

Mathematical modelling of evapotranspiration by using remote sensing and data mining

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1 **Mathematical modelling of evapotranspiration by using remote sensing and data mining**

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25 **Abstract**

26 Precise evaluation of evapotranspiration in an extended area is crucial for water requirement. By
27 using remote sensing evapotranspiration algorithms, many climatological variables are needed.
28 In case of using climatological variable measurements, many climatic stations must be
29 established in that specific area. By using data mining method integrated with remote sensing,
30 evapotranspiration can be calculated with high accuracy. A physical-based SEBAL
31 evapotranspiration algorithm was modeled by GIS model builder for ET calculations. Albedo,
32 emissivity, and Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) were considered as M5 decision
33 tree model inputs. Evapotranspiration was evaluated for 3 April 2020 to 17 September 2020 and
34 the equations were extracted in the M5 decision tree model and these equations were modeled in
35 GIS by using python scripts for 3 April 2020 to 17 September 2020. The results make clear that
36 the mathematical decision tree model can estimate the evapotranspiration gained by physical-
37 based SEBAL algorithm in high accurately.

38 **Keyword: Remote sensing; data mining; GIS; machine learning.**

39

40 **1. Introduction**

41 Irrigation scheduling of crops can be done by using meteorological data for evapotranspiration
42 calculations. By using satellite images and different algorithms, evapotranspiration can be
43 estimated in an extended area and reach an accurate irrigation scheduling (Jaferian et al., 2019;
44 Song et al., 2018; Diarraa et al., 2017; Colaizzi et al., 2017; Anderson et al., 2012).

45 Evapotranspiration estimation is a complicated process. For estimating evapotranspiration,
46 different equations were obtained which can be used in different equations such as FAO-
47 Penman–Monteith, Blaney-Cridde, etc. Ground observations represent the results for one

48 specific point in which high accuracy is needed to generalize them for extended region Hence
49 evaporation is different from station to station. By using remote sensing technologies, one can
50 reach acceptable and high accuracy for a specific extended region. By using satellite images as a
51 remote sensing technic, ground observations transformed to soft data. Among different methods
52 of data mining, the M5 decision tree was used to estimate the evapotranspiration in an extended
53 area (Gibert et al., 2018).

54 This research is intended to establish an applicable different linear relation by using the M5
55 decision tree between independent remote sensing parameters (albedo, emissivity, and
56 Normalized difference water index) with the dependent parameter (evapotranspiration) by using
57 data mining which is the most important innovation of this research.

58 Landsat8 satellite images and SEBAL algorithm were used for evapotranspiration estimation.
59 which was used in many evapotranspiration estimations and acceptable results obtained by these
60 researches (Mhawej et al., 2020; Elnmer et al., 2019; Kong et al., 2019; Ochege et al., 2019;
61 Gobbo et al., 2019; Kamali and Nazari, 2018).

62 Land surface temperature (LST) is one of input parameters for evapotranspiration estimation but
63 the spatial resolution of this band is 100m and the estimated evapotranspiration image by using
64 SEBAL algorithm by using this band has 100m spatial resolution. Which the other aim of this
65 research is to enhance spatial resolution by using the M5 decision tree. Input parameters have
66 30m spatial resolution and by applying the gained equations by the M5 decision tree, an
67 evapotranspiration map with higher spatial resolution can be obtained.

68 According to sugarcane plantation in an extended area in the southwest of Iran (more than 94000
69 ha), an extremely high volume of water is consumed in this section, so spatially enhancing

70 evapotranspiration estimation image, irrigation water scheduling can be calculated more
71 precisely.

72

73 **2. Materials and methods**

74 **2.1. Study area**

75

76 This study was conducted in the Amir-Kabir Agro-Industry Sugarcane fields. The Sugarcane
77 fields are located in the southwest of Iran (Figure1). The soil texture is clay-loam and annual
78 average evapotranspiration for 20 years was 3331.812 mm. The total area of cultivated sugarcane
79 in Khuzestan is over 84000 ha. Each farm has a low-pressure hydro flume irrigation system and
80 a subsurface drainage system with a 40m distance and 1.8 m depth for each drain tile. The total
81 irrigation water consumption is 3000 mm and the peak of irrigation water was applied in July.

82

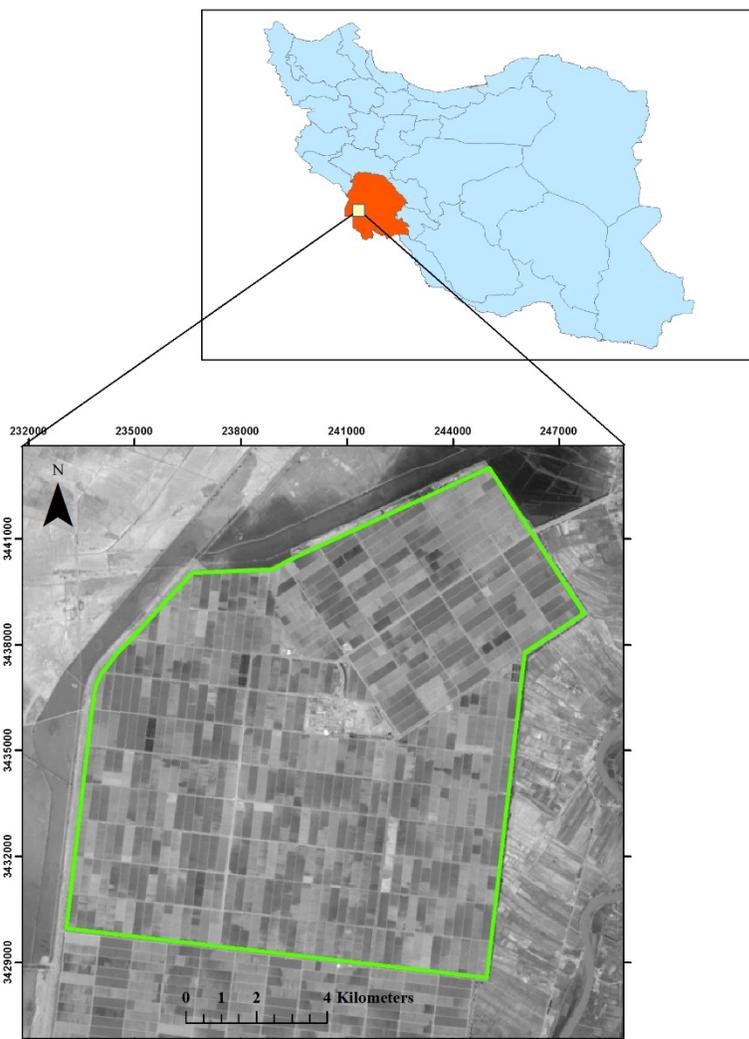


Fig. 1. Amir-Kabir sugarcane Agro-Industry location area

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86 **2.2. Remote sensing**

87

88 Landsat 8 OLI satellite images were the main data for remote sensing processes

89 (<http://glovis.usgs.gov>). Thermal bands have lower resolution compared to other optic bands. As

90 for Landsat8, band10 image represents a thermal band that provides less spatial resolution

91 (100m) but Thermal bands are critical for evapotranspiration estimation and Landsat8 has the

92 most appropriate thermal band for agricultural evapotranspiration estimation in a great variety

93 extended regions. Amir-Kabir agro-industry plantation with area of 14000 ha is extended enough
94 for evapotranspiration calculations by using remote sensing images.

95

96 **2.3. Ground measurements**

97

98 ET estimation requires meteorological data. Meteorological data were obtained from Amir-Kabir
99 agro-industry plantation local weather station. Weather data including Max and Min temperature,
100 the relative percentage of humidity, wind speed, and sunshine hours were used for
101 evapotranspiration calculations and Ref-et software was used for reference evapotranspiration
102 calculations.

103

104 **2.4. SEBAL algorithm**

105

106 The SEBAL algorithm was used to calculate the evapotranspiration (ET) of Sugarcane for the
107 Amir-Kabir agro-industry plantation. SEBAL algorithm uses thermal and multispectral digital
108 images of Landsat or other sensors to estimate the evapotranspiration (Bastiaanssen et al., 1998).
109 The ET calculation process is obtained by the amount of energy remained from the classical
110 equation of energy balance presented in equation (1):

$$\lambda ET = Rn - G - H \quad (1)$$

111

112 Where λET is the latent heat flux in the atmospheric boundary layer (W/m^2), R_n is the net
113 radiation (W/m^2), H is the sensible heat flux (W/m^2) and G is the soil heat flux (W/m^2) (Allen et
114 al., 2002).

115 The net radiation (R_n) is computed by subtracting all outgoing radiant fluxes from all incoming
116 radiant fluxes. The soil heat flux (G) and sensible heat flux (H) are subtracted from the net
117 radiation flux at the surface R_n to compute the residual energy available for evapotranspiration
118 (λET) (Allen et al., 2002). The latent heat flux at the moment is converted into daily λET_{24}
119 assuming a constant evaporative fraction (Λ) for 24 h calculated from the instantaneous energy
120 fluxes as observed in the satellite data as Eq. (2):

$$\Lambda = \frac{\lambda ET}{R_n - G} \quad (2)$$

121

122 The daily actual evapotranspiration (ET_{24}) can then be determined as Eq. (3):

$$ET_{24} = \frac{86400 \times \Lambda \times (R_{n_{24}} - G_{24})}{\rho_w \times \lambda} \quad (3)$$

123 Where $R_{n_{24}}$ and G_{24} are the average net radiation for the day and daily soil heat flux (W/m^2)
124 respectively which computed from raw products of instantaneous satellite spectral radiance,
125 vegetation indices, and satellite surface temperatures which are then expressed as average day
126 estimates (Singh et al., 2008). For this study, four cloud-free satellite images were obtained for

127 April 2019 and 2020. Actual evapotranspiration (ETa) maps in mm/day are generated by the
128 SEBAL algorithm for each day.

129

130 **2.5. Data mining**

131 Data science analysis Data Mining (DM) algorithms are the most fundamental components.

132 Certain DM techniques such as artificial neural networks, clustering, and case-based reasoning or

133 Bayesian networks have been applied in environmental modeling (Gibert et al., 2018).

134 Decision Tree methods uses the explanatory variables with higher discriminant power by

135 considering the response variable, then iteratively subdivide the training sample by building a

136 tree where the internal nodes are associated with the variables and its corresponding branches are

137 the possible values of the variable (Gibert et al., 2018). M5 Model Tree (introduced by Quinlan

138 in 1992), has linear regression functions at the leaf nodes, which develops a relationship between

139 input and output variables. Data are split into subsets and a decision tree is created. The data in

140 child nodes of splitting criterion depends on treating the standard deviation of the class values

141 and calculating the expected reduction in this error in consequence of testing each attribute at

142 that node. The standard deviation reduction (SDR) is calculated as Eq. (4) (Quinlan 1992):

143

$$SDR = sd(T) - \sum_i \frac{|T_i|}{|T|} \times sd(T_i) \quad (4)$$

144

145 Where T is a set of data that reaches the node, T_i is the subset of data that have the ith outcome

146 of the potential set and sd is the standard deviation (Rahimikhoob et al., 2013; Wang and Witten,

147 1997). the data in child nodes are purer due to a less standard deviation in comparison to parent
 148 nodes. The M5 tree selects the one that maximizes the expected error reduction after scanning all
 149 the possible splits.

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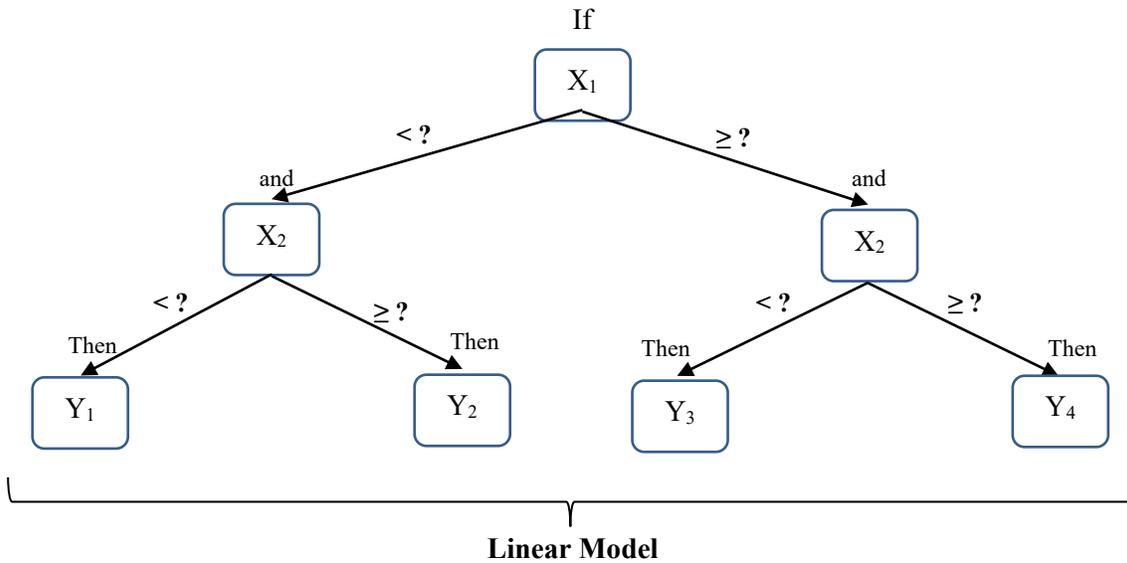


Fig. 2. Structure of M5 decision tree (Models Y1–Y4 are linear regression models)

2.6. Model Inputs and Output

For estimating evapotranspiration by SEBAL algorithm, meteorological data are needed including temperature, humidity, wind speed, etc. some inputs of SEBAL algorithm such as albedo and emissivity are affected by the land surface temperature, so for using fewer variables by data mining, albedo and emissivity were considered as inputs of M5 decision tree since these two parameters are easy to get and better show the temperature variances. Also, transpiration depends on the moisture of the plant. in data mining calculations, one vegetation index must represent the plant moisture such as Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI). So, albedo and emissivity are represented as absorbed and transformed light to the atmosphere and NDWI is

174 represented as plant moisture. The main idea was to use the basic SEBAL equation ($ET = R_n - G -$
175 H) as a simple equation: $ET = a(\text{Albedo}) - b(\text{emissivity}) - c(\text{NDWI})$ and calculate the constant
176 values with M5 decision tree model. The three inputs of the M5 decision tree are explained
177 hereafter in more detail.

178

179 **2.6.1. Evapotranspiration**

180 One of the crucial parameters for evapotranspiration estimation is Land surface temperature
181 (LST) which Radiation and the exchange of energy flux between the earth's surface and
182 atmosphere depend on it (Weng et al., 2019). A physical model such as the SEBAL algorithm
183 has made it possible to estimate evapotranspiration for large areas. Surface biophysical
184 characteristics such as albedo, greenness, and wetness are among the most important parameters
185 affecting LST (Weng et al., 2019). The energy distribution is determined by albedo and
186 emissivity of the surface and atmosphere. previous studies show that surface emissivity strongly
187 correlates to vegetation cover (Griend and Owe, 1993; Rechid et al., 2009), vegetation also
188 strongly affects atmospheric properties through evapotranspiration (Gordon et al., 2005).
189 atmosphere emissivity is determined by atmospheric water vapor pressure (Staley and Jurica,
190 1972; Brutsaert, 1975).

