

**Supplementary information**

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**Spatial frameworks for robust estimation of yield gaps**

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1 **Supplementary Material for “Spatial frameworks for robust estimation of yield gaps” by**  
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26 ***1. Sources of yield potential data derived from top-down and bottom-up approaches***

27

28 **1.1 GAEZ**

29 The GAEZ was originally developed to provide a framework for the characterization of climate,  
30 soil, and terrain conditions relevant to agricultural production <sup>1,2</sup>. The GAEZ version 3.0,

31 developed by FAO and IIASA, incorporates global assessments of maximum potential (*i.e.*, Y<sub>p</sub>  
32 and Y<sub>w</sub>) and agronomically attainable yield for several crops (<http://www.fao.org/nr/gaez/en/>).

33 At the time of submission of this manuscript, GAEZ version 3.0 was the latest available source  
34 of yield potential estimations. Details about GAEZv3 can be found in IIASA/FAO <sup>2</sup>. Briefly,

35 GAEZ methodology to estimate yield potential and attainable yield consists of a generic  
36 simulation model that combines weather, soil, terrain, and cropping system information

37 **(Supplementary Table S1)**. Yield simulations are performed in cell-grids (*ca.* 5 arc-minute x 30  
38 arc-second resolution near the equator) for different timeframes (based on historical, current, and

39 future climate), input levels (high, intermediate, and low), and water regime (rainfed, rainfed  
40 with water conservation, and irrigation). To simulate different crops, the model uses specific

41 crop parameters including length of growth cycle (days from emergence to full maturity), length  
42 of yield formation period, maximum rate of photosynthesis at prevailing temperatures, leaf area

43 index at maximum growth rate, harvest index, crop adaptability group, sensitivity of crop growth  
44 cycle length to heat provision, development stage specific crop water requirements, and

45 coefficients of crop yield response to water stress <sup>3</sup>. For each grid-cell, the starting and ending  
46 dates of the crop growth cycle are determined using an algorithm that computes the best possible

47 crop yields. This algorithm does not consider the complexity of cropping system such as the co-  
48 existence of several crop sequences within the same geographic area and year. In irrigated

49 conditions, the crop growth cycle length is ‘optimized’ so that the crop cycle coincides with the  
50 period of time when temperature allows crop growth. For rainfed conditions, a water-balance  
51 model is used to determine the beginning and duration of the period when water supply is  
52 sufficient to sustain crop growth. The methodology accounts for yield reduction due to  
53 limitations imposed by soil and terrain conditions based on the soil data contained in the  
54 Harmonized World Soil Database <sup>4</sup>. For our evaluation, we retrieve Y<sub>p</sub> (or Y<sub>w</sub>) estimations for  
55 maize, wheat, rice, and other crops available in the GAEZ “Agro-climatic yield” dataset that  
56 assumes the highest input level and uses the baseline climatic scenario, which includes the 1961-  
57 1990 period. Values of yield potential per site, climate zone, and country (or region) are shown  
58 in **Supplementary Tables S2-S3**.

59

## 60 **1.2 AgMIP ensemble**

61 The AgMIP initiative aims to improve agricultural systems data and models and to advance their  
62 use to support decision making from farm to national to global scales <sup>5</sup>. It follows a multi-model  
63 approach that uses harmonized datasets and protocols to evaluate and improve crop model  
64 performance (**Supplementary Table S1**). The Global Gridded Crop Model Inter-comparison  
65 (GGCMI) component of AgMIP provides simulation results from 14 global crop modeling  
66 groups that contributed with simulations for maize, wheat, rice, and other crops following a  
67 common protocol <sup>6-8</sup>. Briefly, each of the crop modeling groups provided global simulations in  
68 cell-grids of 30 arc-minute resolution (~3,000 km<sup>2</sup> at equator), separately for (i) several gridded  
69 weather data sources (*e.g.*, WFDEI, GPCC, AgMERRA, and WATCH.GPCC), (ii) fertilizer  
70 assumptions (*default*, *fullharm*, and *harm-suffN*), and (iii) water regime (rainfed and irrigated).  
71 The *default* scenario used the standard assumption on growing seasons and fertilizer inputs the

