

# Botswana-Japan SATREPS Project

## Information-based optimization of Jatropha Biomass Energy Production in the Frost and Drought-Prone regions of Botswana

GSB & LACAf August Meeting

Piracicaba SP/ Brazil 27-29, August, 2014

SATREPS: Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development  
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)  
Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

**Kinya AKASHI (Tottori University) Project leader**

**Jun KIKUCHI (RIKEN Institute)**

**Yoshinobu KAWAMITSU (University of the Ryukyus)**

**Masami UENO (University of the Ryukyus)**

# About our activities on sugarcane

Faculty of Agriculture, University of the Ryukyus

## Research

ICT and model based high production system

Effective sugarcane biomass utilization system  
bioenergy and materials

Mechanization of cultivation system

## Technical training; JICA

Sustainable utilization of biomass/bioenergy in  
Tropics; **two months course**

# Cultivation area of sugarcane in Japan

Sugarcane production:

1,300,000t/ year

Number of mills:

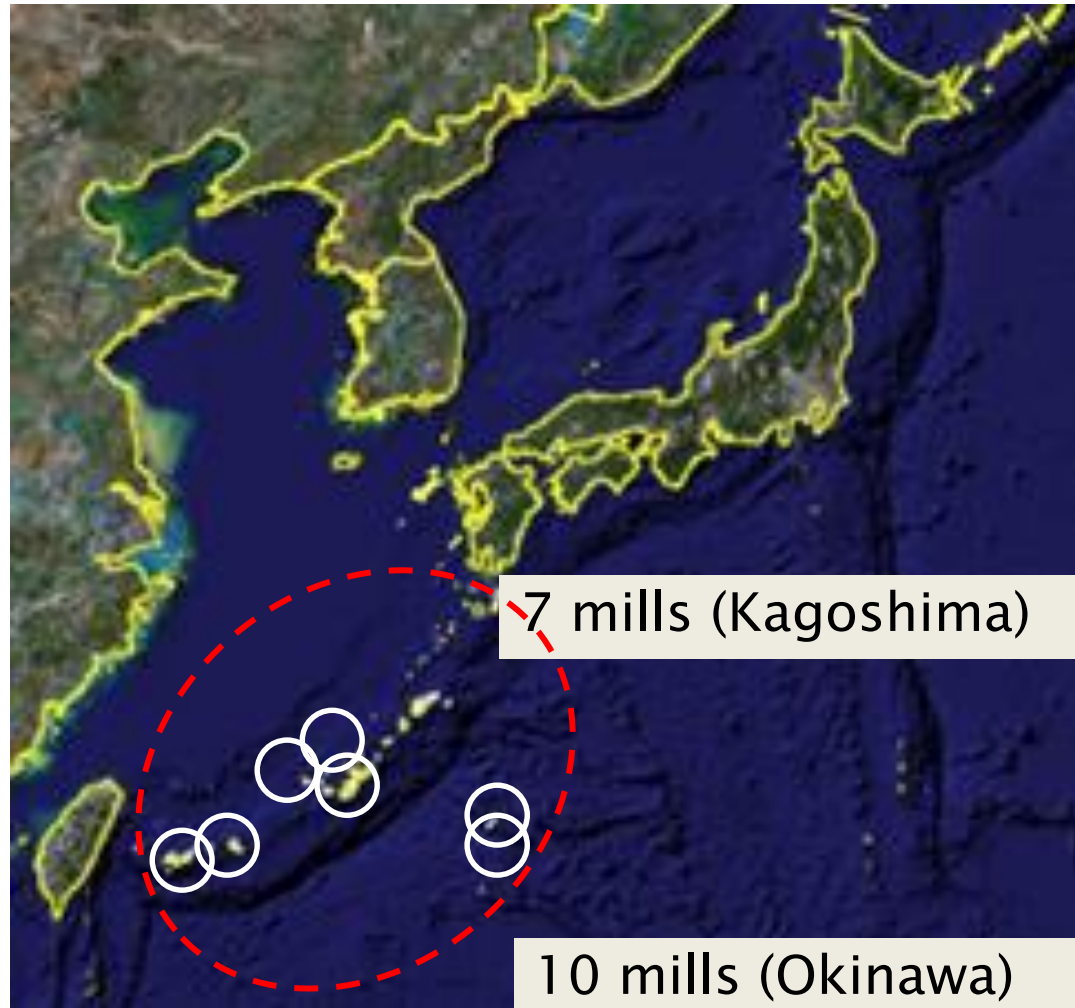
17 factories (14 islands)

Feature of the cultivation

/ More than 50% farmer cultivate sugarcane

/ Number of fields:  
more than 1,400,000-

/ Price of cane: 200\$/t



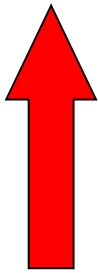
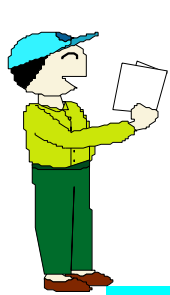
# Smart farming using NIR and spatial/time series analysis

17 sugar mill's NIR system and UR's system are net-woriking.

**Cultivation**



**Harvesting/  
transportation**



We can replace  
this method to  
soil analysis

**Smart farming**

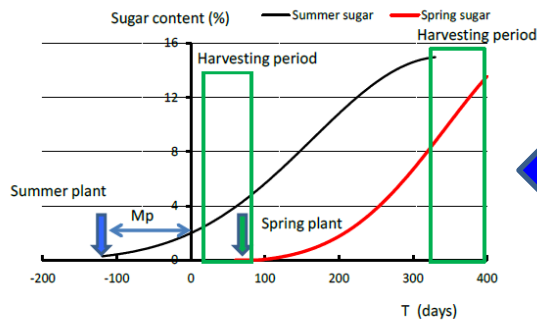
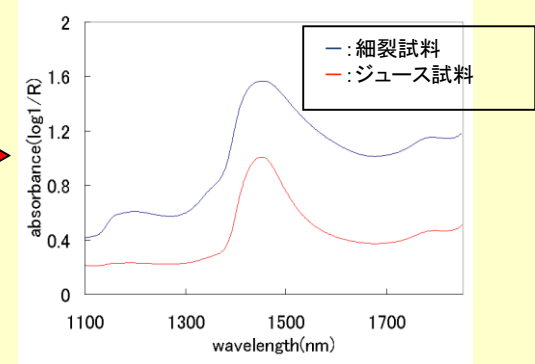


Fig. 2—Sugar content models.

**NIR measurement of SC**



**NIR spectrum data**



Pol in cane for  
payment

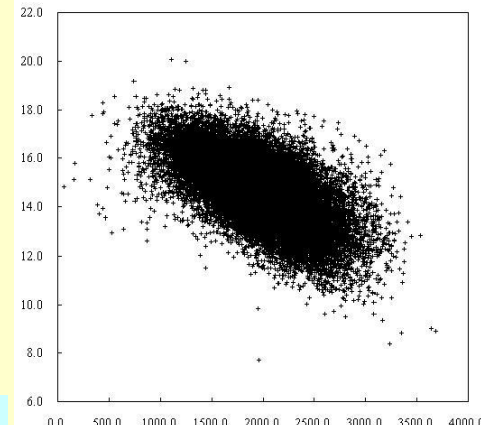
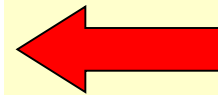


**Database**

**Prediction of  
components  
in cane stalk**



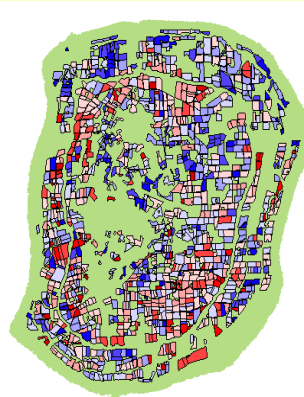
**Sugar  
production  
analysis**



**Potassium and Pol in cane**

**GIS**

**Mapping/Analysis**



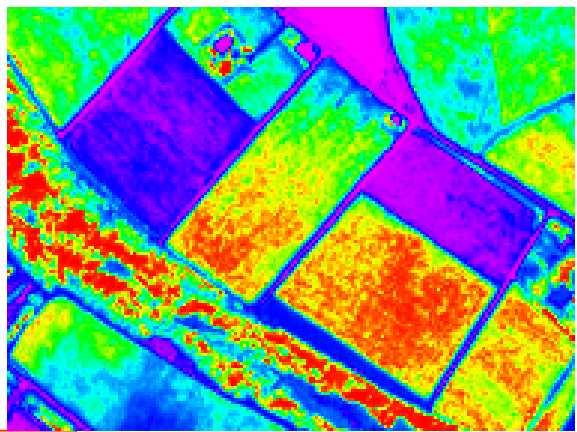
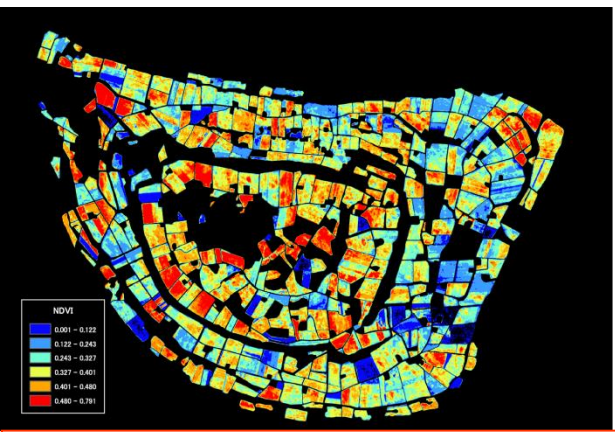


# Evaluation of productive capacity using RS

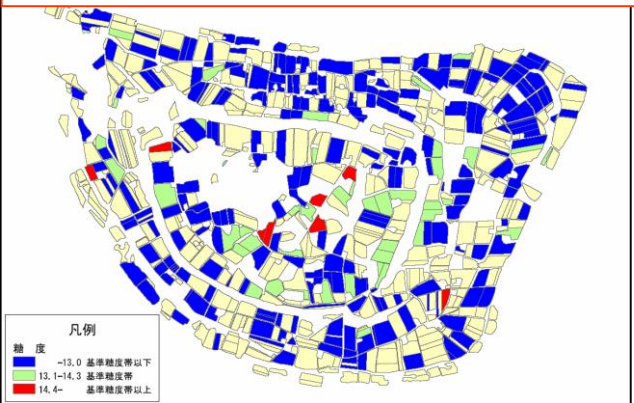
It is necessary to collect information from the wide area efficiently to harmonize the environmental preservation and the production. The most powerful tool for the purpose is the remote sensing, mobile sensing, GIS, and GPS.

Measurement of plant biomass production by satellite remote sensing

Various adjacent RS are available to collect the right occasional data.

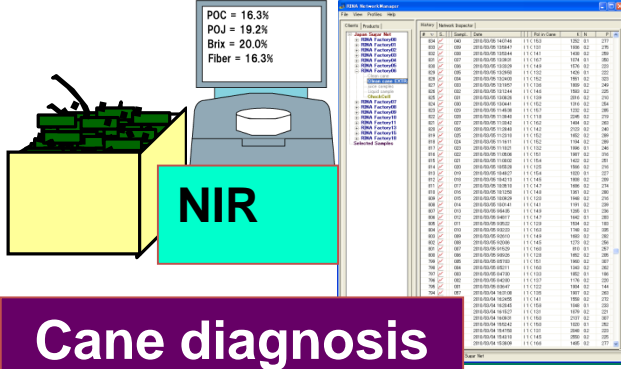


Evaluation of sugarcane production using GIS



# Maximization of sugar production; from field to mill

## Grower payment



## Cane diagnosis

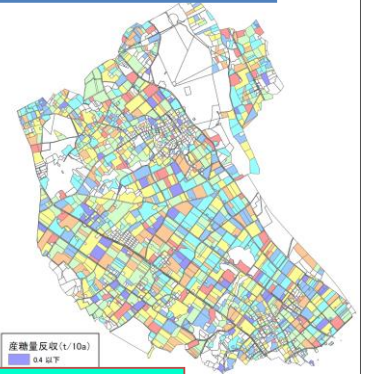
Fertilizer/water/  
Land/labor  
management

Harvest scheduling

## GIS system



## GPS



## GIS

## Optimization of sugar yield

Spatial analysis

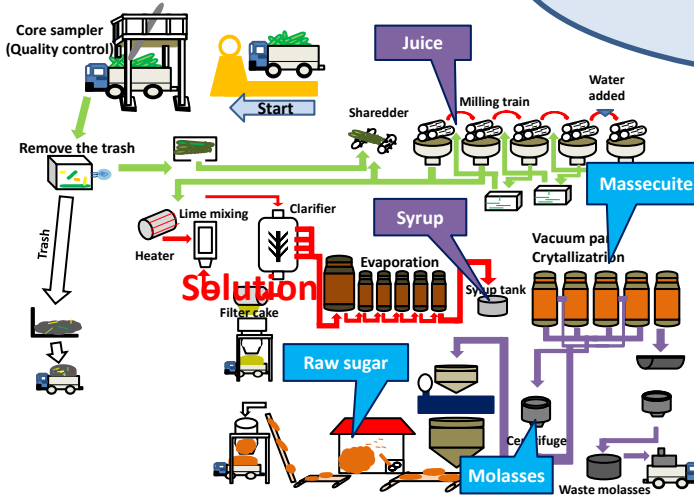
## On-site analysis



## NIR



## Cane diagnosis



Raw juice  
Heated Syrup  
Molasses  
Bagasse

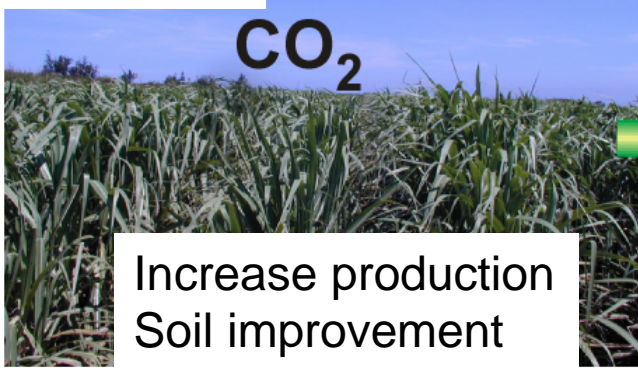
## Process control



# Long term CO<sub>2</sub> fixing by Bagasse charcoal

Carbonization is very effective countermeasure to the global warming.

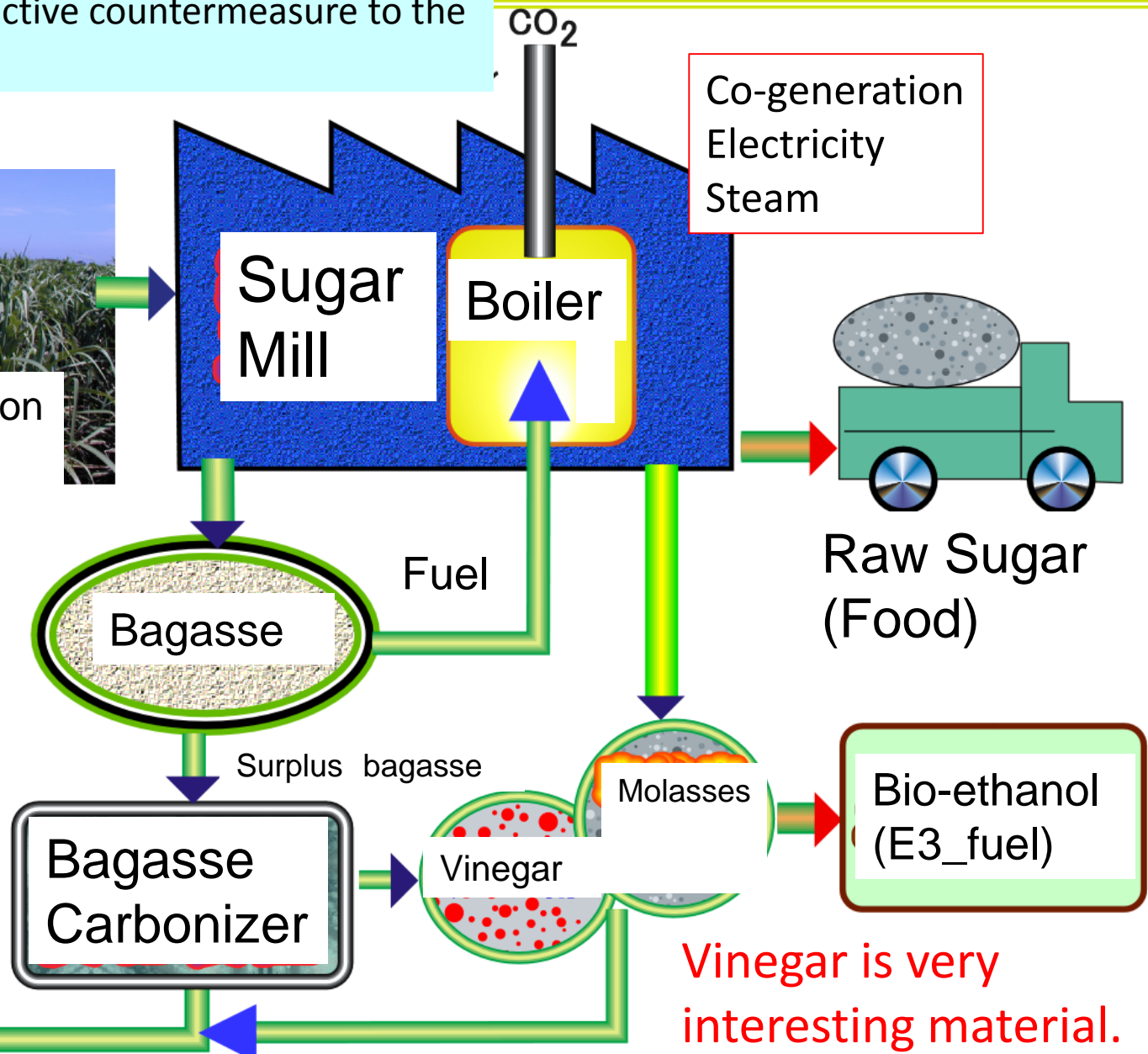
Sugarcane



CO<sub>2</sub>

Increase production  
Soil improvement

Application of bagasse charcoal into sugarcane field

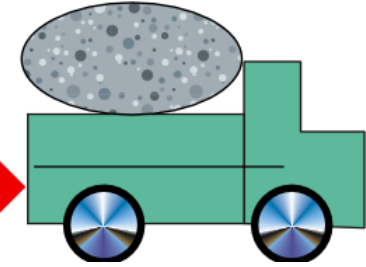


Co-generation  
Electricity  
Steam

Sugar  
Mill

CO<sub>2</sub>

Boiler



Raw Sugar  
(Food)



Bagasse

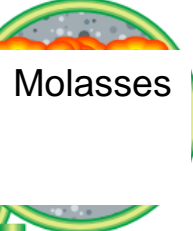
Fuel



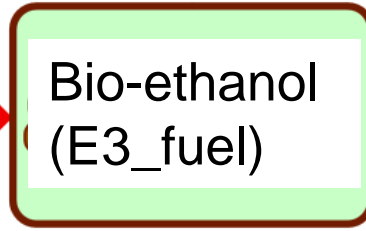
Bagasse  
Carbonizer

Surplus bagasse

Vinegar



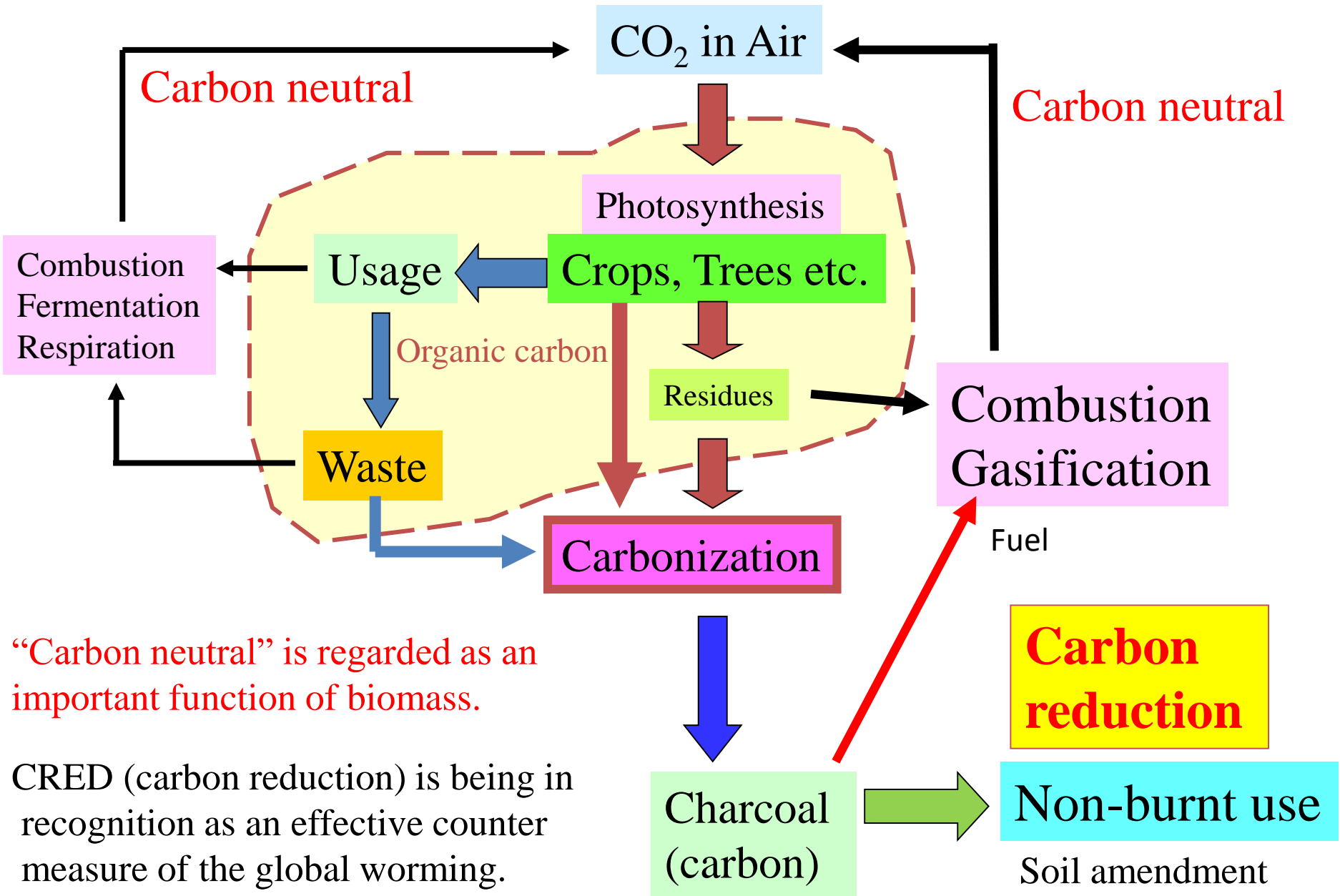
Molasses



Bio-ethanol  
(E3\_fuel)

Vinegar is very  
interesting material.

