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OPALE: OPERational Assessment of Landscape water Eco-functionalities

D. Trévisan <sup>a,b,\*</sup>, P. Taillandier <sup>c,d,e</sup>, B. Sarrazin <sup>f</sup>, D. Etienne <sup>g</sup>, N. Ayari <sup>c</sup>, C.  
Petiqueux <sup>h</sup>, P. Quétin <sup>a</sup>, C. Janin <sup>i</sup>

<sup>a</sup> INRAE UMR Carrtel, 75 avenue de Corzent, BP 511 F74203 Thonon les bains, France.

<sup>b</sup> INRAE UMR iEES, 4 place Jussieu F75252 Paris Cedex

<sup>c</sup> INRAE UR MIAT, Toulouse, France

<sup>d</sup> IRD/SU UMI UMMISCO, Hanoi, Vietnam

<sup>e</sup> Thuyloi WARM, Hanoi, Vietnam

<sup>f</sup> ISARA, rue Baldassini, 69 Lyon, France

<sup>g</sup> Université Savoie Mont Blanc UMR Carrtel, F-73376 Le Bourget du lac

<sup>h</sup> ENSSA Bordeaux Aquitaine, 1 cours du Général De Gaulle F33170 Gradignan Cedx

<sup>i</sup> Université Grenoble Alpes UMR Pacte, 14 bis Avenue Marie Reynoard F 38000 Grenoble

\* corresponding author

*Email address* : dominique.trevisan@inrae.fr (Dominique Trévisan)

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1

## 2 **Highlights**

3 - We develop OPALÉ, a suite of programs for the representation and analysis of landscapes in  
4 arable crops and grasslands conditions ;

5 - OPALÉ allows for efficient evaluation of water and matter outflows (nutrient, suspended matter  
6 and fecal bacteria) and leads to usable computed indicators for the assessment of landscape  
7 functioning and water-related eco-functionality in various geographical situations.

8

## 9 **Abstract**

10 The present article proposes a suite of programs aimed at *(i)* representing landscape  
11 organization in relation with the functioning of annual crops or breeding systems, *(ii)* evaluating  
12 water movements from biomass and hydrological exchanges, and *(iii)* analyzing the transfer  
13 dynamics of nutrients, suspended matter or fecal bacteria based on particle tracking methods.  
14 Simulations provided indications about the underlying processes that drive exchanges and sink-  
15 source effects operating at the landscape scale. OPALÉ was tested in three agricultural contexts  
16 and biophysical situations. Water flows and flows of associated matters were compared to data  
17 recorded at the catchment outlet, and showed the efficiency of the algorithms developed in the  
18 generic OPALÉ libraries. This article describes the underlying hypotheses and the full  
19 mathematical framework and procedures used to assess landscape eco-functionality. Several  
20 examples are given to illustrate the use of OPALÉ in landscape reconfiguration prospects (e.g.

21 influence of landscape composition and structure on plant transpiration, stream flow, erosion,  
22 nutrient and organism fluxes in water) for the agroecological transition.

23

24 **Keywords:** farming systems, decision rules, agricultural landscapes, crop management,  
25 hydrological processes, agroecology.

26

## 27 **1. Introduction**

28 Agroecology is aimed at developing several approaches to solve current agricultural  
29 production challenges (Wezel et al., 2009 ; Hatt et al., 2018). It develops field- and territory-level  
30 innovations to increase interactions among plant, animal and microorganism communities. As  
31 mentioned by Gascuel-Odoux and Magda (2015), a major challenge is not only to promote designs  
32 of production systems and crop management methods on an ecological basis, but also to consider  
33 innovations at the territorial level. A main challenge is to find ways of defining new farmland  
34 organizations to enhance ecological landscape functionalities while considering economic  
35 activities, bio-geochemical cycles and biological processes (Poggi et al., 2021). Stakeholders are  
36 increasingly concerned by soil management and natural resource protection, as well as by the  
37 closure of the water and nutrient cycles, the control of contaminants, etc., as all of them are highly  
38 dependent on land use and land cover at the catchment scale.

39 Agricultural landscapes can be considered as macro-ecosystems resulting from  
40 interactions between the human society and biophysical processes. Landscapes constitute '*the*  
41 *mirror of past and present relationships between human beings and their surrounding nature*',

42 Vanier (1995). We considered landscapes as spatial arrangements of features (agricultural fields,  
43 urban / forested / semi natural elements like hedges, grass strips, ditches) and flows operating at  
44 different time and spatial scales. Some of them are controlled by human activities (flows of  
45 energy, fertilizers, farm effluents, flows caused by herd displacements, etc.), others are inherent  
46 in the functioning of the eco-biophysical context. Considering the importance of water issues in  
47 the context of global change, the ambitions of the agroecological transition (Gascuel-Oudoux and  
48 Magda, 2015), and landscapes-water quality relationships (Chaplin-Kramer et al., 2016), the  
49 present article is focused on landscape eco-functionalities related to water flows (water  
50 displacement within landscapes and associated movements of solutes and living or inert  
51 suspended matter).

52         The operational assessment of landscape eco-functionalities is aimed at evaluating the  
53 links between landscape composition (land uses), structure (spatial arrangement of different land  
54 uses), and water flows and nutrient/pollutant flows associated with water movements. It requires  
55 the implementation of interdisciplinary approaches. Modeling can offer an adapted framework  
56 to analyze and interpret the complexity of landscape macro-ecosystems (Poggi et al., 2021),  
57 especially when considering numerous links between decisions, climate, soils and organisms  
58 within the critical zone. Landscapes have been the object of several modeling developments,  
59 focusing on the design of agricultural territories -see for example MAELIA (Rizzo et al., 2019)- or  
60 the interpretation of landscape organizations in terms of water budget and flows -MYDHAS  
61 (Moussa et al., 2002)-. To the best of our knowledge, links between these two approaches are  
62 sparse. As mentioned by Langhammer et al. (2019) and Zellner et al. (2020), developing generic

63 modeling of the links between human decisions, water needs and water ecosystem functions is  
64 central to achieve evaluations of landscapes and elaborate territory prospects in a context of  
65 global change.

66 The present article describes OPALE, a tool developed to address the issue of the  
67 agroecological transition at the landscape level. The model considers a large set of agricultural  
68 production systems and hydrological conditions. It is focused on (i) landscape design resulting  
69 from farming system parameters and decisions; (ii) surface hydrology and biophysical processes.  
70 More precisely, the tool includes a set of libraries about the following items:

71 • the design of the landscape occupied by farmland, providing the distribution of  
72 crops across farmed fields based on from farming practices and schedules (land use and land  
73 cover change model (LULCC));

74 • the modeling of water movements within previous simulated landscapes,  
75 considering surface, hypodermical and deep trajectories (water movements within landscapes  
76 model (WMWL));

77 • the evaluation of -inert and living- solute and suspended matter transfers  
78 associated with water displacements, including N, P, *Escherischia Coli* (EC) and suspended  
79 matter (solute and suspended matter transfer (SSMT));

80 • the construction of normalized indicators of landscape functions in order to  
81 assess their regulation services.

82

83 A theoretical frame will be first presented to introduce our working hypotheses and our

84 methods. Then, OPALE software architecture will be presented with three different application  
85 cases differing in terms of agricultural and hydrological context. They were implemented to assess  
86 several issues related to soil conservation, nutrient cycling and surface water eutrophication or  
87 the degradation of the bacteriological quality of water resources.

88

## 89 **2. Method and Theory**

### 90 **2.1. Land use and land cover change (LULCC)**

91 The unutilised agricultural area (NUAA) of landscapes (non productive infrastructures,  
92 urban areas, forests) is documented by geographical databases (Corine Land Cover, shapes of  
93 forested areas)

94 Simulating LULCC in utilised agricultural areas is somewhat complex because of the  
95 diversity of farming systems and associated practices (Thenail et al. ,2009 ; Benoit et al., 2012).  
96 Several models working at the plot level (a plot corresponds here to an agricultural parcel: a  
97 continuous area of land declared by a farmer, on which a single group of crops is cultivated)  
98 concern the organization of annual crop rotations (Dury et al., 2012), but those that enable  
99 dealing with livestock or both livestock and crop farms are scarce. One of the difficulties lies in  
100 their ability to manage the distribution of technical rules among plots, and their respective  
101 contribution to the overall fodder balance for livestock and to commercial benefits for annual  
102 crop production.

103 For annual crops, landscapes change every year in relation with crop successions and  
104 rotation rules. Taillandier et al. (2012) formulated the choice of crop rotation as a multi-criteria

105 decision problem: for each plot, the farmer chooses a crop rotation, following evaluations at the  
106 farm level based on several criteria (financial risk, expected income, workload, farmer's habits).  
107 Other works only focus on the crop allocation problem. For example, Martel et al. (2017)  
108 formalized it as a constraint satisfaction problem integrating agronomic and crop distribution  
109 constraints. Another work using optimization proposes to solve the crop allocation problem by  
110 computing the maximum flow of a transition graph of all possible multi-year crop successions  
111 (itineraries) permitted by rotation rules (Houet et al., 2014). Then, an optimization process is  
112 applied to select the itineraries allowing for the objectives of annual cropping plans (expected  
113 surfaces of crop production) to be achieved at the farm level.

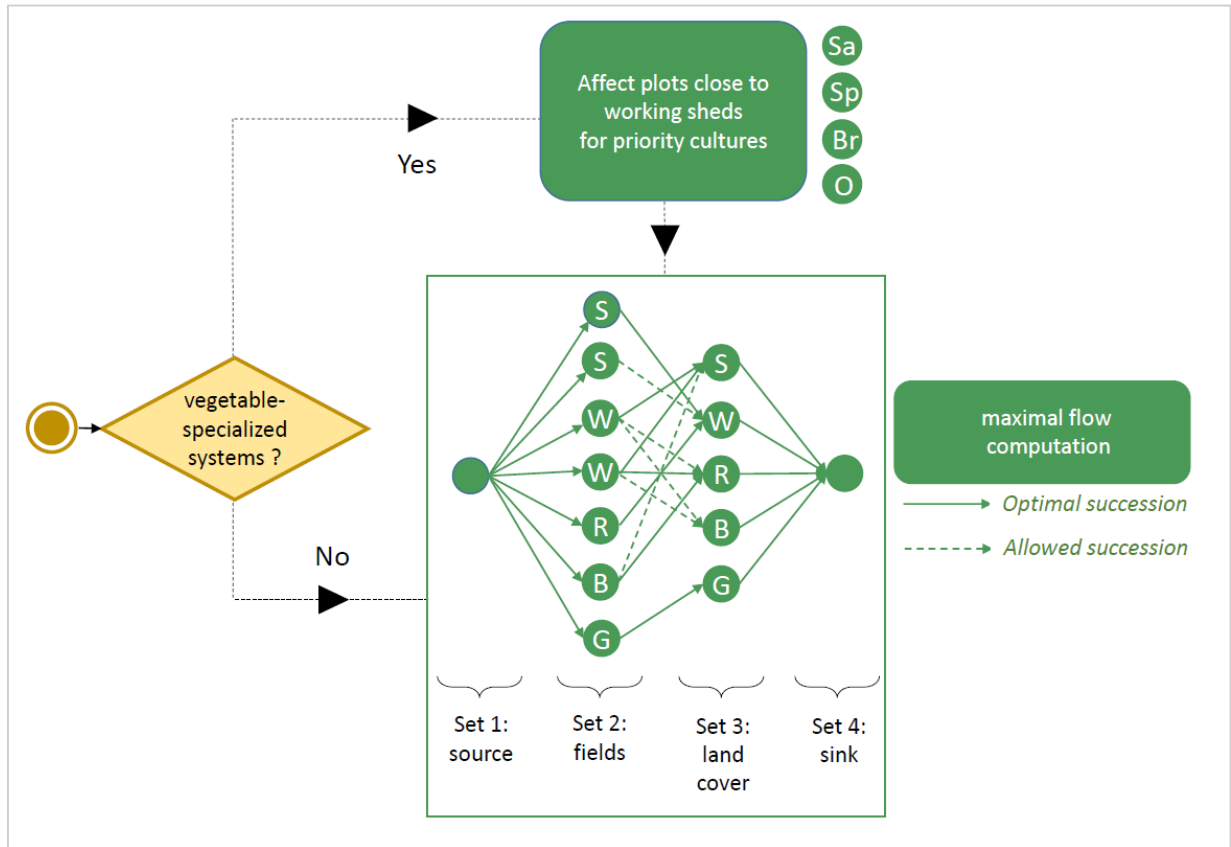
114 For livestock and mixed crop-livestock farms, constraints are determined by livestock feed  
115 demands. Landscapes are quite stable from one year to the next, as they are not subject to  
116 rotation and succession rules. However, the distribution of biomasses varies intra-annually in  
117 relation to the grazing and hay-cutting schedule. Landscapes show spatial structures with blocks  
118 (assemblages of several plots) of specific uses. We considered three blocks (fig.1): block 1 grouped  
119 priority plots for pastures of productive animals (practices P1, HP1, cf. supplementary material  
120 S1), permanent or temporary meadows for hay production and late pasture (H3CP1 and H2CP1  
121 and HP2), as well as distant pastures for non-productive animals (P2). The area of these blocks  
122 depends on the farming system (for example the first block had to provide around 50% of unit  
123 forage needs/ha in a milk-round bale system, *versus* 90% for traditional systems, cf.  
124 supplementary material S1). Several constraints determine the extension and location of these  
125 blocks, such as plant growth rates and palatability, distance between livestock sheds and fields,



126 accessibility, slope and soil conditions (Marie et al., 2016). For example, in case of dairy  
127 production, a permanent meadow, according to its slope, its agronomic potential and its distance  
128 from the milking parlor, may not be equally assigned to the grazing of dairy cows, hay crops or  
129 the grazing of young cattle. Giving that livestock headcount cannot be easily changed in livestock  
130 systems, landscape construction was modeled with reference to cascade rules and supply-  
131 demand constraints, where pasture for productive animal are the priority, followed by crops and  
132 hay crops productions and finally pasture for heifers or lots of non productive animals for the  
133 remaining surfaces (Josselin et al., 1999). As the drivers of the distribution of activities of a crop  
134 farm and a livestock farm differ greatly, we did not use the same approach to represent the  
135 landscape design.

136 For crops farms (including vegetable production), we chose an algorithm similar to the  
137 one proposed by Houet et al. (2014) where the spatial distribution of crops depends on an  
138 optimization process based on maximal flow computations. In this representation, activities are  
139 constraint by cropping plans and rules related to permitted or forbidden crop rotations (Figure 1),  
140 with the following hypothesis: *(i)* in the case of vegetable production with crops requiring  
141 regular/daily intervention (seeding/planting, harvesting/packaging), priority blocks nearby  
142 working sheds must be first allocated before implementing maximum flow computations; *(ii)* crop  
143 system landscapes do not change according to seasonal climate changes as farmers can adjust  
144 irrigation schedules or change the final commercialization of the harvested products depending  
145 on the way meteorological conditions evolve; *(iii)* all the plots concerned by the maximum flow  
146 computation are considered to be unconstrained by edaphic (humidity, stoniness, etc.),

147 topographical (slope) or cadastral conditions. In the event that one or several plots cannot be  
 148 used for annual crops, their dominant use must be indicated in the geographical database  
 149 describing the NUAA.



