









15/06/2015

# The Use of Remote Sensing Data to Monitor the Impact of Agricultural Intensification at Global Scale

Belgian Workshop, Space4Food, Expo Milano2015

Sven Gilliams & co, VITO-TAP











# CONTENT

- » VITO in a nutshell
- » Introduction / The Challenge
- » Agricultural Monitoring Needs @ Global Scale
  - » Approach
    - » Data
    - » Tools
- » Examples



#### VITO IN NUMBERS



- » 750 employees
- » 26 nationalities



More than 400 patents worldwide



- » HQ in Mol, België. Offices in Ostend, Berchem, Ghent, Genk
- » Subsidiary in China



200 scientific articles in 2014



1000 research projects



140 mio € turnover in 2014



More than 500 research partners



#### REMOTE SENSING PRODUCTS & SOLUTIONS

#### **Platforms**





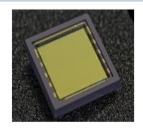


HALE UAV



SATELLITE

#### **Sensors**









Value Added Services & Information Products













#### **Markets**



/egetation





Water



Forest



Environment & SecVrt LO

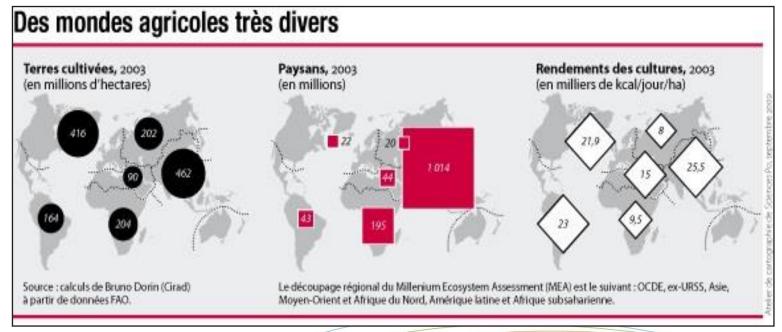


Agriculture

ter

# **CHALLENGE**

- » 2050 70% increase in agricultural productivity!?
- » Sustainable intensification of agriculture:
  - » Agricultural Expansion
  - » Agricultural Intensification





#### **GEOGLAM-SIGMA-FACTS**





EUROPEAN / European

/ Environment

- Funded By The European Commission
- Improve remote sensing based methods and indicators to monitor and assess progress towards "sustainable agriculture"
- Start 1 November 2013 30 March 2017
- 22 partners, 17 countries
  - VITO, CIRAD, JRC, IIASA, Alterra, RADI, NMSC, DEIMOS, GeoSAS, RCMRD, Aghrymet, RCMRD, Sarvision, Sarmap, INTA, Geoville, UCL, EFTAS, FAO, ITC, GISAT, IKI, SRI
  - Argentina, Ukraine, China, Russia, Ethiopia, Niger, Kenya USA, Brazil, Vietnam, Belgium, ...
- A Major European contribution to **GFOGLAM**
- http://www.geoglam-sigma.info/
- Coordinated by VITO



Title: Stimulating Innovation for Global Monitoring of Agriculture and its Impact on the Environment in support of GEOGLAM

Instrument: FP7, Collaborative Project

Duration: 42 months

Start Date: November 2013

Consortium: 22 Partners from 17 countries

Project Coordinator: VITO

Project Web Site: www.sigma.info

Key Words: Agriculture, remote sensing, Global, Innovation, GEOGLAM, GEO

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EARTH OBSERVATION



#### THE CHALLENGE

Global population has increased from about 2.5 billion in 1950 to more than 7 billion in 2012 and is projected to reach more than 9 billion by 2050. According to FAO, to achieve food for all, global food production will need to grow by 70% and up to 100% in developing countries. Sustainable intensification of agriculture is thereby imperative, requiring a thorough understanding of the impact of shifting cultivation practices on the environment. In this perspective, earth observation based information systems, which are currently mostly focused on short term agricultural productivity forecasts, will need to be enhanced with the capacity to assess the dynamics of cultivation practises and their impact on productivity and the environment. This is a key requirement to explore possible pathways towards sustainable agriculture in the long term.

