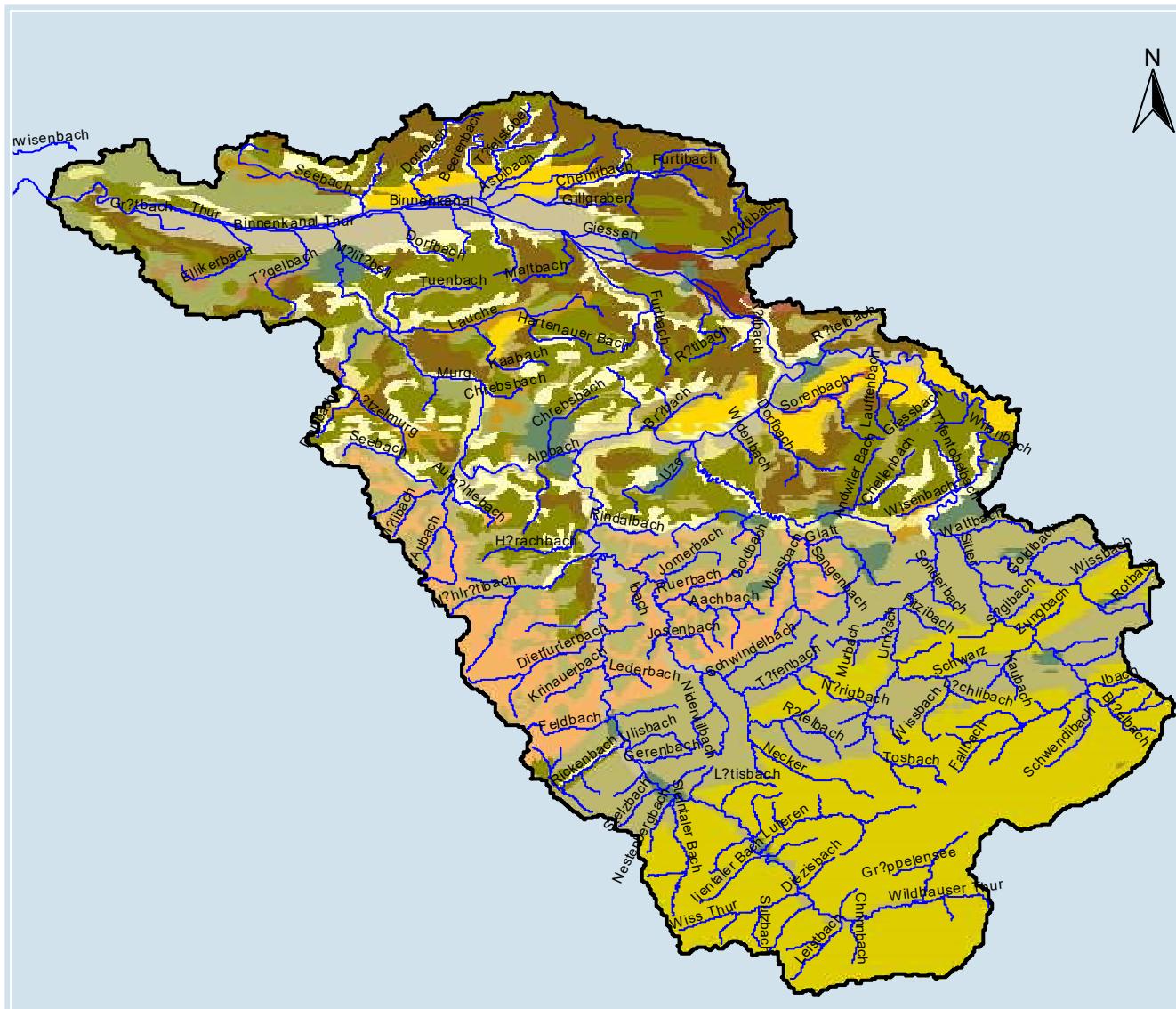


# Calibration and Uncertainty Issues

abbaspour@eawag.ch  
India January 2018

# Calibration Issues...

- Parameterization (regionalization of parameters)  
*(most important, difficult, and neglected aspect of calibration)*



# Calibration Issues...

- Objective function definition

*(most surprising aspect of calibration)*

$$R^2 = \frac{\left[ \sum_i (Q_{m,i} - \bar{Q}_m)(Q_{s,i} - \bar{Q}_s) \right]^2}{\sum_i (Q_{m,i} - \bar{Q}_m)^2 \sum_i (Q_{s,i} - \bar{Q}_s)^2}$$

$$SSQR = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n [Q_{i,m} - Q_{i,s}]^2$$

$$g = w_1 \sum_{i=1}^{n_1} (Q_m - Q_s)_i^2 + w_2 \sum_{i=1}^{n_2} (S_m - S_s)_i^2 + w_3 \sum_{i=1}^{n_3} (N_m - N_s)_i^2 + \dots$$

$$KGE = 1 - \sqrt{(r-1)^2 + (\alpha-1)^2 + (\beta-1)^2}$$

$$PBIAS = 100 * \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (Q_m - Q_s)_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n Q_{m,i}}$$

