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# IrriSAT - an Irrigation management and crop water use benchmarking system

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# Outline

- Overview of the IrriSAT system - main components
- Science behind IrriSAT - background
- Experience with IrriSAT in Cotton and viticulture irrigated systems
- Future directions R&D

# Aims / Goals / Approach

- Aim - to overcome the costs and complexities of irrigation scheduling
- Driving Goal - capturing the bulk of the 'market' and providing them with a tool for assisting irrigation decisions to deliver real water savings or efficiency improvements
- The Approach – use emerging technologies\* –
  - Satellite Remote Sensing (a world wide sensor system)
  - SMS (a world wide information delivery platform)

\* 1<sup>st</sup> SMS message was sent in 1992 (20 years ago)  
Landsat 5 satellite launched in 1984 (28 years ago)

# Overview of IrriSATSMS



Satellite images used to determine plant performance of an irrigators crop

Incorporates management/soil/water/salinity constraints

Determination of a crop coefficient (Kc) from satellite image

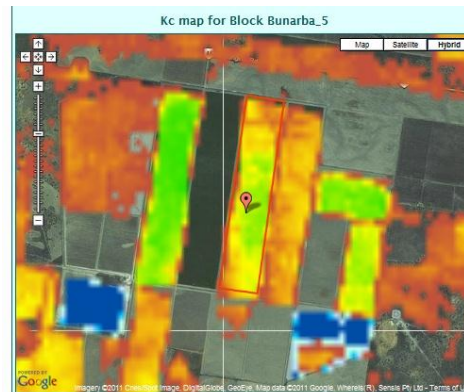
Representing Individual Paddocks



$$ET_c = ET_o \times K_c$$

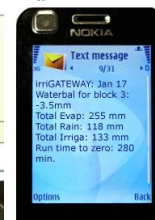
ET<sub>o</sub> from Weather Station and ET<sub>o</sub> forecast

Potential Evaporation based on Atmospheric Demand



Crop water use determined and irrigation requirement

Daily irrigation scheduling information delivered to irrigators



# How does IrriSAT help me irrigate ?

- Using the FAO 56 approach

Actual  
water use  
of crop

Reference  
water use –  
weather  
station or 7  
day forecast

Crop  
Coefficient  
– relates  
your crop to  
the  
reference  
crop

$$ET_c = ETo \times Kc$$



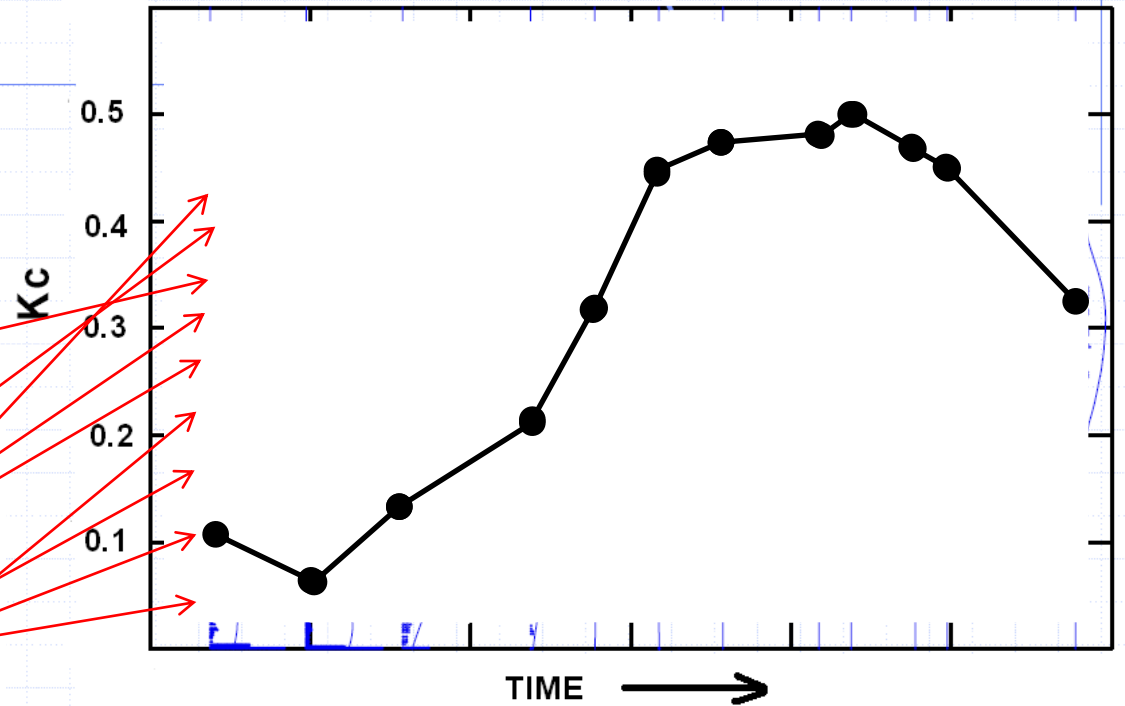
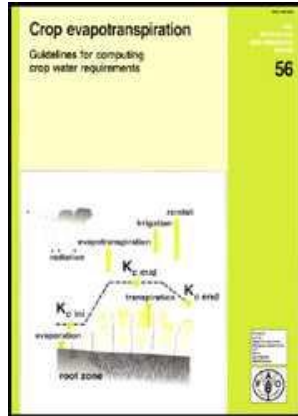
=



$\times Kc ?$

Previously  
getting site  
specific crop  
coefficients  
has been  
difficult – RS  
overcomes  
this

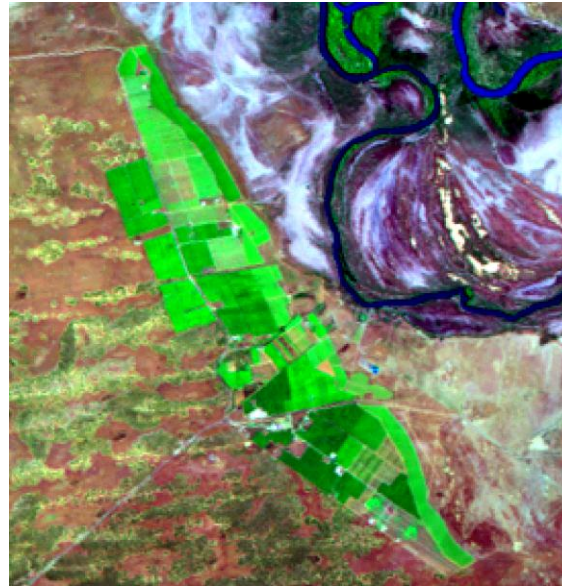
# Limitations of traditional kc approaches



# Gaining individual crop coefficients

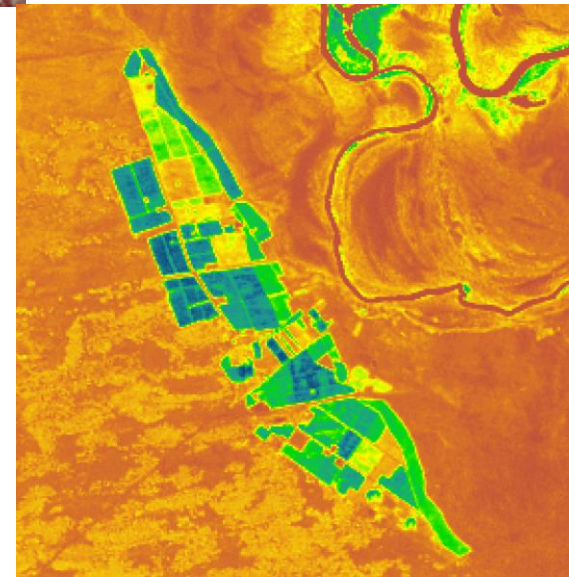


- Multi-spectral satellites overpass every 8 -16 days
- Images of everyone's individual crop is taken with a 30x30m resolution
- This information can be used for gaining site and management specific crop coefficients



