

# **Simulating Cotton Yield under Variable Irrigation Management Scenarios**

World Environmental & Water Resources Congress  
May 19-23, 2019

**Saleh Taghvaeian and Blessing Masasi**

**Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, OK**



DIVISION OF

Agricultural Sciences  
& Natural Resources

# INTRODUCTION

- Cotton is an important economic crop in the Southern Great Plains (SGP)
- Water scarcity and weather conditions limit cotton production in SGP
- Need for assessing irrigation management strategies
- Crop simulation models
  - Cost effective & timely
  - Scenario analysis



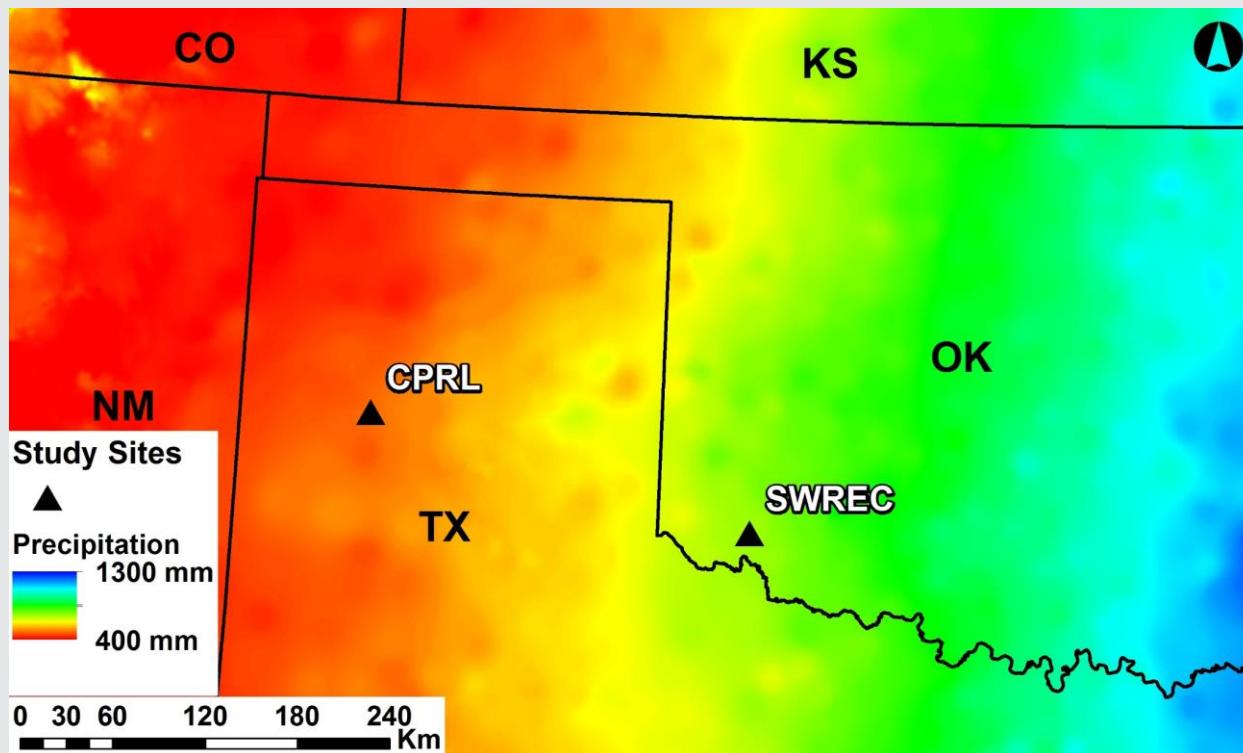
DIVISION OF

Agricultural Sciences  
& Natural Resources

# MATERIALS AND METHODS

## Study Sites

- Conservation and Production Research Laboratory (CPRL)
- OSU's Southwest Research and Extension Center (SWREC)



DIVISION OF  
Agricultural Sciences  
& Natural Resources

# MATERIALS AND METHODS

## CPRL

- Linear move irrigation system
- 3 treatments (Full, 50%, Dryland)
- 9 m<sup>2</sup> lysimeter fields
- Leaf area index (LAI), soil water content (SWC), evapotranspiration (ET) & cotton yield
- 5 growing seasons (2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 & 2010)

## SWREC

- Furrow irrigation
- 3 treatments determined by irrigation termination date
- Targeted dates: August 16, August 23, and August 30
- Cotton Yield
- 3 growing seasons (2015-2017)

