



**SORGHUM,**  
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# **Agriculture versus climate and environmental change**

## **L'agriculture face aux enjeux climatiques et environnementaux**



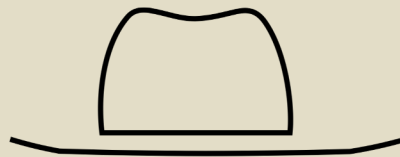
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# About

Dr. Serge Zaka  

Agro-meteorologist  
Agro-climatologist



Also...

Storm chaser

Administrator of Infoclimat.fr

[www.itk.fr](http://www.itk.fr)  
[www.serge-zaka.com](http://www.serge-zaka.com)

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SERGE ZAKA



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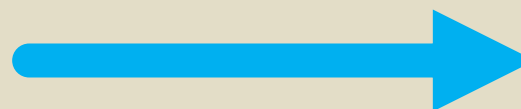
# About

Agrometeorology  
Agroclimatology



Forecast of frost damages over the next 7 days  
Evolution of drought occurrences over the next 70 years  
...

# Climate



# Agriculture



Carbone storages  
Livestock gas emissions  
...



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# Summary

1. Climate change in Europe (12 minutes)
2. Focus on sorghum (12 minutes)



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# 1. Climate change in Europe

# Precipitations

**(5 minutes)**



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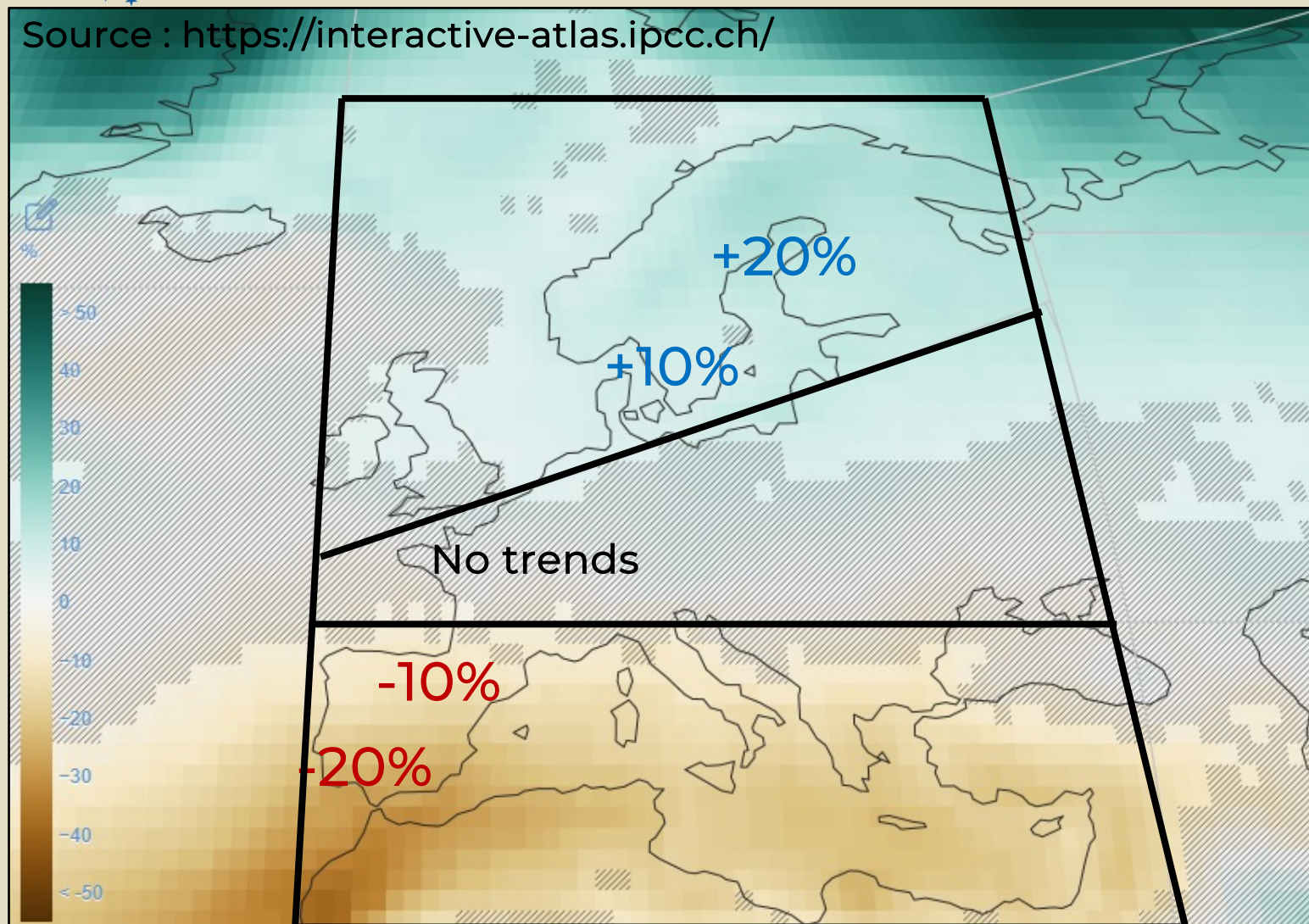
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### Climate change in Europe Annual precipitation

I.P.C.C. detected 3  
zones over Europe

Warming +3°C  
Change in annual precipitation (%)  
(rel. to 1850-1900)