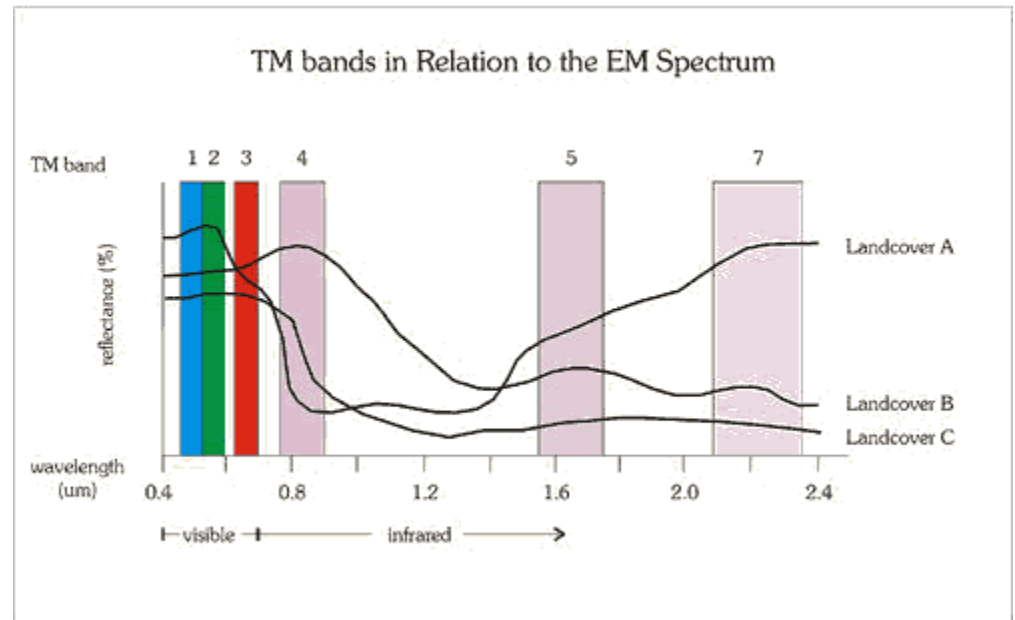
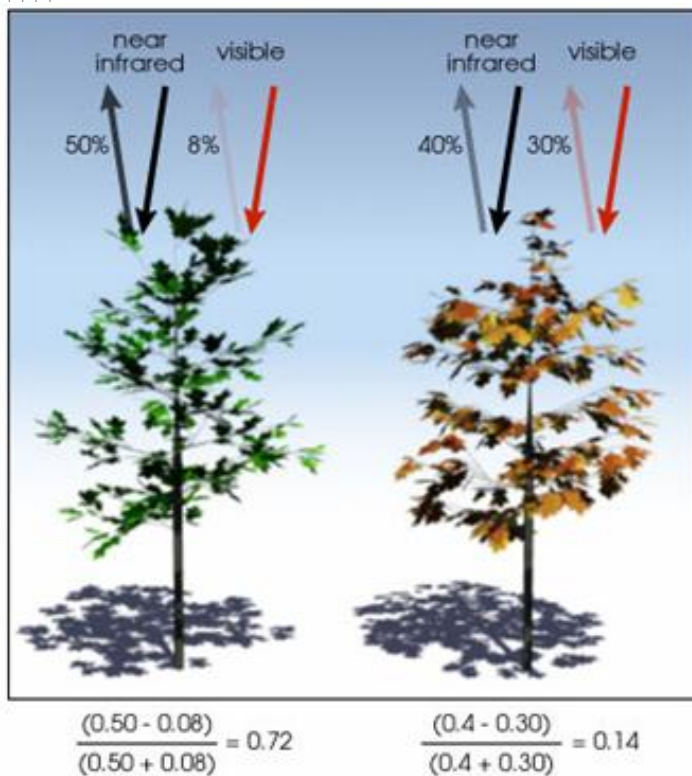
Visible light

Calculated NDVI

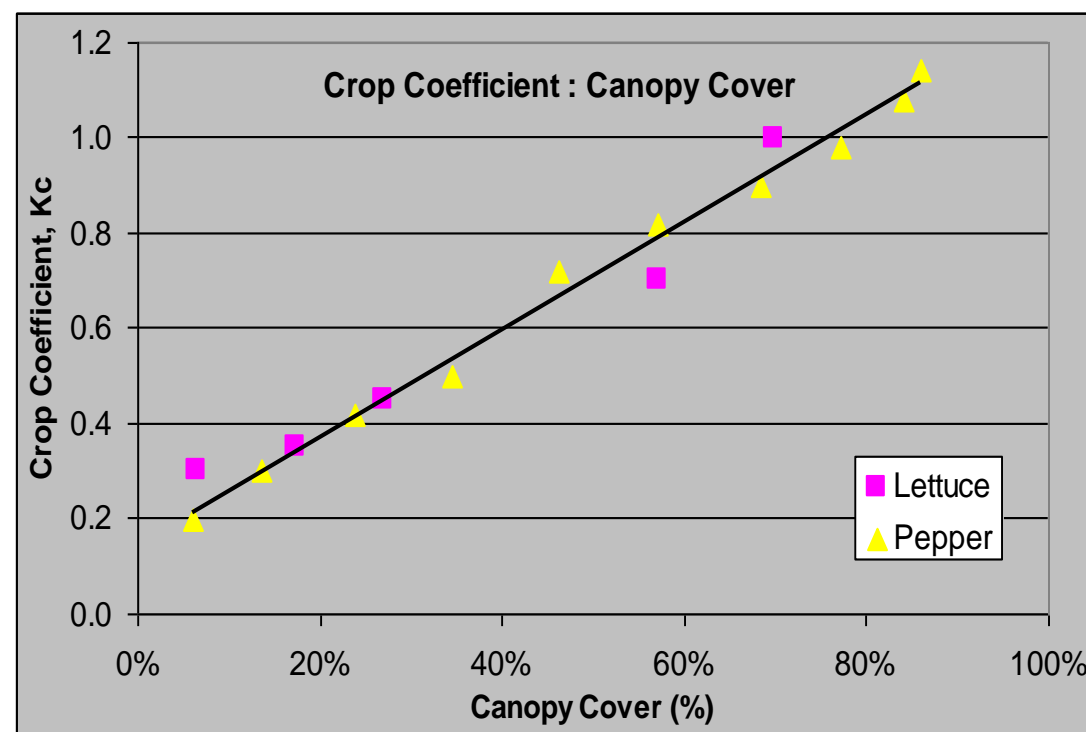
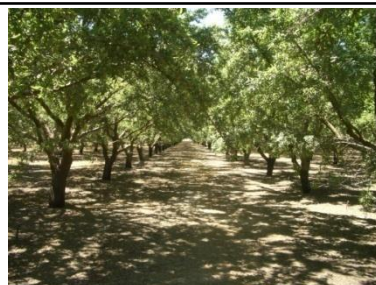
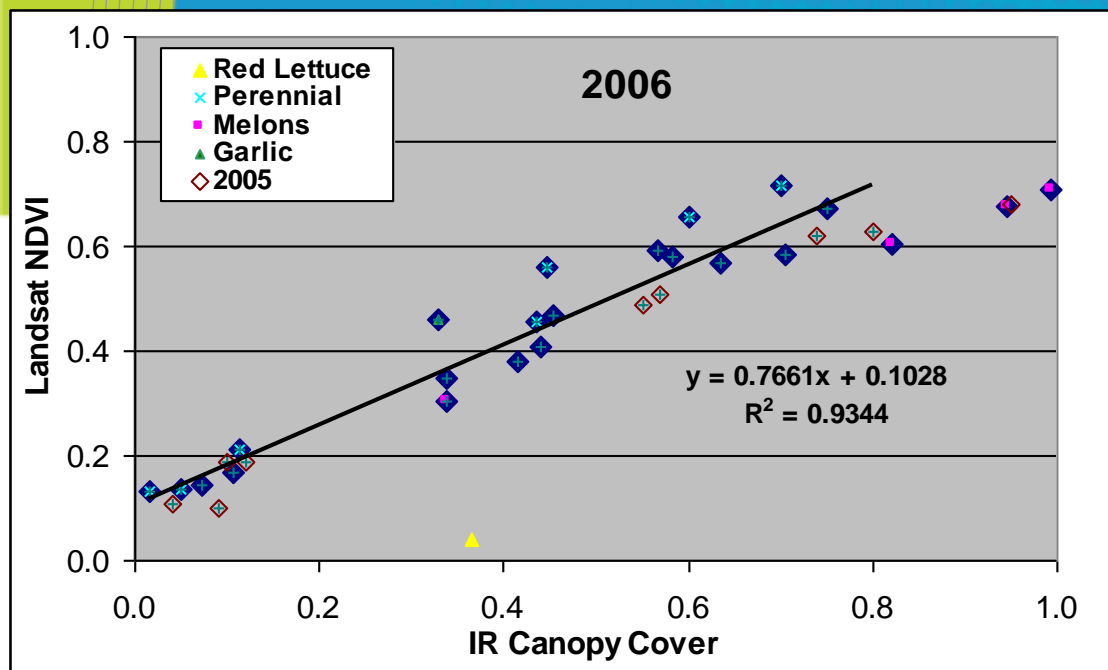


