

Daniel Kindred

Agronomics





Whats happening in UK?

- Commercial VRA N services in UK
 - Yara N sensor
 - SOYL satellites
 - Rhiza Planet satellites
 - Hummingbird UAVs
 - Omnia Plant vision sensor
 - AgLeader Optrx sensor





ADAS work & interests

Auto-N

Auto-N Project 2010-2015 AHDB Project Report 561





Ag Leader *































- Commercial work
 - Helping clients develop & test services

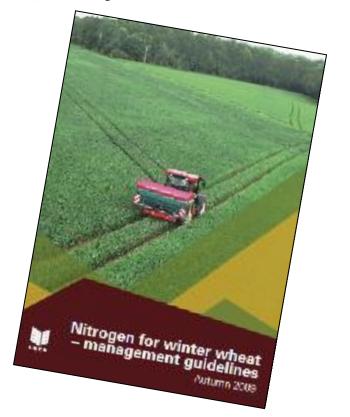


ADAS Approach to VRA N

- Using crop to inform SNS estimate
- Previous yield maps /satellite imagery to inform yield potential/N Demand

Canopy Management approach to adjust spatially & temporally

Each unit of GAI = 30kg N for cereals50kg for OSR

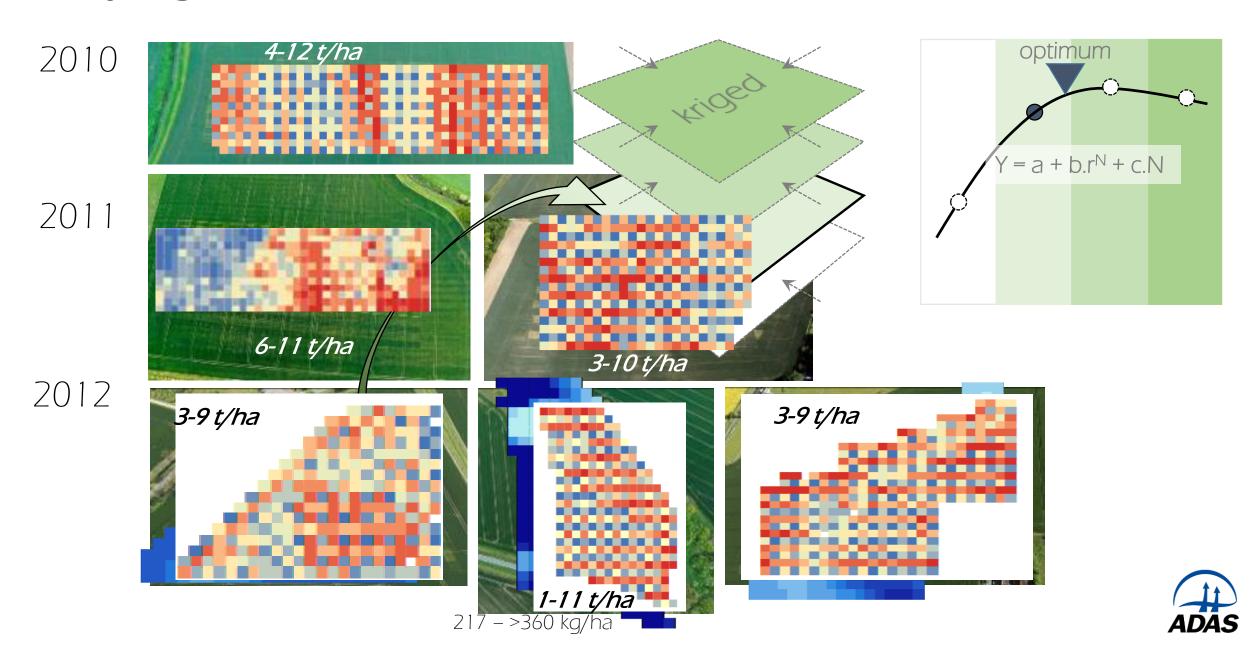


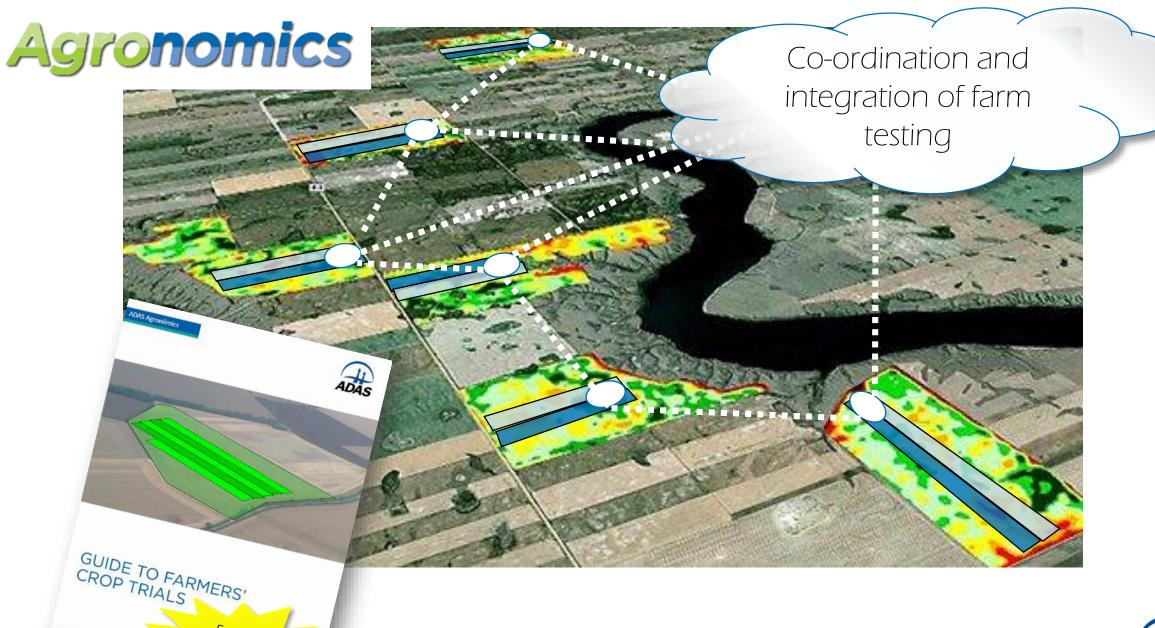






Analysing Chessboard trials



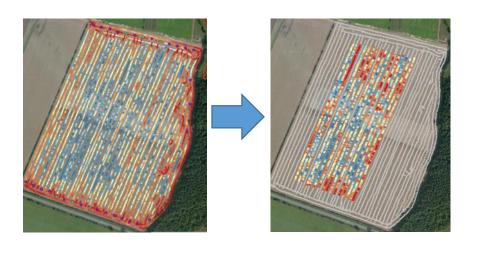


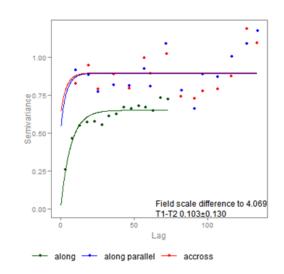


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Statistical analysis of yield data using ADAS Agronomics approach

Cleaned dataset analysed using spatial discontinuity analysis





Takes into account underlying spatial variation in field

Marchant, Rudolph, Roques, Kindred, Gillingham, Welham, Coleman & Sylvester-Bradley., 2018. Establishing the precision and robustness of farmers crop experiments. *Field Crops Research*. **230**, 31-45









Metrics

Measures
Data &
Targets

Comparison & Benchmarking

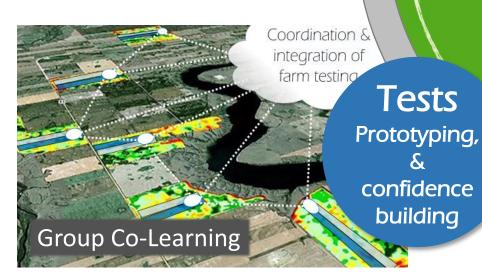
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AHDB Benchmark Your entry

