

# The GGCMI Phase II experiment: global gridded crop model simulations under uniform changes in CO<sub>2</sub>, temperature, water, and nitrogen levels (protocol version 1.0)

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**Abstract.** Concerns about food security under climate change motivate efforts to better understand future changes in crop yields. Process-based crop models, which represent plant physiological processes, are necessary tools for this purpose since they allow representing future climate and management conditions not sampled in the historical record and new locations where cultivation may shift. However, process-based crop models differ in many critical details, and their responses to different interacting factors remain only poorly understood. The Global Gridded Crop Model Intercomparison (GGCMI) Phase II

experiment, an activity of the Agricultural Model Intercomparison and Improvement Project (AgMIP), is designed to provide a systematic parameter sweep across critical interacting factors, to allow both evaluating model behavior and emulating their responses in impact assessment tools. In this paper we describe the GGCMI Phase II experimental protocol and its simulation data archive. Twelve crop models simulate five crops in simulations run with systematic uniform perturbations of historical climate, varying CO<sub>2</sub>, temperature, precipitation, and applied nitrogen (“CTWN”) for rainfed and irrigated agriculture as well as simple growing season adaptation. We also show some simulation results to illustrate potential uses of the GGCMI Phase II archive and general characteristics of the simulations. For example, modeled yields show robust decreases to warmer temperatures in almost all regions, with a nonlinear dependence that means yields in warmer baseline locations have greater temperature sensitivity. Inter-model uncertainty is qualitatively similar across all the four input dimensions, but is highest in high-latitude regions where crops may be grown in the future.

## 1 Introduction

Understanding crop yield response to a changing climate is critically important, especially as the global food production system will face pressure from increased demand over the next century (Bodirsky et al., 2015). Climate-related reductions in supply could therefore have severe socioeconomic consequences (e.g. Stevanović et al., 2016; Wiebe et al., 2015). Multiple studies using different crop or climate models concur in projecting sharp yield reductions on currently cultivated cropland under business-as-usual climate scenarios, although their yield projections show considerable spread (e.g. Rosenzweig et al., 2014; Schauberger et al., 2017; Porter et al. (IPCC), 2014, and references therein). Although forecasts of future yields reductions can be made with simple statistical models based on regressions in historical weather data, process-based models, which simulate the process of photosynthesis and the biology and phenology of individual crops, play a critical role in assessing the impacts of climate change.

Process-based models are necessary for understanding crop yields in novel conditions not included in historical data, including higher [CO<sub>2</sub>] levels, out-of-sample combinations of rainfall and temperature, cultivation in areas where crops are not currently grown, and differing management practices (e.g. Pugh et al., 2016; Roberts et al., 2017; Minoli et al., 2019). Process-based models have therefore been widely used in studies on future food security (Wheeler and Von Braun, 2013), options for climate mitigation (Müller et al., 2015) and adaptation (Challinor et al., 2018), and future sustainable development (Humpenöder et al., 2018). Process-based models also allow the globally gridded simulations needed for understanding the global dynamics of agricultural trade, including cultivation area changes and crop selection switching under climate change (Rosenzweig et al., 2018; Ruane et al., 2018), because global market mechanisms may strongly modulate climate change impacts (Stevanović et al., 2016; Hasegawa et al., 2018), global crop model experiments are needed for systematic climate change assessments (Müller et al., 2017).

Modeling crop responses continues however to be challenging, as crop growth is a function of complex interactions between climate inputs and management practices (J. Boote et al., 2013; Rötter et al., 2011). Models tend to agree broadly in major response patterns, including a reasonable representation of the spatial pattern in historical yields of major crops (e.g. Elliott

et al., 2015; Müller et al., 2017) and projections of shifts in yield under future climate scenarios. But process-based models still struggle with some important details, including reproducing historical year-to-year variability in many regions (e.g. Müller et al., 2017), reproducing historical yields when driven by reanalysis weather (e.g. Glotter et al., 2014), and low sensitivity to extreme events (e.g. Glotter et al., 2015; Jägermeyr and Frieler, 2018; Schewe et al., 2019). Long-term projections therefore 5 retain considerable uncertainty (Wolf and Oijen, 2002; Jagtap and Jones, 2002; Iizumi et al., 2010; Angulo et al., 2013; Asseng et al., 2013, 2015).

Model intercomparison projects such as the Agricultural Model Intercomparison and Improvement Project (AgMIP, Rosenzweig et al., 2013) are crucial in quantifying uncertainties in model projections (Rosenzweig et al., 2014). Intercomparison projects have also been used to develop protocols for evaluating overall model performance (Elliott et al., 2015; Müller et al., 10 2017) and to assess the representation of individual physical mechanisms such as water stress and [CO<sub>2</sub>] fertilization (e.g. Schauberger et al., 2017). However, to date, few such projects have systematically sampled critical factors that may interact strongly in affecting crop yields. A number of modeling exercises in the last five years have begun to use systematic parameter sweeps in crop model evaluation and emulation (e.g. Ruane et al., 2014; Makowski et al., 2015; Pirttioja et al., 2015; Fronzek et al., 2018; Snyder et al., 2018; Ruiz-Ramos et al., 2018), but all involve limited sites and most also limited crops and 15 scenarios.

The Global Gridded Crop Model Intercomparison (GGCMI) Phase II experiment is the first globally gridded crop model intercomparison involving systematic parameter sweep across critical interacting factors. GGCMI Phase II is an activity of the Agricultural Model Intercomparison and Improvement Project (AgMIP), and a continuation of a multi-model comparison exercise begun in 2014. The initial GGCMI Phase I compared harmonized yield simulations over the historical period, with a 20 primary goals of model evaluation and understanding sources of uncertainty (including model parameterization, weather inputs, and cultivation areas) (Elliott et al., 2015; Müller et al., 2017; Folberth et al., 2016; Porwollik et al., 2017). GGCMI Phase II compares simulations across a set of inputs with uniform perturbations to historical climatology, including CO<sub>2</sub>, temperature, precipitation, and applied nitrogen (collectively referred to as “CTWN”), as well as adaptation to shifting growing seasons. The CTWN experiment is inspired by AgMIP’s Coordinated Climate-Crop Modeling Project (C3MP Ruane et al., 2014; 25 McDermid et al., 2015) and contributes to the AgMIP Coordinated Global and Regional Assessments (CGRA) (Ruane et al., 2018; Rosenzweig et al., 2018).

In this paper, we describe the GGCMI Phase II model experiments and present initial summary results. In the sections that follow, we describe the experimental goals and protocols; the different process-based models included in the intercomparison and at what levels of participation and a simulation assessment with comparison to FAO yield data at the country level. Finally 30 we show some selected examples of the simulation output dataset to illustrate spread in model response across some of the input dimensions.

## 2 Simulation objectives and protocol

### 2.1 Goals

The guiding scientific rationale of GGCMI Phase II is to provide a comprehensive, systematic evaluation of the response of process-based crop models to critical interacting factors, including [CO<sub>2</sub>], temperature, water, and applied nitrogen (CTWN).

5 The dataset is designed to allow researchers to:

- Enhance understanding of how models work by characterizing their sensitivity to input climate and nitrogen drivers.
- Study the interactions between climate variables and nitrogen inputs in driving modeled yield impacts.
- Explore differences in crop response to warming across the Earth’s climate regions.
- Provide a dataset that allows statistical emulation of crop model responses for downstream modelers.

