



IRS  
P.O. Box 32  
NL - 4600 AA Bergen op Zoom, The Netherlands  
[www.irs.nl](http://www.irs.nl) / [vanswaaij@irs.nl](mailto:vanswaaij@irs.nl)

# *SUMO: SUgarbeet MOdel for predicting yield and quality*

A.C.P.M. van Swaaij, L.M. Withagen, (IRS)  
T. Schiphouwer (Suiker Unie)  
and A.B. Smit (WUR)

# Yield and quality forecast

- \* present yield forecast 2003
- \* history of yield forecast
- \* *SUMO*: estimations
- \* *SUMO*: factors determining yield and quality
- \* *SUMO*: results
- \* conclusions

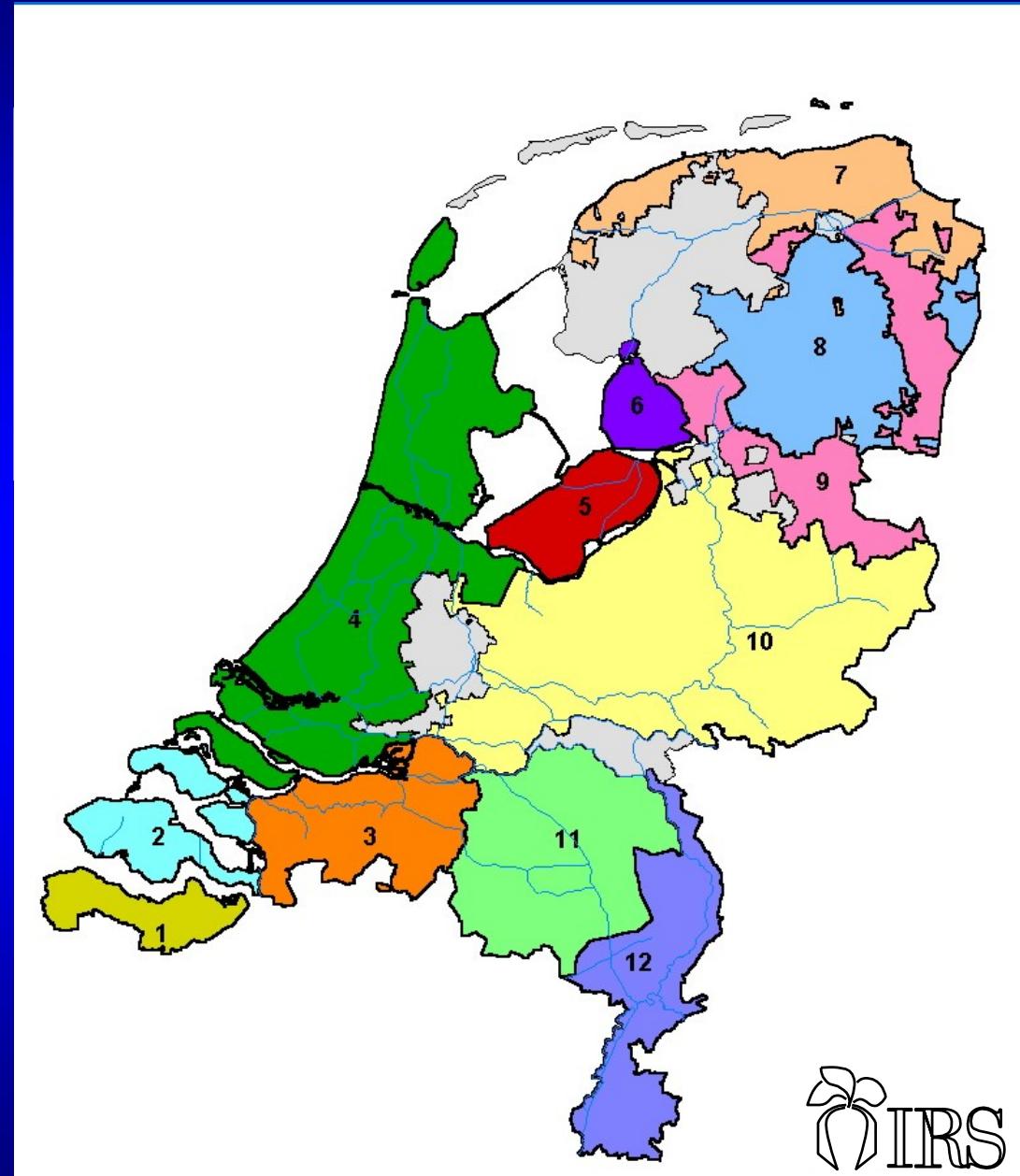
# Average yield forecast The Netherlands 2003 Based on *SUMO*

present forecast

date	root yield (t/ha)	sugar yield (t/ha)
28-07	68	11.0
11-08	69	11.2
25-08	66	10.7
08-09	66	10.7
final yield 2002	60	9.6
final yield 1993-2002	58	9.3