any farm-centric innovation network

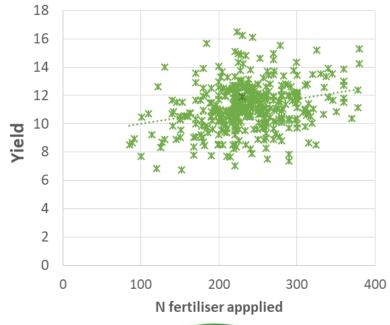
Designs
Ideas .. &

Questions

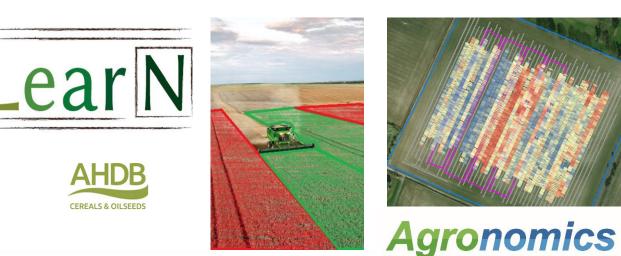


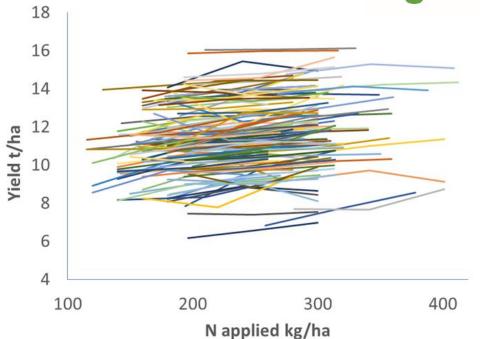


Variation in yield mostly not due to variability in N applied











ADAS Plans

- Writing paper on Precision Farming and VRA N for Defra
 - Happy to involve co-authors
 - Kate.storer@adas.co.uk
- H2020 Thematic Network on Balanced Nutrition
 - farm-centric involving farm data and farm trials
 - January submission(!)
 - Sarah.Kendall@adas.co.uk
- Intereg North Sea proposal on VR N?
 - Kate.storer@adas.co.uk
- COFE
- ICPA OFE Community
- EU Plans for H2020 Precision Farming projects recent JRC report





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<u>Daniel.Kindred@adas.co.uk</u> @drkindred



