



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

**GLOSOLAN**  
Soil spectroscopy  
training workshops

## The Brazilian Soil Spectral Library Experience from Scientific to Society Services

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Luiz de Queiroz College of Agriculture

**Geocis Group**

**Online  
webinars**

**BRAZIL  
2021**



**GLOBAL SOIL  
PARTNERSHIP**

## A: Contextualization

### A1: Science and Food Production

Prof. José Luiz Demattê, Pedologist  
University of São Paulo (Retired)



Along his life, the base for productivity was to know soil types

Inside this complex, the main Engine is mineralogy

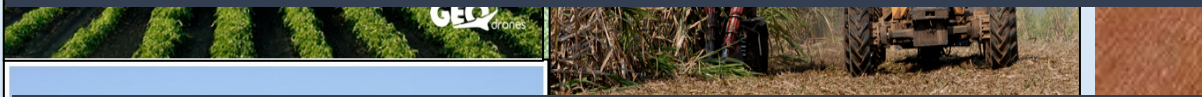
His Merit, was to Put Pedology for soil management and Food Production

Evolution  
From Pedology-Pedometrics-  
Spectroscopy  
For Food Production

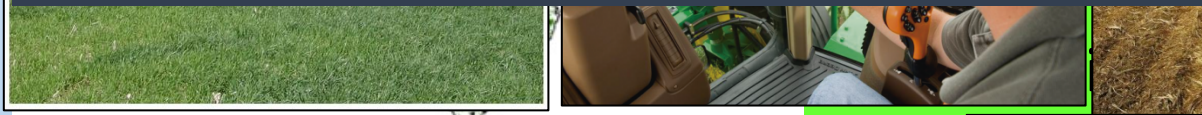
# Basic Information Soils analysis!



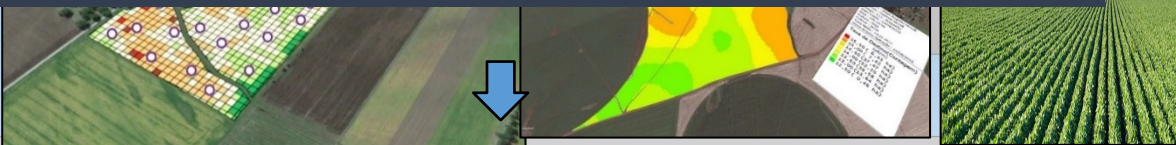
Ask for Soil nutrient analysis.....



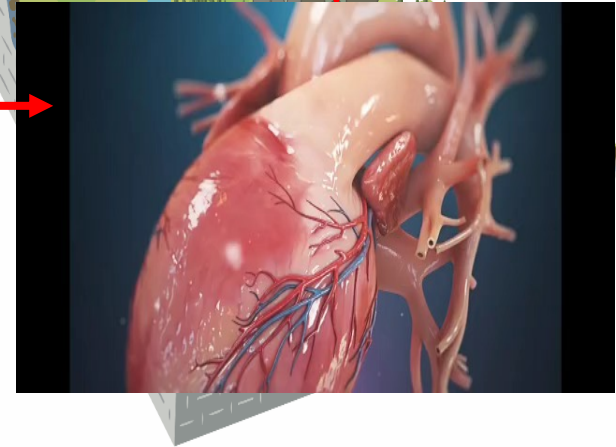
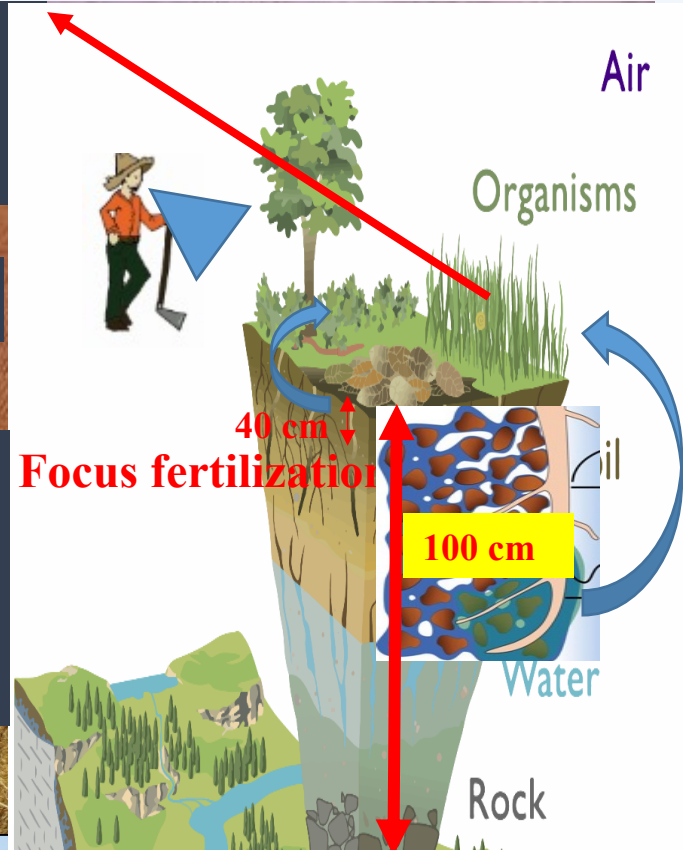
Its dynamics needs texture, carbon, mineralogy and depth to be understood.....



In fact, Soil function as a complex organism



Numbers indicate that, to help to sustain the worlds needs, Brazil will have to produce 20% more after all area be used



# A3: The consequence when user do not know how soil function

## Why do still keep focus on fertilizer?



**41 Degradation = False diagnostics, Incorrect management**

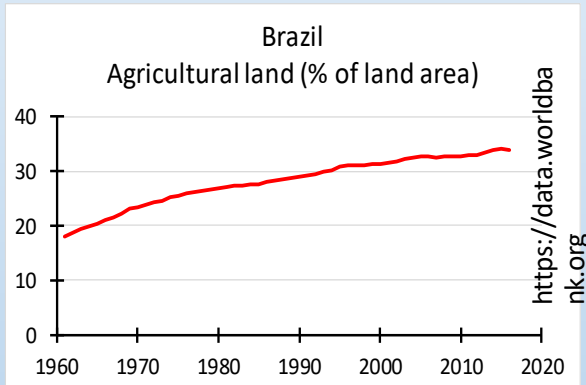


## A4: The basic information: Soil Analysis

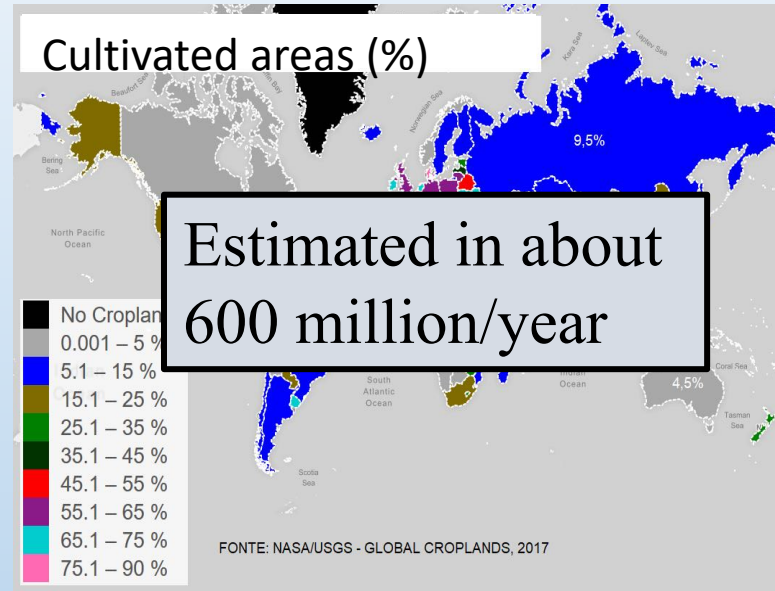
### Number of Soil Analysis

Brazil

Estimated in about  
6.000.000 per year



World Demand?



