



OPTimal strategies to retAIN and re-use water and nutrients in small agricultural catchments across different soil-climatic regions in Europe

# Introduction to hydrological models

## SWAP theory

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**NIBIO**

NORSK INSTITUTT FOR  
BIOØKONOMI

# Why do we need process-based models?

**Goal:** To understand the naturally observed phenomena and be able to predict them

## ***We do use models for***

- developing scientific understanding of complex systems
- spatio-temporal extension of the knowledge gained  
(data from experiment/monitoring relationships can not be extrapolated in space/time)
- testing the reaction of the system to changing/unobservable conditions
- planning and decision-making

# From natural curiosity to data-model fusion



**natural curiosity**

# From natural curiosity to data-model fusion

**natural curiosity**



**observation**



**qualitative information**





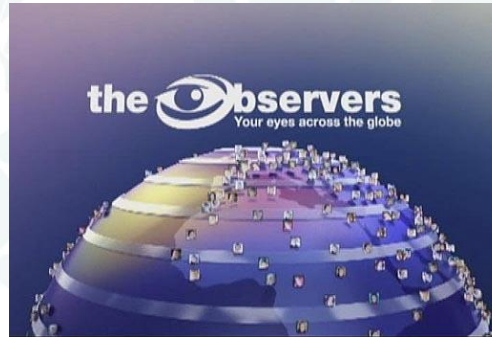
# From natural curiosity to data-model fusion

- Natural curiosity → observations → information

**Measurements**



**monitoring**



**data collection**



**spatio-temporal databases**

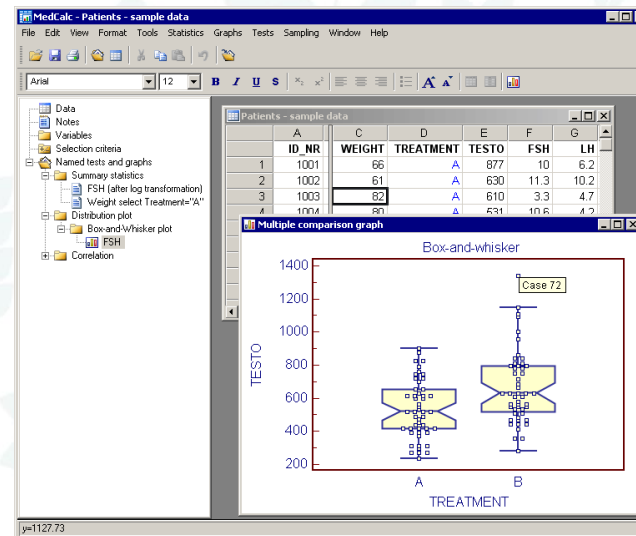
# From natural curiosity to data-model fusion

- Natural curiosity → observations → information
- Measurements → monitoring → databases