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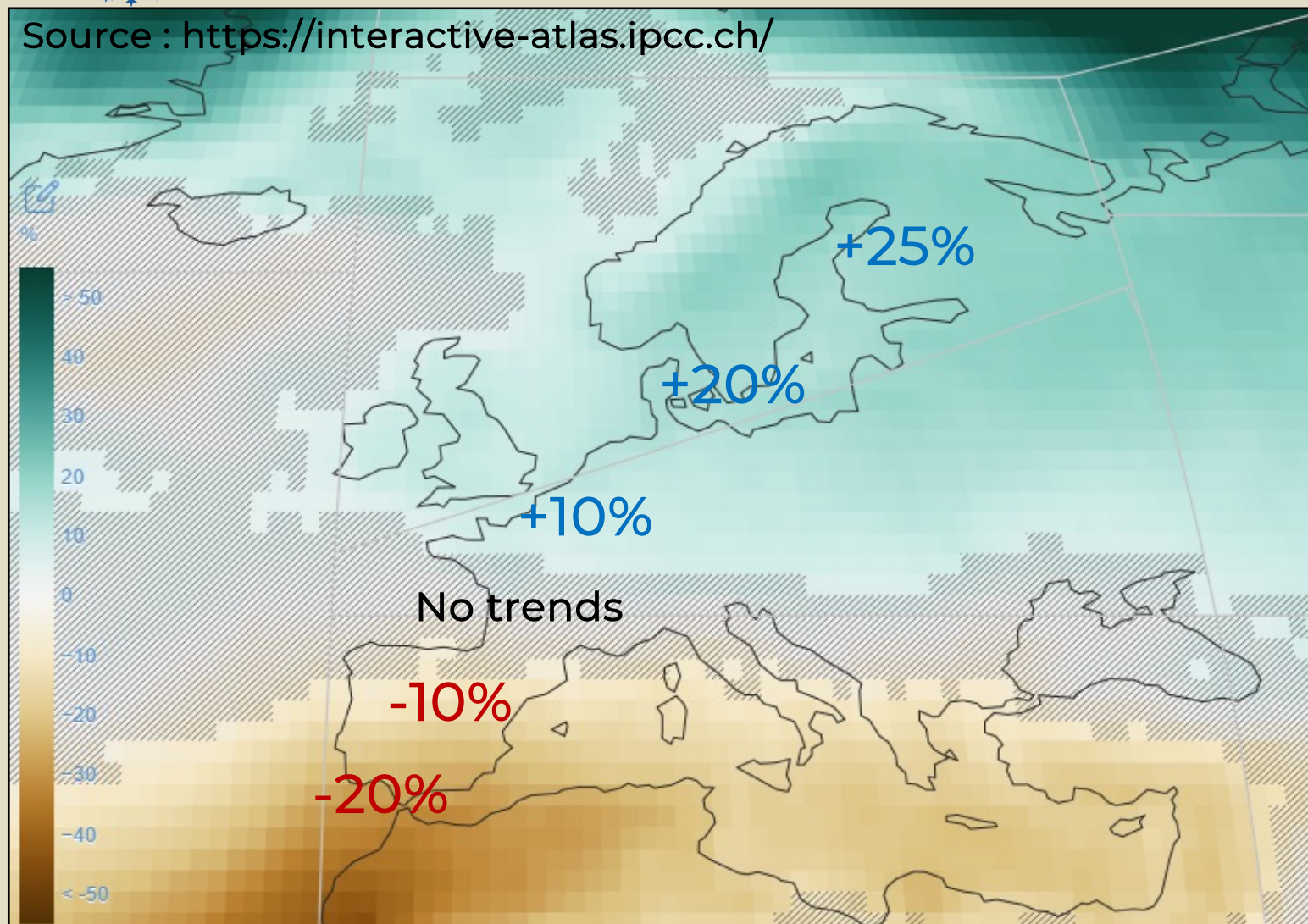


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### Climate change in Europe October to May precipitation

Source : <https://interactive-atlas.ipcc.ch/>



Warming +3°C  
Change in precipitation (%)  
(rel. to 1850-1900)



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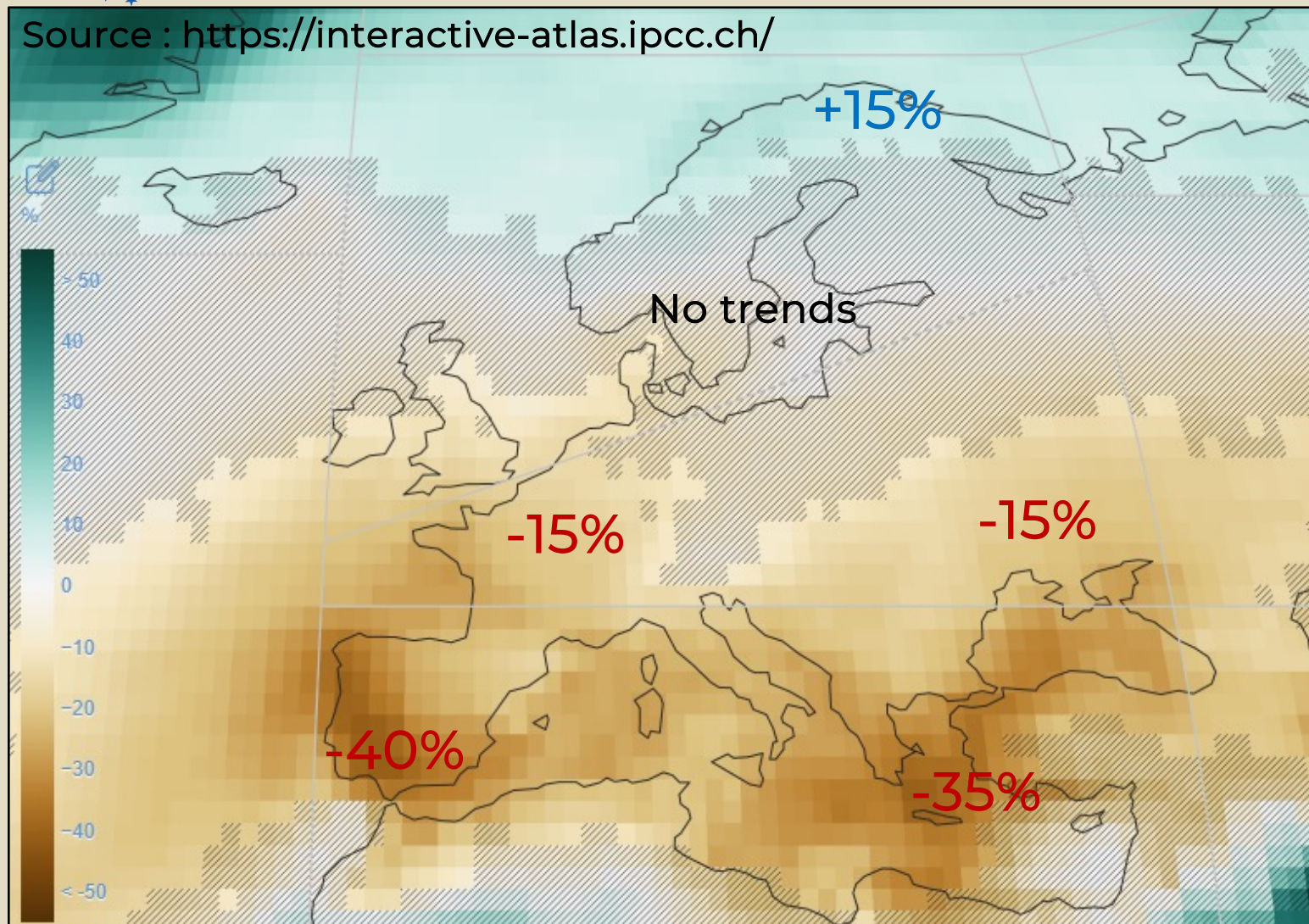




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## Climate change in Europe June to September precipitation



Warming +3°C  
Change in precipitation (%)  
(rel. to 1850-1900)



