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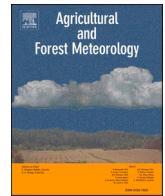
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## Attributing differences of solar-induced chlorophyll fluorescence (SIF)-gross primary production (GPP) relationships between two C4 crops: corn and miscanthus

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### ABSTRACT

There remains limited information to characterize the solar-induced chlorophyll fluorescence (SIF)-gross primary production (GPP) relationship in C4 cropping systems. The annual C4 crop corn and perennial C4 crop miscanthus differ in phenology, canopy structure and leaf physiology. Investigating the SIF-GPP relationships in these species could deepen our understanding of SIF-GPP relationships within C4 crops. Using in situ canopy SIF and GPP measurements for both species along with leaf-level measurements, we found considerable differences in the SIF-GPP relationships between corn and miscanthus, with a stronger SIF-GPP relationship and higher slope of SIF-GPP observed in corn compared to miscanthus. These differences were mainly caused by leaf physiology. For miscanthus, high non-photochemical quenching (NPQ) under high light, temperature and water vapor deficit (VPD) conditions caused a large decline of fluorescence yield ( $\Phi_F$ ), which further led to a SIF midday depression and weakened the SIF-GPP relationship. The larger slope in corn than miscanthus was mainly due to its higher GPP in mid-summer, largely attributed to the higher leaf photosynthesis and less NPQ. Our results demonstrated variation of the SIF-GPP relationship within C4 crops and highlighted the importance of leaf physiology in determining canopy SIF behaviors and SIF-GPP relationships.

### 1. Introduction

Accurate estimation of terrestrial gross primary production (GPP) is critical for quantifying the global carbon budget and understanding ecosystem responses to climate change (Ryu et al., 2019). Remote

sensing of solar-induced chlorophyll fluorescence (SIF) has emerged as a new promising approach to estimate GPP at regional to global scales (Frankenberg et al., 2011; He et al., 2019; Mohammed et al., 2019). SIF, an optical signal emitted by plants in the spectral range of 650-850nm, provides a functional link with photosynthesis as, along with

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photochemistry and heat dissipation, it represents one of the three possible fates for absorbed light by leaf chlorophyll molecules (Baker, 2008; Porcar-Castell et al., 2014; Frankenberg and Berry, 2018). Current approaches that use satellite-derived SIF for global GPP estimation mainly include (1) directly using SIF to estimate GPP based on the site-scale SIF-GPP relationships (Li and Xiao, 2019; Wang et al., 2020; Zhang et al., 2020a, b; Liu et al., 2022a), or (2) assimilating SIF into land surface models to improve GPP estimations (Thum et al., 2017; MacBean et al., 2018; Norton et al., 2019). Both approaches analyze the SIF-GPP relationship based on plant functional types (PFTs) without considering variation within a PFT. For example, initially, estimation of crop GPP from satellite SIF was achieved by building a universal relationship between satellite SIF and eddy covariance-based GPP for available cropland sites, which was used to generate regional-scale crop GPP estimates (Guanter et al., 2014). More recent work has differentiated C3 and C4 crops, and built the SIF-GPP relationship separately (Zhang et al., 2020a; Li and Xiao, 2022) by using increased spatial resolution satellite SIF products (Sun et al., 2017; Wen et al., 2020). Yet, variation of SIF-GPP relationships within C3 and/or C4 crops is largely unknown.

Understanding of SIF-GPP relationships at the ecosystem scale is improving for C3 crops from fine spatiotemporal in situ spectral measurements in soybean (Miao et al., 2018), rice (Yang et al., 2018a) and wheat (Goulas et al., 2017). Variation in SIF-GPP relationships within C3 crops can be found in previous studies (Yang et al., 2018a; He et al., 2020). For example, a non-linear SIF-GPP relationship at half-hourly timestep was reported in soybean in He et al. (2020), but a linear and stronger SIF-GPP relationship was found in rice (Yang et al., 2018a). However, C4 crop understanding remains limited to corn (He et al., 2020; Li et al., 2020; Miao et al., 2020; Yang et al., 2021). Continuous canopy SIF and GPP measurements from other C4 crops are needed to understand the variation of SIF-GPP relationships within C4 crops.

SIF-GPP relationships depend on a number of factors, including canopy structure (Migliavacca et al., 2017; Dechant et al., 2020), leaf physiology (Celesti et al., 2018; Magney et al., 2019), environmental conditions (Verma et al., 2017; Paul-Limoges et al., 2018; Chen et al., 2021b, a), and sun-view geometry (Hao et al., 2021; Zhang et al., 2021). The role of these factors in affecting SIF-GPP relationships can be well explained when both SIF and GPP are conceptually described by the light use efficiency framework (Monteith, 1972). For GPP, we have

$$GPP = FPAR \times PAR \times LUE \quad (1)$$

Where PAR is the incoming photosynthetic active radiation, FPAR is the fraction of absorbed PAR of the canopy, and LUE is the photosynthetic light use efficiency of the canopy. Similarly, for observed canopy SIF, we have:

$$SIF = FPAR \times PAR \times SIFy \quad (2)$$

where SIFy is the apparent SIF yield which is the effective light use efficiency of canopy fluorescence. SIFy can be further quantified by the product of the true fluorescence yield of the whole canopy ( $\Phi_F, \text{Canopy}$ ) and the escape probability ( $f_{\text{esc}}$ ) of SIF from the canopy since the multi-scattering and absorption process within the canopy causes that only a fraction of SIF emitted by all leaves can be observed from top of the canopy (Romero et al., 2018; Yang and van der Tol, 2018). Canopy structure such as leaf area index (LAI) and the leaf clumping effect affects FPAR (Baret and Guyot, 1991) and  $f_{\text{esc}}$  (He et al., 2017; Yang and van der Tol, 2018). Leaf physiology impacts LUE and  $\Phi_F, \text{Canopy}$ , which further strongly depends on the energy partitioning of absorbed PAR (APAR) into photochemistry, fluorescence and heat dissipation during the light reactions of photosynthesis at the leaf level (Porcar-Castell et al., 2014; Gu et al., 2019a). Additionally, environmental conditions would substantially affect the energy partitioning of APAR (Flexas and Medrano, 2002), since plants tend to maximize APAR for photochemistry under optimal environmental conditions, but less ideal

environmental conditions (e.g., suboptimal temperature, moisture and light) reduce photochemistry (Aç et al., 2015), and fluorescence and non-photochemical quenching (NPQ) compete to de-excite the APAR that is not used in photochemistry (Porcar-Castell et al., 2014).

Both corn and miscanthus are important C4 bioenergy crops (Robertson et al., 2017). The annual crop corn (*Zea mays*) is a popular feedstock for ethanol production attributed to its abundance, high starch content in grains and easy conversion to ethanol (Mumm et al., 2015). Giant miscanthus (*Miscanthus x giganteus*) is a warm-season, perennial grass, and it plays important roles in bioenergy production with its high biomass production (Heaton et al., 2010), high nutrient-use efficiencies (Smith et al., 2013) and high energy output/input (Felten et al., 2013). Compared to corn, miscanthus can develop leaves earlier and maintain them longer (Beale and Long, 1995). Side-by-side trials have found higher biomass in miscanthus compared to corn, which is largely due to more green leaves (higher green LAI) and a longer growing season, although the maximum leaf and canopy photosynthesis of miscanthus under favorable conditions are lower than corn (Dohleman and Long, 2009; Moore et al., 2021). Higher LAI in miscanthus would result in higher FPAR when FPAR is not saturated (Gallo et al., 1985), and it might also lead to more far-red SIF photons escaping from the canopy since higher LAI is expected to increase  $f_{\text{esc}}$  (Yang and van der Tol, 2018). Higher corn canopy LUE compared to miscanthus during mid-summer has been found in side-by-side field-grown plots, resulting in higher GPP in corn than that in miscanthus during mid-summer (Moore et al., 2021). Leaf-level measurements have also shown that midday photochemical yield ( $\Phi_P$ ), midday electron transport rate (ETR) and maximum quantum yield for  $\text{CO}_2$  assimilation ( $\Phi_{\text{CO}_2, \text{max}}$ ) are higher in corn compared to miscanthus (Dohleman and Long, 2009), indicating that the energy partitioning of leaf APAR might be different between corn and miscanthus. For corn, more leaf APAR tends to be used for photochemistry and further  $\text{CO}_2$  assimilation and less APAR for fluorescence and heat dissipation compared to miscanthus. This different energy partitioning might cause different SIF-GPP relationships between corn and miscanthus. Additionally, miscanthus can maintain photosynthesis at lower temperatures than corn (Dohleman and Long, 2009) and the optimum temperature for light saturated photosynthesis is lower in miscanthus compared to corn (Naidu and Long, 2004), indicating that the photosynthesis response to environmental conditions might be different between miscanthus and corn. All these differences in canopy structure, leaf physiology and environmental responses could possibly cause variations of SIF-GPP relationships between corn and miscanthus. Comparing the SIF-GPP relationships between corn and miscanthus can help us better understand the variation of SIF-GPP relationships within C4 crops.

In this study, we attempt to determine whether the SIF-GPP relationship differs between two contrasting C4 cropping systems, annual corn and perennial miscanthus. To comprehensively assess their relationships, we integrated canopy SIF, eddy covariance flux measurements, meteorological variables along with leaf-level active fluorescence measurements using the pulse amplitude modulation (PAM) technique. Specifically, we propose the following questions: (1) Does the SIF-GPP relationship vary between an annual C4 corn system and a perennial C4 miscanthus system? (2) How do the growing season climate conditions affect the seasonal and diurnal SIF-GPP relationships in corn and miscanthus? (3) How do the growing season climate conditions affect canopy LUE and SIFy as well as leaf  $\Phi_P$  and fluorescence yield ( $\Phi_F, \text{Leaf}$ ) in corn and miscanthus?

## 2. Data and methods

### 2.1. Study sites

This study was conducted at the Energy Farm of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) located in the Midwest of the U.S. The regional climate is characterized as hot summers and cold winters. The



mean annual precipitation was 928 mm, and mean annual temperature was 11.3°C with winter monthly minimum -13.1°C and summer monthly maximum 33.9°C over the period of 2000–2020 (University of Illinois Willard Airport weather station). The miscanthus (*Miscanthus × giganteus*) site and corn (*Zea mays*) site were next to each other, and both of them were established in 2008 (Fig. S1). The corn site (40.06284°N, -88.19612°W) was implemented with corn-corn-soybean rotation, and the miscanthus site (40.06285°N, -88.19842°W) was only planted with perennial miscanthus. As an annual crop, corn was planted in May and harvested in October each year. As a perennial crop, miscanthus emerged in April and was harvested in March the following year after establishment in May 2008. Both sites were rainfed sites and sufficient fertilizers were applied at both sites. Soil in these two sites were composed of primarily Dana silt loams, Flanagan silt loams, and Drummer silty clay loams (Moore et al., 2021). Spectral systems for SIF data collection were installed in 2018 at the corn site, and in 2019 and 2020 at the miscanthus site. For the corn site in 2018, 202 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> 32% UAN were applied on 8<sup>th</sup> May and corn was planted in the east-west orientation (Fig. S2). Corn started to tassel around 4<sup>th</sup> July in 2018 and bottom corn leaves started to turn yellow in late August (Fig. S3). For the miscanthus site in 2019 and 2020, 56 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> granular urea N were applied on 21<sup>st</sup> June and 12<sup>th</sup> June, respectively. Previous studies revealed that adding more N in the same miscanthus site did not further increase biomass (Lee et al., 2017), so this site did not have nutrient stress. As an annual grass with natural emergence, miscanthus had no row pattern (Fig. S2). Miscanthus started to flower at the end of September in both 2019 and 2020 (Fig. S3). To account for the different growing season lengths of corn and miscanthus, only data from July and August when both canopies were fully closed were used in this study.

## 2.2. Tower-based spectral measurements

Fluospec2 systems (Miao et al., 2018; Yang et al., 2018b) were installed at the two sites to collect spectral data. Each Fluospec2 consisted of two subsystems. One subsystem was for SIF data collection where a QE Pro spectrometer with a spectral resolution 0.15 nm and wavelength coverage between 730 and 780 nm (Ocean Optics Inc., Dunedin, FL, USA) was employed. The other subsystem was for hyperspectral data collection which was equipped with a HR2000+ spectrometer (Ocean Optics Inc.) covering the wavelength between 400 and 1100 nm with a 1.1 nm spectral resolution. Each subsystem has two channels to measure downwelling solar irradiance (E) and upwelling canopy reflected radiance (L) simultaneously. The upward viewing fibers for solar irradiance were equipped with a cosine corrector to enable a hemispherical observation, while downward nadir-view observations for canopy radiance used bare fibers with a field of view (FOV) of 25°. All fibers were placed 5 m above the ground pointing to the south. Data was acquired by the software Fluospec Manager which dynamically set optimized integration times at a 5-min time interval (Yang et al., 2018b). SIF at 760 nm (SIF<sub>760</sub>) was retrieved from measured irradiance and radiance of the SIF subsystem using the improved Fraunhofer Line Depth (iFLD) approach (Alonso et al., 2008; Cendrero-Mateo et al., 2019). This retrieval method decoupled fluorescence from the reflected radiance using the E and L information from 745–780 nm. Raw 5-min SIF<sub>760</sub> data was averaged to a half-hourly interval to match the GPP data. Detailed information about the Fluospec2 measurement sequence and SIF retrieval can be found in Wu et al. (2020).