# present forecast

- 1 = Zeeuwsch-Vlaanderen
- 2 = Zeeuwse Eilanden
- 3 = West-Brabant
- 4 = Noord- en Zuid-Holland
- 5 = Oost- en Zuid-Flevoland
- 6 = Noordoostpolder
- 7 = Noordelijk klei
- 8 = Noordelijk zand
- 9 = Noordelijk dal
- 10 = Gelderland e.o.
- 11 = Oost-Brabant
- 12 = Limburg



present forecast

# Yield forecast individual regions 2003

Based on *SUMO*

Region No. Name	Root yield (t/ha)	Sugar yield (t/ha)
1 = Zeeuwsch-Vlaanderen	65	10.8
2 = Zeeuwse Eilanden	67	11.0
3 = West-Brabant	66	10.8
4 = Noord- en Zuid-Holland	72	11.6
5 = Oost- en Zuid-Flevoland	84	13.3
6 = Noordoostpolder	81	13.3
7 = Noordelijk klei	72	11.6
8 = Noordelijk zand	53	8.8
9 = Noordelijk dal	57	9.4
10 = Gelderland e.o.	59	9.3
11 = Oost-Brabant	58	9.2
12 = Limburg	65	10.1
Netherlands	66	10.7

- ✿ until 1995: periodic harvests
  - 1 sampling site per 100 – 400 ha
  - 4 - 10 samplings/year

- ✿ growth models

- WUR: scientific model
- Suikerunie: applied model

- ✿ SUMO

- synthesis between applied and scientific
- calibration: yield and weather data 1981-1986
- Oracle database; start in 1996
- national forecast without additional sampling

estimations

actual  
weather

parameters

historical  
weather

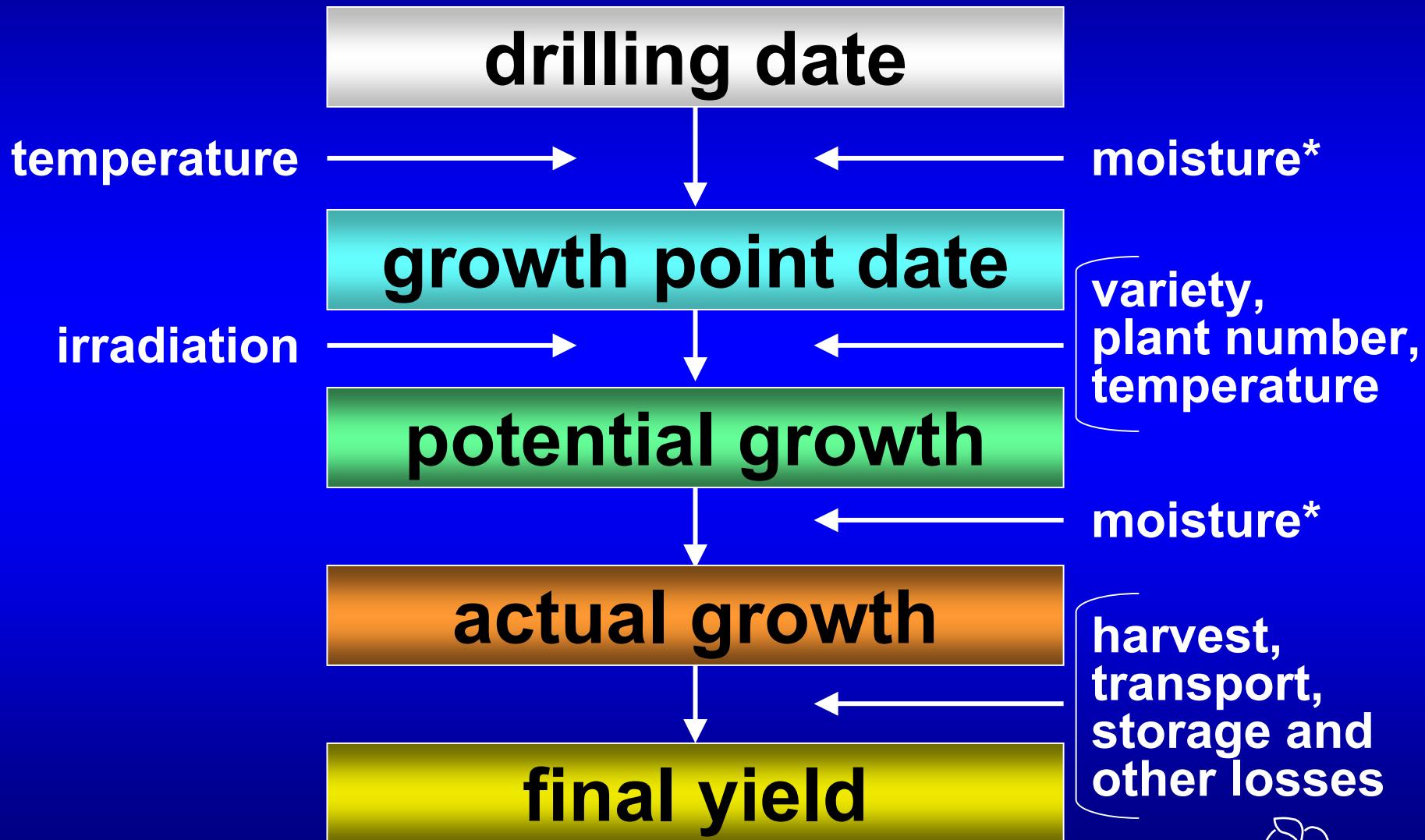
SUMO

growth stage

growth

yield forecast

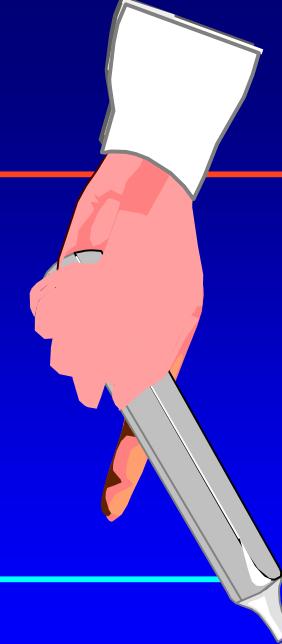
quality

driving factors:adjusting factors:

# estimations

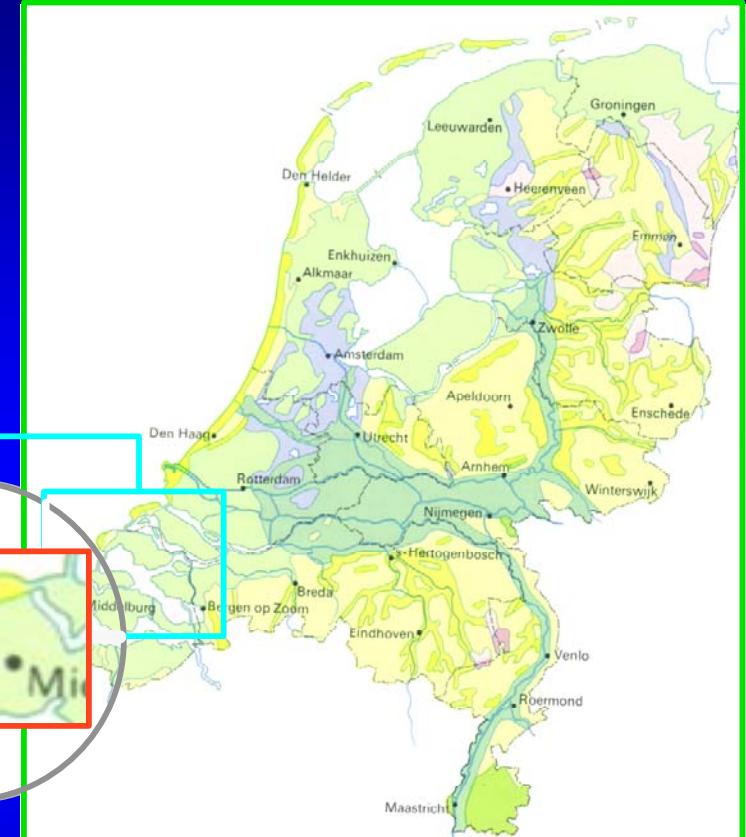
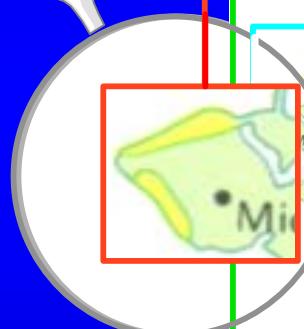
## Level 3

- acreage
- soil conditions
- moisture balance
- % drought susceptible
- % irrigation



## Level 2

- sowing date
- temperature sum required
- growth coefficient
- reduction factors  
variety, plant number
- regression coefficient yield



## Level 1

- quality

# Quality forecast

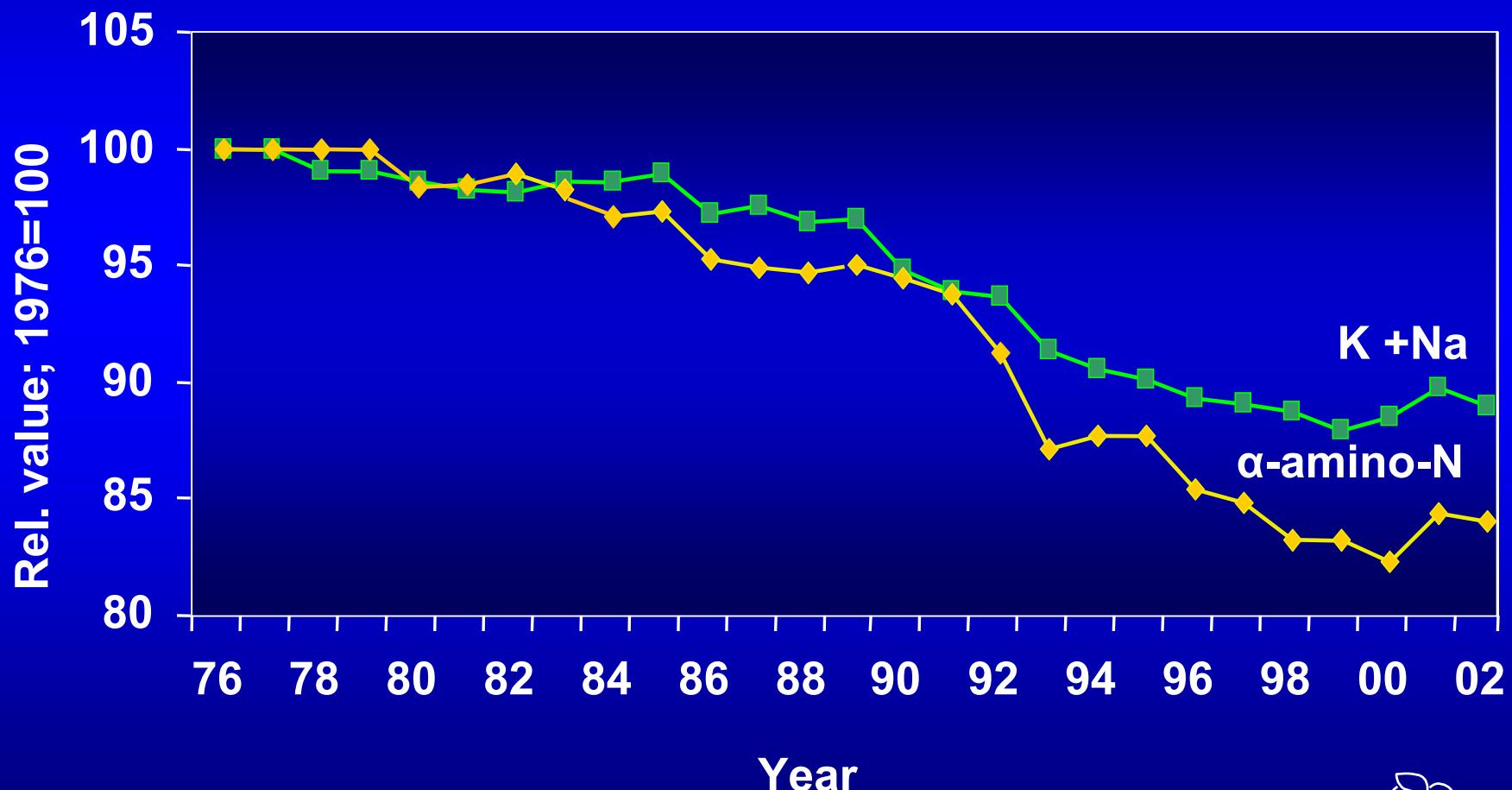
- \* extractability sugar and molasses
- \* average of the Netherlands

