

AGRIROSEL AND CARMA 2025

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ESA ESTEC



Test Site Puch, South-Germany

Motivation

- Simulate ROSE-L and Sentinel-NG data over a diversity of crops
- Observe a crop cycle every 6 days
- Collect data for selected times every 3 days
- Observe the structural change over a diversity of crops
- Collect ground measurements surface soil moisture data and vegetation parameters

DLR

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Google Earth

Test Site Puch, South-Germany



Image © 2025 Airbus

Google Earth

Test Site Puch, South-Germany

L-Band Acquisition
Pauli 25cropex1803

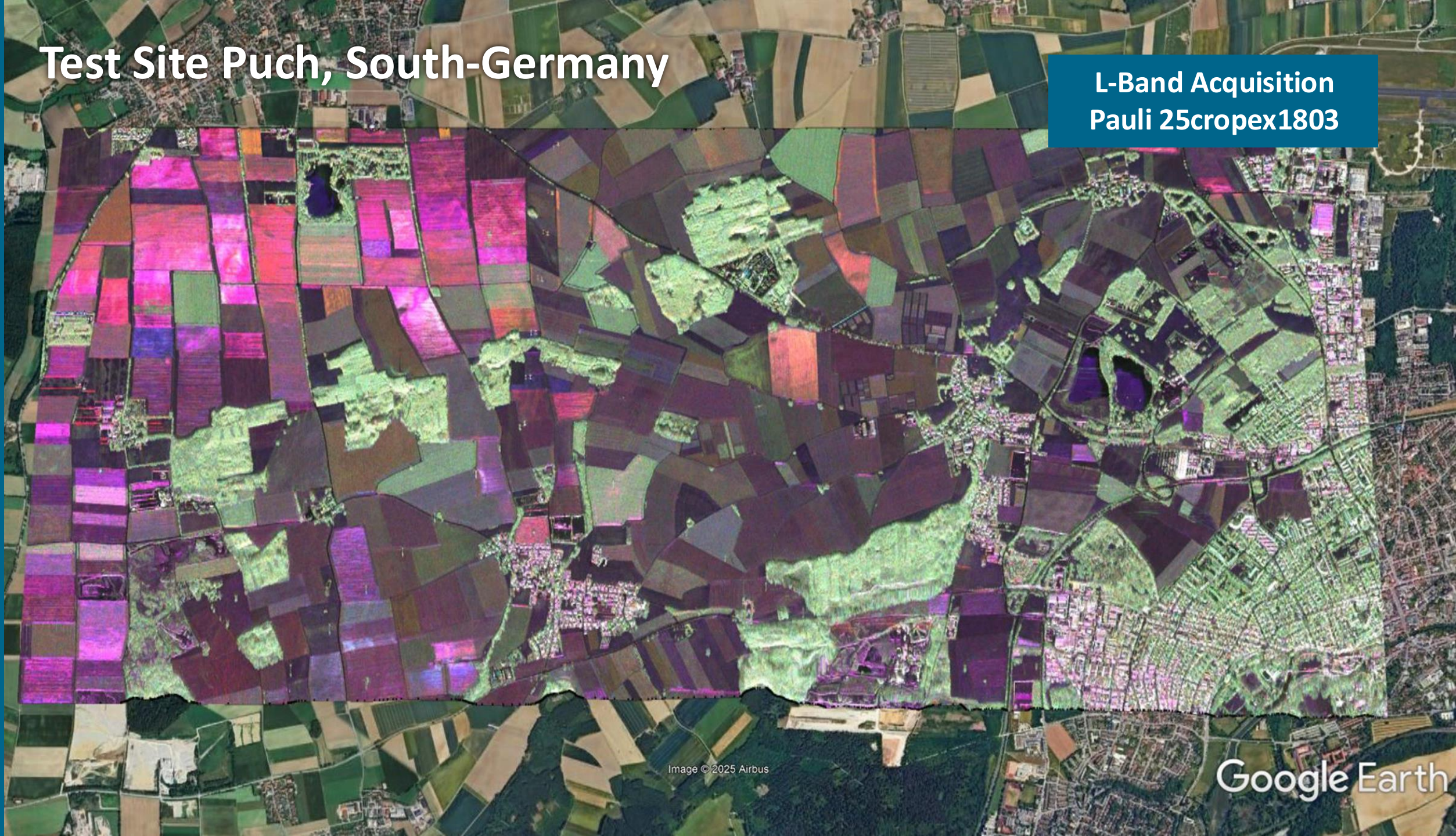


Image © 2025 Airbus

Google Earth

Test Site Puch, South-Germany

L-Band Acquisition
Pauli 25cropex1803

Test Fields
Puch

Rapeseed (w)

Barley (w)

Potatoes (w)

Corn (w)

Oat (Bio)

Corn

Wheat (w)

Wheat (w)

Tricitale (w)

Rye (w)

Test Fields
Eitelsried

Corn (Bio)

Alfalfa (Bio)

Spelt (Bio)

Image © 2025 Airbus

Google Earth

Target Variables

Optical Campaign

Leaf-Area-Index (LAI)
 Average Leaf Inclination Angle (ALIA)
 Leaf Mass Area (LMA)
 Leaf Chlorophyll Content (Cab)
 Aboveground dry biomass (leaf)
 Aboveground dry biomass (stem)
 Aboveground dry biomass (fruit)
 Aboveground dry biomass (total)
 Canopy Water Content (CWC, leaf)
 Canopy Water Content (CWC, stem)
 Canopy Water Content (CWC, fruit)
 Canopy Water Content (CWC, total aboveground)
 Phenology
 Average Canopy Height
 Spectral signature
 Vertical photograph
 Canopy Nitrogen Content (CNC, leaf)
 Canopy Nitrogen Content (CNC, stem)
 Canopy Nitrogen Content (CNC, fruit)
 Canopy Carbon Content (CCC, leaf)
 Canopy Carbon Content (CCC, stem)
 Canopy Carbon Content (CCC, fruit)
 (Bot.) Rating
 Fractional Cover (fCover)
 Soil Organic Carbon Content (SOC)

Radar Campaign

Leaf-Area-Index (LAI)
 Aboveground dry biomass (total)
 Canopy Water Content (CWC, total aboveground)
 Phenology
 Average Canopy Height
 Vertical photograph
 (Bot.) Rating
 Soil moisture toplayer
 Soil moisture at 10 cm depth
 Surface Roughness
 Observation of external wetting (intercepted water, dew, rain etc.)
 Fractional Cover (fCover)
 LiDAR, DSM, DEM

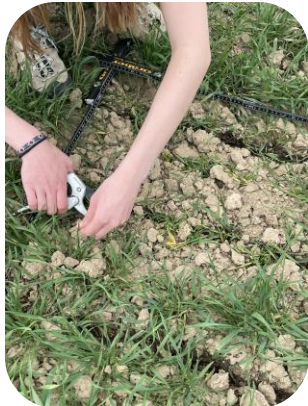
Sampling Strategy



● Vegetation
sample points

● Narrow Grid
– Soil Moisture

Sampling Protocoll



Measurement report

Campaign name: CARMA

Field-ID: 1 (Wintergerste)

Date:

Operating persons:

Weather conditions:

Sky cover: / 8

Begin/:

End time:

Remarks:

Pictures:

- Row-oriented
- From above (sensor view)
- North to South
- Overview picture



Protokoll geprüft:

Messwerte geprüft:

Digitalisiert:

Digitalisierung geprüft:

ESU: 1.1

Time:

Picture number(s):

Phenology:

LMA bag:

Estimated share of brown leaf area per layer: [%] upper layer [%] lower layer

ALIA (Average leaf inclination angle)

Top:

Mid:

Bottom:

LAI (Leaf Area Index)

last value:

SEL:

file name:

LIDF: tick box below



Crop height [cm]:

Biomass (0.25 m²):

Leaf Chlorophyll (SPAD):

Row distance [cm]:

Plants p. [m]:

Row incl. angle [°]:

(Bot.) Rating

External wetting

No ☐ little ☐ much ☐

Description:



Crop height [cm]:

Biomass (0.25 m²):

Leaf Chlorophyll (SPAD):

Row distance [cm]:

Plants p. [m]:

Row incl. angle [°]:

(Bot.) Rating

External wetting

No ☐ little ☐ much ☐

Description:

Measurement report

Campaign name: CARMA

Field-ID: 1 (Wintergerste)

Date:

Operating persons:

Weather conditions:

Sky cover: / 8

Begin/:

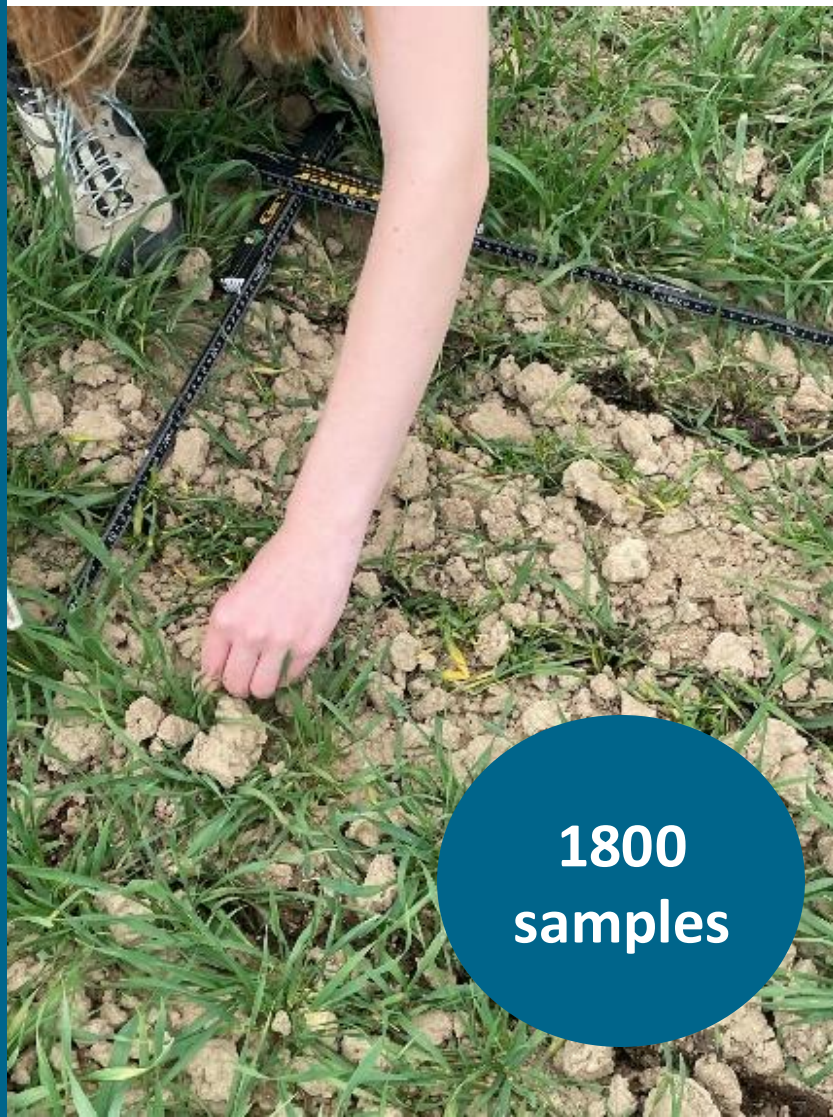
End time:

Soil moisture

ESU	GPS	Time	Value #1	Value #2	Value #3	Value #4	Value #5
1.1							
1.2							
1.3							
1.4							
1.5							
1.6							
1.7							
1.8							
1.9							
1.10							
1.11							
1.12							
1.13							
1.14							
1.15							
1.16							

LMU Drone & Lab Work

Lidar Drone

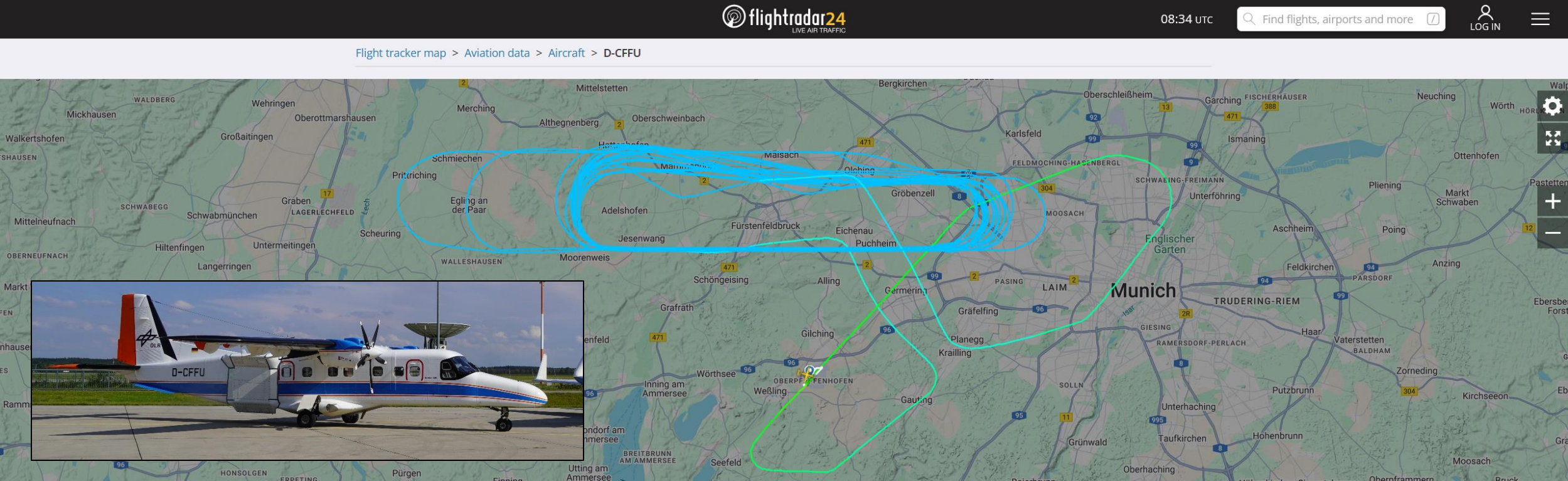
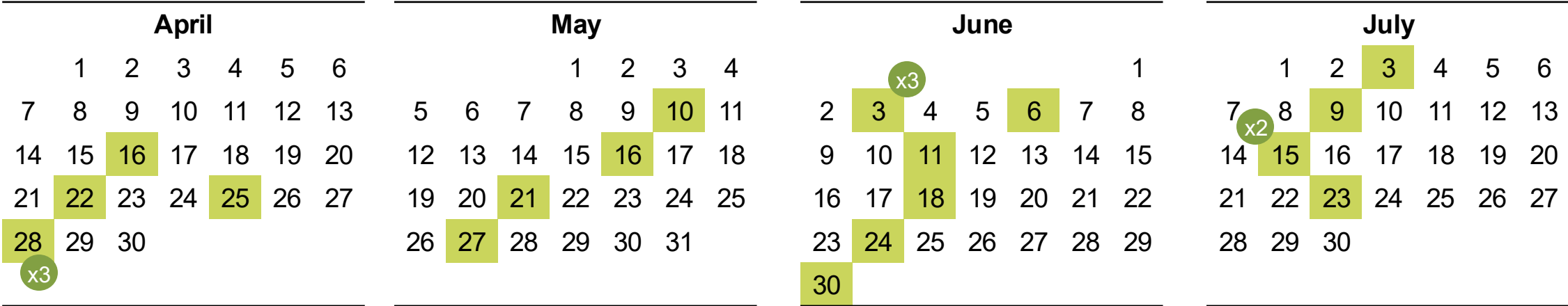


1800
samples

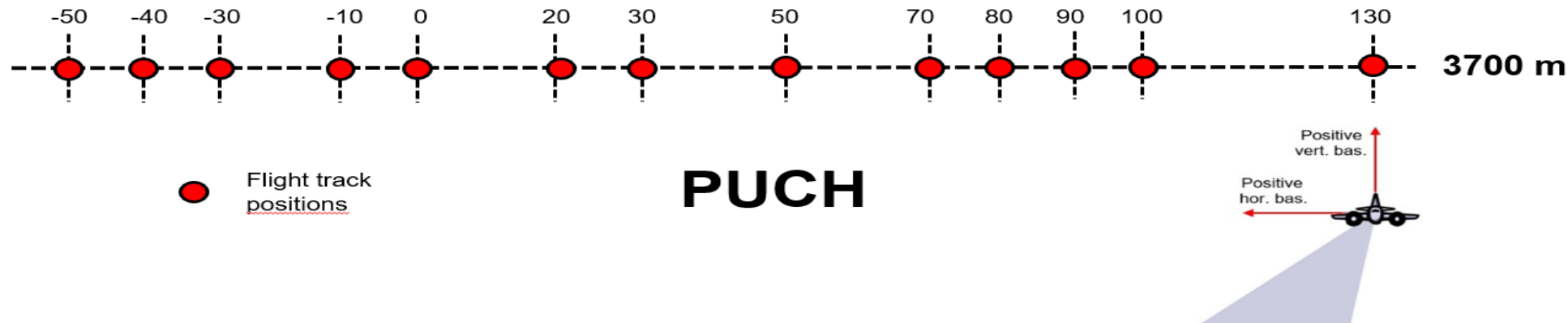


Stem
Leaf
Fruit

F-SAR Collected Data over 4 Months



F-SAR TomoSAR Configuration



Horizontal BL [m]	-50	-40	-30	-10	0	20	30	50	70	80	90	100	130
Vertical BL [m]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Freq.	L C	L C	L C	L C	L C	L C	L C	L C	L C	L	L	L	L