# NDVI

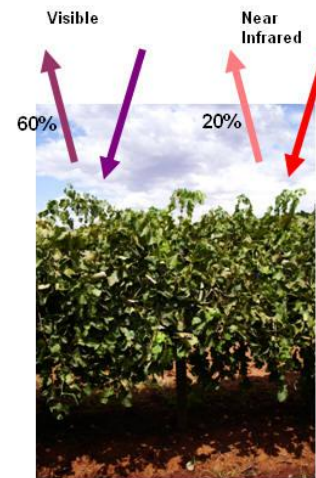
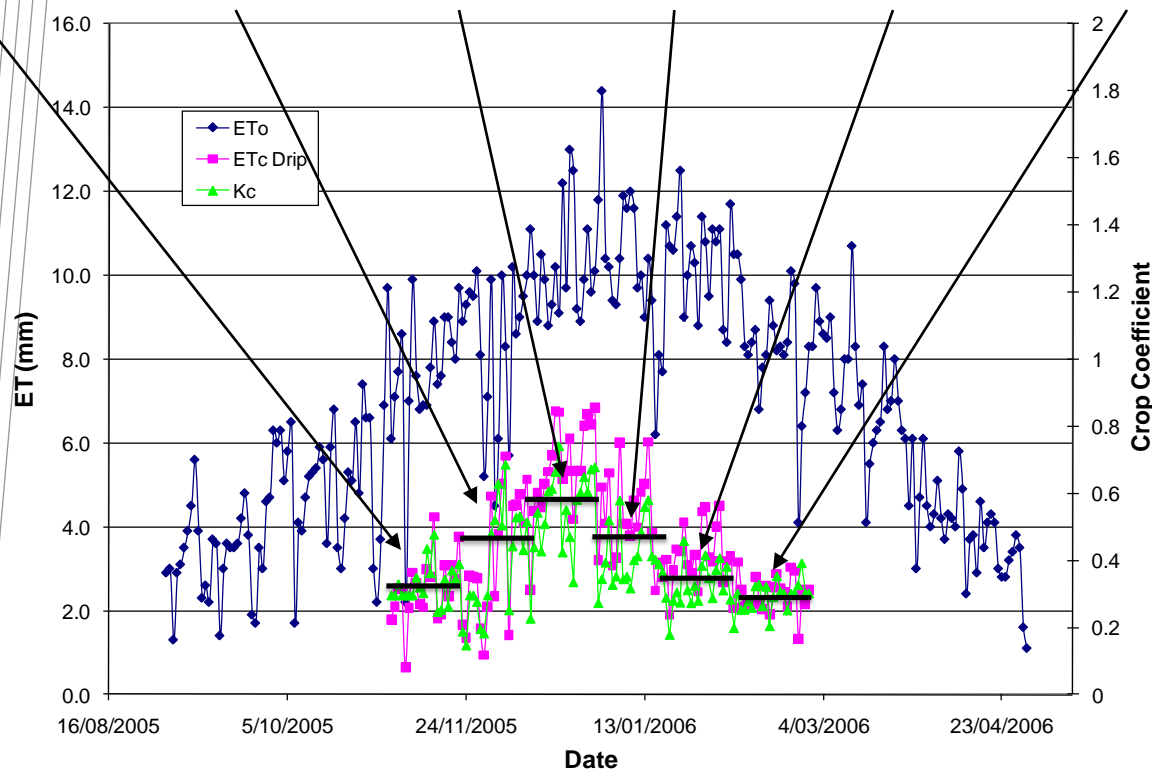
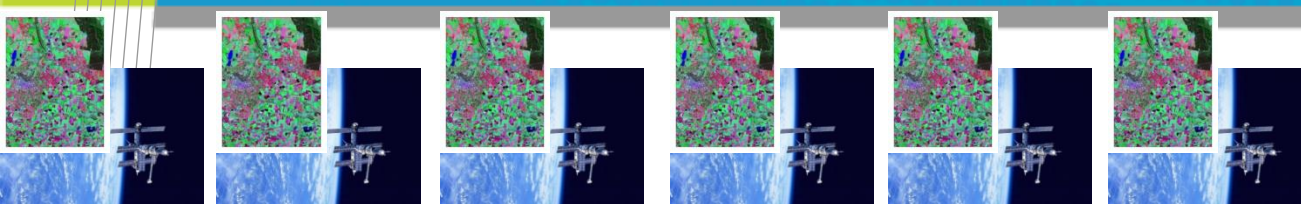
- $NDVI = (R_{NIR} - R_{red}) / (R_{NIR} + R_{red})$



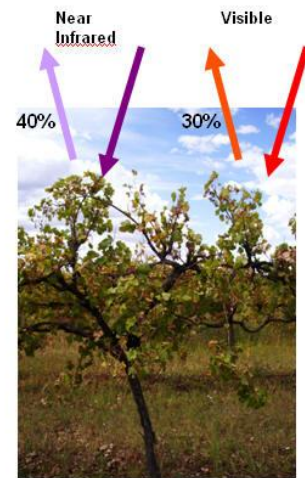
$$NDVI = (\text{Band 4} - \text{Band 3}) / (\text{Band 4} + \text{Band 3})$$



# Determining Kc from NDVI - grapevines



$$NDVI = \frac{R_{NIR} - R_{red}}{R_{NIR} + R_{red}} = \frac{0.6 - 0.2}{0.6 + 0.2} = 0.5$$



$$NDVI = \frac{R_{NIR} - R_{red}}{R_{NIR} + R_{red}} = \frac{0.4 - 0.3}{0.4 + 0.3} = 0.14$$

$$Kc = f(NDVI)$$

Kc

<http://www.irrigateway.net/kcmap/>




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### Kc Maps for irrigation districts (prototype)

Choose from the locations marked on the map below:

#### Australia



- Burdakin
- Coleambally
- Goulburn-Murray Water:
  - Central Goulburn
  - Murray Valley
  - Rochester-Campaspe
  - Shepparton
- Cwydir
- Hawkesbury-Nepean
- Murrumbidgee
- Namoi
- Ord
- SA Lower Murray



#### California



- San Joaquin, California:
  - Alta Irrigation
  - Consolidated Irrigation
  - Kaweah Delta
  - Tulare Lake Basin
  - Broadview
  - Firebaugh Canal
  - Panoche

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
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### Namoi (prototype)

Choose a map by date:

2010 01 27





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You are viewing the Kc map for 27/01/2010

#### Australia:

- Burdakin
- Coleambally
- Goulburn-Murray Water:
  - Central Goulburn
  - Murray Valley
  - Rochester-Campaspe
  - Shepparton
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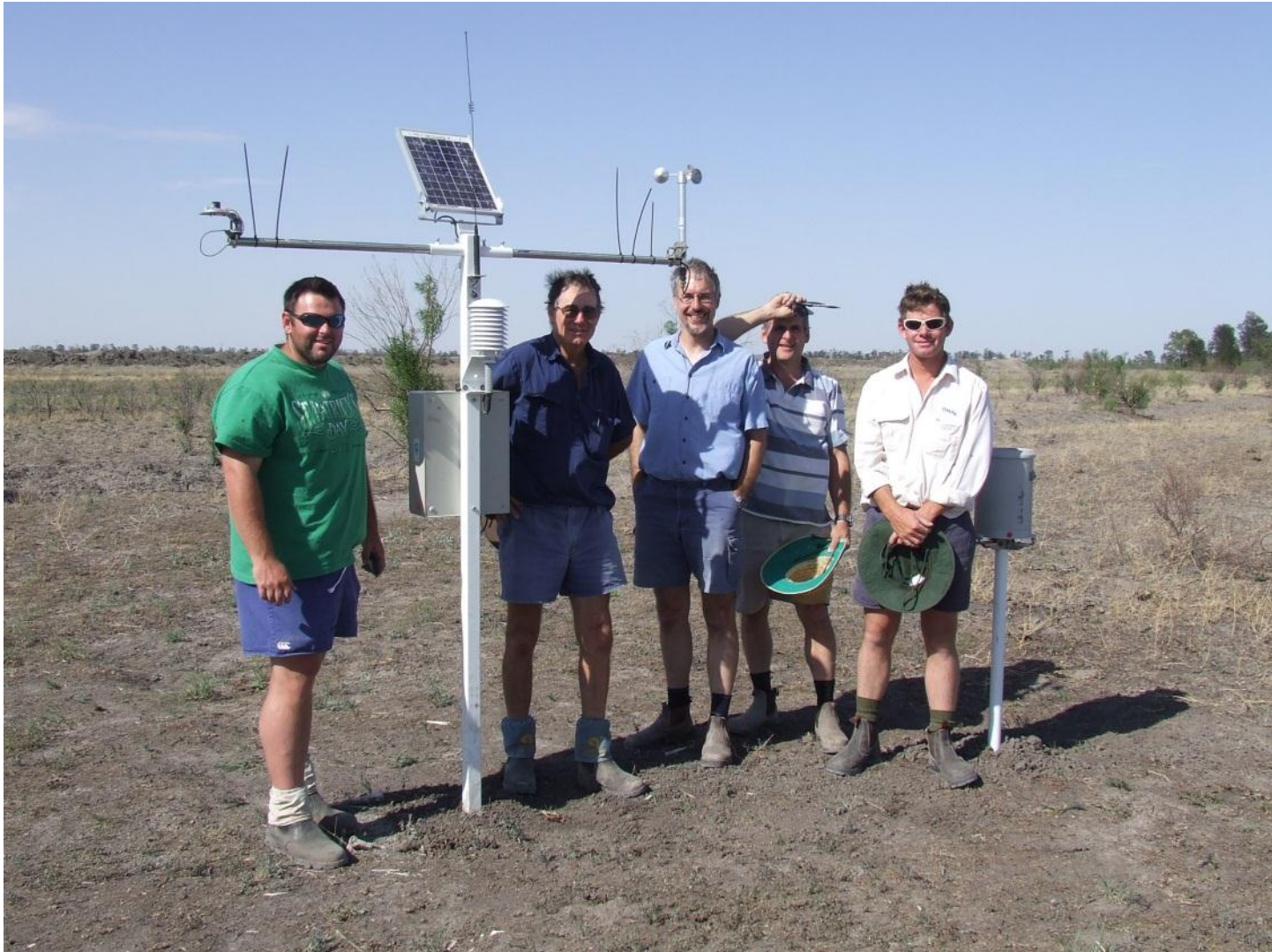


