



Soil structure changes over time, and it matters!

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1. Context & Project

Temporal variations are poorly studied and rarely considered in models

Mostly investigated using single-time measurements, leading to inconsistent results

Monitor the temporal evolution of hydraulic properties in 3 innovative production systems down to -90 cm depth.

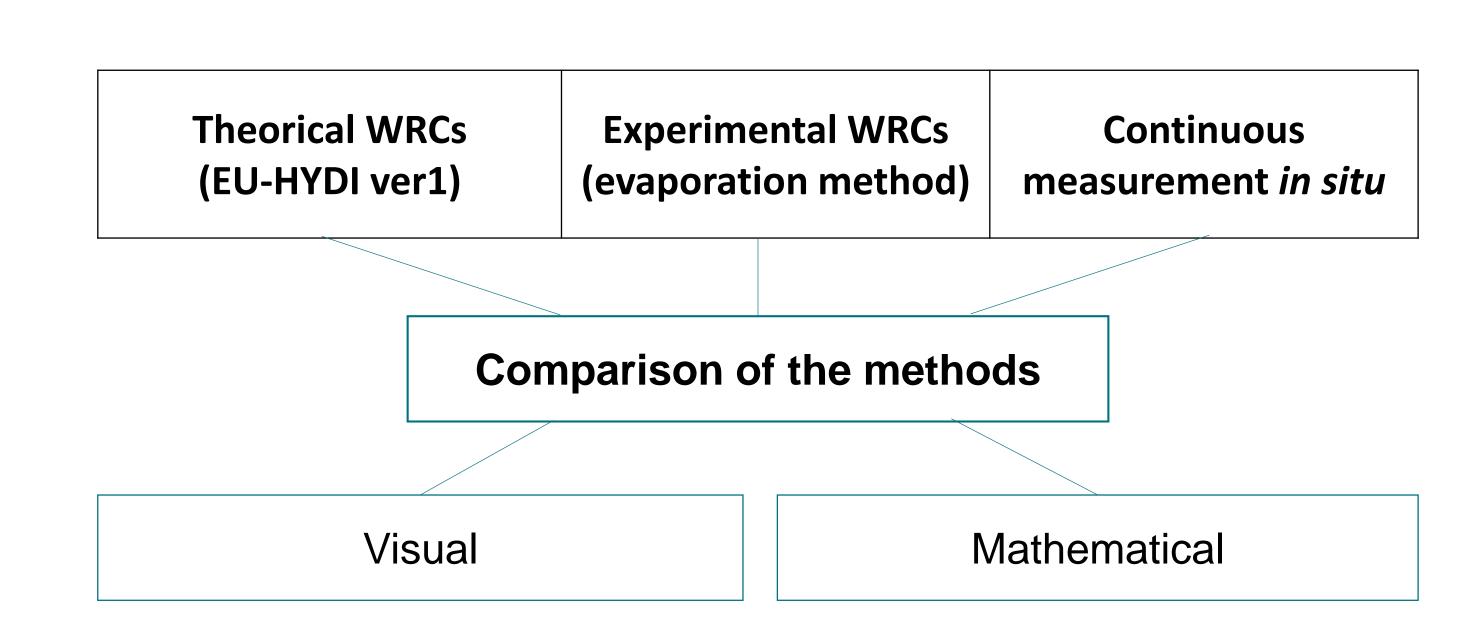
The systems are pesticide-free and have long-term rotations of 8 years with intercrops :

1: animals out of soil with importations and exportations (reference)