Multiple Sensors to obtain spatial information

































Auto-N Approach

Start with the best *Principles* for N management

Use available technologies to provide relevant information

Develop the logic for interpretation















HGCA









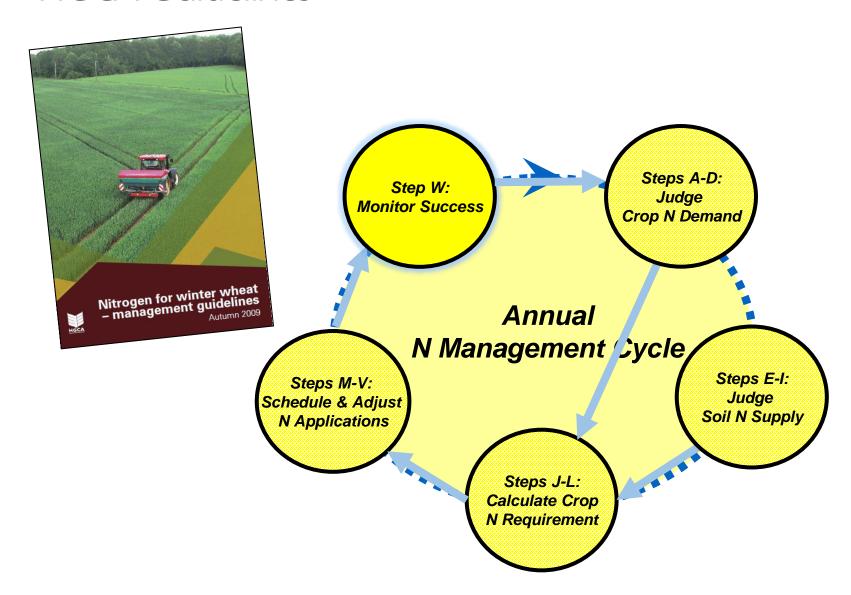




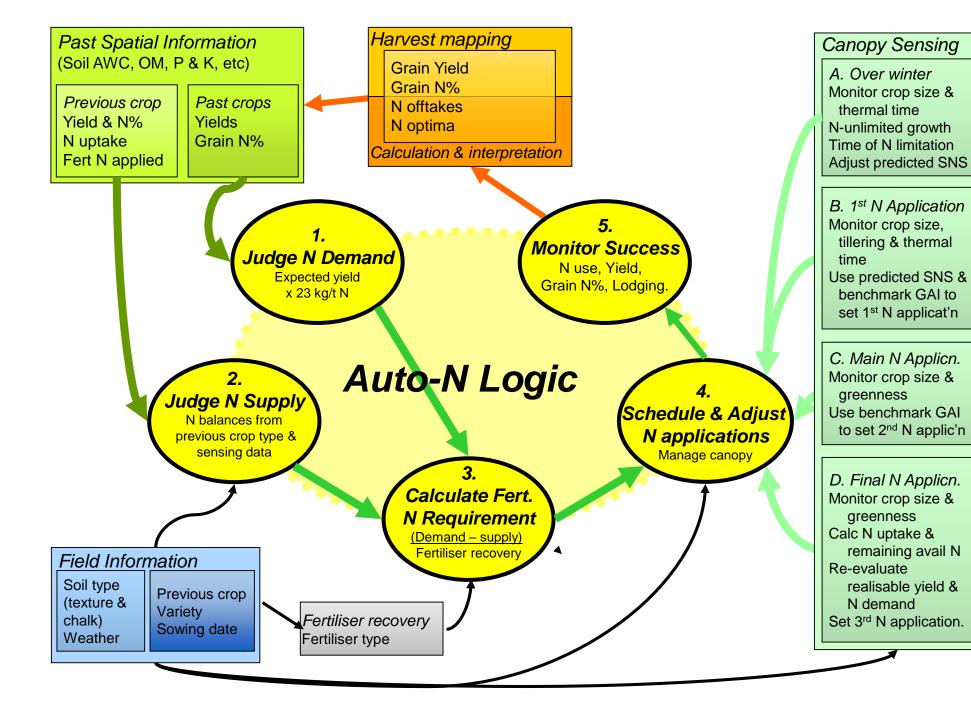




HGCA Guidelines