		Near	Mid	Far	Baselines
Incidence angle		25°	40°	55°	
L-Band	Height amb.	21.55	45.88	104.29	-50 – 130
	Vert. res.	1.2	2.55	5.79	
C-Band	Height amb.	5.39	11.47	25.07	-50 – 70
	Vert. res.	0.45	0.96	2.17	

Airborne Imaging Spectrometer:

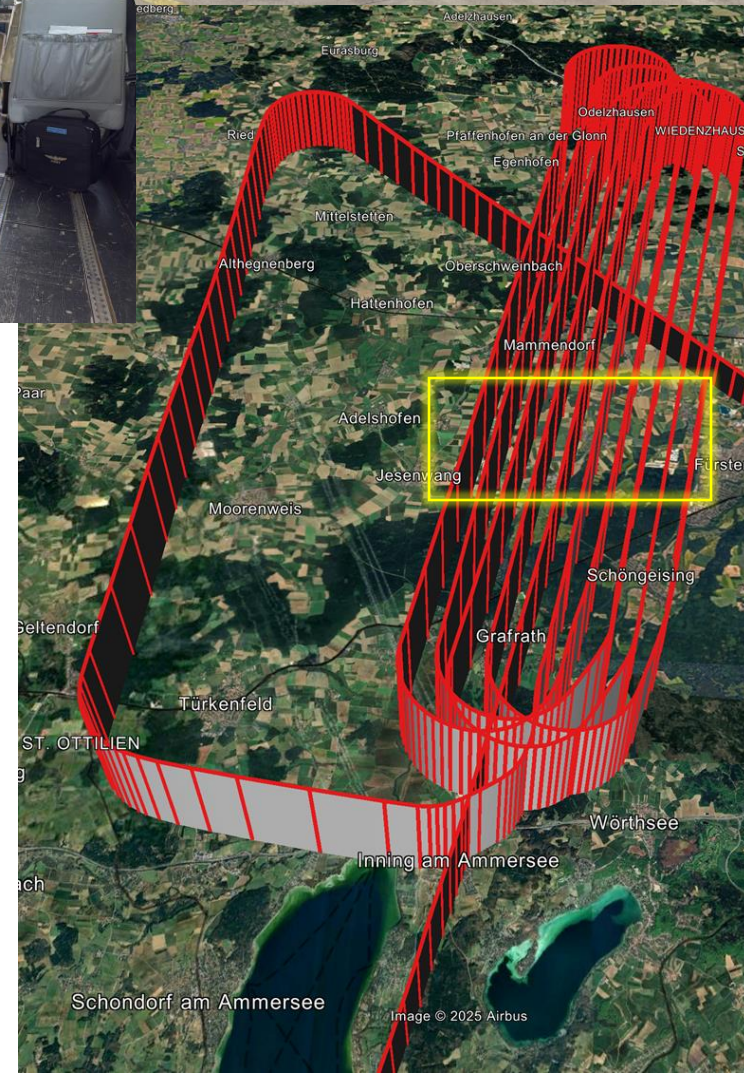
- 420nm - 2500nm
- 426 bands
- 1.4m Spatial Resolution

Four successful flights:

- 30.04.25
- 12.05.25 → in parallel with PRISMA
- 13.05.25 → related to BRDF effects
- 19.05.25 → in parallel with EnMAP

IMF-ASP:

- SVC → Surface Reflectance Measurement's
- Microtops → AOT, WVP etc.
- 15.000 UAV RGB Images
- Coordination of Hyperspectral Satellite Acquisitions
 - EnMAP (13)
 - DESIS (16)
 - PRISMA (11)



Optical Sensing and Soil Parameters



Date	Flight altitude	Sensors	Resolutions spatial / spectral	Synergies
19 Jul 2025 	2200m AGL (Airborne)	HyPlant (FZJ)	DUAL 3.3m / 626 bands, fwhm 2.8 – 11 nm FLUO 3.3m / 1024 bands, fwhm 0.11 nm	EnMap Biomass, LMA and (vegetation variables sampling) 
		TASI	2.6 m / 22 bands	
		LiDAR	>3.6 pts/m ²	
1-3 Oct 2025 	120m AGL (UAV)	HySpex Mjolnier VS-620	~6.5 cm / 200 VNIR (3nm), 300 SWIR (5nm) bands 6 flights 2 crop fields	DLR EnMAP + ASI PRISMA No Condordant EnMap (clouds/orbit) ☹️ GFZ Field ASD 1nm 0.4-2.5 μm Field Agilent FTIR 4wn ⁻¹ 3-20 μm
3 Oct 2025 	4100m AGL (Airborne)	CASI/SASI	CASI 2 m / 144 bands, fwhm 4.8 nm SASI 5 m / 100 bands, fwhm 10 nm	Topsoil sampling - TC, TOC, and TN determination - pH and electrical conductivity (in H ₂ O) - Fe (dithionite-extractable) - Particle-size distribution (Laser Diffraction)
		TASI	5.0 m / 22 bands Malfunctioning -> no data ☹️	
		LiDAR	>1.0 pts/m ²	

