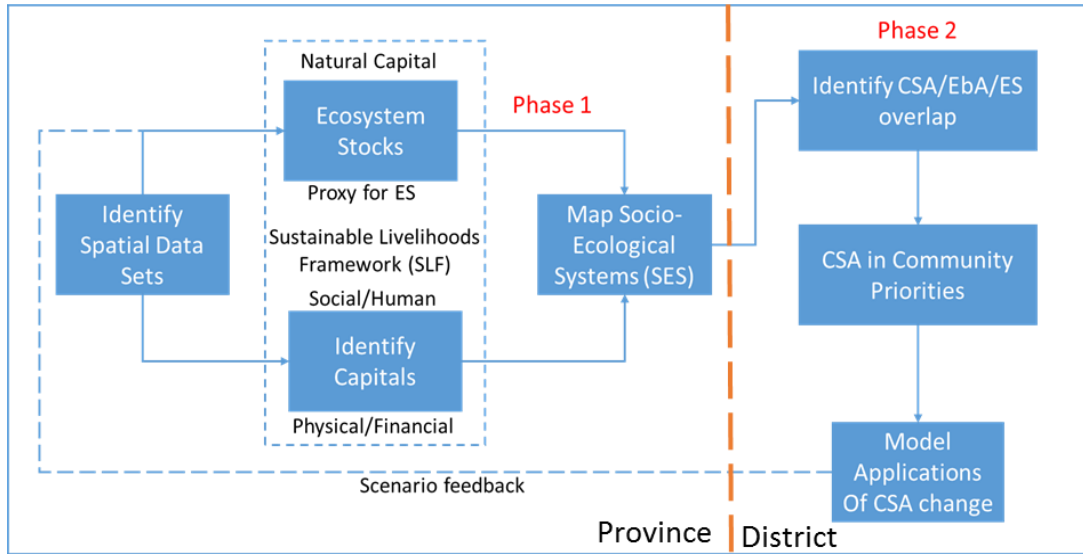
False Color Sentinel-2 Mosaic **AUG 2016**
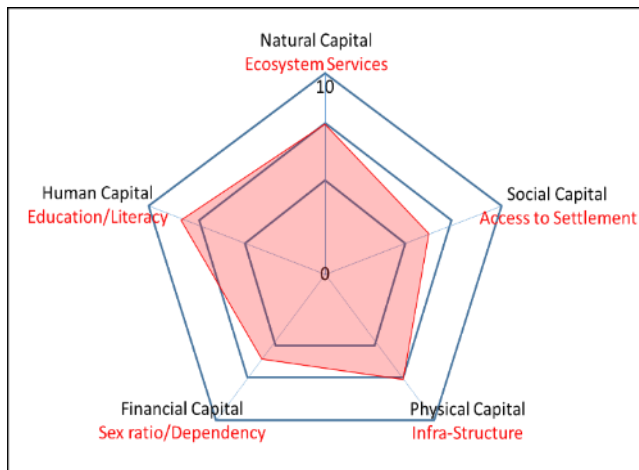


i) map the ecosystems

ii) determine the ecosystem condition

iii) determine relevant ecosystem services for provisioning and regulating services

iv) select indicators or modelled outputs of the ecosystem services for which viable data are available

v) map the ecosystem services and service potential

# National mapping

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
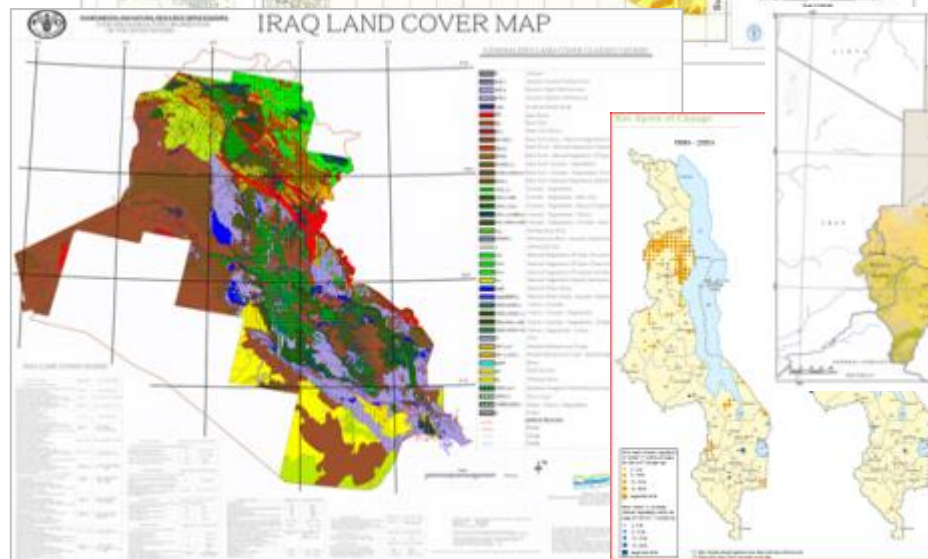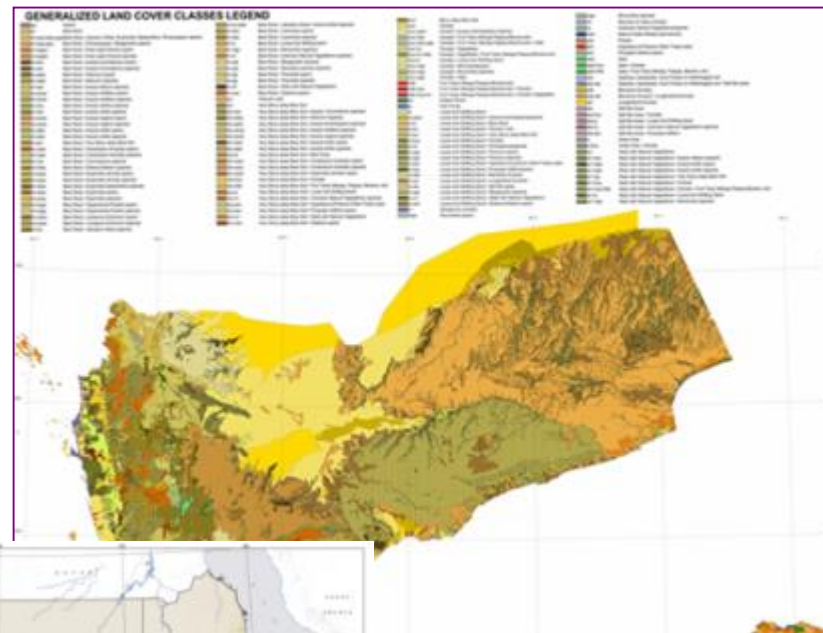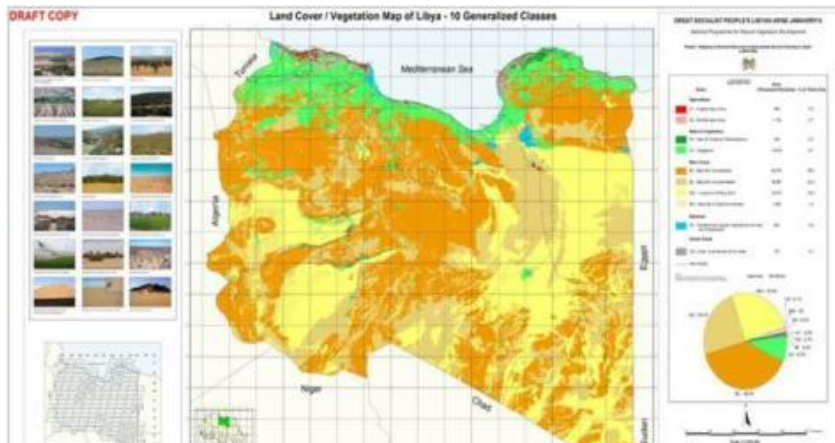
# FAO's Land Cover Mapping in Africa