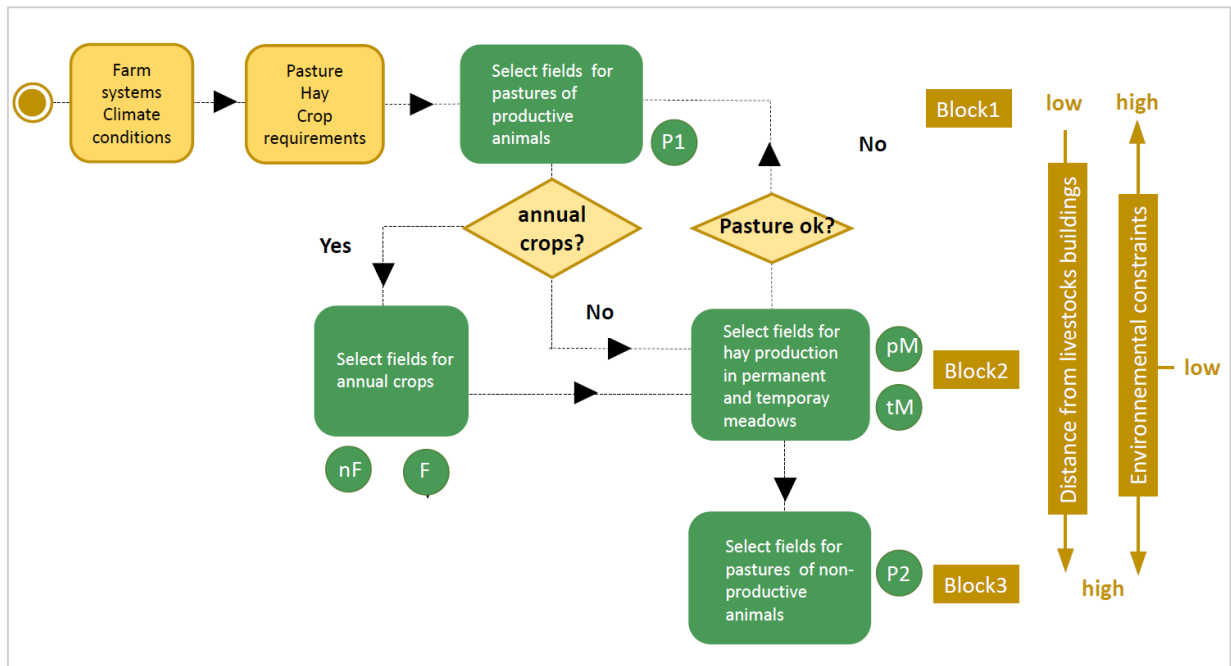
150  
 151 Figure 1: Diagram of the LULCC model for crop systems. For non-priority crops possibly remote  
 152 from working sheds, a maximum flow computation was performed, extracted from Houet et al.  
 153 (2014). W-Wheat; B-Barley; R-Rapeseed; S-Sunflower; G-Grassland; S-Salad; Sp-Spinach; Br-  
 154 Beetroot; O: Onion. For the sake of simplicity, this diagram represents an example of a two-year  
 155 succession of crops (in practice, the number of crop successions can be defined by the user).  
 156 Arrows between Set1-Set2 and Set2-Set3 represent graph edges with a capacity equal to field  
 157 surfaces; between set3-Set4, edges with a capacity equal to the total surface of a given farm. An

158 optimization process selected an itinerary between Set1 and Set4 across a total area similar to  
159 the farm's cropping objectives.

160

161 The maximum flow was computed using the classic Edmonds-Karp max flow algorithm  
162 (Edmonds and Karp, 1972). As this algorithm is stochastic, different solutions of spatial crop  
163 allocation can be obtained between two executions depending on random choices for the  
164 construction of graph-edges. Unlike Taillandier et al. (2012), labor tasks were not explicitly  
165 evaluated, but plowing, sowing and hoeing dates were stochastically distributed in the computed  
166 crop successions to generate "noise" in calendars.

167 For livestock farms (Figure 2), we implemented stepwise computations controlling the  
168 adequacy between plot supply and the priorities for pasture and forage demands, as proposed  
169 by Marie et al. (2016). Considering farming systems and livestock heads, we determined the  
170 forage needs and allocated them to farmlands, following priorities and surface ratios of forage  
171 practices (intensive or extensive meadows and pastures), cf. supplementary material S1. We  
172 considered that the extent of spatial blocks could change under unfavorable climatic situations  
173 because livestock feeding is priority over the constitution of forage stocks. Landscapes and the  
174 dynamics of grass biomass were therefore modified following seasonal climatic evolution in  
175 accordance with priority rules for livestock needs.



176

177 Figure 2: Diagram of the LULCC model for livestock systems. nF-non forage crops; F-forage crops;

178 P1-first-priority pastures for productive animals; pM-permanent meadows; tM-temporary

179 meadows; P2-second-priority meadows for non productive animals. Three blocks of fields

180 composed the farm landscape, in relation with distance to livestock sheds and environmental

181 constraints (slope and soil moisture). A step computation scheme selected the available fields for

182 the crop requirements of the farm systems and several climatic conditions. Pasture requirements

183 for productive animals were computed iteratively by adding P1 surfaces and late pastures

184 following hay cuts.

185 The time step for the simulations of livestock or crop systems is one day, and the time span of the

186 simulation is fixed by the user (one year is the minimum required to build a landscape over the

187 seasons, much longer in crop systems to evaluate landscape evolution according to successions).

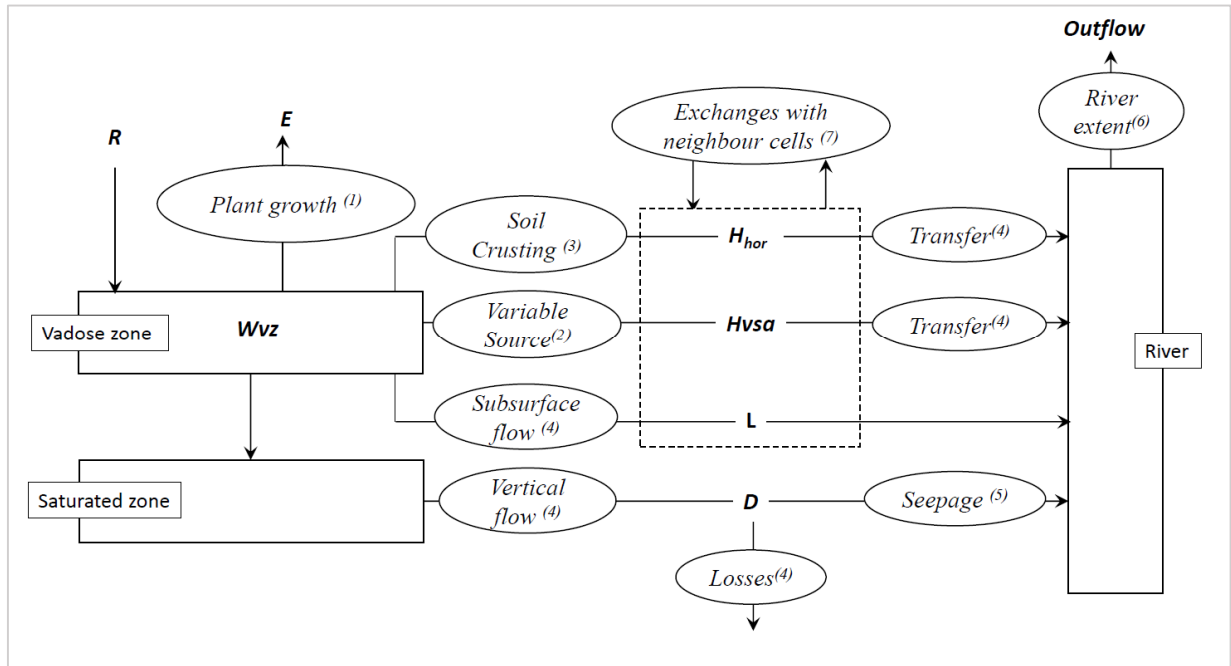
188 **2.2. Water movements within landscapes (WMWL)**

189            Modeling water movements requires implementing distributed approaches in which a  
190 computational domain is defined by the watershed boundaries (a watershed is a land area that  
191 channels rainfall and snowmelt to rivers and to an outflow point), generally represented by  
192 square grid meshes where each individual cell (defined as a square area of a dimension fixed by  
193 the pixel dimension of the digital elevation model) is the object of water balance. Computations  
194 may use simultaneous or sequential approaches.

195            In the simultaneous approach, implicit digital schemes can be performed to solve partial  
196 differential matrix equations, considering all flows and local processes of the computational  
197 domain, as in MODFLOW (Harbaugh, 2005). Such an implementation is no straightforward task.  
198 As an example, boundary conditions must be defined for domains where the deepest geological  
199 structures and their links with the hydrological network are generally unknown or poorly known.  
200 Also, the stability of the solution of the matrix equations is unsure because it depends on the  
201 configuration of the digital schemes.

202            To overcome these difficulties, the sequential approach considers cell balance solved  
203 explicitly by cascade schemes, from up-slopes to the watershed outlet, Kiesel et al. (2013). In  
204 addition, all the processes that control soil moisture (e.g., evapotranspiration, percolation) are  
205 evaluated successively, in the same way as in the distributed SMDR model (Gérard-Marchant et  
206 al., 2006), or in the semi distributed SWAT model (Arnold and Fohrer, 2005). We chose this  
207 approach although it does not represent hydrodynamic processes simultaneously. First, errors  
208 are restrained when time-step computations are shortened (Trevisan and Perriñez, 2016);  
209 second, there are several operational gains: (i) the deepest domain can be represented by black-

210 box representations, (ii) equations are formal, giving an eproved ability to provide evaluations  
 211 of time-varying land management practices (Me et al, 2018) ; (iii) no solver configuration is  
 212 required.



213  
 214 Figure 3: Computation algorithm and parameterization of the water flow model. Rectangles  
 215 represent water stores, ellipses processes. Exponent values in parentheses refer to the following  
 216 works: (1) Gérard-Marchant et al. (2006); (2) Obled and Zin (2004); (3) Cerdan et al. (2002); (4)  
 217 Arnold and Fohrer(2005) ; (5) Lellay (2006); (6) Gurnell (1978); (7) Tarboton (1997). Refer to the  
 218 text for comments.

219  
 220 Two soil volumes were considered in the WMWL model: (i) the vadose zone in the topsoil,  
 221 delimited by root depth, overlying (ii) the saturated zone (figure 3). The general water balance for  
 222 extended hydrodynamic situations was:

223 
$$\frac{dW_{vz}}{dt} = R - E + L + H_{vsa} + H_{hor} + H_{imp} - D, \quad (1)$$

224 where  $W_{vz}$  is the water store in the vadose zone [mm],  $dt$  the time interval [d], and the  
225 following all expressed in [mm.d<sup>-1</sup>]:  $R$  rainfall,  $E$  evapotranspiration,  $D$  vertical drainage,  $L$   
226 the lateral movements of water (sub-surface flows),  $H_{vsa}$  overland flow generated by soil  
227 saturation (variable source area (runoff)),  $H_{hor}$  hortonian runoff,  $H_{imp}$  overland flow from  
228 impermeabilized urban areas, and  $D$  vertical drainage.  $L$ ,  $H_{vas}$ ,  $H_{hor}$  and  $H_{imp}$  net values  
229 can be positive or negative depending on whether water flows are coming from up-slope cells or  
230 directed to down-slope cells, respectively. The processes controlling the water balance equation  
231 are summarized in Figure 3.

232 We accounted for a large diversity of hydrodynamic processes to extend the applicability  
233 of the WMWL model to generic situations.

234 • Biomass dynamics, root depth and evapotranspiration flows were computed for  
235 vegetables, crops and pastures by the generalized plant growth model (Gérard-Marchant et al.,  
236 2006), detailed in Appendix A, §7.1. The model is based on a computation of cumulative degree-  
237 days. Several thresholds were considered, accounting for plant growth rates, practices and  
238 farming schedules (seeding, cuts, etc.), all of them tabulated from the LULCC model outputs;

239 • We introduced first-order kinetics to describe water table behavior (Arnold and  
240 Fohrer, 2005 ; Lellay, 2006). The seepage of the water table into the river network was evaluated  
241 from a transfer function applied during a restitution period (Hingray et al., 2009). In this  
242 representation, one of the major issues (Sarrazin, 2012) is the capacity of the model to reproduce  
243 the hydrologically active areas of watersheds (zones where groundwater tables can effectively

244 seep into the river network). Following Gurnell (1978), we considered that the representation of  
245 a river network dynamics accounted for temporary drying out of the river network, and calculated  
246 the number of river segments where seepage was effective;

247         • Hypodermic water movement along slopes where topsoils are bounded by  
248 restricting layers or low-permeability layers can favor the rising of sub-surface water tables over  
249 the soil surface in thalweg and down-slope conditions (Obled and Zin, 2004 ; Gérard-Marchant et  
250 al., 2006). For this reason, the Variable Source Area hydrology concept (Dunne et al., 1975) was  
251 integrated in the WMWL computing scheme;

252         • Soil surface crusting is a main determinant of hortonian runoff. Process-based  
253 models –e.g., see Jetten et al. (1998) - were developed to estimate hortonian runoff flows from  
254 hydrodynamic properties of soil surface crusts. Their applicability to agricultural contexts where  
255 the crusting dynamics is driven by farming practices and plant biomass development is  
256 challenging (Takken et al., 1999). To avoid over-parameterization, we implemented expert-based  
257 rules from the STREAM model (Cerdan et al., 2002) to focus on the dominant drivers of crusting;

258         • Following Kiesel et al., (2013), we implemented a cascading computational scheme  
259 to evaluate water flows along slopes, in which water balance was calculated for successive cells  
260 sorted by decreasing elevation and increasing index of topographic accumulation (Schwanghart  
261 and Kuhn, 2010).

262         WMWL equations are fully described in Appendix A.

263

264 **2.3. Solute and suspended matter transfers (SSMTs).**



265           The SSMT model calculates transfer functions to provide standardized evaluations of  
266 landscape functioning and help end-users in the comparison of landscape configurations and  
267 structures. Transfer functions correspond to a density of mass-transfer rate of compounds  
268 originating from transient stores, often described by exponential or power-law distributions  
269 (Haggerty et al., 2002). We calculated surface and subsurface transfer functions (*SSTFs*) for  
270 surface and subsurface flows by applying particle-tracking methods, considered as a key  
271 technology for assessing the diversity of displaced matters (Chenouard et al., 2014). Here,  
272 particles represent a solute mass of nutrients in solution, SM or EC numbers.

273           To assess landscape functioning during critical periods and save computational time, *SSTF*  
274 calculations were restricted to “transfer periods” ( $t - \tau_f, \dots, t$ ), where  $\tau_f$  is the transfer  
275 duration (days), following a daily meteorological event of interest (DMEI) starting at date  $t - \tau_f$ .  
276 DMEIs are events representative of typical soil moisture conditions and biomass development,  
277 e.g., low-water periods or fall high-flow recovery. During the transfer period, the SSMT module  
278 counts the number of particles that reach the watershed outlet as a function of water trajectories  
279 computed by the WMWL model and sink-source determinism. Water trajectories and particle  
280 displacements can be interrupted on cells where the soil moisture balance does not exceed  
281 saturation thresholds. During the transfer period, we restricted water exchanges with the  
282 atmosphere to evapotranspiration flows (rainfall was set to 0) to only account for particle  
283 displacements resulting from the landscape draining and water redistribution dynamics produced  
284 by DMEIs.