72 crop modelers typically use. In the fully harmonized configuration, *fullharm*, all modelers  
73 assumed the same fertilizer and growing season inputs (*i.e.*, sowing and harvest dates). Finally,  
74 in the *harm-suffN* scenario (also known as “*harmnon*”), modelers used the same growing season  
75 as in the *fullharm* scenario but in this case, assuming no nutrient limitations. Growing season  
76 data, including crop intensity, water regime, and sowing window, was compiled from two  
77 existing gridded global crop calendars, MIRCA2000<sup>9</sup> and SAGE2<sup>10</sup>. Each modeling group was  
78 asked to use the soil parameterization that they typically use. Some of the models included in the  
79 ensemble were developed for field-scale applications (*e.g.*, CGMS-WOFOST, EPIC-based  
80 models, pDSSAT, pAPSIM), while others were derived from global-scale models by  
81 incorporating field-scale processes (*e.g.*, LPJ-GUESS, LPJmL, ORCHIDEE-crop, PEGASUS).  
82 Hence, model calibration was performed against actual yield reported at field and/or national  
83 scale (*e.g.*, WOFOST, EPIC-BOKU, pAPSIM), with some exceptions where models were not  
84 calibrated (*e.g.*, CLM-crop, LPJ-GUESS, ORCHIDEE-crop)<sup>6</sup>. Similar to GAEZ, critical aspects  
85 of the model calibration that are needed to obtain accurate estimates of yield potential such as (i)  
86 the use of yield data from experiments that were explicitly managed to achieve yield potential,  
87 (ii) the source of climate and soil data used to perform the calibration, and/or (iii) information  
88 about the regions for which the models have been calibrated are generally poorly (or not)  
89 documented. Simulated yield potential provided by the modeling groups are then summarized,  
90 using either the mean or median of simulated values *e.g.*,<sup>11,12,13</sup>.

91

92 We downloaded yield estimations based on the *harm-suffN* assumptions for rainfed and irrigated  
93 maize, rice, wheat, and other crops which is the dataset that gets closest to our definition of Y<sub>p</sub>  
94 and Y<sub>w</sub> (Data are available at <https://zenodo.org/>). Following Müller, et al.<sup>7</sup>, we used

95 simulations performed with the AgMIP climate forcing dataset AgMERRA, which was created  
96 based on the NASA Agriculture Modern-Era Retrospective Analysis for Research and  
97 Applications (MERRA) to provide consistent, daily time series over the 1980-2010 period with  
98 global coverage of climate variables required for agricultural models  
99 <https://data.giss.nasa.gov/impacts/agmipcf/agmerra/>; <sup>14</sup>. Following the typical procedure in crop  
100 model ensembles e.g., <sup>11,12,13</sup>, we computed the median yield across the gridded models,  
101 obtaining one ensemble map for each combination of water regime and crop. Yield potential was  
102 not available for AgMERRA for some crop-water regime combinations (**Supplementary Table**  
103 **S4**). Values of yield potential per site, climate zone, and country (or region) are shown in  
104 **Supplementary Table S2-S3**.

105

### 106 **1.3 Global Yield Gap Atlas (GYGA)**

107 The GYGA provides estimates of untapped crop production potential on existing farmland based  
108 on current climate and available soil and water resources (**Supplementary Table S1**). GYGA  
109 utilizes standard protocols for assessing Y<sub>p</sub>, Y<sub>w</sub>, and yield gap based on locally calibrated crop  
110 models and best available sources of weather, soil, and management data. A tiered approach is  
111 follow to give preference to high-quality data (e.g., measured weather data), moving gradually to  
112 other less reliable data sources (e.g. gridded weather data) when data are not available <sup>15</sup>. In the  
113 case of GYGA, less than 3% of the total buffers relied on gridded weather for model simulations.

114

115 Best sources of data and information on the cropping system context is provided by local experts  
116 <sup>15</sup>. GYGA protocols (Grassini et al., 2015; Van Bussel et al., 2015) have been applied  
117 consistently across crops and countries. In contrast to top-down approaches, GYGA simulates

