

# Modelling fungal diseases in intercrops

Author(s) [A. Deheinzelin; M. Launay; T. Vidal; M-O. Bancal, P. Lecharpentier]

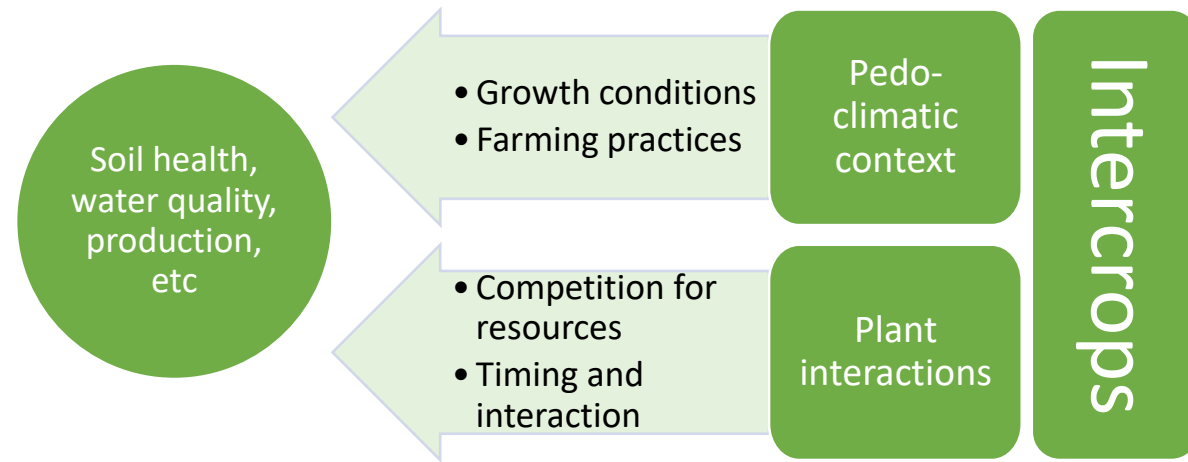
INRAE



How can we model aerial fungal diseases in intercropping systems?

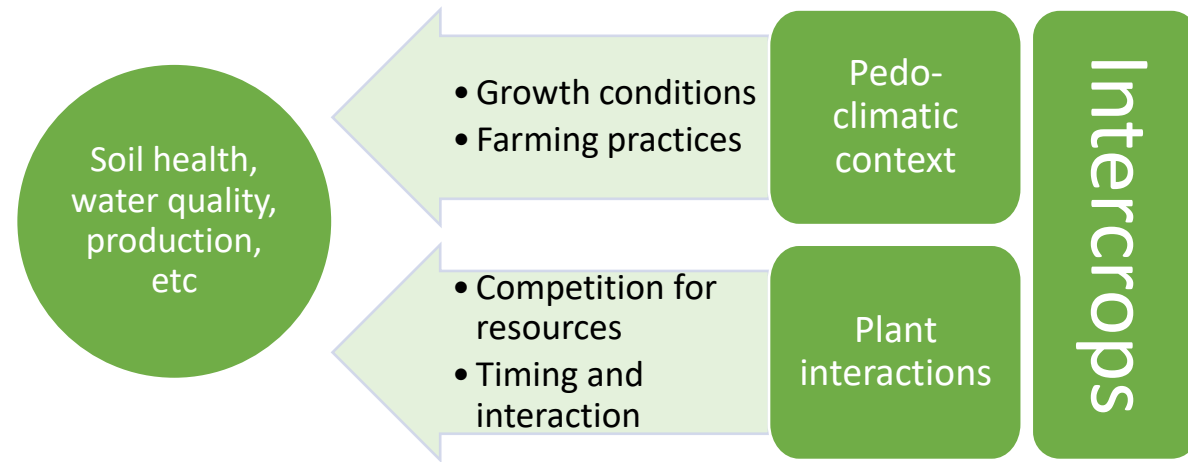
Intercrops

# How can we model aerial fungal diseases in intercropping systems?



# How can we model aerial fungal diseases in intercropping systems?

Fungal disease



Soil health,  
water quality,  
production,  
etc

- Growth conditions
- Farming practices

Pedo-  
climatic  
context

- Competition for  
resources
- Timing and  
interaction

Plant  
interactions

Intercrops

# How can we model aerial fungal diseases in intercropping systems?

Fungal disease

Dilution and barrier

- Less surface available for infection
- Altered spore dispersal and interception

Soil health, water quality, production, etc

- Growth conditions
- Farming practices

Pedo-climatic context

- Competition for resources
- Timing and interaction

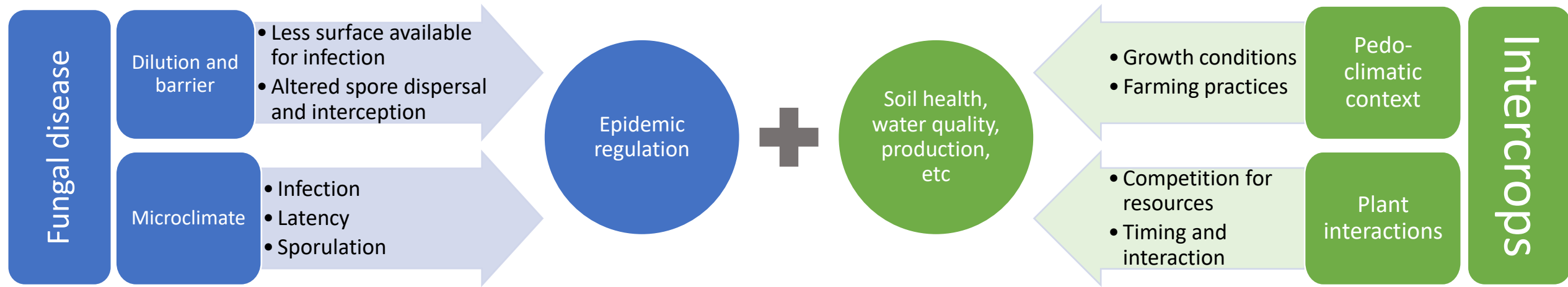
Plant interactions

Intercrops

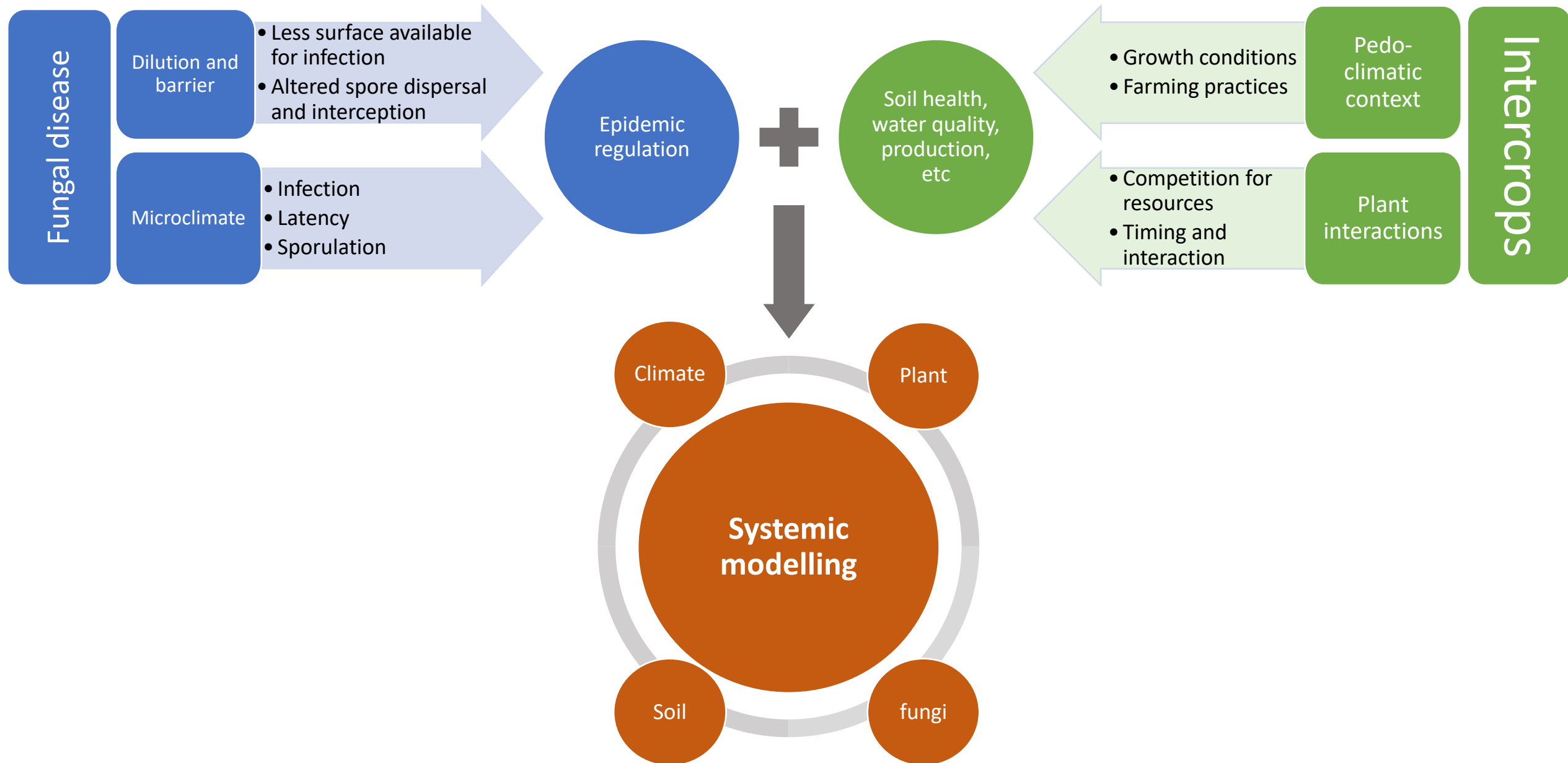
# How can we model aerial fungal diseases in intercropping systems?



# How can we model aerial fungal diseases in intercropping systems?



# How can we model aerial fungal diseases in intercropping systems?





# Modelling framework

## Global Inputs

Plant parameters  
General parameters

## Local Inputs

Initialisation  
Weather  
Crop management  
Soil characteristics



## Main characteristics

- **Crop model STICS**
  - Generic (external parameter files)
  - Recalibrated on intercrops (Vezy et al., 2023)
  - Microclimate calculations
  - Agronomic specifications (fertiliser, sowing, tillage, etc)



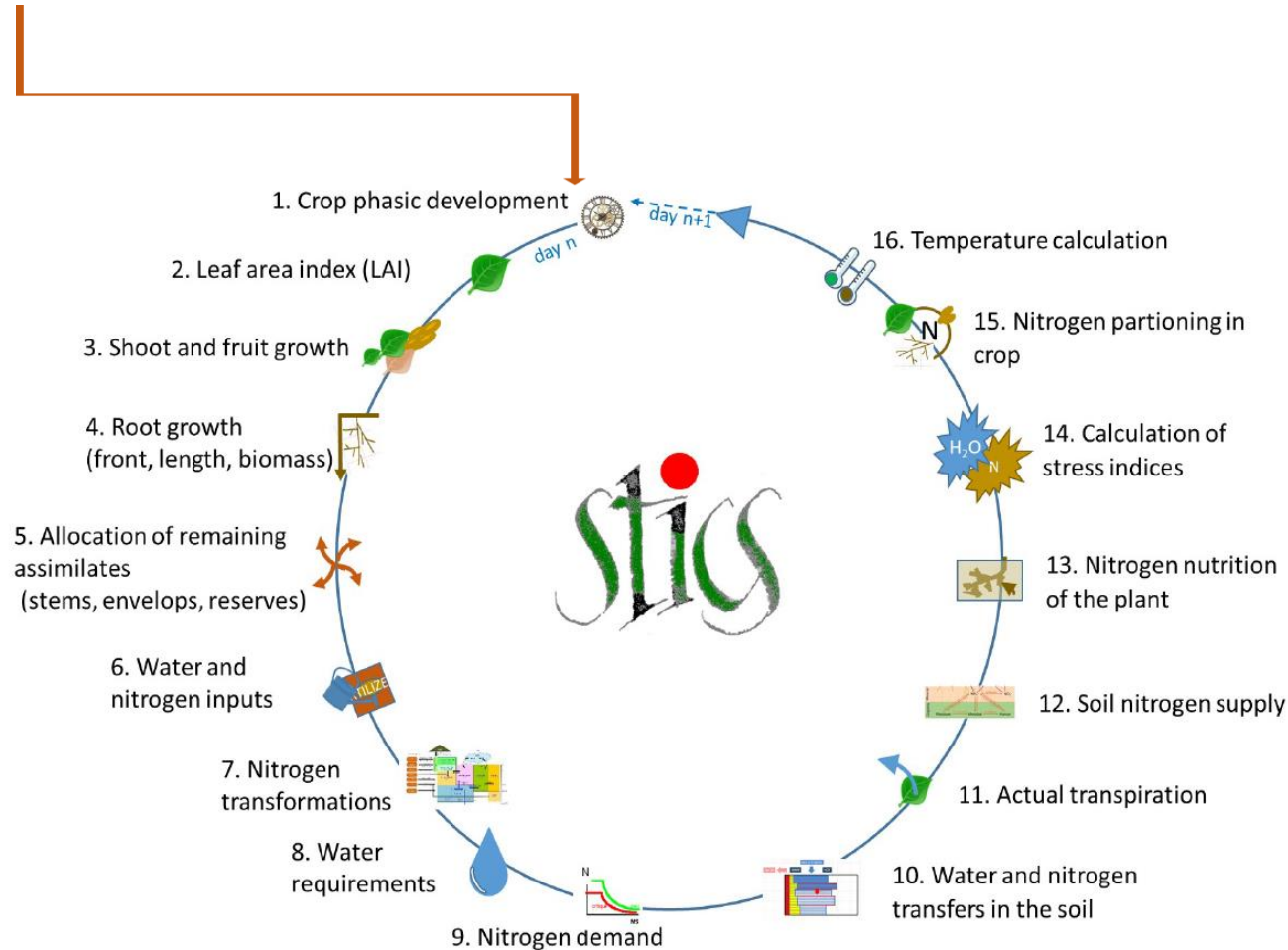
# Modelling framework

## Global Inputs

Plant parameters  
General parameters

## Local Inputs

Initialisation  
Weather  
Crop management  
Soil characteristics



## Main characteristics

### ➤ Crop model STICS

- Generic (external parameter files)
- Recalibrated on intercrops (Vezy et al., 2023)
- Microclimate calculations
- Agronomic specifications (fertiliser, sowing, tillage, etc)

