



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Edinburgh Research Explorer

Impacts of rising temperatures and farm management practices on global yields of 18 crops

Citation for published version:

Agnolucci, P, Rapti, C, Alexander, P, De Lipsis, V, Holland, RA, Eigenbrod, F & Ekins, P 2020, 'Impacts of rising temperatures and farm management practices on global yields of 18 crops', *Nature Food*.
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-020-00148-x>

Digital Object Identifier (DOI):

[10.1038/s43016-020-00148-x](https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-020-00148-x)

Link:

[Link to publication record in Edinburgh Research Explorer](#)

Document Version:

Peer reviewed version

Published In:

Nature Food

General rights

Copyright for the publications made accessible via the Edinburgh Research Explorer is retained by the author(s) and / or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing these publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

Take down policy

The University of Edinburgh has made every reasonable effort to ensure that Edinburgh Research Explorer content complies with UK legislation. If you believe that the public display of this file breaches copyright please contact openaccess@ed.ac.uk providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

**IMPACTS OF WEATHER VARIATION ON GLOBAL CROP YIELDS AND
FOOD SECURITY**

Paolo Agnolucci⁽¹⁾, Chrysanthi Rapti⁽¹⁾, Peter Alexander⁽²⁾, Vincenzo De Lipsis⁽¹⁾, Robert A. Holland^(3,4), Felix Eigenbrod⁽⁴⁾, Paul Ekins⁽¹⁾

- (1) Institute for Sustainable Resources, University College London
- (2) School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh
- (3) School of Biological Sciences, University of Southampton
- (4) School of Geography and Environmental Sciences, University of Southampton

26 **ABSTRACT**

27 Agriculture is exposed to weather variation, with implications for food security, land
28 allocation, trade and economic activity. Understanding the impact of changes in temperature
29 and precipitation on crop yields is a vital step in developing policy and management options
30 to feed the world over the coming century. As the current literature has focused on a few
31 staple crops, we implement global statistical models to examine the influence of weather and
32 management practices on yields of 18 crops, accounting for 70% of crop production by area
33 and 65% of calorific intake. We focus on the impact of temperature and find considerable
34 heterogeneity in the responses of yields across crops and countries, by identifying winners
35 and losers from warming trends. Irrigation is found to alleviate negative implications from
36 temperature increases. Countries where increasing temperature cause the most negative
37 impacts are typically those which are the most food insecure, having the lowest calorific food
38 supply and the lowest crop yield. Our results suggest that, in these countries, it will be
39 important to co-ordinate international actions to raise yields through improvement and
40 modernization of agricultural practices to counteract future adverse impacts of climate
41 change.

42

43 **Authors' contributions**

- 44
- 45 • All authors developed the research methodology
 - 46 • Paolo Agnolucci, Vincenzo De Lipsis and Chrysanthi Rapti collected the data collection
47 and computed the variables used in the estimation
 - 48 • Paolo Agnolucci and Chrysanthi Rapti implemented the estimation
 - All authors contributed to writing up results

49 **INTRODUCTION**

50 As part of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG), governments have agreed a
51 target to end hunger and ensure access to sufficient, nutritious food by 2030 for the 850
52 million people globally who are classified as undernourished (UN 2015). Given their
53 interlinked nature (Nilsson et al. 2016), failure to reach this target risks undermining many
54 other SDGs. Achieving food security represent a significant challenge, bearing in mind
55 increases in global population, rising levels of affluence, a shift towards diets consumed in
56 OECD countries, and climate change (Alexander et al. 2016, Fujimori et al. 2019, Pastor et al.
57 2019, Stehfest et al. 2019). Indeed, the global food production system is particularly
58 vulnerable to climate change, directly through the impact of temperature and precipitation
59 (Agnolucci and De Lipsis 2019, Challinor et al. 2014), and indirectly through competition for
60 land for negative emissions technologies and afforestation (Fuss et al. 2016, Holland et al
61 2019).

62 As the effect of climate change on crop yield is an established concern for global food security
63 (Lobell and Asseng 2017), the impact of historical variation in weather has provided valuable
64 insights (Challinor et al. 2014, Lobell et al. 2011, Schauburger et al. 2017, Moore and Lobell
65 2015), with both process-based and statistical models reaching similar conclusions about the
66 impact of future climate (Liu et al 2016, Lobell and Asseng 2017 and Moore et al. 2017). As
67 the current literature has focused on a few staple crops, there is an identified need to broaden
68 our understanding across a wider range of crop types (Ciscar et al. 2018). The current study
69 makes a substantial contribution by implementing statistical modelling to assess the impact
70 of weather variation on crop yield for 18 crops. The empirical literature has primarily focused
71 on the weather impact six major crops specifically wheat, maize and soybeans (Lobell et al.

72 2011, Lobell and Field 2007 and Schauburger et al. 2017), rice (Lobell et al. 2011, Lobell and
73 Field 2007), barley (Moore and Lobell 2014, 2015 and Schauburger et al. 2017) and sugar beet
74 (Moore and Lobell 2014, 2015). Our analysis extends this to include cassava, cotton,
75 groundnuts, millet, oats, potatoes, pulses, rapeseed, rye, sorghum, sunflower and sweet
76 potatoes. Together these crops represent 70% of the global crop area (Monfreda et al. 2008)
77 and around 65% of global calorific intake. We extend the approach of Lobell et al. (2011) by
78 modelling a much wider set of crops and accounting for additional factors affecting crop yield,
79 including pesticides, fertilisers and irrigation, to provide insights into the role of agronomy in
80 ameliorating the impacts of changing climate (Rockström and Falkenmark 2015). We focus
81 discussion on the effect of temperature, as the empirical relationship of crop yield with
82 temperature is much better understood than with other weather factors (Lobell and Asner
83 2003) and, in some cases, temperature was found to be the predominant factor in explaining
84 crop yield variability (Lobell and Burke 2008).

85 **RESULTS**

86 **MARGINAL IMPACT AND OPTIMAL GROWING CONDITIONS.** We estimated an inverted U-
87 shaped relationship between temperature and crop yields for all 18 crops, with the values for
88 the optimal temperature reflecting credible conditions of crop production (Table S11).
89 Statistical significant estimates for precipitation are harder to achieve, also reflecting previous
90 results (Lobell and Tebaldi 2014, 2018). In 10 out of the 18 crops assessed in this study, an
91 increase of 10 mm in precipitation induces a decrease in the yields, evaluated at the global
92 mean, while in the remaining crops the impact is positive. Analysis of the impact of a 1°C rise
93 on the set of 12 crops rarely assessed in the literature demonstrate that the majority of

94 countries growing cassava, cotton, groundnuts, millet, oats, pulses and rye experience
95 negative impacts from a 1°C increase in temperature. However, in this novel set of 12 crops,
96 those with the highest levels of global consumption tend to be positively affected by a 1°C
97 increase in temperature (potatoes, sweet potatoes, rapeseed and sorghum). Quite
98 importantly considering the focus of the discussion below on existing level of productivity and
99 food security, three crops widely consumed in developing countries tend to be either
100 positively affected (sorghum and sweet potatoes) or suffer a small reduction in the yield
101 (cassava) in presence of a 1°C increase. It is worth mentioning that the marginal effect
102 described here assumes no changes in other factors when in reality, changes in temperature
103 are likely to occur in presence of changes in other factors, such as precipitation. In some case,
104 changes in temperature considered here could imply lack of analogue historical climatic
105 conditions, as discussed by Pugh et al (2016), with increased uncertainty in relation the
106 computed impact, as extrapolation occurs outside of the sample used in the estimation.

107 Our results support the role of adaptation in global agriculture, as we demonstrate that
108 agricultural management practices such as irrigation can ameliorate the negative impacts on
109 crop productivity. Pesticides and fertilisers are generally found to enhance crop productivity.
110 The use of pesticides has a positive impact on the yield of about half of the crops in our
111 sample, i.e. potatoes, pulses, rice, sugar beet, sunflower, sweet potatoes and wheat. Use of
112 fertilisers contribute to increasing yields of sugar beet, sunflower and sweet potatoes. The
113 impact of pesticides and fertiliser is modelled through a linear approximation without
114 allowing for interaction with other factor such as temperature.

115 Figure 1 illustrates the functional relationship between crop yield of temperature, using one
116 of this novel crops, cassava, as an example, in countries with low (black curve) and high

Commented [PA1]: I added this to clarify why this point is in my view not a repetition. Perhaps one could express it better though

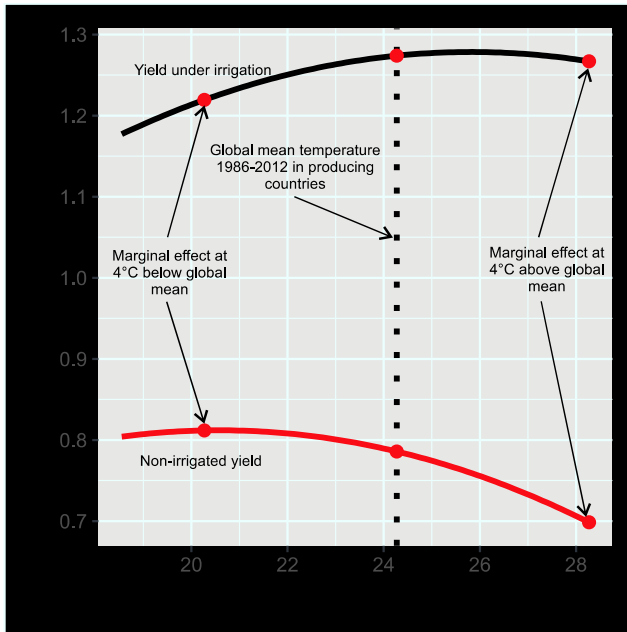
Commented [HR2]: Is this slightly repetitive of the previous sentence?

117 irrigation (red curve). The curves are obtained by assigning value zero to the non-temperature
118 variables in Table S1 (except irrigation), as using a different value for those variables would
119 affect only the level of the yield but not the shape of the yield-temperature relationship. In
120 the figure one can observe the gently sloping curves implying a relatively small variation in
121 the marginal effect of temperature, i.e. the first derivative of the red and black curves. In fact,
122 the impact of a 1°C increase in temperature across the globe varies between -3% and 1% in
123 both the low-irrigated and high irrigated-countries. Irrigation allows higher optimal
124 temperature, i.e. the vertex of the parabolas in the figure. These are about 26°C in countries
125 with high levels of irrigation compared to about 20.5°C in the remaining countries.

126 Estimated optimal temperatures tend to occur near the global mean of a number of crops, see
127 graphs in column A of Figure 2, implying that warming temperatures will deliver, at least
128 initially, beneficial increases in the yield in some of the growing countries. The number of
129 countries benefiting from temperature rises however decreases with the size of the rise, as
130 more and more countries are pushed beyond the optimal level of temperature. A more
131 detailed presentation of our results from the estimation of statistical crop yield models can
132 be found in the Supplemental Information.

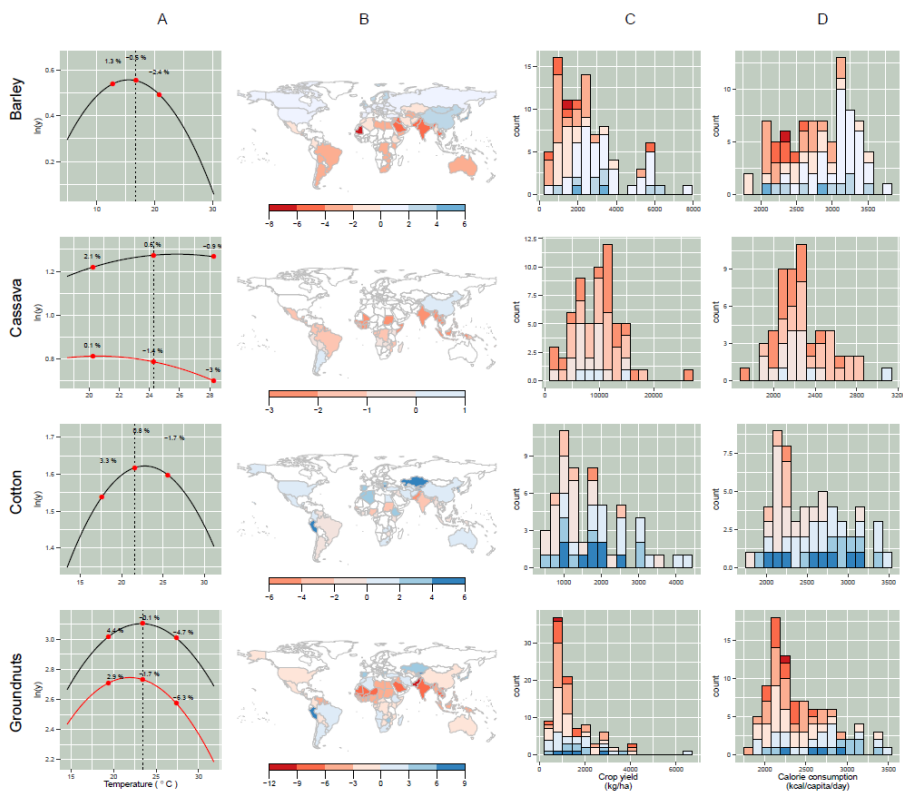
Commented [AP3]: Was there any text change. Nice to show that you've made some (even very) change in the MS, to show you have addressed the comment.