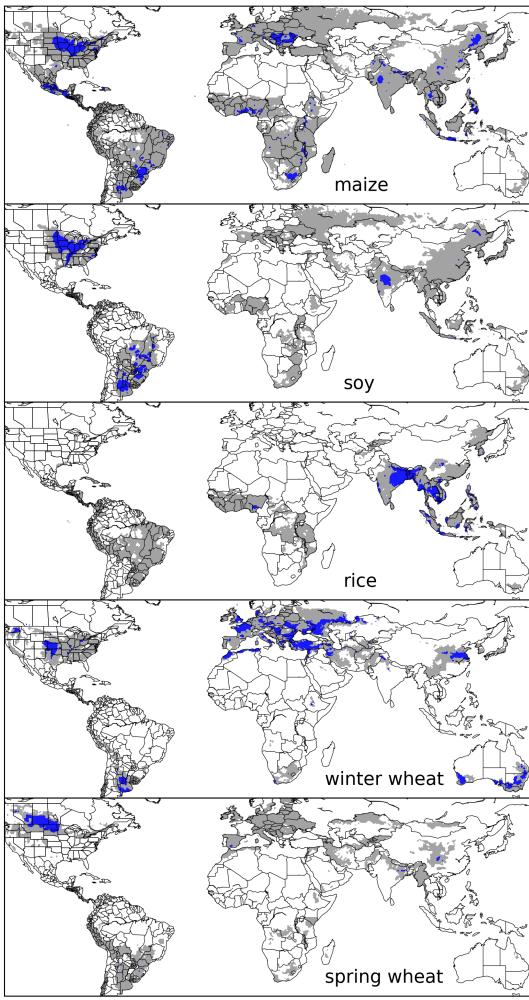
10 – Illustrate differences in potential adaptation via growing season changes.

### 2.2 Modeling protocol

The GGCMI Phase I intercomparison was a relatively limited computational exercise, requiring yield simulations for 19 crops across a total of 310 model-years of historical scenarios, and had the participation of 21 modeling groups. The GGCMI Phase II protocol is substantially larger, involving over 1400 individual 30-year scenarios, or over 42,000 model-years; 12 modeling

15 groups nevertheless participated. To reduce the computational load, the GGCMI Phase II protocol reduced the number crops to 5 (maize, rice, soybean, spring wheat, and winter wheat). The reduced set of crops includes the three major global cereals and the major legume and accounts for over 50% of human calories (in 2016, nearly 3.5 billion tons or 32% of total global crop production by weight) (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2018). This set of major crops has the advantage of historical yield data at sub-national scale across the globe (Ray et al., 2012; Iizumi et al., 2014), and has been  
20 frequently used in agricultural analyses (e.g. Müller et al., 2017; Porwollik et al., 2017).

The Phase II protocol involves a suite of uniform perturbations from a historical weather scenario. The baseline climate scenario for GGCMI Phase II is one of the weather products used in Phase I, daily climate inputs for the years period 1980-2010 from the 0.5 degree NASA AgMERRA (“Agricultural”-modified Modern Era Retrospective analysis for Research and Applications) gridded re-analysis product. AgMERRA is specifically designed for agricultural modeling, with satellite-corrected precipitation (Ruane et al., 2015). The experimental protocol consists of 9 levels for precipitation perturbations, 7 for temperature, 4 for [CO<sub>2</sub>], and 3 for applied nitrogen, for a total of 756 simulations, 672 for rainfed agriculture and additional 84 for irrigated (Table 1). For irrigated simulations, models are set to eliminate all water stress, with no limitations in water supply. Values of climate variable perturbations are selected to represent reasonable ranges for changes over the medium term (to end of 2100) under business-as-usual emissions. The resulting GGCMI Phase II dataset therefore captures the distribution of crop  
30 responses over the space of future potential climate conditions.



**Figure 1.** Presently cultivated area for rainfed crops. Blue indicates grid cells with more than 20,000 hectares ( $\sim 10\%$  of an equatorial grid cell). Gray contour shows area with more than 10 hectares cultivated. Cultivated areas for maize, rice, and soybean are taken from the MIRCA2000 (“Monthly Irrigated and Rainfed Crop Areas around the year 2000”) dataset (Portmann et al., 2010). Areas for winter and spring wheat areas are adapted from MIRCA2000 data and sorted by growing period; see text for details. For analogous figure of irrigated crops, see Figure S1.

While all perturbations are applied uniformly across the historical timeseries, they are applied in different ways. Temperature perturbations are applied as absolute offsets from the daily mean, minimum, and maximum temperature time series for each grid cell. Precipitation perturbations are applied as fractional changes at the grid cell level.  $[CO_2]$  and nitrogen levels are specified as discrete values applied uniformly over all grid cells. Perturbations are applied independently and the protocol samples over all possible permutations. This choice means that  $[CO_2]$  changes are applied independently of changes in climate variables, so that higher  $[CO_2]$  is not associated with particular climate changes, e.g. higher temperatures.

**Table 1.** GGCMI Phase II input parameter levels for each dimension. Temperature and precipitation values indicate the perturbations from the historical climatology. W-percentage does not apply to the irrigated ( $W_{inf}$ ) simulations, which are simulated at the maximum beneficial levels of water. Bold font indicates the ‘baseline’ or historical level for each dimension. Adaptation dimension (A1) repeats all (A0) simulations except the growing season in held fixed. One model provided simulations at the T + 5 level. See Figure S3 in the supplement for number of simulations associated with each combination of input levels.

Input variable	Simulation input values	Unit
[CO <sub>2</sub> ] (C)	<b>360</b> , 510, 660, 810	ppm
Temperature (T)	-1, <b>0</b> , 1, 2, 3, 4, 6	°C
Precipitation (W)	-50, -30, -20, -10, <b>0</b> , 10, 20, 30, (and $W_{inf}$ )	%
Applied nitrogen (N)	10, 60, <b>200</b>	kg ha <sup>-1</sup>
Adaptation (A)	<b>A0: none</b> , A1: new cultivar to maintain original growing season length	-

Each model is run at 0.5 degree spatial resolution and covers all currently cultivated areas and much of the uncultivated land area. See Figure 1 for the present-day cultivated area of rainfed crops, provided by the MIRCA2000 (Monthly Irrigated and Rainfed Crop Area) data product (Portmann et al., 2010), and Supplementary Figure S1 for irrigated crops. Coverage extends considerably outside currently cultivated areas because cultivation will likely shift under climate change. To reduce the computational burden, however, the protocol requires simulation only over JIM – XX% of Earth surface area. Areas are not simulated if they are assumed to remain non-arable even under an extreme climate change; these regions include Greenland, far-northern Canada, Siberia, Antarctica, the Gobi and Sahara Deserts, and central Australia. The protocol also eliminates regions judged unsuitable for cropland for non-climatic reasons. Selection criterion involve a combination of soil suitability indices at 10 arc-minute resolution and excludes those 0.5 degree grid cells in which at least 90% of the area is masked as unsuitable according to any single index, and which do not contain any currently cultivated cropland. Soil suitability indices measure excess salt, oxygen availability, rooting conditions, toxicities, and workability, and are provided by the IIASA (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis) Global Agro-Ecological Zone model (GAEZ, FAO/IIASA, 2011). The procedure follows that proposed by Pugh et al. (2016). All modeling groups simulate the minimum required coverage, but some provide simulations that extend into masked zones, including e.g. the Sahara Desert and Central Australia.

### 2.3 Harmonization between models

While 10 of the 12 models participating in GGCMI Phase II use the AgMERRA historical daily climate inputs, two models require modified baseline climate inputs. PROMET uses the ERA-Interim reanalysis for all baseline climate inputs (Dee et al., 2011) in order to additionally incorporate longwave radiation into the model. JULES requires sub-daily inputs and so uses a

version of ERA-Interim, the 3-hour WFDEI (WATCH-Forcing-Data-ERA-Interim) (Weedon et al., 2014) in which the ERA-Interim data is adjusted following the procedures used on the WATCH hydrological dataset, improving the precipitation. Small differences exist in temperature and precipitation levels between AgMERRA and WFDEI for the relevant crop production areas. There are some larger differences for ERA-Interim, especially for rice area air temperatures, which are roughly 1K lower  
5 and for wheat and maize precipitation (Figures Sxx and Syy). However, these differences are still relatively small compared to the perturbations tested in the protocol.

