



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

GLOSOLAN  
Soil spectroscopy  
training workshops

# Soil spectroscopy from the Danish perspective

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Dept. of Agroecology  
Aarhus University

Online  
webinars



# OUTLINE

- **AGRO, AU**
- NIRS instrumentation
- Soil Spectral Library (SSL)
- Examples of SSL application
- Teaching

# AGROECOLOGY, AARHUS UNIVERSITY

## Core activity

- Research
- Policy support
- Education
- International collaboration

## Staff

AGRO 270

SOIL 40/8



Foulum, Blichers Alle 20, 8830 Tjele, DK

# RESEARCH SECTIONS

- Agricultural Systems and Sustainability
- Climate and Water
- Crop Health
- Crop Genetics and Biotechnology
- Entomology and Plant Pathology
- Soil Fertility
- Soil Physics and Hydropedology (**SOIL**)

## Soil spectroscopy

- NIRS, MIR, LIBS
- group (3 MSCs, 2 PhD, 2 Postdoc)



# WHY NIRS?

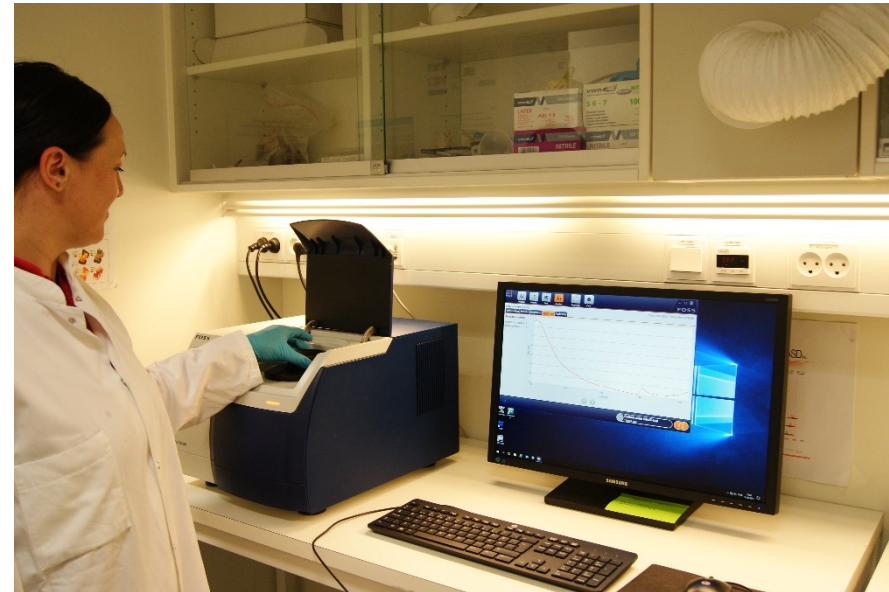
- Growing need for more soil data (national, regional, local/farm scale)
- Need for improved estimation of soil properties
- Need to better account for infield variability
- Lack of soil data in remote areas

# OUTLINE

- AGRO, AU



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# INSTRUMENTATION

## Laboratory



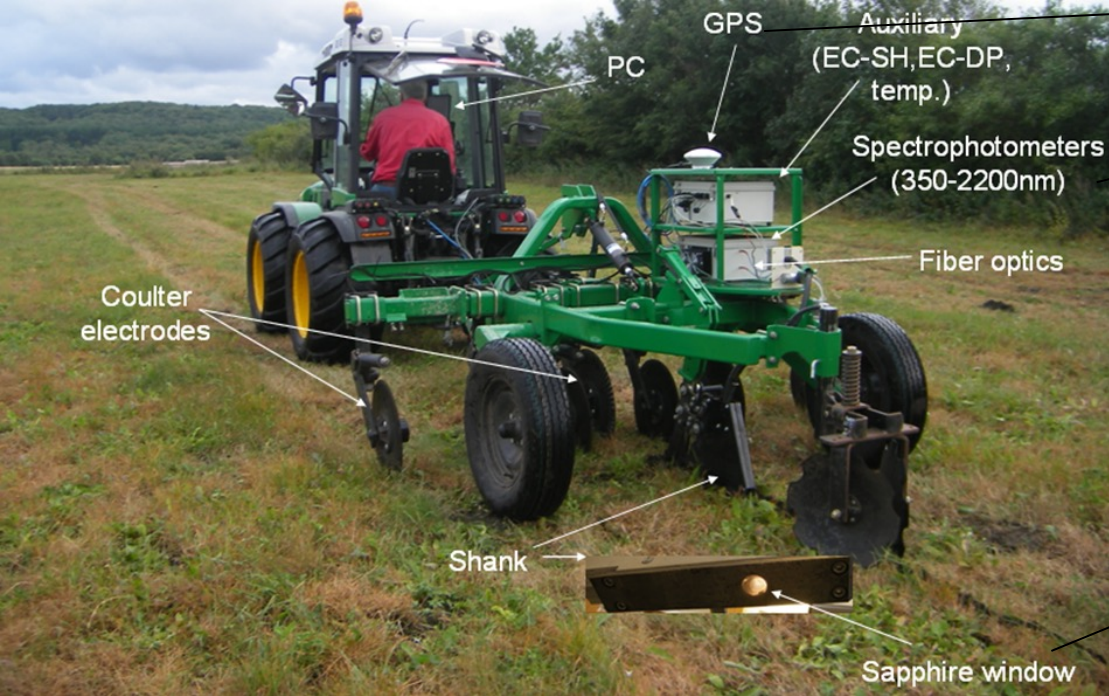
DS2500 (FOSS, DK)



ASD Labspec 5100

# INSTRUMENTATION

Field (on-the-go and in-situ)



Veris shank and profiler systems



# OUTLINE

- AGRO, AU
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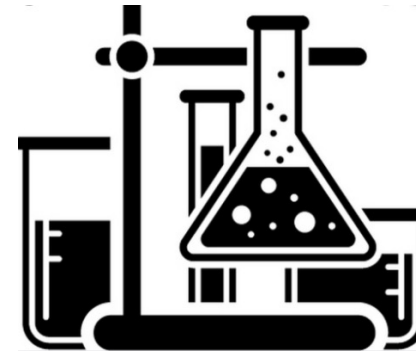


- **Soil Spectral Library (SSL)**
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# SOIL SPECTRAL LIBRARY (SSL) - the beginning