285           Particle tracking was based on previous schemes accounting for pollutant build-up, wash-

286 off and transport processes (Jiang et al., 2019). During the transfer period, for each  $\tau$  days of the  
 287 interval  $(0, \dots, \tau_f)$ , we considered the  $s_k(t - \tau)$  build-up stocks located on the  $k$  cells of the  
 288 computational domain, each of them affected by wash-off rates  $w_k(t - \tau)$  transferred to the  
 289 outlet with associated  $p_k(\tau)$  transfer probabilities. Based on Trévisan et al. (2019), the amount  
 290 of particles produced by a DMEI was given by:

$$291 \quad \sum_0^{\tau_f} q(\tau) = \sum_0^{\tau_f} \sum_1^k s_k(t - \tau) w_k(t - \tau) p_k(\tau). \quad (2)$$

292 For surface and subsurface flows, transfer delays are generally short, in the range of  
 293 several days or one/two weeks (Dorioz et al., 1989). Consequently, the following build-up stocks  
 294  $s_k(t - \tau_f, \dots, t)$  and wash-off 3D matrices  $w_k(t - \tau_f, \dots, t)$  were computed for  $\tau_f = 15$  days.  
 295 Two indicators of underlying processes driving exchanges and sink-source effects operating at the  
 296 landscape scale were evaluated by SSMT outputs. First, the DMEI-SSTF distribution obtained by  
 297 particle counting at the catchment outlet:

$$298 \quad P(1), \dots, P(\tau_f) = \frac{q(\tau)}{\sum_0^{\tau_f} q(\tau)}. \quad (3)$$

299 Second,  $\eta(t - \tau_f)$ , the landscape delivery ratio associated to the DMEI started at  $(t - \tau_f)$  :

$$300 \quad \eta(t - \tau_f) = \frac{\sum_0^{\tau_f} q(\tau)}{\sum_1^k s_k(t - \tau_f) w_k(t - \tau_f)}, \quad (4)$$

301 varying from 0 for systems in which no matter flows out of the landscape to 1 in opposite  
 302 conditions. SSTF and  $\eta(t - \tau_f)$  provided by particle counting were catchment-scaled and DMEIs  
 303 single-event-dependent representations of landscape functioning. The SSMT equations of particle  
 304 behavior driving  $s_k(t - \tau)$ ,  $w_k(t - \tau)$  and  $q(\tau)$  values are given in Appendix B.

305 Deeper transfer delays were greater than previously, in the range of several months

306 (Hingray et al., 2009). As the groundwater table was represented by a black-box analysis, particle  
 307 counting was not fitted. The corresponding groundwater transfer function (*GTF*) was given by  
 308  $P(1), \dots, P(\tau_s) = \tau_s^{-\lambda+R}$ , with  $\lambda$  a WMWL power-law parameter for deep water transfer  
 309 (Appendix A),  $\tau_s$  the duration of the seepage period, and  $R$  a retardation factor accounting for  
 310 sink effects (Holzbecher, 2012) equal to 0 in case of N transfer (no sinks outside the vadose zone).  
 311 *GTF* were catchment-scaled and generic-event scaled representations of landscape functioning.

312

313

## 314 **2.4. Model validation**

### 315 **2.4.1. LULCC and WMWL modeling**

316 We evaluated the deviation between the farmers' cropping plans and the simulated plans  
 317 through the absolute deviation  $AD = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n |\hat{X}_i - X_i|}{\sum_{i=1}^n \hat{X}_i}$ , where  $1 \dots n$  is the set of possible land uses,  
 318  $\hat{X}_i$  the sum of areas of land use  $i$  expected by the cropping plan, and  $X_i$  the corresponding  
 319 simulated sum. River outflows summing all water components computed by the WMWL model  
 320 were confronted to observed values through the Nash Sutcliffe coefficient (Wallach et al., 2013).

321

### 322 **2.4.2. Particle tracking and SSMT modeling**

323 The amount  $q(t)$  of particles reaching the outlet depends on delayed flows that affect  
 324 the number of particles  $m_k(t - \tau)$  produced in each cell of the computational domain and  
 325 available for water transfer:

$$326 \quad m_k(t - \tau) = s_k(t - \tau)w_k(t - \tau). \quad (5)$$

327 We can write:

$$\begin{aligned} 328 \quad q(t) &= \sum_1^k \int_0^{\tau_f} m_k(t - \tau) p_k(\tau) d\tau \\ &= \sum_1^k m_k(t) * p_k(\tau), \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

329 where the asterisk represents the convolution product and  $p_k(\tau)$  the transfer probabilities  
330 generated by DEMIs representative of hydro-agrosystem conditions over the transfer period.

331 The individual particle behaviors and trajectories of surface and subsurface transfers  
332 cannot be measured directly. To compare SSMT results with observed values, we introduced  
333 delivery ratios (eq. 4), produced stocks  $m_k$  (eq.5) and SSFT  $P(\tau)$  (eq. 3) values into a lumped  
334 formulation of particle flows  $q_L(t)$  equivalent to  $\sum_1^{\tau_f} q(\tau)$ , the SSMT outflows (Appendix C):

$$335 \quad q_L(t) = \eta(t - \tau_f) \sum_1^k m_k(t) * P(\tau). \quad (7)$$

336 In case of finite built-up stocks, the production function is lowered by previous outflows,  
337 with minimum values fixed to 0:

$$338 \quad \sum_1^k m_k(t) = \sum_1^k s_k(t) w_k(t) - q_L(t - 1) \quad (8)$$

339  
340 For nutrient and EC stocks,  $s_k(t)$  were obtained by updating the balance  $s_k(t) =$   
341  $s_k(t - 1) - \gamma s_k(t - 1)$ , where  $\gamma$  accounts for plant assimilation/mineralization/de-  
342 nitrification/mortality. At the beginning of the simulation ( $t_0$ ) or for each period of fertilizer supply  
343 or manure disposal, initial  $s_k(t_0)$  values were defined considering fertilization supplies or  
344 residual stocks of land uses (supplementary material S2). For SM,  $s_k(t)$  depended on the  
345 crusting dynamics (Appendix B).

346 Solute matter outflows from deep water table seepage were calculated by eq. 7, where

347 the distribution  $P(\tau)$  is given by the *GTF* (cf. paragraph 2.3) and  $\eta(t - \tau_f) = 1$ .

348 Lumped-computed N, total P and soluble P, EC and SM outflows were confronted in  
349 separate worksheets to observed values, following Trévisan (2019). A unit conversion factor  $u$   
350 was evaluated by minimizing the objective function  $[q^{obs}(t) - uq_L(t)]^2$  between observed  
351  $q^{obs}$  and calculated  $q_L$  values of matter outflows.

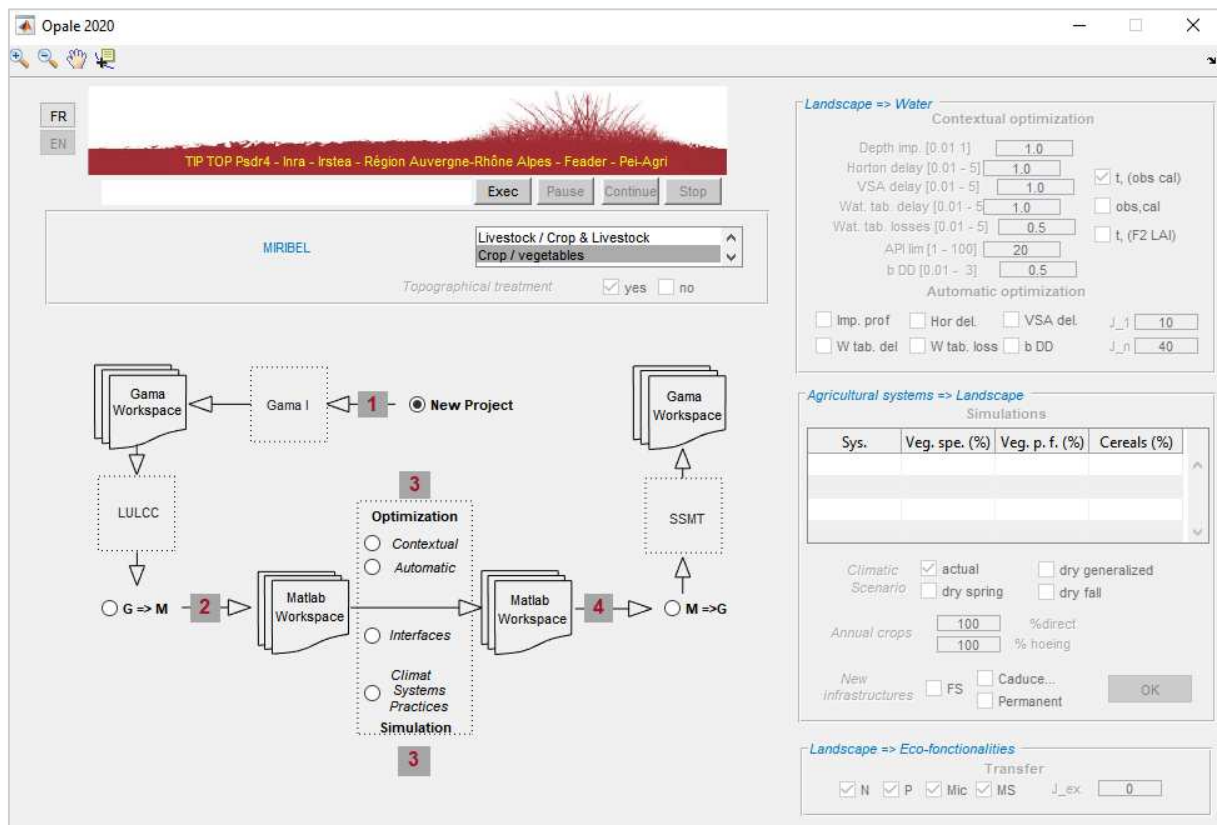
352

### 353 **3. Software architecture**

354 WMWL and OPALE GUIs (figure 4) were implemented in the MATLAB environment, while  
355 the LULCC and SSMT programs (figure 5) were implemented with the GAMA platform (Taillandier  
356 et al., 2019). The OPALE GUI allows users to select libraries, implement IOF writing/reading and  
357 parameterize commands in the two environments and SAGA geographical treatment  
358 (<http://www.saga-gis.org>). OPALE executable for the Windows-64 bit environment, source codes  
359 and documentation are available at github<sup>1</sup>. All programs were run on a computer with a CPU  
360 IntelCore(R) i7 and 32 Go RAM.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://github.com/TipTop-PSDR/OPALE.git>



361

362

Figure 4: OPale GUI.

363 At the center of the OPale GUI a workflow scheme organizes the workflow steps for  
 364 landscape assessment. The workflow scheme differs depending on the selected production  
 365 systems (from the listbox items - Livestocks / Crops & Livestock or Crop / vegetables-).

366 At step 1, the 'New project' button and a subsequent 'Exec'-click allows reading input files.  
 367 Then, it opens the GAMA GUI where users can launch an initialization program, linking together  
 368 geographical information (soils, hydrological network, fields, farm systems, etc., as described in  
 369 supplementary material S3). The computational mesh is also defined here, with the sizes of the  
 370 square grids based on the resolution of the digital elevation model.

371 Then, the LULCC program is opened, and performs maximum flow or step computation

372 schemes depending on the selected production systems. Configuring decision rules for crop  
373 successions and distance priorities between farms and practices is allowed. LULCC outputs are  
374 agricultural landscape structures (i.e. an assemblage of different agricultural plots) and landscape  
375 infrastructures (e.g. hedges, filter strips, non-productive areas), as referenced by grids where  
376 their proportion area in the cells of the computational mesh are calculated to limit topological  
377 representation biases for the following WMWL calculations.

378         The 'G=> M' button (Step 2) builds matrices for the Matlab environment and performs  
379 plant development and topography calculations to build the cascade scheme for sequential water  
380 flow balances along slopes.

381         The Step 3 top buttons open the WMWL model for optimization. WMWL optimization can  
382 be done contextually based on soil and hydro-system properties, or automatically with the  
383 *lsqcurvefit* tool in Matlab. All calculations up to this stage provide a baseline on the current  
384 landscape.

385         The Step 3 bottom buttons open simulation purposes, and build new matrices that can be  
386 compared to the current landscape. If the user needs to analyze production system changes, the  
387 workflow differs depending on farming conditions. For crop/vegetable systems (crop distribution  
388 determined by random selections in the LULCC model), forward planning of farming systems is  
389 implemented by modifying the crop areas of the first year of the crop succession in order to follow  
390 the initial patterns of crop distributions. The aim is to avoid repeated simulations to obtain  
391 converging agent-based model simulations outputs that are commonly done to compare present  
392 and future territories (Grillot et al, 2018). The price to pay is that only the first year of the crop

393 succession of current and future landscapes can be compared. We implemented such  
394 modifications within the Matlab environment, where the first year of the current landscape  
395 matrices of crop allocation are modified according to the expected proportions of crop groups  
396 indicated by the user in the agricultural-system-landscape panel. To do this, we applied an  
397 algorithm in which parcels are progressively assigned to new expected productions until the  
398 user's constraints are met. As breeding landscapes are not constrained by random choices of  
399 potential crop successions but by priority schemes, modifications of farming systems and climatic  
400 conditions have to be calculated by re-launching the LULCC model on an annual or pluriannual  
401 basis in which each new farming objective indicated in the agricultural system-landscape panel is  
402 evaluated in terms of priority practices and field availability.

403 Step 4 allows opening an M=>G library to configure the  $s_k$  build-up matrices for Gama  
404 SSMT modeling.

405 On the right side of the OPALE GUI, three panels are enabled/disabled depending on the  
406 workflow selection step. The 'Landscape => Water' panel contains several dialog boxes for  
407 WMWL parameters ( $k_m$ ,  $c_1$ ,  $c_2$ ,  $c_3$ ,  $\lambda$ ,  $b$ ,  $i_{max}$ , see Appendix A) and check-box options to  
408 configure WMWL output plots (when the 'obs, cal' check-box is selected, the Nash Sutcliffe  
409 coefficient (Wallach et al., 2013) is computed to compare observed or calculated river flow  
410 outputs) or to select parameters to be optimized by the *lsqcurvefit* program. Optimization  
411 processes can be paused for plot-zooming and inspection (from the upper tool bar) or to analyze  
412 the contributions of water components to river outflows or select DMEI dates. The 'Agricultural  
413 system => Landscape panel' allows configuring the proportions of the farming systems, as well



414 as climatic conditions, farming practices or infrastructure distribution (several choices are  
 415 possible, with filter strips or hedgerows of deciduous or perennial tree species). With the  
 416 'Interface' button, the program interacts with SAGA libraries to re-calculate the proportions of  
 417 the infrastructures in the computational meshes. Finally, with step 4, the 'Landscapes => Eco-  
 418 functionality' panel allows evaluating the transfer functions *SSTF* and the nature of the particle  
 419 matter to be treated in SSMT.

420

## 421 **4. Examples of applications**

### 422 **4.1. Catchment description and monitoring**

423 OPALÉ was tested in three different territories in terms of farming systems and  
 424 geographical conditions. Site properties are given in table 1.