**Statistical analyses**



**empirical models**



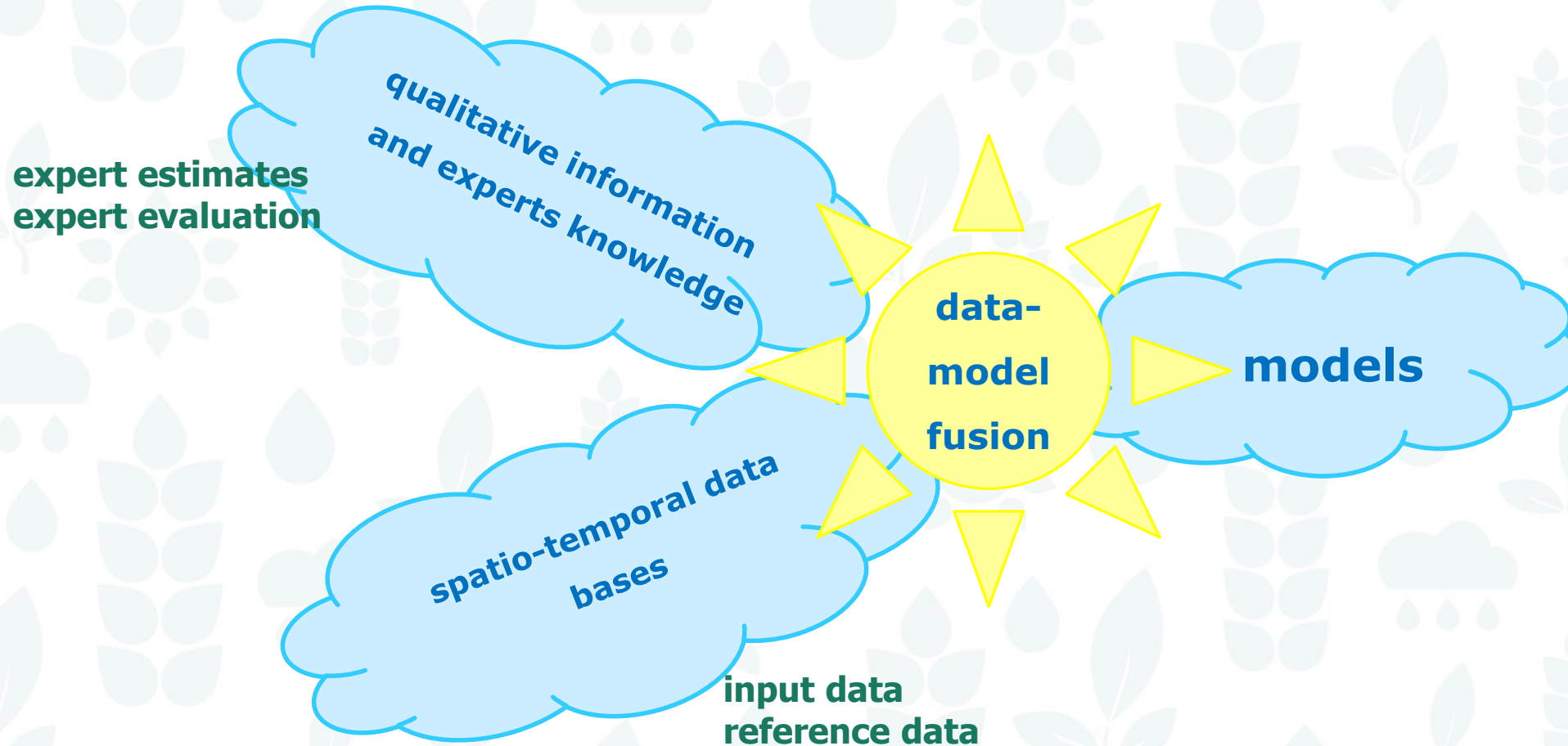
**Physical laws/relationships**



**process-based models**

**Models with finer spatio-temporal resolution**

# Data-model fusion – an advanced approach for studying complex systems



Model  
developers



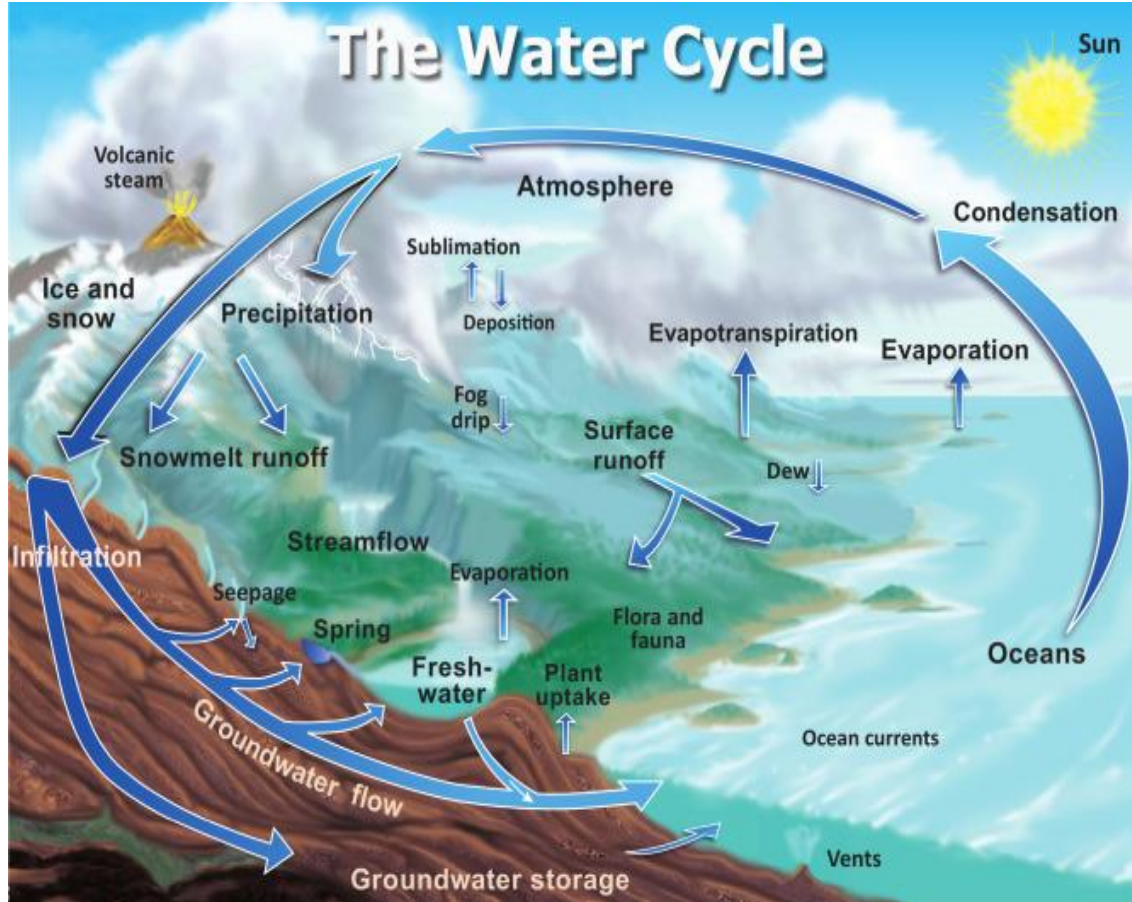
„Modeller“



Think, think, think.

## Modelling is TEAM work

# Hydrological modelling



## Hydrologic models

- simplified representation of a hydrological system
- aid in understanding, predicting, and managing water resources
- study both, flow and quality of water