191

192 **2.6.2. Albedo**

193 Albedo is a dimensionless diffuse reflectivity or reflecting power of a surface (Zhang et al.,
194 2017) and is an important effective parameter on digital climate models and surface energy

195 balance equations (Zhang et al., 2017). Surface albedo is computed by correcting the α_{toa} for
 196 atmospheric transmissivity as Eq. (5):

197

$$\alpha = \frac{\alpha_{toa} - \alpha_{path_radiance}}{\tau_{sw}^2} \quad (5)$$

198

199

200 Where; $\alpha_{path_radiance}$ is the average portion of the incoming solar radiation by considering all
 201 bands that is back-scattered to the satellite before it reaches the earth's surface, and τ_{sw} is the
 202 atmospheric transmissivity (Allen et al., 2002).

203

204 2.6.3. Emissivity

205

206 The surface emissivity is the ratio of the actual radiation emitted by a surface to that emitted by a
 207 black body at the same surface temperature (Allen et al., 2002). Surface emissivity is an
 208 important variable for estimating land surface temperature and determining long-wave surface
 209 energy balance (Mira et al., 2010). Sobrino et al. (2004) proposed emissivity based NDVI in
 210 three different cases as Eq. (6):

211

$$\epsilon = \begin{cases} 0.973 & NDVI < 0.2 \\ \epsilon_v P_v + \epsilon_s (1 - P_v) + d\epsilon & 0.2 \leq NDVI \leq 0.5 \\ 0.986 & NDVI > 0.5 \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

212

213 Where ε_v is the vegetation canopy emissivity and ε_s is the bare soil emissivity; in this paper $\varepsilon_v =$
 214 0.986 and $\varepsilon_s = 0.973$. the effect of the geometrical distribution of the natural surfaces is measured
 215 as $d\varepsilon$ in Eq.6 . P_v is the vegetation proportion obtained according to (Carlson and Ripley, 1997)
 216 as Eq. (7):

$$P_v = \left[\frac{NDVI - NDVI_s}{NDVI_v - NDVI_s} \right]^2 \quad (7)$$

218
 219 The minimum value of the NDVI for bare soil over the study region is presented as $NDVI_s$ and
 220 $NDVI_v$ is the highest NDVI for a fully vegetated pixel. The emissivity of land surfaces can differ
 221 significantly by vegetation, surface moisture, and roughness (Nerry *et al.* 1988, Salisbury and
 222 D’Aria 1992).

223

224 **2.6.4. Vegetation Index**

225 The NDWI spectral index which represents the crop moisture is the normalized difference water
 226 index. NDWI has been used to estimate the equivalent water thickness of vegetation canopy
 227 (Yilmaz et al., 2008). The NDWI considers two infrared bands with a central wavelength near
 228 about 0.86 μm (NIR), and a central wavelength of about 1.24 μm (SWIR). The equation is
 229 (Eq.8):

230

$$NDWI = \frac{\{\rho(0.86\mu m) - \rho(1.24\mu m)\}}{\{\rho(0.86\mu m) + \rho(1.24\mu m)\}} \quad (8)$$

231

232 The M5 decision tree model takes Albedo, emissivity, and a vegetation index as input and after
233 the data mining process on these data, linear equations will be extracted. By inserting linear
234 equations, the evapotranspiration map was obtained as an output with higher spatial resolution.
235 Figure3 shows the flowchart of the M5 decision tree and SEBAL algorithm.

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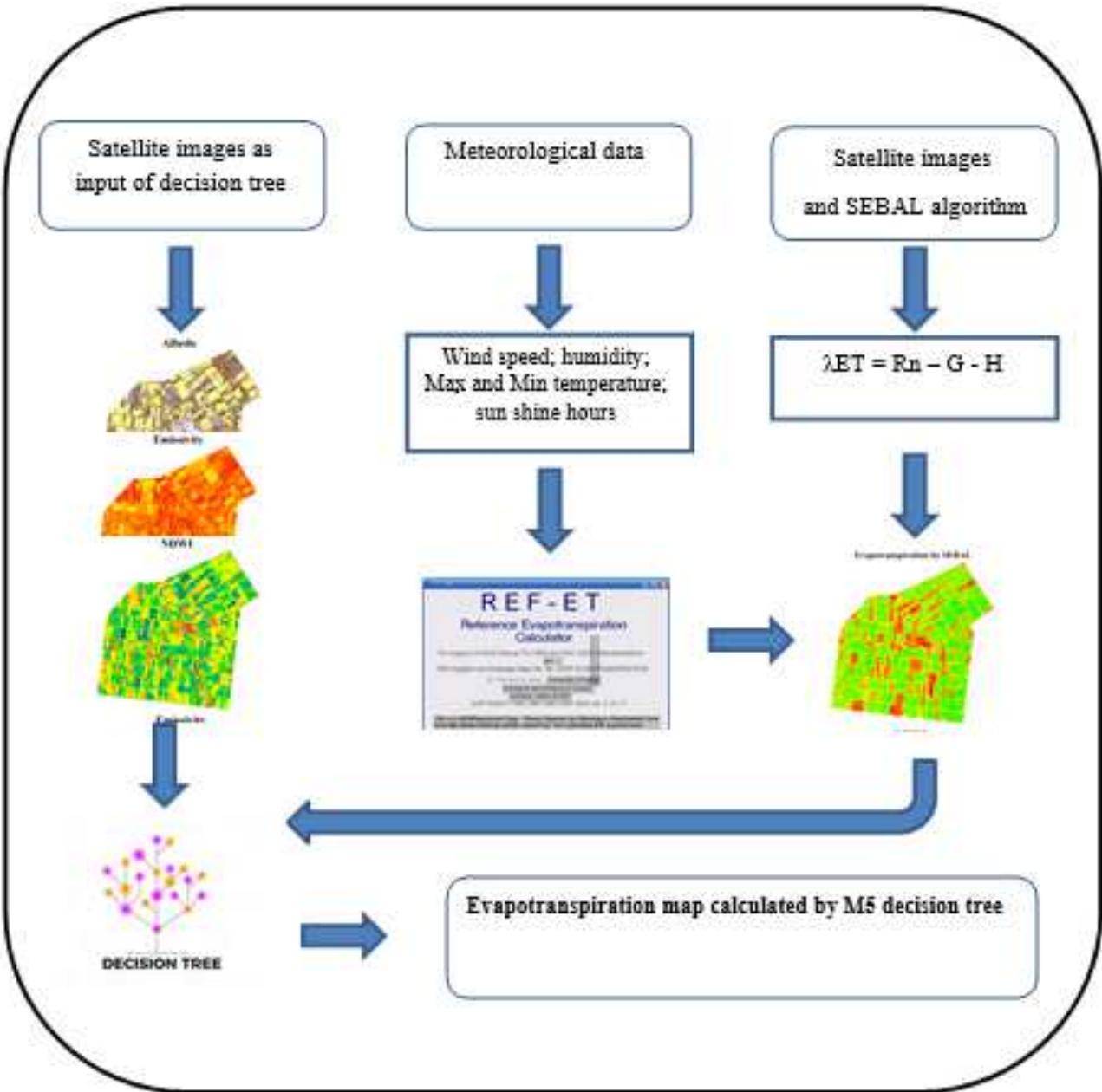
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251
 252 **Fig. 3.** Flowchart of the M5 decision tree and SEBAL algorithm
 253

254 **2.7. Model Validation**

255 By using three inputs (albedo, emissivity, and NDWI) the accuracy of M5 decision tree was
 256 evaluated. The accuracy of the M5 decision tree model and the final evapotranspiration map

257 which was combined with M5 decision tree was evaluated by correlation coefficient (R^2), root
258 mean square errors (RMSE) and mean absolute errors (MAE) statistics (Eq. 9 to 11):

259

$$R^2 = 1 - \frac{\sum (ET_o - ET_p)^2}{\sum (ET_o - \overline{ET})^2} \quad (9)$$

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum (ET_o - ET_p)^2} \quad (10)$$

$$MAE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |ET_o - ET_p| \quad (11)$$

260

261 Where N is the number of data, ET_o is the observed evaporation values calculated by the SEBAL
262 algorithm and ET_p is the M5 decision tree model estimated evapotranspiration.

263

264 3. Results

265

266 3.1. M5 decision tree

267 For evapotranspiration estimation derivation M5 decision tree was used instead of SEBAL
268 physical-based model. By using decision tree for evapotranspiration estimation of two month,
269 different equations were extracted (Appendix1). The equations were obtained by using Albedo,
270 emissivity and Normalized difference vegetation index (NDWI) as model inputs. These three

271 input parameters were calculated from 6 June 2020 to 24 July 2020 and were considered as input
272 for each day of evapotranspiration estimation.

273

274 **3.1.1. Inputs**

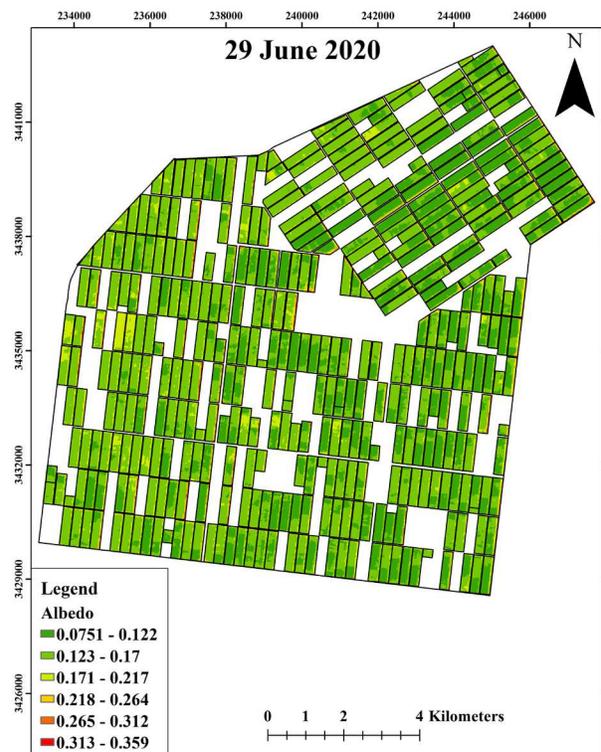
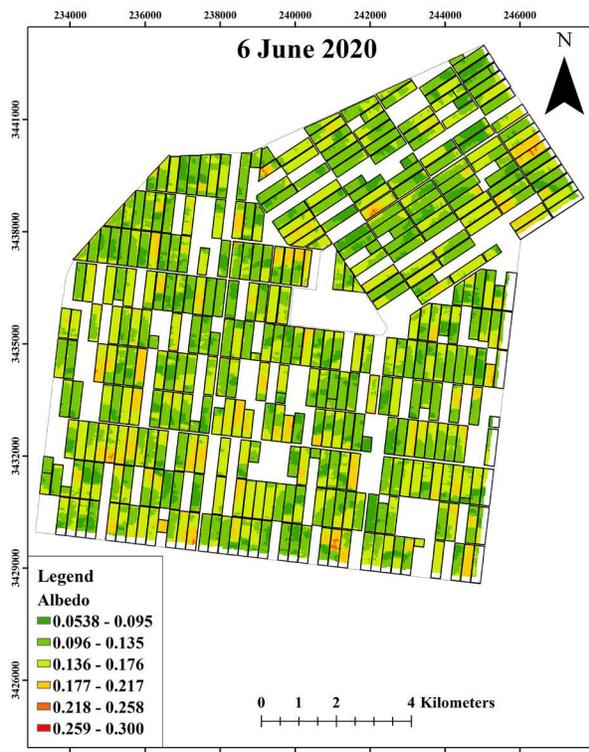
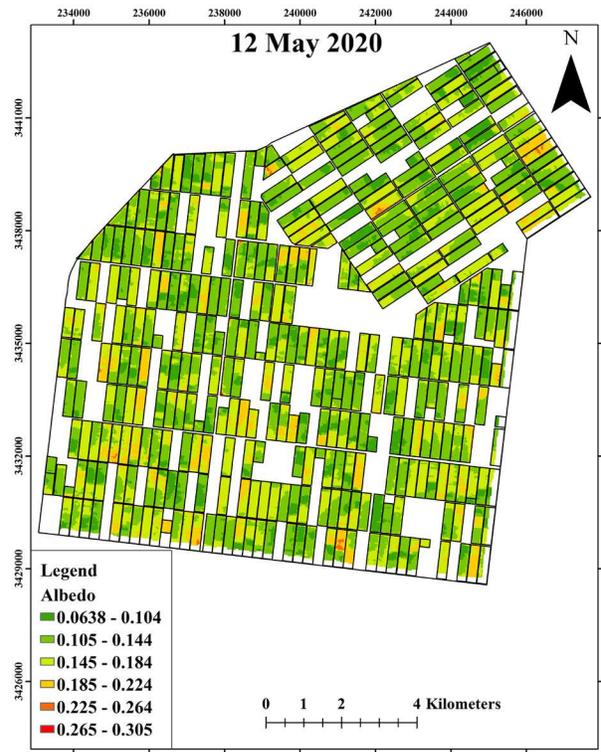
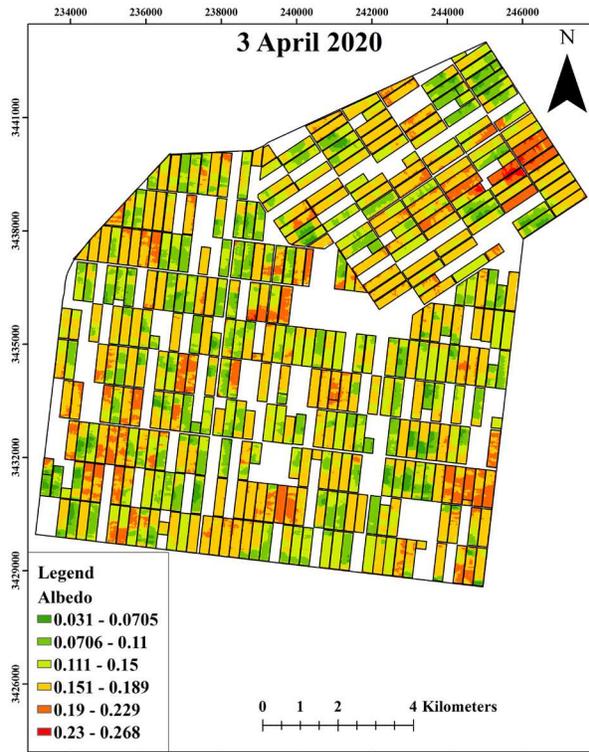
275 **3.1.1.1. Albedo**