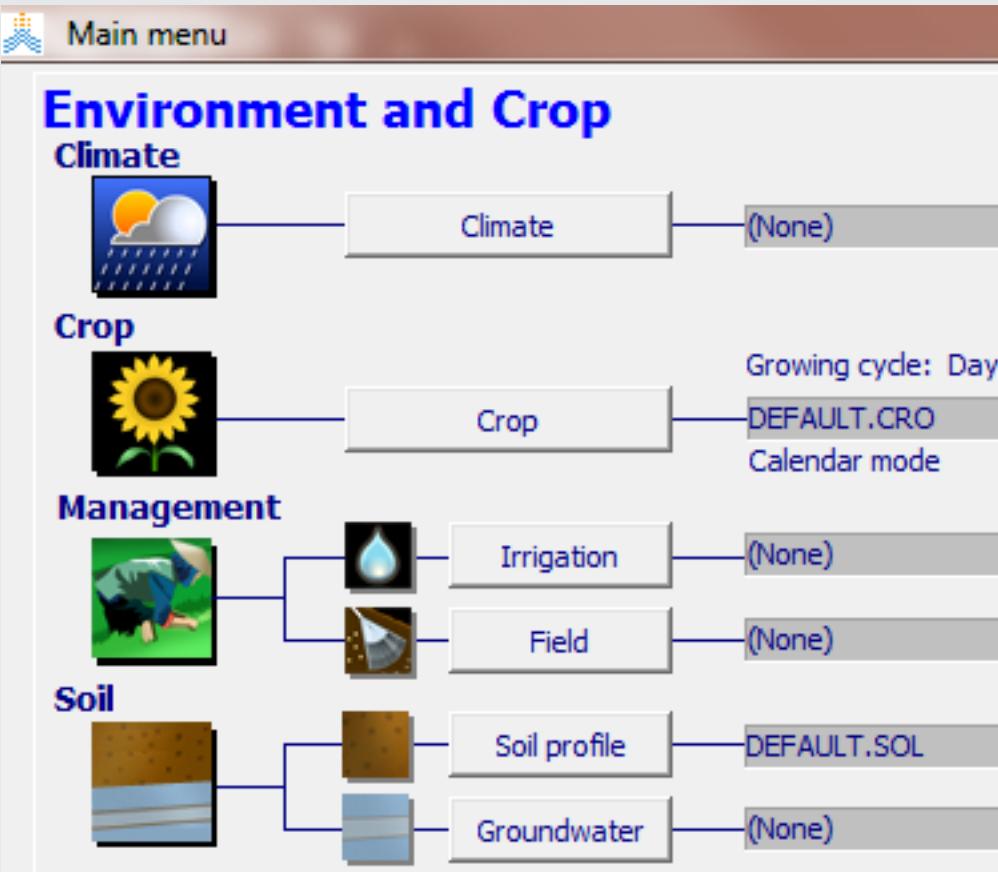


DIVISION OF

Agricultural Sciences  
& Natural Resources

# MATERIALS AND METHODS

- **AquaCrop model** - simulates the crop yield response to water



$$B = WP^* \times \sum \left( \frac{T_r}{ET_o} \right)$$

B- biomass; T<sub>r</sub> - transpiration;  
WP\*- normalized water productivity;  
ET<sub>o</sub>- reference ET

$$Y = B \times HI$$

Y- yield; HI- harvest index



# MATERIALS AND METHODS

## AquaCrop calibration and validation

- Model was run in growing degree-days
- Simulations were done by first using the default parameters
- Adjustments of crop phenological stages if necessary
- Model performance based on sound prediction of canopy cover, SWC, ET and cotton yield
- Statistical metrics used to determine model performance



DIVISION OF

Agricultural Sciences  
& Natural Resources

# MATERIALS AND METHODS

## Model Application

- 1981-2013 historical weather data from PRISM
- Center pivot system applying 25 mm net irrigation over 48 ha
- Minimum soil temperature (MinST) approach
- Planting date: first date when MinST  $\geq 15^{\circ}\text{C}$

Irrigation capacity ( $\text{l s}^{-1} \text{ha}^{-1}$ )	Irrigation interval	Total irrigation (mm)
0.0	-	0
0.1	27	100
0.3	14	200
0.4	9	325
0.5	7	425
0.6	6	500



# RESULTS

## Canopy Cover

- Irrigated treatments attained acceptable accuracy during validation
- Results comparable to Tan et al. (2018), better than Qiao et al. (2016)
- Accuracy was lower in dryland treatments