*Spatial resolution: 30m or better*

- 2018     South Sudan
- 2018     Macedonia
- 2018     Bangladesh
- 2017     Jordan
- 2017     Afghanistan
- 2016     Lesotho
- 2013     ECONET
            Ethiopia
- 2012     Fouta Djallon Highlands
            Malawi
- 2011     Sudan
- 2010     South Sudan
            Tunisia
            Kenya Update
- 2007     Somalia
- 2006     Kenya LCC
- 2005     Senegal
- 2004     Libya
- 1998-2004 AFRICOVER
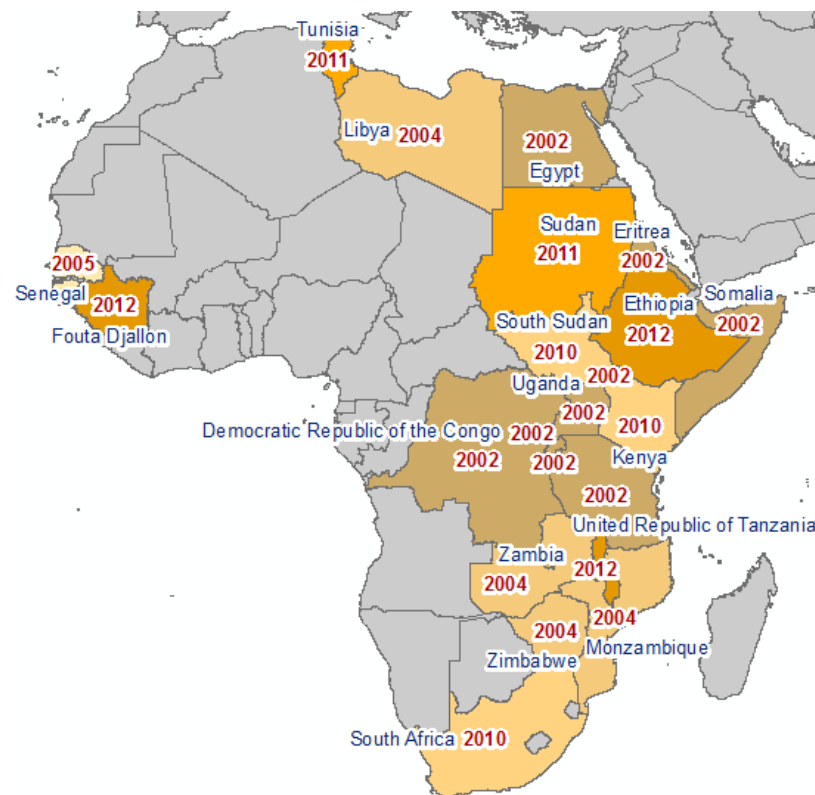
# Land Cover Mapping: Sudan

Sudan Land Cover Mapping project was implemented by FAO/NRL division to support the Food Security Information for Action (SIFSIA) program of Sudan Government funded by the European Commission.
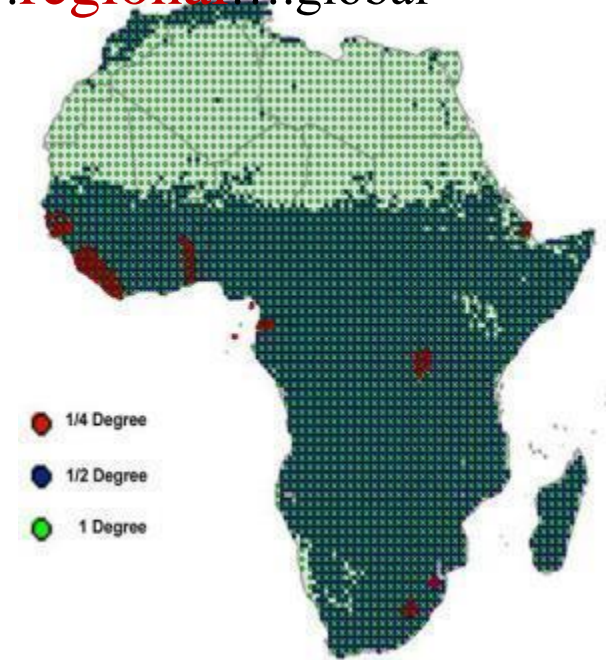
OBJECTIVE :

1. production of a detailed and harmonized national land cover database and

2. national capacity building on FAO/GLCN mapping methodology, tools and software to support the national capacity to produce the land cover database.
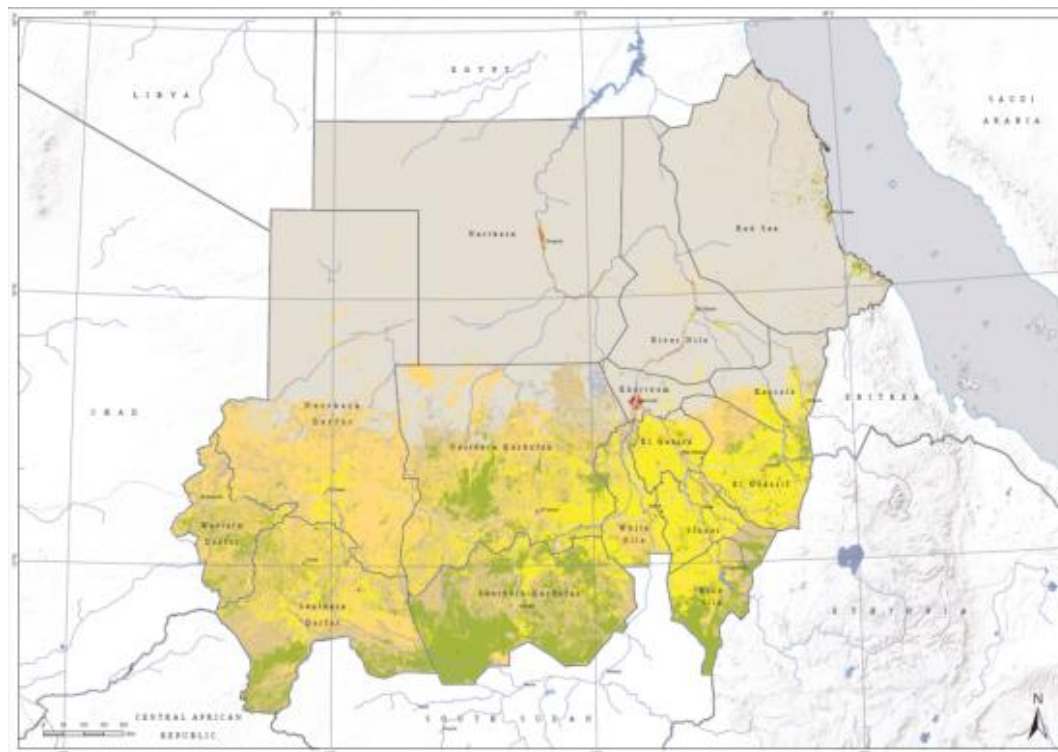
# ECO-NET Africa

Land Cover Mapping: national….regional….global
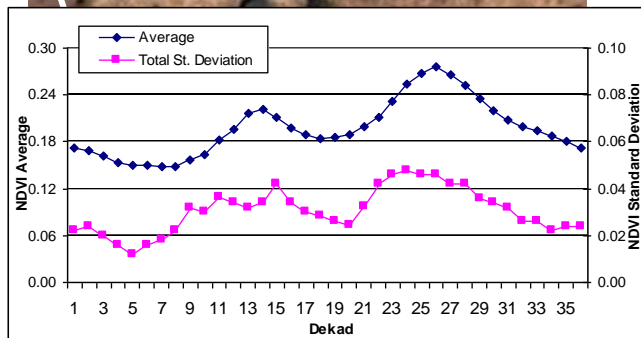


- ECO-NET : mapping based on a statistical method approach
- GOAL: ensure reliable information at country levels
- MAPPING METHOD based on samples chosen on a fixed grid with appropriate density interval.
- OUTPUT: successfully validated in several demonstration countries in Africa

# GLC-SHARE initiative



- New global land cover database created by FAO in partnership and with contributions from various partners and institutions;

- First global product created using the ISO standard for land cover classification ISO TC 211 – 19144-2 LMCL (Land Cover Meta Language);

- It provides a set of eleven major thematic land cover layers (FAO SEEA LCML legend);

- Resulted by a combination of "best available" high resolution national, regional and/or sub-national land cover databases;

- The database is produced with a resolution of 30 arc-second (~1sqkm) .