$$NS = 1 - \frac{\sum_i (Q_m - Q_s)_i^2}{\sum_i (Q_{m,i} - \bar{Q}_m)^2}$$

$$\chi^2 = \frac{\sum_i (Q_m - Q_s)_i^2}{\sigma_m^2}$$

$$MNS = 1 - \frac{\sum_i |Q_m - Q_s|_i^p}{\sum_i |Q_{m,i} - \bar{Q}_m|_i^p}$$

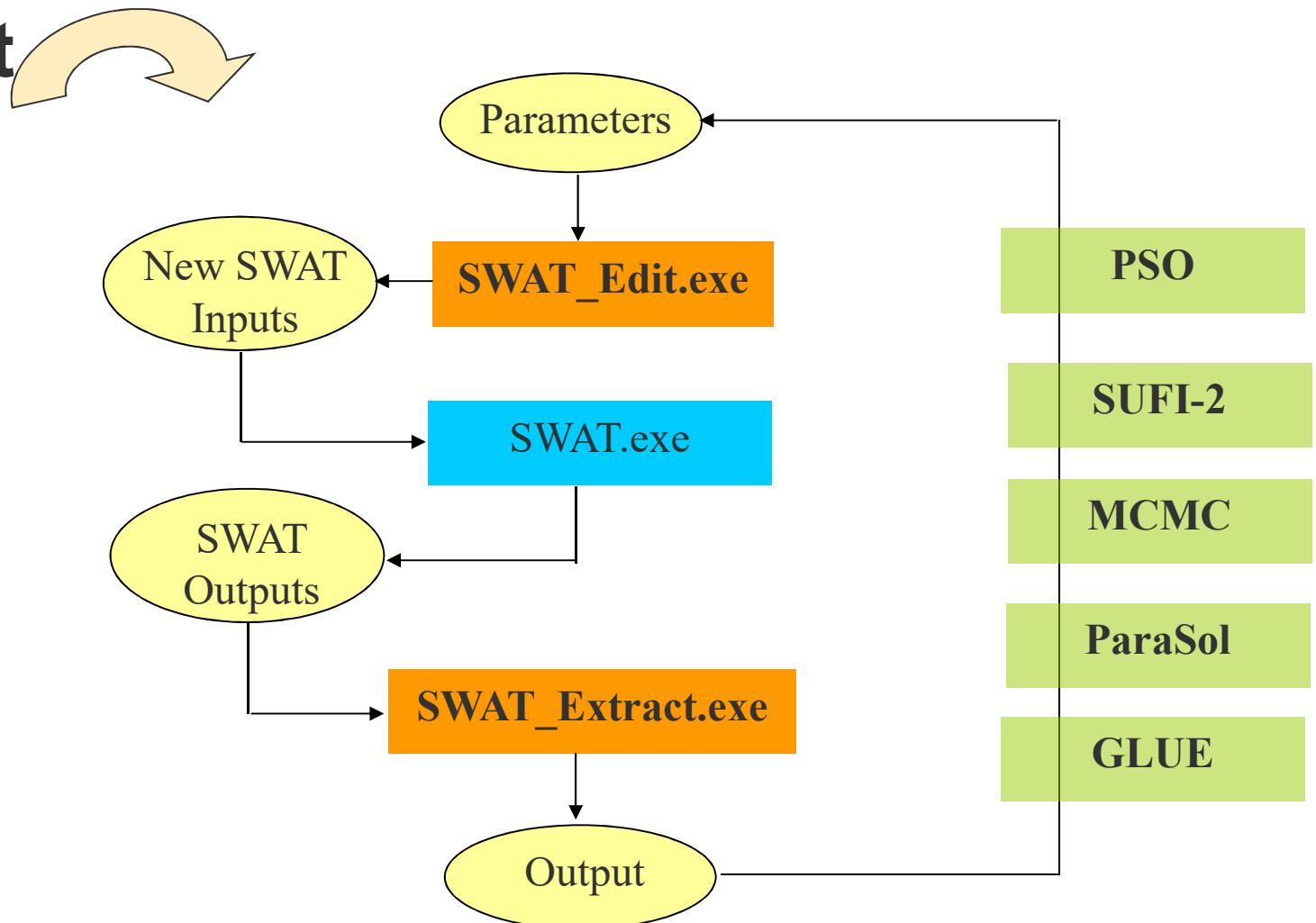
$$f_{\mathbf{y}^M | \boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{y} | \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{1}{\sigma} \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2} \frac{[g(y_{t_0}) - g(y_{t_0}^M(\boldsymbol{\theta}))]^2}{\sigma^2} \right) \cdot \left| \frac{dg}{dy} \right|_{y=y_{t_0}} \left[ \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{1}{\sigma \sqrt{1 - \exp \left( -2 \frac{t_i - t_{i-1}}{\tau} \right)}} \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2} \frac{[g(y_{t_{i-1}}) - g(y_{t_i}^M(\boldsymbol{\theta}))] \exp \left( -\frac{t_i - t_{i-1}}{\tau} \right)}{\sigma^2 \left( 1 - \exp \left( -2 \frac{t_i - t_{i-1}}{\tau} \right) \right)} \right) \cdot \left| \frac{dg}{dy} \right|_{y=y_{t_i}} \right]$$

# Calibration issues

- Optimization algorithm

*(most confusing aspect of calibration)*

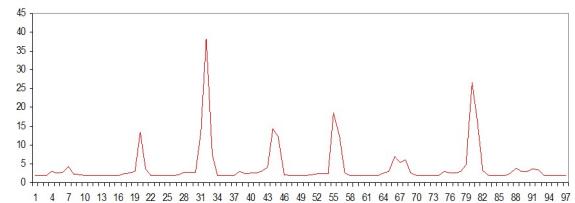
**TxtInOut**



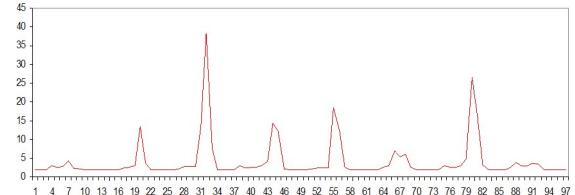
# Calibration issues

- Non-uniqueness (Uncertainty)  
*(most difficult part to quantify and to communicate)*

## Deterministic Modelling:



## Calibration (Stochastic Process):



# Calibration issues

- Conditionality of calibrated models

*(most disappointing aspect of calibration)*

(B)

- watershed parameterization
- type of the objective function
- weights used in the objective function
- conceptual model (model structure)
- experimental procedure (to collect the calibrating data)
- input data used
- objective function
- data used to calibrate
- .....

# Calibration issues

- Time constraint  
*(makes some projects impossible to calibrate)*

## Important points about calibration

- Non-unique
- It is not an exact science (subjective)
- It is conditional (limited use)
- It is still a research issue...

*Editorial*

# A Guideline for Successful Calibration and Uncertainty Analysis for Soil and Water Assessment: A Review of Papers from the 2016 International SWAT Conference

Karim C. Abbaspour <sup>1,\*</sup> , Saeid Ashraf Vaghefi <sup>1</sup> and Raghvan Srinivasan <sup>2</sup>



