

# The plant disease triangle as a framework for constructing disease surveillance systems with remote sensing


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*Cornell University*

*ICPP Episense Satellite Event*

*July 19, 2023*



Disease is the result of complex interactions between antagonistic organisms and their environment

# The Disease Triangle

**Virulent  
Pathogen**

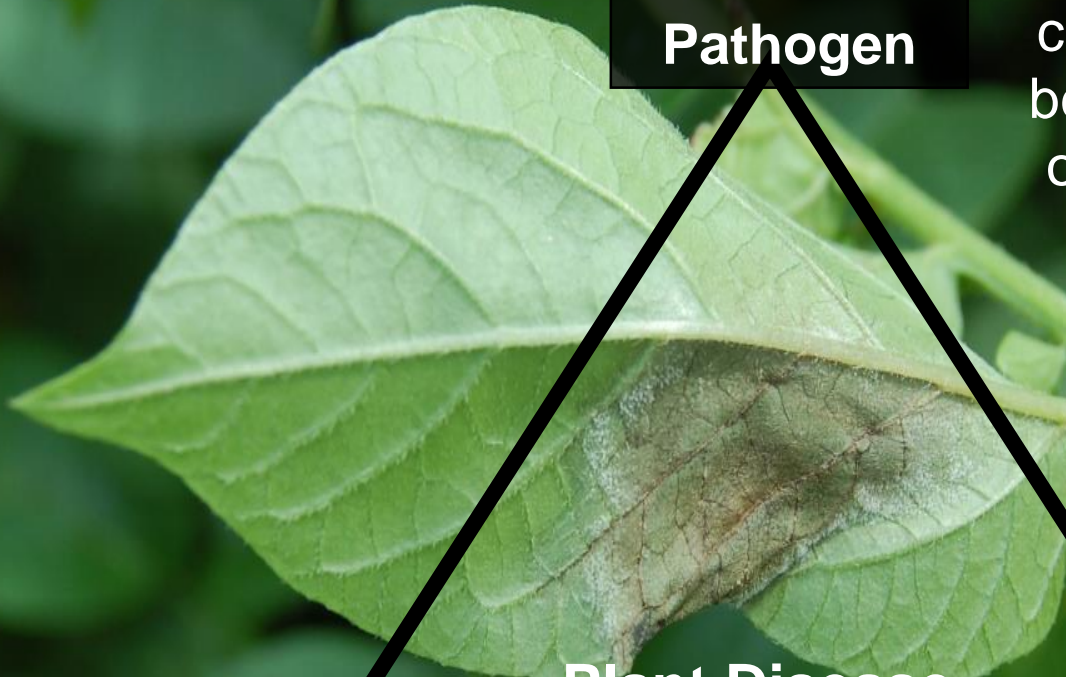
Disease is the result of complex interactions between antagonistic organisms and their environment

**Plant Disease**

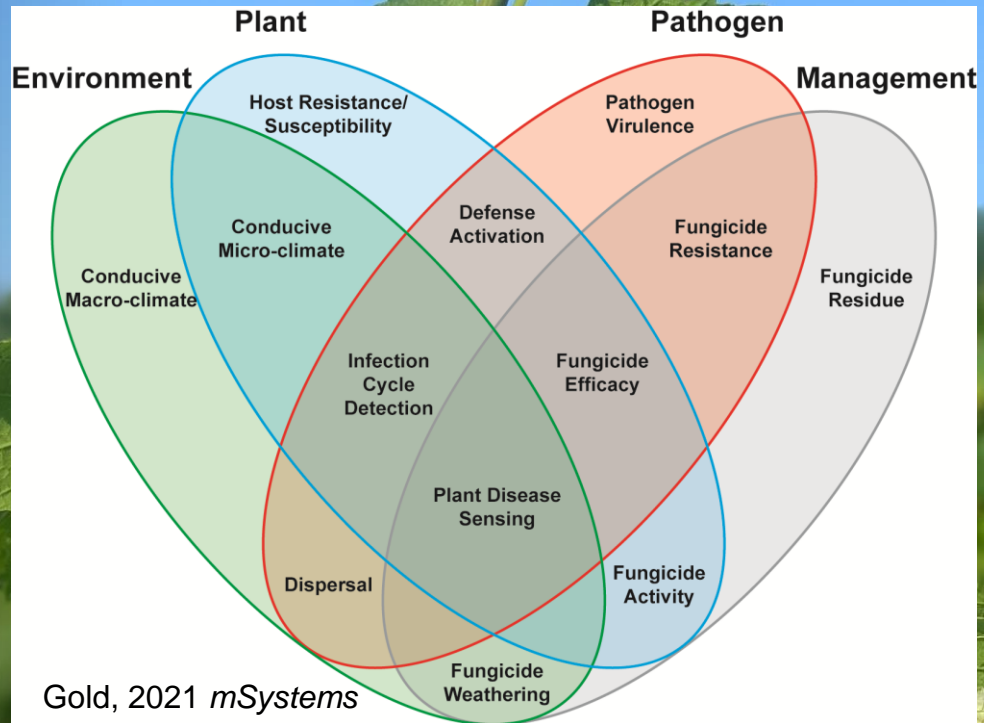
**Conducive  
Environment**

**Susceptible  
Host**

**Pathosystem**

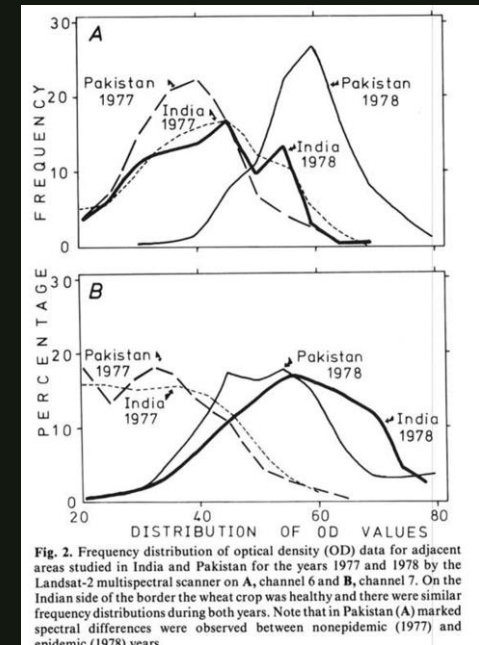


Remote sensing is the only *scalable* detection method in our disease control toolbox that can transcend historical limitations to provide *actionable* early warning and detection.



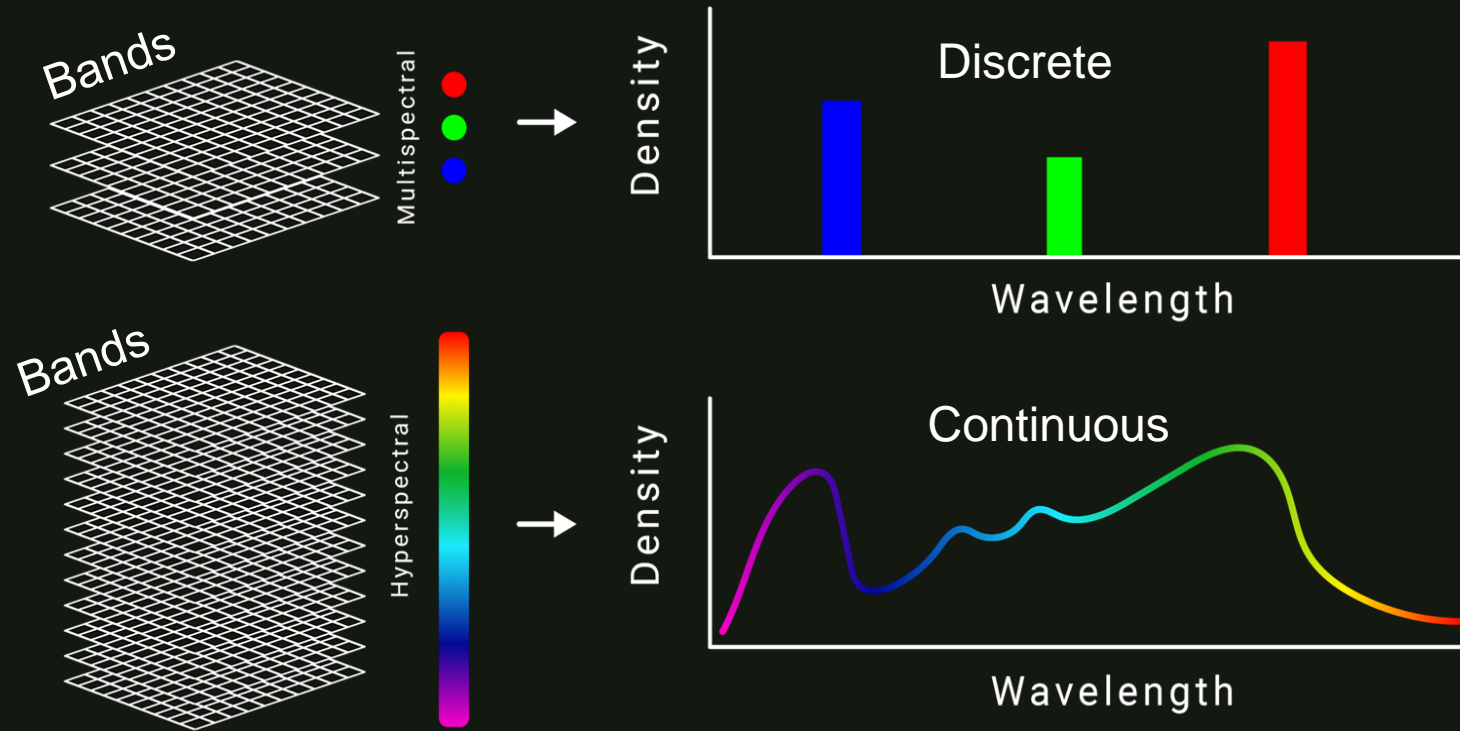


Cotton Root Rot infected field in  
College Station, TX 1929



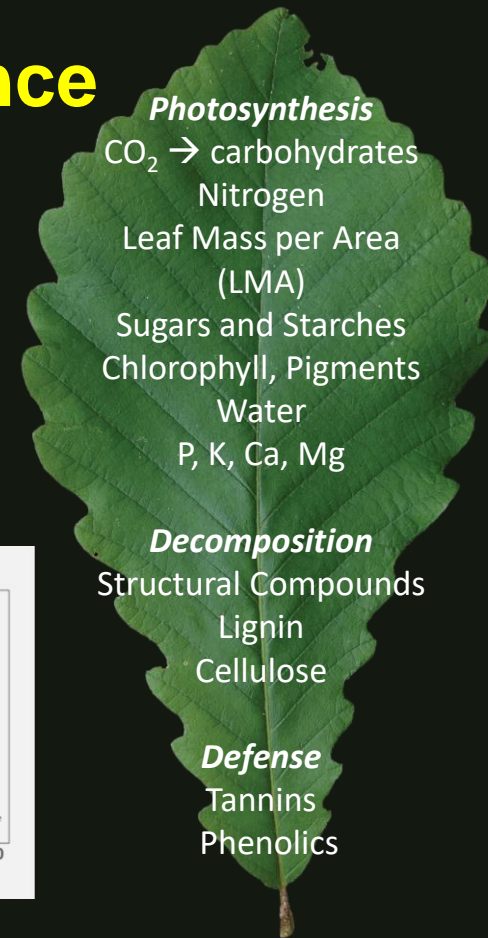
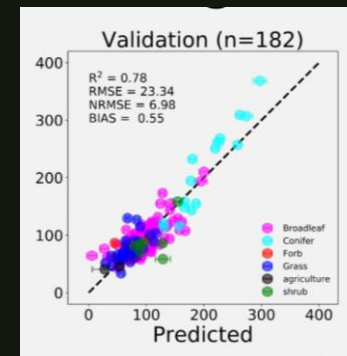
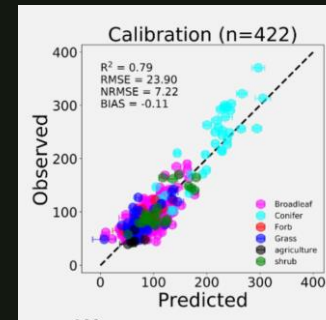
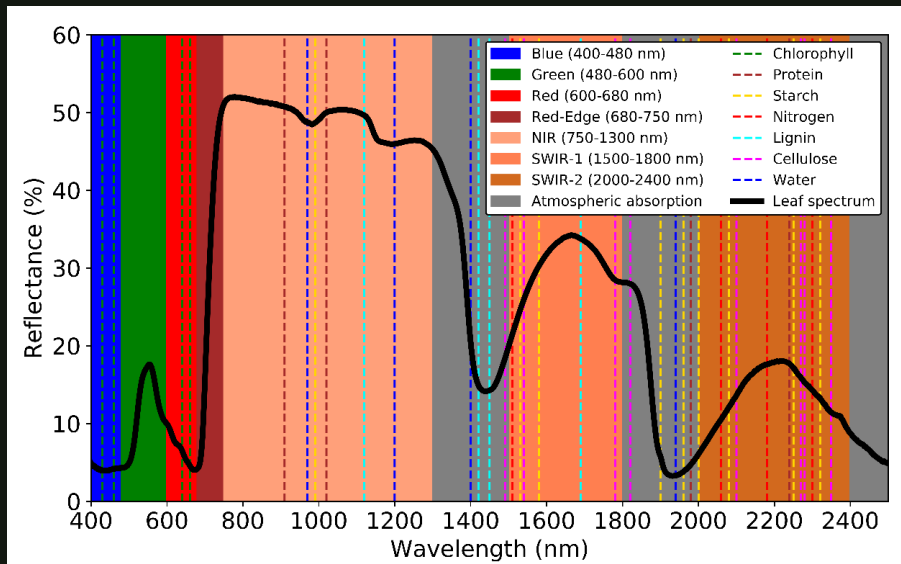
First use of satellite data  
to monitor a plant disease  
epidemic in **late 1970s**