# Land Cover Classification System

- LCCS / LCML : Comprehensive methodology for description, characterization, classification and comparison of most land cover features identified anywhere in the world, at any scale or level of detail: basis for comparative classification. (6 UN official languages)

- Created in response to a need for a harmonized and standardized collection and reporting on the status and trends of land cover
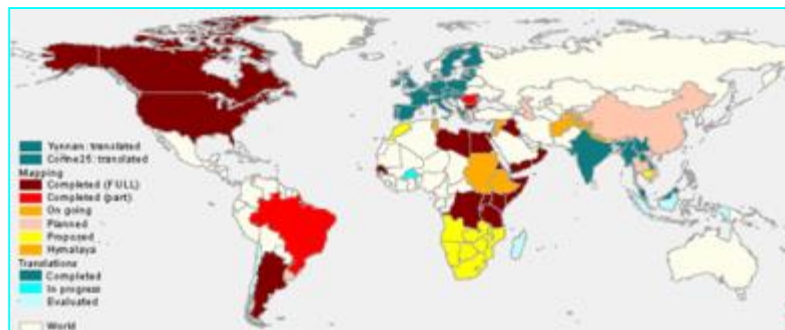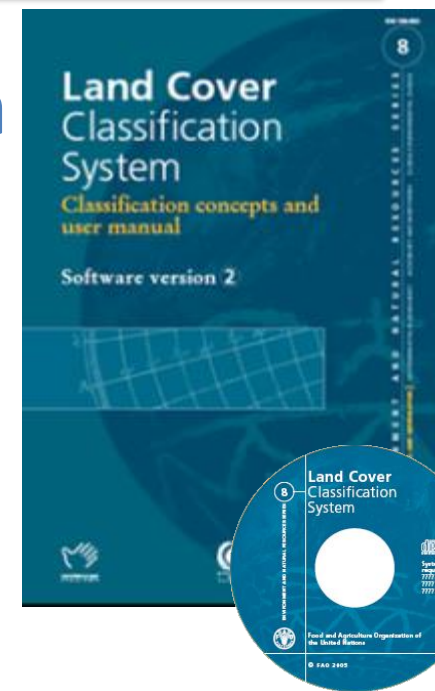


## ISO 19144-2:2012

**Geographic information - Classification systems -- Part 2: Land Cover Meta Language (LCML)**

# From land cover to land use (LCML to LCHML)
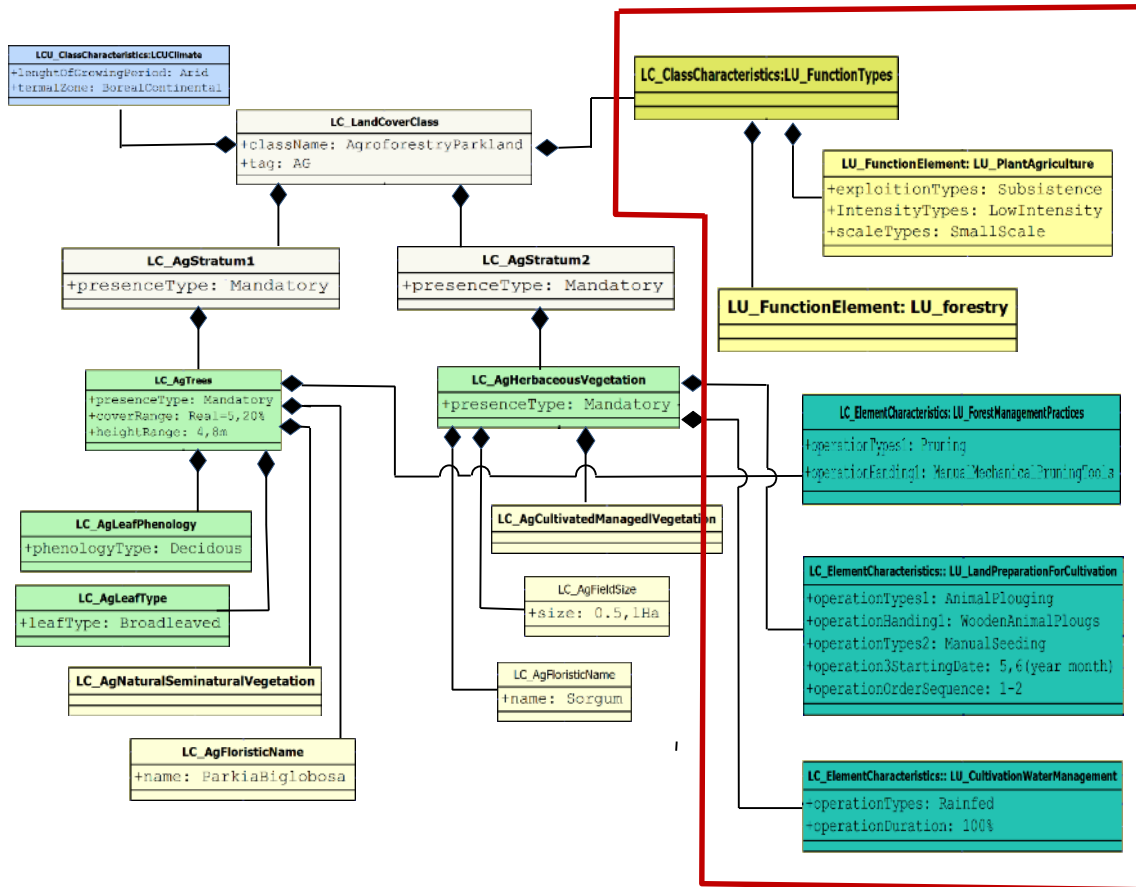
BEHAVIORAL INTERACTION OF INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS THROUGH CULTURAL, SOCIAL ECONOMIC RELATIONSCHIPS
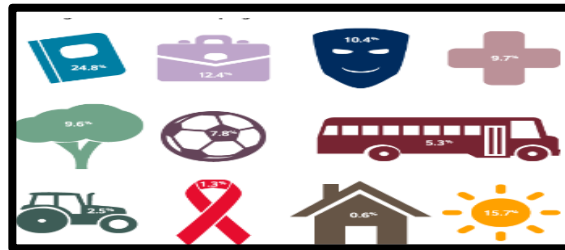
REAL WORLD FEATURES

LAND RECURRENT/PERMANENT MODIFICATIONS

The functional relationship between physical objects, land events and related socio economic functions key parameters to built up a "Land Representation" system

# New opportunities for LC

- OBIA
- Multi-temporal
- Optical and radar
- ARD
- LCML - LCHML
- Cloud computing (SEPAL – GEE)
- Machine-learning
- Integration with local knowledge and field data