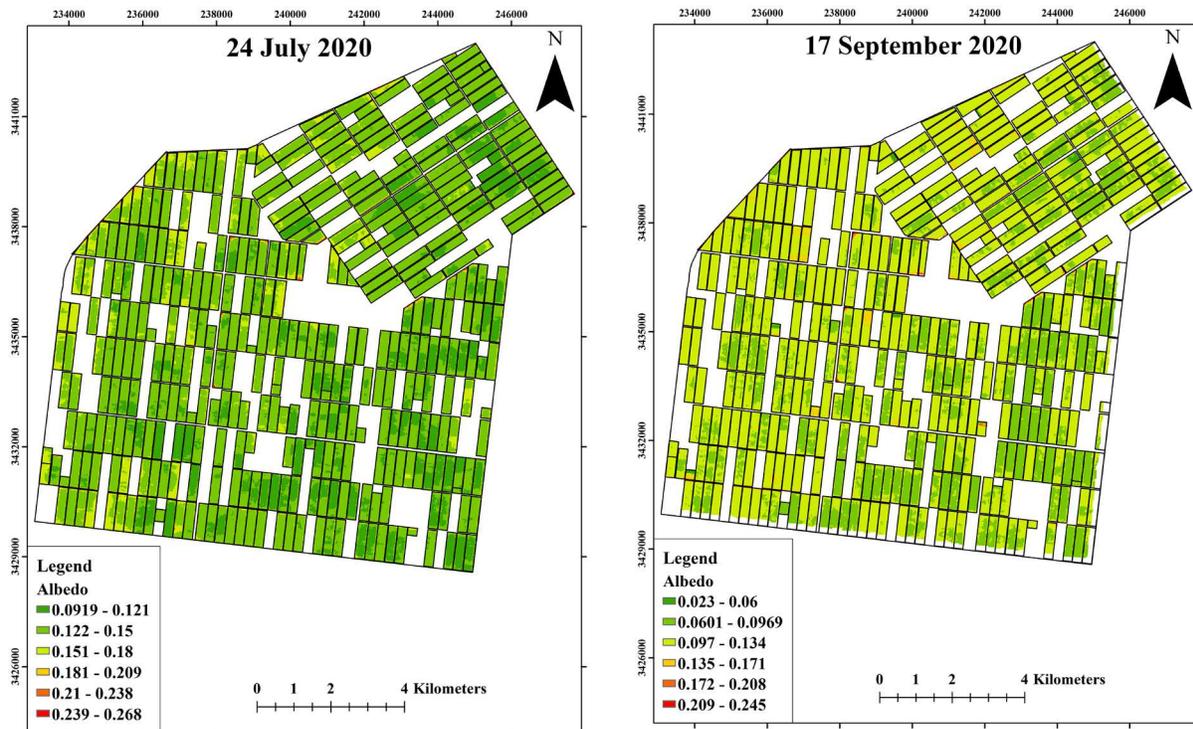
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277 Albedo is the reflectance of solar energy from the earth's surface. Albedo is said to determine
278 the amount of shortwave radiation to be absorbed by surfaces (Vargo et al., 2013). When
279 initial absorption of shortwave radiation is limited, it impacts the longwave energy radiated
280 by the earth's surface, as well as energy availability for evapotranspiration and energy to be
281 converted to sensible heat. Ice, barren land, and sand have higher albedo, which causes
282 higher reflectance of shortwave radiation (Vargo et al., 2013). Vegetative land cover has a
283 lower albedo in comparison to barren land.

284 In this study albedo is one of model input parameters which was calculated for each image in
285 the study period. In the first growth stage of sugarcane, vegetative cover is very low and the
286 plant is not developed and canopy cover did not reach to its highest development. Figure 4
287 shows the albedo images as input parameters of the decision tree for the study duration. In
288 satellite images canopy cover area is much lower than soil area at the first growth stage
289 (figure 4, 3 April 2020, 12 May 2020).

290





291

292

Fig. 4. Albedo input images for M5 decision tree

293

294 At the end stage of sugarcane growth stage (24 July 2020, 17 September 2020) by developing

295 canopy cover of sugarcane most of the sun light absorbed by plant and less of the sun light

296 reflected to the atmosphere, therefore albedo amount is decreases. Calculated albedo images from

297 3 April till 17 September 2020 makes clear that by developing and growth of sugarcane plant

298 amount of albedo decreases and the canopy cover can affect the reflection of the sun light.

299 Calculated albedo images for input of M5 decision tree indicates that this parameter have an

300 acceptable spatial variability for evaluating evapotranspiration.

301

302 3.1.1.2. Emissivity

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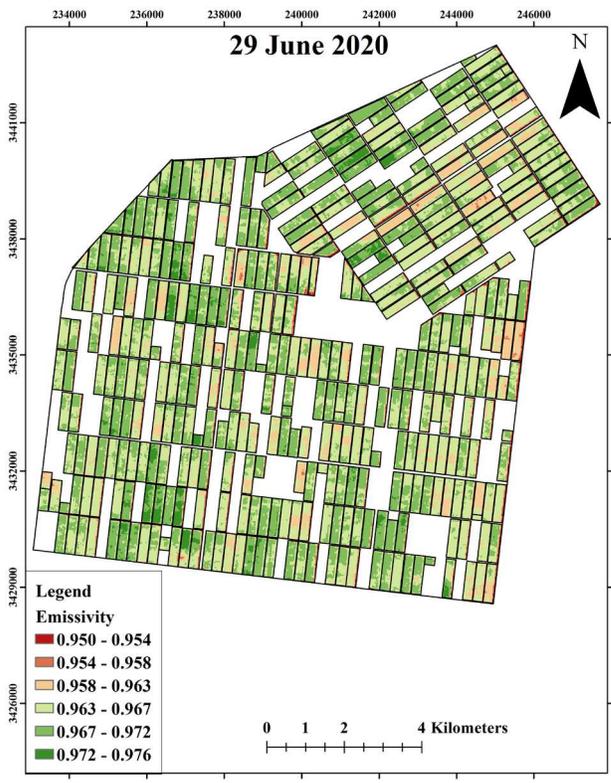
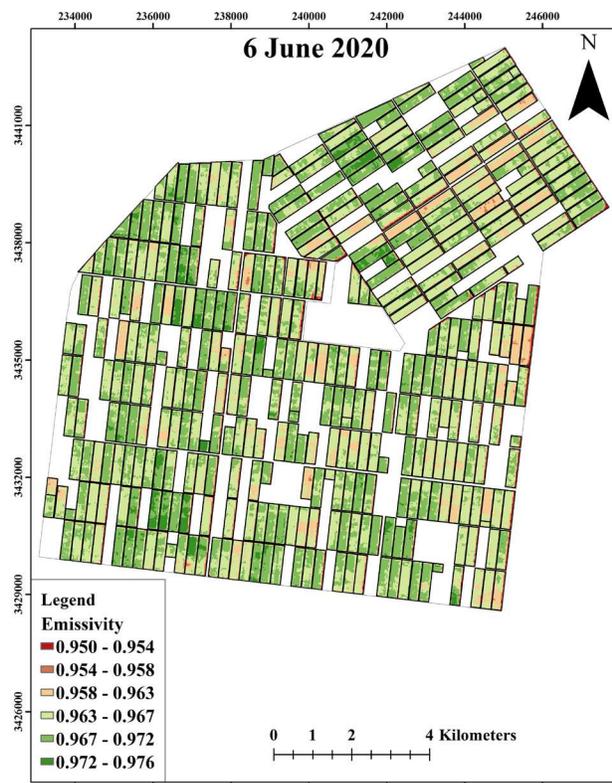
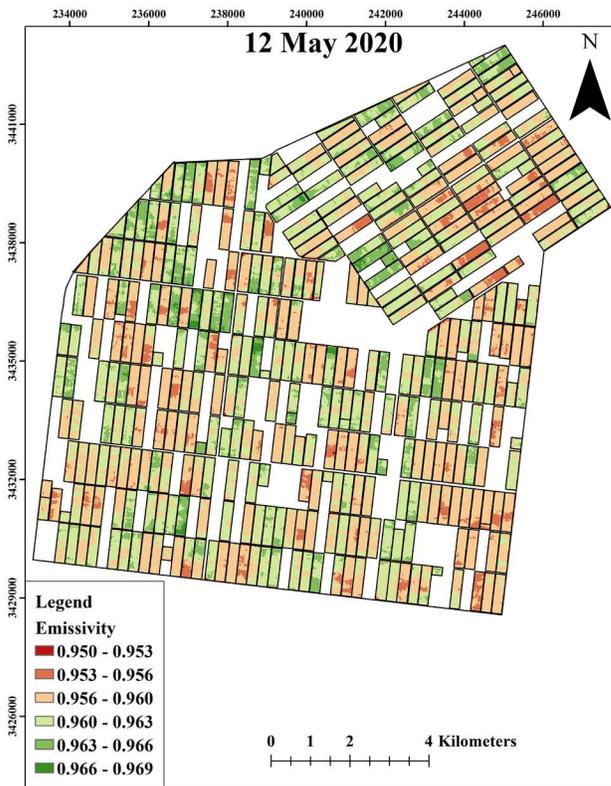
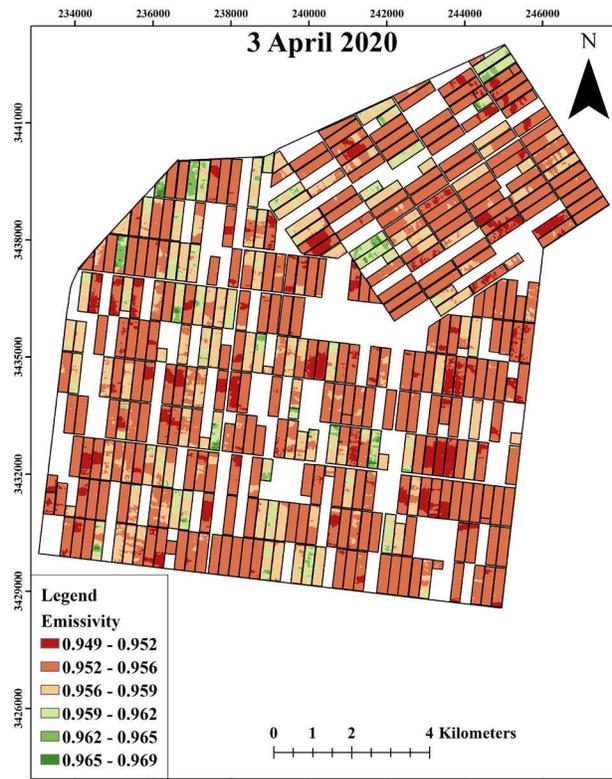
304 The emissivity of the surface of a material refers to the effectiveness of the surface in emitting
305 energy as thermal radiation (electromagnetic radiation with wavelength depending on the
306 temperature). Emissivity is mathematically defined as the ratio of the thermal radiation from the
307 surface to the radiation from an ideal black surface at the same temperature; the value varies
308 from 0 to 1. For C/SiC, the emissivity at 1600°C is ~0.7, which is high (Alfano et al., 2009).

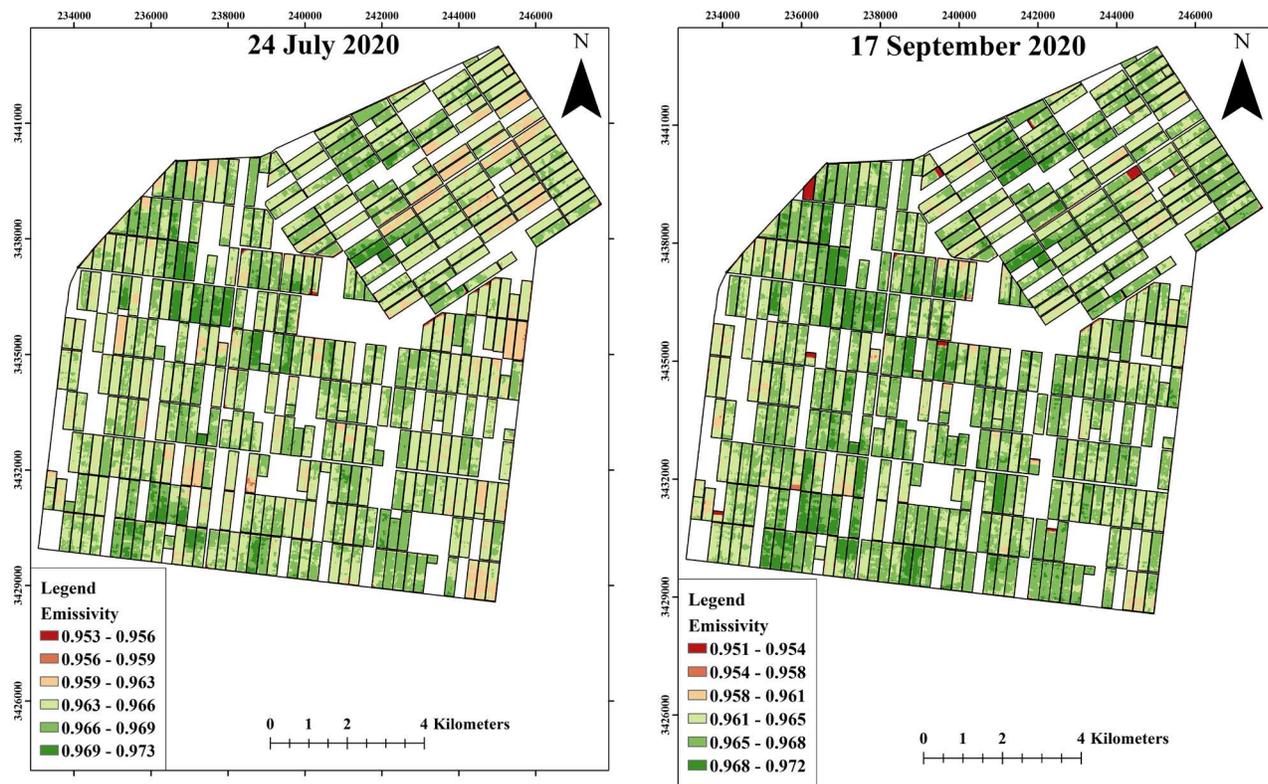
309 Emissivity as one input of the decision tree model related indirectly with Land Surface
310 Temperature (LST). Due to the increase of LST in the study period of sugarcane growth can
311 make the emissivity to increase.

312 Figure 5 shows the emissivity input parameter images for M5 decision tree model. Figure 5
313 indicates that at the first growth stage of sugarcane (figure5, 3 April 2020 and 12 May 2020) in
314 which the LST is low can make the emissivity to decrease considering less canopy cover and
315 more bare soil.

316

317





318 **Fig. 5.** Emissivity input images for M5 decision tree

319

320 In the end of sugarcane growth stage, the temperature increases which also makes the emissivity
 321 to increase. Figure 5 makes clear that emissivity has suitable spatial variability which can make
 322 the evaluation of evapotranspiration by using M5 decision tree with acceptable accuracy.