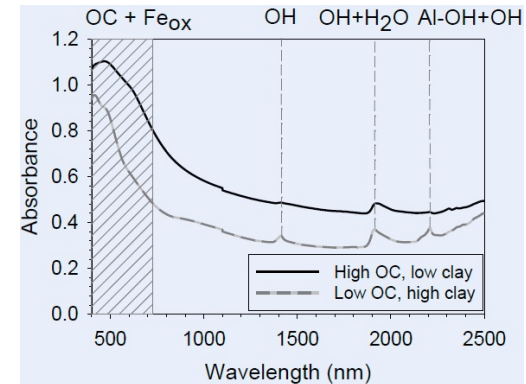
Soil archive at AGRO



Wet chemistry



ASD Labspec 5100



Soil spectra

# SSL and collaboration with FOSS

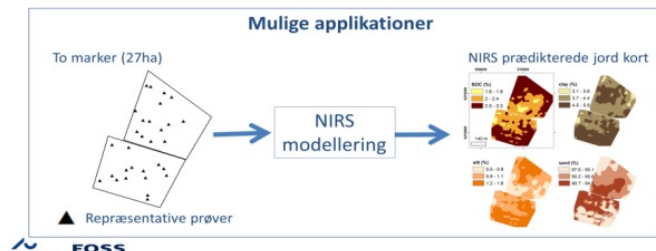
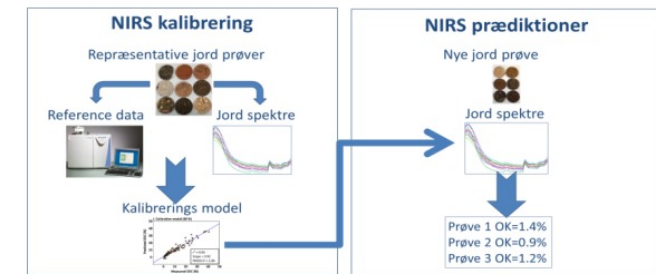
Implementing soil spectra in the assessment of soil quality (SOIL-SPEC)

- **AU:** expertise and knowledge on soil and soil libraries
- **FOSS:** sensors based on spectroscopy
- **Patriotisk Selskab:** results dissemination to farmers & advisors

DS2500 demo & on-site predictions

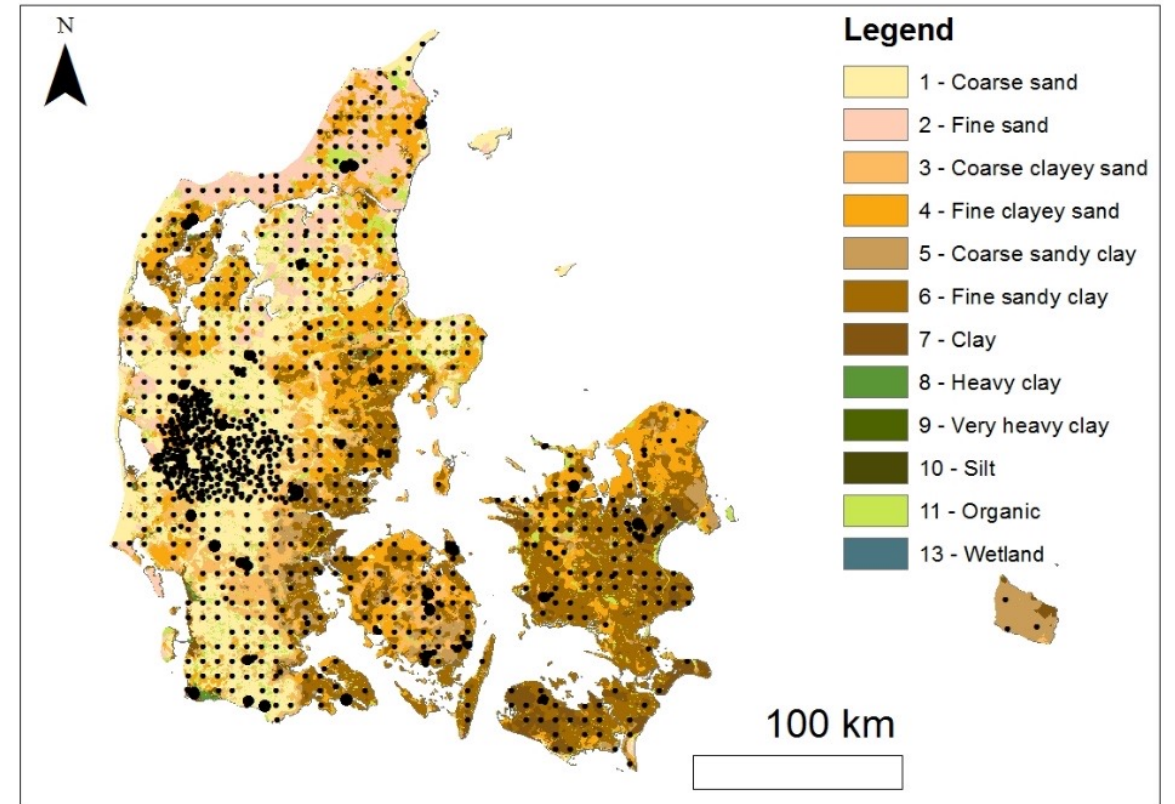


## Nær infrarød spektroskopi - et alternativ til traditionelle jord analyse metoder



# SSL overview

- soil profile investigation (~3000)
- soil classification database (~ 660)
- lowland database (~ 1000)
- field investigations
  - 40 fields (~ 1600 samples)
- Greenland (~ 500)
- international samples (~ 200)