Forest deciduous
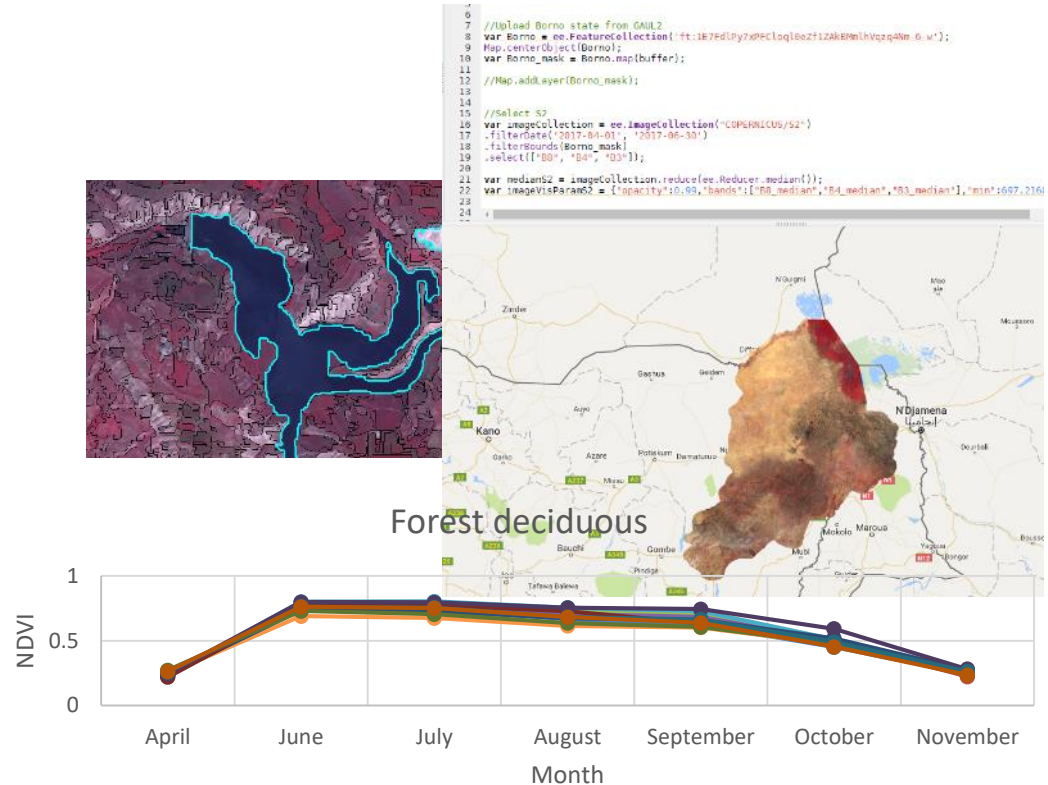
# Fragile ecosystem mapping: mangroves

- The World Atlas of Mangroves is a significant attempt to provide an overview of the distribution of mangroves worldwide
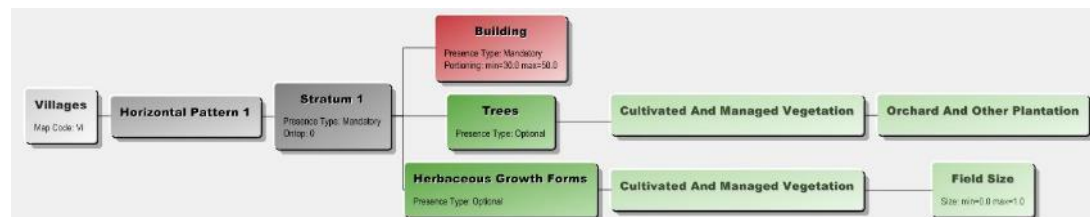
- NRL (now CBDS) has contributed to this initiative with its extensive experience in remote sensing and mapping, by applying mapping standards (LCCS) and tools (land cover toolbox)

Photo-interpreted Landsat imagery

South Myanmar: 2002 mangroves (yellow line) over 1990 image

# Vulnerable Ecosystems: DECCMA project

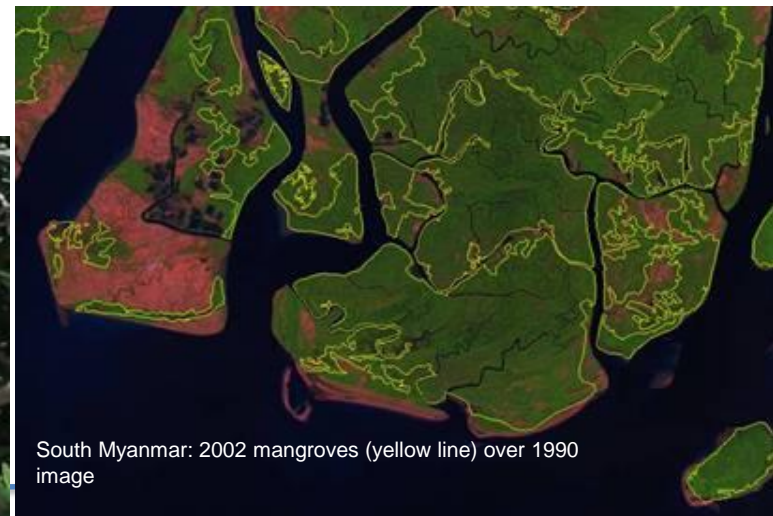DECCMA: Deltas Vulnerability and Climate Change: Migration and Adaptation" examines the vulnerability, environmental stressors and hazards of a range of climate change and biophysically driven scenarios across the study deltas.
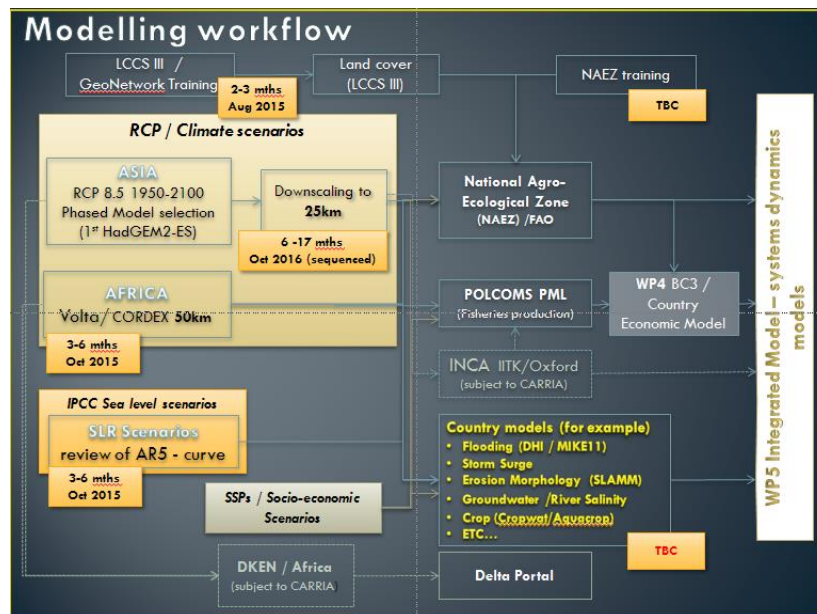




THREATENED DELTAS
(Ericson et al (2006); IPCC AR4, 2007)

Population potentially displaced by current sea-level trends to 2050
(Extreme >1 million; high =1 million-50,000; medium 50,000–5,000 people)
Global population in deltas is about 500 million people

# Delta synthesis

- Complex systems with large vulnerable populations

- Multiple drivers at multiple scales

- Rapid resultant change, including significant migration

- Climate change needs to be analysed in this dynamic context, including established and emerging migration

- As climate change and sea-level rise increases, so the range of sustainable (plausible) adaptation choices diminishes