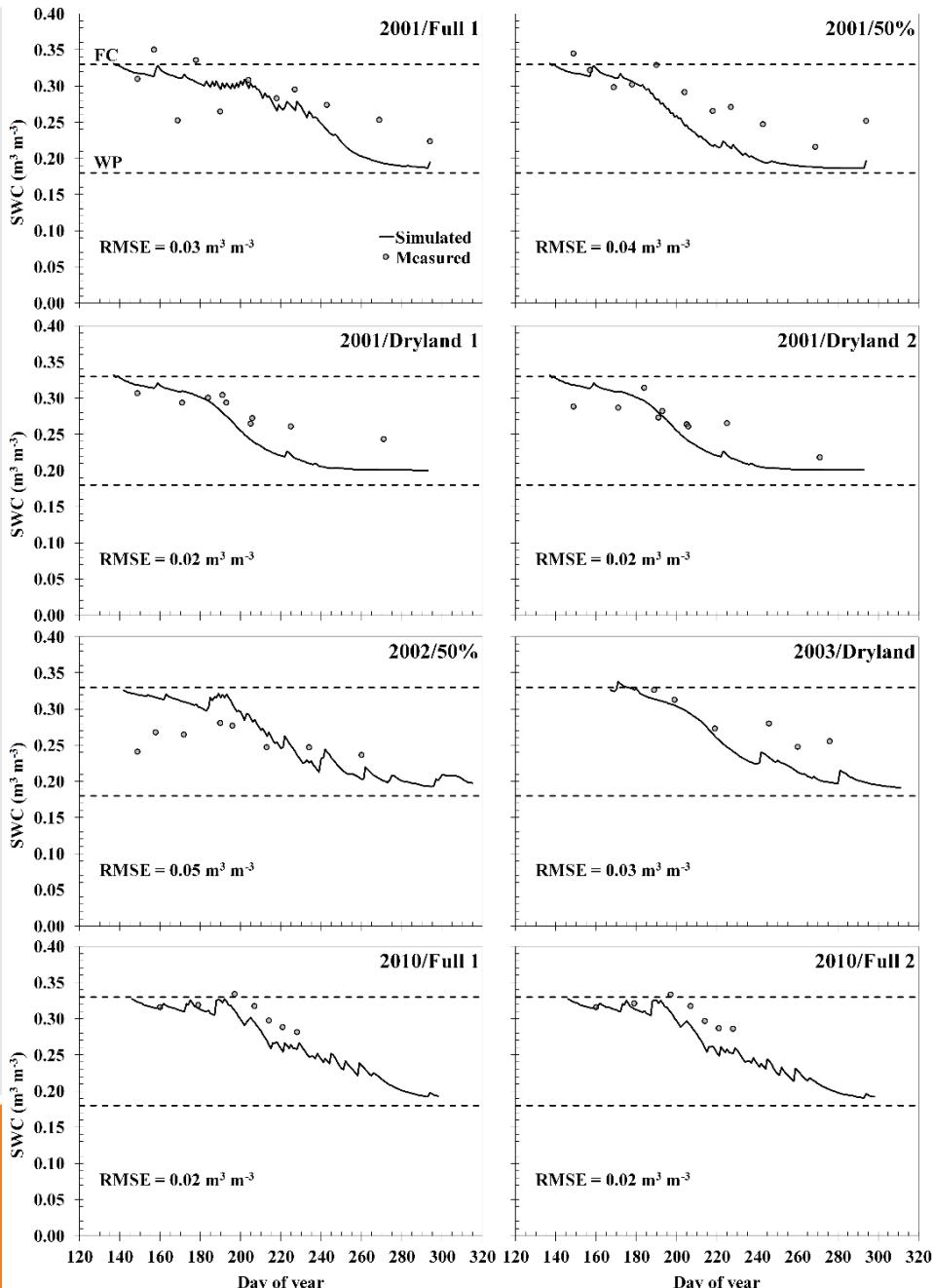
DIVISION OF

Agricultural Sciences  
& Natural Resources

# RESULTS

## Soil water content

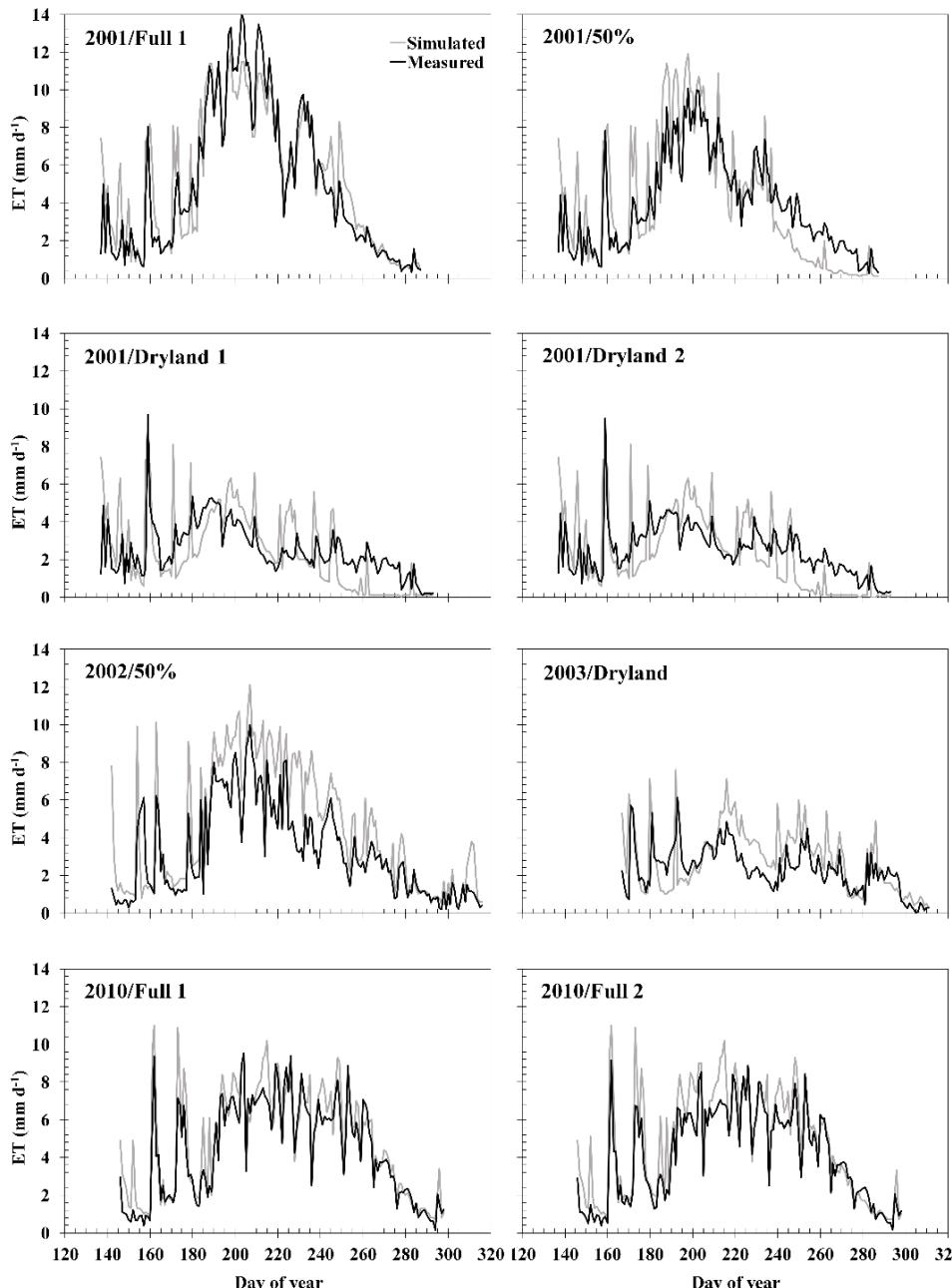
- RMSEs similar to the findings of Qiao et al. (2016)
- Deviations possibly due to oversimplified root development
- Acceptable NRMSE values (Jamieson et al., 1991):
  - calibration (11 – 20%)
  - validation (6 – 19%)