# Hydrological modelling



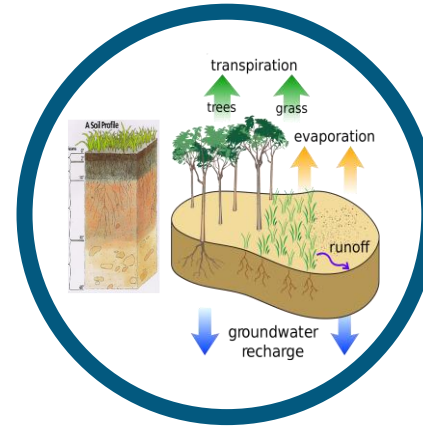
Global  
water  
cycle



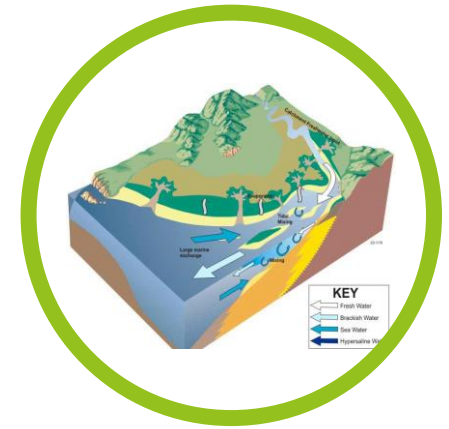
Ground-  
water



Surface  
water



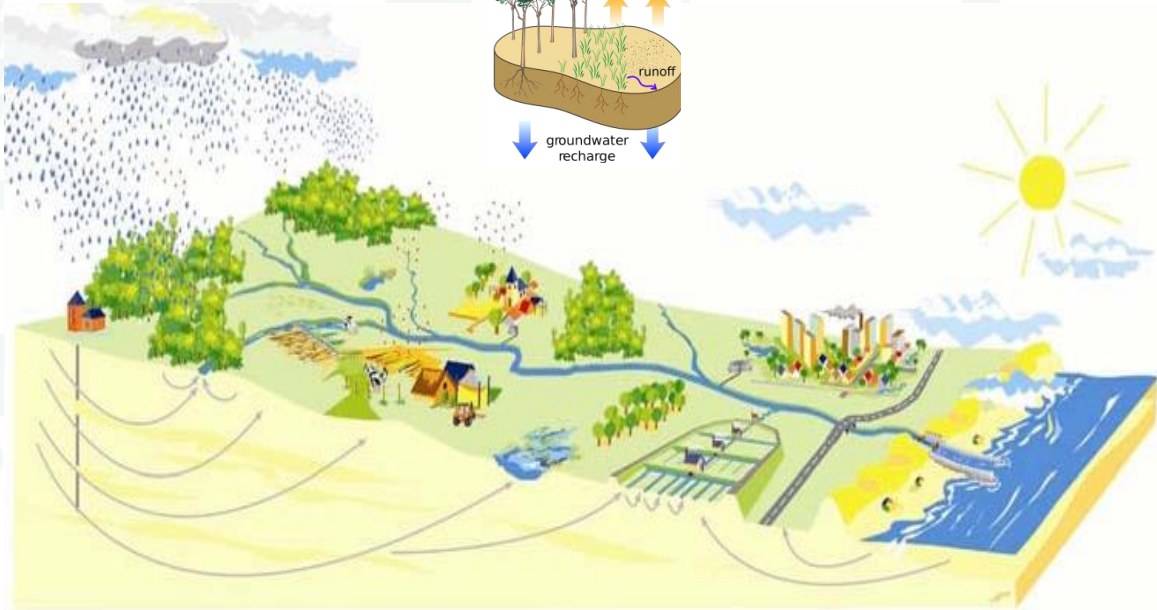
Soil  
water



Estuary