# Imaging spectroscopy measures light near continuously

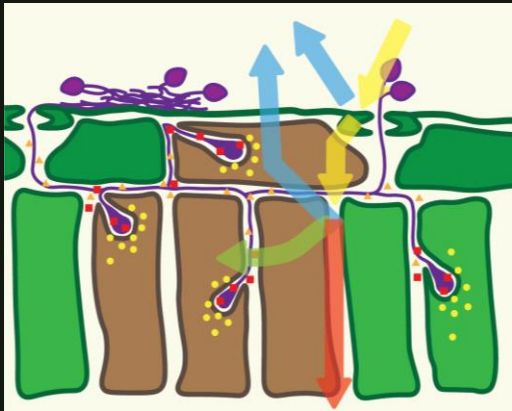


VIS: Visible Light, ~450-750nm  
NIR: Near Infrared, ~800-1200nm  
SWIR: Shortwave Infrared, ~1200-2400nm

# Plant chemistry changes light reflectance



# Spectroscopy offers more information about plant-microbe interactions than our eyes alone can see



Art by Eric Larson

Plant pathogens physically and chemically change plant constitution

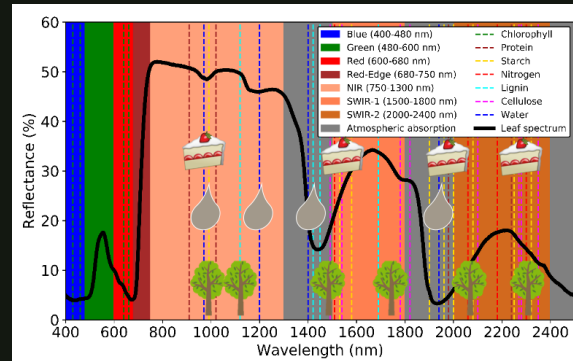


Figure by Phil Townsend

Known biochemical & physiological plant constituents affect spectral reflectance

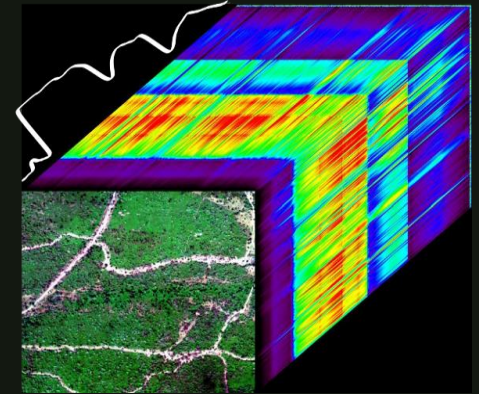


Figure by Phil Townsend

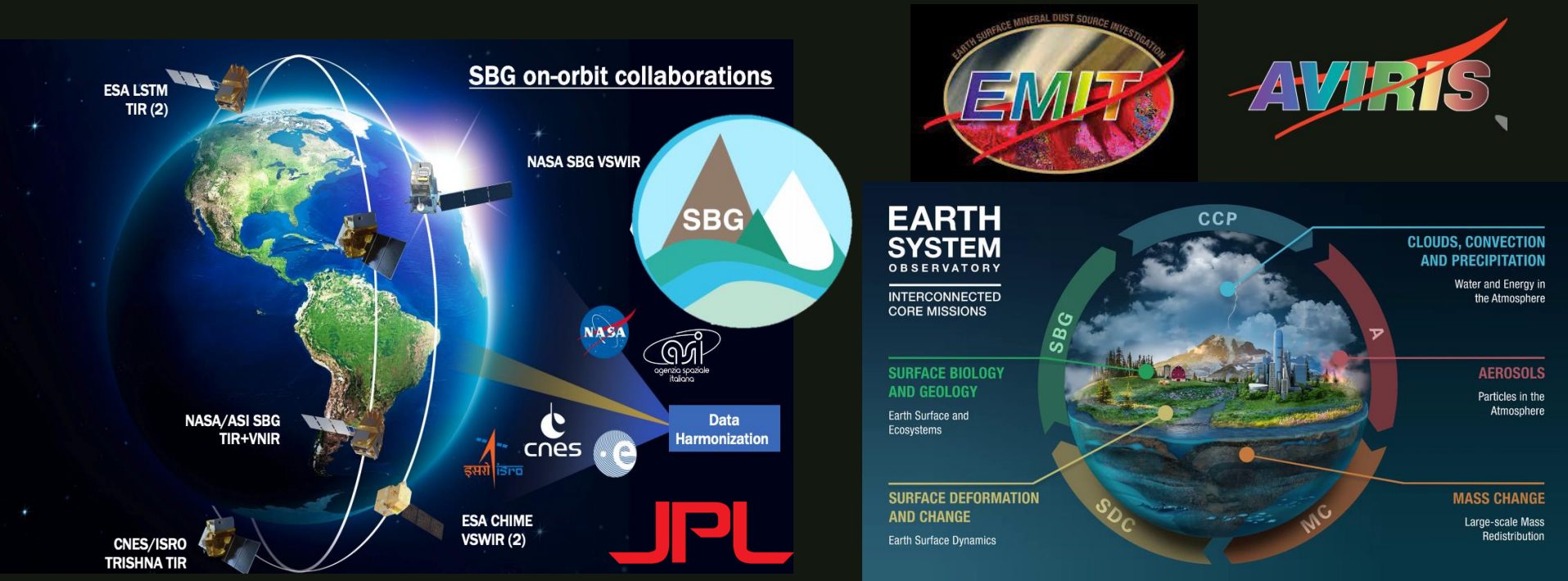
Imaging spectroscopy allows us to study plant disease at scale

**Underlying disease physiology and pathogen biology drives our ability to sense and detect with imaging spectroscopy**



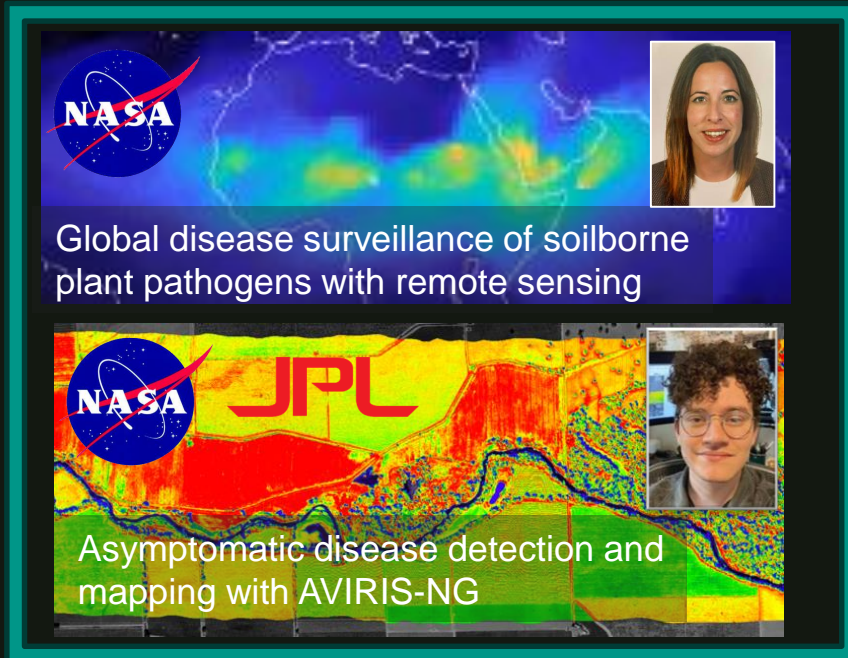
# Surface, Biology, and Geology

*Global VSWIR Imaging Spectrometer Launching ~2028*



Advances in sensor design and constellation satellite architecture design have converged to put us at the precipice of an unprecedented era of agricultural monitoring

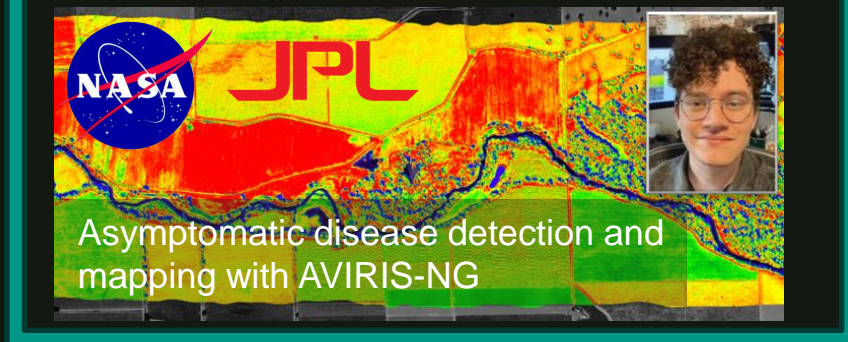
# The Gold Lab studies the fundamental and applied science of **plant disease sensing** across scales to improve early detection & intervention.



This panel features a NASA logo on the left and a portrait of a woman on the right. The background is a global map with a color-coded overlay representing disease surveillance data.

NASA

Global disease surveillance of soilborne plant pathogens with remote sensing



This panel features NASA and JPL logos on the left and a portrait of a man on the right. The background is a detailed agricultural field map with a color-coded overlay.

NASA JPL

Asymptomatic disease detection and mapping with AVIRIS-NG



This panel features NASA and a stylized 'A' logo on the left and a portrait of a woman on the right. The background is a regional map with a color-coded overlay.

NASA

Regional disease risk mapping with NASA's AVIRIS-NG and EMIT

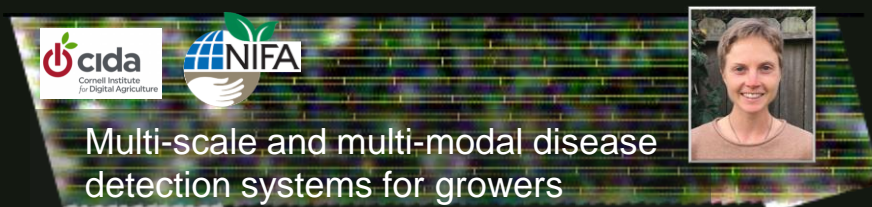


This panel features logos for Boldly, NY., New York Wine & Grape Foundation, and USDA on the left and a portrait of a man on the right. The background is a color-coded map of a vineyard.