**CHRISTOPH – NEED HELP HERE on growing seasons details** Planting dates are standardized across models and assumed identical for rainfed and irrigated scenarios, but vary by crop and by location on the globe. For example, at present maize is sown in March in Spain, in July in Indonesia, and in December in Namibia. To roughly account for the importance of  
10 adaptation in agricultural production, the GGCMI Phase II protocol includes two sets of experiments that sample adaptation. The first set (“A0”, where A denotes “adaptation”) involves growing seasons as specified by the data sources below, which generally result in shorter growing seasons in warmer scenarios. The second set, (“A1”, with adaptation) holds the length of the growing season fixed at that of the baseline climate scenario. These simulations roughly capture the case in which adaptive  
15 crop cultivar choice maintain the growing season length so that crops reach maturity at the same time as do current varieties under the current temperature regime. This assumption is simplistic, and does not reflect realistic opportunities and limitations to adaptation (Vadez et al., 2012; Challinor et al., 2018), but provides some insight into how crop modifications could alter projected impacts on yields.

Growing seasons for maize, rice, and soybean are taken from the SAGE (Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment, University of Wisconsin) crop calendar (Sacks et al., 2010) and are identical to those used in GGCMI Phase I (Elliott et al., 2015). In GGCMI Phase II, we separately treat spring and winter wheat and so must define different growing seasons for each. We use the SAGE crop calendar, which separately specifies spring and winter wheat, as the primary source for **JIM – XX% of grid cells**. In the remaining areas where no SAGE information is available, we turn to, in order of preference, the MIRCA2000 crop calendar (Portmann et al., 2010) and to simulated LPJmL growing seasons (Waha et al., 2012). These datasets each provide several options for wheat growing season for each grid cell, but do not label them as spring or winter  
25 wheat. We assign a growing season to each wheat type for each location based on its baseline climate conditions. A growing seasons is assigned to winter wheat if all of the following hold:

- the mean monthly temperature is below freezing point ( $<0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) at most for 5 months per year
- the coldest 3 months of a year are below  $10^{\circ}\text{C}$
- the season start date fits the criteria that
  - if in the N. hemisphere, it is after the warmest *or* before the coldest month of the year
  - if in the S. hemisphere, it is after the warmest *and* before the coldest month of the year

30 and to spring wheat otherwise. **does the mean monthly T criterion relate to the grid cell climatology over the whole year or to the grid cell climatology only during the growing season? also, why is there a N./S. hemisphere difference?**

Nitrogen application is also standardized in timing across models. N fertilizer is applied in two doses, as is the norm in actual practice, to reduce losses to the environment. In the GGCMI Phase II protocol, half of the total fertilizer input is applied at sowing and the other half on day 40 after sowing, for all crops except for winter wheat. For winter wheat, in practice the application date for the second N fertilizer application varies according to local temperature, because the length of winter dormancy can vary strongly. In the GGCMI Phase II protocol, the second fertilization date for winter wheat is set to the middle day of the first month after sowing that has average temperatures above 5°C, with hard limits between 40 days from planting and 50 from maturity.

All nutrient stresses are disabled in models other than those related to nitrogen, temperature, and water. For example, model responses to alkalinity, salinity, and non-nitrogen nutrients are all disabled. No other external N inputs are permitted – that is, there is no atmospheric deposition of nitrogen – but some models allow additional release of plant-available nitrogen through mineralization in soils. Soil mineralization is a part of model treatments of soil organic matter and cannot be disabled in some models. **Which models have this property??** Some additional differences in model structure mean that several key factors are not standardized across the experiment. For example, carry-over effects across growing years including residue management and soil moisture are treated differently across models.

## 15 2.4 Output data products

All models in GGCMI Phase II provide 7 mandatory output variables (Table 2, bold), if available. For each scenario, 0.5 degree grid cell and crop, models provide 30-year timeseries of annual crop yields in units of tons ha<sup>-1</sup> year<sup>-1</sup>, as well as total aboveground biomass yield; the dates of planting, anthesis, and maturity; applied irrigation water in irrigated scenarios; and total evapotranspiration. Several of the EPIC-family models do not provide the anthesis date. Besides these mandatory 7 data products, the protocol requests any or all of 18 optional additional output variables (Table 2, plain text). Participating modeling groups provided between 3 (PEPIC) and 18 (APSIM-UGOE) of these optional variables.

All output data is supplied as netCDF version 4 files, each containing values for one variable in a 30-year timeseries associated with a single scenario, for all grid cells. Filenames follow the naming conventions of GGCMI Phase I (Elliott et al., 2015), which themselves are taken from those of ISIMIP (Frieler et al., 2017). File names are specified (in small caps) as

25 [model]\_[climate]\_hist\_fullharm\_[irrig.scenario]\_[variable]\_[crop]\_global\_annual\_[start-year]\_[end-year].nc4  
Here [model] is the crop model name; [climate] is the original climate input data set (typically AgMERRA); [irrig.scenario] is the irrigation setting ("fир" for fully irrigated and "noirr" for fully rainfed); [variable] is the output variable (of those in Table 2); [crop] is the crop abbreviation ("mai" for maize, "ric" for rice, "soy" for soybean, "swh" for spring wheat, and "wwh" for winter wheat); and [start - year] and \_[end - year] specify the first and last years recorded on file. All filenames include 30 the identifier *global* to distinguish them as global model output.

Output data is provided on a regular geographic grid, identical for all models. Grid cell centers span latitudes -89.75 to 89.75° and longitudes from -179.75 to 179.75°. Missing values where no crop growth has been simulated are distinguished from crop failures: a crop failure is reported as zero yield but non-simulated areas (including ocean grid cells) have yields reported as 1.e+20. Following NetCDF standards, latitude, longitude and time are included as separate variables in ascending

**Table 2.** Output variables requested per crop in the GGCMI Phase II protocol. Items in **bold** are mandatory, if available in that model.

Variable	variable name	units
<b>Yield</b>	<b>yield_&lt;crop&gt;</b>	<b>t ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup> (dry matter)</b>
<b>Total above ground biomass yield</b>	<b>biom_&lt;crop&gt;</b>	<b>t ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup> (dry matter)</b>
<b>Actual planting date</b>	<b>plant-day_&lt;crop&gt;</b>	<b>day of year</b>
<b>Anthesis date</b>	<b>anth-day_&lt;crop&gt;</b>	<b>days from planting</b>
<b>Maturity date</b>	<b>maty-day_&lt;crop&gt;</b>	<b>days from planting</b>
<b>Applied irrigation water</b>	<b>pirrww_&lt;crop&gt;</b>	<b>mm yr<sup>-1</sup></b>
<b>Evapotranspiration (growing season sum)</b>	<b>etransp_&lt;crop&gt;</b>	<b>mm yr<sup>-1</sup> (firr scenarios only)</b>
Transpiration (growing season sum)	transp_<crop>	mm yr <sup>-1</sup>
Evaporation (growing season sum)	evap_<crop>	mm yr <sup>-1</sup>
Runoff (total growing season sum, subsurface + surface)	runoff_<crop>	mm yr <sup>-1</sup>
Total available soil moisture in root zone *	trzpah2o_<crop>	mm yr <sup>-1</sup>
Total root biomass	rootm_<crop>	t ha <sup>-1</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup> (dry matter)
Total Nr uptake (total growing season sum)	tnrup_<crop>	kg ha <sup>-1</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup>
Total Nr inputs (total growing season sum)	t nrin_<crop>	kg ha <sup>-1</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup>
Total Nr losses (total growing season sum)	t nrloss_<crop>	kg ha <sup>-1</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup>
Gross primary production (GPP)	gpp_<crop>	gC m <sup>-2</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup>
Net primary production (NPP)	npp_<crop>	gC m <sup>-2</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup>
CO <sub>2</sub> response scaler on NPP	co2npp_<crop>	- {0..inf}
water response scaler on NPP	h2onpp_<crop>	- {0..1}
temperature response scaler on NPP	tnpp_<crop>	- {0..1}
Nr response scaler on NPP	n rnpp_<crop>	- {0..1}
Other nutrient response scaler on NPP	or npp_<crop>	- {0..1}
CO <sub>2</sub> response scaler on transpiration	co2trans_<crop>	- {0..1}
maximum stress response scaler	maxstress_<crop>	- {0..1}
Maximum LAI	laimax_<crop>	m <sup>2</sup> m <sup>-2</sup>