## 2.3. Eddy covariance flux and environmental measurements

Eddy-covariance (EC) towers were established in the same field as the Fluospec2 systems to measure ecosystem carbon flux which was further used for GPP estimation for corn and miscanthus. Each EC system was composed of an open path infrared gas analyzer (LI-7500RS; LICOR Biosciences, Lincoln, NE, USA) for CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and a three-dimensional ultrasonic anemometer (81000RE; RM Young) for wind

speed and direction measurements. EC measurements were recorded at 10 Hz frequency and were processed to acquire half-hourly average net ecosystem exchange (NEE) using EddyPro (v6.2.0; LICOR Biosciences). EddyPro applied block averaging for flux de-trending, double rotation for instrument tilt correction, covariance maximization for time-lag compensation, Webb–Pearman–Leuning flux density correction (Webb et al., 1980), spikes detection and removal (Vickers and Mahrt, 1997), and a footprint calculation (Hsieh et al., 2000). EddyPro processed half-hourly NEE were quality assured and quality controlled (QA/QC) to remove spikes and outliers. Footprint filter was also applied to remove data when more than 50% of the data occurred outside of the targeted field. Friction velocity threshold filter was further applied to remove data collected under low turbulent mixing conditions.

Climate variables were measured along with the EC measurements. Air temperature (Ta) and relative humidity (RH) were measured using a combined probe (HMP-45C & 43347-IX; Campbell Scientific, Logan, UT, USA), from which water vapor deficit (VPD) was calculated. Incoming PAR was measured using a point quantum sensor (LI-190; LICOR Biosciences). Soil water content (SWC) was measured at 10 cm depth (Hydra Probe II; Stevens Water Monitoring Systems). The meteorological data were further gap-filled with external data from the University of Illinois Willard Airport weather station (7.4 km away) and ERA5 data from the European Centre for Medium Range Forecasts. Both the EC system and aboveground meteorological instruments were installed 2.5 m above the ground at the beginning of the growing season, and height was increased to be around 1 m above the canopy with the growth of crops. Detailed EC and meteorological instrumentations can be found in Moore et al. (2021).

Filtered NEE data were gap-filled along with the gap-filled incoming radiation, Ta, and VPD using the Marginal Distribution Sampling (MDS) method described in Reichstein et al. (2005). Gap-filled NEE were then partitioned into GPP and ecosystem respiration (ER) using both standard nighttime fluxes method (Reichstein et al., 2005) and daytime fluxes method (Lasslop et al., 2010). For the nighttime method, nighttime NEE was used to develop an ER-temperature model and this model was used to estimate daytime ER. GPP was calculated as the difference between ER and NEE. Windows of 14 days were applied to parameterize the ER model in order to account for the dynamic of other drivers of ER. For the daytime method, daytime data was used to parameterize a model for GPP based on a light response curve and VPD, and nighttime data was used to build the ER-temperature model for ER estimation. Windows of 8 days were applied to parameterize the models. We used the open source ONEFlux processing pipeline to estimate both nighttime method partitioned GPP (GPP<sub>NT</sub>) and daytime method partitioned GPP (GPP<sub>DT</sub>) from EC measurements (Pastorello et al., 2020). GPP<sub>NT</sub> and GPP<sub>DT</sub> are strongly correlated ( $R^2=0.77-0.83$ ) in the three year-sites (Fig. S4). Since GPP<sub>DT</sub> considered the impacts of PAR and VPD on GPP at the diurnal scale, we used GPP<sub>DT</sub> in the main text and GPP<sub>NT</sub> in the supplementary materials. For simplicity, GPP was used for GPP<sub>DT</sub> in the main text.

## 2.4. Correcting in situ nadir SIF to EC footprint-based SIF

EC footprint covers a larger area compared to nadir-view SIF observations (Liu et al., 2017) and it changes with wind direction (KJjun et al., 2015), which may bring uncertainty when comparing the SIF-GPP relationships between corn and miscanthus. To address this SIF and GPP footprint mismatch issue, the product of near-infrared reflectance of vegetation (NIRv) and PAR (NIRvP) was used as a proxy for SIF to up-scale in situ SIF observations from small nadir footprints to large EC footprints to match the GPP estimates, considering that NIRvP can explain around 80% variation of SIF from recent cross-scale studies (Kimm et al., 2021; Dechant et al., 2022). Daily NIRv was calculated from gap-free surface reflectance obtained through PlanetScope surface reflectance product after radiometric correction and temporal filtering (detailed information can be found in supplementary materials).

Soil-adjusted NIRv (SANIRv) was further calculated following the method in Jiang et al. (2020) to eliminate the soil background impact on NIRv, and was used to correct SIF footprint. We assumed no diurnal variations of SANIRv and all half-hourly SANIRv within one day was the same as the daily SANIRv of that day. SIF footprint (about 3.8 m<sup>2</sup>) was represented by a single 3m × 3m pixel of PlanetScope imagery covering the SIF tower. Half-hourly EC footprint was calculated using the Simple Analytical Footprint model on Eulerian coordinates (SAFE) model with the inputs of meteorological variables and fluxes, including half-hourly air temperature, relative humidity, air pressure, wind speed, wind direction, standard deviation of the transverse wind speed, friction velocity, sensible heat flux, latent heat flux and NEE (Chen et al., 2009). EC footprint-based SIF at each half-hour (SIF<sub>EC footprint</sub>) was calculated from in situ nadir-view SIF observations (SIF<sub>obs</sub>) based on the following equations:

$$SIF_{EC\ footprint} = SIF_{obs} \times Ratio$$

$$Ratio = \frac{SANIRv_{EC\ footprint} \times PAR_{EC\ footprint}}{SANIRv_{SIF\ pixel} \times PAR_{SIF\ pixel}} \quad (3)$$

$$SANIRv_{EC\ footprint} = \sum_{i=1}^N w_i \times SANIRv_i$$

where *Ratio* is the ratio of the product of weighted SANIRv (SANIRv<sub>EC footprint</sub>) and PAR (PAR<sub>EC footprint</sub>) from EC footprint and the product of SANIRv (SANIRv<sub>SIF pixel</sub>) and PAR (PAR<sub>SIF pixel</sub>) from SIF tower located pixel at each half-hour. Without considering the PAR variation within each field (i.e. PAR<sub>EC footprint</sub> ≈ PAR<sub>SIF pixel</sub>), each half-hourly ratio can be calculated as *Ratio* =  $\frac{SANIRv_{EC\ footprint}}{SANIRv_{SIF\ pixel}}$ . EC footprint weighted SANIRv<sub>EC footprint</sub> was calculated by the sum of the product of SANIRv (SANIRv<sub>i</sub>) and footprint weight (w<sub>i</sub>) at each pixel i across all the pixels within the EC footprint N. The EC footprint in these three year-sites was constrained by the boundary of each target field with a size of 4 ha (200m × 200m, Fig. S5). The crop growth at 2018 corn and 2020 miscanthus sites was relatively homogenous in July and August indicated by the SANIRv map (Fig. S5), which caused *Ratio* of SANIRv<sub>EC footprint</sub> to SANIRv<sub>SIF pixel</sub> close to 1 (Fig. S6). Miscanthus in the west side of the 2019 miscanthus field had better growth compared to the east side, which led to *Ratio* values higher than 1 (Fig. S6). Corrected EC footprint-based SIF at the corn and miscanthus sites were used for later analysis, with the variable “SIF<sub>760</sub>” for simplicity.

## 2.5. Derivation of canopy LUE, SIFy, f<sub>esc</sub> and Φ<sub>F, Canopy</sub>

At the Miscanthus site, APAR was calculated from in situ PAR measurements. Incoming PAR (PAR<sub>in</sub>) and surface reflected PAR (PAR<sub>out</sub>) were measured using point quantum sensors (LI-190; LICOR Biosciences) pointing upward and downward at 5 m above the ground, respectively. Transmitted PAR through the canopy (PAR<sub>trans</sub>) was measured using a line quantum sensor (LI-191; LICOR Biosciences) looking upward placed about 2 cm above the ground. Half-hourly APAR and the fraction of absorbed PAR (FPAR) can be calculated as:

$$PAR = PAR_{in} - PAR_{out} - PAR_{trans} \quad (4)$$

$$FPAR = \frac{APAR}{PAR_{in}}$$

For the corn site, canopy FPAR was estimated by the normalized red-edge normalized difference vegetation index (Rededge NDVI) due to the missing PAR<sub>trans</sub> measurement. This method has been used in many previous corn studies (Viña and Gitelson, 2005; Li et al., 2020; Yang et al., 2021). APAR was calculated as the product of PAR<sub>in</sub> and estimated FPAR.

$$FPAR = 1.37 \times Rededge\ NDVI - 0.17$$

$$Rededge\ NDVI = \frac{R_{NIR} - R_{Red-edge}}{R_{NIR} + R_{Red-edge}} \quad (5)$$

$$APAR = FPAR \times PAR_{in}$$

where R<sub>NIR</sub> and R<sub>Red-edge</sub> were the reflectance derived from spectral data collected by the broadband reflectance subsystem of the Fluospec2 system in bands of 750–757.5 nm and 703.75–713.75 nm, respectively. We note that the measured FPAR in miscanthus represented the total FPAR of the canopy while the estimated FPAR from Rededge NDVI in corn mainly represented the FPAR absorbed by green leaves. However, our study focused on July and August when canopies were mainly composed of green leaves, therefore, the differences between the two FPARs calculation were expected to be small. For both corn and miscanthus, the apparent SIF yield (SIFy) and LUE were derived as SIF/APAR and GPP/APAR, respectively. f<sub>esc</sub> was quantified as the ratio of NIRv and FPAR (Zeng et al., 2019), and Φ<sub>F, Canopy</sub> was calculated by dividing SIFy by f<sub>esc</sub>:

$$f_{esc} = \frac{NIRv}{FPAR} \quad (6)$$

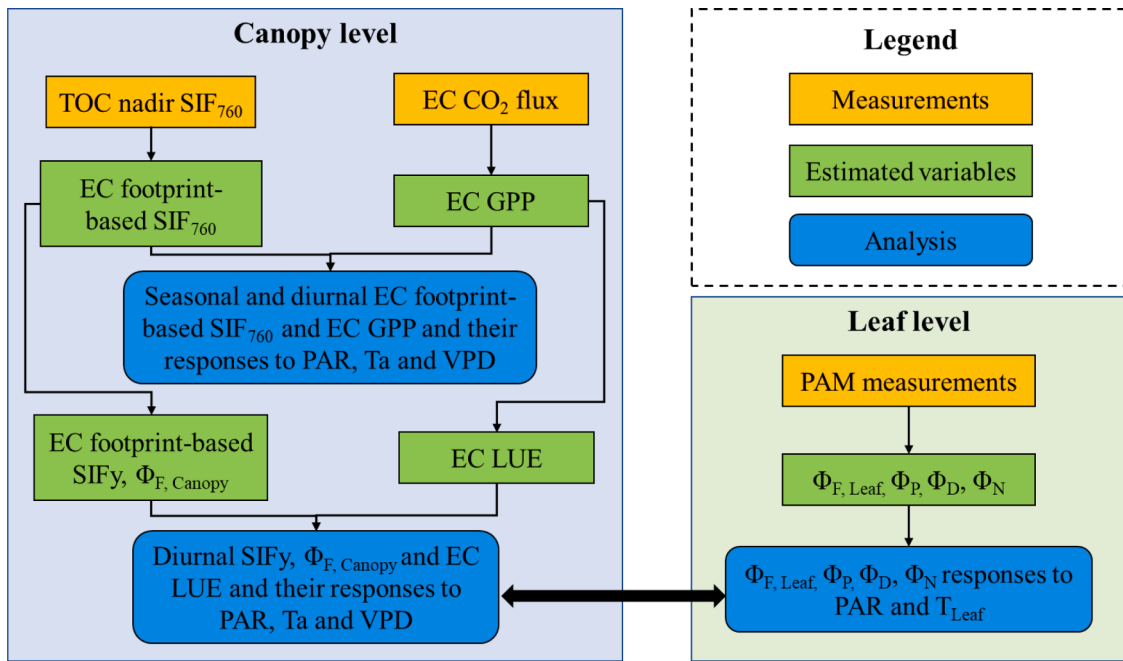
$$\Phi_{F, Canopy} = \frac{SIFy}{f_{esc}}$$

## 2.6. Leaf-level active chlorophyll fluorescence measurements

Light response curves of top sunlit leaves were measured using an LI-6800 portable photosynthesis system (LI-6800; LICOR Biosciences) with a leaf chamber fluorometer during mid-summer (i.e. July) to understand the leaf energy partitioning at different light levels. Except for changing PAR, other environmental variables were controlled, i.e., CO<sub>2</sub> concentration at 400 ppm; leaf temperature at 27°C; relative humidity at 55%. For each response curve, we first measured the minimum (F<sub>0</sub>) and maximum fluorescence of the dark-adapted leaf (F<sub>M</sub>) predawn. Then the same leaf was illuminated to different light levels. For each light level, the leaf was illuminated for 15 min until steady-state fluorescence (F<sub>S</sub>), light-adapted minimum fluorescence (F<sub>0</sub>') and maximum fluorescence (F<sub>M</sub>') were recorded. The light levels used for the miscanthus light response curve were 12, 25, 75, 100, 150, 200, 300, 400, 550, 700, 900, 1200, 1500, 1800, 2000 and 2200 μmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>. The light levels used for the corn light response curve were 12, 25, 75, 100, 125, 150, 200, 300, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1200, 1500, 1800 and 2200 μmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>. One light response curve of a mature leaf at the top of the canopy was conducted on one day considering the time requirement (~4 hours). For corn, two curves were taken on July 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of 2018 using the same LI-6800. For miscanthus, five curves from July to August in 2019 (July 6<sup>th</sup>, July 13<sup>th</sup>, July 28<sup>th</sup>, Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>, Aug 30<sup>th</sup>) were measured.