323

324 3.1.1.3. NDWI

325

326 The Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) (Gao, 1996) is a satellite-derived index from
 327 the Near-Infrared (NIR) and Short Wave Infrared (SWIR) channels. The SWIR reflectance
 328 reflects changes in both the vegetation water content and the spongy mesophyll structure in
 329 vegetation canopies, while the NIR reflectance is affected by leaf internal structure and leaf dry
 330 matter content but not by water content. The combination of the NIR with the SWIR removes

331 variations induced by leaf internal structure and leaf dry matter content, improving the accuracy
332 in retrieving the vegetation water content (Ceccato et al. 2001). The amount of water available in
333 the internal leaf structure largely controls the spectral reflectance in the SWIR interval of the
334 electromagnetic spectrum. SWIR reflectance is therefore negatively related to leaf water content
335 (Tucker, 1980). Its usefulness for drought monitoring and early warning has been demonstrated
336 in different studies (Gu et al., 2007; Ceccato et al., 2002). It is computed using the near infrared
337 (NIR) and the short wave infrared (SWIR) reflectance (Eq.8), which makes it sensitive to
338 changes in liquid water content and in spongy mesophyll of vegetation canopies (Gao, 1996 ;
339 Ceccato et al., 2001).

340 Figure 6 shows the NDWI input images for M5 decision tree. NDWI is considered as wetness
341 index of sugarcane. According to figure 6 NDWI varies in different growth stages and has wide
342 range of variability. In figure 6, 3 April 2020 and 12 May 2020 maximum and minimum amount
343 of NDWI differs spatially but due to early growth stage of the plant most of the cultivated area
344 are dry according to less irrigation water consumption.

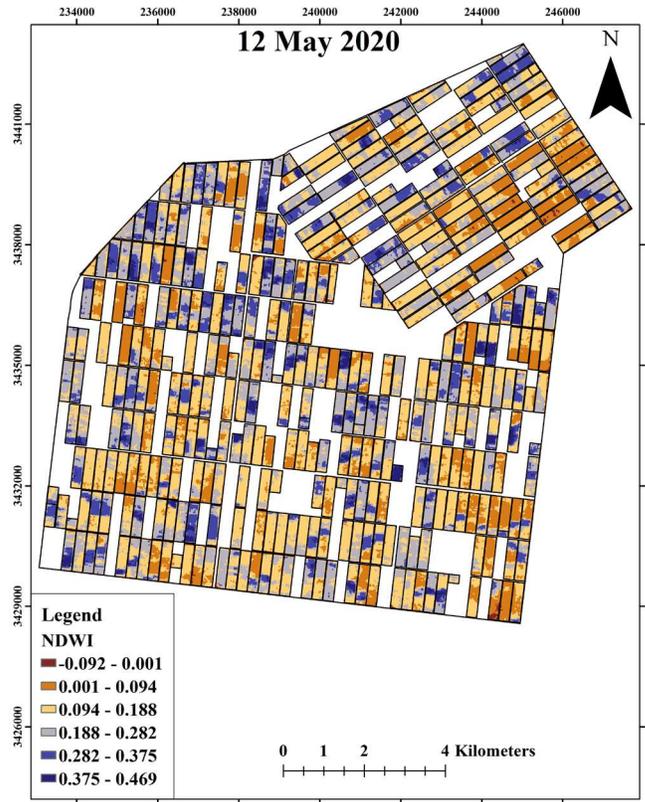
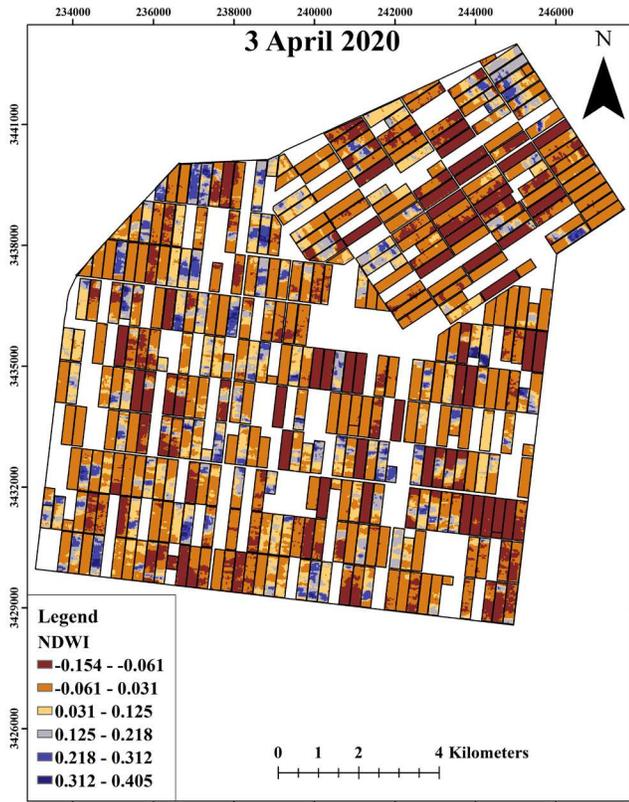
345 Plant wetness status has effect on evapotranspiration, where plant with less wetness is under
346 water deficit stress and has less evapotranspiration and plant with high wetness index has high
347 evapotranspiration and this NDWI variability in different growth stages can obtain high accuracy
348 for evapotranspiration evaluation with data mining.

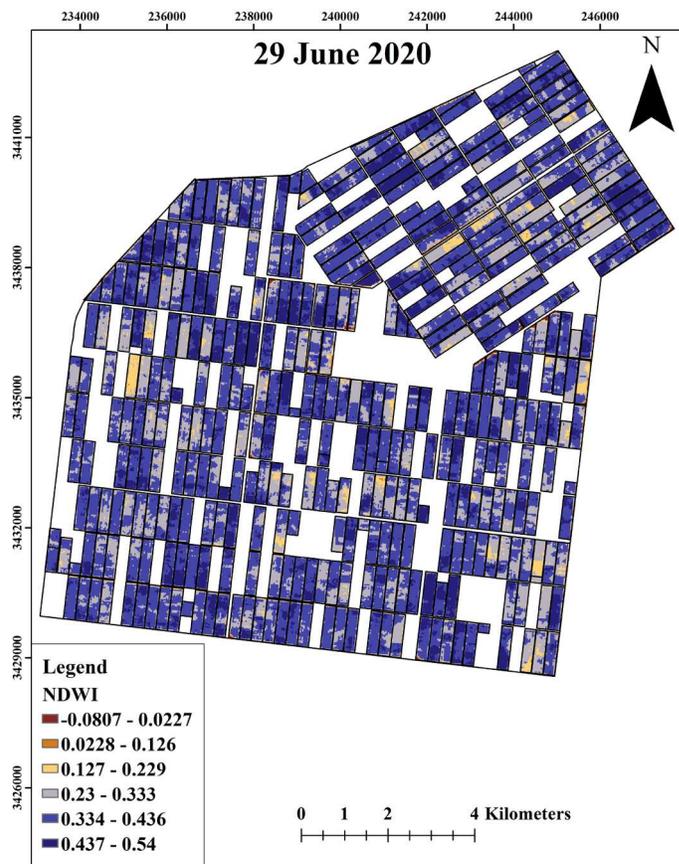
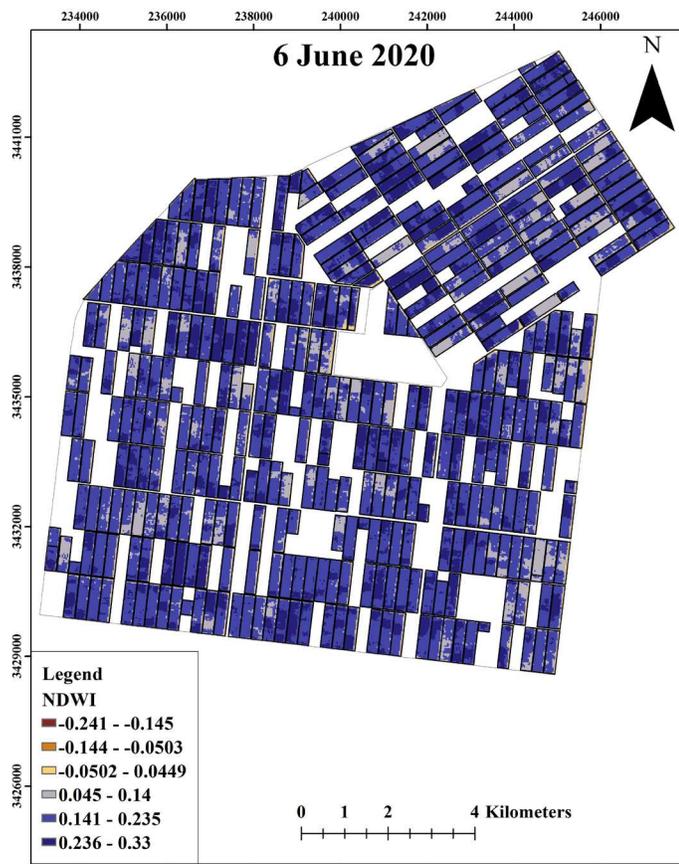
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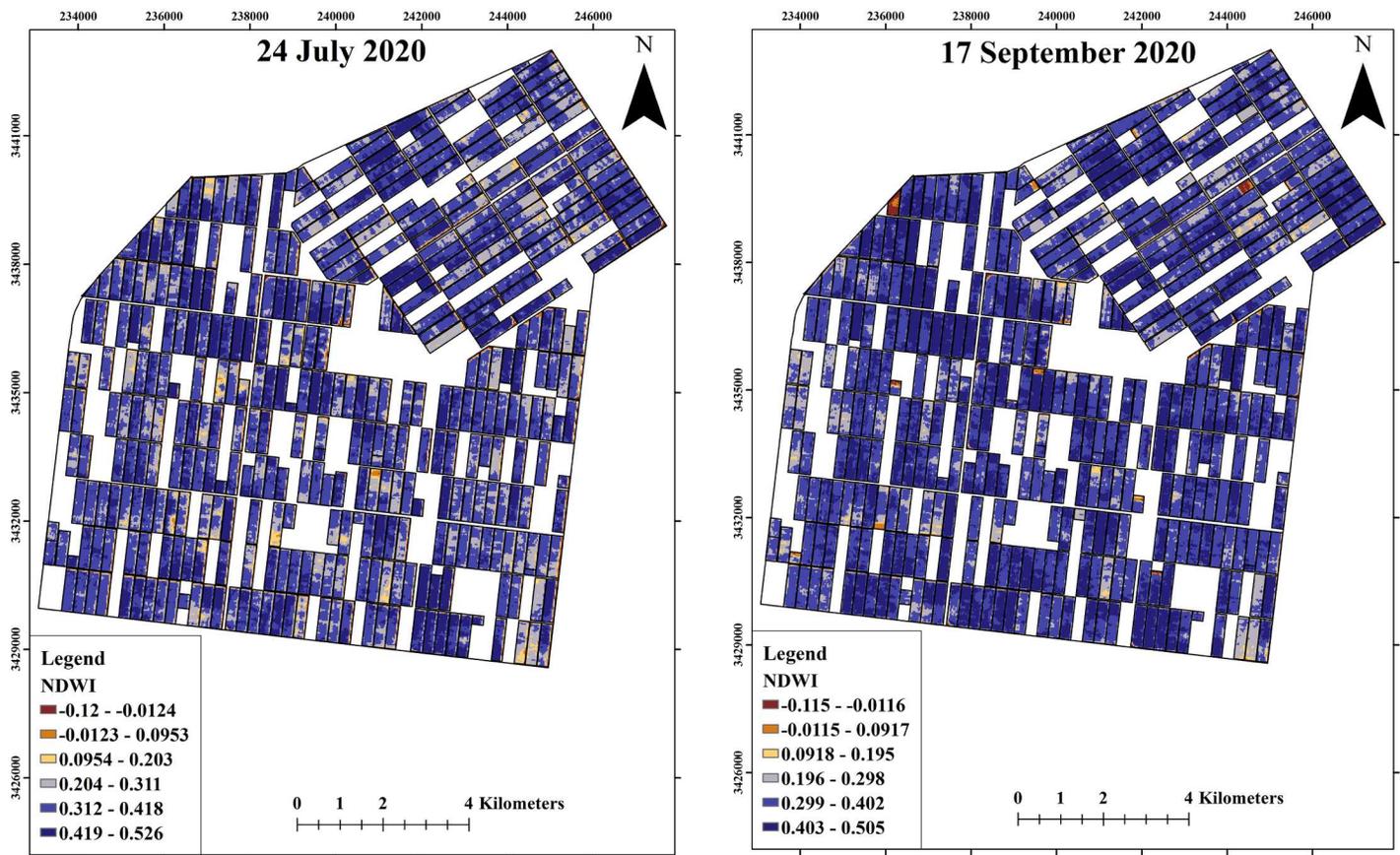


Fig. 6. NDWI input images for M5 decision tree

353

354

355 Also Figure 6 makes clear that in the end sugar cane growth stages most of the cultivated farms
 356 have high NDWI index due to the peak of irrigation water requirement of sugarcane.

357

358 3.1.2. Output

359

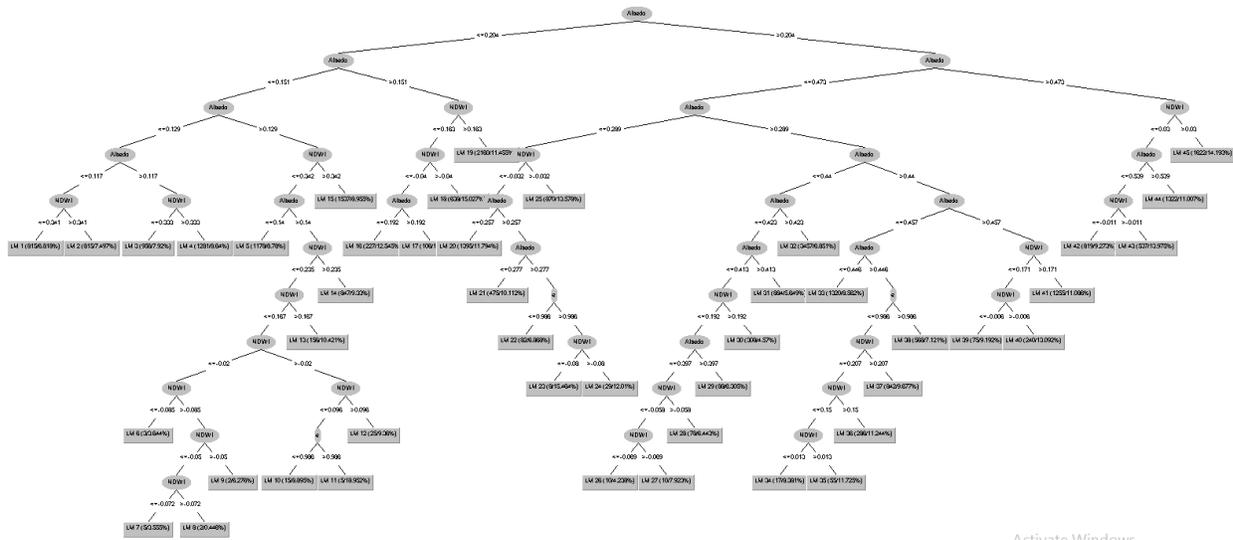
360 The values in parentheses under each label in the leaves indicate the number of segments
 361 resulting from the corresponding threshold. The second value indicates the number of times a
 362 misclassification occurred (Vieira et al., 2012).