# Modelling framework

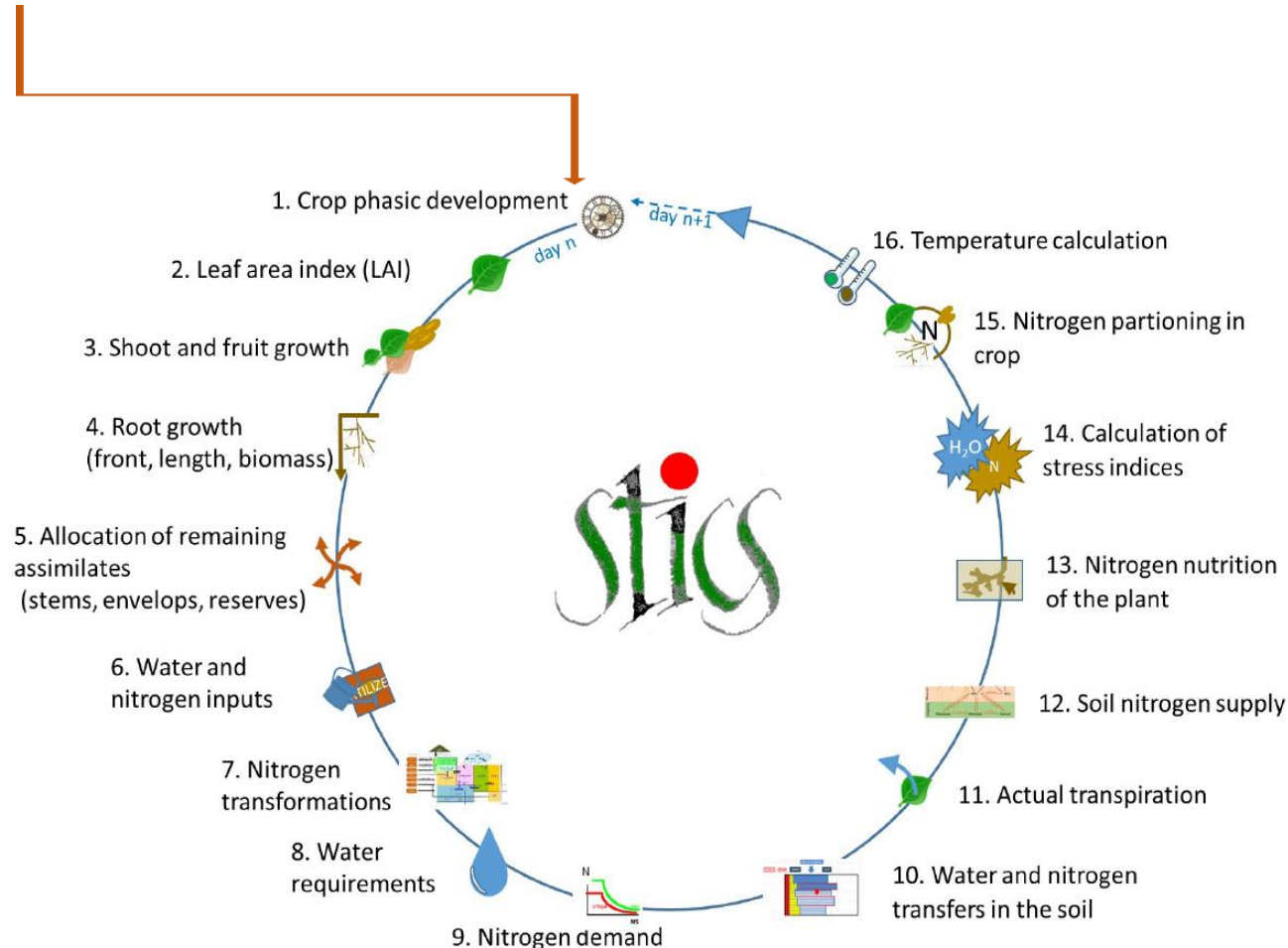


## Global Inputs

Plant parameters  
General parameters

## Local Inputs

Initialisation  
Weather  
Crop management  
Soil characteristics



## Main characteristics

### ➤ Crop model STICS

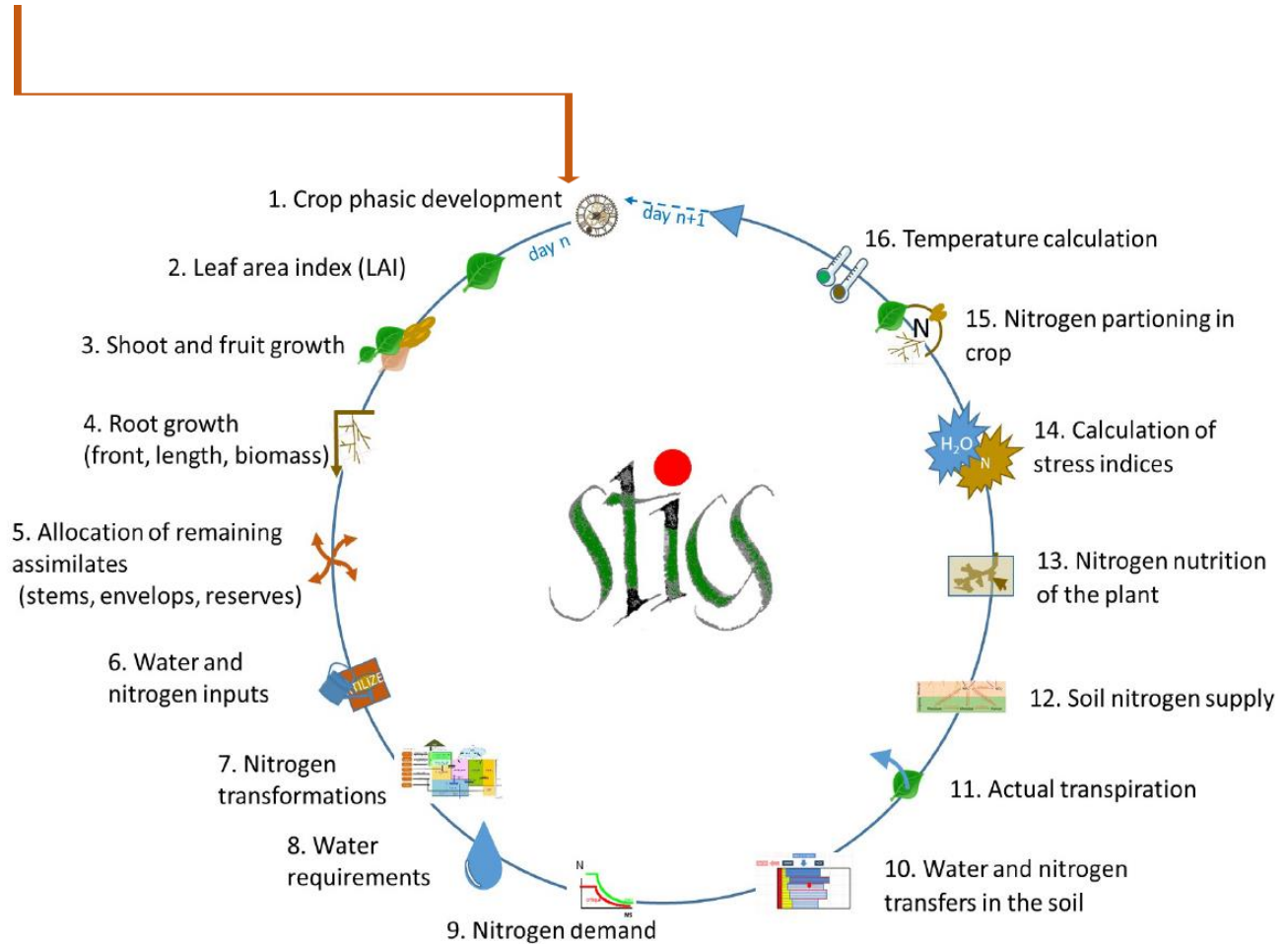
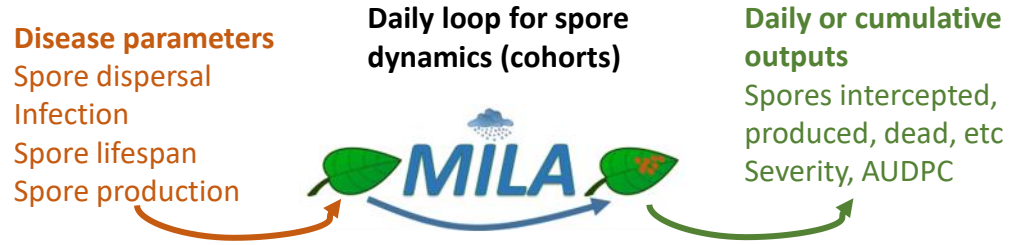
- Generic (external parameter files)
- Recalibrated on intercrops (Vezy et al., 2023)
- Microclimate calculations
- Agronomic specifications (fertiliser, sowing, tillage, etc)

### ➤ Fungal disease model MILA

- calibrated for a variety of polycyclic airborne fungal diseases (Caubel et al., 2012 and 2017) on single cropping systems

# Modelling framework

- Global Inputs**
  - Plant parameters
  - General parameters
- Local Inputs**
  - Initialisation
  - Weather
  - Crop management
  - Soil characteristics



## Main characteristics

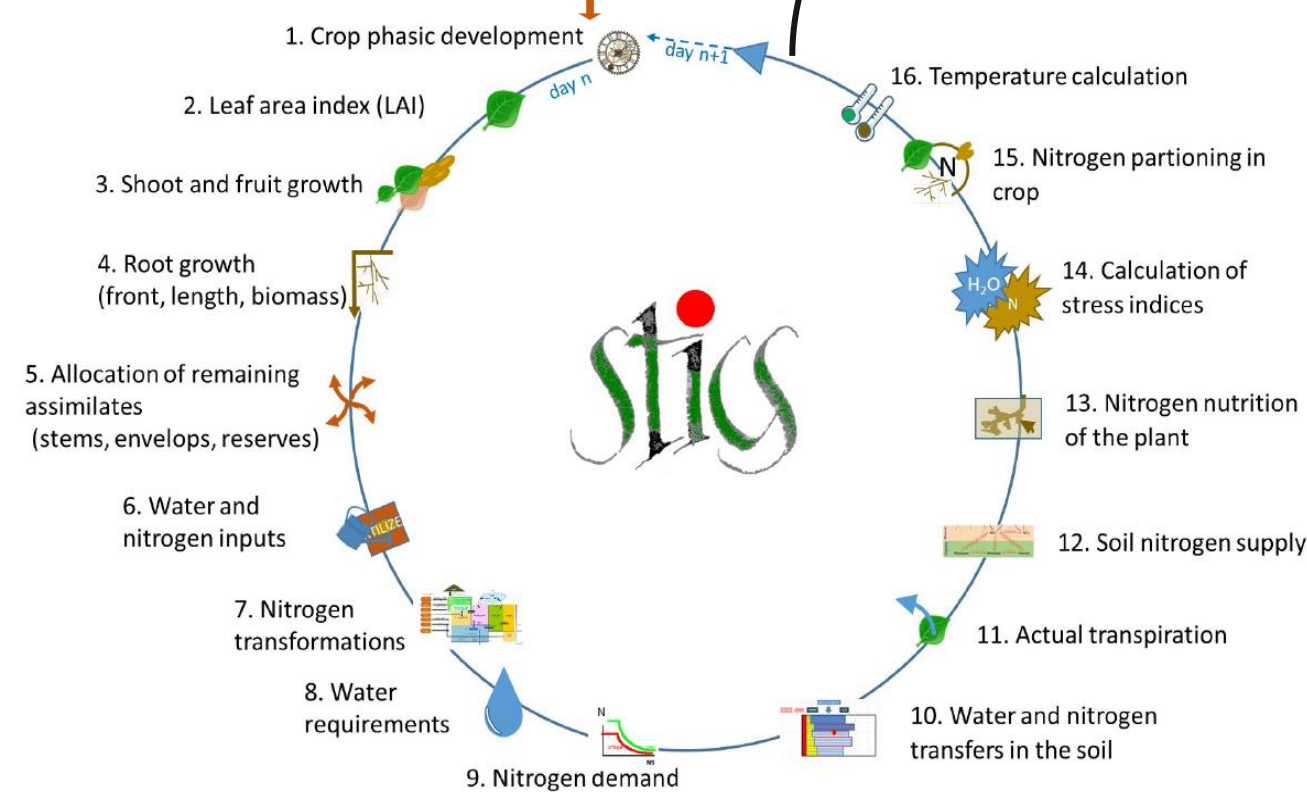
- **Crop model STICS**
  - Generic (external parameter files)
  - Recalibrated on intercrops (Vezy et al., 2023)
  - Microclimate calculations
  - Agronomic specifications (fertiliser, sowing, tillage, etc)
- **Fungal disease model MILA**
  - calibrated for a variety of polycyclic airborne fungal diseases (Caubel et al., 2012 and 2017) on single cropping systems

# Modelling framework

- Global Inputs**  
 Plant parameters  
 General parameters
- Local Inputs**  
 Initialisation  
 Weather  
 Crop management  
 Soil characteristics



- Inputs**  
 Microclimate  
 Weather  
 Phenology  
 Surfaces

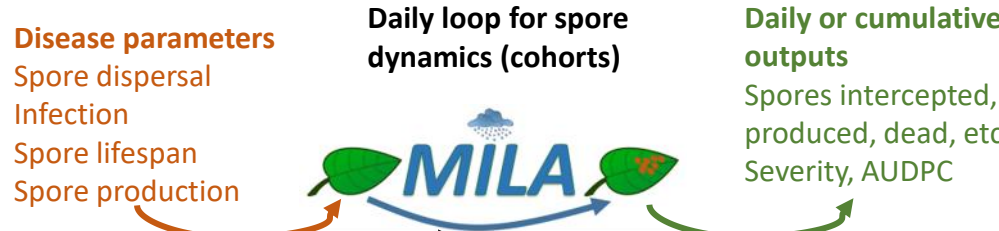


## Main characteristics

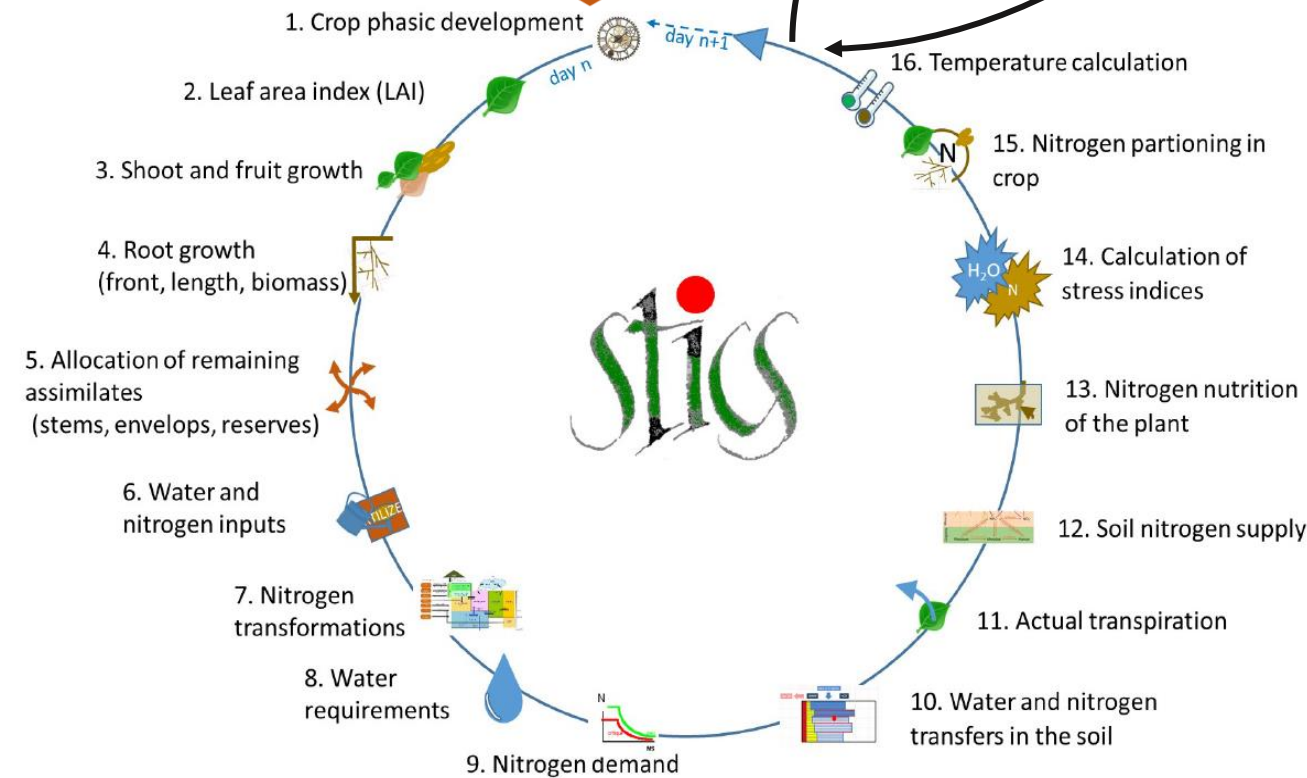
- **Crop model STICS**
  - Generic (external parameter files)
  - Recalibrated on intercrops (Vezy et al., 2023)
  - Microclimate calculations
  - Agronomic specifications (fertiliser, sowing, tillage, etc)
- **Fungal disease model MILA**
  - Calibrated for a variety of polycyclic airborne fungal diseases (Caubel et al., 2012 and 2017) on single cropping systems

# Modelling framework

- Global Inputs**  
 Plant parameters  
 General parameters
- Local Inputs**  
 Initialisation  
 Weather  
 Crop management  
 Soil characteristics



- Inputs**  
 Microclimate  
 Weather  
 Phenology  
 Surfaces
- Output**  
 Diseased surfaces



## Main characteristics

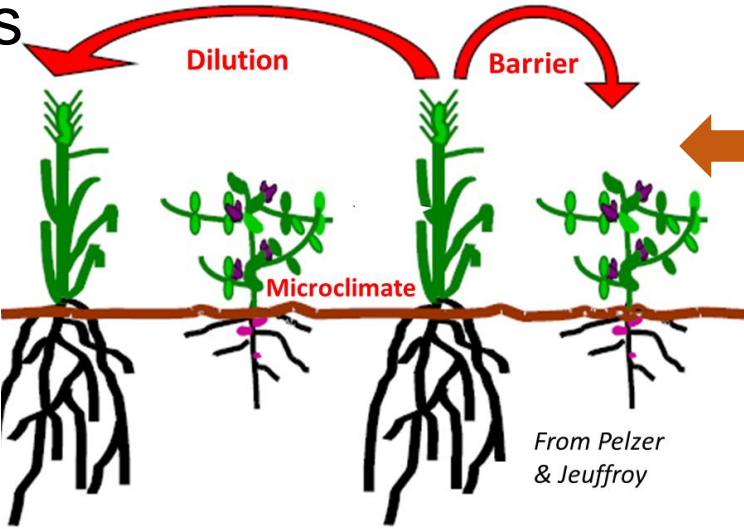
- **Crop model STICS**
  - Generic (external parameter files)
  - Recalibrated on intercrops (Vezy et al., 2023))
  - Microclimate calculations
  - Agronomic specifications (fertiliser, sowing, tillage, etc)
  
- **Fungal disease model MILA**
  - Calibrated for a variety of polycyclic airborne fungal diseases (Caubel et al., 2012 and 2017) on single cropping systems
  
- **Coupled models**
  - Mechanistic, process-oriented
  - Dynamic (daily time step)
  - Integrated: many environmental variables available as outputs to study the agrosystem as a whole

