



# Sampling design assessment for agrosystem monitoring based on virtual landscape modelling. Application to soil phosphorus content.

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# Context

## *Survey programmes are necessary*

- to **monitor** natural resources
- to **assess** the efficiency of environmental policies

> US: Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program

Lesser et al., 1997

UK: Soil Action Plan

DEFRA, 2004

Fr: Soil Quality Network

King et al., 2005

## *Design and implementation face financial cuts*

> Simulation can be used to optimise the design of sampling programmes on **virtual landscapes**:

- subsampling existing databases (short chronicles, too local) Fernández et al., 2005
- computed from spatial structure (irrealistic) Papritz et al., 1995

## *Objectives*

*To create realistic virtual landscapes*

- Initial spatial distributions
- Evolution processes

*To implement different sampling strategies*

*To assess different sampling strategies*

- Accuracy
- Trend detection ability

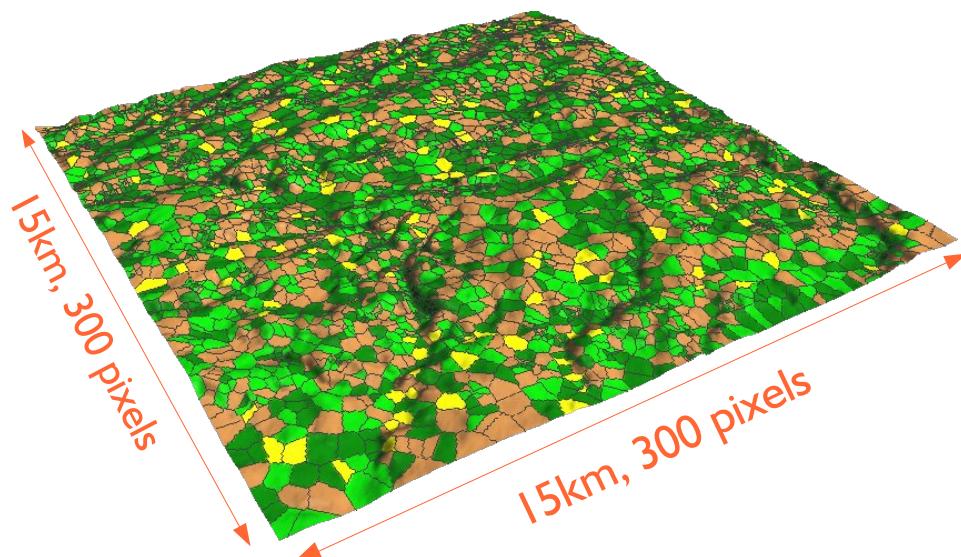
## *Soil phosphorus content*

- Environmental issue
- Linked to agricultural practices

# Virtual landscape, construction

## *Field contours generation*

Walter et al., 2003



- 4153 fields, contours =  $f(\text{DEM})$

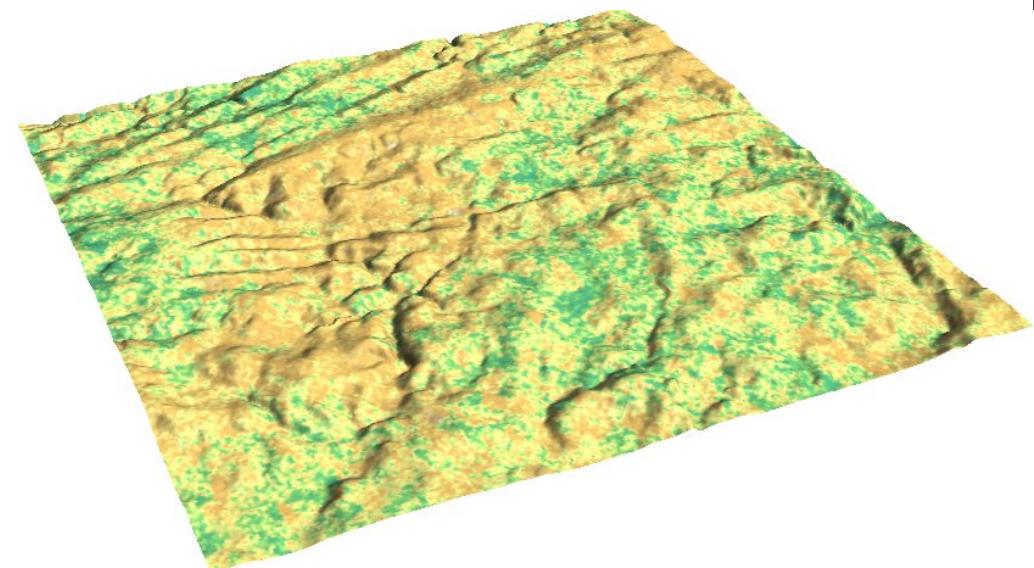
McBratney et al., 1999

- 4 landuses (perm/temp pastures,  
grains, maize), early 60's

## *Initial soil phosphorus content*

3 sources of **spatial variability**:

- long distance variability
- crop induced variability
- short distance variability

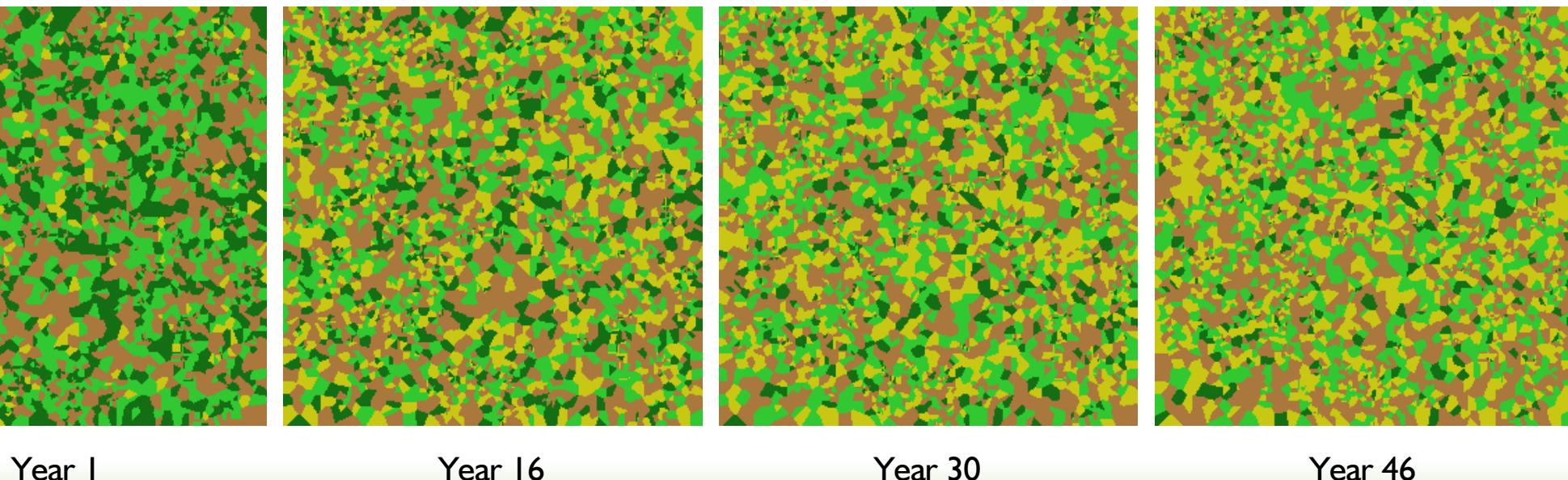


# Virtual landscape, land use evolution

Walter et al., 2003

- stochastic transition matrix Cressie., 1991
- over 50 years

		Year Y+1			
		perm. pasture	temp. pasture	cereals	maize
Year Y	perm. pasture	95%	3,5%	1%	0,5%
	temp. pasture	1%	65%	24%	10%
	cereals	0%	20%	80%	0%
	maize	0%	9%	1%	90%



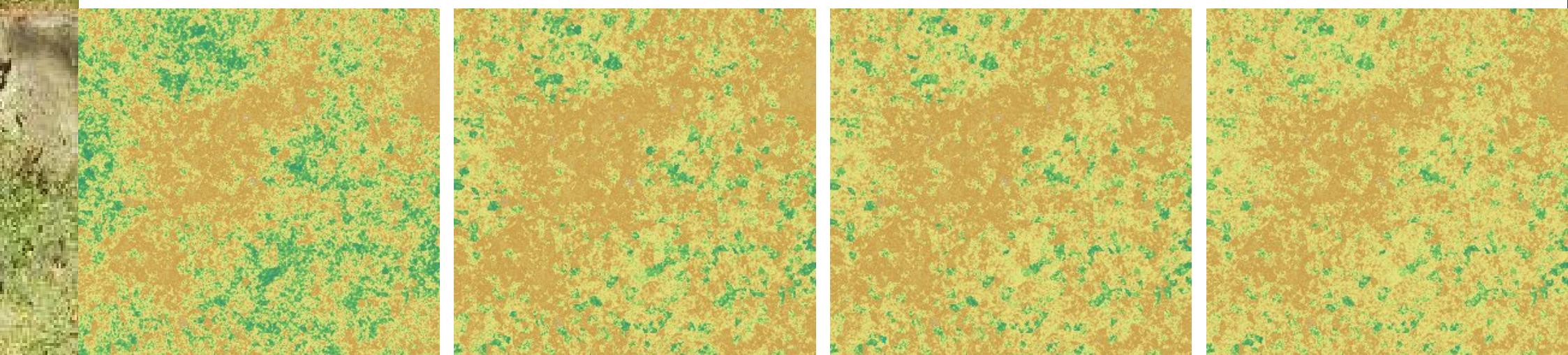
# Virtual landscape, soil P content evolution