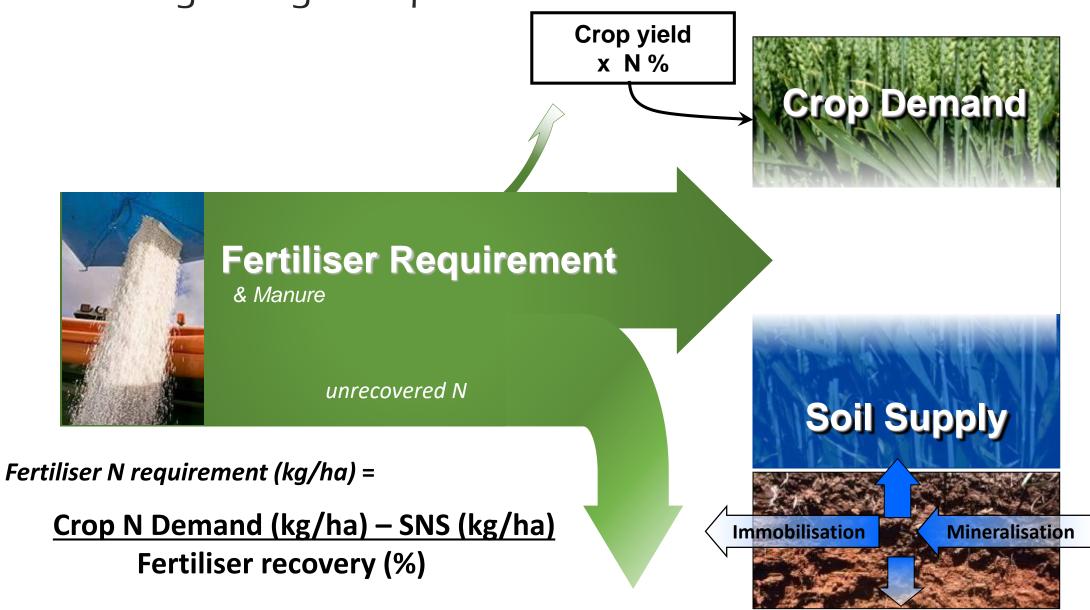






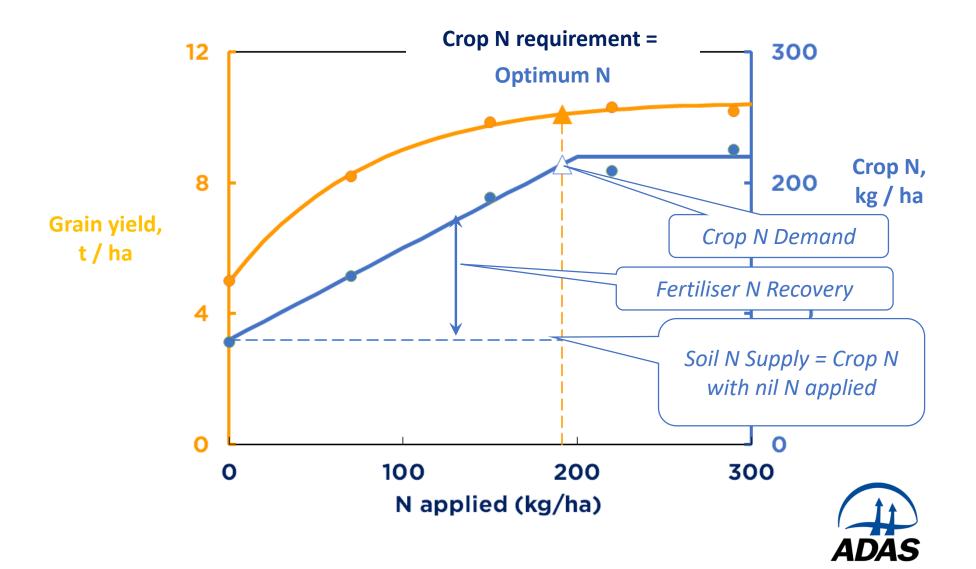


Calculating Nitrogen requirements



Losses

Measuring N Requirement – economic N optima

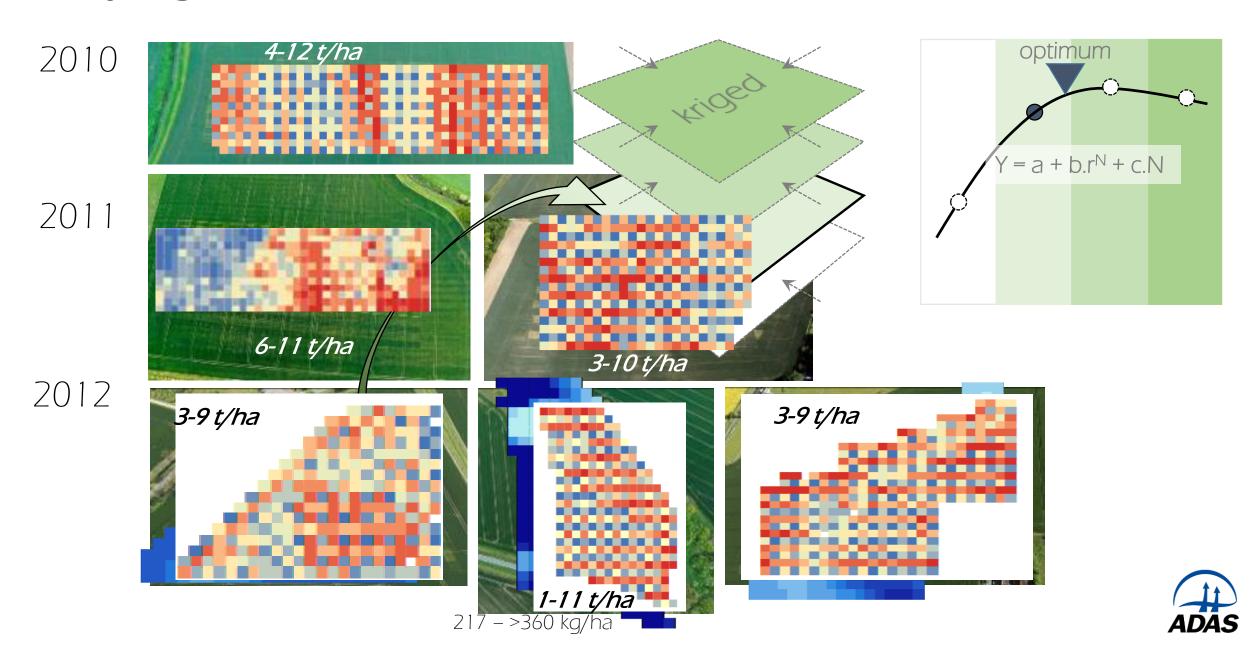