Boldly, NY.  
NEW YORK WINE & GRAPE FOUNDATION

USDA

Fungicide activity and longevity sensing



This panel features CIDA and NIFA logos on the left and a portrait of a woman on the right. The background is a color-coded map of a field.

cida  
Cornell Institute for Digital Agriculture

NIFA

Multi-scale and multi-modal disease detection systems for growers



This panel features logos for Boldly, NY., New York Wine & Grape Foundation, and NY Farm Viability Institute on the left and a portrait of a woman on the right. The background is a photograph of a vineyard.

Boldly, NY.  
NEW YORK WINE & GRAPE FOUNDATION

NY farm viability INSTITUTE

Next generation biopesticides for grape disease control



# Global disease surveillance of soilborne plant pathogens with remote sensing



Soil dwelling fungi are capable of aerosolization and transport in global dust plumes.

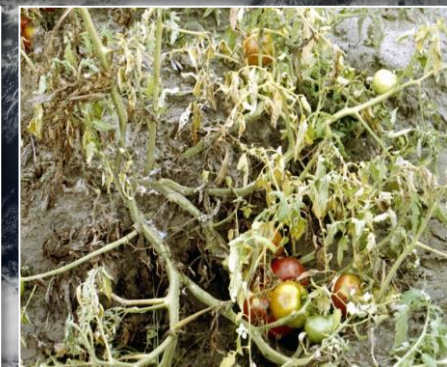
Griffin 2001, Kellogg 2004, Barberan 2015

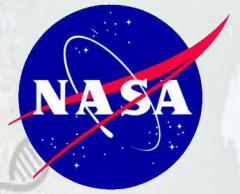
Infectious *F.oxysporum* spores and DNA have been isolated from North African and Asian dust samples.

Yeo & Kim 2002, Palmero 2011, Giongo 2013, Gonzalez-Martin 2014

## *Fusarium oxysporum* (Fo)

- Causes Fusarium Wilt (FW)
- Endemic to all six crop producing continents, 100+ susceptible crops
- Survives in soil for 20+ years
- Annual yield losses ~10-60%
- Range will expand with climate change (Shabani et al. 2014)





# *Fusarium oxysporum* Global Surveillance System

-  1<sup>st</sup> year
-  2<sup>nd</sup> year
-  3<sup>rd</sup> year

**Remote Sensing**  
Build susceptibility assessment for current *Fo* risk in agricultural zones from remote sensing measurements

Compare relatedness between source/deposition isolates

Evaluate concordance between susceptibility assessment, known incidence and modeled dust sources/deposition regions

Climate change impacts on *Fo* distribution

**Comparative Genomics**  
Assemble spore traits that impact dispersal and atmospheric viability

**Aerosol Transport**  
Build a model of long-distance atmospheric *Fo* spore transport and assess the likelihood of transatlantic transport of viable spores

Incorporate spore variability by region into the atmospheric transport model



IDS Award #80NSSC20K1533



Global Surveillance System



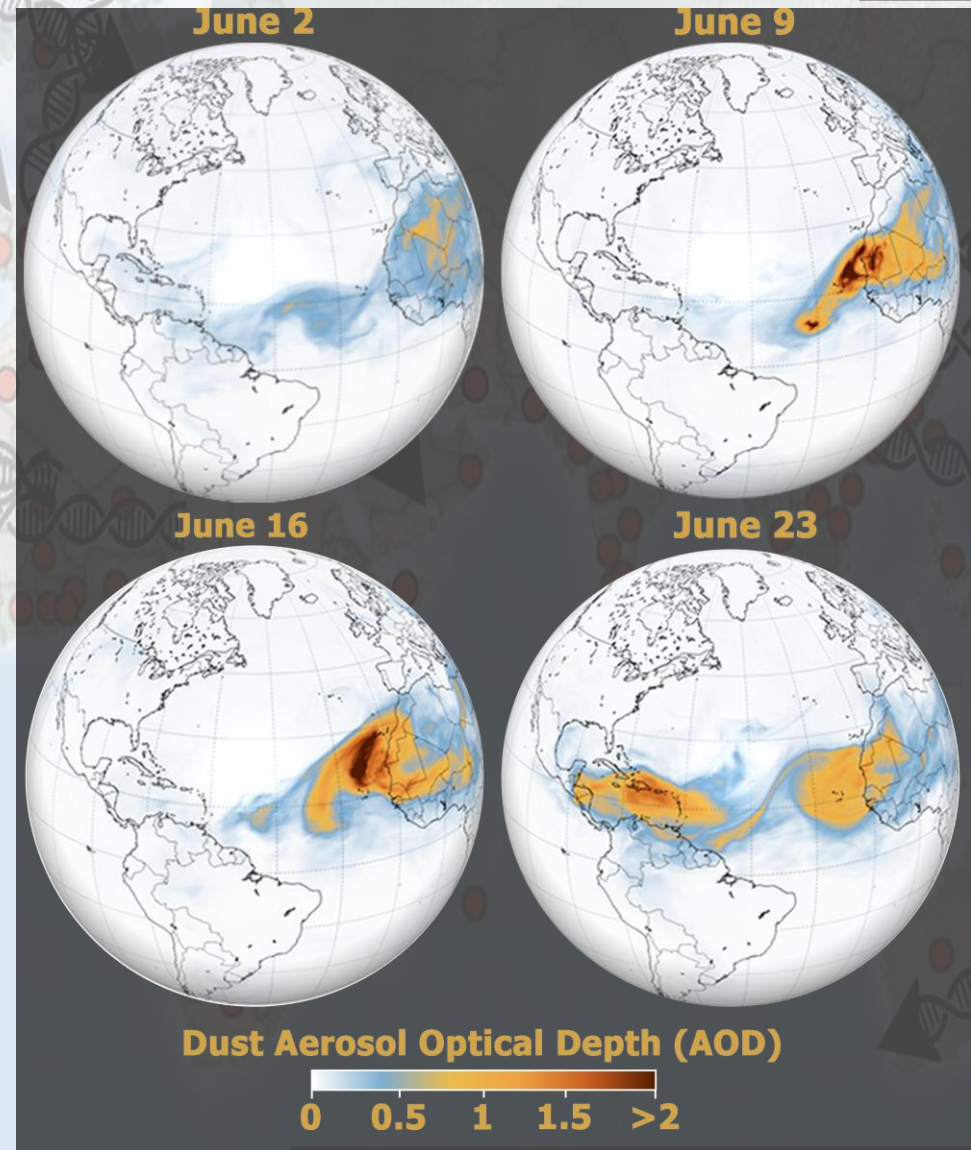
## Aerosol Transport

Build a model of long-distance atmospheric *Fo* spore transport and assess the likelihood of transatlantic transport of viable spores



In order to ask “**Can viable *Fo* spores be transported across the Atlantic?**” We first had to....

- 1) ...accurately simulate the “Godzilla” dust event of Summer 2020
- 2) ...adapt the CESM-CAM6-MIMI to include **agricultural dust**
- 3) ...adapt the step 2 model to include **spore transport** with uniform concentration and fixed properties (e.g. size, weight) and an exponential decay function to kill off 99% of spores in 3 days



## Remote Sensing

Build susceptibility assessment for current *Fo* risk in agricultural zones from remote sensing measurements

Virulent Pathogen

Plant Disease

Conducive Environment

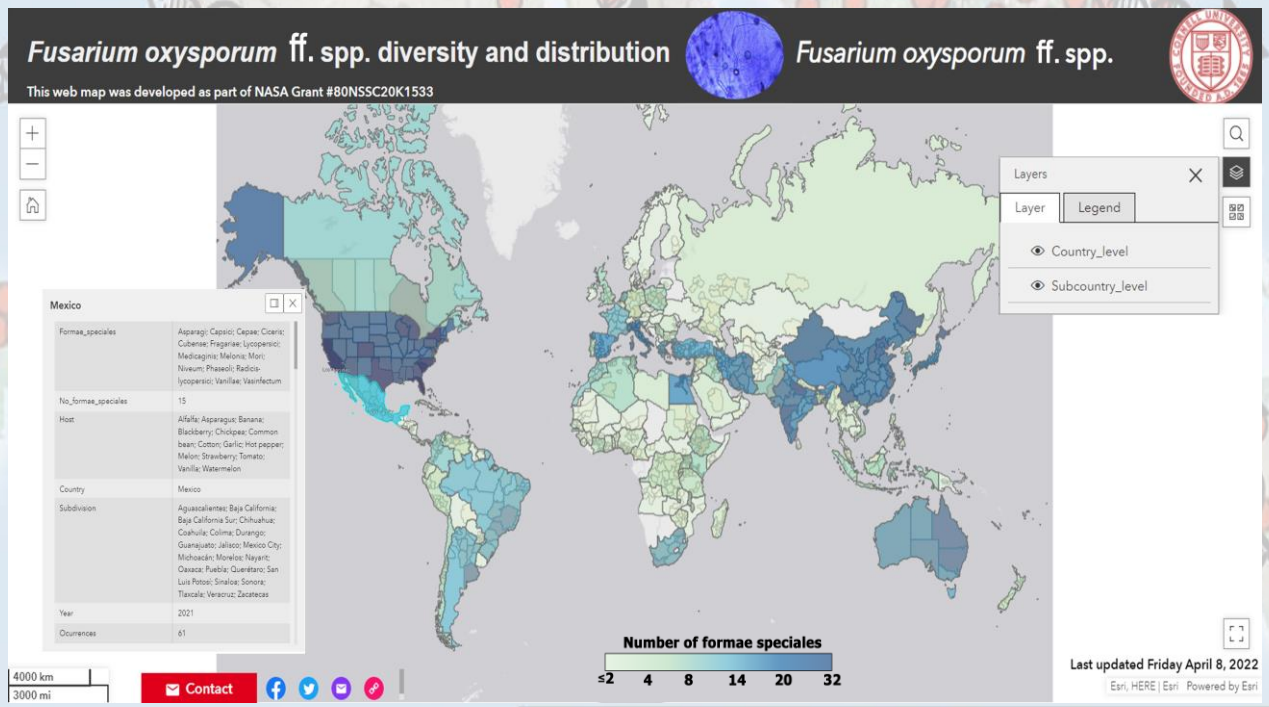
Susceptible Host

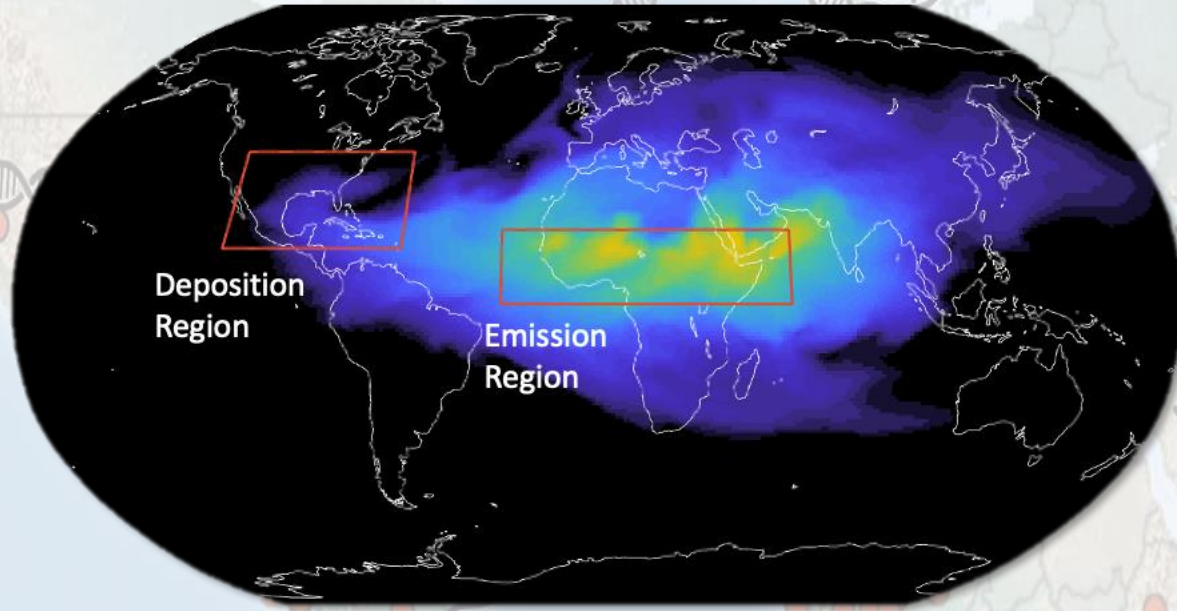
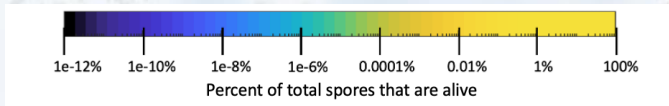