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**
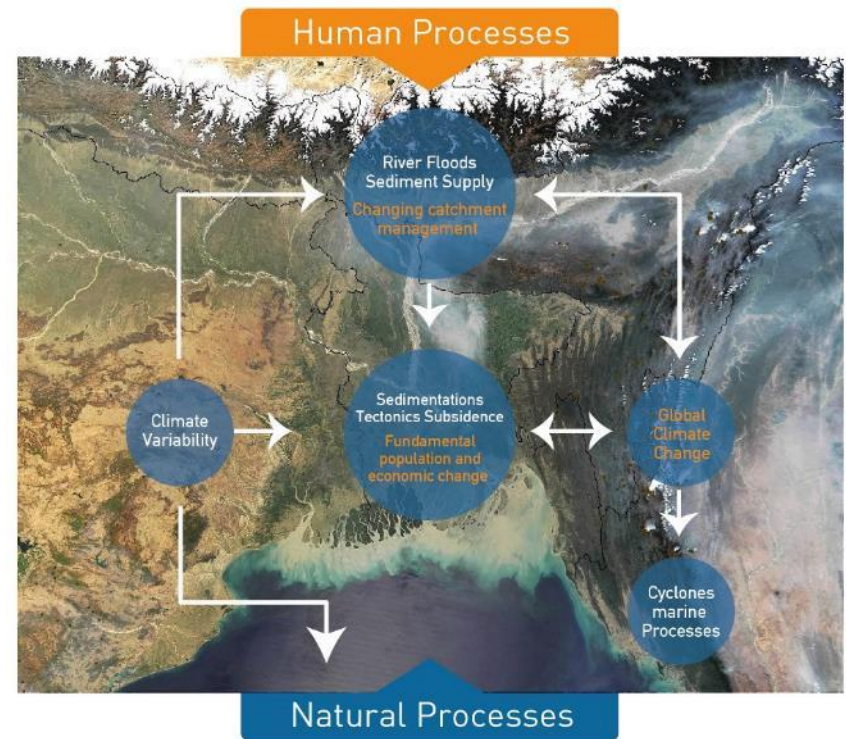
# DECCMA aims

1. to assess migration as an adaptation in deltaic environments under a changing climate;
2. to deliver policy support on sustainable gender-sensitive adaptation in deltaic areas.

OR

Better understand in deltas:
1. migration processes, including the role of climate change
2. adaptation choices, with a focus on migration.

This will take a participatory and adaptive pathway approach that addresses gender dimensions.

# Study sites

The analysis will guide sustainable and equitable development of deltas in Ghana (Volta), India (Mahanadi) and India-Bangladesh (Ganges-Bramaputra-Meghna) and will:

1. identify gender-differentiated stakeholder-relevant scenarios of local/regional/delta level vulnerability to climate change;

2. identify options for effective climate adaptation by the poorest groups in deltas; and

3. lead to the development of gender-sensitive adaptation funding proposals in the three deltas.

# FAO in DECCMA

FAO CBDS is contributing to WP2 on vulnerability, hazard and climate change hotspot mapping.

Main outputs are:

- Development of high-resolution land cover datasets using ISO standards (LCCS) for assessment of natural and agricultural resources;

- Development of the agro-Ecological Zoning (AEZ) assessment under a range of scenarios;

- Support on the portal for geospatial data management and distribution
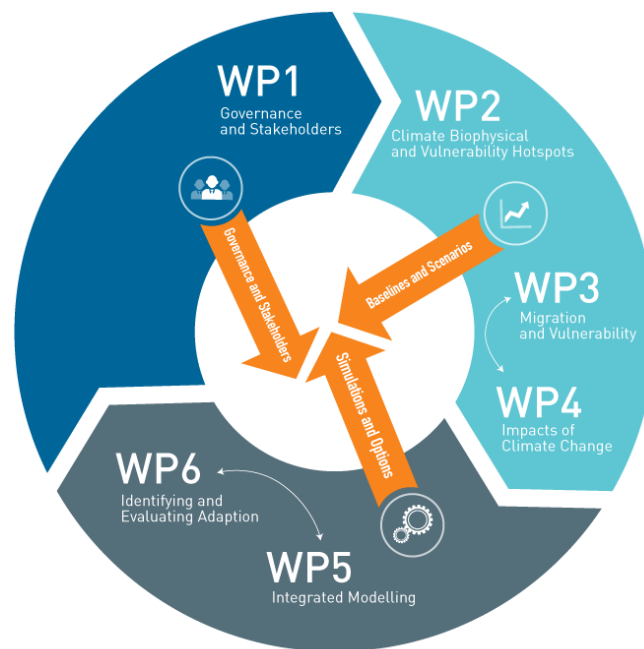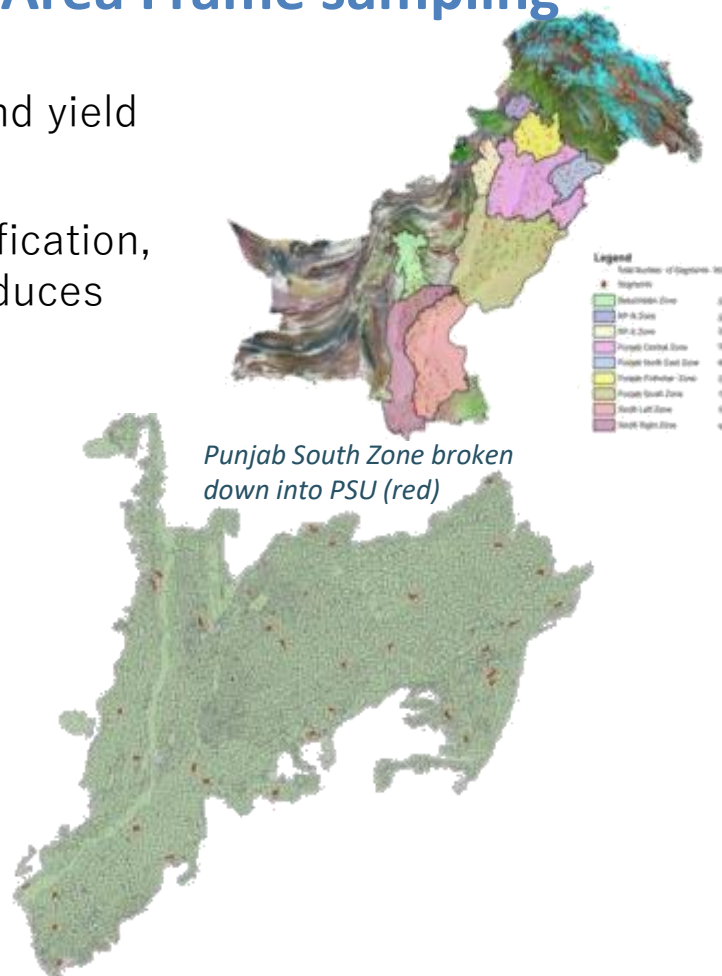


WP0 Management

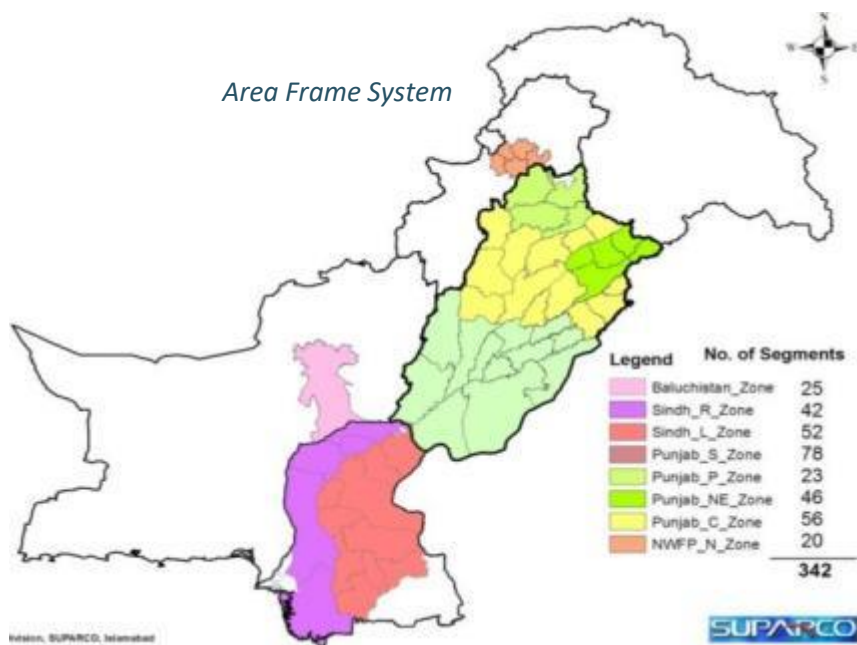# Crop Monitoring: land cover for Area Frame sampling

1. Area frames (AF) is used for crop acreage and yield estimation.

2. Good quality land cover data improves stratification, reduces sample size and allocation and produces more accurate estimates.