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1. Climate change in Europe

# Effective rainfall

**(2 minutes)**



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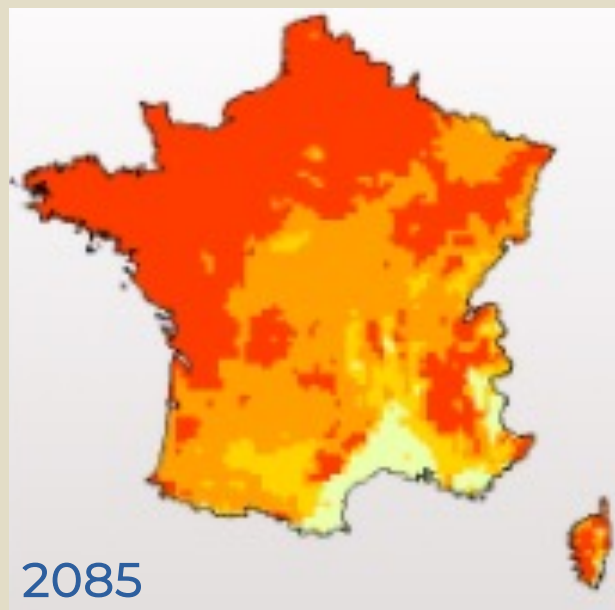
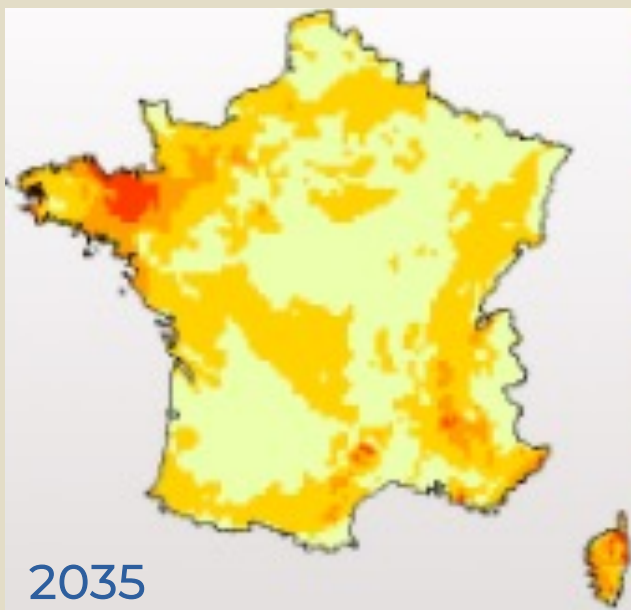




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Surface soil humidity  
In mid-winter



Climate change in Europe



Effective  
rainfall

+7% of water in the air  
each +1°C  
More intense rainfalls  
More evapotranspiration

Warming +3°C  
(rel. to 1976-2005)  
Model ISBA  
Source : DRIAS 2020



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## 1. Climate change in Europe

# Mean temperature

**(1 minute)**



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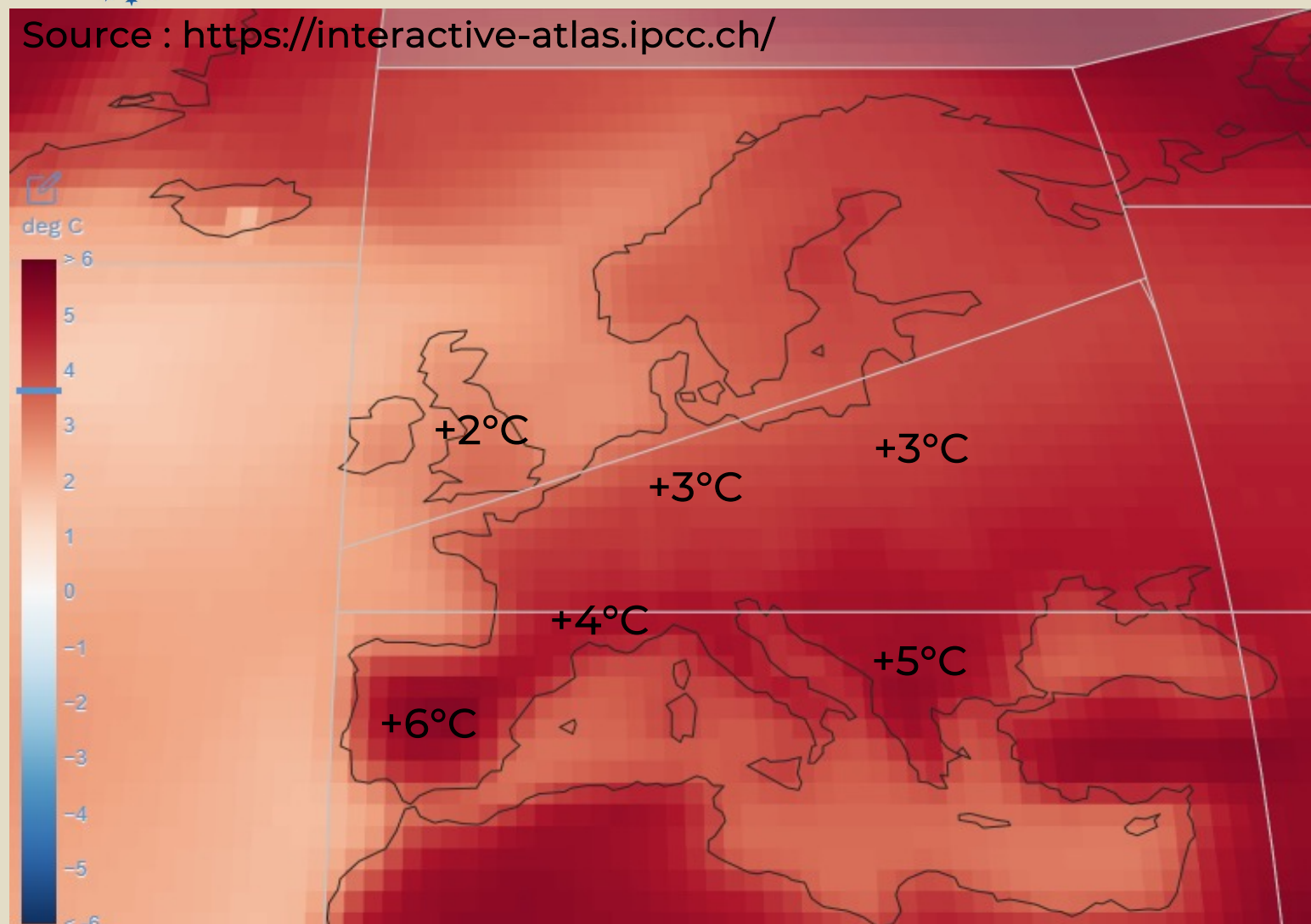
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### Climate change in Europe Annual mean temperature

Anticipation of phenological stages  
Increase of evapotranspiration

Warming +3°C  
Change in mean temperature (°C)  
(rel. to 1850-1900)