Commented [PA4R3]: Should be clear based on track changes...



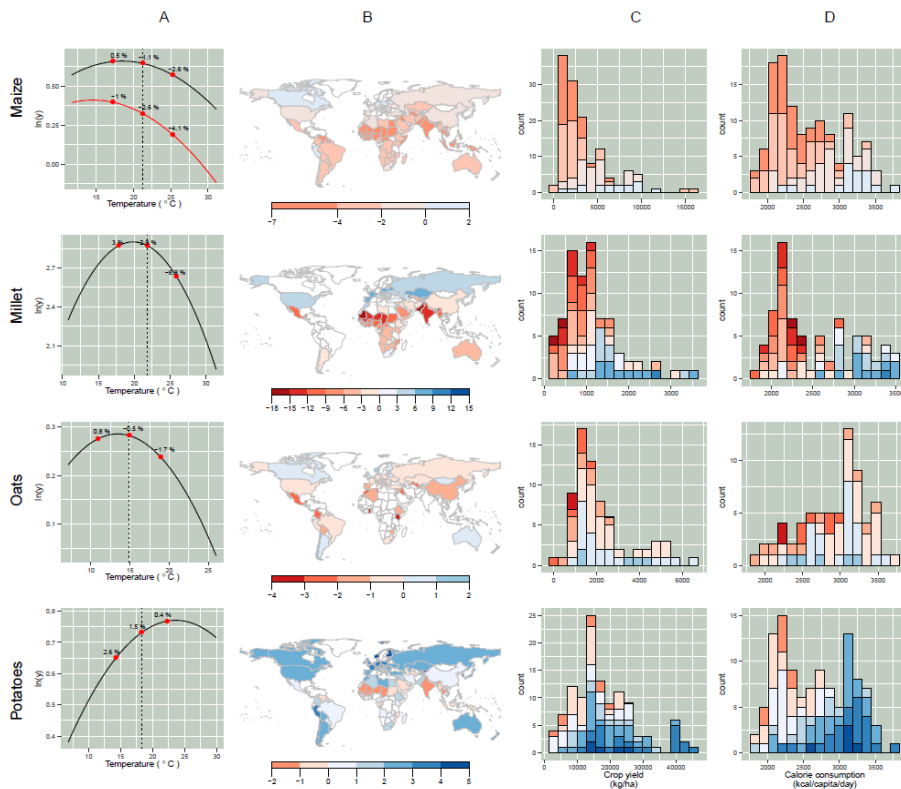
133

134 **Figure 1.** Functional relationship between temperature and crop yield of cassava . The red dots indicate the
 135 global mean (middle point) and the points which are 4°C colder and warmer than the global mean. The marginal
 136 effect of temperature increasing 1°C is indicated at these three points in column A of Figure 2. The functional
 137 relationship is indicated by the red curve when irrigation is low, and the black curve when irrigation is high.



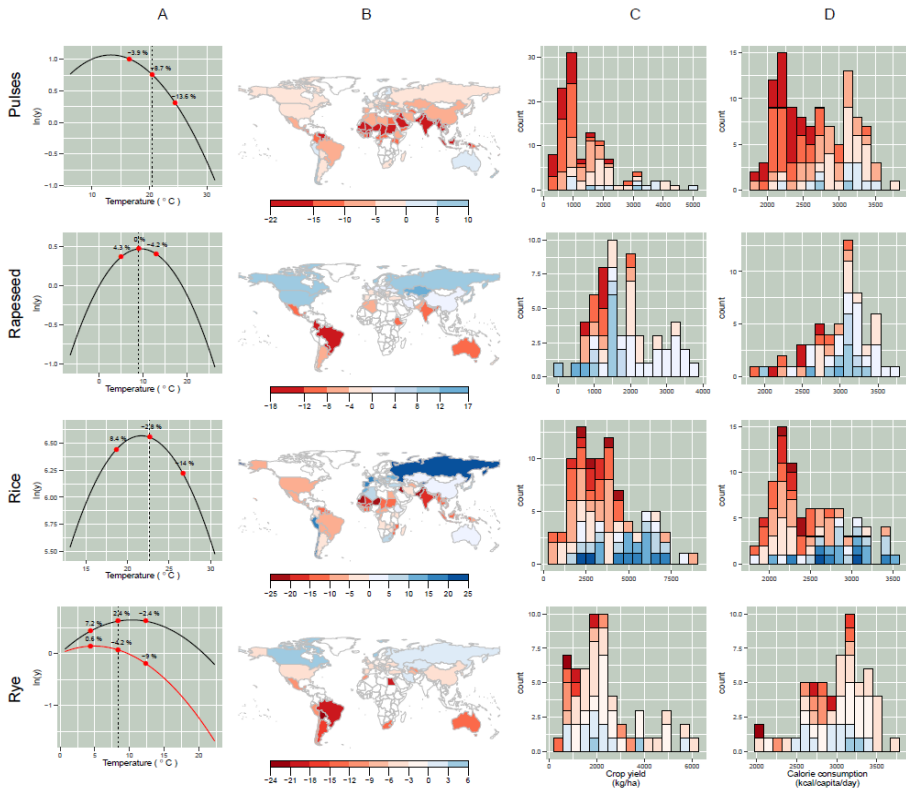
138

139 **Figure 2a. Column A:** Functional relationship between level of temperature and yield for the crops
 140 assessed in this study. The global temperature mean computed over 1986-2012 in the countries
 141 cultivating a specific crop is indicated by the central dot and vertical dashed line. The other two dots
 142 indicate temperatures 4 °C warmer and 4 °C colder than the global mean. The percentage next to the
 143 dots indicate the marginal effect, as explained in Figure 1. **Column B:** geographical distribution of the
 144 marginal effect related to a 1°C temperature rise. The colours indicate the percentage change in the
 145 crop yield for a country expected as a consequence of a change in 1°C. The range of the colour scale
 146 reflects the marginal sensitivity to temperature estimated in our study. **Column C:** frequency
 147 distribution of crop yield (kg/ha) by country with the marginal effect of 1°C temperature. For each
 148 point in the bars of the histogram, the colour points out the value of the marginal effect by using the
 149 colour scale in column B. **Column D:** frequency distribution of crop yield (kg/ha) by average calories
 150 intake (kcal/capita/day), using the same colour scheme as the one described for graphs in column C.



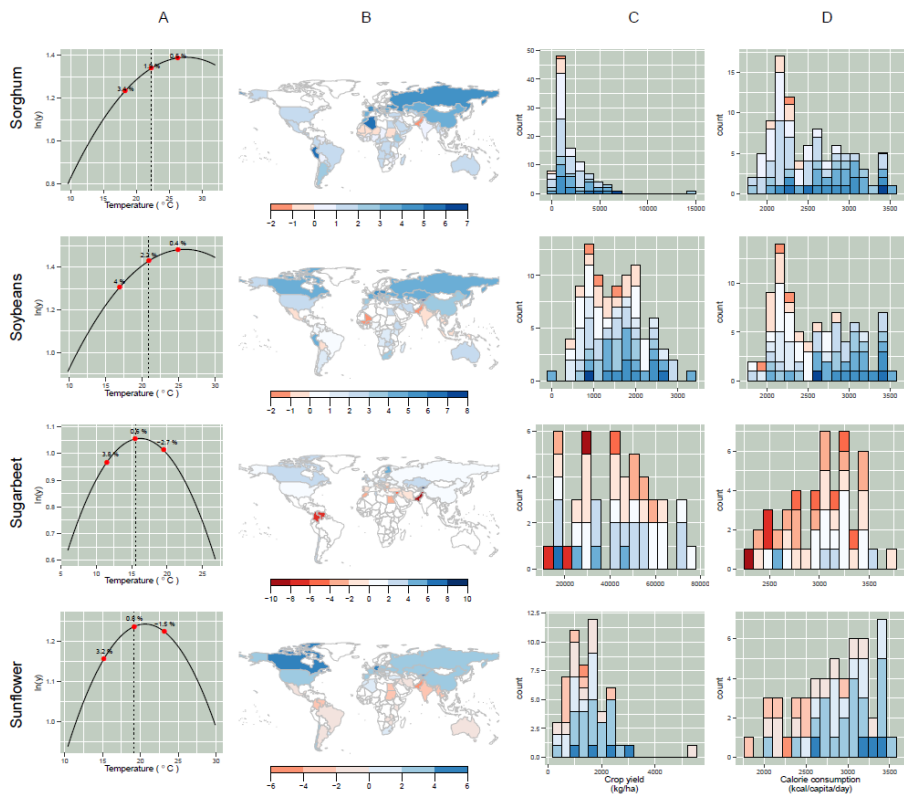
151

152 **Figure 2b.** Functional relationship between temperature and crop yield (column A), country-level
 153 marginal effect of temperature (column B), and distribution of country-level marginal effect by crop
 154 yield and calories consumption (column C and D respectively). More details can be found in the
 155 caption of Figure 2a.



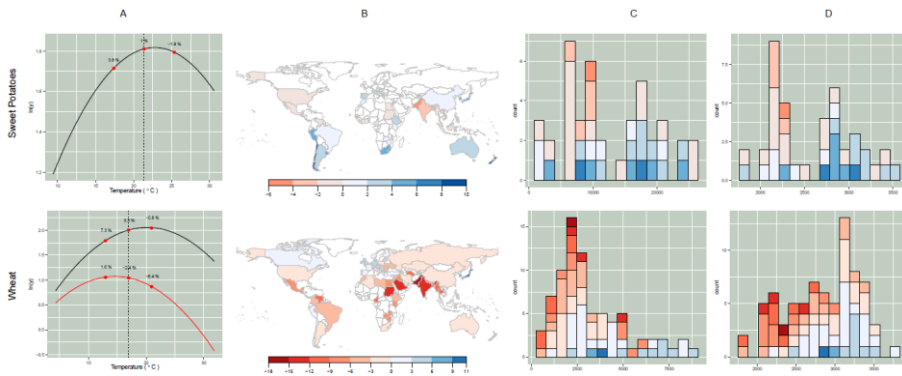
156

157 **Figure 2c.** Functional relationship between temperature and crop yield (column A), country-level
 158 marginal effect of temperature (column B), and distribution of country-level marginal effect by crop
 159 yield and calories consumption (column C and D respectively). More details can be found in the
 160 caption of Figure 2a.



161

162 **Figure 2d.** Functional relationship between temperature and crop yield (column A), country-level
 163 marginal effect of temperature (column B), and distribution of country-level marginal effect by crop
 164 yield and calories consumption (column C and D respectively). More details can be found in the
 165 caption of Figure 2a.



166

167 **Figure 2e.** Functional relationship between temperature and crop yield (column A), country-level
 168 marginal effect of temperature (column B), and distribution of country-level marginal effect by crop
 169 yield and calories consumption (column C and D respectively). More details can be found in the
 170 caption of Figure 2a.

171 **HETEROGENEOUS MARGINAL IMPACT OF TEMPERATURE ACROSS THE GLOBE.** Major crops
 172 tend to be negatively affected by a 1°C increase, as a 2.8%, 2.6% and 2.4% decrease in the
 173 yield is estimated for rice, maize and wheat, when evaluated at the global mean temperature
 174 of each crop. Yield of potatoes and soybeans, on the other hand, increases by 1.5% and 2.2%.
 175 Comparison of marginal effect at the global mean is reductive as the effect of temperature
 176 varies across countries, as discussed in the Supplemental Information. Winners and losers
 177 from raising temperatures can be identified by evaluating the marginal effect of 1°C increase
 178 from the mean observed in each country over the 1986-2012 sample (see Methods). The
 179 maps in column B of Figure 2 clarify that most countries are negatively (red countries) instead
 180 of being positively affected (blue countries). Maize, oats, pulses and wheat are widely
 181 impacted by rising temperatures, as yield decreases in almost all countries while potatoes,
 182 sorghum, soybeans and sugar beet overall benefit from rising temperatures. The plots in
 183 column B of Figure 2 also show the sensitivity of different crops to increases in the
 184 temperature. Ranges as wide as 30 percentage point can be observed in the case of millet,
 185 pulses, rapeseed, rice and rye. Conversely, cassava, oats and potatoes are among the crops

186 least affected by a 1°C increase, with the range of marginal impact being under 10%
187 percentage points in all cases. However, crops with a highly diverse marginal impact of
188 temperature tend have a much smaller range for the great majority of countries where crops
189 are grown. As an example, the range of the marginal impact in 80% of the countries where
190 rice is grown is only half the width shown in Figure 2.