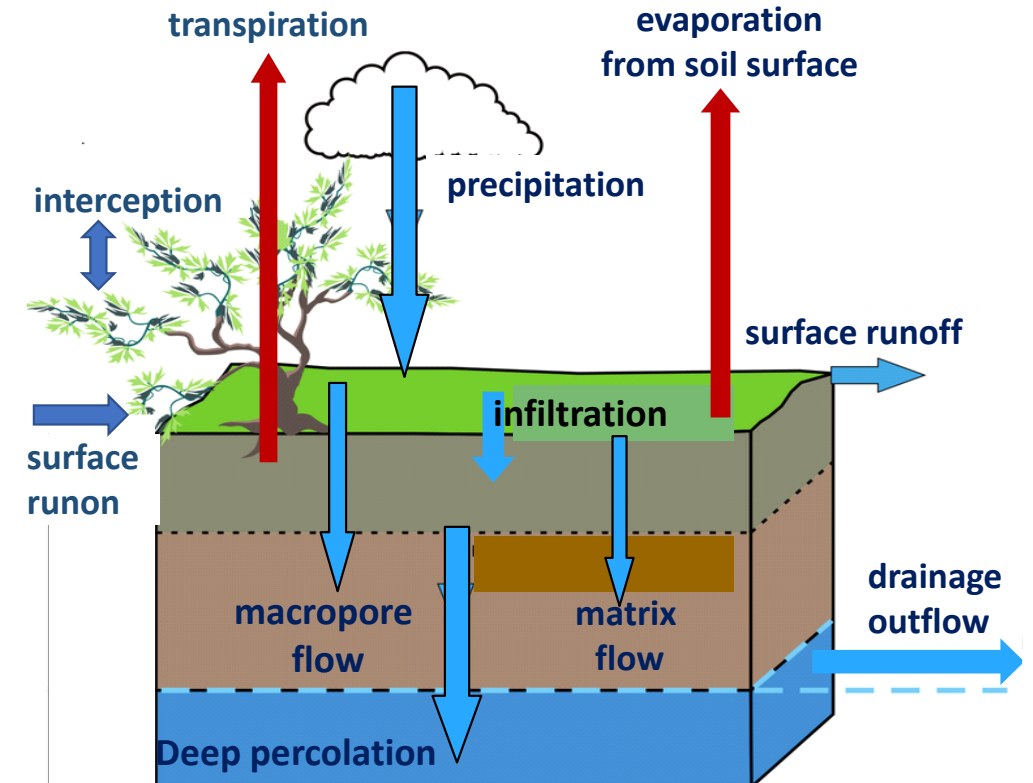
# Traditional understanding of hydraulic modelling

## Hydrologists



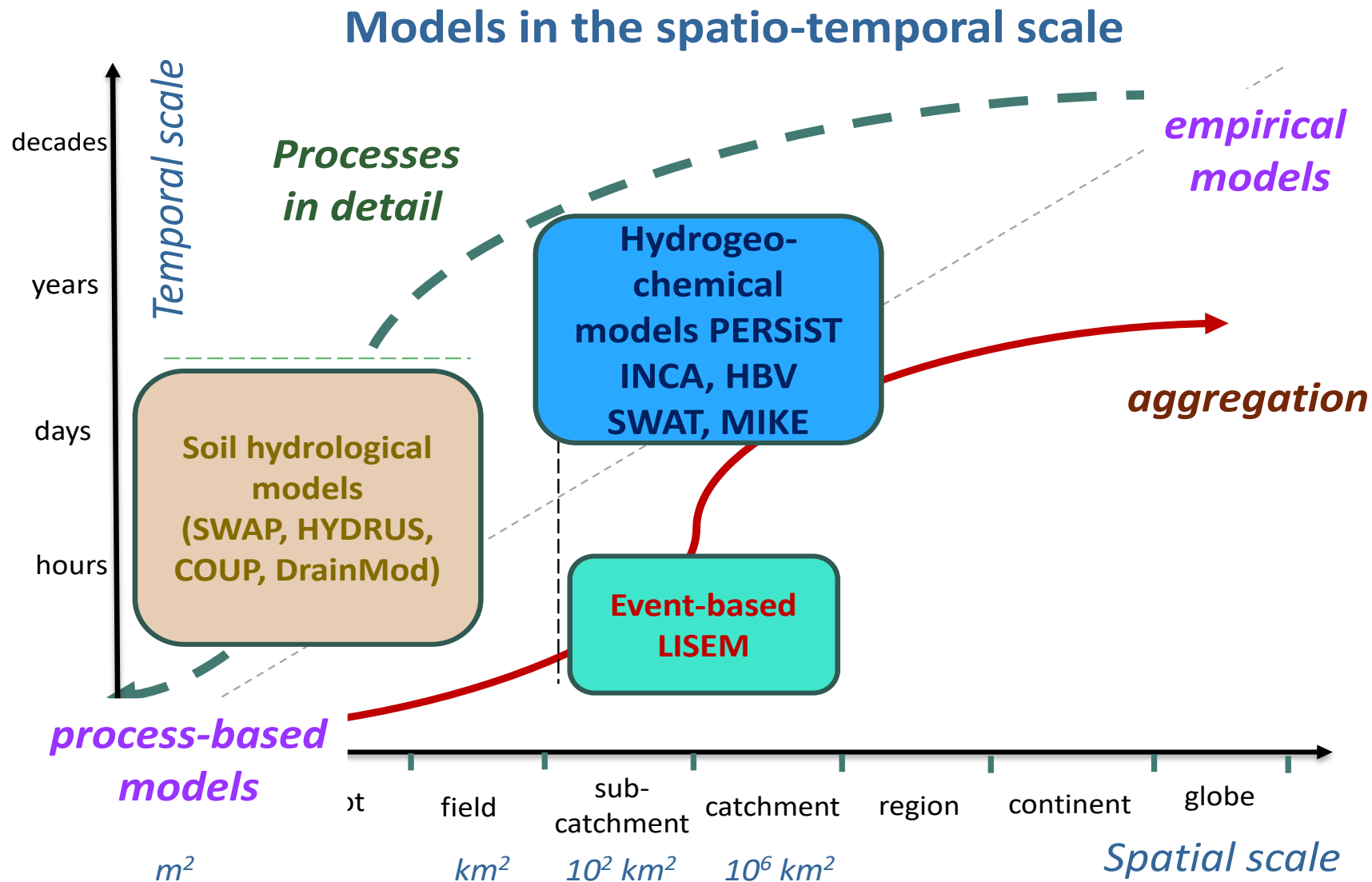
- Surface runoff
- Subsurface runoff
- Water quantity and quality at catchment outlet