# RESULTS

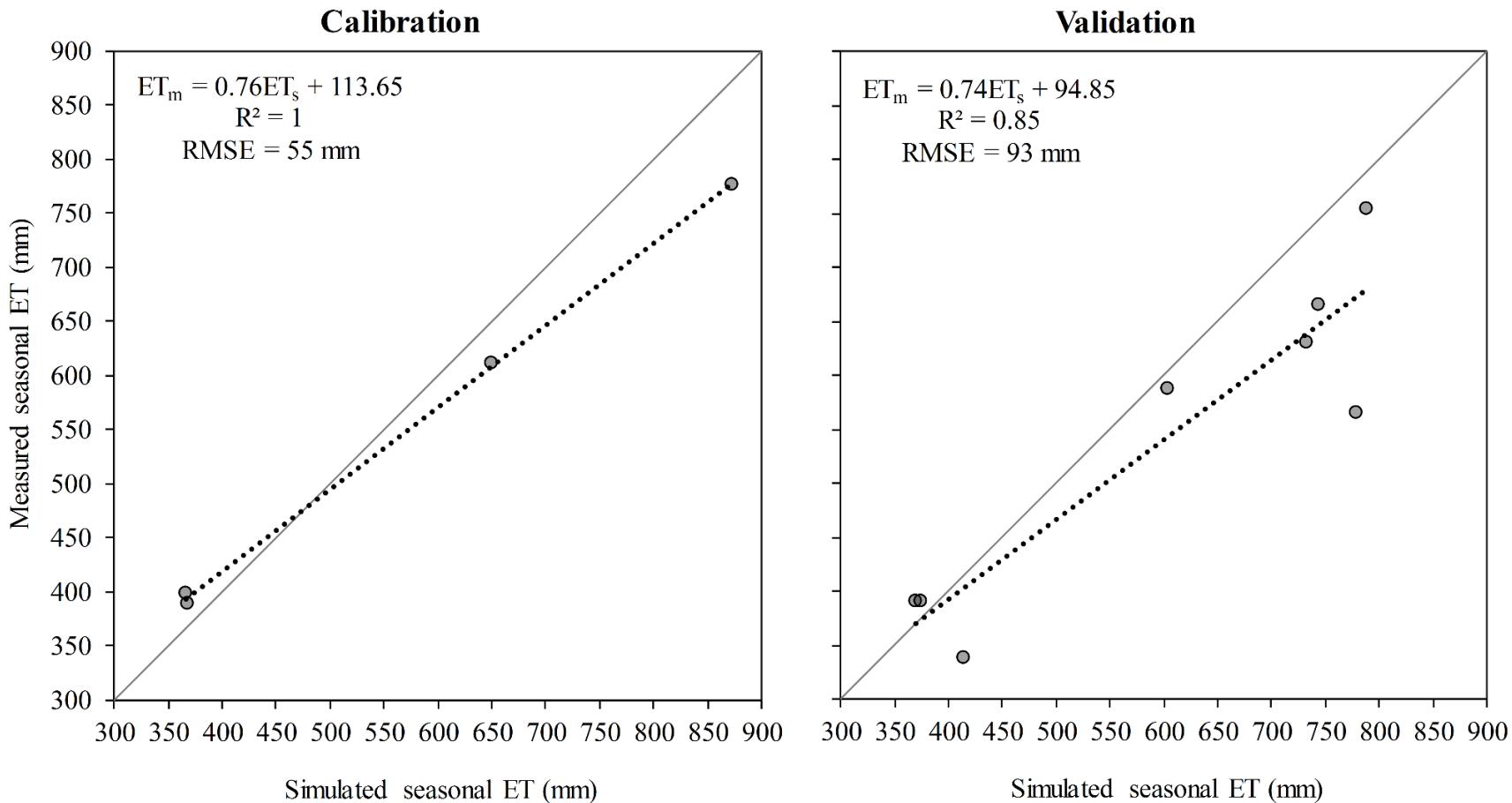
## Daily ET

- Good prediction of daily ET trends by the model
- Acceptable accuracy for irrigated treatments  
(Moriasi et al. 2007)
- Lower accuracy for dryland treatments