191 **IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY AND PRODUCTIVITY.** The wide productivity differences across
192 countries will be exacerbated by rising temperatures, unless corrective action is taken. We
193 explore this by assessing the relationship between prevailing yield and the marginal effect of
194 temperature, as shown in column C of Figure 2. The highest positive marginal effects are quite
195 scattered throughout the distribution of crop yield, while the most negative impacts tend to
196 be in countries, such as those in sub-Saharan Africa, that have not benefited from the green
197 revolution (Oladele et al. 2016). This is particularly strong in the case of barley, maize, millet,
198 pulses, rice and wheat. A similar pattern can be observed in the case of the relationship
199 between the daily intake of calories and the marginal impact of temperature – see column D
200 of Figure 2, as most of the countries which are worst affected by warming temperatures have
201 very low daily calorific intake. This is a concerning finding, as the countries with the worst
202 level of food security (as measured by the daily intake of calories) are also worst affected by
203 rising temperature.

204 **DISCUSSION**

205 **CROP DEPENDENCE ON TEMPERATURE AND AGRONOMIC PRACTICE.** Weather variables
206 significantly contribute to yield variability for the 18 crops studied here, confirming results
207 from existing global studies focusing on a maize, rice , soybeans and wheat (Frieler et al 2017;

208 Lobell and Tebaldi 2014 and Lobell et al. 2011). Potato, the most widely produced non-grain
209 crop in the world, sorghum and soybeans were found resilient to moderate increases in
210 temperature, confirming previous results in the case of soybeans (Araji et al. 2018). Estimated
211 models show the importance of irrigation in determining the impact of weather variables
212 across countries for a number of the crops modelled in this study. In five of the modelled
213 crops, irrigation implies higher optimal temperatures and more positive impact of rising
214 temperatures, confirming studies focused on the USA, such as Li and Troy (2018), Schaubberger
215 et al. (2017) and Troy et al. (2015). Irrigation can affect crop transpiration through maximising
216 the functioning of the stomata, enhancing photosynthetic and yield efficiency (Fara et al.
217 2019), contain evapotranspiration demand related to heat stress (Lobell et al. 2013) and have
218 cooling effects on the canopy temperature, reducing the impact of heat and drought stress
219 on crop yield (Siebert et al. 2014). Some producers facing negative impact of temperature,
220 e.g. Israel and Greece, have invested in irrigation, so that the effects of rising temperatures
221 would have been worse without such schemes. Expansion of irrigation may be possible in
222 some cases but in many countries, notably in Africa, expansion of land under irrigation is
223 impractical or impossible (Rockström and Falkenmark 2015) but alternative options for the
224 management of rainfall (e.g. through collection and soil management) exist and should be
225 integrated into agricultural policy where appropriate (Rockström and Falkenmark 2015).

226 Countries with very low yields use a low amount of pesticides and fertilisers, while highly
227 productive countries tend to consume higher than the average pesticides and fertilisers. In
228 the case of wheat, for example, the yield in the 10 countries with the highest level of
229 pesticides (4,177 kg/ha) is more than double the level (1,857 kg/ha) observed in the 10
230 countries with the lowest consumption. As pesticides and fertilisers have a strong effect in a
231 number of crops, some of the difference in the yield across countries could be closed by

232 increasing their use, although this may be associated with other environmental challenges.
233 We observe that high use of fertilisers and pesticides may serve to even out the effect of
234 management intensity across countries and called upon to compensate for decreases in the
235 yield brought about by rising temperatures. Although not explored in this study, interaction
236 between marginal impact of temperature and use of fertilisers and pesticides should be
237 urgently addressed by empirical studies. As an example, Schlenker and Lobell (2010) found
238 that the marginal effect of temperature is lower in African countries with low use of fertilisers.
239 Similarly, as rising temperatures facilitates the diffusion of pests (see Deutsch al 2018 and
240 Delcour et al 2015 for a more general review of the impact of climate change on pesticides),
241 marginal impact of weather can be influenced by the level of pesticides. In both cases, future
242 research should explore the suitability of non-linear functions, for example to consider
243 decreasing marginal gains from the application of chemical inputs, or interact them with other
244 factors such as temperature, rather than adopting the linear approximation discussed here.
245 The level of pesticides and fertilisers could in principle proxy for other aspects of management
246 such as mechanisation or advanced cultivars but only if the timespan of these factors is
247 correlated to the time pattern of fertilisers or pesticides in a significant number of countries
248 used in this study. This is probably not very likely to happen.

249 **ADDITIONAL ADAPTATION OPTIONS.** Development of crop varieties matched to not only
250 current conditions but also those likely to develop in the coming decades is an area of
251 substantial current research interest (Evenson 2003). Notably in Africa, which contains a great
252 share of the countries worst affected by rising temperatures, the green revolution has been
253 harder to establish due to a broad range of environmental and socio-economic factors
254 (Oladele et al 2016). The yield of maize in the USA was found less sensitive to extreme heat

Commented [HR5]: This sentence might need a bit more context? Why non-linear forms? Maybe just delete it?

255 days in hotter climates (Butler and Huybers 2013), results showing that response to
256 temperature can be substantially reduced by the choice of cultivars. On the other hand, a
257 trade off between the level of the yield and the robustness to heat has also been found in
258 new varieties (Tack et al 2015). Associated with higher environmental or economic costs,
259 increased use of agricultural chemicals and expansion of cropping area are obvious routes to
260 addressing issues of food security, as it would decrease reliance on imports for countries
261 challenged by food security. Certainly, from the environmental perspective these routes are
262 problematic, and could be counterproductive in terms of the global communities' ability to
263 meet the UN SDGs.

264 With regard to changing growing season, early planting dates failed to increase the US yield
265 of maize, millet and wheat (Ko et al. 2012), but higher yields of US maize could be obtained if
266 high planting rates are combined with delayed planting dates (Carter et al. 2018). This seems
267 an area where further research is urgently required, especially taking into consideration the
268 impact of changing one crop's planting and harvest dates on the crops which are planted after
269 its harvest. Crop switching is another factor potentially reducing the impact of rising
270 temperatures on crop yield. Negative welfare impact arising from the climate scenarios for
271 Africa in 2100 could fully be counteracted by switching crops (Kurukulasuriya and
272 Mendelsohn 2008). Qualitative studies focusing on specific locations however point out
273 obstacles to crop switching, primarily influenced by economic, political, and social rather than
274 climate factors (Mertz et al. 2009). Benefits arising from crop switching can be highly crop-
275 dependent even when assessed for the same location (Gorst, Dehlavi and Groom 2018). The
276 diversity in terms of marginal impact of temperature increases across crops discussed in this
277 study suggests that substituting highly sensitive crops with those resilient to temperature

278 increases is a potential adaptation to rising temperatures. Bearing in mind that this process
279 would take place across countries, it may severely impact the diversity of crops used in
280 agriculture . This is an aspect which should be assessed as a matter of urgency by empirical
281 studies.

282 Another factor which might help counteract the negative impact of rising temperatures is CO₂
283 fertilisation. C3 crops, i.e. rice, wheat, soybeans, rye, barley, cassava and potatoes, are more
284 sensitive to CO₂ compared to C4 crops, i.e. maize, sorghum and sugarcane, with low sensitivity
285 in the latter due to CO₂ being already saturated, although increases in transpiration efficiency
286 might occur under dry conditions (Ainsworth et al. 2008, Long et al. 2006). Crop response to
287 elevated CO₂ remains the largest source of uncertainty in crop yield studies (Deryng et al
288 2014), but expected gains have been revised downwards by more credible Free-Air
289 Concentration Enrichment (FACE) studies, compared to earlier work (Leaky et al. 2009). The
290 impact of CO₂ fertilisation was found to reduce or disappear under wetter, drier and/or hotter
291 conditions when the forcing variable exceeded its intermediate regime (Obermeier et al
292 2017). In addition, increasing CO₂ is expected to negatively affect the quality of grains by
293 reducing the overall protein content (Taub D et al 2008) and may require large quantities of
294 fertilisers (Long et al. 2006). Incorporating the effects of CO₂ in empirical modelling is
295 challenging, as CO₂ does not have any spatial variation and changes only slowly across time.
296 A number of potential avenues are discussed in Lobell and Asseng (2017). Introduction of CO₂
297 fertilisation in process-based model is more straightforward but without more clarity on the
298 impact of CO₂ from FACE studies, coefficients used in process-based model are likely to be
299 highly unreliable.

300 **IMPLICATIONS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND PRODUCTIVITY.** Our results on the relationship
301 between impact of rising temperatures and existing level of crop yield considerably extend
302 findings in the literature, presented for a limited number of crops and sometimes using proxy
303 such as latitude (Rosenzweig et al 2014) and GDP (Deryng et al 2014). There are a number of
304 institutional routes to address the impacts of warming temperatures on food security and
305 productivity, although there may be substantial costs or barriers associated with them. These
306 include increasing technology transfer to worst affected countries, and sharing targeted
307 agronomic research. International donors might facilitate this process, and co-ordinated
308 international actions to raise yields through improved agronomic practices and
309 modernization of the agronomic system might be required, while managing the complications
310 which intensification can itself originate (Dalin et al. 2017, Zhang et al. 2015).

311 This is particularly important in those countries with a prevailing low productivity and
312 inadequate diet which have not benefited fully from the green revolution (Sanchez and
313 Swaminathan 2005). Changing harvesting area is also an important consideration for food
314 security and productivity. Our research can flag the countries which are likely to stop
315 production of a certain crop, those with high marginal negative impact and low productivity.
316 New marginal producers are also likely to start production, i.e. those countries having similar
317 climatic condition to those with the highest positive marginal impact (Alexander e al 2018).
318 Finally, the impact of international trade to help tackling the concerns related to food security
319 should also be urgently explored, bearing in mind that rising temperatures are likely to impact
320 international trading patterns as the absolute advantage to trade change across countries.

321 **CONCLUSION.** Based on historical variation in weather, crop yield and agronomic inputs we
322 estimated the functional relationship between crop yield and its drivers and assess the impact

323 of warming trends for 18 crops, responding to the call for more evidence in the agricultural
324 and environmental community (Ciscar et al. 2018). This article analyses how marginal effects
325 of temperature differ across crops, suggesting different degrees of resilience to rising
326 temperatures, and countries, therefore identifying winners and losers from warming trends.
327 Several countries with highly negative marginal impact of temperature are also characterized
328 by low crop productivity and low caloric intake. Domestic food supply could be increased
329 through increasing food imports, decreasing exports, or increasing the area of land used for
330 crop production. Further advances in the insights from this article could be obtained through
331 quantification of the relationship between marginal impact, food security and productivity or
332 the creation of a weighted indicators incorporating opportunities and risks related to
333 improved agronomic practice (fertilisers and pesticides), extension of irrigation, options
334 offered by crops switching and changes in the harvest calendar as well as the possibility to
335 move the harvest areas towards more favourable growing conditions. This indicator could be
336 built based on the differences between one country and regional average in order to flag
337 opportunities for improvement in baseline yields and calorific intake.

338 .

339

340

341 **METHODS**

342 **Overview.** This article models crop yield at country level, as this spatial scale of analysis is
343 predominantly used by studies centred on food security (Grassini et al. 2013). The models
344 described below explore the sensitivity of crop yield to a number of factors, including
345 weather, but also irrigation, and management practices such as the use of pesticides and
346 fertilisers by making use of dataset covering the 1986-2012 time span. The analysis is
347 implemented for 18 crops, namely barley, cassava, cotton, groundnuts, maize, millet, oats,
348 potatoes, pulses, rapeseed, rice, rye, sorghum, soybeans, sugarbeet, sunflower, sweet
349 potatoes and wheat. This set of crops is very exhaustive as it uses all the data (with the
350 exception of yams) available in the gridded crop calendar in Sacks et al. (2010), which is
351 required to compute weather variables as described below. The specification search, which
352 follows the General-to-Specific framework (Hendry and Richard 1982, Hendry et al. 1984,
353 Campos et al. 2005) in terms of modelling approach and the variables used in the model,
354 incorporates considerations related to statistical significance, and therefore to the precision
355 of the estimates, as well as the sign of estimated marginal impacts from agronomic literature
356 and previous studies. The time period used in this article covers at most the years between
357 1986 and 2012, although the specific start and end years vary across countries and modelled
358 crops. In addition, data for some of the variables used in this study are available for a shorter
359 period of time, as described below. Overall, the time period used in this study is comparable
360 to the timespan incorporated in previous contributions (Lobell et al. 2011, Tebaldi and Lobell
361 2018, Lobell and Tebaldi 2014, Moore and Lobell 2014, 2015, Schaubberger et al. 2017), and
362 judged adequate to study implications of weather factors on crop yields. Countries covered
363 in the dataset vary across crops, reflecting requirements in terms of growing conditions and
364 dietary habits.