# Method – Model behaviour analysis





# Method – Model behaviour analysis

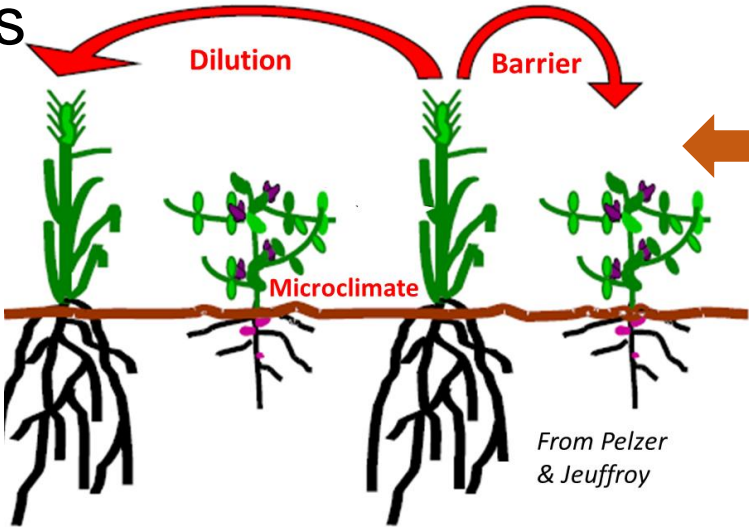


Adapt MILA-STICS to intercrops



# Method – Model behaviour analysis

Microclimate in STICS

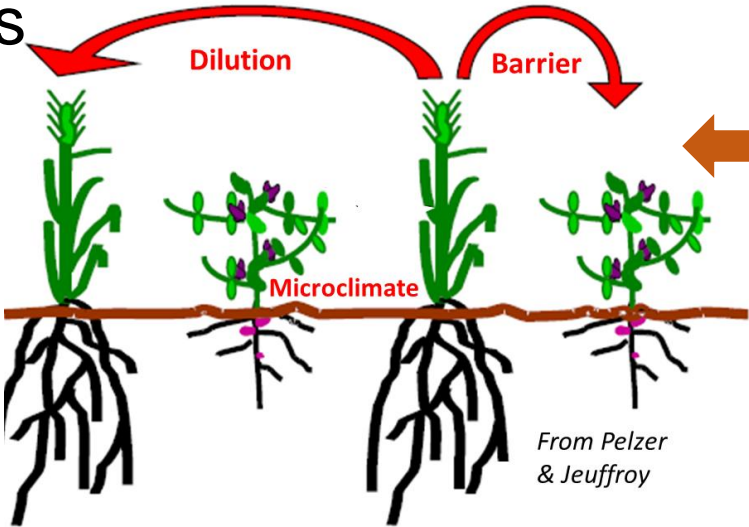


Adapt MILA-STICS to intercrops

# Method – Model behaviour analysis

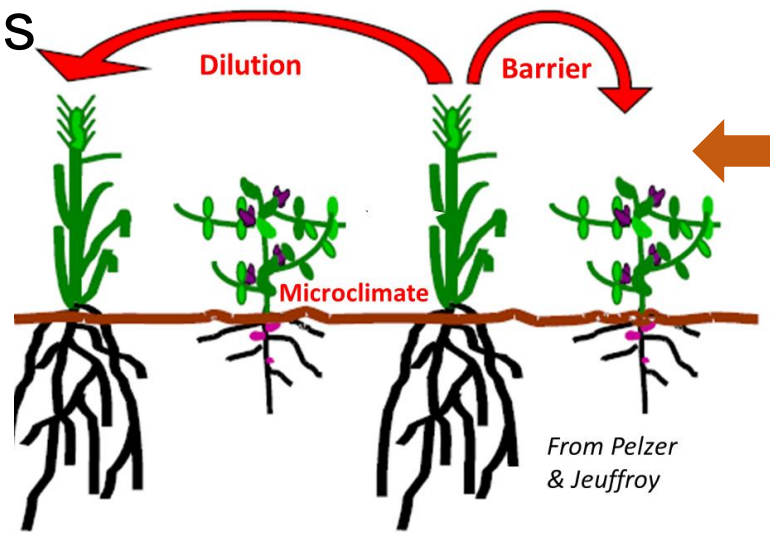
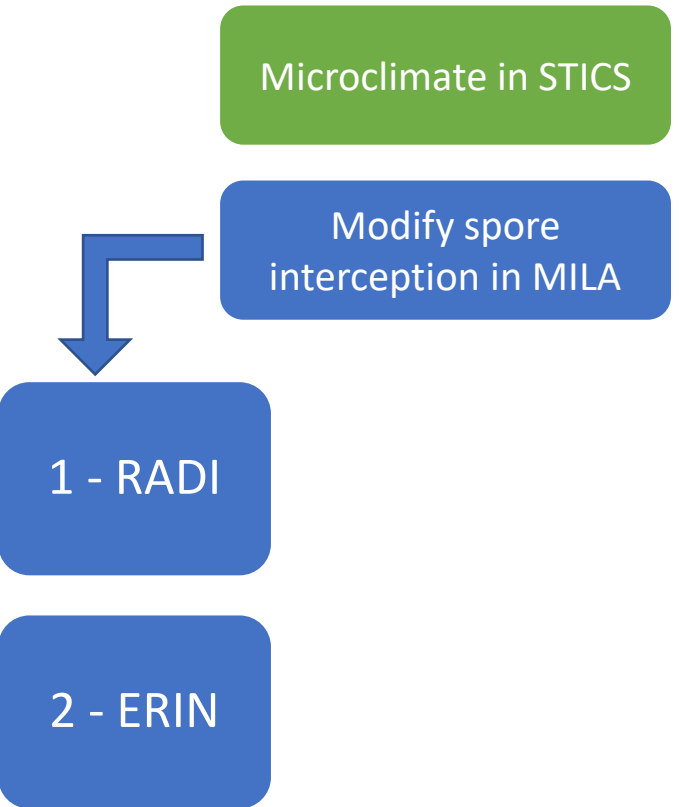
Microclimate in STICS

Modify spore interception in MILA

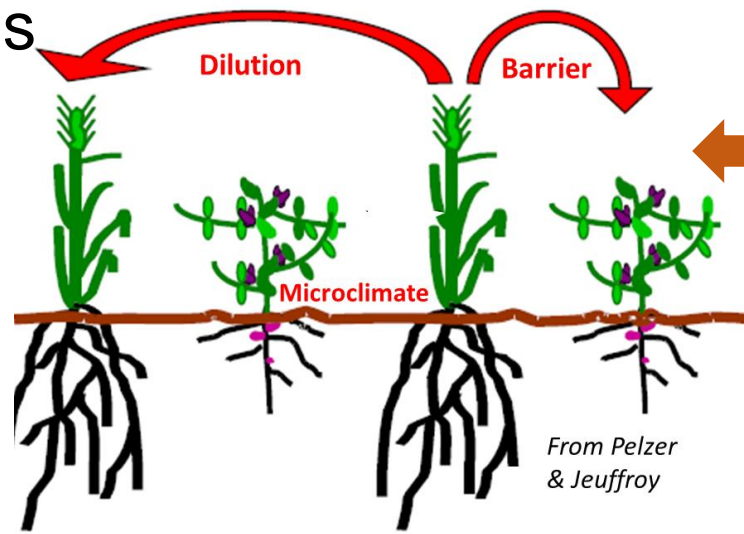


Adapt MILA-STICS to intercrops

# Method – Model behaviour analysis



# Method – Model behaviour analysis



Adapt MILA-STICS to intercrops

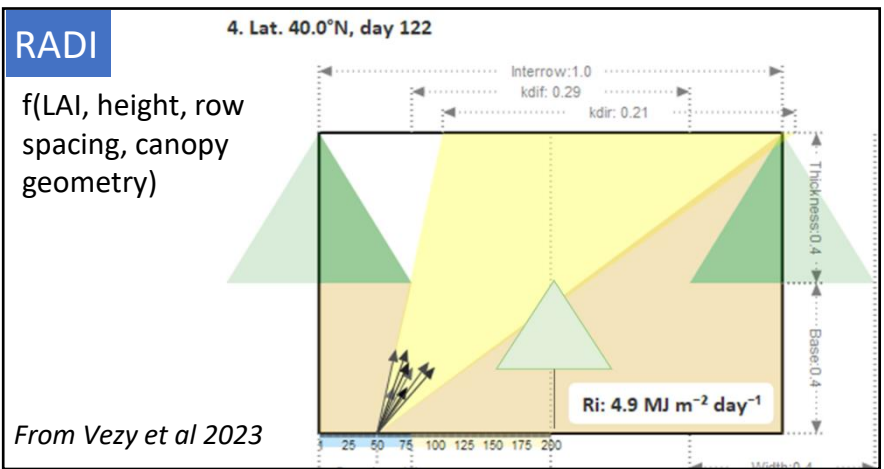
Microclimate in STICS

Modify spore interception in MILA

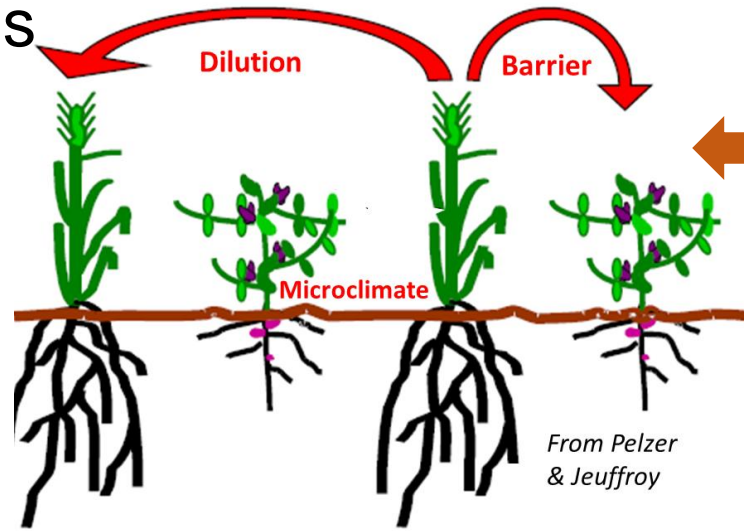
1 - RADI

- Radiative transfer (Vezy, 2023)
- LAI, canopy structure, spatial arrangement

2 - ERIN



# Method – Model behaviour analysis



Adapt MILA-STICS to intercrops

Microclimate in STICS

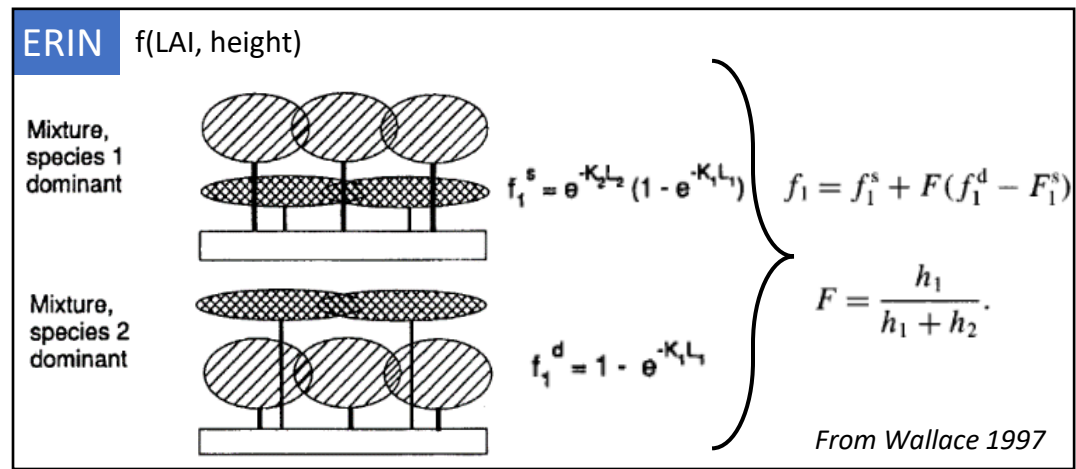
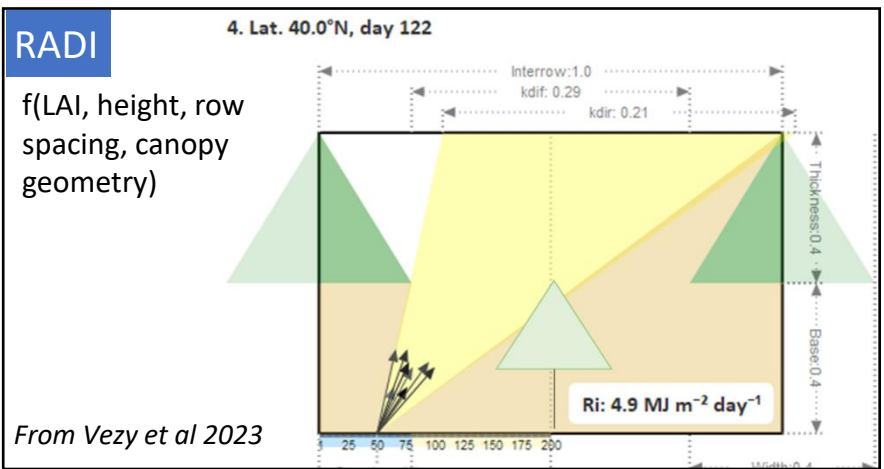
Modify spore interception in MILA

1 - RADI

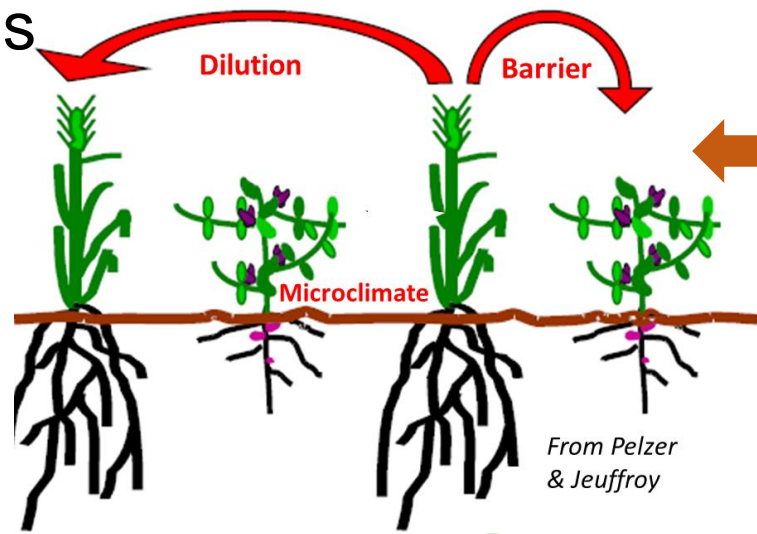
- Radiative transfer (Vezy, 2023)
- LAI, canopy structure, spatial arrangement

2 - ERIN

- Beer-Lambert modified for IC (LAI) (Wallace 1997)
- Extreme cases with a dominance factor (height)



# Method – Model behaviour analysis



Adapt MILA-STICS to intercrops

Microclimate in STICS

Modify spore interception in MILA

1 - **RADI**

- Radiative transfer (Vezy, 2023)
- LAI, canopy structure, spatial arrangement

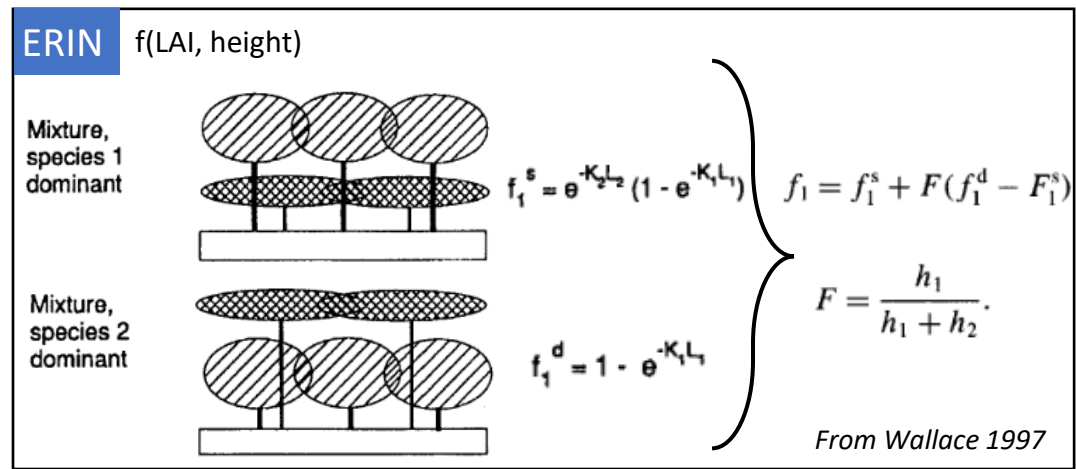
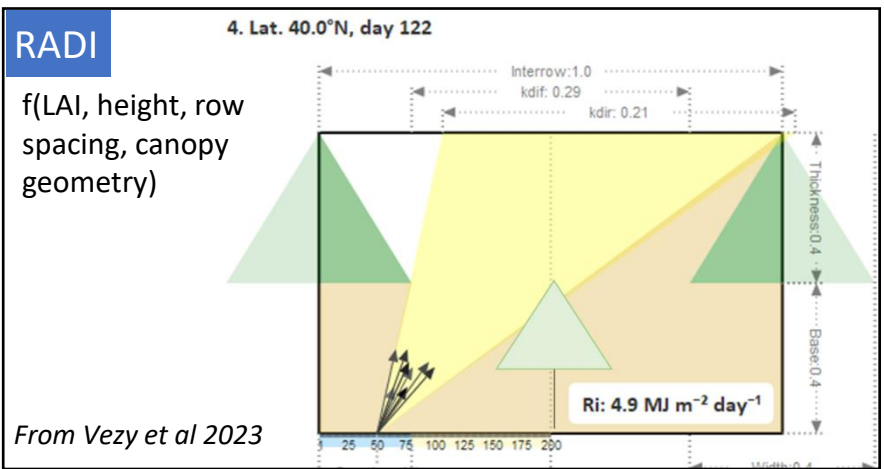
2 - **ERIN**

- Beer-Lambert modified for IC (LAI) (Wallace 1997)
- Extreme cases with a dominance factor (height)