\* growing season sum, basis for computing average soil moisture

order, with units "degrees north", "degrees east", and "growing seasons since YYYY-01-01 00:00:00". YYYY indicates the first year of the timeseries, which is 1980 for AgMERRA **and what about the other timeseries? Also, does this contradict the statements below about reporting of years?**

The first entry in the file is the result of the first simulated cropping cycle that is entirely within the given climate input. For 5 AgMERRA, where the first year provided is 1980, the first harvest record is thus of 1980, when the prescribed sowing and harvest dates are in 1980 (e.g. sowing in March and harvest in September 1980) but is of 1981 if sowing is later in a calendar year than harvest (e.g. sowing in September 1980 and harvest in March 1981). To avoid distortions in harvest events, output files report the sequence of growing periods rather than calendar years. In most cases, this is equivalent, as there is always only 10 one sowing event per calendar year. As harvest events are internally determined as a function of mostly temperature, these can vary between individual years. If harvest events are around the end of the calendar year (Dec. 31), reported values could contain 2 (one in early January and one in late December), 1 (normal) or none (last was in December of previous year and next is in January of the following year) harvest event if reported per calendar year.

### 3 Models contributing

The contributions of the 12 crop models supplying data to the GGCMI Phase II archive are described in Table 3. Although 15 some models share a common base (e.g. the LPJ family or the EPIC family of models), they have subsequently developed independently. Modeling groups did not all implement the full protocol described above in terms of all simulation levels. Given the substantial computational requirements, different participation tiers were specified to allow submission of smaller sub-sets of the full protocol. These subsets were designed as alternate samples across the 4 dimensions of the CTWN space, with *full* (12) and *low* (4) options for the C × N variables, and *full* (63), *reduced* (31), and *minimum* (9) options for T × W variables 20 (described below). All participating modeling groups provided identical coverage of the CTWN parameter space for rainfed and irrigated scenarios, and for scenarios with and without adaptation (A0 and A1). The different participation levels are defined by combining the CxN sets with the TxW sets:

- **full**: all 756 A0 simulations (all 12 CxN \* all 63 TxW)
- **high**: 362 simulations (all 12 CxN combinations \* *reduced* TxW set of 31 combinations)
- 25 – **mid**: 124 simulations (*low* 4 CxN combinations \* *reduced* TxW set of 31 combinations)
- **low**: 36 simulations (*low* 4 CxN combinations \* *minimum* TxW set of 9 combinations)

**Why are the A1 simulations only 658 in total? pDSSAT has 756 in the A1 folder**

Of the 12 models submitting data, 6 followed the *full* protocol; these are marked with italic text in Table 3. However, note that two of these models (CARAIB and JULES) intrinsically cannot represent nitrogen effects and so do not sample over the the 30 nitrogen dimension at all. 2 models followed *high* with minor modifications (GEPIC adding an additional T level and PROMET omitting the intermediate N level). 1 model (PEPIC) followed *mid* but included an additional C level. 3 models approximately

followed *low* with APSIM-UGOE and EPIC-IIASA providing some additional levels and ORCHIDEE-crop omitting a TxW combination.

The combinations of perturbation values in the CxN and TxW parameter spaces used in the various participation levels are chosen to provide maximum coverage over plausible future values. For the CxN space, we specify:

- 5 – *full* as 12 pairs, with 4 C values (360, 660, 810 ppm) and 3 N (10, 60, 200 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup> ))  
– *low* as only 4 pairs: C360\_N10, C360\_N200, C660\_N60, C810\_N200)

For the TxW space we specify:

- *full* as all 7 T levels and 9W levels.  
– *reduced* as 31 alternating combinations, with different Ws for even Ts than for odd Ts. For even Ts (i.e. T0,T2,T4,T6),  
10 we use W = -50,-20,0,+30 = 4·4 = 16 pairs. For odd Ts (i.e. T-1,T1,T3) , we use W = -30, -10, +10, +30, inf = 3·5 = 15  
pairs.  
– *minimum* as 9 combinations: T-1W-10, T0W10, T1W-30, T2W-50, T2W20, T3W30, T4W0, T4Winf, T6W-20

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Simulation Assessment

15 We provide some comparison of model results to FAO data records to describe the models' skill in reproducing crop yield characteristics. We stress that the comparison is not straightforward as none of the settings in the CTWN-A experiment design reflects actual conditions in the real world. For a more rigorous evaluation of the models' performance, we refer to the GGCMI model evaluation study of Müller et al. (2017). We focus on yield data, as this dataset if presumably of greatest interest and yield data are the more important and best evaluated outputs of GGCMs.

20 The Müller et al. (2017) procedure evaluates response to year-to-year temperature and precipitation variations in a control run driven by historical climate and compares it to detrended historical yields from the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2018) by calculating the Pearson product moment correlation coefficient. The procedure is sensitive to the detrending method and the area mask used to aggregate yields. Here we use a 5-year running mean removal and the MICRA cultivation area mask for aggregation. In some cases the time series are shifted by one year to account for errors in FAO or  
25 model year reporting. The procedure offers no means of assessing [CO<sub>2</sub>] fertilization, since [CO<sub>2</sub>] has been relatively constant over the historical data collection period. Nitrogen introduces another source of uncertainty into the analysis, since the GGCMI Phase II runs impose fixed, uniform nitrogen application levels that are not realistic for individual countries. We evaluate up to three control runs for each model, since some modeling groups provide historical runs for three different nitrogen levels.

Results are slightly lower than those of GGCMI Phase I, with reasonable fidelity at capturing year-over-year variation,  
30 with differences by region and crop are stronger than difference between models (Figure 2). (That is, Figure 2 shows more

**Table 3.** Models included in GGCMI Phase II and the number of C, T, W, and N simulations that each performs, with 756 as the maximum for A0 (no adaptation) and 648 as the maximum for A1 (maintaining growing season adaptation). “N-Dim.” indicates whether the simulations include varying nitrogen levels. Two models provide only one nitrogen level. All models provide the same set of simulations across all modeled crops, but some omit individual crops. (For example, APSIM does not simulate winter wheat.)

Model (Key Citations)	Maize	Soybean	Rice	Winter wheat	Spring wheat	N dim.	Sims per crop (A0 / A1)
<b>APSIM-UGOE</b> , Keating et al. (2003); Holzworth et al. (2014)	X	X	X	–	X	X	44 / 36
<b>CARAIB</b> , Dury et al. (2011); Pirttioja et al. (2015)	X	X	X	X	X	–	<b>252 / 216</b>
<b>EPIC-IIASA</b> , Balkovič et al. (2014)	X	X	X	X	X	X	39 / 0
<b>EPIC-TAMU</b> , Izaurralde et al. (2006)	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>756 / 648</b>
<b>JULES</b> , Osborne et al. (2015); Williams and Falloon (2015); Williams et al. (2017)	X	X	X	–	X	–	<b>252 / 0</b>
<b>GEPIC</b> , Liu et al. (2007); Folberth et al. (2012)	X	X	X	X	X	X	430 / 181
<b>LPJ-GUESS</b> , Lindeskog et al. (2013); Olin et al. (2015)	X	–	–	X	X	X	<b>756 / 648</b>
<b>LPJmL</b> , von Bloh et al. (2018)	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>756 / 648</b>
<b>ORCHIDEE-crop</b> , Wu et al. (2016)	X	–	X	X	–	X	33 / 0
<b>pDSSAT</b> , Elliott et al. (2014); Jones et al. (2003)	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>756 / 756</b>
<b>PEPIC</b> , Liu et al. (2016a, b)	X	X	X	X	X	X	149 / 121
<b>PROMET</b> , Hank et al. (2015); Mauser et al. (2015)	X	X	X	X	X	X	261 / 232
Totals	12	10	11	11	11	10	5240 / 3378

color similarity in horizontal than vertical bars.) No single model is dominant, with each model providing near best-in-class performance in at least one location-crop combination. For example, maize in the United States is consistently well-simulated while maize in Indonesia is problematic (mean Pearson correlation coefficients of 0.68 and 0.18, respectively). In some cases, especially in the developing world, low correlation coefficients may indicate not only model failure but also problems in FAO 5 yield data (Ray et al., 2012; Müller et al., 2017).