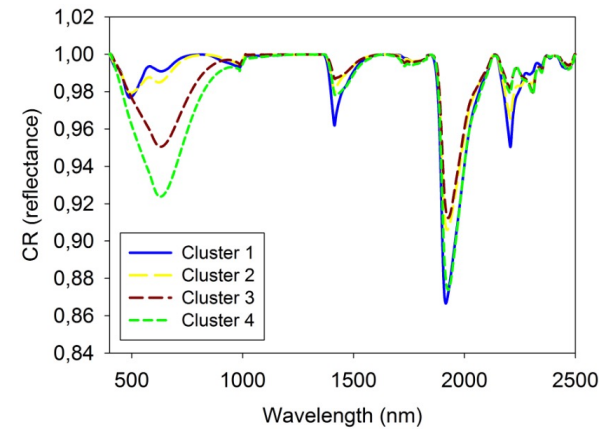
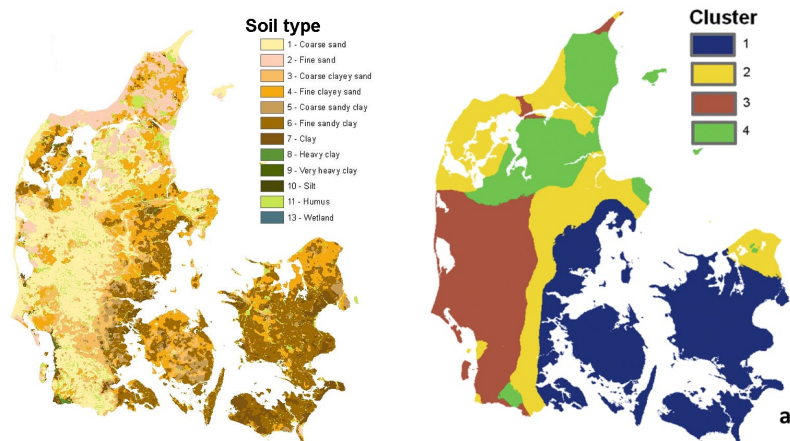
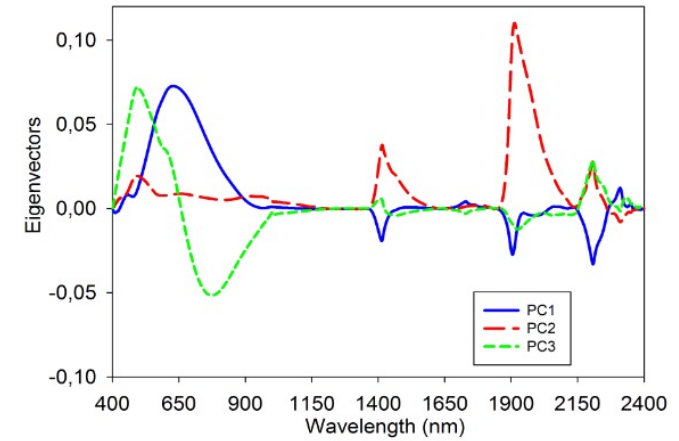
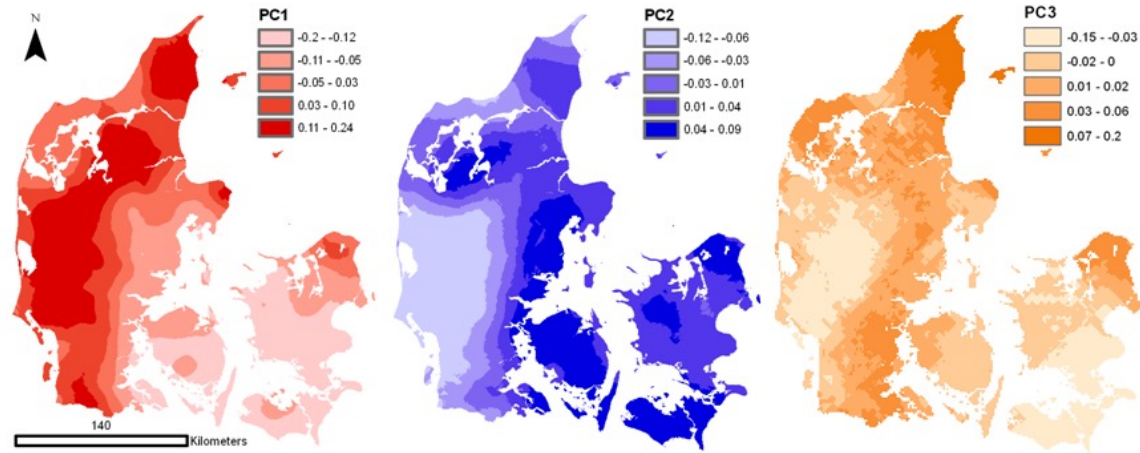
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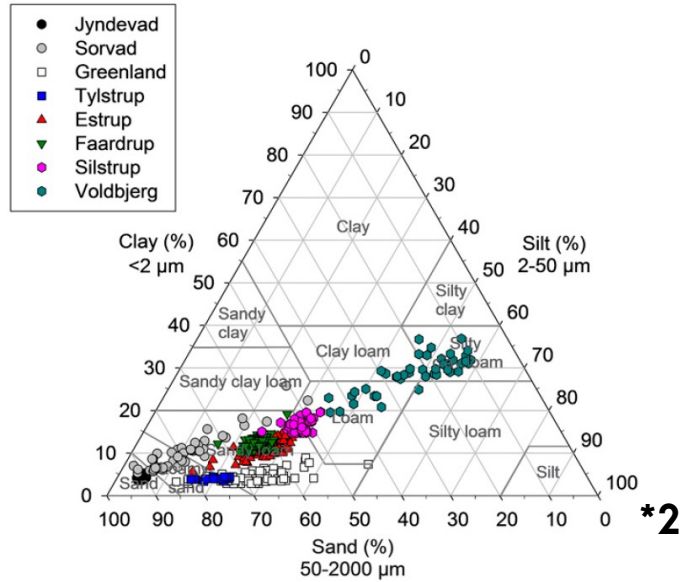
- **Examples of SSL application**
- Teaching

# NIRS FOR SOIL CLASSIFICATION



\*1

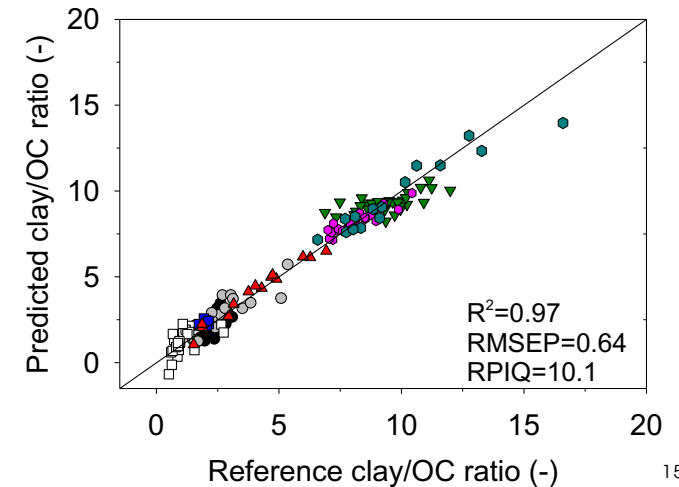
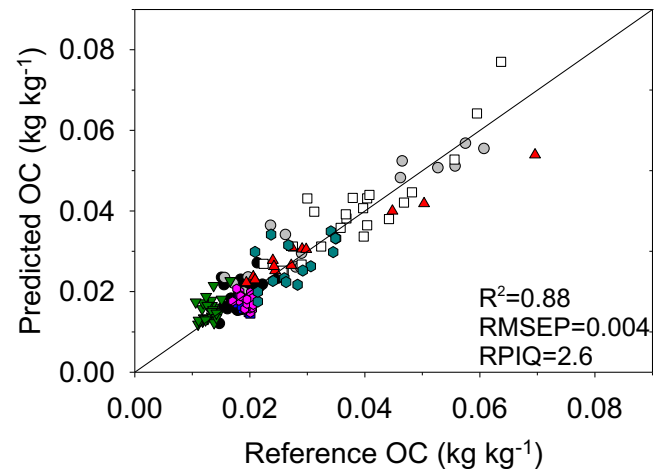
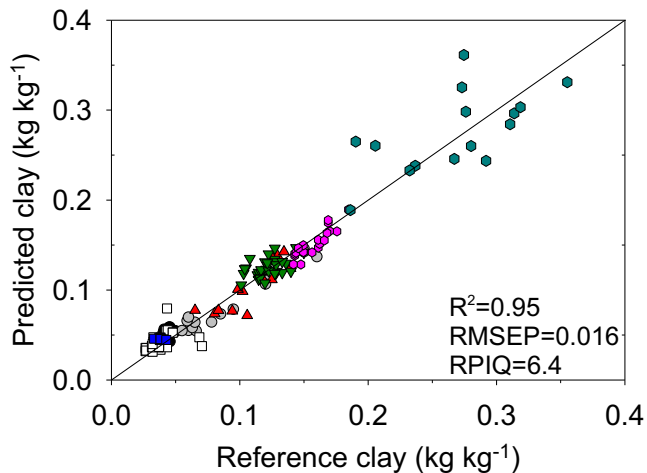
# NIRS FOR BASIC SOIL PROPERTIES



Dexter  $n = \text{clay}/\text{OC}$ :