*water*



*Article*

# Assessing the Uncertainty of Multiple Input Datasets in the Prediction of Water Resource Components

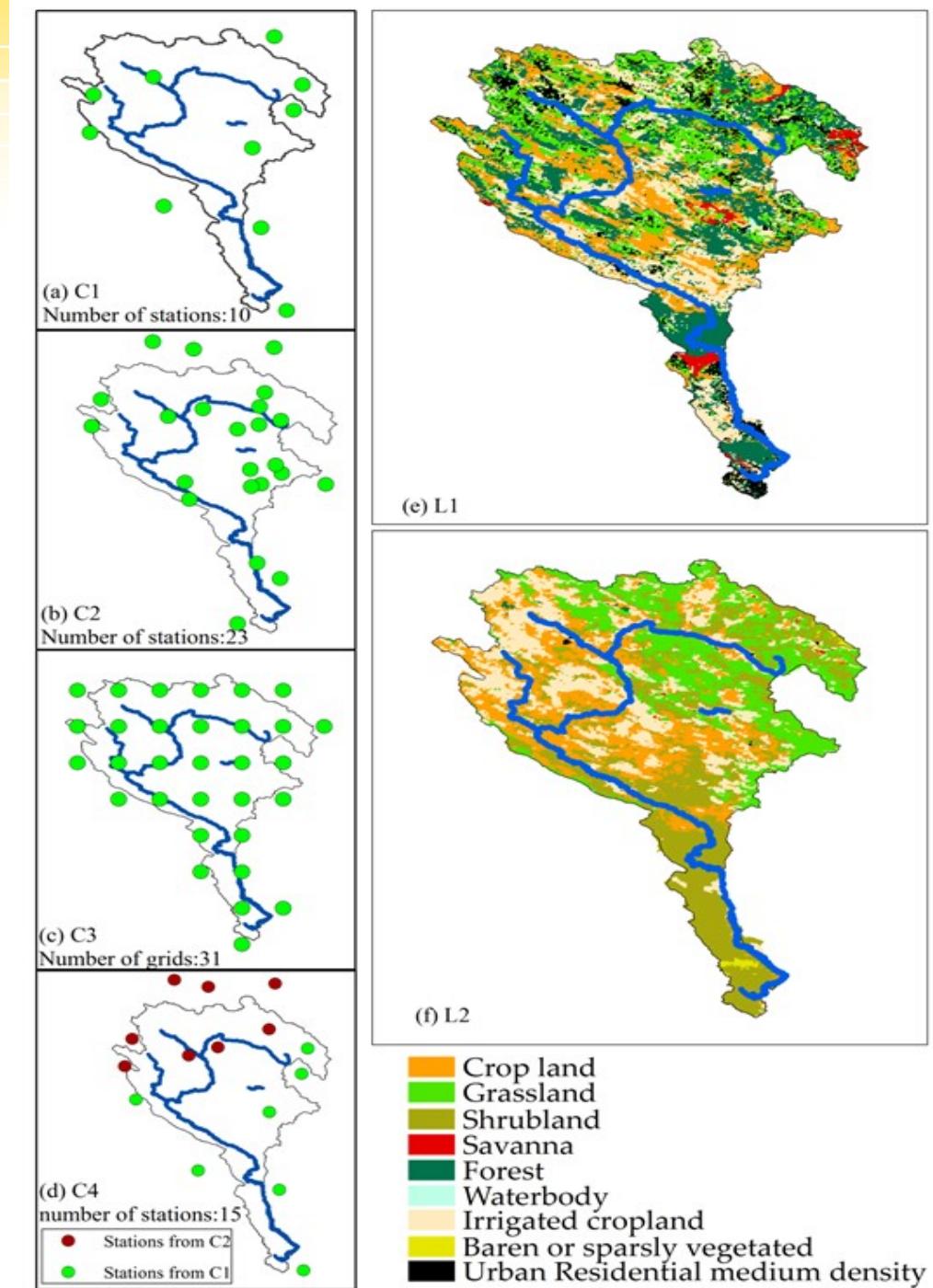
Bahareh Kamali <sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Karim C. Abbaspour <sup>1</sup> and Hong Yang <sup>1,3</sup>