Estimated in about  
600 million/year

**Can we keep the demand with environmental quality?**

**Will we have the natural resources for wet analysis?**



# A5: The Solution = Spectroscopy

Spectroscopy is a Quick, easy and clean method for soil analysis

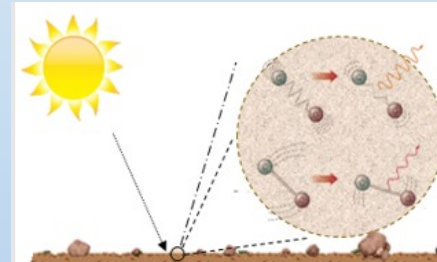
It is a Physical detection  
Strong scientific background



But it is 'An Invisible Information'  
(Spectroscopy Technique)

How to explain?

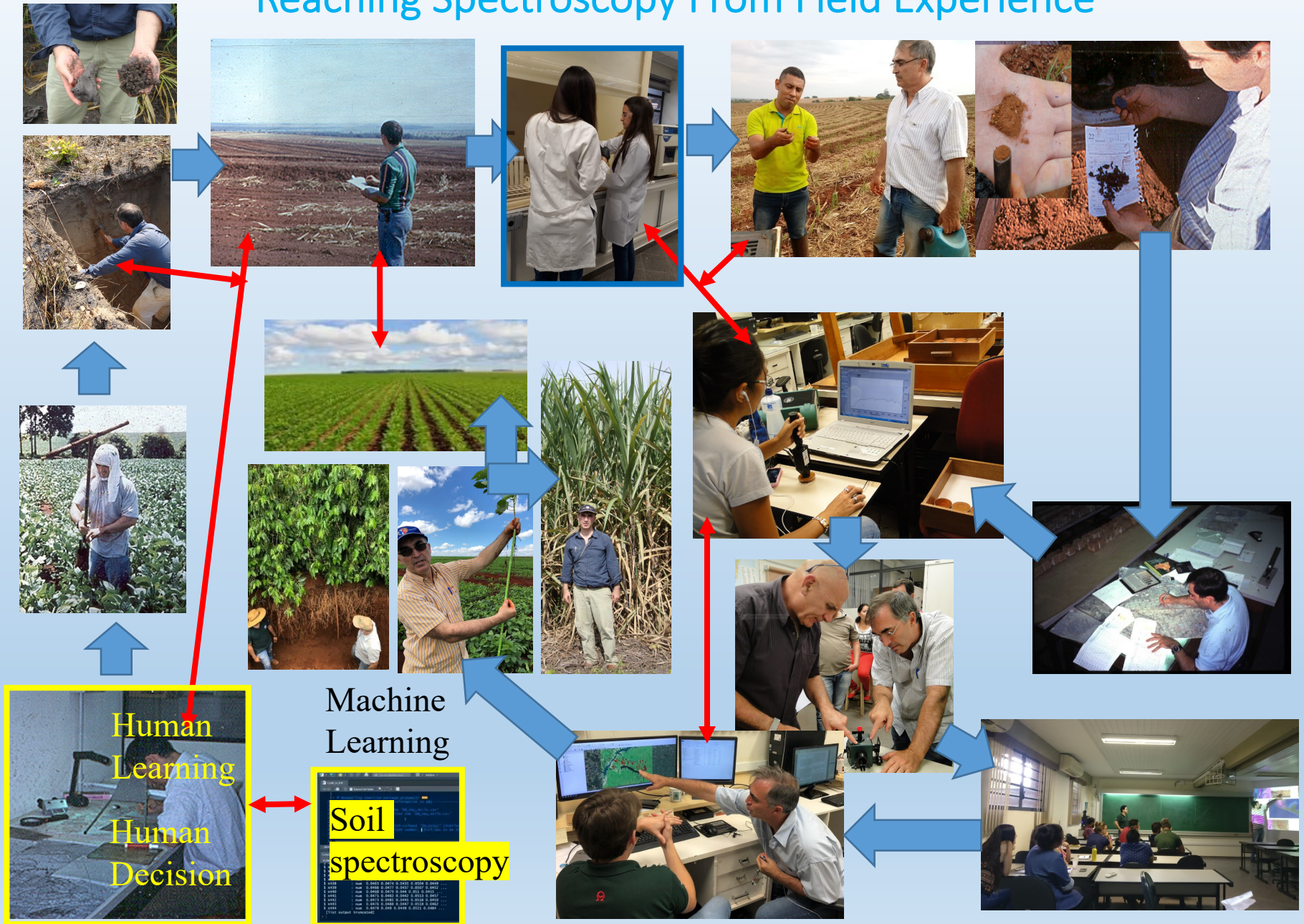
This you  
can see!



You cannot see



# A6: Make it visible: Reaching Spectroscopy From Field Experience



## B: Soil Spectroscopy – The Brazilian Experience

### B1: The first Idea...and first issue

# Goal:

Develop the first Brazilian Soil Spectral Library (BSSL) and show its relationship with soil properties

- ✓ Point: Despite the technique present Strong background it Still remains in the scientific field





## B2: Detect who were the key Regulators

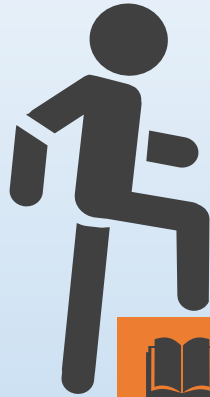


First document Brazil on soil analysis  
was in 1889



**Wet laboratories Experience**

# B3: Plan-Three Steps to reach society (took 25 years..rsrsrs)



**Demonstration**

**1995-2013**

For scientists

**Teaching**

**2017-2021**

For regulators (Show the previous Paper):  
It works!

Scientists

Society (Users)

**Service-Practice**

**Services**

- Location of Soil Samples in Brazil - View Map
- Soil Data and Spectral Pattern Visualization
- Soil Spectral Processing (Soil Analyses Via Brazil Model)

**2021-2023**

**Real Use**

**2023-**



## B4: Convince scientists to participate on the BSSL

**Describe the importance by boletins, papers, lectures, mails, phone calls! This is new!**

**Show what we already did since 1993!**

The Pedologists were the most critical Communities:

Action! I invited a retired awarded respected Pedologist, Igo Lepch, to be part of the team. He stould 1 year and saw in close. Afterwards helped to spread the knowledge!

and SOIL NUTRITION, Precision Agriculture,



The Scientific Fertility Community:  
I promised a course to normalize noise

Support of The Brazilian Digital Soil Mapping Group (Dra. Maria de Lourdes Mendonça )



# B5: Put to work!



Make it simple



No contract, no institutional participation, only  
the main researchers

**Key = Trust + low cost + you give you gain all gain**

- 1- Put the Key persons to spread the BSSL around the country!
- 2- Almost nobody had equipment! We make all spectroscopy for you!
- 3- You can send students and we teach them!



# B6: BSSL flowchart and impacts

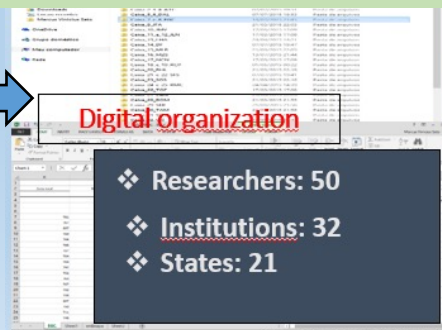
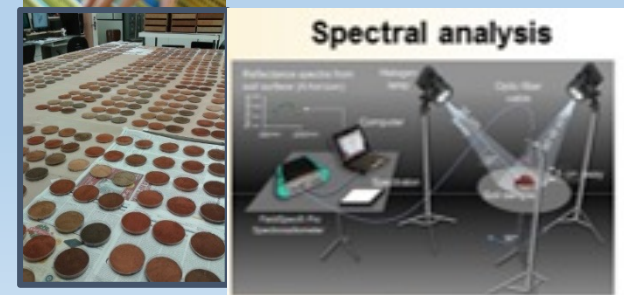
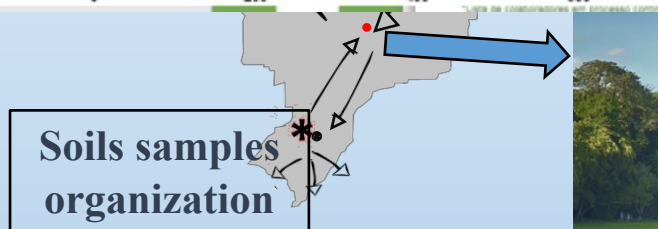
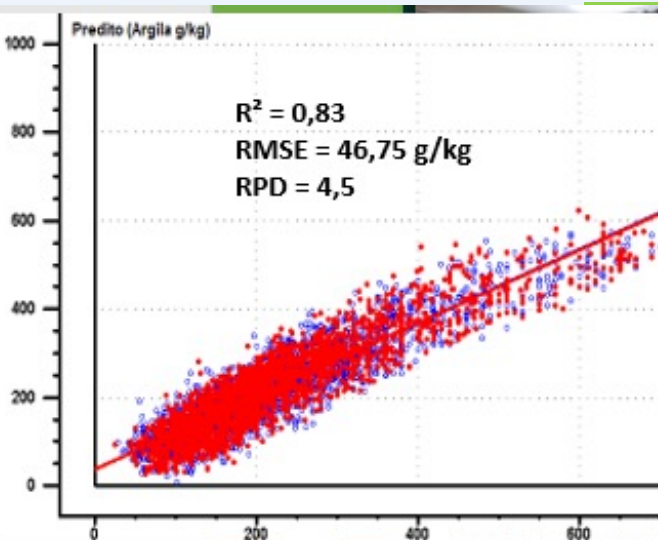
## Impact