*Fertilisation practices* Schwartz et al., 2005

- 20 years : N-based fertilisation
- 30 years : P-based fertilisation

*Crop intakes*

*Soil P mineralisation* Fardeau et al., 1994



Year 1

Year 16

Year 30

Year 46

# Sampling designs

*Stratified sampling on  
initial landuse*

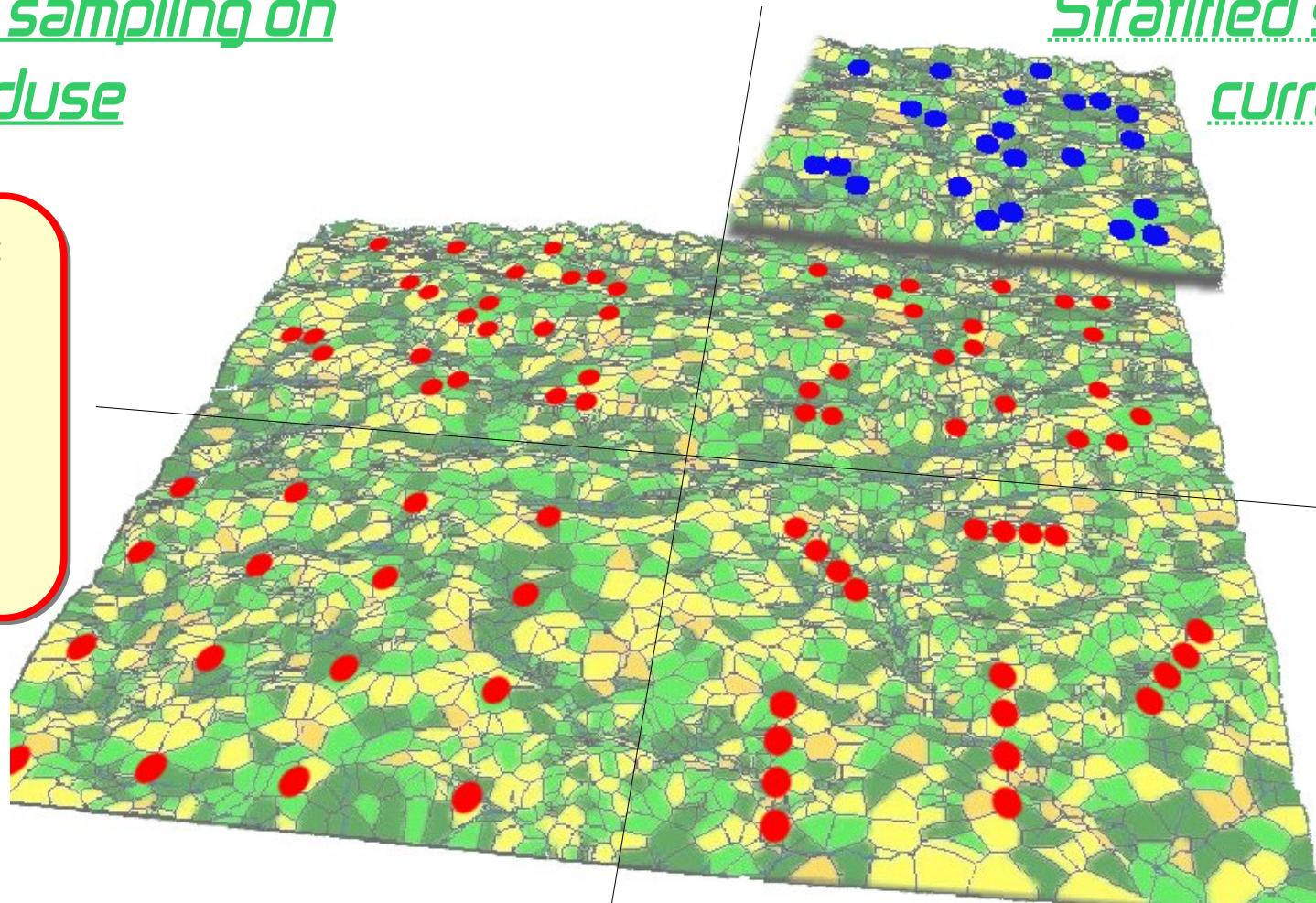
Sampling densities:

- 16 points
- 144 points
- 256 points
- 576 points
- 1024 points

Regular  
grid

*Stratified sampling on  
current landuse*

Transects



# Methods of comparison

## *Definitions*

A **strategy** combines:

- a sampling design
- a sampling density
- 2-8 years interval

100 realisations per strategy

> 100 medians (soil P content)

## *Indicators*

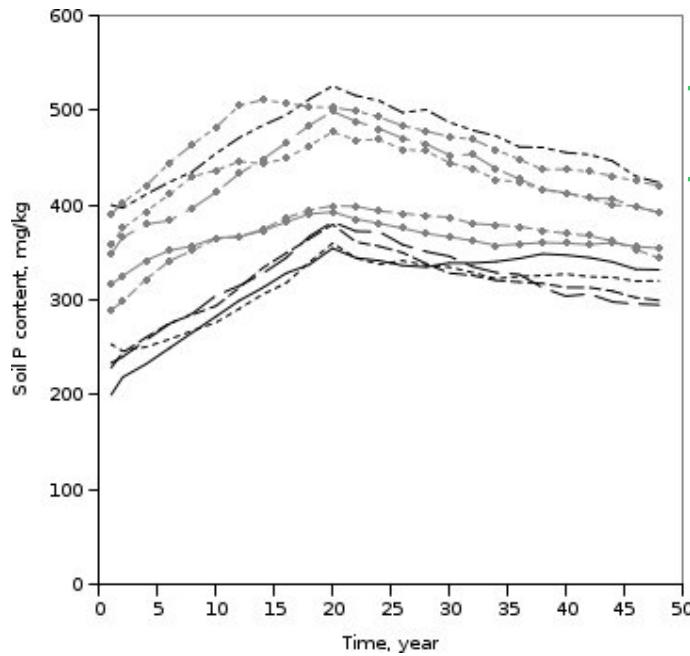
### *How accurate is the strategy?*

- comparison of the actual and the sampled medians
- any sampling density influence?

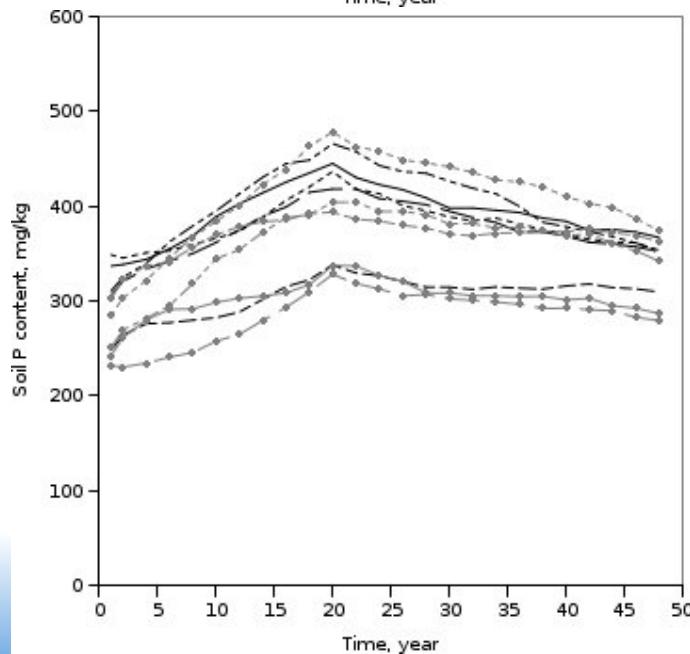
### *How well can the strategy detect an actual trend?*

- any sampling density influence?
- any time interval effect?