Eitelsried Fields, April 16

Wheat



Potatoes



Corn



Eitelsried Fields, July 23

Wheat



Potatoes

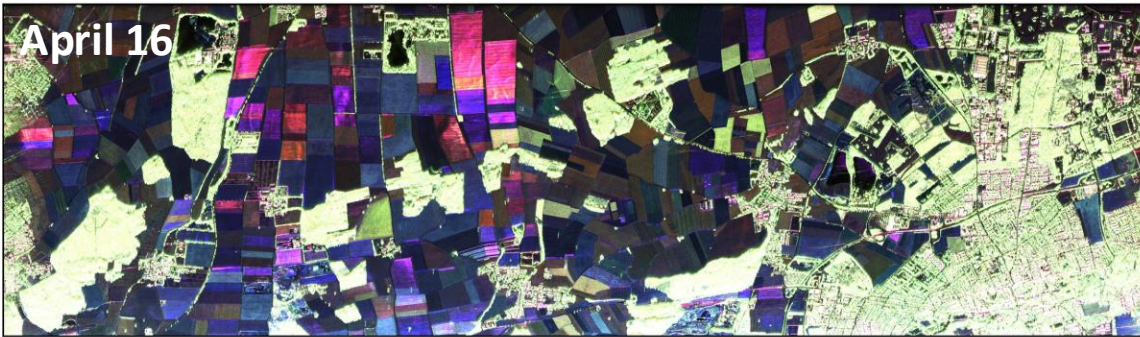


Corn

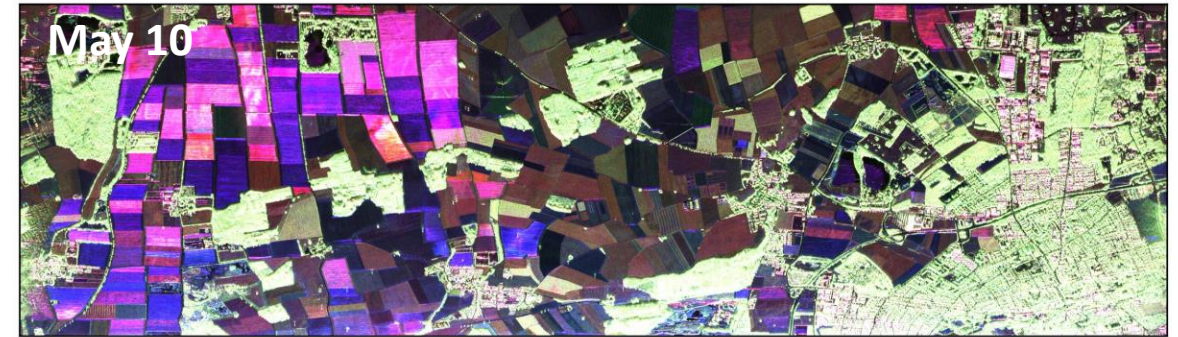


Preliminary Data Analysis – Polarimetry L-band

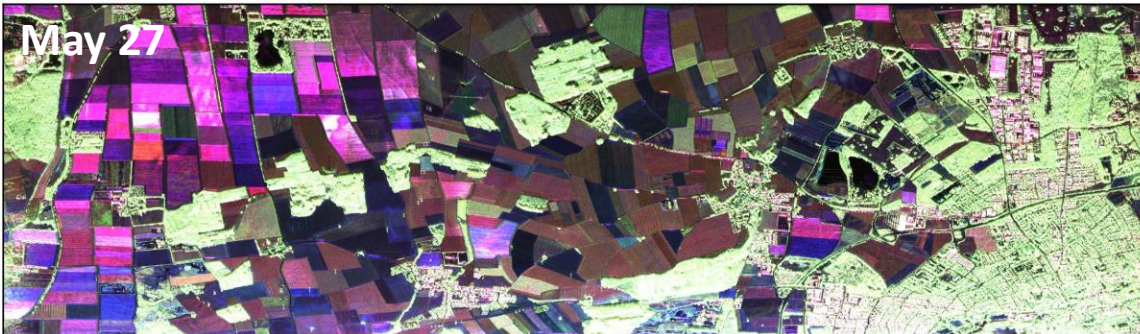
25cropex0103, L, 2025-04-16 08:25 UTC



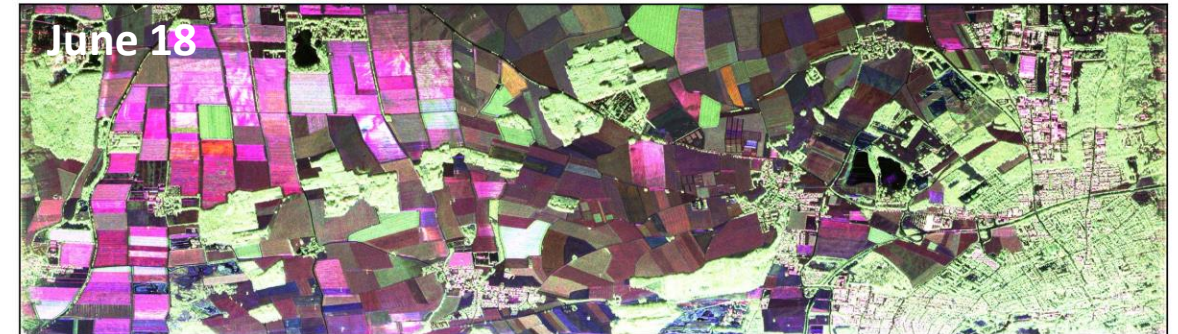
25cropex0712, L, 2025-05-10 09:59 UTC



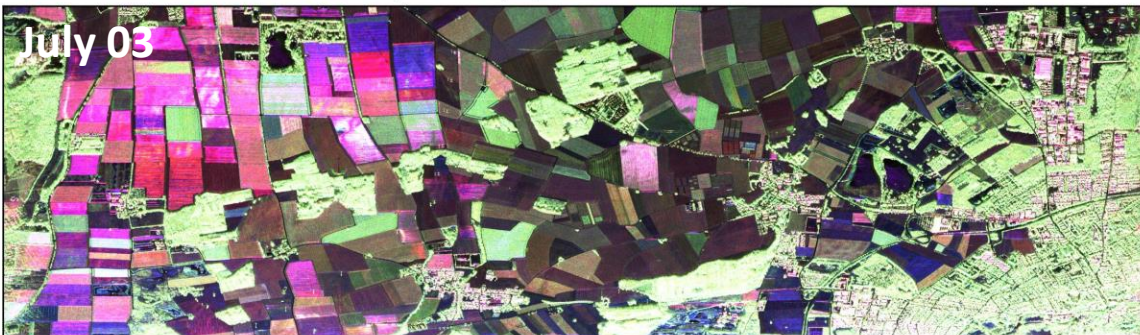
25cropex1011, L, 2025-05-27 14:06 UTC



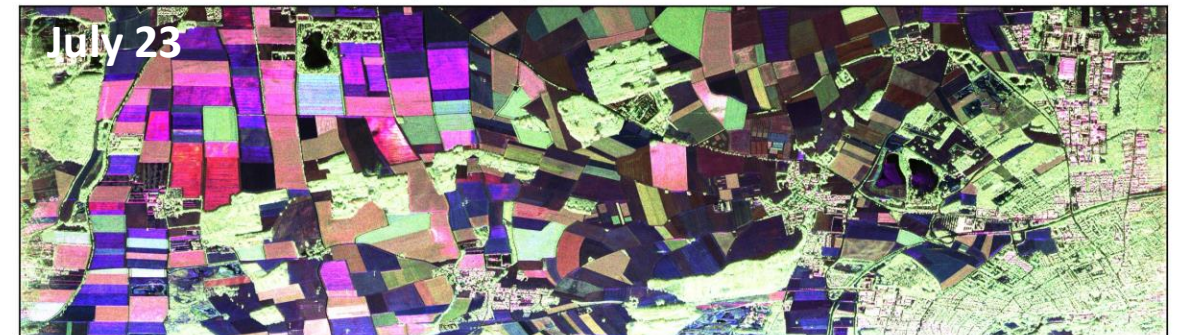
25cropex1603, L, 2025-06-18 07:52 UTC



25cropex1913, L, 2025-07-03 09:25 UTC

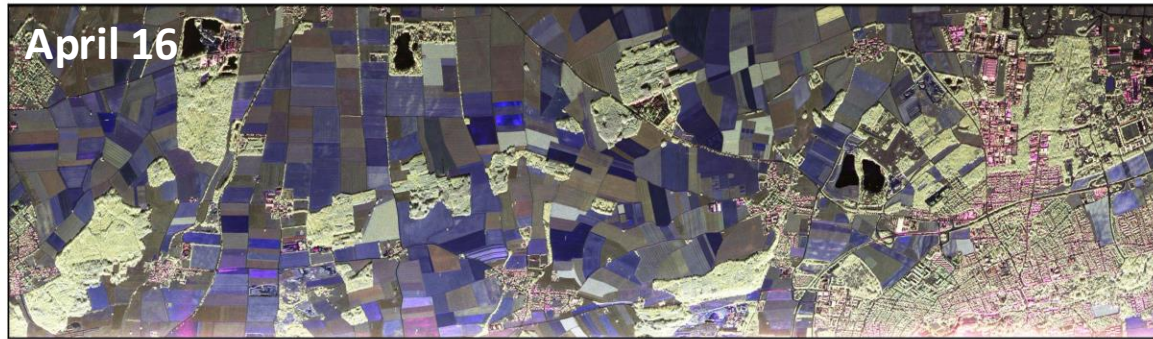


25cropex2303, L, 2025-07-23 08:03 UTC

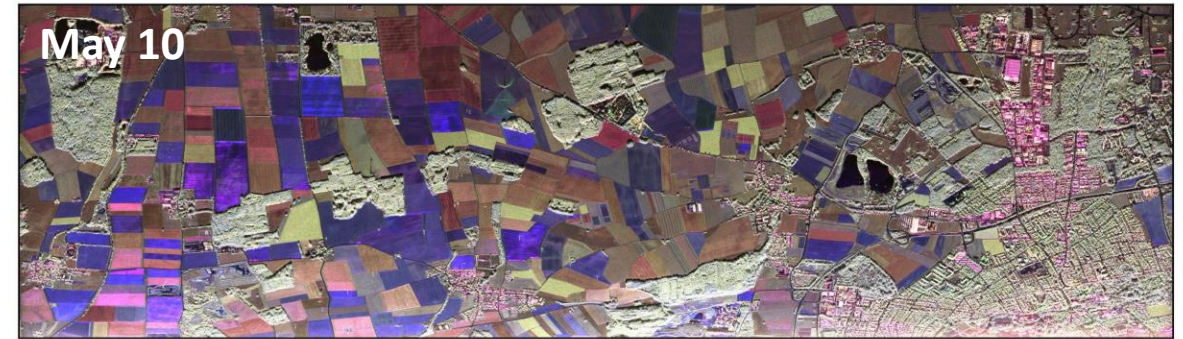


Preliminary Data Analysis – Polarimetry C-band

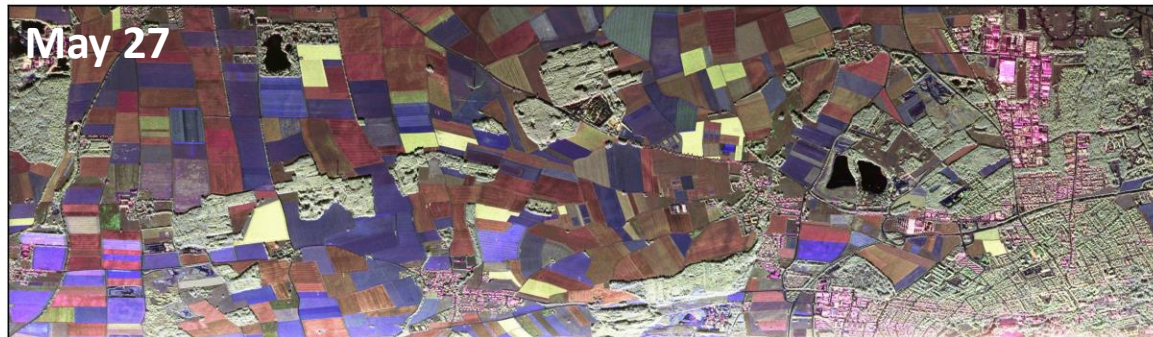
25cropex0103, C, 2025-04-16 08:25 UTC



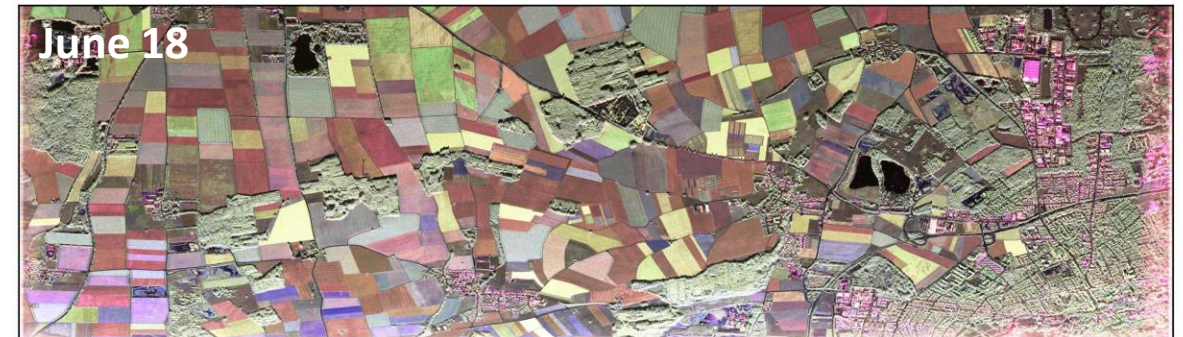