# Flow of carbon by carbonization



“Carbon neutral” is regarded as an important function of biomass.

CRED (carbon reduction) is being in recognition as an effective counter measure of the global warming.

# Use of bagasse charcoal as material

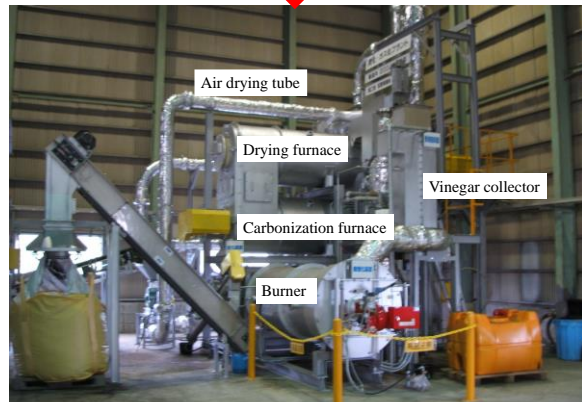


Bagasse

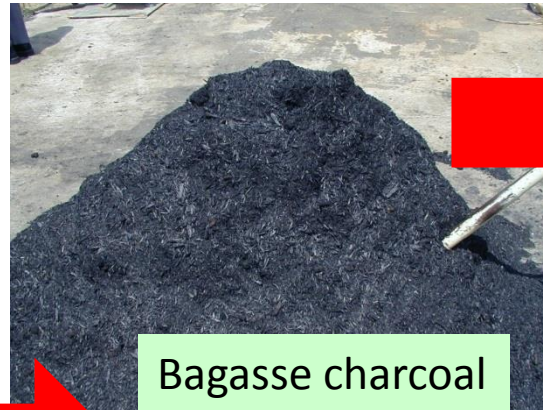
Bagasse is useful not only for co-generation but for charcoal.



Soil amendment



Carbonization furnace



Bagasse charcoal

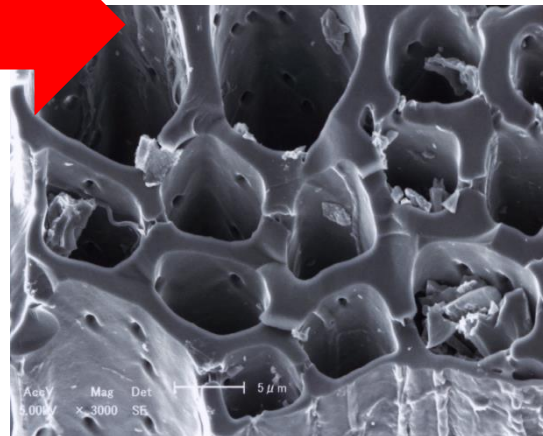
Absorbent



Solar energy collector

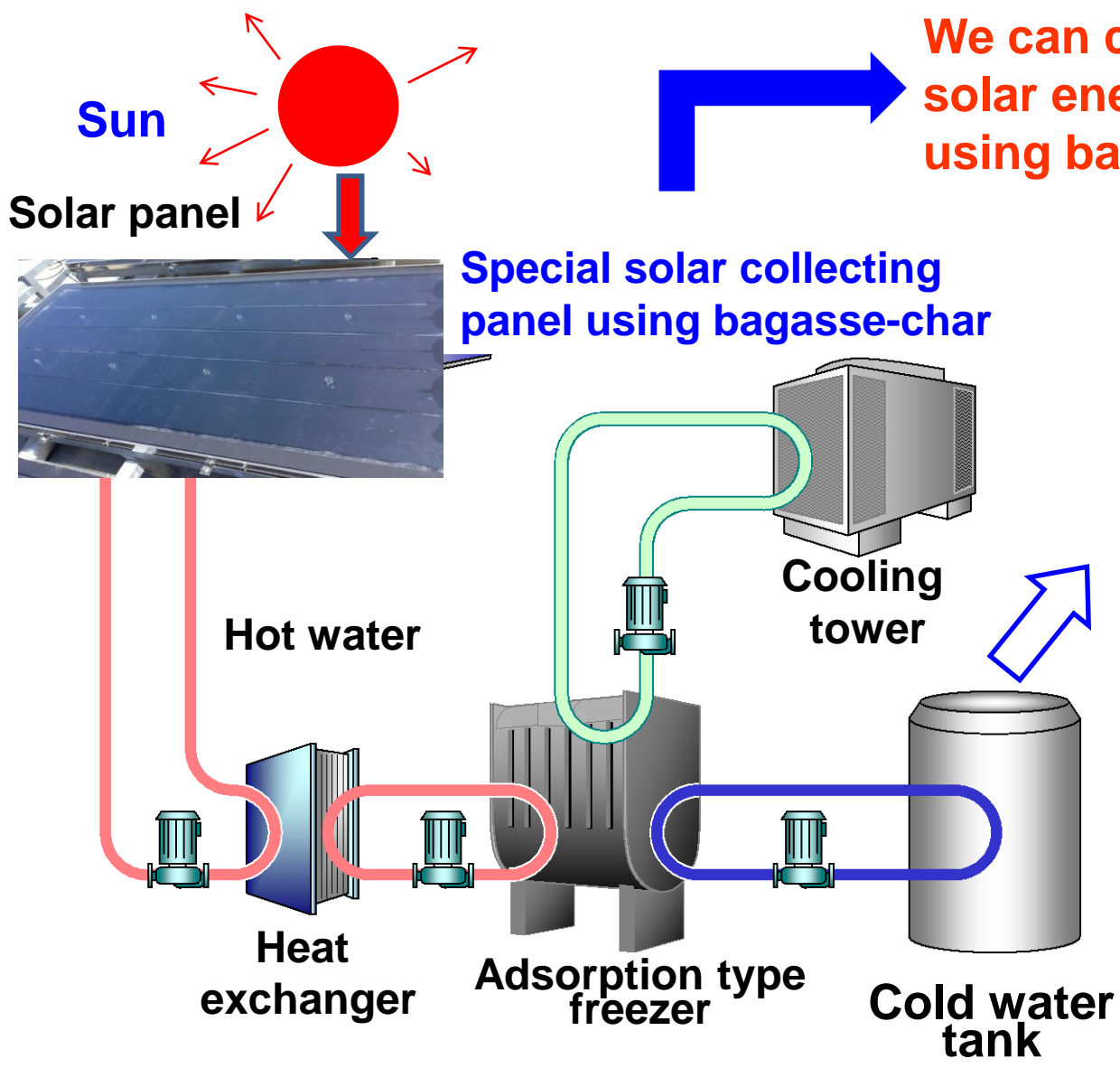
Hybrid solar energy use system for drinking water from sea water/polluted water.

Air conditioning system and so on.





# Solar thermal energy utilization system by bagasse charcoal regarded as indirect energy



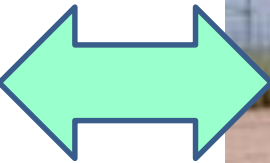
**We can collect effectively solar energy as heat using bagasse char.**



**Plant factory and office Air conditioning system**







My presentation starts from here.

# Why Jatropha project in Botswana?

NEWS

## Botswana plans a 50m-litre per year bio diesel plant

MONKAGEDI GAOTLHOBOGWE  
STAFF WRITER

Coal-rich Botswana has announced its ambitious plans to reduce carbon emissions by setting up a 50 million-litre per year bio-diesel processing plant to be fed from jatropha (oil seed) plantations by 2012.

The project will be funded from the National Petroleum Fund as Botswana joins the fight against climate change and global warming.

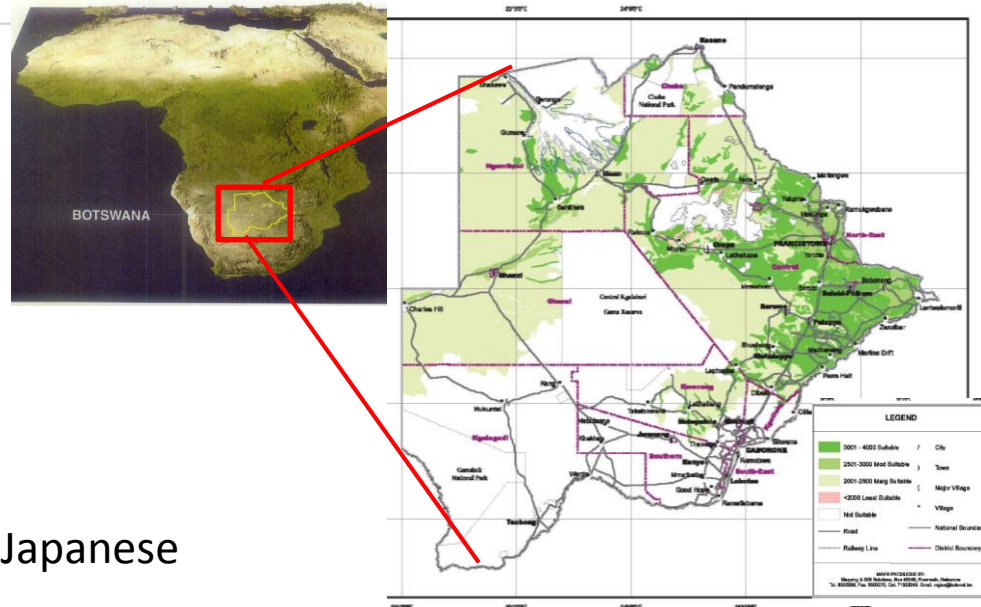
### Article Tools

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- ✓ Organized by the Ministry of Mine, Energy and Water Resources, Botswana.
- ✓ 5 ML is from beef tallow, and 45 ML is from Jatropha.
- ✓ First processing plant to be built in the southern part of Botswana
- ✓ Target land of 70,000 ha for Jatropha production



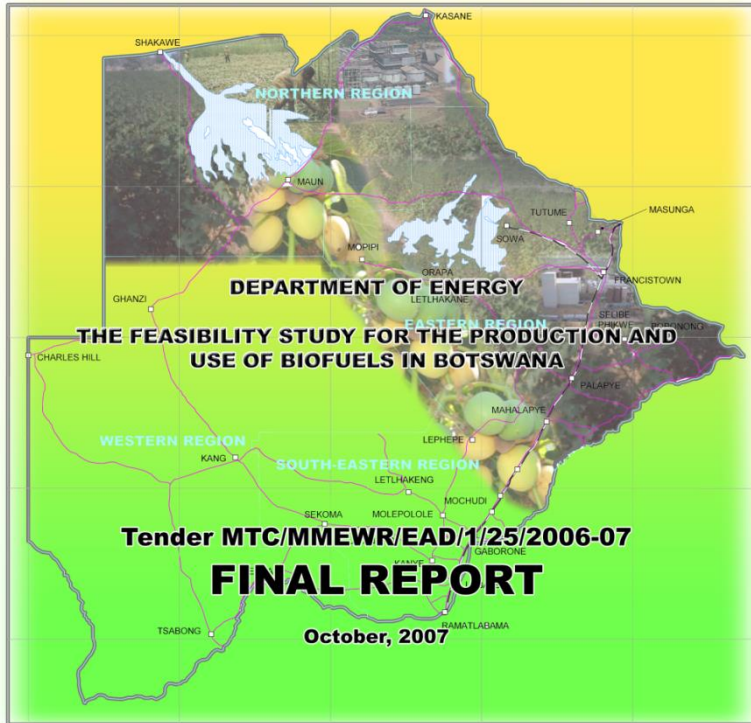
Researchers and officers from Botswana and Japanese institutes in Sebele Gaborone. Aug 10, 2010



# Botswana carried out the feasibility study for BDF production



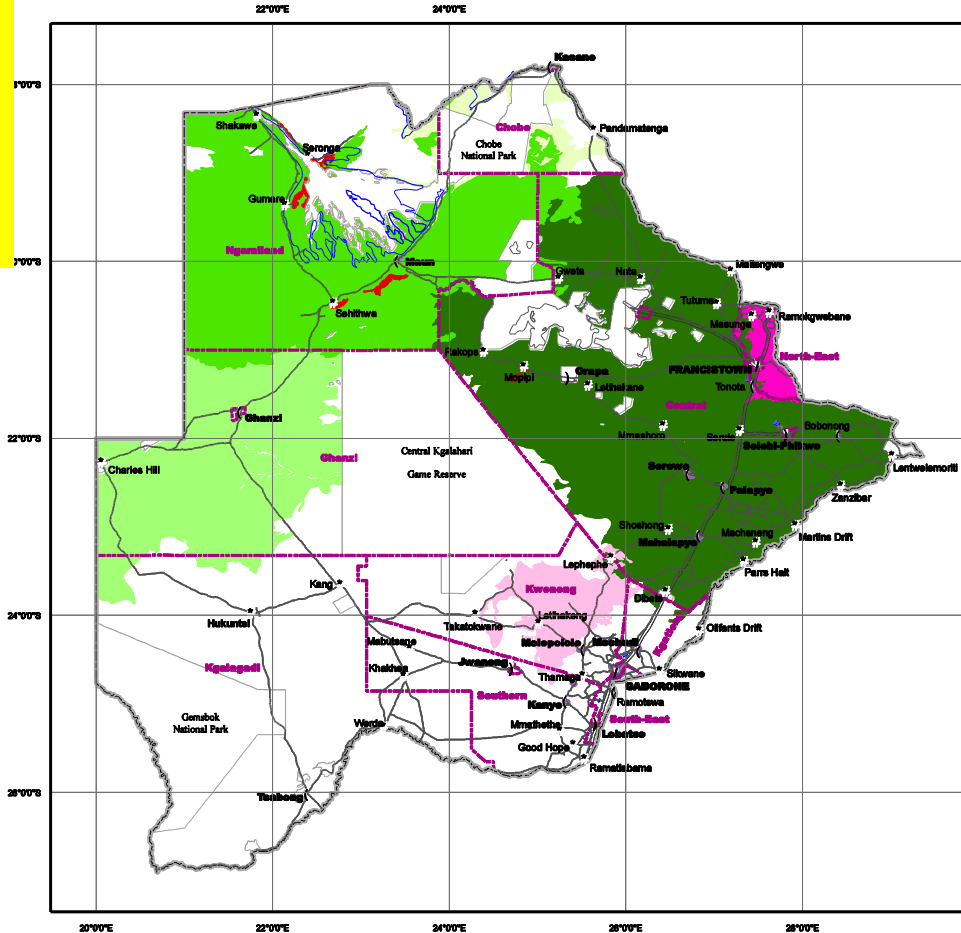
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA  
MINISTRY OF MINERALS ENERGY AND WATER RESOURCES



Prepared:-



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Contact Person: Dr Peter P. Zhou



<p><b>LEGEND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>958 921 Central / City</li> <li>547 055 Ngamiland ) Town</li> <li>324 890 Ghanzi ( Major Village</li> <li>95 283 Chobe * Village</li> <li>74 580 Kweneng — Road</li> <li>36 026 North East ——— Railway Line</li> <li>No Data ——— National Boundary</li> <li>———— District Boundary</li> </ul>		<p><b>FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE PRODUCTION AND USE OF BIOFUELS IN BOTSWANA</b></p> <p><b>Jatropha Feedstock Production Map</b></p> <p>Client : DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY</p> <p>Consultant : Energy, Environment, Computer &amp; Geophysical Applications Box 402339 Gaborone. Tel / Fax: 3910127 Email: pzhou@global.bw</p> <p>0 50 100 200 300 400 Kilometers</p>	
<p>MAPS PRODUCED BY: Mapping &amp; GIS Solutions, Box 40048, Riverwalk, Gaborone Tel. 3500298, Fax. 3500270, Cel. 71822248, Email. mgjls@botanet.bw</p>		<p><b>Z</b> Scale: 1: 6 000 000 (A4)</p>	<p>Map 7</p>
<p>Sources: Dept of Surveys and Mapping &amp; Min of Agriculture</p>			

# JICA-JST SATREPS Project on Jatropha R&D in Botswana



Minister of MMEWR and  
Japanese Research Team  
Aug 8, 2010



# A reckless challenge?

## Jatropha in Botswana

Winter



10 Aug., 2010



June 24, 2011



# Status on Jatropha cultivation in Botswana

- ✓ Jatropha seed production is inhibited due to severe water deficits and winter cold.
- ✓ Large fluctuations in the precipitation and temperature makes management of the cultivation difficult
- ✓ Suitable Jatropha variety and its farming methods are not yet established



# Outline of the Project

# Botswana-Japan Jatropha Research Project

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## ➤ Objectives:

Establishment of technical platforms for production and utilization of Jatropha biomass in a dry/cold climate in Botswana

## ➤ Major target milestones:

Seed production of 2.5 t/ha equivalent

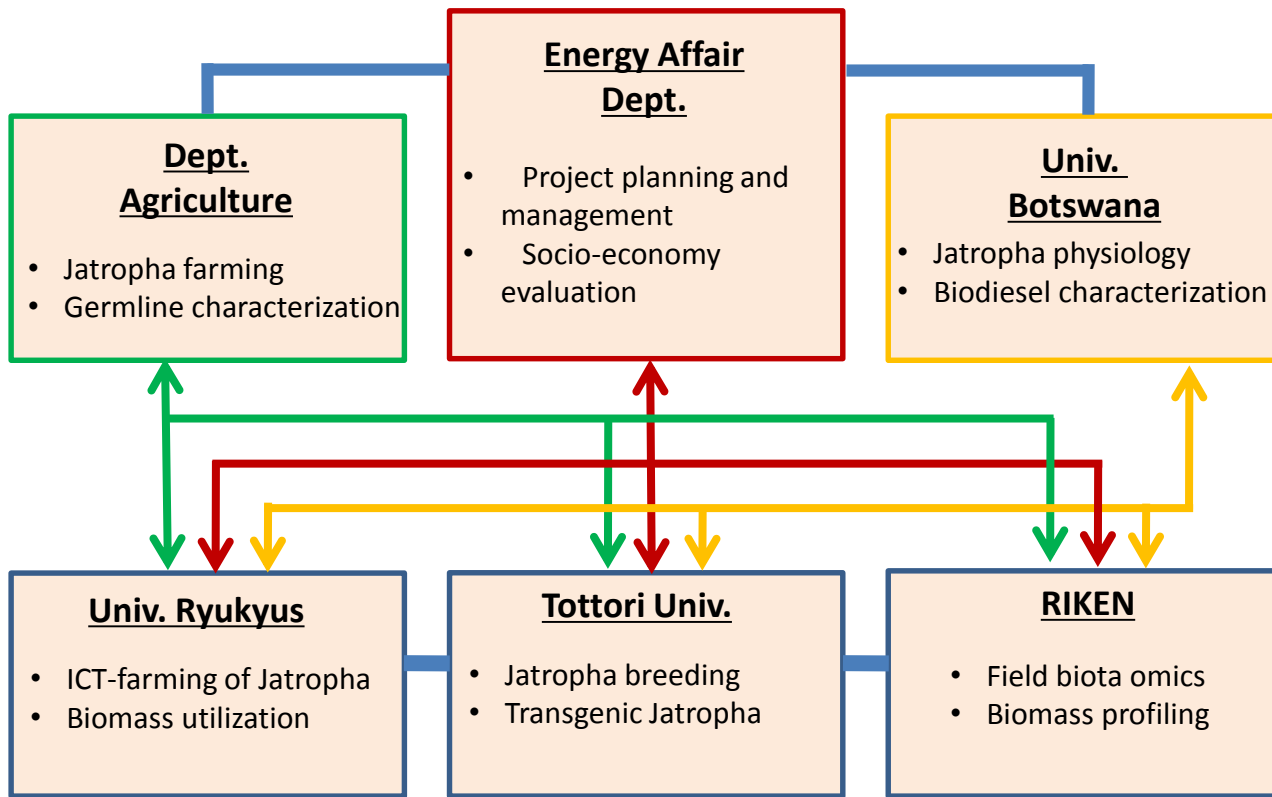
At least one improved Jatropha variety

Research thesis for 6 master/PhD degree

## ➤ Duration of the project:

From April 2012 to March 2017 (5 years)

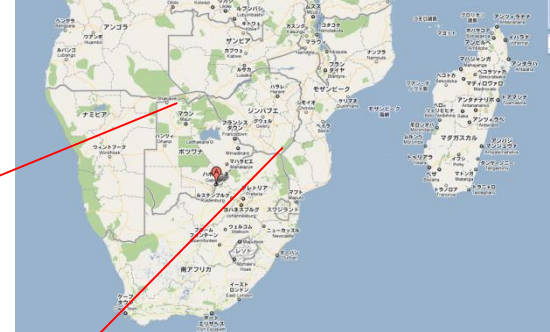
# Organization of the SATREPS Project in Botswana



Since 2004, research collaboration on arid land plant genetic resources has been carried out between two countries.