MILA / Wheat brown rust

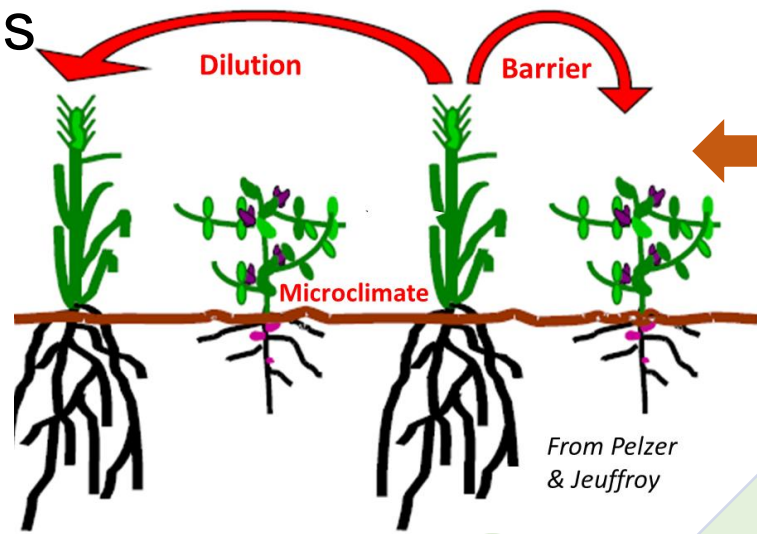


STICS IC





# Method – Model behaviour analysis



Adapt MILA-STICS to intercrops

Microclimate in STICS

Modify spore interception in MILA

1 - **RADI**

- Radiative transfer (Vezy, 2023)
- LAI, canopy structure, spatial arrangement

2 - **ERIN**

- Beer-Lambert modified for IC (LAI) (Wallace 1997)
- Extreme cases with a dominance factor (height)

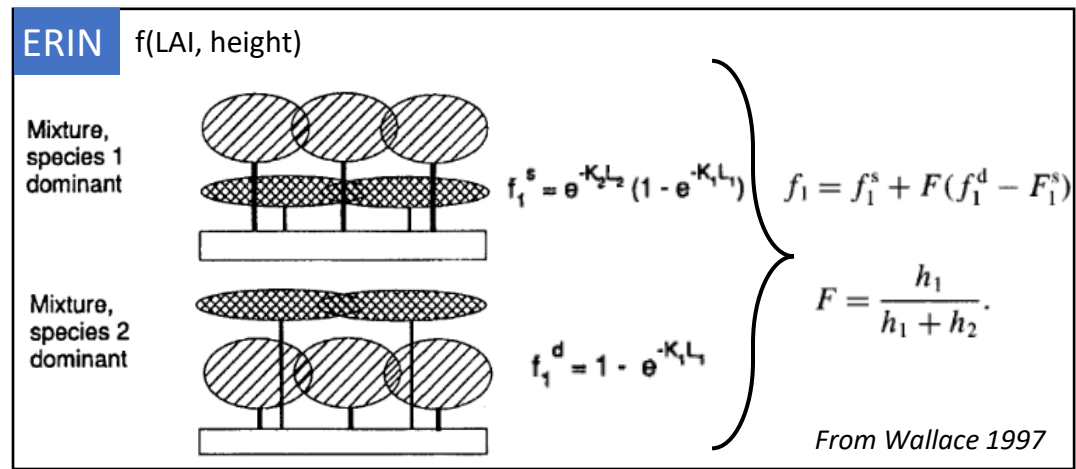
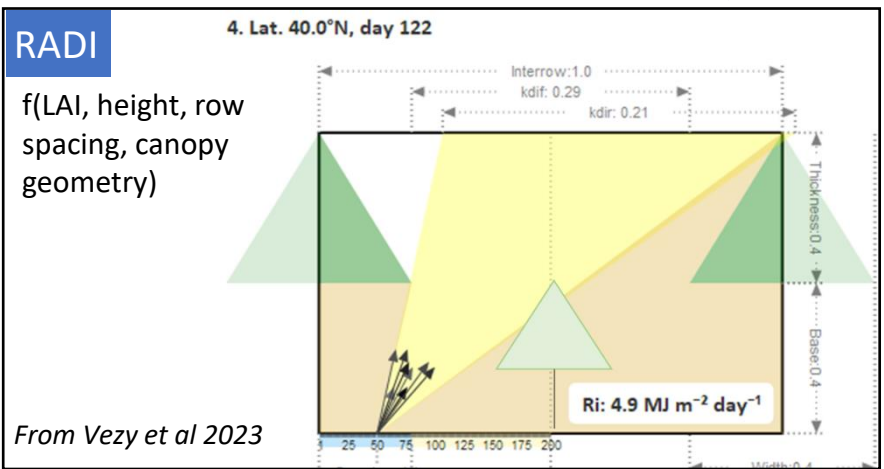
MILA / Wheat brown rust



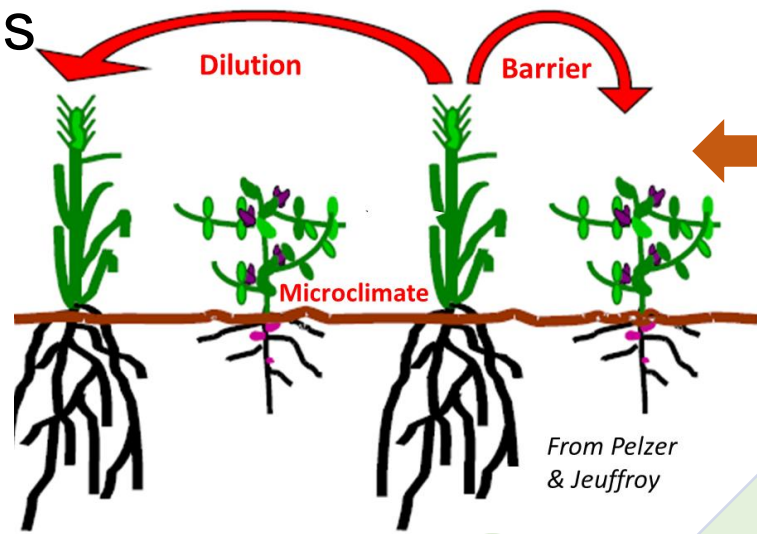
STICS IC

- Wheat as single crop
- Varying row spacing and density

Dilution effect alone



# Method – Model behaviour analysis



Adapt MILA-STICS to intercrops

Microclimate in STICS

Modify spore interception in MILA

1 - RADI

- Radiative transfer (Vezy, 2023)
- LAI, canopy structure, spatial arrangement

2 - ERIN

- Beer-Lambert modified for IC (LAI) (Wallace 1997)
- Extreme cases with a dominance factor (height)

MILA / Wheat brown rust



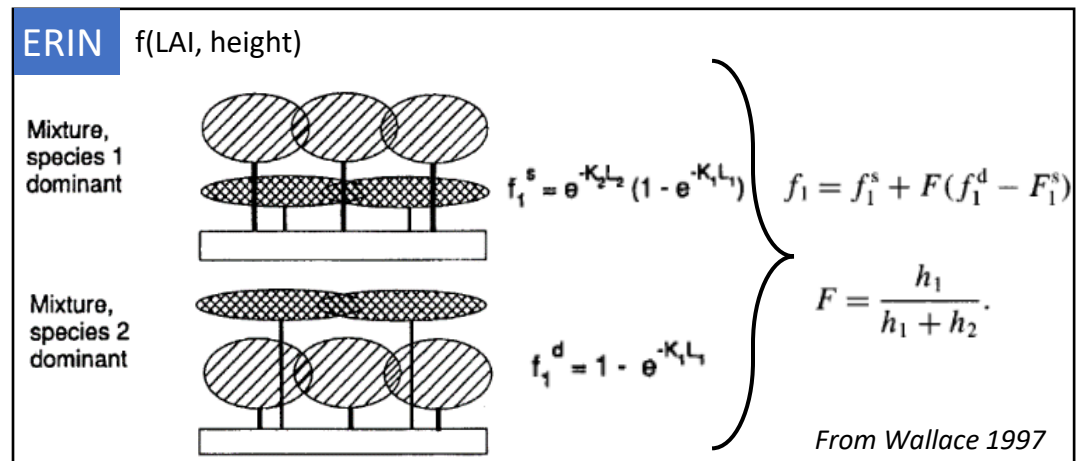
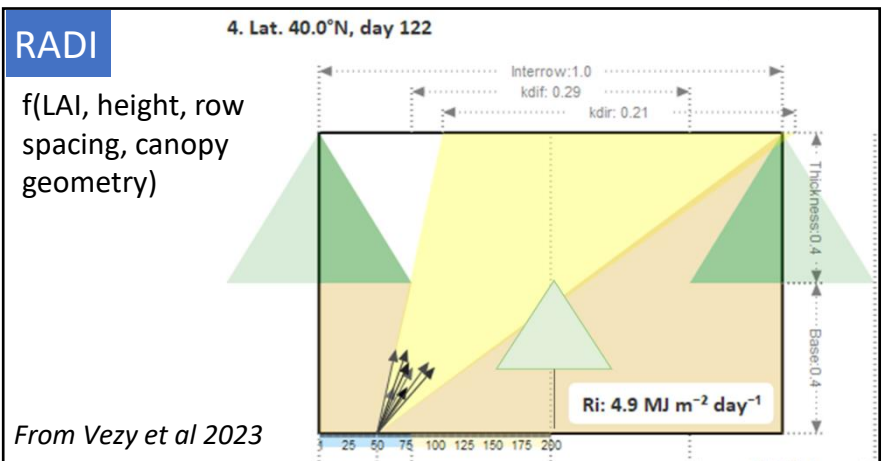
STICS IC

- Wheat as single crop
- Varying row spacing and density

Dilution effect alone

- Wheat – Pea system
- Varying proportion and total density

Dilution AND barrier effects



**Situation:**

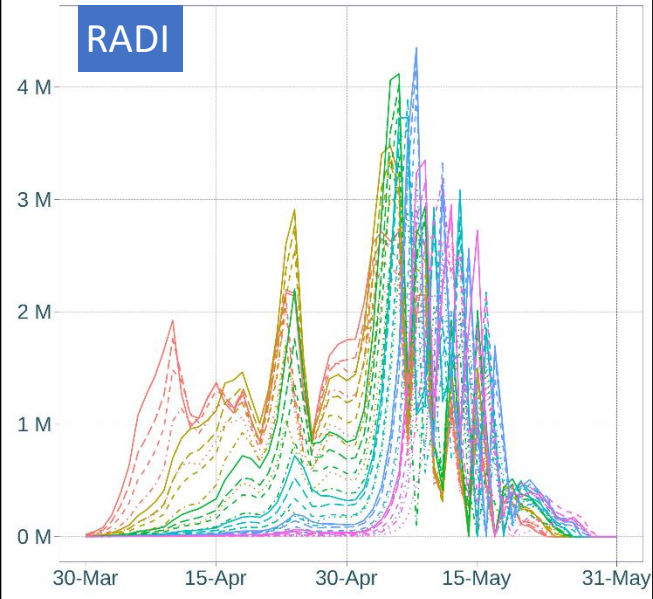
- Auzeville, South-Western France
- Season 2005 – 2006
- Winter sowing
- Plant parameters calibrated for the new intercrop version of STICS (Vezy, 2023)



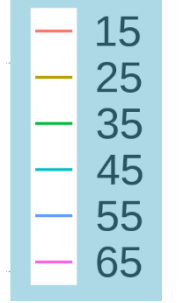
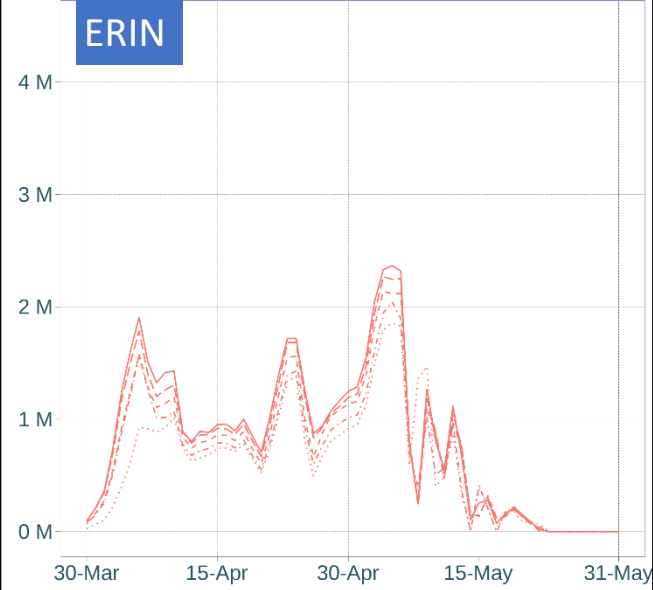
# Dilution effect – Wheat single crop

Intercepted spores

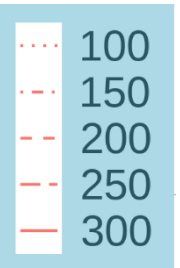
RADI



ERIN



Row spacing (cm)

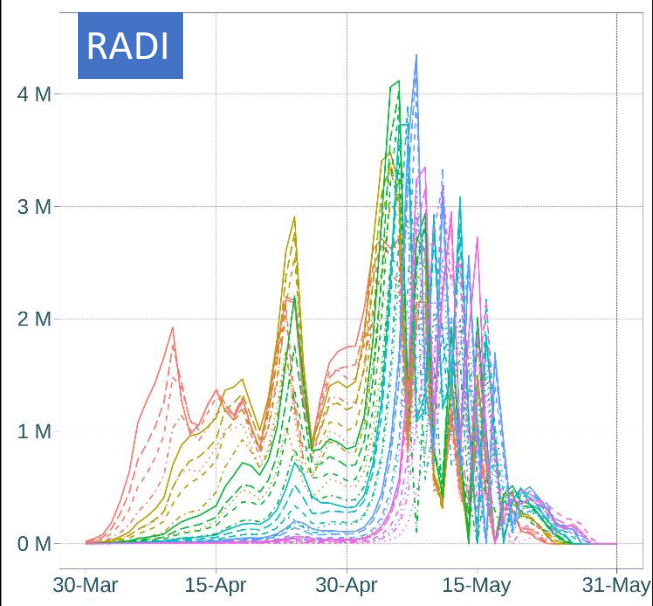


Sowing density (plt/ha)

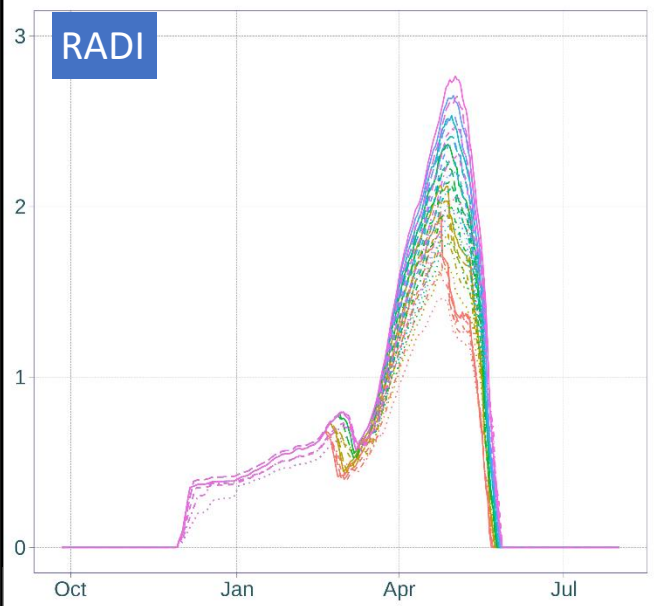
- **Key findings**
  - No effect of row spacing on ERIN, expected with Beer-Lambert

# Dilution effect – Wheat single crop

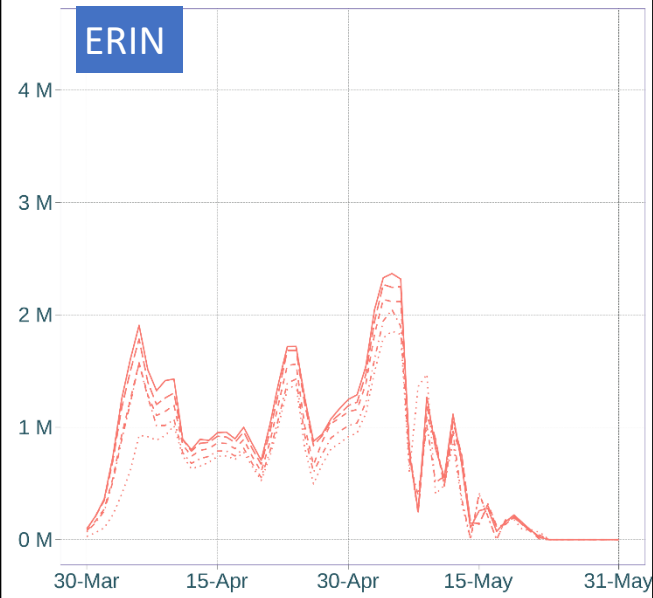
Intercepted spores



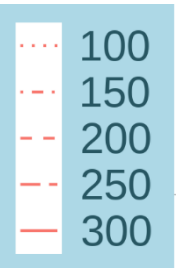
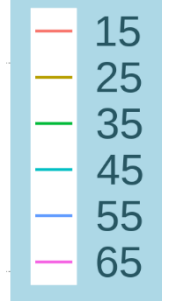
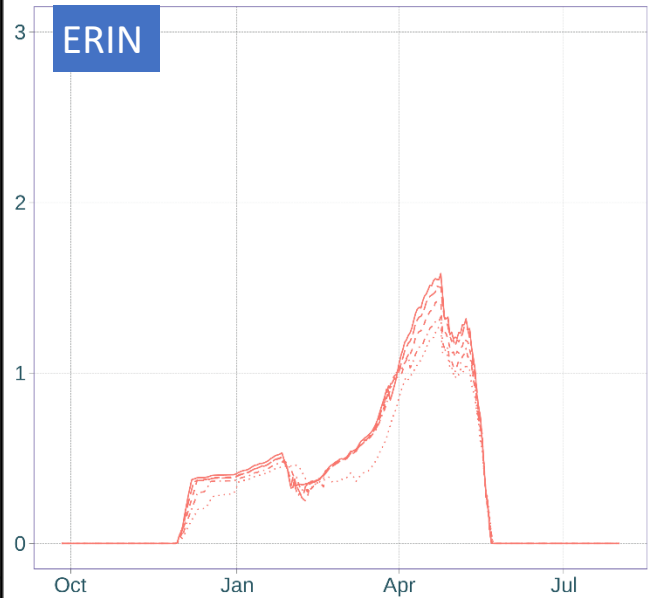
LAI (green)