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1. Climate change in Europe

# Extreme temperature

**(4 minutes)**



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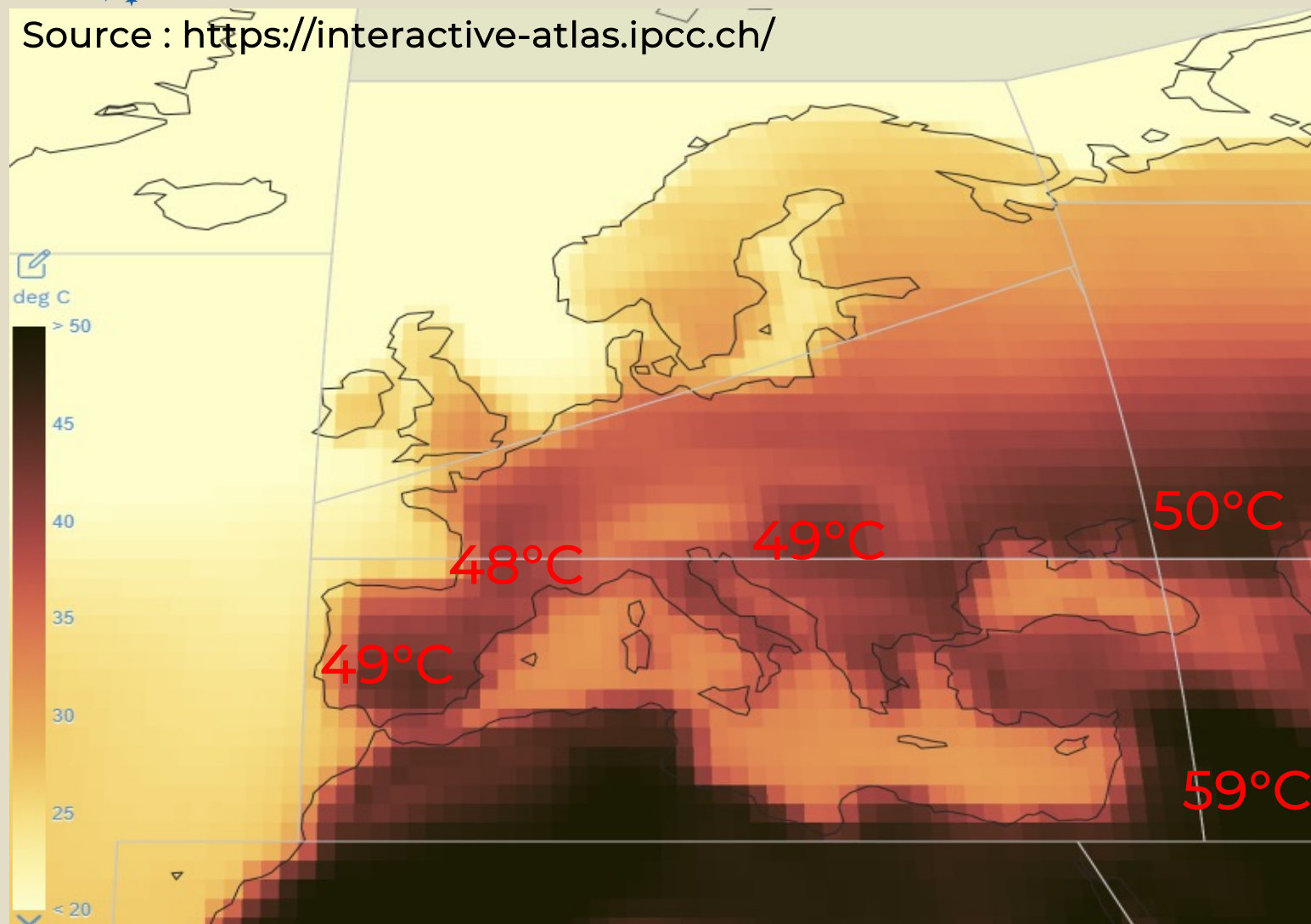


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## Climate change in Europe Annual extreme temperature

Source : <https://interactive-atlas.ipcc.ch/>



Warming +3°C  
Extreme temperature (°C)  
(rel. to 1850-1900)

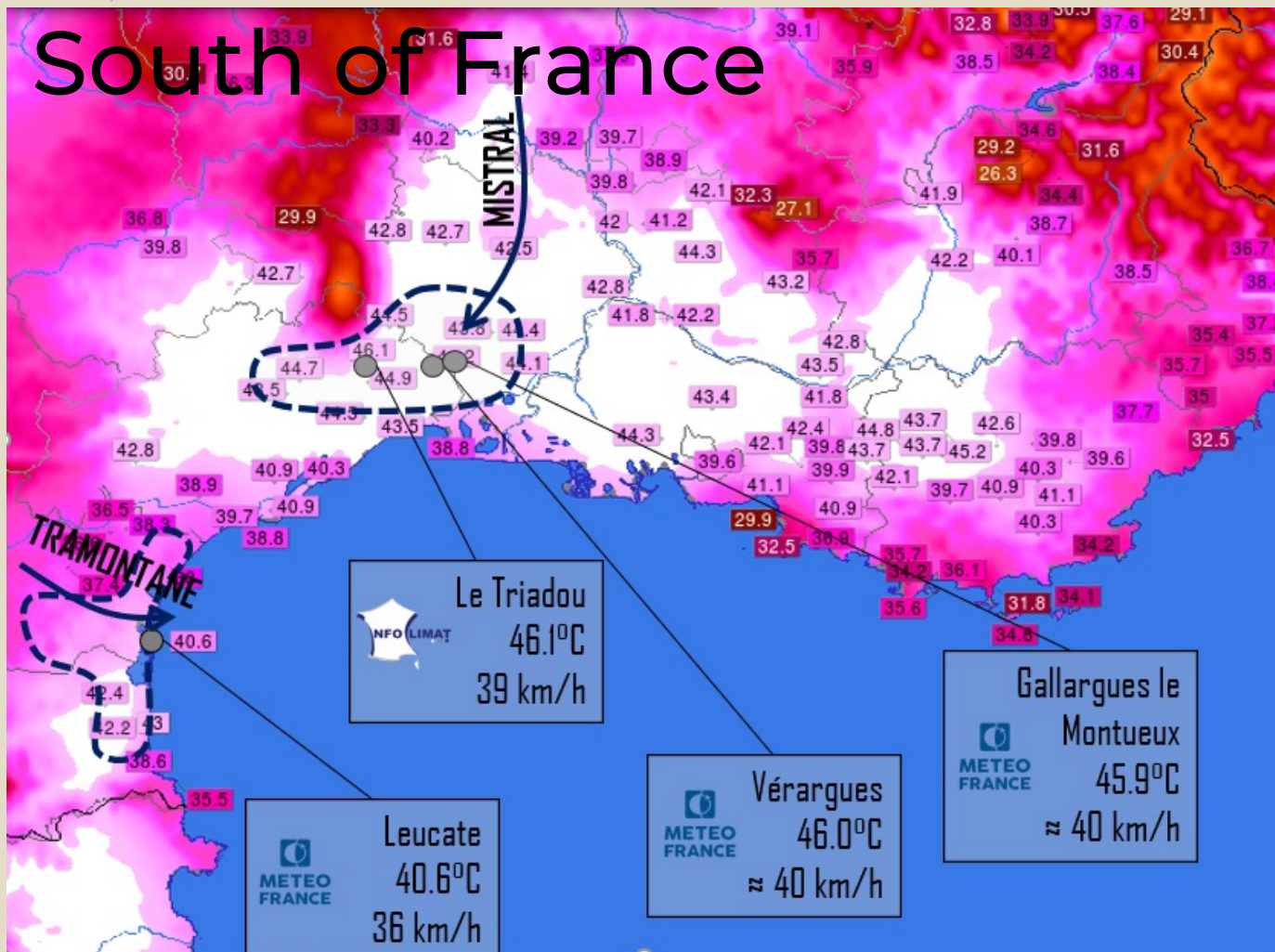


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# South of France



Climate change in Europe  
Annual extreme  
temperature

Heat Blast or “hairdryer effect”