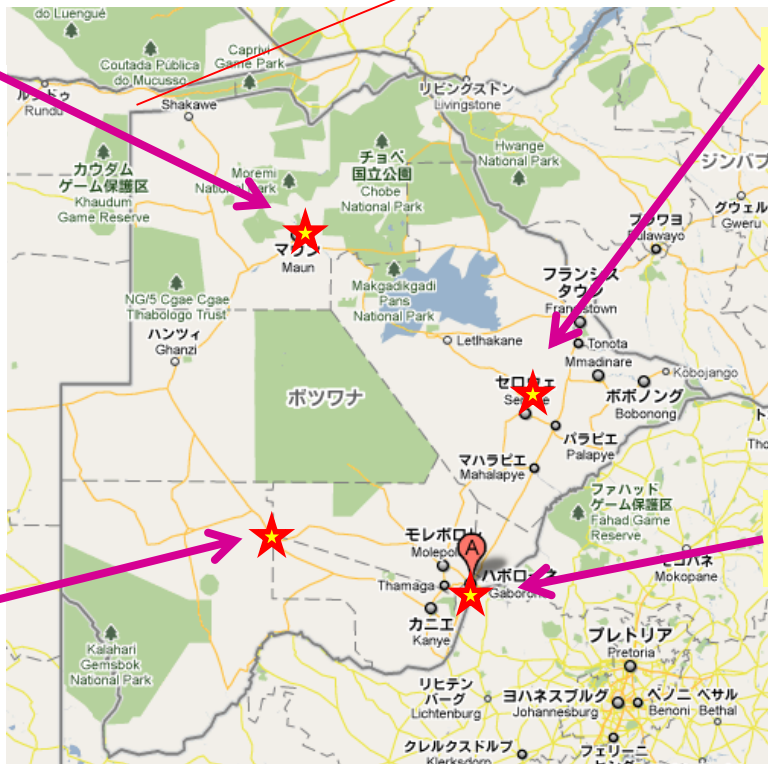


# Target geological areas for Jatropha research



## Maun

- ✓ Jatropha field trial at DAR-Maun station
- ✓ Rich resources for Jatropha indigenous germplines
- ✓ Weather station is installed for future extension of ICT-based farming



## Serowe

- ✓ Collaboration with Boiteko-Trust, which performs Jatropha field trial using indigenous lines
- ✓ Weather station is installed for future extension of ICT-based farming

## Gaborone (Sebele)

- ✓ Major research activity in this project
- ✓ A model place for dry/cold climate in which techniques of Jatropha production to be established
- ✓ High-tech research environment for capacity building

## Kang

- ✓ Dryland farming research at DAR station
- ✓ Weather station is installed for future extension of ICT-based farming

# Botswana-Japan Jatropha SAREPS Project

Information-based optimization of Jatropha biomass energy production  
in the frost- and drought-prone regions of Botswana

Research targets: Establishing technologies for:



1. **Farming method** suitable for Botswana climate



2. **Breeding** of Jatropha variety for higher and stable production



3. Post-harvest processing of Jatropha seeds for **biodiesel production**.



4. Protocols for utilization of **non-oil Jatropha biomass** (biochar, fuel, etc)

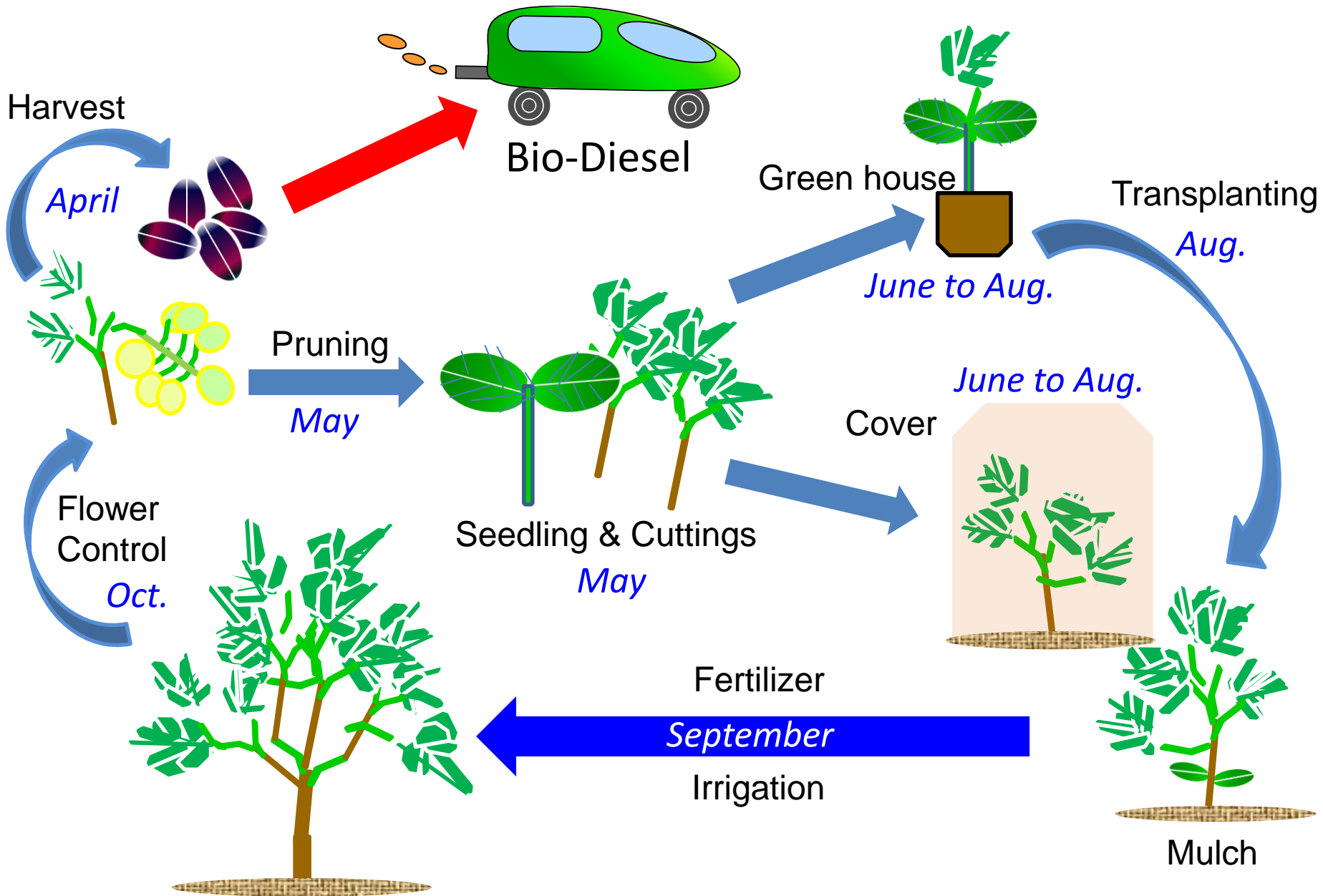


5. Evaluation of **environmental, social and economic impacts**

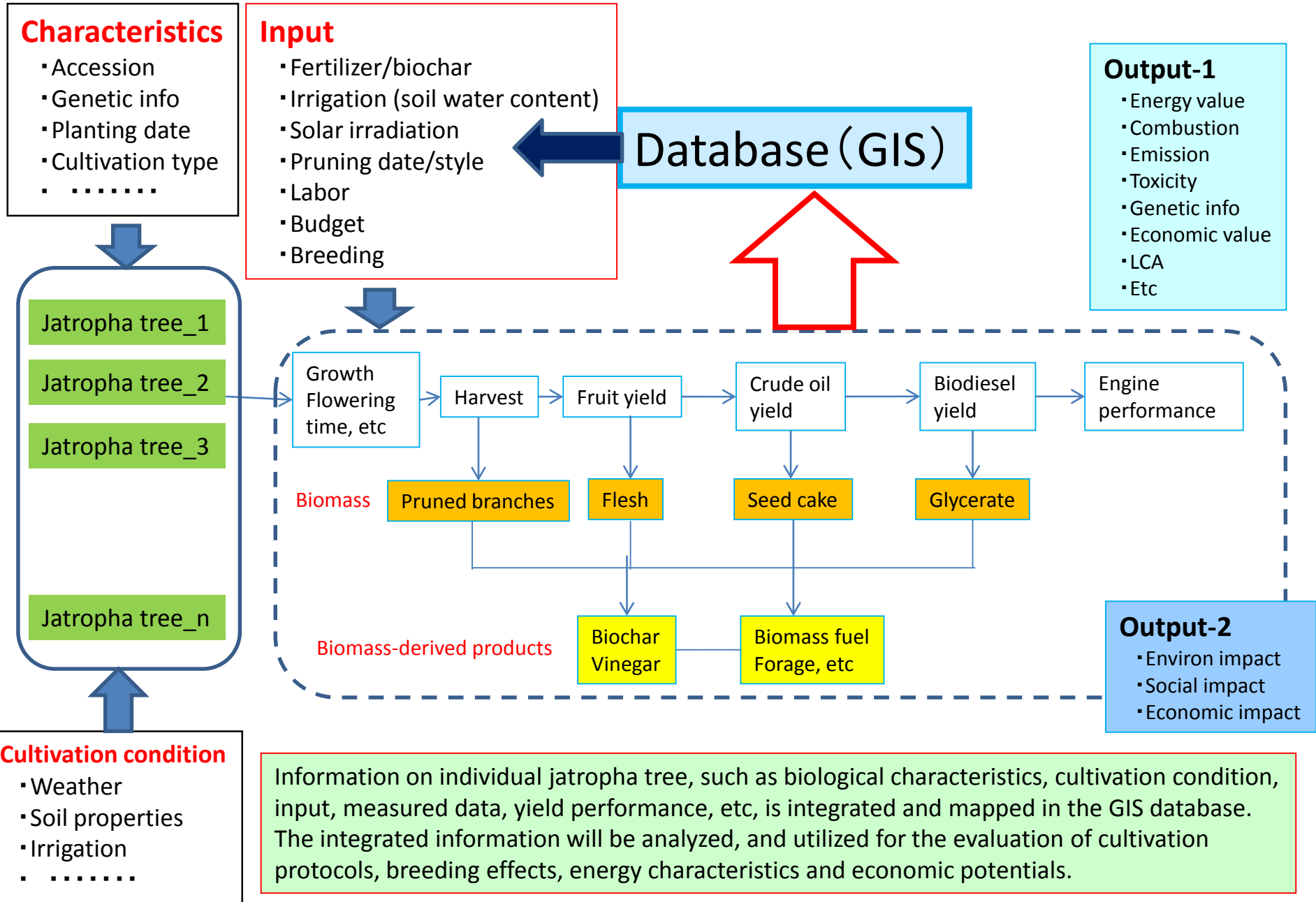
Building a sustainable and profitable industry based on Jatropha biomass



# Establish suitable cultivation system of Jatropha

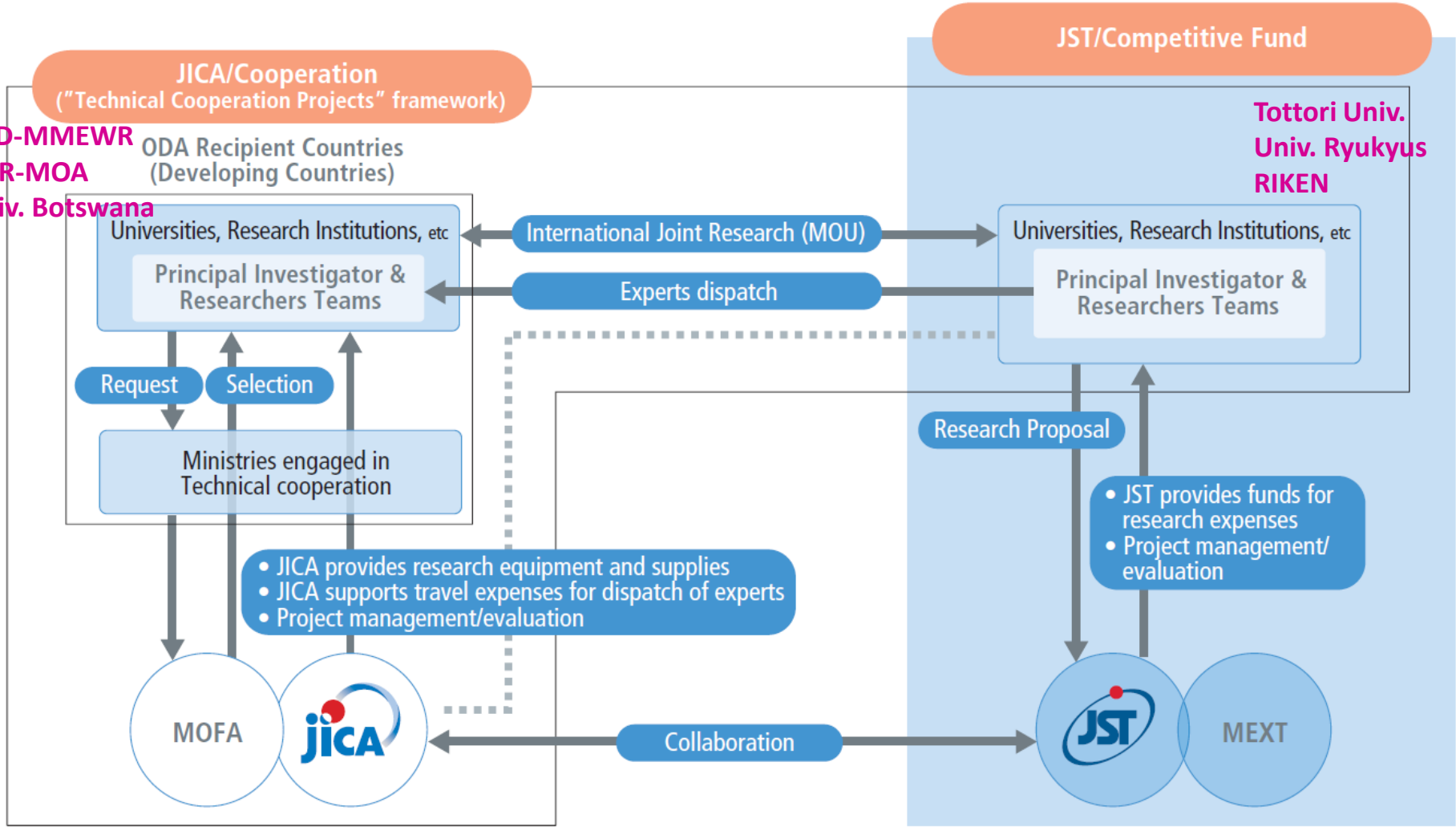


# ICT-based management system for individual Jatropha trees



# Funding scheme of SATREPS

EAD-MMEWR  
DAR-MOA  
Univ. Botswana



MOFA (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan)  
JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)

JST (Japan Science and Technology)  
MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science & Technology in Japan)

# Questions

For the Botswana Jatropha plants,

1. Why leaf size was so small ?
2. Why leaves did not fall down in winter?
3. Why the leaves was so waved?

**Because of .....**

Low temperature at night,

Low humidity, Dry air,

Strong sun light,

High day temperature

Low soil water content,

Low soil nutrient solutions, .....

# There is a way to survive Jatropha in severe climate conditions

Usually, all tree was dead. 



Some trees are still alive.

**Botswana June 22, 2011**

**21 June, 2011**

What is difference or reason?  
There will be big hint.





# Shoot was dead

21 June, 2011





# Root was OK!



# How should we do?

in Winter  
season

Prevent the transpiration from Jatropha tree.

=> Pruning

Protect from the strong wind.

=> Wind break

for young  
tree

Apply the water to prevent the drying.

=> Drip irrigation

Keep warm temperature during night time.

=> Covering



ICT-based precision farming

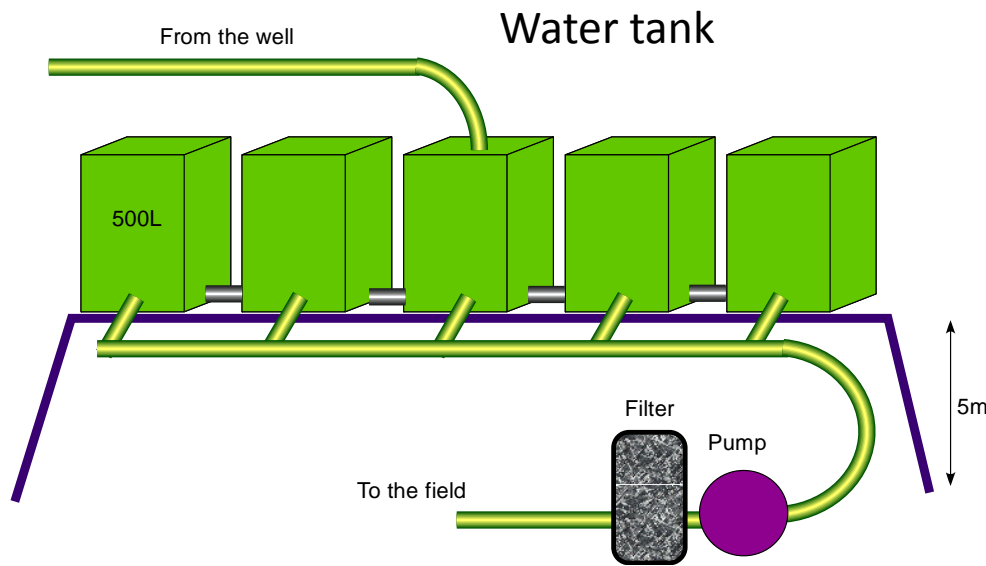
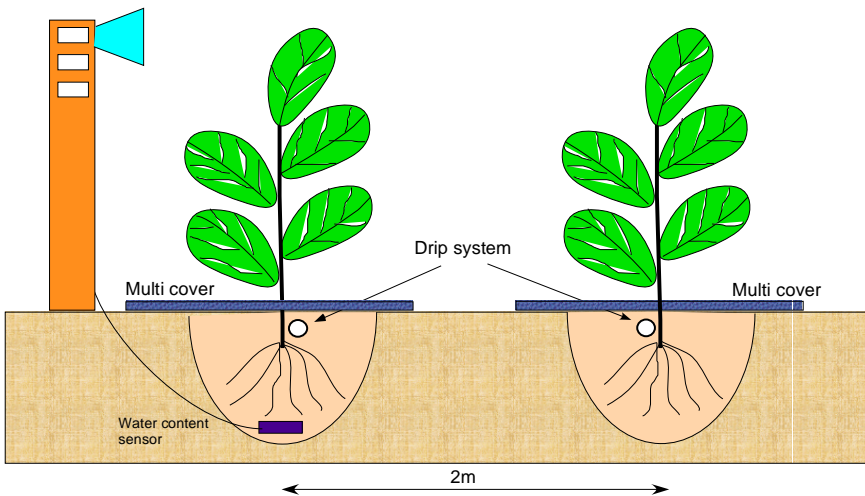
Give to Jatropha tree the strong drying tolerance by molecular breeding.

# **1. Farming method suitable for Botswana conditions**

# Outline of the irrigation system and cultivation

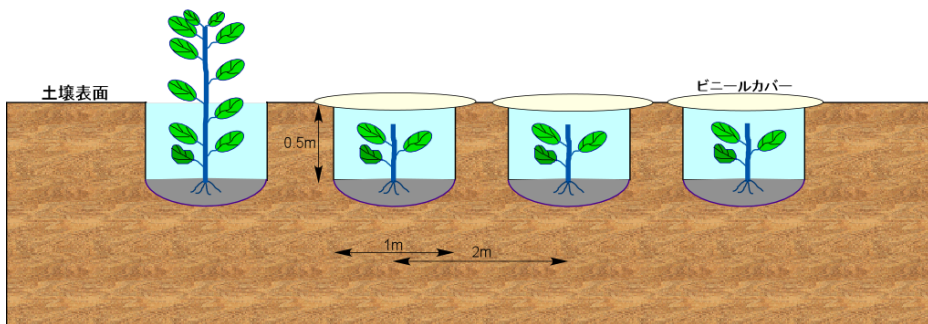
*Use the valuable water carefully !*

Prevent evaporation and penetration of the water

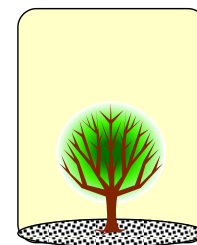
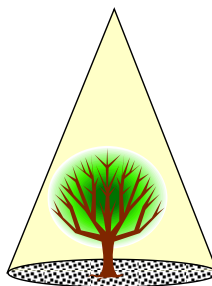


Keep soil moisture

Trench cultivation



Bag for the winter





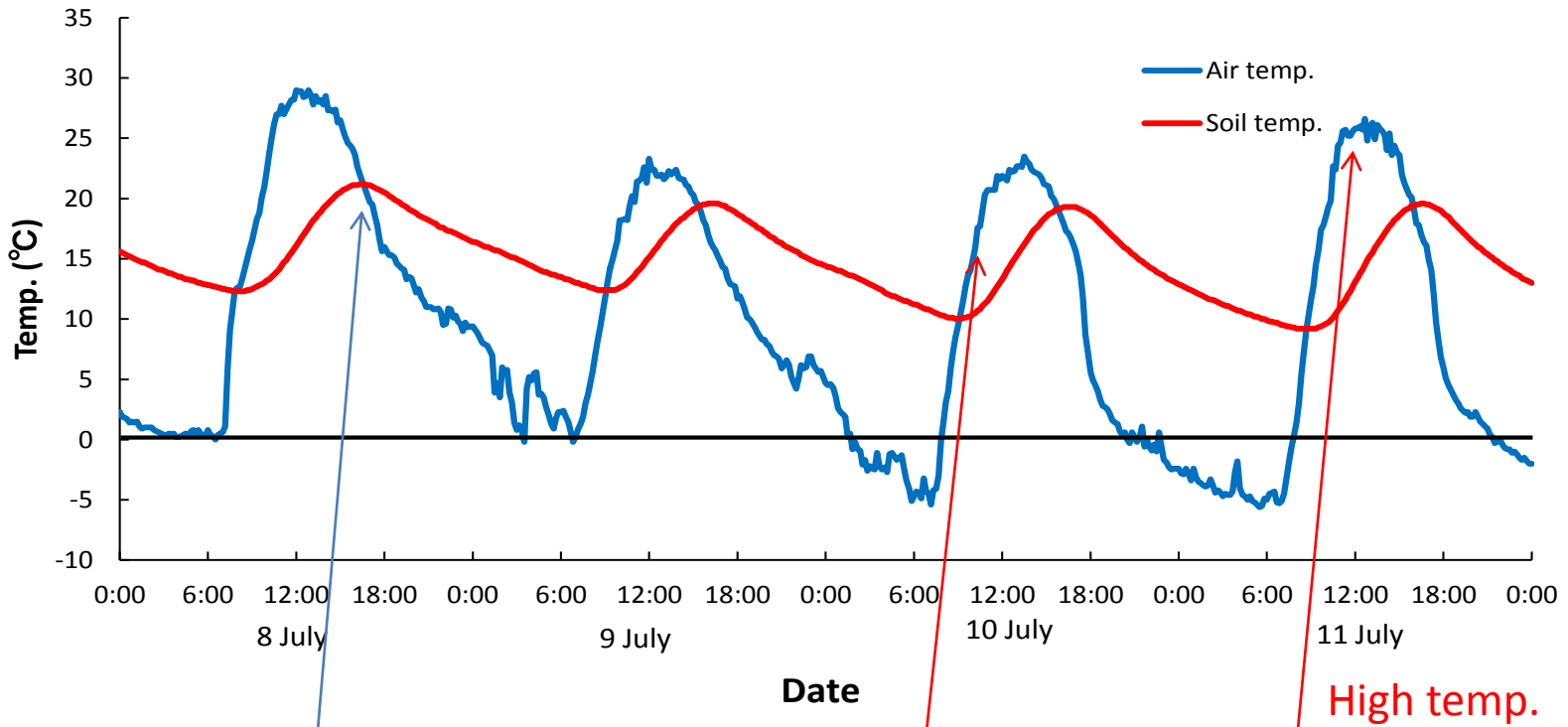
The SATREPS Project started at 14 Dec., 2011, transplanting was a first joint work.