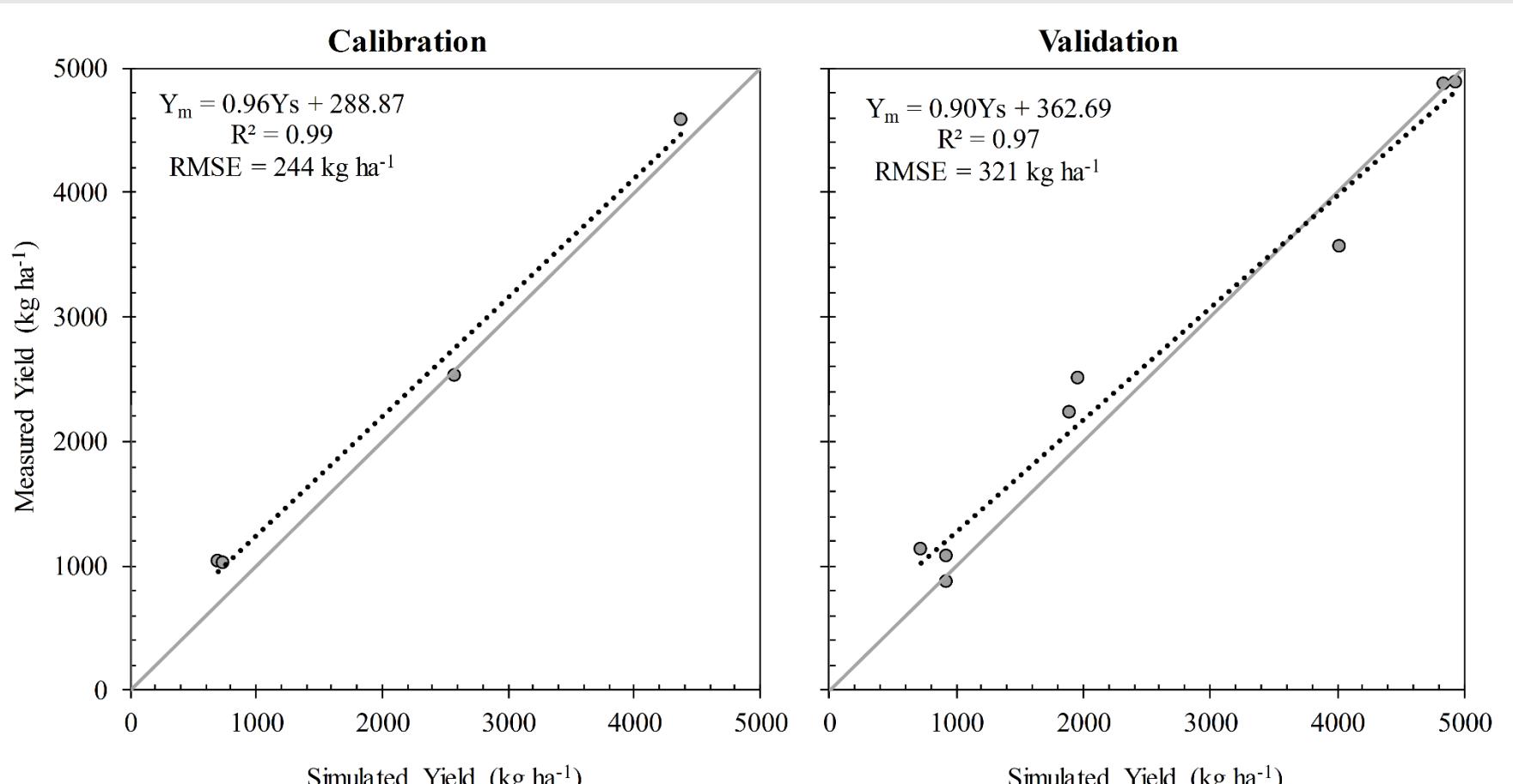
# RESULTS

## Seasonal ET



# RESULTS

## Cotton Yield-CPRL

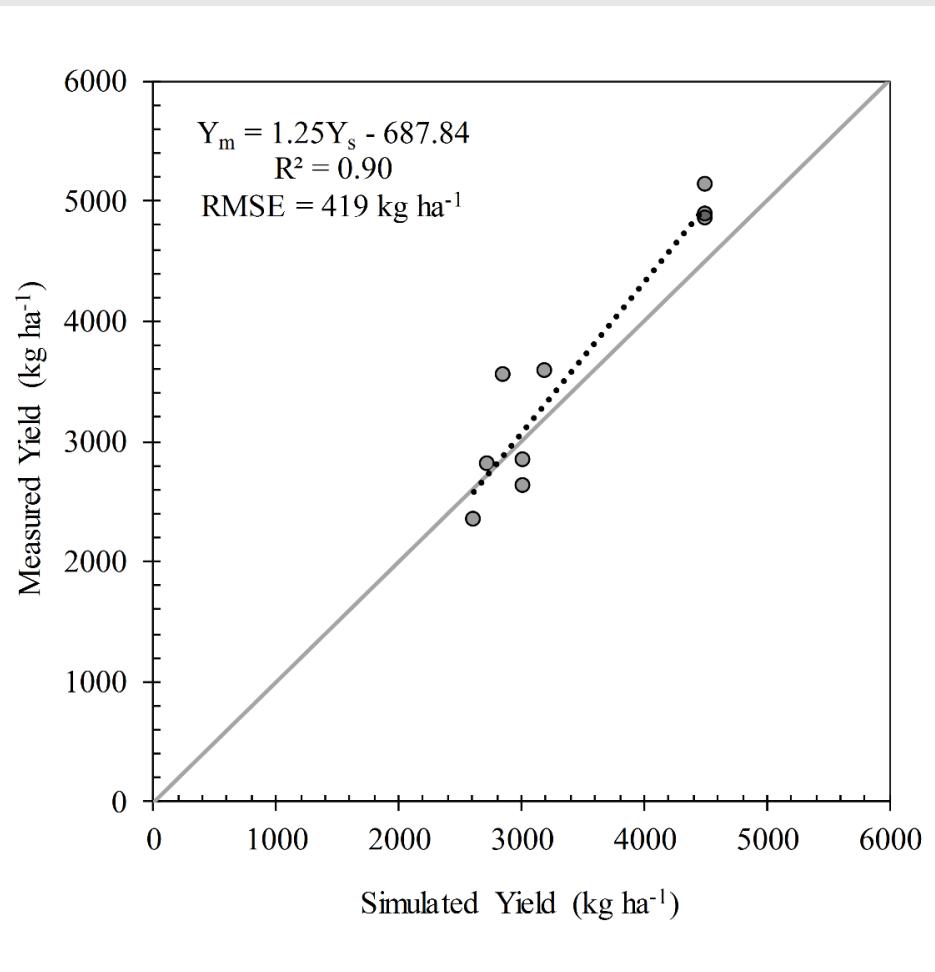


DIVISION OF

Agricultural Sciences  
& Natural Resources

# RESULTS

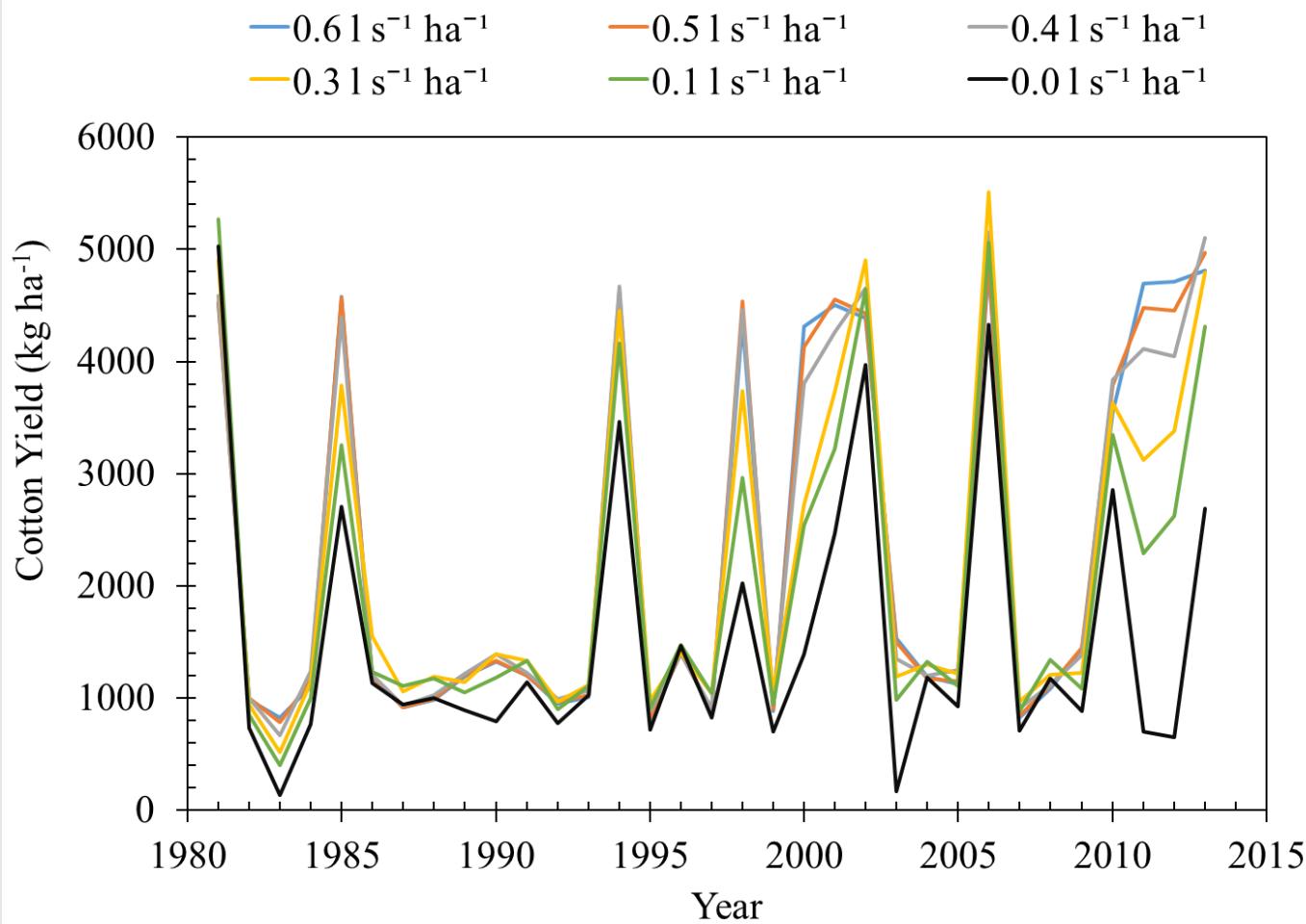