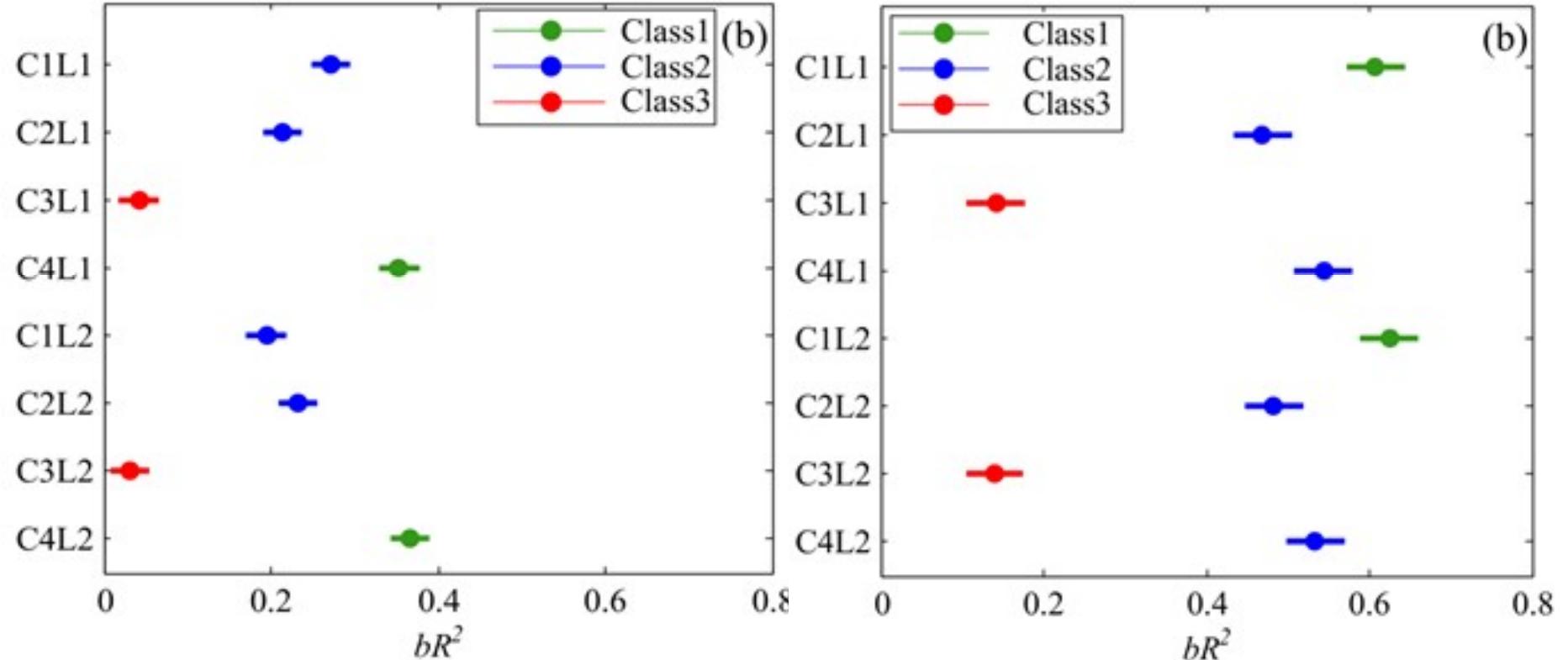
**Table 1**

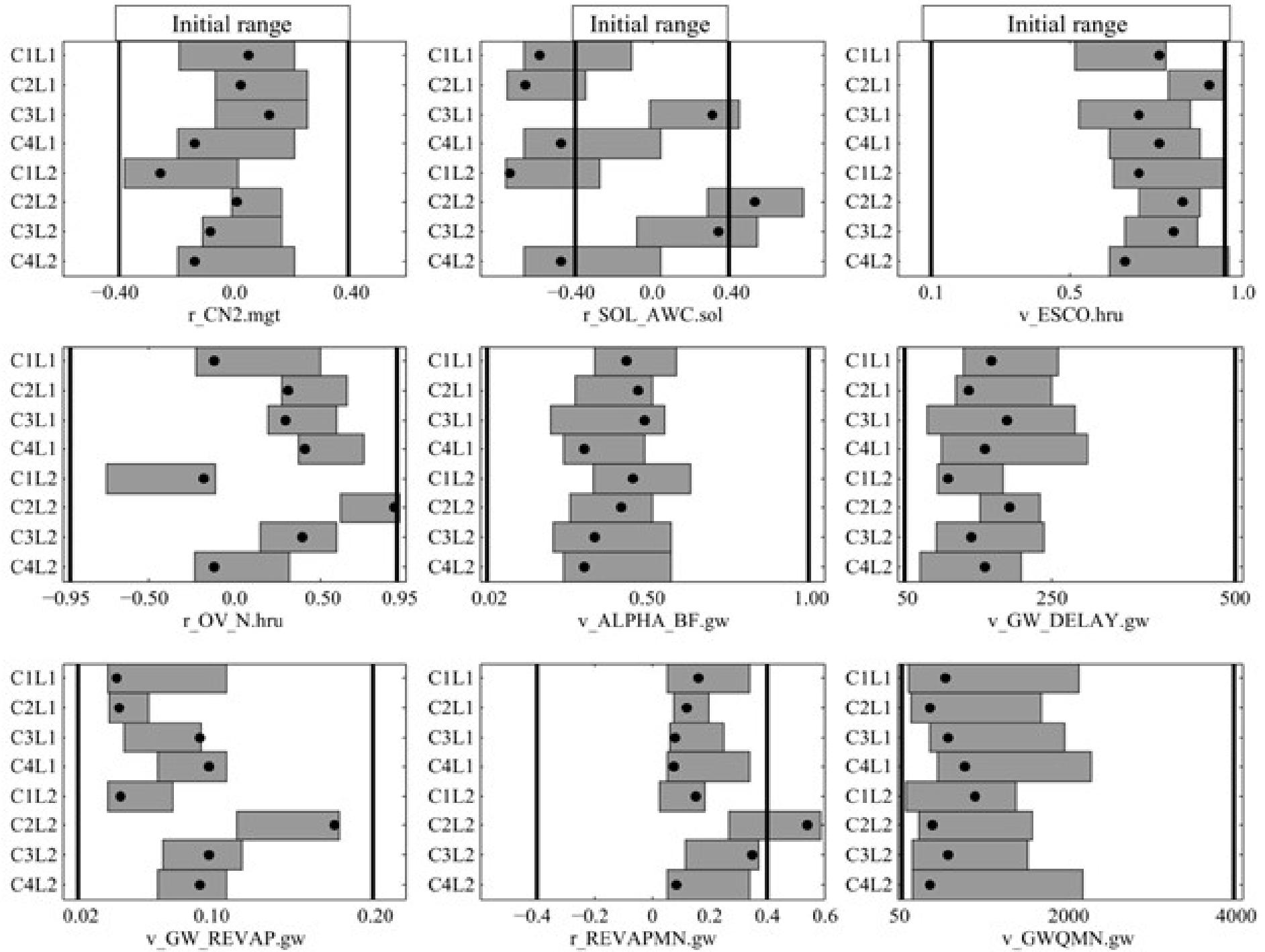
Data description and sources used in the European SWAT project.

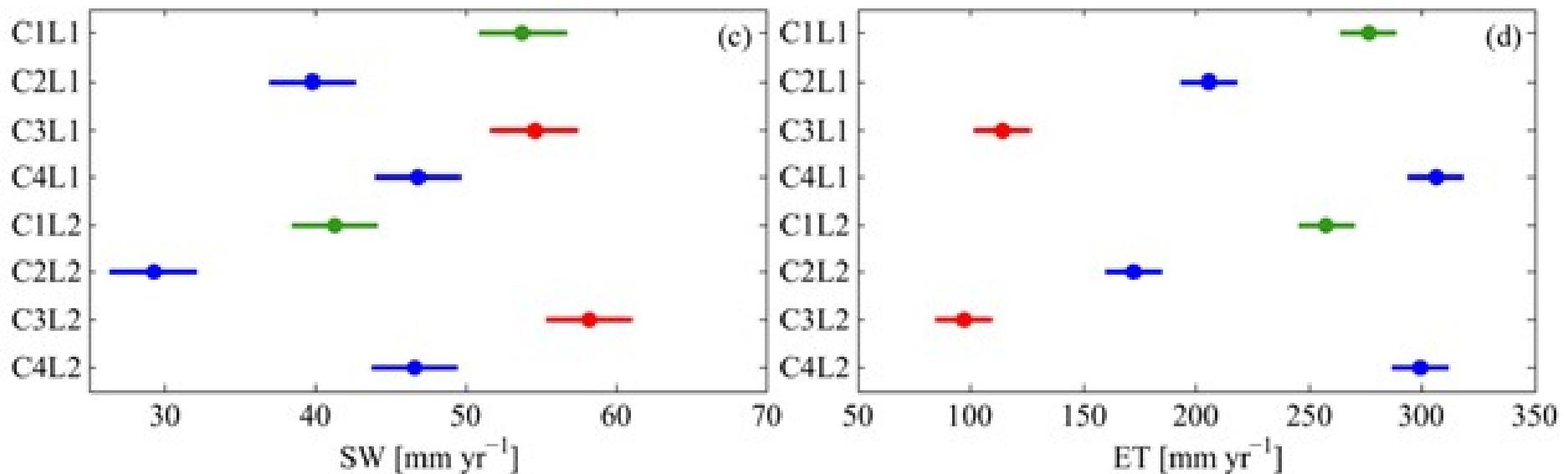
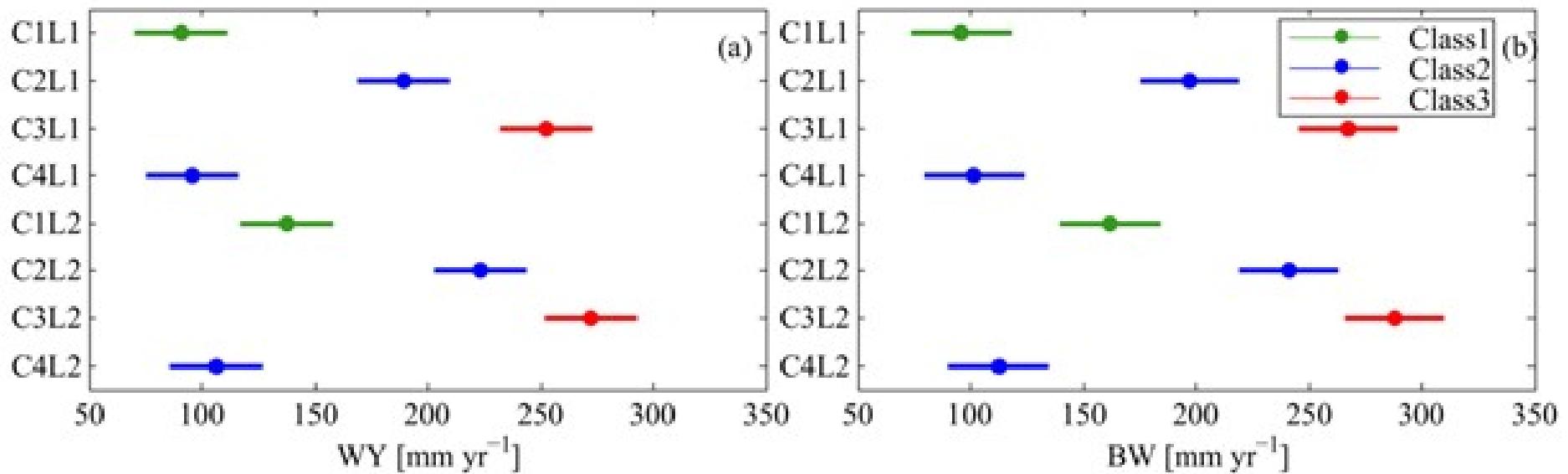
Data type	Resolution	Source
Soil	10 km	- FAO-UNESCO global soil map <a href="http://www.fao.org/nr/land/soils/digital-soil-map-of-the-world/en/">http://www.fao.org/nr/land/soils/digital-soil-map-of-the-world/en/</a>
	5 km	- European Soil Data Base (Eu DASM) <a href="https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/resource-type/national-soil-maps-eudasm">https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/resource-type/national-soil-maps-eudasm</a>
Landuse	-300 m	- GlobCover European Space Agency <a href="http://due.esrin.esa.int/globcover/">http://due.esrin.esa.int/globcover/</a>
	-1000 m	- Global Landuse/Land Cover Characterization USGS <a href="http://landcover.usgs.gov/glcc/">http://landcover.usgs.gov/glcc/</a>
	-500 m	- MODIS land cover <a href="http://modis-land.gsfc.nasa.gov/">http://modis-land.gsfc.nasa.gov/</a>
	-300 m	- GlobCorine provided by European Space Agency <a href="http://www.esa.int/About_Us/ESRIN/Express_map_delivery_from_space">http://www.esa.int/About_Us/ESRIN/Express_map_delivery_from_space</a>
Climate	- Observed	- National Climate Data Center (NCDC), <a href="http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/">http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/</a>
