

How to estimate SOC from satellite images in the upcoming no-tillage era?

Fabio Castaldi¹, Flavio Bertinaria², Piero Toscano¹

¹ : National Research Council of Italy (CNR)

² : Barilla spa

ESA Symposium on Earth Observation for Soil Protection and Restoration





Background

At least a revisit time of 5-7 days for soil properties mapping [Mzid et al. 2021]

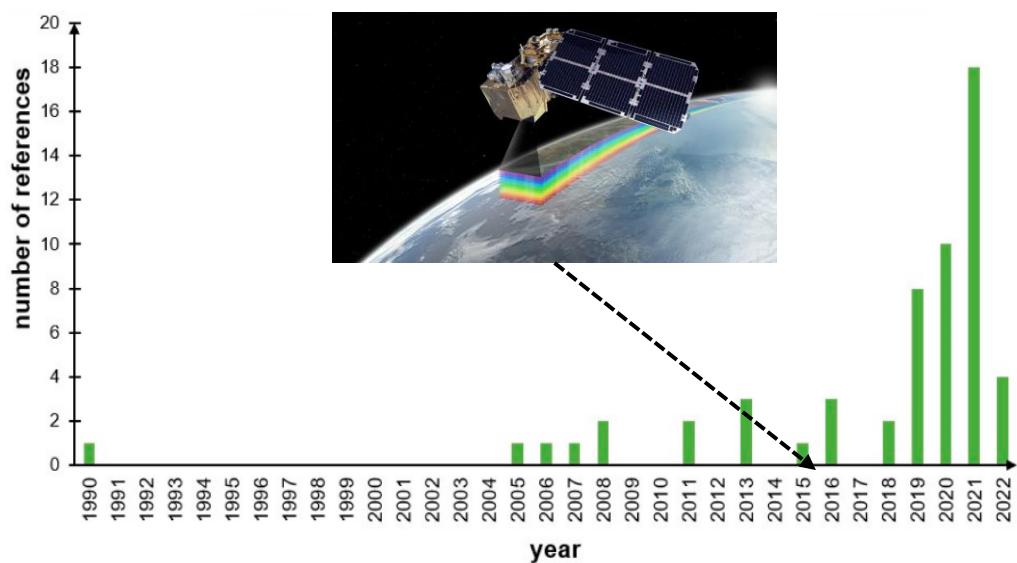
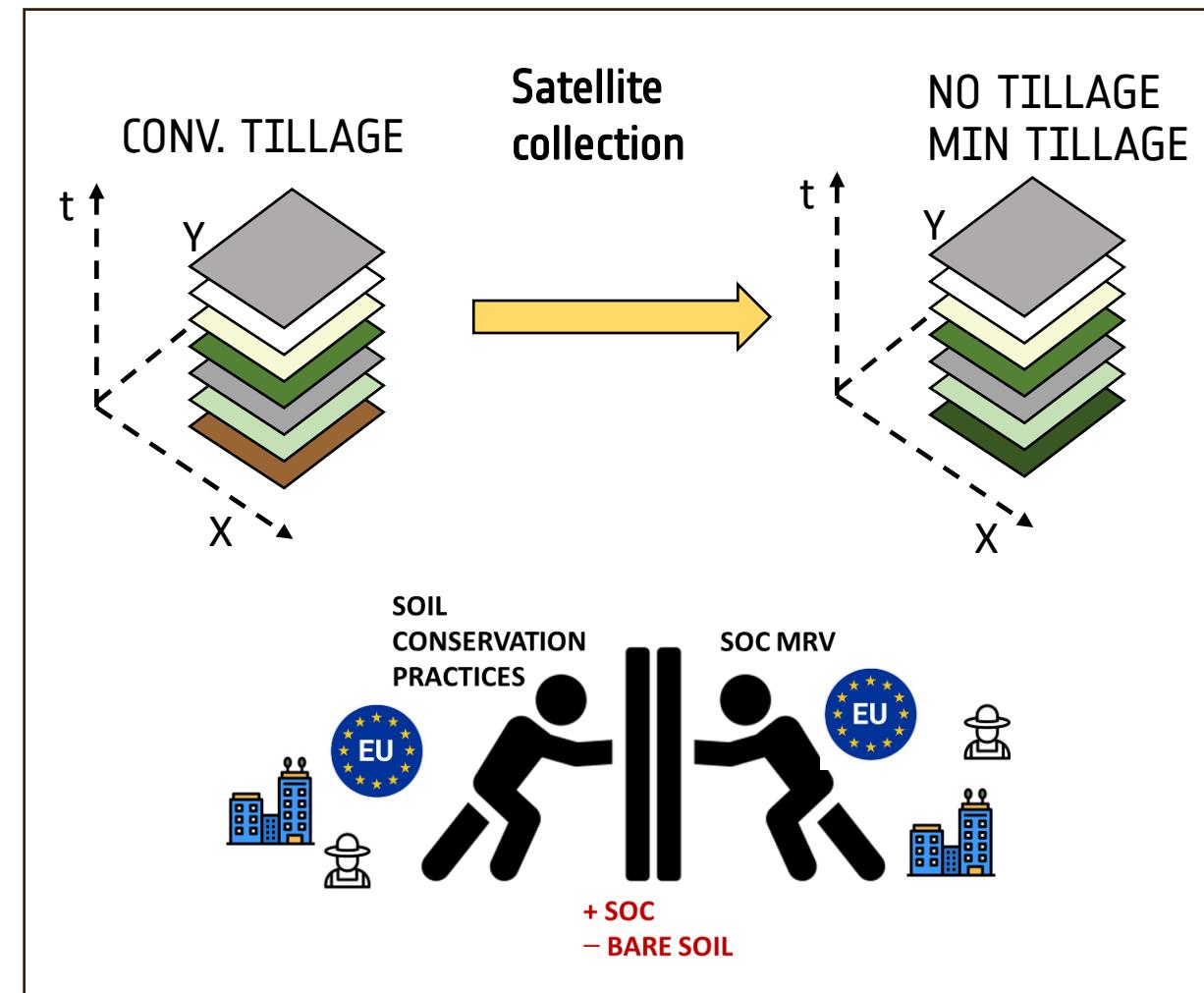