**3980** *Fo* incidence reports at country and sub-country level derived from 1180 references



SCAN ME to visit the online web map

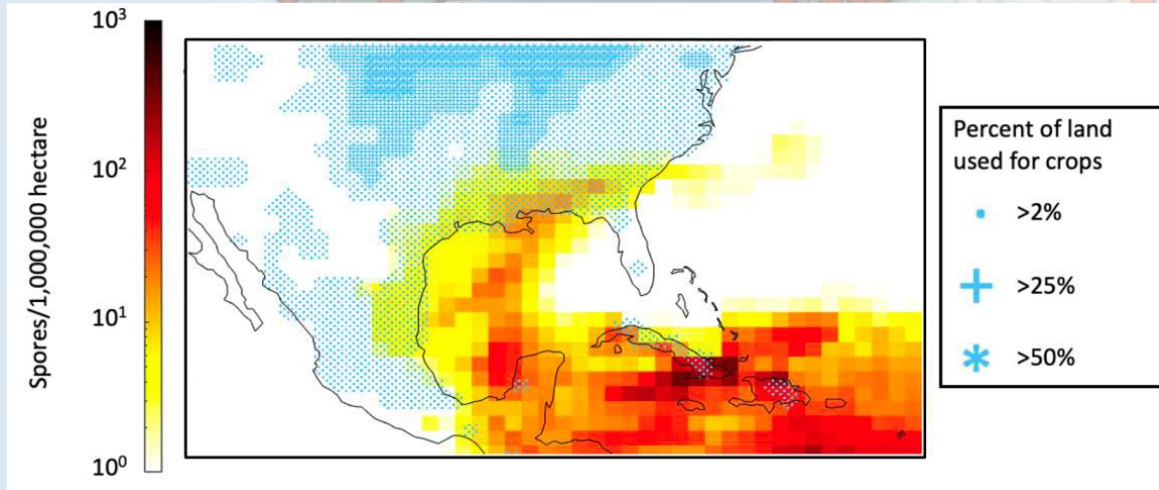




Almost all spores lose viability before reaching Americas....

**but not all!**

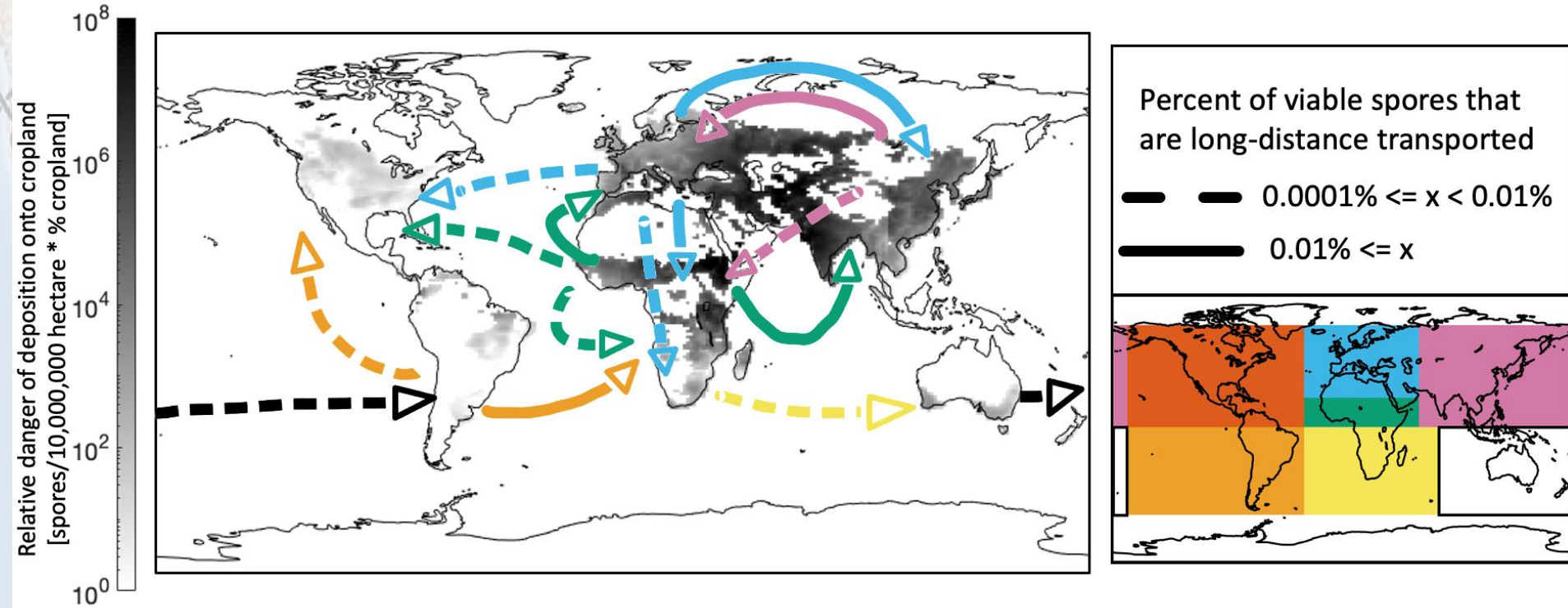
- Our model indicates that **~4 million live spores** could have been deposited in North America in June 2020
- Theoretically, if there is substantial fungal infestation in North Africa, a big dust event like Godzilla could carry millions of live spores to the Americas.



**Aerosol Transport**  
Build a model of long-distance atmospheric *F0* spore transport and assess the likelihood of transatlantic transport of viable spores



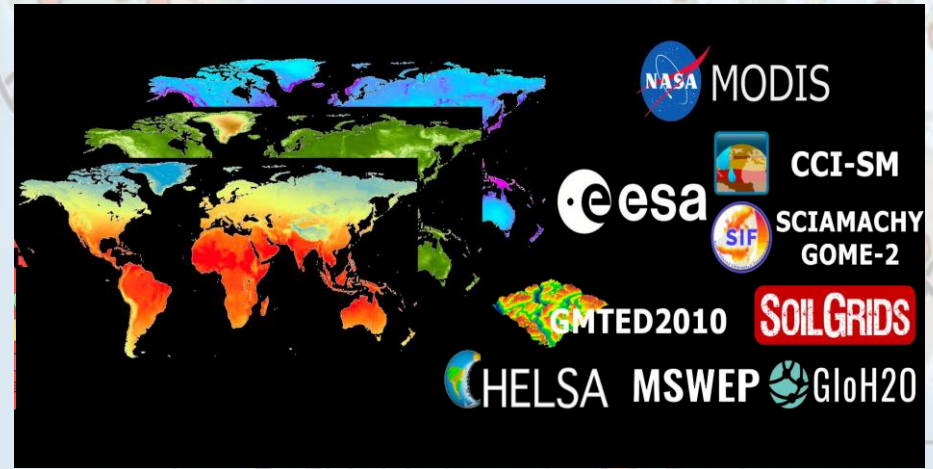
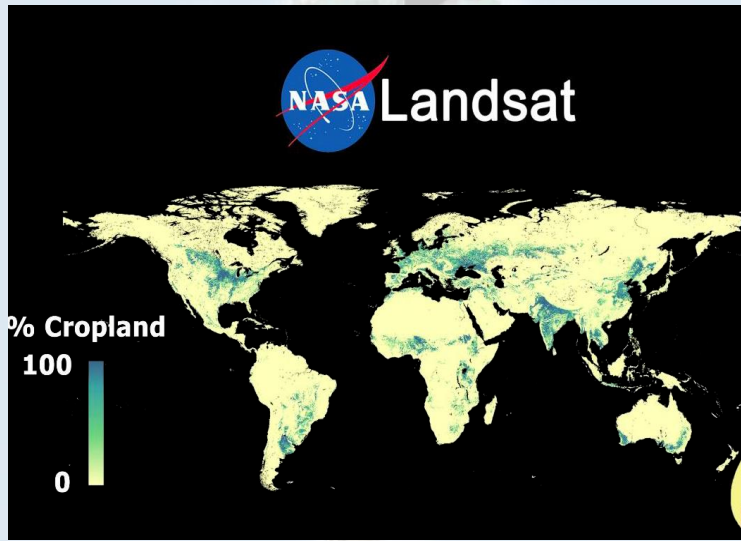
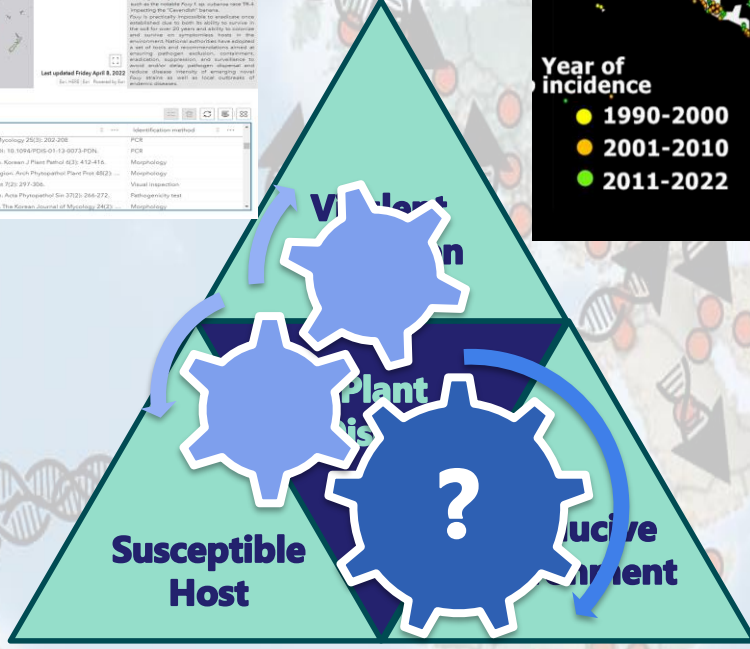
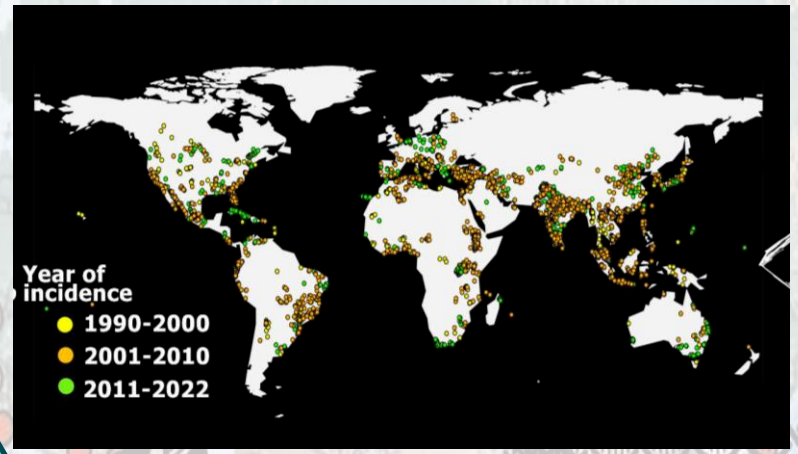
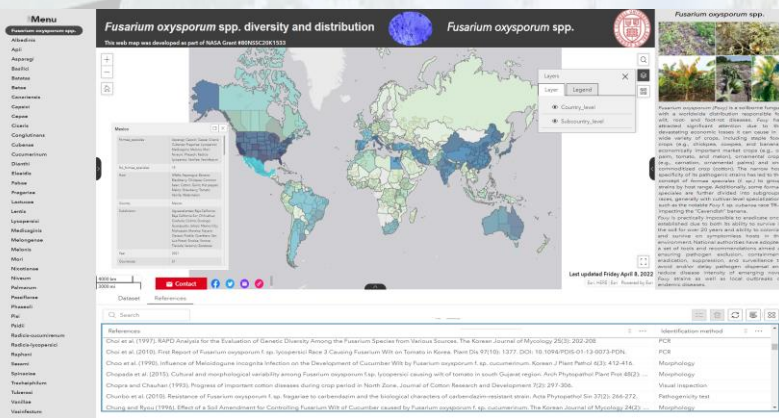
•Poster: This afternoon here  
 •Talk: C3.5-5, Tues 3:10PM, Salon Tête d'Or



While transoceanic transport of viable spores appears possible, **intercontinental** transport between Europe/Africa/Asia is more likely, and potentially of greater risk.