# Changes in air and soil temperature form 8 to 11 July, 2012

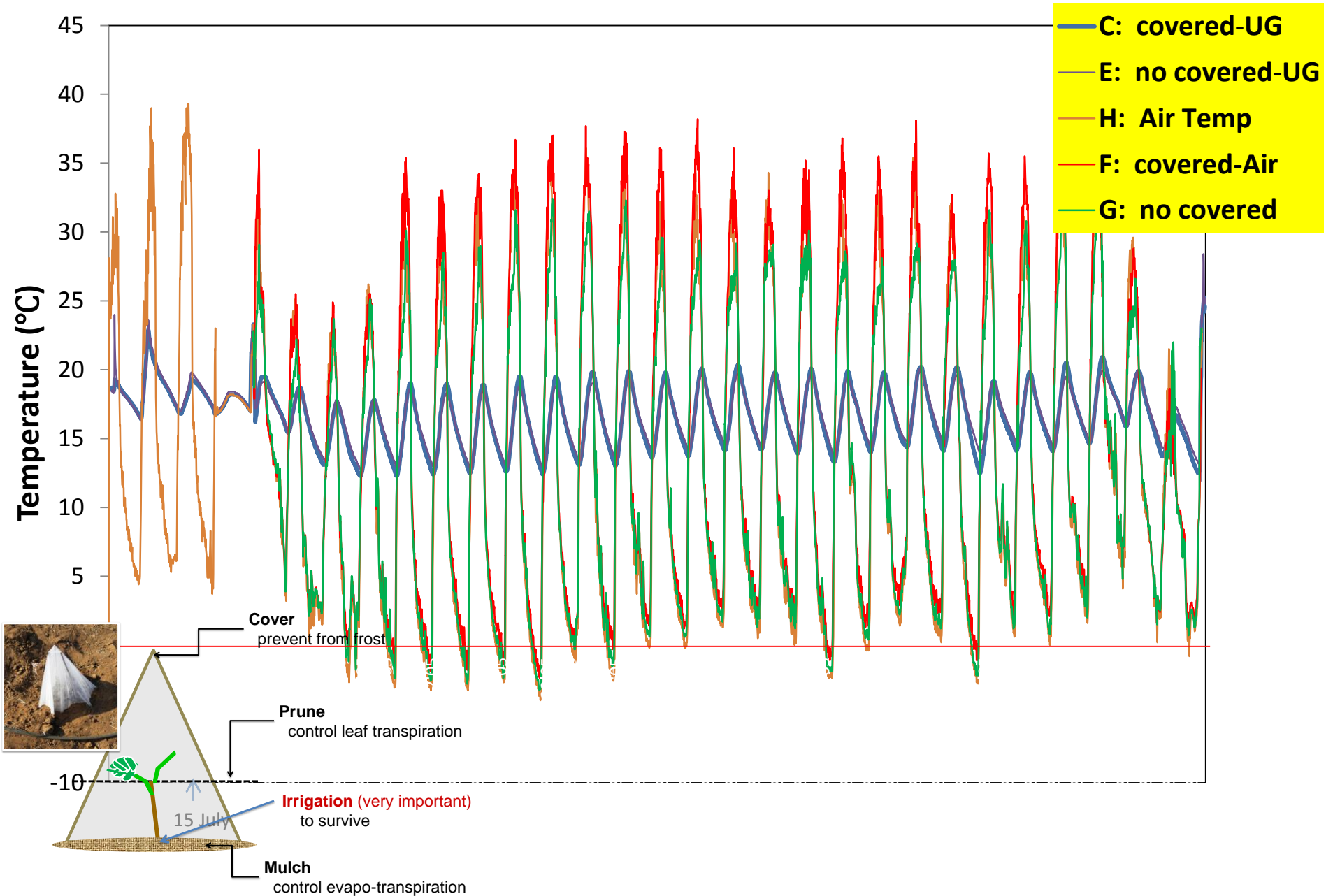


Before the cold



After the cold

# Soil Temperature 2012







# Pruning

May 18th, 2012





# Mulching



May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012

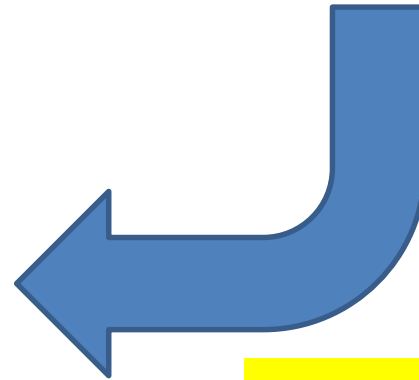


# Irrigation

Automatic irrigation system installed based on soil moisture.



July 9th, 2012



Drip irrigation



# Where is water?

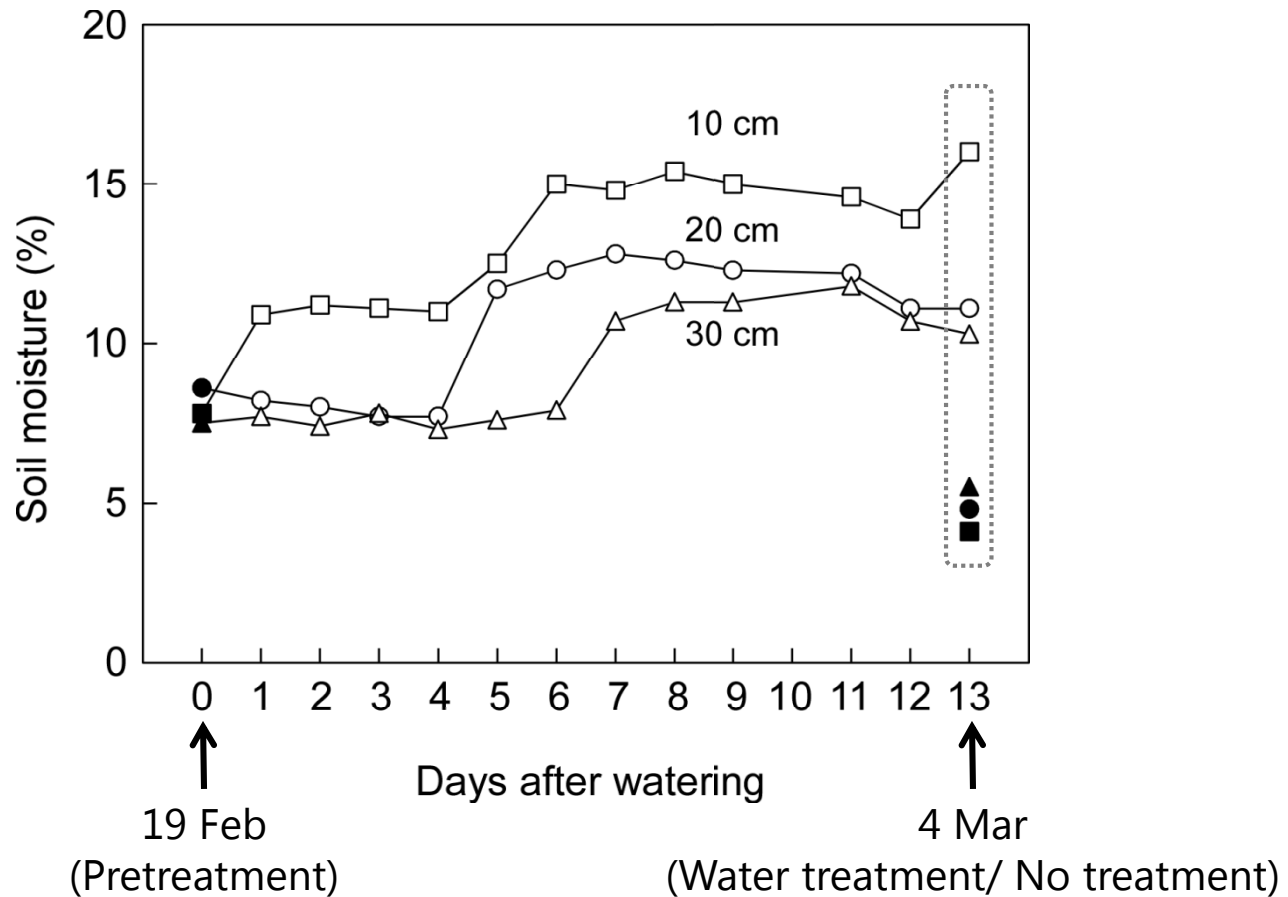




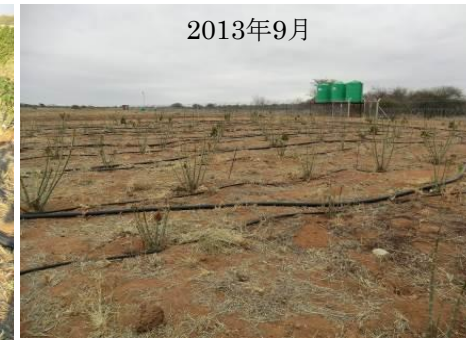
# Change in soil moisture (10, 20 and 30 cm depths) after water treatment

## Water treatment

1-4 DAW: 5L/ plant/ day  
5-13 DAW: 10L/ plant/ day



# Jatropha has grown up well.



If water was given  
a little more, it is  
likely to become  
larger.



# Set up the weather station for precise irrigation and farming



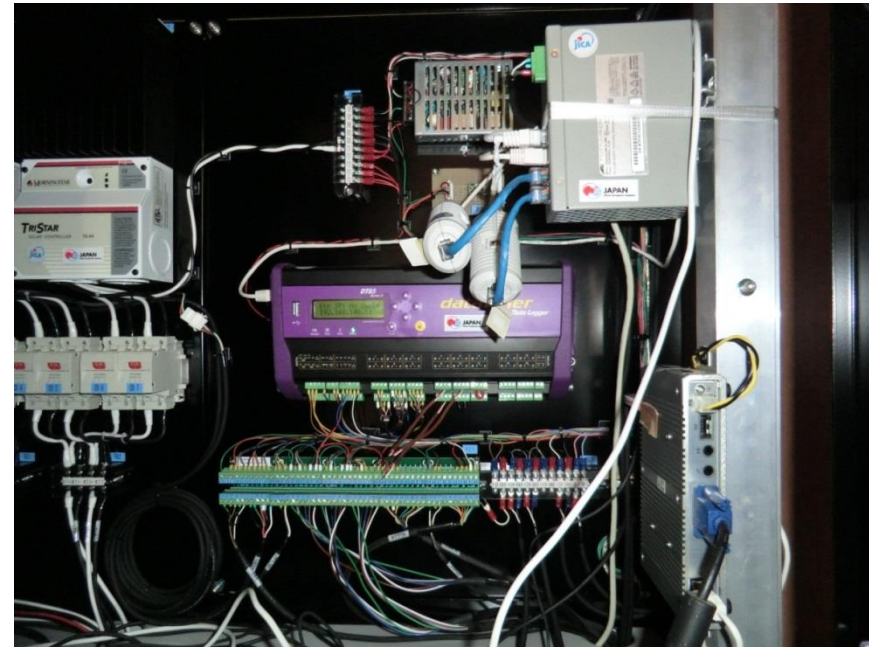
1. Solar radiation
2. Air temperature
3. Soil temperature
4. Relative humidity
5. Wind speed
6. Wind direction
7. Rain fall
8. O<sub>2</sub> concentration
9. CO<sub>2</sub> concentration
10. Soil moisture
11. Leaf temperature



Monitor camera



# Weather station in Sebele farm







2014/03/01 18:08



2014/03/01 18:11

Selowe site

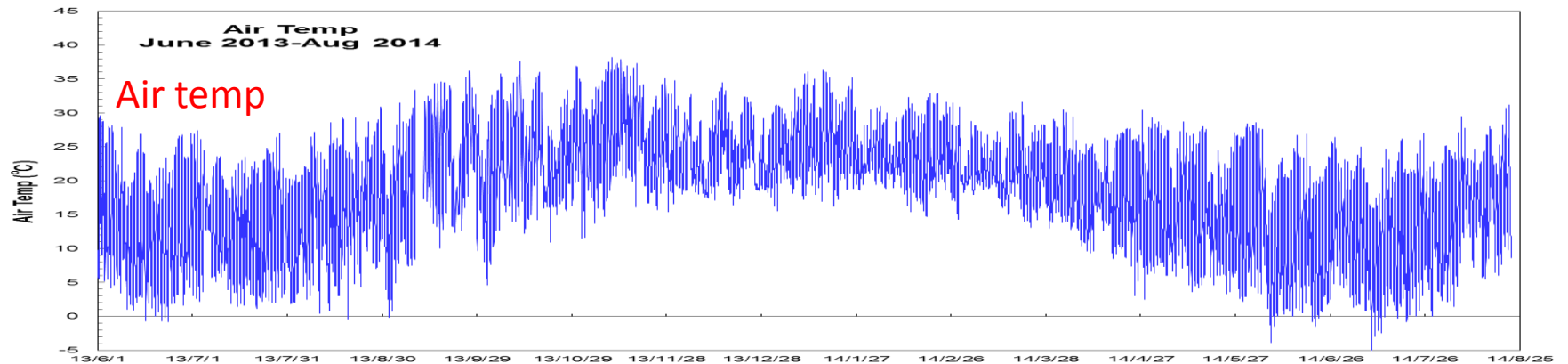
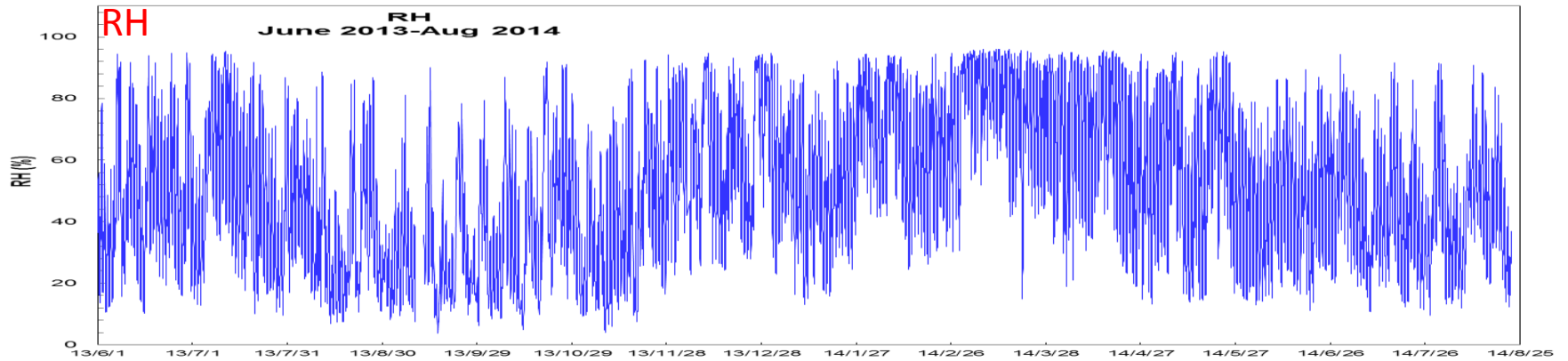
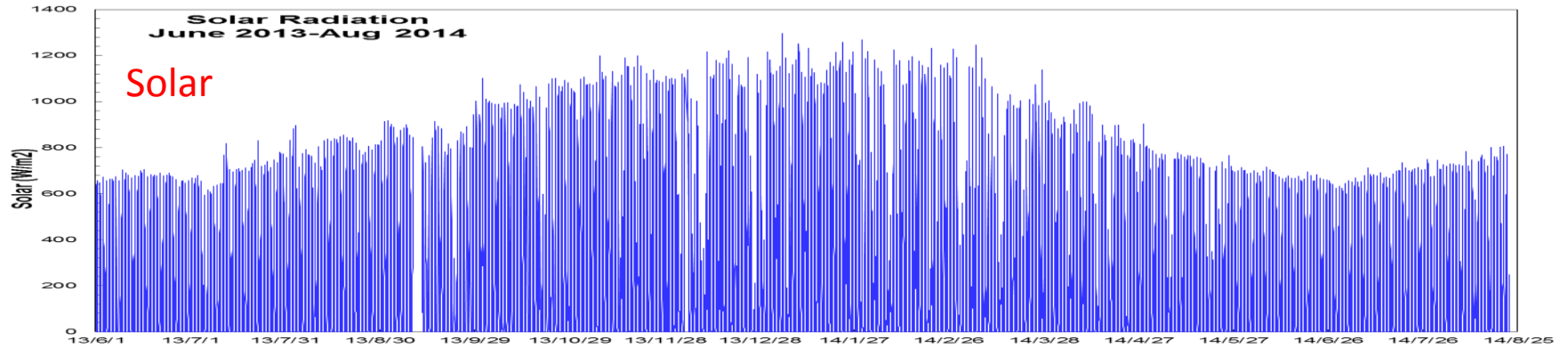


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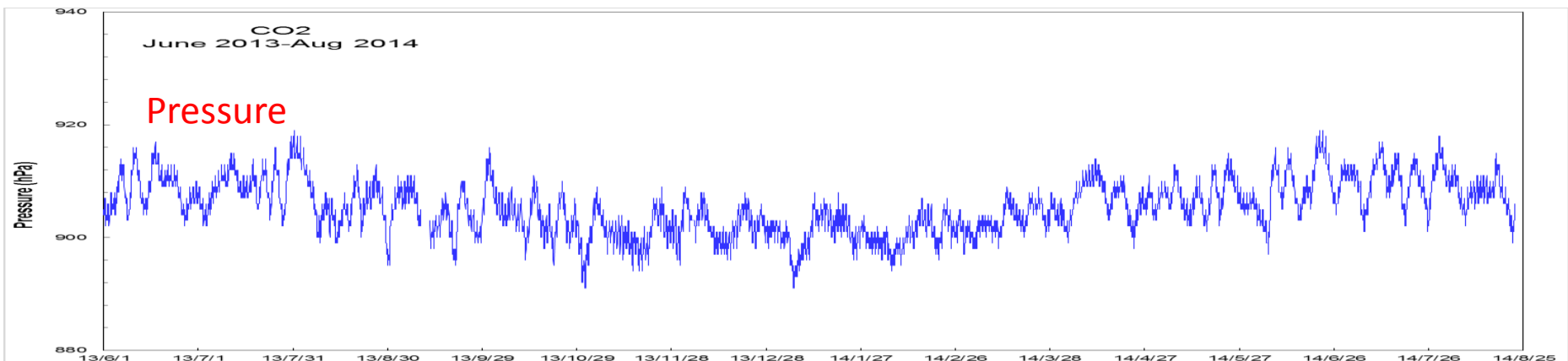
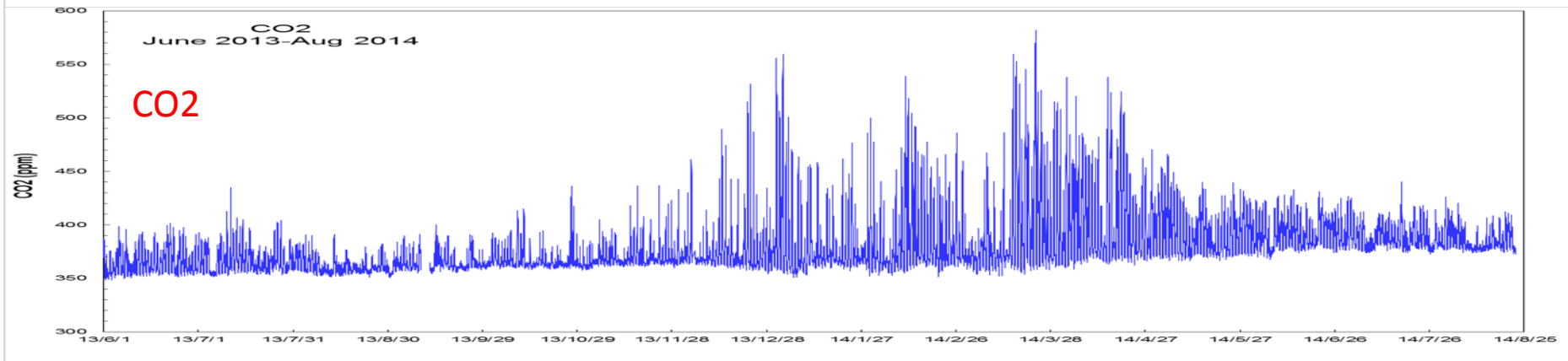
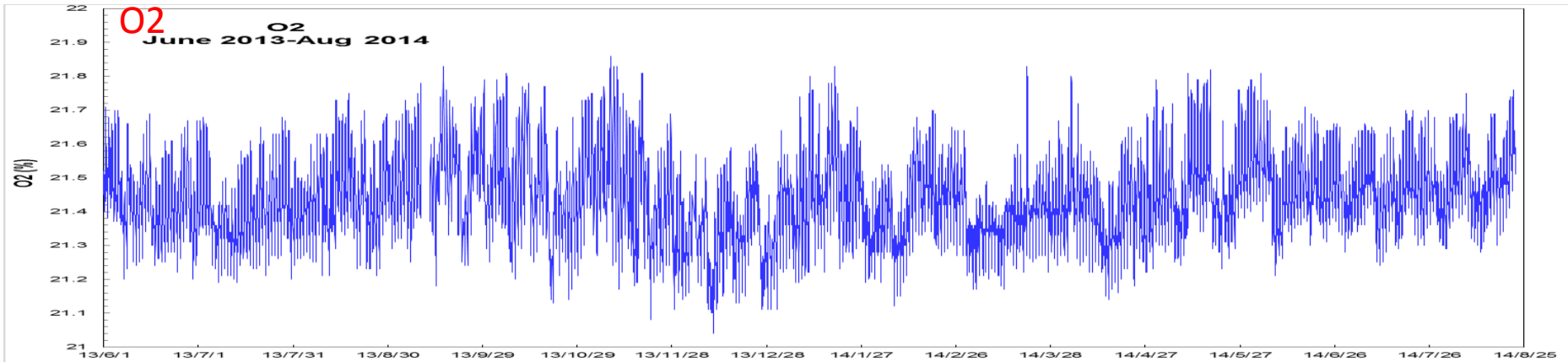
2014/03/01 18:13

# Data from weather station





# Data from weather station



Strong hail damaged to flower, fruits and *Jatropha* trees.