In general, correlation coefficients in GGCMI Phase II are slightly below those of Phase I, likely because of unrealistic nitrogen levels, lack of country level calibration in some models, and restriction to only the MICRA aggregation mask used in the comparison in this study. (Compare Figure 2 to Müller et al. (2017) Figures 1–4 and 6.) [JIM – give a few numbers here](#)  
5 Additionally, the time period used in this case is slightly different from the time period used in Müller et al. (2017). Note that in this methodology, simulations of crops with low year-to-year variability such as irrigated rice and wheat will tend to score more poorly than those with higher variability.

## 4.2 Simulated dynamics and data characteristics

Crop models in the GGCMI Phase II ensemble show broadly consistent responses to climate and management perturbations in most regions, with a strong negative impact of increased temperature in all but the coldest regions. Mapping the distribution  
10 of baseline yields and yield changes shows the geographic dependencies that underlie these results. Crop cultivation areas and yield changes with respect to the T+4 scenario show distinct geographic pattern (Figure 3). Absolute yield potentials show strong spatial variation, with much of the Earth’s surface area unsuitable for any of these crops. Because both yields and yield changes vary substantially across models and across grid cells, we primarily analyze relative change from a baseline. For illustration purposes here, we take as the baseline the scenario with historical climatology (i.e. T and P changes of 0), C of 360  
15 ppm, and applied N at 200 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup>.

In general, models agree most on yield response in regions where yield potentials are currently high and therefore where crops are currently grown. Models show robust decreases in yields at low latitudes, and highly uncertain median increases at most high latitudes, due in part to how crop failures are considered across different models. This is also illustrated in Figure  
20 4, which shows that e.g. the PROMET model has a much higher share in crop failure (yield of 0 ton ha<sup>-1</sup>) at high latitudes (>45° north) than the LPJmL model. For wheat crops see Figure S16. Wheat projections are more uncertain, possibly because simulation calibration is especially important (e.g. Asseng et al., 2013).

Yield response differences at high latitudes are due in part to model representation of zero yields or yield failures. Model representation of crop suitability differs across models for areas where crops not currently grown. For example, soy yields north  
25 of 45° in the PROMET model are most often zero in the historical simulations and are relatively evenly distributed between 0 and 4 tons ha<sup>-1</sup> in the LPJmL model. Under the warming scenario (T+4K), many grid cells which were previously too cold to grow soy in the PROMET model are no suitable and the LPJmL yields have shifted slightly down the distribution (Figure 4).

We illustrate the across-model spread for some selected crops in Figures 5 - 6, which shows changes in yields across all grid cells for the primary Köppen-Geiger climate regions (Rubel and Kottek, 2010). In warming scenarios with precipitation held constant, all models show decreases in maize yield in the ‘warm temperate’, ‘equatorial’, and ‘arid’ regions that account  
30 for nearly three-quarters of global maize production. These impacts are robust for even moderate climate perturbations. In the ‘warm temperate’ zone, even a 1 degree temperature rise with other variables held fixed leads to a median yield reduction that exceeds the variance across models. A 6 degree temperature rise results in median loss of ~25% of yields with a signal to noise ratio of nearly three to one. A notable exception is the ‘cold continental’ region, where models disagree strongly, extending even to the sign of impacts. Increased [CO<sub>2</sub>] boosts yields but does little to change the nature of the temperature

response for irrigated rice. Other crops show similar responses to warming, with robust yield losses in warmer locations and high inter-model variance in the ‘cold continental’ regions (Figure SX).

The effects of rainfall changes on maize yields shown in Figure 5 and for soybeans in Figure ?? are also relatively consistent across models. Increased rainfall mitigates the negative effect of higher temperatures by counteracting the increased evapo-transpiration to some degree, most strongly in arid regions. Decreased rainfall amplifies yield losses and also increases inter-model variance; i.e. models agree that the response to decreased water availability is negative in sign but disagree on its magnitude. Increased temperature results in a relative flattening of the precipitation change response (Figure 6). We show only rainfed maize and soy here; see Figure SX for comparison between rainfed and irrigated maize. As expected, irrigated crops are more resilient to temperature increases in all regions, especially so where water is already limiting. See Figures SX - X in the supplement for other crops.

Mean climatological yield response to the other two dimensions (C and N) are qualitatively similar. The yield response to increased [CO<sub>2</sub>] for spring wheat is a robust increase across models in all climate regions (Figure 6). Increased precipitation allows crops to capture additional yield boost from elevated [CO<sub>2</sub>] levels in the mid range in most climate regions, but this effect saturates at the highest [CO<sub>2</sub>] levels. Increased [CO<sub>2</sub>] outweighs the damages caused by 20% reduced precipitation in all climate regions in the multi-model median, but not all models agree upon the positive sign.

## 5 Discussion and Conclusions

The GGCMI Phase II experiment provides a database designed to allow detailed study of crop yields from process-based models under climate change. The use of systematic input parameter variations facilitates not only comparing the sensitivities of process-based crop yield models to changing climate and management inputs but also evaluating the complex interactions between driving factors ([CO<sub>2</sub>], temperature, precipitation, and applied nitrogen). Its global extent also allows identifying geographic shifts in high yield potential locations. We expect that the simulations will yield multiple insights in future studies, and show a selection of preliminary results. We discuss below the implications from the experimental design, but refrain from analyzing simulation results in detail. Data analyses will be conducted in subsequent analyses making use of the GGCMI Phase II data archive.

First, the GGCMI Phase II simulations allow identifying major areas of uncertainty. Inter-model uncertainty is qualitatively similar across all four inputs tested at the globally aggregate level with some notable exceptions. For example, soybean, a nitrogen-fixing legume, is insensitive to nitrogen addition, while wheat is particularly uncertain in its response to [CO<sub>2</sub>] levels and water availability (Figure SXX). Across geographic regions, projections are most robust in the low latitudes where yield impacts are largest, and most uncertain in the high latitudes where yields may increase under warming. Model differences in projected high-latitude yield changes appear driven more by differences in baseline than in responses to CTWN perturbations. PROMET, for example, involves a stronger response to cold than does LPJmL, with frost below -8 °C irreversibly killing non-winter crops and prolonged periods of below-optimum temperatures also leading to complete crop failure. Over the high-latitudes regions simulated by both models, 52% of grid cells in PROMET report 0 yield in the present climate vs. 11% of cells

in the T+4 scenario, leading to a strong yield gain in warmer future climates. In LPJmL outputs, the same high-latitude area is deemed suitable for cultivation even in baseline climate, with crop failure rates of 4% and 5% in present and T+4 cases, so that projected yield changes are modest (Figure 4.)

Second, the GGCMI Phase II simulations demonstrate the sensitivity of climate-driven yield impacts to the locations of cultivated land. One counterintuitive result apparent in the simulations is that warmer temperatures drive steeper yield reductions in irrigated than rainfed maize when considered only over currently cultivated land, even though water availability increases crop resiliency to temperature increases at any given location (compare Figure 5 and Figures SX to SX). The effect results from geographic differences in cultivation: irrigated maize is grown in warmer locations where the impacts of warming are more severe (See Figures SX-SX for other crops.) Geographic effects also mean that nitrogen fertilization produces stronger responses in irrigated than non-irrigated wheat and maize, presumably because those rainfed crops are limited by water availability (Figure SX).