Figure 1. Histogram of publications of satellite-derived SOC studies according to year.

Vaudour et al. 2021



Barilla

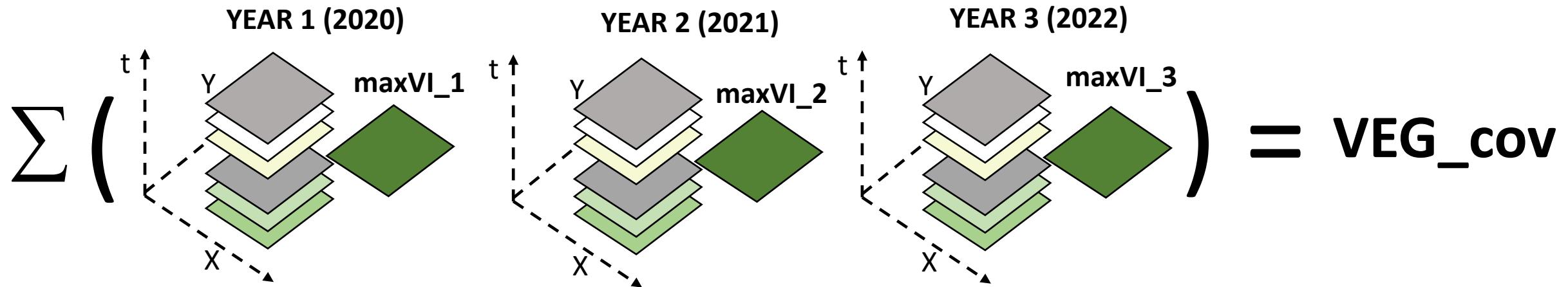
ESA Symposium on Earth Observation for Soil Protection and Restoration, 06 – 07 March 2024, ESA-ESRIN, Frascati (Rome), Italy