ERIN

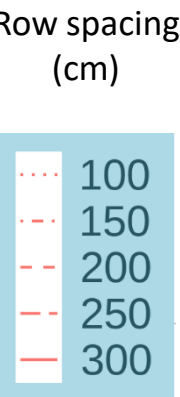
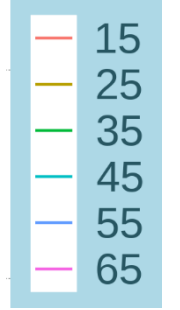
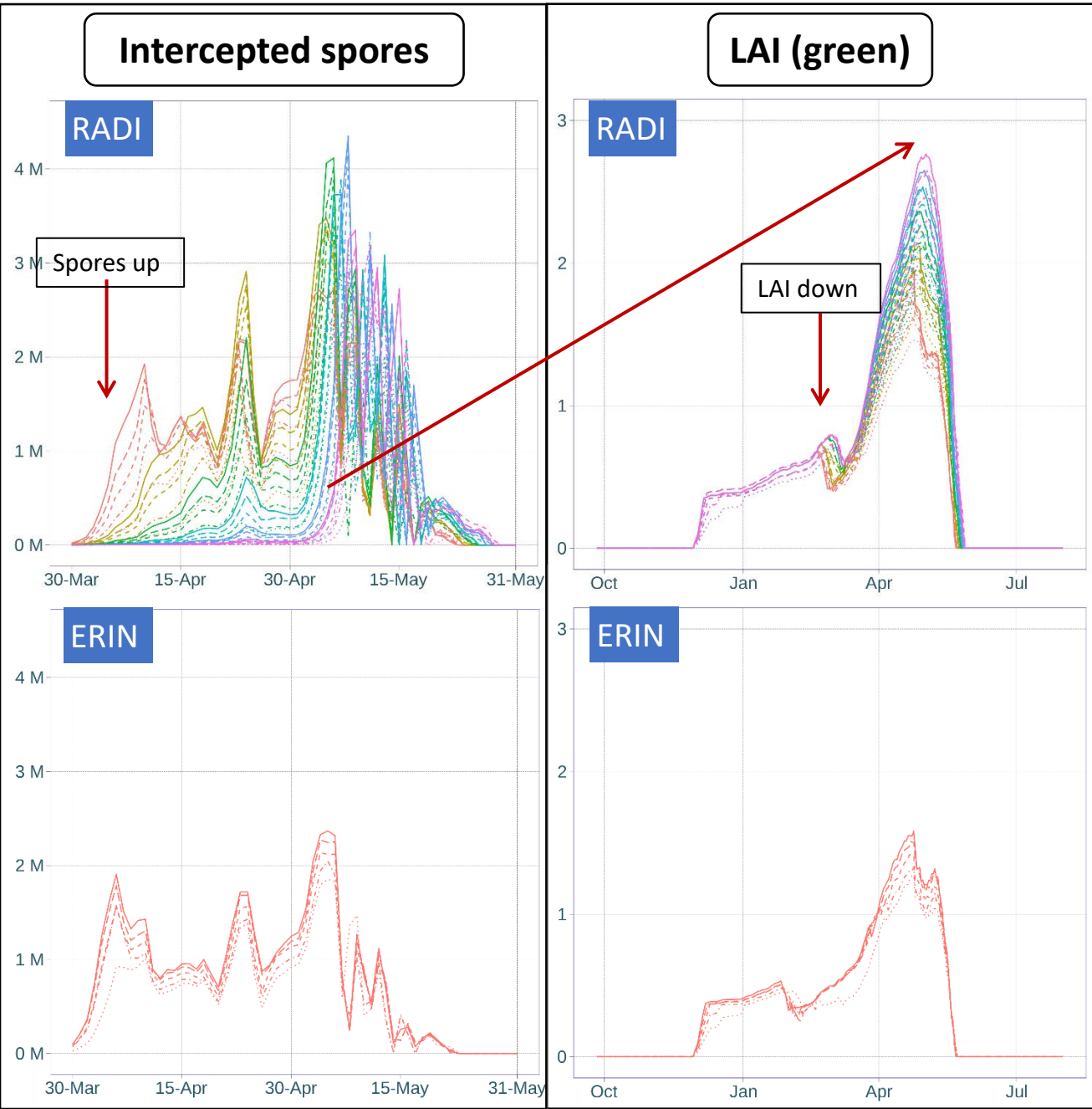


ERIN



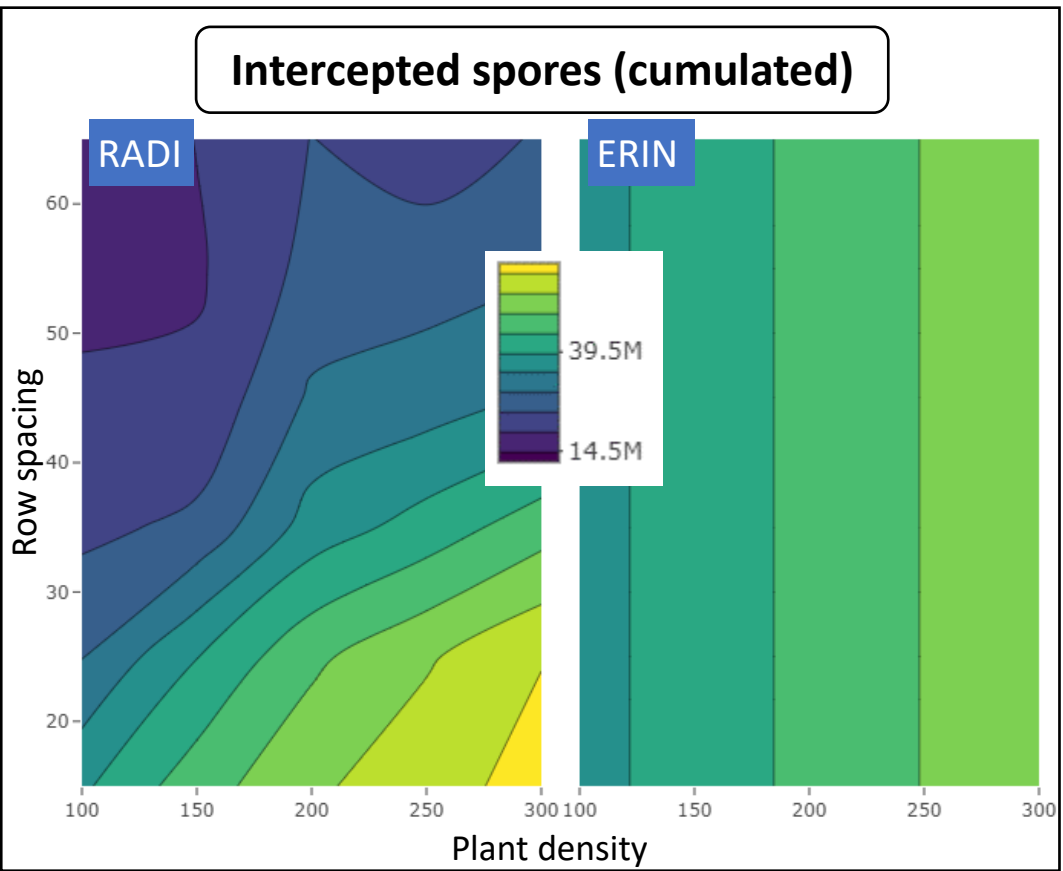
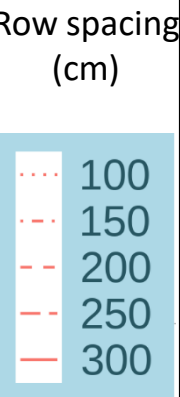
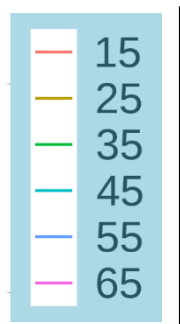
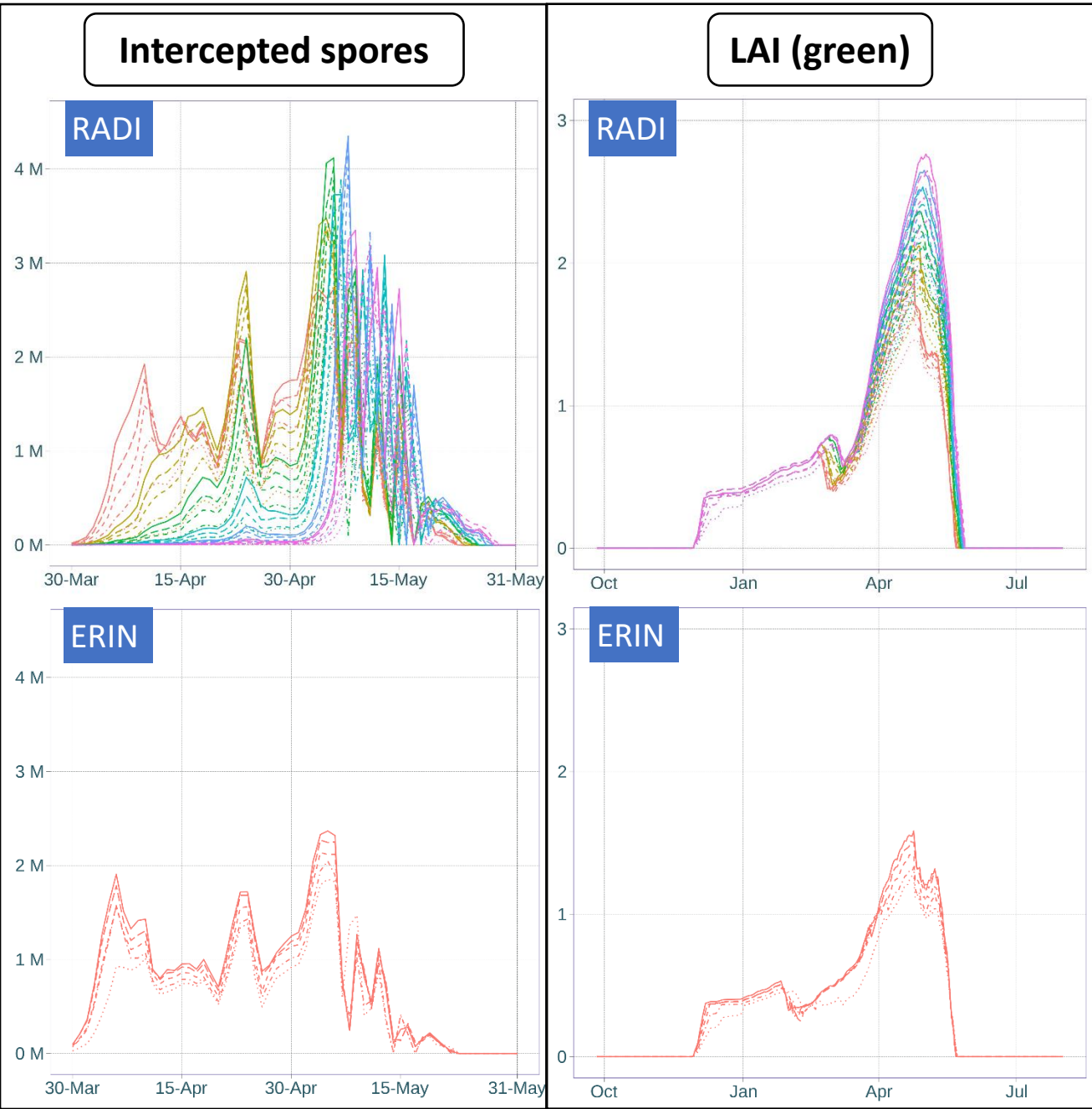
- **Key findings**
- No effect of row spacing on ERIN, expected with Beer-Lambert
  - Notable effect of the solutions on LAI

# Dilution effect – Wheat single crop



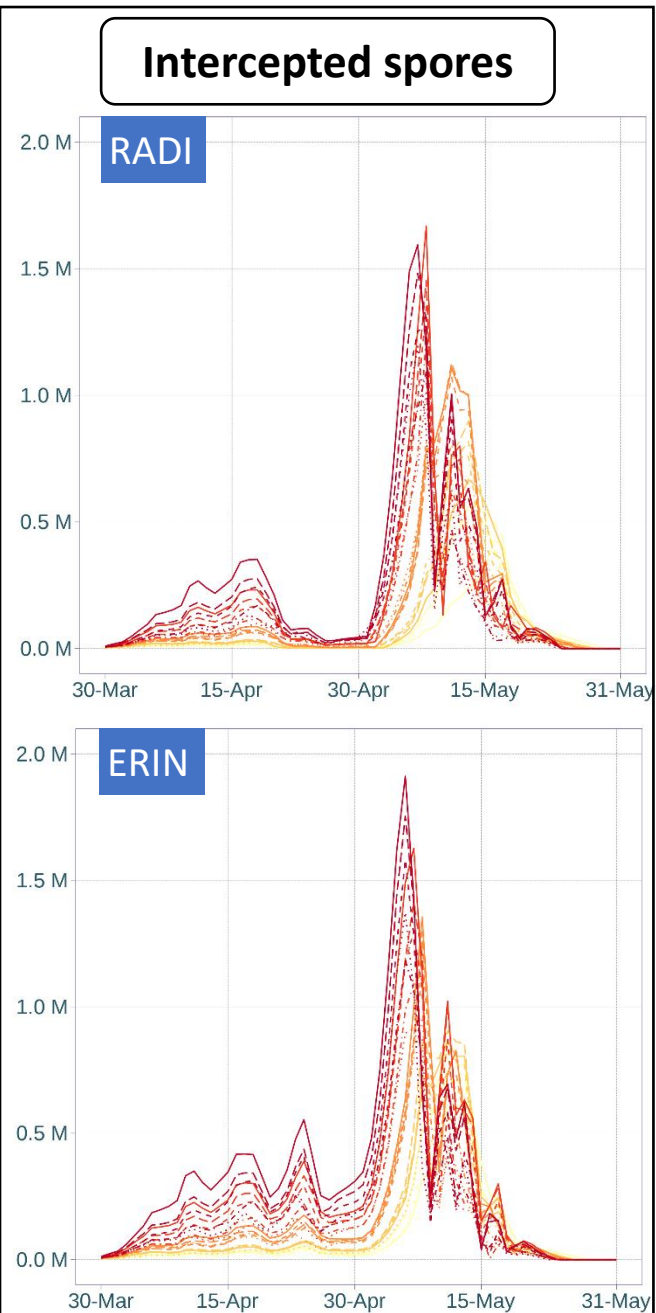
- **Key findings**
- No effect of row spacing on ERIN, expected with Beer-Lambert
  - Notable effect of the solutions on LAI due to delay in the start of spore interception via the row spacing

# Dilution effect – Wheat single crop

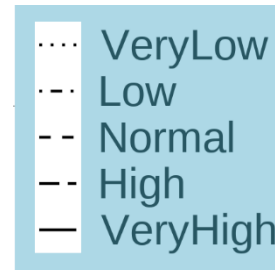


- **Key findings**
  - No effect of row spacing on ERIN, expected with Beer-Lambert
  - Notable effect of the solutions on LAI due to delay in the start of spore interception via the row spacing
  - Agronomic levers to reduce diseases levels: density and/or row spacing

# Dilution and barrier effects – wheat/pea intercrop



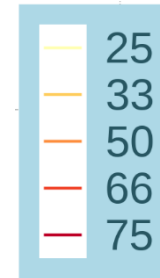
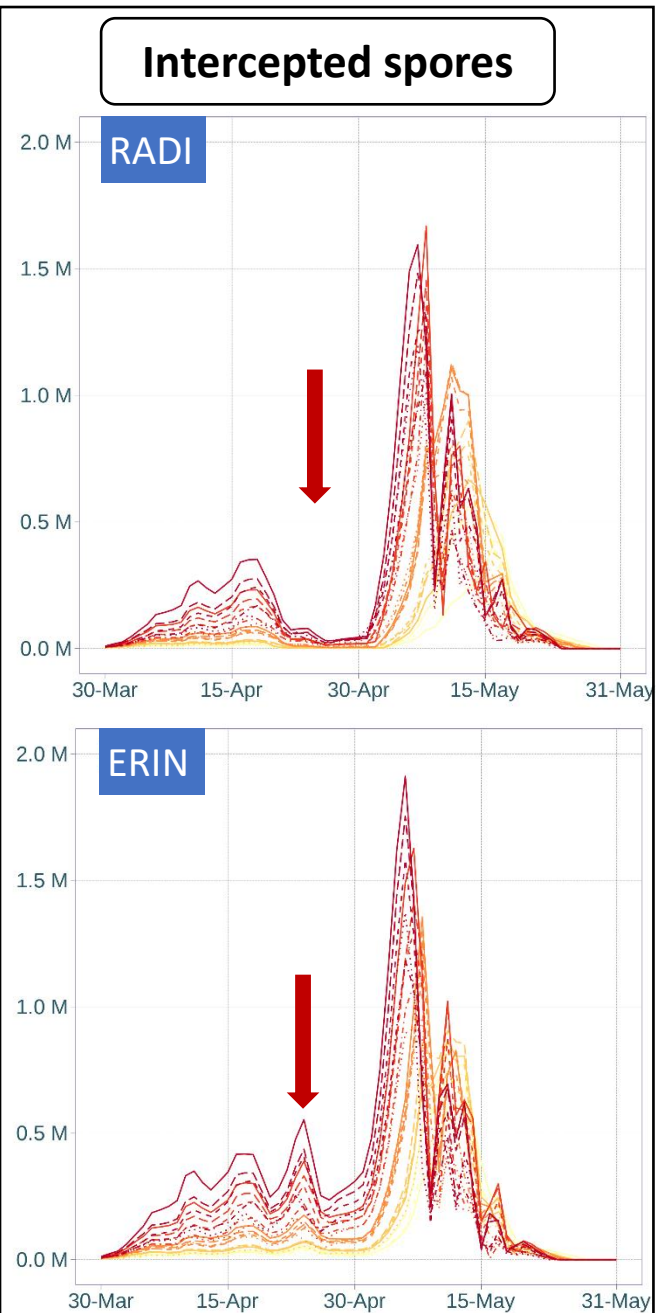
Wheat proportion