425

Site	Area (ha)	Localization wgs84	Agricultural systems	Geography
Miribel	1132	lat.: 45°.853 lon.: 4°.943	Annual crops Vegetables	altitude: 300 m geology: loess main soils: haplic lixisols main use: agriculture
Autrans	1965	lat.: 45°.107 lon.: 5°.532	Livestock Annual crops	altitude: 1,000 m geology: lacustrine deposits main soil: cambisols main use: agriculture- tourism

Aiguebelette	2700	lat.: 45°.572 lon.: 5°.799	Livestock	altitude: 500 m geology: sandstones, glacial deposits main soils: gleysols main use: agriculture- periurban
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426  
427 Table 1: Study sites. Summary of agricultural and geographical conditions. The main soil types are  
428 referenced from the World Reference Base for Soil Resources (2014).

429  
430 Geographical inputs are detailed in supplementary materials S3. Miribel catchment was  
431 mainly concerned by hortonian overland flows from annual crops, including fine silt texture  
432 conditions and a high sensitivity to soil surface crusting (Lepilleur, 2017). Due to the low  
433 permeability of lacustrine deposits preventing deep water percolation, Autran catchment was  
434 subject to soil moisture saturation of variable source areas causing frequent surface runoff  
435 (Petitqueux, 2017). On the contrary, Aiguebelette tertiary sandstone was favorable to high soil  
436 permeability, and water percolation was predominant (Pezet, 2014). Poulenard et al. (2009)  
437 studied a catchment nearby Aiguebelette sharing the same geographical context and showed that  
438 matter from riverbank erosion was predominant in suspended matter flows and that livestock  
439 played a role too. These authors observed that the relative contributions of topsoils and river  
440 bank sediments were seasonal, with an increase of the topsoil contribution during spring and  
441 summer pastures and a decrease in late fall and winter, in relation with the access of livestock to  
442 the river network.

443 Stakeholders are concerned by erosion, soil protection and mud flows in Miribel, nutrient

444 losses and eutrophication of surface waters in Aiguebelette, and bacteriological water quality in  
 445 Autrans.

446 Stream flows were monitored using weirs placed at the catchment outlets. Water samples  
 447 were collected in 2016 and 2017 by automatic samplers programmed for weekly flow-weighted  
 448 composite sampling. In Miribel, the Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) was monitored with an  
 449 OBS300 Campbell Scientific probe for SM flow evaluation. In Aiguebelette, SM, soluble reactive  
 450 phosphorus (SRP), total phosphorus (TP) and nitrates were analyzed by standard colorimetric  
 451 methods (AFNOR, 1990). In Autrans, instantaneous water samples were collected manually and  
 452 sent within 24h to the laboratory for EC enumeration, following standard protocols ISO 9308-2  
 453 for water bacteriological quality assessment. In addition, to differentiate between the  
 454 proportions of human and bovine contamination, water sub-samples were treated to quantify  
 455 HF183 and Rum2Bac bacteroidales markers, following Mauffret et al. (2012).

456

## 457 4.2. Model parameterization

458 Table 2 gives parameter values for the WMWL and SSMT models. We evaluated the  
 459 parameters of the WMWL model ( $k_m$ ,  $c_1$ ,  $c_2$ ,  $c_3$ ,  $\lambda$ ,  $b$ ,  $i_{max}$ ), following the *Isqcurvefit*  
 460 automatic optimization module or by referencing contextual values from expert estimation.

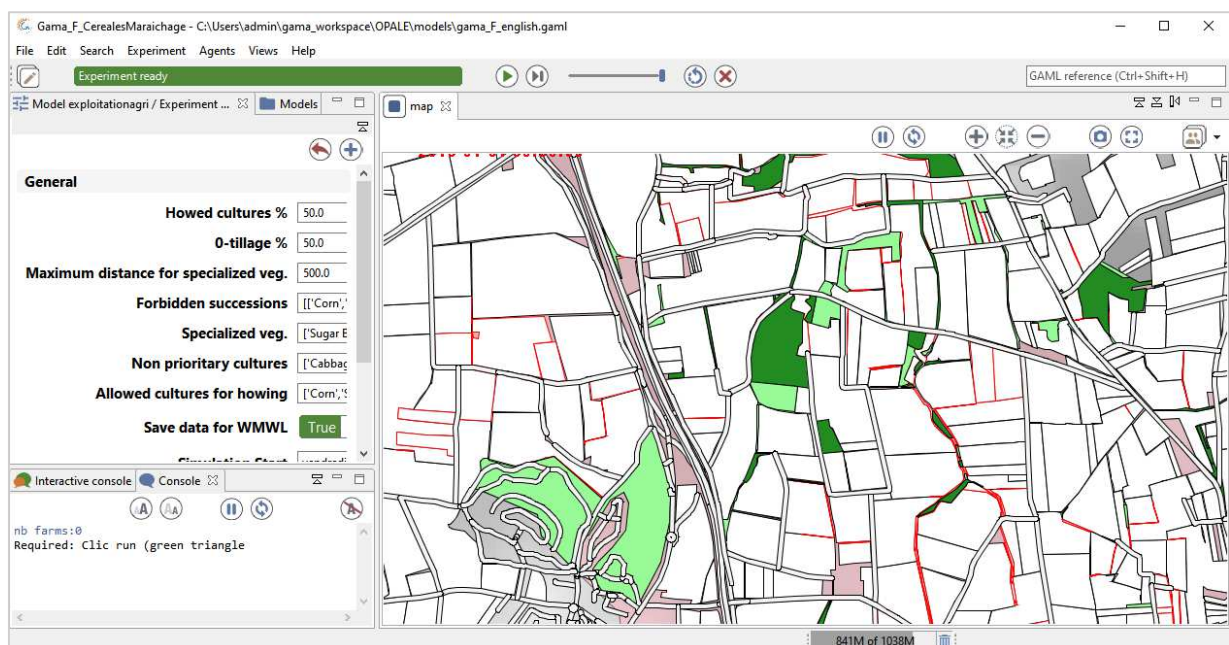
461

Parameter	Definition	Value	Source
$T_b$ , $DD_{1..max}$	temperature thresholds (§ 7.1)	reference values	SMDR (2013)
$k_m$	bottom $K_{sat}$ ratio (eq. 15) [-]	M.: 1.0; Au.: 0.8; Ai.: 1.0	C. op.
$c_1$	deep aquifer losses (eq.20)	M.: 0.88; Au.: 10; Ai.: 1.3	A. op.

	[d <sup>-1</sup> ]		
$c_2$	overland hortonian delay (eq.21) [d <sup>-1</sup> ]	M.: 5.0; Au.: 5.0; Ai.: 5.0	C. op.
$c_3$	overland saturation delay (eq.21) [d <sup>-1</sup> ]	M.: 1.0; Au.: 0.01; Ai.: 1.0	A. op.
$\lambda$	groundwater delay (eq.22) [d]	M.: 2.5; Au.: 1.5; Ai.: 1.4	A. op.
$b$	river shape form (eq.23) [-]	M.: 2.5; Au.: 2; Ai.: 2.5	A. op.
$i_{max}$	maximum API bound (eq.24) [mm]	M.: 80; Au.: 100; Ai.: 80	C. op.
$n$ and $\alpha$	Van Genuchten's eq. (§ 7.5) [-]	M.: $n = 1.25$ , $\alpha = 0.08$ Au.: $n = 1.52$ , $\alpha = 0.02$ Ai.: $n = 1.25$ , $\alpha = 0.05$	Wosten et al. (1999)
$I$	mean rainfall intensity (eq. 18) [mm.h <sup>-1</sup> ]	20	Evrard et al. (2009)
$c_{F2}$	crust dynamics parameter (eq.19) [-]	reference values S4	Lepilleur (2017)
$s_k$	crop P and N requirements (§ 8.1) [U of P or N.d <sup>-1</sup> ]	reference values S2	COMIFER (2013)
$\delta_p$	particulate material wash-off (§ 8.2) [m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup> ]	$4.10^{-5}$	Lafforgues (1977)
$\delta_s$	solute material wash-off (§ 8.2) [m <sup>3</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup> ]	0.3	Burns (1974)
$n_a$	daily assimilation rate (§ 8.3) [U of N.d <sup>-1</sup> ]	reference values S2	COMIFER (2013)
$K_d$	EC daily mortality coefficient (§ 8.3) [d <sup>-1</sup> ]	reference values S2	Trévisan et al. (2002)
$d$	daily denitrification (§ 8.3) [U of N.d <sup>-1</sup> ]	0.05	Nicolardot et al. (1996)
$r$	SM build-up source (§ 8.3) [-]	1.5	Mamedov et al. (2016)
$\beta$	retention parameter (§ 8.3) [m <sup>-1</sup> ]	$\beta_{SM} = 0.25$ , $\beta_{PT} = 0.35$	Trévisan et al. (2002)
$\theta$	source parameter (§ 8.3) [-]	$\theta = 1.5$	Trévisan et al. (2002)

463 Table 2: Parameter values (M.: Miribel; Au.: Autrans; Ai.: Aiguebelette; C. op.: Contextual  
464 optimization; A. op.: automatic optimization). S2 : supplementary material 2 ; S4 : supplementary  
465 material 4.

466  
467 Doing so and considering the respective soil conditions, the bottom permeability ratio  $k_m$   
468 was high in Miribel and Aiguebelette but low in Autrans. Horton store emptying was considered  
469 rapid, and a maximum  $c_2$  value was thus retained. The saturation overflow emptying value  $c_3$   
470 was lower, considering potential retardation effects due to variable extension of source areas. All  
471 SSMT parameters were predefined ( $\delta$ ,  $a_k$ ,  $d_k$ ,  $k_d$ ,  $r_k$ ,  $e_k$ ), referenced from available data  
472 given in table 2, as well as those proposed in the LULCC model (supplementary material S1  
473 parameters), although a few decision variables can be redefined from the GAMA GUI to account  
474 for local organization and decision rules (fig. 5).



476 Figure 5: GAMA GUI. A button and list-box panel allows the user to define parameter values and  
477 conditions for generating landscapes and controlling the output configuration.

### 478 **4.3 Landscape reconfiguration prospects**

479 Landscape reconfigurations were simulated to evaluate several agro-ecological transition  
480 schemes aimed at valorizing landscape ecofunctionnalities and controlling water cycle and  
481 quality. The values of the parameters were fixed following those indicated in table 2, giving  
482 reference states  $R$  to which the effects of landscape reconfigurations  $S$  were compared. We

483 evaluated the efficiency  $E_f$  of the reconfigurations by  $E_f = 1 - \frac{\sum_1^k \sum_0^{\tau_f} q_S(\tau)}{\sum_1^k \sum_0^{\tau_f} q_R(\tau)}$  (low values  
484 correspond to low efficiency) where  $k$ ,  $q_S$  and  $q_R$  are the number of DMEI, and the counts of  
485 particle outflow generated by the reconfigured landscape and of the reference state,  
486 respectively.

#### 487 **4.3.1. Farming system evolutions and grassland landscape reshaping to control vole 488 overgrowths and bacteriological water quality degradation**

489 Specialized livestock breeding territories can be associated with faecal contamination of water  
490 but also with grassland vole overgrowths, in relation with low landscape heterogeneities, the  
491 increasing number of permanent meadows, the lack of disturbing activities (plowing) or natural  
492 barriers (paths, banks) for rodent populations, as well as the regression of natural refuges  
493 (hedges, forested patches) for terrestrial and aerial predators (Halliez et al, 2015). The following  
494 changes were tested on *E. coli* flows in the Autrans area: (i) modification of farming systems to  
495 increase the area of plowed parcels (two cases were evaluated with introductions of 10ha and  
496 25ha of spring barley in cereals-milk round-bale systems, corresponding to 1.5 and 3.8 % of

497 additional plowed surface in the watershed area, respectively); (ii) implementation of hedges  
498 (5m wide, considered equivalent to a caduceous forested area) following 5 modalities: 10 km long  
499 along a preferential east-west direction; 10 km along a north-south direction; 10 km EW and 10  
500 km NS; 20 km NS; 20 km NS and 10 km EW).

#### 501 **4.3.2. Changes in farming systems and agricultural practices, and implementation of grass filter** 502 **strips to control soil erosion and suspended matter flows**

503 Industrial vegetable production is often associated with soil compaction and severe runoff and  
504 erosion events (Lepilleur, 2017). We evaluated the effects of changes in the distribution of  
505 farming systems on SM with a 10% increase of annual crop systems in the Miribel area. In  
506 addition, we tested the generalization of hoeing on row crops and the implementation of 0.2, 0.4,  
507 3.4, 3.8, 22, 42 and 96 ha of grass filter strips (these latter filters were first positionned on critical  
508 source aeras selected by vizualizing displacements of SM particle clouds – cf. fig.11 – and  
509 thereafter generalized to the catchment along the drainage network).

#### 510 **4.3.3. Water management**

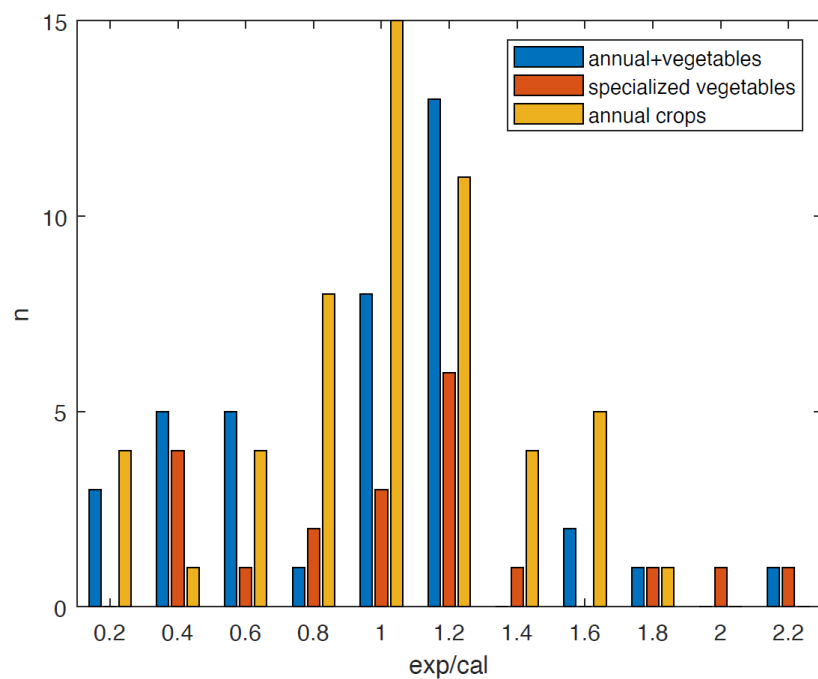
511 As a consequence of periurbanization in the Aiguebelette area, stakeholders are confronted with  
512 the extension of the artificial hydrological network aimed at draining humid areas. We tested the  
513 effect of river network reshaping on SRP loads by adding 1296m of open drain length to the 4262  
514 m of the present hydrological network in a sub-catchment (137 ha) of the studied area (2700 ha).

### 515 **4.4. Discussed results**

#### 516 **4.4.1. LULCC modeling**

517 For crop/vegetable landscapes, the AD ratio between expected crop surfaces and

518 calculated crop surfaces differed depending on the farming systems (fig. 6). Mean values were  
 519 centered on 1, showing the ability of the LULCC model to construct reliable landscapes according  
 520 to the farm production objectives. For annual crops and mixed systems, the deviation from the  
 521 mean was low. However, it was greater for specialized vegetable systems, as a great number of  
 522 vegetable species can be introduced in crop successions depending on the evolution of the  
 523 market demand.