#### **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

The GEOGLAM Initiative (Global Agricultural Monitoring), a key component of GEO (Group on Earth Observation), aims to improve transparency in global agricultural monitoring, SIGMA's objective is to actively contribute to GEOGLAM and in specific to its research agenda through the development of methods and products that will enable to better formulate answers to the

How and where do changes in crop land distribution affect other ecosystems?

Earth observation





#### AGRICULTURE MONITORING NEEDS

- » Key elements
  - Temporal / Spatial Resolution!!
  - Time Series
  - Data access (availability needs to be guaranteed)
  - Reliability
  - Ownership (& capacity) assured
  - Ever evolving (new satellites, better capabilities – R&D)



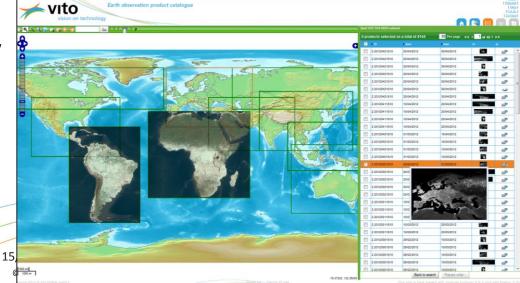


#### **DATA SERVICES**

- » Multi-sensor processing & archiving facility
  - » SPOT-VEGETATION (1998 now)
  - » MSG (2005 now)
  - » NOAA-AVHRR (1981 now)
  - » METOP-AVHRR (2008 now)
  - » MODIS (2000 now)
  - » MERIS (2003 now)
  - » PROBA-V (november 2013 ...)
- The Product Distribution Facility



10-daily composite







#### CROPWATCH SATELLITE PROGRAMME

- » Under Discussion!
- » A joint initiative by ESA, China & Belgium
  - Daily global coverage of all land masses, including coastal areas
  - » Spatial resolution of 100 m over the full swath
  - » continuity PROBA-V and SPOT-Vegetation (20+ years)
  - » additional thermal bands
  - » 2 phases -> 2018-2020
    - » Crop monitoring (<u>primary application</u>)
    - » Food security (<u>primary application</u>)
    - » Vegetation monitoring
    - » Land cover / Land use change mapping
    - » Impact of climate change
    - » Coastal zone monitoring (including water quality)





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### Capacity building: supporting & training user communities

- Improve access to data & catalyze operational use through capacity building: "get it there and get it used"
- Supporting bigger programmes, with partners, ...
- Partnership with EUMETSAT
- > 15 Workshops in the past 3 years
  - > 150 persons trained
  - "Refresher" & more advanced courses
- Training material
  - **Tutorials**
  - **Excercises**
- Programme available online <a href="http://rs.vito.be/africa">http://rs.vito.be/africa</a>







Africa Platform for Knowledge and Data Sharing on Earth Observation















raanized by CSE, VITO, ULa, GMFS and AGRICAB projects

Crop yield and vegetation monitoring 6 to 29 March 2012, Maputo, Mozambique [English] rganized by INAM, VITO, GMFS and AGRICAB projects

ownload Agenda - Report - Materials -

**GMFS O**AGRICAB

**AGRICAB** 

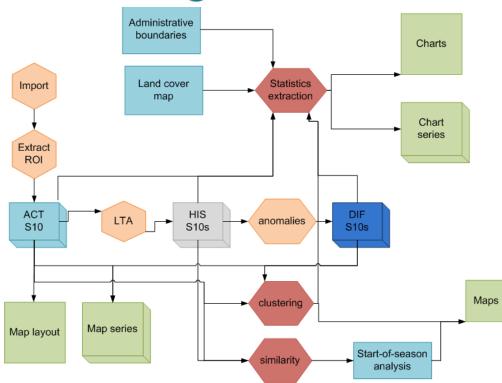
Almost 15 years of data from the family of

Data from the Advanced

Composites of Land



- » Large availability of free remote sensing data, but:
- » Remote sensing and processing software not specifically designed for time series processing
- » Food security analysts are usually not software programmers
- Tools developed in the past are no longer updated (e.g. WINDISP)
- Online platforms don't allow high degree of customization (e.g. Crop explorer, Decision Support Interface (DSI), MARS Viewer)