	- 0.25° grid	- European Climate Assessment Dataset (ECAD), ( <a href="http://www.ecad.eu/">http://www.ecad.eu/</a> )
	- 0.5° grid	- Climate Research Unit (CRU), <a href="http://www.cru.uea.ac.uk/">http://www.cru.uea.ac.uk/</a>
	- 1° grid	- Climate Data Guide (NCAR), <a href="https://climatedataguide.ucar.edu/">https://climatedataguide.ucar.edu/</a>
Crop yield	wheat, maize, barley	McGill University <a href="http://www.geog.mcgill.ca/landuse/pub/Data/175crops2000/NetCDF/">http://www.geog.mcgill.ca/landuse/pub/Data/175crops2000/NetCDF/</a> FAOSTA - Country-based average crop yield
Agricultural management and water resources	Planting, harvesting, fertilization -Blue water	- FAOSTAT <a href="http://faostat.fao.org/site/339/default.aspx">http://faostat.fao.org/site/339/default.aspx</a> - AQUASTAT, FAO <a href="http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/water_res/index.stm">http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/water_res/index.stm</a>
Point Source Pollution		- Eurostat <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/environmental-data-centre-on-natural-resources/natural-resources/water/water-as-sink-for-emissions">http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/environmental-data-centre-on-natural-resources/natural-resources/water/water-as-sink-for-emissions</a> National Data Basis