363 Figure 7 shows the decision tree for the evapotranspiration from 3 April 2020 to 17 September
364 2020. 45 different equations were extracted with a Correlation coefficient of 0.9947, Mean
365 absolute error and root mean squared error of 0.4101 and 0.5705, respectively.

366 By using fewer input parameters including albedo, emissivity, and NDWI, many
367 evapotranspiration equations were extracted. Figure 4 reveals that the albedo input variable was
368 located at the top of a decision tree which makes clear that albedo has high importance in
369 evapotranspiration estimation based on this decision tree. By considering the geographical
370 location of the study area, there is a high amount of receiving light in this area and the albedo
371 input variable was considered as absorbed light. Therefore, M5 decision tree divisions show that
372 the amount of absorbed light in this area has an important role in the evapotranspiration process
373 which most of the decision tree divisions were based on the albedo. NDWI variable is considered
374 as plant moisture which has an important role in evapotranspiration calculations after albedo
375 variable. This shows that the plant moisture has an important role in extracting the decision tree
376 equations beside the absorbed lights.

377 The emissivity variable was considered as the diffused light has less importance in the decision
378 tree divisions which by considering the geographical location of the study area it shows that most
379 of the received light was absorbed than diffused.

380



381

382

383

Fig. 7. Decision tree for the evapotranspiration estimation

384

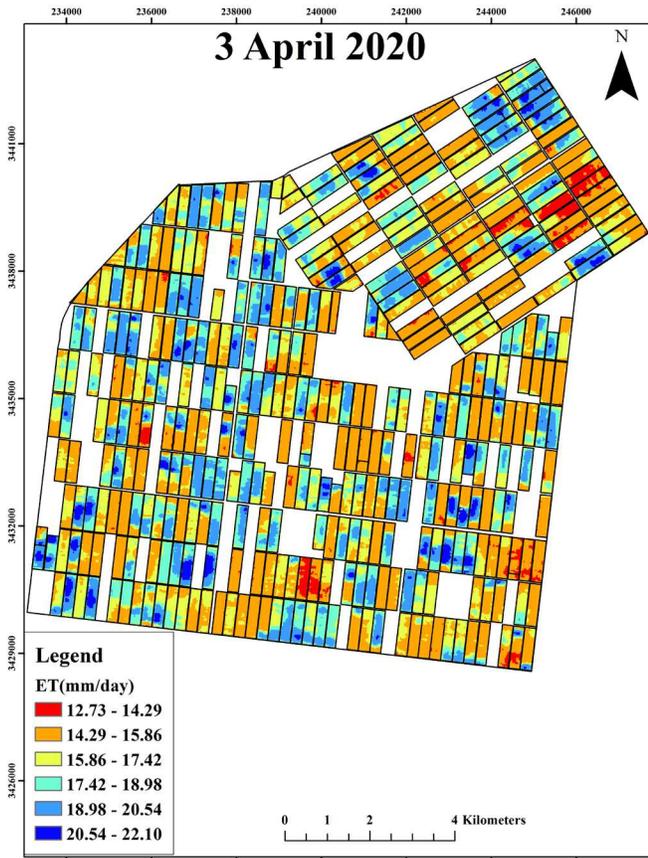
385 The extracted equations by using M5 decision tree and python scripts in the Arc Map
 386 environment are presented as Appendix1 at the end of this article.

387

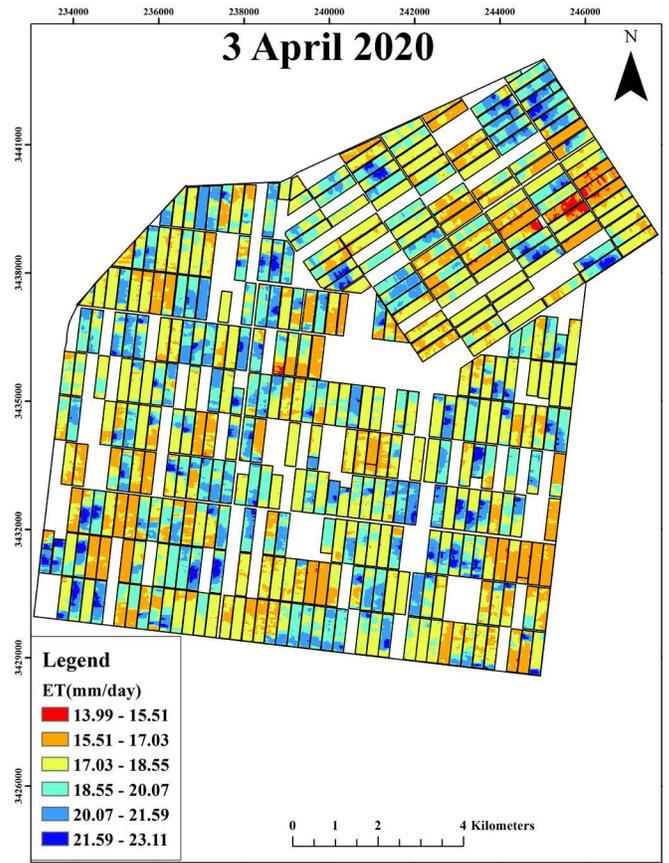
388 **3.2. Combining M5 and GIS**

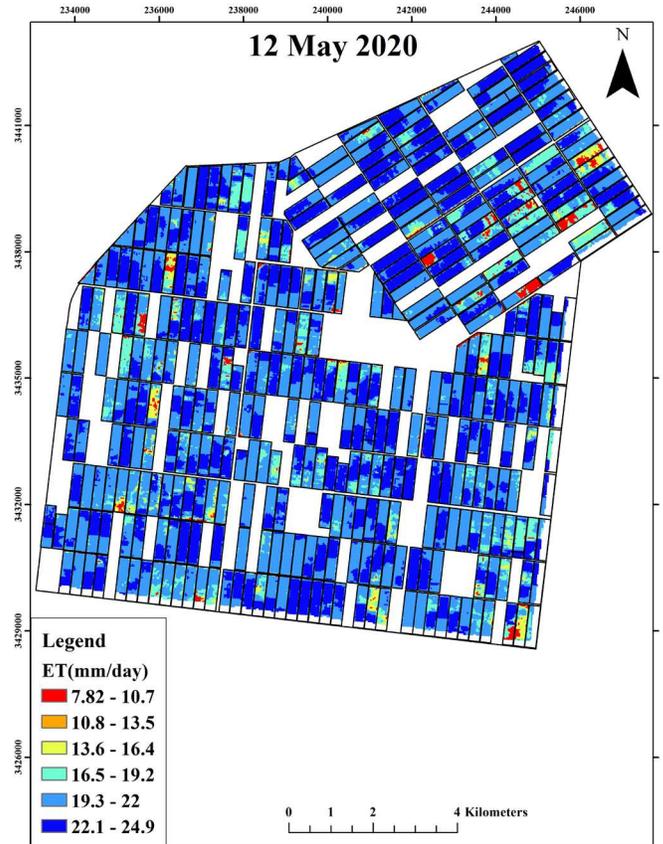
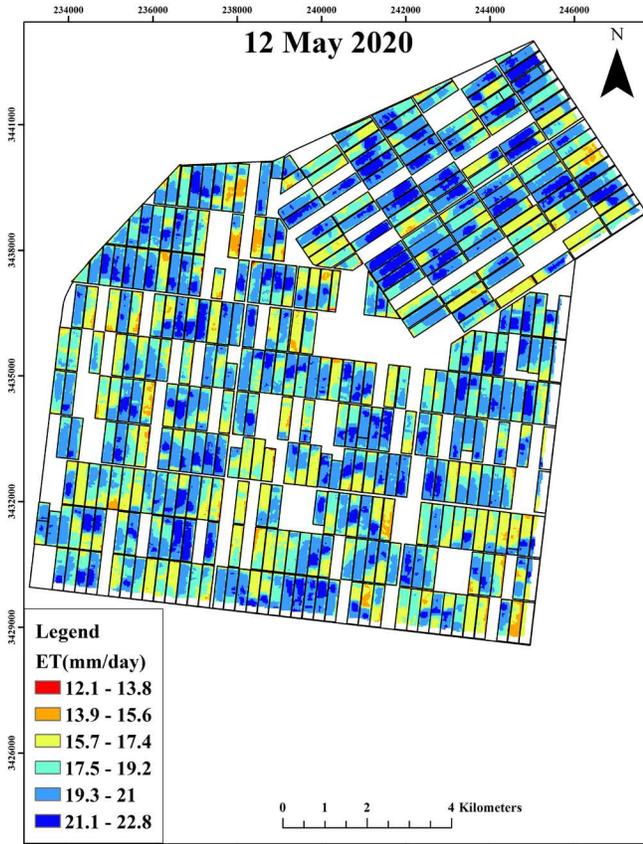
389 After extracting the most suitable equations from the M5 decision tree model, they were applied
 390 by using python scripts for faster and more accurate calculating. The equations were obtained by
 391 using evapotranspiration from 3 April 2020 to 17 September 2020 and were applied on input
 392 variables of the mentioned period to find if the extracted equations have acceptable model
 393 performance. Figure 8 shows the evapotranspiration map calculated by the SEBAL algorithm
 394 and M5 decision tree for 3 April 2020 to 17 September 2020. According to figure 8 column a
 395 shows the evapotranspiration calculated by using SEBAL algorithm and column b shows the
 396 evapotranspiration maps derived by using M5 decision tree algorithm.

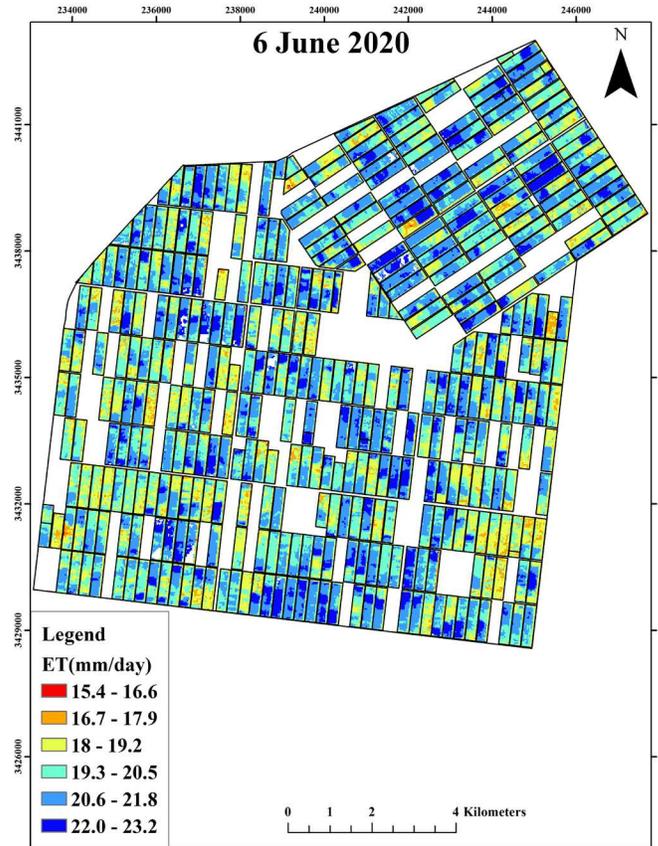
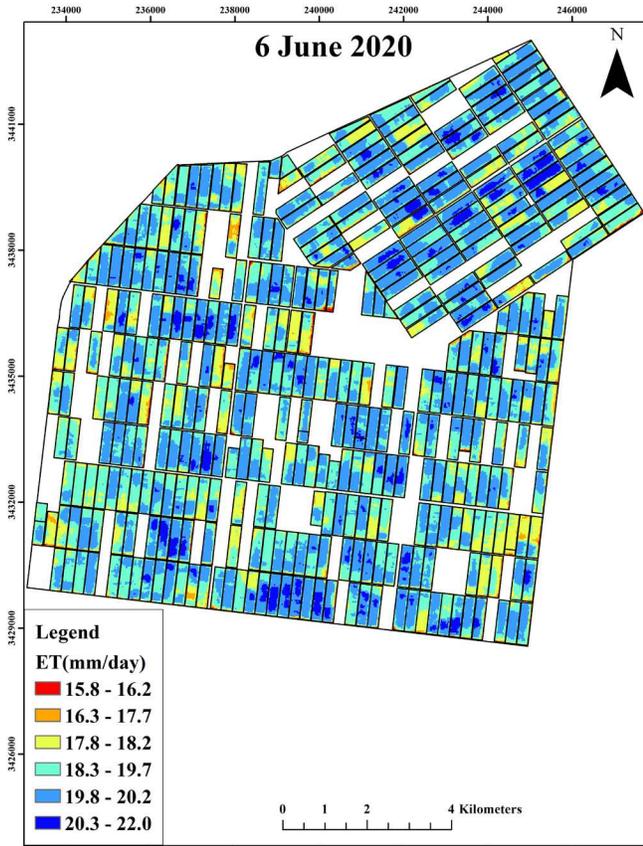
(a)