118 Yp and Yw for a number of sites strategically selected for a given crop in a given country. Site  
119 selection is guided by a protocol that seeks to use the fewest number of sites to achieve crop  
120 coverage of at least 50% of the national cultivated area (van Bussel et al., 2015). Briefly, this  
121 protocol builds on the spatial framework developed by van Wart, et al. <sup>16</sup> and van Bussel, et al.  
122 <sup>17</sup>, which delineates climate zones (CZs) with similar biophysical conditions. Each CZ  
123 corresponds to a geographic area with a unique combination of three biophysical attributes that  
124 govern crop yield and its inter-annual variability: (i) annual total growing degree-days, which  
125 determines the length of crop growing season (10 classes), (ii) aridity index, which largely  
126 defines the degree of water limitation in rainfed cropping systems (10 classes), and (iii) annual  
127 temperature seasonality, which differentiates between temperate and tropical climates (3 classes)  
128 **(Supplementary Figure S1A)**. Within the studied country, CZs with >5% of total national  
129 harvested area are selected **(Supplementary Figure S1B, C)**. Within each selected CZ,  
130 candidate sites with measured weather data are selected and buffer zones of 100-km radius (*ca.*  
131 7800 km<sup>2</sup>) are created around those sites to denote the inference area for weather data. The  
132 buffer zones are "clipped" by the CZ boundaries to ensure that each buffer is located within a  
133 unique CZ **(Supplementary Figure S1D)**. Buffers are sequentially selected based on their  
134 contribution to national crop harvested area until *ca.* 50% national crop area coverage is  
135 achieved. When measured weather data are missing in regions with high crop area density,  
136 additional buffers are created for these regions and NASA-POWER gridded weather data are  
137 used for model simulations. This approach for the selection of representative sites helps to  
138 reduce the number of locations for which site-specific data on weather, soils, and cropping  
139 systems are required, allowing to focus on quality of the underpinning data <sup>18</sup>. An example of site

140 selection following the GYGA protocol is shown below for rainfed maize in the United States  
141 **(Supplementary Figure S1).**