1-New groups were created

2-Without disclose data, Encourage effective participation

3- External Users can get in contact and reach the dataset

4- Young students got on-board.....Pedologists as well



## B7: History of Teaching for Society

- Traditional labs have years of experience and domain of the users
- Although, society starts pressure along use of residues mostly for organic matter which will be prohibited



840,000 kg of dichromate and  
ammonium Fe sulfate

toxic chemical

**Annual expenditure of US\$ 2.5 million**

Traditional analysis OM cost (US\$ 5.00 per sample)

- Along 2016, some companies inserted in the market sensors to make soil analysis
- The promise: would analyse sand, silt, clay, CEC, pH, OM, Ca, Mg, K, P, Na..micronutrients
- This shocked traditional wet laboratory community (About 400). Is it our end????? What should I do?
- Farmers and researchers were also surprised
- To normalize communication using science, we created the Brazilian Program of Soil Analysis via Spectroscopy

Rule: Only Wet Laboratories, the seed!

Step 1: Understanding fundamental on Vis-NIR and discuss results

Predict attributes

Via Spectroscopy

Step 2: All types of ranges

Step 3: Make the link with remote sensing and Agriculture applications

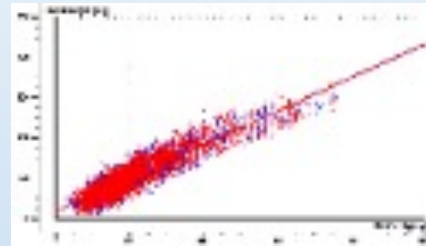


# B8: The ProBASE (Brazilian Program on Soil Analysis via Spectroscopy)

Russia



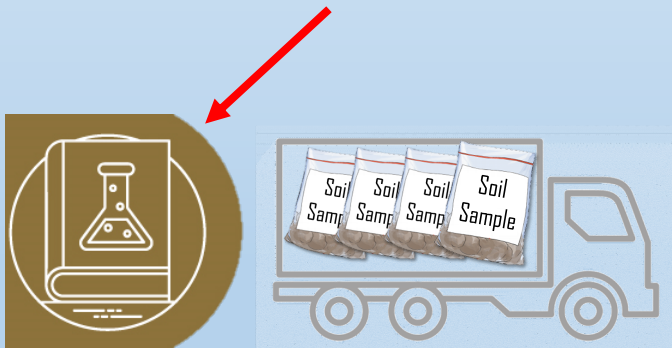
- GeoCiS contacted LABORATORIES (via telephone, conferences, lectures in centers of excellence, BSSL presentation)



-Obtention of prediction models:  
i) by laboratory (200 samples)  
ii) All population (7200 samples)



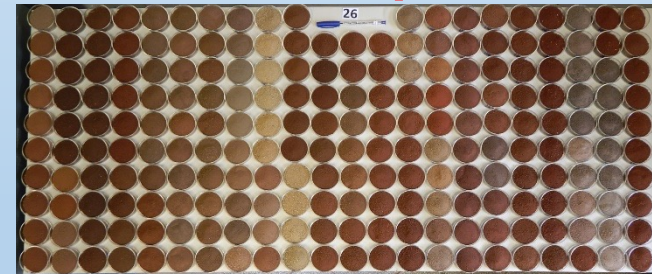
-Samples scanned with NIR, MIR and FRX



-Each LAB sent (in September 2018)  
~200 air-dried soil samples



-Samples arrived at ESALQ



-Each LAB receives a code (from 1 to 36)  
-Samples organized by LAB and stored at GeoCiS.





# Brazilian Program of Soil Analysis via Spectroscopy (ProBASE)

- (1) 5 months later LAB's came to USP to participate in theoretical and practical classes.
- (2) The data were presented and they met a spectral laboratory





# Brazilian Program of Soil Analysis via Spectroscopy (ProBASE)

The results were presented showing only the laboratory code.

Local models were



man

variable

Validation set	
0.5 - 0.8	> 0.8
25	50
25	0
50	25
0	0



# Brazilian Program of Soil Analysis via Spectroscopy (ProBASE)

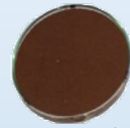
## Impact

- The community's first impact on the exposure of sensor equipment launched on a national chain that would replace laboratory analyzes was now normalized
- After the course, there was a complete demystification of magic spectroscopy and we were able to concentrate on real and documented data
- They understood that spectroscopy is laboratory-dependent
- Now they are going through the questioning process to understand and insert spectroscopy into the traditional laboratory system
- The main Regional Soil Quality Regulators started to insert the spectroscopy discipline

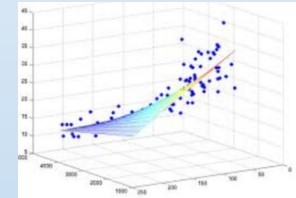
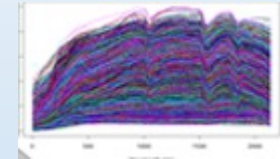
# C: Step 3: The online Service - Brazilian Experience