$$K+Na = a \times DCC + b \times \text{Precipitation}^1 + c \times \text{Variety factor} + d$$
$$\alpha\text{-amino N} = e \times \text{Precipitation}^2 + f \times \text{Temperature} + g \times \text{Variety factor} + h$$

# Quality and variety

estimations

Quality improvement of sugar beet varieties, 1976 – 2002  
(values adjusted for year effects)



# Sowing date

sowing date	root yield (t/ha)	sugar yield (t/ha)
March 1	61,1	9,6
March 15	60,5	9,6
March 31	58,3	9,2
April 15	55,4	8,8
April 30	51,4	8,3
May 15	45,4	7,4

# Temperature I

Temperature sum to date of closed canopy:

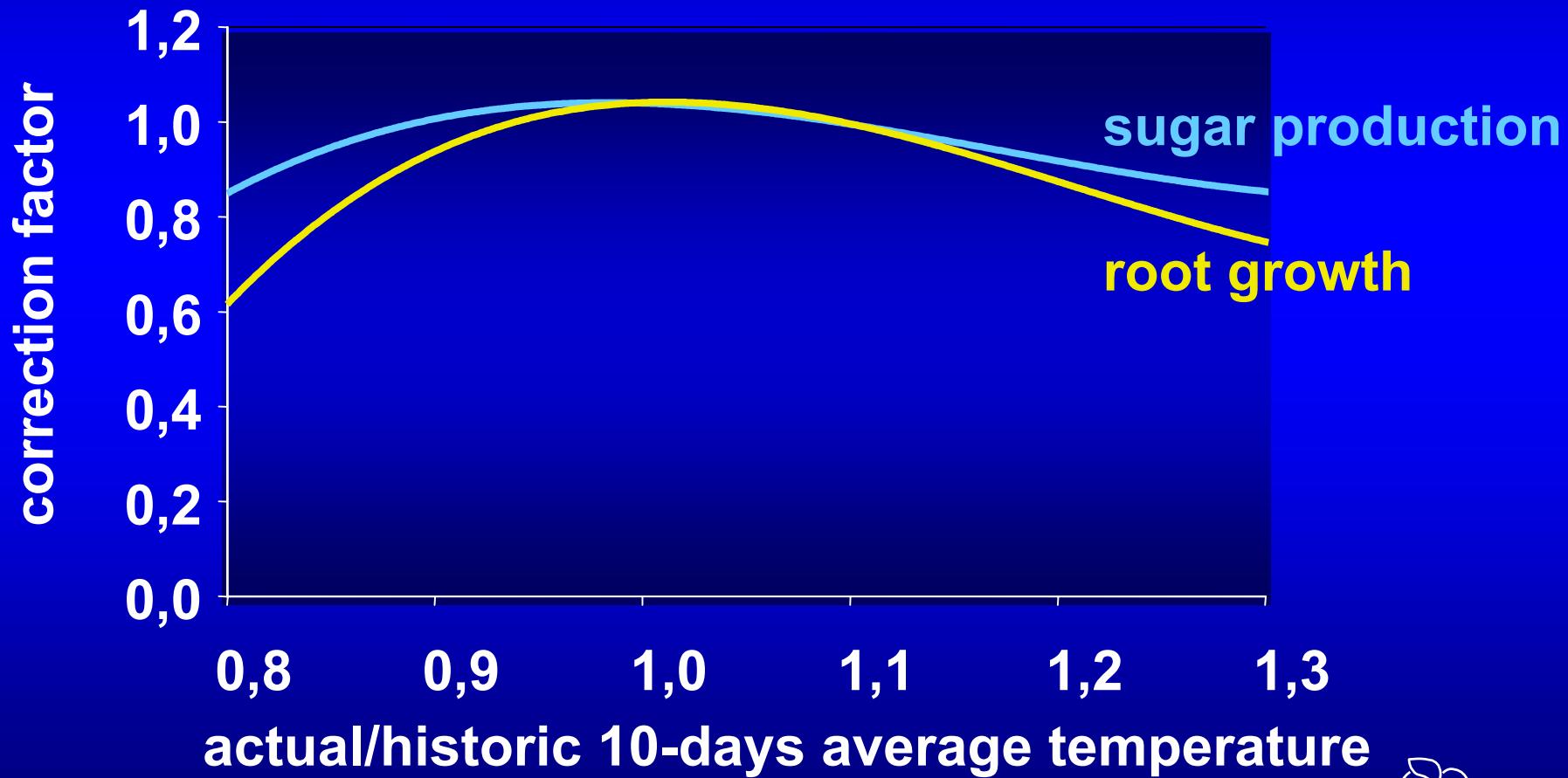
Polders                    590° . days

Holland                    611° . days

Northern sand            641° . days

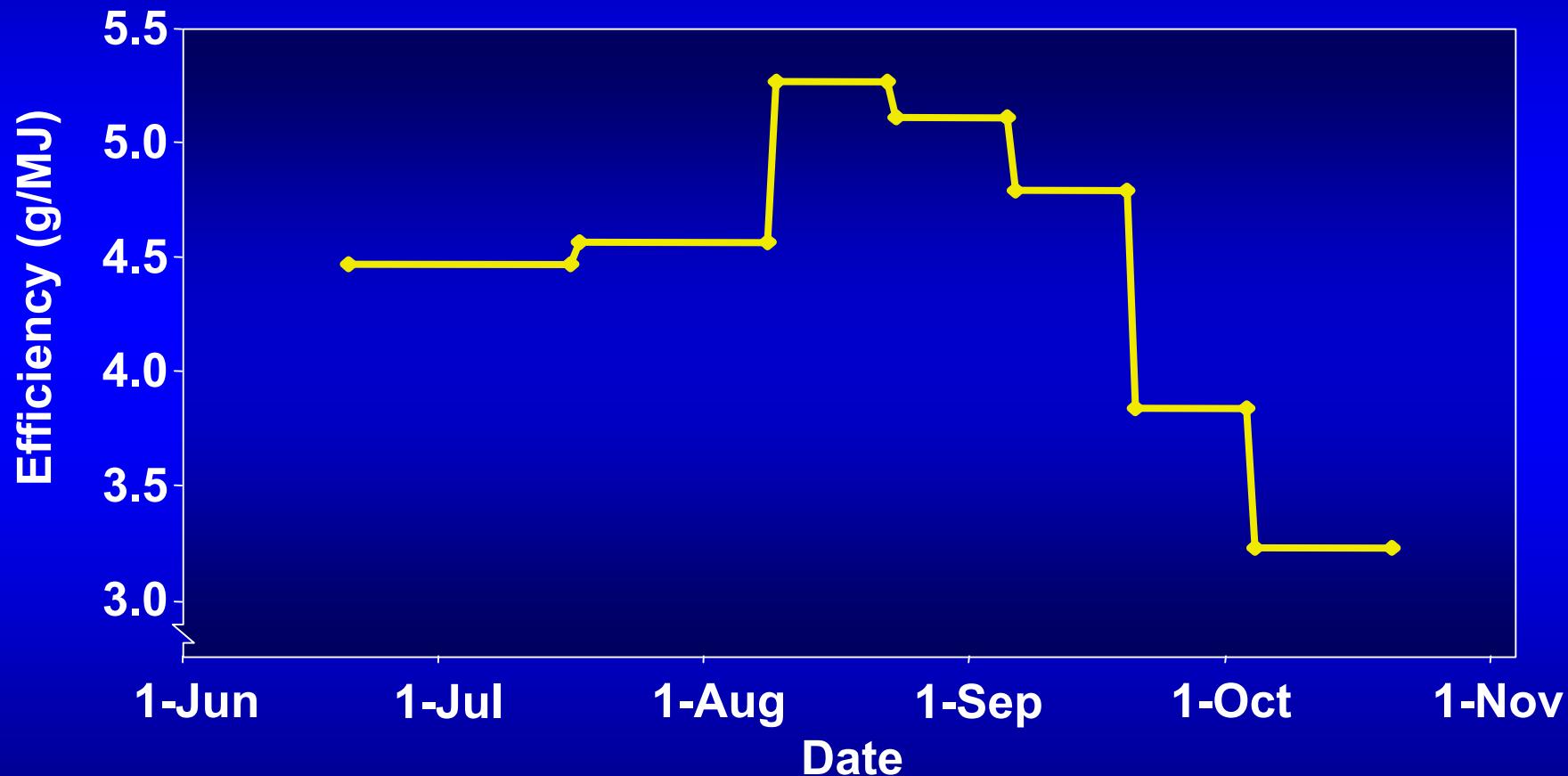
# Temperature II

Effect of average daily temperature during summer



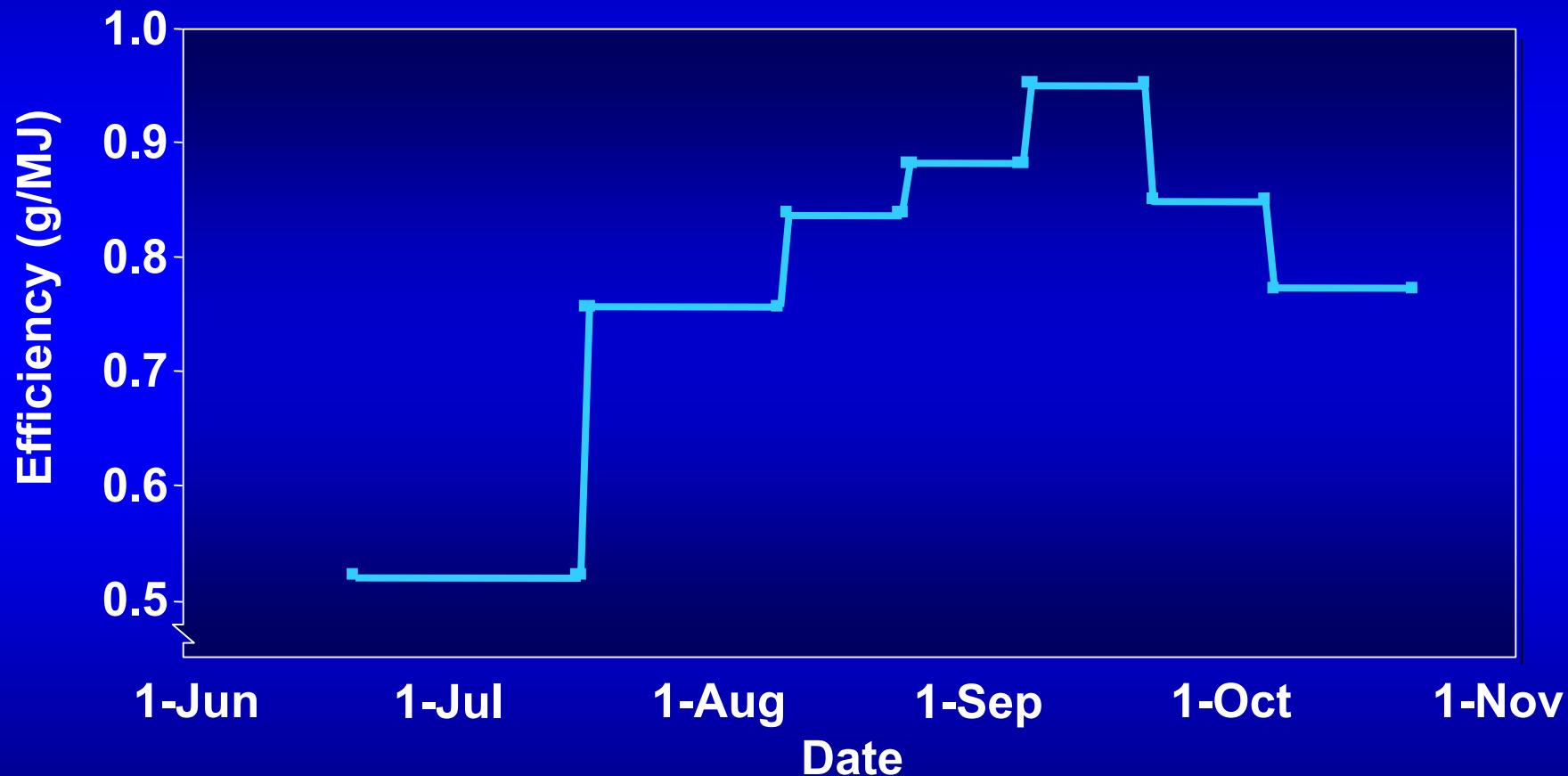