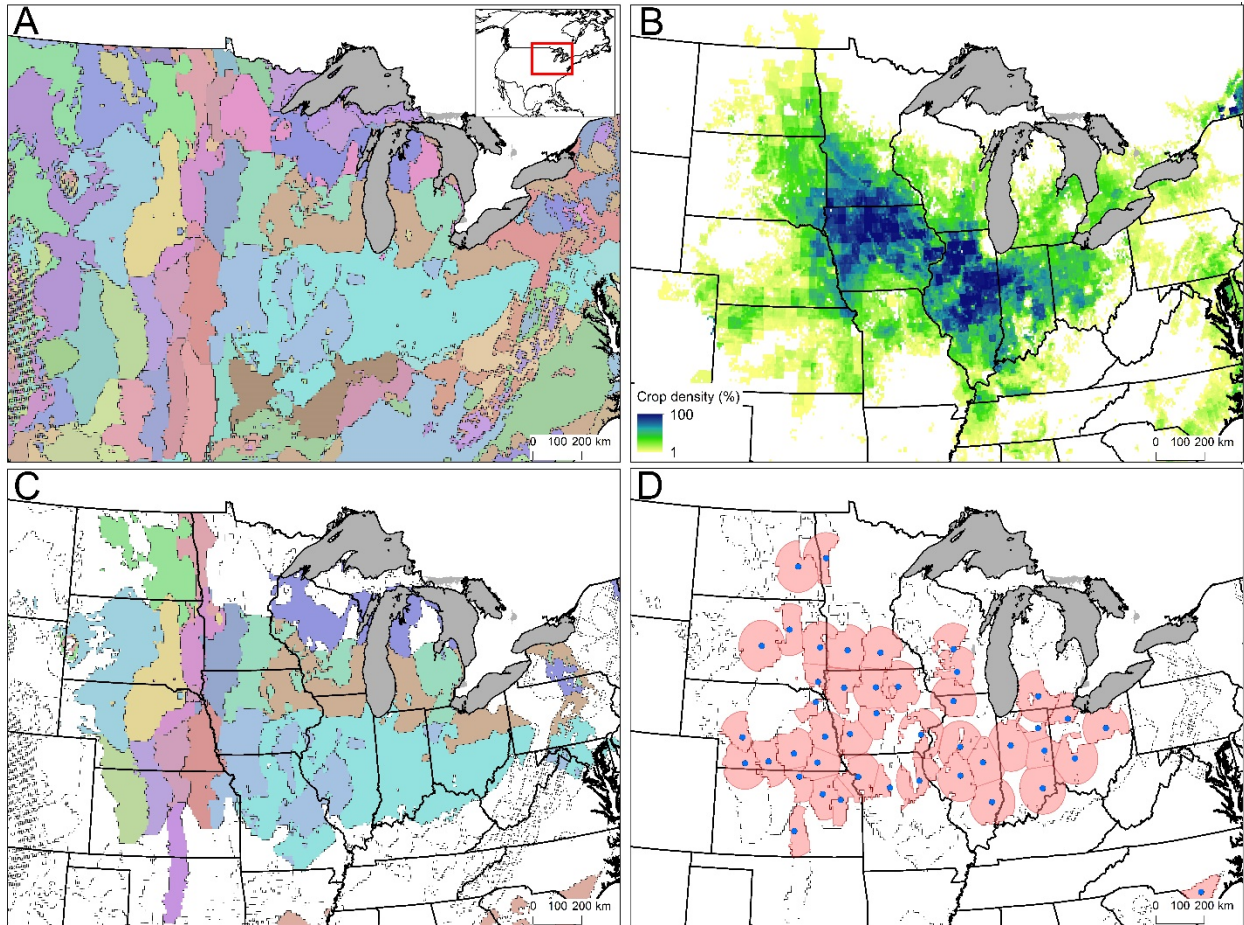
142  
143 After site selection, yield potential is simulated for the dominant cropping systems and soil types  
144 within each buffer using a minimum of 10 (irrigated) or 20 years of daily weather data (rainfed)  
145 to obtain reliable estimates of  $Y_p$  (irrigated) or  $Y_w$  (rainfed) and their variability<sup>15</sup>. Cropping  
146 system information is provided by local agronomist and includes crop sequence, water regime,  
147 sowing window, and crop cycle duration. Separate simulations are performed for each crop cycle  
148 in those cropping systems with two or three crop cycles on the same piece of land during a 12-  
149 month period. We note that direct cross-validation of GYGA results with measured yields in  
150 research stations and/or highest yields in farmer fields is difficult because the latter may be  
151 obtained under the best combination of climate and soil in specific site-years within a region  
152 and/or with unusual crop sequences, providing an estimate of  $Y_p$  that is not representative for the  
153 region<sup>19</sup>. In contrast, and as explained previously, GYGA uses well-validated models, coupled  
154 with long-term weather and information on dominant soils and crop sequences, to estimate yield  
155 potential and yield gaps that are relevant to the dominant biophysical and agronomic background  
156 in each region<sup>15</sup>. Contrarily to the top-down approaches, instead of using a single model  
157 globally, models are selected for each particular region based on their ability to reproduce locally  
158 measured yield in well-managed crops<sup>19</sup>. Crop models were calibrated using data sets from field  
159 studies where crops were grown without nutrient limitations and free of biotic adversities such as  
160 weeds, pests, and diseases e.g.,<sup>20,21-30</sup>. **Supplementary Figure 1** shows the evaluation of the  
161 models used for simulating maize, rice, and wheat in GYGA based on measured yield data  
162 collected from well-managed irrigated and rainfed environments where nutrient limitations and



163 incidence of biotic stresses were minimized. The evaluation includes for maize simulations using  
164 Hybrid-Maize model in USA, Brazil, Indonesia, and sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) <sup>20,21,31,32</sup>,  
165 CERES-maize in Argentina and Uruguay <sup>22,23,33-35</sup>, WOFOST in Europe <sup>36-38</sup>, and SSM in Iran <sup>32</sup>,  
166 (ii) wheat simulations using CERES-wheat in Argentina and Uruguay <sup>22,35,39,40</sup>, APSIM in  
167 Australia <sup>25,41,42</sup>, WOFOST in Europe and Middle East and North Africa <sup>24</sup>, and SSM in USA <sup>43</sup>  
168 and Iran<sup>32</sup>, and (iii) rice simulations using ORYZA in China, Indonesia, USA, SSA, and Brazil  
169 <sup>27,28,32,44</sup> and SSM in Iran<sup>32</sup>. Model coefficients related with crop development were calibrated to  
170 portray the observed phenology of the dominant cultivars grown in each region. To the extent it  
171 was possible, models were tested across a wide range of environments in each country or region,  
172 avoiding site-year calibration of internal model coefficients. Simulated yields reproduced well  
173 the range of measured yields across a wide range of environments and yield levels, ranging from  
174 near crop failure in harsh environments with severe water limitation to well-watered irrigated  
175 environments with high Yp. Evaluation of models on their ability to reproduce measure crop  
176 phenology, leaf area, biomass, and other agronomic traits have been published elsewhere (see  
177 aforementioned references).