3. Ethiopia, Pakistan, Afghanistan

Sampling unit



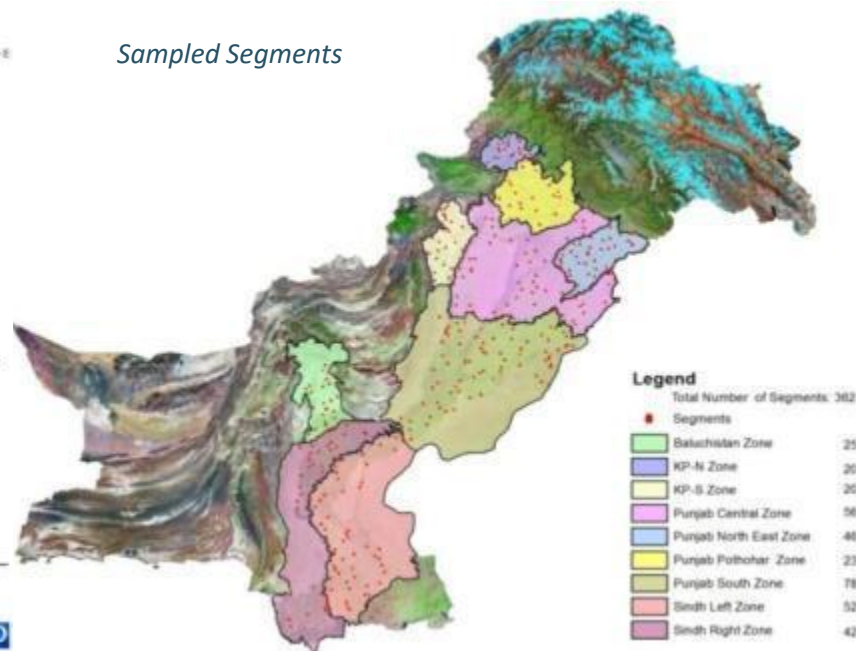*Punjab South Zone broken down into PSU (red)*

# Area Frame Sampling Survey in Pakistan

- To substantiate the satellite based image classification system, an area frame sampling system has been designed (see below).
- The spatial distribution of sampled segments as laid down by standard statistical/remote sensing techniques is shown below.
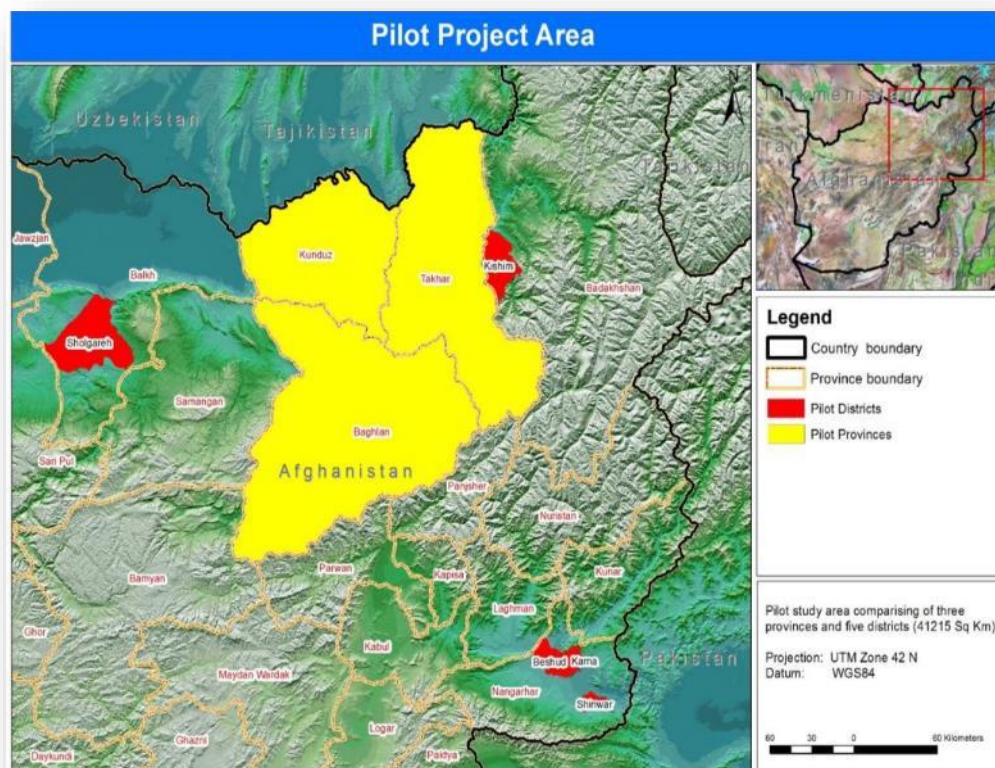


*Area Frame System*

*Sampled Segments*

| Legend | No. of Segments |
|---|---|
| Baluchistan_Zone | 25 |
| Sindh_R_Zone | 42 |
| Sindh_L_Zone | 52 |
| Punjab_S_Zone | 78 |
| Punjab_P_Zone | 23 |
| Punjab_NE_Zone | 46 |
| Punjab_C_Zone | 56 |
| NWFP_N_Zone | 20 |
| | 342 |

Vision, SUPARCO, Islamabad

SUPARCO

| Legend | |
|---|---|
| Total Number of Segments: 362 | |
| Segments | |
| Baluchistan Zone | 25 |
| KP-N Zone | 20 |
| KP-S Zone | 20 |
| Punjab Central Zone | 56 |
| Punjab North East Zone | 46 |
| Punjab Pothohar Zone | 23 |
| Punjab South Zone | 78 |
| Sindh Left Zone | 52 |
| Sindh Right Zone | 42 |

# Monitoring of Rice and Cotton in Afghanistan

## Objectives

- To test relevant agriculture methodologies based on recent medium and high resolution geospatial information: Proba-V, Aqua/Terra, Landsat-8, Sentinel-1, Sentinel-2, SPOT-5/6/7 and Pleiades 1A/ 1B imagery with focus on rice monitoring.

- Crop area estimation and crop mask development



**Pilot Project Area**

Legend
- Country boundary
- Province boundary
- Pilot Districts
- Pilot Provinces

Pilot study area comparising of three provinces and five districts (41215 Sq Km)

Projection: UTM Zone 42 N
Datum: WGS84

Geographical Area: 41000 Sq. Km
Agriculture area: 4100 Sq. Km

# Methodology

Following techniques have being used to estimate the area under rice crop:

- Satellite image classification
- Satellite based area frame sampling technique
- Regression estimator
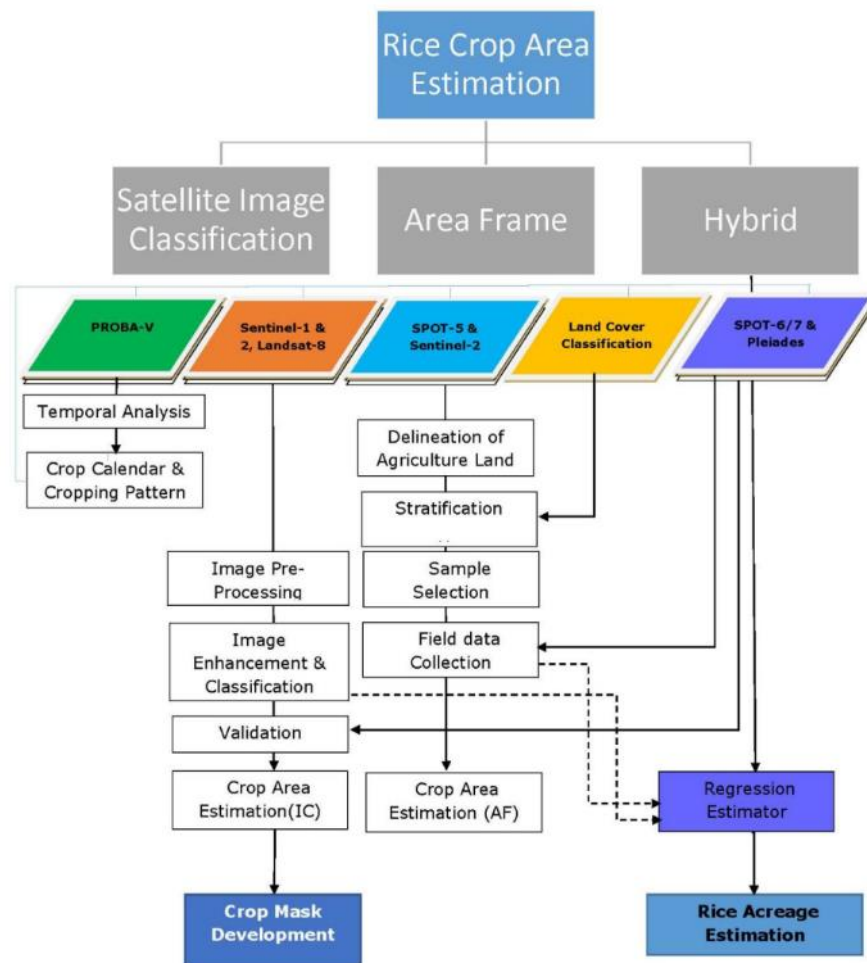
# GeoNetwork – FAO metadata catalogue

http://www.fao.org/geonetwork/srv/en/main.home

- Internet access to interactive maps, satellite imagery and related spatial databases maintained by FAO and its partners;

- Powered by GeoNetwork opensource, which was developed by FAO and other UN agencies based on Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) principles and international standards;

- Almost 7000 records are stored;

- Ongoin upgrade to latest opensource version.

# Pakistan Crop Information Portal



*http://cip.sgs-suparco.gov.pk]*

- The **Pakistan's Crop Portal** is a component of the *Pakistan Agriculture Information System*;

- It is being developed to support data and information dissemination on major crops (area, yield and production) and agro-meteorological conditions affecting crop growth;

- The Crop Portal uses **District** based crop data (wheat, maize, sugarcane, rice and cotton) and agromet conditions
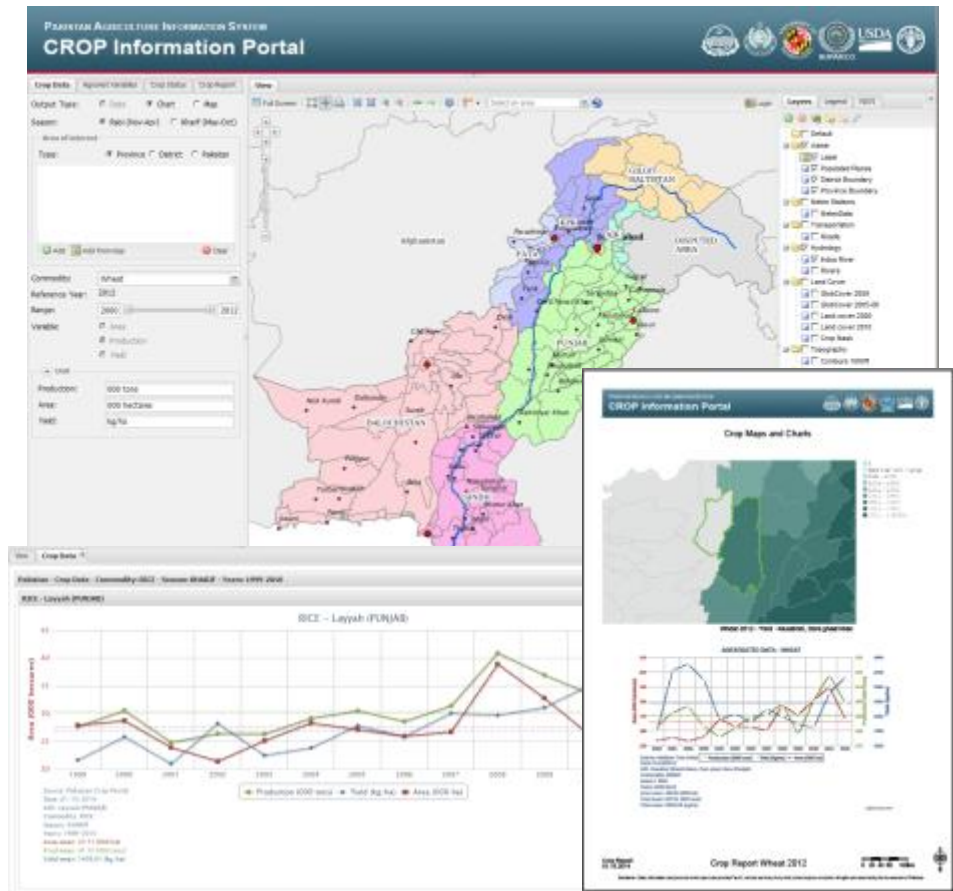
# Afghanistan Agriculture Information Portal (AAIP)



AAIP

Afghanistan Information Portal for monitoring of agriculture and natural resources

## MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE CROP PORTAL:

Sharing historical statistics and forecasts on crop yields and area.

**1**

Sharing historical and near real time agronomic, meteorological and hydrological data.

**2**

Monitoring crop conditions during main growing stages to detect stresses affecting future crop results.

**3**

GIS interface for the mapping of crop production information, natural resources, infrastructure and vegetation indexes from remote sensing.

**4**

# Food Security/Emergencies



- FIVIMS:
  - Stunting index, poverty and food security, poverty mapping atlas

- Emergency Preparedness:
  - Laos, Haiti,
  - Afghanistan
  - Pakistan Floods
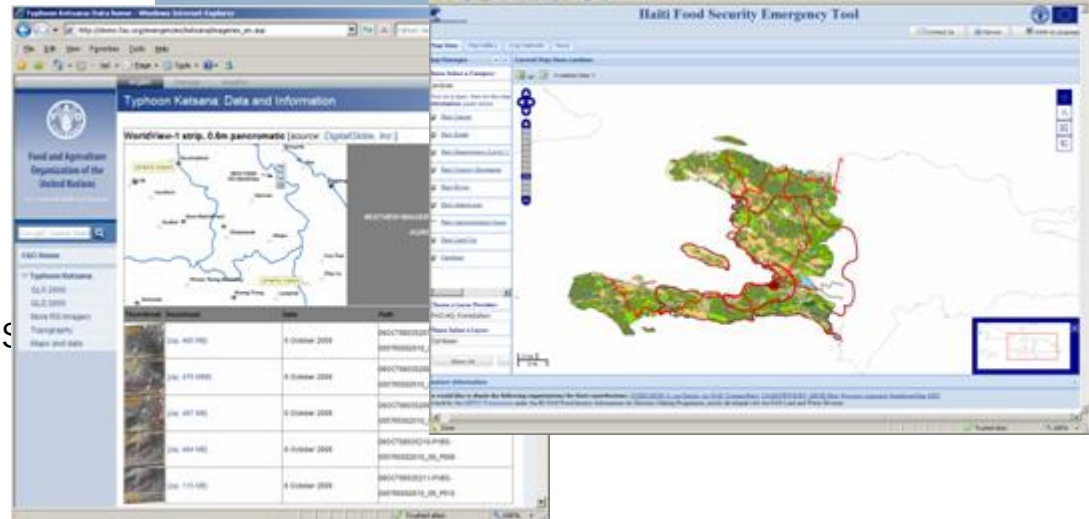
# GEOGLAM

**Monitoring Crop Production**

- In this context a global system to monitor and assess production is seen as an important decision making tool to:

  - provide timely information on crop production and yield in a standardized and regular fashion at the regional to global level.