# Karkheh River Basin, Iran











Article

# Sensitivity of Calibrated Parameters and Water Resource Estimates on Different Objective Functions and Optimization Algorithms

Delaram Houshmand Kouchi <sup>1</sup>, Kazem Esmaili <sup>1,\*</sup>, Alireza Faridhosseini <sup>1</sup>,  
Seyed Hossein Sanaeinejad <sup>1</sup>, Davar Khalili <sup>2</sup> and Karim C. Abbaspour <sup>3</sup>

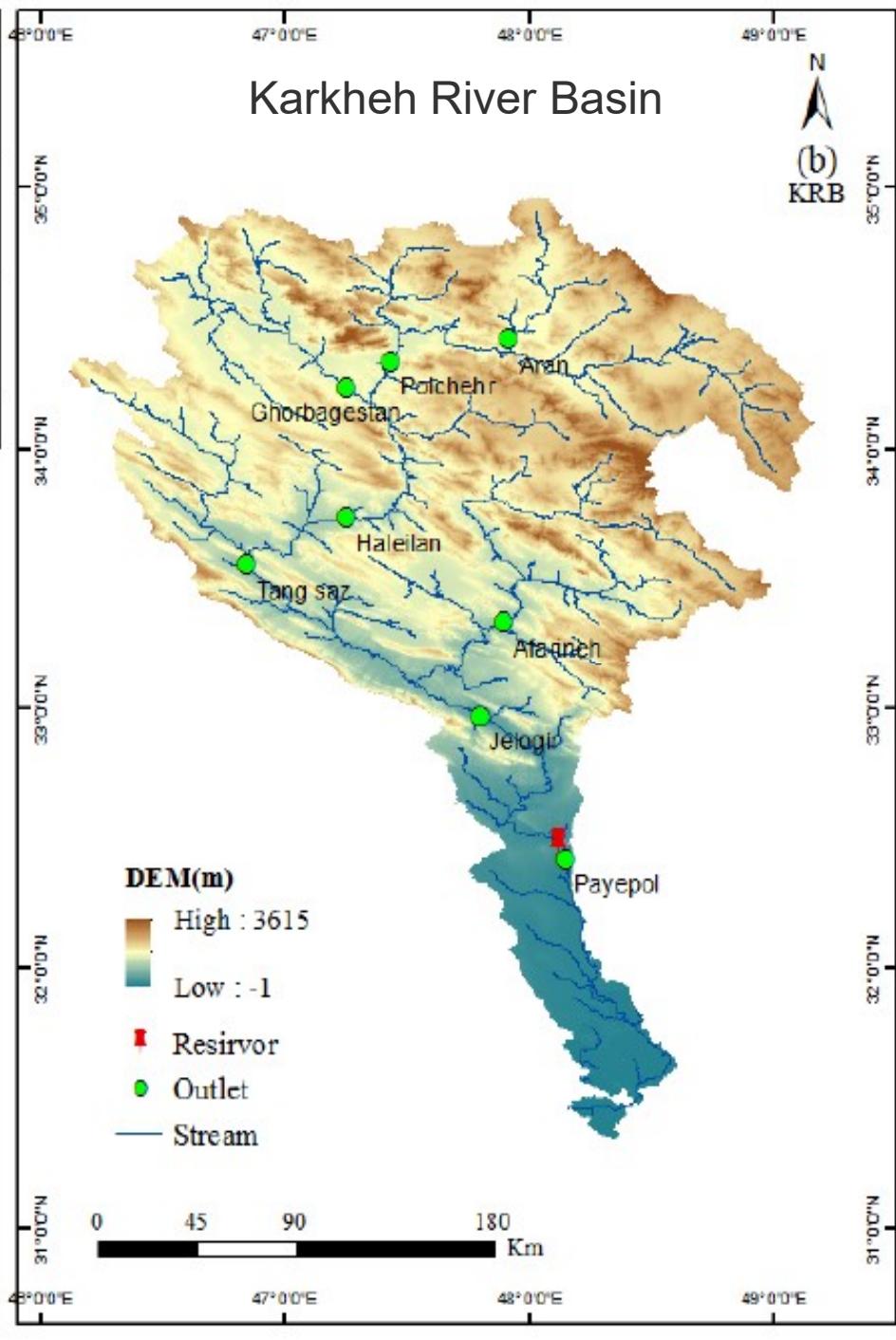
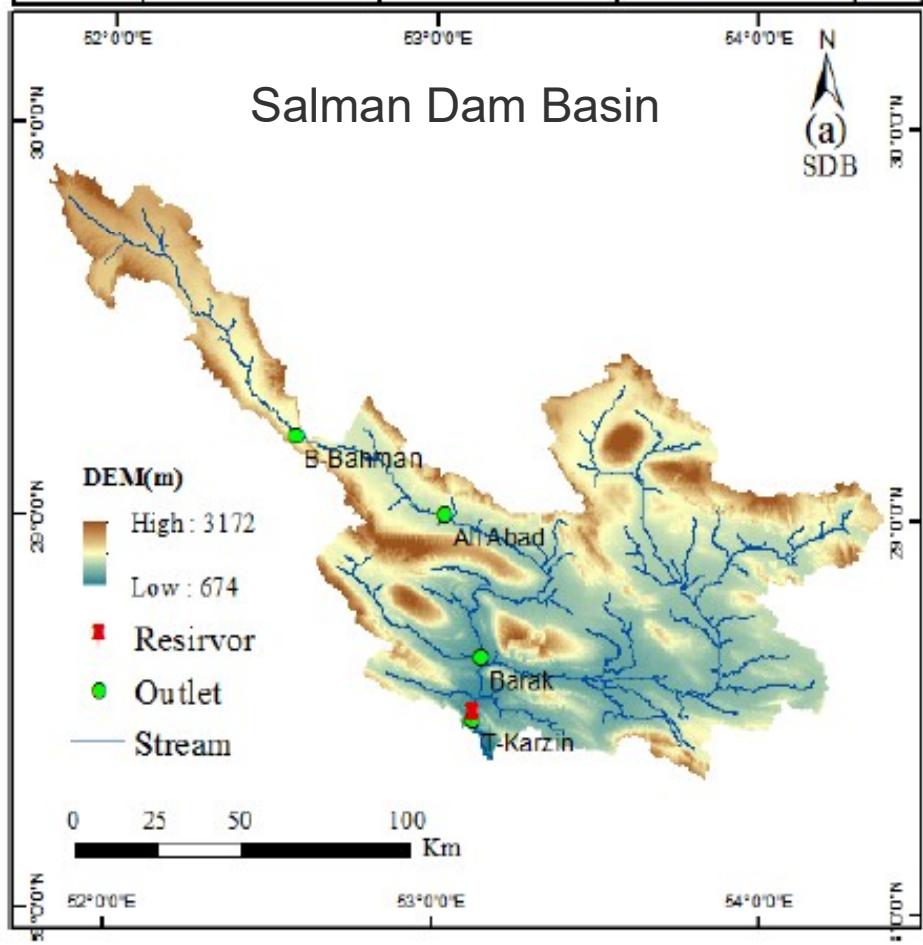
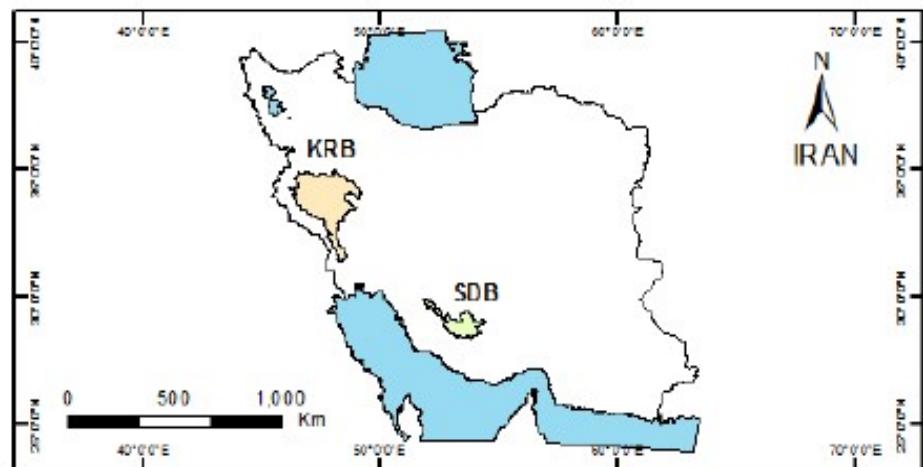
**Table 1.** Formulation of the objective functions.