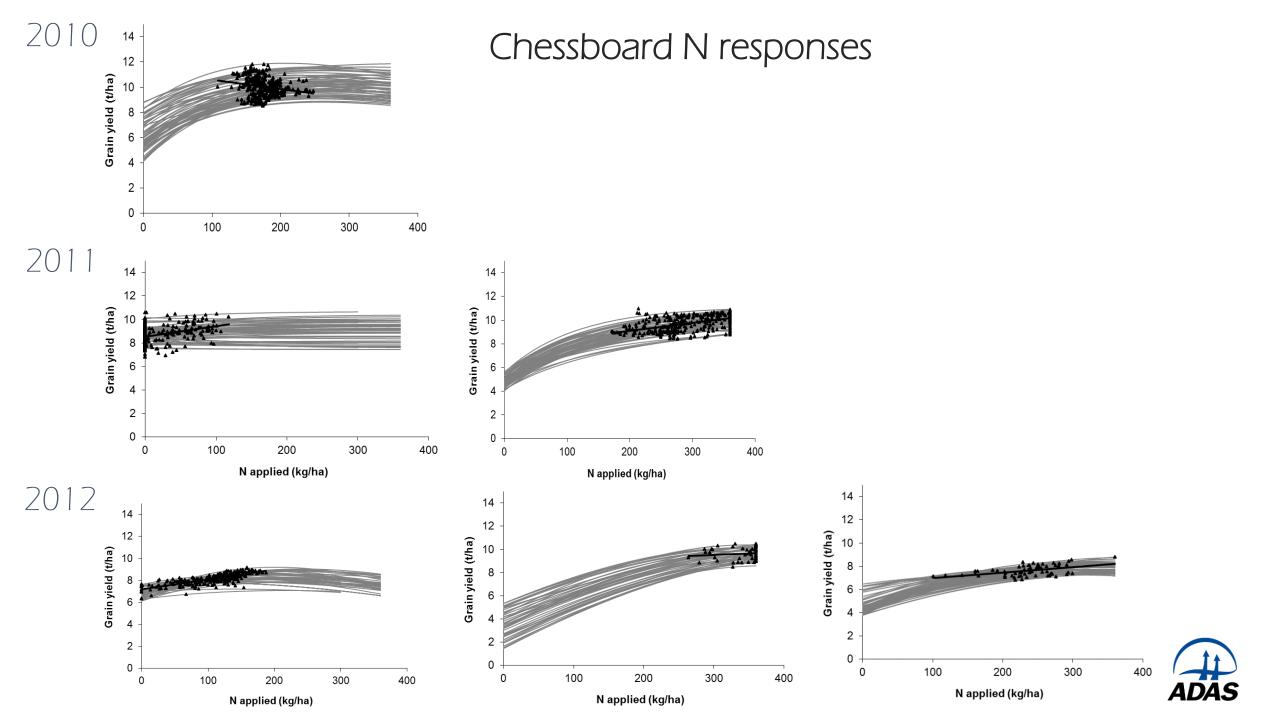




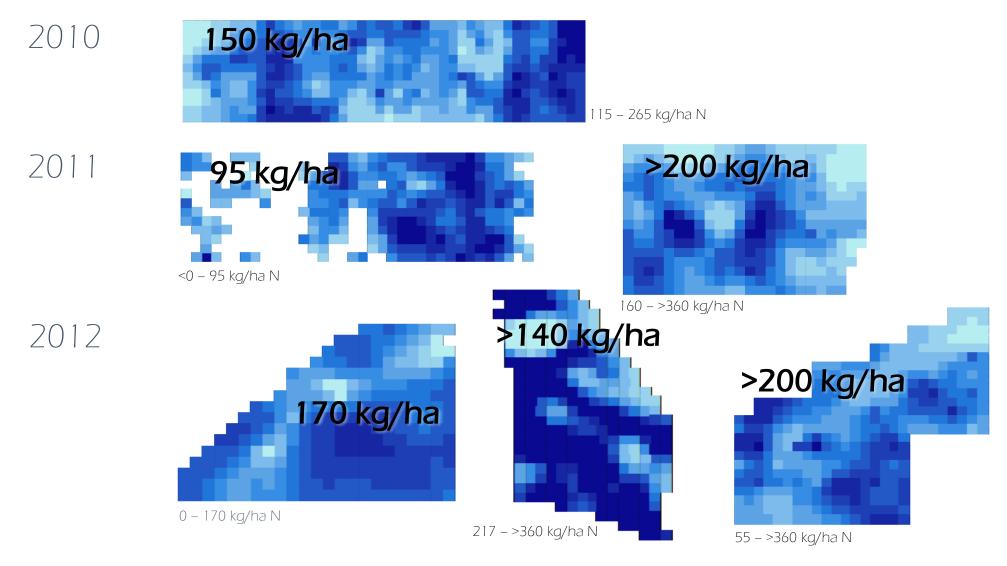


Analysing Chessboard trials



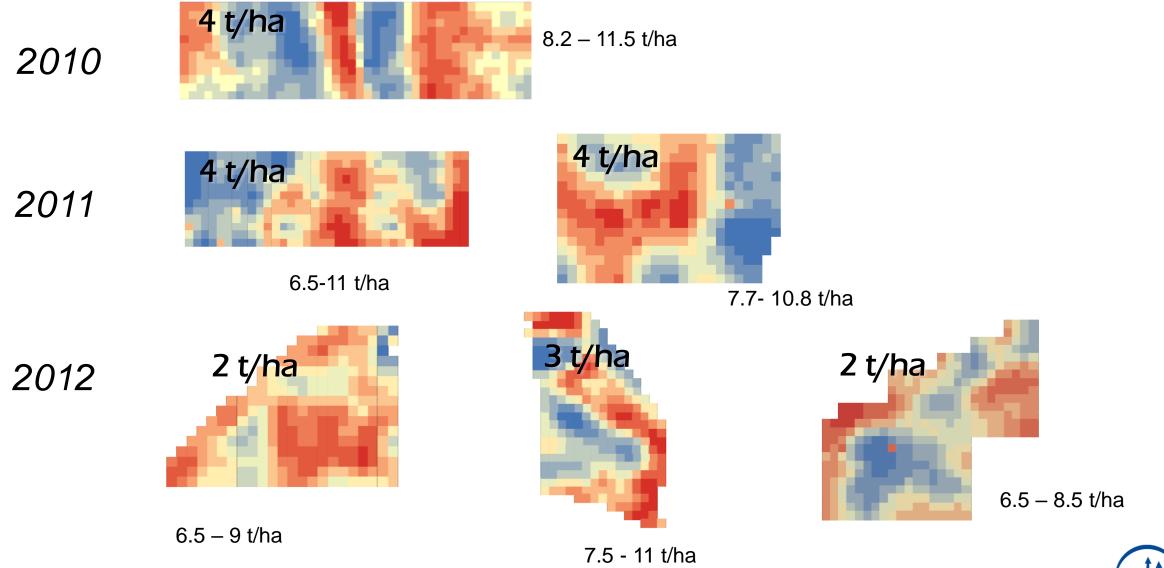


