

# A meta-analysis of crop yield under climate change and adaptation

## 3 Data collection and analysis methods

4 The AR4 dataset [3], which collated projections of the response of maize, wheat and rice to local  
5 warming, was extended and the entire dataset reanalysed using consistent methods. New  
6 information was added for a large number of entries on the projection period of the study.  
7 Adaptation was categorised according to whether planting date, irrigation, cultivar or “other  
8 agronomic” (e.g. referenced in the study as “technology change”) adjustments were simulated by  
9 the crop model. Multiple entries were made where many crops, regions, temperatures, projection  
10 periods or adaptations were used. Each entry in the dataset was designated as either a tropical or  
11 temperate system, according to the location and the crop studied. Where the classification was not  
12 clear through direct reference in the paper, some countries and regions were designated as tropical  
13 for all crops (Brazil, Central Africa, Central America, East Africa, Sahel, South Asia, Southeast Asia,  
14 West Africa, West Asia) and others as temperate (Europe, US, Andean region, Southern Africa).  
15 China was categorised as temperate, with the exception of rice, which was designated as tropical.  
16 Country-scale studies of Argentina were given neither a tropical nor temperate categorisation.

17 The procedure for adding to the dataset was similar to that of the original AR4 study, with the  
18 exception that we considered all published studies of crop yield response to climate change,  
19 whether from a process-based or statistical model; whereas AR4 included the former only. All the  
20 statistical models included in the meta-analysis use aggregated regional-scale data. Most studies  
21 (>75%) were climate impact studies, i.e. they used a climate model, but some were sensitivity  
22 studies and two, from the AR4 dataset, were field experiments. The literature search was broad and  
23 inclusive, with no preference given to any particular region and no assessment of the methods used  
24 in the studies. Instead, we devised a quality control procedure in order to remove datapoints that  
25 are not representative of global production.

26 Quality control consisted of first examining outliers in order to understand the reasons for the  
27 differences. All site-scale studies that produced changes of greater than 50%, in either direction,  
28 were examined in detail. Nine studies included reported yield changes of greater than +50% and ten  
29 studies were in the corresponding category for negative changes. This procedure resulted in the  
30 removals of 8 data points. Four studies produced high yields since they focused on high elevation  
31 areas and/or large increases in rainfall or CO<sub>2</sub>. These studies were retained. In two cases, a single  
32 study contained a large number of data points in disagreement with consensus from the literature  
33 for the same crop in the same region. Those data points were removed in order to remove bias due  
34 to a single study. A final quality control procedure was conducted immediately prior to the use of  
35 the data in the first full draft of Chapter 7 of IPCC AR5, in order to remove any biases in the number  
36 of adaptation vs no-adaptation data points reported from within one study. This resulted in the  
37 removal of a further total of 44 datapoints, from two studies. All entries that passed the quality  
38 control procedures are treated equally in the meta-analysis. Appendix 1 provides a summary of the  
39 references used for each of the figures in this study.

40 Multiple entries from single studies are a potential source of bias, particularly given a number of  
41 regionally-differentiated global studies that have been published in recent years. These studies can

42 have a large number of entries in the database, since projected crop yields were available by region  
43 or country in many cases, and for numerous crops. Therefore, a small number of studies could have  
44 a disproportionate impact on the meta-analysis. The frequency count of the number of entries per  
45 study (Supplementary Fig. 3) shows that the top six studies, which are the only studies that  
46 individually make up more than 5% of all entries, are a natural choice for testing this hypothesis. All  
47 analyses were repeated for these six studies [39-44] alone, and for the full dataset minus these six  
48 studies. Yield changes were generally lower in the top six studies alone (-7.9% on average) than in  
49 the full dataset (-4.5% on average). However, the underlying responses across climate variables were  
50 not significantly distinct between the two categories. This indicates that the emerging literature on  
51 global crop impacts is broadly consistent with regional studies.

52 A second potential source of bias in the meta-analysis is the geographical spread of data points. The  
53 regions where the major crops are grown are not necessarily the same regions that are studied in  
54 the literature. Supplementary Table 1 presents data on area harvested for 2011, together with the  
55 percentage of data points in the meta-analysis (by crop and region) that come from those countries.  
56 In all cases where the percentage of data points exceeds 20% the corresponding country is one of  
57 the top two producers globally. This suggests no significant skewing of results towards a particularly  
58 well-studied non-productive country. Conversely, with the exception of Russian wheat, the top two  
59 producing countries globally rank in the top two in terms of coverage in the meta-analysis. Thus the  
60 dataset is reasonably representative of the major global producers, although Brazilian maize and rice  
61 in Indonesia and Bangladesh are under-represented. Note that the rice production data is for paddy  
62 rice, whereas the meta-analysis included upland rice.

63 A more subtle question regarding the representativeness of the dataset is whether the spread of  
64 data differs between countries in a way that might bias results. Supplementary Fig. 4 presents the  
65 data from fig. 1 in the main text decomposed into the top five contributions from individual  
66 countries. The majority of the data do not show systematic differences between countries.  
67 Temperate rice is one exception, where China appears to have greater spread than the rest of the  
68 dataset, perhaps reflecting the large range of production environments in that country. There are  
69 also some single-country contributions in some cases at high (e.g. Cameroon in tropical maize) and  
70 low (e.g. East Africa in tropical maize) yield values. The paired analysis of adaptation also showed a  
71 good geographical coverage: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon,  
72 Canada, India, China, East Africa, Egypt, Europe, France, Germany, Philippines, Indonesia, Japan,  
73 Kazakhstan, South Africa, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Moldova, Myanmar, Pakistan, Nepal, Paraguay,  
74 Poland, Romania, Russia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, UK, Ukraine, United States,  
75 Uruguay.

76

## 77 **Statistical regression models**

78 Statistical analysis was implemented in the R package Regression Modelling Strategies (RMS) [45]. To  
79 control for non-independence, we calculated Robust Covariance Matrix Estimates (ROBCOV) of  
80 parameter standard errors using study (S) as a cluster variable [46,47]. The General Linear Models  
81 are described in the main paper. Interpretation of individual coefficients in the model requires some  
82 caution, given a small but statistically significant correlation between  $\Delta T$  and  $\Delta P$  ( $r=0.30$ ;  $P<0.001$ )  
83 and  $\Delta T$  and  $\Delta CO_2$  ( $r=0.31$ ;  $P<0.001$ ). That is, studies that consider larger temperature changes tend  
84 also to have higher  $CO_2$  and more positive changes in rainfall, due to 1. the fundamental link

85 between CO<sub>2</sub> and Global Mean Temperature (GMT) and 2. the increase in globally averaged rainfall  
86 with GMT, albeit with marked regional differences. Therefore, it is likely that the coefficient on ΔT  
87 (as well as bivariate plots such as Fig. 1) captures some of the positive effects of increased P and CO<sub>2</sub>,  
88 and conversely that the coefficients on the ΔP and ΔCO<sub>2</sub> capture some temperature effects.  
89 Nonetheless, co-linearity is low enough that we do not view it as a serious concern for interpreting  
90 overall trends (see Supplementary Fig. 5).

91 In addition to the model presented in the main paper ('main') we fit a model which included all first  
92 order interactions between explanatory variables ('full'). The results are shown in Supplementary  
93 Table 2. Some of the interaction terms were significant including P\*ΔCO<sub>2</sub> (t=-2.57; P = 0.0102) and  
94 A\*R (t=-2.10; P = 0.0362). This implies that the benefits of adaptation have been more clearly  
95 demonstrated for temperate compared with tropical regions; and that the positive effects of CO<sub>2</sub>  
96 are less clear under high precipitation (as also reported elsewhere [48]). The A\*ΔP term is negative,  
97 and although the interaction falls short of statistical significance (P=0.0618), this result suggests that  
98 the positive effects of adaptation are less clear under high precipitation (c.f. Main Fig. 2, which  
99 shows a similar effect).