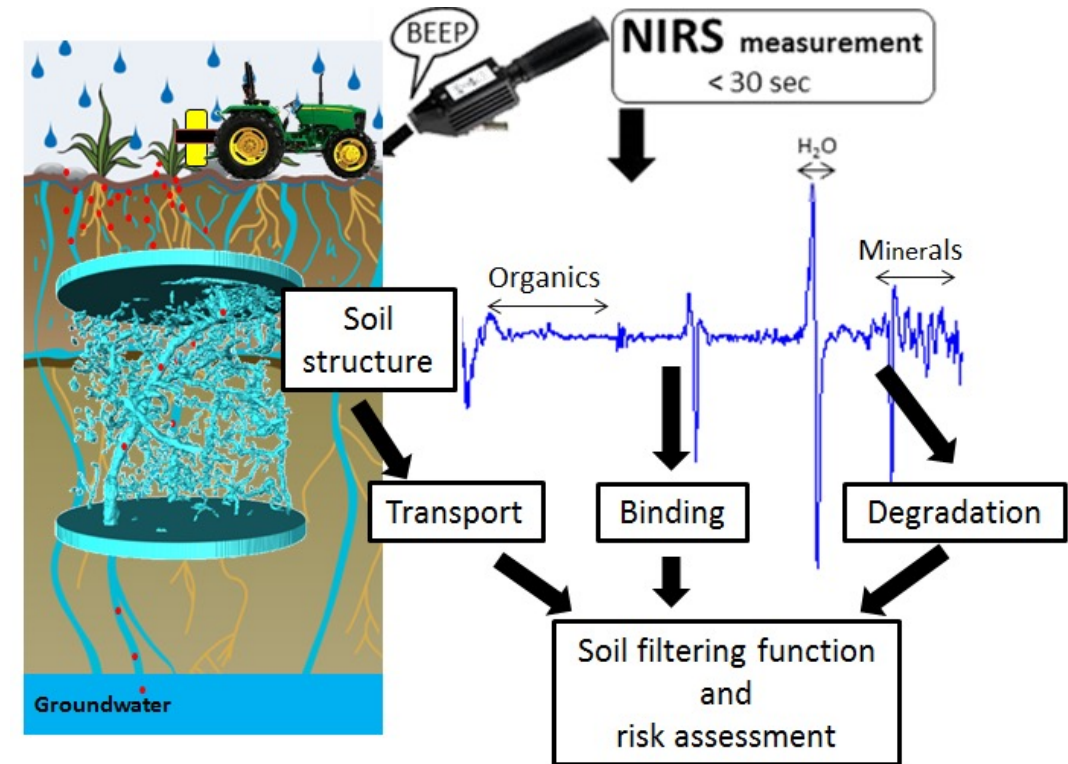
8-10 g of clay complexes 1 g of OC

$n < 10$ : non-complexed OC  $\rightarrow$  good tilth conditions  
 $n > 10$ : non-complexed clay  $\rightarrow$  degraded soil structure



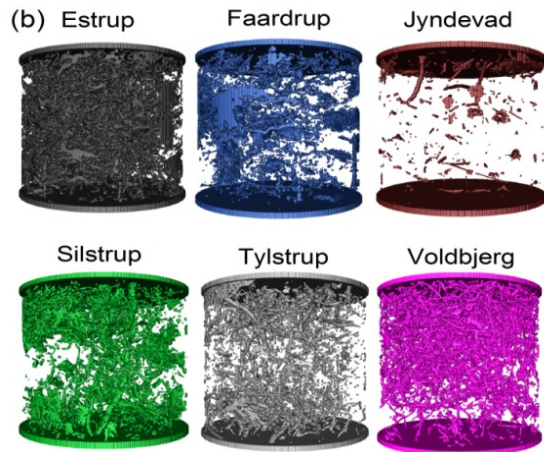
# NIRS FOR FUNCTIONAL SOIL PROPERTIES

- **Structural**  
Macroporosity, CT matrix (\*3)
- **Surface**  
Specific surface area (\*4,5), water repellency (\*6,7)
- **Transport**  
Soil water retention curve (\*8,9)  
solute mass transport (\*10)
- **Binding**  
Sorption coefficient (\*11, 12)



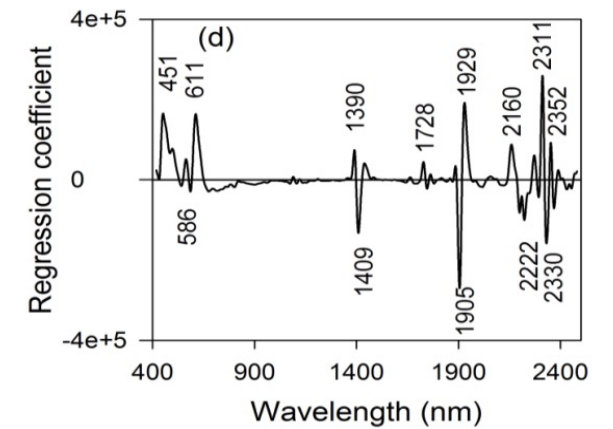
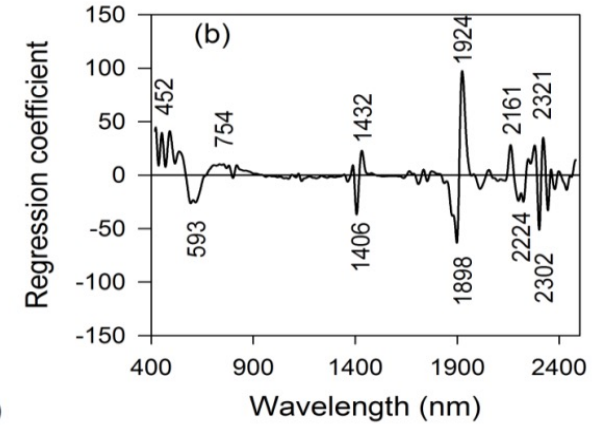
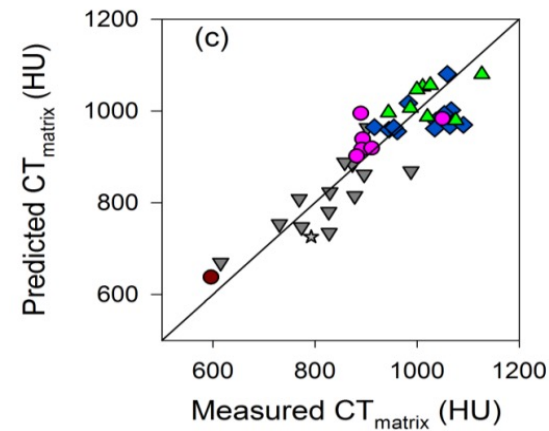
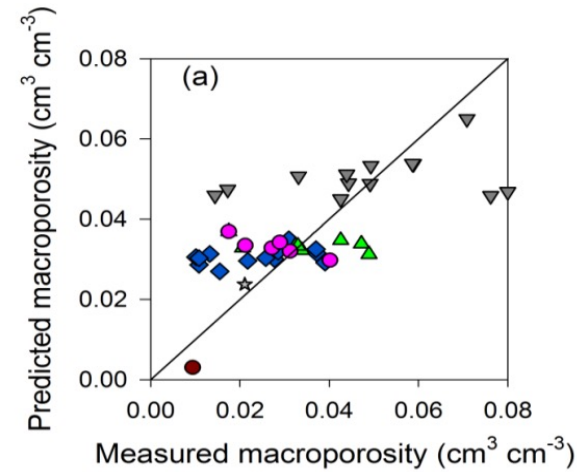