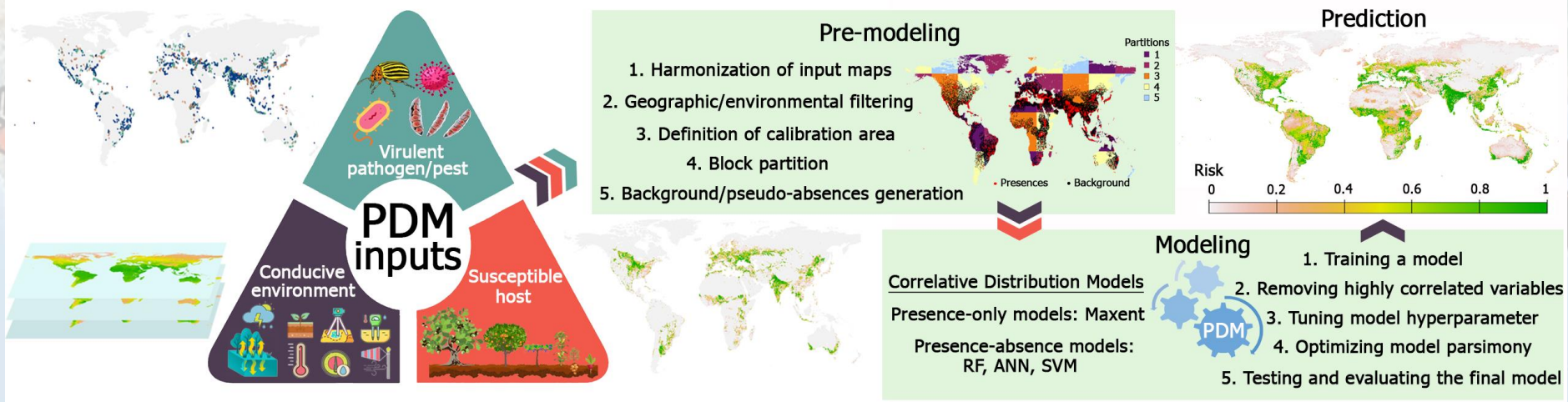
**Aerosol Transport**  
 Build a model of long-distance atmospheric *Fo* spore transport and assess the likelihood of transatlantic transport of viable spores



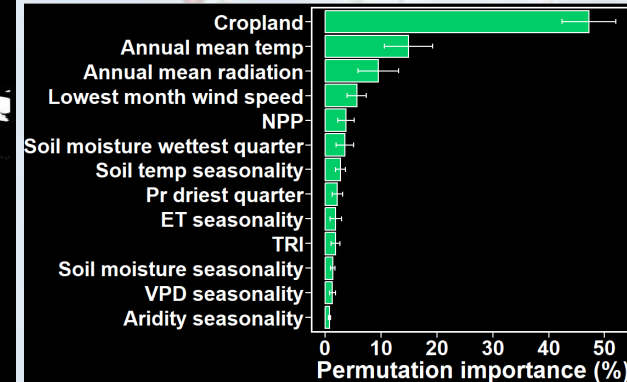
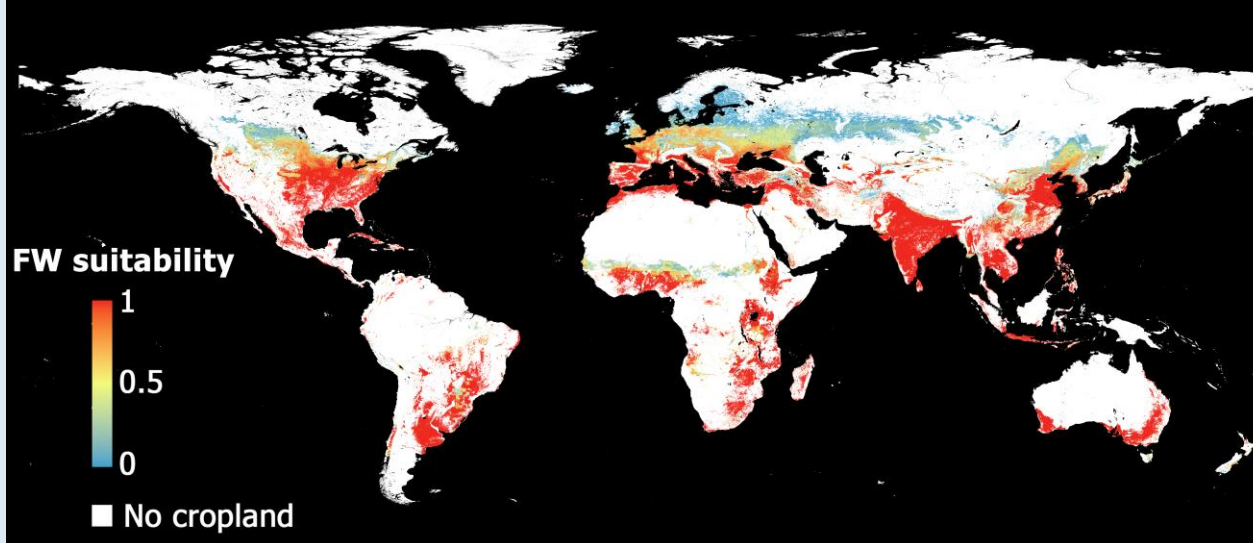


# Pathosystem Distribution Modeling

**SPECIES DISTRIBUTION MODELING** Estimate statistical relationships between species presence and environmental variables, thus predicting the geographical suitability for its establishment. Based on machine-learning methods: MaxEnt (Maximum Entropy), Artificial Neural Networks, Random Forests, Boosted Regression Trees, and Support Vector Machines



## Boosted Regression Tree Model

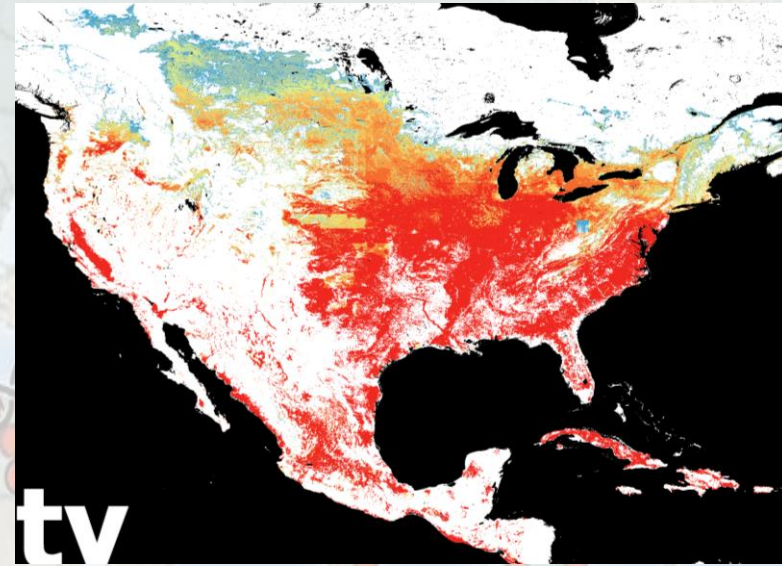
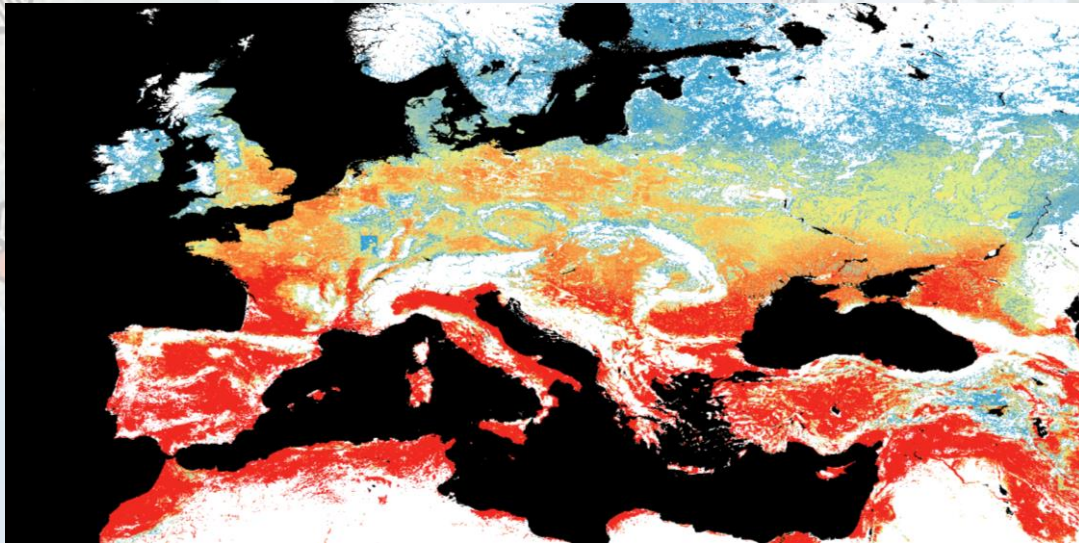


### Remote Sensing

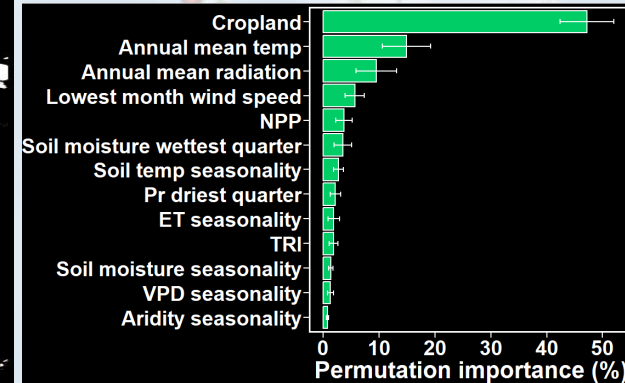
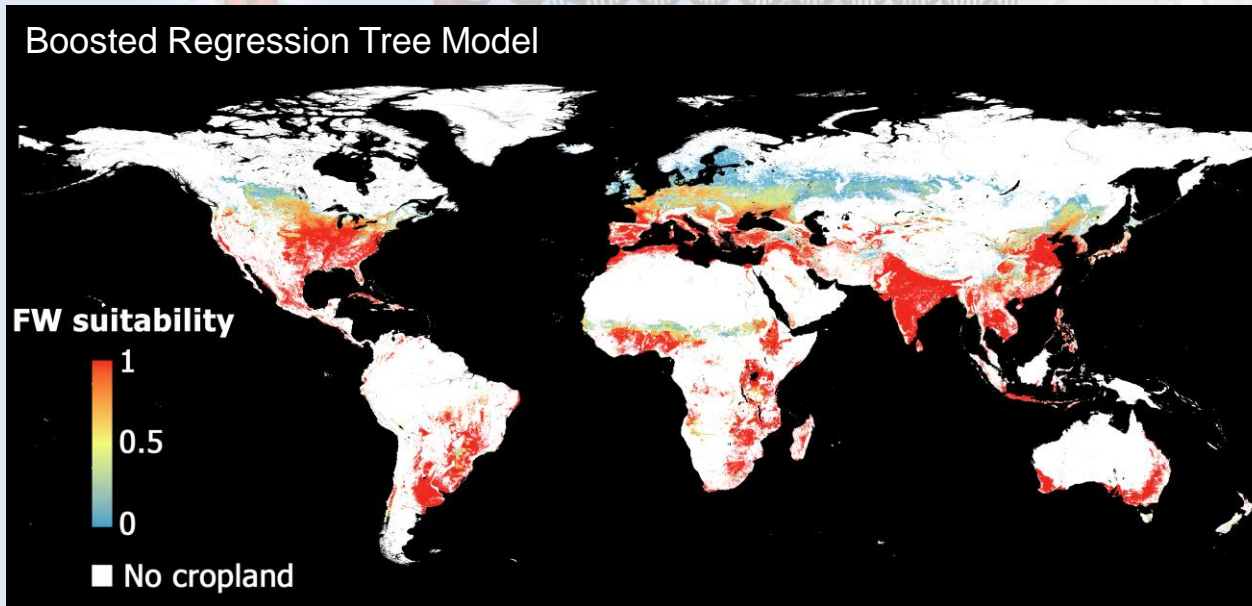
Build susceptibility assessment for current  $F_0$  risk in agricultural zones from remote sensing measurements