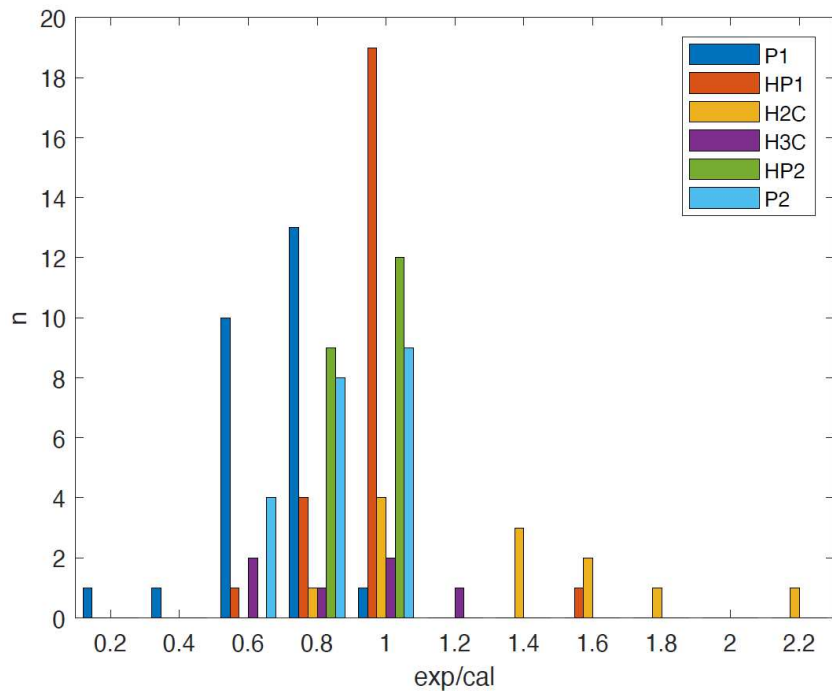


524  
 525 Figure 6: Distribution of ratios between expected and calculated surfaces in Miribel catchment.

526 For grassland landscapes, expected/calculated ratios were also centered on the mean  
 527 value 1 (fig. 7), giving quite realistic landscapes regarding farms needs. Moreover, a few  
 528 differences were visible, noticeably in the area of first priority for productive animal pastures,  
 529 where fields were not subdivided like farmers can do to adjust seasonal livestock needs to  
 530 vegetation production. Deviations from true landscapes mainly resulted from uniform patterns



531 of decision rules, not always adapted to account for local/seasonal adaptations to farm plot  
 532 configurations. In some instances, this reflected our choices for the implementations of the  
 533 landscape models, mainly driven by the need to provide a sufficiently exhaustive but also  
 534 simplified representation of agricultural landscapes allowing us to infer accessible input data.

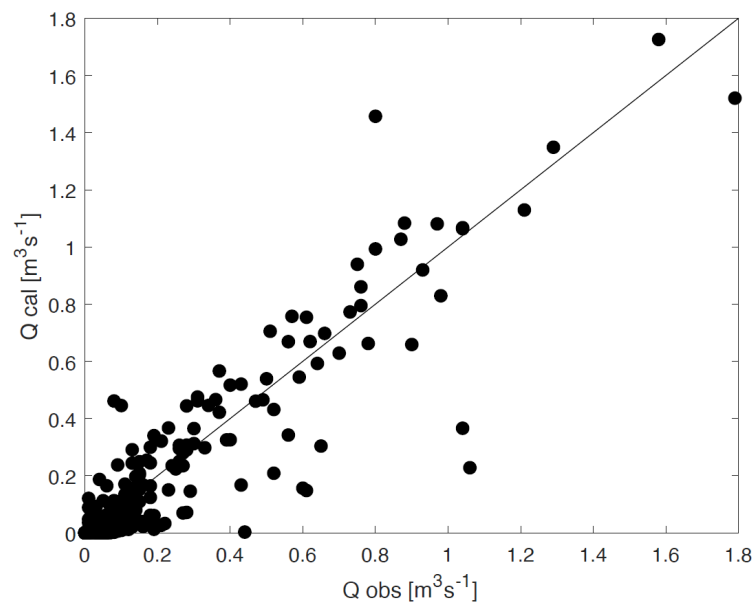


535  
 536 Figure 7: Distribution of ratios between expected and calculated surfaces in Autrans catchment.  
 537 P1 : first priority pasture ; H : hay one cut ; H2C : hay two cuts ; H3 : hay three cuts ; P2 : second  
 538 priority pasture.

539  
 540 **4.4.2. WMWL modeling**

541 The following figures confront calculated and observed data. For Miribel (fig. 8), the Nash-  
 542 Sutcliffe efficiency (NSE) coefficient was 0.81. Model biases were not detected, as observed-  
 543 calculated couples were regularly placed around the bisector line. For Autrans, similar patterns

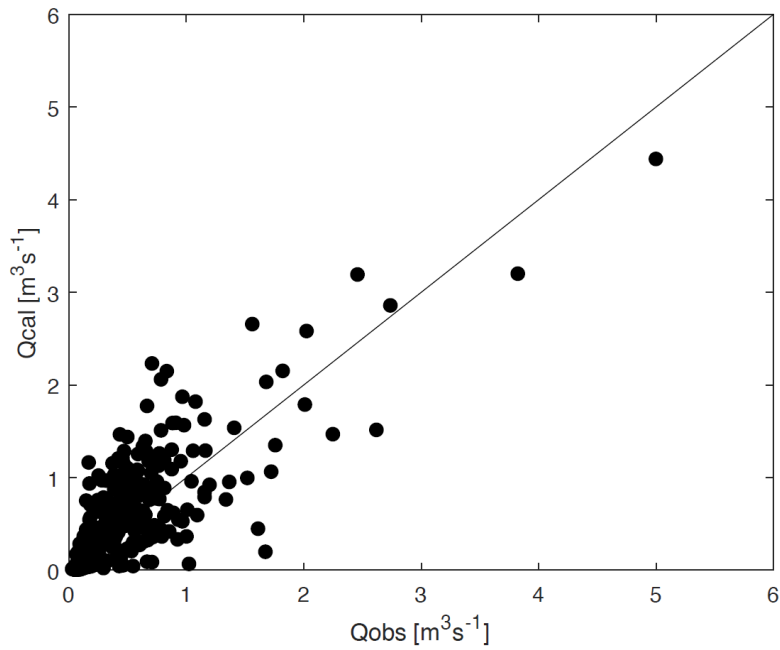
544 were observed, although NSE was lower (NSE=0.56, fig. 9), yet above the 0.5 threshold agreed  
545 upon for model accuracy (Moriassi et al., 2007). Calculated water flows for Aiguebelette also fitted  
546 rather well with observed data (NSE=0.72, fig. 10). The main difference between the three  
547 catchments came from their sensitivity to loose deep water (as expected, the  $c_1$  value  
548 corresponded to high impermeable territory at Autrans, tab. 2). We also noted a higher drainage  
549 dynamics at Miribel (high groundwater table delay  $\lambda$  value), according to the high drainage  
550 density in this annual cropland zone.



551

552

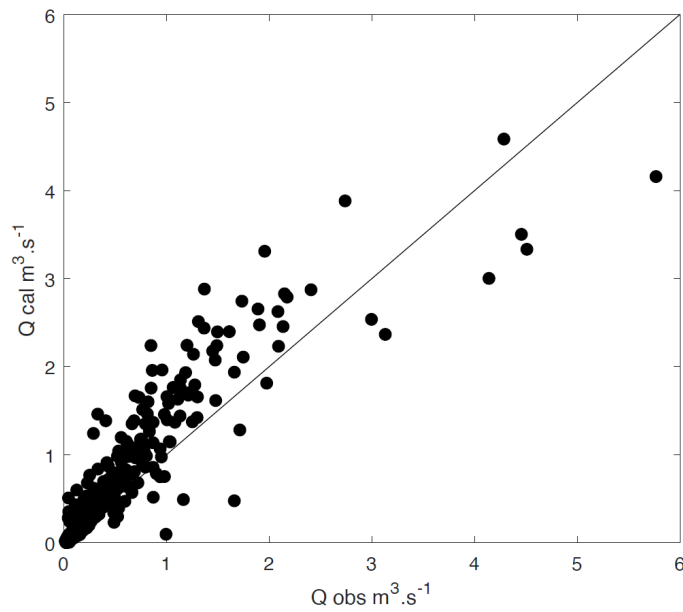
Figure 8: Observed and calculated water flow outputs in Miribel catchment.



553

554

Figure 9: Observed and calculated water flow outputs in Autrans catchment.



555

556

Figure 10: Observed and calculated water flow outputs in Aiguebelette catchment.

557

558

Global responses were also specific to the geographical contexts, and fitted well with the

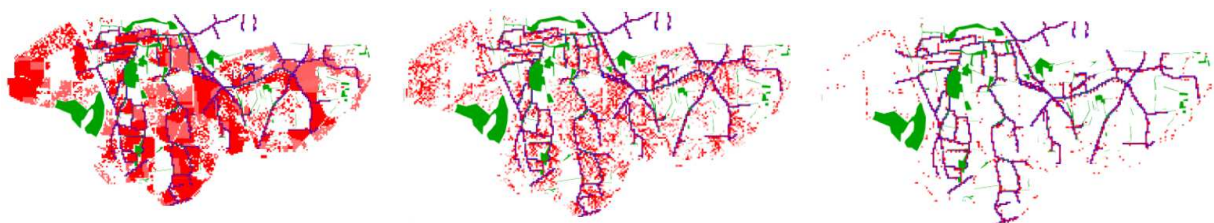
559 hydrological patterns of the areas. Thus, hortonian runoff represented 12.5% of total outflows in  
560 Miribel, and around 1% in the other two catchments. It was quite the same with saturation runoff  
561 (9.6 % in Autrans, negligible elsewhere). In Autrans, peak flows came first from water table  
562 drainage (89%) and secondly from urban runoff from impermeable surfaces (9%). In Aiguebelette,  
563 rural overland flows were reduced ( $< 1\%$ ). Considering the low number of WWML model  
564 parameters, the various soils and agricultural conditions in which it was applied, the diversity of  
565 hydrological processes taken into account, the efficiency of acceptable flow representations, as  
566 well as the good agreements with the characteristics of the hydrosystems, we considered that  
567 the underlying hypotheses about water balance and movement were founded.

568

#### 569 **4.4.3. SSMT modeling**

570 Figure 11 gives an example of SSMT outputs. These are maps of Miribel catchment  
571 showing the transfer of particles at different time steps  $\tau$  following a winter DMEI, when the  
572 plant cover was reduced and soil surfaces subject to crust waterproofing. Produced surface SM  
573 decreased rapidly in one/two days.

574



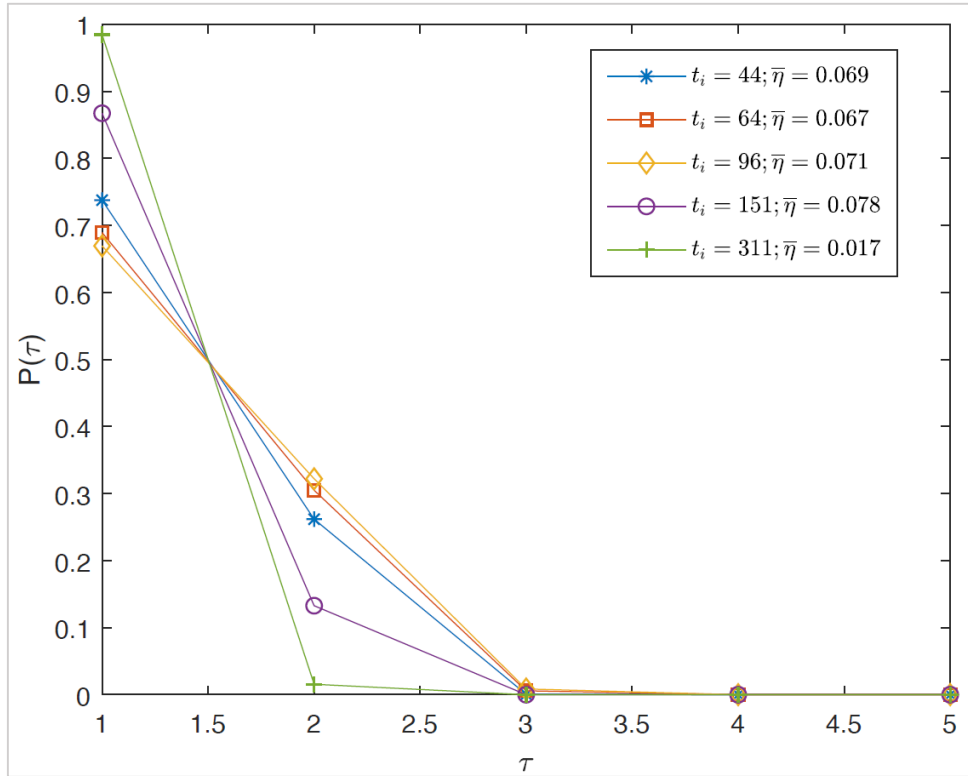
575

576 Figure 11: Spatial particle distribution following a winter DMEI

577

578 **4.4.3.1. Sub-surface transfer functions**

579 For Miribel catchment, *SSTFs* were calculated for hortonian runoff for noteworthy DMEIs  
 580 at  $t_i = t - \tau_f$  producing high flow peaks during the crop season (fig. 12).

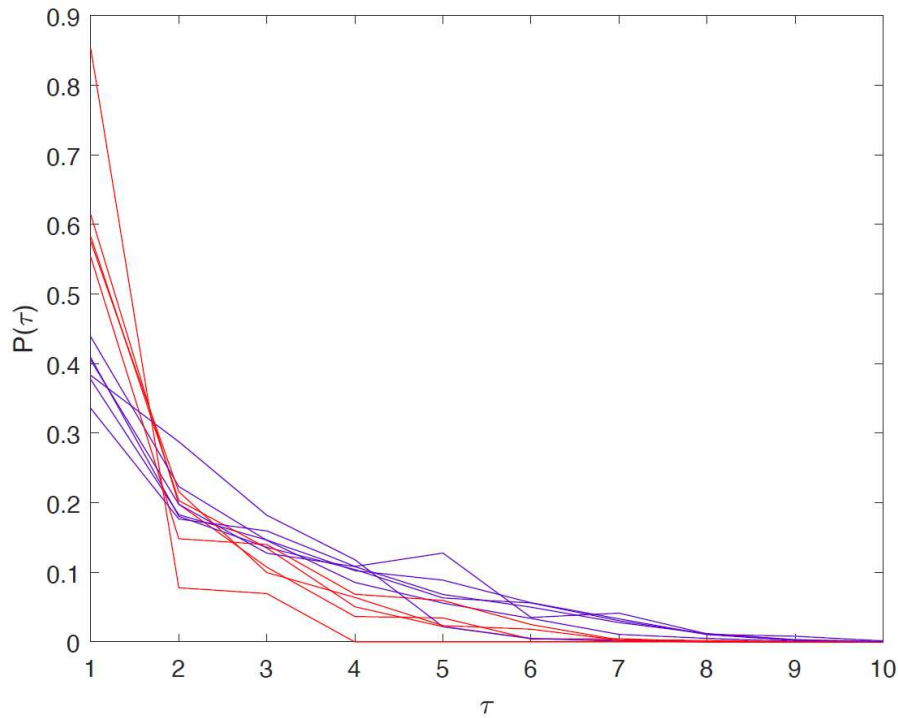


581  
 582 Figure 12: Transfer functions of hortonian surface runoff for several DMEIs and corresponding  
 583 delivery ratios  $\eta$ .