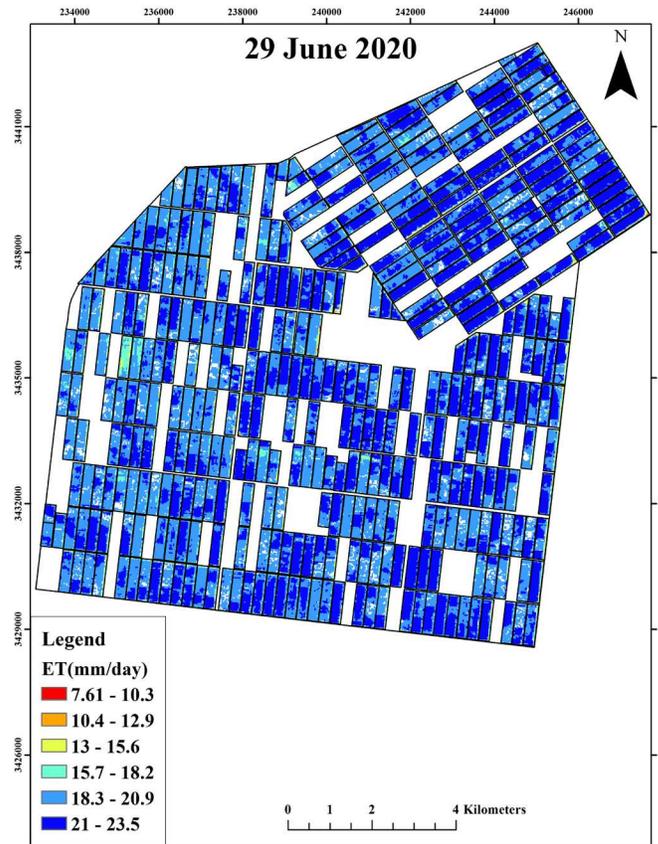
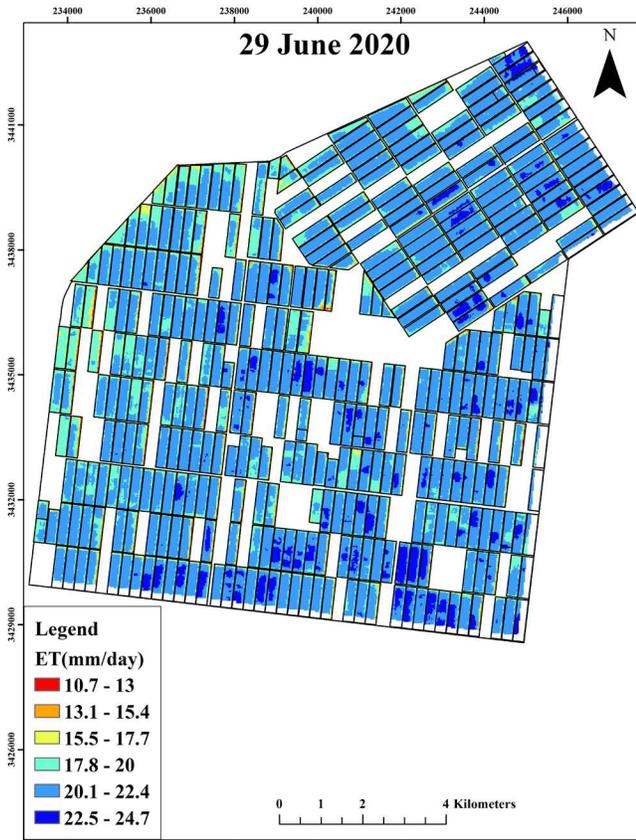


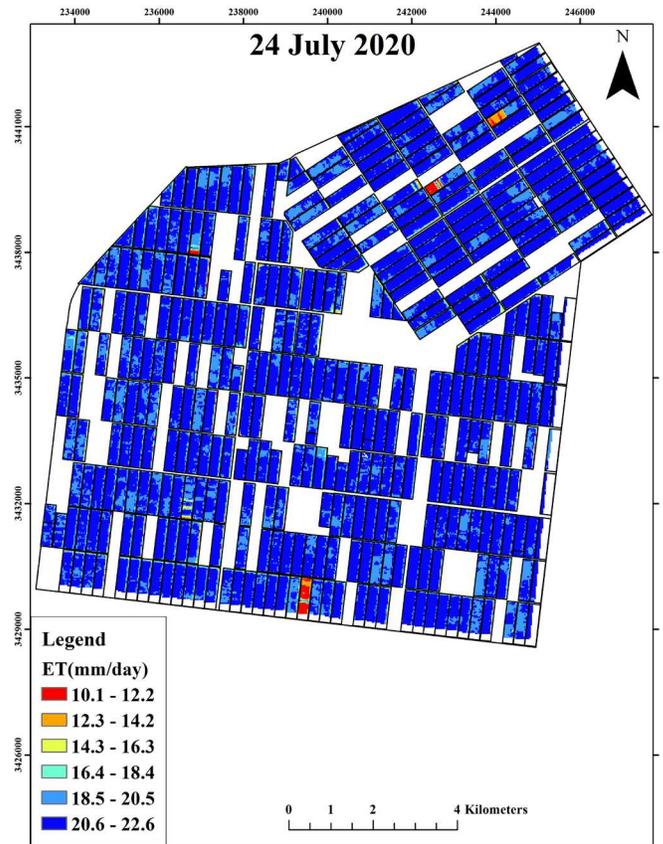
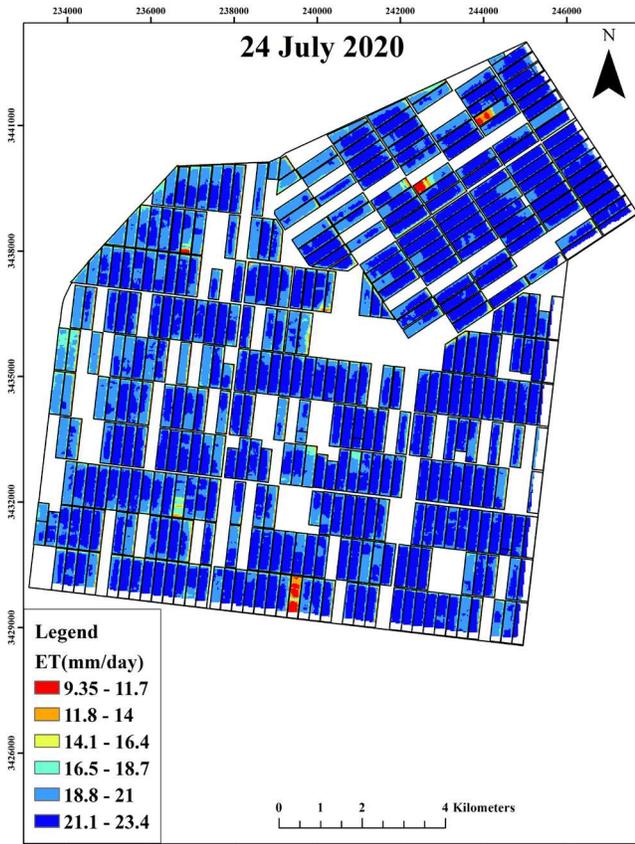
(b)

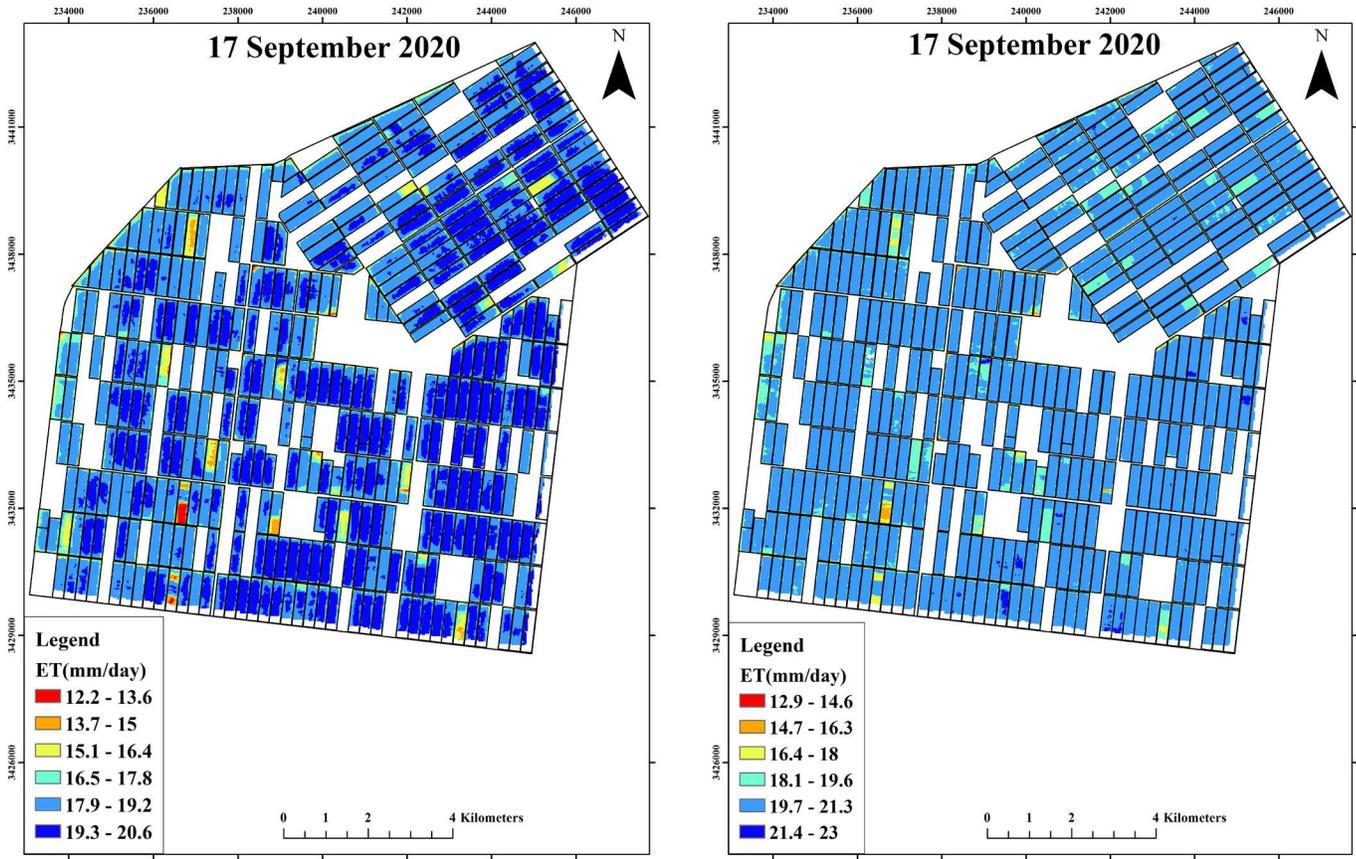












397

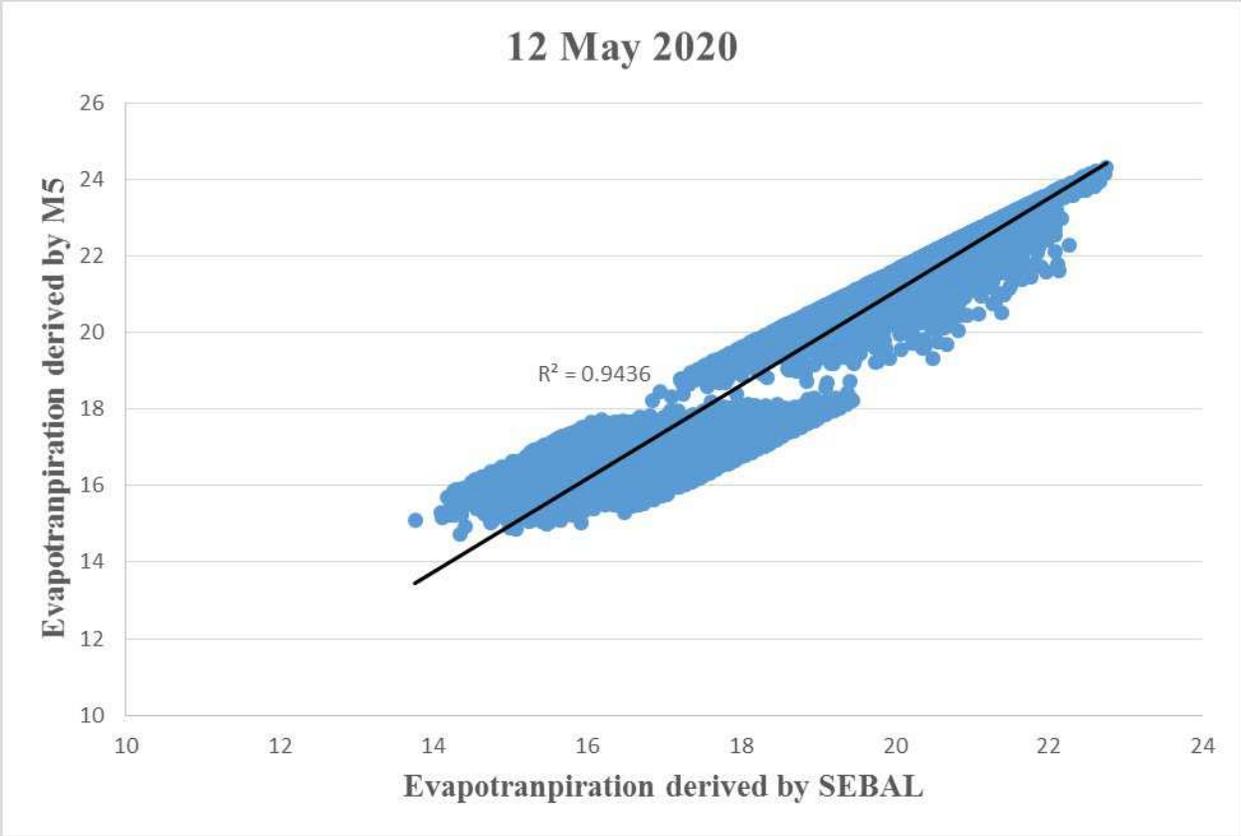
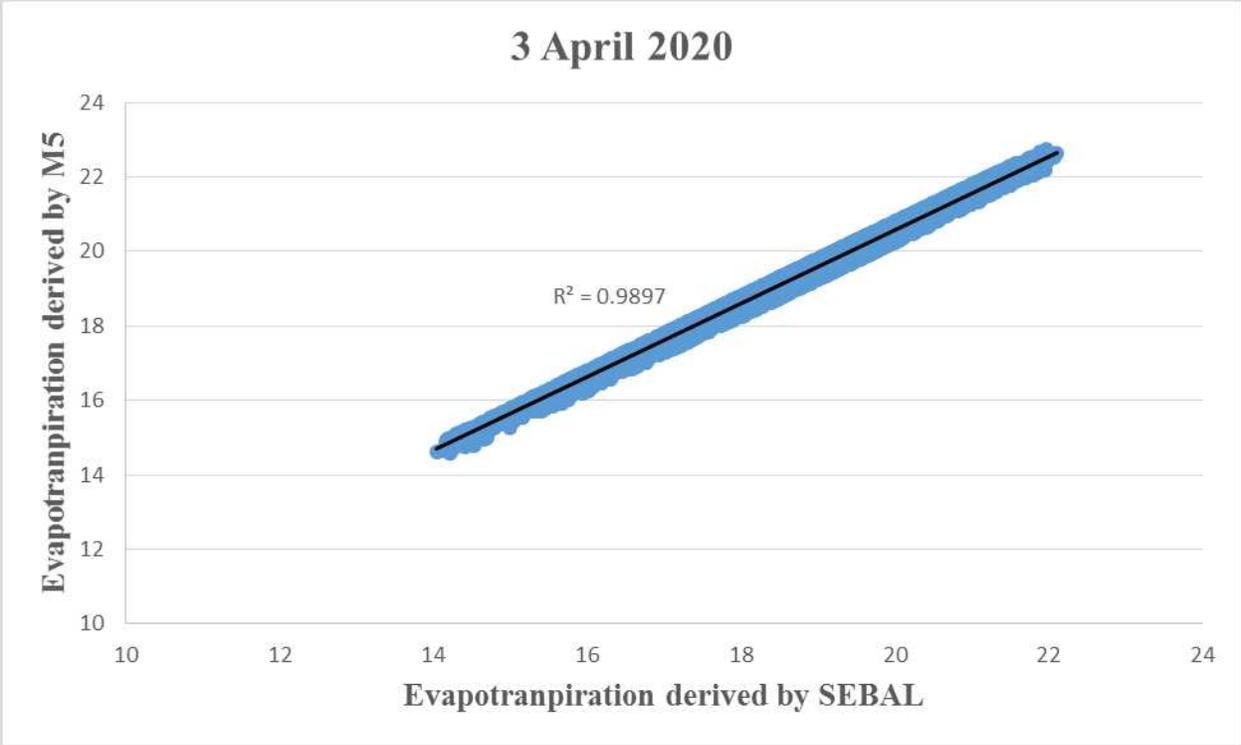
398 **Fig. 8.** Evapotranspiration map calculated by SEBAL algorithm for column (a) and evapotranspiration
 399 map calculated by M5 decision tree for column (b)