Nov. 2013





Almost trees recovered from the hail damage, and some trees started flowering.

Feb, 2014







2014年6月4日

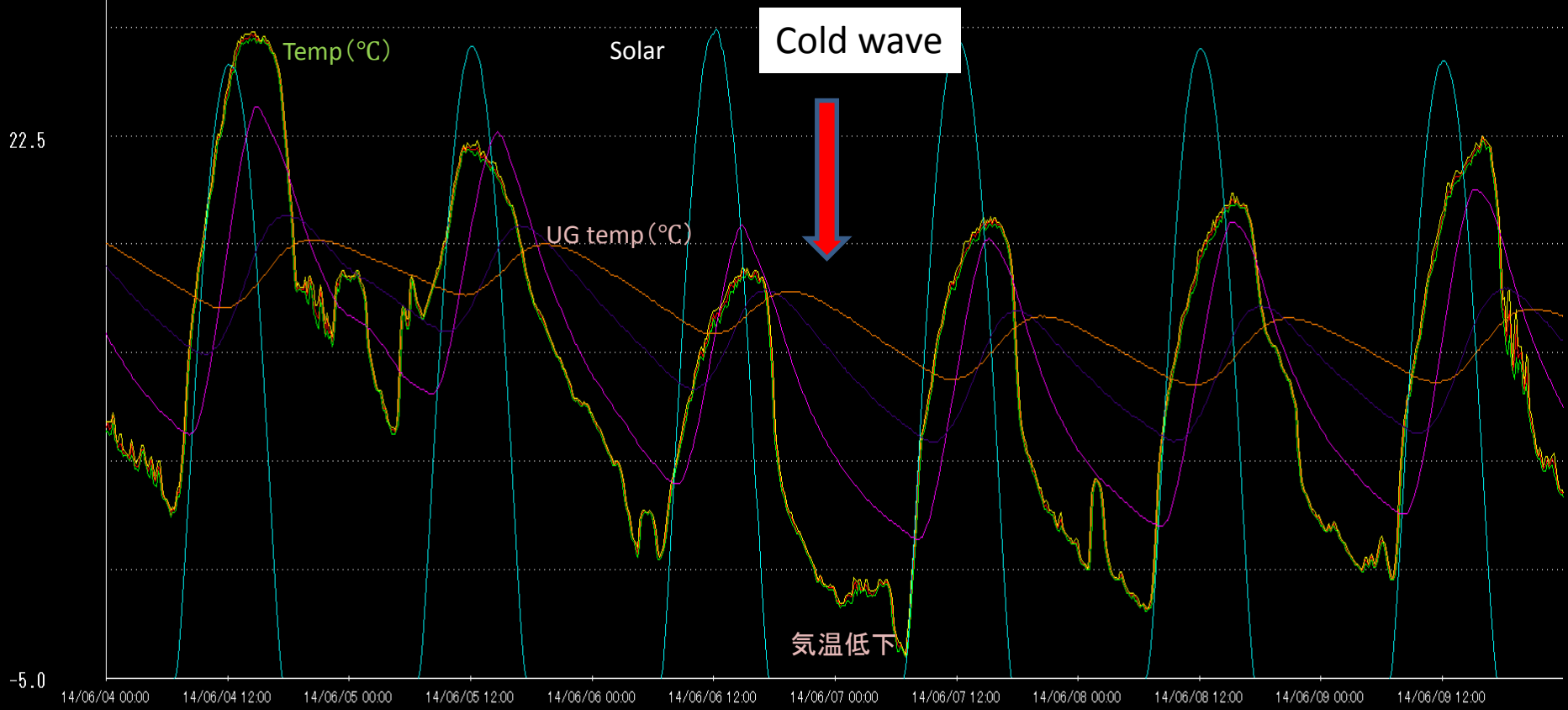
2014年6月5日

2014年6月6日

2014年6月7日

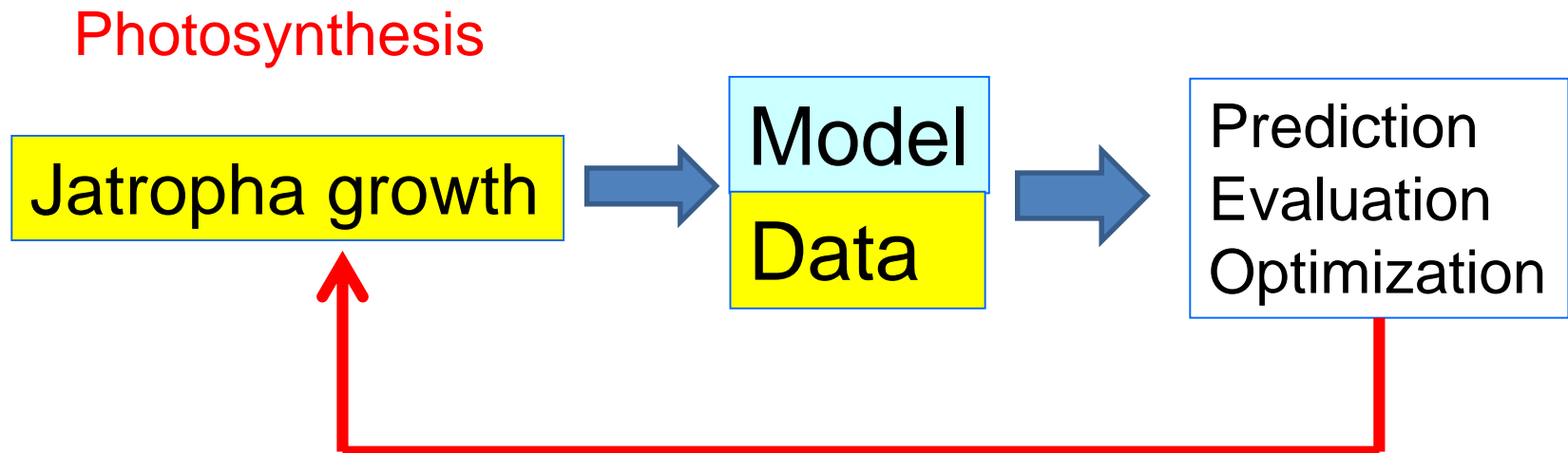
2014年6月8日

2014年6月9日



# Model-based Jatropha production and biomass utilization

Simulations under various conditions enable us that optimization of water use, scheduling of works, estimation of oil production, evaluation by LCA and others.





# Jatropha biomass per unit area

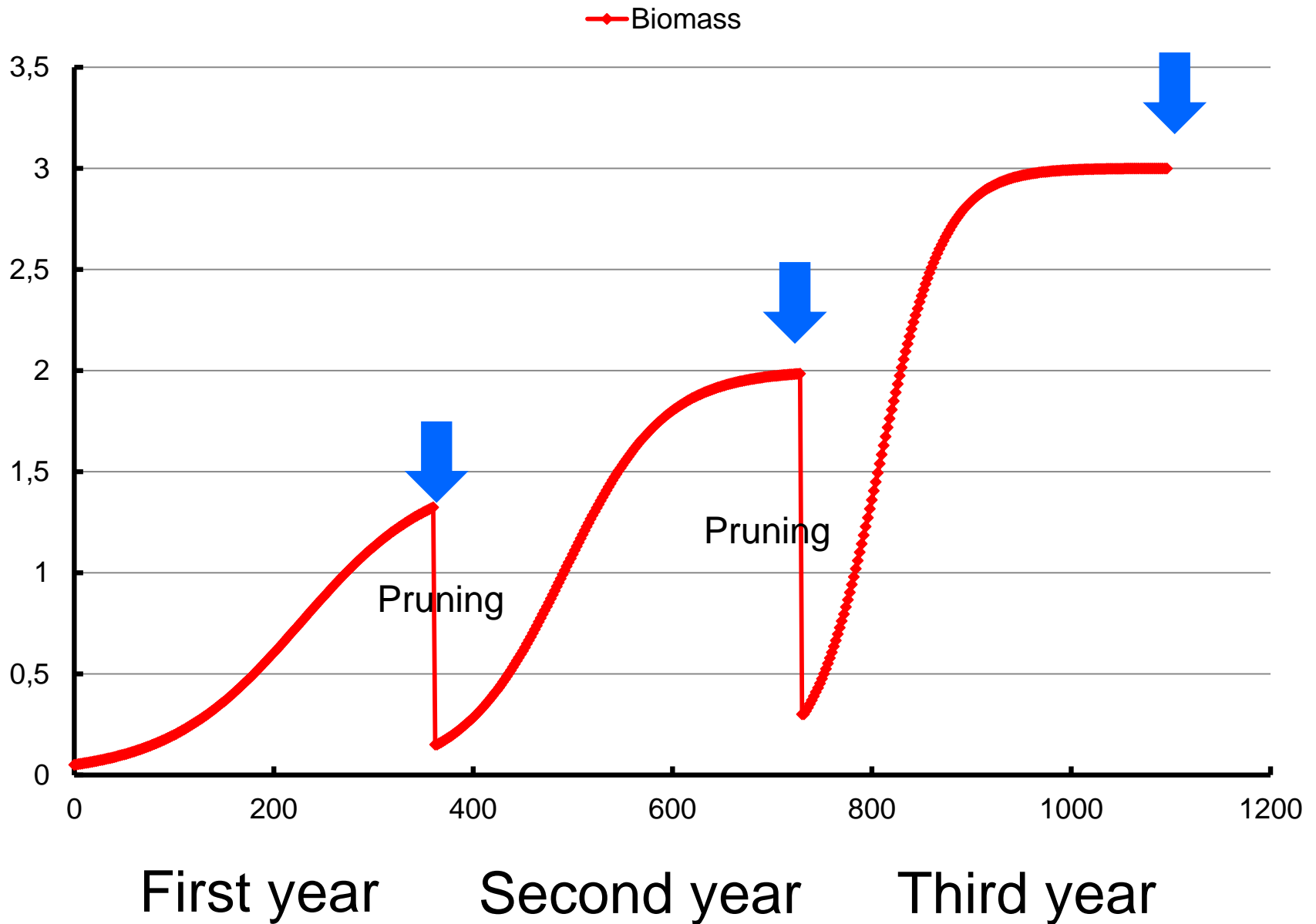
Total biomass or growth

$$Y = \sum_j y_{i+1}^j = \sum_j \{y_i^j + \alpha^j y_i^j (\beta^j - \gamma^j y_i^j)\}$$





# Jatropha growth with pruning



# Growth simulation by the model

## Input data

Weather data



Water supply, rainfall  
Soil moisture



Soil  
Weed  
Insect  
Pest  
Labor  
Fertilizer  
-----



Growth data

Comparison

$$y_{i+1} \leq y_i + \alpha y_i (\beta - \gamma y_i)$$

Coefficients  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  are changed by the conditions.

Prediction of growth, yield of oil seed and biomass volume



# For more precise farming

## Soil nutrition and microbiome analysis

These data are combined with growth data and growth model.

Yasuhiro DATE<sup>1,2</sup>, Jun KIKUCHI<sup>1,2,3</sup>

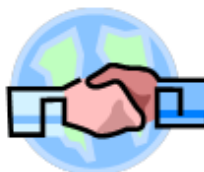
<sup>1</sup>RIKEN Center for Sustainable Resource Science

<sup>2</sup>Grad. Sch. Med. Life Sci., Yokohama City Univ.

<sup>3</sup>Grad. Sch. Agri. Bio. Sci., Nagoya Univ.

# Biomass, metabolic flux and torrefaction analysis of *Jatropha curcus*

**SATREPS** For the Earth, For the Next Generation



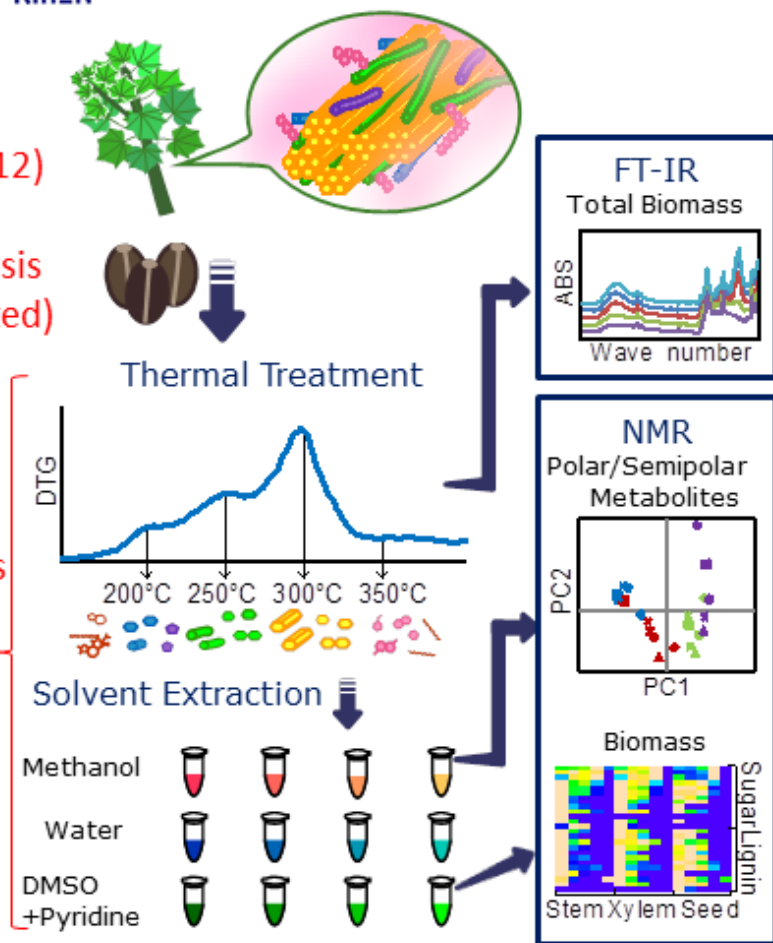
## Botswana

- 70% DESERT
- POOR NUTRIENTS IN SOIL

• Biomass profiling  
*Plant Biotechnol* (2012)

• Metabolic flux analysis  
*Metabolites* (submitted)

• Torrefaction analysis  
*PLoS ONE* (revised)



2011.Dec



2014.May



Harvest and Prune



Torrefaction

Biorefinery

Fertilizer



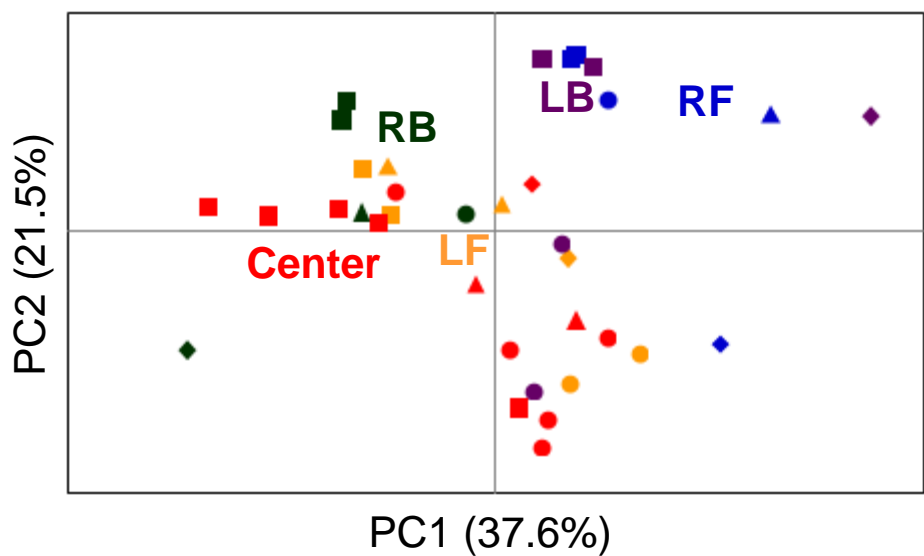
**Future: Improving soil ecology**



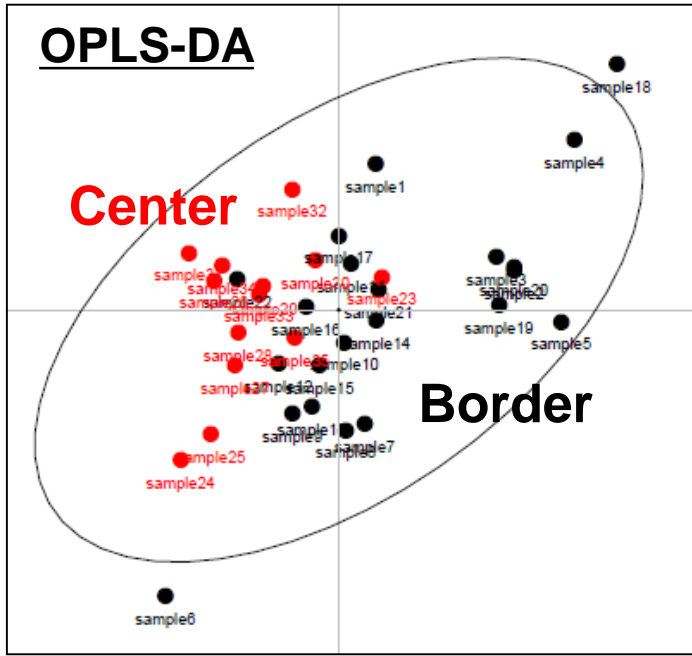


# Spatial distribution patterns of elemental profiles

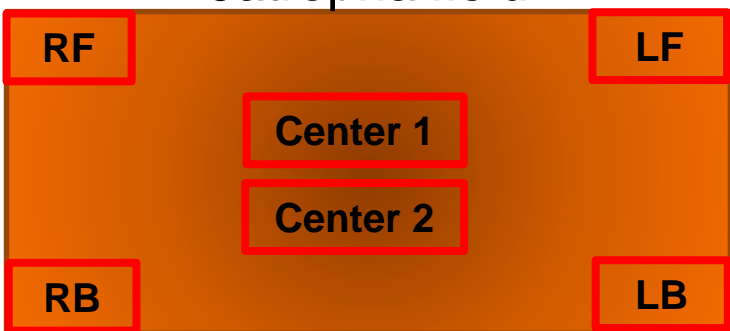
PCA



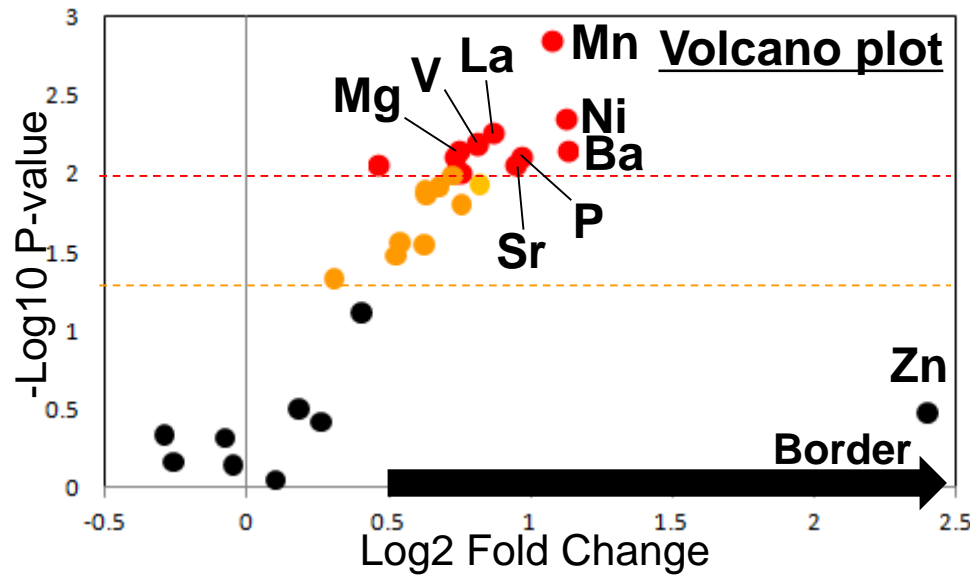
OPLS-DA



Jatropha field

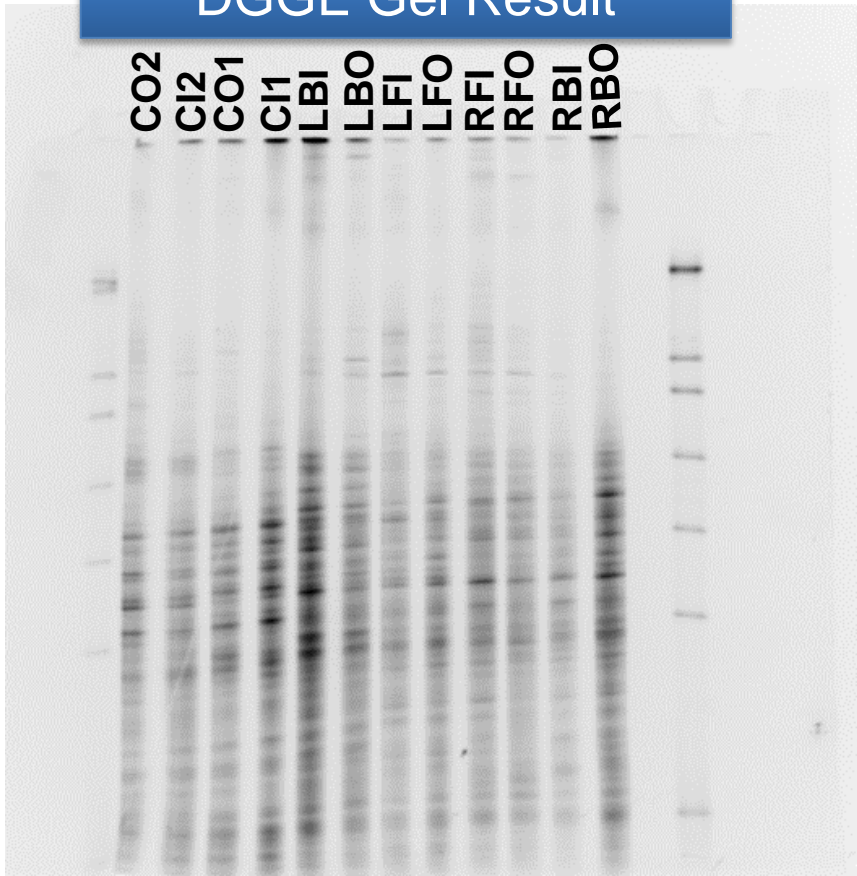


The levels of some elements such as Mn, La, Mg, Ba, and P were significantly high in the soils located in the border compared to those in the center.