In-field ranges of N requirements i.e. N optima



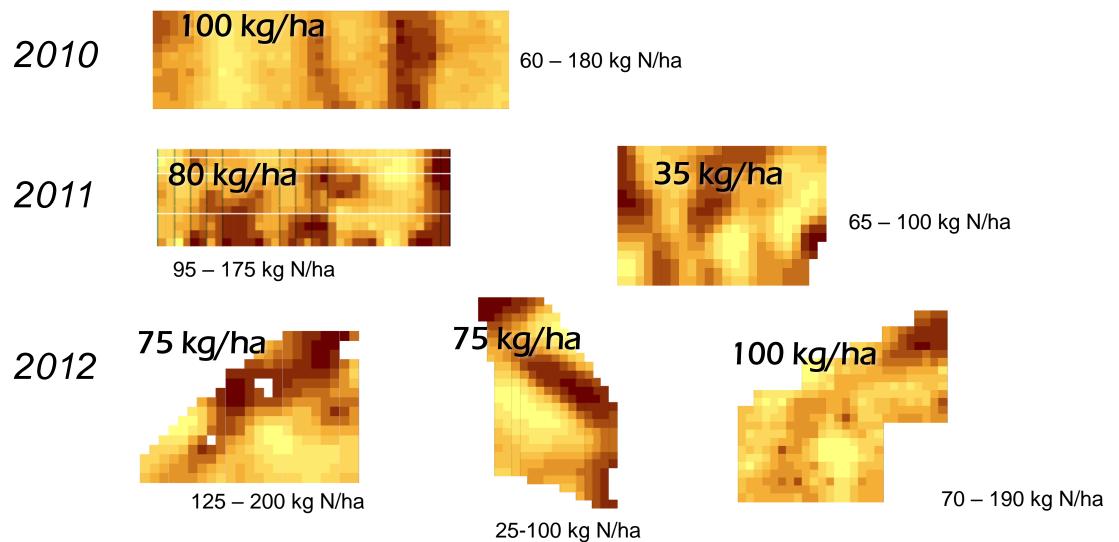


Variation in yield at optima



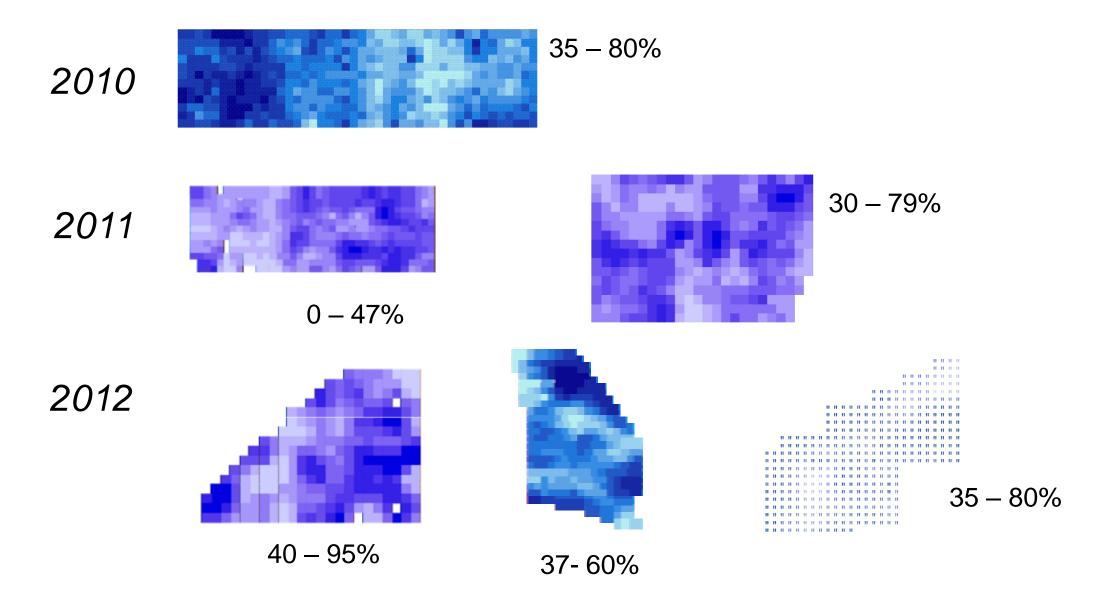
Variation in SNS

(Total N uptake at zero-N)