# STRUCTURAL PROPERTIES



**Derived parameters:**  
 $CT_{matrix}$  (density of soil matrix)

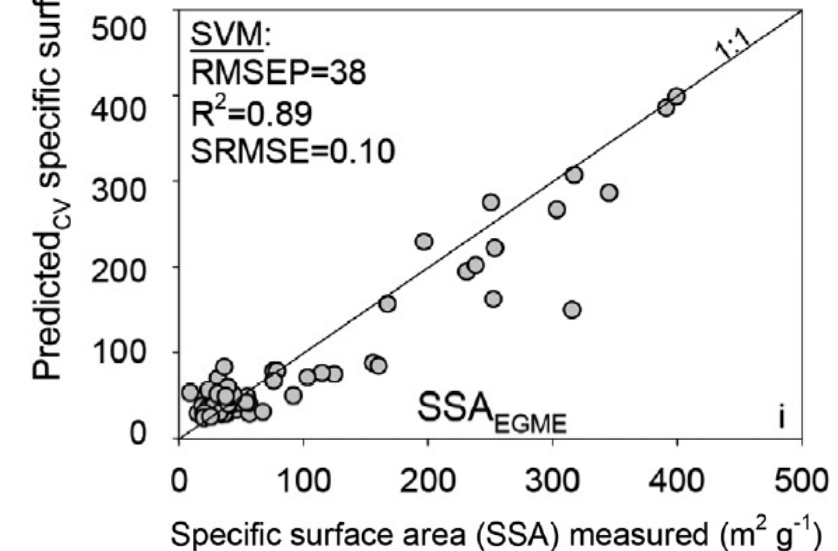
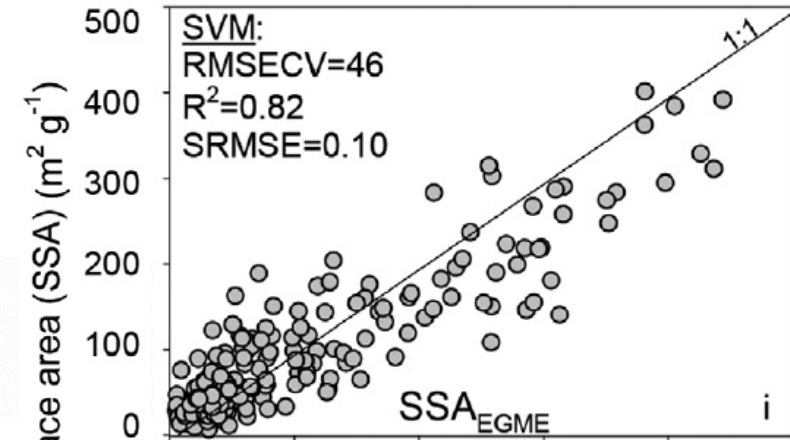
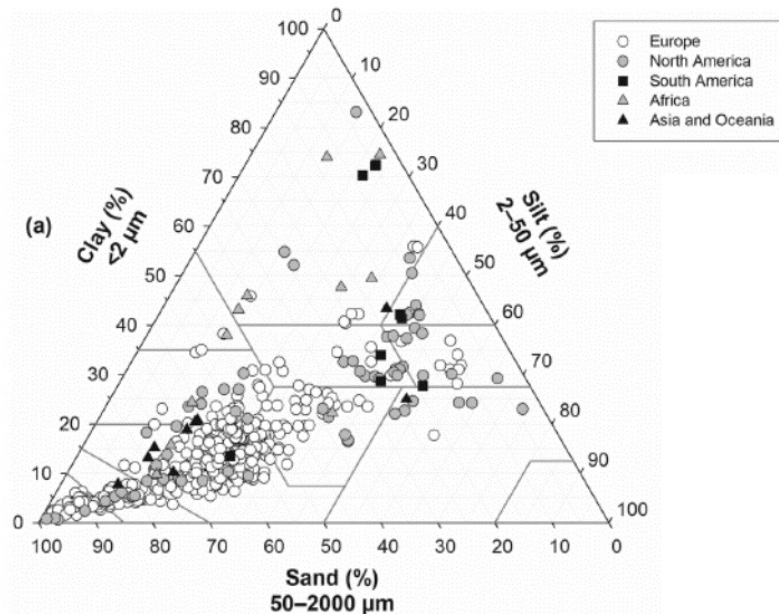
Macroporosity (pores > 1.2 mm in diameter)



\*3

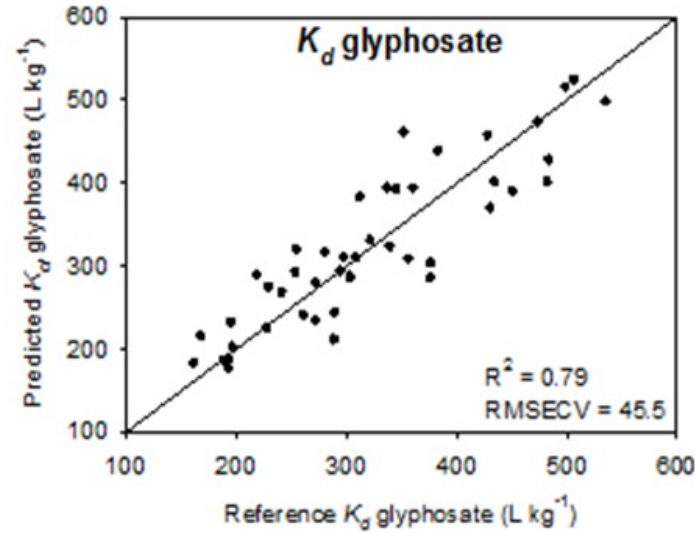
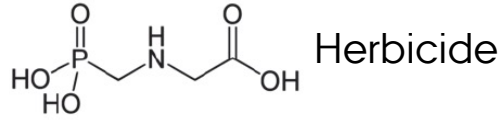
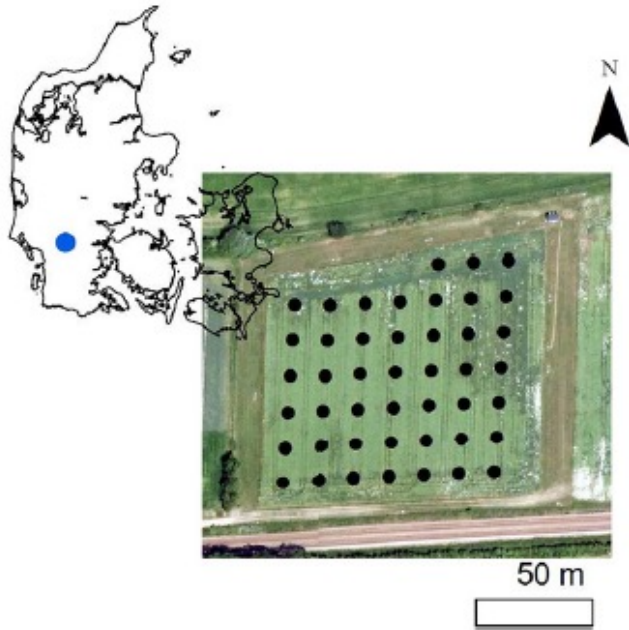
# SPECIFIC SURFACE AREA