584  
 585 During spring and early summer  $t_i = 44, \dots, 151$ , *SSTFs* were rather similar, with delivery  
 586 ratios  $\eta(t_i)$  around 0.075. Considering the similarity of the spring *SSTF* responses, we  
 587 considered that the *SSTF*( $t_i = 44$ ) was a good representative of the spring transfer dynamics and  
 588 used it for the whole spring season to predict Miribel SM flows from hortonian runoff. Following  
 589 Boiffin et al (1988), hortonian runoff was modeled considering the extension of low-permeability

590 surface crusts (structures named F2) and the rearrangement of high-permeability soil surfaces  
591 (structures named F3), cf Appendix A, §7.5. In summer, no particle was generated because the  
592 soil surface permeability remained high (the mean extension area of F3 exceeded that of F2). The  
593 lowering of the water table and drying out of the drainage network led to a strong decrease of  
594 water flows (in wet conditions, the river length was nearly 40 Km; in summer, based on eq. 23, it  
595 was 500 m), so that the turbidity probe at the catchment outlet was not permanently covered by  
596 water flows. In early fall ( $t_i = 311$ ), the drying out of the drainage network persisted but was  
597 lower than in summer (the drainage network length was around 10 % of its initial length). Due to  
598 the disconnection of active overland flow areas, the *SSTF* sharply decreased with reduced  $\eta(t_i)$   
599 ( $=0.02$ ).

600 For Autrans catchment, several DMEIs were evaluated (fig. 13). Two main *SSTF* response  
601 patterns were described, with a first type in which distributions showed sharp decreases when  
602  $P(\tau_1) > 0.5$ , and a second type with lower decrease. They corresponded to rapid losses when  
603 active areas were close to the river network, or differed transfer rates from more distant sources,  
604 respectively. The first sharp type was generated when the  $H_{vsa}$  variable source area (VSA) flows  
605 was greater than  $1.5 \text{ m}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ . The delivery ratios also differed throughout the season according  
606 to hydrological conditions, with a general trend given by the statistical relationship  $\eta(t_i) =$   
607  $0.099H_{vsa}(t_i) + 0.051$  ( $r^2 = 0.6^{**}$ ). Consequently, two *SSTF* types and the relationships  
608 between the delivery ratio and the variable source flow were introduced in  $q_L(t)$ , the lumped  
609 evaluation of EC flows.



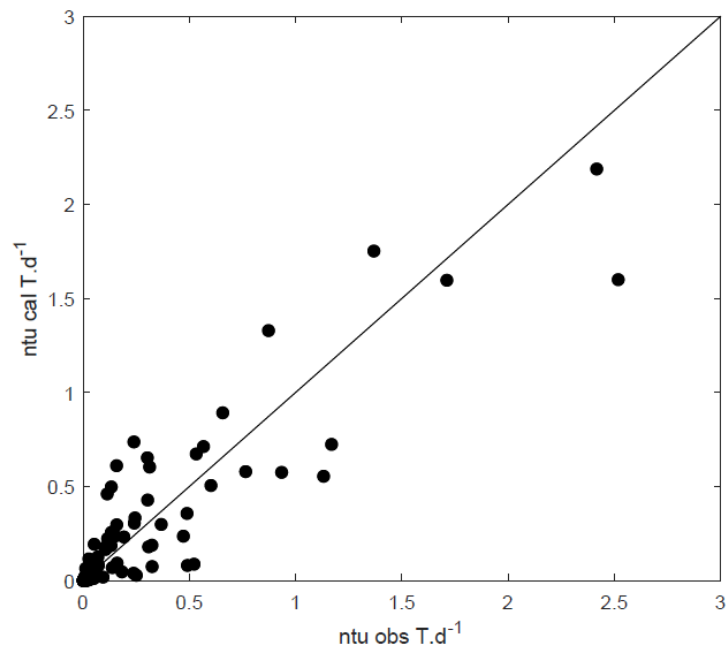
610  
 611 Figure 13: Transfer functions for saturation excess runoff in Autrans catchment. Red lines: type 1;  
 612 green lines: type 2.

613 For the Aiguebelette catchment, *SSTFs* studied for different seasons ( $t_i =$   
 614 31,64,113,167,212 ,315) were rather equivalent, with a sharp decrease similar to the one  
 615 described in Miribel at  $t_i = 311$  (fig.12), due to the fact that the water movements were  
 616 essentially vertical and limited volumes moved laterally in this filtering context.

617  
 618 **4.4.3.2. Modeling of matter outflows**

619 At Miribel, turbidity probes operated until late spring, and data were collected to evaluate  
 620 SSMT outputs (figure 14, NSE=0.73). One event (obs=2.51 ntu. $d^{-1}$ ; cal=1.40 ntu. $d^{-1}$ ) situated at  
 621 the end of the modeled sequence reduced the NSE ratio. It corresponded to stochastic

622 conjunctions of the plowing, sowing or hoeing dates that probably led to lower F2-F3 differences.



623

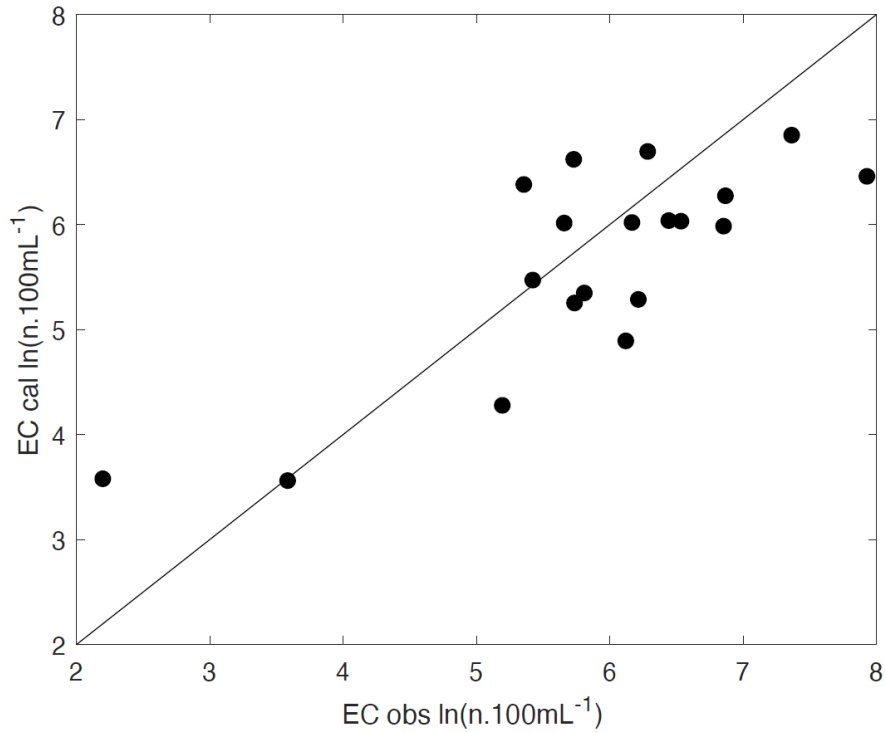
624

625 Figure 14: Observed and calculated SM flow outputs in Miribel catchment.

626

627 At Autrans, observed values were filtered according to the proportions of bacteroidales  
628 markers of human and bovine origins (the bovine origin was dominant, ranging from 0.7 to 0.9%).  
629 Observed and calculated EC values were confronted in fig. 15 (NSE=0.61). Even though  
630 acceptable, efficiency was moderate, as often when comparing manual samples to daily  
631 computations; the spatial variability of fecal populations can be large in river systems, with diurnal  
632 variation (often by several orders of magnitude), as noted by EPA, 2010.





633

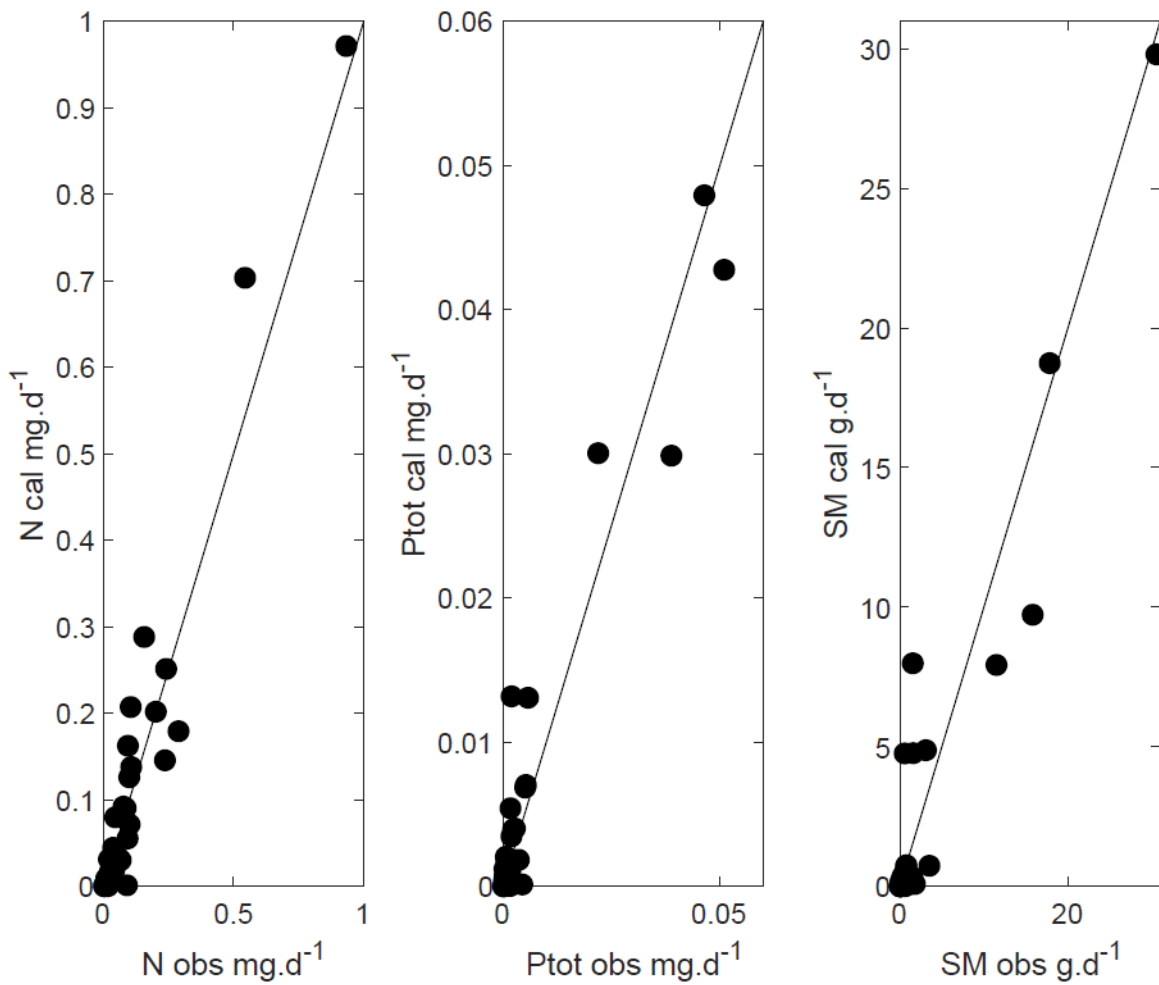
634 Figure 15: Observed and calculated EC flow outputs of Autrans catchment.

635

636 The solute transport in Aiguebelette was analyzed considering eq. 7 and 8 and the *GTF*  
 637 transfer distribution  $P(\tau)$  associated to the  $\lambda$  parameter describing water table seepage. For  
 638 SM and particulate matter, we developed the lumped modeling schemes described in previous  
 639 studies for similar bank erosion situations (Trévisan et al., 2019), considering that the production  
 640 function  $m(t)$  was obtained from stores  $s(t)$  related to the active river length and livestock  
 641 pressure, and wash-off  $w(t)$  was associated with drainage flow and urban runoff. Fig. 16 gives  
 642 results obtained at Aiguebelette for solutes or suspended compounds recorded at the outlet.  
 643 NSEs were equal to 0.91, 0.92 and 0.90 for nitrogen, total phosphorus and SM, respectively.  
 644 Efficiencies were high, and residuals were regularly dispersed around bisectors.

645

646 Despite the variety of transferred compounds and modes of matter displacement,  
647 outflows were quite well reproduced by SSMT modeling, and provided evidence of the efficiency  
648 of OPALE outputs ( $\eta(t_i)$ ,  $s(t)$ ,  $w(t)$ ,  $SSFT$  and  $GTF$ ) in assessing the links between practices and  
649 water-related functions in agricultural landscapes.



650

651 Figure 16: Observed and calculated N, P and SM flows of Aiguebelette catchment.

652 **4.4.4. Landscape reconfigurations**

653

The values of efficiency coefficients  $E_f$  are given in table 3.

<b>Miribel (1)</b> SM k=6	R+100 % Hoeing	R+10% annual crops	R+0.2 ha GFS	R+0.4 ha GFS	R+3.4 ha GFS	R+3.8 ha GFS	R+22 ha GFS	R+42 ha GFS	R+96 ha GFS
	0.05	0.13	0.14	0.09	0.24	0.20	0.39	0.45	0.71
<b>Autrans (1)</b> <i>E. Coli</i> k=6	R+10 ha cereals	R+25 ha cereals	R+ Hedges 10km WE	R+ Hedges 10km NS	R+ Hedges 10km NS+10km WE	R+ Hedges 20km NS	R+ Hedges 20km NS+10km WE		
	0.1	0.02	0.10	0.24	0.26	0.29	0.33		
<b>Aiguebelette (2)</b> SRP k=1	R+1.2km open drain 5 march		R+1.2km open drain 23 april		R+1.2km open drain 16 June		R+1.2km open drain 11 november		
	-0.02		-1.18		-1.29		-0.27		

654

655 Table. 3. Efficiency coefficients for landscape reconfigurations in the Miribel, Autrans and  
 656 Aiguebelette catchments. (1), overland flows; (2), hypodermical flow; k, number of DMEIs; R,  
 657 reference landscape; GFS, grass filter strips; WE, west-east; NS, north-south.

658

659 For the Miribel catchment, hoeing of all row crops slightly reduced SM flows, insofar as the  
 660 benefits are expected to be limited to the few weeks following hoeing in this context of high soil  
 661 crusting sensitivity. Efficiency is greater when the numbers of farming systems with annual crops

662 increase (in such systems soil surfaces are much more protected from erosivity because  
663 intercropping reduces the length of the periods when soils are non covered by aerial biomass,  
664 whereas unprotected, compacted and emissive harvesting sites can be prolonged in vegetable  
665 production depending on the market demand). The efficiency of landscape reconfiguration by  
666 GFS increased with the GFS area, and increased sharply when GFS implementations were located  
667 on areas where SM particles converged, in accordance with the need for better recognition and  
668 monitoring of critical source areas (Heathwaite et al, 2005).