We also installed an automated Moni-PAM system (MONI-PAM; Walz Heinz GmbH) with four Moni-PAM emitter-detector probes at the miscanthus site in 2020 to collect continuous PAM-fluorescence. The four probes were positioned to measure sunlit leaves in the upper canopy. Continuous F<sub>S</sub>, F<sub>0</sub>' and F<sub>M</sub>' were collected every half hour. Dark-adapted F<sub>0</sub> and F<sub>M</sub> were recorded at 2:00 am each morning. Ambient PAR and leaf temperature (T<sub>Leaf</sub>) were simultaneously recorded by the system at half-hourly timestep. Data from the Moni-PAM system collected from July to Aug of 2020 were used for later analysis.

For both LI-6800 and Moni-PAM measurements, leaf-level Φ<sub>F, Leaf</sub>, Φ<sub>P</sub>, quantum yield of heat dissipation through NPQ (Φ<sub>N</sub>), and quantum yield of constitutive heat dissipation (Φ<sub>D</sub>) were estimated. Φ<sub>F, Leaf</sub> was calculated based on expression proposed by Gu et al. (2019a):



**Fig. 1.** Flowchart of measurements, estimated variables and analysis in each year-site. TOC: top of canopy; EC: eddy covariance. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

$$\Phi_{F, Leaf} = \frac{1 - \phi_{P, max}}{(1 + K_{DF})[(1 + NPQ) \times (1 - \Phi_{P, max}) + q_L \times \Phi_{P, max}]}$$

$$\Phi_{P, max} = 1 - \frac{F_0}{F_M}$$

$$NPQ = \frac{F_M}{F_M'} - 1$$

$$q_L = \frac{F_M' - F_S}{F_M' - F_0'} \times \frac{F_0'}{F_S}$$

where  $\Phi_{P, max}$  is the maximum photochemical yield calculated from the dark-adapted minimum and maximum fluorescence; NPQ quantifies the non-photochemical quenching heat dissipation process;  $q_L$  represents the fraction of photosystem II reaction centers with fully oxidized primary quinone electron acceptor;  $K_{DF}$  is the ratio of rate constant of constitutive heat dissipation ( $K_D$ ) to rate constant of fluorescence emission ( $K_F$ ), and assumed to be constant 19 (Gu et al., 2019a).  $\Phi_P$  was calculated based on expression proposed by Genty et al. (1989):

$$\Phi_P = 1 - \frac{F_S}{F_M'} \quad (8)$$

$\Phi_N$  was estimated using the equation proposed by Hendrickson et al. (2004):

$$\Phi_N = \frac{F_S}{F_M'} - \frac{F_S}{F_M} \quad (9)$$

Because of energy conservation, the sum of the four quantum yields is unity (Hendrickson et al., 2004). Therefore,  $\Phi_D$  was calculated as:

$$\Phi_D = 1 - \Phi_{F, Leaf} - \Phi_P - \Phi_N \quad (10)$$

## 2.7. Statistical analysis

To test our hypotheses, the relationships between  $SIF_{760}$  and GPP were investigated for corn and miscanthus. Linear regressions of GPP- $SIF_{760}$  at half-hourly and daily scales were established for corn and miscanthus separately. Hyperbolic regression (Damm et al., 2015; Kim et al., 2021) and exponential regression (Liu et al., 2022b) of GPP- $SIF_{760}$

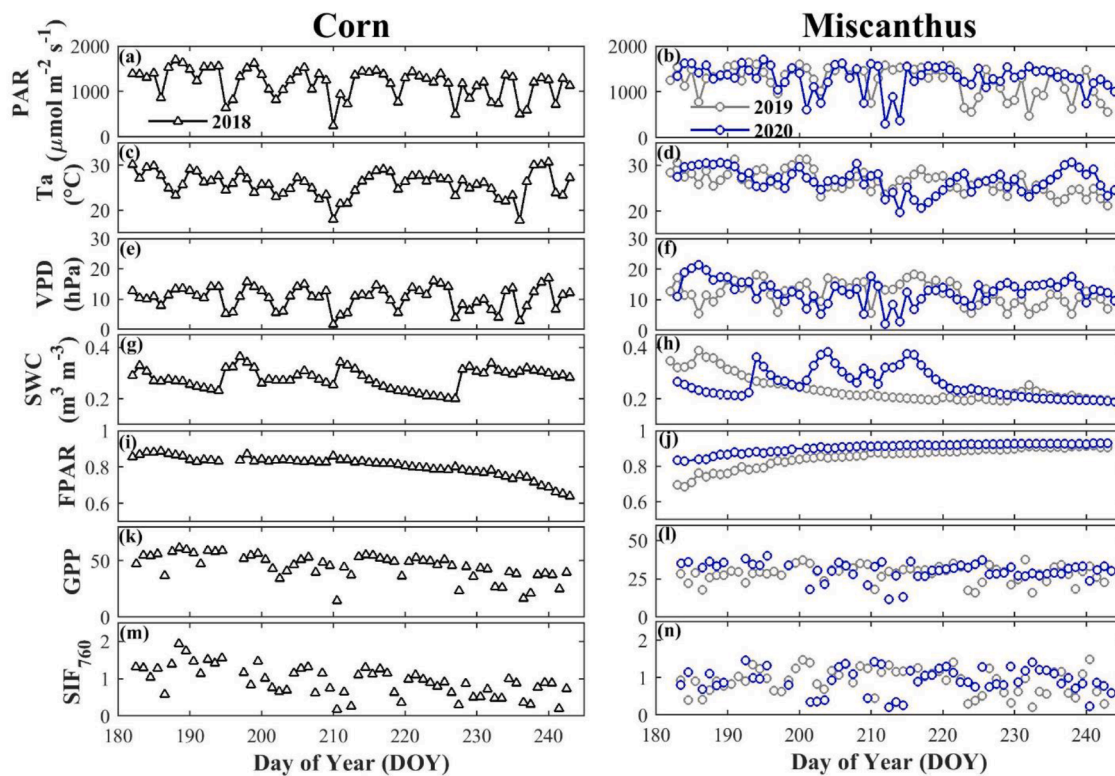
were also applied to investigate the non-linearity of GPP- $SIF_{760}$  in corn and miscanthus considering that GPP might saturate at higher APAR conditions but  $SIF_{760}$  would continue to increase with APAR. Regression equations and  $R^2$  of the linear, hyperbolic and exponential regressions were compared between corn and miscanthus. Analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) was used to test whether  $SIF_{760}$ -GPP relationship between corn and miscanthus was significantly different. Considering the uncertainties of  $SIF_{760}$  under low light conditions, only data from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm (US central summer daylight time) were used. Daily data were averaged from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm half-hourly data when data gaps were less than 10%. Therefore, daily means represent daytime-only values. Sunny days were identified by the ratio of actual PAR to theoretical PAR calculated from dates and solar zenith angles (Weiss and Norman, 1985). The ratio at half-hourly scale was first calculated, and the half-hourly period was defined as sunny when the ratio was above 0.65. Sunny day was then defined when more than 75% of the half-hourly period between 8:00 am to 6:00 pm was sunny.  $r$  and partial correlation coefficients ( $\rho$ ) were computed to measure the response of  $SIF_{760}$ , GPP, leaf and canopy light use efficiency to each environmental variable, i.e., PAR,  $T_a$  and VPD. When computing  $\rho$  between  $SIF_{760}$  or GPP and one environmental variable, the other two environmental variables were controlled. All the measurements, estimated variables and analysis were summarized in Fig. 1.

## 3. Results

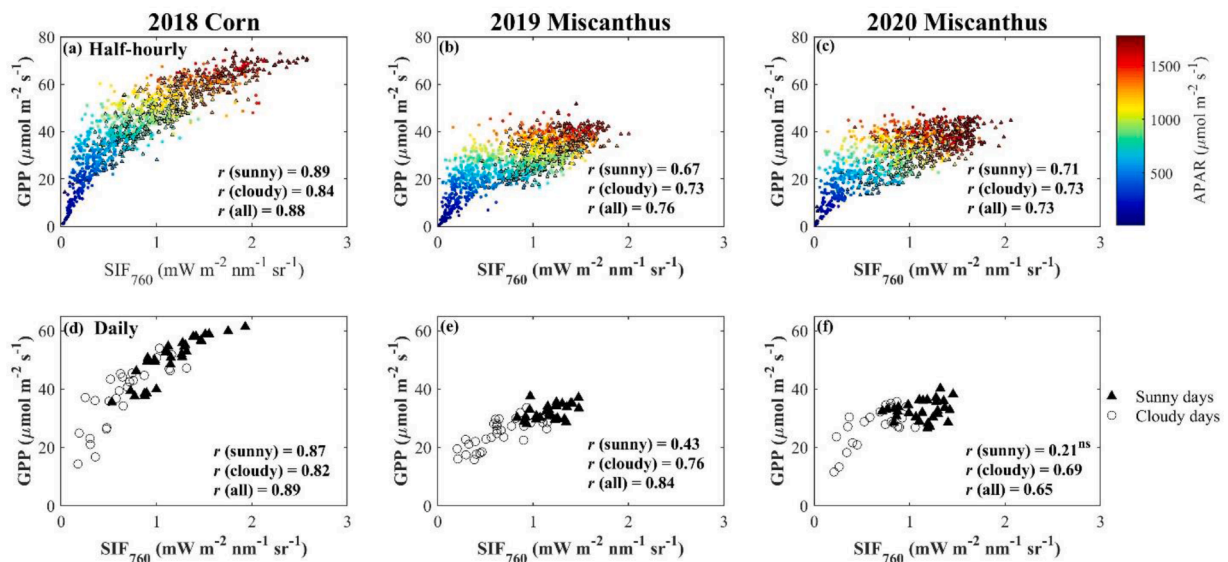
### 3.1. Seasonal variations of environmental conditions, $SIF_{760}$ and GPP

Miscanthus site in 2019 experienced slightly hotter and drier conditions compared to corn site in 2018 (Fig. 2). Daily  $T_a$  ranged from 17.76°C to 30.69°C with mean 25.85°C in 2018 corn, from 21.13°C to 31.34°C with mean 26.32°C in 2019 miscanthus and from 19.76°C to 30.72°C with mean 26.70°C in 2020 miscanthus. Daily VPD varied from 1.68 hPa to 16.95 hPa with mean 10.57 hPa in 2018 corn, from 5.26 hPa to 18.30 hPa with mean 12.23 hPa in 2019 miscanthus and from 2.04 hPa to 21.46 hPa with mean 12.74 hPa in 2020 miscanthus. Daily SWC at 10 cm varied from 0.20  $m^3 m^{-3}$  to 0.36  $m^3 m^{-3}$  in corn and from 0.19  $m^3 m^{-3}$  to 0.39  $m^3 m^{-3}$  in miscanthus. Overall, both corn and





**Fig. 2.** Variation of daytime mean environmental variables, NDVI, GPP and  $SIF_{760}$  for corn (left) and miscanthus (right). Time series of daily (a and b) incoming photosynthetic active radiation (PAR,  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ), (c and d) air temperature ( $T_a$ ,  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), (e and f) vapor pressure deficit (VPD, hPa), (g and h) volumetric soil water content at 10 cm (SWC,  $\text{m}^3 \text{m}^{-3}$ ), (i and j) fraction of absorbed PAR (FPAR), (k and l) gross primary production (GPP,  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) and (m and n) far-red solar-induced chlorophyll fluorescence ( $SIF_{760}$ ,  $\text{mW m}^{-2} \text{nm}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1}$ ). Corn data were from 2018 (black triangles). Miscanthus data were from 2019 (grey circles) and 2020 (blue circles). All data were daily means from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.).



**Fig. 3.** Relationships between canopy  $SIF_{760}$  and GPP at half-hourly and daily scales in (a and d) 2018 corn, (b and e) 2019 miscanthus and (c and f) 2020 miscanthus. Half-hourly  $SIF_{760}$ -GPP relationships were colored by APAR, and the colored triangles with black edge color were sunny days and the colored circles were cloudy days. Daily  $SIF_{760}$ -GPP relationships were separated into sunny days (white circles) and cloudy days (black triangles). "ns" indicated that  $SIF_{760}$  and GPP were not significantly correlated. Other  $r$  values were statistically significant. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.).

miscanthus were not severely water stressed during the two growing seasons since the crop wilting point at this region was typically  $0.14 \text{ m}^3 \text{m}^{-3}$  (Illinois State Water Survey, 2020).