The SSA is expressed as surface area per unit mass of soil ( $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ )

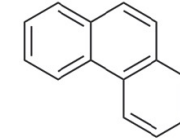


\*4

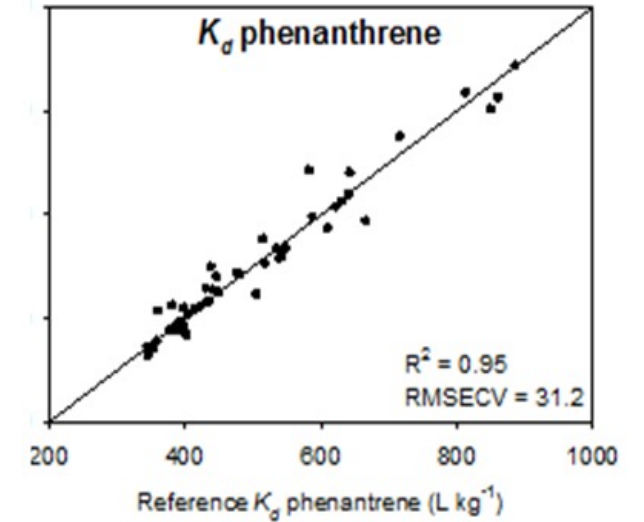
# CONTAMINANT BINDING



Binds to Fe, Al oxides and P



PAH from combustion

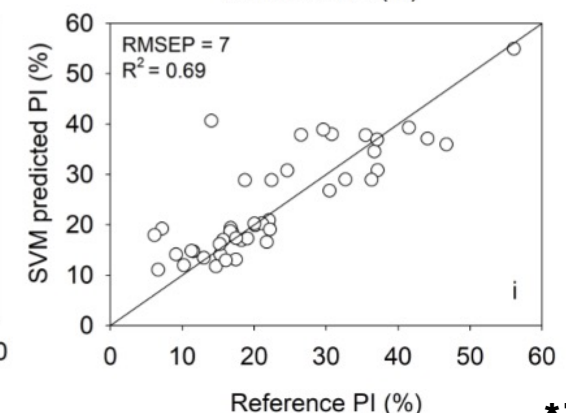
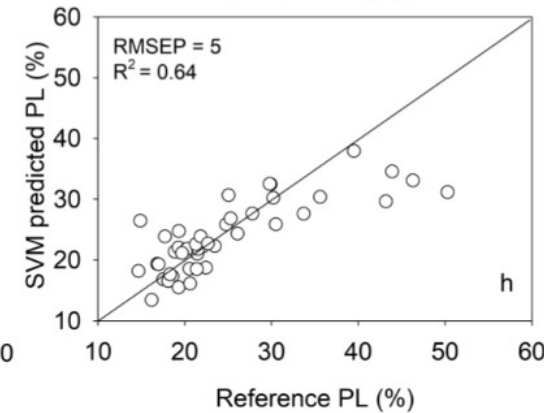
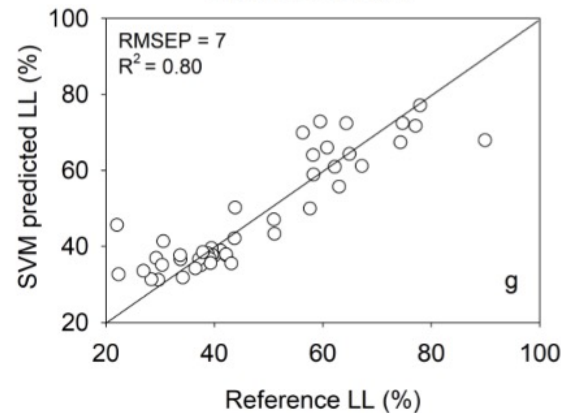
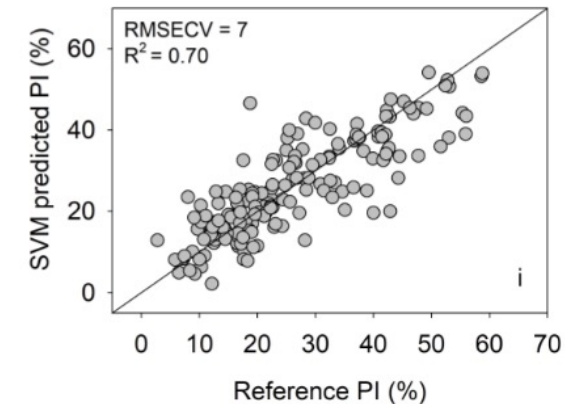
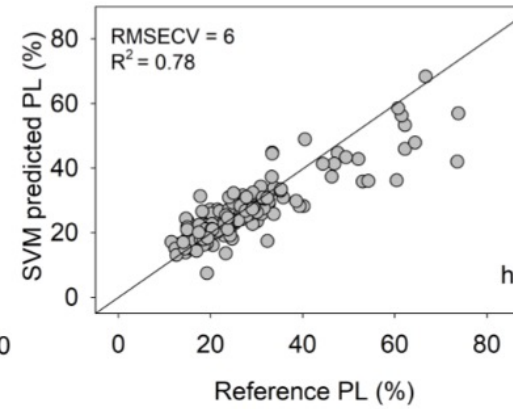
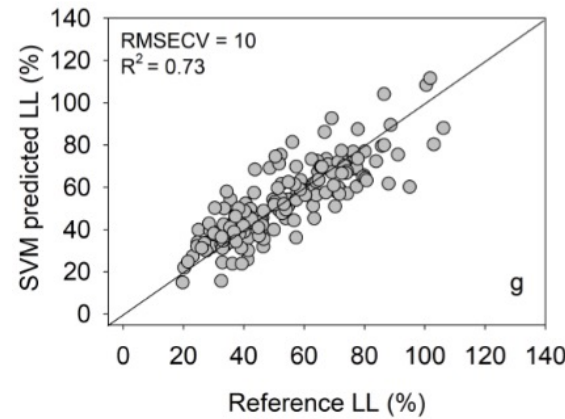
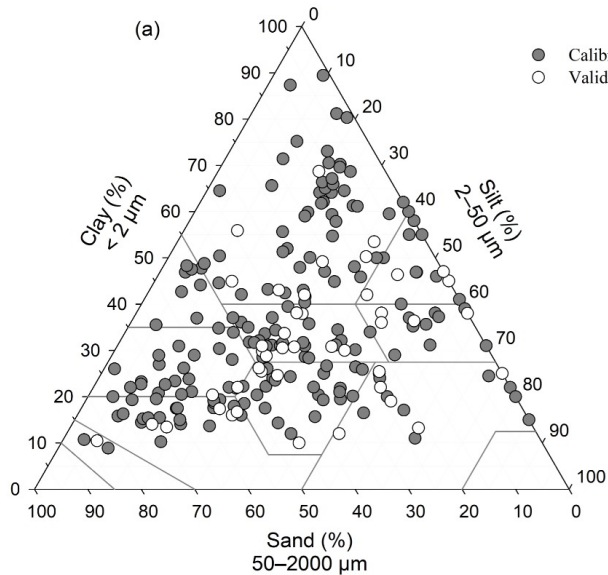
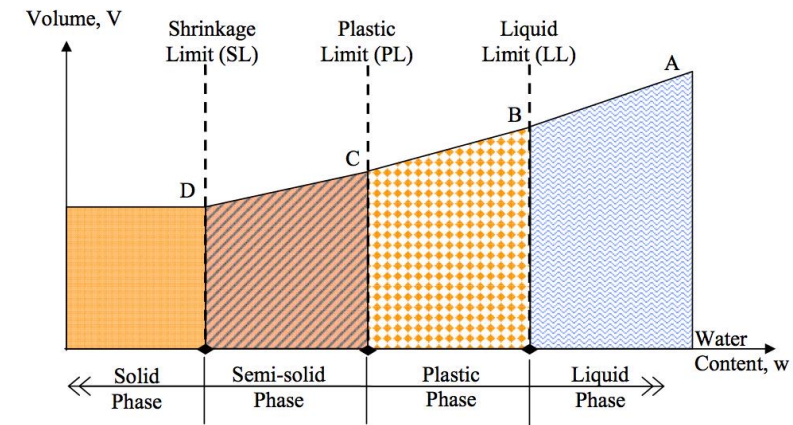