Some limitations with the model experiment described here are as follows. The phase II experiment must not be confused with a correct historic setup, as there is no trend in the  $[CO_2]$  and the uniform application of 200 kg N  $ha^{-1}$  is not representative for many world regions (Elliott et al., 2015). Some issues with process based models are driven in part by the diversity of new cultivars and genetic variants, which outstrips the ability of academic modeling groups to capture them (e.g. Jones et al., 2017). Models also do not simulate many additional factors affecting production, including but not limited to: pests, diseases, and weeds. For these reasons, individual studies must generally re-calibrate models to ensure that short-term predictions reflect current cultivars and management levels. The GGCMI Phase II simulations are designed for evaluating changes in yield across the CTNW-A space but not necessarily absolute yields, since they omit detailed calibrations.

In general, the development of multi-model ensembles involving systematic parameter sweeps has large promise for increasing understanding of potential future crop responses and for improving process-based crop models. The data set is unprecedentedly large, being global in extent, covering 31-simulation years per pixel and up to 756 scenarios for 12 GGCMs. We expect that the GGCMI Phase II data archive will be used to analyze the different GGCMs' sensitivity to changes in the CTWN-A space, including the interaction between drivers. The authors are working on some analyses but many more are facilitated by the GGCMI Phase II data archive.

*Code and data availability.* The simulation outputs of the mandatory 7 output variables (Table 2) are available on zenodo.org. See Appendix A1 for data DOIs. All other simulation output variables are available upon request to the corresponding author. The scripts for generating the spring wheat and winter wheat growing seasons and second fertilizer dates and the quality screening script is available at <https://github.com/RDCEP/ggcmi/blob/phase2/>. All input data are available via globus.org (registration required, free of charge): Minimum cropland mask is available at [https://www.globus.org/app/transfer?origin\\_id=e4c16e81-6d04-11e5-ba46-22000b92c6ec&origin\\_path=%2FAGMIP.input%2FCTWN%2F](https://www.globus.org/app/transfer?origin_id=e4c16e81-6d04-11e5-ba46-22000b92c6ec&origin_path=%2FAGMIP.input%2FCTWN%2F) choose the file boolean\_cropmask\_ggcmi\_phase2.nc4 Growing period data for wheat is now divided up into winter and spring wheat, available at [https://www.globus.org/app/transfer?origin\\_id=e4c16e81-6d04-11e5-ba46-22000b92c6ec&origin\\_path=%2FAGMIP.input%2Fother.inputs%2FAGMIP\\_GROWING\\_SEASON.HARM.version2.0%2F](https://www.globus.org/app/transfer?origin_id=e4c16e81-6d04-11e5-ba46-22000b92c6ec&origin_path=%2FAGMIP.input%2Fother.inputs%2FAGMIP_GROWING_SEASON.HARM.version2.0%2F) whereas all other growing season data (maize, rice, soybean) are the same as in Phase I (version 1.25), available at [https://www.globus.org/app/transfer?origin\\_id=%2FAGMIP.input%2FPhaseI](https://www.globus.org/app/transfer?origin_id=%2FAGMIP.input%2FPhaseI)

**Table A1.** DOI's for model yield data outputs. All yield output data can be found at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo/XX>. Where XX is the value found in the table.

Model	Maize	Soybean	Rice	Winter wheat	Spring wheat
<b>APSIM-UGOE</b>	2582531	2582535	2582533	2582537	2582539
<b>CARAIB</b>	2582522	2582508	2582504	2582516	2582499
<b>EPIC-IIASA</b>	2582453	2582461	2582457	2582463	2582465
<b>EPIC-TAMU</b>	2582349	2582367	2582352	2582392	2582418
<b>JULES</b>	2582543	2582547	2582545	–	2582551
<b>GEPIC</b>	2582247	2582258	2582251	2582260	2582263
<b>LPJ-GUESS</b>	2581625	–	–	2581638	2581640
<b>LPJmL</b>	2581356	2581498	2581436	2581565	2581606
<b>ORCHIDEE-crop</b>	2582441	–	2582445	2582449	–
<b>pDSSAT</b>	2582111	2582147	2582127	2582163	2582178
<b>PEPIC</b>	2582341	2582433	2582343	2582439	2582455
<b>PROMET</b>	2582467	2582488	2582479	2582490	2582492

e4c16e81-6d04-11e5-ba46-22000b92c6ec&origin\_path=%2FAGMIP.input%2Fother.inputs%2FAGMIP\_GROWING\_SEASON.HARM.version1.25%2F

## Appendix A

### A1 Data Access

- 5 Simulation yield output datasets can be found at the DOIs located in table A1. Data are published in crop- and GGCM-specific packages, in order to break down the overall data amount into manageable packages (<50GB per archive).