# Pathosystem Distribution Modeling



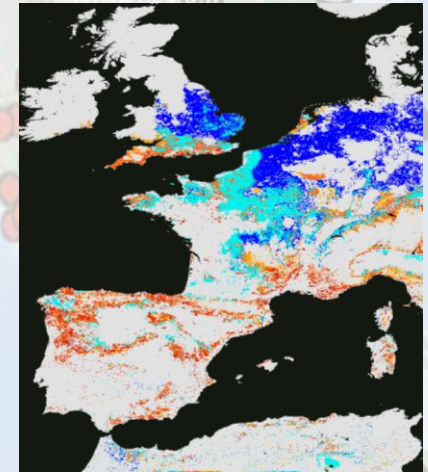
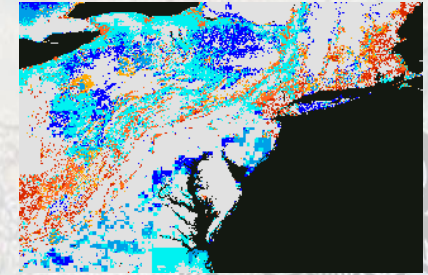
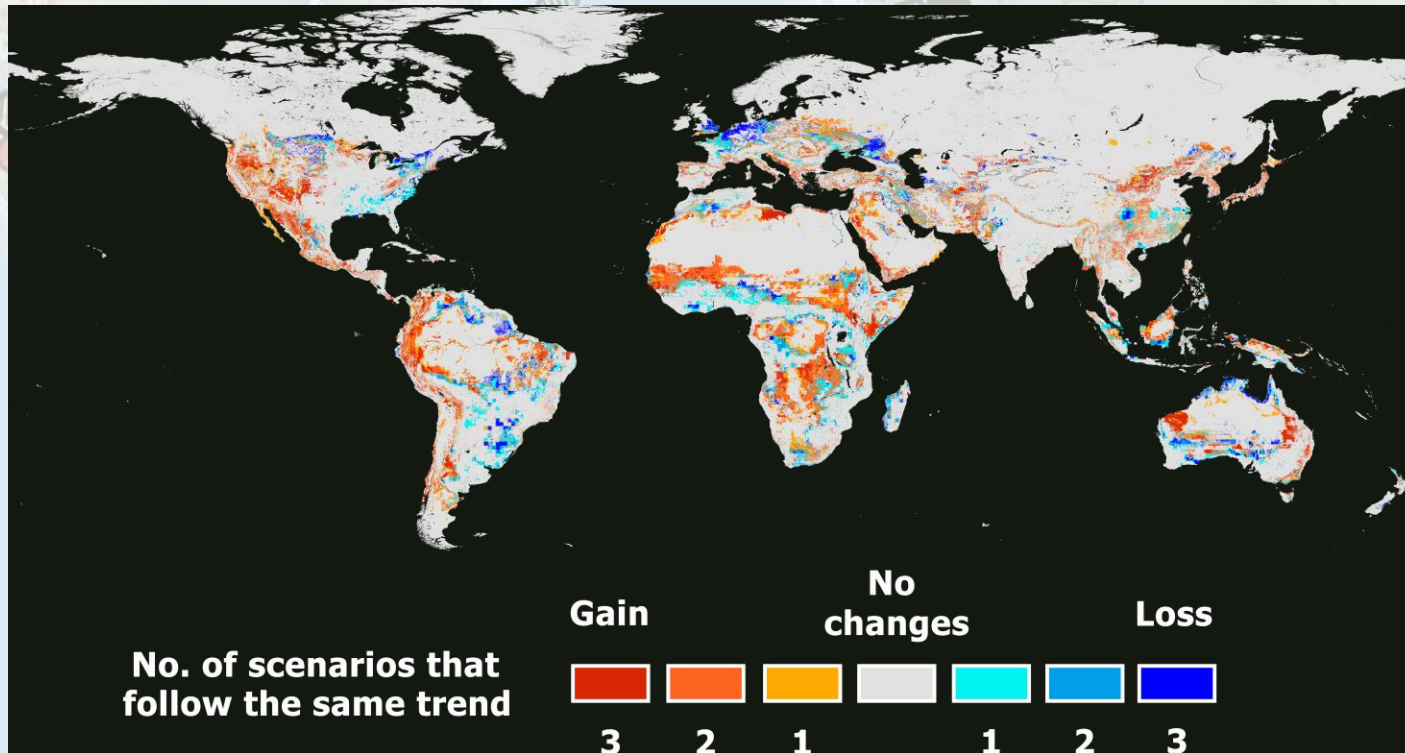
Boosted Regression Tree Model



**Remote Sensing**  
 Build susceptibility assessment for current *Fo* risk in agricultural zones from remote sensing measurements



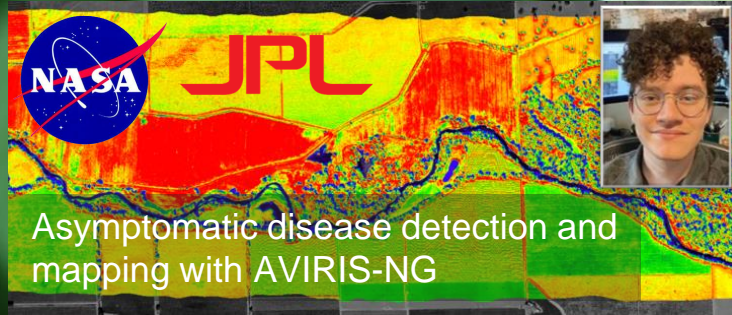
# Predicting disease suitability in the future under various climate change scenarios



- Talk, Sun 10:10 AM (here)
- Poster, Mon 21st - Tues 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Flash Talk, Tues 6:40 PM, Agora

Climate change impacts on *Foxy* distribution

Accurate pathogen distribution  
is the bottleneck in building  
actionable warning systems

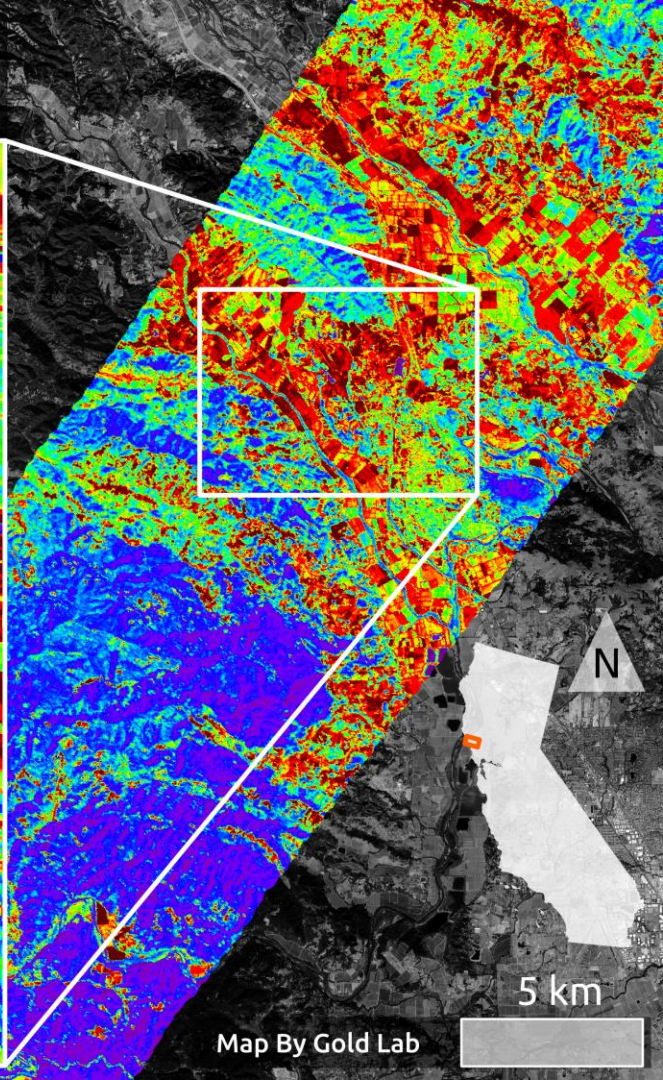
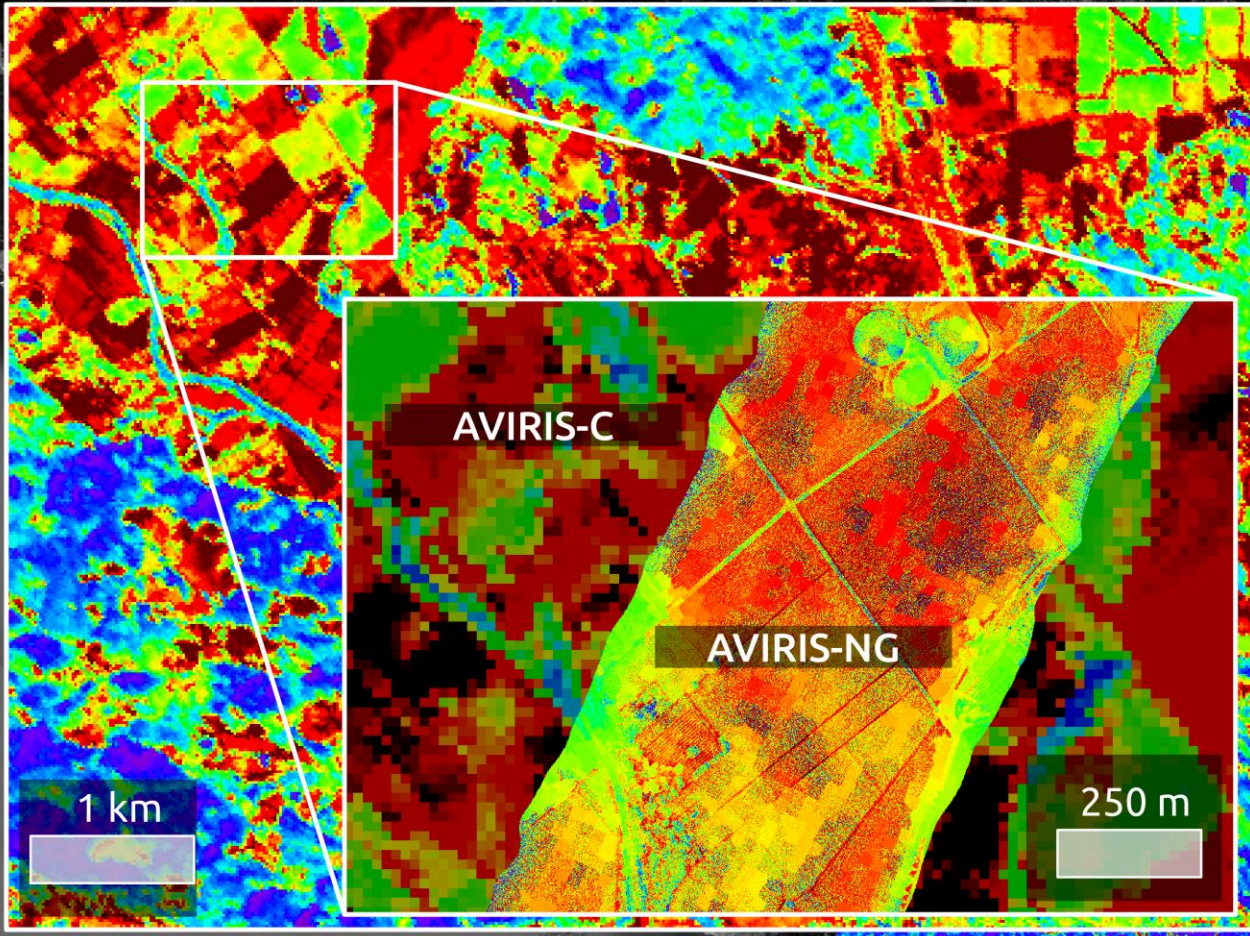