2: animals in an agro-ecological interaction with grazing periods

3: animal-free and considered vegan

2. Method

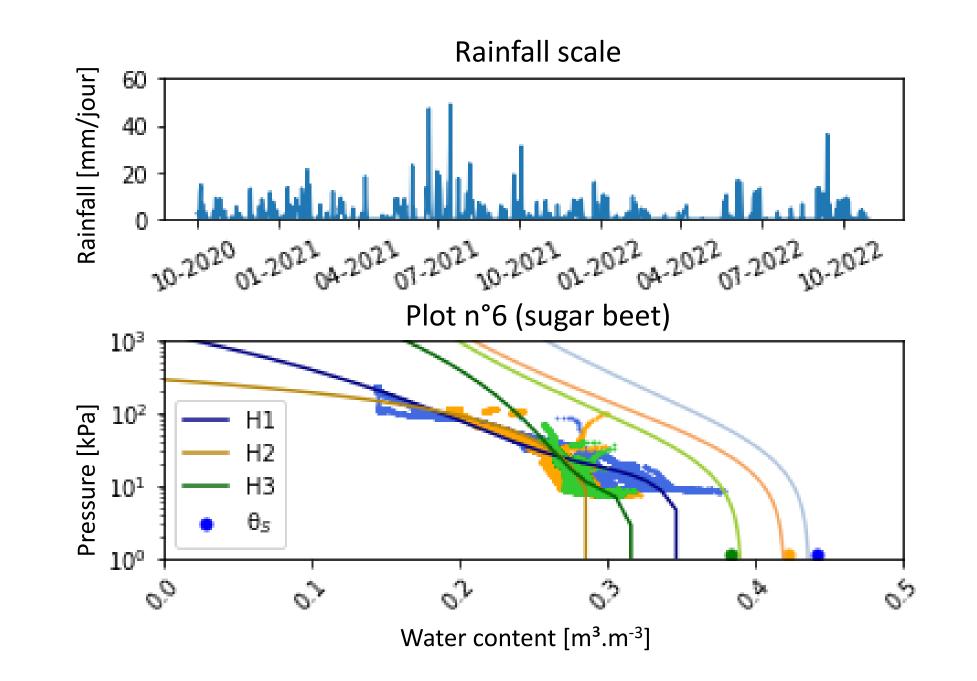


+ analysis of the evolution against tillage operations and major rainfall events

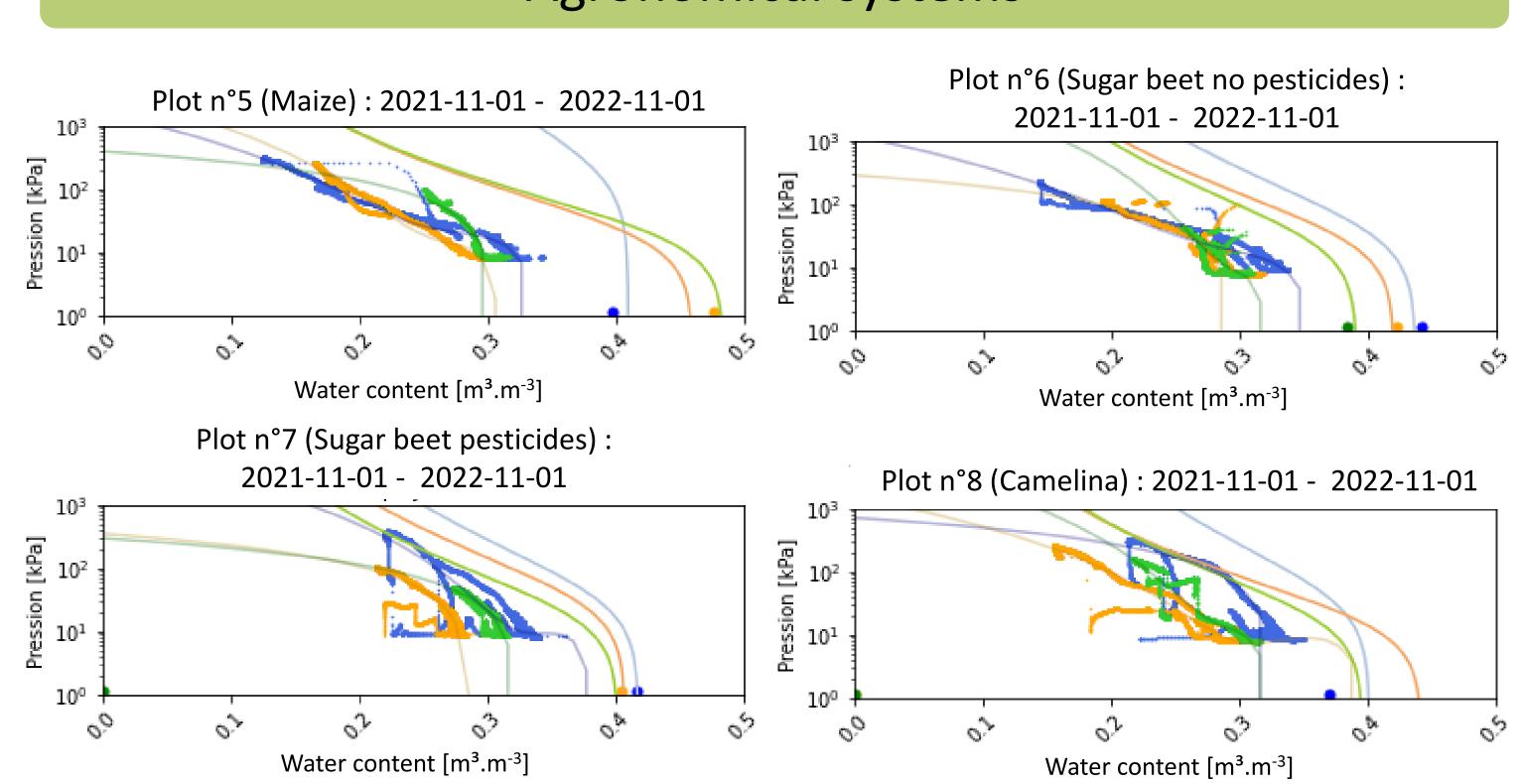
3. Results

2-years period

Dynamic view:



Agronomical systems

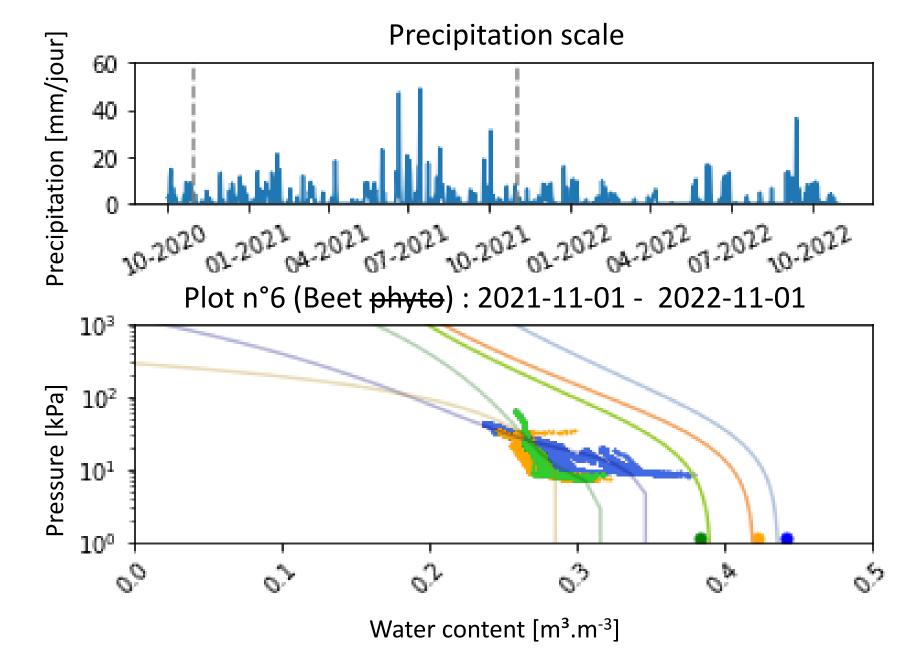


Contrasted years

2020-2021:

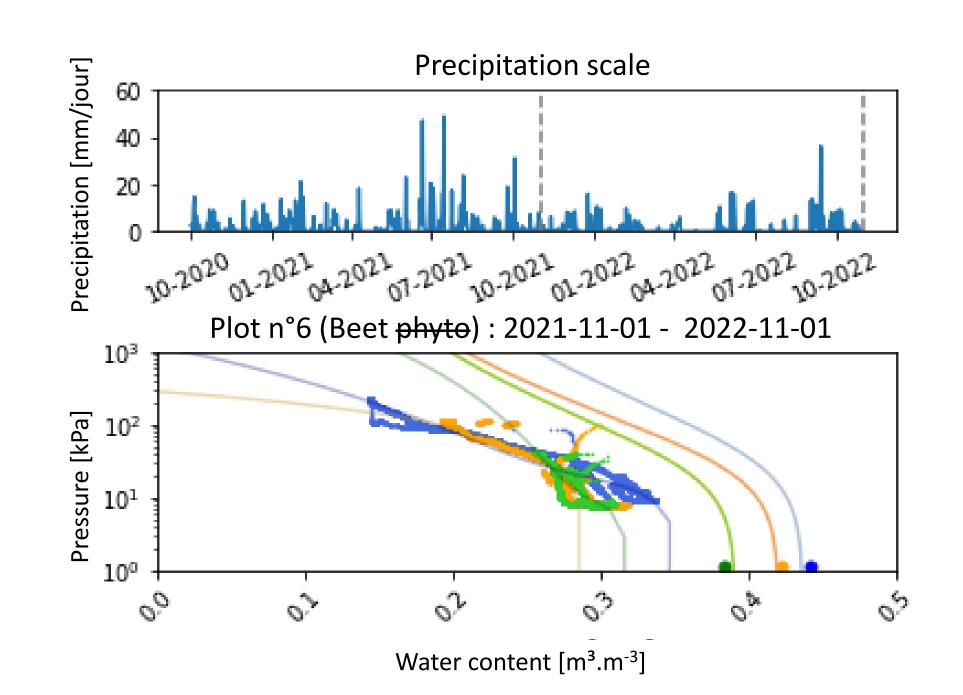
wet year and floodings





2021-2022:
dry year and droughts





By method

Method comparison (plot 6) 10³ EU-HYDI in situ data (curve adjusted) Labo 1 Labo 2 Labo 3 Water content of the soil [m³. m⁻³]

*Labo = evaporation method

4. Conclusions

Theoretical overestimation

Significant annual impact of rainfall

Technical inability: sensor limit at -9 kPa (in situ)

Impact of agricultural itinerary persists over time Intermediate position of laboratory data

Significant differences appear between the retention curves estimated or measured in the lab and what we observed in the field. Structure evolution and actual hydrodynamic behaviour of the soils remain a challenge to monitor. However these data show that agricultural practices lead to rather contrasting water status in the soil

and therefore show that agriculture has an interesting potential to contribute to food system resilience against Climate change.