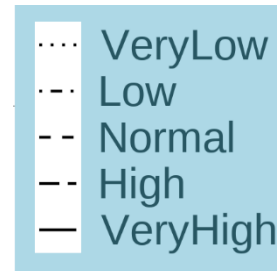
Total sowing density

- **Key findings**
- No notable difference between the 2 formalisms

# Dilution and barrier effects – wheat/pea intercrop



Wheat proportion



Total sowing density

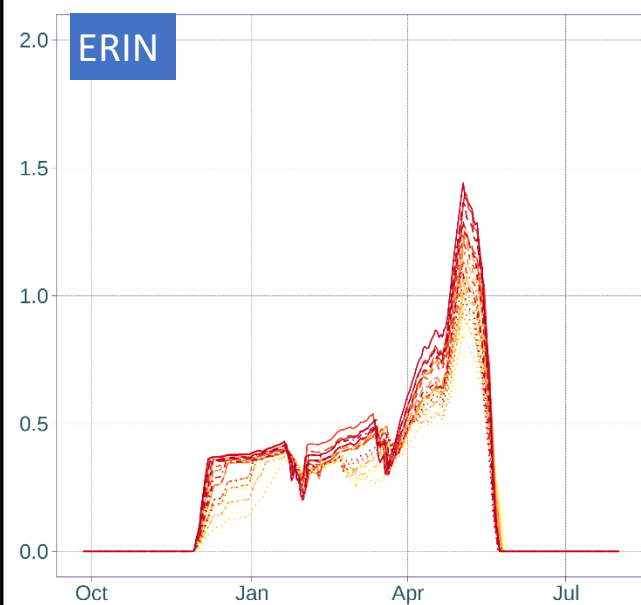
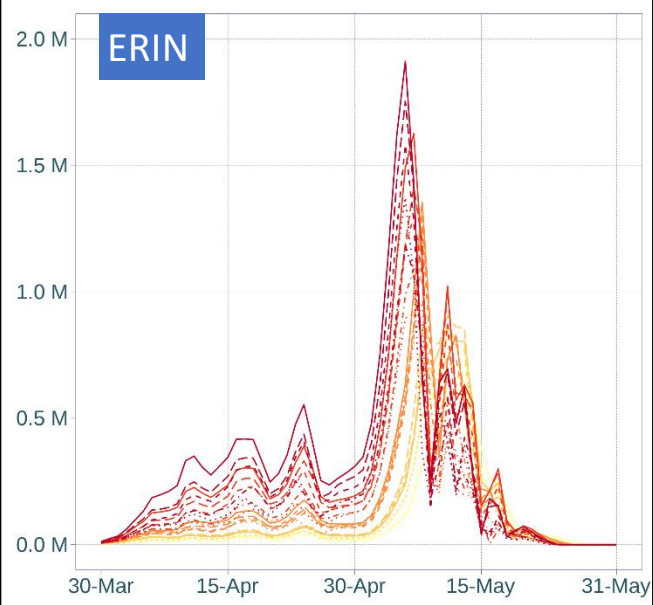
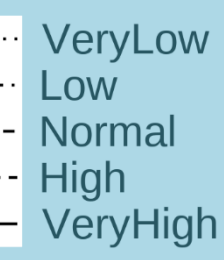
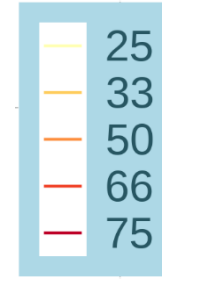
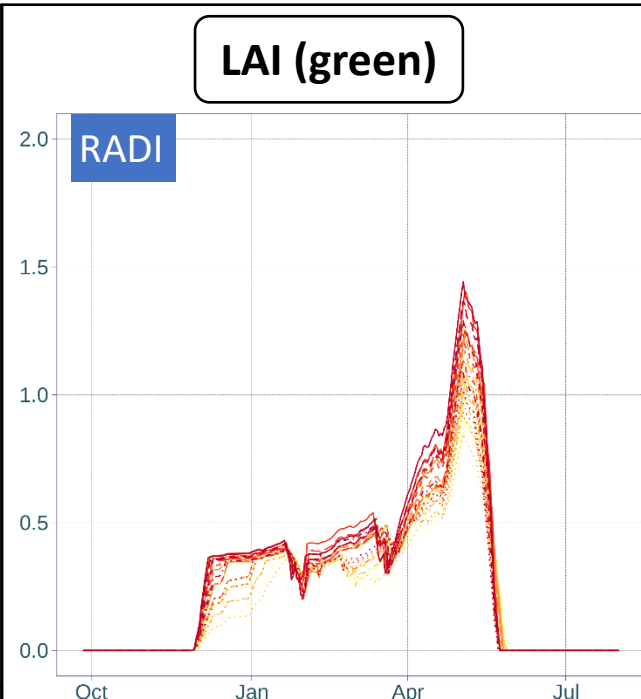
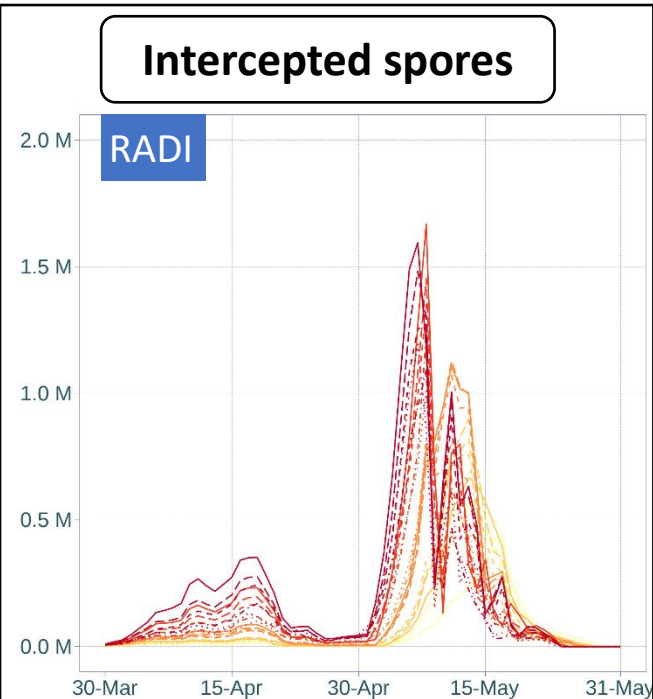
## ➤ Key findings

- No notable difference between the 2 formalisms
- Absence of a peak with RAD1



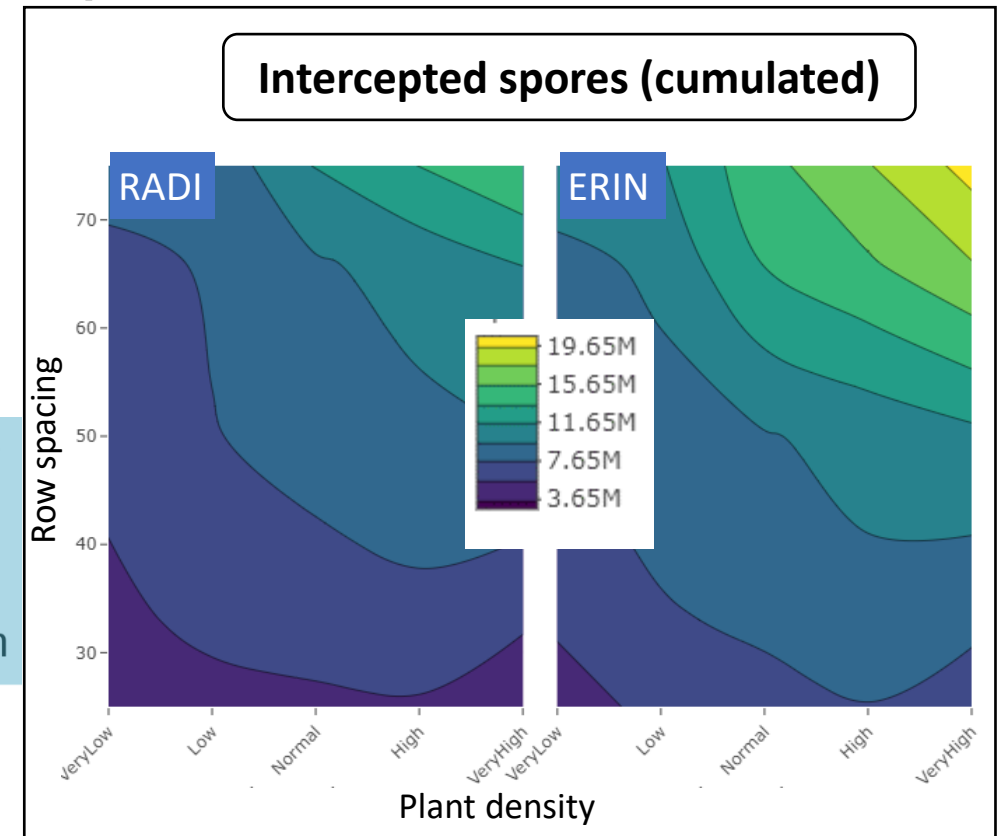
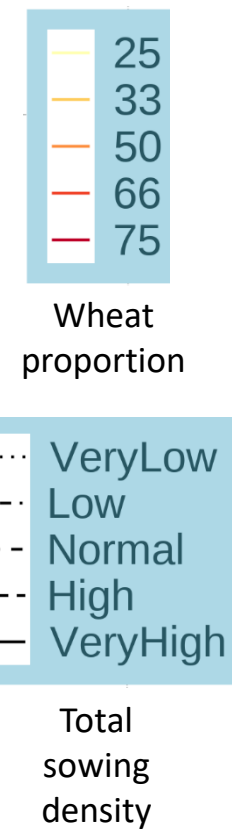
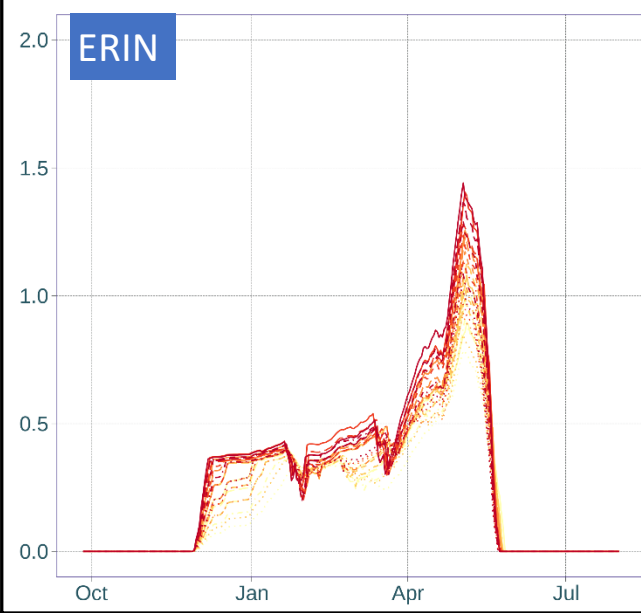
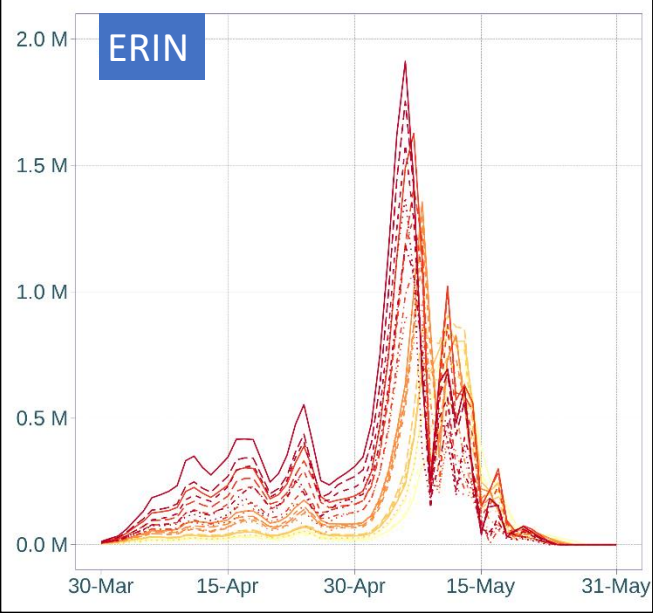
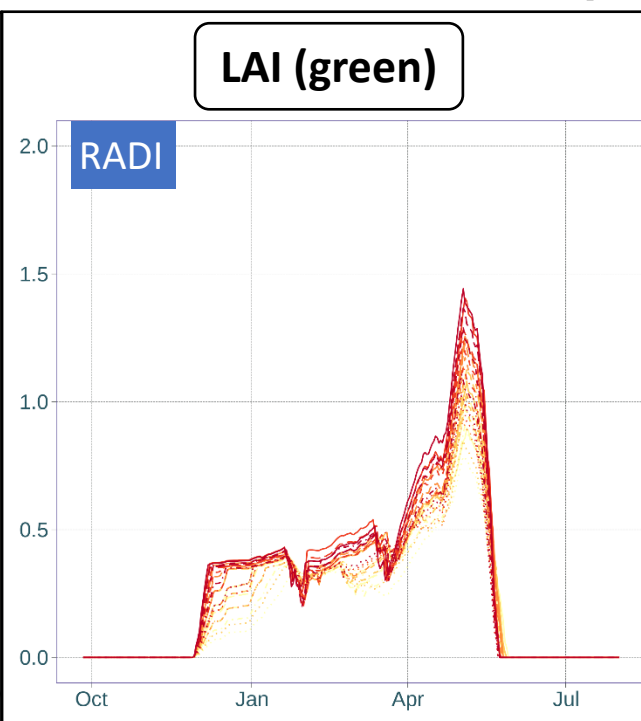
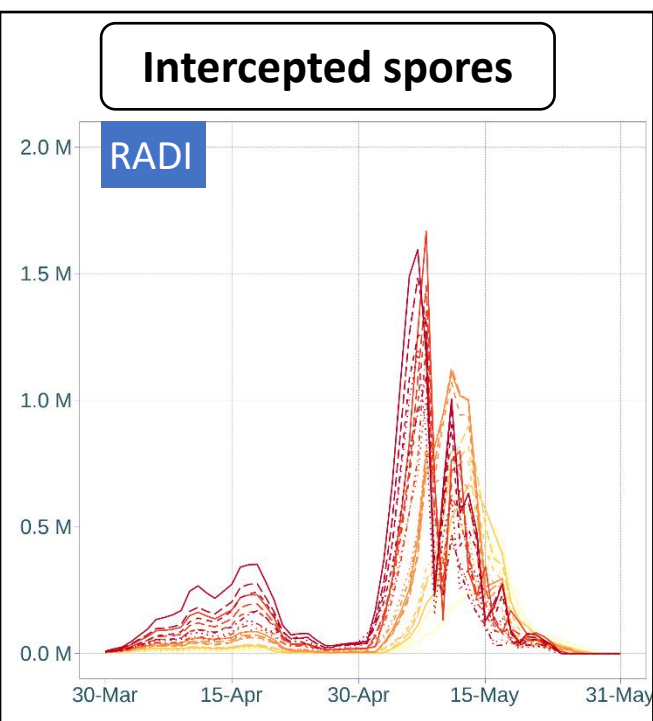
# Dilution and barrier effects – wheat/pea intercrop

Intercepted spores (cumulated)



- **Key findings**
- No notable difference between the 2 formalisms
  - Absence of a peak with RADI
  - A little more intercepted spores with ERIN but no significant impact on LAI

# Dilution and barrier effects – wheat/pea intercrop

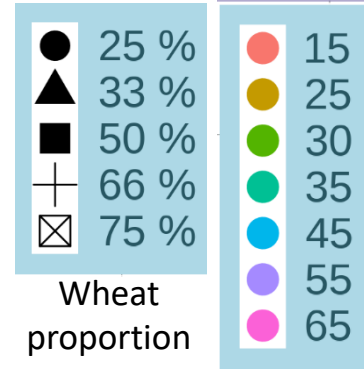


- **Key findings**
- No notable difference between the 2 formalisms
  - Absence of a peak with RADI
  - A little more intercepted spores with ERIN but no significant impact on LAI
  - Again, diseases levels can be managed with agronomic levers such as density and plant proportion.