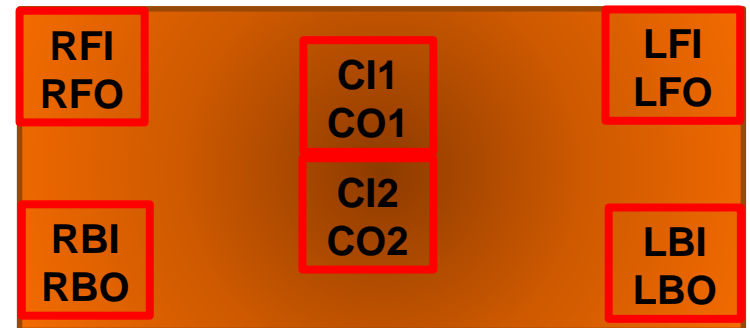
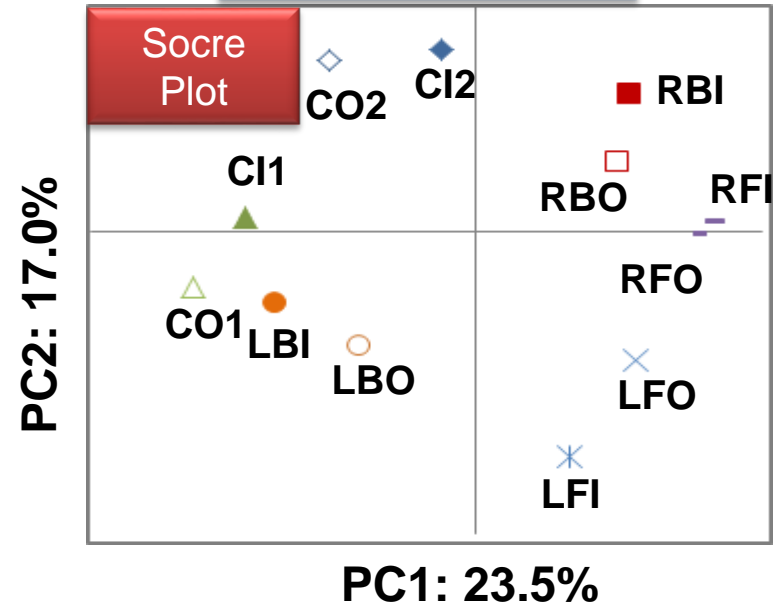


# DGGE profiles (bacteria)

DGGE Gel Result



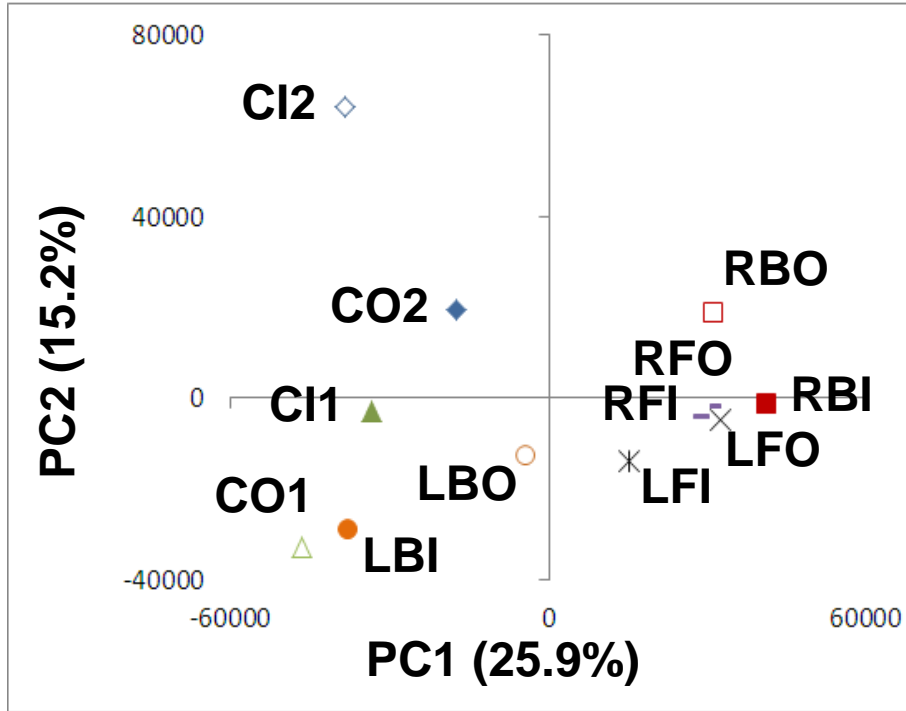
PCA Results



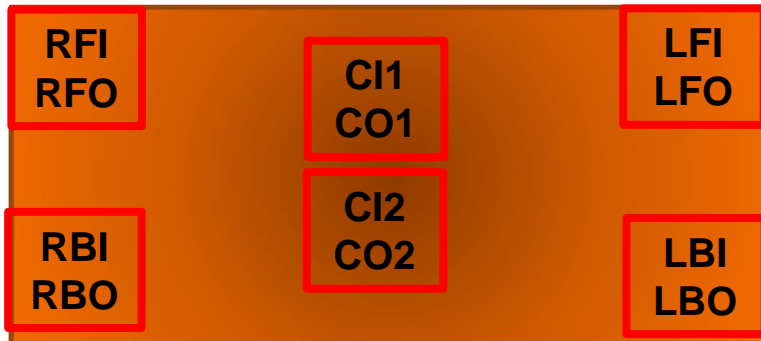
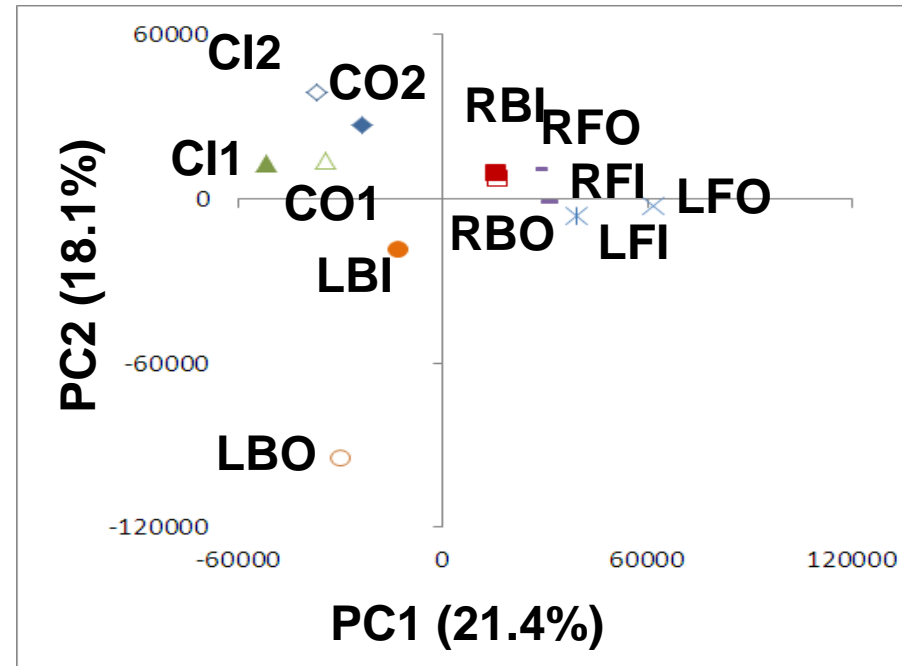


# DGGE profiles (nematode & Eukaryote)

## Nematode

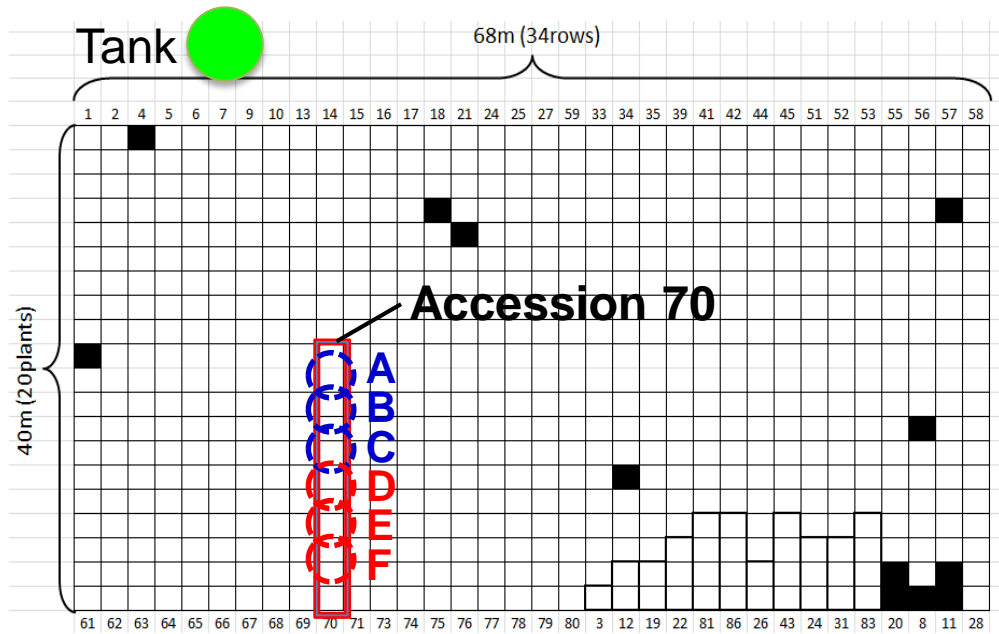


## Eukaryotes

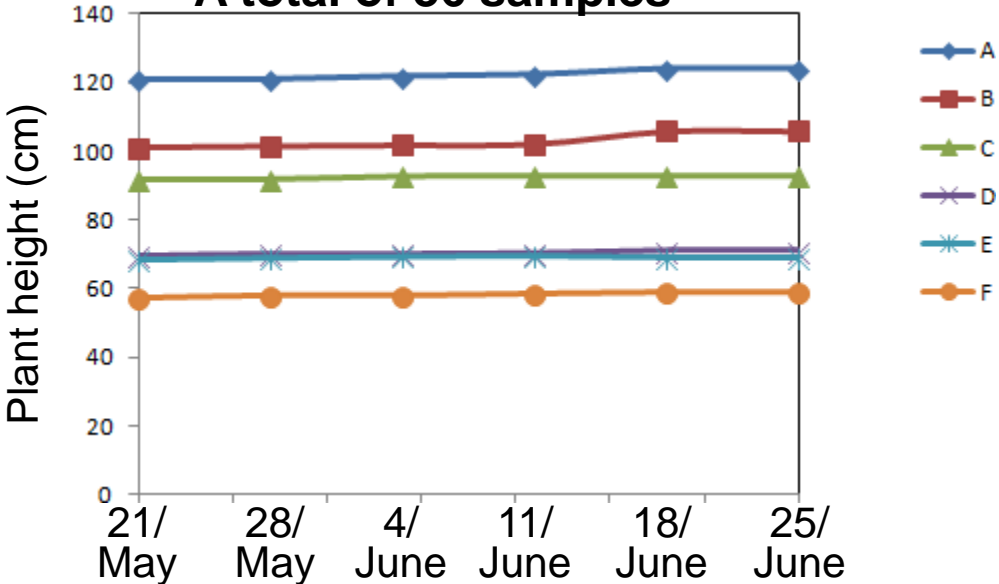


The profile of nematode and eukaryotes communities tends to be different according to the position in the field.

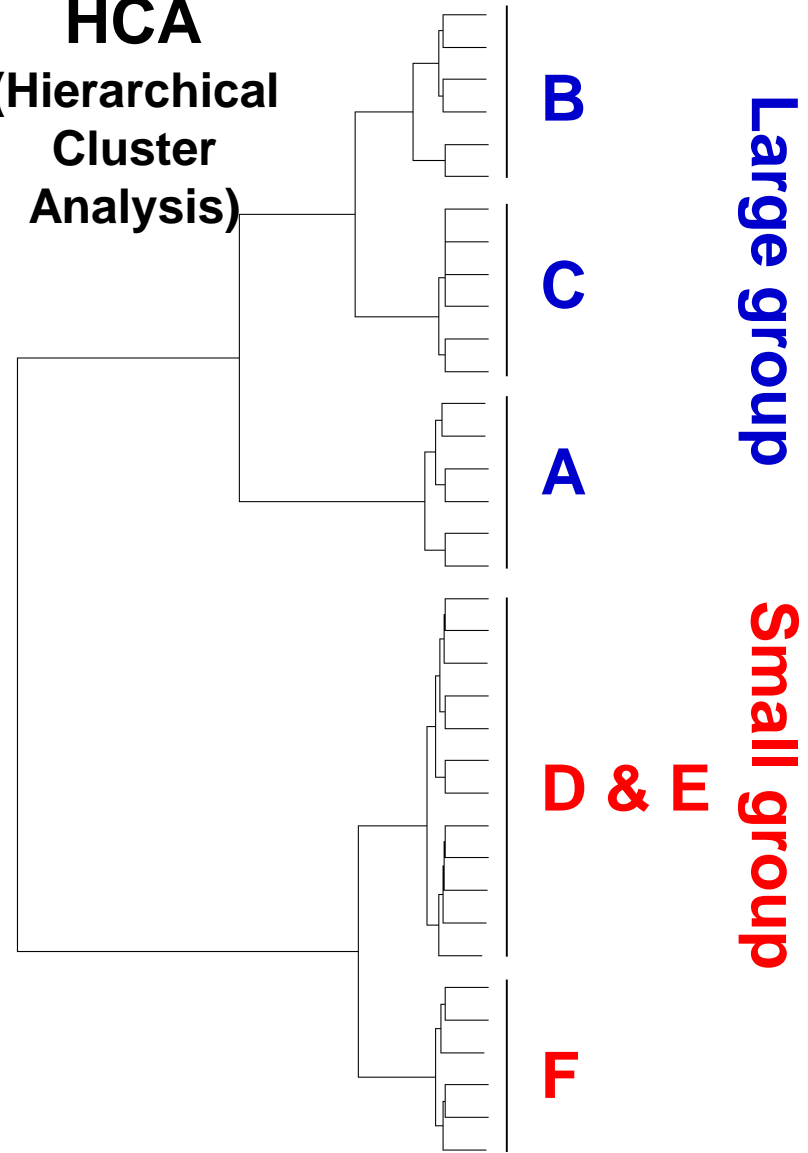
# Soil profiling and *Jatropha* growth



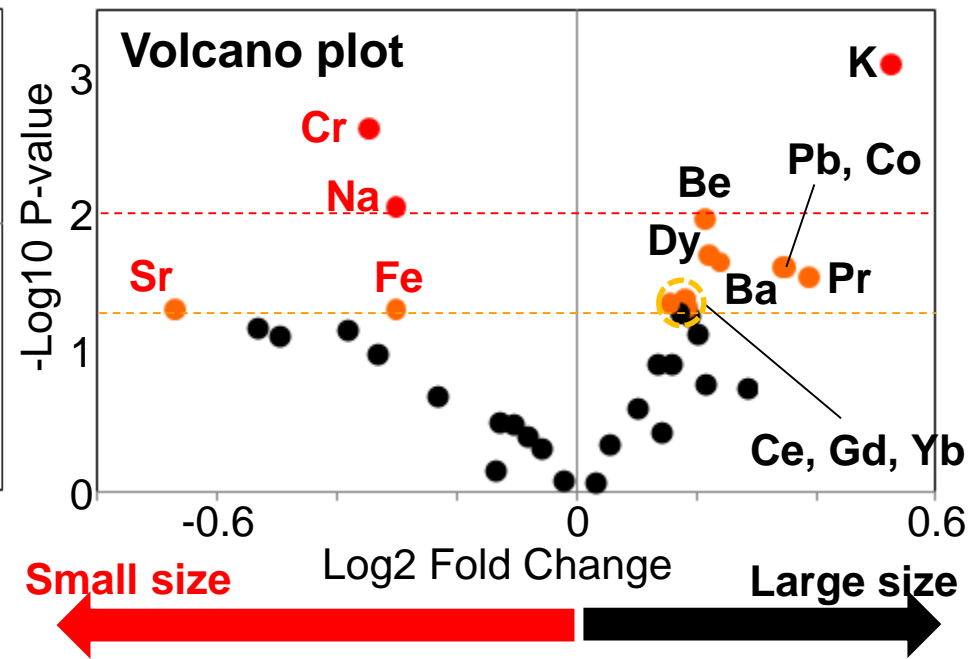
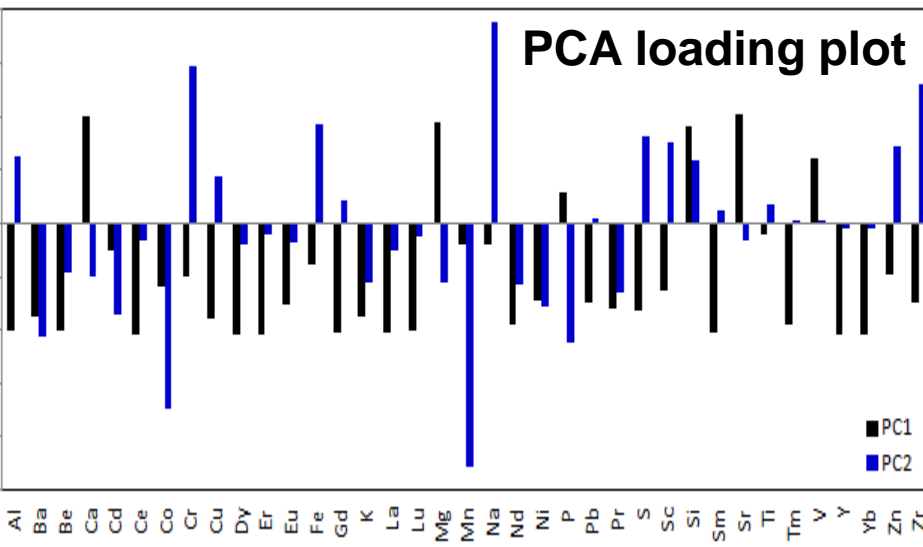
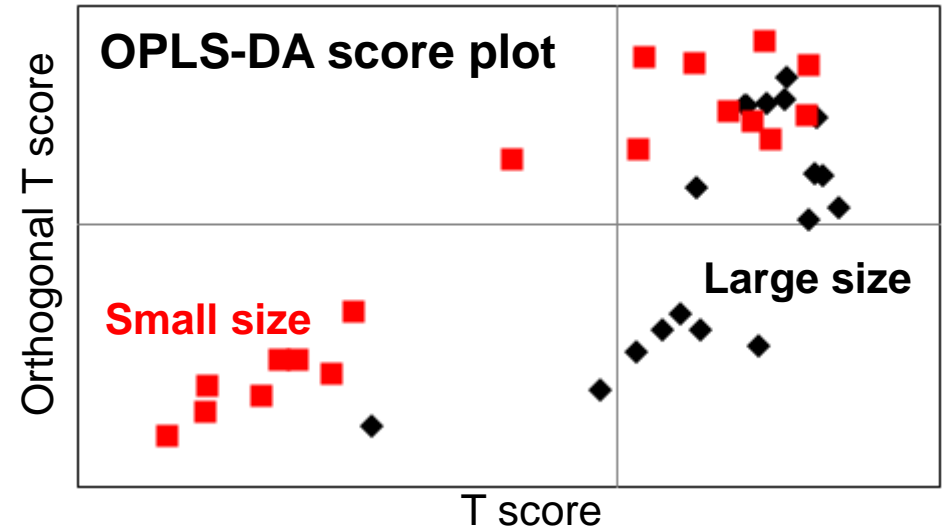
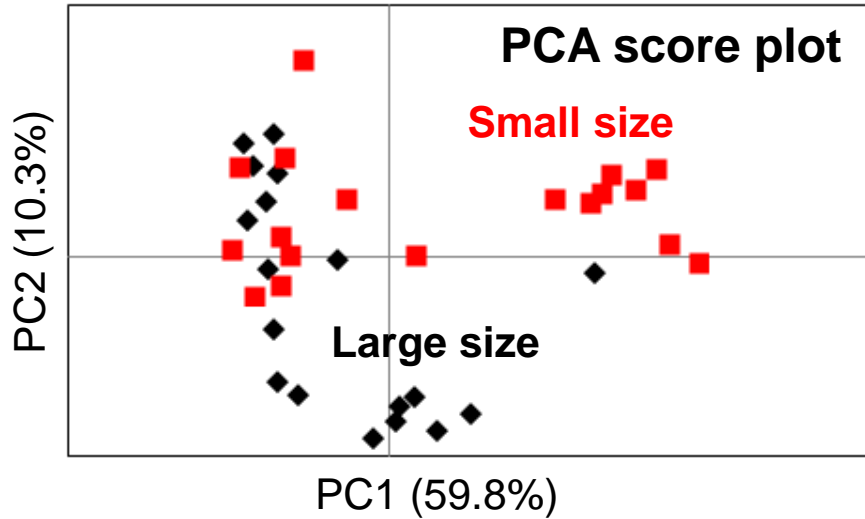
A total of 36 samples