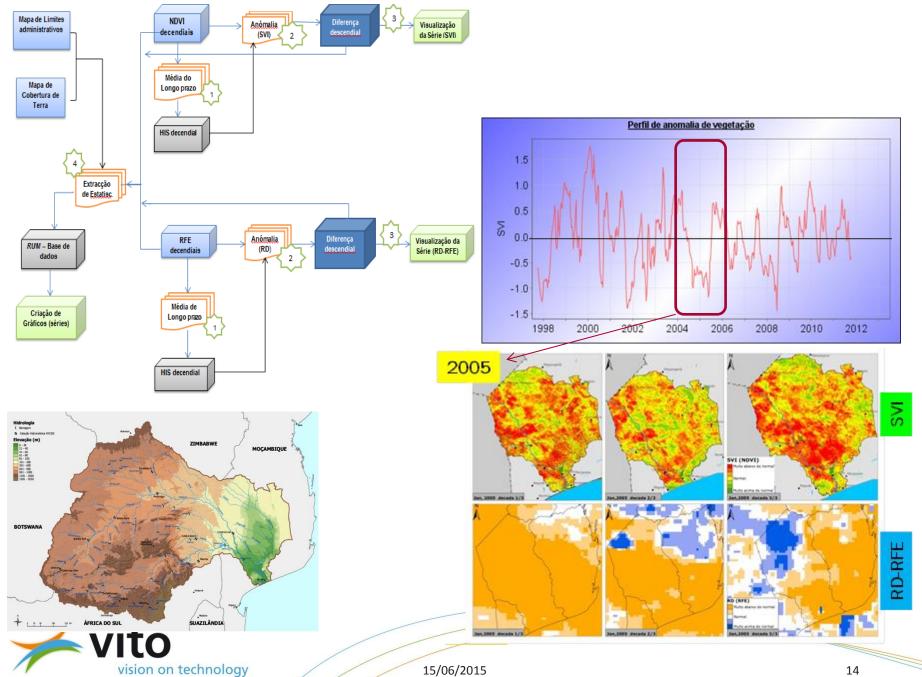




#### USE?

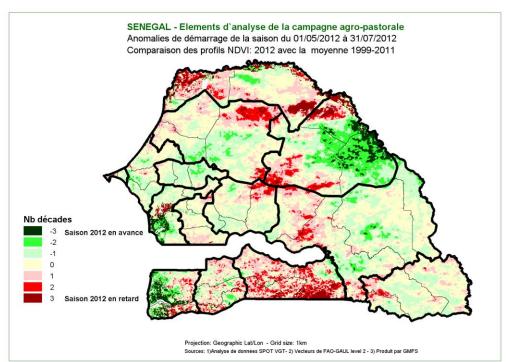
» RS based information Uptake by user communities

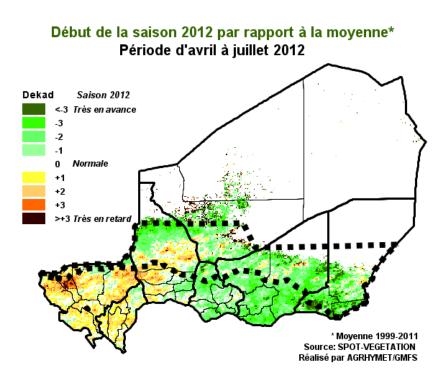












2012 Start-of-season shift compared to long term average (Senegal, Niger)

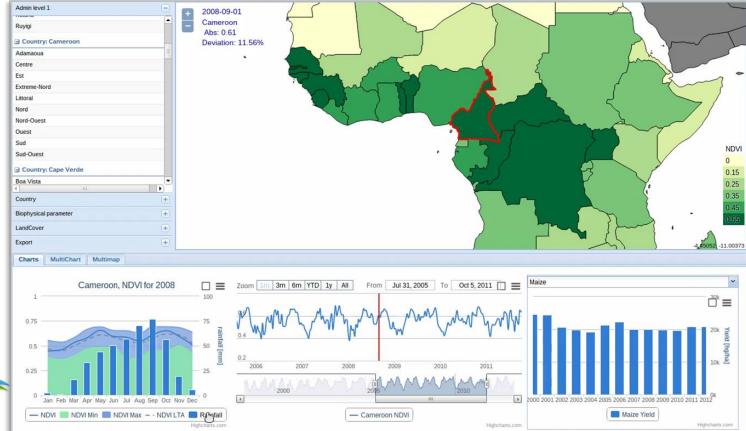


## Online Applications / Viewers / Dashboards

"Satellite Time Series Viewer" as first step:

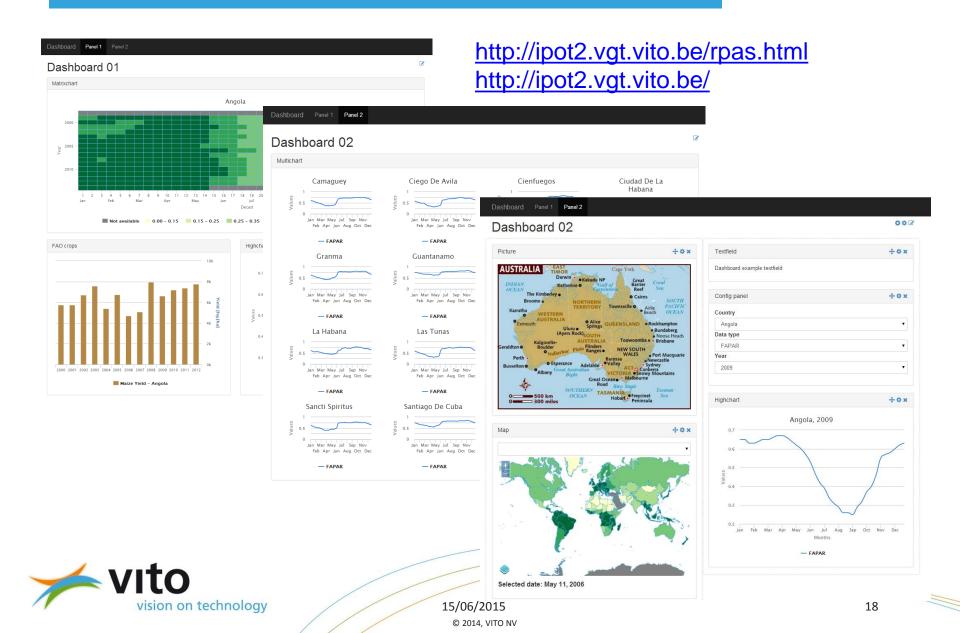
http://tsviewer.vito-eodata.be

» Aim: quickly explore & review satellite time series and complementary indicators for agriculture and environmental monitoring





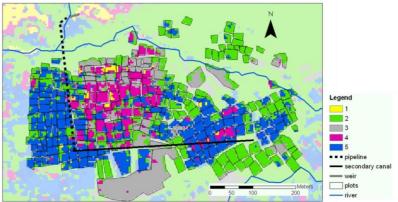
#### **Current work: user-tailored dashboards**



## **Project and Policy monitoring**

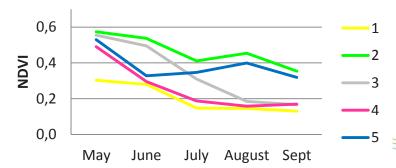
An overview on the variety of information remote sensing can provide to support agricultural development initiatives in Malawi

Monitoring small scale irrigation in Malawi rice harvested in June rice harvested in July rice harvested in Aug weeds cleared in june weeds cleared in july weeds cleared in aug weeds cleared in sept long cycle crop or weeds natural vegetation water logged after rains **Dynamics:** overview maps irrigation infrastructure pipeline secondary canal field preparation in june field preparation in july field preparation in aug field preparation in sept weeds along plot long cycle crops or weeds burned vegetation irrigation infrastructure 15/06/2015 © 2014, VITO NV



**Dynamics:** NDVI clustering

# Changes in vegetation health and density



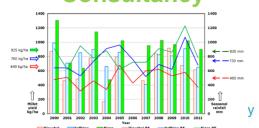
### Agricultural Insurance

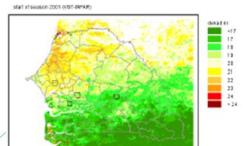
- » Crop monitoring, damage and risk assessment
  - = info to support traditional insurances
    - » Problem detection in an early stage -> where pay-out expected?
  - » Guidance of field visits by loss adjusters
  - » Control of damage claims -> claim in problem area or not?
  - » Information on historical crop losses -> risk estimation -> improved premium calculation