100 We calculated the marginal effects of both models for each of ΔCO<sub>2</sub>, ΔP and ΔT. Increasing ΔCO<sub>2</sub> by  
101 1ppm caused a 0.06% increase in mean predicted ΔY in both the main and full models. Increasing ΔP  
102 by 1% caused a 0.53% increase in predicted mean ΔY in both the main and full models. Increasing ΔT  
103 by 1°C caused a 4.90% and 4.87% reduction in mean ΔY in the main and full models, respectively.  
104 These marginal effects suggest there is little difference in mean model predictions between the main  
105 and full models. However, because the full model masked some of the significant main effects we  
106 chose to present a parsimonious model including only main effects in the paper. For both models,  
107 checking plots confirmed residuals were approximately normally distributed and homogenous  
108 among fitted values (Supplementary Figure 6).

109

## 110 **Comparison of results with historical data**

111 Ongoing evaluation of crop model skill using experimental data (e.g. refs 49, 50) is a critical part of  
112 building confidence in the predictions made by models. Observed changes are becoming an  
113 increasing resource for evaluating model results. Whilst there is evidence that some of the processes  
114 that are predicted to be important under climate change are starting to be observed across large  
115 regions (e.g. ref. 51), it can be difficult to assess the ability of models to reproduce observations (c.f.  
116 refs 52, 53). Nonetheless, evaluation of crop model skill using experimental data, which has been  
117 carried out for all of the models used in this meta-analysis, is an important underpinning element of  
118 confidence in the results generated by this study.

119 Whilst the wealth of work on model evaluation is important, it leaves unanswered the question of  
120 how consistent the meta-analysis is with current understanding of crop responses to climate change.  
121 Historical data from crop science experiments and regional scale analyses can be used to assess the  
122 results of this study. Both types of comparison have associated challenges. Direct comparison of the  
123 meta-analysis presented here with experimental data is impossible, since the knowledge generated  
124 on the response of crops to climate by field and controlled environment experiments is inherently  
125 different to that generated from modelling. Temperature response curves developed from the meta-  
126 analysis include associated changes in other meteorological variables, making direct comparison to

127 controlled environments impossible. Also, much of the experimental data is itself used, or even  
128 designed [54], to develop model parameterisations – so the two sources of data are not  
129 independent. Given these limitations, a comparison of crop science experiments with the central  
130 tendencies derived in this study is not warranted. However, the full range of yield responses  
131 provided by the meta-analysis would be expected to be consistent with experimental data. This is  
132 indeed the case, although the large range of reported yield sensitivities, even within one study,  
133 means that this comparison is of limited use. For example, refs 55, 56 show sensitivities of winter  
134 wheat seed yield of around 5-10%, whilst ref. 57 reports values ranging from a few percent up to  
135 around 50%, depending on the season analysed. Each of these estimates of yield sensitivity is itself  
136 subject to the uncertainty in measuring the response of yield at each temperature. The ranges are  
137 not dissimilar in character to those found in this study.

138 In contrast to experimental data, regional data can be compared to the central tendencies derived  
139 from the meta-analysis. Using country-scale data from 1980 to 2008, ref. 58 observed a global-scale  
140 yield loss of approximately 5% per degree of warming for wheat and maize. Values for individual  
141 countries ranged between 2 and 12%. Rice showed a less clear response to warming, with  
142 temperature sensitivities showing some dependency on the method chosen. Central tendencies in  
143 the meta-analysis show yield changes of less than 5% per degree for temperate maize and wheat,  
144 and values within the range 5-12% for tropical maize and wheat. As with ref. 58, rice showed a less  
145 clear response to warming. Given the range of temperature sensitivities reported by ref. 58 we find  
146 our results to be broadly consistent with theirs; although the lower temperature sensitivities in  
147 temperate regions (main Fig. 1) are worthy of note. The statistical analysis presented here shows no  
148 significant difference between temperate and tropical crops, however, which suggests that the  
149 comparison of global values is the most robust.

150

#### 151 **Comparison with AR4**

152 In order to understand the value of the model data generated since AR4, a bootstrap analysis of data  
153 (including simulations with and without adaptation) was conducted using i. the full dataset and ii.  
154 only those data from the AR4 dataset. Supplementary Fig. 7 shows the results. The additional data  
155 have resulted in more constrained bootstraps in some cases (e.g. tropical maize and wheat at low  
156 temperature changes). This indicates that the additional datapoints have decreased the uncertainty  
157 in estimation of aggregated yields. However, the increased spread of data in the new dataset means  
158 that there are also regions of the plots where this is not the case, and uncertainty has not changed.  
159 For some parts of some curves the results from the two datasets are clearly separated. In particular  
160 the results highlight the potential, visible in the full dataset, for yield loss in all three temperate  
161 crops at low temperature change. This results contrasts with AR4, where gains were observed at low  
162 temperatures.

163 The increase in the spread of datapoints between AR4 and the current analysis may in part be due to  
164 changes in methodology. Of the top six studies (see Supplementary Fig. 3), five are post-AR4. Four of  
165 these use global or near-global gridded crop models [39-42], whilst just one focusses on sampling  
166 uncertainty over a more limited spatial domain [44]. This suggests that the increased spatial  
167 sampling associated with gridded models may be the cause of the increase in spread. Another  
168 possible reason is differences in the structure of gridded models, compared to the more traditional  
169 point-based models; however, it is difficult to postulate a cause for such a systematic difference.

170 The AR4 dataset included only process-based crop models. In order to understand the impact of  
171 inclusion of statistical models, analyses for all the figures were repeated using only process-based  
172 models. This removed 127 datapoints, taken from four studies. The only case where results were not  
173 virtually identical to the full dataset is the projection figure. Supplementary Fig. 8 presents the  
174 projection results for process-based models only (see Appendix for details of references). The  
175 principal discernible difference between this figure and Main Fig. 1, where the full dataset is  
176 presented, is that for the 2020s (the period over which most of the statistical models are applied)  
177 the full dataset shows less consensus on yield decreases and more consensus on yield increases than  
178 the subset. Thus the statistical models predict a greater (negative) impact of climate on crop yields  
179 for the near future.

## 180 **Differentiating tropical and temperate regions**

181 The tropical vs temperate distinction as used in this study, and outlined at the start of this  
182 document, contains some classifications that are less universally agreed than others. In order to test  
183 the influence of our chosen classification on the results, we repeated the statistical regression,  
184 omitting the less clear-cut classifications, namely any data from China or the Andean region. The  
185 results are presented in Supplementary Table 3. The results are very similar to those presented in  
186 the main paper (Table 1). The only difference in the statistical significance of the GLM is that the CO<sub>2</sub>  
187 term has gained greater significance (P=0.0003, as opposed to 0.0022).

188

## 189 **The effectiveness of different adaptation strategies**

190 Of the adaptation strategies distinguished in the study (planting date, fertiliser, irrigation, cultivar or  
191 “other agronomic”), only two categories have more than 20 entries in the paired adaptation studies:  
192 planting date plus cultivar adjustment (with n=151, mostly from ref. 40), and cultivar adjustment  
193 alone (n=56). Conclusions regarding which adaptation strategy is best are therefore difficult.  
194 Supplementary Fig. 9 summarises the results from the paired adaptation studies. The clearest  
195 benefit of adaptation is seen in simulations that adjust the cultivar (which are also the categories  
196 with the largest sample sizes). Irrigation and planting date adjustment also show some benefit,  
197 although in these cases the standard error crosses the zero line. Low sample size is likely an issue.