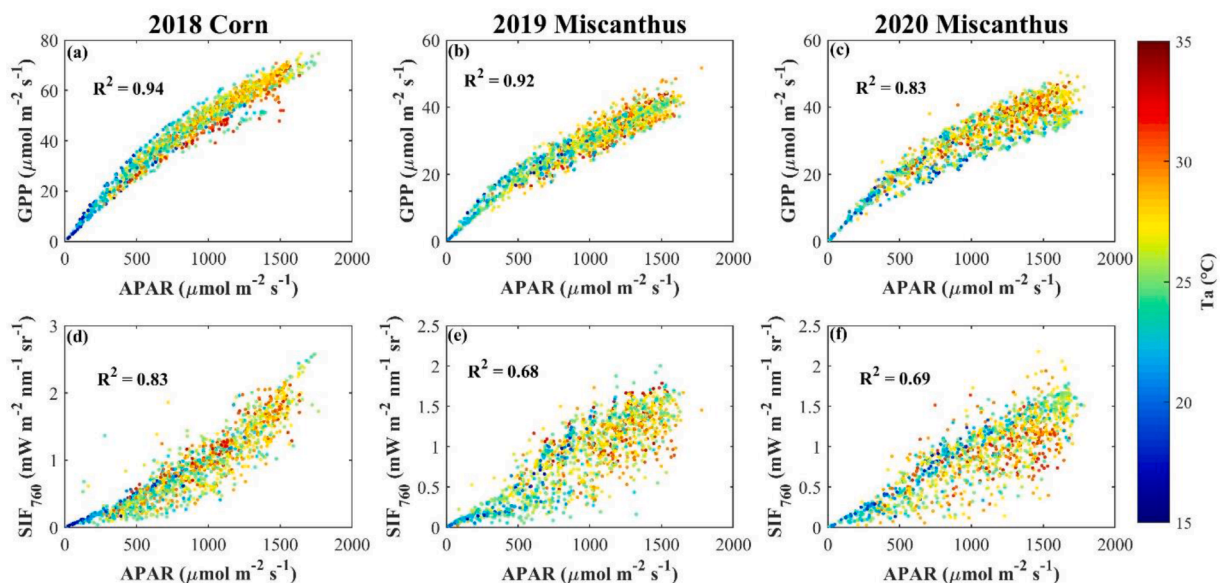
Overall,  $SIF_{760}$  and GPP followed similar seasonal patterns in both species with larger day-to-day variations observed in  $SIF_{760}$  (Fig. 2). Average daily GPP and  $SIF_{760}$  from July to August were higher for corn

**Table 1**Equations and  $R^2$  for  $SIF_{760}$ -GPP relationships using different fitting functions in corn and miscanthus dataset at half-hourly and daily scales.

| Time scale  | Model                    | Fitted Equation             |                             |                             | $R^2$     |                 |                 |
|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
|             |                          | 2018 Corn                   | 2019 Miscanthus             | 2020 Miscanthus             | 2018 Corn | 2019 Miscanthus | 2020 Miscanthus |
| Half-hourly | Linear without intercept | $y=41.95x$                  | $y=28.32x$                  | $y=29.83x$                  | 0.77      | 0.69            | 0.67            |
|             | Linear                   | $y=25.31x+21.09$            | $y=16.02x+13.93$            | $y=15.99x+15.75$            | 0.77      | 0.57            | 0.53            |
|             | Hyperbolic               | $y=\frac{85.04x}{(x+0.67)}$ | $y=\frac{44.53x}{(x+0.40)}$ | $y=\frac{47.49x}{(x+0.41)}$ | 0.83      | 0.61            | 0.57            |
| Daily       | Exponential              | $y=65.19(1-e^{-1.59x})$     | $y=35.56(1-e^{-2.39x})$     | $y=37.96(1-e^{-2.31x})$     | 0.82      | 0.59            | 0.56            |
|             | Linear without intercept | $y=44.39x$                  | $y=29.11x$                  | $y=30.67x$                  | 0.77      | 0.71            | 0.62            |
|             | Linear                   | $y=24.64x+21.71$            | $y=13.00x+16.63$            | $y=10.94x+20.39$            | 0.79      | 0.70            | 0.42            |
|             | Hyperbolic               | $y=\frac{82.70x}{(x+0.71)}$ | $y=\frac{42.51x}{(x+0.40)}$ | $y=\frac{40.73x}{(x+0.27)}$ | 0.82      | 0.72            | 0.55            |
|             | Exponential              | $y=62.51(1-e^{-1.59x})$     | $y=33.74(1-e^{-2.42x})$     | $y=33.65(1-e^{-3.22x})$     | 0.81      | 0.70            | 0.57            |

**Table 2**Equations and  $R^2$  for  $SIF_{760}$ -GPP relationships using different regression functions on sunny days and cloudy days in corn and miscanthus dataset at half-hourly scale.

| Time scale  | Model                    | Fitted Equation             |                             |                             | $R^2$     |                 |                 |
|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
|             |                          | 2018 Corn                   | 2019 Miscanthus             | 2020 Miscanthus             | 2018 Corn | 2019 Miscanthus | 2020 Miscanthus |
| Sunny days  | Linear without intercept | $y=40.00x$                  | $y=26.68x$                  | $y=27.65x$                  | 0.77      | 0.62            | 0.66            |
|             | Linear                   | $y=22.47x+24.27$            | $y=15.66x+13.83$            | $y=15.94x+14.66$            | 0.79      | 0.44            | 0.51            |
|             | Hyperbolic               | $y=\frac{99.50x}{(x+1.02)}$ | $y=\frac{67.17x}{(x+1.23)}$ | $y=\frac{60.33x}{(x+0.89)}$ | 0.82      | 0.45            | 0.53            |
| Cloudy days | Exponential              | $y=72.82(1-e^{-1.14x})$     | $y=46.88(1-e^{-1.03x})$     | $y=44.31(1-e^{-1.28x})$     | 0.81      | 0.45            | 0.53            |
|             | Linear without intercept | $y=47.27x$                  | $y=31.63x$                  | $y=36.43x$                  | 0.73      | 0.66            | 0.67            |
|             | Linear                   | $y=28.98x+18.83$            | $y=17.37x+13.47$            | $y=20.31x+14.38$            | 0.70      | 0.53            | 0.54            |
|             | Hyperbolic               | $y=\frac{70.00x}{(x+0.41)}$ | $y=\frac{42.25x}{(x+0.33)}$ | $y=\frac{49.10x}{(x+0.39)}$ | 0.81      | 0.62            | 0.60            |
|             | Exponential              | $y=60.56(1-e^{-2.07x})$     | $y=33.81(1-e^{-2.97x})$     | $y=38.17(1-e^{-2.66x})$     | 0.81      | 0.61            | 0.60            |



**Fig. 4.** Relationships of half-hourly GPP and APAR, and of  $SIF_{760}$  and APAR over the air temperature ( $T_a$ ) in (a and d) 2018 corn, (b and e) 2019 miscanthus and (c and f) 2020 miscanthus, respectively. Colormap represented half-hourly  $T_a$ .  $R^2$  of the linear regression between  $SIF_{760}$  or GPP and APAR were shown in each subfigure. All  $R^2$  values were statistically significant. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.).

in 2018 (GPP:  $44.51 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ;  $SIF_{760}$ :  $0.92 \text{ mW m}^{-2} \text{nm}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1}$ ) than for miscanthus in 2019 (GPP:  $28.31 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ;  $SIF_{760}$ :  $0.90 \text{ mW m}^{-2} \text{nm}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1}$ ) and 2020 (GPP:  $30.37 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ;  $SIF_{760}$ :  $0.78 \text{ mW m}^{-2} \text{nm}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1}$ ). Corn and miscanthus showed different patterns of FPAR, GPP and  $SIF_{760}$  from July to August due to their different phenology. For corn, FPAR, GPP and  $SIF_{760}$  reached the maximum in early July and maintained the peak until the middle of August, but started to decrease gradually afterwards. For miscanthus,  $SIF_{760}$  and GPP were relatively stable from July to August in both years, although

FPAR showed an increasing pattern in early July. Peak FPAR was higher in miscanthus (2019: 0.92; 2020: 0.93) compared to corn (2018: 0.89).

### 3.2. Seasonal relationship between canopy $SIF_{760}$ and GPP in corn and miscanthus

Canopy  $SIF_{760}$ -GPP relationship was stronger in corn than in miscanthus at both half-hourly and daily scales for linear, hyperbolic and exponential regressions (Fig. 3 and Table 1). At half-hourly scale,  $R^2$  of

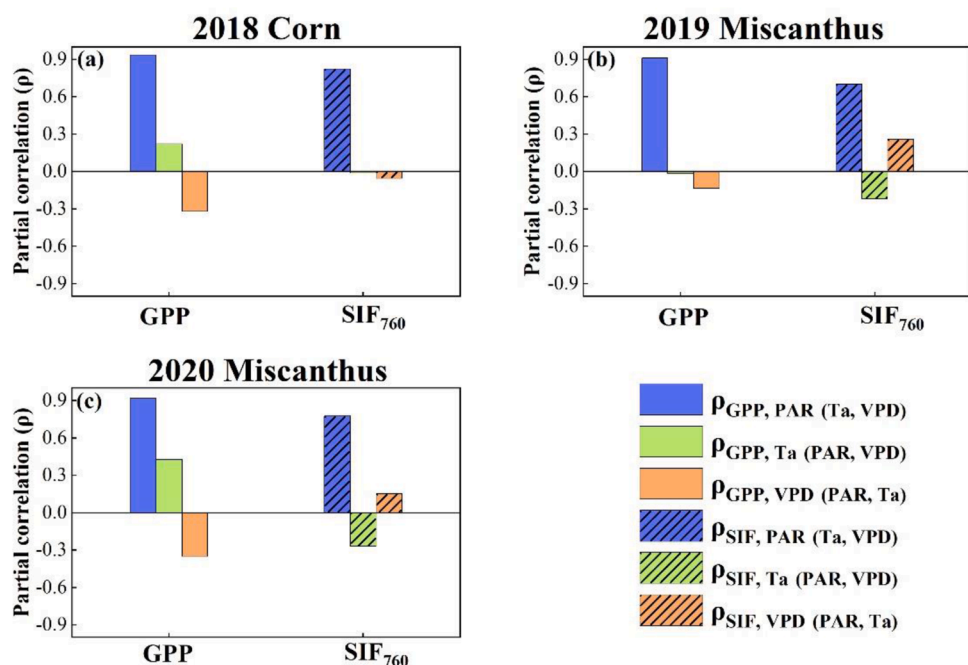


Fig. 5. Partial correlation ( $\rho$ ) between GPP and environmental variables (solid bars), between  $SIF_{760}$  and environmental variables (bars filled with slashes) at half-hourly scale in (a) 2018 corn, (b) 2019 miscanthus and (c) 2020 miscanthus, respectively. Environmental variables included PAR, air temperature ( $T_a$ ), vapor pressure deficit (VPD).  $\rho$  between GPP (or  $SIF_{760}$ ) and each environmental variable was computed by controlling the other two environmental variables. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.).

linear regression with intercept of  $SIF_{760}$ -GPP was 0.77 in 2018 corn, while it was 0.57 and 0.53 in 2019 and 2020 miscanthus, respectively. Hyperbolic and exponential regression improved the  $SIF_{760}$ -GPP relationships in 2018 corn ( $R^2=0.83$  and 0.82), 2019 miscanthus ( $R^2=0.61$  and 0.59), and in 2020 miscanthus ( $R^2=0.57$  and 0.56). The  $R^2$  difference between corn and miscanthus were larger on sunny days compared to cloudy days (Table 2). For hyperbolic regression, the  $R^2$  difference between 2018 corn and 2019 miscanthus were 0.39 and 0.17 on sunny days and cloudy days, respectively. Although linear regression with zero intercept of  $SIF_{760}$ -GPP showed the highest  $R^2$  among all regressions (Table 1), its root mean square error (RMSE) was substantially larger compared to other regressions (Tables S1 and S2). At daily scale, the  $R^2$  among three regressions were similar for both 2018 corn and 2019 miscanthus. In 2020 miscanthus, hyperbolic and exponential regressions increased  $R^2$  by 0.13 and 0.15, respectively, compared to that of linear regression. Miscanthus daily  $SIF_{760}$  showed weak correlation with GPP on sunny days due to the lack of daily variations from July to August in both 2019 and 2020 (Fig. 3).

Linear, hyperbolic and exponential regression models showed significantly different  $SIF_{760}$ -GPP relationships between corn and miscanthus at both half-hourly and daily scales (Tables 1 and 2). For half-hourly linear regressions, both fitted slope and intercept were significantly higher in 2018 corn (slope=25.31; intercept=21.09) compared to 2019 (slope=16.02; intercept=13.93) and 2020 miscanthus (slope=15.99; intercept=15.75). No significant difference of the  $SIF_{760}$ -GPP relationship between 2019 miscanthus and 2020 miscanthus was observed.  $R^2$  of the hyperbolic regression of  $SIF_{760}$ -GPP for corn and miscanthus combined was 0.48 and 0.35 at half-hourly and daily scale, respectively, both of which were lower than the  $R^2$  of miscanthus only and corn only, while RMSE showed the opposite pattern (Fig. S7). This further supported the claim that corn and miscanthus showed different  $SIF_{760}$ -GPP relationships. The results from  $SIF_{760}$ -GPP<sub>NT</sub> (Table S3) and from observed raw  $SIF_{760}$ -GPP (Table S4) were similar as EC footprint-corrected  $SIF_{760}$ -GPP (Table 1), although  $R^2$  of  $SIF_{760}$ -GPP<sub>NT</sub> were overall lower compared to  $SIF_{760}$ -GPP.