178

179 Simulated Yp and Yw as well as shapefiles with buffers and CZs polygons for maize, rice, and  
180 wheat were downloaded from the GYGA website ([www.yieldgap.org](http://www.yieldgap.org)). Values of yield potential  
181 per site, climate zone, and country (or region) are shown in **Supplementary Tables S2-S3**.



182

183

184 **Supplementary Figure S1: Selection of locations, buffers, and climate zone.** Example of  
 185 strategic selection of climate zones, locations, and buffers followed by Global Yield Gap Atlas  
 186 (GYGA; [www.yieldgap.org](http://www.yieldgap.org)) to estimate yield potential on a relatively small number of sites that  
 187 represent major crop producing regions. (A) Climate zones with fairly similar weather  
 188 conditions, (B) maize harvested area, (C) selected climate zones with >5% of national harvested  
 189 area, and (D) locations and buffers inside the selected climate zones.

190

191

192 **Supplementary Table S1. Summary of most relevant features of the databases used in this study to compare top-down versus**  
 193 **bottom-up approaches.**

<b>Features</b>	Global Agro-Ecological Zones (GAEZ)	Agricultural Model Intercomparison and Improvement Project (AgMIP)	Global Yield Gap Atlas (GYGA)
<b>Approach</b>	Top-down	Top-down	Bottom-up
<b>Crop model</b>	Single, generic model based on monthly weather data that uses generic crop parameters to simulate different crops (Kassam, 1977). The model is not locally calibrated.	Combination of (i) generic and crop-specific, (ii) site-based process and ecosystem, and (iii) calibrated and non-calibrated models (Table S3).	Crop-specific model, simulates crop growth on a daily step. To the extent it is possible, models are calibrated for each study region.
<b>Data source</b>			
<i>Weather</i>	Gridded weather (Climate Research Unit and GPCC)	Gridded weather data (including, but not limited, to AgMERRA, WFDEI, and GPCC)	Tier selection approach: weather station data (1 <sup>st</sup> option), corrected measured data (2 <sup>nd</sup> option) & NASA gridded data (3 <sup>rd</sup> option).
<i>Soil</i>	Global gridded soil database (Harmonized World Soil Database, FAO/IIASA/ISRIC, 2009).	Different models use different soil databases and, in some cases, soil was ignored or not documented	Tier selection approach: high-quality national soil maps (1 <sup>st</sup> option), global soil databases (2 <sup>nd</sup> option) & expert opinion (3 <sup>rd</sup> option).
<i>Cropping system</i>	Crop cycle length is determined <i>in silico</i> by optimizing crop cycle with the length of growing season. Cropping system is incorrect or oversimplified in many cases.	Coarse global crop calendars, <i>e.g.</i> , MIRCA2000 (Portmann et al., 2010) and SAGE (Sacks et al., 2010). Cropping system is incorrect or oversimplified in many cases.	Cropping system data provided by local experts, including crop sequence, sowing date, crop cycle duration, and water regime.
<b>Time period</b>	30 years (1961-1990)	31 years (1980-2010)	Minimum of 10 (irrigated) and 20 years (rainfed), using the most updated data that is available after 1980.
<b>Finest level of spatial resolution</b>	Grids of <i>ca.</i> 100 km <sup>2</sup> near the equator	Grids of <i>ca.</i> 3,000 km <sup>2</sup> at equator	Buffers around weather stations, with border clipped by climate zones, and size varying from 200 to 31,000 km <sup>2</sup> .
<b>Upscaling method</b>	No upscaling is needed as yield potential is simulated for each grid	No upscaling is needed as yield potential is simulated for each grid	Uses a climate zone scheme for upscaling yield from buffer to climate zone, and then from climate zone to country or continental levels.
<b>References</b>	<a href="http://www.fao.org/nr/gaez/en/">http://www.fao.org/nr/gaez/en/</a> ; Fischer et al., 2002, IIASA/FAO, 2012	<a href="https://agmip.org/">https://agmip.org/</a> ; Elliot et al., 2015; Muller et al., 2017, 2019	<a href="http://www.yieldgap.org/">http://www.yieldgap.org/</a> ; Grassini et al., 2015; van Bussel et al., 2015.