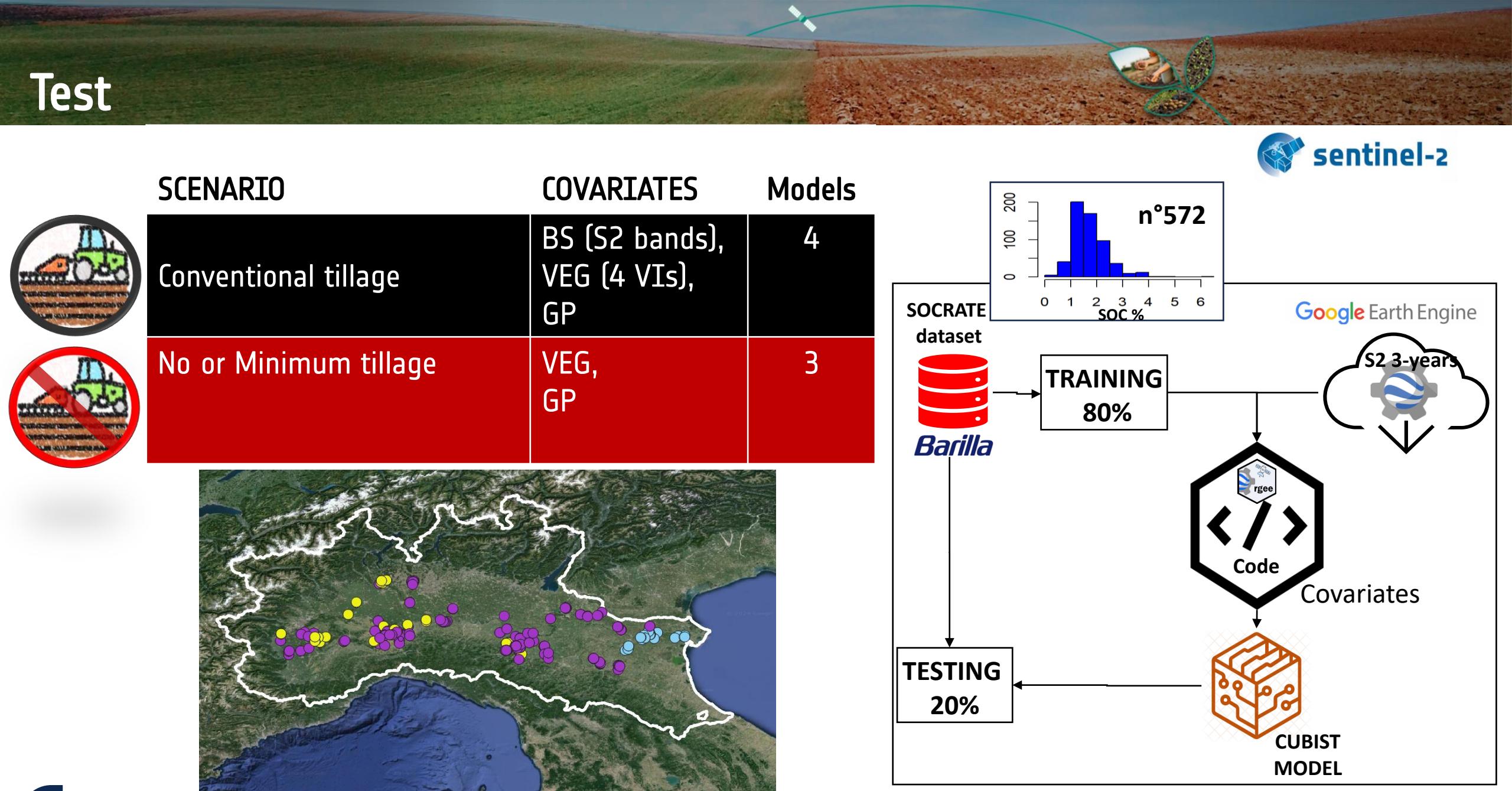
Proposed solution

"To destroy an enemy make him your friend."