Inside the Box

Backend



A single sample indicating the depth



With soil classification

Front end



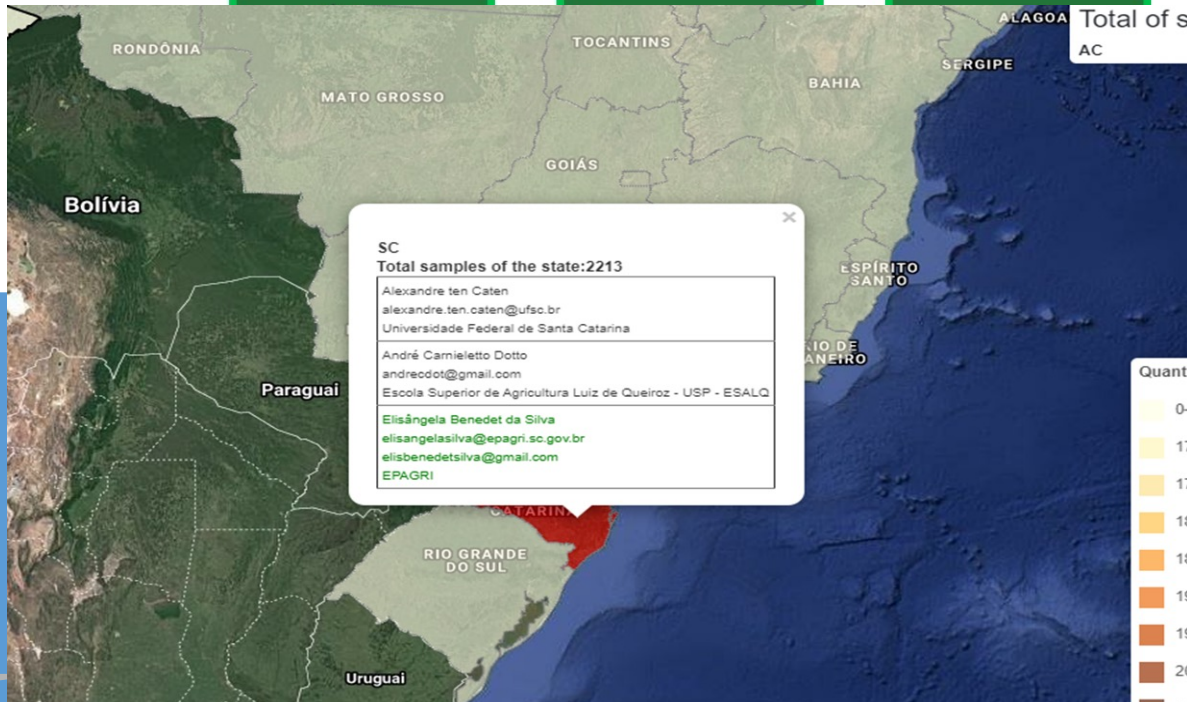
Options to see spectra



SERVER  
Besbbr.com.br

The on-line **Map of Colliobacter** Central Library

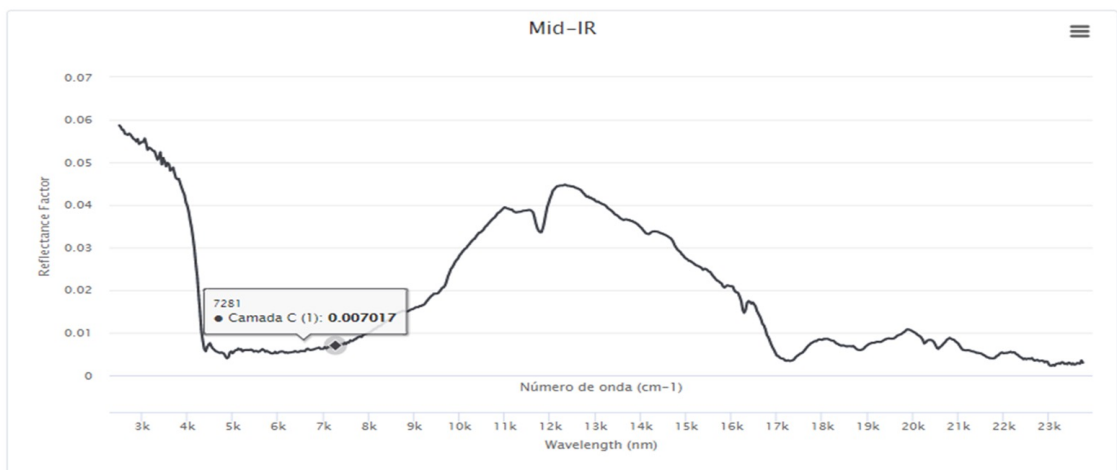
**Services** Data can be depict by contacting the researcher and make joint works!



# Vis-NIR and MIR Library

Analysis

State: **Rio de Janeiro**; Layer: **C**; Texture: **Sandy loam**



- Texture

ication  
ication



# SOIL ANALYSIS REPORT

**Local:** Department of Soil Science, Luiz de Queiroz  
College of Agriculture, University of São Paulo.  
**Address:** Pádua Dias Avenue, 11, Piracicaba, São Paulo,  
Brazil