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# ET<sub>o</sub>

- Weather data used to calculate reference crop water use (ET<sub>o</sub>)





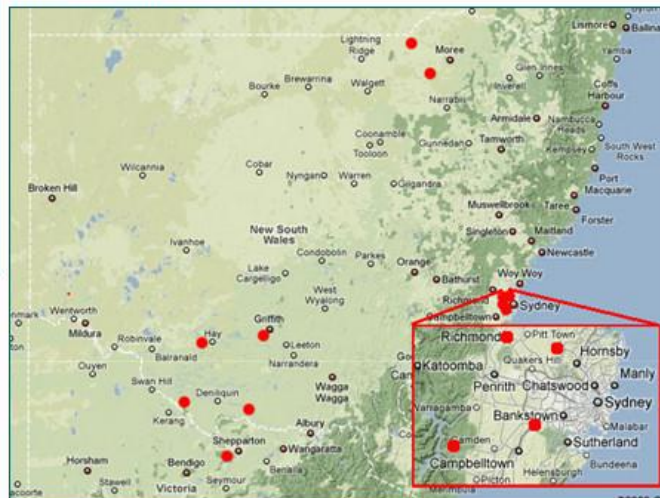
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## irriGATEWAY Weatherstations

### Weatherstations

- Riverina
  - [Griffith](#)
  - [Hay](#)
  - [Finley](#)
  - [Tullakool](#)
- Hawkesbury-Nepean
  - [Richmond](#)
  - [Dural](#)
  - [Leppington](#)
  - [Oakdale](#)
- Gwydir
  - [Keytah](#)
  - [Weemalah](#)
- Murray
  - [Tatura](#)

Choose a weatherstation to view in full



Latest Hour's Average readings from all weatherstations  
Time format: AEST

Station Name	Latest reading	Air Temp (°C)	Rel. Humidity (%)	Wind Speed (km/hr)	Rain (mm)	Solar Rad (MJ/m <sup>2</sup> )
<a href="#">Dural</a>	22:00	9.83	92.8	2.05	0	0
<a href="#">Finley</a>	22:00	14.72	58.3	13.51	0	0
<a href="#">Griffith</a>	22:00	14.11	57.28	8.37	0	0
<a href="#">Hay</a>	22:00	16.52	48.16	13.99	0	0
<a href="#">Keytah</a>	22:00	16.03	48.2	8.73	0	0
<a href="#">Leppington</a>	22:00	7.54	92.8	1.78	0	0
<a href="#">Oakdale</a>	22:00	8.56	95.7	1.6	0	0
<a href="#">Richmond</a>	22:00	8.24	95.2	1.6	0	0
<a href="#">Tatura</a>	22:00	15.27	63.21	16.51	0	0
<a href="#">Tullakool</a>	22:00	16.63	51.38	13.79	0	0
<a href="#">Weemalah</a>	22:00	15.93	55.27	7.23	0	0

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## irriGATEWAY Weatherstations

### Weatherstations

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- Murray
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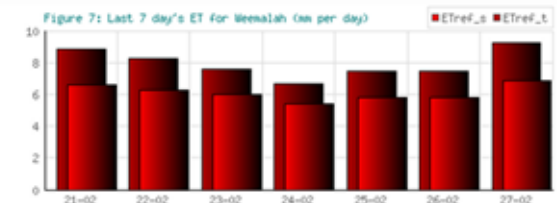
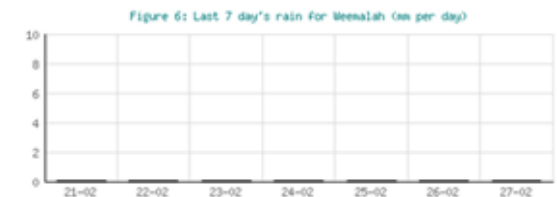
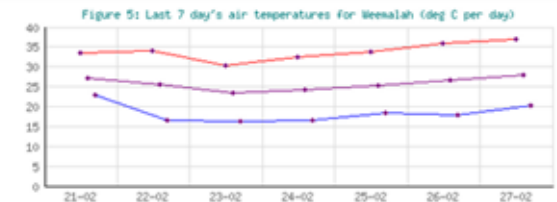
### Weemalah

[Summary](#) | [Today](#) | [Yesterday](#) | [7 Days](#) | [14 Days](#) | [7 Day forecast](#) | [Data Download](#)

#### 7 Day's data for Weemalah

Date	Air T Avg °C	Air T Max °C	Air T Min °C	RH Avg %	RH Max %	RH Min %	Wind Avg km/hr	Wind Max km/hr	Sol Rad MJ/m <sup>2</sup>	Dew Point °C	Rain mm	ET <sub>ref</sub> mm	ET <sub>ref,s</sub> mm
21/2	27.2	33.5	23	52.3	85.4	18.6	11.8	26.2	24.11	16.6	0	6.6	8.9
22/2	25.5	34	16.5	45.5	77.7	28.6	8.8	21.1	25.37	12.9	0	6.3	8.3
23/2	23.5	30.3	16.2	48.7	77.7	25.3	7.8	21.7	27.94	12.1	0	6	7.6
24/2	24.3	32.5	16.6	49.7	82.5	21.1	5.7	15.3	25.84	13.1	0	5.4	6.7
25/2	25.3	33.7	18.5	50.2	78.6	21.1	8.5	24.4	23.4	14.2	0	5.8	7.5
26/2	26.6	36	18	47.3	78.2	19	7.4	19.1	22.98	14.5	0	5.8	7.5
27/2	28	37.1	20.2	44.5	67	19.1	10.2	20.8	24.64	14.8	0	6.9	9.3

Download this table as a CSV file: [download](#)



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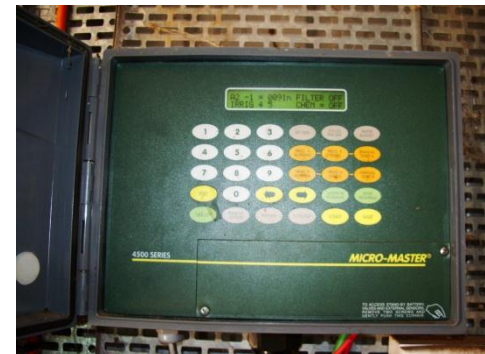
# How does the IrriSAT schedule ?