Virulent  
Pathogen

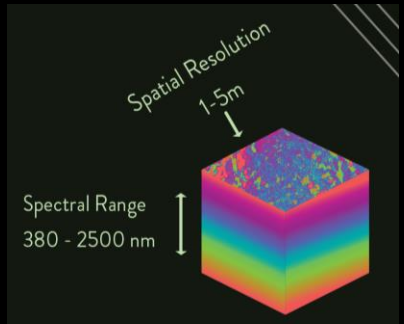
Conducive  
Environment

Susceptible  
Host

# Sonoma Valley as seen by AVIRIS |



High spectral and spatial resolution  
Low temporal resolution  
Ideal for long latent phase diseases  
Ideal for zero tolerance management thresholdx





### GLRaV-3: A major threat to grape production

- Decreases yield, vine lifespan, & grape quality
- Long latent period: vine can be infected for 12mo before showing foliar symptoms (Blaisdell 2016)
- Symptoms (when present) primarily in lower canopy, red varieties only
- No cure, only treatment is removal. Recommended once incidence >30%

### Testing is expensive...

- 1 Vine for 1 virus: \$40-50

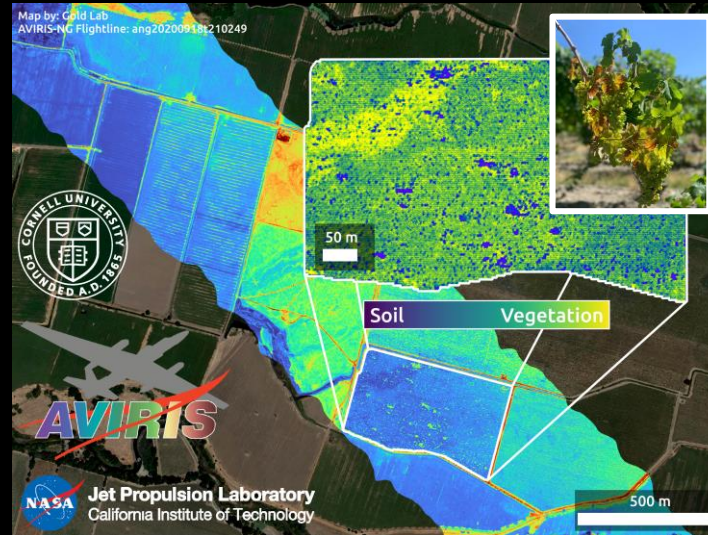
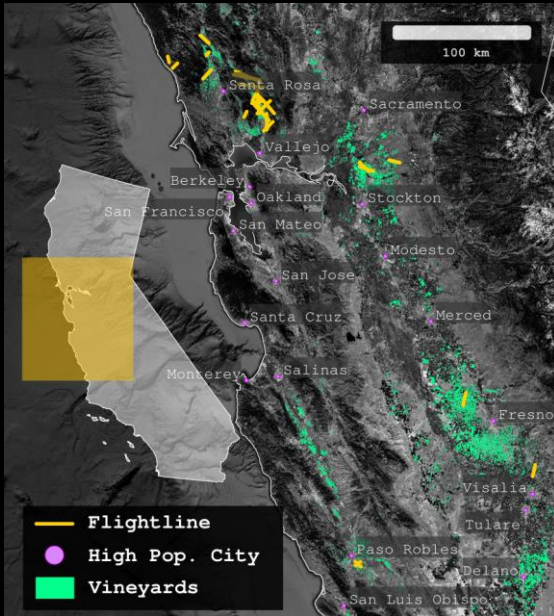
### ...And so is the cost of disease

- Viral disease cost the grape and wine industry over **\$3 billion** annually

# 2020 AVIRIS-NG “Wine Tour”



Air and ground campaign funded by emergency allocation from NASA Biodiversity office



37,000 acres total captured

10—15 highly trained scouts swept 300ac vine by vine to flag and geotag GLRV infected vines in September 2020 and 2021

Subset tested to validate scouts: 100% accurate

Harvest occurred within 1wk of AVIRIS-NG flight

Visibly symptomatic in 2020 = Sy  
Visibly symptomatic in 2021 = latently infected in 2020 = aSy

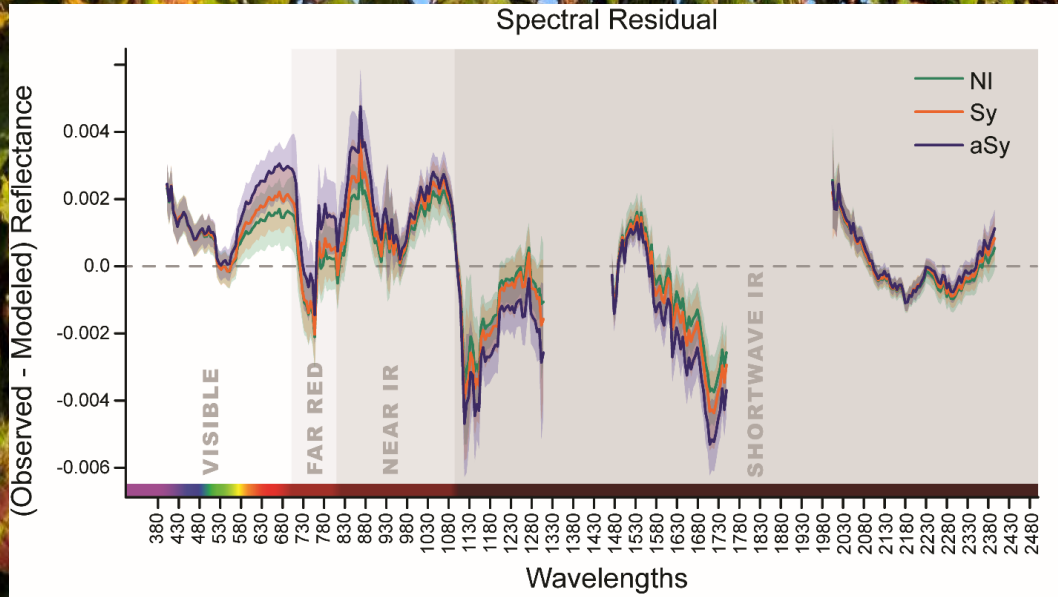


Starr & Storm Crop Solutions



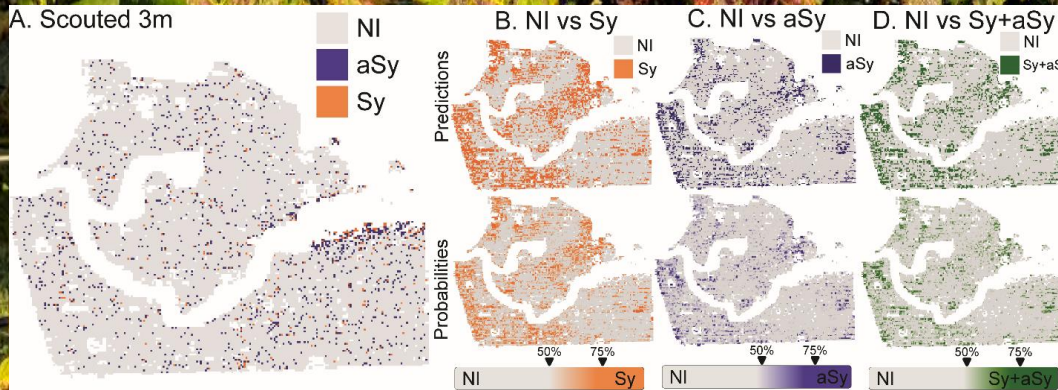
# Asymptomatic virus detection with NASA AVIRIS-NG

Romero Galvan et al. 2023, *Phytopathology*



Visibly symptomatic in 2020 = Sy

Visibly symptomatic in 2021 = latently infected in 2020 = aSy



Classification	Random Forest + SMOTE + Smoothing + Unmixing (3m)	
	Test Accuracy	Test Kappa
<b>NI vs (Sy + aSy)</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>0.71</b>
<b>NI vs Sy</b>	81%	0.62
<b>NI vs Sy vs aSy</b>	67%	0.51
<b>NI vs aSy</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>0.73</b>



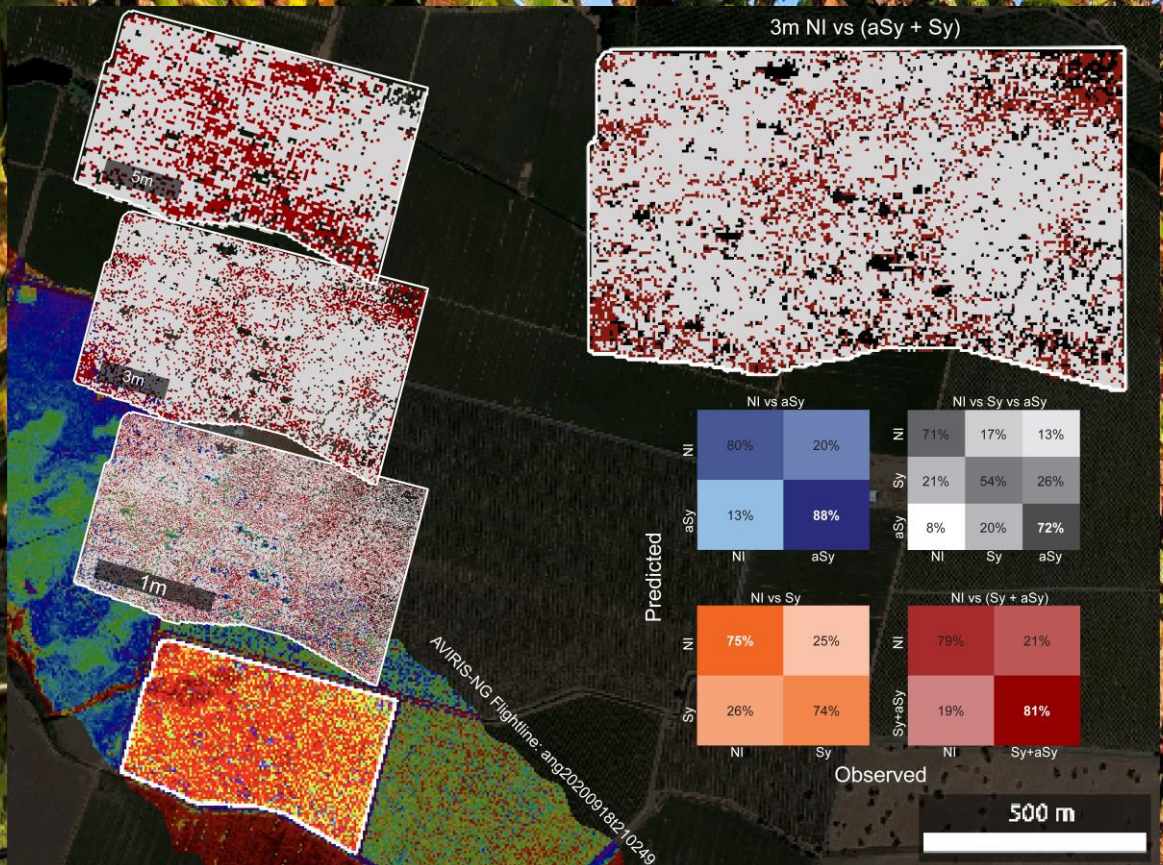
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Visibly symptomatic in 2020 = Sy