Both  $SIF_{760}$  and GPP showed strong relationships with APAR in corn and miscanthus (Fig. 4).  $R^2$  of the GPP-APAR linear relationship at half-hourly was similar between corn ( $R^2=0.94$ ) and miscanthus (2019:  $R^2=0.92$ ; 2020:  $R^2=0.83$ ), while the APAR- $SIF_{760}$  linear relationship in

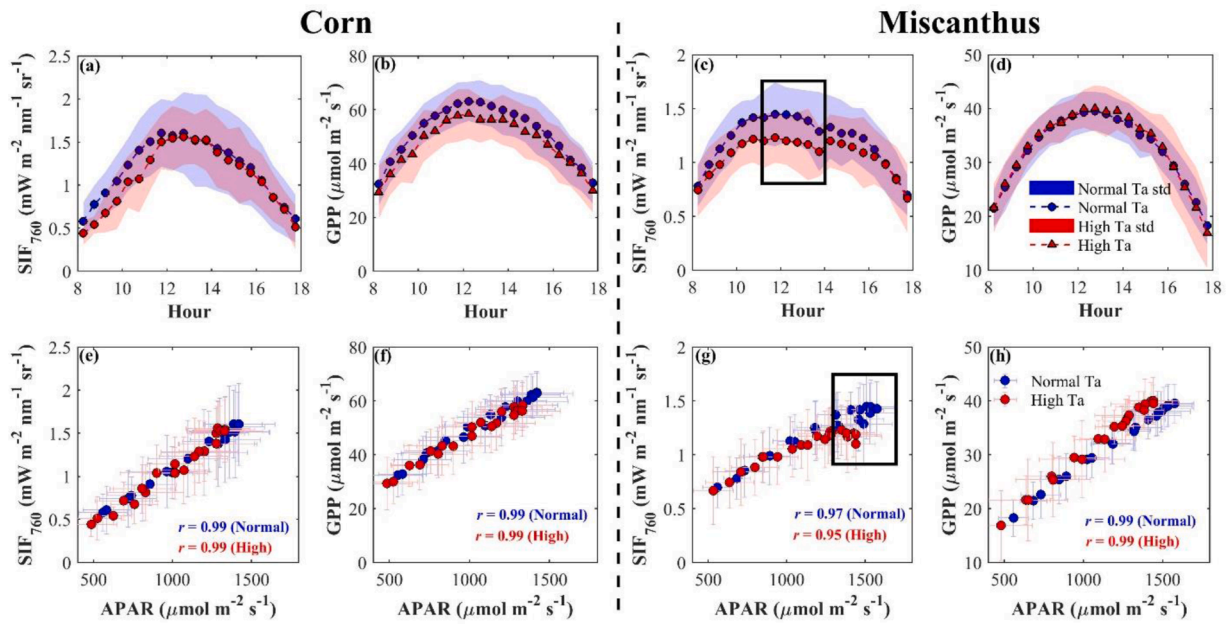
corn ( $R^2=0.83$ ) was stronger than that in miscanthus (2019:  $R^2=0.68$ ; 2020:  $R^2=0.69$ ). The GPP<sub>NT</sub>-APAR relationships were also similar between corn ( $R^2=0.80$ ) and miscanthus (2019:  $R^2=0.77$ ; 2020:  $R^2=0.71$ ) (Fig. S8). This similar GPP-APAR relationship but weaker  $SIF_{760}$ -APAR relationship in miscanthus caused the weaker  $SIF_{760}$ -GPP relationship compared to corn shown in Fig. 3. For both 2018 corn and 2019 miscanthus, the increasing rate of  $SIF_{760}$  with APAR at low APAR conditions was lower compared to that at high APAR conditions while GPP showed a slightly opposite pattern. This resulted in slightly non-linear  $SIF_{760}$ -GPP relationships in both species shown in Fig. 3 and Table 1. Both corn and miscanthus GPP tended to increase with  $T_a$ . However, corn  $SIF_{760}$  showed no response to  $T_a$  but miscanthus  $SIF_{760}$  tended to decrease with  $T_a$  at high APAR conditions.

Partial correlation results further demonstrated the different environmental response of GPP and  $SIF_{760}$  in corn and miscanthus (Fig. 5). Both corn and miscanthus GPP showed the strongest positive  $\rho$  with PAR, moderate  $\rho$  with  $T_a$  and moderate negative  $\rho$  with VPD, except that in 2019 miscanthus, GPP<sub>DT</sub> showed no correlation with  $T_a$  (Fig. 5b). GPP<sub>NT</sub> showed similar response to environmental variables as GPP in the three year-sites (Fig. S9). However, the environmental responses of  $SIF_{760}$  were different between corn and miscanthus. For 2018 corn,  $SIF_{760}$  was mainly controlled by PAR and showed almost no response to  $T_a$  and VPD. For 2019 and 2020 miscanthus,  $SIF_{760}$  showed a moderate negative  $\rho$  with  $T_a$  and moderate positive  $\rho$  with VPD, which was opposite to GPP. These different responses of GPP and  $SIF_{760}$  might contribute to the weaker  $SIF_{760}$ -GPP relationship in miscanthus at seasonal scale shown in Fig. 3.

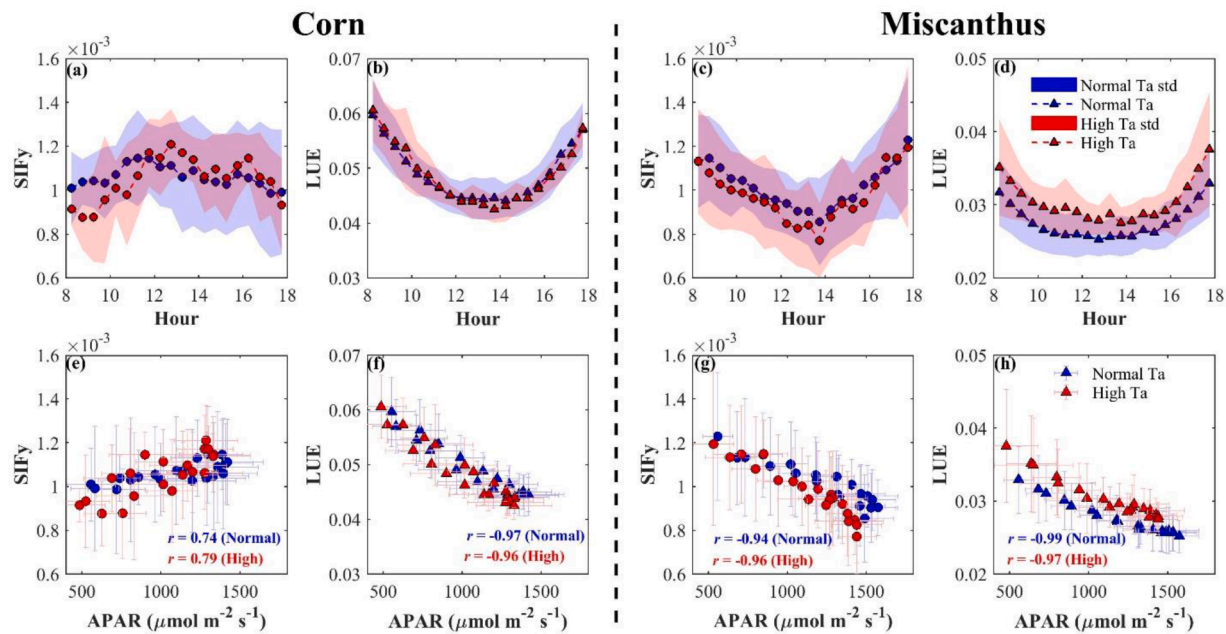
### 3.3. Diurnal variations of canopy $SIF_{760}$ and GPP in corn and miscanthus

Diurnal patterns of sunny-day  $SIF_{760}$  and GPP under different  $T_a$  and VPD conditions were investigated to further understand the different environmental responses of  $SIF_{760}$  and GPP in corn and miscanthus. Normal and high  $T_a$  days were separated using daily maximum  $T_a$  30°C as the threshold. A total of 24 normal  $T_a$  sunny days and 8 high  $T_a$  sunny days were selected in 2018 corn, and 37 normal and 20 high  $T_a$  days were selected in combined 2019 and 2020 miscanthus. Similarly, normal and high VPD days were differentiated with daily maximum VPD 20 hPa as the threshold, and 29 normal and 3 high VPD sunny days in





**Fig. 6.** Diurnal variation of SIF<sub>760</sub> and GPP under different Ta conditions. The averaged diurnal variation of (a and c) SIF<sub>760</sub> and (b and d) GPP from normal Ta sunny days (blue) and high Ta sunny days (red) for 2018 corn (left) and combined 2019 and 2020 miscanthus (right). Diurnal relationship (e and g) between APAR and SIF<sub>760</sub> and (f and h) between APAR and GPP under normal Ta days (blue) and high Ta days (red). Shaded bands in (a–d) represented the standard deviation of averaged SIF<sub>760</sub> or GPP. Horizontal and vertical error bars in (e–h) indicated the standard deviation of SIF<sub>760</sub> or GPP and APAR. Black box highlighted the period when SIF<sub>760</sub> midday depression were observed. The Pearson correlation coefficient (*r*) between SIF<sub>760</sub> or GPP and APAR on normal Ta days (blue texts) and high Ta days (red texts) were shown in each subfigure. All *r* values were statistically significant. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.).

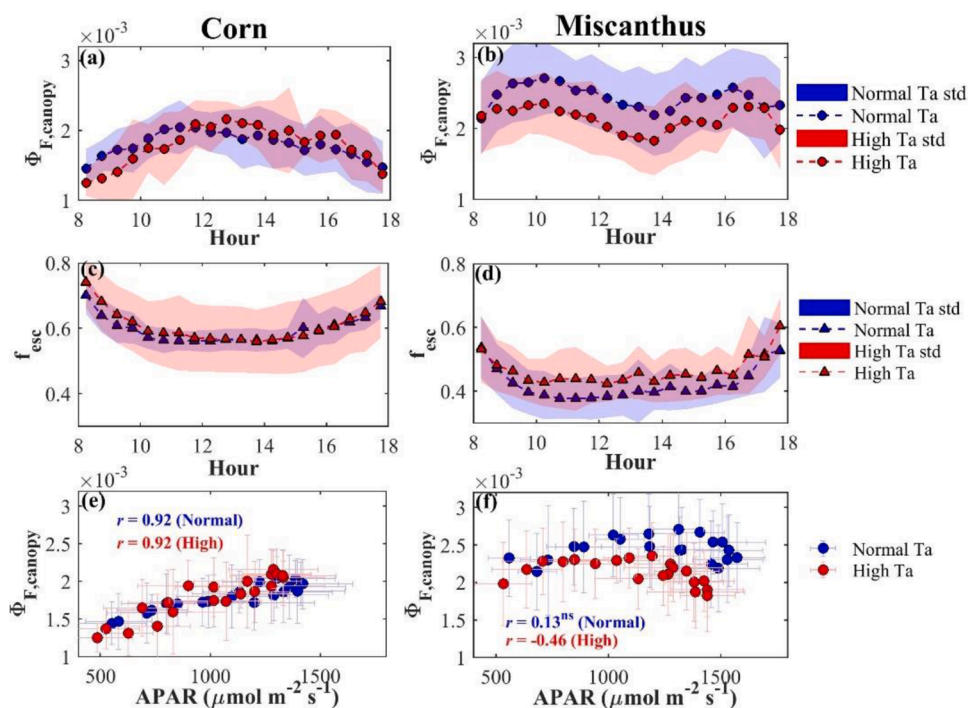


**Fig. 7.** Diurnal variation of SIF<sub>y</sub> and LUE under different Ta conditions. The averaged diurnal variation of (a and c) SIF<sub>y</sub> and (b and d) LUE from normal Ta sunny days (blue) and high Ta sunny days (red) for 2018 corn (left) and combined 2019 and 2020 miscanthus (right). Diurnal relationship (e and g) between APAR and SIF<sub>y</sub> and (f and h) between APAR and LUE under normal Ta days (blue) and high Ta days (red). Shaded bands in (a–d) represented the standard deviation of averaged SIF<sub>y</sub> or LUE. Horizontal and vertical error bars in (e–h) indicated the standard deviation of SIF<sub>y</sub> or LUE and APAR. The Pearson correlation coefficient (*r*) between SIF<sub>y</sub> or LUE and APAR on normal Ta and VPD days (blue texts) and high Ta and VPD days (red texts) were shown in each subfigure. All *r* values were statistically significant. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.).

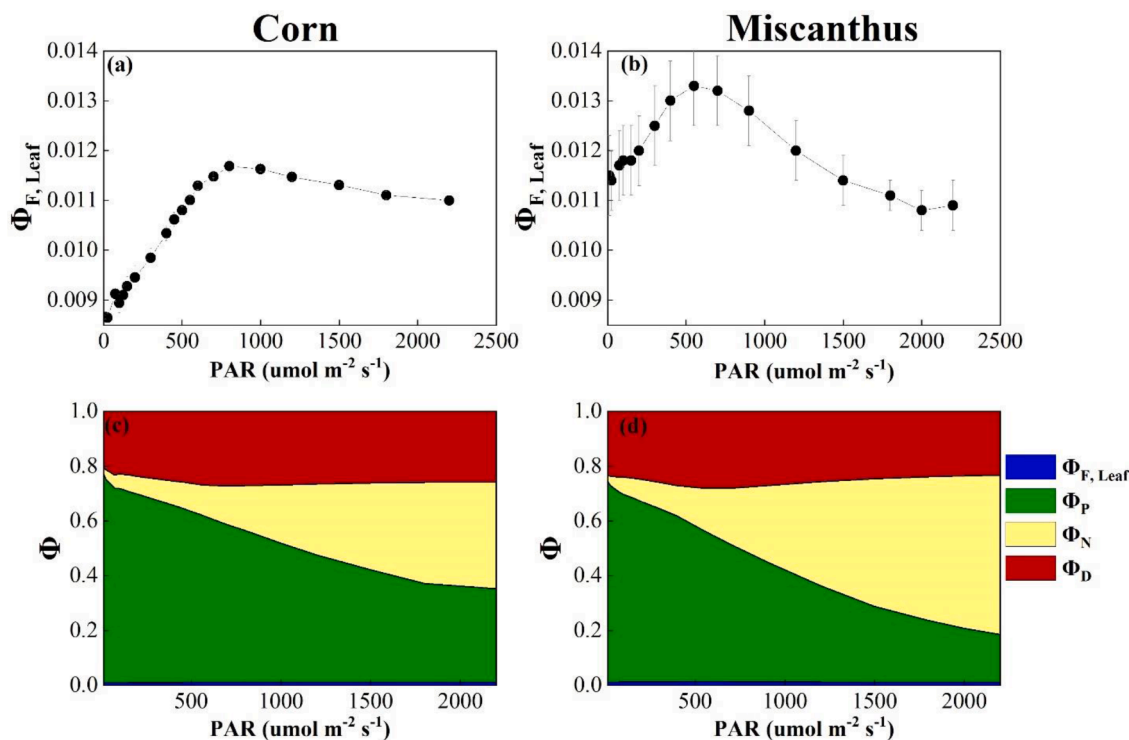
corn, and 39 normal and 18 high VPD days in miscanthus were found, respectively. Averaged diurnal patterns of SIF<sub>760</sub> and GPP were obtained for normal and high Ta and VPD days, separately.