# Putting it all together

## ➤ Key findings



RADI

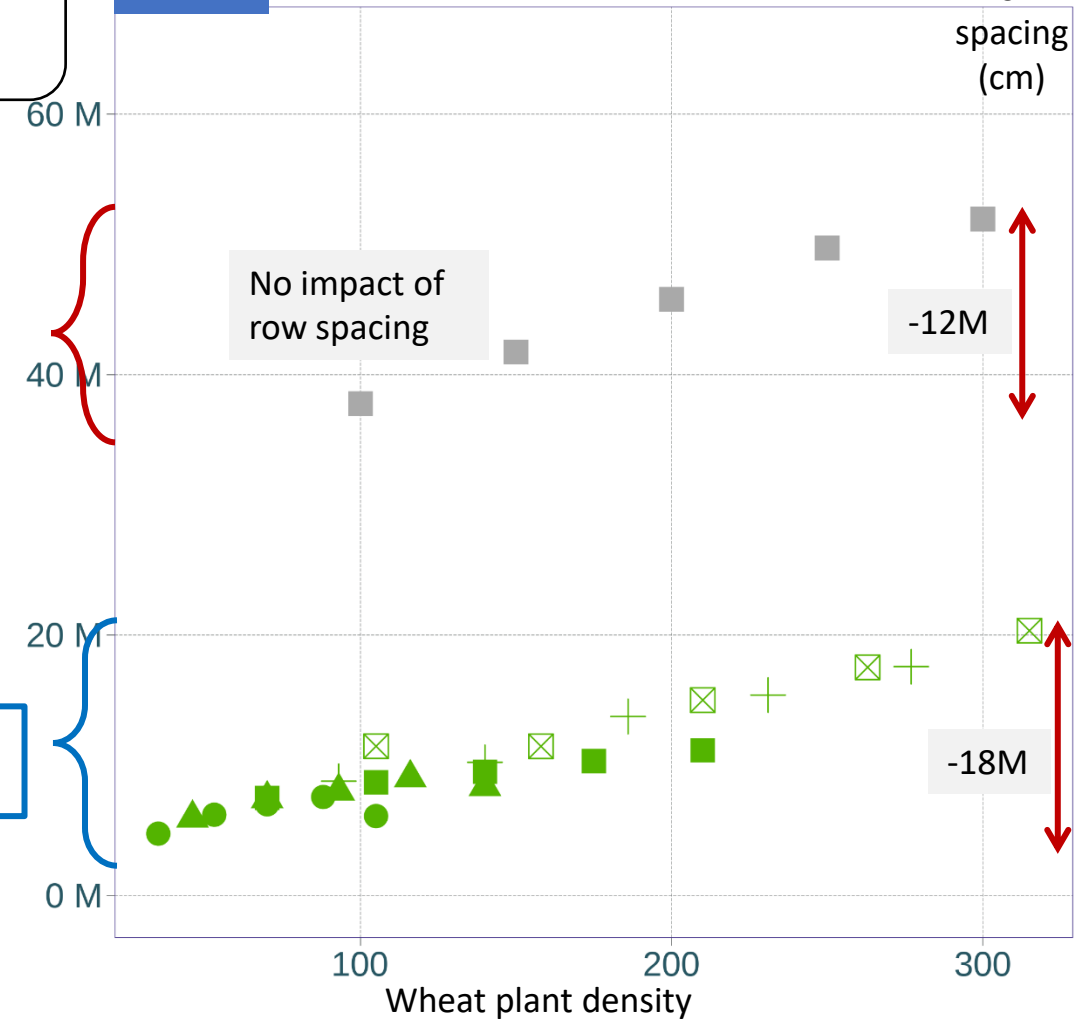
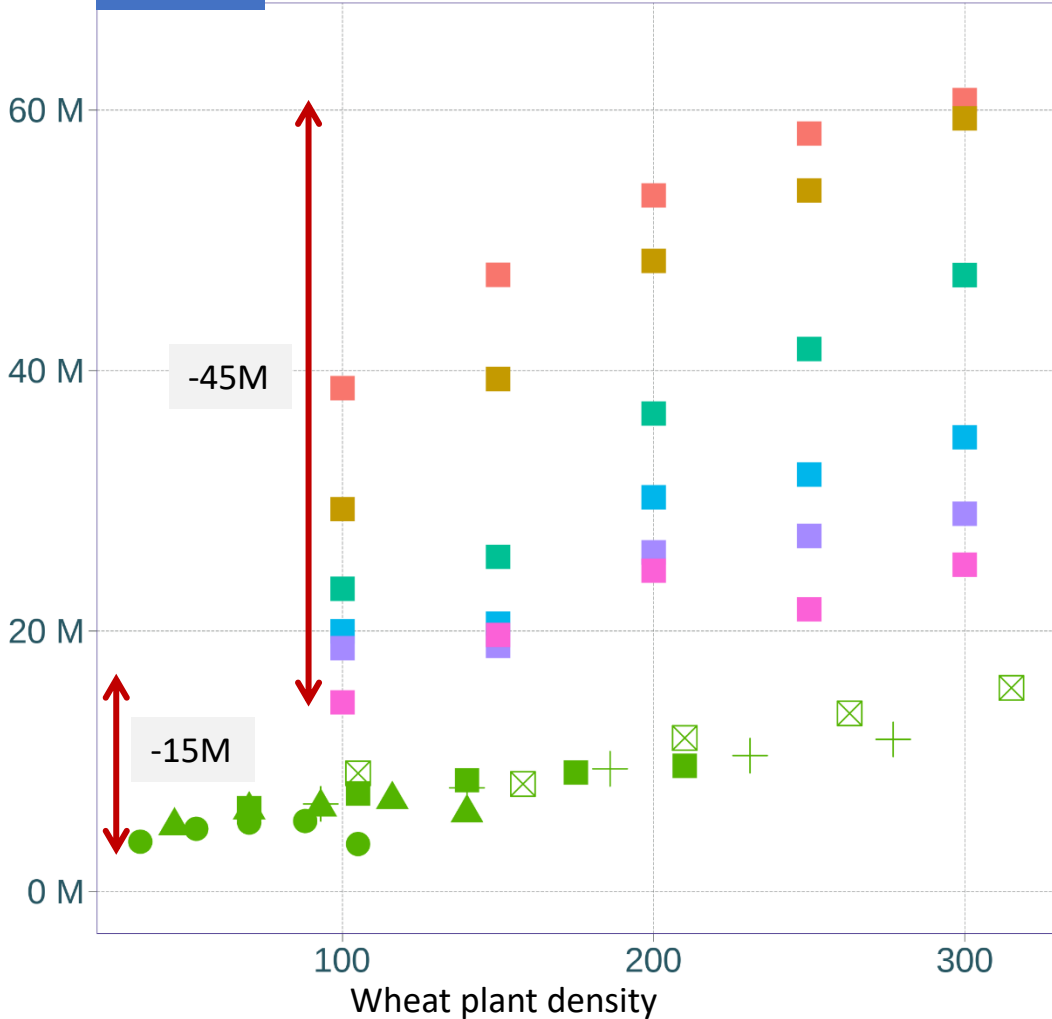
Intercepted spores (cumulative)

ERIN

Dilution effect

Dilution + barrier effects

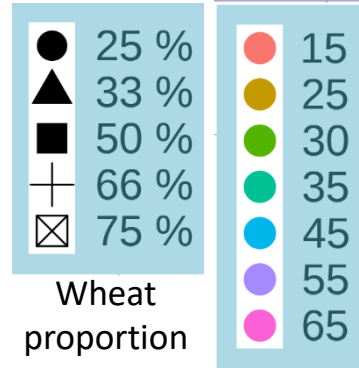
No impact of row spacing



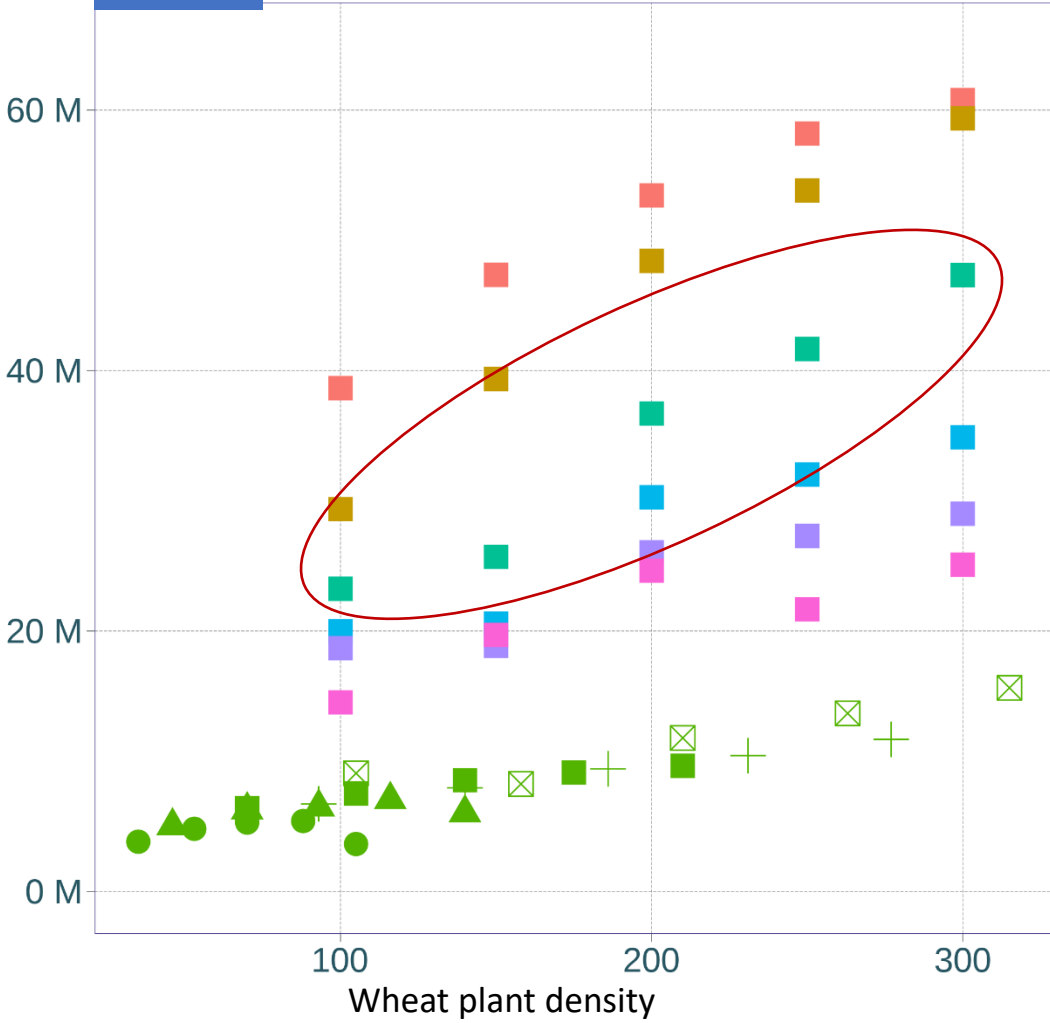
# Putting it all together

## ➤ Key findings

- Cumulated spores: for dilution ERIN more like a middle RADI



**RADI**

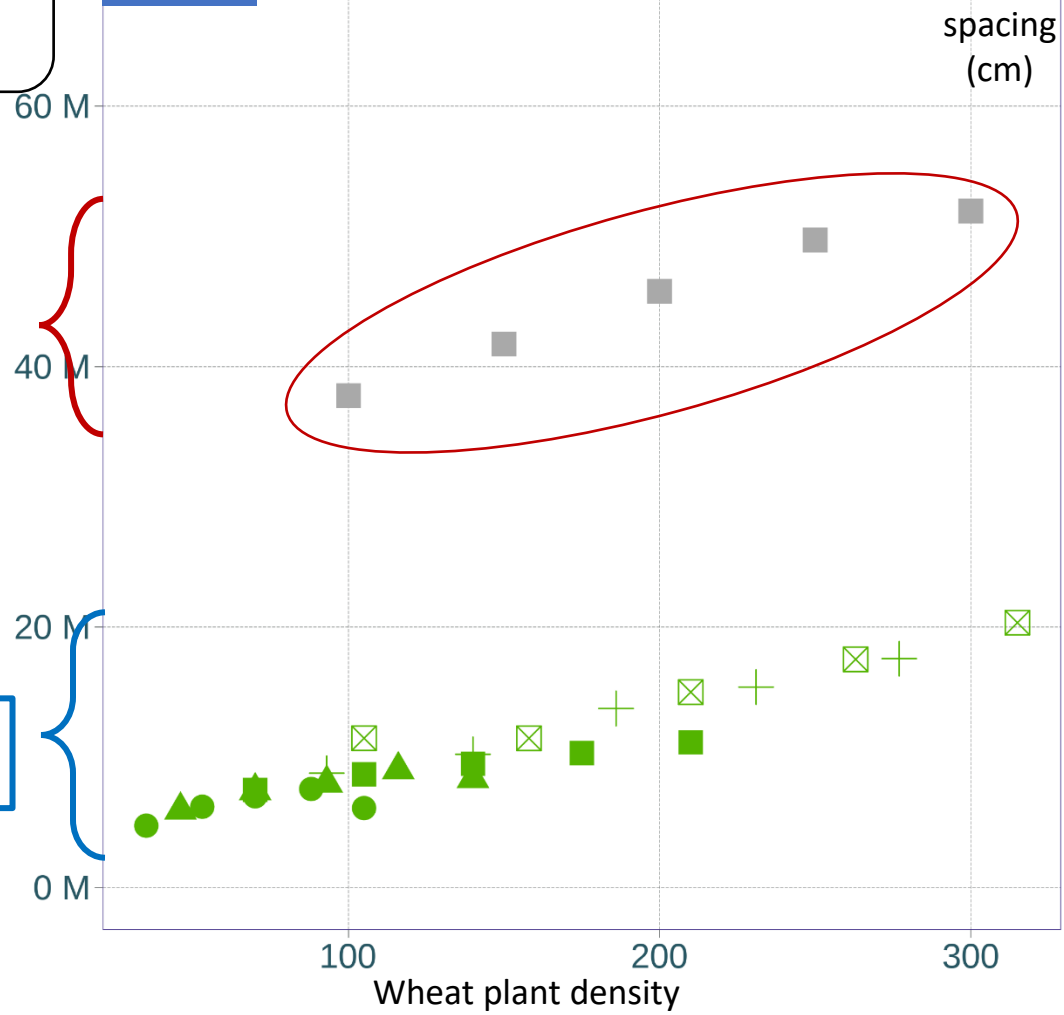


**Intercepted spores (cumulative)**

**Dilution effect**

**Dilution + barrier effects**

**ERIN**

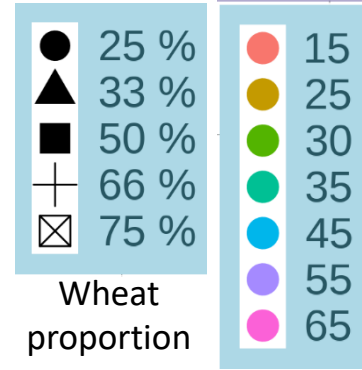


**Row spacing (cm)**

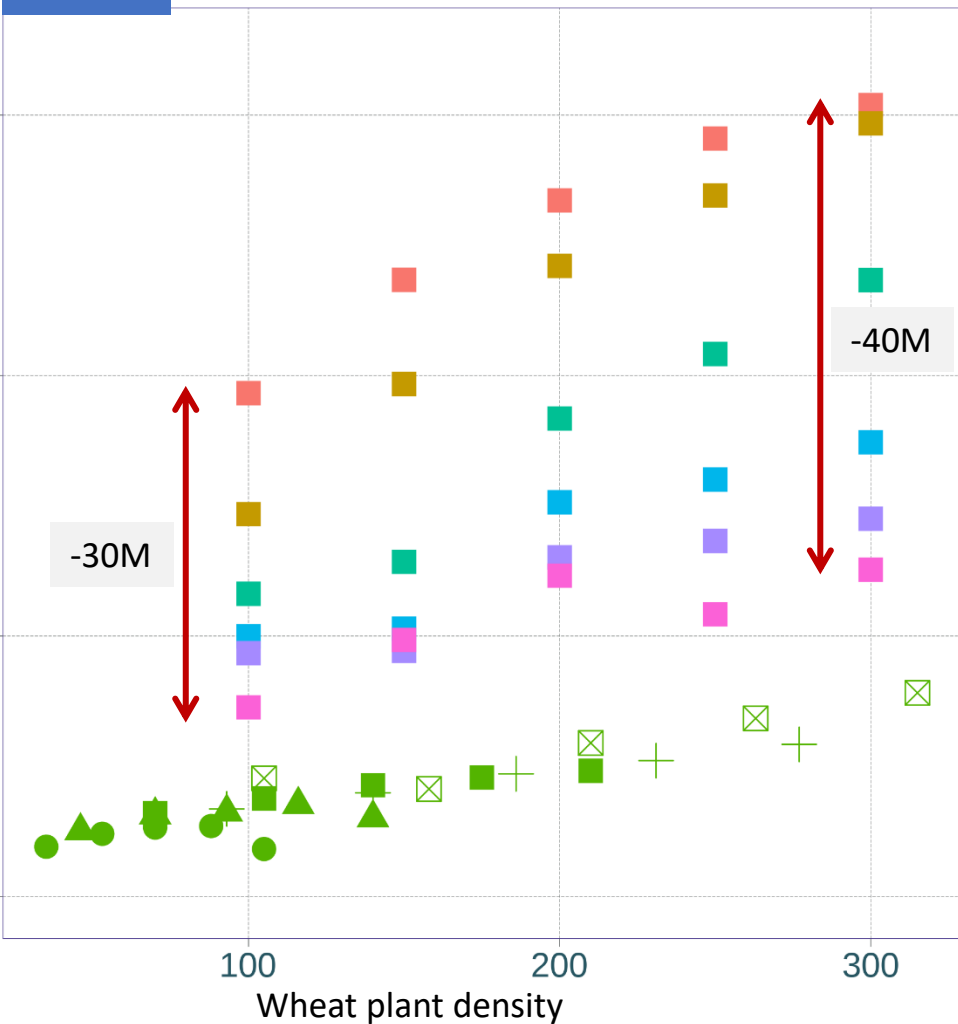
# Putting it all together

## ➤ Key findings

- Cumulated spores: for dilution ERIN more like a middle RADI
- Increasing row spacing reduces spores, even more at high densities