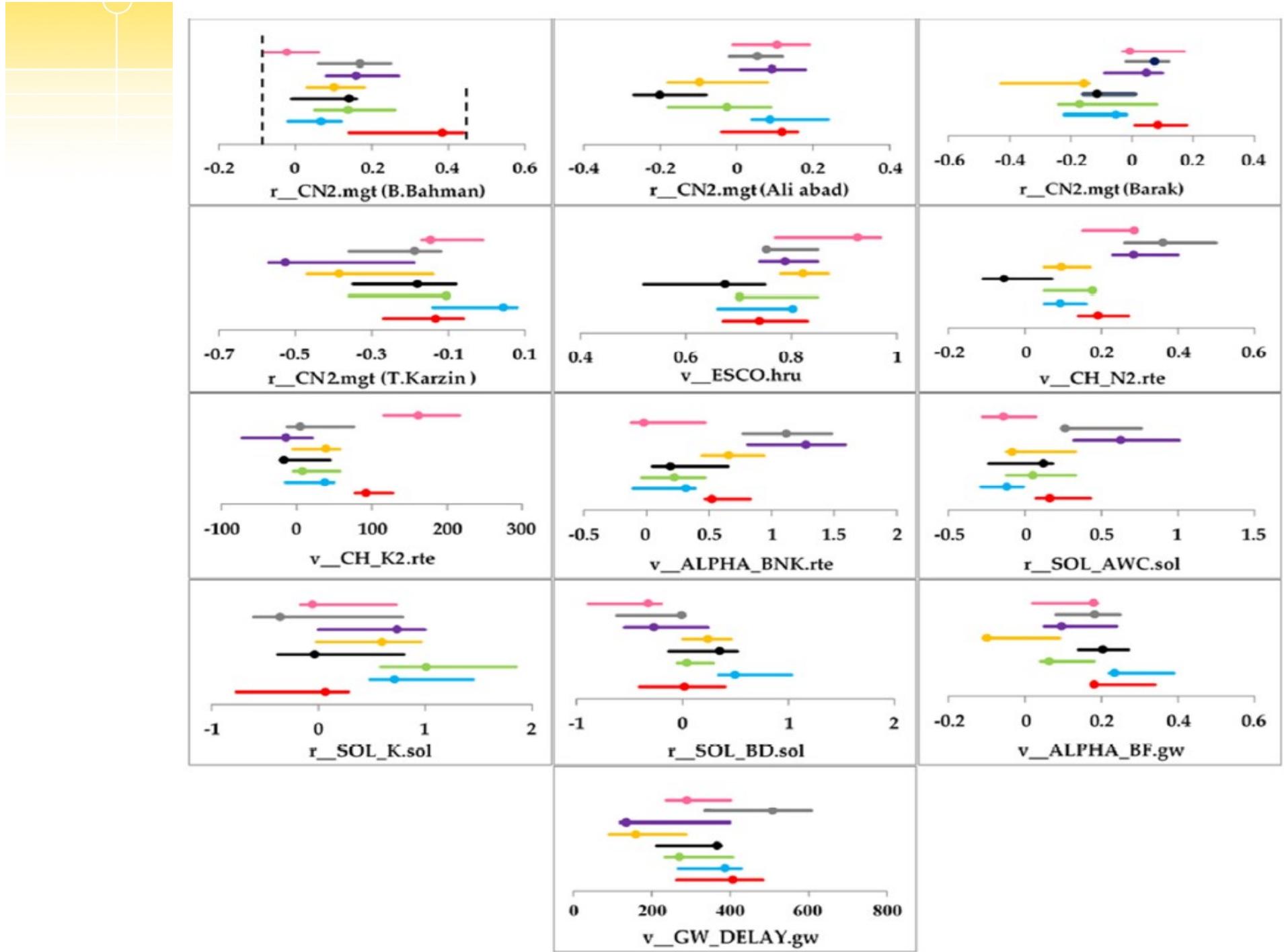
Objective Function	Reference	Formulation *
Modified Coefficient of determination ( $bR^2$ )	[26]	$bR^2 = \begin{cases}  b  \cdot R^2 & \text{for } b \leq 1 \\  b ^{-1} \cdot R^2 & \text{for } b > 1 \end{cases}$
Coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ )	-	$R^2 = \frac{[\sum_i (Q_{i,o} - \bar{Q}_o)(Q_{i,s} - \bar{Q}_s)]^2}{\sum_i (Q_{i,o} - \bar{Q}_o)^2 \sum_i (Q_{i,s} - \bar{Q}_s)^2}$
Nash-Sutcliffe efficiency ( $NSE$ )	[14]	$NSE = 1 - \left[ \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (Q_{i,o} - Q_{i,s})^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (Q_{i,o} - \bar{Q}_o)^2} \right]$
Modified Nash- Sutcliffe efficiency ( $MNS$ )	[26]	$MNS = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n  Q_{i,o} - Q_{i,s} ^j}{\sum_{i=1}^n  Q_{i,o} - \bar{Q}_o ^j}$ with $j \in N$
Ratio of standard deviation of observations to root mean square error ( $RSR$ )	[15]	$RSR = \frac{RMSE}{STDEV_o} = \frac{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (Q_{i,o} - Q_{i,s})^2}}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (Q_{i,o} - Q_m)^2}}$
Ranked sum of squares ( $SSQR$ )	[27]	$SSQR = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1,n} [Q_{i,o} - Q_{i,s}]^2$
Kling-Gupta efficiency ( $KGE$ )	[16]	$KGE = 1 - \sqrt{(R - 1)^2 + (\alpha - 1)^2 + (\beta - 1)^2}$
Percent bias ( $PBIAS$ )	[28]	$PBIAS = 100 * \left[ \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (Q_{i,o} - Q_{i,s})}{\sum_{i=1}^n Q_{i,o}} \right]$