25cropex0712, C, 2025-05-10 09:59 UTC



25cropex1011, C, 2025-05-27 14:06 UTC



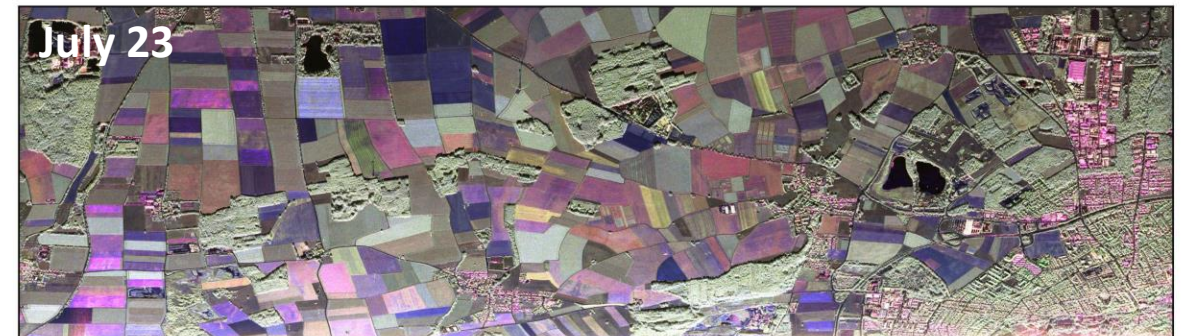
25cropex1603, C, 2025-06-18 07:52 UTC



25cropex1913, C, 2025-07-03 09:25 UTC



25cropex2303, C, 2025-07-23 08:03 UTC

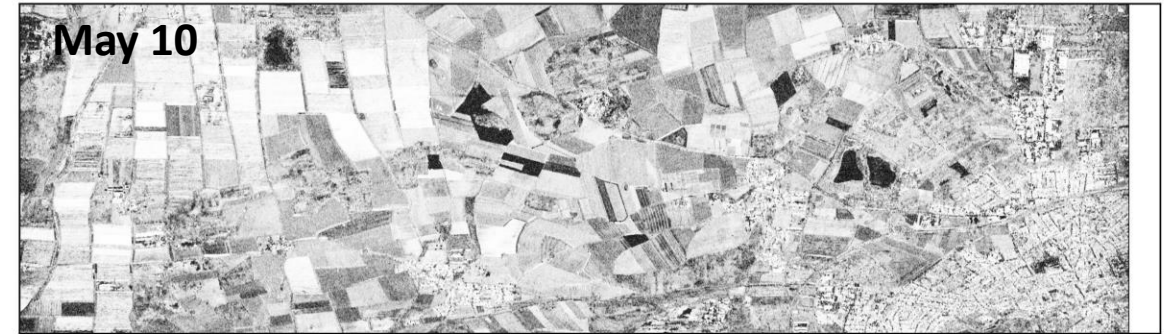


Preliminary Data Analysis – Interferometry L-band (D-InSAR)

25cropex0212 - 25cropex0404, L, vv, 2025-04-22 + 6 days



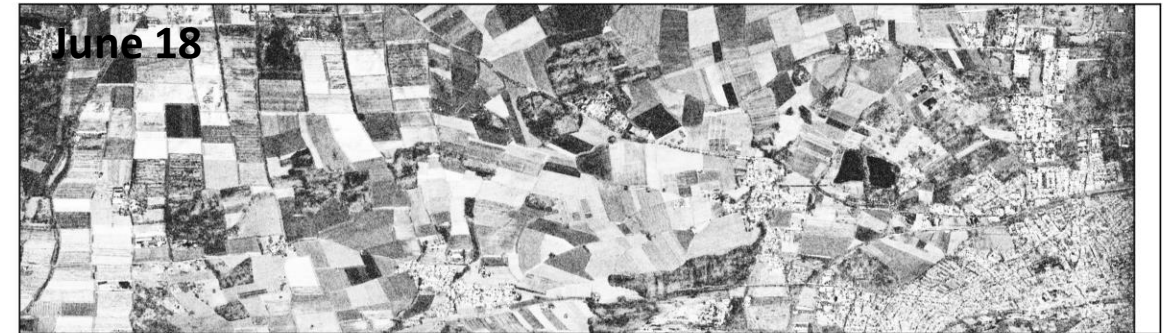
25cropex0905 - 25cropex1011, L, vv, 2025-05-21 + 6 days



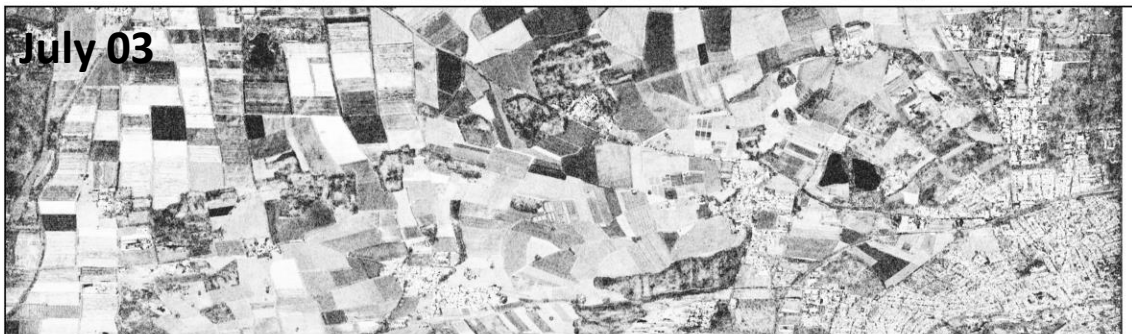
25cropex1211 - 25cropex1419, L, vv, 2025-06-03 + 3 days



25cropex1603 - 25cropex1711, L, vv, 2025-06-18 + 6 days



25cropex1803 - 25cropex1913, L, vv, 2025-06-30 + 3 days



25cropex2203 - 25cropex2303, L, vv, 2025-07-15 + 8 days

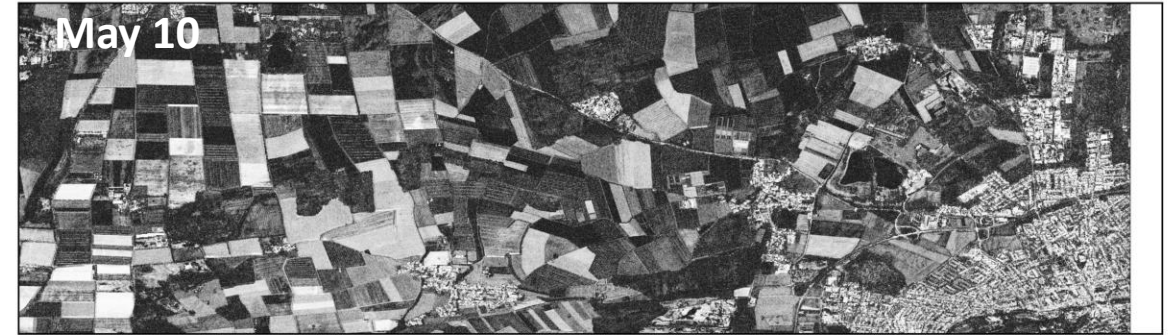


Preliminary Data Analysis – Interferometry C-band (D-InSAR)