HCA  
(Hierarchical Cluster Analysis)



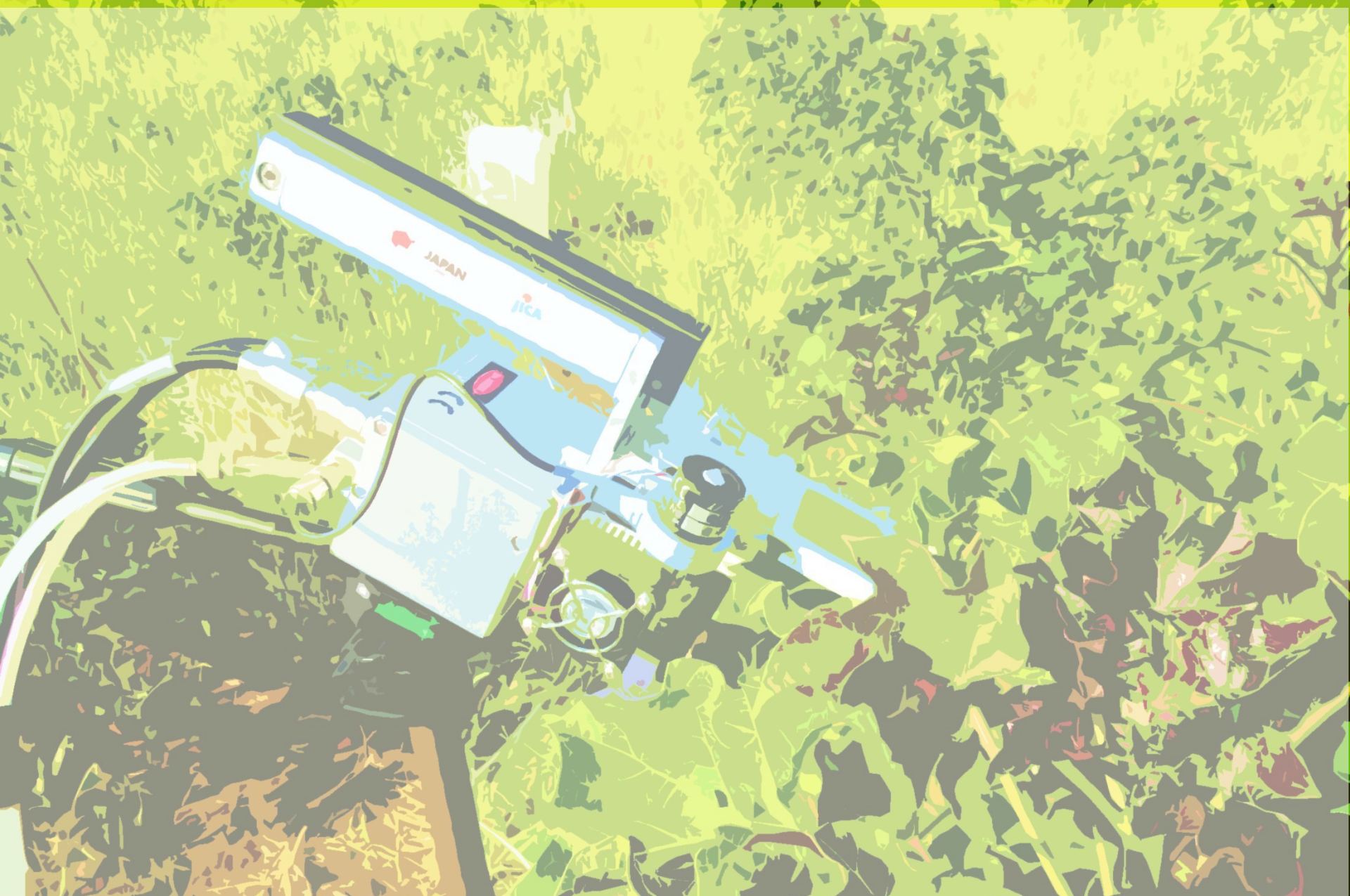
# Elemental profiles related to Jatropha growth







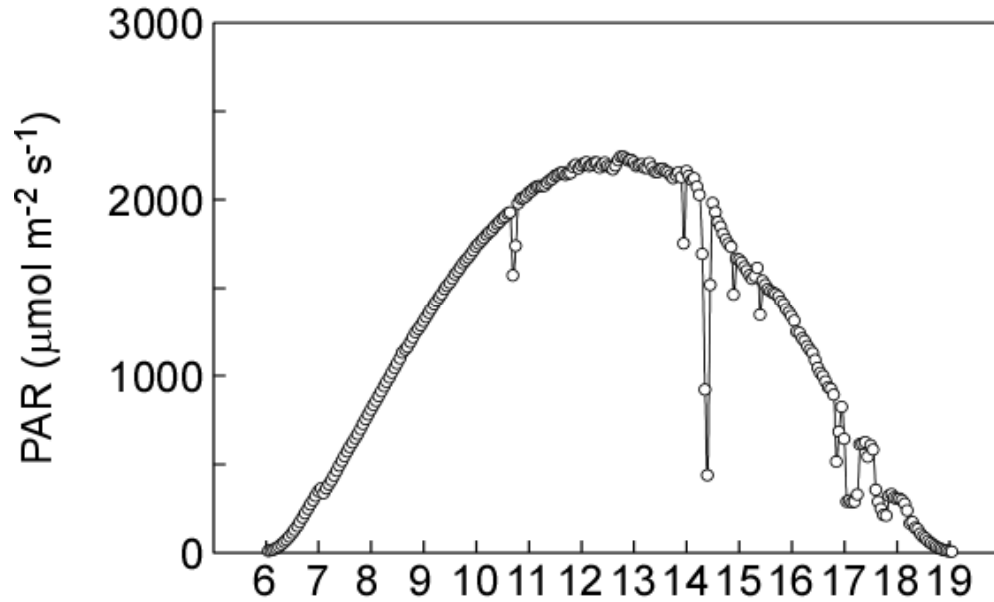
# Photosynthesis characteristics in Botswana



# Solar radiation

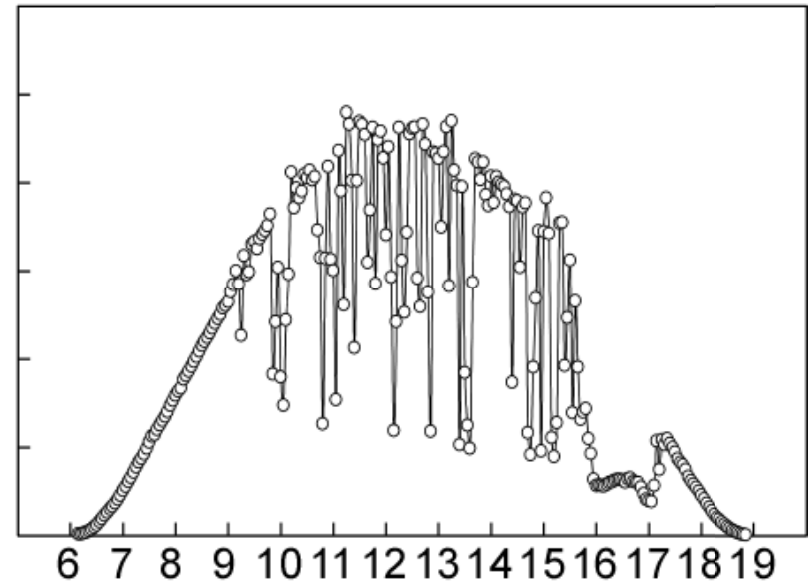
Feb 19, 2013

**19 Feb**



Mar 4, 2013

**4 Mar**



Diurnal series of PAR in 19 Feb and 4 Mar

PAR: Photosynthetically active radiation



# Jatropha taking a "midday nap" through stomatal closure

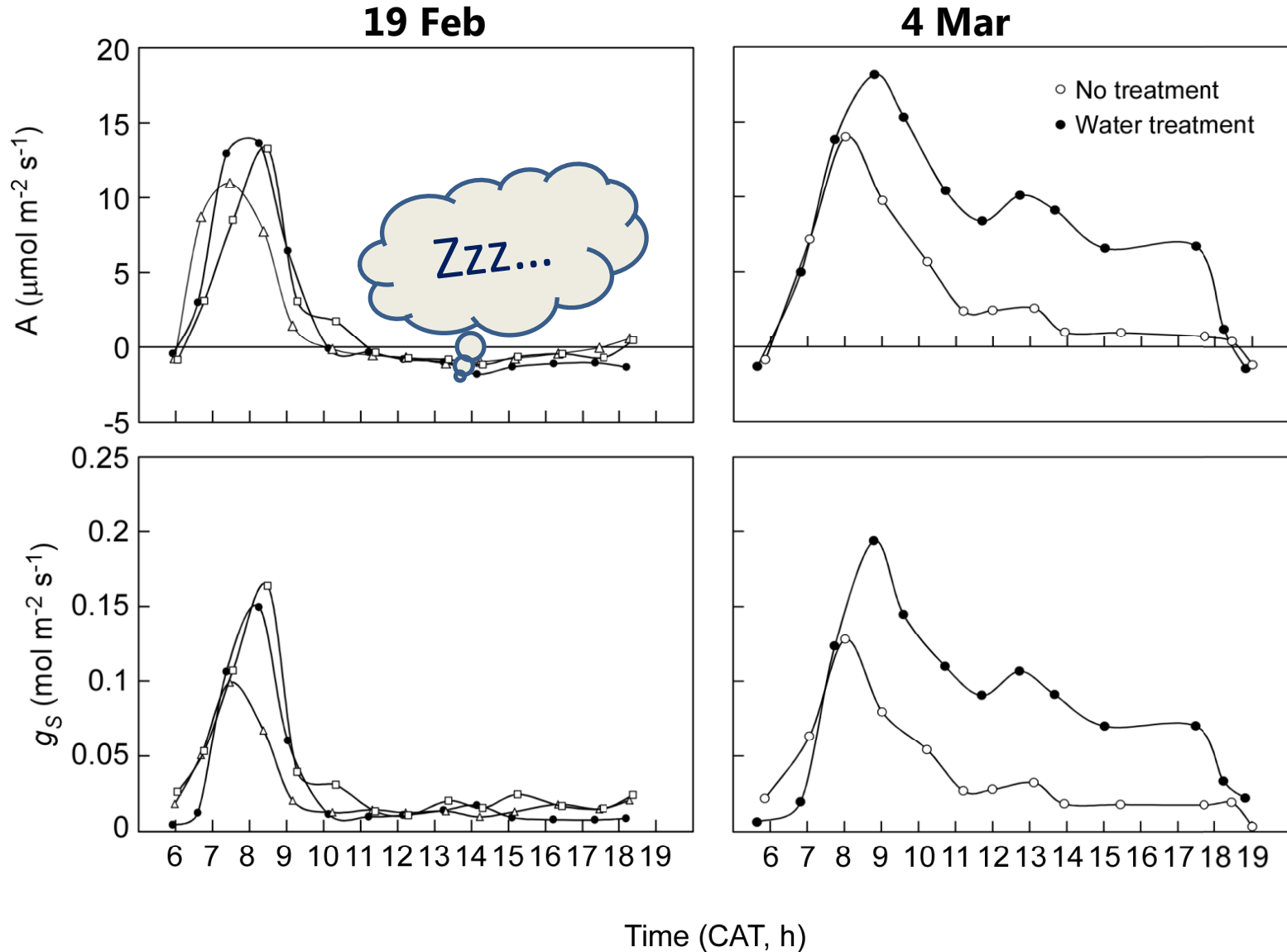
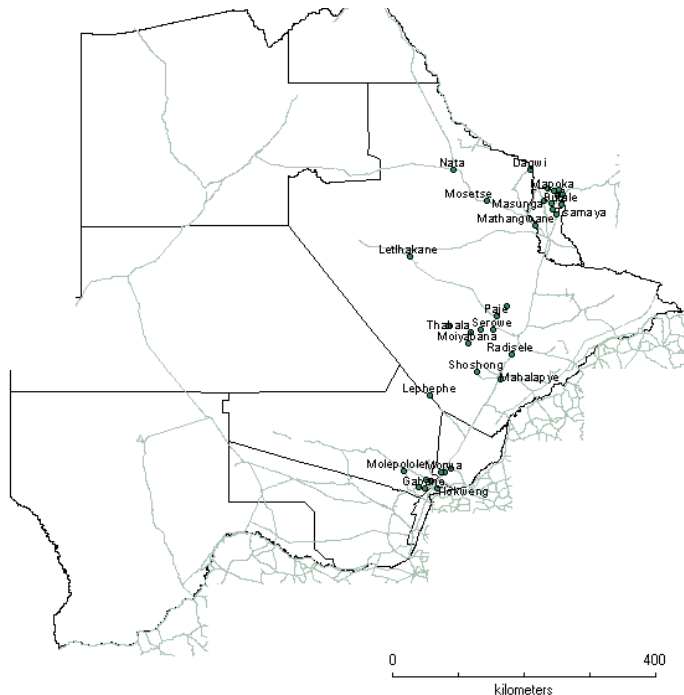


Fig. 3 Diurnal series of  $A$  and  $g_s$  in 19 Feb and 4 Mar  
 $A$ : CO<sub>2</sub> assimilation rate,  $g_s$ : stomatal conductance (openness)

## **2. Breeding of Jatropha variety for higher and stable production**

# Indigenous *Jatropha* germplasms in Botswana.

- Indigenous *Jatropha* germplasms, which thrive in the semi-arid climate, are found in different regions of Botswana.
- These accessions potentially serve as breeding source for establishing elite *Jatropha* varieties for stress tolerance, disease/pest resistance and higher yield.



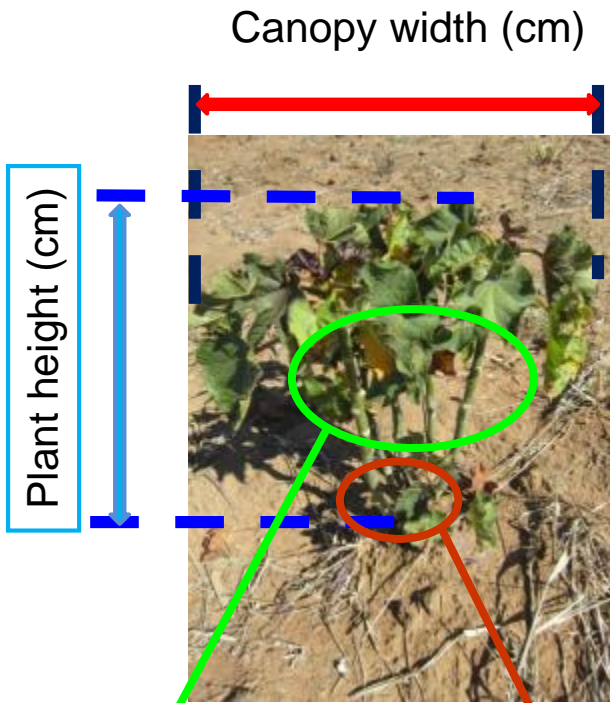


# Diversity of *Jatropha* indigenous accessions in Botswana



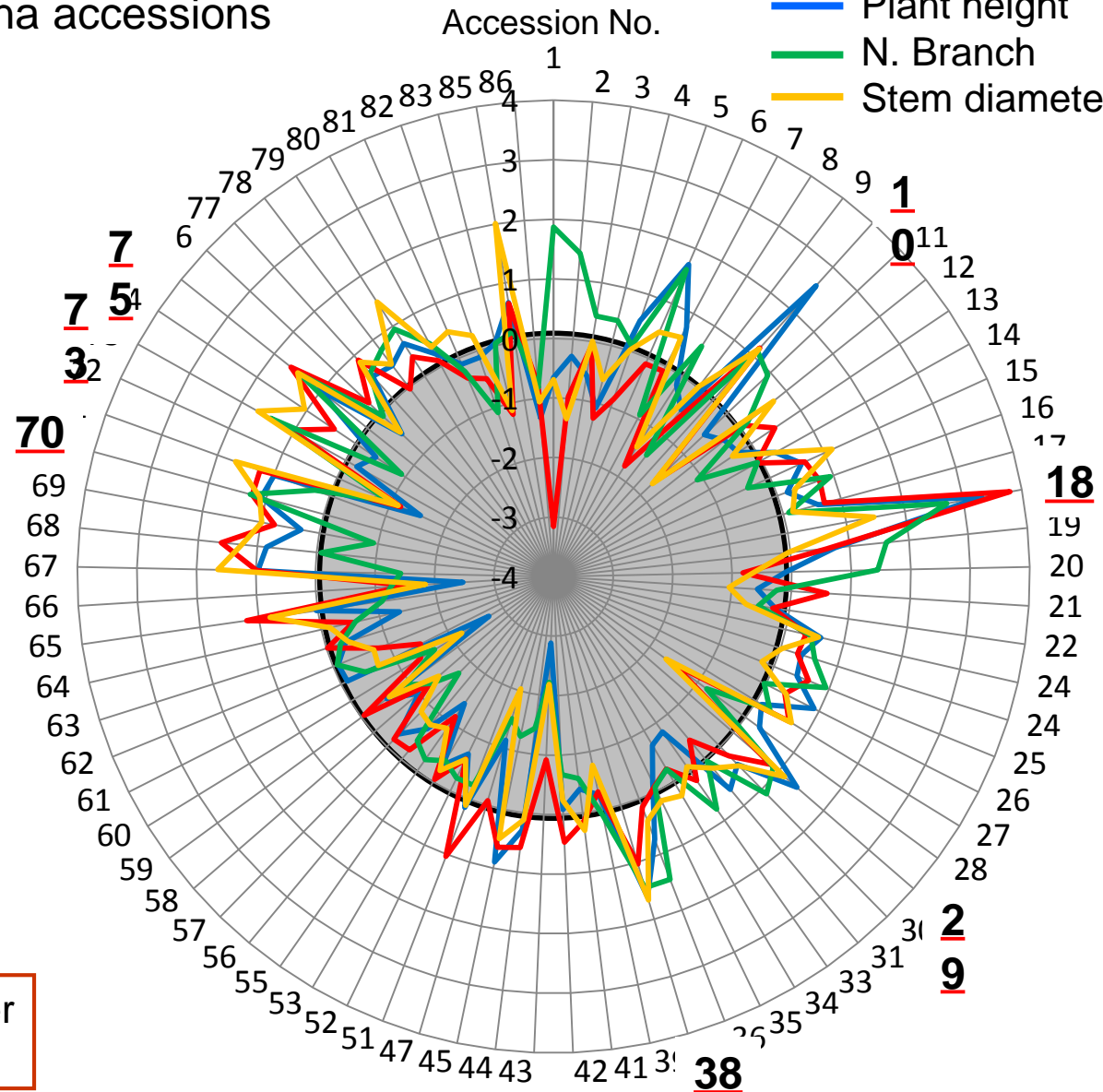
Normalized growth data for 6-month-old Botswana accessions

- Canopy width
- Plant height
- N. Branch
- Stem diameter



N. Branch.

Stem diameter (mm)



One of elite: Acc:1-5

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# Passport data of *Jatropha* accessions from Botswana

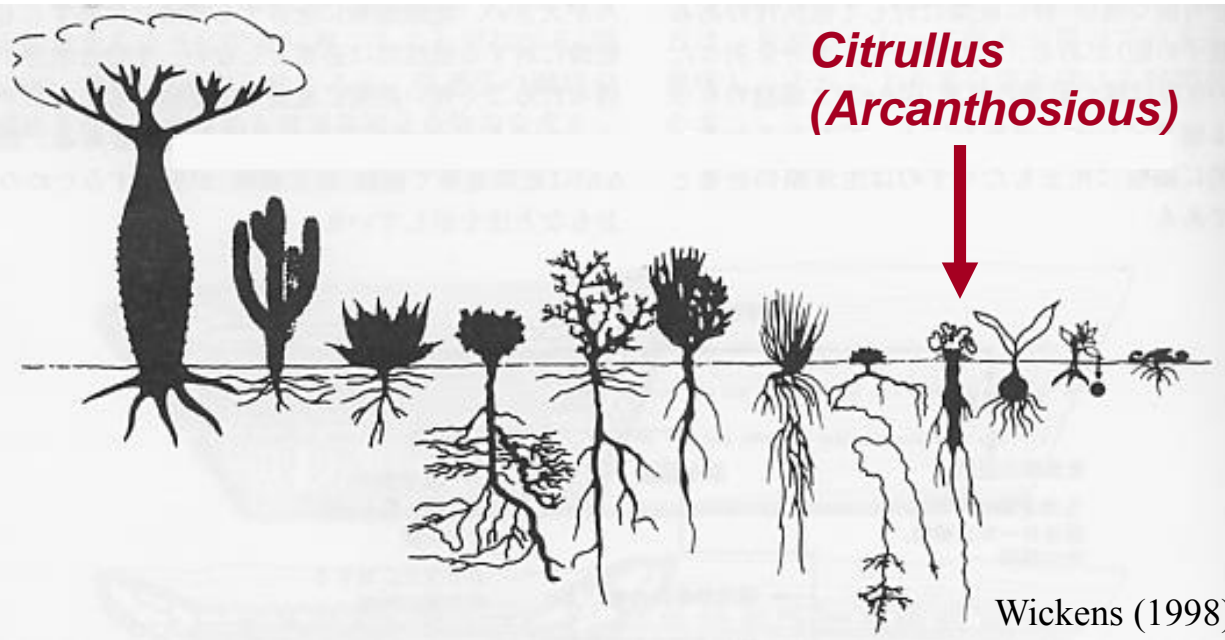
- Over 80 accessions of *Jatropha* were collected from different areas of Botswana.
- Collections are either as seeds or stem cuttings
- Accompanied by collection site data such as GPS coordinates, growth conditions, usage, etc.
- All the available accessions are under evaluation at the Experimental Field.
- Differences in growth and flowering are observed.
- Further field investigation, establishment of propagation protocol and database are underway.