Actual  
water use  
of crop

$$ET_c = ET_o \times K_c$$

.. But still in a format that's not much use  
for irrigators! (mm/day)

..Need to convert to a pump run time



# IrriSATSMS

# IrriSATSMS Making the scheduling information useful



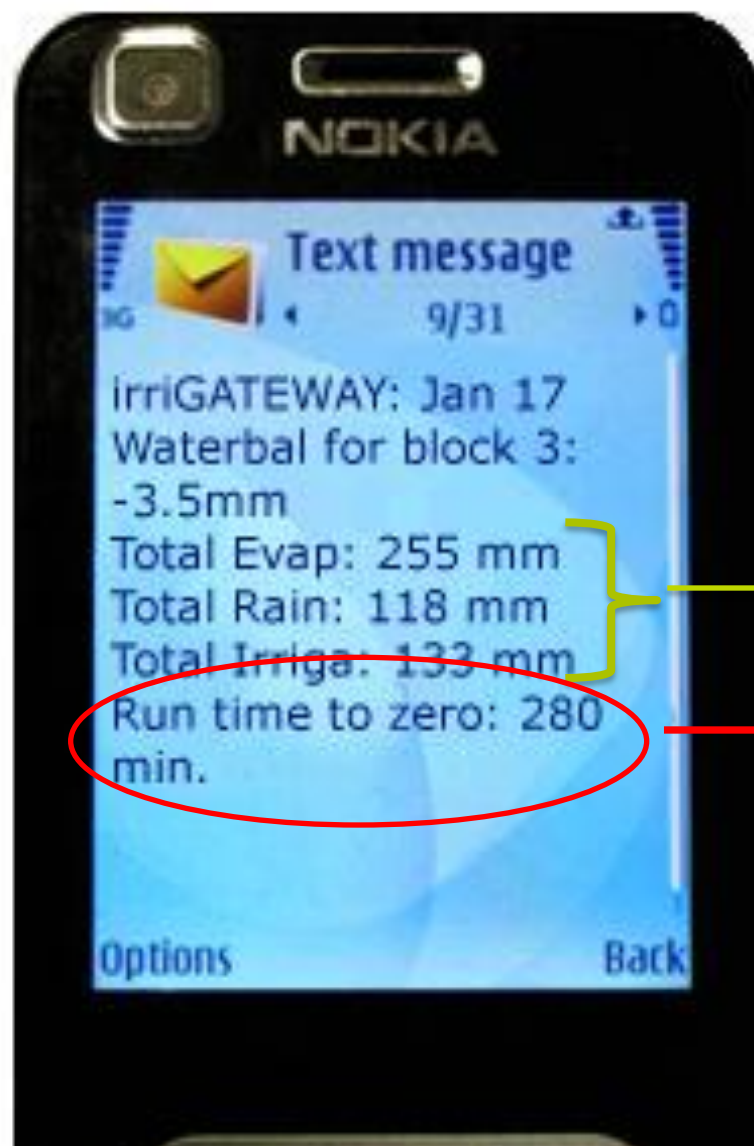
Irrigation



Rainfall



# Daily SMS delivery of irrigation scheduling information

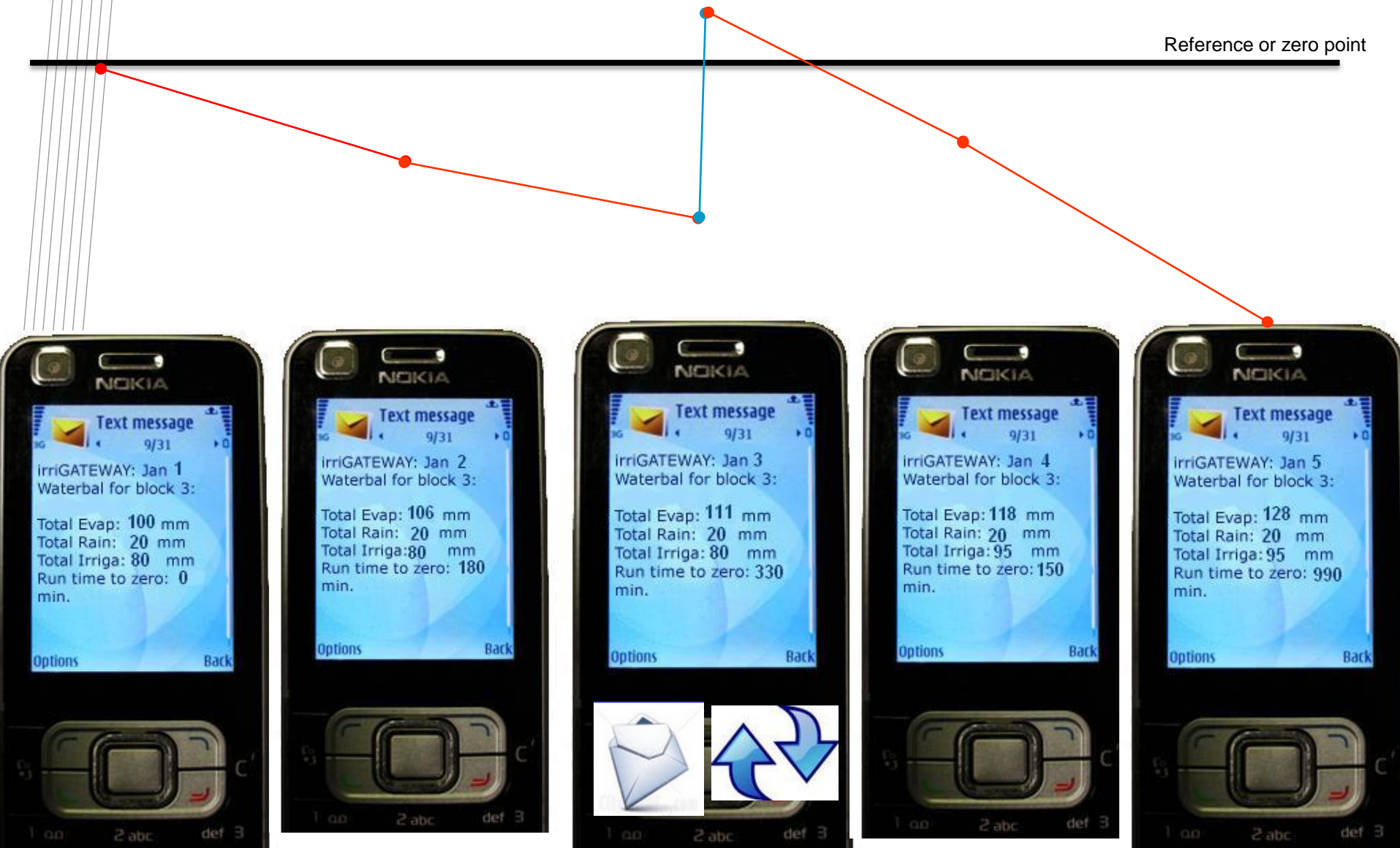


Seasonal water balance information

Pump/dripper run time to replace ET since last irrigation or rainfall

# Example of daily SMS sequence

Reference or zero point



# IrrisAT

# Spatial Irrigation scheduling / water management information

irriGATEWAY

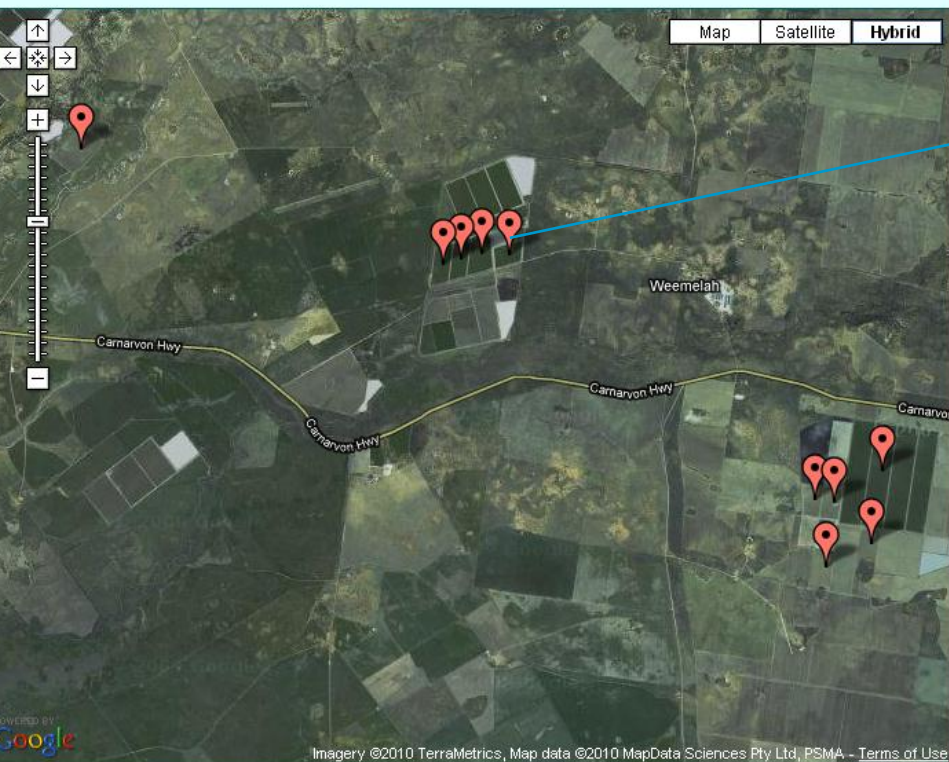
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SMS Links → [Map view](#) | [Waterbal Graph](#) | [Enter new Irrig & Rain](#) | [View past Irrig & Rain](#) | [Log Out](#)  
Coming soon: satellite images | editing past irrigations | Elders & BoM weather | benchmarking

Click on the block markers to view waterbalances.