Map : [www.infoclimat.fr](http://www.infoclimat.fr)



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# Take home messages

Climate change at +3°C : 3 zones

## ✓ Precipitation

Mediterranean zone is a “hot spot” of climate change

No major trends for the annual precipitation in central Europe

Evolution of the annual repartition of the precipitation – More in winter, less in summer

## ✓ Effective rainfall

+7% of water in the air each +1°C – More intense and less effective rainfalls

## ✓ Mean temperature

+2 to +6°C over Europe

## ✓ Extreme temperature

50°C+ reachable in Europe





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2. Focus on sorghum

# Facing climate change

**Two ways**  
(2 minutes)



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# First way : adaptation

# Second way : exploration



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# First way : adaptation

Same species

New techniques (genetics, practices etc.)

# Second way : exploration

New species

More adapted to the new climate (hotter,  
summer drought as explained)



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# First way : adaptation

Same species

New technics (genetics, practices etc.)

Bizarre

# Second way : exploration

New species

More adapted to the new climate  
(summer drought as explained)



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2. Focus on sorghum

# Evolution of sorghum area

(2 minutes)



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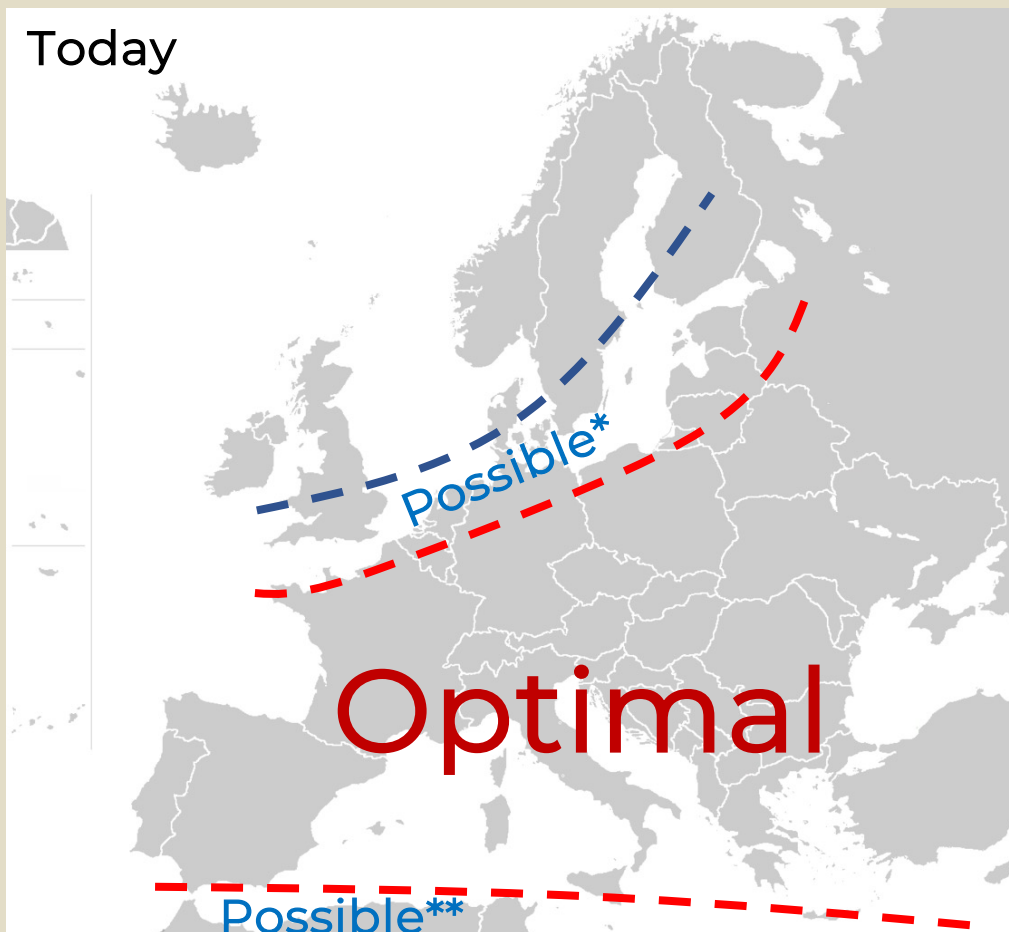
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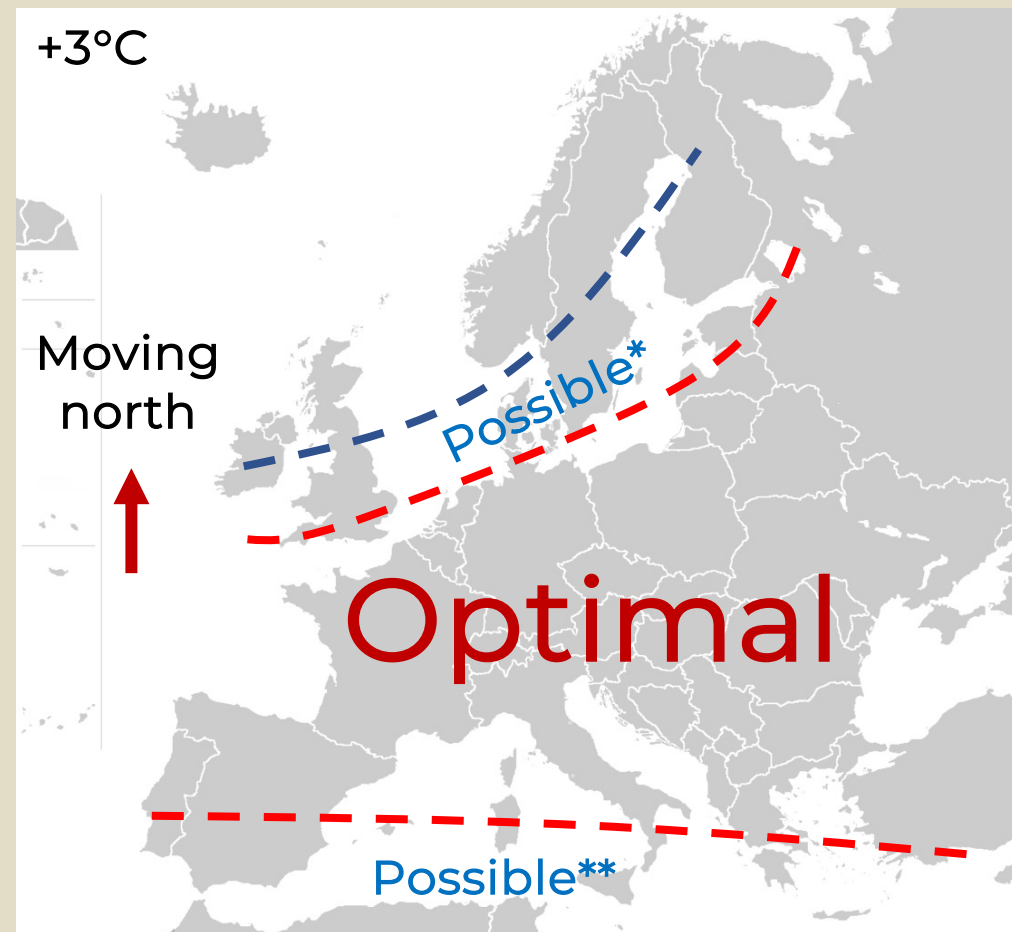
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\*Limiting factor : Low temperatures