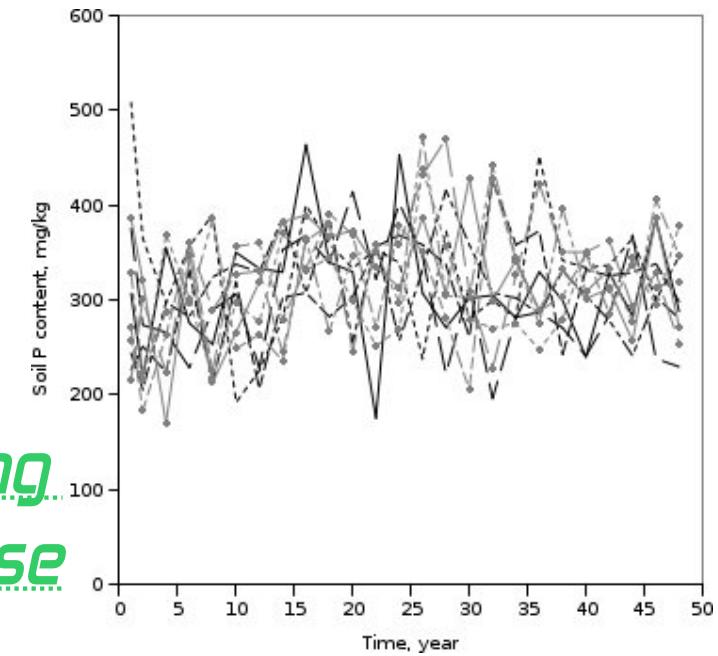
# A few realisations



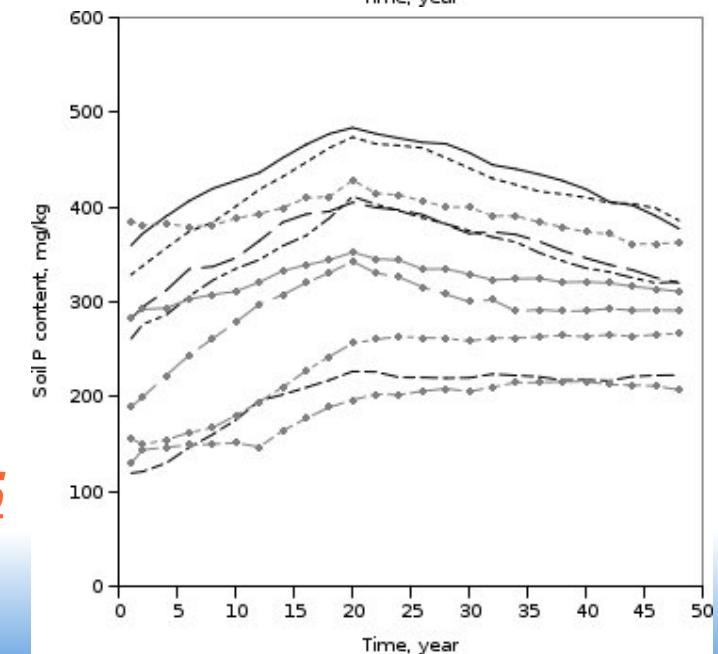
*Stratified sampling  
on initial landuse*