## Soil scientists



- Soil water content
- Drainage outflow

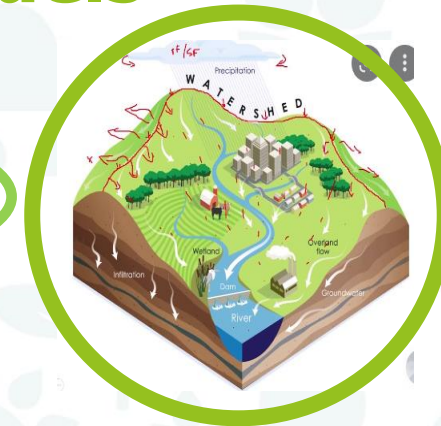
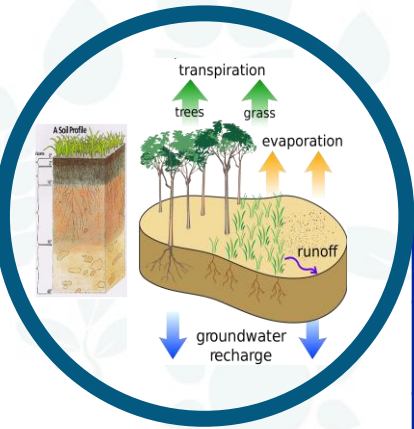
# Hydrological models in the spatio-temporal scale



Source: Clement et al., 2007

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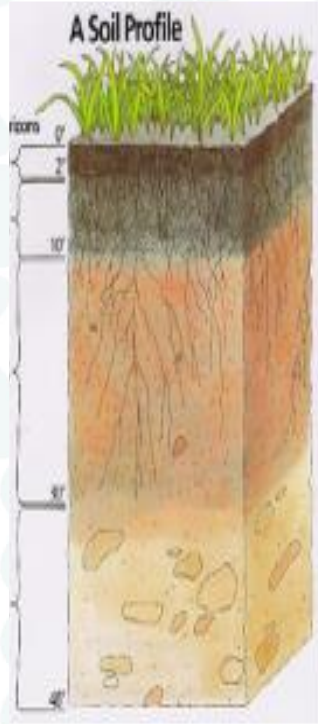
# General comparison of different hydrological models



	DrainMod	SWAP	HBV	INCA	SWAT
Complete catchment model	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Modest data requirements	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
High time resolution	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spatial distribution	No	No	Semi-distributed	Semi-distributed	Distributed
Process-based model	Yes	Yes	Partly	Mostly	Mostly
Calibration data required	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Subsurface drainage included	Yes	Yes	No	Indirectly	
Heat flow simulation	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (very simple)	No
Instream processes	sNo	No	Yes	Yes	Yes















# Processes in focus in different hydrological models



Model layer	Processes	DrainMod	Coup	HBV	INCA
Above ground vegetation zone	Precipitation	Driving	Driving	Driving	Driving
	Snow dynamics/snowmelt	Calculated	Calculated	Calculated	Calculated
	Interception	Indirectly	Calculated	Calculated	Indirectly
	Transpiration	Indirectly	Calculated	Calculated	Indirectly
Soil surface	Evaporation	Indirectly	Calculated	Calculated	Indirectly
	Surface runoff	Calculated	Calculated	Calculated	Calculated
	Infiltration	Calculated	Calculated	Indirectly	Indirectly
	Bypass / macropore flow	NO	Calculated	Indirectly	NO
	Plant water uptake	Indirectly	Calculated	Indirectly	Indirectly
	Soil water redistribution	NO	Calculated	Calculated	NO
	Capillary rise	Calculated	Calculated	NO	NO
	Water flow in frozen soil	Indirectly	Calculated	Calculated	NO
	Lateral flow to stream	NO	NO	Calculated	Calculated
	Subsurface drainage flow	Indirectly	Calculated	NO	Indirectly
	Percolation to sat. zone	Calculated	Calculated	Calculated	Calculated
	Lateral inflow	Parameter	Parameter	NO	NO
Saturated zone	Capillary rise to unsat. zone	NO	Calculated	Calculated	NO
	Recharge to deep aquifer	NO	NO	NO	NO
	Base flow	Calculated	NO	Calculated	Calculated
CONFINING LAYER					
DEEP AQUIFER					

# Model comparison - example

Comparison of three mathematical models simulating drainage outflow with respect to their applicability to OPTIKORN goals

	SWAP	HYDRUS-1D	DRAINMOD-N
Drainage outflow calculation			
Soil water regime calculation			
Runoff calculation			
Calculation of evapotranspiration	E, TR and ET	E, TR and ET	ET = E+TR, no separation
N-loss calculation			
Autocalibration / Inverse solution	NO	Inverse solution BUT WITHOUT drainage only	Under development
Calibration against soil moisture content data	Not really successful experience for Norway except one site	Success using inverse solution for Skuterud	Not yet tested
Calibration against drainage outflow	Not really successful experience for Norway	Not yet tested	Rather successful
Calibration against runoff	Not really successful experience for Norway	Not yet tested	Not really successful

# Modell selection using Benchmark criteria

	KIWA	SWAT	DrainMod	HBV	INCA-P	Soil_NO COUP	AgriCat	?
Q1.1.	How well does the model's output relate to the task?							
Q1.2.	How well does the model's spatio-temporal resolution compare with the requirements of the task?							
Q1.3.	How well the model has been tested under conditions in focus?							
Q1.4.	How complicated is the model in relation to the task?							
Q1.5.	How is the balance between the input data and data availability?							
Q1.8.	How is the peer acceptance for the model with scientific theory?							
Q3.5.	How is the model's flexibility for adaptation and improvements?							

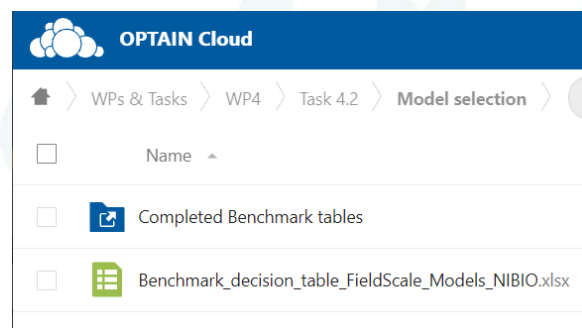
Possible answers: **Good**; **Adequate**; **Inadequate**