198 Widening the analysis to include all simulations where adaptation was simulated provides more  
199 data, although it precludes paired comparisons with the non-adapted case. Supplementary Table 4  
200 shows that of the four categories (for this analysis fertiliser was included with “other”) only irrigation  
201 and “other”, on average, increase yields from baselines values. Of the four categories, irrigation is  
202 the one that is most likely to systematically increase yields, since planting date and cultivar changes  
203 can reduce yields. Modelling studies do not always distinguish between proven beneficial  
204 adaptations and adaptations that attempt to minimise or reverse yield loss, but in practice may fail.  
205 Thus the high ranking of irrigation as an adaptation option in this analysis in part reflects the fact  
206 that irrigation is unlikely to be a maladaptation; but also in part reflects the modelling methods used.  
207 In all four cases the standard deviation of yield change is larger than the average result, indicating  
208 that caution is required when interpreting the results.

209

## 210 **Limitations of the analysis**

211 The inclusivity of the literature search conducted for this analysis has resulted in a large sample size.  
212 Whilst this is beneficial in statistical terms, important limitations also result from taking such a broad  
213 sweep of the literature. The numerous yield projection data are from studies that not only use  
214 different methods, but also are for a range of crops and regions. Some of the resulting limitations  
215 have been at least partially addressed above (e.g. the biases introduced by the random geographical  
216 sample provided by the literature; the implications of decisions regarding whether a system is  
217 tropical or temperate). Perhaps the most notable limitation – and also the most difficult to assess –  
218 is that the assumptions in the underlying studies affect the robustness of the analysis. A partial  
219 assessment of this limitation has already been made with respect to the inclusion of both statistical  
220 and process-based models. However, within each of these categories, particularly the latter, there is  
221 significant variation in the modelling methods used.

222 It is impossible to fully assess the implications of the numerous assumptions made by the numerous  
223 models and methods used across the studies; indeed, even for single studies this is a difficult task.  
224 However, given that most crop models share similar assumptions, some general comments can be  
225 made. Models have limitations in simulating all types of adaptation, since in each case there are  
226 parameter and/or input data sensitivities that cannot be fully evaluated. For example, skilful  
227 simulation of crop yield using a given cultivar parameter set in a given environment does not in itself  
228 imply skill in another environment. In short, capturing G x E x M is challenging for crop models, and  
229 this has implications for the fidelity of adaptation simulations. Changes in planting date are subject  
230 to similar limitations, since crop models can show high sensitivity to the timing of rainfall [59]. This  
231 leads some authors to use planting date as a metric of uncertainty, rather than an adaptation  
232 measure [41]. Perhaps the most notable limitation, however, is the fact that all adaptations  
233 simulated are incremental. These relatively small adjustments contrast to more systemic changes  
234 such as changed crop species or grazing integration, or more transformational options such as crop  
235 relocation or complete change in the farming system, such as moving from irrigated to dryland  
236 systems [10]. For these reasons the assessment of adaptation options presented in this study should  
237 be clearly understood as being model-centric and inherently limited.

238 A key implication of the inclusivity of the literature search is the large spread of projected yields;  
239 larger than that of the AR4 analysis. Similar results have been found elsewhere: ref. 60 found that  
240 their simulations "display a wider range of uncertainty compared to the AR4 results, reflecting the  
241 much fuller geographical coverage and diversity of crop models represented in the current study." In  
242 contrast, climate model uncertainty (as expressed by ranges in meteorological variables) has not  
243 changed significantly between AR4 and AR5 [61, 62]. This contrast is perhaps not surprising, since i.  
244 analyses of climate models tend to focus on a relatively small number of variables (temperature,  
245 precipitation etc), and ii. the systems analysed lack the biological and social diversity that lead to the  
246 multiplicity of crops, locations and yields analysed in this paper.

247 The analysis above ("Comparison with AR4") shows that the increased spread between AR4 and AR5  
248 analyses of yield projections need not result in significantly greater uncertainty in estimating central  
249 tendencies. Further, there is some suggestion that this spread may in part be due to greater spatial  
250 sampling. The diverse nature of the literature available does mean that the central tendencies  
251 derived should not be taken in isolation. Broadly speaking the central tendencies derived here are  
252 consistent with other estimates of yield response to climate change (see "Comparison of results with  
253 historical data" above).

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<b>Country</b>	<b>Area (MHa)</b>	<b>% datapoints</b>
<b>Wheat</b>		
India	29	55
Russian Federation	25	3.4
China	24	15
United States of America	18	17
<b>Rice</b>		
India	44	67
China	30	61
Indonesia	13	0
Bangladesh	12	2.8
<b>Maize</b>		
United States of America	34	35
China	34	38
Brazil	13	3.5
India	7	13.3

260

261 **Supplementary Table 1.** Data from FAOSTAT showing the area harvested for the top four producers  
262 of maize, wheat and rice in 2011. The second column shows the percentage of datapoints in the  
263 respective meta-analysis category (e.g. temperate maize) that come from that country.

264

Term	Coefficient	S.E.	t	P
Intercept	-12.6140	5.6392	-2.24	0.0256 *
A ('no'=0; 'yes'=1)	14.0560	6.3581	2.21	0.0273 *
R ('temperate'=0; 'tropical'=1)	4.9728	6.7468	0.73	0.4613
M ('c3'=0; 'c4'=1)	2.9265	4.4719	0.65	0.5130
$\Delta T$	-4.1575	2.2038	-1.89	0.0595
$\Delta P$	1.4597	0.3124	4.67	<0.0001 ***
$\Delta CO_2$	0.0748	0.0446	1.67	0.0946
A*R	-11.1276	5.3029	-2.10	0.0362 *
A*M	-7.007	3.2938	-1.70	0.0755
A* $\Delta T$	-0.3494	1.8446	-0.19	0.8498
A* $\Delta P$	-0.3514	0.1879	-1.87	0.0618
A* $\Delta CO_2$	0.0375	0.0234	1.60	0.1105
R*M	-2.8040	5.7509	-0.43	0.6235
R* $\Delta T$	-0.1199	2.7886	-0.04	0.9657
R* $\Delta P$	-0.065	0.2737	-0.24	0.8110
R* $\Delta CO_2$	-0.023	0.0222	-1.02	0.3061
M* $\Delta T$	0.6118	1.8544	0.32	0.7415
M* $\Delta P$	-0.3451	0.2060	-1.68	0.0942
M* $\Delta CO_2$	0.0017	0.0184	0.09	0.9264
dT* $\Delta P$	-0.0952	0.0792	-1.20	0.2293
dT* $\Delta CO_2$	-0.0013	0.0087	-0.14	0.8860
dP * $\Delta CO_2$	-0.0023	0.001	-2.57	0.0102 *

266 **Supplementary Table 2.** Results of a General Linear Model including all first order interactions,  
 267 applied to all studies with reported values for changes in yield ( $\Delta Y$ ), temperature ( $\Delta T$ ),  $CO_2$  ( $\Delta CO_2$ )  
 268 and precipitation ( $\Delta P$ ), as well as three categorical variables describing treatment of adaptation  
 269 (“yes” or “no”), region (“temperate” or “tropical”), and crop metabolism (“C<sub>3</sub>” or “C<sub>4</sub>”). (n = 860).  
 270 Significance Levels: \*P<0.05, \*\*P<0.01, \*\*\*P<0.001

271



Term	Coefficient	S.E.	t	P
Intercept	-6.00	6.70	-0.90	0.37
A ('no'=0; 'yes'=1)	7.69	3.29	2.34	0.020*
R ('temperate'=0; 'tropical'=1)	-2.14	4.01	-0.53	0.59
M= 'c3'=0; 'c4'=1	0.21	3.33	0.66	0.95
$\Delta P$	0.52	0.18	2.87	0.0042 **
$\Delta T$	-5.33	1.26	-4.23	<0.0001 ***
$\Delta CO_2$	0.06	0.02	3.63	0.0003 ***