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irriGATEWAY

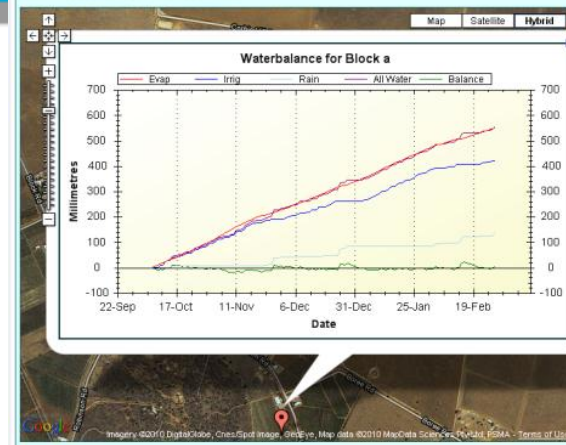
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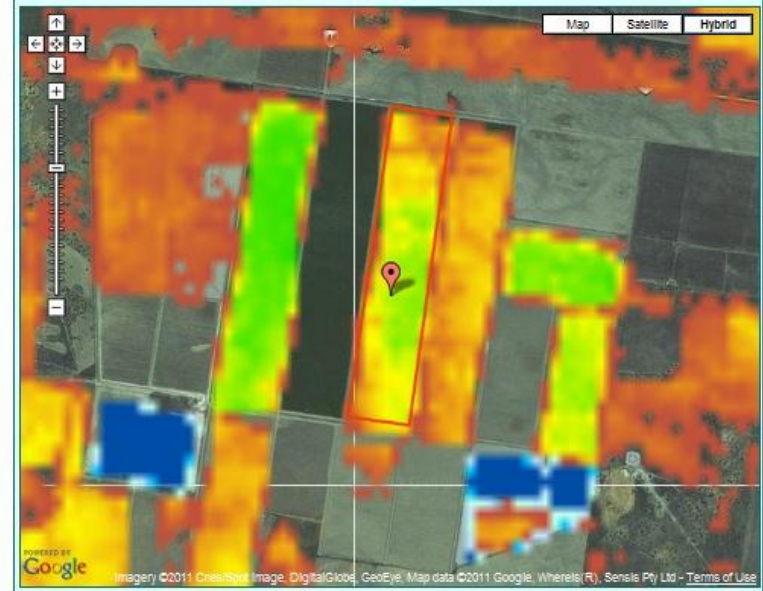
SMS Links → [Map view](#) | [Waterbal Graph](#) | [Enter new Irrig & Rain](#) | [View past Irrig & Rain](#) | [Log Out](#)  
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Click on the block markers to view waterbalances.



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Kc map for Block Bunarba\_5



# Cotton - Crop Variability

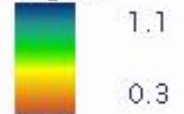
## Gwydir (prototype)

Choose a map by date:

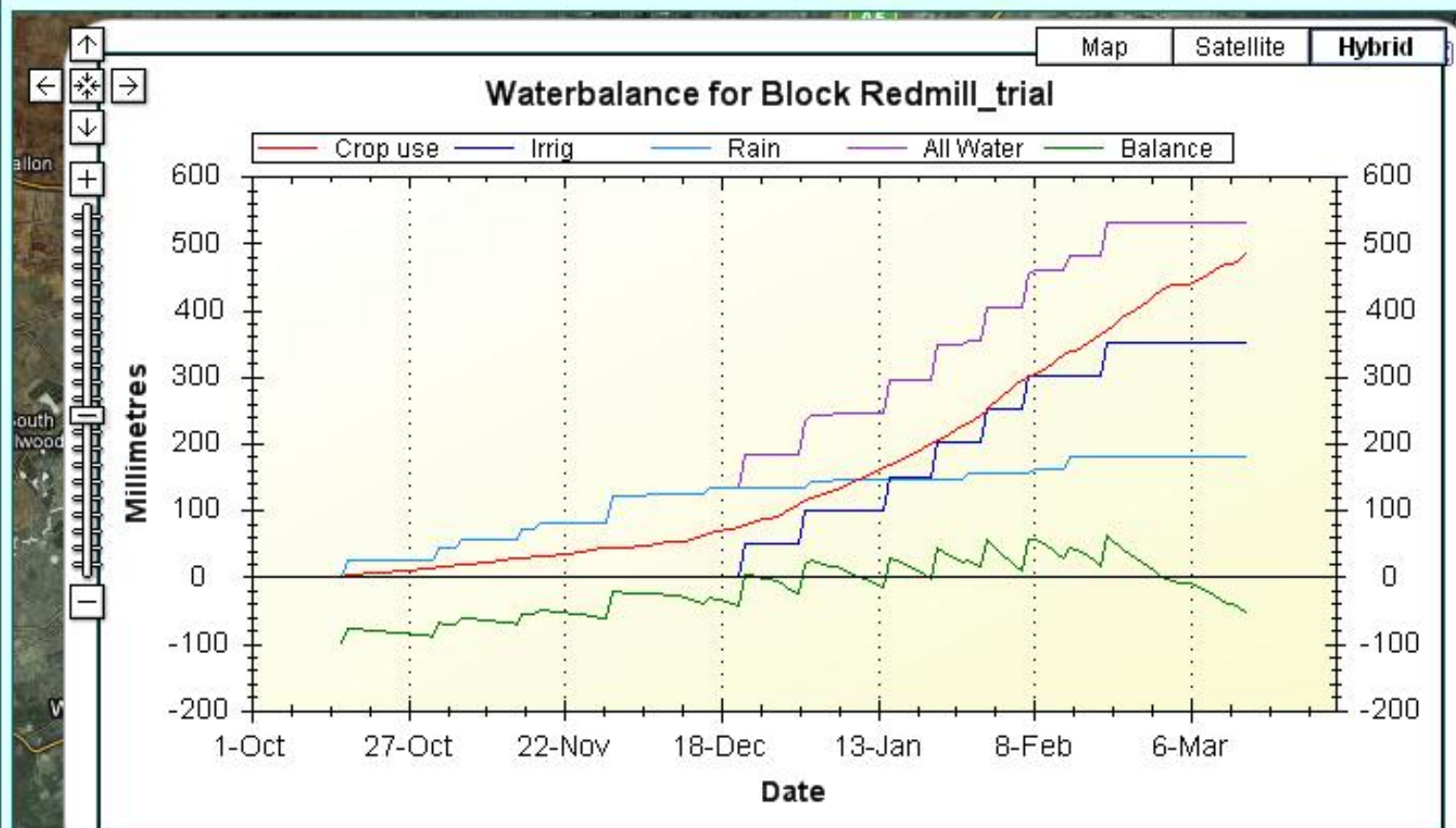
2011 01 30 ▾

Load

Legend:



# Cotton – Furrow



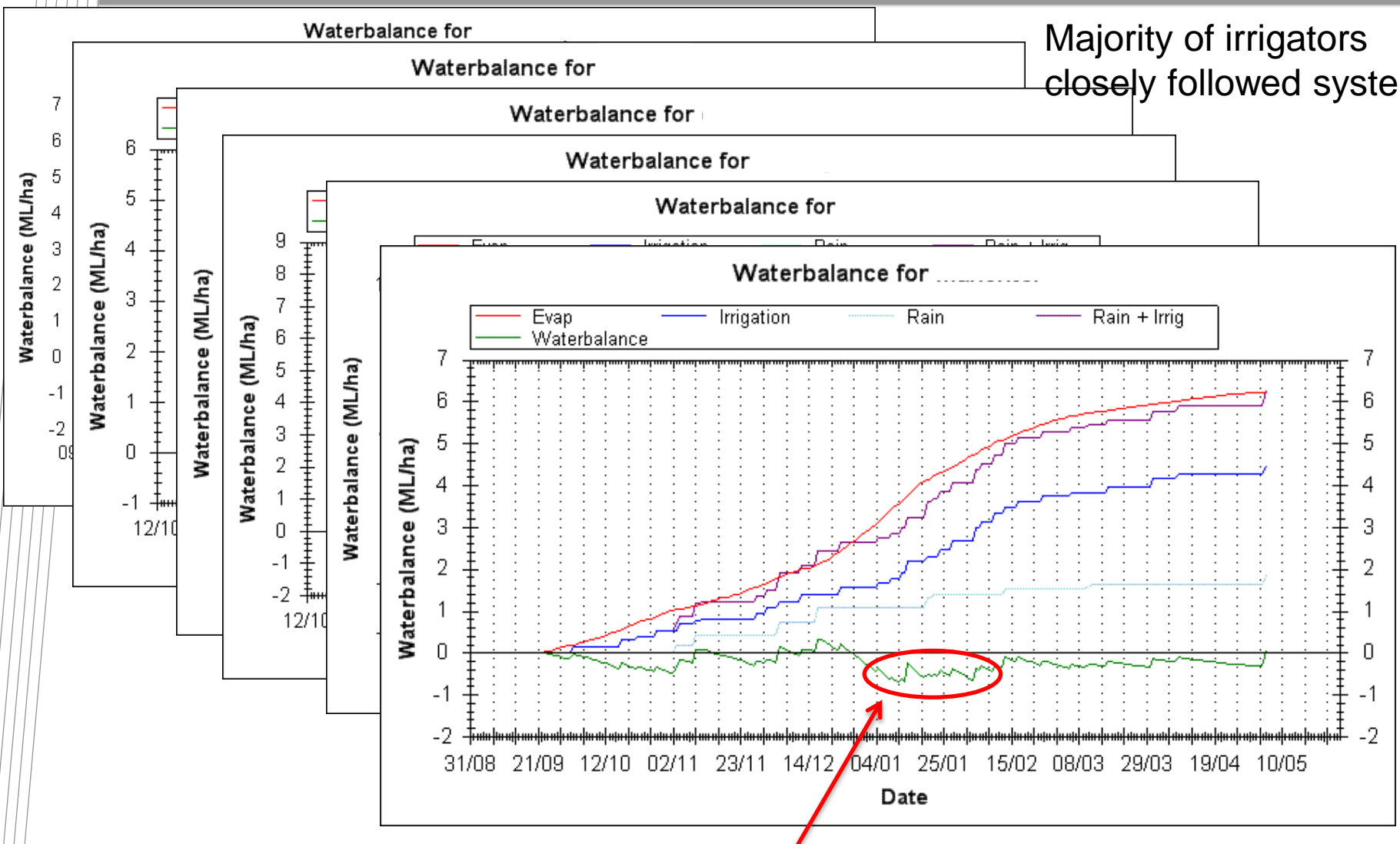
# Waterbalances - MIA 2008/09 season

Percentage of Irrigators within water balance group

Group	Percentage (%)
Within $\pm 0.2$ ML/ha	50%
With $\pm 0.5$ ML/ha	25%
More 0.5 ML/ha	5%
Less 0.5 ML/ha	10%
Stopped	10%

# Waterbalance traces – MIA 2008/09 season

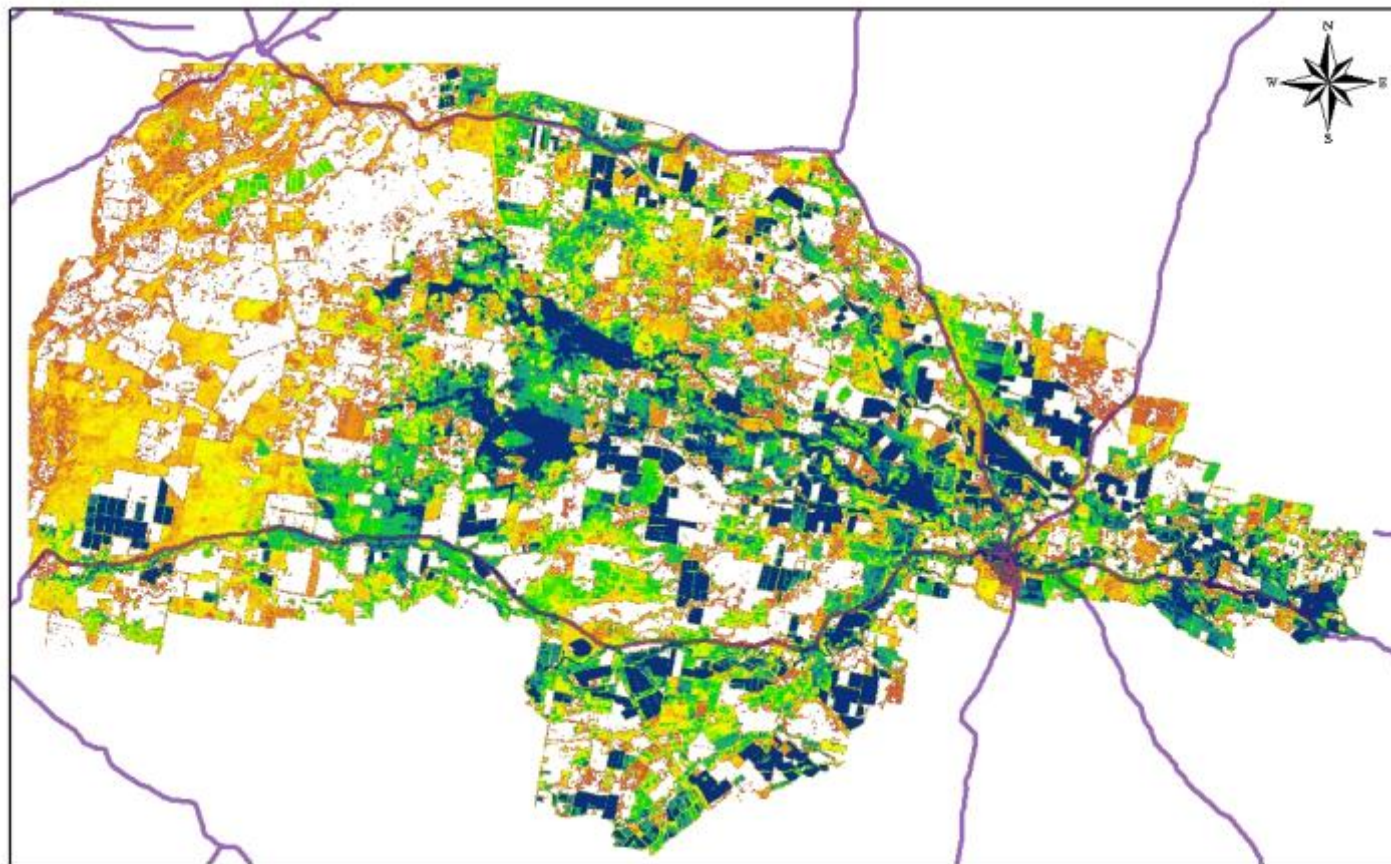
Majority of irrigators  
closely followed system