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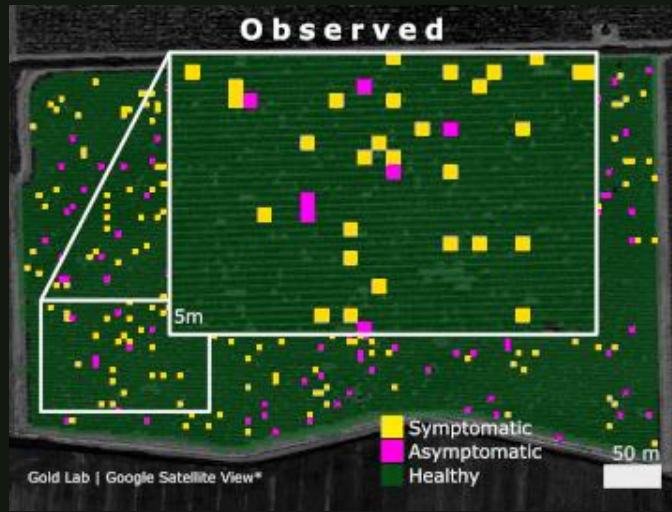


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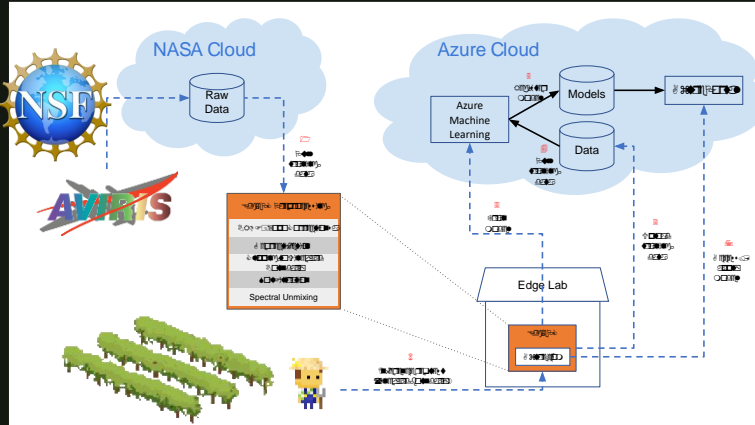
# Asymptomatic virus detection with NASA AVIRIS-NG

Romero Galvan et al. 2023, *Phytopathology*



To reduce misclassifications and deploy at scale with SBG, we need to:

1. Address biological confounders: variety + abiotic stress
2. Implement a more powerful analysis platform
3. Collect more ground validation



## WineGuard

P9.4-020, Wed Aug 23-Thu 24  
Rubambiza & Romero Galvan et al.  
2023, *JGR Biogeo*

## The PhytoPathoBot:

A fully autonomous, vision guided vineyard robot  
C9.4-5, Fri Aug 25 9:40am Rhone 3A  
*Liu et al. 2022, IROS*

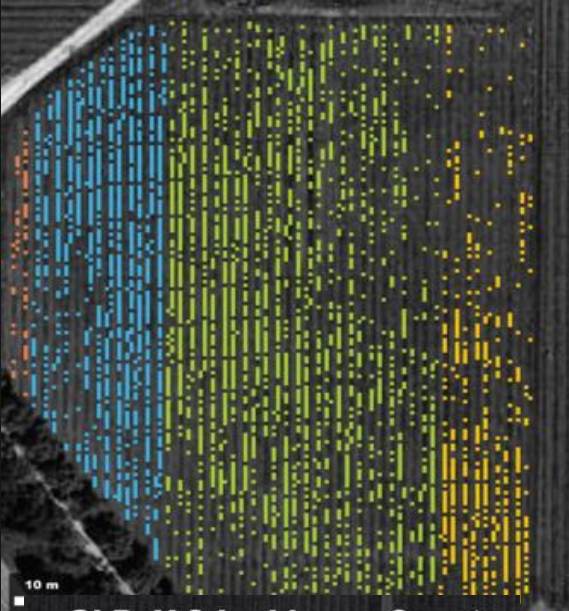
# Up next: untangling confounding factors to improve disease detection

**NASA GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE**  
Vital Signs of the Planet

# AVIRIS

NEWS | April 18, 2022

## California Field Campaign Is Helping Scientists Protect Diverse Ecosystems



GLRV		Error	Accuracy (1-Error)
	Mis-detection	5.94%	94.06%
False positive	11.30%	88.70%	

**GLRaV-3 Incidence Count by Variety**

Petit Verdot	52
Malbec	1002
Merlot	1985
Cab. Franc	458

Liu et al. 2023, IEEE proceedings



# NASA ACRES: A New Consortium to Grow NASA's Investment in U.S. Agriculture



Alyssa Whitcraft

*25 initial projects at 12 principal institutions  
implemented across the US through a transdisciplinary, multisectoral, and diverse  
Consortium*

## Objectives

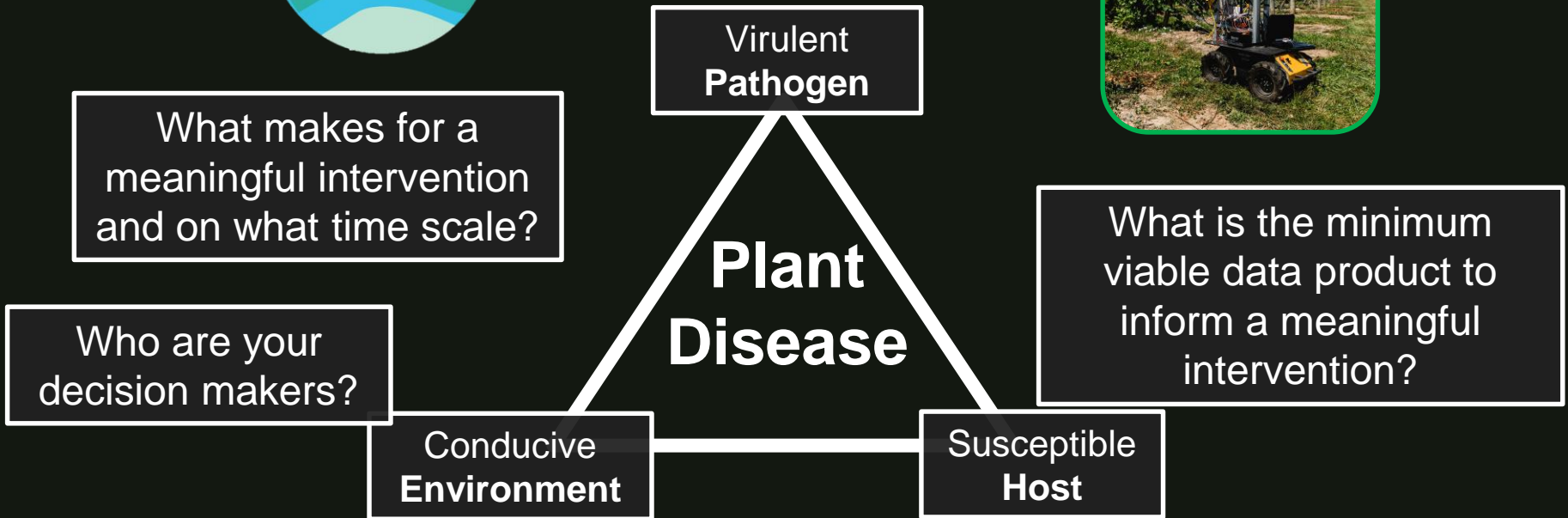
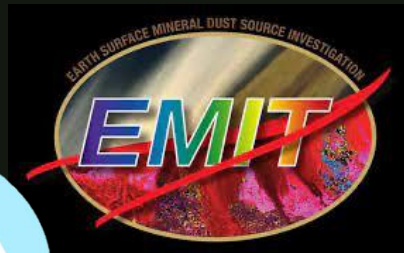
- Support a deeper understanding of US agricultural land use, productivity, and sustainability
- Develop and transition on-farm decision support tools for smart agronomy
- Empower human, environmental, and human resilience to climate change and global hazards
- Increase diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in agtech, and through Acres work



# Right sizing spectral and spatial resolution on a pathosystem by pathosystem basis

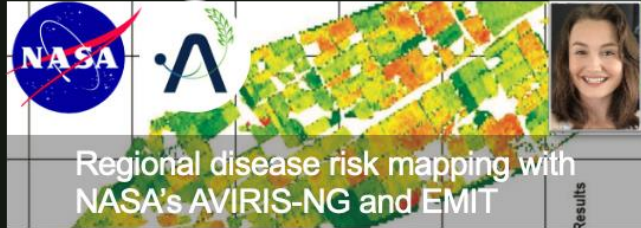
Diseases with long latent phases and/or zero-tolerance management thresholds benefit the most from high spectral and spatial resolution and can tolerate low temporal resolution

Diseases with short latent phases and/or non-zero tolerance management thresholds benefit the most from high temporal and spatial resolution and can tolerate lesser spectral resolution (*to an extent*)



# Right sizing spectral and spatial resolution on a pathosystem by pathosystem basis

P9.4-009, Wed Aug 23 & Th 24



Regional disease risk mapping with NASA's AVIRIS-NG and EMIT

The image shows a composite of logos for NASA, AVIRIS, and EMIT, a satellite image of a vineyard with a color-coded risk map overlaid, and a small portrait of a woman.

P9.4-005, Wed Aug 23 & Th 24



Multi-scale and multi-modal disease detection systems for growers

The image features logos for CIDA (Cornell Institute for Digital Agriculture) and NIFA, a satellite image of a vineyard with a color-coded risk map, and a small portrait of a woman.

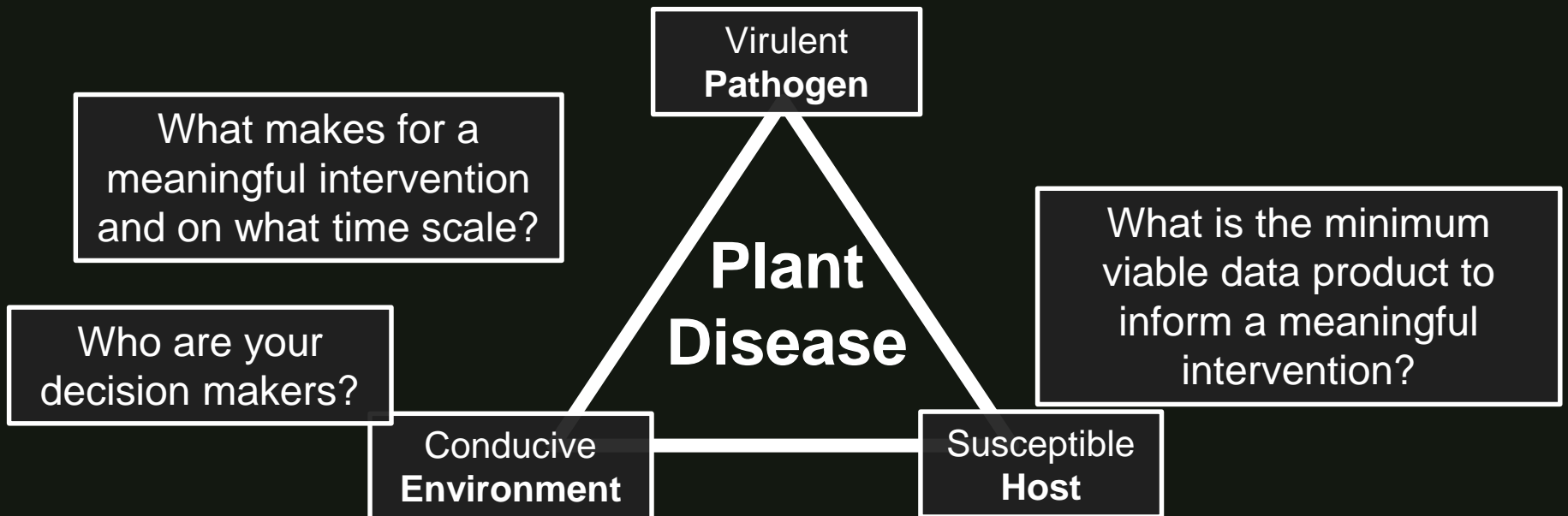


Fungicide activity and longevity sensing

The image includes logos for Boldly NY (New York Wine & Grape Foundation) and USDA, a heatmap of a vineyard, and a small portrait of a man.

P9.4-013 , Wed Aug 23 & Th 24

Published last week in *Phytopathology*!



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# Questions?

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*Space Grapes Art by Matthias Grunewald, 2000*