## Cotton Yield-SWREC



DIVISION OF  
Agricultural Sciences  
& Natural Resources

# RESULTS

## Model Application



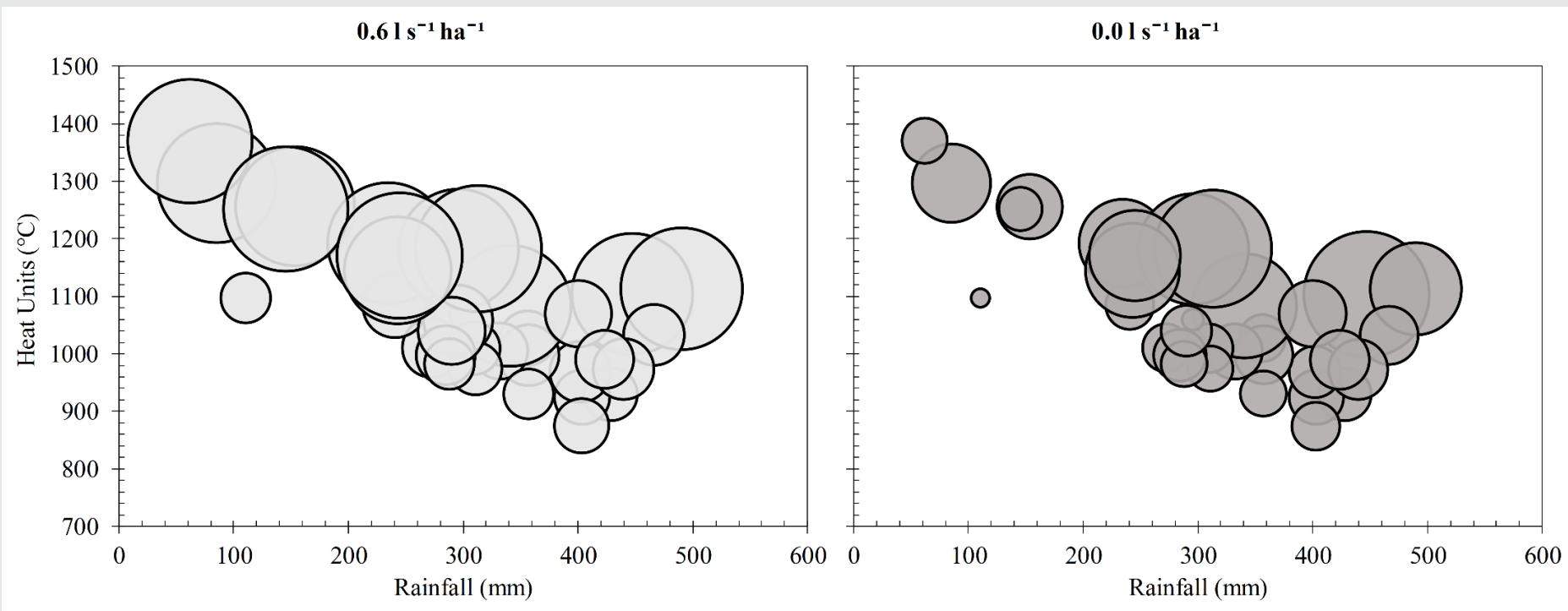
IC	Yield
0.0	1525 a
0.1	2004 b
0.3	2201 bc
0.4	2316 c
0.5	2333 c
0.6	2321 c