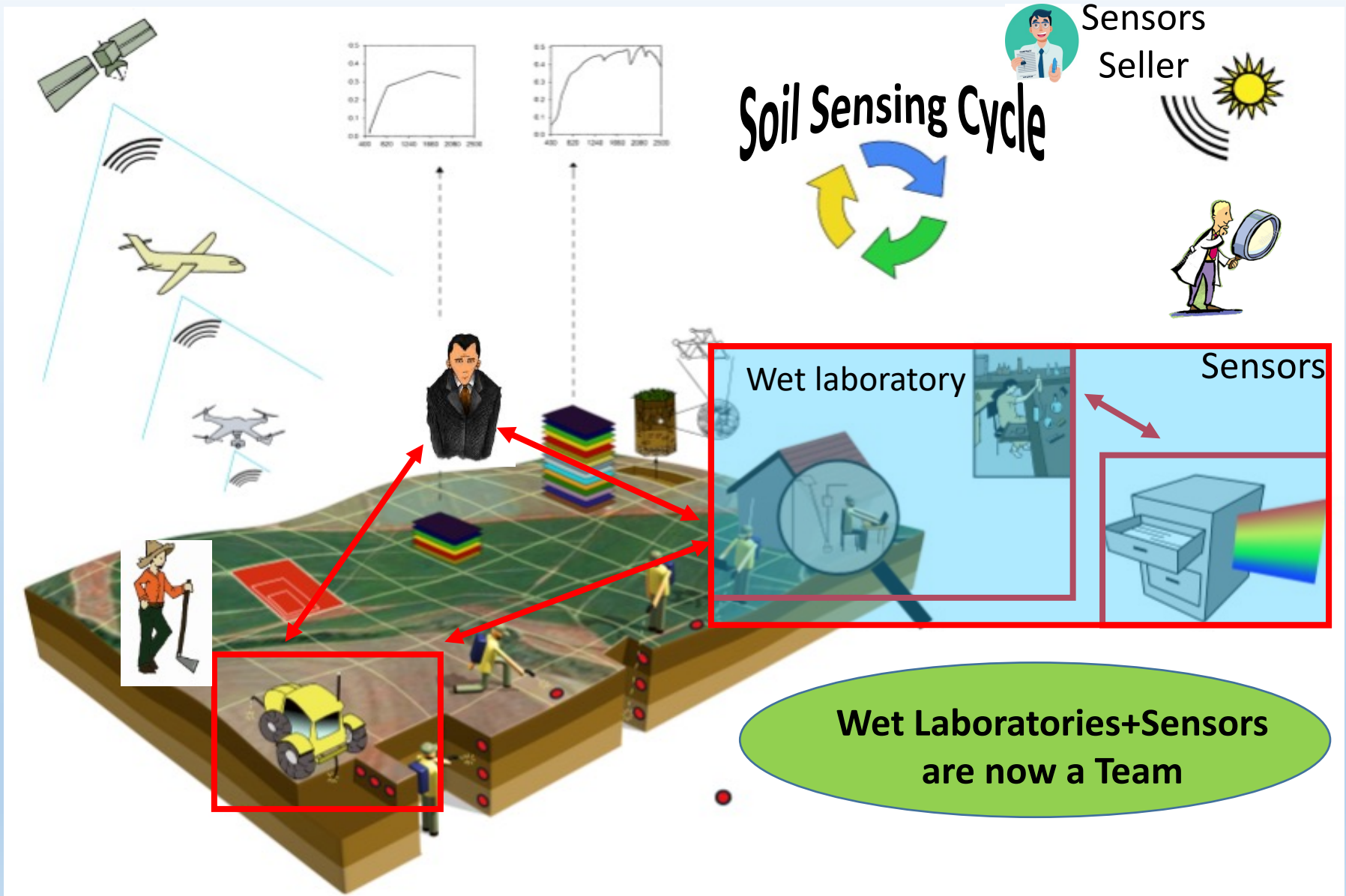


#	Areia	Silte	Argila	Carbono Orgânico	Ph	Ca	Mg	K	Al	H	Soma de Bases	CTC	Saturação por bases	Saturação por Al	P	Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	SiO <sub>2</sub>	TiO <sub>2</sub>	MnO	Ki	Matiz	Matiz2	Valor	Croma
Unidade	g kg <sup>-1</sup>	g kg <sup>-1</sup>	g kg <sup>-1</sup>	g kg <sup>-1</sup>	H <sub>2</sub> O	mmolc.kg <sup>-1</sup>	mmolc.kg <sup>-1</sup>	mmolc.kg <sup>-1</sup>	mmolc.kg <sup>-1</sup>	mmolc.kg <sup>-1</sup>	mmolc.kg <sup>-1</sup>	mmolc.kg <sup>-1</sup>	%	%	mg.kg	g kg <sup>-1</sup>	g kg <sup>-1</sup>	g kg <sup>-1</sup>	g kg <sup>-1</sup>	g kg <sup>-1</sup>					
R <sup>2</sup>	0.79	0.63	0.80	0.58	0.17	0.42	0.43	0.06	0.28	0.62	0.26	0.66	0.44	0.46	0.16	0.79	0.73	0.75	0.72	0.72	0.26				
RMSE	120.45	75.05	93.64	7.28	0.61	26.61	9.09	5.86	7.12	15.78	55.61	34.69	18.18	20.76	20.54	38.3	39.69	36.71	8.71	0.36	2.01				
1	350.9	321.6	327.5	12.6	5.8	47.8	13.9	2.1	4.7	29.0	86.9	89.1	65.0	3.4	12.7	65.6	50.7	101.2	4.6	1.0	2.4	6.67	"Y"	6.1	5.1
2	362.2	317.8	319.9	10.3	5.9	55.2	19.9	2.3	6.6	23.1	87.9	98.1	67.2	3.0	9.2	55.6	44.5	99.4	3.1	0.6	1.9	7	"Y"	6.3	5.3
3	359.4	315.0	325.4	12.3	5.8	42.0	11.2	2.1	4.7	29.0	86.9	89.1	65.0	3.4	12.7	65.6	50.7	101.2	4.6	1.0	2.4	6.67	"Y"	6.1	5.1
4	393.2	329.6	277.1	18.0	6.1	81.5	18.0	2.1	4.7	29.0	86.9	89.1	65.0	3.4	12.7	65.6	50.7	101.2	4.6	1.0	2.4	6.67	"Y"	6.1	5.1
5	431.9	330.1	237.9	21.9	6.1	82.4	21.9	2.1	4.7	29.0	86.9	89.1	65.0	3.4	12.7	65.6	50.7	101.2	4.6	1.0	2.4	6.67	"Y"	6.1	5.1
6	369.3	325.0	305.6	15.0	6.0	53.2	15.0	2.1	4.7	29.0	86.9	89.1	65.0	3.4	12.7	65.6	50.7	101.2	4.6	1.0	2.4	6.67	"Y"	6.1	5.1
7	418.6	308.4	272.9	10.9	5.8	65.0	18.9	2.9	5.7	17.9	96.3	98.6	67.9	1.3	10.2	52.4	35.9	75.9	2.2	0.7	1.5	7.07	"Y"	6	5.3
8	362.7	252.6	384.7	16.4	6.2	61.8	10.5	1.6	11.7	2.7	60.5	92.2	72.4	4.1	9.3	51.3	9.2	53.2	2.3	0.7	4.0	6.71	"Y"	5.6	5.5
9	327.3	353.1	319.4	11.1	6.0	56.9	19.8	2.2	5.7	17.9	96.3	98.6	67.9	1.3	10.2	60.6	52.6	115.1	4.4	0.6	2.5	7.44	"Y"	6.2	5
10	286.5	330.2	383.2	11.2	5.8	49.3	15.0	2.2	10.1	25.6	94.9	100.4	63.4	5.5	8.5	69.8	42.6	123.8	6.1	0.8	1.9	6.98	"Y"	5.8	5
11	281.2	314.5	404.2	10.8	5.9	52.4	20.6	2.3	10.5	23.2	92.4	103.2	64.1	4.3	14.0	73.7	52.8	143.5	6.0	0.8	3.7	6.76	"Y"	6	5.1
12	276.6	332.3	391.0	12.8	5.9	53.5	14.2	2.1	10.8	20.1	62.9	87.5	60.0	5.5	13.2	77.7	39.8	106.0	5.5	0.8	5.2	6.86	"Y"	5.7	5.2
13	280.8	331.2	387.9	11.0	5.8	51.6	14.2	2.2	10.9	19.8	87.6	77.9	59.0	5.0	8.0	69.8	50.0	118.0	4.7	0.8	2.0	6.93	"Y"	6.1	5.2
14	406.5	314.4	279.0	19.1	6.0	64.0	12.6	2.0	3.3	21.3	88.6	74.7	72.0	2.1	11.2	84.0	50.7	120.5	6.2	1.3	3.4	6.72	"Y"	6.3	5.3
15	371.3	332.3	296.2	11.1	6.0	75.0	25.5	2.3	4.8	13.4	88.9	112.7	75.1	0.7	12.5	62.3	52.5	117.1	4.2	0.5	2.3	7.11	"Y"	6.3	4.9

**Summary: 'If you cannot measure, you cannot manage it'**

○ Statistics: R2, RMSE, RPIQs.

# Impact on the chain of Market





# C1: Important Events BSSL - time line



1993-95 PhD  
(knowledge pedology vs spectroscopy)



2015 –First Workshop on Soil Spectroscopy From Ground to space



2020  
First On line platform = Service



2019 – First Teaching Program



2018  
First paper



2018 – First RS Symposium In the World Congress of Soil Science

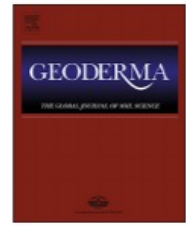


# Consideration Regarding the technology and Brazilian Experience

## The near future on soil analysis: The Hybrid Laboratory



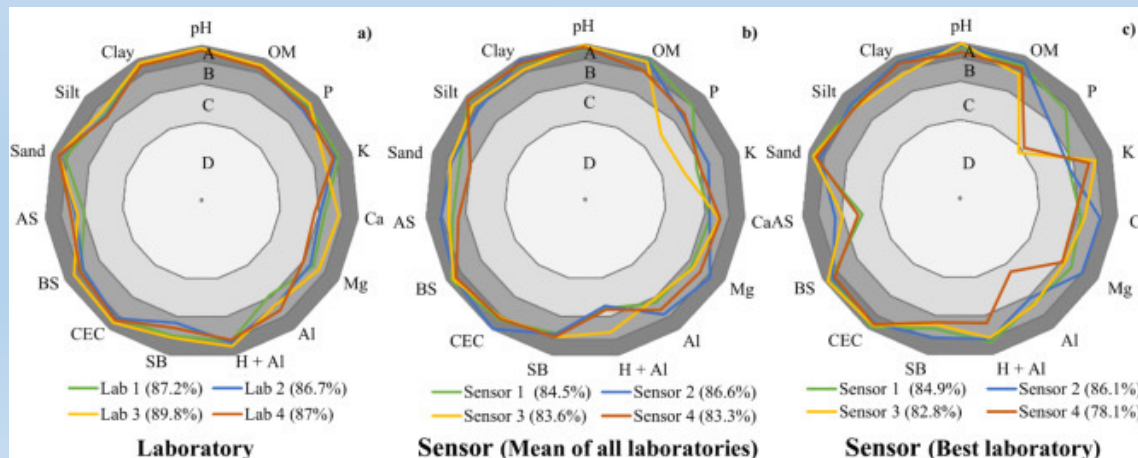
**Definition**  
 Wet soil analysis works together with spectroscopy to reach the best quality, low cost, clean and quick analysis, going from laboratory to field as well



Soil analytical quality control by traditional and spectroscopy techniques:  
 Constructing the future of a hybrid laboratory for low environmental impact