*Stratified sampling  
on current landuse*



*Regular grid*

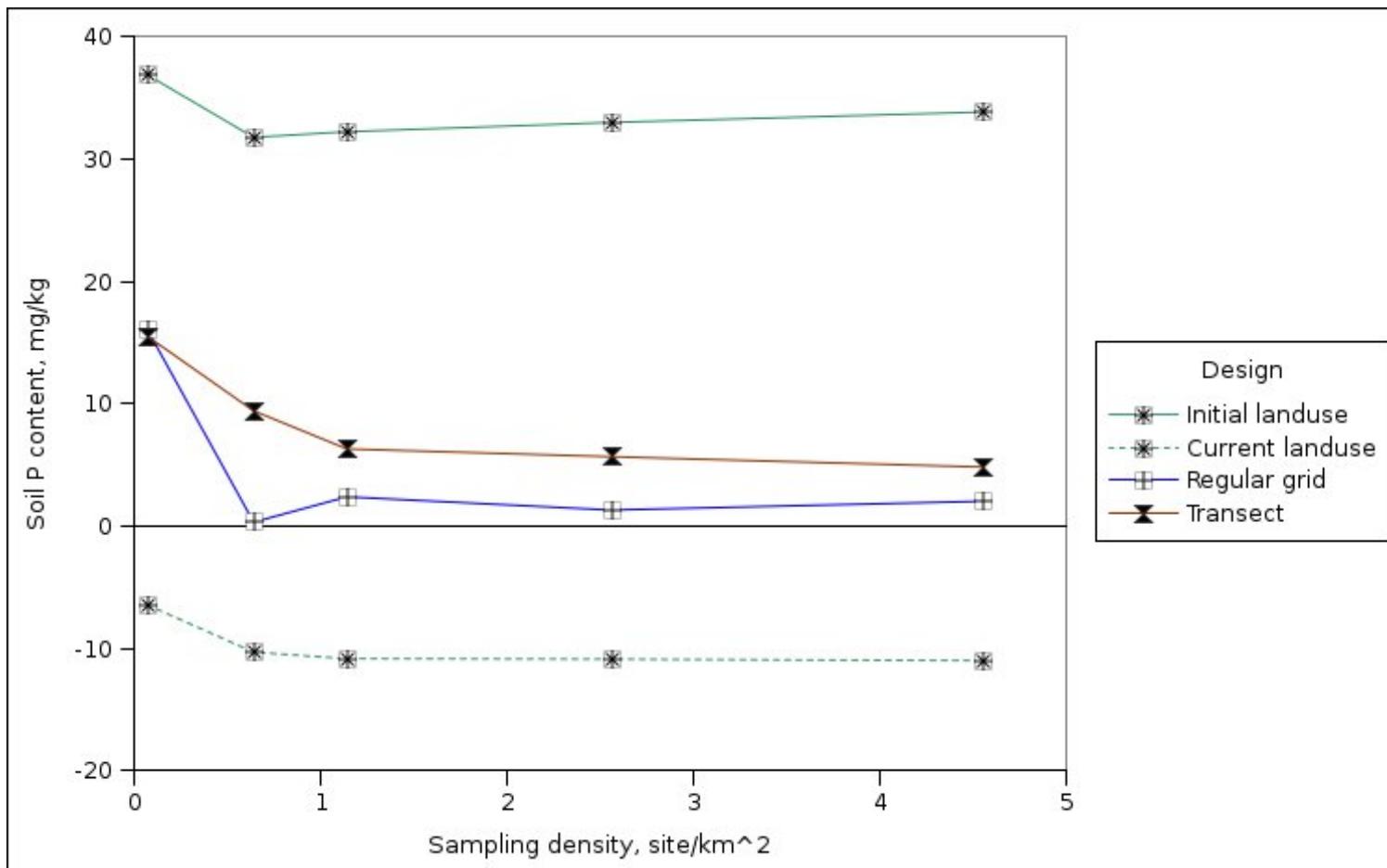


*Transects*

# Accuracy

## BIAS

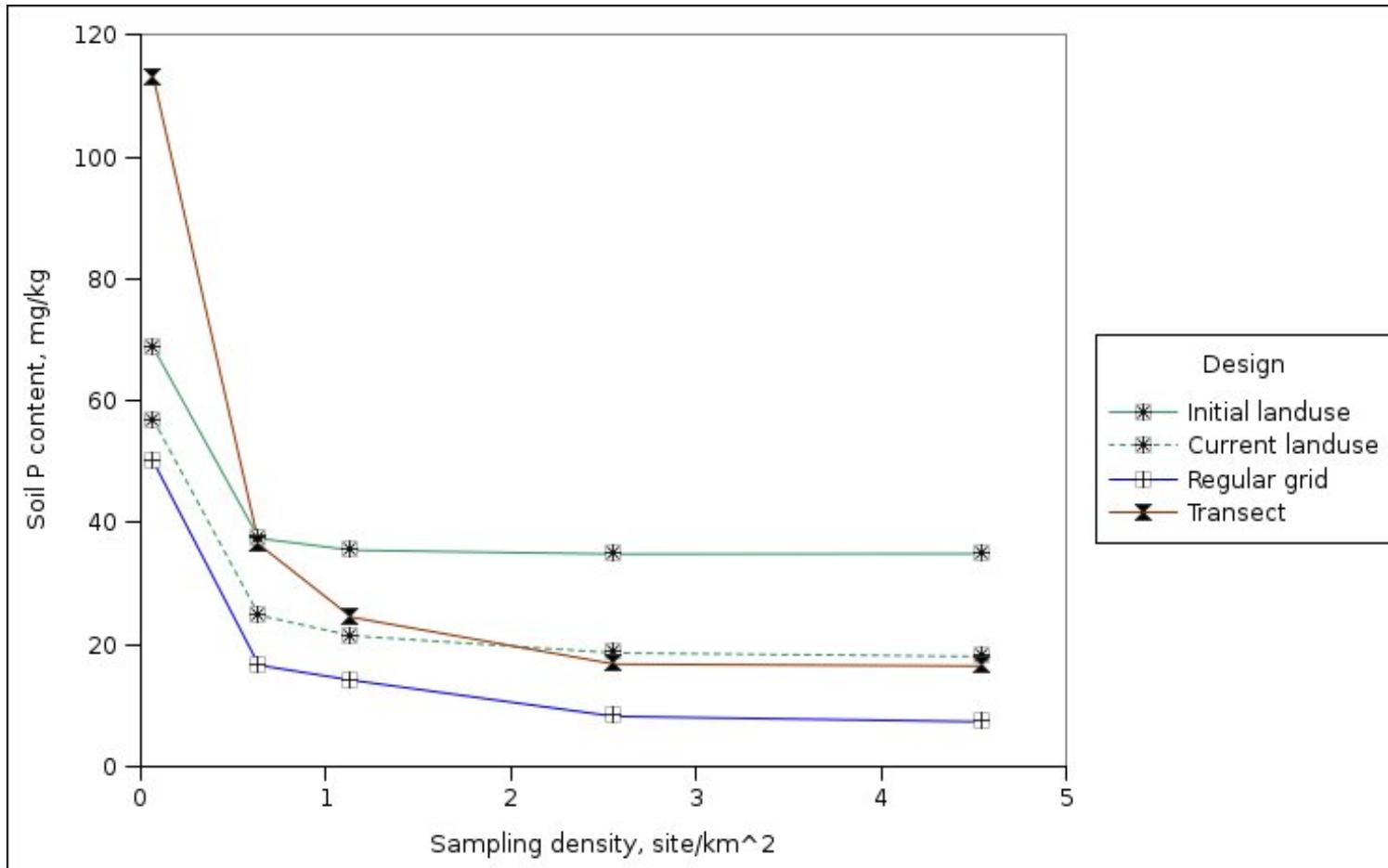
$$BIAS = \frac{1}{N_{Year}} \frac{1}{N_{Realisation}} \sum_{y=1}^{N_{Year}} \left[ \sum_{r=1}^{N_{Realisation}} (Med_{y,r} - Med_{y,A}) \right]$$