195 **Supplementary Table S2. Agreement in yield potential estimations between top-down and bottom-up approaches.** Comparison  
 196 between yield potential estimations derived from the Global Yield Gap Atlas (GYGA) and the Global Agro-Ecological Zones  
 197 (GAEZ) or the Agricultural Model Intercomparison and Improvement Project (AgMIP) frameworks. Agreement between yield  
 198 potential data sources was evaluated by calculating the absolute mean error (ME) and the root mean square error (RMSE), in t ha<sup>-1</sup>.  
 199

Crop	Water regime	Country or sub-continental region	Location				Climate zone				Country or sub-continental					
			n <sup>†</sup>	ME	RMSE		ME	RMSE			ME	RMSE	ME	RMSE		
Maize	Irrigated	Asia <sup>v</sup>	47	0.7	3.3	6.0	6.3	32	1.3	3.7	5.6	5.8	-0.4	0.4	5.9	5.9
		Eastern Europe	6	-2.0	3.5	2.7	3.6	6	-2.1	3.5	2.8	3.6	-2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5
		MENA <sup>†</sup>	22	0.1	2.4	12.2	12.5	13	0.1	2.1	11.2	11.6	-0.5	0.5	11.1	11.1
		USA	21	-1.9	2.7	3.5	3.8	13	-2.0	2.8	3.5	3.7	-1.8	1.8	3.9	3.9
		Western Europe	64	-0.1	3.1	3.0	3.3	51	-0.2	3.1	2.9	3.2	0.1	0.1	3.2	3.2
	Rainfed	Asia	69	1.2	4.1	5.4	6.0	31	0.9	3.7	5.7	6.0	1.1	1.1	5.4	5.4
		Eastern Europe	101	0.6	3.5	3.8	4.4	73	0.6	3.5	3.8	4.4	-0.7	0.7	3.1	3.1
		USA	45	0.8	2.4	4.4	4.7	18	1.2	2.5	4.4	4.5	1.4	1.4	5.1	5.1
		South America	43	-0.7	4.9	1.9	2.7	22	-2.2	4.7	1.7	2.2	0.5	0.5	3.0	3.0
		SSA	105	-2.5	5.3	0.6	3.4	62	-2.1	5.0	0.8	3.4	-2.4	2.4	1.3	1.3
Wheat	Irrigated	Asia	7	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.4	4	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0
		MENA	41	-1.7	2.2	1.8	2.7	23	-1.6	2.1	1.7	2.5	-1.4	1.4	2.4	2.4
		USA and Mexico	11	2.6	2.9	2.8	3.0	8	2.5	2.7	2.4	2.6	2.3	2.3	3.2	3.2
	Rainfed	Australia	22	0.8	1.4	2.4	2.5	6	0.6	0.8	2.4	2.5	-0.1	0.1	2.0	2.0
		Eastern Europe	137	-2.3	2.7	2.9	3.3	101	-2.3	2.7	2.8	3.1	-2.0	2.0	3.2	3.2
		MENA	51	-2.4	3.3	0.2	1.6	29	-2.2	3.1	0.3	1.5	-3.3	3.3	-0.1	0.1
		South America	20	-1.6	2.0	1.5	1.8	11	-1.7	2.1	1.4	1.8	-1.0	1.0	1.8	1.8
		SSA	23	-0.6	1.9	0.6	1.5	18	-0.2	2.1	1.1	2.4	-0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8
		Western Europe	136	-0.8	2.4	2.9	3.3	92	-0.8	2.3	3.0	3.4	-0.8	0.8	3.0	3.0
		SSA	23	-0.6	1.9	0.6	1.5	18	-0.2	2.1	1.1	2.4	-0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8
Rice	Irrigated	Asia	88	-0.8	1.7	4.6	4.8	36	-0.4	1.7	4.7	5.0	-0.5	0.5	5.0	5.0
		MENA	21	-4.4	4.6	2.8	3.1	15	-4.1	4.2	3.1	3.3	-3.1	3.1	3.7	3.7
		USA	14	-0.7	1.0	6.3	6.4	9	-0.7	1.0	6.2	6.3	-0.7	0.7	6.4	6.4
		South America	20	2.7	2.9	8.7	8.7	10	2.6	2.8	8.6	8.6	3.0	3.0	9.0	9.0
		SSA	50	-0.2	2.9	3.7	4.0	32	-1.1	2.5	3.3	3.6	-1.2	1.2	2.8	2.8
	Rainfed	Asia	31	3.2	3.5	2.7	3.0	16	3.3	3.8	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.0	2.6	2.6
		South America	8	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	6	3.6	3.7	3.4	3.5	4.7	4.7	3.6	3.6
		SSA	40	1.7	2.9	1.0	2.9	32	2.2	3.0	1.6	2.9	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.5