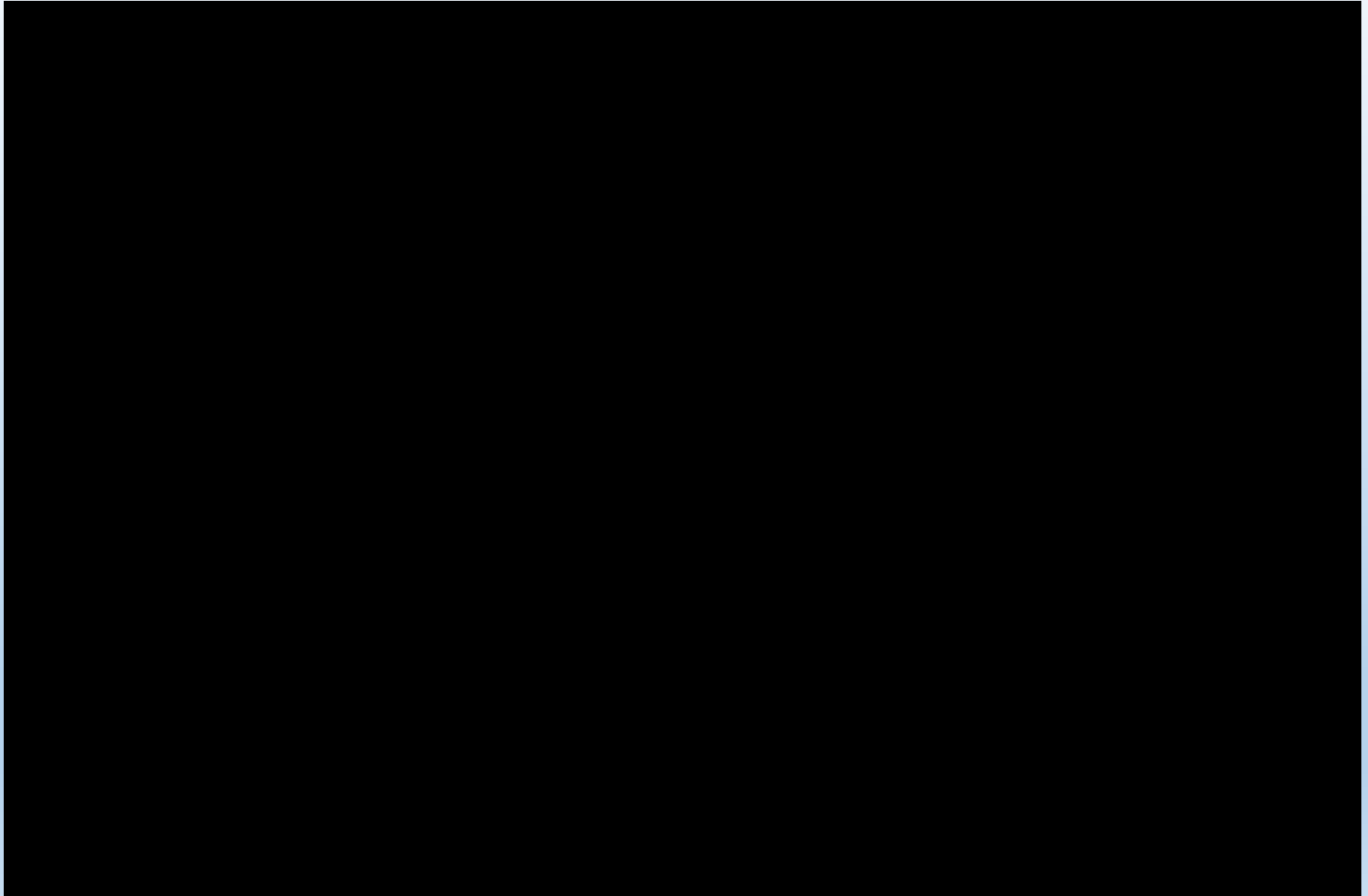
José Alexandre M. Demattê<sup>\*,1</sup>, Andre Carneletto Dotto, Luis Gustavo Bedin, Veridiana Maria Sayão, Arnaldo Barros e Souza



There exist larger variation between wet laboratories than sensors laboratories

The best model was dependent on the best wet soil quality analysis

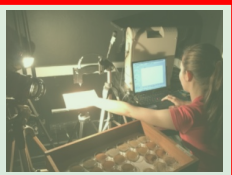
## Example/Suggestion of an Hybrid Laboratory



# PHASE 1: Basic

## Spectral Sector

Step 1: acquire spectra of all samples before soil analysis

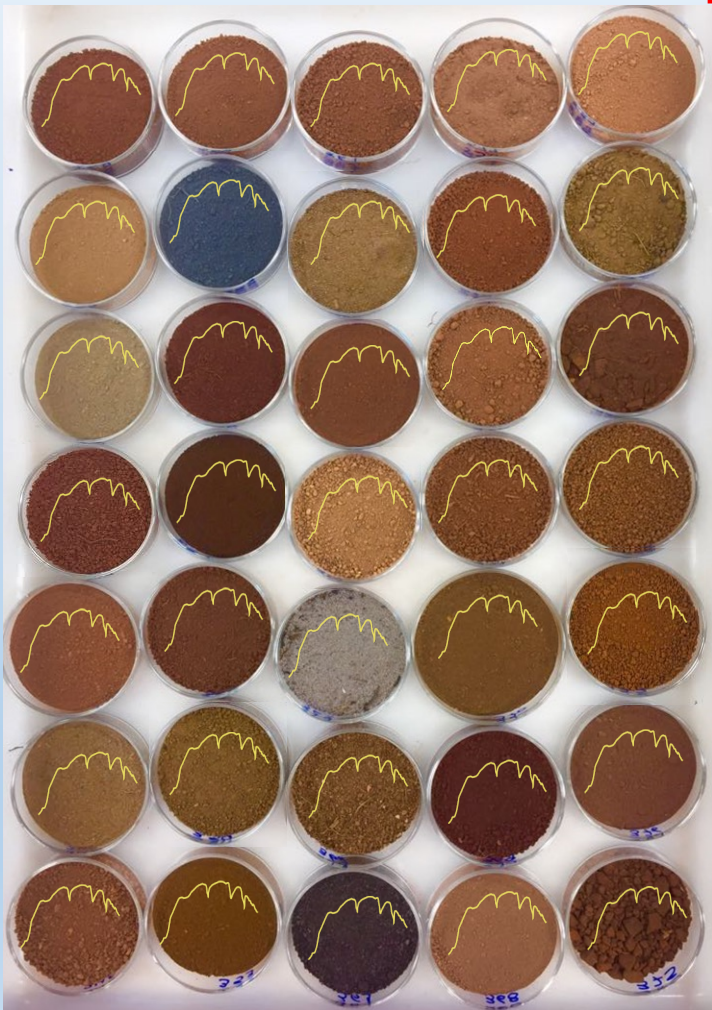


## Chemometrics Sector

Setp 2: Select main representative Soil samples based on spectra

## Wet Laboratory sector

Make tradicional analysis

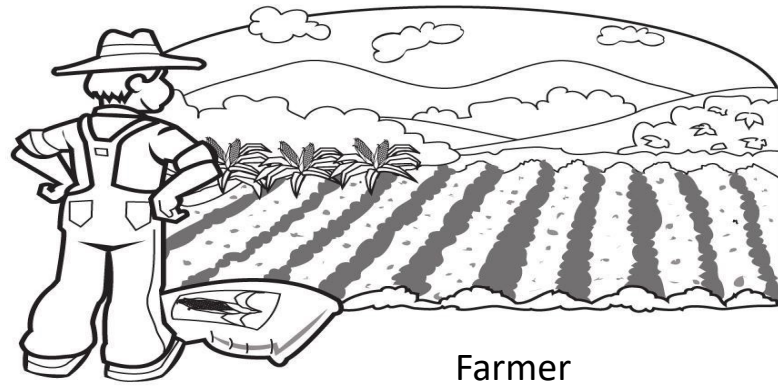


# Chemometrics: Modelling and quantification of the soil attribute



**Soil analyses report**

Nº LAB.	AMOSTRA	pH		P	K	K	Ca	Mg	Al	H + Al	M.O.	Argila	Silte	Areia
		Água	CaCl <sub>2</sub>											
4807	L 01	5,35	4,29	1,6	50,8	0,13	1,10	0,87	1,36	4,95	16,3	285	60	655
4808	L 02	5,47	4,30	1,2	53,8	0,14	1,09	0,78	1,34	4,41	14,0	240	90	670
4809	L 03	5,32	4,29	1,1	43,0	0,11	0,91	0,75	1,65	5,06	14,6	245	105	650
4810	L 04	5,56	4,47	0,9	65,5	0,17	1,13	0,98	0,85	3,42	13,6	200	95	705
4811	L 05	5,33	4,28	1,0	39,1	0,10	1,10	0,85	1,68	4,95	15,9	260	100	640
4812	L 06	5,18	4,04	1,1	38,1	0,10	0,31	0,24	2,17	5,22	11,9	200	80	720
4813	L 07	5,19	4,06	1,0	39,1	0,10	0,31	0,25	2,18	5,56	14,0	250	90	660
4814	L 08	5,28	4,16	1,0	37,1	0,10	0,65	0,51	1,81	4,95	13,6	270	60	670
4815	L 09	5,52	4,62	0,9	45,0	0,11	1,27	1,04	0,13	3,35	17,5	275	55	670