365 **Data.** Crop yield is defined as the harvested production per unit of harvested area with data
366 collected from the online dataset of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United
367 Nations (FAO), i.e. FAOSTAT Database Agricultural Production. These are annual time series
368 at country level. Weather variables are included in terms of their monthly average weighted
369 across the growing season. Data for irrigation, pesticides and fertilisers are available only for
370 total agricultural activity, e.g. tons of fertilisers used in the agricultural sector as a whole,
371 rather than in the cultivation of a specific crop. In addition, fertiliser data are available for a

372 limited number of countries compared to the set of countries for which crop yield data are
373 available. These are limitations of the available datasets which influence the way in which
374 specification search is implemented, as discussed below.

- 375 • Information for **pesticides**, defined as the average use per area of cropland (kg/ha), is
376 taken from FAOSTAT Database Inputs. Annual data are available at the earliest from
377 1990 onwards for 164 countries, although the actual start year of the dataset varies
378 across countries;
- 379 • Data for **irrigation** (area irrigated in hectares) are obtained from the Global Map of
380 Irrigation Areas (GMIA, Siebert et al. 2013) used by FAO's Information System on
381 Water and Agriculture (AQUASTAT). This dataset is available for the year 2005 for 196
382 countries. We computed irrigated agricultural areas as a percentage of agricultural
383 areas by using agricultural area retrieved from FAOSTAT Database Inputs and we then
384 divided countries into two groups, those with intensive irrigation systems, i.e.
385 countries with more than 10% of their agricultural area being irrigated (a group of 39
386 countries) and those not characterized by an intensive irrigation systems, i.e. countries
387 with less than 10% of their agricultural area being irrigated (resulting in a set of 157
388 countries);
- 389 • Data for **fertilisers**, taken from IFASTAT of the International Fertilisers Association
390 (IFA), are expressed as consumption (in metric tons) of Grand Total Nitrogen in 2005
391 for 109 countries. By using cropland information from FAOSTAT Database Inputs, we
392 express consumption of fertilisers per hectare of cropland, so as to obtain data
393 comparable to those available for pesticides;
- 394 • The **weather** variables include country-level temperature (measured in °C) and
395 precipitation (measured in millimetres). We follow established practice in the
396 literature (Lobell et al. 2011, Lobell and Field 2007) to construct weather variables by
397 averaging monthly weather observations based on a constant crop growing season
398 (Sacks et al. 2010) and areas where the crop is cultivated (Monfreda et al. 2008). In
399 this way, only weather fluctuations specific to the production of each crop are
400 considered, leading to a precise identification of the impact of temperature and
401 precipitation on yield. This implies combining three different datasets:

402 1) monthly average of temperature and precipitation on a grid of 30min
403 resolution, collected from the Climate Research Unit of the University of East
404 Anglia (CRU TS v. 3.23, Harris et al. 2014),

405 2) a map of cropland at 5min resolution (Monfreda et al. 2008) and

406 3) a crop calendar, which provides the growing season for each crop on 5min
407 resolution (Sacks et al. 2010).

408 The weather variables correspond to daily (or diurnal) average temperature and total
409 precipitation, by combining monthly anomalies and monthly climatology (see Harris et al.
410 2014). All crops have one growing season in the crop calendar in Sacks et al. (2010), apart
411 from maize, rice and wheat that have main and secondary season, for which we used the
412 main season, similarly to Lobell et al (2011). The possibility of multiple cropping on the same
413 land plot should not have an impact on the outcome of this analysis, as the focus is the crop
414 yield and not land requirements for cropping.

415 Our analysis uses country-level datasets, due to the obvious difficulty of accessing global
416 datasets at the sub-country level. The need to use datasets covering multiple countries also
417 influenced our choice of weather variables. As historical hourly weather data are challenging
418 to aggregate across a variety of growing regions (Troy et al. 2015), our study follows
419 established practice of using monthly averages of temperature and precipitation in linear and
420 quadratic terms (Ben-Ari and Makowski 2016, Lobell and Tebaldi 2014, Lobell et al. 2011,
421 Moore and Lobell 2015, Schlenker et al. 2006). Such specifications align with the agronomic
422 literature with regard to crops best growing within a range of temperature and precipitation,
423 beyond which weather factors become harmful for production. We pool together all
424 countries growing a specific crop, as previous analyses with specific country groups (Lobell et
425 al. 2011) have shown that the estimated impact of temperature and precipitation is
426 comparable across groupings.

427 The choice of the time span for this study (1986 to 2012) mirrors other studies in the literature
428 (e.g. Lobell et al. 2011). However, for the models including pesticides, the start year of the
429 sample in this study is 1990 due to data availability. Our analysis covers at most the timespan
430 from 1986 to 2012 to maintain comparability with existing studies (e.g. Tebaldi and Lobell
431 2018, Schauburger et al. 2017, Moore and Lobell 2014, Lobell and Tebaldi 2014) and across
432 models estimated in this article. We followed the majority of contributions in the literature
433 by adopting panel approaches to benefit from much larger number of data points, dataset

434 incorporating more variation compared to a single time series, ability to control for omitted
 435 variables, especially if their variation across time is limited (Hsiao et al., 1995). Estimation is
 436 also more straightforward as, from a statistical perspective, there is no need to deal with
 437 stochastic or deterministic trends, to the extent to which one need to do if dealing with a
 438 single times series. On the other hand, given the global coverage of our dataset and the
 439 possibility of large differences in cultivars and agronomic practice between countries, optimal
 440 growing condition could vary considerably. Evidence against this possibility has been explored
 441 in a dataset similar to the one used in this study by Lobell et al (2011). Subgrouping of
 442 countries in the panel was not found to be very influential on the results of their analysis. In
 443 addition, optimal temperature in the case of sugar beet provided estimated here are very
 444 similar to those we found in a set of single European countries, as part of the follow-up study
 445 to as Agnolucci and de Lipsis (2019). It is important to mention that a different location of the
 446 optimal temperature does not imply necessarily a change in the value of the marginal effect
 447 which is the key metrics in this study, as the marginal effect or a specific country is determined
 448 not only by the location of the optimal temperature but also by the curvature of the parabola
 449 being estimated.

450 **Statistical Models.** This study makes use of a comprehensive collection of panel models, with
 451 the subscripts i and t indicating country and year respectively). The most general model
 452 includes a country-specific quadratic trend (t, t^2) , an individual specific time-invariant
 453 component, α_i , a common time-variant component, λ_t , as well as a set of observed variables
 454 potentially affecting crop yield, included in vector \mathbf{X}_{it} . This specification, in which y_{it}
 455 represents the logarithm of crop yield and ε_{it} a random disturbance, reads as follows:

$$y_{it} = \alpha_i + \lambda_t + \rho_{1i}t + \rho_{2i}t^2 + \beta\mathbf{X}_{it} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (1)$$

456 In the second-most general model, the common time-variant component, λ_t is dropped so
 457 that:

$$y_{it} = \alpha_i + \rho_{1i}t + \rho_{2i}t^2 + \beta\mathbf{X}_{it} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (2)$$

458 while by dropping the country-specific quadratic trend and reinserting common time-variant
 459 component, λ_t , one obtains:

$$y_{it} = \alpha_i + \lambda_t + \beta \mathbf{X}_{it} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (3)$$

460 It is worth noting that coefficients of the quadratic time trends are allowed to differ across
 461 countries, while the coefficients of all other components are assumed to be constant across
 462 countries, as implemented in Lobell et al. (2011). By including country specific time trends,
 463 we aim to account for factors like technological advance or other time-varying features that
 464 could possibly influence crop productivities. We capture country-based unobserved effects
 465 by estimating models using either fixed effects or random effects; the choice between the
 466 two is based on the Hausman test (Hausman 1978).¹ We also estimate models pooling the
 467 dataset and providing estimates based on country-specific averages across time (individual
 468 between estimator) or time-specific averages across countries (time effects between
 469 estimator).

470 **Set of Explanatory Variables.** In our analysis of the impact of weather factors and
 471 management practices on crop yield, the most general set of control variables, \mathbf{X}_{it}^1 includes:

- 472 1) temperature and precipitation incorporated in both their levels and their squared
 473 terms as in Lobell et al. (2011);
- 474 2) an indicator for the extent to which irrigation is deployed in the whole agricultural
 475 sector, with the indicator taking a value equal to one for countries with more than
 476 10% of their agricultural area being irrigated and a value equal to zero otherwise. This
 477 indicator is interacted with the linear terms of the weather variables, so that
 478 temperature and precipitation is allowed to have a different optimal value in
 479 countries making extensive use of irrigation;
- 480 3) use of pesticides and fertilisers in the whole agricultural sector.

$$\mathbf{X}_{it}^1 = [\beta_1 Temp_{it}^2 + \beta_2 Temp_{it} \cdot Irr_i + \beta_3 Temp_{it} + \beta_4 Prec_{it}^2 + \beta_5 Prec_{it} \cdot Irr_i \quad (4)$$

$$+ \beta_6 Prec_{it} + \beta_7 Pest_{it} + \beta_8 Fert_{it}]$$

481 When the full vector of controls is not used, our attention is primarily focused on the
 482 interaction between irrigation and temperature, following recent studies exploring such a

¹ In the case of soybeans, omitted variable bias is absorbed by estimating the model in first differences. A global trend is included in this case, instead of a country-specific trend driven by the model's fit which has been more challenging comparing to all other crops of our sample.

483 relationship (e.g. Schauburger et al. 2017). For this reason, we start dropping the factors
 484 related to management practice, i.e. $Pest_{it}$ and $Fert_{it}$, and only if no viable models are
 485 delivered by the search specification below, we drop the impact of irrigation on weather
 486 factors, i.e. $Temp_{it} \cdot Irr_i$ and $Prec_{it} \cdot Irr_i$ so that the set of variables included in the models
 487 are respectively:

$$\mathbf{X}_{it}^2 = [\beta_1 Temp_{it}^2 + \beta_2 Temp_{it} \cdot Irr_i + \beta_3 Temp_{it} + \beta_4 Prec_{it}^2 + \beta_5 Prec_{it} \cdot Irr_i + \beta_6 Prec_{it}] \quad (5)$$

$$\mathbf{X}_{it}^3 = [\beta_1 Temp_{it}^2 + \beta_3 Temp_{it} + \beta_4 Prec_{it}^2 + \beta_6 Prec_{it} + \beta_7 Pest_{it} + \beta_8 Fert_{it}] \quad (6)$$

488 Finally, the simplest set of explanatory weather variables include only weather factors:

$$\mathbf{X}_{it}^4 = [\beta_1 Temp_{it}^2 + \beta_3 Temp_{it} + \beta_4 Prec_{it}^2 + \beta_6 Prec_{it}] \quad (7)$$

489 **Search specification.** We follow the General-to-Specific approach of Hendry and Richard
 490 (1982) both in terms of the set of explanatory variables and the statistical models being
 491 estimated. With regard to the statistical models discussed above, our methodology goes from
 492 the most general to the most specific model, by implementing models

- 493 1) with both country-specific quadratic time trends and common time effects, (1) above;
- 494 2) only country-specific quadratic time trends, (2) above;
- 495 3) only common time effects, (3), and eventually
- 496 4) models where data are pooled either across time or countries.

497 With regard to variables used in the estimation, the set of variables goes from the most
 498 general, i.e. \mathbf{X}_{it}^1 , to the most specific, i.e. \mathbf{X}_{it}^4 . During the search specification, a model is
 499 considered to be congruent to the underlying data generating process of crop yield, if

- 500 1) relationship between yield and temperature has an inverted-U functional shape;
- 501 2) coefficients on pesticides, fertilisers and irrigation indicators are statistically
 502 significant;
- 503 3) optimal temperature observed in countries with intensive irrigation systems is higher
 504 than the optimum in countries where irrigation use is low, and
- 505 4) the impact of pesticides on crop yield is positive.