25cropex0212 - 25cropex0404, C, vv, 2025-04-22 + 6 days



25cropex0905 - 25cropex1011, C, vv, 2025-05-21 + 6 days



25cropex1211 - 25cropex1419, C, vv, 2025-06-03 + 3 days



25cropex1603 - 25cropex1711, C, vv, 2025-06-18 + 6 days



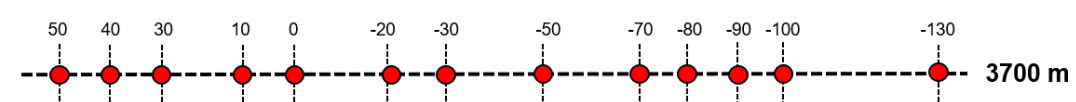
25cropex1803 - 25cropex1913, C, vv, 2025-06-30 + 3 days



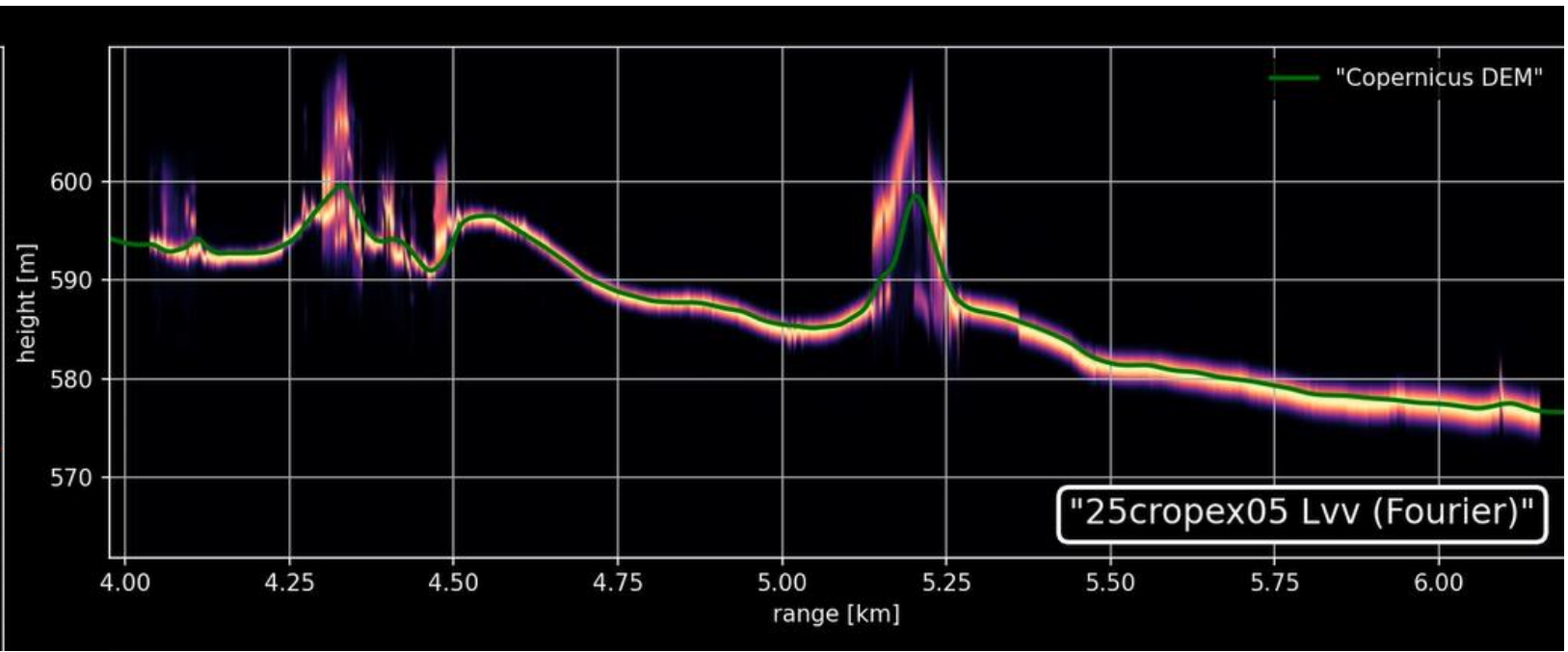
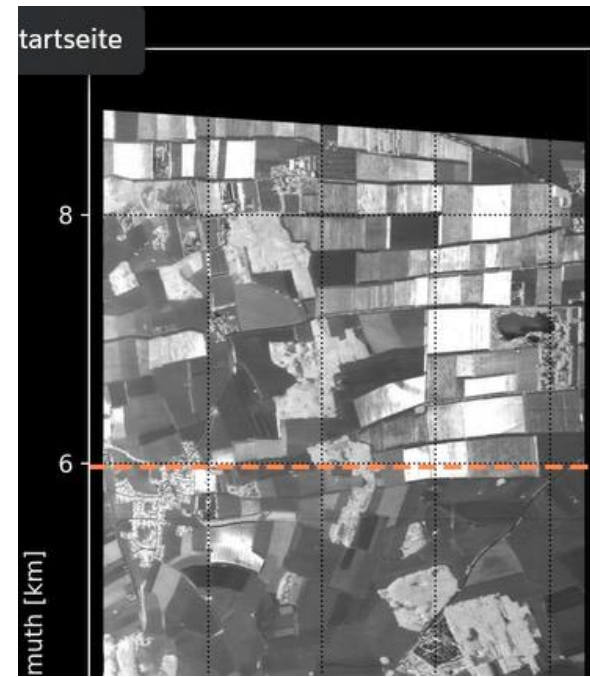
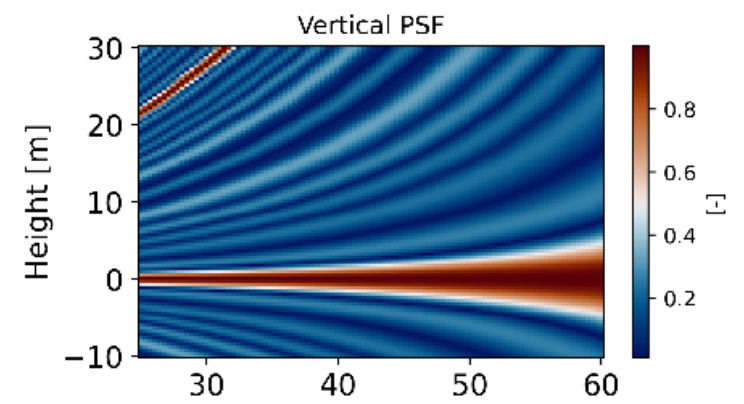
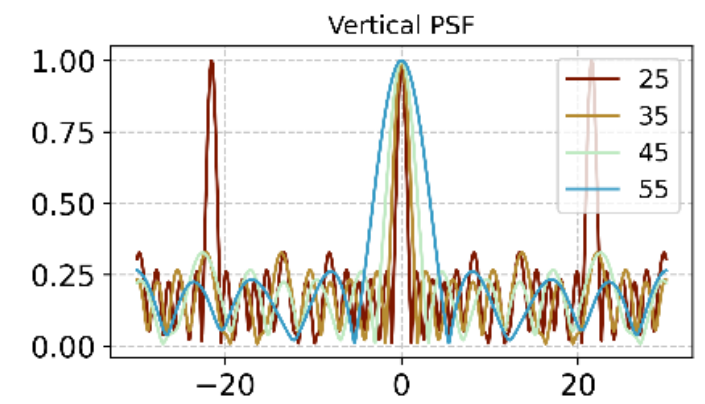
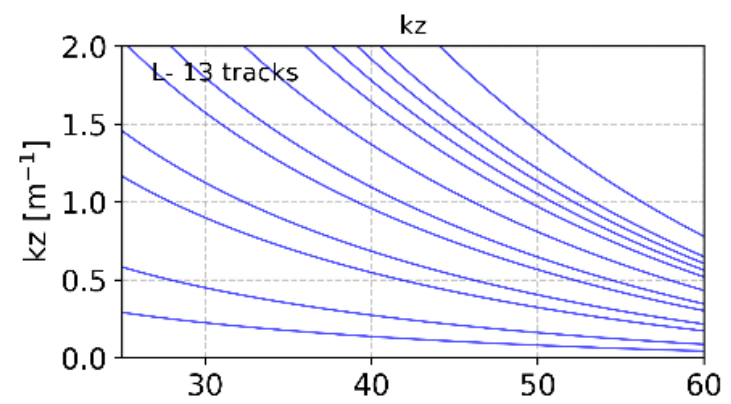
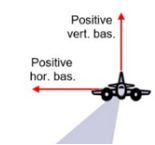
25cropex2203 - 25cropex2303, C, vv, 2025-07-15 + 8 days