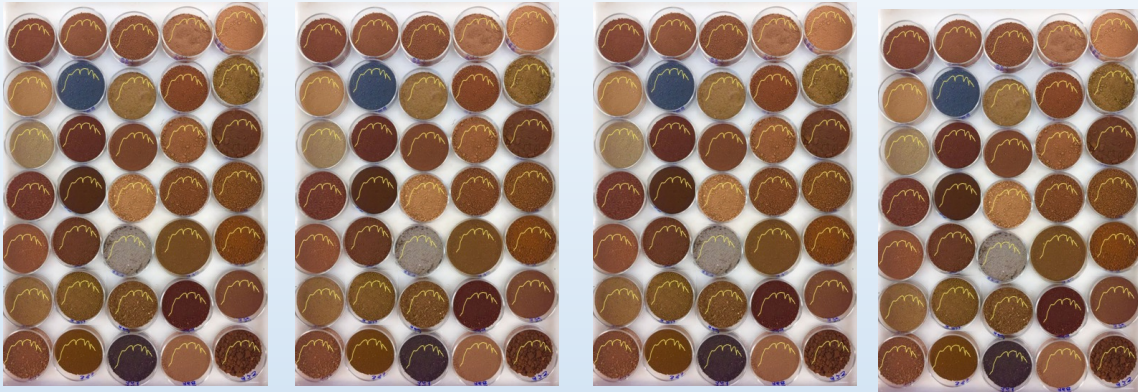
**PHASE 1: Advanced**

Client 1

Client 2

Client 3

Client 4



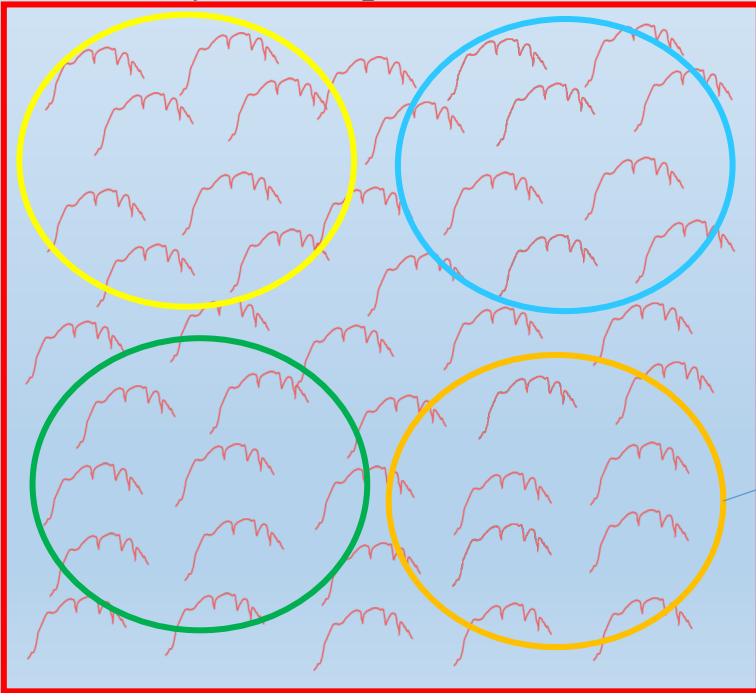
**Reception**

New client bring  
Only ONE sample



Client receives  
soil analysis

Laboratory has a Spectral Dataset



Take Spectra

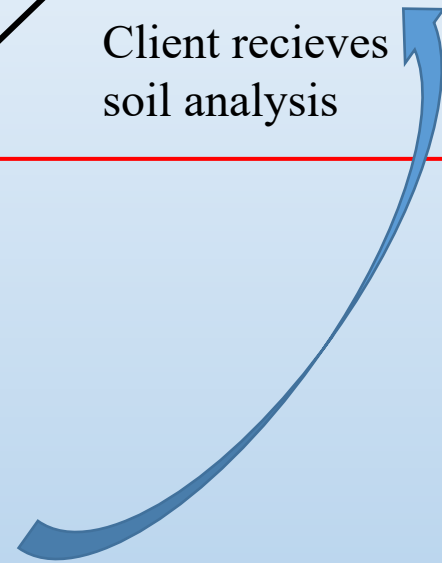


Chemometrics will see the population

And will indicate in which the  
unknown spectra fits, using its  
model



Or, if does not fit go  
to tradicional and agregate  
to the dataset



**Spectroscopy for wet laboratory quality evaluation: A Qualitative view**



**Result**  
Clay content 106 gkg<sup>-1</sup>  
Sandy soil

**A systematic Spectroscopy Quality Evaluation**

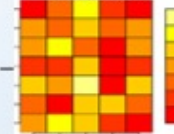
Are they OK?



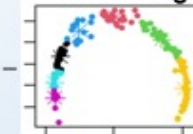
Unsupervised  
Random Forest



Proximity  
Matrix



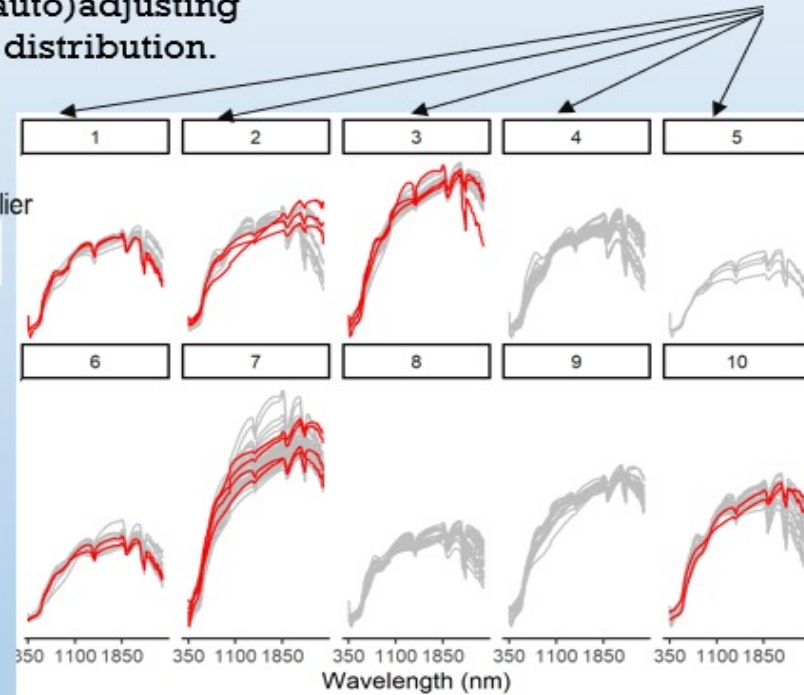
K-means  
clustering



**Spectral  
Clusters**

Outlier detection using a method of (auto)adjusting to the data distribution.

Attribute is outlier  
— FALSE  
— TRUE

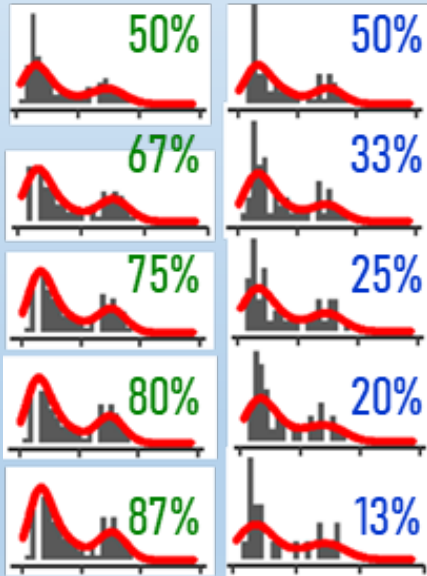
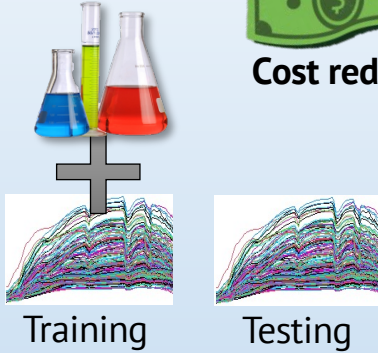