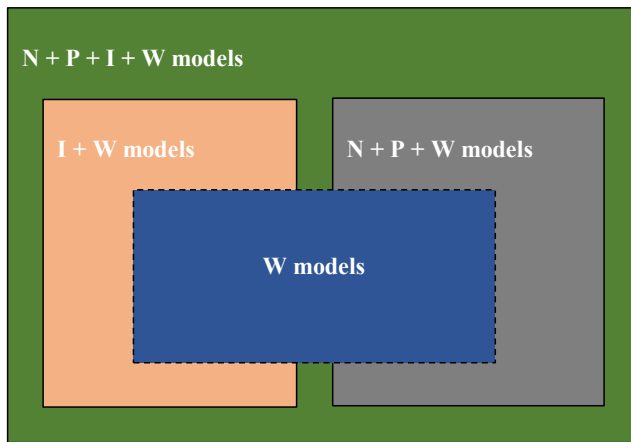
506 Considering that data for irrigation, pesticides and fertilisers are observed for the agricultural
507 sector as a whole rather than a specific crop, and these variables are available for a limited
508 number of countries and time periods compared to the crop yield and weather datasets,
509 condition 2) above is adopted so that these variables are retained only if they contribute to
510 explaining the crop yield in a statistically significant fashion. We therefore use statistically
511 significance to discern whether variables observed for the whole agricultural sector can be
512 used as a proxy for the impact of intensification and management practices for the specific
513 crop at hand, therefore tackling the limitation that crop-specific fertilisers, pesticides and
514 irrigation data are not available at least at global scale. As further criteria to discern sensible
515 impact of irrigation and pesticides we require optimal temperature observed in the countries
516 with intensive irrigation systems to be higher than the optimal level in countries where
517 irrigation use is low, based on evidence in Schauburger et al. (2017) – see condition 3 above.
518 A positive relationship between the use of pesticides and protection of crop quality and yield
519 is well established (Popp et al. 2013) so that we explicitly require coefficient on pesticides
520 being positive – condition 4. On the other hand, evidence on the relationship between the
521 use of fertilisers and crop yield is less conclusive (Lassaletta et al. 2014) so that we do not
522 impose a similar requirement on the coefficient of fertilisers.² Condition 1) above arises from
523 the fact that it reflects a plausible assumption for the growing conditions of crops; an
524 assumption arising in economic studies (Deschênes and Greenstone 2007) and increasingly
525 used in the econometric crop yield literature (e.g. Lobell et al. 2011, Moore and Lobell 2015,
526 Tebaldi and Lobell 2018) to indicate that crops are benefited by moderate weather changes
527 while are damaged under extreme circumstances. The effect of precipitation is harder to
528 identify compared to the temperature effect, with precipitation coefficients being not
529 statistically significant in studies like Lobell and Tebaldi (2014). Also climate models disagree
530 on the sign of precipitation (Christensen et al. 2007), as sign of the uncertainty surrounding
531 the impact of this factor on the yield. For this reason, we do not assume condition 1) for
532 precipitation, with our procedure limited to dropping the quadratic term when the coefficient
533 is positive.

534 Our search specification is therefore as follows:

² Lassaletta et al. (2014) outline that agricultural performance has improved in some countries due to fertilisers while it has deteriorated in others from an agronomic and environmental point of view.

- 535 1) We run each statistical model described above with the set of variables in (4) and
 536 assessed the suitability of the estimated models, i.e. the $N + P + I + W$ models in
 537 Figure 3 (where N, P, I, W stand for Nitrogen/Fertilisers, Pesticides, Irrigation and
 538 Weather respectively), based on the conditions above
 539 2) If none of the models satisfies the search criteria above, we simplify the set of control
 540 variables by estimating the $(I + W)$ models, the $(N + P + W)$ models dropping
 541 either N or P if one contradicts conditions above, and the W models in Figure 4, in
 542 this order
 543 3) As soon as the applicable requirements are met we stop the search procedure and
 544 select the final model. This occur in the case of all crops.

545 Models delivered by this search specification are comparable to those in the literature when
 546 assessed based on the amount of variation in the crop yield explained by the models. For
 547 instance, our adjusted R^2 is 57% and 35% for maize and sorghum, which compares well with
 548 the 47% and 29% in Lobell and Field (2007).



560 **Figure 5.** Relationship between the set of explanatory variables used in this study. $N + P + I + W$ models
 561 indicate models incorporating X_{it}^1 above; $I + W$ models incorporating X_{it}^2 ; $N + P + W$ models incorporating
 562 X_{it}^3 ; and W models incorporating X_{it}^4 .

563
 564 **Marginal effect and optimal level of weather factors.** For the final models identified through
 565 the search specification described above, we computed the optimal level of each weather
 566 factor, taking into account interaction with the irrigation dummies. In the case of

567 temperature, as an example, the optimal temperature for countries where irrigation use is
 568 deemed negligible can be computed as $V_{TEMP} = -\frac{\beta_3}{2\beta_1}$, whereas for countries using high
 569 irrigation, the optimal level is equal to $V_{TEMP-IRR} = -\frac{(\beta_2+\beta_3)}{2\beta_1}$. For each model, we compute
 570 the coefficient of determination (R^2) with and without adjusting for the variables used in the
 571 regression. Standard errors robust to heteroscedasticity and serial correlation are estimated
 572 to assess the significance of the coefficients in the models.

573 In addition, for each model we compute the effect of temperature and precipitation in
 574 relation to a change of 1°C and 10 mm. As we estimated a quadratic relationship, the effect
 575 varies across the level of the weather factor at which the effect is computed. As an example,
 576 the impact of a 1°C temperature increase starting from the level T_0 for countries where
 577 irrigation use is deemed negligible can be computed as:

$$578 \quad ME_{TEMP}^{1^\circ C} = 2\beta_1 + \beta_3 T_0$$

579 while for countries using high irrigation, the impact of a 1°C temperature increase is equal to:

$$580 \quad ME_{TEMP}^{1^\circ C} = 2\beta_1 + (\beta_2 + \beta_3)T_0$$

581 The impact of temperature increase different from 1°C is simply equal to $TE_{TEMP}^{1^\circ C}$ multiplied
 582 by any specific increase in temperature. Table SI1 reports the marginal effect evaluated at the
 583 global mean, observed over the 1986 and 2012. In Table SI1, we also present the impact
 584 observed in correspondence of a change in temperature and precipitation equal to the
 585 average standard deviation, computed by averaging the standard deviation observed in each
 586 country in the sample used in this study, so as to obtain a global average of the standard
 587 deviation of the weather factors observed in each country. In terms of the functional
 588 relationship, this has been computed at the global mean.

589

590 **Code availability**

591 The scripts used in the preparation of the dataset, the estimation of the models and the production of the figures
 592 displayed in the paper is available in the following Github repository [ADD WHEN READY]

593

594

595 **REFERENCES**

- 596 Agnolucci, P., De Lipsis, V. Long-run trend in agricultural yield and climatic factors in Europe.
597 *Climatic Change* (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-019-02622-3>
- 598 Ainsworth, E. A., Leakey, A. D. B., Ort, D. R. and Long, S. P. (2008) "FACE-ing the facts:
599 inconsistencies and interdependence among field, chamber and modeling studies of elevated
600 CO2 impacts on crop yield and food supply, *New Phytologist*, 179, 5-9.
- 601 Alexander, P., Rabin, S., Anthoni, P., Henry, R., Pugh, T. A. M., Rounsevell, M. D. A., & Arneth,
602 A. (2018). Adaptation of global land use and management intensity to changes in climate and
603 atmospheric carbon dioxide. *Global Change Biology*, 24(7), 2791–2809.
604 <https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.14110>
- 605 Alexander, P., Brown, C., Arneth, A., Finnigan, J. Rounsevell, M.D.A. (2016) "Human
606 appropriation of land for food: the role of diet", *Glob. Environ. Chang.*, 41 (2016), pp. 88-98.
- 607 Araji, H.A., Wayayoka, A., Bavani, A.M., Amiri, E., Abdullah, A.F., Daneshian, J., Teh, C.B.S.,
608 (2018), "Impacts of climate change on soybean production under different treatments of field
609 experiments considering the uncertainty of general circulation models", *Agric. Water Manag.*
610 205.
- 611 Asseng, S, Ewert, F, Martre, P et al. (50 more authors) (2015) "Rising temperatures reduce
612 global wheat production", *Nature Climate Change*, 5 (2). pp. 143-147.
- 613 AQUASTAT (2016), Main Database, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
614 (FAO).
- 615 Ben-Ari, T. and Makowski, D. (2016) "Analysis of the trade-off between high crop yield and
616 low yield instability at the global scale", *Environmental Research Letters*, vol. 11, no 10.
- 617 Butler, E. E. and Huybers, P. (2013) "Adaptation of US maize to temperature variations",
618 *Nature Climate Change*, 3, 68-72.
- 619 Campos, J., Ericsson, N., R. and Hendry D. F. (2005) "General-to-Specific Modelling: an
620 overview and selected bibliography" *International Finance Discussion Papers*, 835, Board of
621 Governors of the Federal Reserve System.
- 622 Carter E. K., Riha, S. J., Melkonian, J. and Steinschneider, S. (2018) "Yield response to climate,
623 management, and genotype: a large-scale observational analysis to identify climate-adaptive
624 crop management practices in high-input maize systems", *Environmental Research Letters*,
625 13, 114006.
- 626 Christensen, J. H., Hewitson, B., Busuioc, A., Chen, A., Gao, X., Held, R., Jones, R., Kolli, R. K.,
627 Kwon, W., K., Laprise, R., Magana Rueda, V., Mearns, L., Menendez, C., G., Räisänen, J, Rinke,
628 A., Sarr, A. ,Whetton, P., Arritt, R. ,Benestad, R. ,Beniston, M. ,Bromwich, D. , Caya, D. ,
629 Comiso, J. , de Elia, R. and Dethloff, K. (2007) "Regional climate projections" , *Climate Change:*
630 *The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working group I to the Fourth Assessment Report*
631 *of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, University Press, Cambridge, Chapter 11,
632 ISBN: 978-0-521-88009-1.
- 633 Challinor AJ, et al. (2014) "A meta-analysis of crop yield under climate change and
634 adaptation", *Nature Climate Change* 4(4):287–291.

635 Ciscar, J., Vanden, F., K. and Lobell, D., B. (2018) "Synthesis and Review: an inter-method
636 comparison of climate change impacts on agriculture", *Environmental Research Letters*, vol.
637 13, no 7.

638 Cook, B., I., Puma, M., J. and Krakauer, N., Y. (2011) "Irrigation induced surface cooling in the
639 context of modern and increased greenhouse gas forcing", *Climate Dynamics*, vol. 37, issue
640 7-8, pp 1587-1600.

641 Dalin C., Wadas Y., Kastner T., Puma M. J. (2017) "Groundwater depletion embedded in
642 international food trade", *Nature*, 543, 700-04.

643 Delcour, I., Spanoghe P. and M. Uyttendaele (2015). Impact of climate change on pesticide
644 use, [Food Research International](#) 68, Pages 7-15

645 Deschênes, O., and Greenstone, M. (2007) "The Economic Impacts of Climate Change:
646 Evidence from Agricultural Output and Random Fluctuations in Weather", *American
647 Economic Review*, 97,354–85.

648 Deryng, D, Conway D., Ramankutty N., Price, J. & R. Warren (2014). Global crop yield response
649 to extreme heat stress under multiple climate change futures, *Environmental Research Letters*
650 9. DOI: 10.1088/1748-9326/9/3/034011

651 Deutsch, C. A., Tewksbury J. J. et al (2018) Increase in crop losses to insect pests in a warming
652 climate. *Science* 361: 916-919, : 10.1126/science.aat3466

653 Evenson, R.E. and Gollin, D. (2003) "Assessing the Impact of the Green Revolution, 1960 to
654 2000", *Science*. vol.300 (5620):758–62.

655 FAOSTAT (2018), The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

656 Fara, S. J., Delazari, F. T., Gomes, R. S., Araújo, W. L. and da Silva, D. J. H. (2019) "Stomata
657 opening and productiveness response of fresh market tomato under different irrigation
658 intervals", *Scientia Horticulturae*, 255, 86-95.

659 Frieler, K. et al. (2017), Understanding the weather signal in national crop-yield variability,
660 *Earth's Future*, 5, doi:10.1002/2016EF000525

661 Fujimori, S. et al (2019) "A multi-model assessment of food security implications of climate
662 change mitigation", *Nature Sustainability*, pages386–396 (2019)

663 Fuss S, et al. (2016) Research priorities for negative emissions. *Environ Res Lett* 11(11):115007

664 Gorst A, Dehlavi A, Groom B (2018) Crop productivity and adaptation to climate change in
665 Pakistan. *Environ Dev Econ* 23:679–701

666 Grassini, P., Eskridge, K., M. and Cassman, K., G. (2013) "Distinguishing between yield
667 advances and yield plateaus in historical crop production trends", *Nature Communications*,
668 vol.4, no. 2918.

669 Harris, I., Jones, P., D., Osborn, T., J. and Lister, D., H. (2014) "Updated high resolution grids
670 of monthly climatic observations—the CRU TS3.10 dataset", *International Journal of
671 Climatology*, vol. 34, pp 623–642.

672 Hausman, J., A. (1978) "Specification tests in econometrics", *Econometrica*, 46 (6), pp. 1251-
673 -1271.

674 Hendry, D. F. and Richard, J., F. (1982) "On the Formulation of Empirical Models in Dynamic
675 Econometrics", *Journal of Econometrics*, 20, 1, pp. 3-33.

676 Hendry, D.F., Pagan A. R., and Sargan, J. D. (1984) "A Dynamic specification", Ch. 18 in Z.
677 Griliches and M.D. Intriligator eds., *Handbook of Econometrics*, vol. 2, Amsterdam, North
678 Holland.