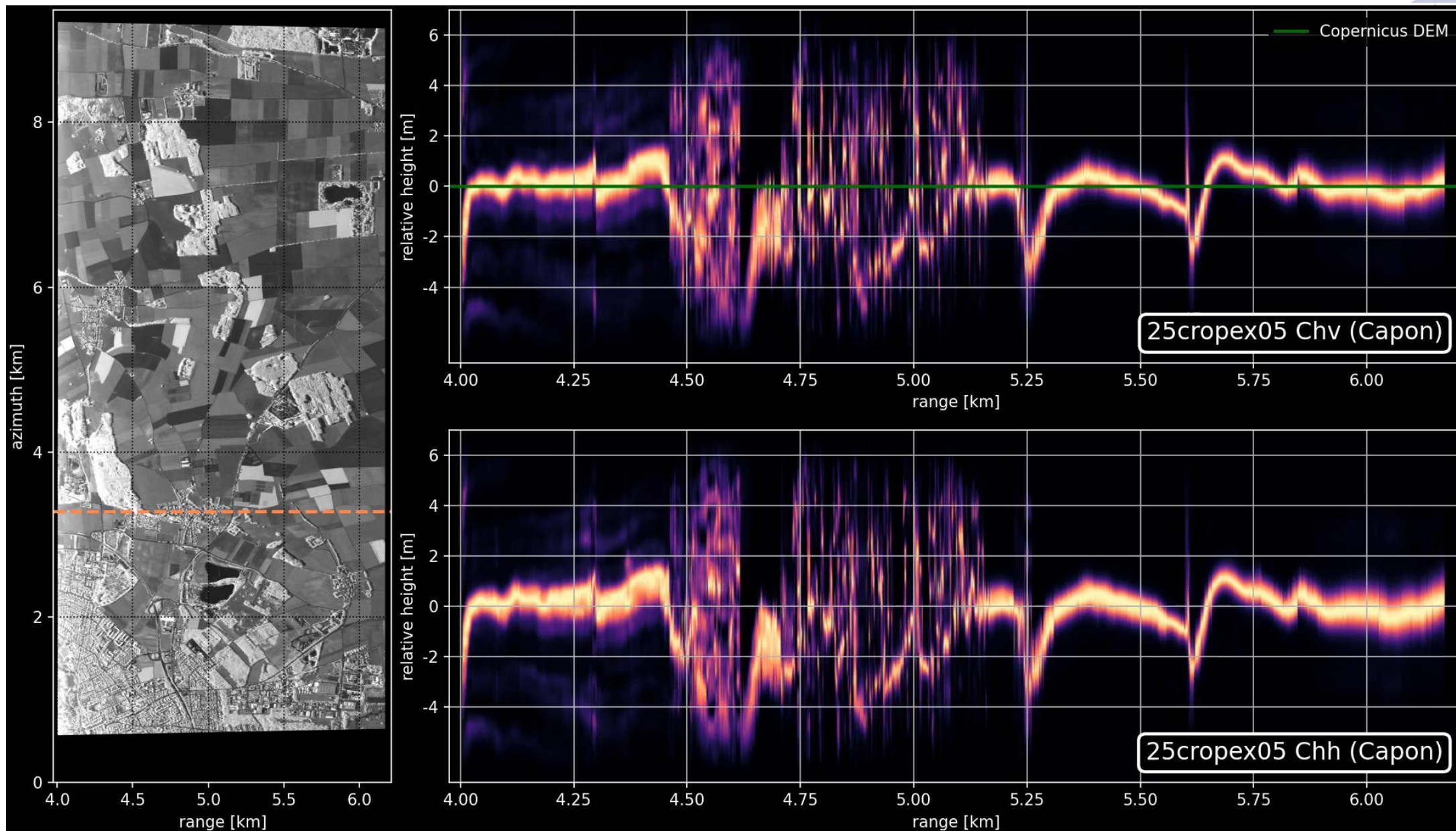
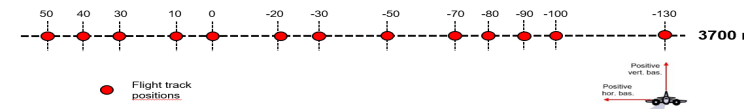
TomoSAR Baselines



● Flight track positions

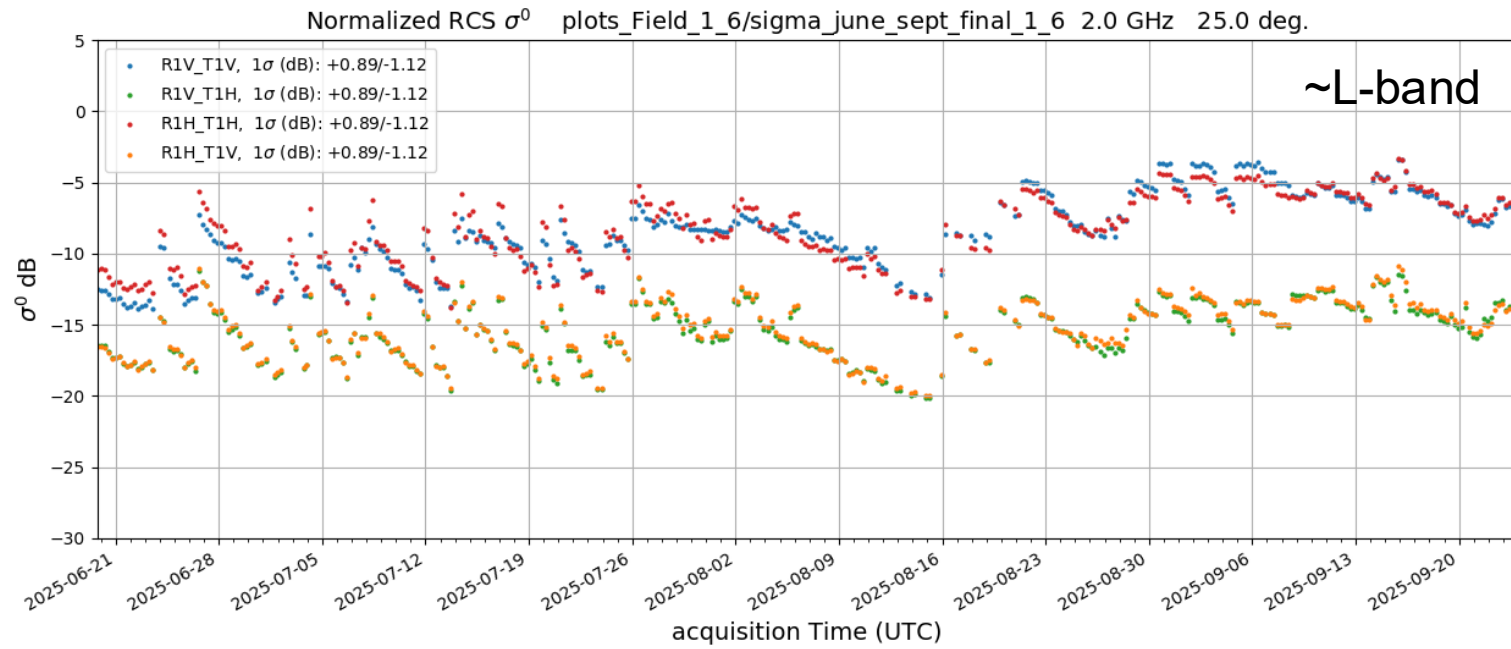
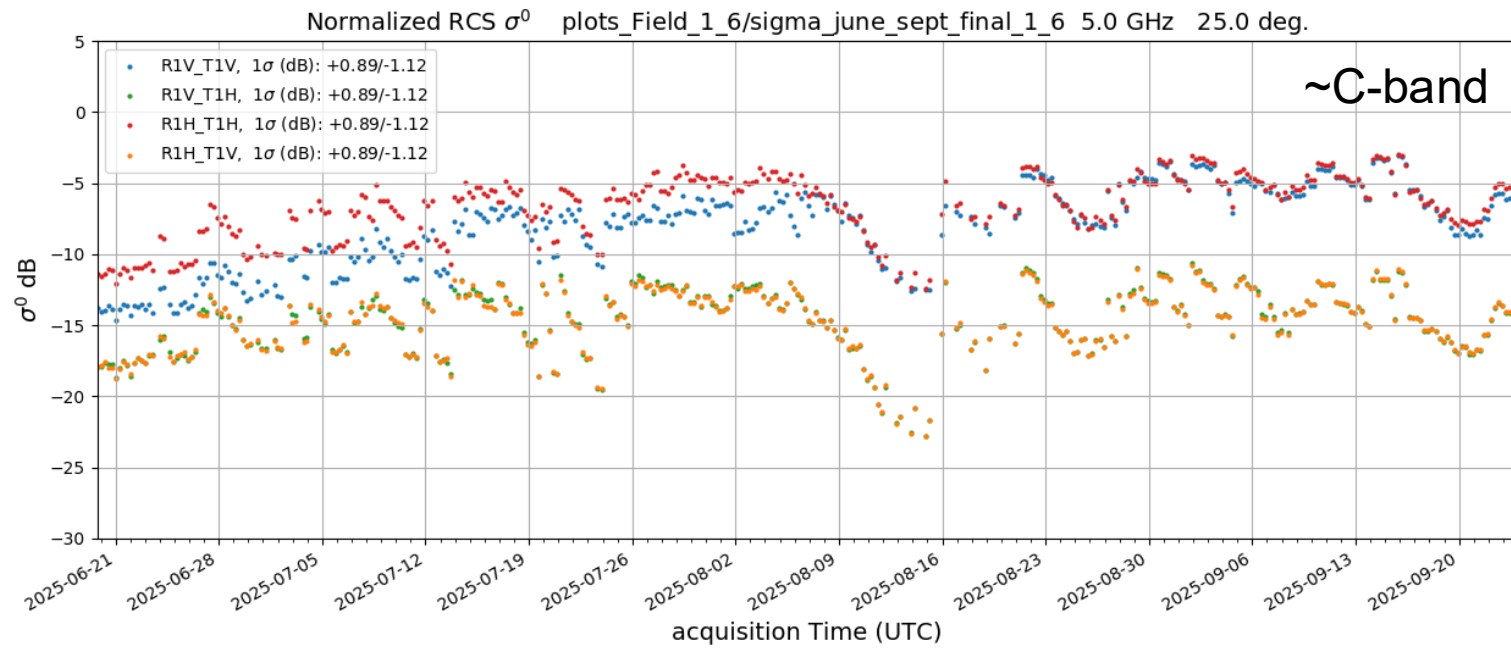