# Radiation I

## Radiation Use Efficiency of root production



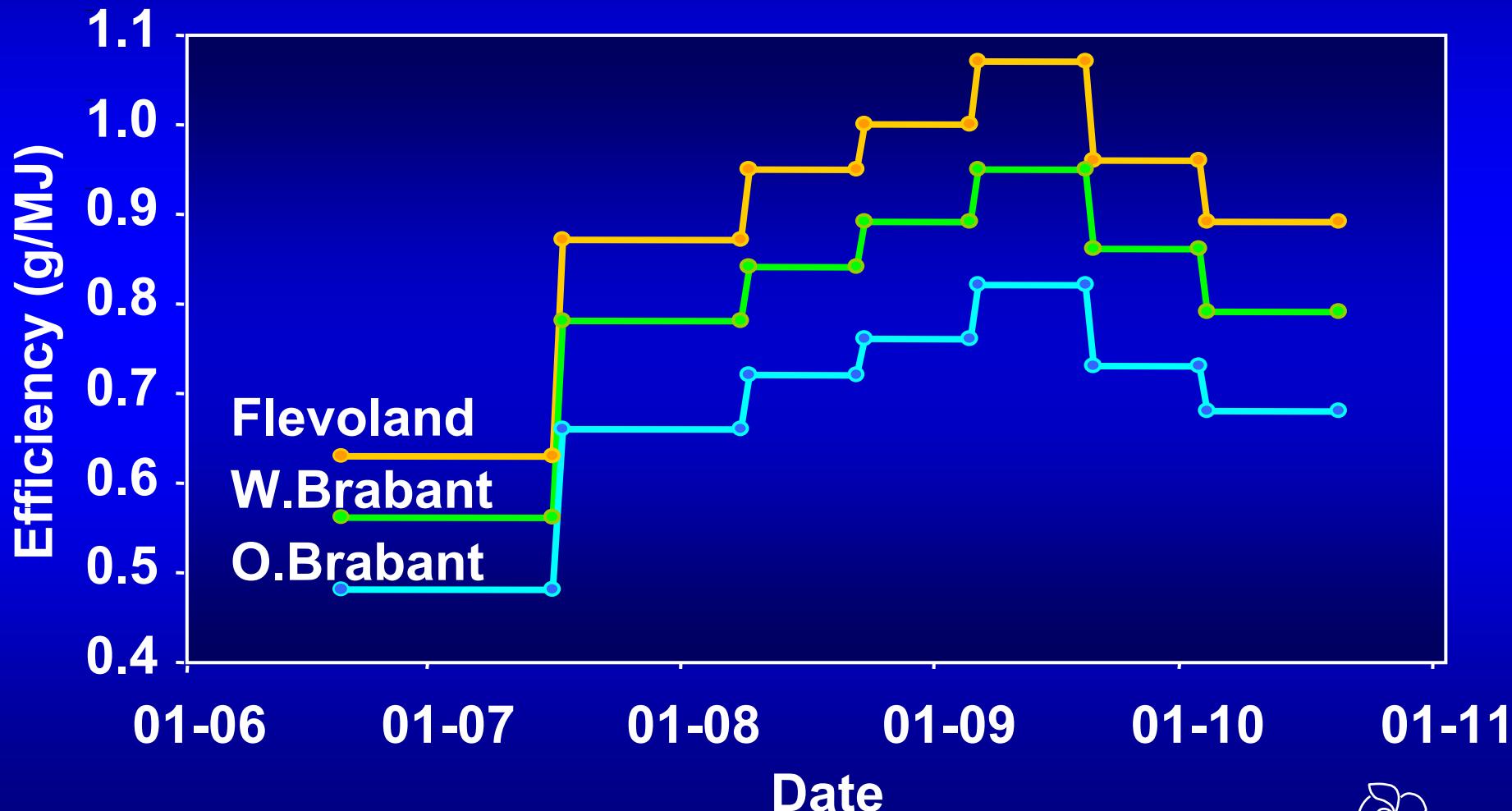
# Radiation II

Radiation Use Efficiency of sugar production



# Radiation III

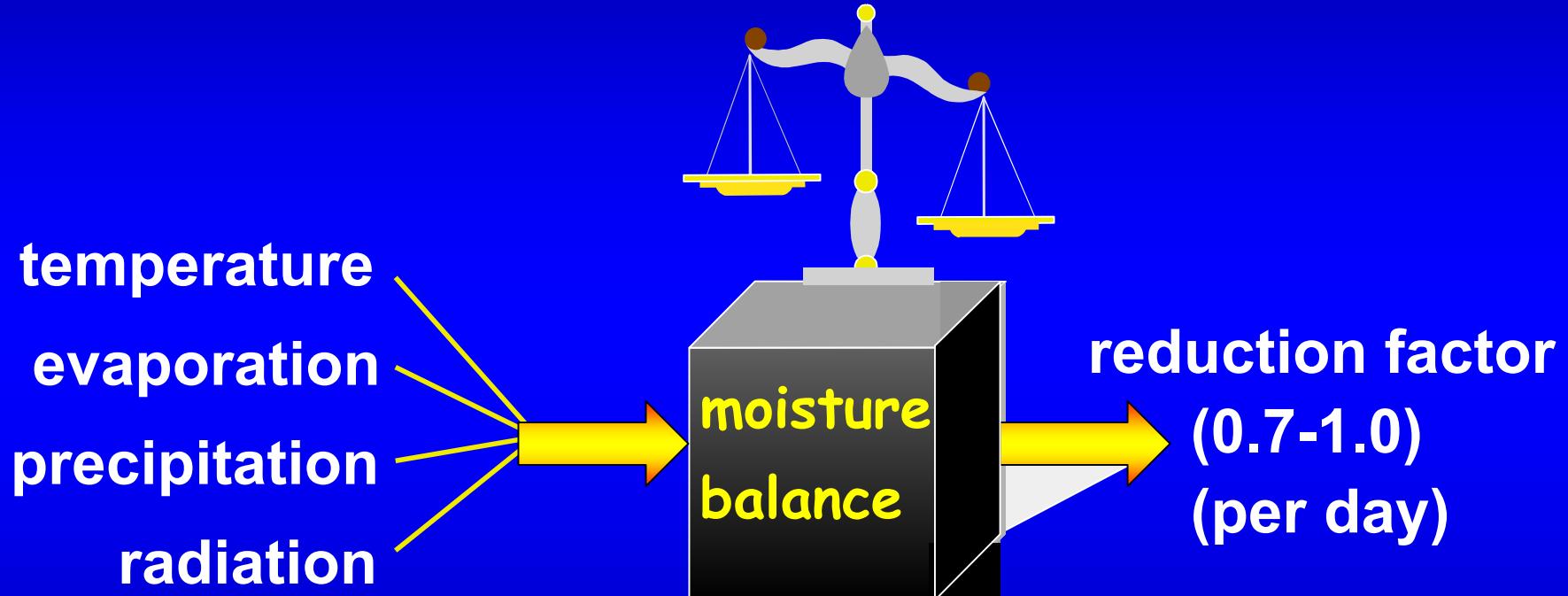
Radiation Use Efficiency of sugar production,  
difference between areas