\*\*Limiting factor : Water



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## 2. Focus on sorghum

# Temperature response

**(3 minutes)**



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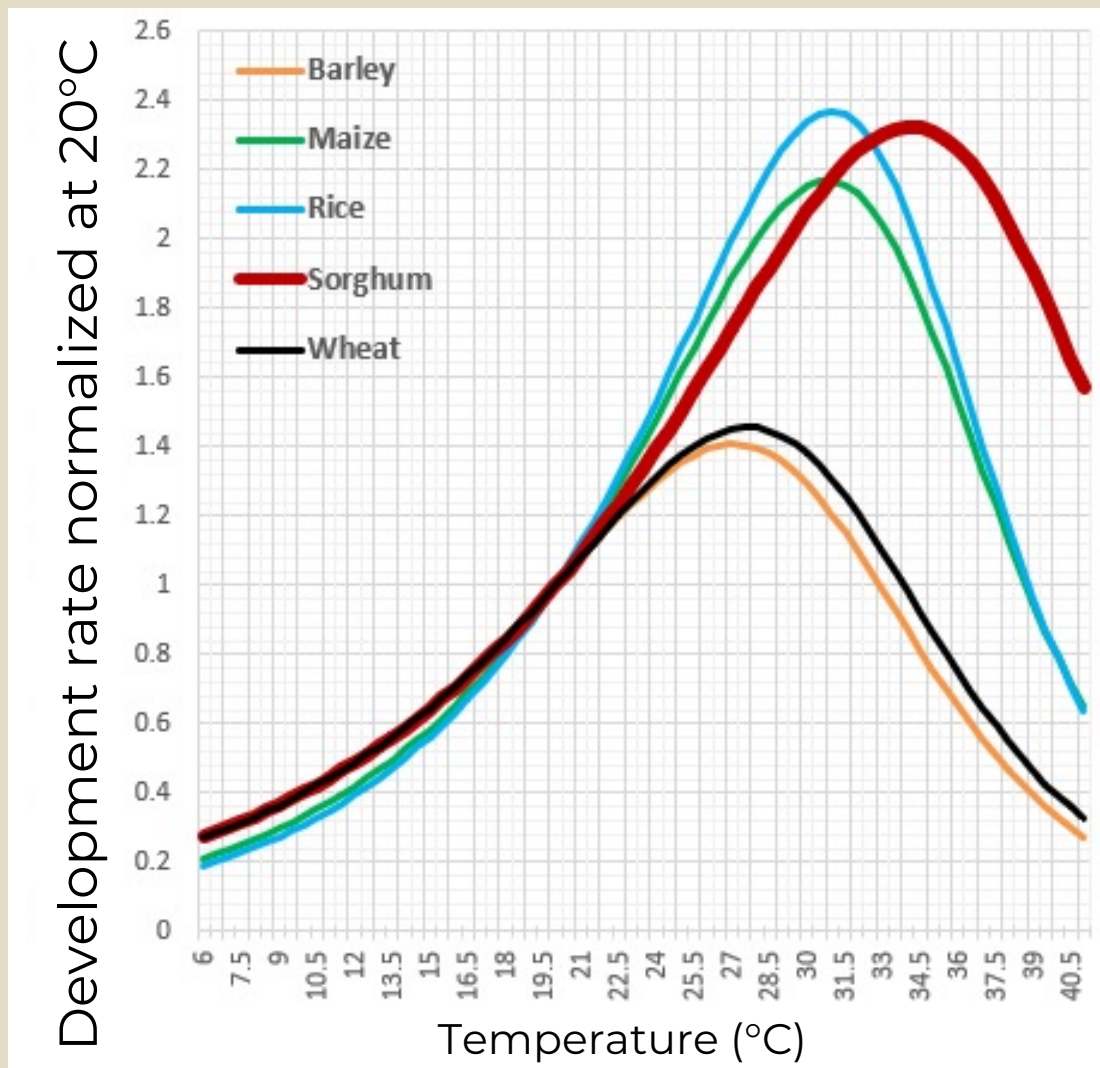


## 2. Focus on sorghum

# Temperature response

**Optimal temperature of sorghum is higher**  
Sorghum performs better at high temperatures

[Parent et Tardieu \(2012\)](#)