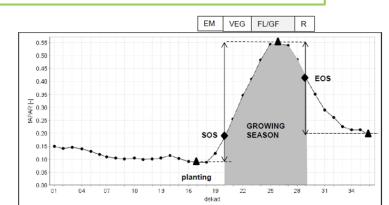
Feasibility studies in Morocco, Russia, China,... Remote sensing data provision

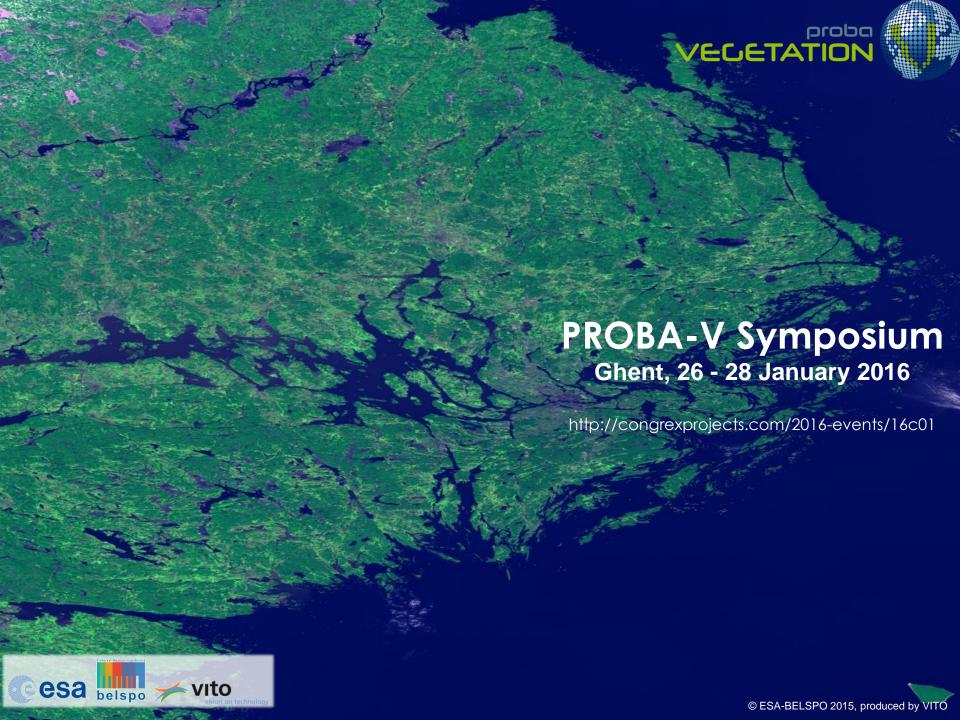
- » Index insurance
  - » Satellite based index



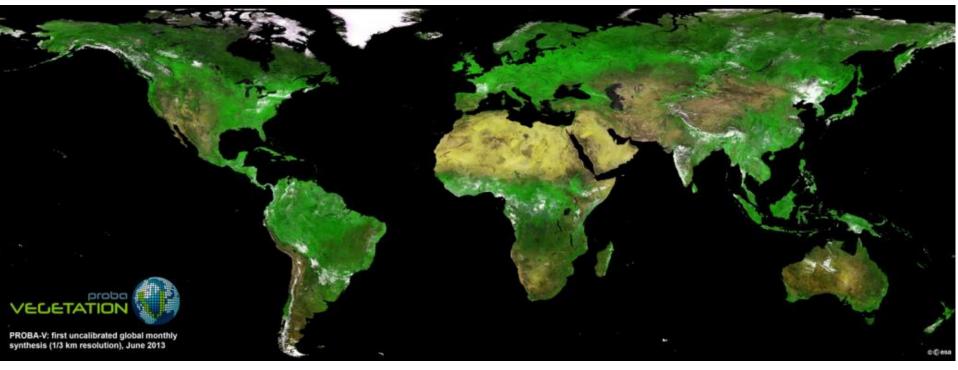








# Thank you!



# Questions?