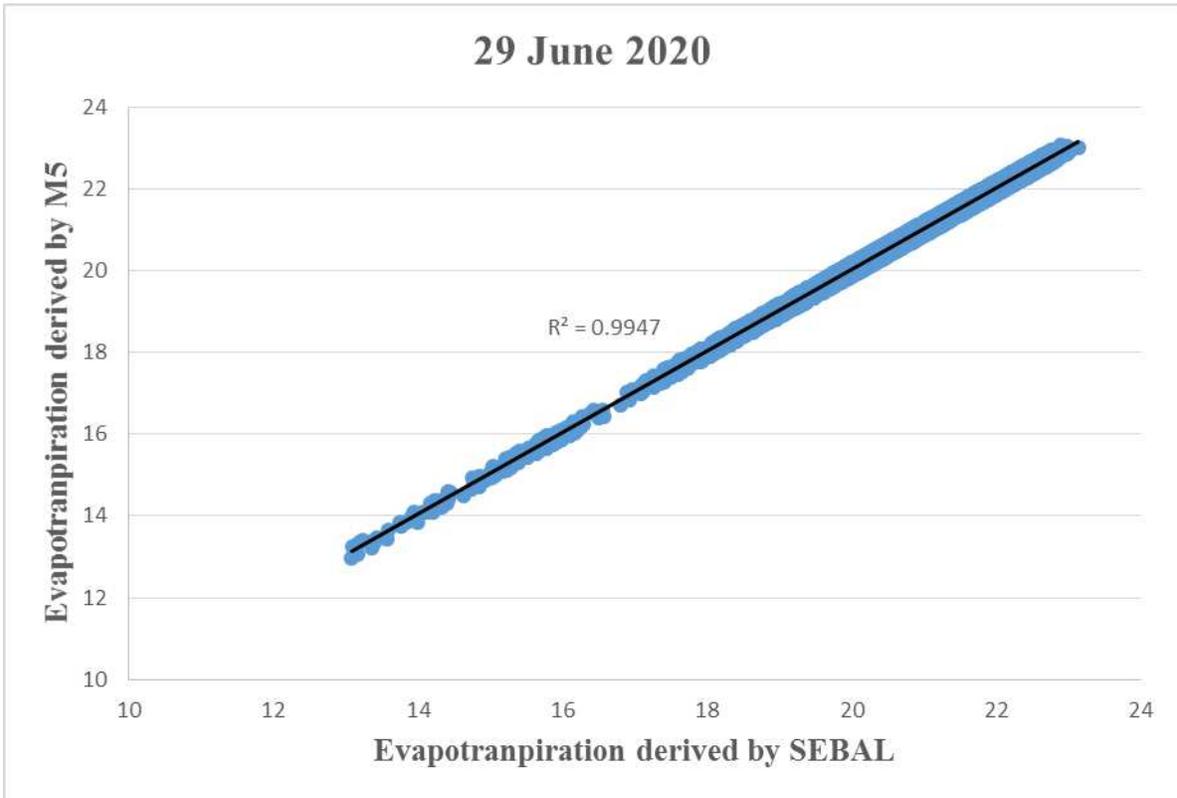
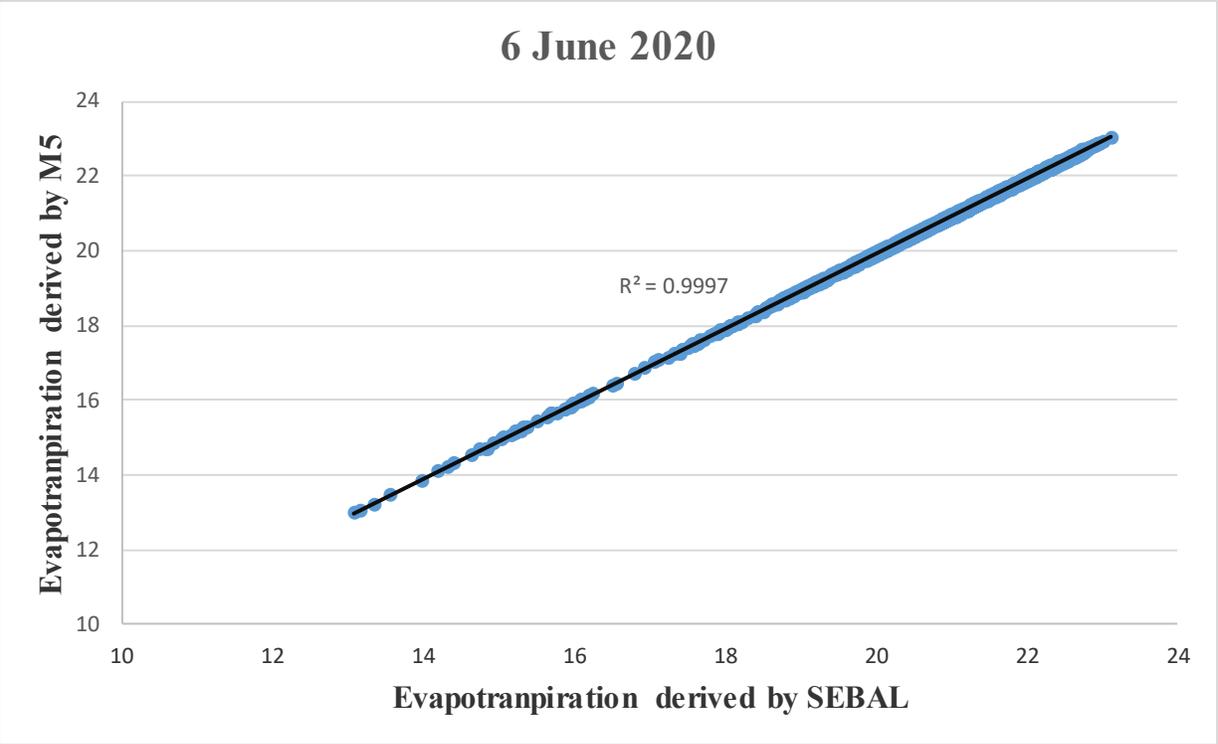
400

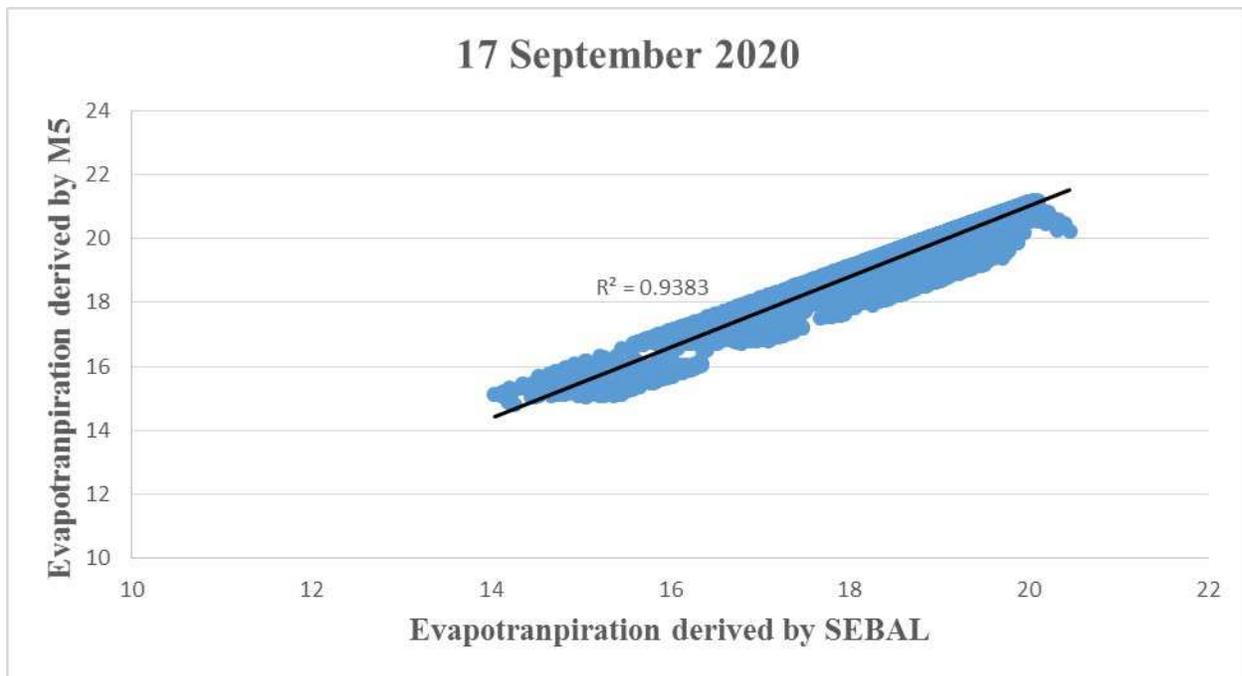
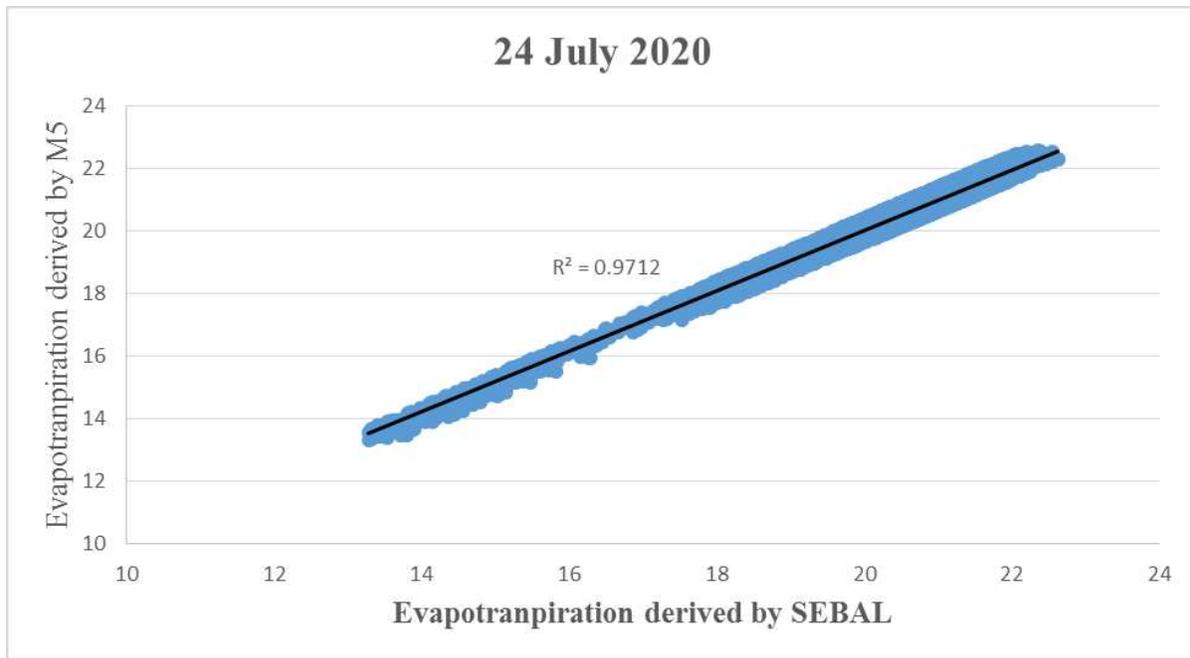
401 Figure 8 shows the results of the comparison between the SEBAL algorithm and M5 decision
 402 tree for this two month study duration. Table 1 shows statistical coefficients for 3 April 2020 to
 403 17 September 2020. According to figure 8 and table 1 by comparing the obtained results for
 404 these two months, it could be possible to calculate evapotranspiration with fewer input.
 405 Mathematical models can be used instead of physically-based models with acceptable accuracy.

406

407







408

409

Fig. 9. Comparing the results between the SEBAL algorithm and M5 decision tree

410

411 According to Table 1, the calculated evapotranspiration for 6 and 29 June 2020 has obtained

412 better results than 17 September 2020. This is makes clear that the developed decision tree model

413 can evaluate evapotranspiration in mid-season better than in the first and last stage of the plant
414 growth season.

415

416 **Table 1.** Statistical coefficients for evapotranspiration obtained by M5 decision tree

date	R ²	RMSE	MAE
3 April 2020	0.9897	0.0215	0.0568
12 May 2020	0.9436	0.0178	0.0232
6 June 2020	0.9997	0.0541	0.0587
29 June 2020	0.9947	0.0152	0.0337
24 July 2020	0.9712	0.0881	0.0921
17 September 2020	0.9383	0.0775	0.0350

417

418

419 **4. Discussion**

420

421 Evapotranspiration calculations used for plant water requirements and is a complicated process
422 which depends on so many parameters. Climatological parameters are needed for
423 evapotranspiration calculations and must be measured concisely. By increasing the number of
424 weather stations in a study region, evapotranspiration will be calculated with higher accuracy.

425 Also there are many different algorithms for calculating evapotranspiration in remote sensing

426 and choosing the right algorithm could be a challenge itself. These algorithms have so many

427 different input parameters and this issue could affect the evapotranspiration calculations

428 accuracy. The main aim of this study was to calculate evapotranspiration by using Landsat8

429 satellite images and integrate them with data mining to decrease the number of input parameters

430 for calculating evapotranspiration calculation and also to enhance the resolution of obtained

431 evapotranspiration map from 30×100 to 30×30 . The three input parameters for the developed

432 model were albedo, emissivity and NDWI. In the last section these three parameters were

433 calculated for the study period. According to the input images all three input parameters contain

434 of acceptable variability and for better performance of data mining the input parameters should
435 have a suitable tolerance spatially and temporally.