# Variety

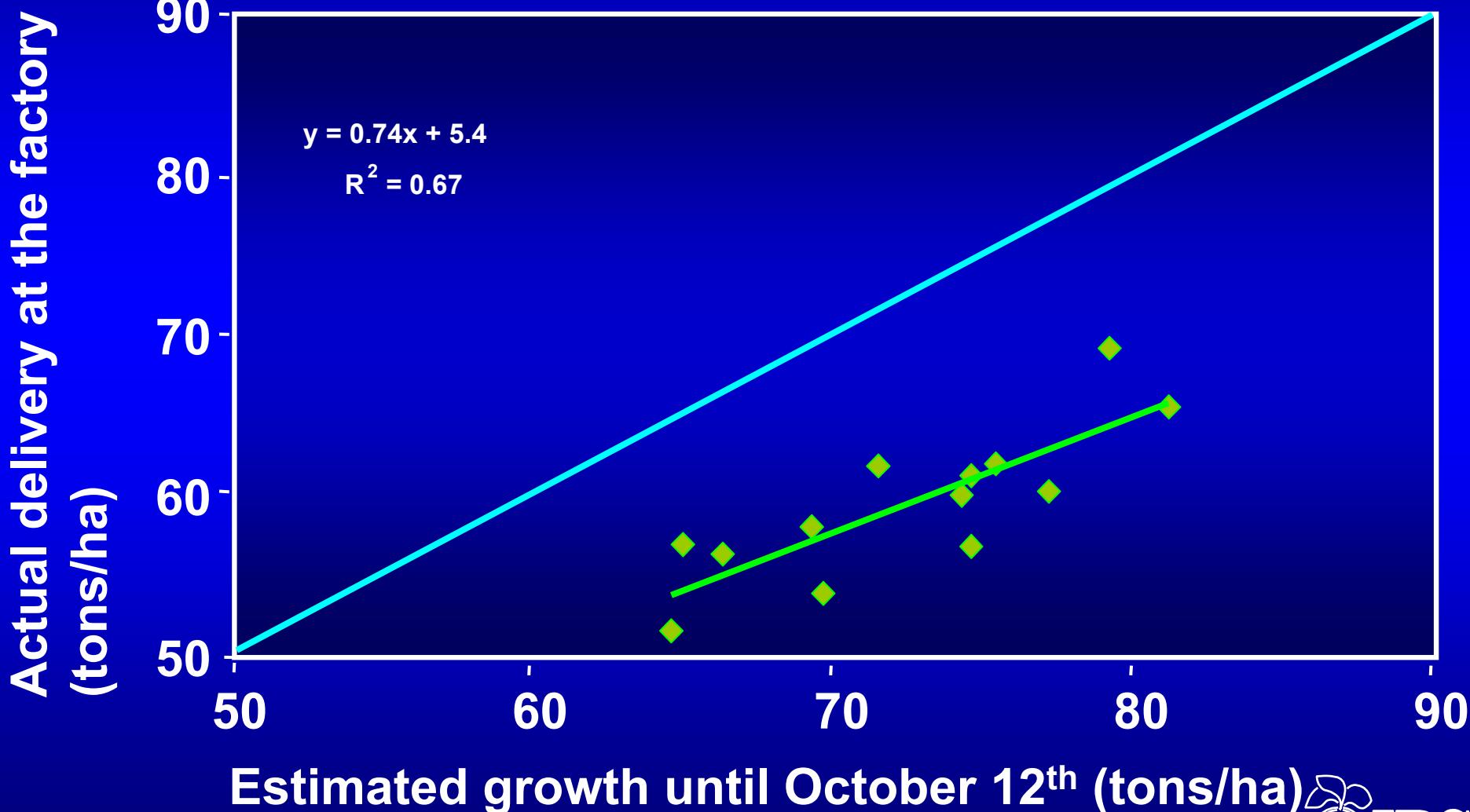
- ✿ use of varieties with high sugar content
- ✿ use of resistant varieties with lower yield potential

# Moisture



# Harvest losses

Estimated growth and final harvest 1990-2002



# Not included in *SUMO*

- ✿ pests and diseases
- ✿ soil structure
- ✿ fertilization
- ✿ resistant varieties
- ✿ extreme weather conditions

These are partly covered by overall regressions over the years.

# Mid-August sugar yield predictions (tons/ha)

Year	prediction		realized yield	difference prediction - realised	
	SUMO	sampling		SUMO	sampling
average 1989-1995	9.6	9.8	9.6	0.4	0.4
1996	9.1		9.3	0.2	
1997	9.6		9.5	0.1	
1998	9.1		8.0	1.1	
1999	9.4		9.8	0.4	
2000	10.0		9.8	0.2	
2001	9.0		9.1	0.1	
2002	10.1		9.6	0.5	
average 1996-2002	9.5		9.3	0.4	

- forecast *SUMO* or sampling  
→ same precision
- SUMO*: input required is minimal
- extreme conditions or diseases  
are not included