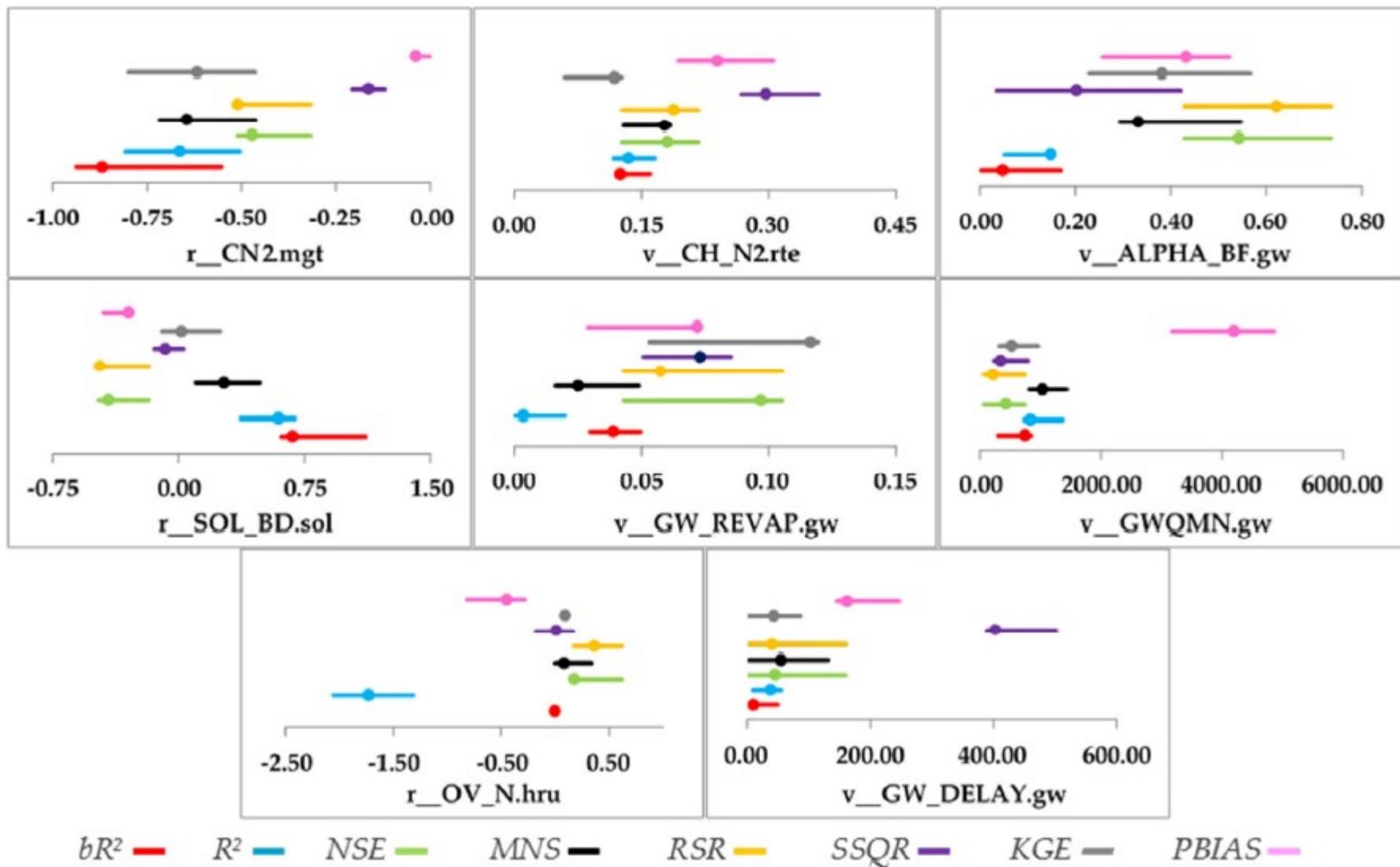
SUFI-2, Abbaspour et al., 2004, 2007

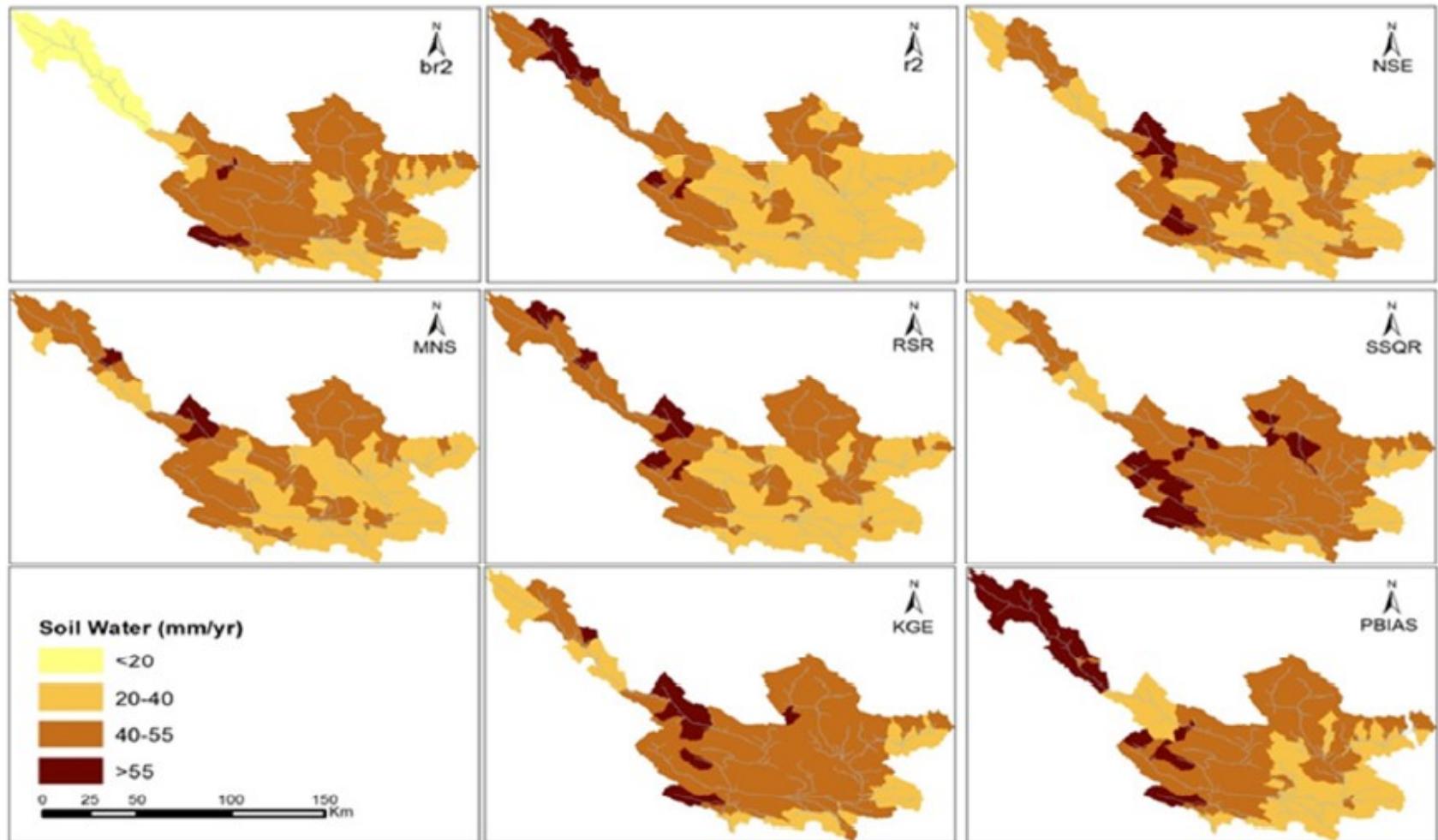
GLUE, Beven et al., 1992

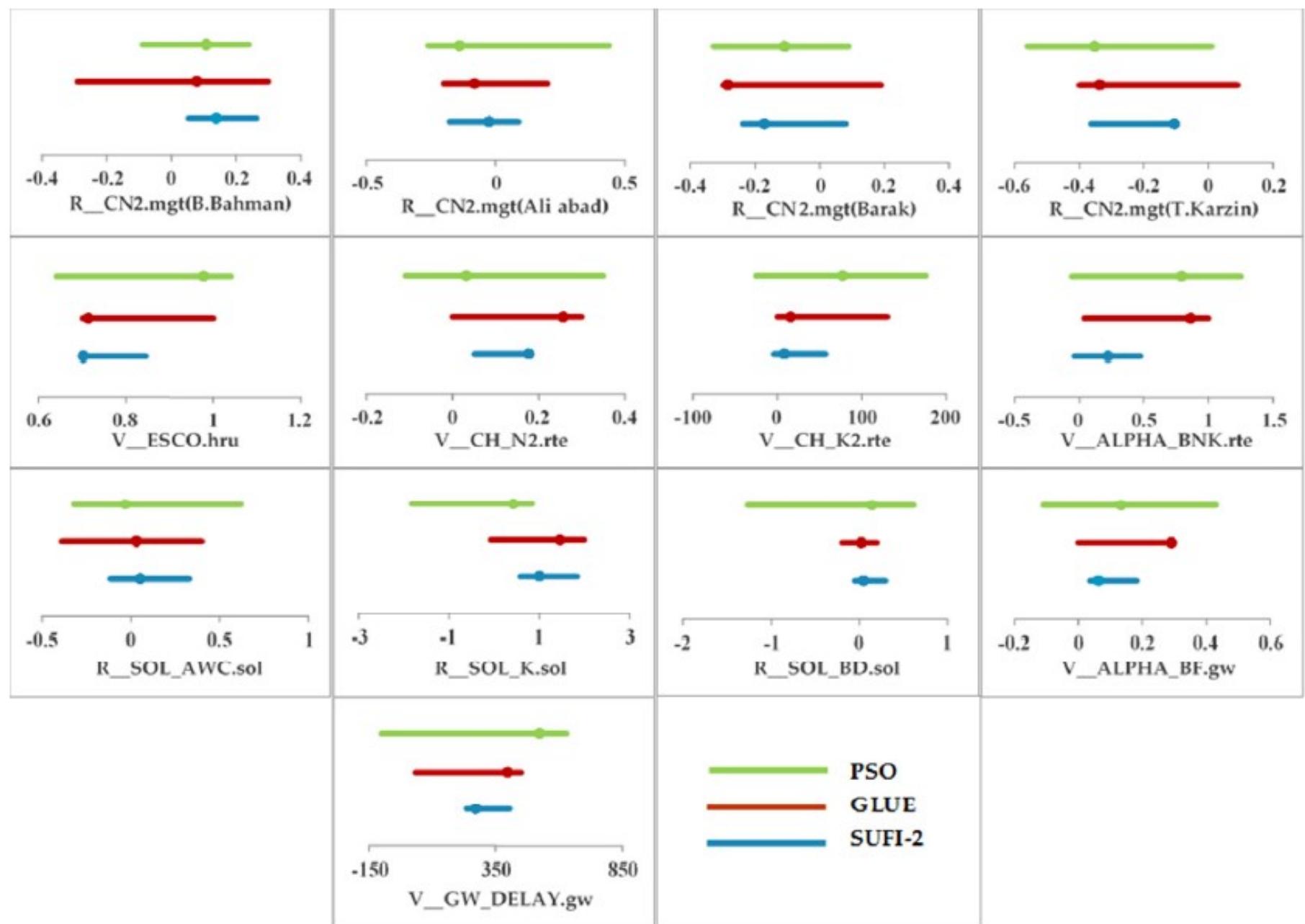
PSO, Eberhart et al., 1995











# Conclusion

Scientific community needs to pay  
more attention to calibration issues