- VEGETATION vs SOC -> indirect
- Crop, Weather condition, diseases, growing stage...
- Looking for VIs correlated to SOC -> NDVI, GNDVI, SATVI, EVI
- Sum of the yearly maximum values for each VI -> covariates



Test

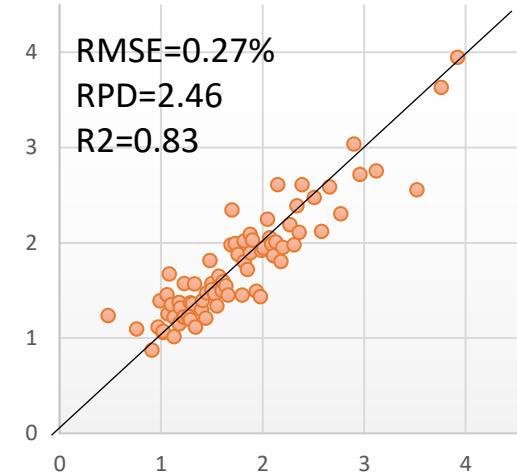


Results



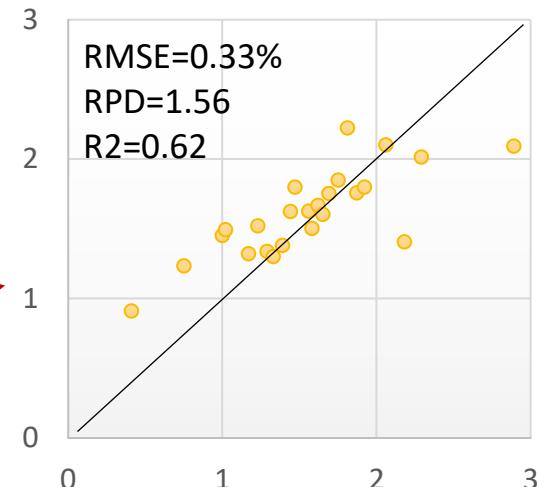
RPIQ

| COVARIATES | GLOBAL | CAMBISOLS | LUVISOLS | FLUVISOLS |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| BS | 1.63 | 1.87 | 0.8 | 2.50 |
| BS+VEG | 1.61 | 2.14 | 1.26 | 2.19 |
| BS+GP | 1.73 | 2.76 | 1.26 | 3.1 |
| BS+GP+VEG | 1.82 | 3.06 | 1.27 | 2.19 |



RPIQ

| COVARIATES | GLOBAL | CAMBISOLS | LUVISOLS | FLUVISOLS |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| VEG | 1.18 | 1.10 | 1.35 | 1.03 |
| GP | 1.63 | 2.13 | 1.44 | 1.89 |
| VEG+GP | | 1.63 | | 2.08 |
| | | | | |
| | | | 1.63 | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | 2.38 |



Conclusions

- Stratified models > Global models
- Better accuracy for conv. tillage scenario except for LUvisols
- For no tillage scenario VEG covariates can allow to increase accuracy in LUvisols and Fluvisols

SOIL
CONSERVATION

SOC MRV



Next steps

- More indices or new approaches
- Add other covariates
- More years
- ‘Local’ models
- Collect suggestions



**Consiglio Nazionale
delle Ricerche**

Thank you for your
attention

fabio.castaldi@cnr.it

ESA Symposium on Earth Observation for Soil Protection and Restoration