273 **Supplementary Table 3. Summary of crop yield responses to climate change and adaptation with**  
 274 **unambiguous tropical / temperate distinction.** Results of a General Linear Model applied to all  
 275 studies with reported values for changes in yield ( $\Delta Y$ ), temperature ( $\Delta T$ ),  $CO_2$  ( $\Delta CO_2$ ) and  
 276 precipitation ( $\Delta P$ ), as well as three categorical variables describing treatment of adaptation (A: “yes”  
 277 or “no”), region (R: “temperate” or “tropical”), and crop metabolism (M: “C<sub>3</sub>” or “C<sub>4</sub>”). (n=794).  
 278 Significance Levels: \*P<0.05, \*\*P<0.01, \*\*\*P<0.001

279

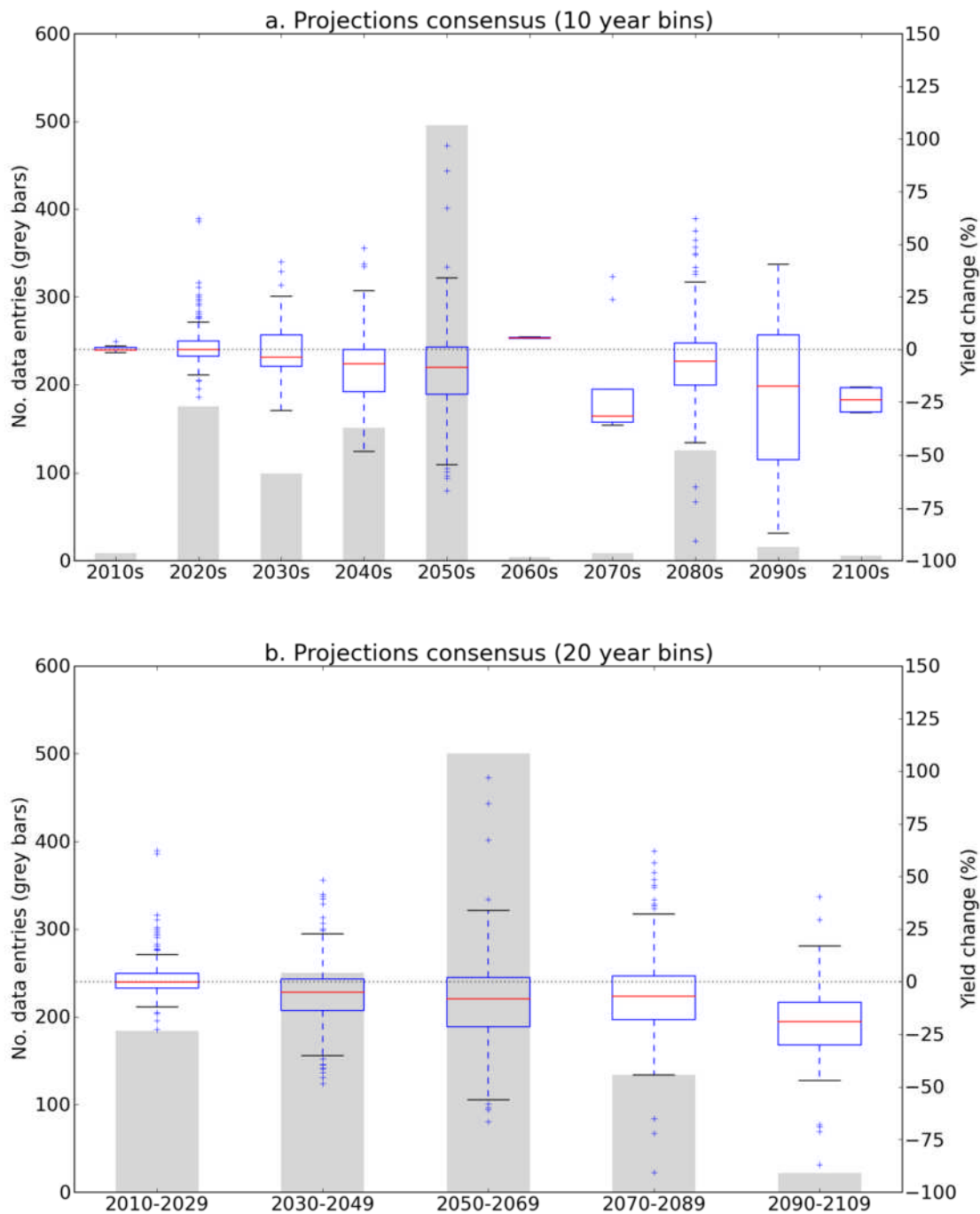
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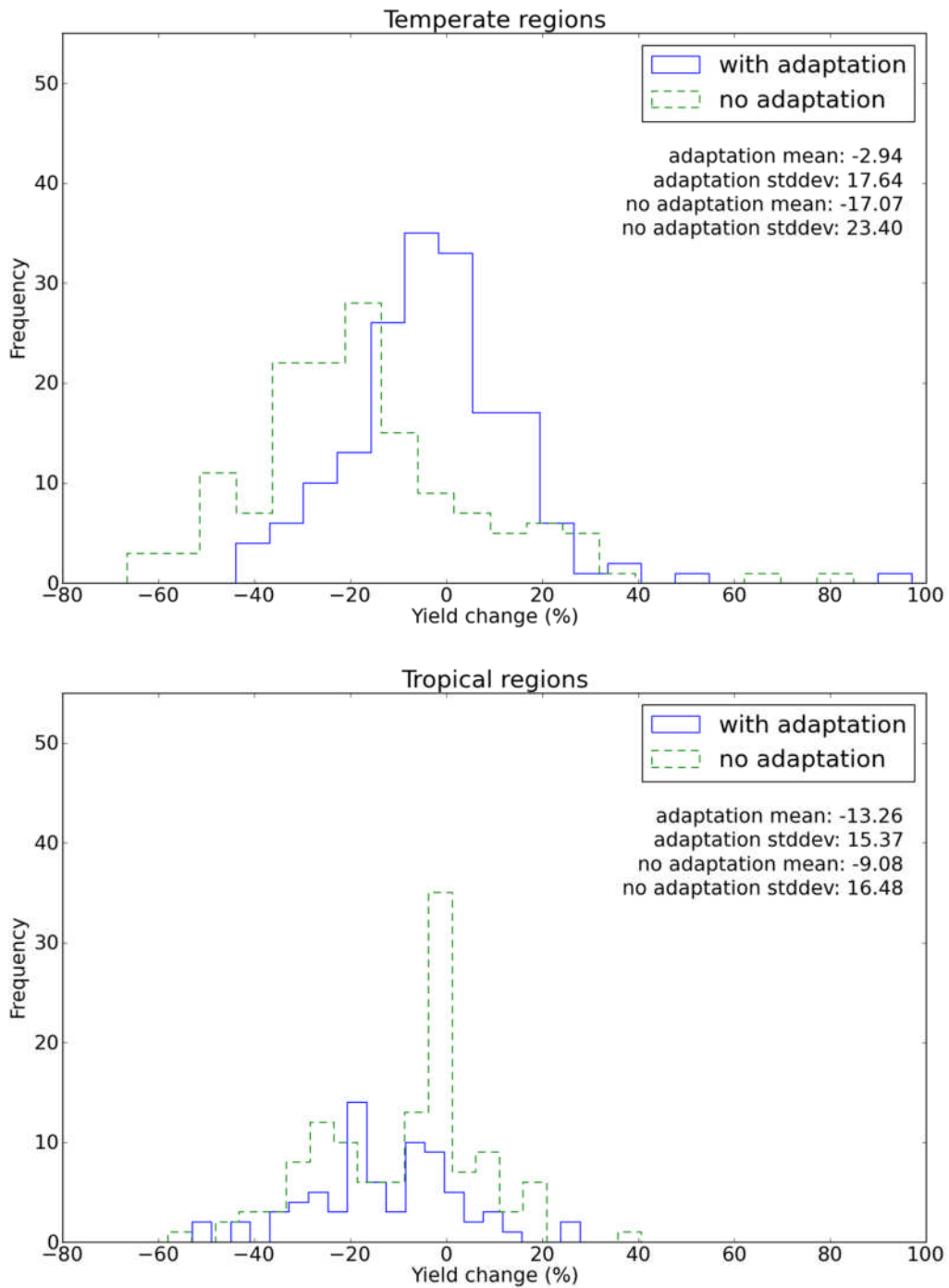
282

	Mean	St. Dev.	N
<b>Cultivar</b>	-0.4	19.4	405
<b>Irrigation</b>	3.6	10.7	68
<b>Planting</b>	-5.0	16.9	414
<b>Other</b>	0.9	18	43

283 **Supplementary Table 4.** Percentage change in yield, from the baseline, for the four categories of  
 284 adaptation. The mean and standard deviation across all N studies are shown. Where two  
 285 adaptations were used results appear under both categories.



