Improving agricultural resilience with higher spatial resolution

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Chances

Applications

By ‘going hyper-resolution’, the area of application for hydrological models increase greatly. It is now better possible to simulate processes at scales relevant for decision-making.

One example is the simulation of crop yield dynamics with a coupled crop growth model at the smallholder scale.

An important variable here is soil moisture as shown in the next slide.

Input data

Also, the input resolution of input data sets increases – it is now possible to make optimal use of this refinement.

Results

• This is all very much work in progress!
• Soil moisture can be simulated at much finer scale but validation is still pending
• With a more detailed river network, simulated discharge improves as well.

Challenges + to-do’s

• Run-time is still an issue
• This is particularly true for more sophisticated routing schemes
• Not all input data sets are ready to be used at hyper-resolution
• There are still data sets and parameterizations that need to be downscaled or resampled to 1 km scale
• Meteorological forcing still challenging, even at finer spatial resolutions
• Matching observation station with correct corresponding cell

References:
Comparison simulated upper soil moisture

Annual average (2000) at 150 arc-sec

Annual average (2000) at 5 arc-min
Discharge benchmark and validation

monthly average discharge at Stiegler’s Gorge (Rufiji River)

- Red line: 150 arc-sec
- Blue line: 5 arc-min

monthly average discharge at Stiegler’s Gorge (Rufiji River)

- Black line: Q_obs
- Blue line: Q_sim