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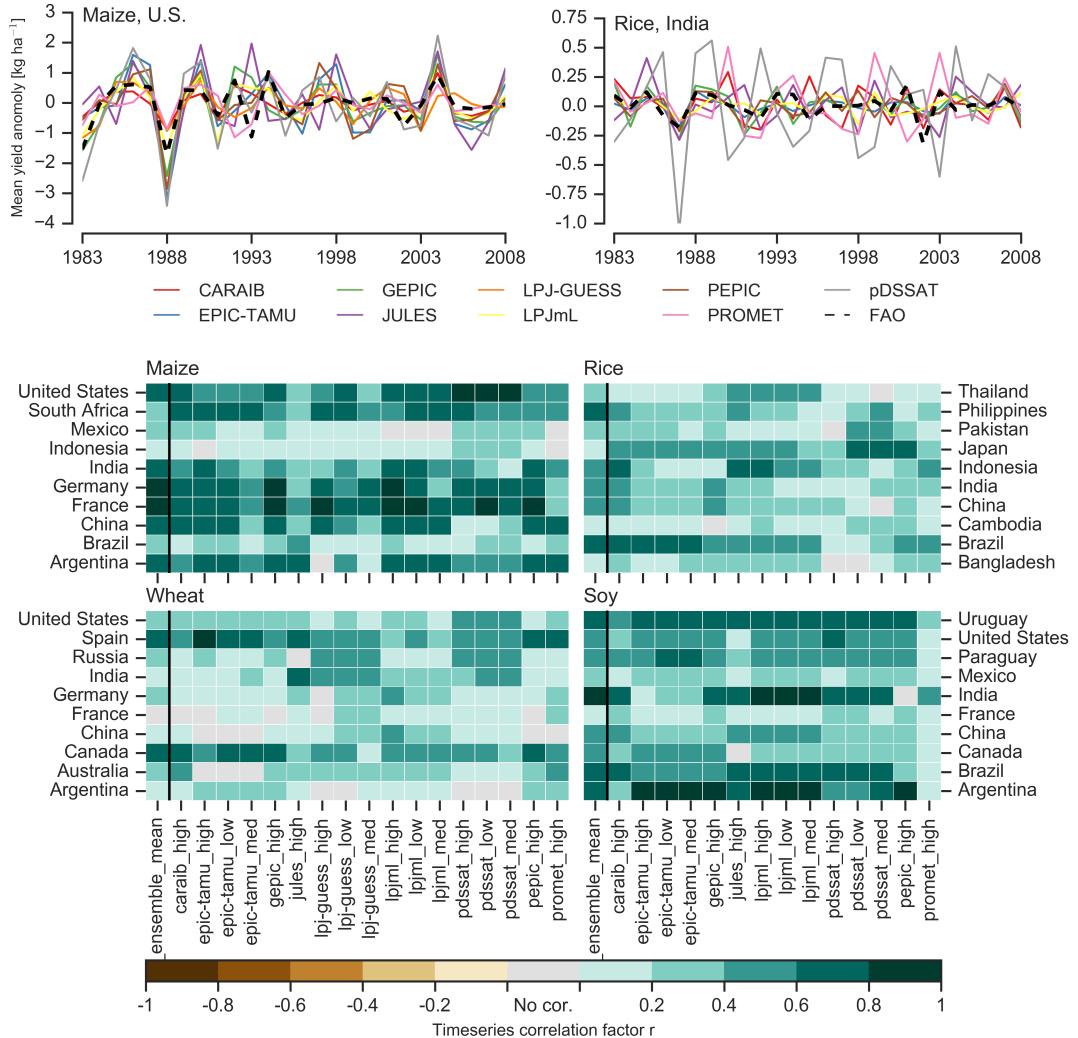
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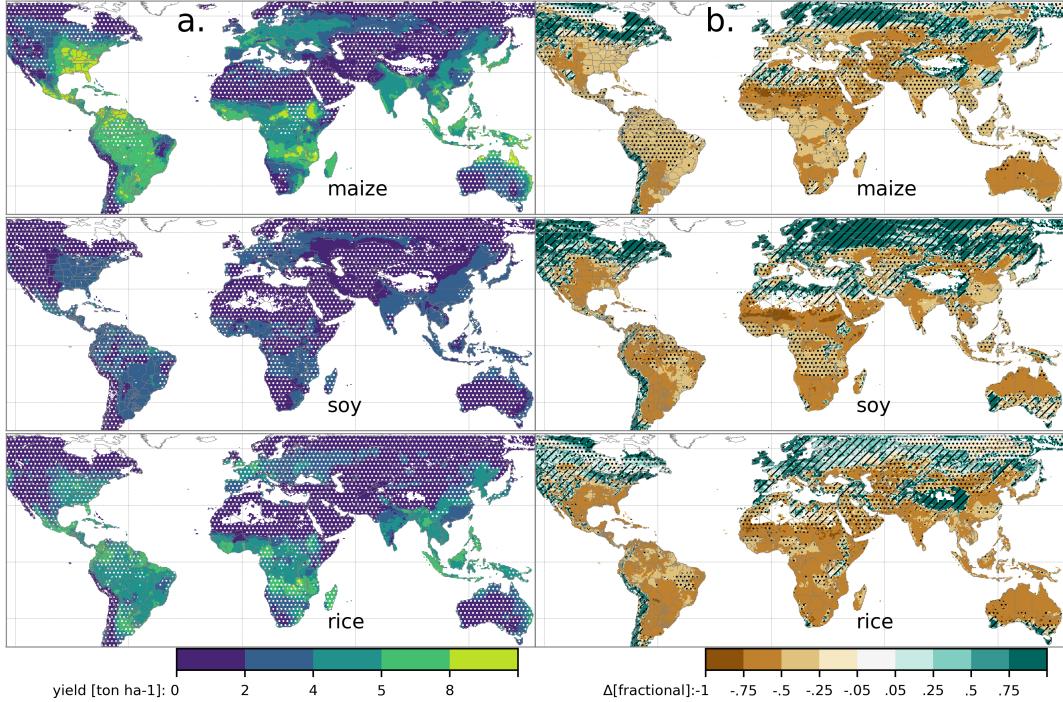
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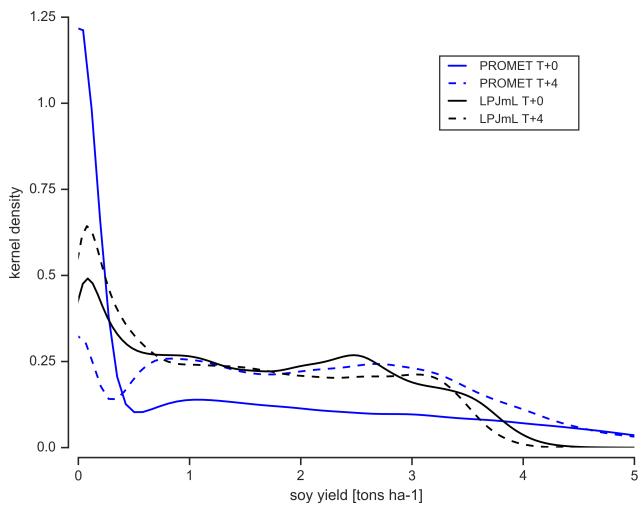
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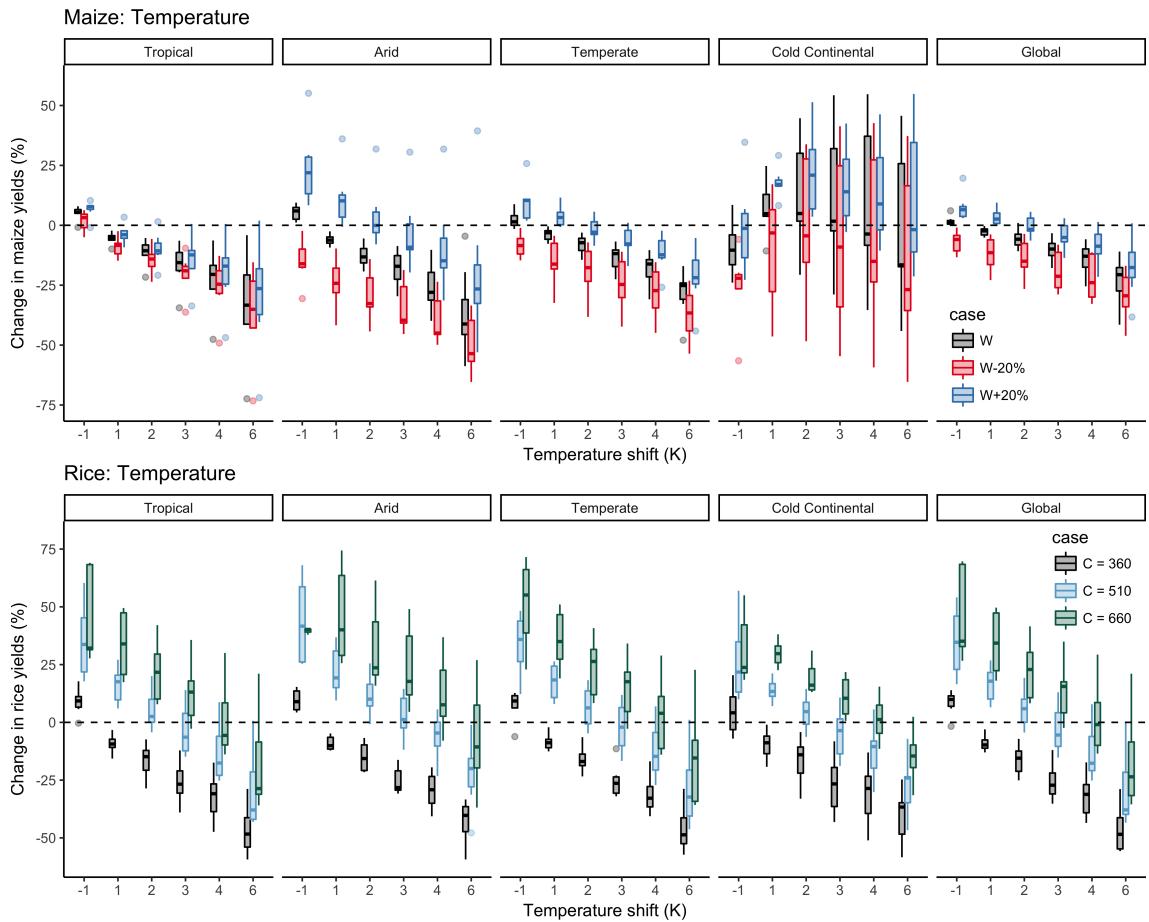
**Figure 2.** Assessment of crop model performance in GGCMI Phase II, following protocol of GGCMI Phase I (Müller et al., 2017). **Top:** example time series comparison between simulated crop yield and FAO data (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2018) at the country level for two example cases: US maize (a good case), and rice in India (mixed case), both for the high nitrogen application level. **Bottom:** the heatmaps illustrate the Pearson  $r$  correlation coefficient between the detrended simulation mean yield at the country level compared to the detrended FAO yield data for the top producing countries for each crop with continuous FAO data over the 1981-2010 period. Models that provided different nitrogen application levels are shown with low ( $10 \text{ kg N ha}^{-1}$ ), med ( $60 \text{ kg N ha}^{-1}$ ), and high ( $200 \text{ kg N ha}^{-1}$ ) label (models that did not simulate different nitrogen levels are analogous to a high nitrogen application level). The ensemble mean yield, show in the leftmost column, is also correlated with the FAO data (not the mean of the correlations). Wheat contains both spring wheat and winter wheat simulations where supplied, else one or the other (see Table 3). The Pearson  $r$  correlation coefficients here are similar to those of GGCMI Phase I (albeit somewhat lower), with reasonable fidelity at capturing year-over-year variation. Differences by region and crop are stronger than difference between models, e.g. horizontal bars are more similar in color than vertical bars.