  - provide estimates as early as possible during the growing season(s) and update the estimates periodically through the season until harvest.

- Examples of current global crop estimation systems is **GEOGLAM**, which combines in-situ information, weather and satellite data in a convergence of evidence approach to estimate production and yield.
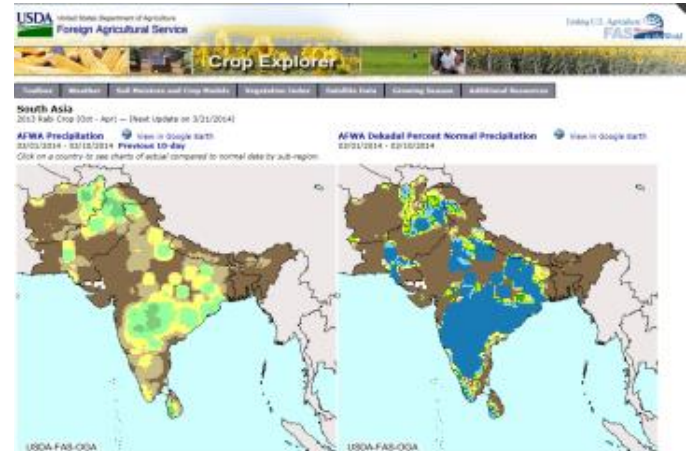
# SIGMA

**Stimulating innovation for Global Monitoring of Agriculture (SIGMA)**

- FP7 EC Project.

- SIGMA's main challenge is to develop innovative methods and indicators to monitor and assess progress towards 'sustainable agriculture'.

- The project is a contribution to GEOGLAM initiative started by the G20.

- Reinforce awareness of the impact of agriculture on the global environment enabling the prediction of the impact of crop production on natural resources and ecosystems.



Stimulating Innovation for global Monitoring of Agriculture and its Impact on the Environment in Support of GEOGLAM (SIGMA)

Project number: 93935303

Country: Europe
Starting date: 01 Nov 2013
Completion date: 30 Apr 2017
Clients:
- European Commission

Total budget: Euro 407.818
Project Officer: Boer
Supervisor: Mannaerts
Project type: Contract Research

# Collect Earth System Overview
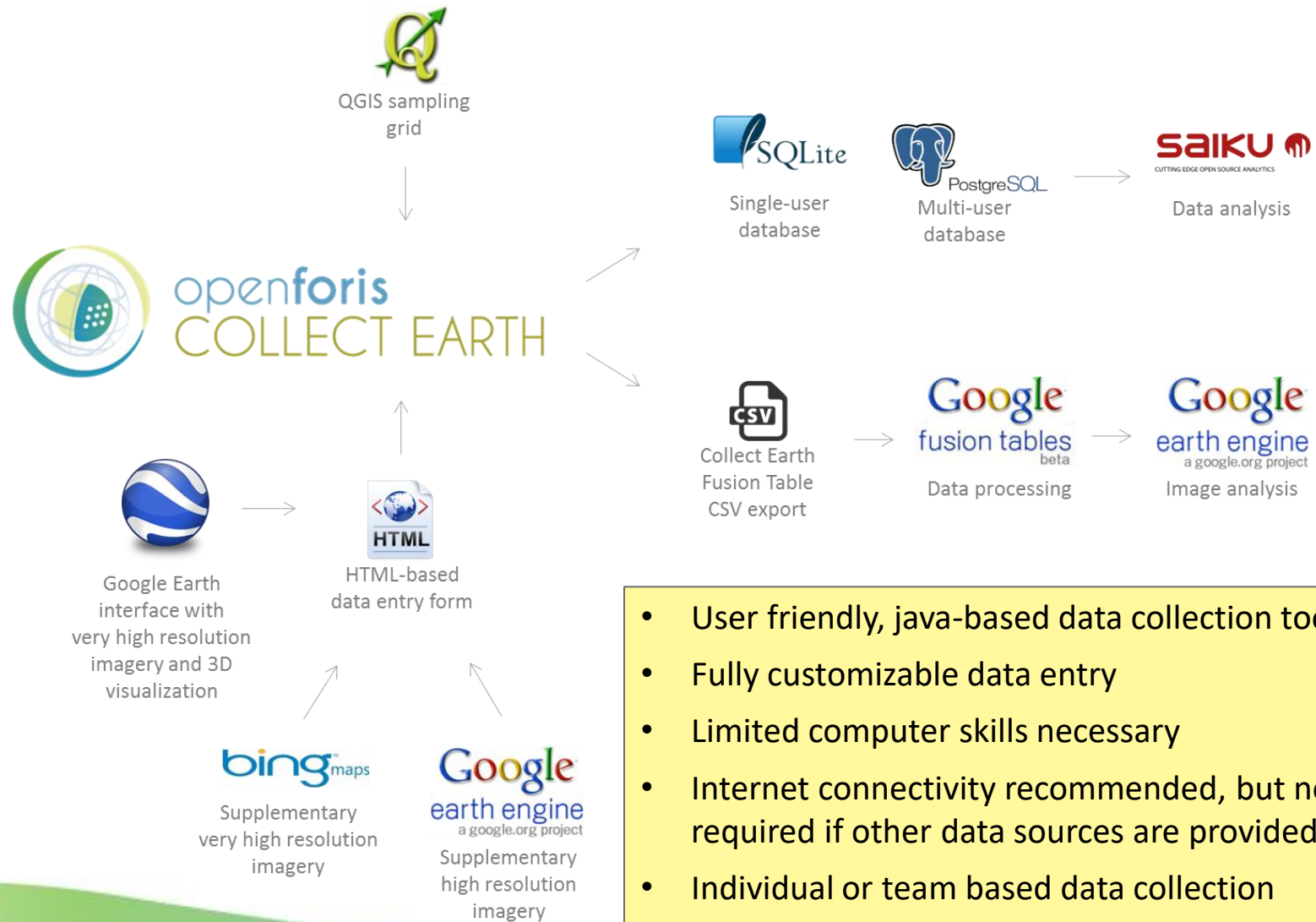


- User friendly, java-based data collection tool
- Fully customizable data entry
- Limited computer skills necessary
- Internet connectivity recommended, but not required if other data sources are provided
- Individual or team based data collection
- Open-source software with code available on Github.com

# Collect Earth user cases

Collect Earth facilitates the analysis of high and very high resolution satellite imagery for a wide variety of purposes, including :

- Support **multi-phase National Forest Inventories**
- **Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) assessments** (18 partnering countries)
- **Monitoring agricultural land** and urban areas
- Accuracy assessment of existing maps (DRC, Zambia)
- Collection of spatially explicit socio-economic data (Vietnam)
- Quantifying deforestation, reforestation and desertification





COLLECT EARTH

![Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations]

# **Capacity Building**

- Awareness workshops, training resources and sessions

  ▪ Regional awareness workshops by FAO staff on land cover mapping methodology, standards and tools

  ▪ National on-the-job trainings to support national mapping programmes

  ▪ Project coordination and backstopping

Juba – January 2018



Pakistan – March 2018



1st Mission to Punjab Region, Lahore and Faisalabad provinces 4-day trainings for the AEZ study in the Punjab region. Center for Advanced Studies in Agriculture and Food Security, University of Agriculture-Faisalabad (Dec. 2017).
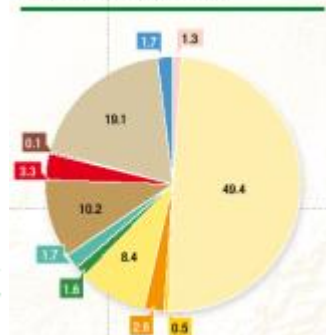
**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

# Outreach

# Thank You!!

**Douglas.Muchoney@fao.org**

**Geospatial: www.fao.org/geospatil**
**SEPAL: https://sepal.io**
**GAEZ: http://gaez.fao.org/Main.html**