# Accuracy

## RMSE

$$RMSE = \frac{1}{N_{Year}} \frac{1}{N_{Realisation}} \sqrt{\sum_{y=1}^{N_{Year}} \left[ \sum_{r=1}^{N_{Realisation}} (Med_{y,r} - Med_{y,A})^2 \right]}$$



# Trend detection

## *Trend ratio*

$$TR = \frac{(Med_{y,r} - Med_{y-t,r})}{(Med_{y,A} - Med_{y-t,A})}$$

## *Trend detection ability*

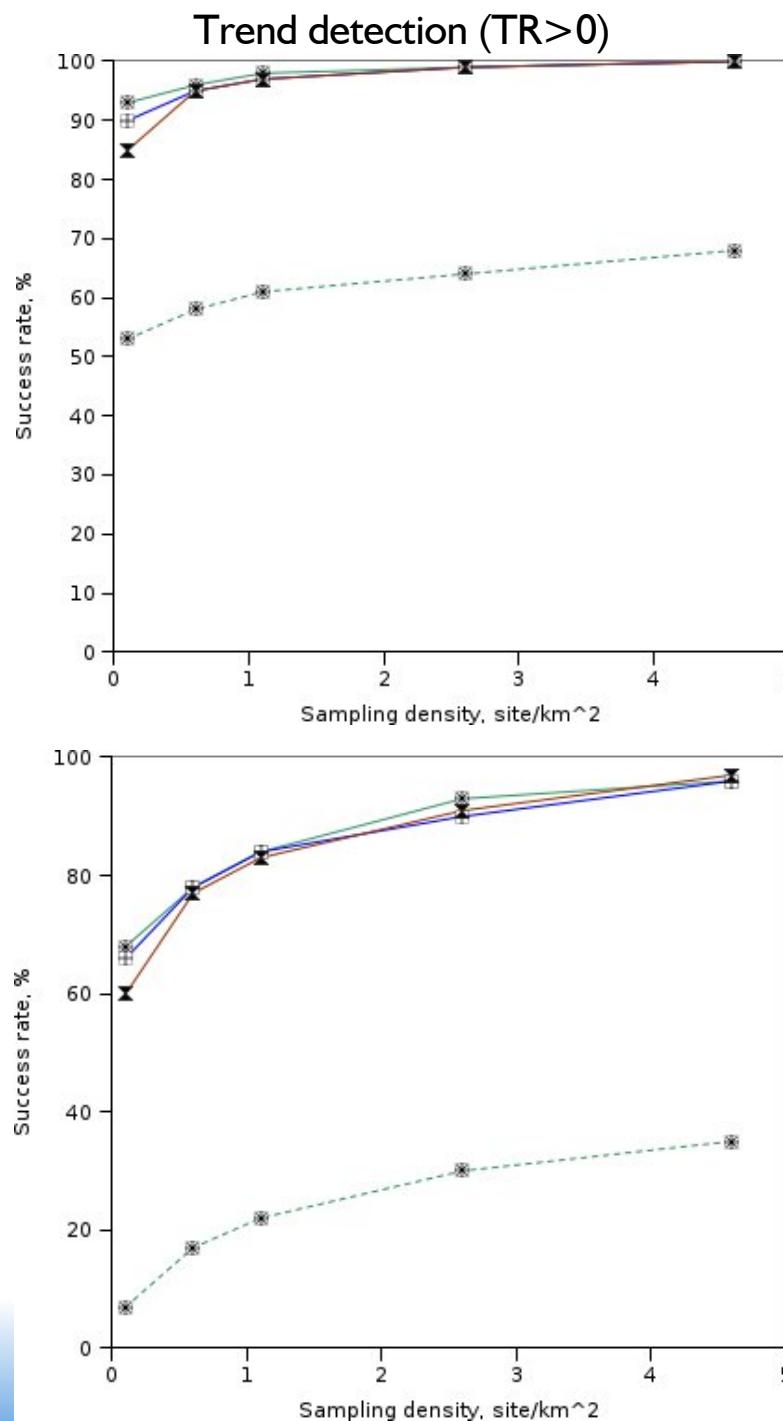
$$TR \geq 0$$

## *Trend detection accuracy*

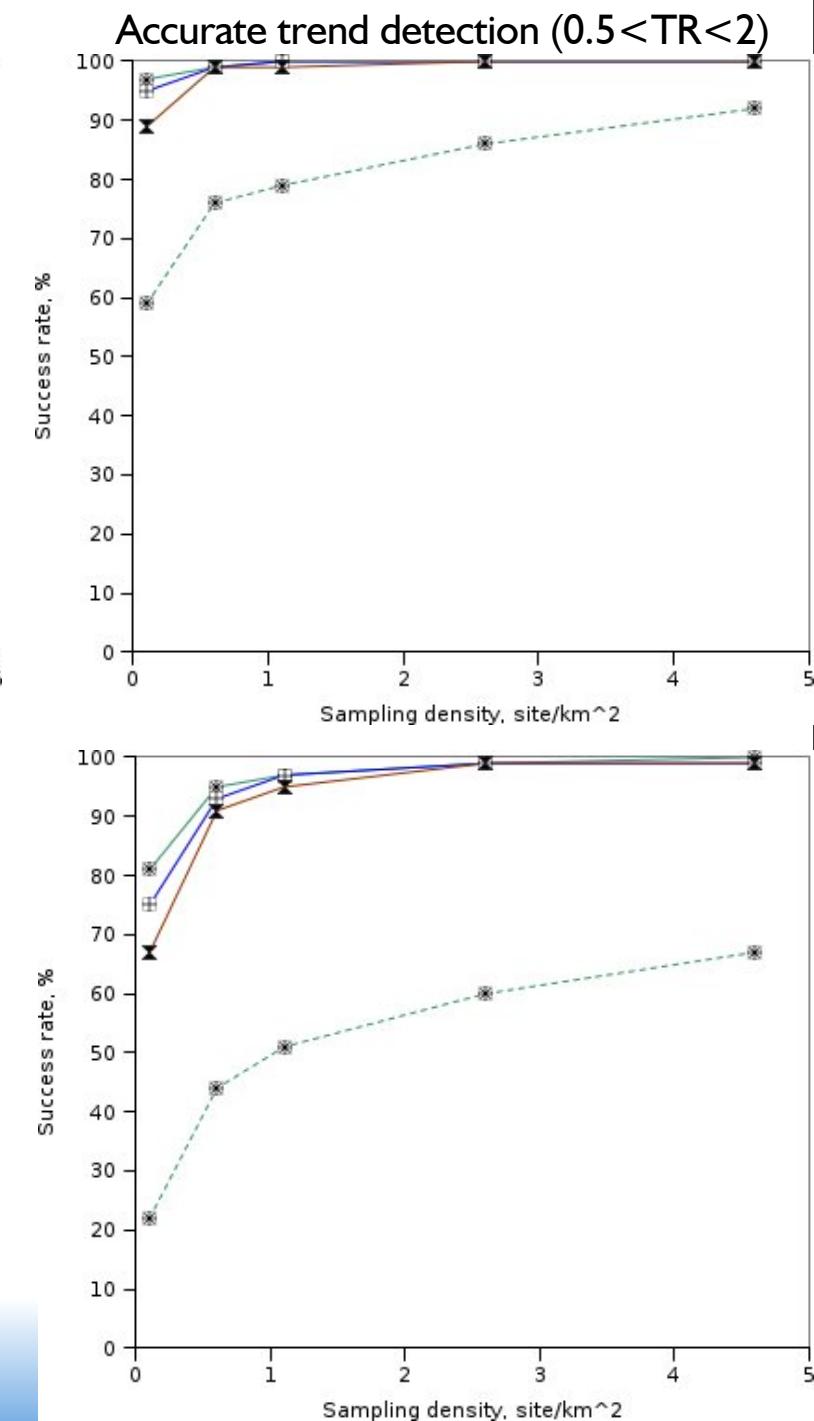
$$\frac{1}{k_{trend}} \leq TR \leq k_{trend}, \text{ with } k_{trend} > 1$$

# Success rates

2-year interval



8-year interval



# Conclusion

## *Sampling design assessment*

	<i>best design</i>			<i>worst design</i>
BIAS	regular grid	transect	current landuse	initial landuse
ERROR	regular grid	current landuse	transect	initial landuse
TR success rate	initial landuse	regular grid	transect	current landuse

## *Virtual landscape modelling*

- realistic
- flexible
- scenario evaluation

# Perspectives

- joint evaluation on both soil and water quality
- integration of climatic and hydrological processes
- integration of the farm level of landscape organisation