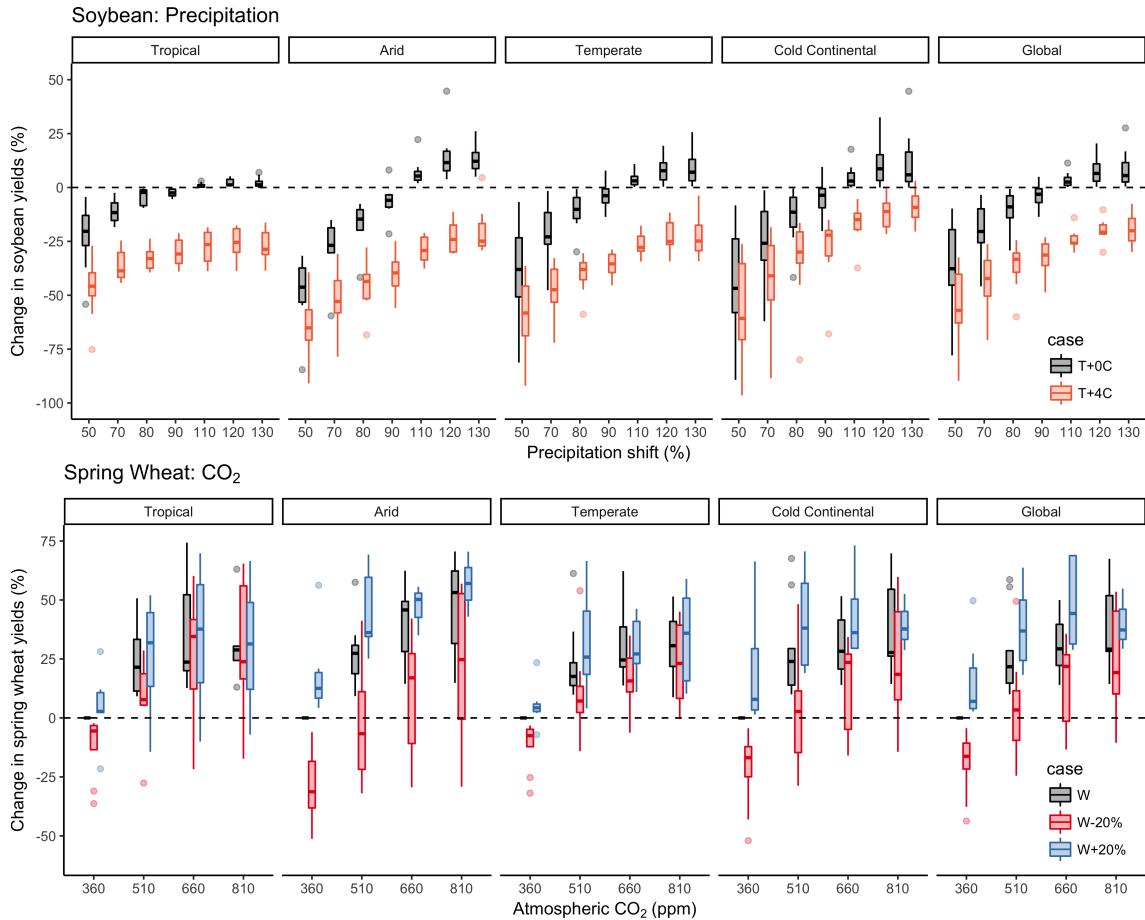
**Figure 3.** Illustration of the spatial pattern of potential yields and potential yield changes in the GGCMI Phase II ensemble, for three major crops: maize, soybean and rice. Left column (a) shows multi-model mean climatological yields for the baseline scenario for (top–bottom) rainfed maize, soybean, and rice. Wheat shows a qualitatively similar response, see Figure S16 in the supplemental material. White stippling indicates areas where these crops are not currently cultivated. Absence of cultivation aligns well with the lowest yield contour (0–2 ton ha<sup>-1</sup>). Right column (b) shows the multi-model mean fractional yield change in the T + 4 °C scenario (with other inputs at baseline values). Areas without hatching or stippling are those where confidence in projections is high: the multi-model mean fractional change exceeds two standard deviations of the ensemble ( $\Delta > 2\sigma$ ). Hatching indicates areas of low confidence ( $\Delta < 1\sigma$ ), and stippling areas of medium confidence ( $1\sigma < \Delta < 2\sigma$ ). Crop model results in cold areas, where yield impacts are on average positive, also have the highest uncertainty.



**Figure 4.** Kernel density estimate of soybean yields north of  $45^{\circ}$  latitude for the PROMET and LPJmL models. Solid lines show the historical climatology and dashed lines show the T+4 (K) case. Note strong reduction in the lowest bin for the T+4 case for PROMET that is spread almost equally over the rest of the distribution.



**Figure 5.** Illustration of the distribution of regional yield changes across the multi-model ensemble, split by Köppen-Geiger climate regions (Rubel and Kottek, 2010). Y-axis is the fractional change in the regional average climatological (30-year mean) potential yield relative to the baseline. Box-and-whiskers plots show distribution across models, with median marked; edges are first and third quartiles; whiskers extend to 1.5-IQR. Figure shows all modeled land area within each model; see Figure SXX-SXX in the supplemental material for only currently-cultivated land. The right panel (Global) shows yield responses to a globally uniform temperature shift; note that these results are not directly comparable to simulations of more realistic climate scenarios. Note that Rubel and Kottek (2010) use the name ‘Snow’ rather than ‘Cold continental’. **Top:** responses for rainfed maize to applied uniform temperature perturbations, for three discrete precipitation perturbation levels (-20%, 0%, and +20%), with  $[CO_2]$  and nitrogen held constant at baseline values (360 ppm and  $200 \text{ kg ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ). Outliers in the tropics (strong negative impact of temperature increases) are the pDSSAT model; outliers in the high-rainfall case (strong positive impact of precipitation increases) are the JULES model. Outside high-latitude regions for maize, models generally agree, with projected declines under increasing temperatures larger than inter-model variance. **Bottom:** Temperature response for irrigated rice for three discrete  $[CO_2]$  levels, with nitrogen and precipitation held constant.  $[CO_2]$  does not change the nature of temperature response respective to baseline as the slopes at each  $[CO_2]$  level are relatively constant. There is very little difference across Köppen-Geiger regions for irrigated rice.



**Figure 6.** Same convention as Figure 5 except for soy and spring wheat. **Top:** response for rainfed soy to applied uniform precipitation perturbations, for two discrete temperature levels, with  $[CO_2]$  and nitrogen held constant at baseline levels. Inter model spread increases for reduced precipitation cases more so than increased precipitation. A leveling out on the increased precipitation side illustrates the saturation effect. Precipitation changes are more important in dryer Köppen-Geiger regions, as expected. Increased temperature tends to flatten the precipitation response in a relative sense because of some prioritizing of the two stresses. **Bottom:** response for rainfed spring wheat to atmospheric  $[CO_2]$ , for three discrete precipitation perturbation levels with temperature and nitrogen held constant at baseline values. The  $[CO_2]$  Reduced precipitation tends to steepen the  $[CO_2]$  response and increased precipitation tends to flatten it, as expected. Reduced precipitation tends to increase the inter model spread, especially at the highest  $[CO_2]$  levels.