679 Holland R.A., Scott K., Agnolucci P., Rapti C., Eigenbrod F., Taylor G. (2019) The influence of
680 the global energy system on terrestrial biodiversity, *Proceedings of the National Academy of
681 Sciences*, forthcoming

682 IFASTAT (2018), International Fertilizer Association (IFA).

683 Ko, J., Lajpat, R. A., Saseendran, S. A., Green, T. R., Ma, L., Nielsen, D. C. and Walthall, C., L.
684 (2012) "Climate change impacts on dryland cropping systems in the Central Great Plains,
685 USA", *Climatic Change*, 111: 445-472.

686 Lassaletta, L., Billen, G., Grizzetti, B., Anglade, J. and Garnier, J. (2014) "50 year trends in
687 nitrogen use efficiency of world cropping systems: the relationship between yield and
688 nitrogen input to cropland", *Environmental Research Letters*, vol. 9, no. 10.

689 Li, X. and Troy, T., J. (2018) "Changes in rainfed and irrigated crop yield response to climate in
690 the western US", *Environmental Research Letters*, vol. 13, no. 6.

691 Liu, B., Asseng, S., Muller, C., Ewert, F., Elliott, J., Lobell, D. B. and Zhu, Y. (2016). "Similar
692 estimates of temperature impacts on global wheat yield by three independent methods",
693 *Nature Climate Change*, 6, 1130–1136.

694 Lobell, D., B. and Asner, G., P. (2003) "Climate and management contributions to recent
695 trends in U.S. agricultural yields", *Science*, 299 (5609): 1032.

696 Lobell, D., B. and Asseng, S. (2017) "Comparing estimates of climate change impacts from
697 process-based and statistical crop models", *Environmental Research Letters*, vol. 12, no. 1.

698 Lobell, D., B. and Burke, M., B. (2008) "Why are agricultural impacts of climate change so
699 uncertain? The importance of temperature relative to precipitation", *Environmental Research
700 Letters*, vol. 3, no. 3.

701 Lobell, D., B. and Field, C., F. (2007) "Global scale climate–crop yield relationships and the
702 impacts of recent warming", *Environmental Research Letters*, vol. 2, no.1.

703 Lobell, D., B., Schlenker, W and Costa-Roberts, J. (2011) "Climate Trends and Global Crop
704 Production Since 1980", *Science*, vol. 333, 6042, pp. 616-620.

705 Lobell, D., B. and Tebaldi, C. (2014) "Getting caught with our plants down: the risks of a global
706 crop yield slowdown from climate trends in the next two decades", *Environmental Research
707 Letters*, vol. 9, 074003.

708 Lobell, D., B. and Tebaldi, C. (2014) "Getting caught with our plants down: the risks of a global
709 crop yield slowdown from climate trends in the next two decades", *Environmental Research
710 Letters*, vol. 9, 074003.

711 Long, S. P., Ainsworth, E. A., Leakey A. D. B., Nosberger, J. and Ort, D. R. (2006) "Food for
712 thought: lower-than-expected crop yield simulation with rising CO₂ concentration, *Science*,
713 312, 1918-21.

714 Kurukulasuriya, P. and R. Mendelsohn (2008) "Crop switching as a strategy for adapting to
715 climate change", *African Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 2: 1-22, March.

716 Mertz, O., Mbow, C., Reenberg, A. and Diouf, A. (2009) "Farmers' perceptions of climate
717 change and agricultural adaptation strategies in rural Sahel", *Environmental Management*,
718 Vol. 43, No. 5, pp. 804-816.

719 Monfreda, C., Ramankutty, N. and Foley, J., A. (2008) "Farming the planet: 2. Geographic
720 distribution of crop areas, yields, physiological types, and net primary production in the year
721 2000", *Global biogeochemical cycles*, 22 (1).

722 Nilsson M, Griggs D, Visbeck M (2016) "Policy: Map the interactions between Sustainable
723 Development Goals", *Nature* 534(7607):320–322.

724 Moore F., C. and Lobell D., B. (2015) "The fingerprint of climate trends on European crop
725 yields", *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 112,
726 pp 2670–5.

727 Moore, F., C. and Lobell, D., B. (2014). "The Adaptation Potential of European Agriculture in
728 Response to Climate Change", *Nature Climate Change*, 4, pp 610–614.

729 Moore, F., C., Baldos, U., L., C. and Hertel, T. (2017a) "Economic impacts of climate change on
730 agriculture: a comparison of process-based and statistical yield models", *Environmental
731 Research Letters*, vol. 12, 065008.

732 Mueller, N., D., Gerber, J., S., Johnston, M., Ray, D., K., Ramankutty, N. and Foley, J., A. (2012)
733 "Closing yield gaps through nutrient and water management", *Nature*, 490 254–7.

734 Oladele et al OI, Bam RK, Buri MM, Wakatsuki T. (2016) "Missing prerequisites for Green
735 Revolution in Africa: Lessons and challenges of Sawah rice eco-technology development and
736 dissemination in Nigeria and Ghana", *Journal of Food, Agriculture & Environment*, 8, 1014-
737 1018.

738 Pastor, A. V. et al (2019) "The global nexus of food–trade–water sustaining environmental
739 flows by 2050", *Nature Sustainability*, 2, pages 499–507.

740 Popp, J., Peto, K. and Nagy, J. (2013), "Pesticide productivity and food security. A review",
741 *Agronomy for Sustainable Development*, vol. 33, pp. 243–255.

742 Pugh, T. A., Müller, C., Elliott, J., Deryng, D., Folberth, C., Olin, S., ... Arneth, A. (2016). Climate
743 analogues suggest limited potential for intensification of production on current croplands
744 under climate change. *Nature Communications*, 7, 12608, doi.org/10.1038/ncomms12608

745 Ray, D. K., Gerber, J. S., MacDonald, G. K., & West, P. C. (2015) "Climate variation explains a
746 third of global crop yield variability", *Nature Communications*, 6, 5989.

747 Ray, D. K., Ramankutty, N., Mueller, N. D., West, P. C., & Foley, J. A. (2012) "Recent patterns
748 of crop yield growth and stagnation", *Nature Communications*, 3, 1293.

749 Rockström J, Falkenmark M. (2015) "Agriculture: Increase water harvesting in Africa", *Nature*,
750 519(7543):283–5.

751 Rosenzweig, C. et al. (2014) Assessing agricultural risks of climate change in the 21st century
752 in a global gridded crop model intercomparison. *Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. USA* **111**, 3268–3273.

753 Sacks, W., J., Deryng, D., Foley, J., A., and Ramankutty, N. (2010) "Crop planting dates: an
754 analysis of global patterns", *Global Ecology and Biogeography*, 19 (5), pp 607-620.

755 Sanchez, P.A, Swaminathan M. S. (2005) "Hunger in Africa: the link between unhealthy people
756 and unhealthy soils", *The Lancet*, 365, p442-444.

757 Schauberber, B., Archontoulis, S., Arneth, A., Balkovic, J., Ciais, P., Deryng, D., Elliot, J.,
758 Folberth, C., Khabarov, N., Müller, C., Pugh, T., A., M., Rolinski, S., Schaphoff, S., Schmid, E.,
759 Wang, X., Schlenker, W. and Frieler, K. (2017) "Consistent negative response of US crops to
760 high temperatures in observations and crop models", *Nature Communications*, vol. 8, no.
761 13931.

762 Schlenker, W., Hanemann, W., M. and Fisher, A., C. (2006) "The impact of global warming on
763 us agriculture: an econometric analysis of optimal growing conditions", *Review of Economics
764 and Statistics* 88 (1), pp 113–125.

765 Schlenker, W. and Lobell, D., B (2010) "Robust negative impacts of climate change on African
766 agriculture", *Environmental Research Letters*, 5, 014010.

767 Stehfest, E. et al (2019) "Key determinants of global land-use projections", *Nature
768 Communications*, vol. 10, Article number: 2166

769 Siebert, S., Henrich, V., Frenken, K. and Burke, J. (2013) "Global Map of Irrigation Areas",
770 version 5. *Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-University, Bonn, Germany / Food and Agriculture
771 Organization of the United Nations*, Rome, Italy.

772 Siebert, S. et al (2014) "Impact of heat stress on crop yield – on the importance of considering
773 canopy temperature", *Environmental Research Letters*, 9, 044012.

774 Sinclair, T., R and Rufty, T., W. (2012), "Nitrogen and water resources commonly limit crop
775 yield increases, not necessarily plant genetics", *Global Food Security*, vol. 1, pp 94–8.

776 Tack, J., Barkley, A. & Nalley, L. L. Eect of warming temperatures on US wheat yields. Proc.
777 Natl Acad. Sci. USA 112, 69316936 (2015)

778 Taub D et al (2008) Effects of elevated CO2 on the protein concentration of food crops: a
779 metaanalysis, *Global Change Biology*, 14 565–75

780 Tebaldi, C. and Lobell, D., B. (2018) "Estimated impacts of emission reductions on wheat and
781 maize crops", *Climatic Change*, vol. 146, issue 3-4, pp 533-545.

782 Troy, T., J., Kipgen, C. and Pal, I. (2015) "The impact of climate extremes and irrigation on US
783 crop yields", *Environmental Research Letters*, 10, 054013.

784 United Nations (2015) "Transforming our world: The 2030 agenda for sustainable
785 development".

786 Zhang X., Davidson E. A., Mauzerall D. L., Searchinger T. D., Dumas P., Shen Y. (2015)
787 "Managing nitrogen for sustainable development", *Nature* 528, 51:59.
788
789

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

HISTORIC VARIATION IN YIELDS AND MODEL PERFORMANCE.

There is considerable diversity in the average crop yields, observed over 1986-2012 across countries. The average yield of maize, as an example, varies by two orders of magnitude, between 265 kg/ha (Botswana) and 16,000 kg/ha (Israel), with yields above 10,000 kg/ha recorded in Israel, Jordan, Belgium and New Zealand. For each crop, there tends to be a limited number of countries with yield considerably higher than the rest, manifesting themselves as a long right tail in the distributions of crop yield – see Figure SI 1. There is also diversity in the pattern of crop yield across time, reflecting the different evolution of environmental, social and economic growing conditions occurring across time in different countries, as shown for the 5 biggest producers (based on mean production during 1986-2012) in Figure SI2. In some cases, crop yields levels differ across countries but share a common pattern across time while for some other crops, there is no consistent trend across countries.

We model the relationship between yield and its determinants, focusing on temperature, precipitation, pesticides, fertilisers and irrigation, separately for the 18 crops we consider. We implement panel data models to take into account within country and across-countries variation but also similarities, as well as unobserved diversity through fixed or random effects. We also incorporate country specific time trends to proxy for factors that could positively (e.g. technological advance) or negatively (e.g. soil erosion) affect yield patterns and estimate models producing credible estimates while partially capturing the variation in the data either across countries or across time, as discussed in Methods.

We extend established approaches for modelling the effects of climate on crop yields (Lobell et al. 2011) by accounting for additional factors affecting crop productivity (fertilisers, pesticides and level of irrigation), and covering a larger number of crops, all studied for the first time at the global level (Methods). Estimated models studied explain a considerable part of the yield based on the computed coefficient of determination (R^2) - higher than 80% in the case of cotton, pulses, potatoes, rice, sunflower and wheat, and between 50 and 70% in the case of cassava, groundnuts, maize and oats.

EFFECT OF WEATHER, IRRIGATION, PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS ON CROP YIELDS.

We estimated an inverted U-shaped relationship between temperature and crop yields for all 18 crops, with the computed values for the optimal temperature reflecting credible conditions of crop production (Table SI1). Each plot in column A of Figure 2 reports the marginal effect of temperature estimated at the global mean and +/- 4°C. As agronomy differs between countries and crops in some instances we provide estimates for high inputs with irrigation and low input systems. As one can see in Figure 1, in the models including irrigation, the negative impact of temperature is mitigated so that the optimal level of temperature is higher in those countries with intensive irrigation systems. As an example, in the case of maize, optimal growing temperature is about 15°C in case of low irrigation and 18.5°C for countries with high irrigation – see Figure 2. This allows maize to develop higher resilience to temperature, which reduces the marginal effect on yield from -2.6% to -1.1% evaluated at the global mean. Moreover, in the case of wheat, intensive irrigation appears to turn the negative impact (-2.4%) into positive (3.3%), as optimal temperature increases from about 15 °C when irrigation does not play an important role to 20 °C when it is of high use.