669 In Autrans, the extension of plowed surfaces increased the landscape efficiency against *E.*  
670 *Coli* loads. This was probably explained by the reduced pressure of manure spreads, as these are  
671 buried by plowing and thereby not sources of bacterial emissions from overland runoff (Sistani et  
672 al, 2009; Meals et Braun, 2006). However, efficiency was lower for R+25ha than for R+10ha of  
673 spring cereals. This can be attributed to the fact that the closer proximity of pastures to the  
674 river network when cereal production was enlarged increased the pressure and transfer dynamics  
675 of *E. coli*. It is also conceivable that the extension of the cereal production area went together  
676 with an increased risk of hortonian runoff. High-stemmed hedges increase landscape efficiency,  
677 especially when hedges are planted in a NS direction (the direction perpendicular to the main  
678 slope and the water flow direction). This suggests that the effects of hedges are mainly  
679 attributable to the interception of surface runoff trajectories, firstly by increasing the re-  
680 infiltration of runoff due to the greater evapotranspiration potential of hedges compared to  
681 grasslands (Granier, 2007; Merot et al, 1999), and secondly by a trapping effect, which is debated  
682 for bacteria (Vansteelant, 2004). These examples show how several landscape ecofunctionnalities

683 can be associated in order to rationally fight against water contamination, the proliferation of  
684 grassland vole overgrowths, as well as better conditions for pasture, thanks to shading effects  
685 associated with hedge networks.

686 Drainage of humid areas in Aiguebelette is concomitant with decreasing efficiency of  
687 landscapes against the control of SRP flows from hypodermical transfers. The decrease is much  
688 sharper during the growing season (April and June), when plant root systems are fully active,  
689 compared to winter or autumn when evapotranspiration and nutrient uptake are low (Granier,  
690 2007) and efficiency less deprecated.

## 691 **5. Conclusion**

692 Landscape eco-functionalities are related to agricultural uses and schedules (Wezel et al.,  
693 2009 ; Gascuel-Oudoux and Magda, 2015), and stakeholders use operational tools to assess the  
694 incidence of global change (climatic perturbations, urbanization) and evaluate the adaptations of  
695 farming systems or new land-use practices. A number of ecological infrastructures can be  
696 implemented to control and protect water resources, such as filter strips (Dorioz et al., 2006),  
697 interstitial hedgerows (Merot et al., 1999), riparian hedgerows (Zaimes et al., 2008), and  
698 ecological infrastructures including meanders, marshes, etc. (Wang et al., 2004 ; Trévisan et  
699 Perriáñez, 2016). In practice, the efficiency of mitigation practices or landscape infrastructures  
700 strongly depends on their position in the landscape, as well on cumulative effects (Wang et al.,  
701 2004). OPALE – the tool presented in this article – was developed as an assessment tool of  
702 landscape organization to meet such demands by addressing several scientific and operational  
703 issues.

704 Landscapes are built from production objectives of farming systems and related decision  
705 rules; as such, they are the seat of water displacements commonly analyzed through the common  
706 concept of transfer functions, representing the distribution over time of elementary water  
707 volumes exported at catchment outlets (Haggerty et al., 2000 ; Hingray et al., 2009). This  
708 representation is well developed in catchment hydrology to predict water flows and associated  
709 signals (natural or artificial tracers) at the outlet of catchments, e.g., Nilo de Oliveira Nascimento  
710 et al. (1999), but also in river hydrology to evaluate channel organization and responses (Gooseff  
711 et al., 2003 ; Trévisan and Perriñez(2016). Despite available knowledge on the relationship  
712 between topographic patterns of catchments and the variability of their residence times  
713 (McGuire et al., 2005), eco-hydrology developments are expected to evaluate the relationships  
714 between landscape composition-structure and transfer patterns (McGuire and McDonnell, 2006).  
715 Our work is a contribution to such issues. It proposes several libraries aimed at (i) analyzing the  
716 dynamics of the restitution of water and associated matter to the catchment outlet from the  
717 explicit resolution of distributed water balances and particle tracking methods, and (ii) evaluating  
718 the efficiency of developed methods by using lumped modeling techniques and confronting them  
719 to a variety of real-world observations.

720 Operational issues mainly concern (i) the need for generic models adapted to a large  
721 geographical diversity of production systems, biophysical environments and landscape features,  
722 (ii) data accessibility, (iii) robustness of algorithms to avoid over-parameterization and over-fitting  
723 problems, and (iv) workable interfaces limiting I/O data manipulation as much as possible and  
724 allowing fast workflows from data configuration to diagnosis.

725 OPALE allowed for efficient evaluations of water and matter outflows and led to transfer  
726 functions and delivery ratios usable as synthetic indicators of the assessment of landscape  
727 functioning and eco-functionality. We demonstrated the effectiveness of OPALE procedures  
728 regarding such criteria through three diverse true-life cases in terms of agriculture, soil and  
729 hydrology conditions.

730

## 731 **6. Acknowledgments**

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734

## 735 **7. Appendix A: WMWL model formulations**

736 Hydraulic properties (field moisture capacity, saturated hydraulic conductivity) were  
737 computed using pedotransfer functions (Bruand et al., 2002).

738

### 739 **7.1. Plant development model**

740 The depth of the root zone was updated daily, applying the plant growth model developed  
741 by Gérard-Marchant et al. (2006) and in SMDR (2013). The first step of the computation was the  
742 evaluation of degree-day units  $DD$ :

$$743 \quad DD = \begin{cases} T - T_b = \frac{T_{max} - T_b}{2} + \frac{T_{min} - T_b}{2} & \text{for } T \geq T_b \\ 0 & \text{for } T < T_b, \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

744 where  $T$ ,  $T_{max}$ ,  $T_{min}$  are the mean daily, maximum and minimum temperatures [°C],  
 745 respectively, and  $T_b$  a plant development threshold. Tables for  $T_b$  are given in the SMDR  
 746 manual. Every day, the new computed  $DD$  value was added to the previous day value, following  
 747 rules for stopping  $DD$  accumulation in case of negative temperatures or after harvest. Several  
 748 formulas were applied to compute  $\alpha_D$ , a plant development factor (varying from 0 to 1 for  
 749 maximum plant development), between different  $DD$  -accumulation thresholds (slow  
 750 development  $DD_1$ ; rapid development  $DD_2$ , maturity  $DD_3$  and senescence  $DD_{max}$ ):

$$751 \quad G_1 = \frac{1}{DD_3}; \quad (10)$$

$$752 \quad G_2 = \frac{1}{DD_3} \frac{DD_3 - DD_1}{DD_2 - DD_1}; \quad (11)$$

$$753 \quad G_3 = -0.6 \frac{1}{DD_{max} - DD_3} \quad (12)$$

756 The plant development factor was obtained from:  $\alpha_D = G_1 DD$  if  $DD < DD_1$  (slow  
 757 development);  $\alpha_D = 1 + G_2 (DD - DD_2)$  if  $DD_2 > DD > DD_1$  (rapid development);  $\alpha_D = 1$   
 758 if  $DD_3 > DD > DD_2$  (maturity);  $\alpha_D = 1 + G_3 (DD - DD_3)$  if  $DD_{max} > DD > DD_3$   
 759 (senescence) and;  $\alpha_D = 0$  if  $DD > DD_{max}$  (dormancy).

760 Root depth  $ZR$  was then computed between  $ZR_{min}$  and  $ZR_{max}$ , the minimum and  
 761 maximum values, from:

$$762 \quad ZR = ZR_{min} + \alpha_D (ZR_{max} - ZR_{min}). \quad (13)$$

763 The ratio  $K_c$  between potential  $E_{tp}$  and real evapotranspiration  $E$  ( $E = K_c E_{tp}$ ) was



764 calculated from minimum to maximum values following  $K_c = K_{cmin} + \alpha D(K_{cmax} - K_{cmin})$ . ZR  
 765 and  $K_c$  values are crop dependent and tabulated in SMDR (2013). A biomass indicator  $I_{bm}$  was  
 766 computed as follows:

$$767 \quad \begin{cases} IBM(t) = IBM(t-1) + \alpha_D * \beta & \text{if } DD(t) < DD_3 \\ = 0 & \text{if } DD(t) > DD_3 \\ = 0 & \text{if } t \geq t(\text{harvest}) \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

768 where  $\beta$  –varying from 0 to 1 and depending on soil moisture (Arnold and Forhrer, 2005)–  
 769 reduces plant development in case of water stress. Water stress was considered as soon as the  
 770 vadose zone moisture  $\theta_{rz}$  dropped below  $\theta_{eu}$ , the easily usable water reserve ( $\theta_{eu} =$   
 771  $0.25(\theta_{cc} - \theta_{wp}) + \theta_{wp}$ , where  $\theta_{cc}$  and  $\theta_{wp}$  are the field capacity and the wilting point,  
 772 respectively). The water stress predictor was obtained from  $\beta = \exp(5(\theta_{rz}/\theta_{eu} - 1))$ .

773

## 774 **7.2. Drainage D**

775 Excess water available for vertical or lateral movements  $W_e$  was obtained from  $W_e =$   
 776  $\max(0, W_{vz} - W_{cc})$ , with  $W_{vz}$  the soil moisture and  $W_{cc}$  the moisture at field capacity [m].

777 Drainage  $D$  was obtained from (Arnold and Fohrer, 2005) by  $D = W_e(1 - e^{-\frac{1}{\omega}})$ , where the time

778 delay coefficient  $\omega$  is deduced from  $\omega = \frac{W_{sat} - W_{cc}}{K_{bot}}$ , with  $W_{sat}$  the moisture at saturation [m],

779  $K_{bot}$  the saturated hydraulic conductivity [m.day<sup>-1</sup>] at the bottom of the vadose zone, given

780 by:

$$781 \quad K_{bot} = k_m K_{sat}, \quad (15)$$

782 where  $k_m$  is a coefficient that accounts for the reduction of the vadose zone hydraulic

783 conductivity  $K_{sat}$ . At the end of each day iteration, the daily groundwater production  $D(t)$  was  
784 added to  $V_D$ , the deep water store:  $V_D(t) = V_D(t - 1) + D(t)$ .

785

### 786 **7.3. Lateral flow L**

787 Lateral flow  $L(t)$  was given by  $L(t) = \frac{2W_e K_{sat}}{(\theta_{sat} - \theta_{cc})d}$ , where  $\theta_{sat}$ ,  $\theta_{cc}$  are the soil  
788 moisture at saturation [ $m \cdot m^{-1}$ ], and  $d$  the distance between two adjacent cells, respectively.  
789  $d$  was equal to  $l$ , the cell size of the computational square mesh in case of orthonormal flow  
790 directions, and to  $\sqrt{2}l$  when flow directions were north east, south east, south west or north  
791 west. Lateral flows were routed to down-slope cells occupied by a river segment, following the  
792  $D_\infty$  algorithm (Tarboton, 1997) and cascade schemes (Kiesel et al., 2013).

793

### 794 **7.4. Variable source area surface flows**

795 Following Obled and Zin (2004), effective rainfall was added daily to the vadose zone.  
796 When the resulting moisture  $W_{vz}$  exceeded  $W_{vz_{sat}}$  (the saturated soil moisture), the overland  
797 flow  $H_{vsa}$  was computed by  $H_{vsa} = W_{vz} - W_{vz_{sat}}$ . At the end of each day iteration, the daily  
798 production  $H_{vsa}(t)$  was added to  $V_{vsa}$ , the VSA surface store:  $V_{vsa}(t) = V_{vsa}(t - 1) +$   
799  $H_{vsa}(t)$ .

800

### 801 **7.5. Hortonian surface flows**

802 We considered that hortonian runoff mainly came from the crusted, low-permeability  
803 area (Cerdan et al., 2002). The flow  $q$  infiltrated into crusted soils was obtained from (Jetten et

804 al., 1998):

$$805 \quad q = \frac{K_c}{z_c} (\psi_u + h_0 + z_c), \quad (16)$$

806 where  $K_c$  is crust conductivity,  $z_c$  crust thickness,  $h_0$  surface runoff depth and  $\psi_u$   
807 root zone suction.  $\psi_u$  depends on soil moisture and was modeled by the Van Genuchten's  
808 equation:

$$809 \quad \psi_u = \frac{\left[ \left( \frac{\theta - \theta_{res}}{\theta_{sat} - \theta_{res}} \right)^{\frac{-1}{m}} - 1 \right]^{\frac{1}{n}}}{\alpha} \quad (17)$$

810 where  $\theta$ ,  $\theta_{res}$ ,  $\theta_{sat}$  are the vadose zone soil moisture, the residual water content and  
811 the corresponding moisture at saturation, respectively.  $n$  and  $\alpha$  were parameters depending  
812 on texture conditions, and  $m = 1 - \frac{1}{n}$ . With  $I$  rainfall intensity,  $r$  the proportion of crusted  
813 soil [ $\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{m}^{-2}$ ] and  $R$  rainfall depth, if  $q < I$ , the overland hortonian runoff  $H_{hor}$  was given by:

$$814 \quad H_{hor} = rR \frac{I-q}{I}. \quad (18)$$

815 The degradation of the soil structure owing to the impact of raindrops at the soil surface  
816 produces a typical deposit structure named  $F2$ . Particles are rearranged by splash and  
817 sedimentation at the soil surface, a very-low-permeability crust is formed, and surface roughness  
818 and water retention decrease (Boiffin et al., 1988). However, as the plant cover increases along  
819 the crop season,  $F2$  structures are reshaped and progressively rearranged by alternating  
820 moistening/desiccation phases or by biological activity, making way for high-permeability  $F3$   
821 structures. In addition, rainfall is redirected by leaves and stems to the collars of plants, where  
822 soil surface permeability is elevated. We therefore considered that soil crusting and plant  
823 development had opposite effects and we calculated the extension of crust deposits  $r$  (the

824 proportion of cell surface covered by crust deposits) with  $r = \max(0, F2 - F3)$ .

825 We considered the extension of crust  $F2$  by calculating:

$$826 \quad F2 = \frac{R_{cum}}{c_{F2} + R_{cum}}, \quad (19)$$

827 where  $R_{cum}$  is cumulative rainfall, daily updated from the seeding date of annual crops, and  $c_{F2}$

828 an agricultural parameter.  $c_{F2}$  values were calculated from experimental surveys of crusting

829 dynamics (Vansteelant et al., 1997 ; Lepilleur, 2017), given in supplementary material S4.  $F3$

830 (varying from 0 to 1) was obtained from  $F3 = \frac{I_{bm}}{I_{bmM}}$ , where  $I_{bmM}$  (eq.14) was the maximum

831 value of the biomass indicator at the time of annual crop harvest. At the end of each day iteration,

832 the daily production  $H_{hor}(t)$  was added to  $V_{hor}$ , the hortonian surface store:  $V_{hor}(t) =$

833  $V_{hor}(t - 1) + H_{hor}(t)$ .