RADI

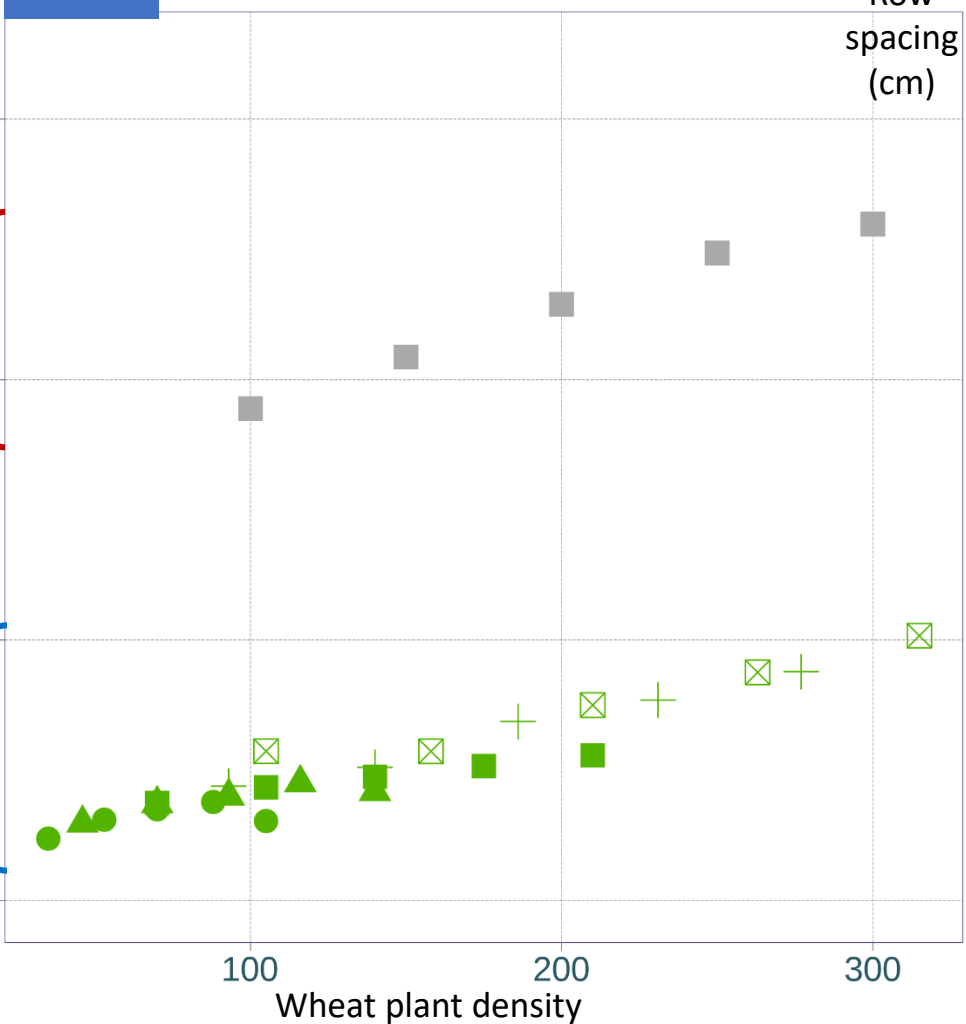


Intercepted spores (cumulative)

Dilution effect

Dilution + barrier effects

ERIN



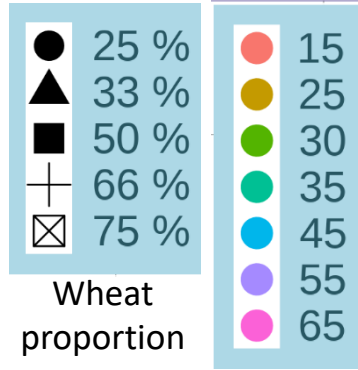
Row spacing (cm)

# Putting it all together

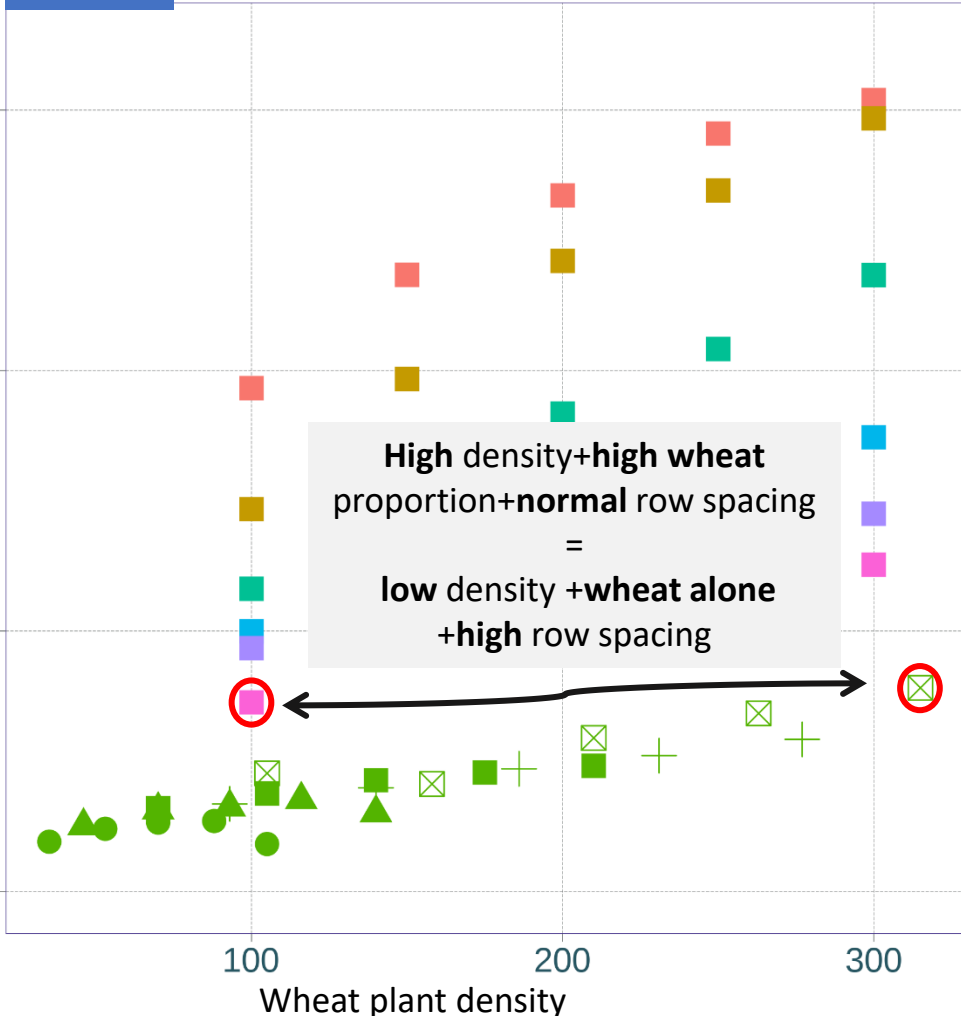
## Key findings

- Cumulated spores: for dilution ERIN more like a middle RADI
- Increasing row spacing reduces spores, even more at high densities

- Same level of spores for very different situations



RADI

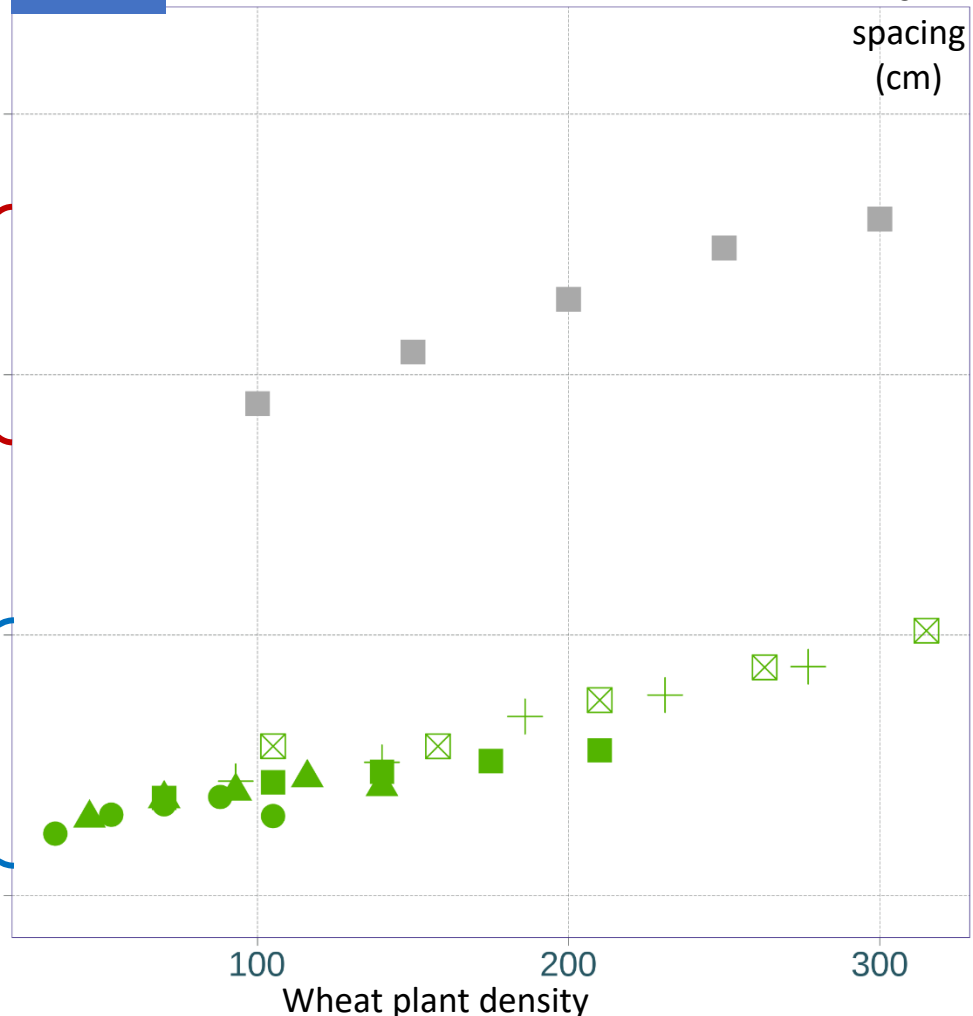


Intercepted spores (cumulative)

Dilution effect

Dilution + barrier effects

ERIN

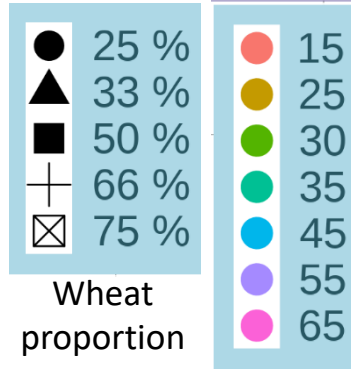


# Putting it all together

## Key findings

- Cumulated spores: for dilution ERIN more like a middle RADI
- Increasing row spacing reduces spores, even more at high densities

- Same level of spores for very different situations
- Adding pea = adding barrier to dilution. -15M at low density, -30 at high density



RADI

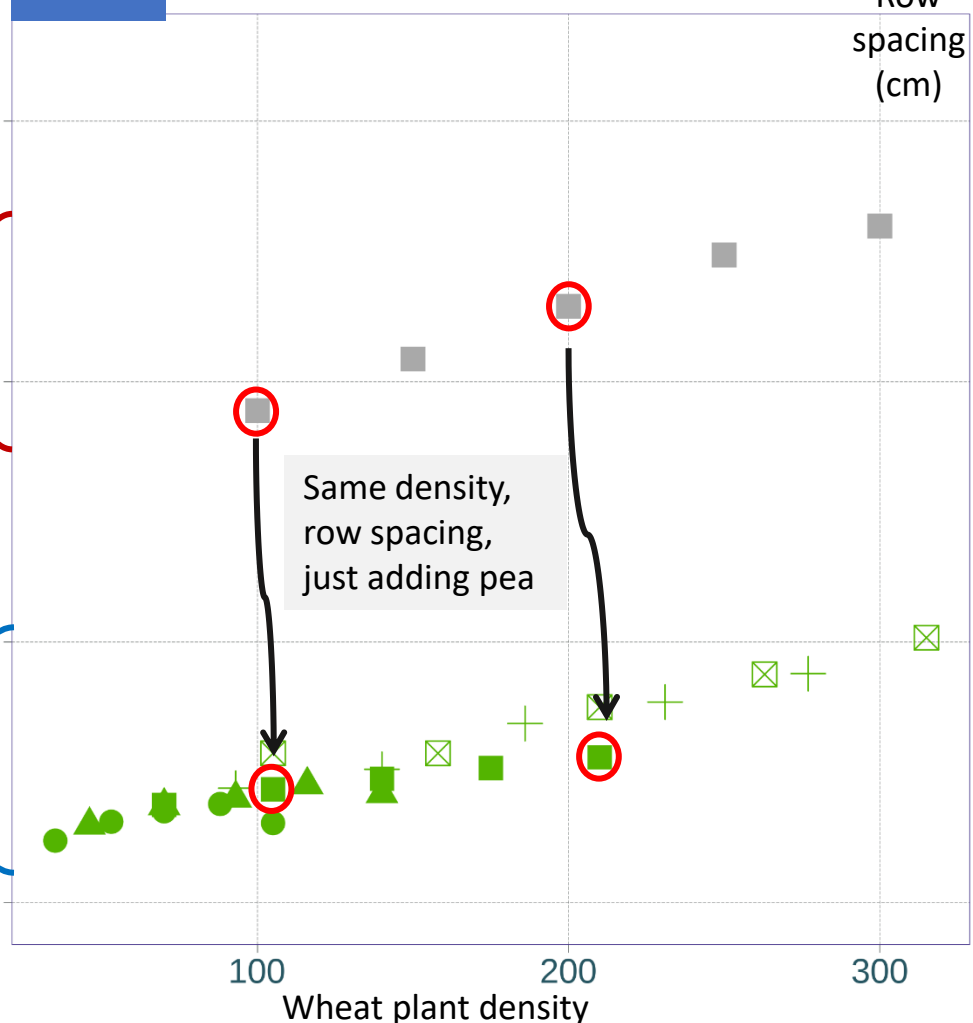


Intercepted spores (cumulative)

Dilution effect

Dilution + barrier effects

ERIN



Row spacing (cm)

# Conclusion and perspectives



## Comprehensive framework

- Test hypotheses on disease dynamics
- Optimise spatial temporal arrangement

# Conclusion and perspectives



## Comprehensive framework

- Test hypotheses on disease dynamics
- Optimise spatial temporal arrangement

## RADI better?

- Canopy and field geometry
- More sensitive to agronomic levers

# Conclusion and perspectives



## Comprehensive framework

- Test hypotheses on disease dynamics
- Optimise spatial temporal arrangement

## RADI better?

- Canopy and field geometry
- More sensitive to agronomic levers

# Perspectives



# Conclusion and perspectives

## Comprehensive framework

- Test hypotheses on disease dynamics
- Optimise spatial temporal arrangement

## RADI better?

- Canopy and field geometry
- More sensitive to agronomic levers

# Perspectives

## Extending behaviour analysis

More outputs  
(feedback loop,  
interaction with  
other disease  
processes)

# Conclusion and perspectives

## Comprehensive framework

- Test hypotheses on disease dynamics
- Optimise spatial temporal arrangement

## RADI better?

- Canopy and field geometry
- More sensitive to agronomic levers

# Perspectives

## Extending behaviour analysis

More outputs  
(feedback loop,  
interaction with  
other disease  
processes)

Other parameters  
and their interactions  
(sowing date for  
example)

# Conclusion and perspectives

## Comprehensive framework

- Test hypotheses on disease dynamics
- Optimise spatial temporal arrangement

## RADI better?

- Canopy and field geometry
- More sensitive to agronomic levers

# Perspectives

## Extending behaviour analysis

More outputs  
(feedback loop,  
interaction with  
other disease  
processes)

Other parameters  
and their interactions  
(sowing date for  
example)

Other climates

Sensitivity analysis  
method (*Roux et al.,  
2021*)

# Conclusion and perspectives

## Comprehensive framework

- Test hypotheses on disease dynamics
- Optimise spatial temporal arrangement

## RADI better?

- Canopy and field geometry
- More sensitive to agronomic levers

# Perspectives

## Extending behaviour analysis

More outputs  
(feedback loop,  
interaction with  
other disease  
processes)

Other parameters  
and their interactions  
(sowing date for  
example)

Other climates

Sensitivity analysis  
method (*Roux et al.,  
2021*)

## Model validation

MILA – STICS pure  
stand OK

STICS IC OK

# Conclusion and perspectives

## Comprehensive framework

- Test hypotheses on disease dynamics
- Optimise spatial temporal arrangement

## RADI better?

- Canopy and field geometry
- More sensitive to agronomic levers

# Perspectives

## Extending behaviour analysis

More outputs  
(feedback loop,  
interaction with  
other disease  
processes)

Other parameters  
and their interactions  
(sowing date for  
example)

Other climates

Sensitivity analysis  
method (*Roux et al.,  
2021*)

## Model validation

MILA – STICS pure  
stand OK

STICS IC OK

MILA-STICS IC:  
upcoming (datasets  
available  
autumn/winter)