With regard to the functional relationship between crop yield and precipitation, an inverted U-shaped relationship is estimated for 8 of the 18 crops. For the remaining crops, the effect appears to be linear, with both negative and positive effects observed across crops. The use of pesticides and fertilisers positively impacts crop yield, with these factors indicating intensification of crop production and improved management. More specifically, according to our results, an increase of one kg/ha of pesticides raises the yield of about half the crops modelled here, in the range between 4% in the case of sugar beet and 14% of potatoes, while in the case of the other crops, this factor was dropped, as being non-statistically significant or providing counterintuitive results. An increase of one kg/ha of fertilisers increases the yield between 0.2% in the case of sugar beet and 0.6% in the case of sunflower. Detailed results, including all estimated coefficients, are shown in Table SI1. Distribution of pesticides and fertilisers can be seen in Figure SI3.

Further details on the optimal level (indicated by 'V') and the marginal effect (indicated by 'ME') of temperature and precipitation can be found in Table SI1. The marginal effect represents the percentage change in crop yield in response to an increase in temperature by

1 °C or 1 standard deviation, and an increase in precipitation by 10mm or 1 standard deviation, evaluated at the global mean. Irrigation implies higher optimal temperature values and higher resistance to temperature, so that the negative impact of temperature on the yield is contained. As an example, temperature increases are beneficial for maize up to the optimal temperature of 14.6 °C, with a marginal impact (of 1 °C change in temperature) at the global mean of about -3%. However, the optimal level of temperature is higher (18.5°C) in countries with high irrigation, and the marginal impact at the global mean smaller (-1%) although still negative. Similarly, the optimal level of temperature for cassava is about 20.5 °C and the marginal impact at the global mean -1.4% while in presence of high levels of irrigation, the optimal temperature level rises to 25.8 °C and the marginal impact at the global mean is 0.6%.

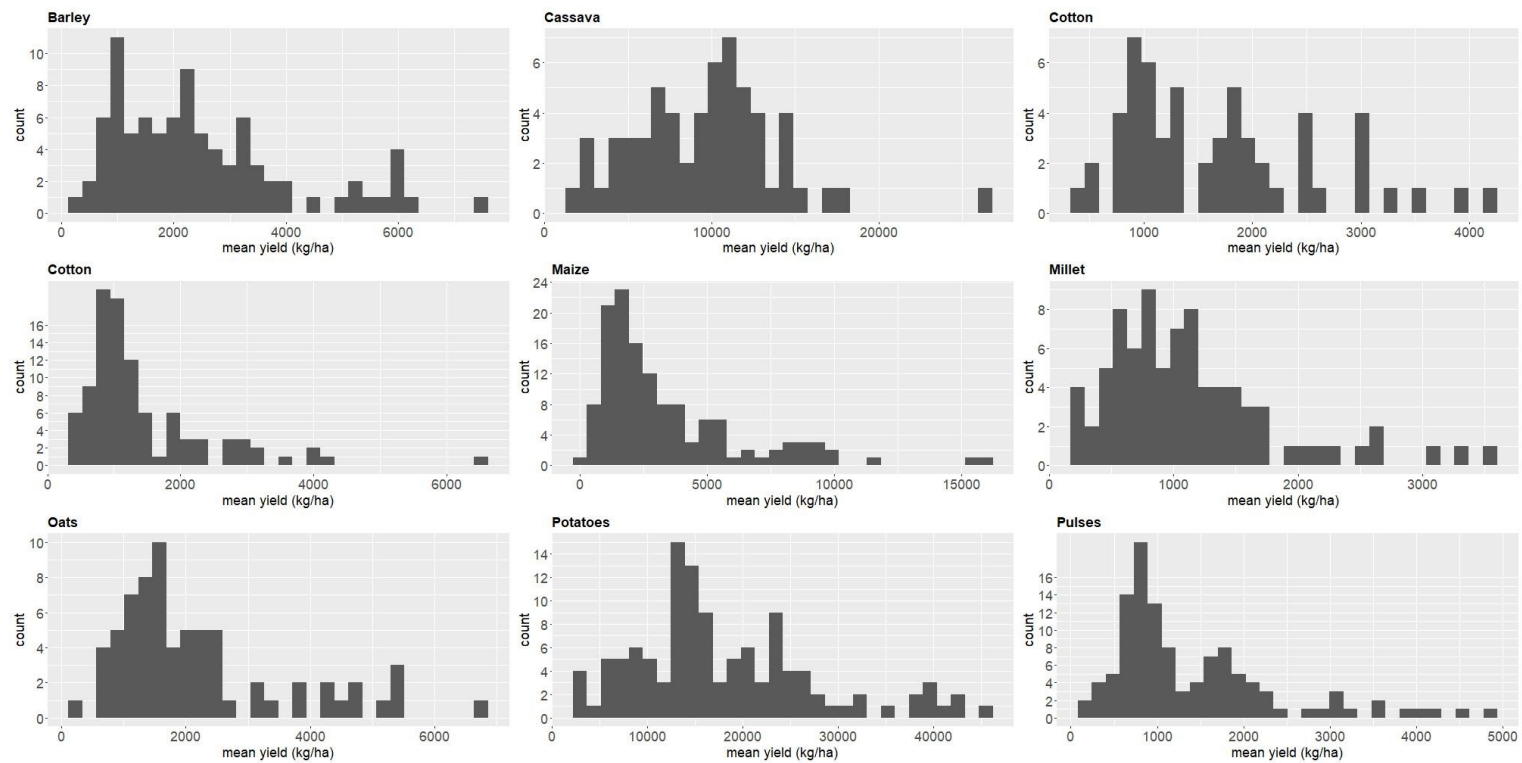


Figure SI 1a. Distribution of country average yields, computed over the 1986-2012 time period. Figures have been computed over the 1986-2012 period from FAOSTAT commodity balance data. The x-axis depicts the average crop yield (measured in kg/ha), and the y-axis the frequency of each value being observed in the dataset.

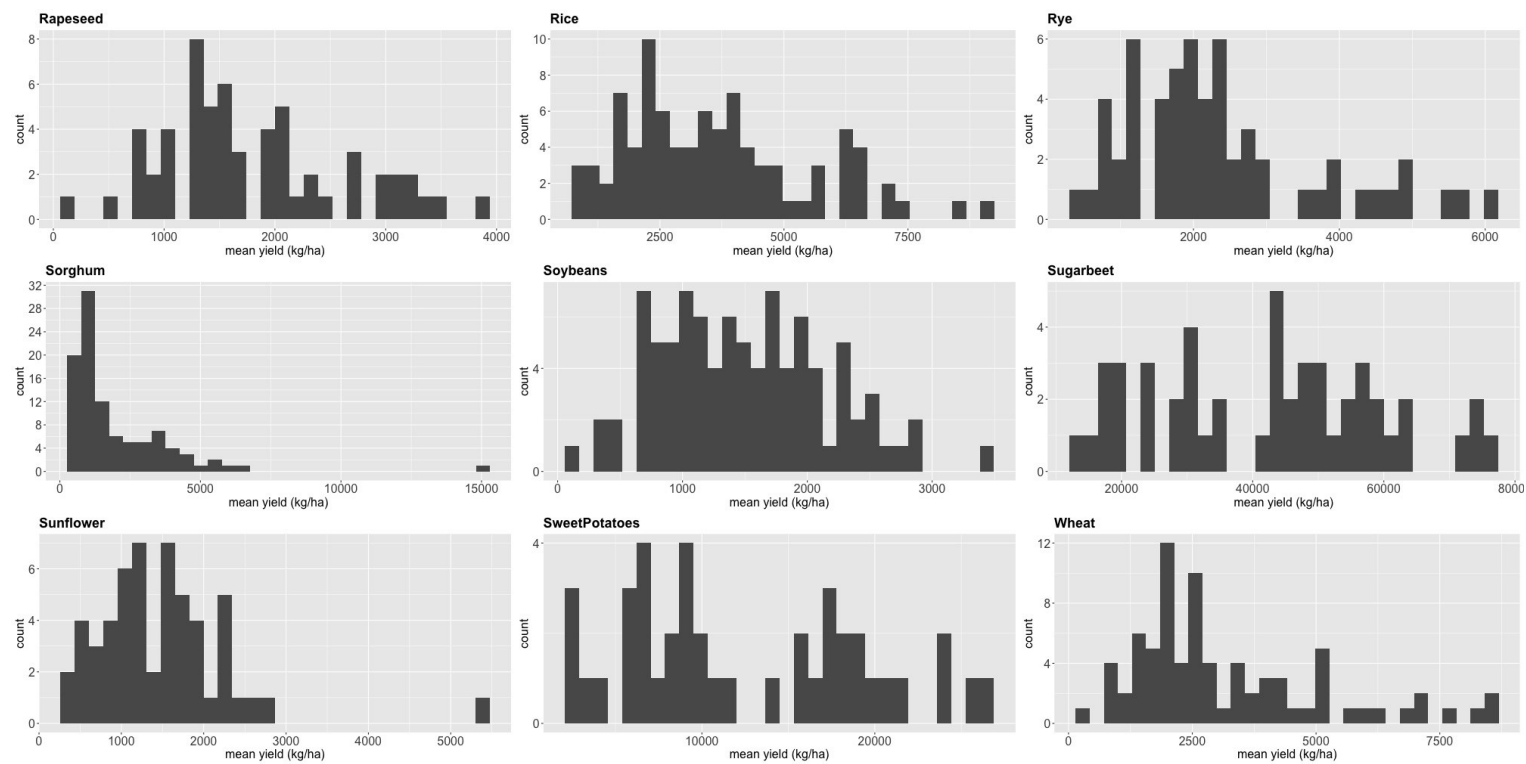


Figure SI 1b. Distribution of country average yields, computed over the 1986-2012 time period. Further note can be found in the caption of Figure SI 1a.

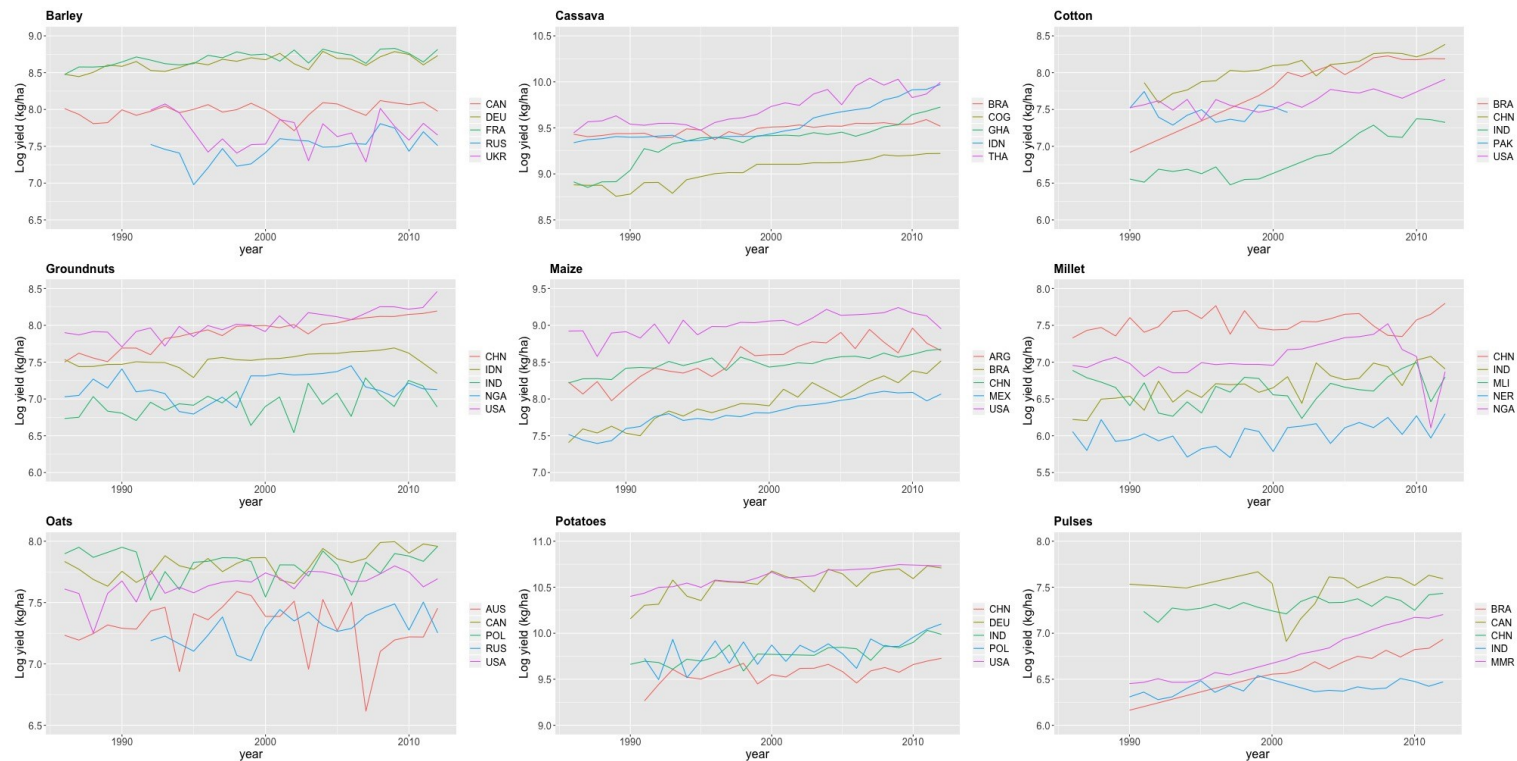


Figure S12a. Pattern of historical yields for the 5 biggest producers. The acronyms in the figure indicate the following countries: Argentina (ARG), Australia (AUS), Brazil (BRA), Canada (CAN), China (CHN), Congo (COG), Germany (DEU), France (FRA), Germany (DEU), Ghana (GHA), Indonesia (IDN), India (IND), Mali (MLI), Mexico (MEX), Myanmar (MMR), Niger (NER), Nigeria (NGA), Pakistan (PAK), Poland (POL), Russia (RUS), Thailand (THA), Ukraine (UKR) and Unites States of America (USA).