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 287 **Supplementary Figure 1.** Boxplot of the projected yield changes for all crops and regions, by (a),  
 288 decade and (b), 20-year periods. Boxes show median and Inter-Quartile Range (IQR). n=1130 from  
 289 44 studies. Whiskers show the extent of data within 1.5 x IQR, and remaining data are shown as data  
 290 points. Grey bars show the number of data points used for each box and whiskers. Data are plotted  
 291 according the decade in which the centre point of the projection period falls.  
 292

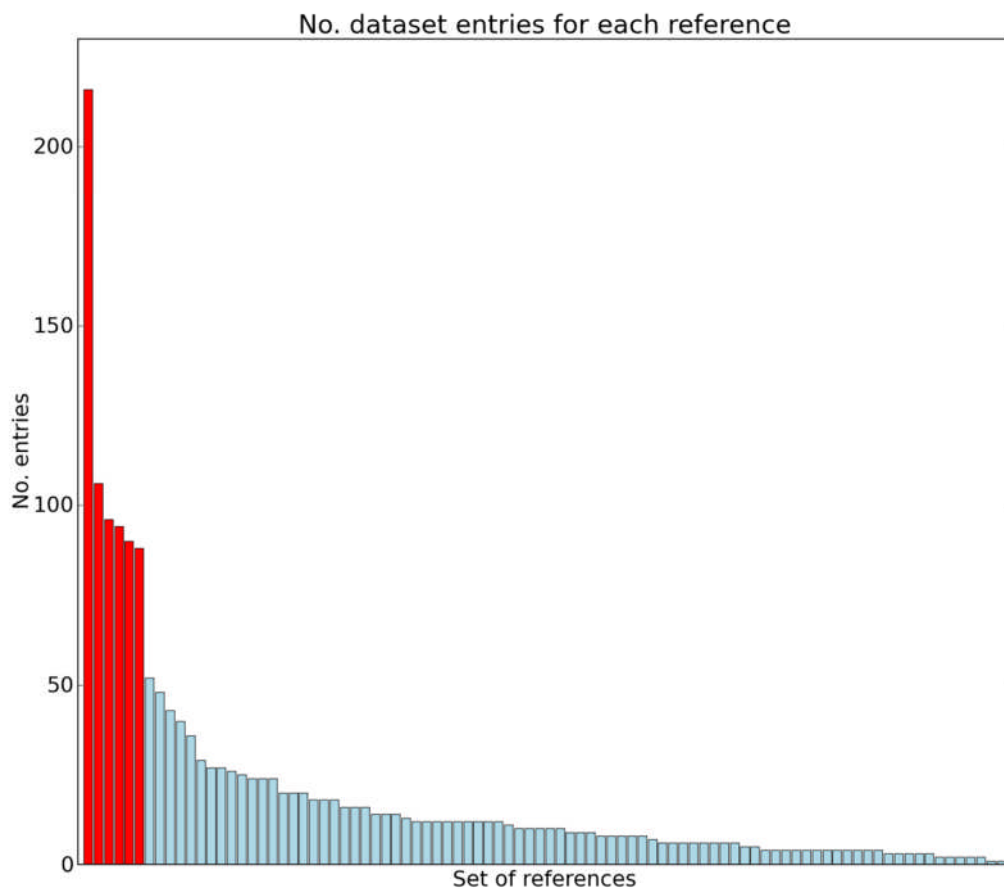


293

294 **Supplementary Figure 2:** Distribution of yield changes with (solid line) and without (dashed line)   
295 adaptation for projection periods centred during the 2040s and 2050s. N=517 from 19 studies.