Corn and miscanthus showed different diurnal patterns of SIF<sub>760</sub> and

GPP under different Ta and VPD conditions. For corn, SIF<sub>760</sub> and GPP followed the similar diurnal patterns on both normal and high Ta and VPD days, and both showed a strong linear correlation and similar relationships with APAR under different Ta and VPD conditions (*r*=0.99,



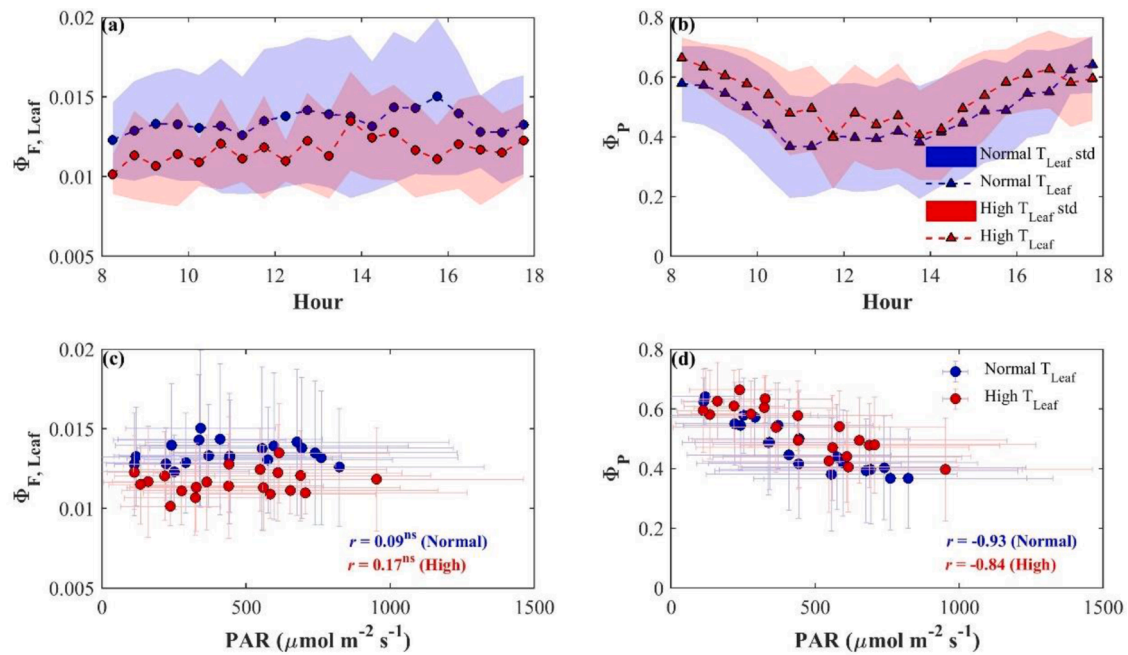
**Fig. 8.** Diurnal variation of  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  and  $f_{\text{esc}}$  under different Ta conditions. The averaged diurnal variation of (a and b)  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  and (c and d)  $f_{\text{esc}}$  from normal Ta sunny days (blue) and high Ta sunny days (red) for 2018 corn (left) and combined 2019 and 2020 miscanthus (right). Diurnal relationship between APAR and under normal Ta days (blue) and high Ta days (red) in (e) corn and (f) miscanthus. Shaded bands in (a–d) represented the standard deviation of averaged  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  or  $f_{\text{esc}}$ . Horizontal and vertical error bars in (e and f) indicated the standard deviation of  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  and  $f_{\text{esc}}$  or APAR. The Pearson correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) between  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  and APAR on normal Ta days (blue texts) and high Ta days (red texts) were shown in each subfigure. “ns” indicated that  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  and APAR were not significantly correlated. Other  $r$  values were statistically significant. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)



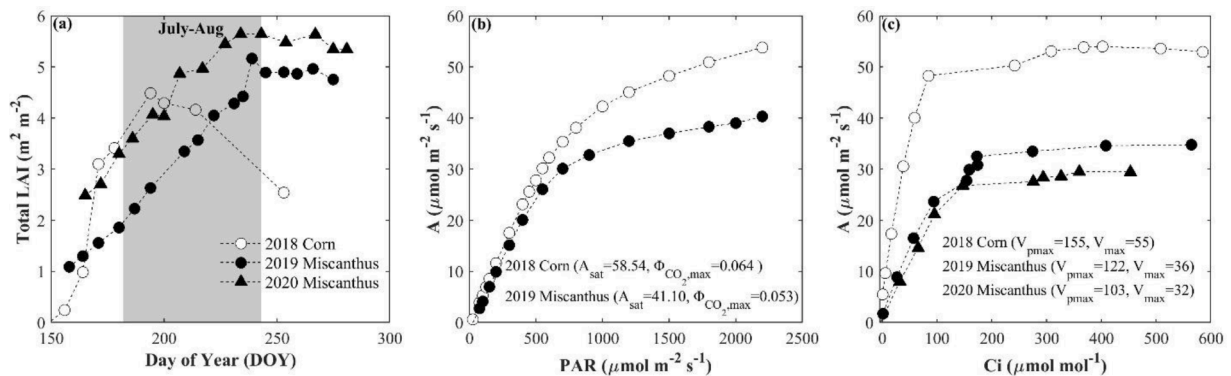
**Fig. 9.** Energy partitioning of top leaves in 2018 corn (left) and 2019 miscanthus (right) under different PAR levels from the light response curves. Relationship between leaf-level  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  and PAR in (a) corn and (b) miscanthus. Energy partitioning ( $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$ ,  $\Phi_P$ ,  $\Phi_N$  and  $\Phi_D$ ) of top leaves in (c) corn and (d) miscanthus. Measurements were taken at the corn site on DOY 198–199 in 2018 (for corn) and at the Miscanthus site on DOY 187, DOY 194, DOY 209, DOY 215 and DOY 242 in 2019 (for miscanthus). (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

Figs. 6 and A1). For miscanthus, different behaviors of  $\text{SIF}_{760}$  and GPP were found.  $\text{SIF}_{760}$  was overall lower on high Ta days compared to normal Ta days, while GPP showed the opposite pattern (Fig. 6). Miscanthus GPP followed the diurnal pattern of APAR and they were strongly and linearly correlated on both normal and high Ta and VPD

days ( $r=0.99$ , Figs. 6 and A1). However, miscanthus  $\text{SIF}_{760}$  showed a flatter daytime variation compared to GPP overall, and even a midday depression under high Ta and VPD days (indicated by the black box in Figs. 6 and A1).  $\text{SIF}_{760}$  stopped increasing with APAR at high APAR conditions on high Ta and VPD days which resulted in an overall weaker



**Fig. 10.** Diurnal averaged pattern of leaf-level fluorescence yield ( $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$ ) and photochemical yield ( $\Phi_P$ ), and their relationships with PAR of top leaves in 2020 miscanthus from the Moni-PAM measurements from July to August. (a) Averaged diurnal pattern of  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  from normal  $T_{\text{Leaf}}$  days (blue dots) and high  $T_{\text{Leaf}}$  days (red dots); (b) averaged diurnal pattern of  $\Phi_P$  from normal  $T_{\text{Leaf}}$  days (black triangles) and high  $T_{\text{Leaf}}$  days (red triangles); (c) diurnal relationships between averaged  $\Phi_F$  and PAR under normal (blue) and high  $T_{\text{Leaf}}$  days (red); (d) diurnal relationships between averaged  $\Phi_P$  and PAR under normal (blue) and high  $T_{\text{Leaf}}$  days (red). Shaded bands in (a) and (b) represented the standard deviation (std) of averaged  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  or  $\Phi_P$ . Horizontal and vertical error bars in (c) and (d) indicated the standard deviation of normalized  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  or  $\Phi$  and PAR. The Pearson correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) between normalized  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  or  $\Phi$  and PAR on normal  $T_{\text{Leaf}}$  days (blue texts) and high  $T_{\text{Leaf}}$  days (red texts) were shown in each subfigure. "ns" indicated that  $\Phi_F$  and PAR were not significantly correlated. Other  $r$  values were statistically significant. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)



**Fig. 11.** (a) Seasonal variation of total LAI in 2018 corn (open circles), 2019 miscanthus (filled circles) and 2020 miscanthus (filled triangles) measured by LAI-2200C plant canopy analyzer near the SIF tower; (b) representative responses of leaf assimilation rate ( $A$ ) to incident PAR in 2018 corn (open circles) and 2019 miscanthus (filled circles); (c) representative responses of leaf assimilation rate ( $A$ ) to intracellular  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration ( $C_i$ ) of 2018 corn (open circles), 2019 miscanthus (filled circles) and 2020 miscanthus (filled triangles). The shaded area in (a) indicates the period of July to August. The  $A$ -PAR and  $A$ - $C_i$  curves of corn were measured using LI-6800 on July, 17<sup>th</sup> of 2018 and the curves of miscanthus were measured on July, 13<sup>th</sup> of 2019 and July, 13<sup>th</sup> of 2020. Fitted values of light-saturated leaf photosynthesis ( $A_{\text{sat}}$ ) and maximum quantum yield of  $\text{CO}_2$  assimilation ( $\Phi_{\text{CO}_2, \text{max}}$ ) from  $A$ -PAR curves, and  $V_{\text{pmax}}$  and  $V_{\text{max}}$  from the  $A$ - $C_i$  curves were shown in the figure. For all curves, leaf temperature and chamber relative humidity were controlled at 27°C and 55%, respectively.

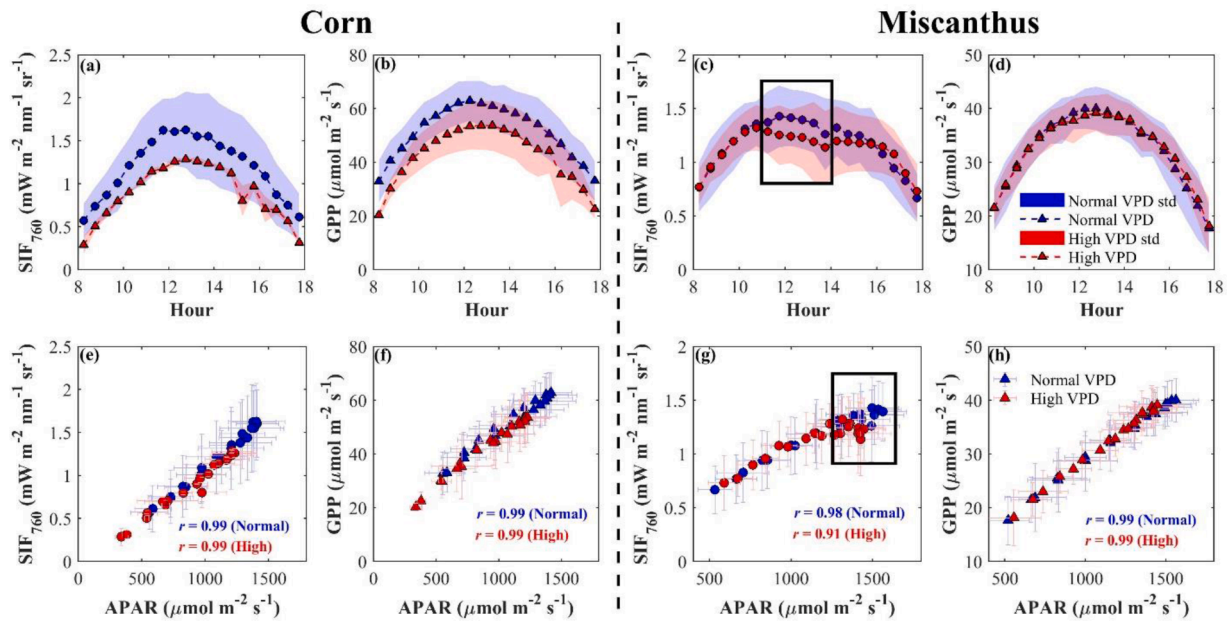
SIF<sub>760</sub>-APAR relationship ( $r=0.91-0.95$ ). The different environmental responses of SIF<sub>760</sub> and GPP in miscanthus caused an overall weaker diurnal correlation of SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP ( $r=0.78 \pm 0.16$ ) compared to corn ( $r=0.90 \pm 0.08$ ) (Fig. S10).