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## 2. Focus on sorghum

# Water response

**(5 minutes)**



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## 2. Focus on sorghum

# Water response

**Shorter growing period (rel.)**

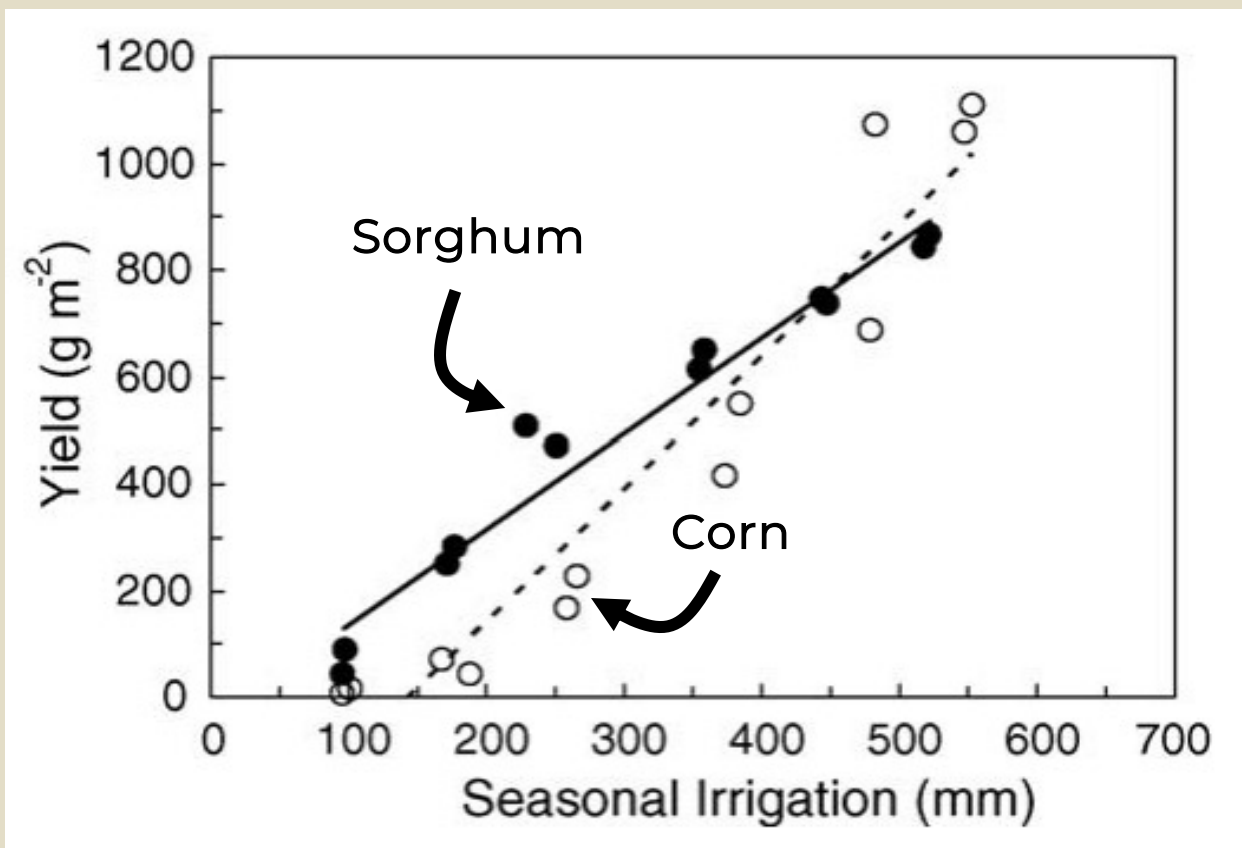
**Lower water needs (rel.)**

FAO

Crop	Growing period (days)	Water needs over the growing period (mm)
Rice	90-150	450-700
Corn	125-180	500-800
Barley	120-150	450-650
Wheat	120-150	450-650
<b>Sorghum</b>	<b>120-130</b>	<b>450-650</b>

## 2. Focus on sorghum

# Water response

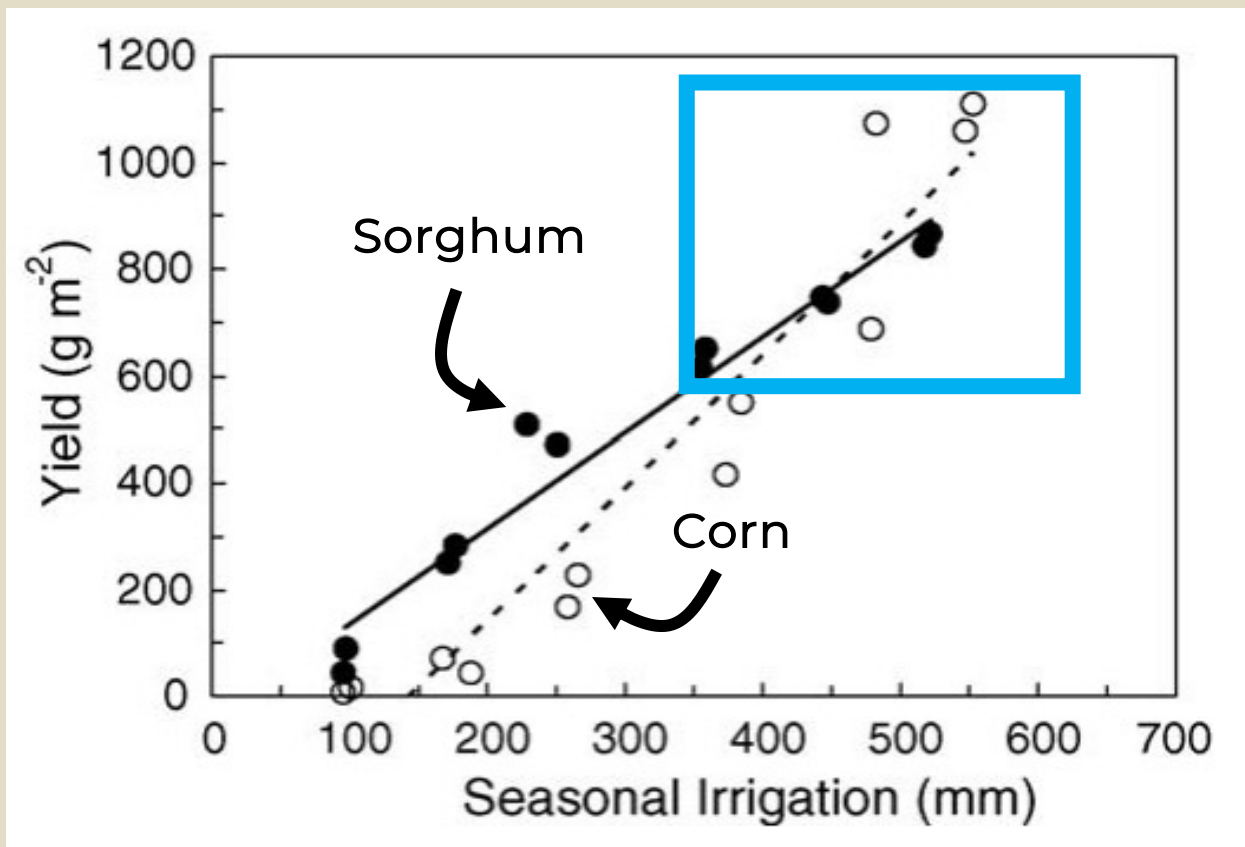


[Farré et Faci \(2006\)](#)