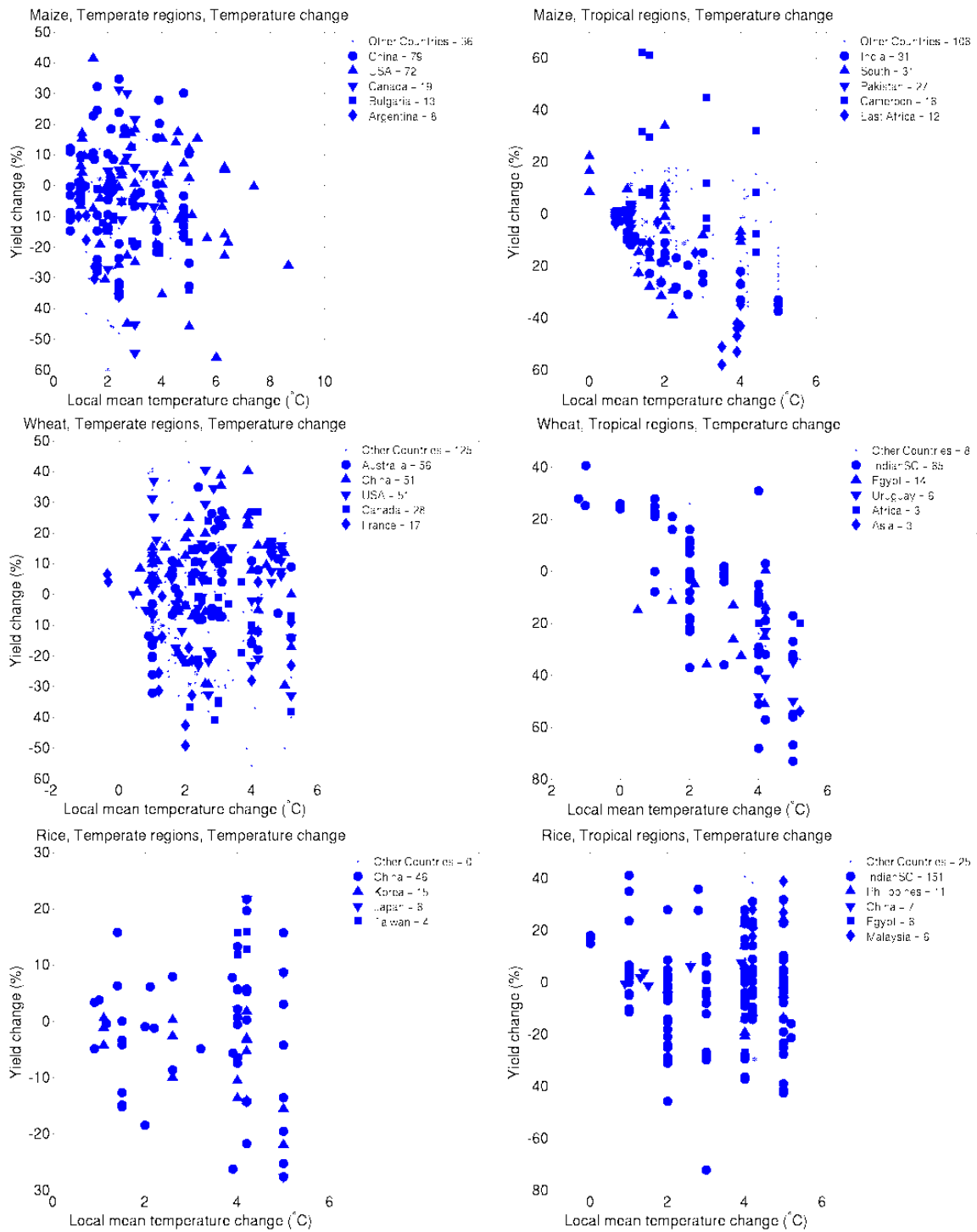
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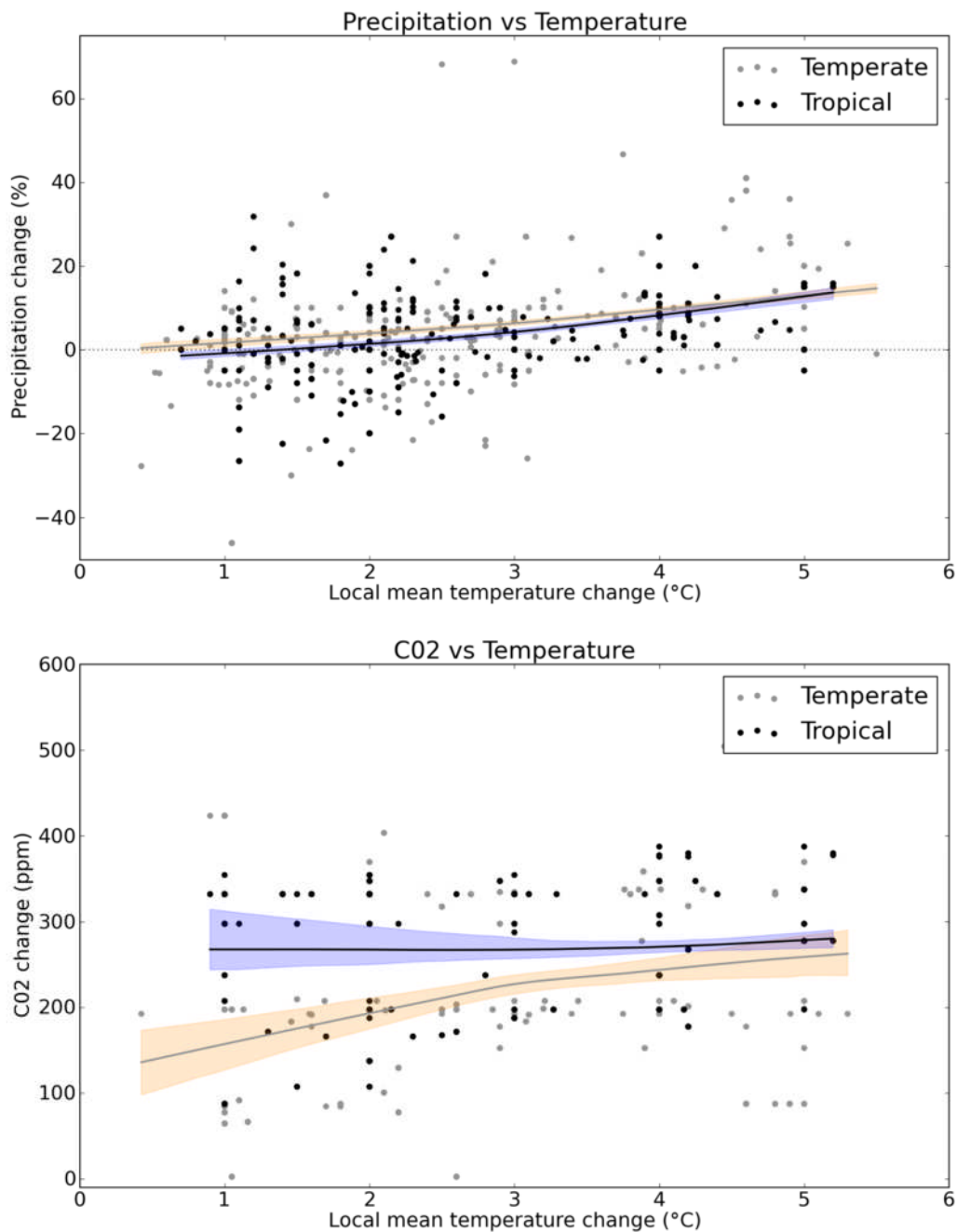
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299 **Supplementary Figure 3.** Frequency count of the number of yield entries per study. The top six  
300 studies [39-44] are highlighted in red.



301

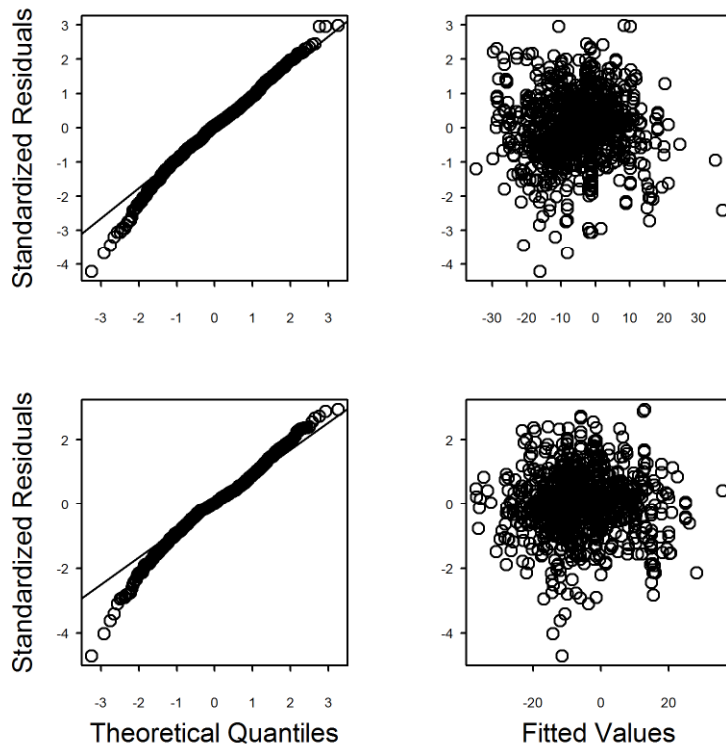
302 **Supplementary Figure 4.** Percentage yield change as a function of temperature for the three major  
 303 crops and for temperate and tropical regions (n=1083 from 68 studies), highlighting the country  
 304 composition of the dataset. The top 5 contributions from individual countries are marked for each  
 305 panel.



306

307 **Supplementary Figure 5.** Change in precipitation (top panel) and CO<sub>2</sub> (bottom panel) vs change in  
 308 local mean temperature for the yield impact studies (n= 1173 in top panel, n=633 bottom panel;  
 309 from 73 studies). Shading indicates the range of regressions consistent with the data, assessed using  
 310 the same bootstrapping method as in the main paper. To avoid error due to small sample size, the  
 311 eleven data points with warming greater than 6°C are excluded from the regressions. Four data  
 312 points are also excluded due to very high (194%) precipitation change.