## Passport data *Jatropha*

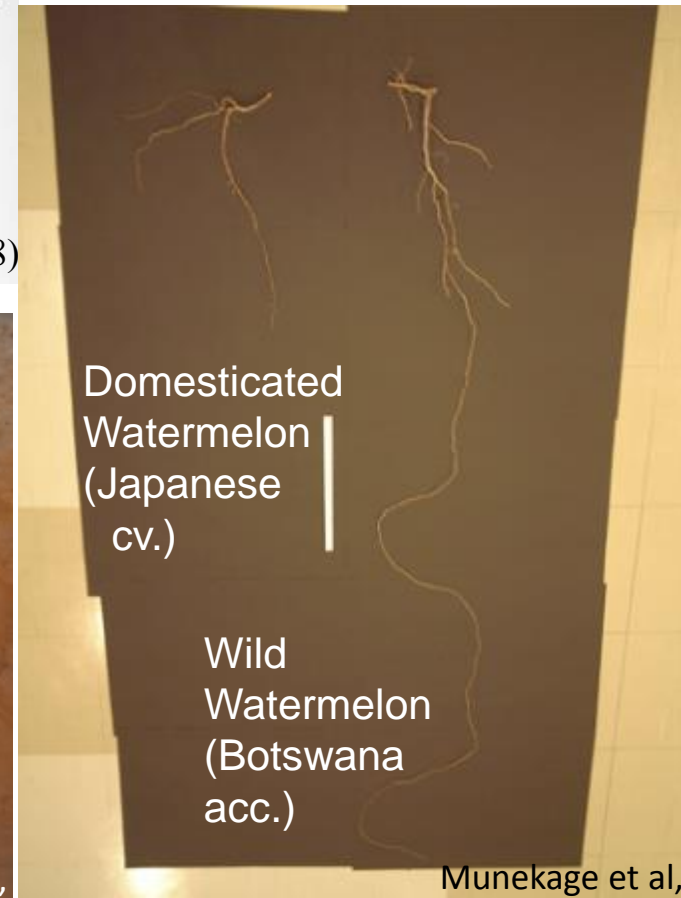
Collector's Number	Donor Name	Village/Town	Latitude	Longitude (DMSM)	Elevation	Collecting date	Planted from		USES
							Seeds	Cuttings	
GKMG 01	Rebonamang Rancholo	Nata	20°12'32.8	026°10'14.6	928m	2010/6/7		/	Ornamental
GKMG 02	Alfred Lesetedi	Nata	20°12'49.2	026°11'31.9	916M	2010/6/7		/	Ornamental
GKMG 04	Keaboka Mapini	Nata	20°13'04.1	026°11'27.4	913M	2010/6/7		/	Ornamental
GKMG 05	Badisa Mazhani	Mosetse	20°39'09.6	026°39'03.5	942M	2010/6/7		/	Ornamental
GKMG 06	Libengo Mojiwa	Mosetse	20°39'11.8	026°39'05.0	997M	2010/6/7		/	Shade
GKMG 07	Polokokgolo Kebailele	Mosetse	20°39'19.1	026°39'20.0	-----	2010/6/7		/	Ornamental
GKMG 08	Ramokapane	Matlhangwane	20°59'57.4	026°19'57.0	-----	2010/6/7		/	Ornamental
GKMG 09	Kudzanani Mbambanyi	Tsamaya	20°51'26.8	027°37'45.5	1135M	2010/6/8		/	Ornamental
GKMG 010	E. Moses	Tsamaya	20°51'09.9	027°37'44.3	1123M	2010/6/8		/	Ornamental
GKMG 011	Lernard Mokgosi	Tshesebe	20°45'13.0	027°35'34.8	1159M	2010/6/8		/	Ornamental
GKMG 013	John Bofa Ndlovu	Butale	20°41'45.9	027°41'15.2	1189M	2010/6/8		/	Shade
GKMG 014	Babhati Mogoma	Moroka	20°32'58.9	027°38'54.3	1303M	2010/6/8		/	Ornamental
GKMG 015	Itumeleng Moeng	Moroka	20°32'13.4	027°38'59.7	1306M	2010/6/8		/	Ornamental
GKMG 016	Keetsheletse Matebu	Nlapkhwane	20°31'15.9	027°31'57.3	1258M	2010/6/8		/	shade



# Root system architecture of xerophytes



Several xerophytes (plants in arid lands) develop deep root system architecture in response to water deficits, thereby reaching to deep water layers (drought avoidance).



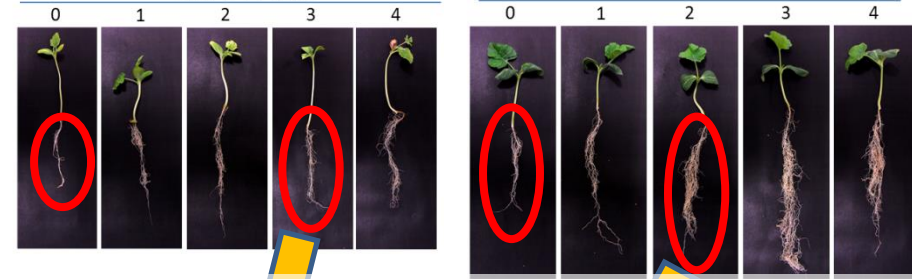
# Root genes that are activated under water deficits in xerophytes

栽培種スイカ

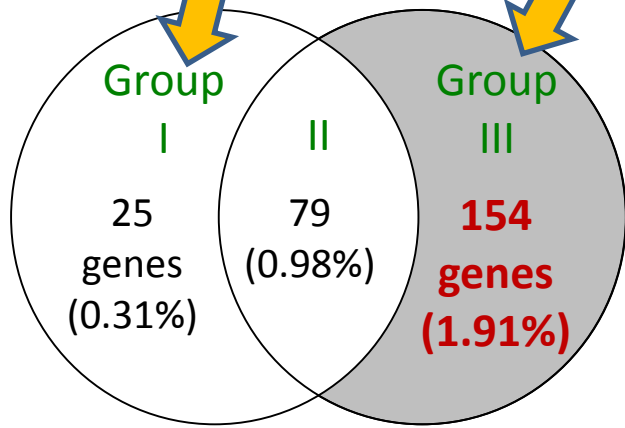
野生種スイカ

乾燥ストレス日数

乾燥ストレス日数

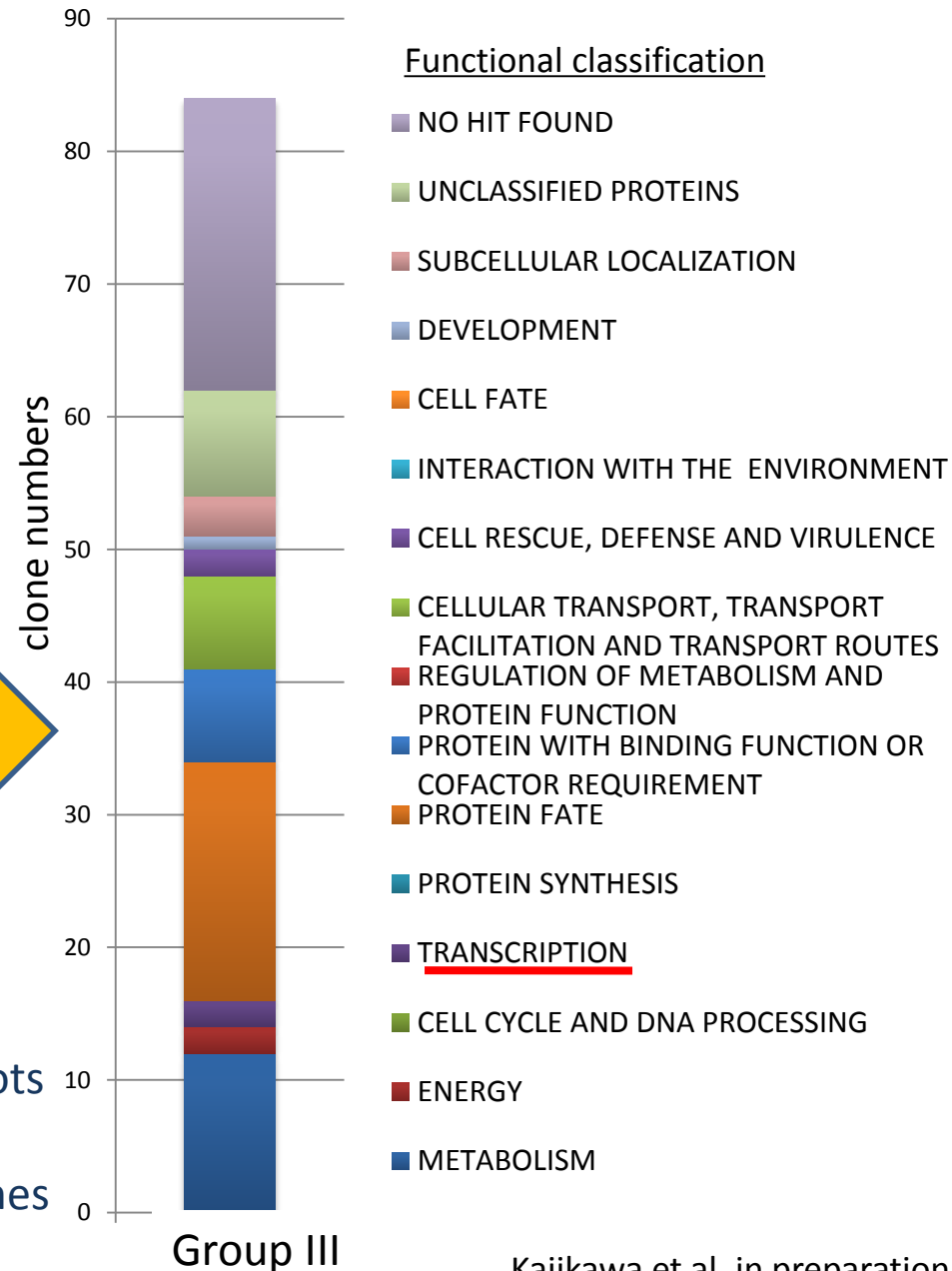


32k DNA array for 8,069 target genes (60mer) from 57,168 unigenes



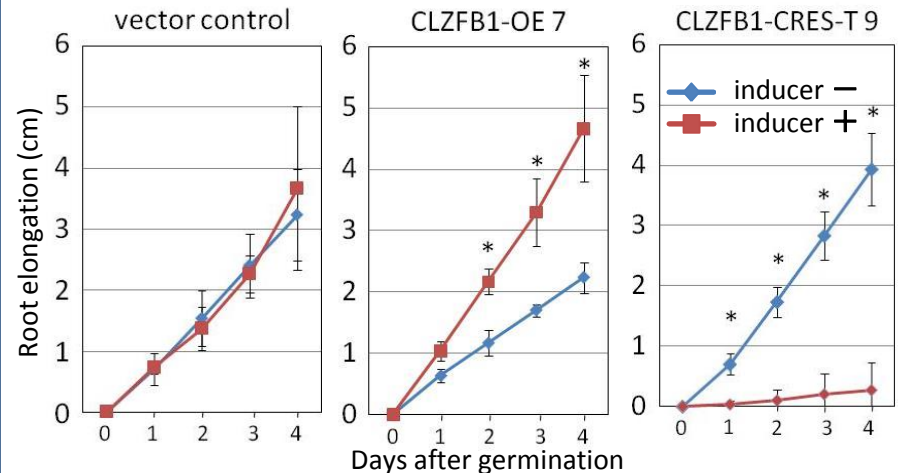
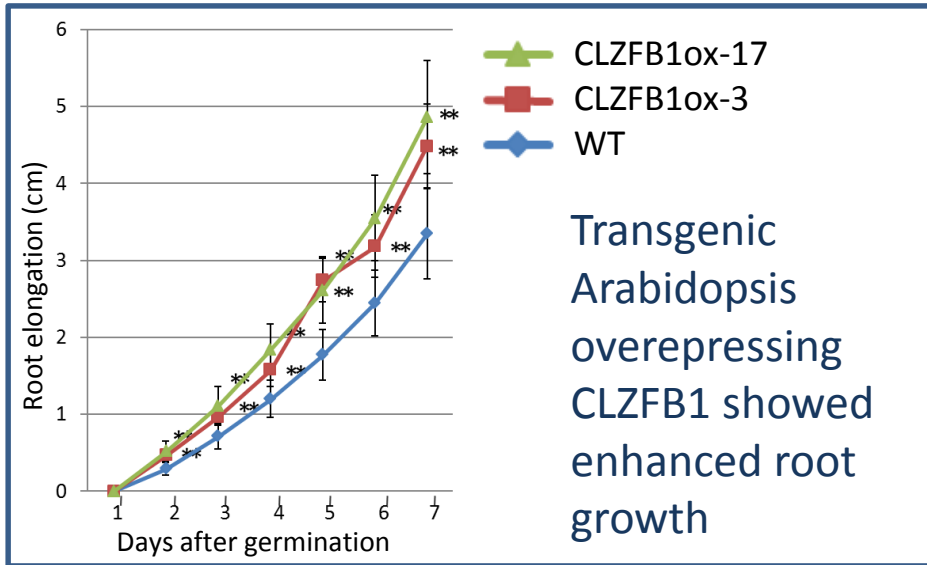
**Up-regulated genes (> 2-fold)**

154 genes are up-regulated by drought in the roots of wild watermelon but not in the domesticated watermelon. These wild watermelon-specific genes included two transcription factors.

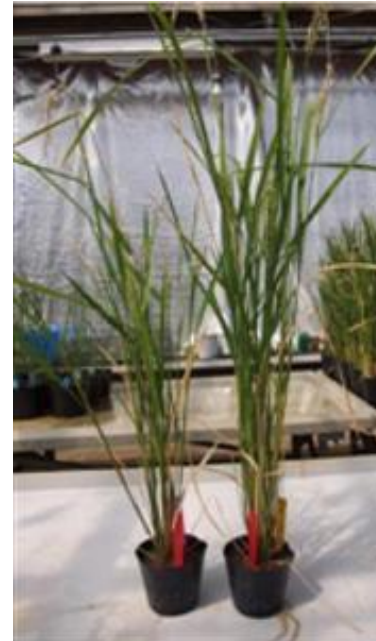


# Root growth stimulation by transcription factor CLZFB1

- Transgenic Arabidopsis and rice plants overexpressing CLZFB1 showed enhanced root growth and improved biomass production.
- This gene offers attractive molecular tools for developing root system architecture of Jatropha via molecular breeding.



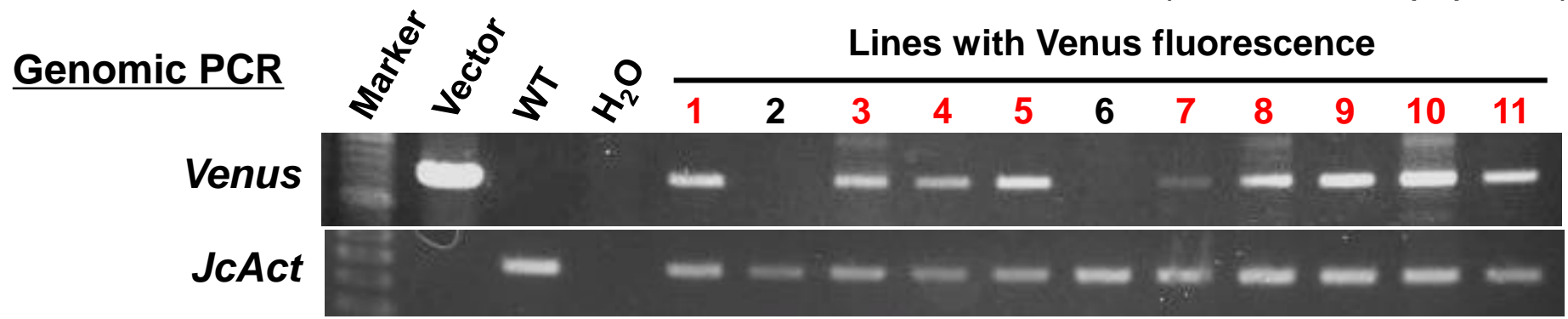
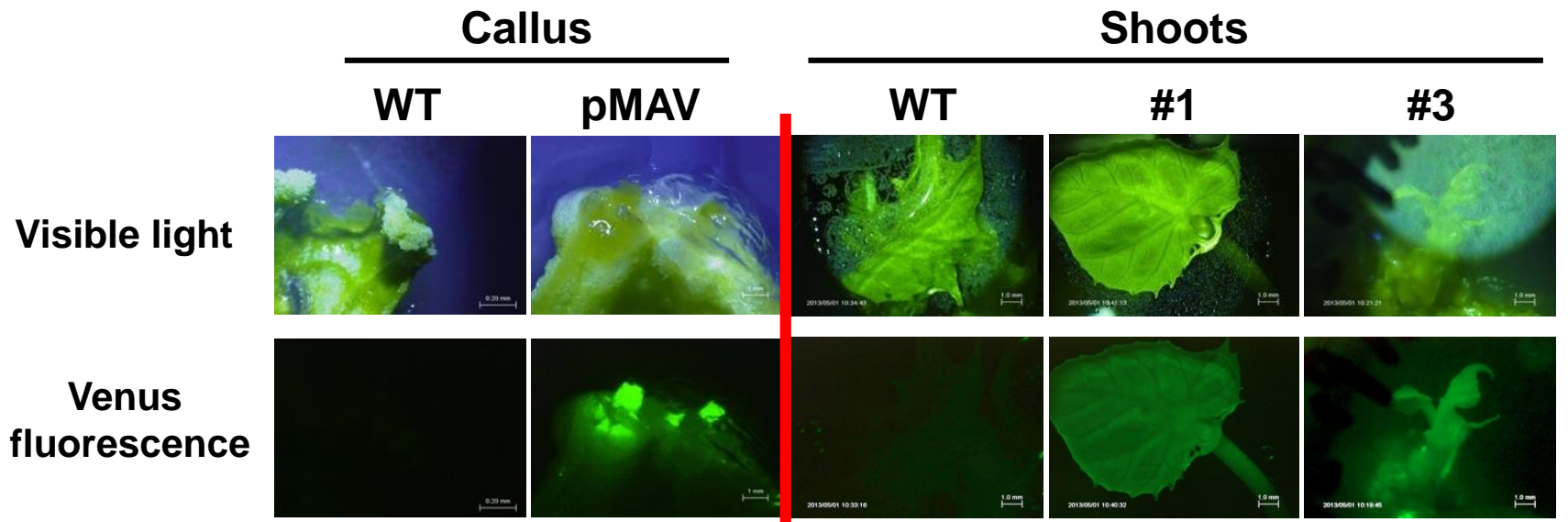
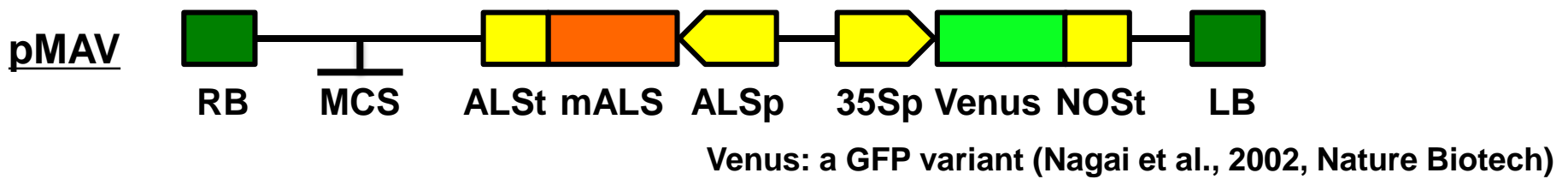
In transgenic watermelon hairy roots, overexpression of CLZFB1 enhances root growth, while suppression of CLZFB1 function by CRES-T technique inhibit root growth.



Transgenic rice overexpressing CLZFB1 showed enhanced root growth and yield.



# Screening of transgenic *Jatropha* shoots with Venus marker fluorescence



→81% of shoots with Venus fluorescence proved to be true transgenic shoots.

# Generation of Cold-/drought-resistant GMO Jatropha



## Introduced genes

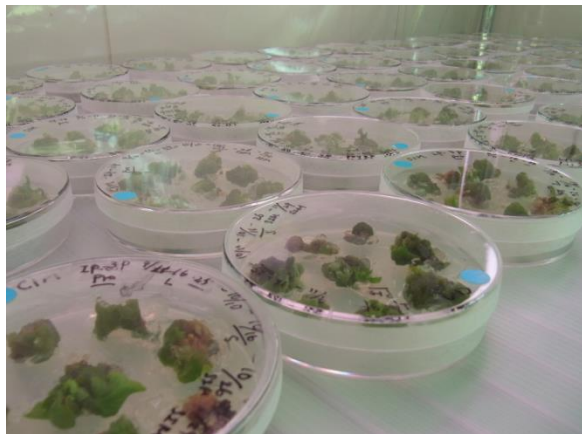
1. Root-growth promoting transcription factor for enhancing water absorption from deep soil
2. A defense protein for protecting membrane integrity and cellular structure during cold and water deficits
3. A biosynthetic gene for trehalose, which protects cellular integrity during cold stress

**CLZFB1**

**Dehydrin**

**TPSP**

## Regenerated Transgenic Jatropha





**Thank you for your attention!**

**Obrigado!**