*Source: Farkas et al., 2010.*

# Task 4.2: Development of modelling protocols

## Field-scale model selection

- Benchmark criteria in Excel workbook

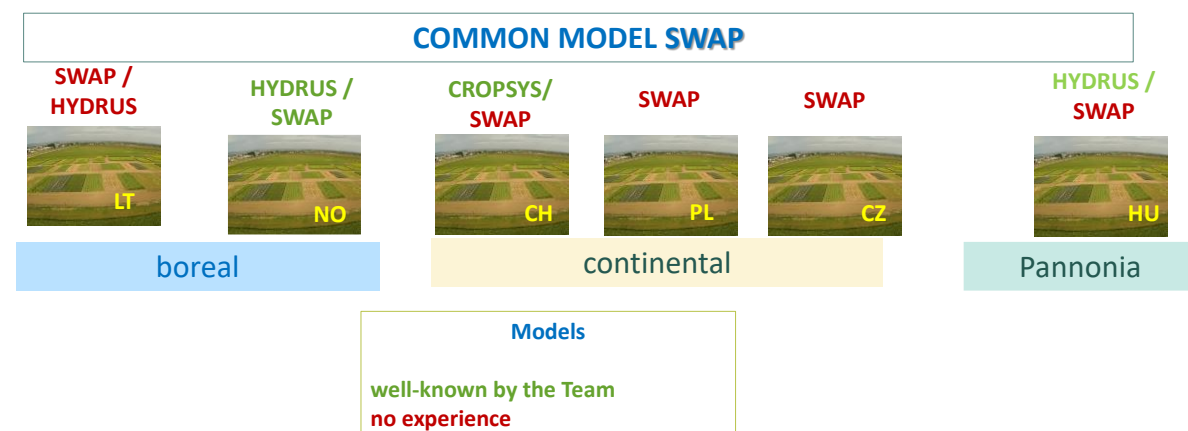


- Completed Benchmark tables (6 partners)
- Decision on model selection

Q1: How is the peer acceptance of the model and the model's consistency with scientific theory?

Please, give your scores (0, 1 or 2) within the red frame only.  
We appreciate any additional comments in columns M-P.

		SWAP	Hydrus	CropSys	DrainMod	CUP	Good (2)	Adequate (1)	Inadequate (0)	Items for taking decision
1.5	model's input data requirements and data availability?	2	2				if valid			most of the required model input data are available from monitoring and field observations, either from the management site or from other applicable site close to it; however, some surrogate input data (e.g. results from other models, or data from other sites) must be used.
1.6	How is the identifiability of the model parameters?	1	1				at least 1 item	if valid		all relevant model parameter values are well documented in scientific literature or can be estimated directly based on available data available data (corresponding to model output variables) will allow establishment of all relevant model parameter values via model calibration there seems to be enough data or documentation available to allow an adequate estimate of most of the relevant model parameter values directly or via model calibration
1.7	How easily are the model results understood and interpreted?	2	2				if valid	if valid		there are clearly not enough calibration data or other parameter documentation available to allow for an adequate establishment of many relevant model parameter values
1.8	How is the peer acceptance for the model and the model's consistency with scientific theory?	2	2				at least 2 items	at least 1 item		non-specialist users are generally capable of understanding and interpreting the model output results assistance from research staff or modelling specialists is necessary to clarify and interpret the model's output results expert skills, long experience, and deep insight (e.g. those of a model developer) are needed to understand and interpret the model result much "tacit" (i.e., difficult-to-express) knowledge or intuition is involved in the interpretation of the model results.
									at least 1 item	the model has gained wide and international acceptance among the scientific community
										the model is widely used in many countries
										the whole model is based on well-established scientific theory
										the model is used and gained peer-acceptance mostly locally/nationally
										most of the model components are based on well-established science
										the model is based on speculative or immature scientific theory and/or assumptions
										the model is used only by few persons
	Total score	15	15	0	0	0				
	Number of "0" scores	0	0	0	0	0				





# Model selection results – OPTAIN field-scale models

## COMMON MODEL SWAP

**SWAP /  
HYDRUS**



LT

**HYDRUS /  
SWAP**



NO

**CROPSYS/  
SWAP**



CH

**SWAP**



PL

**SWAP**



CZ

**HYDRUS /  
SWAP**



HU

boreal

continental

Pannonia

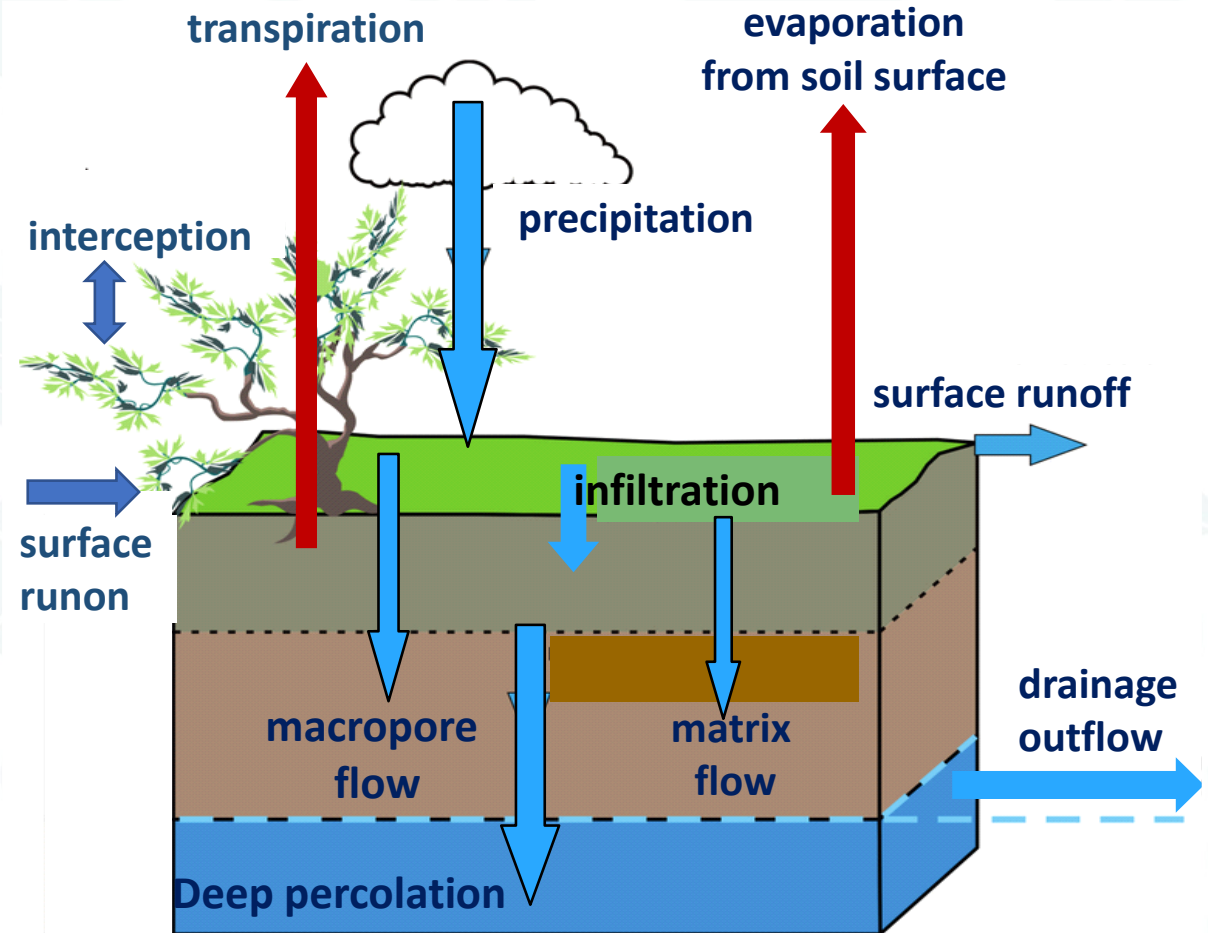
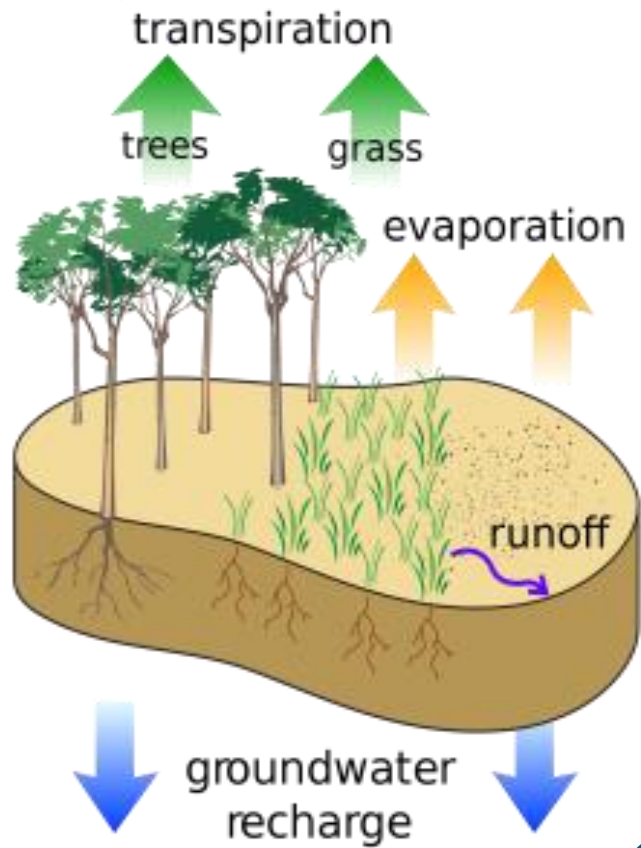
**Models**