DIVISION OF  
Agricultural Sciences  
& Natural Resources

# RESULTS

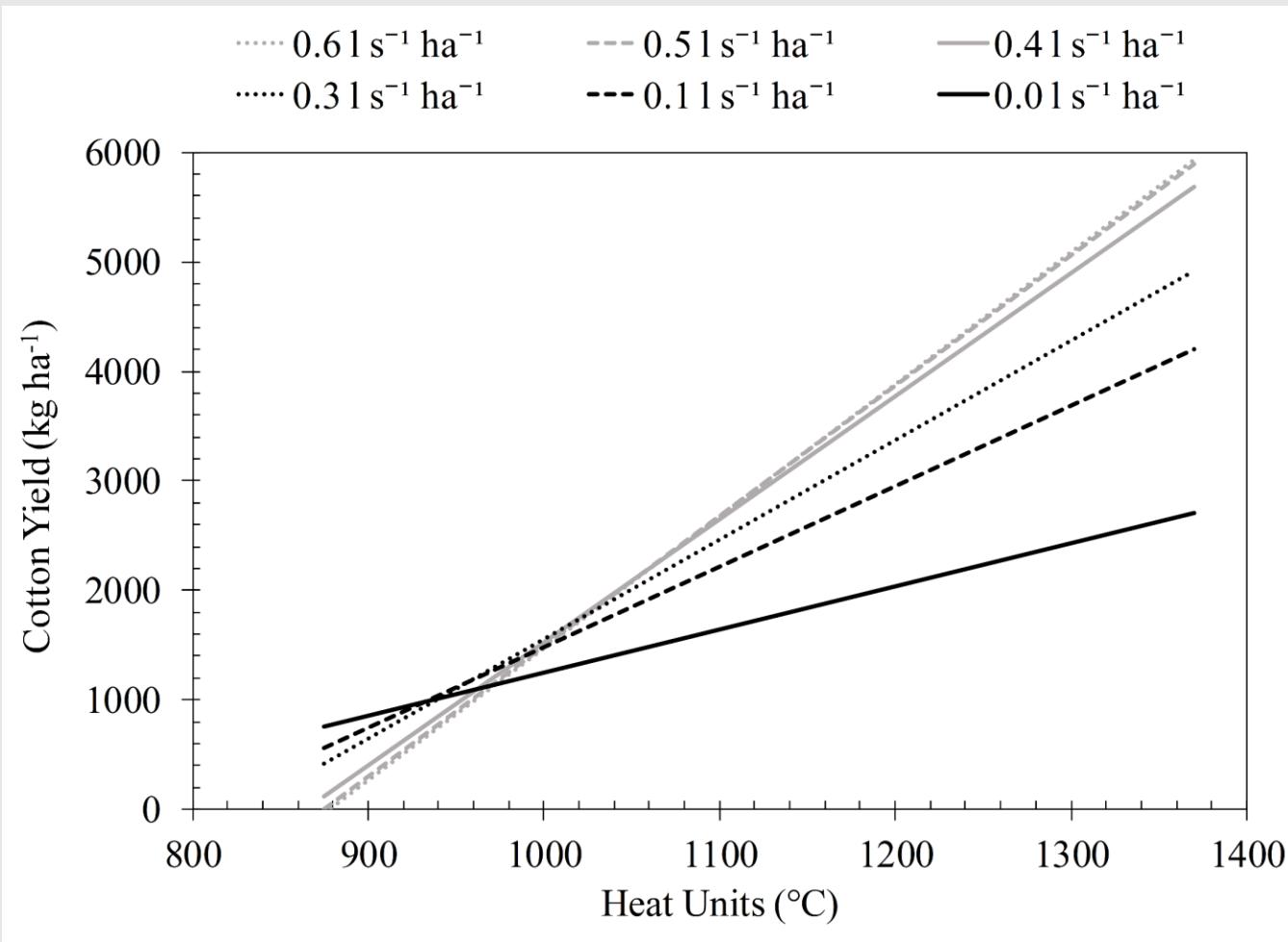
## Effects of rainfall and heat units



DIVISION OF  
Agricultural Sciences  
& Natural Resources

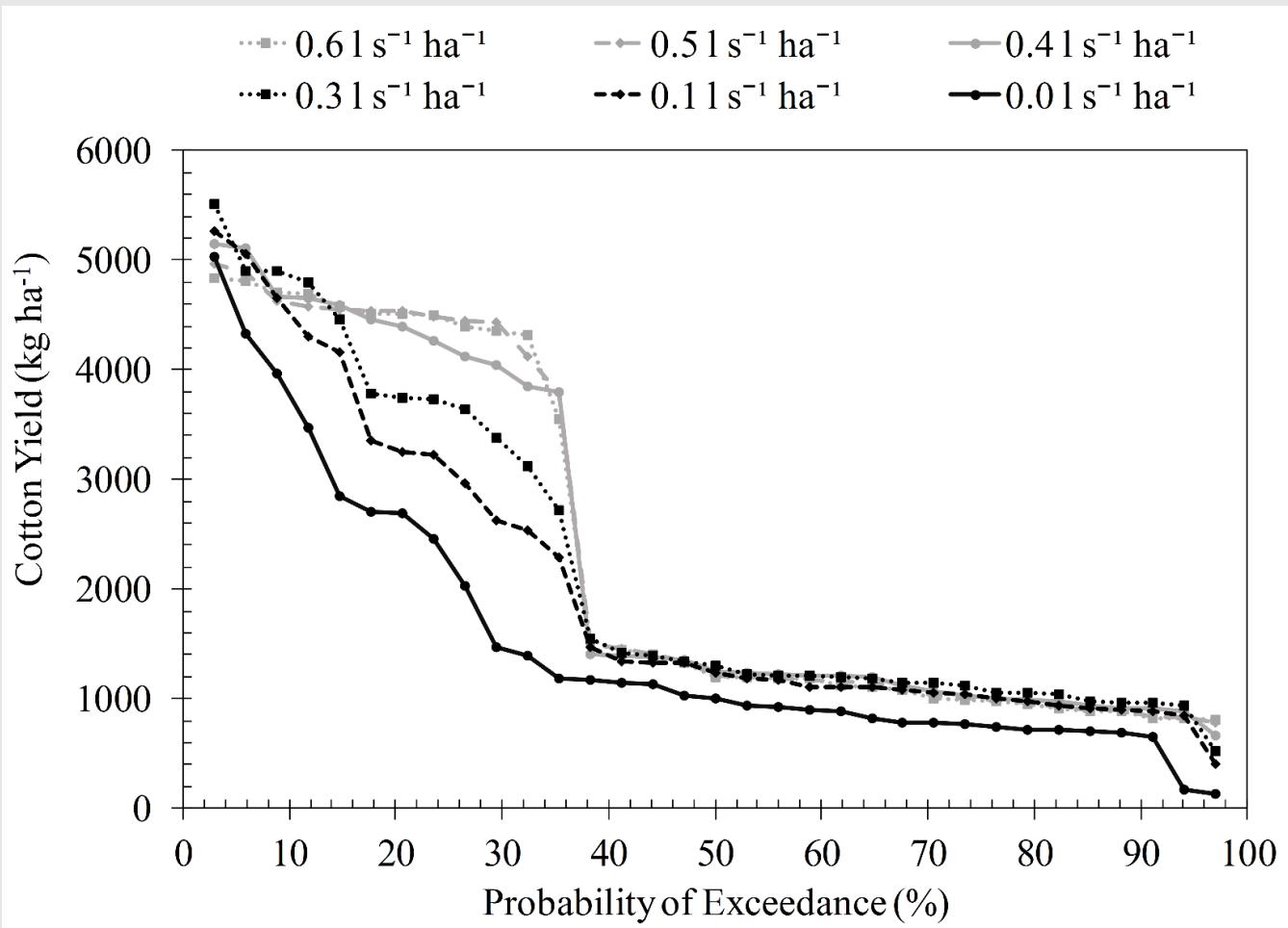
# RESULTS

## Response of yield to heat units



# RESULTS

## Probability of Exceedance



DIVISION OF  
Agricultural Sciences  
& Natural Resources

# CONCLUSIONS

- Results indicated satisfactory performance of AquaCrop for simulating CC, SWC, ET and cotton yield
- AquaCrop model is a potential tool for evaluating irrigation and crop management of cotton in the southern Great Plains
- No significant increase in average cotton yields at irrigation capacities higher than  $0.3 \text{ l s}^{-1} \text{ ha}^{-1}$
- Both water availability and heat unit availability play important roles in cotton yield



DIVISION OF

Agricultural Sciences  
& Natural Resources

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Cotton  
Incorporated



DIVISION OF  
Agricultural Sciences  
& Natural Resources

# Thank You!



DIVISION OF

Agricultural Sciences  
& Natural Resources

# RESULTS

## Canopy Cover

Parameter	Treatment	R <sup>2</sup>	RMSE (%)	d
Calibration	2000/Full	0.84	24	0.73
	2000/50%	0.84	16	0.84
	2000/Dryland 1	0.50	23	0.68
	2000/Dryland 2	0.44	25	0.59
Validation	2001/Full	0.99	6	0.99
	2001/50%	0.92	7	0.97
	2001/Dryland 1	0.07	20	0.55
	2001/Dryland 2	0.61	11	0.70
	2002/50%	0.98	25	0.75
	2003/Dryland	0.85	9	0.88
	2010/Full 1	1.00	5	1.00
	2010/Full 2	1.00	5	1.00



# RESULTS

## Soil water content ( $\text{m}^3 \text{ m}^{-3}$ )

Parameter	Treatment	R <sup>2</sup>	RMSE	d
Calibration	2000/Full	0.59	0.03	0.65
	2000/50%	0.72	0.06	0.85
	2000/Dryland 1	0.86	0.06	0.88
	2000/Dryland 2	0.75	0.05	0.87
Validation	2001/Full	0.47	0.03	0.78
	2001/50%	0.81	0.04	0.84
	2001/Dryland 1	0.86	0.02	0.87