Spectroscopy to see your cost and optimize soil analysis \$

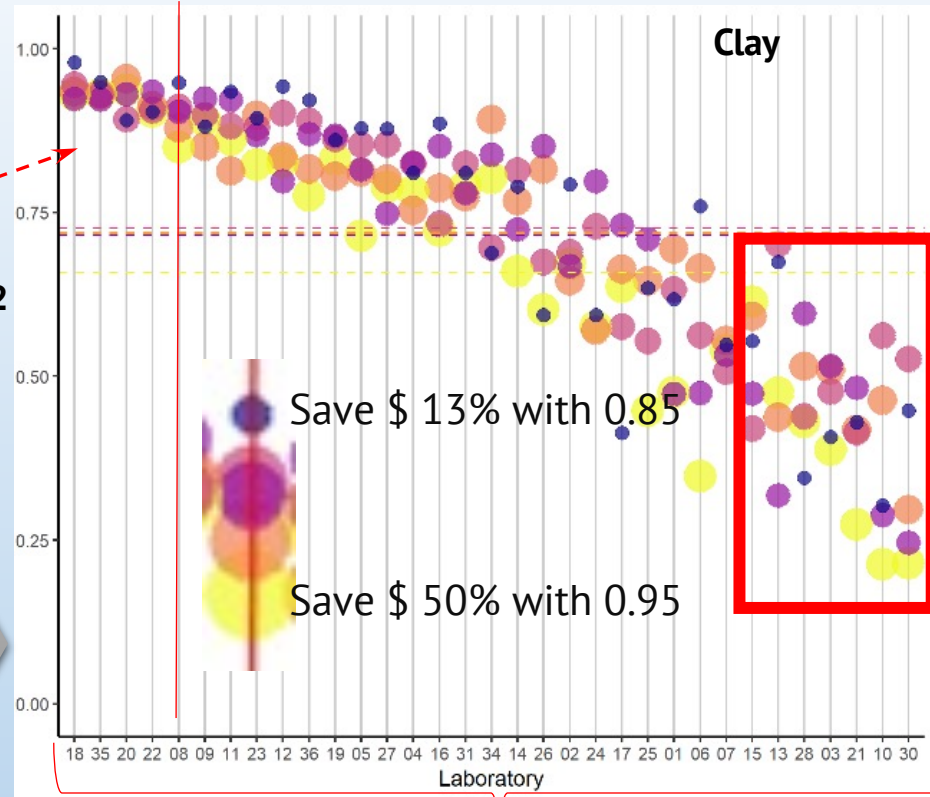


Cost reduction

36 Laboratories from Brazil and Paraguay



$R^2$



Laboratories

Test set size (%)

- 13
- 20
- 25
- 33
- 50



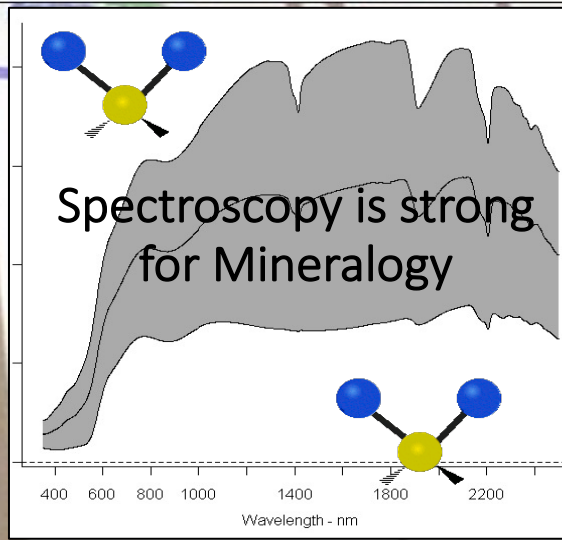
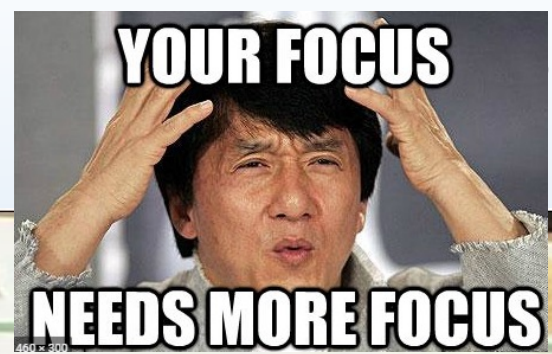
<https://esalqgeocis.wixsit.e.com/geocis/probase>

Nearly 7,000 samples analyzed

Poppiel et al. (not published)



# Soil analysis and Productivity: What are we missing?



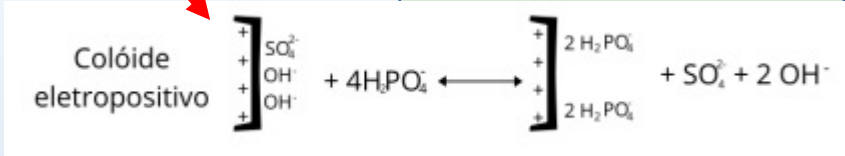


**The Machine Era!  
And its Limitations**

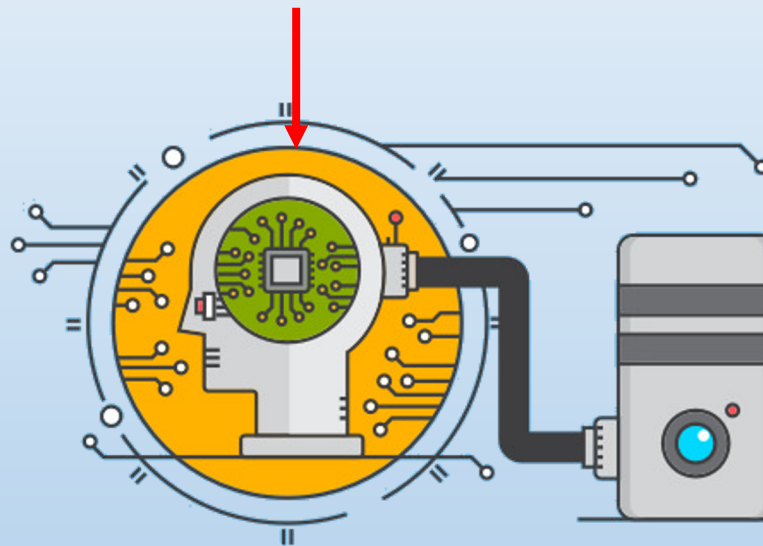
This you can see!

Clay Sand

**Challenge:  
Explain the new era**



You cannot see



CaCO<sub>3</sub>  
 Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>  
 TiO<sub>2</sub>  
 MnO  
 Hematite  
 Goethite  
 Gibbsite  
 Montmorillonite  
 Illite  
 Vermiculite

Machine learning

CEC

Population and models dependent

pH

Some cases not scientific explained

P, Ca, Mg, K, N

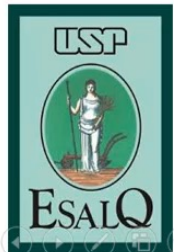
Hue, Value, Chroma



SPECTRAL LABORATORY AS A DRIVER FOR  
SATELLITE APPLICATION IN SOIL ANALYSIS (THE  
BRAZILIAN GEOSPATIAL SOIL SENSING SYSTEM,  
GEOS3)

PhD STUDENT: JORGE TADEU FIM ROSAS

COORDINATOR: PROF. JOSÉ ALEXANDRE MELO DEMATTE



# What can be done?



Users do not want to understand nor make modelling. We have to make a platform where the user choose the population and the system makes the modelling and deliver the result



Advanced level: allow to do its own processing (more for research and advanced users)



Spectral libraries can be made for the world, continental, regional or to a farmer. The level chosen will be the users choice regarding accuracy, scale and others. The type to use will be country structure dependent.



Teaching courses at different levels (scientific, laboratories, consultants, farmers) have to start immediately to spread the technology, and normalize advantages and limitations.

# Final Remarks

## Spectroscopy for Soils

### Advantage

- Quick
- Simple preparation
- One measurement, several soil components
- Environmental friendly
- Can bring mineralogy elements back to the game
- Great for texture, CEC and OM
- Easier to transfer to field
- Will increase popularization of soil analysis



### Limitation

- Cost of equipments?
- Good for some elements?

### Challenge

- Determine models and populations
- Determine standards and protocols
- Spectral libraries
- Determine agronomic elements (P, Ca, K, Na, Mg...)
- Capacity (of traditional soil laboratories) in spectral methods
- Professionals with expertise in chemometrics + chemistry

# New generation deserve a better place



Grupo Geocis  
Escola Superior de Agricultura  
"Luiz de Queiroz"  
(ESALQ-USP)  
José Alexandre Melo Demattê



O Solo e as Crianças do Brasil  
**Soil and Brazilian Kids**







# Thank You Obrigado