well-known by the Team

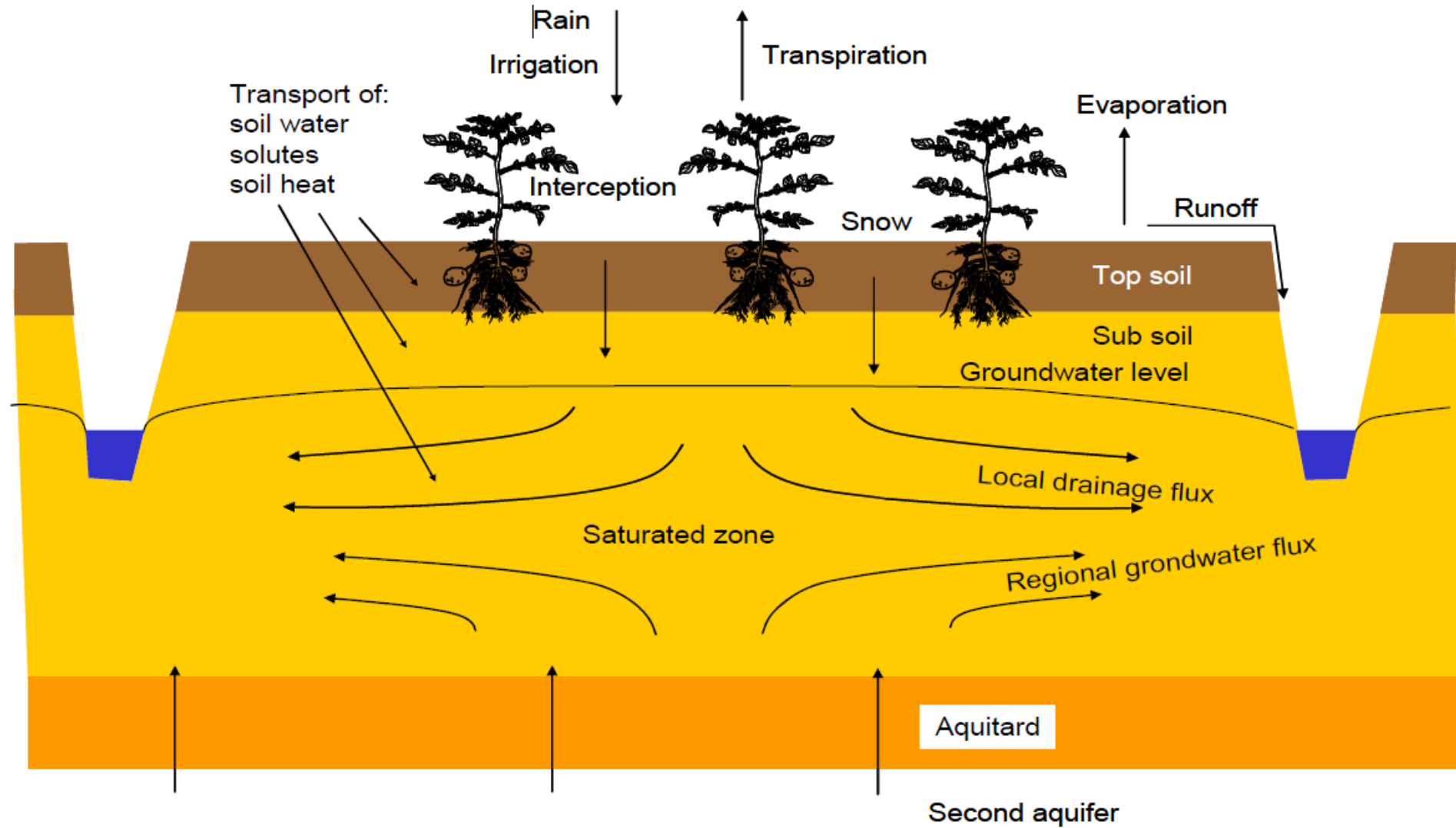
no experience

<https://nc.ufz.de/apps/onlyoffice/s/KA9Cr2bbtALGMHr?fileId=123941147>

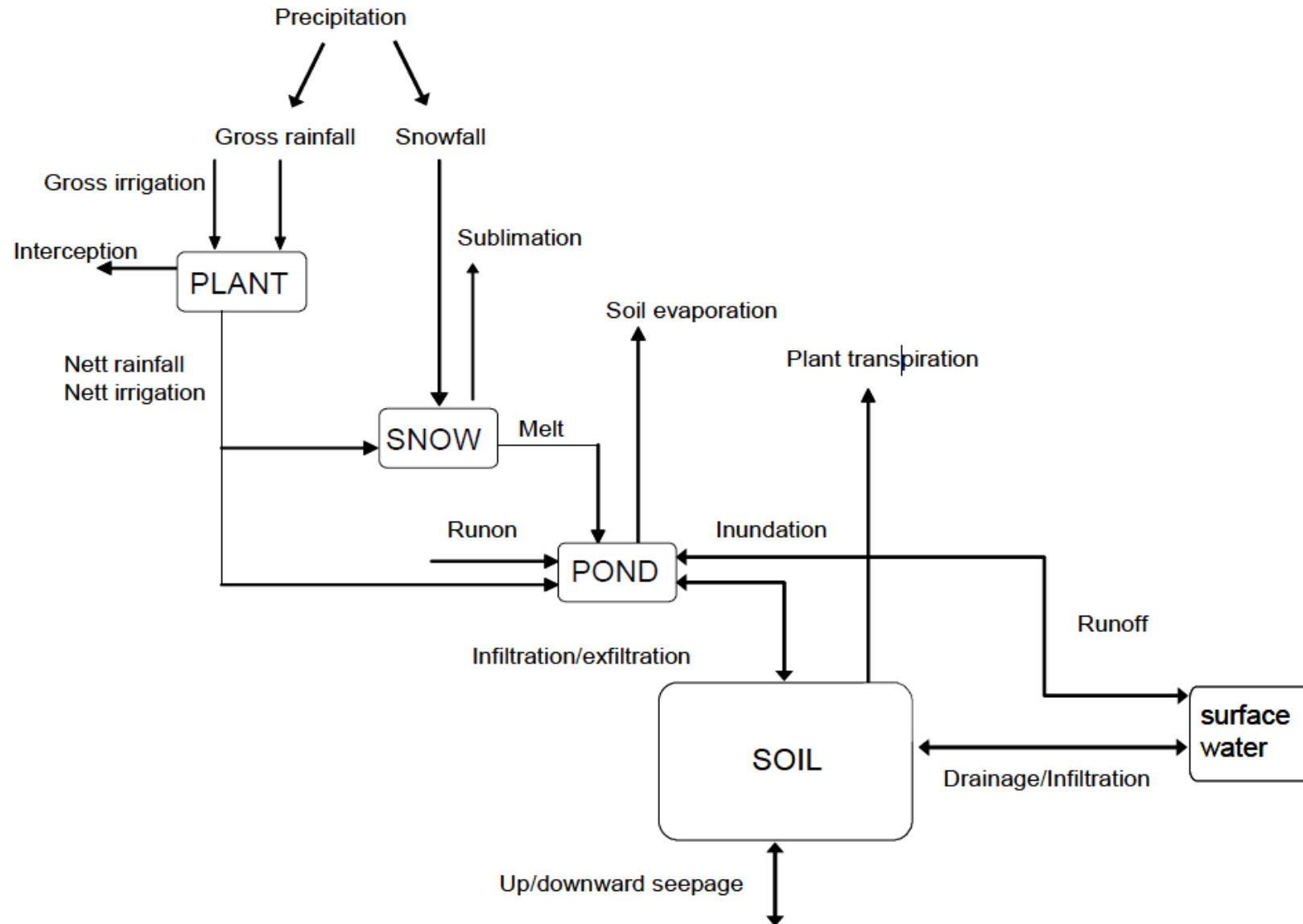
# The SWAP soil hydrological model



# The SWAP model domain and processes



# The SWAP - water fluxes between the domains





# The heart of the model – the Richard's equation

Darcy's law

$$q = -K(h) \frac{\partial(h+z)}{\partial z}$$

Continuity equation

$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial q}{\partial z}$$

$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial \left[ K(h) \left( \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} + 1 \right) \right]}{\partial z} - \underbrace{S_a(h) - S_d(h) - S_m(h)}_{\text{sink terms}}$$

sink terms

# Richard's equation (continued)

- q** - soil water flux density ( $\text{cm d}^{-1}$ )
- K(h)** - hydraulic conductivity ( $\text{cm d}^{-1}$ )
- h** - soil water pressure head (cm)
- z** - vertical coordinate (cm)
- $\theta$**  - volumetric water content ( $\text{cm}^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ )
- t** - time (d)

q and z are taken positive upward

## Sink terms

**S<sub>a</sub>(h)** - extraction rate by plant roots ( $\text{cm}^3 \text{ cm}^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}$ )

**S<sub>d</sub>(h)** - extraction rate by drain ( $\text{d}^{-1}$ )

**S<sub>m</sub>(h)** - extraction rate by macro pores ( $\text{d}^{-1}$ )

# Solving the Richard's equation

$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial \left[ K(h) \left( \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} + 1 \right) \right]}{\partial z} - S_a(h) - S_d(h) - S_m(h)$$

## Relationship between $\Theta$ , $h$ and $K$

$\Theta$  - soil water content ( $\text{cm}^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ )

$h$  - soil water pressure head (cm)

$K$  - hydraulic conductivity ( $\text{cm d}^{-1}$ )