Two week period of high ETc

# IrriSAT - Benchmarking

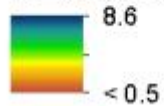
# Regional Crop Water Use



## Legend

Total seasonal crop water consumption

ML/ha/season

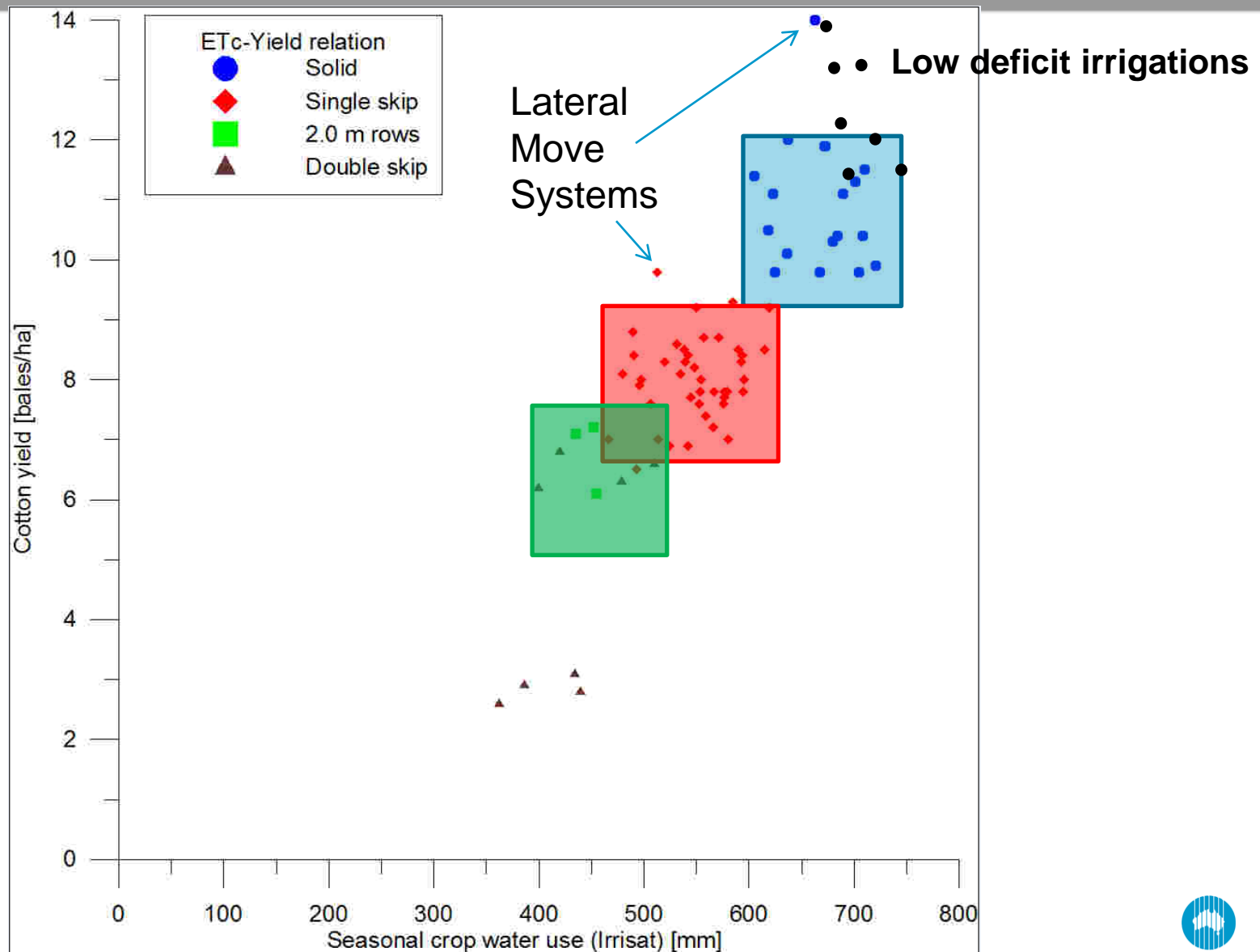


0 5 10 20 30 40 Kilometers

Season based on period from  
15-Oct-2010 until 15-April-2011

Data projection UTM38-WSG84

# Yield/production/water use relationships



# IrriSATSMS/IrriSATWEB Nodes

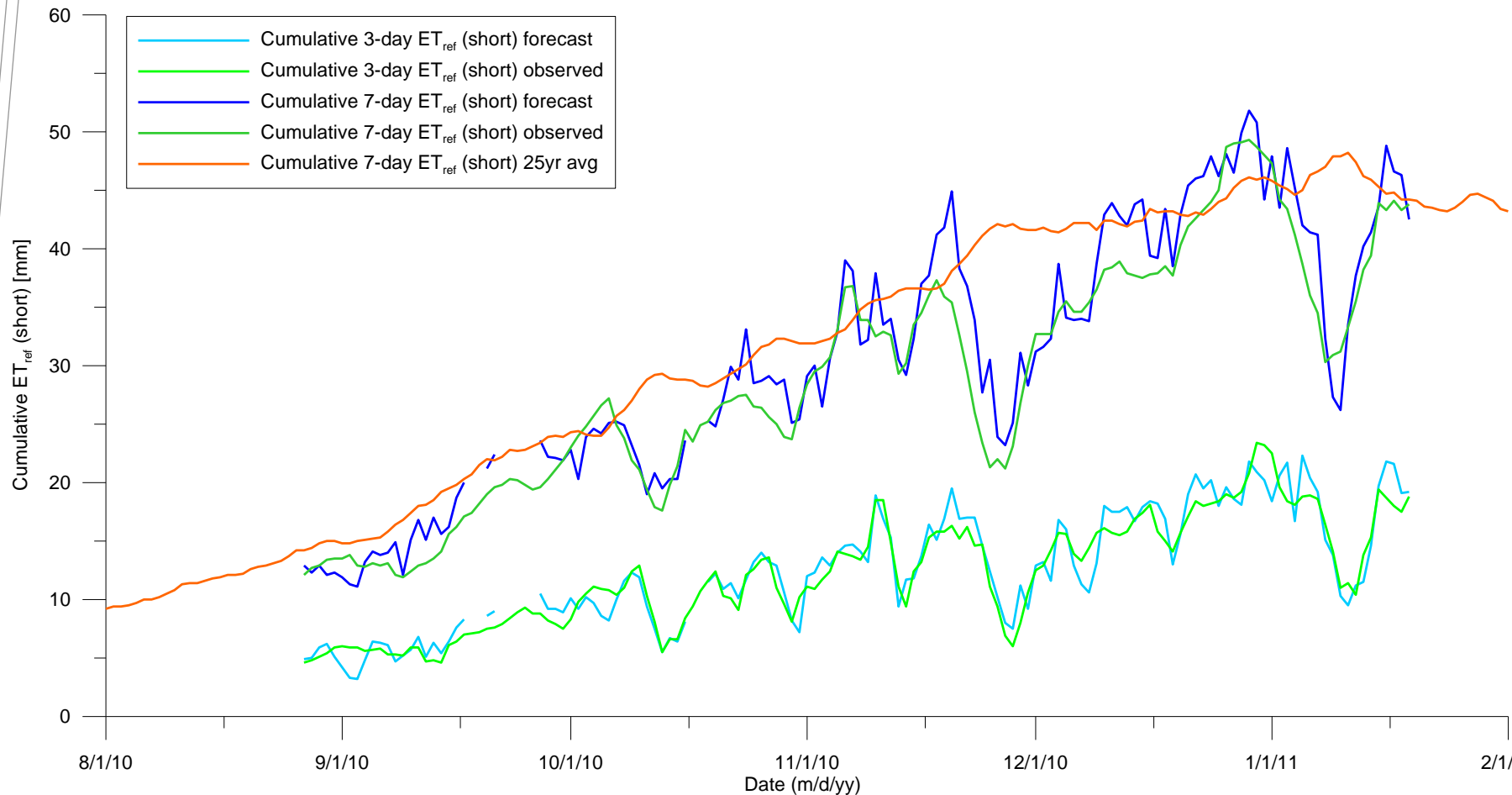
- Current Areas (2011-2012 irrigation season)
  - Murrumbidgee (Grapes and Citrus)
  - Hawkesbury-Nepean (Turf, Pasture, Citrus, Stone fruit)
  - Gwydir/Namoi/ Walgett (Cotton)
  - Goulburn Valley (Grapes)
  - Mildura (Grapes and Citrus)
- International Nodes being established
  - Cambodia
  - Iraq

# Future directions R&D

# Future directions

- Establishing IrriSAT nodes in developing countries – Iraq and Cambodia
- Incorporating thermal band for stress determination in wine grape production
- Finding alternatives for Landsat
- Whole of irrigation area water ordering/demand management from large storage dams
  - Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area – 200 000 irrigated hectares – 1300 GL allocation
  - 7 days travel time from dam release to off-take in Irrigation Area
  - 24 hr water availability for customers
  - Over/under order losses are financially costly for the Irrigation company

# Cumulative 3 & 7 day $ET_{ref}$ forecast



# Irrigation Demand Management



Farm No.	Kc	CSIRO Forecast Eto (Next 7 days)	Forecast Water Demand (Next 7 days)
1045	0.5	65	28 ML
1085	0.9	65	39 ML
144	0.95	65	27 ML
784	0.21	65	82 ML
108	0.22	65	74 ML
1478	0.35	65	56 ML
221	0.7	65	10 ML
2658	0.18	65	11 ML
Total Demand Forecast For this off-take			327 ML

# Conclusions

- IrriSAT provides useful real time information on crop water use across large areas at low cost – validated with actual irrigators across the major production areas in Australia
- IrriSAT when combined with yield data provides detailed information on benchmarking the performance of irrigation/row configurations and effects on irrigation decisions on yield
- The system is scalable and provides useful information for individual farmers. It also scales from the farm to the irrigation system level for water ordering.

## Further Information

- Download IrriSATSMS technical report
  - [http://www.irrigationfutures.org.au/images/DB/news/irrisatsms\\_v\\_60\\_finalwAppendix.pdf](http://www.irrigationfutures.org.au/images/DB/news/irrisatsms_v_60_finalwAppendix.pdf)
- Visit the IrriGATEWAY website  
[www.irrigateway.net](http://www.irrigateway.net)