834

## 835 **7.6. River outflow**

836  $V_D(t)$  and  $V_{vsa}(t)$  and  $V_{hor}(t)$  stores are subject to losses or transfer delays described

837 by first-order kinetics (Arnold and Fohrer,2005). Daily drainage losses  $L_D(t)$  directed to the

838 external aquifer not included in the catchment balance were given by  $L_D(t) = V_D(t - 1)(1 -$

839  $e^{-c_1 \Delta t})$ , leading to:

$$840 \quad L_D(t) = V_D(t - 1)(1 - e^{-c_1}). \quad (20)$$

841 Outputs from hortonian  $V_{hor}(t)$  or saturation  $V_{vsa}(t)$  overflows directed to river segments

842 were obtained from :

$$843 \quad \begin{aligned} &V_{hor}(t) = V_{hor}(t - 1)(1 - e^{-c_2}) \\ \text{and} \quad &V_{vsa}(t) = V_{vsa}(t - 1)(1 - e^{-c_3}), \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

844 respectively. Transfer delays linked to the internal aquifer seeping into river segments were  
 845 modeled considering long restitution periods  $\tau_s$ . Following Hingray et al.(2009), seepage  $V_D^{out}$   
 846 was given by calculating:

$$847 \quad V_D(t) = (V_D(t) - L_D(t)) * \tau_s^{-\lambda}. \quad (22)$$

848 Following Gurnell (1978), the number of river segments (cells connected to the outlet)  $m$   
 849 was given by the rounded value:

$$850 \quad m = N_R \left( \frac{API}{API_{max}} \right)^b, \quad (23)$$

851 where  $N_R$  was the maximum number of river cells,  $b$  a shape parameter,  $API$  the previous  
 852 pluviometric index

$$853 \quad API = \sum_0^{i=15} [R(t - i) - ETP(t - i)], \quad (24)$$

854 and  $API_{max}$  the maximum pluviometric index ( $i = i_{max}$ ).

855 The river outflow  $Q$  [ $m^3.s^{-1}$ ] transferred to the catchment outlet was obtained by  
 856 calculating:

$$857 \quad Q(t) = \frac{l^2}{24 \times 3600} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{\xi} R_i(t) + \sum_{i=1}^m (V_{D_i}(t) + V_{vsa_i}(t) + V_{hor_i}(t)) \right], \quad (25)$$

858 where  $l$  was the dimension of a cell [m],  $\xi$  the number of impervious cells in urban  
 859 areas, and  $R_i(t)$  rainfall.

860

## 861 **8. Appendix B: SSMT model formulation**

862 We will successively consider particle build-up, wash-off and sink-source effects, i.e.,  
 863 biophysical processes contributing to particle mobilization, extinction or withdrawal. To save

864 computational time, particle build-up is evaluated under the Matlab environment during the  
865 period preceding a DMEI. We did not consider lateral exchanges between cells, as this is  
866 commonly done in the field of environmental studies for the evaluation of agricultural pressures  
867 (Massa et al, 2008). In the contrary, during the transfer period following a DMEI, wash-off and  
868 sink-source effects were evaluated in the Gama environment, considering cascade effects  
869 between upslope and downslope cells.

870

### 871 **8.1. Particle build-up**

872 Build-up stocks  $s_k(t)$  are generated on computational cells  $k$  by agricultural pressure  
873 and depend on crop requirements and practices. We defined several proxies as substitute  
874 variables for the different kinds of build-up stocks.

875 We evaluated nutrient build-up  $s_k(t)$ , considering the net stock of nutrients from a rough  
876 balance between fertilizer supply, mineralization, and assimilation, all of them documented by  
877 tables provided by technical institutes for crop production and protection (COMIFER, 2013). N  
878 leaching was evaluated from Burn's model (Burns, 1974). EC stocks were evaluated for grasslands,  
879 taking proportional links between fecal populations and N inputs from farm effluent spreading  
880 into account. EC inputs from deciduous and perennial forest wildlife were not excluded. Total  
881 nutrient needs, daily rates of net assimilation and EC particle patterns are given in supplementary  
882 material S2. We hypothesized that SM stocks  $s_k^m(t)$  were produced by impermeable soil surface  
883 structures. They were evaluated by calculating  $s_k^m(t) = \max(0, F2_k(t) - F3_k(t))$ , where  
884  $F2_k(t)$  and  $F3_k(t)$  are the extents of continuous and discontinuous crusts, respectively (see

885 Appendix A). Depending on their nature, particle stocks are not equally available for all water  
 886 components. Except for surface flows where N, P, EC and SM can potentially be displaced from  
 887 upstream to downstream cells, particle displacement by subsurface flows was restricted to N and  
 888 soluble P, and only to N particles in the deepest water tables. The aim was to account for trapping  
 889 and filtering effects acting on EC and SM (Muirhead et al., 2006 ; Dorioz et al., 2006) and for lower  
 890 soluble P adsorption onto organic matter-enriched environments such as topsoils (Jarvie et al.,  
 891 2005). The stock distributions of the different hortonian runoff  $h_k^{hor}(t)$ , VSA runoff  $h_k^{vsa}(t)$ ,  
 892 subsurface  $l_k(t)$  and drainage  $d_k(t)$  flows were calculated considering their respective  
 893 proportions. For example:

$$894 \quad s_k^{hor}(t) = s_k(t) \frac{h_k^{hor}(t)}{h_k^{hor}(t) + h_k^{vsa}(t) + l_k(t) + d_k(t)} \quad (26)$$

895 gave the amount of particles available for hortonian runoff  $s_k^{hor}(t)$ .

896

## 897 **8.2. Particle wash-off**

898 During the transfer period  $\tau = (0, \dots, \tau_f)$  and referring to salt redistribution (Burns,  
 899 1974) or soil-water relationships (Holzbecher, 2012), we considered a generalized formulation of  
 900 the  $w_k(t - \tau)$  wash-off:

$$901 \quad w_k(t - \tau) = \left( \frac{h_k(t - \tau)}{h_k(t - \tau) + \delta} \right)^r, \quad (27)$$

902 where  $\delta$  was a mobility coefficient for particulate or solute matters,  $h_k(t - \tau)$  a water flow  
 903 component,  $r$  the half of soil depth in case of solutes (equals to one otherwise).

904

### 905 **8.3. Sinks-sources**

906 The store of particles was updated throughout the transfer period. Sink effects were  
907 considered:

$$908 \quad s_k(t - \tau) = s_k(t - \tau - 1) - a_k(\tau) - d_k(\tau) - k_d(\tau), \quad (28)$$

909 where, if suited to particle nature,  $a_k(\tau)$  was the net assimilation rate (the balance between  
910 daily mineralization and daily assimilation),  $d_k(\tau)$  denitrification and  $k_d(\tau)$  mortality.

911 The production function  $m_k(t - \tau)$  of particles available to down-slope transfer was  
912 obtained by calculating:

$$913 \quad m_k(t - \tau) = s_k(t - \tau)w_k(t - \tau) - r_k(\tau) + e_k(\tau), \quad (29)$$

914 giving the amount of particles originating from cell  $k$  and transferred during  $\tau$  steps to down-  
915 slope cells  $k + 1$ , where if suited to particle nature,  $r_k(\tau)$  was retention and  $e_k(\tau)$  an  
916 additional wash-off source.

917 Daily assimilation rates  $a_k(\tau)$  of N and P were estimated considering the length of plant  
918 development phases. De-nitrification losses  $d_k(\tau)$  were accounted for when soil moisture  
919 exceeded the field-capacity threshold (Nicolardot et al, 1996). Following COMIFER (2013), they  
920 were evaluated by calculating  $d_k(\tau) = c_d s_k^N(t - \tau)$  where  $c_d$  is a de-nitrification constant and  
921  $s_k^N(t - \tau)$  the initial N store, respectively. EC decay  $k_d(\tau)$  was accounted for during the growth  
922 and maturity phases of plant development from experimental counts of EC populations on  
923 meadow canopies following manure application (Trevisan et al., 2002). Particles from SM  
924 production  $m_k^{SM}(t - \tau)$  were retained when overland flows crossed filtering infrastructures.  
925 Based on experimental data obtained by (Trévisan and Dorioz, 2001), we applied a first-order



926 kinetic to calculate the value of the retention function:  $r_k(\tau) = m_k^{SM}(t - \tau)e^{-\beta L}$ , where  $L$  is  
 927 the width of the crossed infrastructure and  $\beta$  a length parameter. Additional SM particles can  
 928 come from runoff concentrations (Cerdan et al., 2002). As linear relationships often occur  
 929 between erosion rates and runoff amounts (Mamedov et al. , 2016 ; Pardini et al, 2016), we  
 930 considered the source effects with additional production  $e_k(\tau) = \theta \hat{h}_k(t - \tau)$ , where  $\theta$  is a  
 931 proportionality factor and  $\hat{h}_k(t - \tau)$  the surface runoff volume accumulated up-slope of cell  $k$ .

932

## 933 9. Appendix C: SSMT validation

934 To simplify formulations, we considered outflows provided by a transfer period of  
 935 duration  $\tau_f = 1$ . Based on eq. 3, 4 and 7, we calculated:

$$\begin{cases}
 q_L(t) = \eta(t - \tau_f) \sum_1^k m_k(t) * P(1) \\
 = \frac{\sum_1^{\tau_1} q(\tau_1)}{\sum_1^k s_k(t - \tau_f) w_k(t - \tau_f)} \sum_1^k m_k(t - \tau_f) P(1) \\
 = \frac{\sum_1^{\tau_1} q(\tau_1)}{\sum_1^k s_k(t - \tau_f) w_k(t - \tau_f)} \sum_1^k s_k(t - \tau_f) w_k(t - \tau_f) P(1) \\
 = \sum_1^{\tau_1} q(\tau_1) \frac{q(\tau_1)}{\sum_1^{\tau_1} q(\tau_1)} \\
 = q(\tau_1).
 \end{cases} \quad (30)$$

937 We retained that the lumped modeling of particle outflows equaled the SSMT particle count.

938

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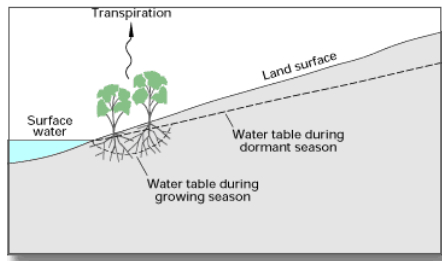
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## Transpiration draws water out of the ground.



(Public domain.)

Thumbnail

Medium

Original

### Detailed Description

#### Transpiration and groundwater

In many places, the top layer of the soil where plant roots are located is above the water table and thus is often wet to some extent, but is not totally saturated, as is soil below the water table. The soil above the water table gets wet when it rains as water [infiltrates](#) into it from the surface. But, it will dry out without additional precipitation. Since the water table is usually below the depth of the plant roots, the plants are dependent on water supplied by precipitation. As this diagram shows, in places where the water table is near the land surface, such as next to lakes and oceans, plant roots can penetrate into the saturated zone below the water table, allowing the plants to transpire water directly from the groundwater system. Here, transpiration of groundwater commonly results in a drawdown of the water table much like the effect of a pumped well (cone of depression—the dotted line surrounding the plant roots in the diagram).

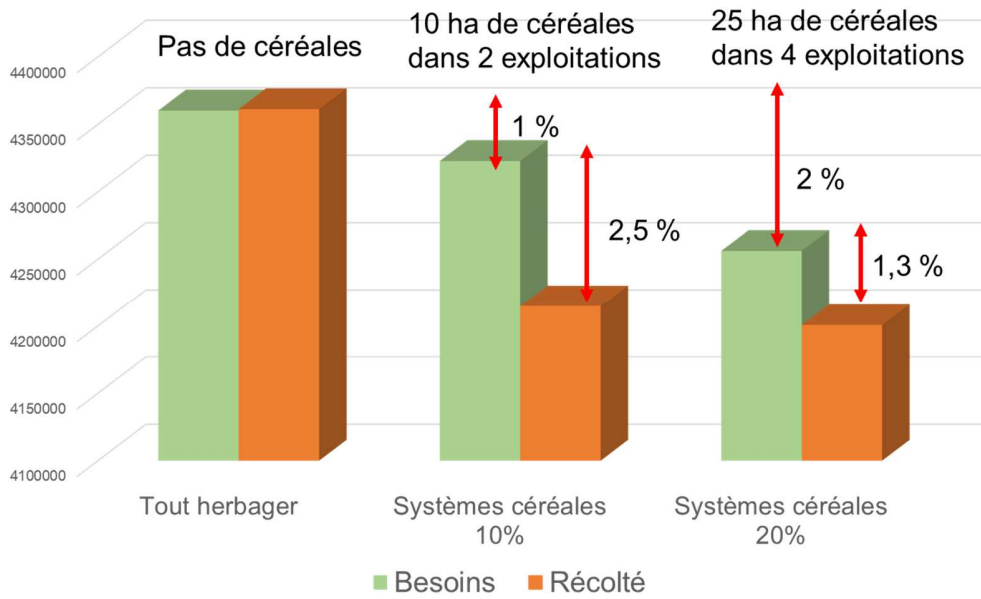
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Image Dimensions: 385 x 233

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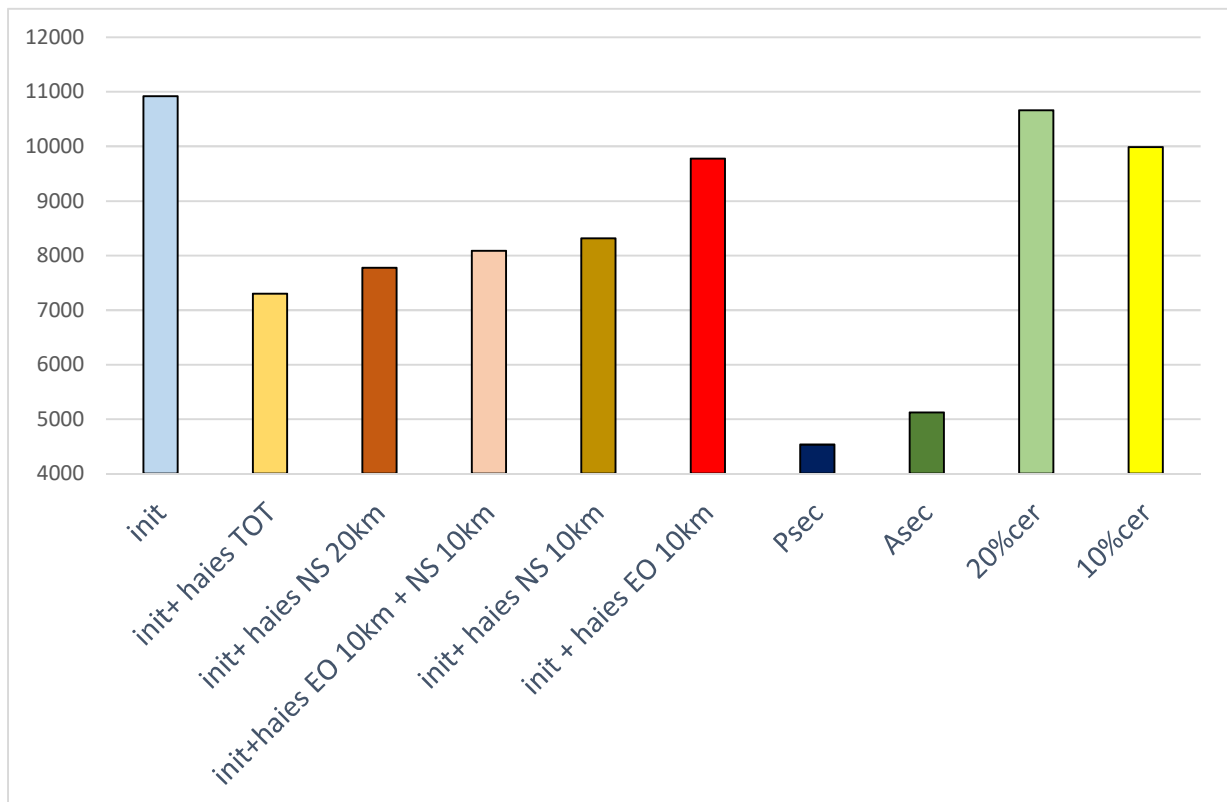
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