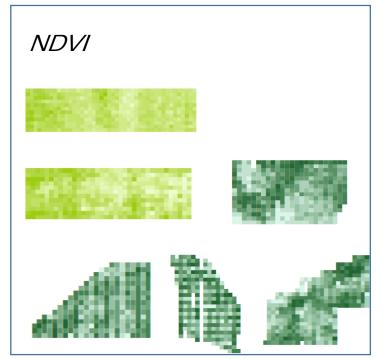
Variation in Fertiliser recovery

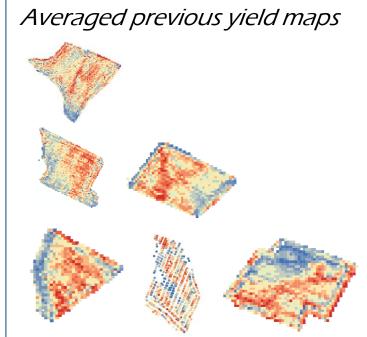




Conclusions from chessboards

- Large spatial variation in yield, N requirement, SNS & fertiliser recovery
 - SNS generally most important driver of N requirement,
 - ... but positively related to yield potential (crop demand) and interacts with recovery
 - Makes predicting N optima challenging
- Supports general principles of variable rate system
 - ... Sensing in early spring relates to SNS.
 - ... Yield mapping and later sensing can inform crop N demand.









Benefits of variable rate N

| Site | N optima kg/ha | Average N optima | Profit foregone vs flat 200 kg N/ha | Profit foregone vs accurate flat rate | • | Yield gained vs accurate flat rate (t/ha) |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|--|---------------------------------------|------|---|
| Flawboro 2010 | 115-265 | 185 | £7 | £4 | -0.1 | 0.03 |
| Flawboro 2011 | 0-95 | 10 | £191 | <£1 | 0 | 0.13 |
| Burford 2011 | 162->360 | 264 | £6 | £5 | 0.23 | 0.04 |
| Burford 2012 | 53->360 | 219 | £23 | £8 | 0.34 | 0.04 |
| Bedfordia 2012 | 0-171 | 93 | £51 | £13 | 0.06 | 0.1 |
| Shipton 2012 | 207->360 | 322 | £195 | £23 | 1.56 | 0.12 |
| | | | | | | |



Learnings

- Yield impact of optimal N application surprisingly small
 - -So economic benefits of variable rate modest
 - ... assuming average N application for field is accurate
 - -Most important is to get accurate average N rate for farm and field
- N limitation is not the major driver of spatial variation in yield
 ... What is???
- Greatest power of Precision Farming is to enable farmers to test decisions
 - Spatial experimentation at field scale is a powerful research tool

Agronomics

Farmer-centric research to develop farm-tailored decision-making http://www.adas.uk/services/agronomics



On-Farm Testing of N management, AHDB project 2013 - 2018

https://cereals.ahdb.org.uk/publications/2018/august/08/using-farm-experience-to-improve-n-management-for-wheat-(learn).aspx



Agronomics: Farmer-centric research to develop farm-tailored decision making

- Farmer networks
- Precision farming
- Remote sensing
- Data sharing





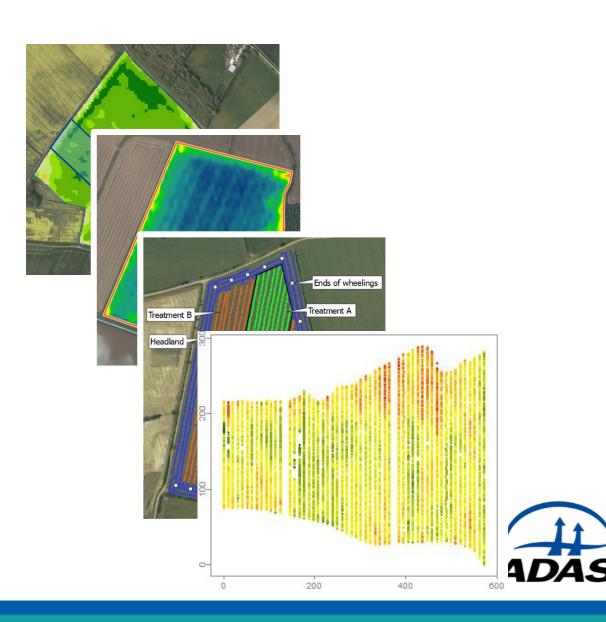






Agronomics approach

- 1. Fair trial designs
- 2. In-season monitoring
- 3. Assigning data to treatments
- 4. Data cleaning and correction



Agronomics approach

- 4. Statistical analysis
- 5. Interpretation of spatial, and treatment effects
- 6. Bespoke reporting