TomoSAR C-band Capon



WBSCAT





Next Steps...

- Data processing still ongoing
 - F-SAR interferometric and tomographic stack are processed
 - Sentinel-NG and ROSE-L mission simulation completed
- Data analysis:
 - 6 day and 3 day temporal decorrelation of L-band and C-band
 - First order soil moisture performance in time and with vegetation
 - Trade-off analysis between dual- and quad-pol acquisitions
 - Analyse phase changes and changes in backscatter over time and relate to soil moisture and vegetation dynamics.
- AI-ready data compilation:
 - F-SAR AGRIROSEL data
 - CARMA data

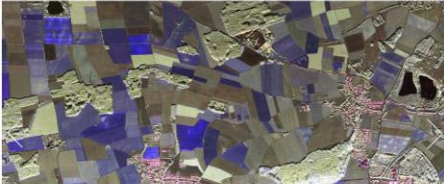


Deutsches Zentrum
für Luft- und Raumfahrt
German Aerospace Center

Home > Latest > News > 2025 > Test flights over Bavaria inform upcoming Earth-observation space missions

July 24, 2025 | CROPEX25 measurement campaign for European environmental monitoring completed

Test flights over Bavaria inform upcoming Earth-observation space missions



X-band radar image of the Puch test area

Polarimetric radar data acquired as part of the CROPEX25 campaign (shown here in the X-band, with a wavelength of three centimetres) allow images to be colour-coded according to their physical properties. Blue indicates surface scattering, for example from a freshly sown field. Red indicates double-bounce scattering, for example from building walls and the ground. Green marks areas of volumetric multiple scattering, such as a grain field or forest canopies.

Image: 1/7, Credit: DLR (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0)



Measuring soil from the sky for ROSE-L and CHIME

DLR Publication

ESA Publication

<https://www.dlr.de/en/latest/news/2025/test-flights-over-bavaria-inform-upcoming-earth-observation-space-missions>

https://www.esa.int/Applications/Observing_the_Earth/Copernicus/Measuring_soil_from_the_sky_for_ROSE-L_and_CHIME

The AGRIROSE-L and CARMA campaign team

Dinner after a day out on the field



DLR team at the field



Target Variables: Radar Campaign

Variable	Method	Physical Unit
Leaf-Area-Index (LAI)	LiCOR LAI-2200C (non-destructive)	m ² m ⁻²
Aboveground dry biomass (total)	gravimetric (destructive)	g m ⁻²
Canopy Water Content (CWC, total aboveground)	gravimetric (destructive)	g m ⁻² / % / cm EWT
Phenology	Visual interpretation (non-destructive)	BBCH
Average Canopy Height	Folding rule (non-destructive)	cm
Vertical photograph	Panasonic LUMIX (non-destructive)	RGB image
(Bot.) Rating	Visual interpretation (non-destructive)	-
Soil moisture toplayer	UMS InField 7 (non-destructive)	%
Soil moisture at 10 cm depth	UMS InField 7 (non-destructive)	%
Surface Roughness	UAV-Based	-
Observation of external wetting (intercepted water, dew, rain etc.)	Visual interpretation (non-destructive)	no / little / much external wetness
Fractional Cover (fCover)	UAV-Based, provided by Uta Heiden's group at DLR	%
LiDAR, DSM, DEM	UAV-Based, provided by Lukas Lehnerts's group at LMU	m

Target Variables: Optics Campaign



Variable	Method	Physical Unit
Leaf-Area-Index (LAI)	LiCOR LAI-2200C (non-destructive)	m ² m ⁻²
Average Leaf Inclination Angle (ALIA)	Inclinometer (non-destructive)	°
Leaf Mass Area (LMA)	LiCOR LI-3000c, LI-3050C (destructive)	g cm ⁻² leaf area
Leaf Chlorophyll Content (Cab)	SPAD 502plus (non-destructive)	µg cm ⁻² leaf area
Aboveground dry biomass (leaf)	gravimetric (destructive)	g m ⁻²
Aboveground dry biomass (stem)	gravimetric (destructive)	g m ⁻²
Aboveground dry biomass (fruit)	gravimetric (destructive)	g m ⁻²
Aboveground dry biomass (total)	gravimetric (destructive)	g m ⁻²
Canopy Water Content (CWC, leaf)	gravimetric (destructive)	g m ⁻² / % / cm EWT
Canopy Water Content (CWC, stem)	gravimetric (destructive)	g m ⁻² / % / cm EWT
Canopy Water Content (CWC, fruit)	gravimetric (destructive)	g m ⁻² / % / cm EWT
Canopy Water Content (CWC, total aboveground)	gravimetric (destructive)	g m ⁻² / % / cm EWT
Phenology	Visual interpretation (non-destructive)	BBCH
Average Canopy Height	Folding rule (non-destructive)	cm
Spectral signature	ASD FieldSpecd 3 JR, ASD FieldSpec 4 Standard, SpectralEvolution RS-3500 (non-destructive)	% absolute reflectance
Vertical photograph	Panasonic LUMIX (non-destructive)	RGB image
Canopy Nitrogen Content (CNC, leaf)	Laboratory C/N-Analyzer (destructive)	kg ha ⁻¹ / %
Canopy Nitrogen Content (CNC, stem)	Laboratory C/N-Analyzer (destructive)	kg ha ⁻¹ / %
Canopy Nitrogen Content (CNC, fruit)	Laboratory C/N-Analyzer (destructive)	kg ha ⁻¹ / %
Canopy Carbon Content (CCC, leaf)	Laboratory C/N-Analyzer (destructive)	kg ha ⁻¹ / %
Canopy Carbon Content (CCC, stem)	Laboratory C/N-Analyzer (destructive)	kg ha ⁻¹ / %
Canopy Carbon Content (CCC, fruit)	Laboratory C/N-Analyzer (destructive)	kg ha ⁻¹ / %
(Bot.) Rating	Visual interpretation (non-destructive)	-
Fractional Cover (fCover)	UAV-Based, provided by Uta Heiden's group at DLR	%
Soil Organic Carbon Content (SOC)	Destructive sampling + laboratory analysis, provided by Sabine Chabrilat's group at GFZ	%
HySpex airborne data preprocessing	Provided by Uta Heiden's group at DLR	% reflectance