Binds to OM

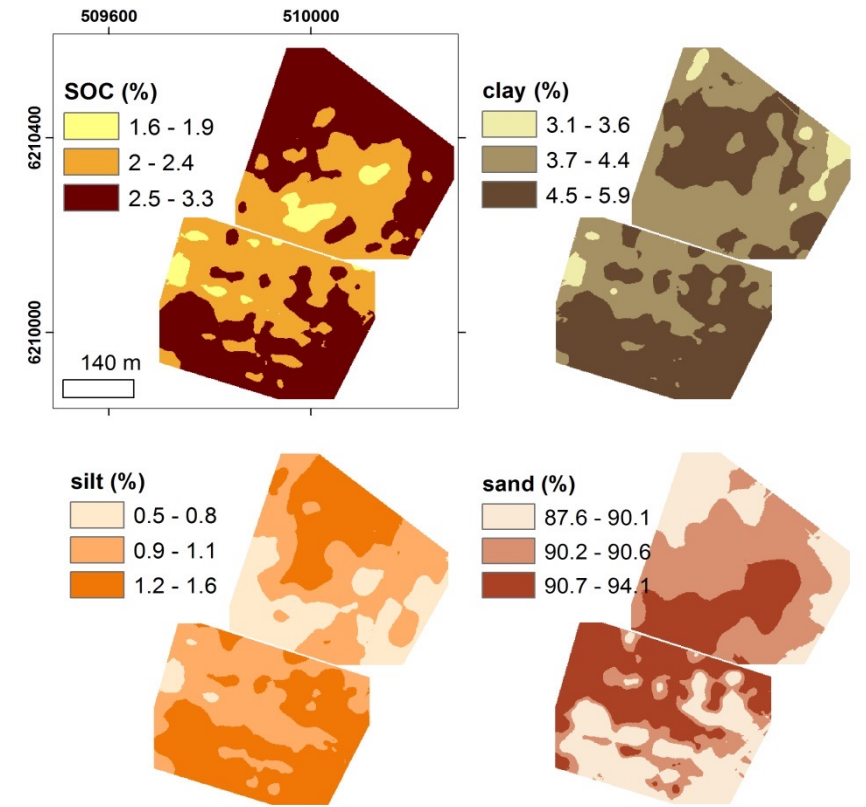
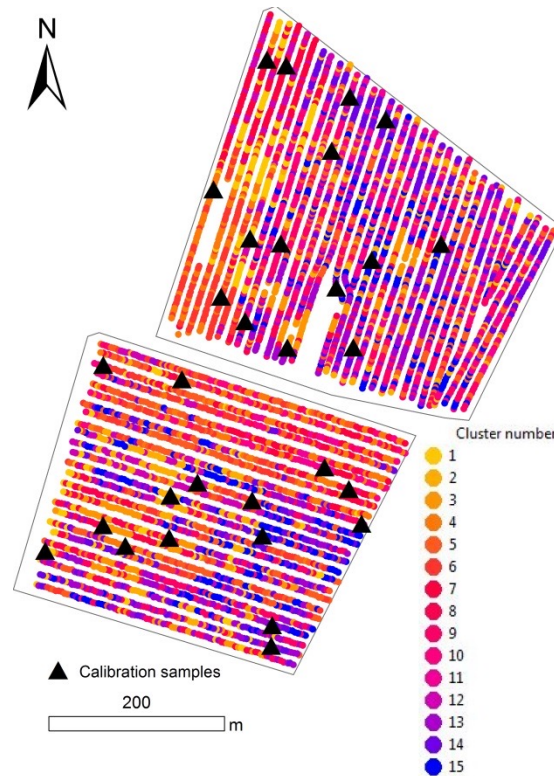
\*11

# ATTERBERG LIMITS

soil mechanical behavior concerning consistency limits:  
 plastic limit; **PL**, liquid limit; **LL**, and plasticity index; **PI**=**LL**-**PL**



# FIELD APPLICATION



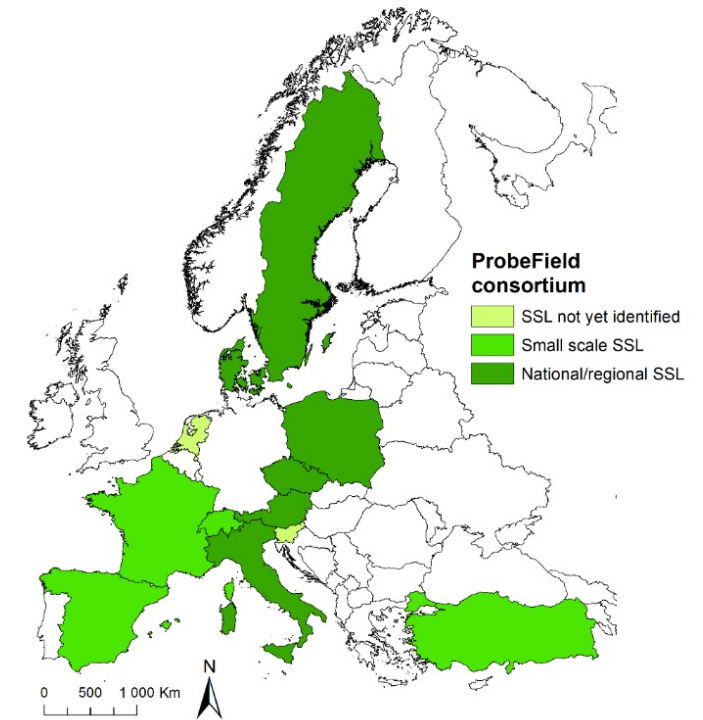
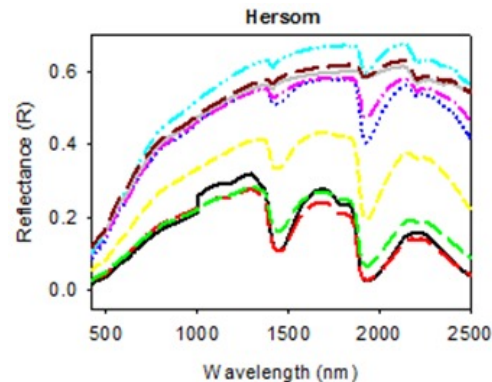
\*14,15