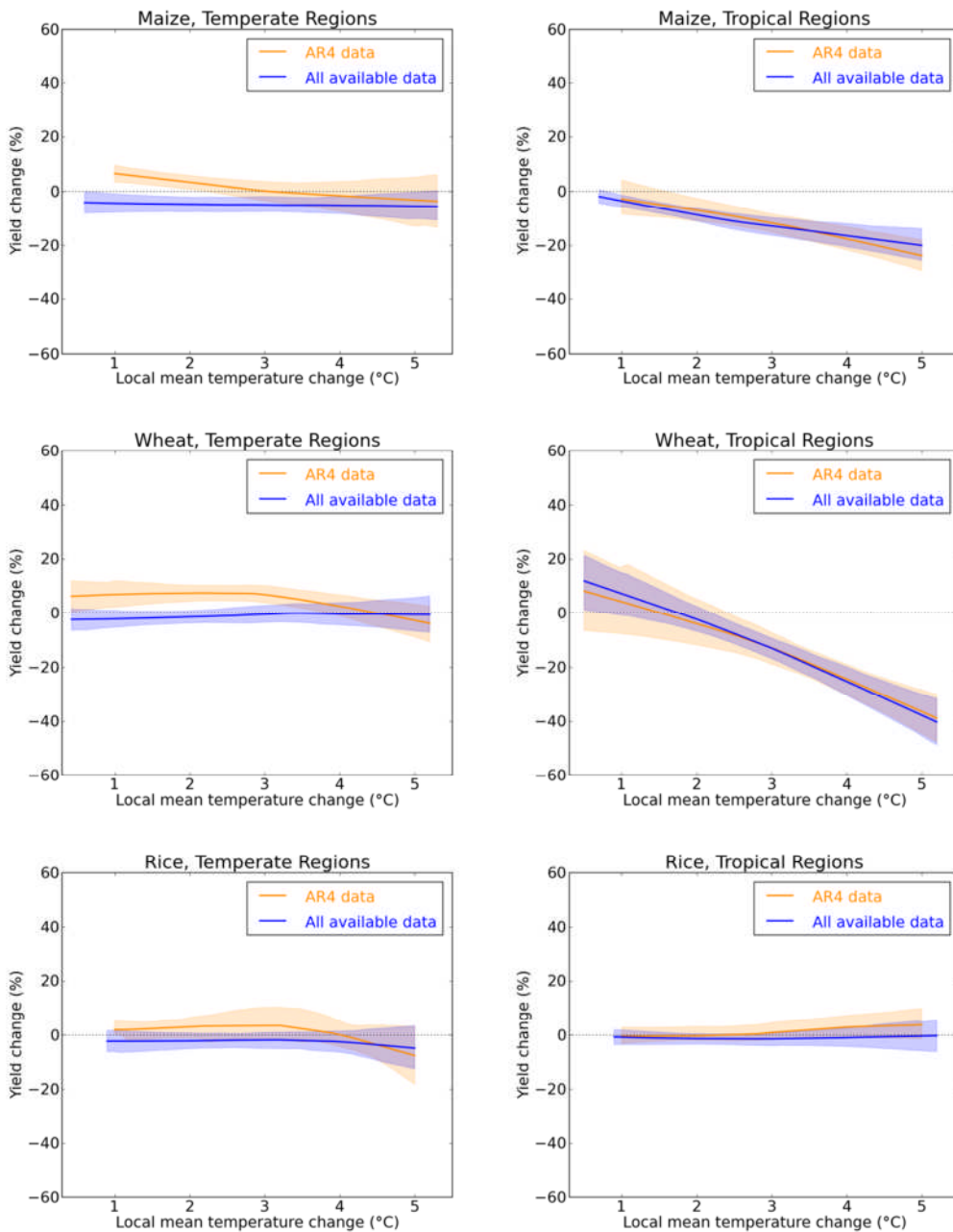
313



314

315 **Supplementary Figure 6.** Model checking plots for main (top panels) and full (bottom panels)  
 316 models. For both models it can be seen that residuals are approximately normally distributed (left  
 317 panels) and variance homogenous (right panels) among fitted values.

318

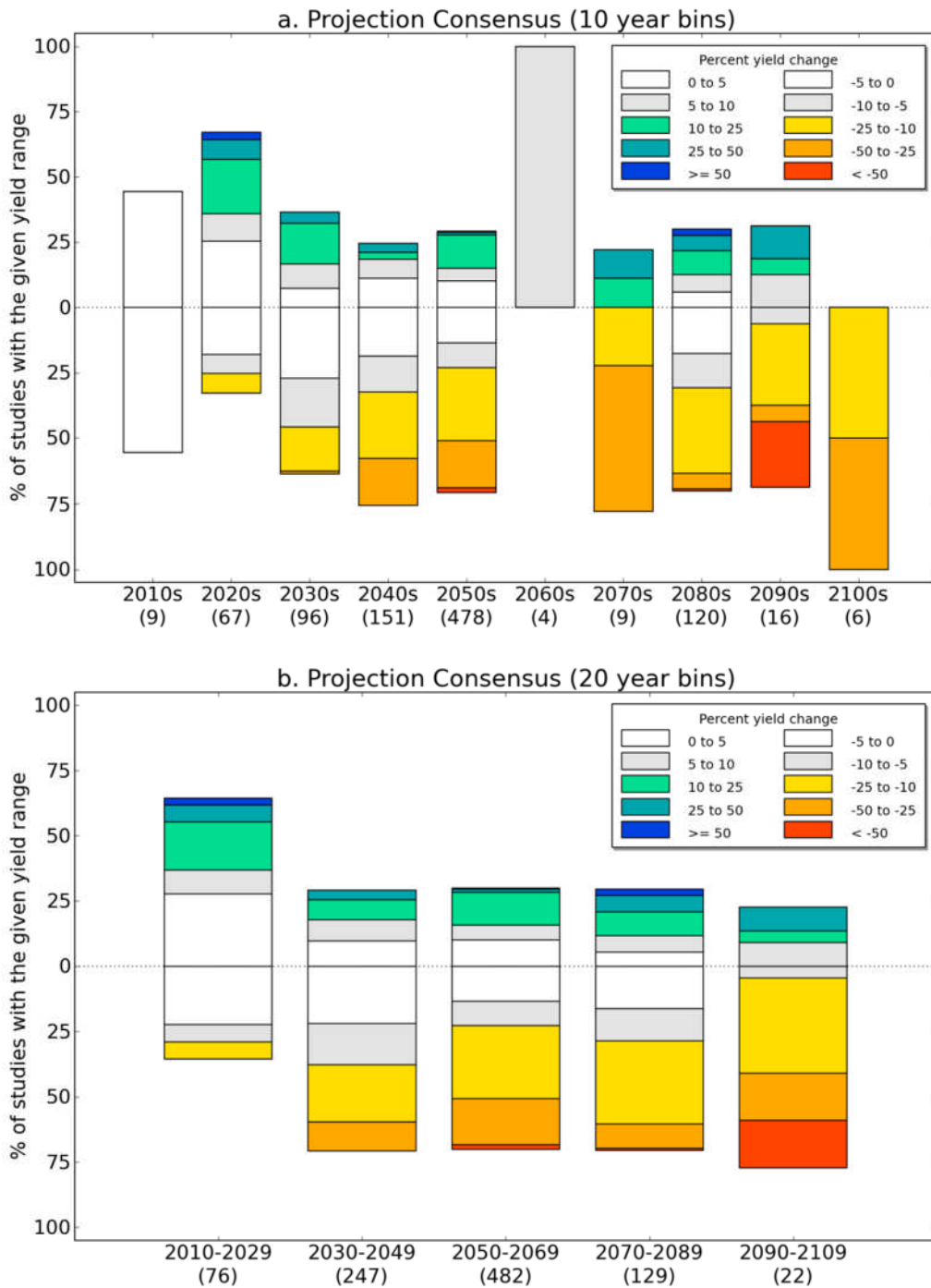


319

320 **Supplementary Figure 7.** Percentage yield change as a function of temperature for the three major  
 321 crops and for temperate and tropical regions for local mean temperature changes up to 5.5 degrees.  
 322 Shaded bands indicate the 95% confidence interval of regressions consistent with the data based on  
 323 500 bootstrap samples, which indicate use of the full dataset (blue) or the subset of data used in AR4  
 324 (orange).