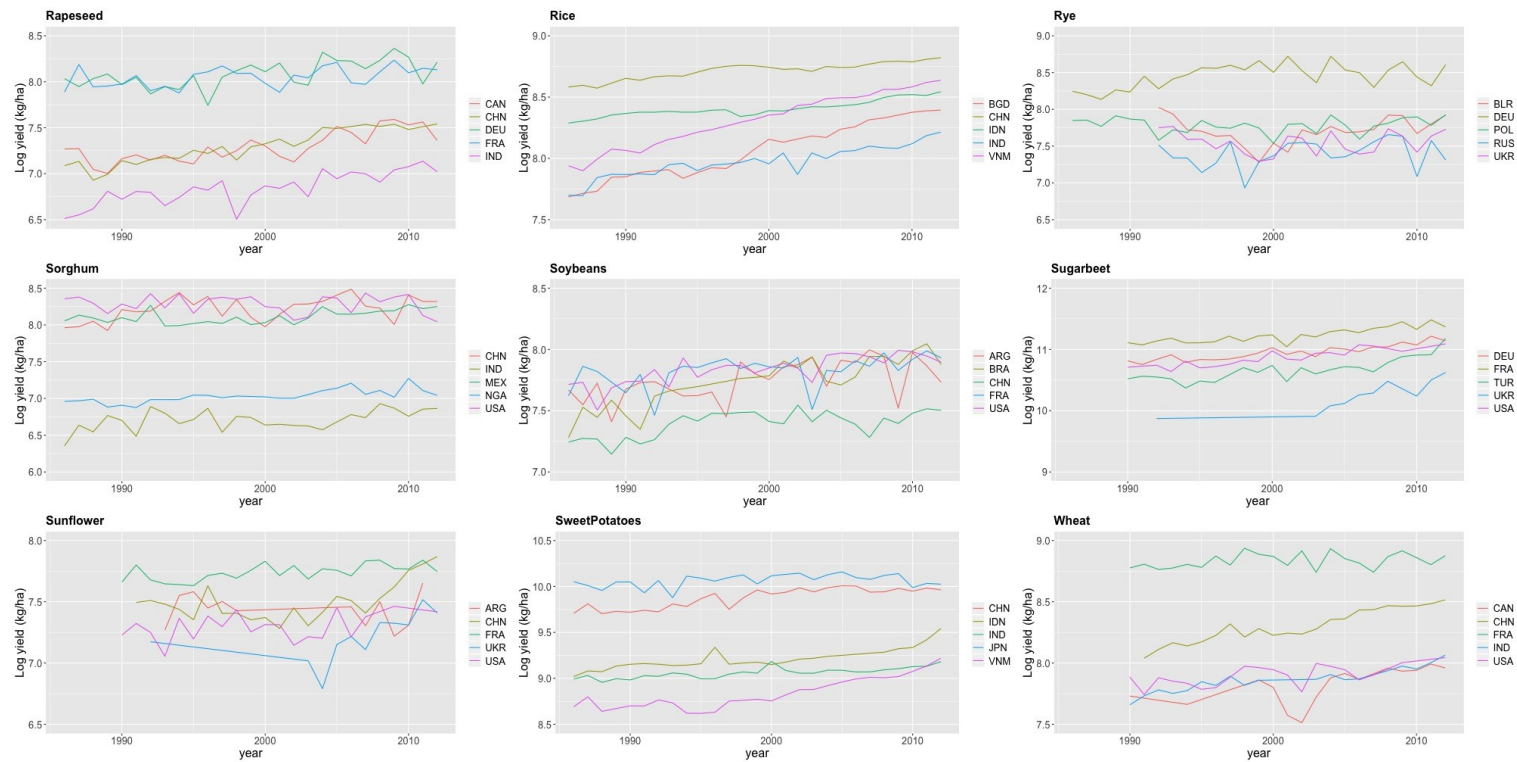


Figure S12b. Pattern of historical yields for the 5 biggest producers. The acronyms in the figure indicate the following countries: Argentina (ARG), Bangladesh (BGD), Belarus (BLR), Brazil (BRA), Canada (CAN), China (CHN), Germany (DEU), France (FRA), Indonesia (IDN), India (IND), Japan (JPN), Mexico (MEX), Nigeria (NGA), Poland (POL), Russia (RUS), Turkey (TUR), Ukraine (UKR), Vietnam (VNM) and United States of America (USA).

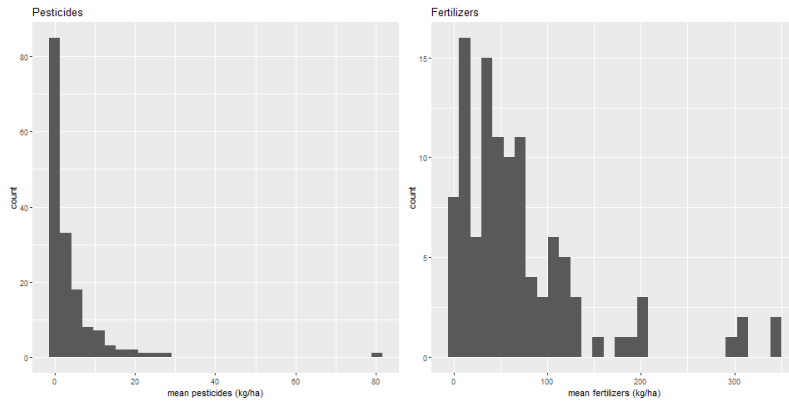


Figure S13. Distribution of average pesticides (left) and fertilizers (right). Figures have been computed over the 1986-2012 period. The x-axes depict the average use of pesticides (kg/ha) and fertilizers (kg/ha) and the y-axis the frequency of each value being observed in the dataset..

	Barley	Cassava	Cotton	Groundnuts	Maize	Millet
Temp	0.072**	0.079	0.142	0.251*	0.056	0.292
Temp ²	-0.002**	-0.002***	-0.003	-0.006**	-0.002**	-0.007
Prec	-2.213E-04	3.8E-04	7.03E-05	-2.7E-04	-2.0E-04	-9.6E-04
Prec ²			-1.91E-06			
Temp Irr		0.020***		0.016**	0.015**	
Prec Irr				0.000		
Pest						
Fert						
V Temp	15.50	20.58	22.81	21.90	14.56	19.85
V Temp Irr		25.82		23.28	18.48	
V Prec			18.38			
V Prec Irr						
ME Temp (1°C)	-0.6%	-1.4%	0.76%	-1.7%	-2.6%	-2.9%
ME Temp Irr (1°C)		0.6%		-0.1%	-1.1%	
ME Prec (10mm)	-0.22%	0.4%	-0.34%	-0.3%	-0.2%	-1.0%
ME Prec Irr (10mm)				-0.1%		
ME Temp (1sd)	-0.34%	-0.3%	0.32%	-0.6%	-1.1%	-1.4%
ME Temp Irr (1sd)		0.1%		0.0%	-0.5%	
ME Prec (1sd)	-0.30%	0.7%	-0.51%	-0.5%	-0.4%	-1.7%
ME Prec Irr (1sd)				-0.2%		
R^2	0.24	0.68	0.86	0.51	0.60	0.85
R^2_{adj}	0.17	0.66	0.82	0.46	0.57	0.81
N	2179	1614	1455	2553	3412	1959
n	88	60	57	98	132	82
Wald test (Chi-square, p-value)	5.98 0.11	13.22 0.01	0.43 0.98	22.37 0.00	12.82 0.01	1.36 0.72

Table SI1a. Estimated models for the crops modelled in this study. Estimation is based on robust standard errors when the model accounts for within and across countries variation. ***, **, * indicate statistical significance at the 1%, 5% and 10% level, respectively. V Temp, ME Temp and V Prec, ME Prec represent vertices and marginal effects for temperature and precipitation respectively. V Temp Irr, ME Temp Irr, V Prec Irr and ME Prec Irr indicate vertices and marginal effects for temperature and precipitation in the high irrigation countries. Marginal effect of temperature and precipitation, evaluated at the sample average, are computed in response to a 1°C, 10mm and average 1 standard deviation (1sd), averaged across countries, of the weather factors they refer to. N and n denote the number of observations and the number of countries, respectively. The joint significance of weather factors is assessed through a Wald test.

	Oats	Potatoes	Pulses	Rapeseed	Rice	Rye
Temp	0.042	0.065	0.161	0.100***	0.606	0.059
Temp ²	-0.002	-0.001	-0.006	-0.005***	-0.014	-0.006**
Prec	4.0E-04	-0.002	8.2E-05	0.010	0.004	0.007**
Prec ²	-6.2E-07		-5.4E-06	--9.7E-06	-9.9E-06	
Temp: Irr						0.066**
Prec: Irr						-0.014***
Pest		0.142***	0.064**		0.134***	
Fert						
V Temp	13.43	23.59	13.29	9.41	21.67	4.89
V Temp Irr						10.36
V Prec	318.88		7.61	499.29	223.73	
V Prec Irr						
ME Temp (1C)	-0.5%	1.5%	-8.7%	0.02%	-2.8%	-4.2%
ME Temp Irr (1C)						2.4%
ME Prec (10mm)	0.3%	-1.6%	-1.1%	8.5%	1.6%	7.3%
ME Prec Irr (10mm)						-6.8%
ME Temp (1sd)	-0.3%	0.6%	-4.6%	0.0%	-1.0%	-2.8%
ME Temp Irr (1sd)						1.6%
ME Prec (1sd)	0.4%	-2.5%	-2.2%	7.6%	3.2%	6.7%
ME Prec Irr (1sd)						-6.2%
R ²	0.52	0.86	0.94	0.36	0.88	0.32
R _{adj} ²	0.48	0.83	0.91	0.32	0.85	0.25
N	1704	1661	1629	1334	1209	1375
n	70	116	114	58	90	58
Wald test (Chi-square, p-value)	2.36 0.67	1.27 0.74	19.02 0.00	30.27 0.00	4.35 0.36	24.15 0.00

Table SI1b. Estimated models for the crops modelled in this study. Description of the contents of the table can be seen in the caption of Table SI1a

	Sorghum	Soybeans	Sugarbeet	Sunflower	Sweet Potatoes	Wheat
Temp	0.101	0.115	0.130	0.121	0.160	0.147**
Temp ²	-0.002	-0.002	-0.004	-0.003	-0.004	-0.005**
Prec	2.9E-04	2.9E-04	0.005	0.001	0.005	0.010***
Prec ²	-9.8E-07		-4.1E-05		-2.8E-05	-4.1E-05**
Temp: Irr						0.057**
Prec: Irr						-0.005
Pest			0.043**	0.120***	0.052*	0.127***
Fert			1.651**	6.033**	3.494**	-2.633**
V Temp	27.58	25.84	16.21	20.62	22.77	14.59
V Temp Irr						20.18
V Prec	147.60		61.22		96.59	117.11
V Prec Irr						55.22
ME Temp (1C)	1.9%	2.2%	0.6%	0.8%	1.0%	-2.4%
ME Temp Irr (1C)						3.3%
ME Prec (10mm)	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.9%	-1.3%	3.5%
ME Prec Irr (10mm)						-1.5%
ME Temp (1sd)	0.8%	0.9%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	-1.3%
ME Temp Irr (1sd)						1.8%
ME Prec (1sd)	0.1%	0.6%	0.0%	1.2%	-2.4%	4.7%
ME Prec Irr (1sd)						-2.1%
R^2	0.43	0.01	0.41	0.85	0.34	0.92
R^2_{adj}	0.35	0.01	0.32	0.81	0.23	0.88
N	2450	2196	757	765	582	1208
n	99	91	49	54	41	78
Wald test (Chi-square, p-value)	3.26 0.51	4.35 0.23	13.52 0.01	0.48 0.92	3.82 0.43	28.65 0.00

Table SI1c. Estimated models for the crops modelled in this study. Description of the contents of the table can be seen in the caption of Table SI1a.