200 <sup>†</sup> Total number of locations or climate zones for which yield potential is compared between bottom-up and top-down approaches.

201 <sup>v</sup> Asia region excluding Middle East. <sup>†</sup> Middle East and North Africa.

202 **Supplementary Table S3. Actual yield and yield potential estimations.** Actual yield and yield potential estimations derived from  
203 the Global Yield Gap Atlas (GYGA) and the Global Agro-Ecological Zones (GAEZ) or the Agricultural Model Intercomparison and  
204 Improvement Project (AgMIP) frameworks at three different spatial scale. Yield levels are expressed in t per harvested ha.  
205

Crop	Water regime	Country or sub-continental region	Location					Climate zone					– Country or sub-continental –			
			n <sup>†</sup>	Actual yield	Yield potential			n	Actual yield	Yield potential			Actual yield	Yield potential		
					GYGA	GAEZ	AgMIP			GYGA	GAEZ	AgMIP		GYGA	GAEZ	AgMIP
Maize	Irrigated	Asia <sup>v</sup>	47	7.3	13.6	12.9	7.6	32	7.1	13.4	12.2	7.8	6.0	12.5	15.1	10.0
		Eastern Europe	6	6.0	12.7	14.7	10.0	6	6.0	12.7	14.8	9.9	6.6	16.5	17.1	5.4
		MENA <sup>†</sup>	22	6.7	17.5	17.4	5.3	13	6.9	17.5	17.4	6.3	11.8	14.0	15.9	10.1
		USA	21	11.5	13.6	15.5	10.1	13	11.5	13.6	15.6	10.1	8.1	13.9	14.3	7.9
		Western Europe	64	9.8	14.7	14.8	11.7	51	9.6	14.7	14.9	11.9	10.6	14.3	14.2	11.2
	Rainfed	Asia	69	5.9	10.8	9.6	5.4	31	6.1	10.9	10.0	5.2	4.9	8.8	9.5	5.7
		Eastern Europe	101	5.3	9.4	8.8	5.6	73	5.3	9.4	8.9	5.6	9.7	12.4	11.0	7.4
		USA	45	8.5	11.2	10.3	6.7	18	7.6	9.9	8.8	5.5	6.9	10.9	9.8	5.5
		South America	43	5.9	10.8	11.5	8.9	22	5.6	10.0	12.2	8.3	6.1	10.9	10.4	7.9
		SSA	105	1.8	9.1	11.6	8.5	62	1.8	9.2	11.3	8.4	1.7	9.1	11.5	7.8
Wheat	Irrigated	Western Europe	40	9.3	11.1	7.2	6.5	28	9.5	11.5	7.2	6.4	8.9	10.2	7.7	6.7
		Asia	7	2.1	4.9	3.8	3.6	4	2.1	5.0	3.9	3.8	3.3	8.6	10.0	6.2
		MENA	41	3.2	8.3	10.0	6.5	23	3.2	8.1	9.7	6.4	5.9	9.3	7.0	6.2
	Rainfed	USA and Mexico	11	5.7	9.1	6.5	6.3	8	5.6	9.2	6.7	6.8	2.2	4.9	4.0	4.0
		Australia	22	1.7	3.6	2.8	1.3	6	1.8	3.9	3.3	1.5	1.7	3.6	3.7	1.7
		Eastern Europe	137	3.8	8.6	11.0	5.7	101	3.8	8.6	10.9	5.8	3.6	8.5	10.4	5.2
		MENA	51	1.1	2.9	5.3	2.7	29	1.1	3.2	5.3	2.9	1.0	2.6	5.8	2.7
		South America	20	2.9	5.3	6.9	3.8	11	2.7	5.1	6.8	3.6	3.0	5.3	6.3	3.5
		SSA	23	1.9	6.7	7.3	6.1	18	2.1	6.8	7.1	5.7	2.2	7.9	8.6	7.1
		Western Europe	136	5.4	8.3	9.2	5.4	92	5.3	8.3	9.2	5.3	6.3	9.0	9.8	6.1
Rice	Irrigated	Asia	88	6.2	9.7	10.4	5.1	36	6.2	10.0	10.5	5.3	6.8	9.4	12.5	5.8
		MENA	21	4.6	7.7	12.1	4.8	15	4.7	7.9	12.0	4.8	8.1	12.4	13.1	6.0
		USA	14	8.3	12.5	13.2	6.2	9	8.3	12.3	13.0	6.1	6.3	9.8	10.3	4.8
		South America	20	7.9	14.5	11.8	5.9	10	7.9	14.5	11.9	5.9	7.6	14.7	11.7	5.8
		SSA	50	3.7	9.6	9.8	6.0	32	3.4	9.3	10.4	6.0	3.2	9.7	10.9	7.0
	Rainfed	Asia	31	4.4	8.5	5.4	5.8	16	4.3	8.3	5.0	5.7	4.0	8.1	5.0	5.4
		South America	8	2.5	8.9	5.4	5.3	6	2.4	9.0	5.4	5.6	2.6	9.0	4.3	5.4
		SSA	40	1.7	6.4	4.7	5.4	32	1.7	6.7	4.5	5.0	1.8	6.1	4.3	4.6