# EJP SOIL

## PROBEFIELD –A NOVEL PROTOCOL FOR ROBUST IN FIELD MONITORING OF CARBON STOCK AND SOIL FERTILITY BASED ON PROXIMAL SENSORS AND EXISTING SOIL SPECTRAL LIBRARIES

Lead: SLU, *Bo Stenberg*, Co-lead: AU, *Maria Knadel*, 12 countries, 14 partners

- Methodology for in-field spectral soil sampling
- Mathematical technique to remove in-field conditions
- Sensor fusion for point and 3D field estimations
- Protocol of the best practice

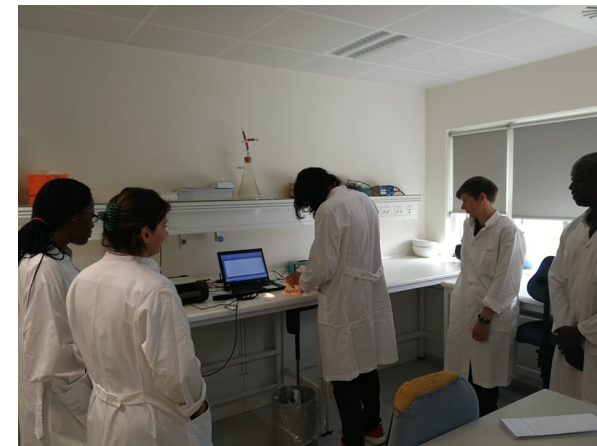


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## Teaching



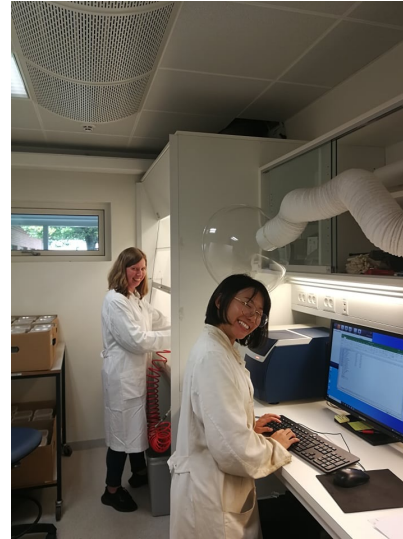
# PHD - NIRS IN SOIL SCIENCE

- theoretical and practical knowledge of NIRS and its application to soil science
- ability to use NIRS sensors
- skills to analyse soil spectra and develop calibration models

Organizer - Maria Knadel (AU)

Lecturers:

- Bo Stenberg, Johanna Wetterlind (SLU)
- Maria Knadel, Cecilie Hermansen, Anders Møller (AU)
- Eyal Ben Dor (TAU)





# LITERATURE

1. **Knadel, M.** et al. 2013. Visible–Near Infrared Spectra as a Proxy for Topsoil Texture and Glacial Boundaries. *Soil Science Society of America Journal*. 77 ( 2), 568-579, doi:10.2136/sssaj2012.0093.
2. **Hermansen, C.** et al. 2016. Visible–near-infrared spectroscopy can predict the clay/organic carbon and mineral fines/organic carbon ratios. *Soil Science Society of America Journal*. 80:1486-1495. doi:10.2136/sssaj2016.05.0159.
3. **Katuwal, S.** et al. 2017. Combining X-ray computed tomography and visible near-infrared spectroscopy for prediction of soil structural properties. *Vadose Zone Journal*. 17. doi:10.2136/vzj2016.06.0054.
4. **Knadel, M.** et al. 2018. Soil Specific Surface Area Determination by Visible Near-Infrared Spectroscopy. *SSSAJ*. doi:10.2136/sssaj2018.03.0093.
5. **Knadel, M.** et al. 2020. Combining visible near-infrared spectroscopy and water vapor sorption for soil specific surface area estimation. *Vadose Zone Journal*, DOI: 10.1002/vzj2.20007.
6. **Knadel, M.** et al. 2016. Assessing soil water repellency of a sandy field with visible Near Infrared Spectroscopy, *Journal of the Near Infrared Spectroscopy*, 24, 215-224. doi:10.1255/jnirs.1188.
7. **Hermansen, C.** et al. 2019. The relationship between soil water repellency and water content can be predicted by vis-NIR spectroscopy. *Soil Science Society of America Journal* 83: 1616-1627, doi:10.2136/sssaj2019.03.0092.
8. **Pittaki-Chrysodonta, Z.** et al. 2018. Predicting the Campbell soil water retention function: comparing visible-near-infrared spectroscopy with classical pedotransfer function. *Vadose Zone Journal* 17(1). doi: 10.2136/vzj2017.09.0169.
9. **Pittaki-Chrysodonta, Z.** et al. 2019. [Comparing Visible-Near-Infrared Spectroscopy and a Pedotransfer Function for Predicting the Dry Region of the Soil-Water Retention Curve](https://doi.org/10.2136/vzj2018.09.0180). *Vadose Zone Journal* 18 (1). [doi.org/10.2136/vzj2018.09.0180](https://doi.org/10.2136/vzj2018.09.0180).
10. **Katuwal, S.** et al. 2018. Visible–Near-Infrared Spectroscopy can predict Mass Transport of Dissolved Chemicals through Intact Soil. *Nature, Science Reports*. doi:10.1038/s41598-018-29306-9.
11. **Paradelo, M.** et al. 2016. Field-scale predictions of soil contaminant sorption using visible–near infrared spectroscopy. *Journal of Near Infrared Spectroscopy*. 24:281-291. doi:10.1255/jnirs.1228.
12. **Hermansen, C.** et al. 2020. Predicting glyphosate sorption across New Zealand pastoral soils using basic soil properties or vis-NIR spectroscopy. *Geoderma* 360. 114009. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoderma.2019.114009>.
13. **Rehman, H.U.** et al. 2019. Estimating Atterberg Limits of Fine-Grained Soils by Visible–Near-Infrared Spectroscopy. *Vadose Zone Journal*, 18. doi: 10.2136/vzj2019.04.0039
14. **Knadel, M.** et al. 2015. Soil organic carbon and particle sizes mapping using vis-NIR, EC and temperature mobile sensor platform. *Computers and Electronics in Agriculture*, 114, 134-144. 10.1016/j.compag.2015.03.013.
15. **Knadel, M.** et al. 2011. Multisensor On-The-Go Mapping of Soil Organic Carbon Content. *Soil Science Society of America Journal*, 75(5): 1799-1806. doi: 10.2136/sssaj2010.0452.

# TEAM

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Sara Sanchez

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Sonia Akter

Yi Peng

Zambella Pittaki-Chrysodonta

**Thank you for your attention!**



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