325

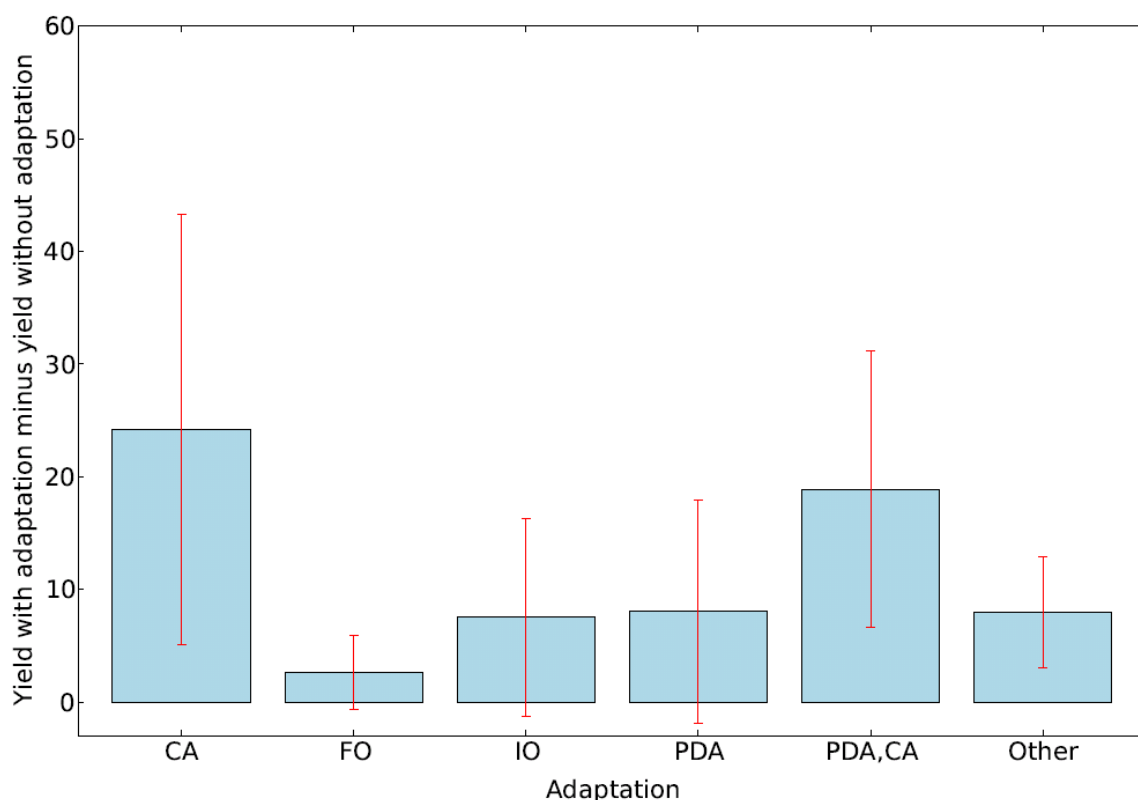




326

327 **Supplementary Figure 8.** Projected changes in crop yield as a function of time for all crops and  
 328 regions as projected by process-based models (n=956 from 33 studies). The vertical axis indicates  
 329 degree of consensus and the colours denote percentage change in crop yield. Data are plotted  
 330 according to (a) decade or (b) 20-year periods in which the centre point of a study's projection  
 331 period falls. The number of datapoints for each bin is shown in brackets.

332



333

334 **Supplementary Figure 9.** The benefit (percentage change, from the baseline, in yield with  
 335 adaptation minus that without adaptation) for the crop management adaptation employed in the 32  
 336 paired adaptation studies: CA – cultivar adjustment (n=56); FO – fertiliser optimisation (n=10); IO –  
 337 irrigation optimisation or adjustment (n=17); PDA – planting date adjustment (n=19); and  
 338 other(n=9). The PDA, CA category has n=151, the vast majority of which come from ref. 40. The bars  
 339 indicate standard error.

340

341

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- 409
- 410
- 411

412 **Appendix 1: References used in the meta-analysis**

Reference	Figs 1 & S4	Fig 2	Figs 3 & S1	Fig S2	Fig S5	Fig S7
Abou-Hadid, 2006	*					
Abraha & Savage, 2006	*	*	*		*	*
Aggarwal & Mall, 2002	*	*			*	
Alexandrov, 1999	*	*			*	
Alexandrov & Hoogenboom, 2000	*		*	*	*	*
Alexandrov et al., 2002	*	*			*	
Arndt et al., 2011	*		*	*	*	*
Berg et al., 2013			*		*	*
Brassard & Singh, 2008	*		*	*	*	*
Brassard & Singh, 2007	*		*	*	*	*
Butt et al., 2005	*	*	*		*	*
Byjesh et al., 2010	*					
Calzadilla et al., 2009			*			*
Challinor & Wheeler, 2008						
Challinor et al., 2009		*			*	
Challinor et al., 2010						
Chhetri et al., 2010	*		*	*	*	*
Chipanshi et al., 2003	*				*	
Ciscar et al., 2011			*		*	*
Corobov, 2002	*	*			*	
Izaurrealde et al., 2001	*				*	
Das et al., 2007						
DeJong et al., 2001	*	*			*	
Deryng et al., 2011	*	*	*	*	*	*
Droogers, 2004	*	*			*	
Easterling et al., 2003	*	*			*	
El Maayar et al., 2009	*				*	
El-Shaher et al., 1997	*	*			*	
Ewert et al., 2005	*	*			*	
Gbetibouo & Hassan, 2005	*	*			*	
Giannakopoulos et al., 2009			*			*
Hermans et al., 2010			*	*		*
Howden & Jones, 2004	*	*			*	
Iqbal et al., 2011	*		*	*	*	*
Izaurrealde et al, 2005	*		*	*	*	*
Jones & Thornton, 2003	*				*	
Kaiser, 1999	*	*			*	
Kapetanaki & Rosenweig, 1997	*				*	
Karim et al., 1996	*	*			*	
Kim et al., 2010			*		*	*
Krishnan et al., 2007	*				*	
Lal, 2011	*	*	*	*	*	*
Lal et al., 1998	*	*			*	
Lashkari et al., 2011						
Li et al., 2011	*		*		*	*

Erda et al., 2005	*	*			*	
Liu et al., 2010	*				*	
Lobell & Burke, 2010						
Lobell & Ortiz-Monasterio, 2007	*				*	
Lobell et al., 2008			*			
Luo et al., 2003	*				*	
Matthews & Wasmann, 2003	*	*			*	
Moriondo et al., 2010			*			*
Moya et al., 1998	*	*			*	
Muller et al., 2010		*	*			*
Osborne et al., 2013	*		*	*	*	*
Peltonen-Sainio et al., 2011			*			
Piao et al., 2010	*		*	*	*	*
Porter & Semenov, 2005	*					
Reyenga et al., 1999	*	*			*	
Ringler et al., 2010			*	*		*
Rosenzweig et al., 1994	*	*			*	
Rowhani et al., 2011			*			
Sands & Edmond, 2005	*				*	
Schlenker & Lobell, 2010					*	
Schlenker & Roberts, 2009	*		*		*	
Shuang-He et al., 2011	*		*		*	*
Southworth et al., 2000	*	*	*	*	*	*
Srivastava et al., 2010						
Tan et al., 2010	*		*		*	*
Tao & Zhang, 2010	*		*	*	*	*
Tao & Zhang, 2011	*	*	*		*	*
Tao et al., 2009			*	*		*
Tubiello et al., 2000	*	*			*	
Thomson et al., 2005	*				*	
Thornton et al., 2009	*		*			*
Thornton et al., 2011	*		*			*
Thornton et al., 2010	*	*	*	*	*	*
Tingem & Rivington, 2009	*	*	*		*	*
Tingem et al., 2008	*		*		*	*
Walker & Schulze, 2008	*		*		*	*
Wang et al., 2011			*		*	*
Winters et al., 1998	*				*	
Xiao et al., 2005	*	*			*	
Xiong et al., 2009			*		*	*
Xiong et al., 2007	*		*	*	*	*
Yates & Strzepek, 1998	*	*			*	
Zhang & Liu, 2005	*	*			*	
Zhao et al., 2005	*				*	

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