	2001/Dryland 2	0.60	0.02	0.81
	2002/50%	0.45	0.05	0.95
	2003/Dryland	0.89	0.03	0.86
	2010/Full 1	0.84	0.02	0.85
	2010/Full 2	0.87	0.02	0.87



DIVISION OF

Agricultural Sciences  
& Natural Resources

# RESULTS

## Daily ET (mm d<sup>-1</sup>)

Parameter	Treatment	R <sup>2</sup>	RMSE	d
Calibration	2000/Full	0.81	1.8	0.94
	2000/50%	0.68	1.9	0.88
	2000/Dryland 1	0.70	1.6	0.95
	2000/Dryland 2	0.64	1.8	0.82
Validation	2001/Full	0.86	1.5	0.96
	2001/50%	0.73	1.8	0.91
	2001/Dryland 1	0.36	1.7	0.74
	2001/Dryland 2	0.37	1.6	0.74
	2002/50%	0.79	1.9	0.88
	2003/Dryland	0.34	1.5	0.72
	2010/Full 1	0.87	1.1	0.95
	2010/Full 2	0.86	1.3	0.99



DIVISION OF

Agricultural Sciences  
& Natural Resources

# RESULTS

## Cotton Yield-CPRL

Parameter	Treatment	Measured (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Default		Calibrated	
			Simulated (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	P <sub>e</sub> (%)	Simulated (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	P <sub>e</sub> (%)
Calibration	2000/Full	4581	2023	-56	4372	-5
	2000/50%	2535	1114	-56	2565	1
	2000/Dryland 1	1036	469	-55	700	-32
	2000/Dryland 2	1022	455	-55	738	-28
Validation	2001/Full	3568	1198	-66	4019	13
	2001/50%	2239	630	-72	1888	-16
	2001/Dryland 1	1081	493	-54	920	-15
	2001/Dryland 2	877	499	-43	930	6
	2002/50%	2507	1828	-27	1957	-22
	2003/Dryland	1132	846	-25	726	-36
	2010/Full 1	4882	1313	-73	4937	1
	2010/Full 2	4868	1285	-74	4842	-1



# RESULTS

## Cotton Yield-SWREC

Year	Treatment	Measured (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Simulated (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	P <sub>e</sub> (%)
2015	T1	2343	2605	11
2015	T2	2806	2730	-3
2015	T3	3546	2853	-20
2016	T1	4885	4500	-8
2016	T2	4852	4500	-7
2016	T3	5131	4500	-12
2017	T1	2838	3023	7
2017	T2	2623	3023	15
2017	T3	3587	3187	-11



DIVISION OF

Agricultural Sciences  
& Natural Resources