## Soil hydraulic functions

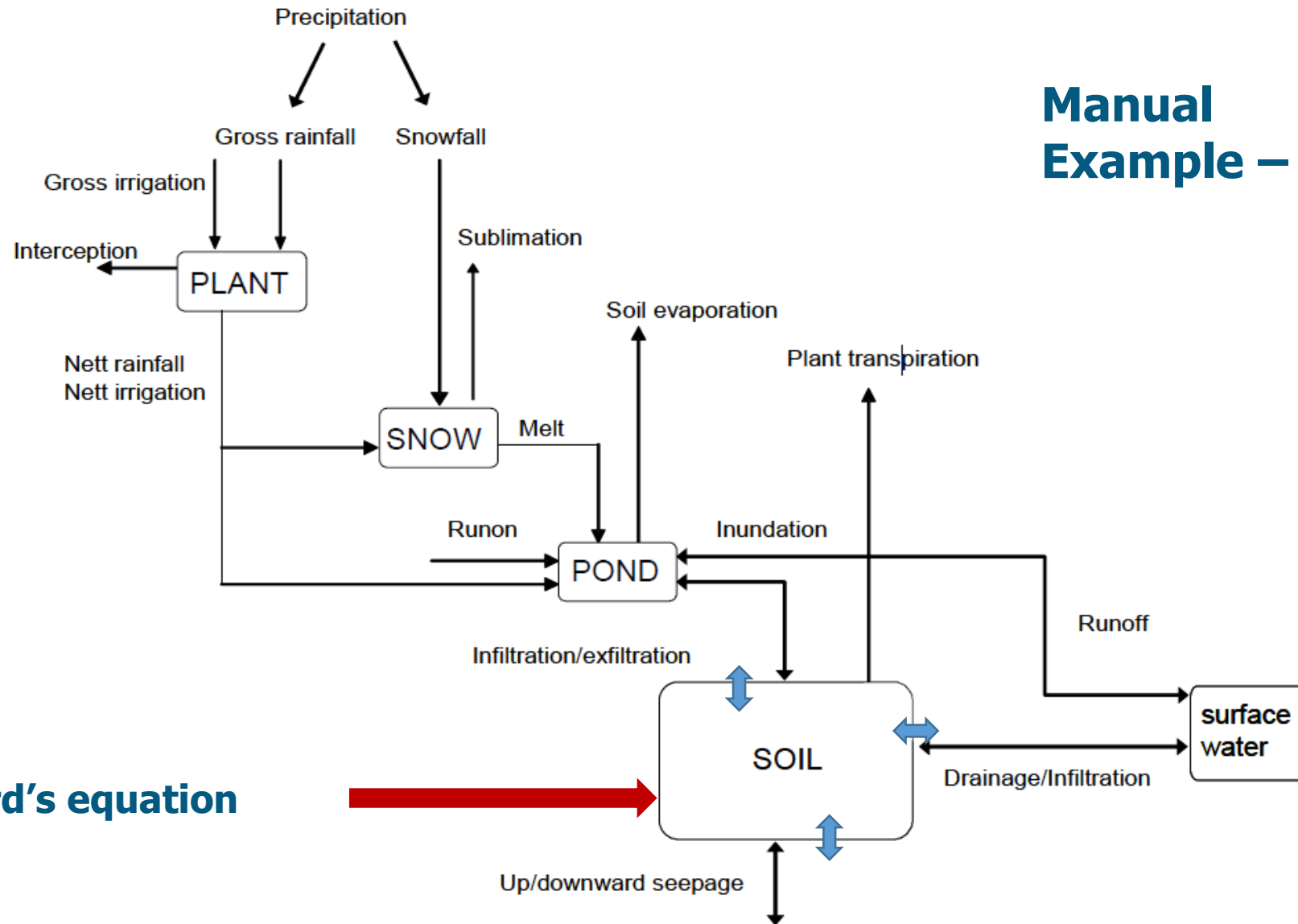
- Soil water retention curve  $\Theta = f(h)$
- Soil hydraulic conductivity function

$$\Theta = f(K) \quad \text{or} \quad h = f(K)$$

# The SWAP - water fluxes between the domains

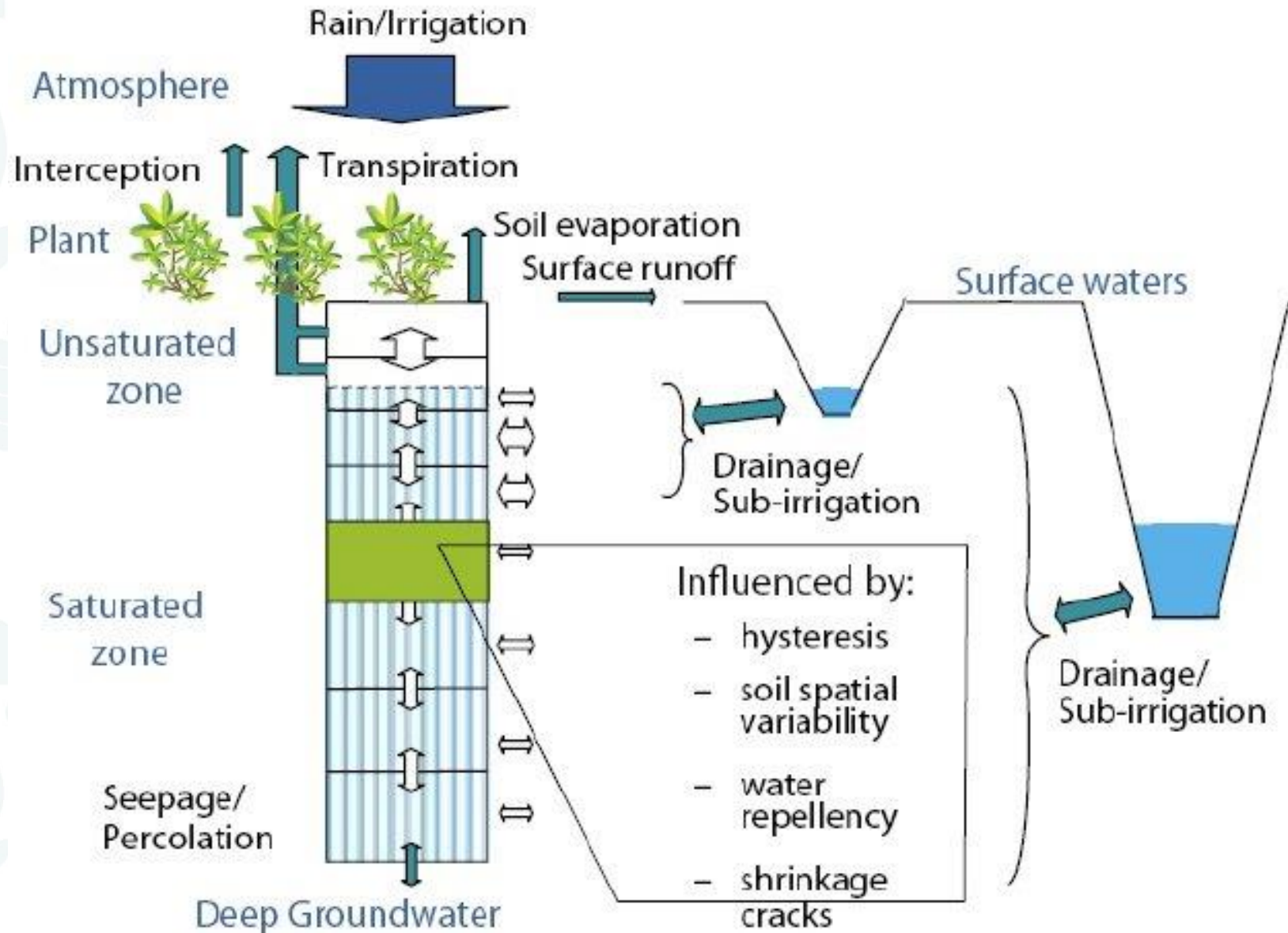
## Manual Example – Sinja

Richard's equation





# SWAP-MODEL FOR MOVEMENT OF WATER, HEAT AND SOLUTES



(Feddes, 2007)

# The OPTAIN SWAP Workshop

- Short introduction to hydrological modelling
- Short introduction of the SWAP model structure and theory
- Input and reference data requirement
- Tools for constructing met input data
- Processes, switches and parameters
- Reference data quality check
- Soft calibration tool
- Autocalibration tool

## GOAL

- to have a finished project for each site
- gain knowledge and get tools for further soft- and hard calibration of the SWAP model

**Thank you  
for your  
attention!**



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