206 <sup>†</sup> Total number of locations or climate zones for which yield potential is compared between bottom-up and top-down approaches.

207 <sup>v</sup> Asia region excluding Middle East. <sup>†</sup> Middle East and North Africa.

208 **Supplementary Table S4. Ensemble global gridded model.** Models from the Global Gridded  
 209 Crop Model Intercomparison (GGCMI) project of AgMIP that were combined to obtain  
 210 ensemble maps for different combinations of water regime (irrigated and rainfed) and crops  
 211 (maize, rice, and wheat).  
 212

Models	Maize	Rice	Wheat	Key reference(s)
WOFOST	●	●	●	Boogaard, et al. <sup>37</sup> , van Diepen, et al. <sup>38</sup>
CLM	●	●	●	Drewniak, et al. <sup>45</sup>
EPIC-BOKU	●	●	●	Izaurrealde, et al. <sup>46</sup> , Kiniry, et al. <sup>47</sup> , Williams, et al. <sup>48</sup>
EPIC-IIASA	●	●	●	Izaurrealde, et al. <sup>46</sup> , Kiniry, et al. <sup>47</sup> , Williams, et al. <sup>48</sup>
EPIC-TAMU	●	x	●	Kiniry, et al. <sup>47</sup> , Izaurrealde, et al. <sup>49</sup>
GEPIC	●	●	x	Izaurrealde, et al. <sup>46</sup> , Williams, et al. <sup>48</sup> , Liu, et al. <sup>50</sup>
LPJ-GUESS	●	●	●	Smith, et al. <sup>51</sup>
LPJmL	●	●	●	Bondeau, et al. <sup>52</sup> , Schaphoff, et al. <sup>53</sup> , von Bloh, et al. <sup>54</sup>
ORCHIDEE	●	●	●	Wu, et al. <sup>55</sup>
pAPSIM	●	x	x	Keating, et al. <sup>42</sup> , McCown, et al. <sup>56</sup> , Elliott, et al. <sup>57</sup>
pDSSAT	●	●	●	Ritchie and Otter <sup>39</sup> , Elliott, et al. <sup>57</sup>
PEGASUS	●	x	x	Deryng, et al. <sup>58</sup> , Deryng, et al. <sup>59</sup>
PEPIC	●	●	●	Liu, et al. <sup>60</sup>
PRYSBI2	xx	xx	xx	Sakurai, et al. <sup>61</sup> , Okada, et al. <sup>62</sup>

213  
 214 ●: Simulations combined to obtain ensemble maps. x: Simulations for AgMERRA not available;  
 215 xx: Simulations based on a harmonized growing season and absence of nutrient limitation (so-  
 216 called “harm-suffN” scenario) not available.  
 217  
 218

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220

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