### 3.4. Environmental responses of canopy SIFy and LUE

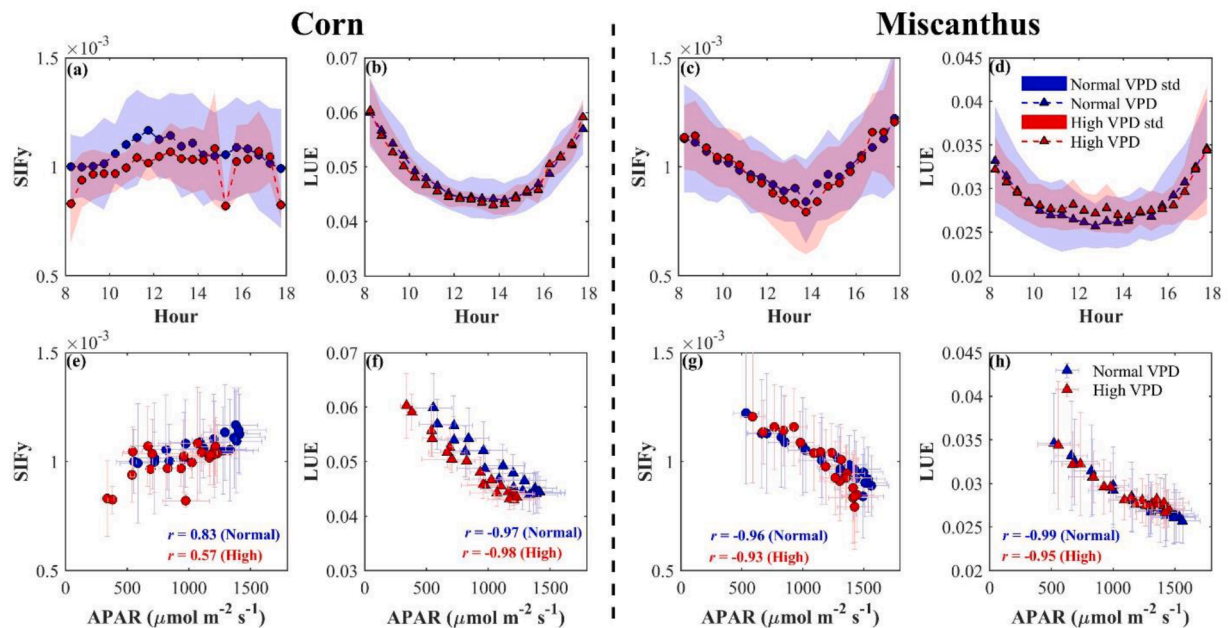
Corn and miscanthus SIFy and LUE showed different responses to environmental conditions. Overall, miscanthus LUE was lower than corn LUE while SIFy was similar between the two species. Corn SIFy and LUE

did not show considerably different responses to  $T_a$ , but miscanthus SIFy and LUE showed the opposite responses to  $T_a$  with overall lower SIFy but higher LUE observed on high  $T_a$  days (Fig. 7). Corn SIFy was characterized by an overall bell shape, i.e., slightly higher at noon than morning and afternoon on both normal and high  $T_a$  and VPD days, and it showed overall positive correlation with APAR (Figs. 7 and A2). Miscanthus SIFy showed completely different diurnal patterns than corn. Miscanthus SIFy was characterized by a bowl shape, with the minimum value appearing at noon, and miscanthus SIFy and APAR was negative correlated on both normal and high  $T_a$  and VPD days. Larger decrease of





**Fig. A1.** Diurnal variation of  $SIF_{760}$  and GPP under different VPD conditions. The averaged diurnal variation of (a and c)  $SIF_{760}$  and (b and d) GPP from normal VPD sunny days (blue) and high VPD sunny days (red) for 2018 corn (left) and combined 2019 and 2020 miscanthus (right). Diurnal relationship (e and g) between APAR and  $SIF_{760}$  and (f and h) between APAR and GPP under normal VPD days (blue) and high VPD days (red). Shaded bands in (a–d) represented the standard deviation of averaged  $SIF_{760}$  or GPP. Horizontal and vertical error bars in (e–h) indicated the standard deviation of  $SIF_{760}$  or GPP and APAR. Black box highlighted the period when  $SIF_{760}$  midday depression were observed. The Pearson correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) between  $SIF_{760}$  or GPP and APAR on normal VPD days (blue texts) and high VPD days (red texts) were shown in each subfigure. All  $r$  values were statistically significant. Daytime maximum VPD ranged from 12hPa to 20hPa on normal days and from 20hPa to 25hPa for high VPD days, respectively. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

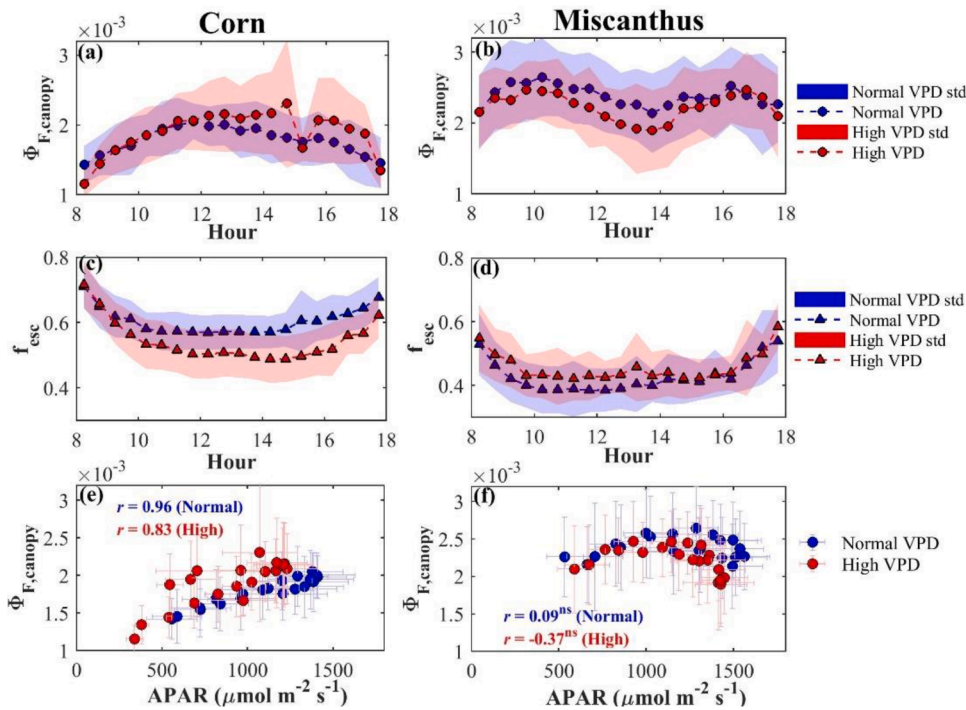


**Fig. A2.** Diurnal variation of  $SIF_y$  and LUE under different Ta conditions. The averaged diurnal variation of (a and c)  $SIF_y$  and (b and d) LUE from normal Ta sunny days (blue) and high Ta sunny days (red) for 2018 corn (left) and combined 2019 and 2020 miscanthus (right). Diurnal relationship (e and g) between APAR and  $SIF_y$  and (f and h) between APAR and LUE under normal Ta days (blue) and high Ta days (red). Shaded bands in (a–d) represented the standard deviation of averaged  $SIF_y$  or LUE. Horizontal and vertical error bars in (e–h) indicated the standard deviation of  $SIF_y$  or LUE and APAR. The Pearson correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) between  $SIF_y$  or LUE and APAR on normal Ta and VPD days (blue texts) and high Ta and VPD days (red texts) were shown in each subfigure. All  $r$  values were statistically significant. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

$SIF_y$  with APAR was observed at high APAR, VPD and Ta conditions compared to low APAR, Ta and VPD conditions (Figs. 7 and A2). For the diurnal variation of LUE, both species showed an overall bowl shape of

diurnal LUE with minimum values at noon, and strong negative LUE-APAR correlations (Figs. 7 and A2).

Diurnal patterns of  $\Phi_F$ ,  $\text{Canopy}$  and  $f_{esc}$  were further investigated to



**Fig. A3.** Diurnal variation of  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  and  $f_{\text{esc}}$  under different VPD conditions. The averaged diurnal variation of (a and b)  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  and (c and d)  $f_{\text{esc}}$  from normal VPD sunny days (blue) and high VPD sunny days (red) for 2018 corn (left) and combined 2019 and 2020 miscanthus (right). Diurnal relationship between APAR and under normal VPD days (blue) and high VPD days (red) in (e) corn and (f) miscanthus. Shaded bands in (a–d) represented the standard deviation of averaged  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  or  $f_{\text{esc}}$ . Horizontal and vertical error bars in (e and f) indicated the standard deviation of  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  and  $f_{\text{esc}}$  or APAR. The Pearson correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) between  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  and APAR on normal VPD days (blue texts) and high VPD days (red texts) were shown in each subfigure. “ns” indicated that  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  and APAR were not significantly correlated. Other  $r$  values were statistically significant. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.).

understand the different behaviors of SIFy in corn and miscanthus, and different behaviors of  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  were observed between the two species. Overall, miscanthus  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  was higher than corn due to its lower  $f_{\text{esc}}$  compared to corn (Fig. 8). Similar as corn SIFy, corn  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  was characterized by a bell shape with maximum at noon time, and it showed strong positive correlation with APAR ( $r=0.83\text{--}0.96$ , Figs. 8 and A3). However, miscanthus  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  was characterized by an M shape, i. e.,  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  first increased in the morning, then decreased at noon, and then increased again in the afternoon. Miscanthus  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  first increased with APAR at low light to medium conditions and decreased with APAR under high light conditions (Figs. 8 and A3). This decrease was even larger on high Ta and VPD days, resulting in an overall negative  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$ -APAR correlation on high Ta ( $r=-0.46$ ) and high VPD days ( $r=-0.37$ ). Both corn and miscanthus  $f_{\text{esc}}$  showed a bowl-shaped diurnal pattern, with large values in the early morning and late afternoon but stable and small values in the midday (Figs. 8 and A3). This diurnal pattern of  $f_{\text{esc}}$  amplified the diurnal variation of miscanthus SIFy shown in Fig. 7.

### 3.5. Environmental responses of leaf quantum yields

Leaf-level  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  showed different responses to PAR between corn and miscanthus. Consistent with canopy-level results, miscanthus showed overall higher  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  than corn. Corn  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  first increased with PAR and slightly decreased with PAR when PAR was higher than  $\sim 800 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  (Fig. 9a), with an overall increase trend with PAR ( $r=0.72$ ). Miscanthus  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  first increased with PAR and then strongly decreased with the PAR increase beyond  $\sim 550 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  (Fig. 9b). Leaf-level  $\Phi_{\text{P}}$  overall showed a decreasing trend with PAR increasing for both species. However, the decreasing rate of miscanthus  $\Phi_{\text{P}}$  was larger than that of corn, resulting in a lower miscanthus  $\Phi_{\text{P}}$  under the same high PAR conditions (Fig. 9c and d).  $\Phi_{\text{N}}$  increased with PAR for both species, but with a higher increasing rate shown in miscanthus, which resulted in a high  $\Phi_{\text{N}}$  in miscanthus compared to corn under the same light.  $\Phi_{\text{D}}$  remained relatively stable with PAR changes for both species.

Averaged diurnal patterns of leaf-level  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$ ,  $\Phi_{\text{P}}$  and  $\Phi_{\text{N}}$  under normal and high  $T_{\text{Leaf}}$  days were obtained for miscanthus from the MoniPAM dataset to be comparable with the canopy-level results. Normal and

high  $T_{\text{Leaf}}$  days were defined as days when daily maximum  $T_{\text{Leaf}}$  was lower and higher than  $38^\circ\text{C}$ , respectively. A higher threshold was chosen for  $T_{\text{Leaf}}$  than for Ta because of generally higher  $T_{\text{Leaf}}$  than Ta (Fig. S11). Consistent with canopy-level results, miscanthus  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  was overall lower on high  $T_{\text{Leaf}}$  days while  $\Phi_{\text{P}}$  was slightly higher on high  $T_{\text{Leaf}}$  days compared to normal days (Fig. 10a).  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  showed less diurnal variations compared to canopy-level  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$ , but a weak trend that  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  first increased with PAR and then decreased with PAR on both normal and high  $T_{\text{Leaf}}$  days was observed (Fig. 10c). With the exclusion of data under low light ( $\text{PAR} < 400 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ),  $r$  of  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$ -PAR were  $-0.34$  and  $-0.21$  on normal and high  $T_{\text{Leaf}}$  days, respectively. Averaged miscanthus leaf  $\Phi_{\text{P}}$  showed a bowl-shaped diurnal pattern with minimum values at noon (Fig. 10b).  $\Phi_{\text{P}}$  and PAR were strongly negatively correlated on both normal ( $r=-0.93$ ) and high  $T_{\text{Leaf}}$  days ( $r=-0.84$ ) (Fig. 10d).

## 4. Discussion

We explored the canopy SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP relationships in two C4 crops, corn and miscanthus using continuous in situ canopy measurements. We found that the SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP relationship was different between corn and miscanthus with higher  $R^2$  and slope of SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP shown in corn compared to miscanthus. Here we first provide a detailed discussion about the different SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP relationships observed the two species in terms of  $R^2$  from both the roles of leaf-level energy partitioning and canopy structure perspectives, and then discuss the different slopes of SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP in corn and miscanthus as well as the implications for SIF-based GPP estimation.

### 4.1. Leaf-level absorbed energy partitioning in corn and miscanthus

Different leaf-level energy partitioning among photochemistry, fluorescence and heat dissipation under varying environmental conditions plays an important role in the observed different SIF<sub>760</sub> patterns between corn and miscanthus. Under low light conditions (e.g.  $\text{PAR} < 500 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ),  $\Phi_{\text{P}}$  dominates the energy partitioning of APAR, and both  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  and  $\Phi_{\text{N}}$  are low (Baker, 2008). Under high light conditions (e.g.  $\text{PAR} > 500 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ),  $\Phi_{\text{N}}$  increases (Müller et al., 2001), and both  $\Phi_{\text{P}}$  and  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  decrease (Porcar-Castell et al., 2014). For

miscanthus,  $\Phi_N$  strongly increased with PAR, causing an even lower  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  under high light conditions compared to that under low light conditions. For corn, the  $\Phi_N$  increase with PAR decelerated under high light conditions, resulting in a relatively small decrease of  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  and an overall higher  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  under high PAR compared to low PAR. These different responses of  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  to light led to the different diurnal canopy  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  patterns between corn and miscanthus (Fig. 8). Ta and VPD further affect the energy partitioning (Peguero-Pina et al., 2008; Van Der Tol et al., 2014; Chou et al., 2017). Previous studies have found that  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  decrease under high temperature and VPD with the increasing of  $\Phi_N$  (Flexas et al., 2002; Peguero-Pina et al., 2008; Ać et al., 2015). Miscanthus tends to show a stronger response to Ta and VPD, with a stronger decline of  $\Phi_F$  and a stronger increase of  $\Phi_N$  compared to corn under high Ta and VPD conditions. Additionally, such decline of  $\Phi_F$  under high light conditions tends to be larger compared to low light conditions for both species (Van Der Tol et al., 2014). The overall lower  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$ ,  $\Phi_N$ ,  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  in corn indicates that corn tends use more APAR for photochemistry and less APAR for fluorescence and heat dissipation and the energy partitioning of APAR is less sensitive to Ta and VPD, while miscanthus tends to strongly reduce fluorescence emission to maintain photochemistry under high PAR, Ta and VPD conditions. Different maximum carboxylation rates ( $V_{\text{max}}$ ) may contribute to the different responses of  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  ( $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$ ) to environmental conditions in corn and miscanthus. Corn tends to have higher  $V_{\text{max}}$  than miscanthus (Fig. 11, corn  $V_{\text{max}}=55 \text{ umol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ; miscanthus  $V_{\text{max}}=32\text{--}36 \text{ umol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) (Dohleman and Long, 2009), which leads to less  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  decline compared to miscanthus under the same high light conditions (Frankenberg and Berry, 2018).