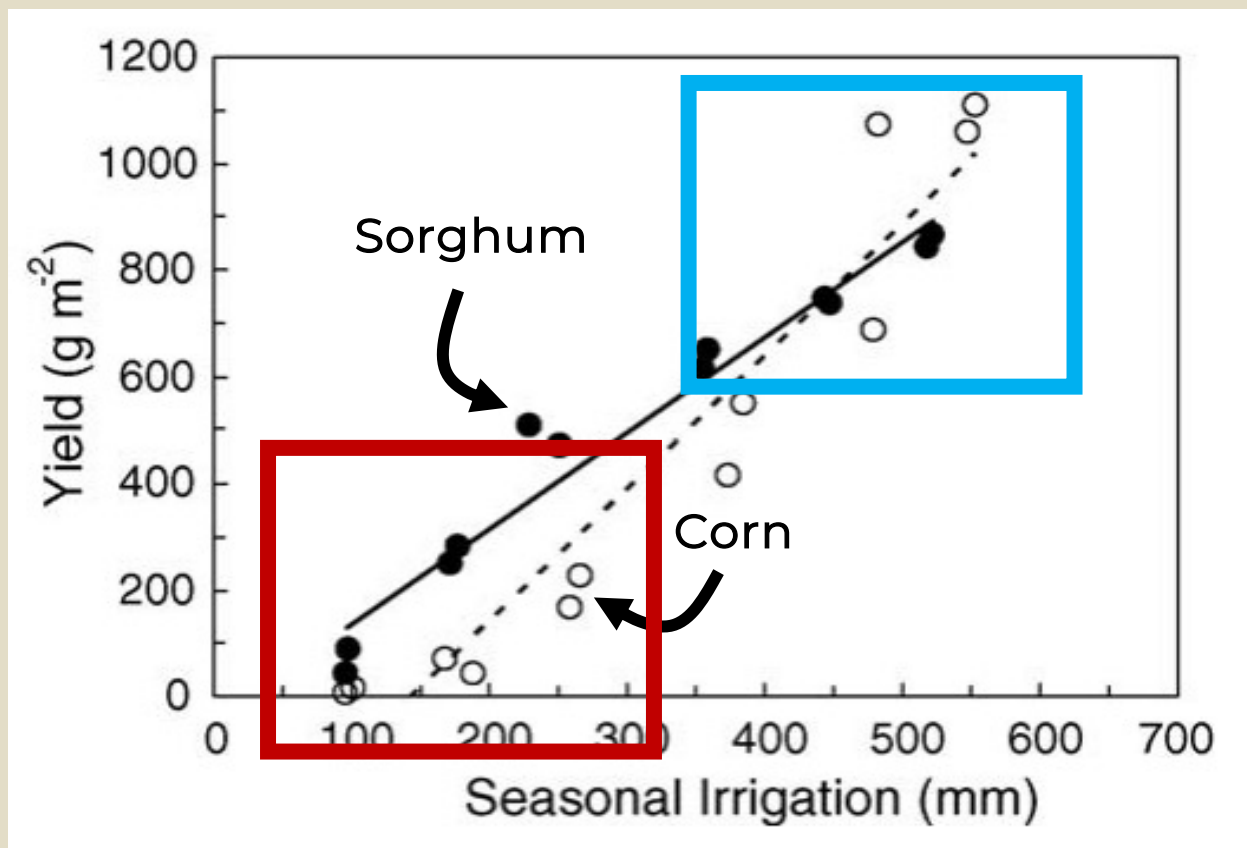
## 2. Focus on sorghum Water response

**No water stress**

Same water use efficiency between corn  
and sorghum (40 kg MS/mm/ha)



Farré et Faci (2006)



[Farré et Faci \(2006\)](#)

## 2. Focus on sorghum

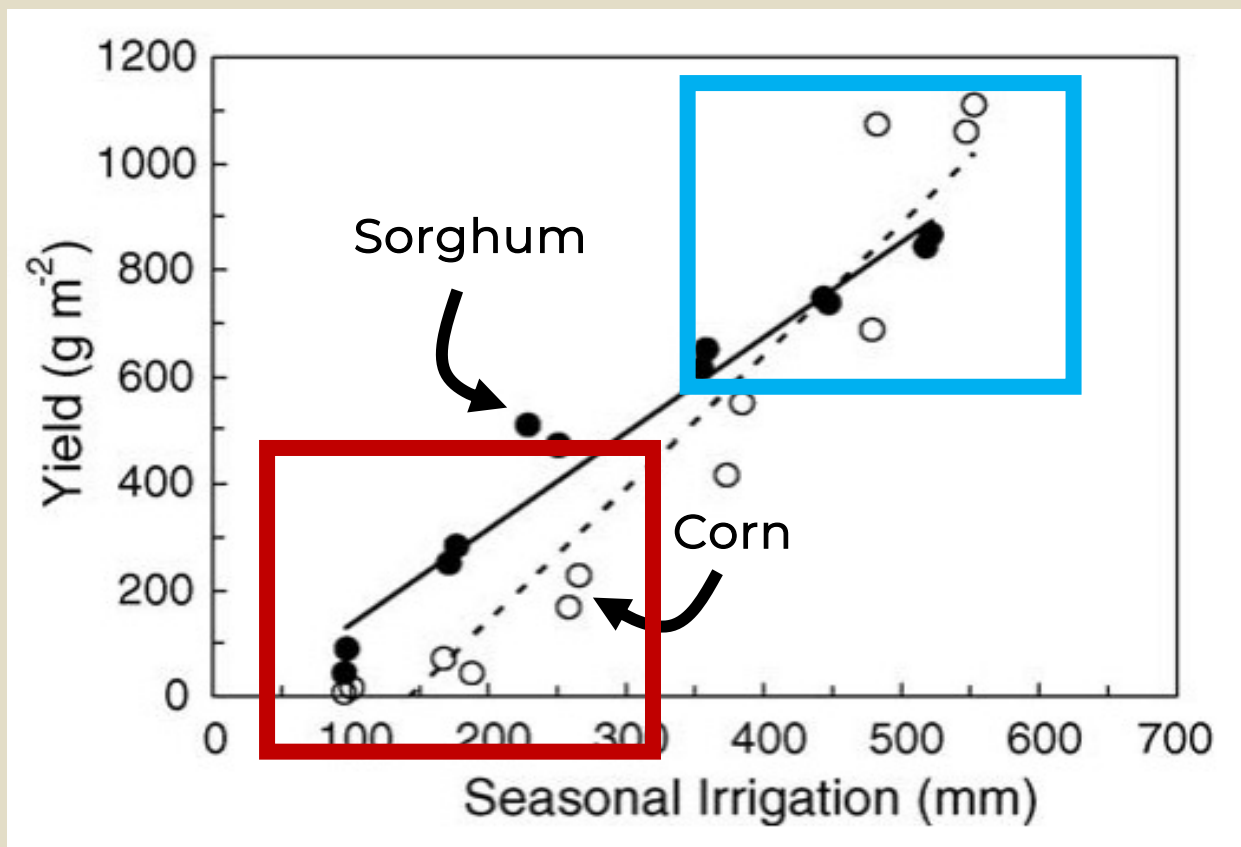
# Water response

**No water stress**

Same water use efficiency between corn and sorghum (40 kg MS/mm/ha)

**Water stress**

Sorghum performs better than corn



[Farré et Faci \(2006\)](#)

## 2. Focus on sorghum

# Water response

### No water stress

Same water use efficiency between corn and sorghum (40 kg MS/mm/ha)

### Water stress

Sorghum performs better than corn

Multifactorial

Greater ability to extract water from deeper soil layers (root architecture), leaf structure, shorter growing period etc.



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# Take home messages

## ✓ Area of production

Area of sorghum is moving north

## ✓ Response to temperature

Sorghum performs better (than corn, wheat, rize and barley) at high temperatures

## ✓ Response to water stress

Sorghum performs better (than corn) in case of water stress.

**“The sorghum adventure” is an exploration of a new species more adapted to our new climates.**



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