#### 4.2. The role of canopy structure in the observed SIF<sub>760</sub> pattern

Canopy structure contributes to the larger diurnal variation in canopy level  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  compared to leaf level  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  shown in miscanthus as well as different diurnal canopy  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  and SIFy patterns (Figs. 7, 8 and 10).  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  depends on both leaf-level  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  and the relative contribution of sunlit and shaded leaves (Yang et al., 2021). Shaded leaves experience lower incident PAR and less variation of PAR across the day (Jifon and Syvertsen, 2003; Retkute et al., 2018). For both species, sunlit leaves contribute more than 70% of canopy total carbon assimilation (Dohleman and Long, 2009). Therefore, the diurnal variation of canopy  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  is mainly determined by the diurnal variation of sunlit leaves fraction which generally follows a bell-shaped pattern with the highest value at noon (De Pury and Farquhar, 1997) and the variation of sunlit leaves incident PAR. For corn, the high sunlit leaf fraction combined with high sunlit leaf  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  caused a higher canopy  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  at noon than early morning and late afternoon. By contrast, for miscanthus, the low sunlit leaf  $\Phi_F$  combined with high sunlit leaf fraction resulted in a larger decrease of miscanthus canopy  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  than the leaf  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  at noon to afternoon time. Additionally, the role of  $f_{\text{esc}}$  complicated the observed SIF<sub>760</sub> pattern. With low solar zenith angle in early morning and late afternoon,  $f_{\text{esc}}$  calculated by directional NIRv is larger than the  $f_{\text{esc}}$  at the midday (Zeng et al., 2019). For corn, the high  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  at noon time decreased for SIFy, resulting in a weaker positive SIFy-APAR correlation compared to  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$ -PAR. For miscanthus, the higher  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  in the morning and afternoon and lower  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  at noon time was amplified for SIFy, which caused a strong negative SIFy-APAR correlation. The strong decline of miscanthus SIFy under high PAR, high Ta and VPD conditions resulted in the midday-afternoon SIF<sub>760</sub> reduction, causing SIF<sub>760</sub> to deviate from APAR at diurnal scale and weakening the diurnal SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP relationships. However,  $f_{\text{esc}}$ -corrected total SIF emitted by all leaves ( $\text{SIF}_{\text{total}}$ ) still showed a SIF<sub>760</sub> midday depression in miscanthus (Fig. S12), indicating that large decline of  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$  at high PAR conditions might be the major reason for the observed SIF<sub>760</sub> midday depression in miscanthus, although the current  $f_{\text{esc}}$  estimation still exists uncertainty (Zeng et al., 2019). The observed different SIF<sub>760</sub> behaviors as well as different SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP

relationships between corn and miscanthus in our study are resulted from the combined effect of their different leaf-level absorbed energy partitioning, and canopy structure including the change of sunlit leaf fraction. It is worth mentioning that SIF midday depression under high PAR and VPD conditions has been reported in forest and winter barley (Paul-Limoges et al., 2018; Gu et al., 2019b). Although a recent study has found SIF midday depression in corn, it was due to the midday depression of APAR caused by the row structure impact (Chang et al., 2021), which is not contrast to our corn results since no APAR midday depression was shown in our corn dataset.

#### 4.3. Different slopes of SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP in corn and miscanthus

A higher slope of SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP in corn compared to miscanthus was found, due to a larger difference in GPP magnitude than SIF<sub>760</sub> magnitude between corn and miscanthus. Higher corn GPP than miscanthus during mid-summer have been shown in previous studies (Moore et al., 2021), which is due to higher corn leaf assimilation rate (A) during peak growing season (Dohleman and Long, 2009). The higher A in corn compared to miscanthus is due to less biochemical limitations indicated by higher  $V_{\text{max}}$ , higher maximum phosphoenolpyruvate (PEP) regeneration rate ( $V_{\text{pmax}}$ ), higher light-saturated leaf photosynthesis ( $A_{\text{sat}}$ ) and higher  $\Phi_{\text{CO}_2, \text{max}}$  in corn compared to miscanthus (Dohleman and Long, 2009) (Fig. 11). Model simulations have shown that higher  $V_{\text{max}}$  could lead to higher slope of SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP since GPP is more sensitive to  $V_{\text{max}}$  compared to SIF<sub>760</sub> (Zhang et al., 2016; Hao et al., 2021). LAI and leaf angle distribution (LAD) are also important for the SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP relationship (Hao et al., 2021). From July to August, miscanthus total LAI continued to increase while corn LAI reached the maximum around middle of July. The mean LAI from July to August of corn was higher than 2019 miscanthus but lower than 2020 miscanthus. However, the slope of SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP in both 2019 and 2020 miscanthus was lower than that in 2018 corn, indicating that LAI is not the major reason causing the different slopes between corn and miscanthus. The lower impact of LAI on slopes of SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP might be related to that both cropping systems reached LAI values of LAI (around  $4 \text{ m}^2 \text{ m}^{-2}$ ) where the slope of SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP has been shown to be insensitive to further increases in LAI (Zhang et al., 2016; Zhou et al., 2020). Miscanthus LAD was close to spherical distribution and remained relatively stable from July to August from the manual leaf angle measurements (Fig. S13). No direct LAD measurements were made in corn in this study, but no substantial LAD difference between corn and miscanthus are expected since the a previous study at the same sites has showed that contribution from sunlit leaves to total canopy photosynthesis is similar between the two species (Dohleman and Long, 2009). Therefore, higher leaf photosynthesis during peak growing season is expected to be the main reason for the higher slopes of SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP in corn compared to miscanthus.

#### 4.4. Sources of uncertainties in this study

We acknowledge that there are three main uncertainties in this study including the footprint correction of nadir-view SIF<sub>760</sub>, NEE partitioning for GPP estimation uncertainty, and the limited leaf-level measurements. Footprint correction of SIF<sub>760</sub> was used to adjust the spatial mismatch between SIF<sub>760</sub> and GPP observations, which aimed to reduce the uncertainty of comparing SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP relationships in corn and miscanthus. We note that the method we used to correct nadir SIF<sub>760</sub> to EC footprint-based SIF has uncertainties since we did not consider the variation of PAR between the SIF pixel and the EC footprint, and the variation of SIF-NIRvP relationships. No PAR variation within radius 500 m in the field is valid during sunny conditions (Jiang et al., 2020), although this assumption might bring some uncertainties under scattered cloudy conditions. Regarding the variation of SIF-NIRvP relationships, recent cross-scale studies have found that NIRvP can explain around 80% of SIF variations when combing spatial and temporal scales (Kimm et al., 2021; Dechant et al., 2022), indicating that our method



can capture the majority of SIF difference between EC footprint and SIF tower area. Additionally, the stronger SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP and higher slope of SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP in corn still held when using raw nadir-view SIF<sub>760</sub> observations (Table S4), which further confirmed the different SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP relationships between the two species.

We are aware of that GPP was not directly measured but estimated from EC NEE. Different partitioning methods may bring some uncertainties into GPP estimation and further SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP relationships. In this study, we tried both standard nighttime method (GPP<sub>NT</sub>) and daytime method (GPP<sub>DT</sub>). Generally, GPP<sub>DT</sub> showed a stronger relationship with SIF<sub>760</sub> compared to nighttime method since radiation was used to model GPP in GPP<sub>DT</sub> (Lasslop et al., 2010), and GPP<sub>NT</sub> showed slightly higher magnitude compared to GPP<sub>DT</sub> possibly due to the overestimation of daytime ER by directly extrapolating nighttime ER model to daytime (Keenan et al., 2019). However, these slight differences between the two NEE partitioning methods do not influence the comparison between corn and miscanthus, which is the major focus of this study. Other NEE partitioning methods are emerging recently, and their uncertainties may need further explored. Isotope measurements may overcome the overestimation of daytime ER and yield reasonable light use efficiency response to environment (Wehr et al., 2016). Recent studies have utilized SIF for NEE partitioning (Kira et al., 2021; Zhan et al., 2022), but the scalability of this method still needs more test. More studies are needed to understand how different NEE partitioning methods perform in different ecosystems under various environmental conditions. More robust and direct in situ GPP estimation such as carbonyl sulfide (Kooijmans et al., 2019; Stinecpher et al., 2022) is needed to accurately quantify regional and global GPP.

We also note that limited leaf-level gas exchange and PAM measurements in corn were used to explain the different SIF<sub>760</sub> behaviors between corn and miscanthus. In this study, we only focused on July and August when canopies were fully closed and were photosynthetically active. Miscanthus  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$ -PAR relationships conducted from five dates from July-August in 2019 showed the consistent pattern, with the first increase of  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  with PAR and then decrease of  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  when PAR was higher than 550  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  (Fig. S14). This indicates that although leaf-level measurements in corn was only conducted in the middle of July, no substantial change of leaf-level results is expected from July to August. Therefore, we justify that these uncertainties do not affect our general conclusions.

#### 4.5. Implications for GPP estimations

The considerably different SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP relationships (both in  $R^2$  and slope) between the two C4 crops, annual corn and perennial miscanthus, demonstrate that SIF-GPP relationships vary within the same PFT. Establishing one SIF-GPP relationship for one PFT to estimate GPP would increase the uncertainty of GPP estimation (Zhang et al., 2020a). Different species within the same PFT still show differences in canopy structure and leaf physiology (e.g., corn vs miscanthus in this study). Porcar-Castell et al. (2021) have summarized the importance of instrumentation, algorithms, canopy structure and leaf physiology in affecting the decouples/couples of SIF and GPP. In this study, we used the same protocol for instrument setup, data collection and data processing for side-by-side corn and miscanthus, which eliminated the uncertainty caused by climate, instrumentation and algorithms. Many studies have discussed the importance of canopy structure in determining the SIF-GPP relationships in crops (Miao et al., 2018; Dechant et al., 2020). Our study further demonstrated the importance of leaf physiology, both energy partitioning in the light reactions of photosynthesis and biochemical limitations in the dark reactions of photosynthesis, in determining the SIF-GPP relationships. Leaf-level PAM measurements and leaf physiology parameters such as  $V_{\text{max}}$  in tandem with canopy level observations are essential to better understand the SIF-GPP relationships. Most previous studies focus on a single crop, and the comparison between different studies is complicated by different

instrumentations (Yang et al., 2018a, 2021; He et al., 2020). More in situ canopy and leaf-level observations that cover more species and environmental conditions with the same instrument and data protocol would be helpful to better understand the SIF-GPP relationships.

## 5. Conclusions

We investigated the canopy SIF<sub>760</sub> and GPP relationships in two C4 crops, corn and miscanthus, using continuous in situ measurements for both species. We found considerably different SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP relationships between corn and miscanthus. First, canopy SIF<sub>760</sub> in corn was found to explain more variations (~80%) in GPP compared to that in miscanthus (~60%) at half-hourly scale. This difference was mainly caused by different leaf-level energy partitioning of fluorescence, photochemistry and heat dissipation between corn and miscanthus. For miscanthus, high NPQ under high PAR, Ta and VPD conditions caused a large decline of  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  and  $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$ , and further led to a SIF<sub>760</sub> midday depression and deviation SIF<sub>760</sub> from APAR, which weakened the SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP relationship. For corn,  $\Phi_{F, \text{Leaf}}$  showed a relatively small response to environmental change compared to miscanthus, and both GPP and SIF<sub>760</sub> were dominated by APAR. Second, the slopes of corn SIF<sub>760</sub>-GPP at half-hourly scale were higher than that in miscanthus due to higher GPP magnitude in corn but relatively similar SIF<sub>760</sub> magnitudes in corn and miscanthus. Higher GPP in corn was largely attributed to the higher leaf-level photosynthesis during middle summer caused by less biochemical limitations (e.g. higher carboxylate rate, higher phosphoenolpyruvate regeneration rate and higher maximum quantum efficiency of CO<sub>2</sub> assimilation). Our results demonstrated the variation of SIF-GPP relationship within C4 crops and highlighted the importance of leaf physiology including energy partitioning and leaf biochemical limitations in determining the canopy SIF behaviors as well as canopy SIF-GPP relationships under various environmental conditions. Future work should consider the species differences within each PFT in terms of canopy structure, leaf physiology and phenology to advance our mechanistic understanding of the relationship between SIF and GPP.

## Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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## Supplementary materials

Supplementary material associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at [doi:10.1016/j.agrformet.2022.109046](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agrformet.2022.109046).

## Appendix A. The diurnal pattern of SIF<sub>760</sub>, GPP, SIF<sub>y</sub>, LUE, $\Phi_{F, \text{Canopy}}$ and $f_{\text{esc}}$ on normal and high VPD days

(Figs. A1–A3)

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