436 The albedo input parameter or reflectivity represent the reflected light from the surface. The
437 reflected light from plant surface is much lesser than the soil surface. In the study region albedo
438 changes temporally and spatially in the cultivated area. In the first stage of plant growth most of
439 the light reflected to the atmosphere due to less developed canopy cover. By considering that the
440 plant need the light for photosynthesis and absorbs the light for this process, the absorbed light
441 effects on evapotranspiration and other life cycle processes of the plant. The albedo images
442 makes clear that during the growth season of the sugarcane the amount of absorbed light
443 increases, also the evapotranspiration increased in the study duration. This is indicate that the
444 absorbed light can effect on the evapotranspiration process.

445 Emissivity is the other input parameter of the decision tree model which related to LST and can
446 represent the temperature of the land surface cover because temperature of the environment can
447 effect on the plant evapotranspiration. Lansat8 satellite has a thermal band for calculating the
448 land surface temperature with resolution of $100\text{m} \times 100\text{m}$, so by using the calculated emissivity
449 instead of land surface temperature this resolution enhanced to $30\text{m} \times 30\text{m}$ and without using the
450 thermal band and by using data mining decision tree method the resolution of evapotranspiration
451 map increases.

452 Wetness status of the plant and the environmental tensions can effect on evapotranspiration
453 process. NDWI can represent the water and wetness status of the sugarcane. This water index
454 differ spatially and temporally during the study season which can effect on the
455 evapotranspiration evaluation.

456 By using albedo as reflected light, emissivity representing the cover temperature and NDWI as
457 the water status of sugarcane, the evapotranspiration evaluated by using decision tree which in
458 the tree divisions started from the albedo input parameter and the albedo is the root of the
459 decision tree. By considering the location of the study area, the absorbed light has a significance
460 role in evapotranspiration evaluation.

461 Evapotranspiration calculated by using decision tree did not have a significance difference with
462 the evapotranspiration with calculated by using SEBAL algorithm. So by using data mining and
463 less input parameters evapotranspiration evaluated with acceptable accuracy and the resolution
464 of the evapotranspiration map enhanced to a higher resolution.

465 Also the main equation for calculating evapotranspiration in SEBAL algorithm is: $\lambda ET = R_n - G$
466 $- H$, which R_n is the net radiation (W/m^2), G is the soil heat flux (W/m^2) and H is the sensible
467 heat flux (W/m^2). In this case albedo is considered as reflected light, emissivity is the land cover
468 temperature and NDWI is the water status of the land cover and the sugarcane. The main
469 equation obtained by the decision tree is: $ET = (a \times NDWI) - (b \times Albedo) \pm (c \times emissivity)$. This
470 equation makes clear that evapotranspiration can be evaluated by using less input parameters and
471 indicate that water status of the plant can effect on evapotranspiration, when the water status is
472 suitable evapotranspiration increases and life mechanisms of the plant enhances. Also by
473 increasing the absorbed light, albedo decreases, hence the absorbed light has direct effect on the
474 plant evapotranspiration. The emissivity depends on land surface cover. Surfaces with soil cover
475 have lower emissivity comparing with plant cover surfaces. In plant cover surfaces with high
476 emissivity, evapotranspiration increases and soil surfaces with lower emissivity,
477 evapotranspiration decreases. So the main obtained equation conforms with the study region

478 conditions and it is suggested that apply this method to other case studies to find out if this
479 method could be used in a wide region.

480

481 **5. Conclusion**

482

483 This study discovered that by using less input parameters and selecting the right parameters,
484 evapotranspiration could be evaluated by using decision tree method and obtain acceptable
485 results. This is makes clear that indirect parameters related to evapotranspiration can be
486 considered as the main input parameters. The emissivity can represent the land canopy
487 temperature and due to low resolution of thermal band of Landsat satellite, the resolution of
488 evaluated evapotranspiration map enhanced to a higher resolution. Also the main equation for
489 calculating evapotranspiration in SEBAL algorithm is: $\lambda ET = R_n - G - H$, which R_n is the net
490 radiation (W/m^2), G is the soil heat flux (W/m^2) and H is the sensible heat flux (W/m^2). In this
491 case albedo is considered as reflected light, emissivity is the land cover temperature and NDWI
492 is the water status of the land cover and the sugarcane. The obtained decision tree equations
493 (Appendix 1) show that the evapotranspiration could be calculated as: $ET = (a \times NDWI) -$
494 $(b \times Albedo) \pm (c \times emissivity)$. This equation shows that evapotranspiration can be calculated by
495 using this three simple satellite parameters and by subtracting plant water status from reflected
496 light and addition or subtraction of emissivity (depend on land cover condition) with acceptable
497 accuracy.

498 **6. Acknowledgments**

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500 (GN:SCU.WI98.281).

501 **Ethical Approval**

502 Not applicable

503 **Consent to participate**

504 Consent was obtained from all individual participants included in the study.

505 **Consent to publish**

506 The participant has consented to the submission of the case report to the journal.

507 **Author**

contribution

508 All authors contributed to the study conception and design. Material preparation, data collection and
509 analysis were performed by [Lamya Neissi], [Mona Golabi], [Mohammad Albaji] and [AbdAli Naseri].

510 The first draft of the manuscript was written by [Lamya Neissi] and [Mohammad Albaji] and all authors
511 commented on previous versions of the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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514 **Competing Interests**

515 The authors declare that there are no competing interests.

516 **Availability of data and materials**

517 Data will be made available on request.

518

519

520 **Appendix 1. Results of M5 decision tree by using WEKA**

521 === Run information ===

522

523 Scheme: weka.classifiers.trees.M5P -M 4.0

524 Relation: mor_seb98all

525 Instances: 27425

526 Attributes: 4

527 ET

528 e

529 Albedo

530 NDWI

531 Test mode: split 66.0% train, remainder test

532

533 === Classifier model (full training set) ===

534

535 M5 pruned model tree:

536 (using smoothed linear models)

537

538 Albedo \leq 0.204 :

539 | Albedo \leq 0.151 :

540 | | Albedo \leq 0.129 :

541 | | | Albedo \leq 0.117 :

542 | | | | NDWI \leq 0.341 : LM1 (815/6.818%)

543 | | | | NDWI $>$ 0.341 : LM2 (815/7.497%)

544 | | | Albedo $>$ 0.117 :

545 | | | | NDWI \leq 0.333 : LM3 (956/7.92%)

546 | | | | NDWI $>$ 0.333 : LM4 (1281/8.64%)

547 | | Albedo $>$ 0.129 :

548 | | | NDWI \leq 0.342 :

549 | | | | Albedo \leq 0.14 : LM5 (1178/8.78%)

550 | | | | Albedo $>$ 0.14 :

551 | | | | | NDWI \leq 0.235 :

552 | | | | | NDWI \leq 0.167 :

553 | | | | | | | NDWI <= -0.02 :

554 | | | | | | | | NDWI <= -0.085 : LM6 (3/3.644%)

555 | | | | | | | | NDWI > -0.085 :

556 | | | | | | | | | NDWI <= -0.05 :

557 | | | | | | | | | | NDWI <= -0.072 : LM7 (5/3.555%)

558 | | | | | | | | | | NDWI > -0.072 : LM8 (2/0.446%)

559 | | | | | | | | | | NDWI > -0.05 : LM9 (2/6.276%)

560 | | | | | | | | NDWI > -0.02 :

561 | | | | | | | | | NDWI <= 0.096 :

562 | | | | | | | | | | e <= 0.986 : LM10 (15/8.895%)

563 | | | | | | | | | | e > 0.986 : LM11 (5/18.952%)

564 | | | | | | | | | NDWI > 0.096 : LM12 (25/9.36%)

565 | | | | | | | NDWI > 0.167 : LM13 (156/10.421%)

566 | | | | | | NDWI > 0.235 : LM14 (847/9.33%)

567 | | | | NDWI > 0.342 : LM15 (1537/8.955%)

568 | | Albedo > 0.151 :

569 | | | NDWI <= 0.163 :

570 | | | | NDWI <= -0.04 :

571 | | | | | Albedo <= 0.192 : LM16 (227/12.545%)

572 | | | | | Albedo > 0.192 : LM17 (106/15.817%)

573 | | | | NDWI > -0.04 : LM18 (638/15.027%)

574 | | | | NDWI > 0.163 : LM19 (2160/11.455%)

575 | Albedo > 0.204 :

576 | | Albedo <= 0.473 :

577 | | | Albedo <= 0.289 :

578 | | | | NDWI <= -0.032 :

579 | | | | Albedo \leq 0.257 : LM20 (1395/11.794%)

580 | | | | Albedo $>$ 0.257 :

581 | | | | | Albedo \leq 0.277 : LM21 (475/10.112%)

582 | | | | | Albedo $>$ 0.277 :

583 | | | | | | e \leq 0.986 : LM22 (82/6.868%)

584 | | | | | | e $>$ 0.986 :

585 | | | | | | | NDWI \leq -0.08 : LM23 (8/15.464%)

586 | | | | | | | NDWI $>$ -0.08 : LM24 (29/12.01%)

587 | | | NDWI $>$ -0.032 : LM25 (870/13.578%)

588 | | Albedo $>$ 0.289 :

589 | | | Albedo \leq 0.44 :

590 | | | | Albedo \leq 0.423 :

591 | | | | | Albedo \leq 0.413 :

592 | | | | | | NDWI \leq 0.192 :

593 | | | | | | | Albedo \leq 0.397 :

594 | | | | | | | | NDWI \leq -0.058 :

595 | | | | | | | | | NDWI \leq -0.069 : LM26 (10/4.238%)

596 | | | | | | | | | NDWI $>$ -0.069 : LM27 (10/7.923%)

597 | | | | | | | | | NDWI $>$ -0.058 : LM28 (78/6.443%)

598 | | | | | | | Albedo $>$ 0.397 : LM29 (88/6.305%)

599 | | | | | | NDWI $>$ 0.192 : LM30 (308/4.57%)

600 | | | | | Albedo $>$ 0.413 : LM31 (884/5.649%)

601 | | | | Albedo $>$ 0.423 : LM32 (3457/6.851%)

602 | | | Albedo $>$ 0.44 :

603 | | | | Albedo \leq 0.457 :

604 | | | | | Albedo \leq 0.446 : LM33 (1320/8.562%)

605 | | | | | Albedo > 0.446 :

606 | | | | | | e <= 0.986 :

607 | | | | | | | NDWI <= 0.207 :

608 | | | | | | | | NDWI <= 0.15 :

609 | | | | | | | | | NDWI <= 0.013 : LM34 (17/8.381%)

610 | | | | | | | | | NDWI > 0.013 : LM35 (55/11.725%)

611 | | | | | | | | | NDWI > 0.15 : LM36 (286/11.244%)

612 | | | | | | | | NDWI > 0.207 : LM37 (842/9.677%)

613 | | | | | | | e > 0.986 : LM38 (568/7.121%)

614 | | | | | Albedo > 0.457 :

615 | | | | | | NDWI <= 0.171 :

616 | | | | | | | NDWI <= -0.006 : LM39 (75/9.192%)

617 | | | | | | | NDWI > -0.006 : LM40 (240/13.092%)

618 | | | | | | | NDWI > 0.171 : LM41 (1255/11.086%)

619 | | Albedo > 0.473 :

620 | | | NDWI <= 0.03 :

621 | | | | Albedo <= 0.539 :

622 | | | | | NDWI <= -0.011 : LM42 (819/9.273%)

623 | | | | | NDWI > -0.011 : LM43 (537/13.975%)

624 | | | | Albedo > 0.539 : LM44 (1322/11.007%)

625 | | | NDWI > 0.03 : LM45 (1622/14.193%)

626

627 LM num: 1

628 $ET = 62.4554 * e - 40.9371 * Albedo + 3.5279 * NDWI - 36.812$

629 LM num: 2

630 $ET = 69.1966 * e - 27.917 * Albedo + 5.3461 * NDWI - 45.4675$

631 LM num: 3
632 $ET = 0.4648 * e - 51.5918 * \text{Albedo} + 3.0445 * \text{NDWI} + 25.9698$
633 LM num: 4
634 $ET = 0.4648 * e - 50.1522 * \text{Albedo} + 6.1156 * \text{NDWI} + 24.8416$
635 LM num: 5
636 $ET = -31.1566 * e - 35.1227 * \text{Albedo} + 2.3982 * \text{NDWI} + 55.2954$
637 LM num: 6
638 $ET = -66.7867 * e - 80.9495 * \text{Albedo} + 15.0298 * \text{NDWI} + 96.6672$
639 LM num: 7
640 $ET = -66.7867 * e - 72.1864 * \text{Albedo} + 10.3921 * \text{NDWI} + 95.0887$
641 LM num: 8
642 $ET = -66.7867 * e - 73.3542 * \text{Albedo} + 9.4739 * \text{NDWI} + 95.1753$
643 LM num: 9
644 $ET = -66.7867 * e - 73.3542 * \text{Albedo} + 16.5157 * \text{NDWI} + 95.7477$
645 LM num: 10
646 $ET = -82426.9336 * e - 30.3958 * \text{Albedo} + 6.4124 * \text{NDWI} + 81296.754$
647 LM num: 11
648 $ET = -123607.0987 * e - 61.18 * \text{Albedo} + 6.0168 * \text{NDWI} + 121904.8793$
649 LM num: 12
650 $ET = -63.3351 * e - 30.3958 * \text{Albedo} + 3.0525 * \text{NDWI} + 85.8885$
651 LM num: 13
652 $ET = -8.246 * e - 39.8119 * \text{Albedo} + 0.8923 * \text{NDWI} + 33.5089$
653 LM num: 14
654 $ET = -0.4868 * e - 39.1115 * \text{Albedo} + 2.1969 * \text{NDWI} + 25.5099$
655 LM num: 15
656 $ET = -0.3901 * e - 41.7322 * \text{Albedo} + 6.8336 * \text{NDWI} + 24.2244$

657 LM num: 16
658 $ET = -83.1605 * e - 49.7803 * \text{Albedo} + 23.2742 * \text{NDWI} + 108.0703$
659 LM num: 17
660 $ET = -87.9133 * e - 8.3548 * \text{Albedo} + 2.6068 * \text{NDWI} + 102.9809$
661 LM num: 18
662 $ET = -25.3822 * e - 49.3935 * \text{Albedo} + 3.8507 * \text{NDWI} + 51.0969$
663 LM num: 19
664 $ET = 18.7019 * e - 42.39 * \text{Albedo} + 3.6584 * \text{NDWI} + 6.5261$
665 LM num: 20
666 $ET = -0.115 * e - 29.1976 * \text{Albedo} + 19.9745 * \text{NDWI} + 21.8428$
667 LM num: 21
668 $ET = -0.115 * e - 31.297 * \text{Albedo} + 19.9953 * \text{NDWI} + 22.261$
669 LM num: 22
670 $ET = -0.115 * e - 24.5096 * \text{Albedo} + 17.6309 * \text{NDWI} + 19.9878$
671 LM num: 23
672 $ET = -0.115 * e - 15.2947 * \text{Albedo} + 30.3915 * \text{NDWI} + 17.6678$
673 LM num: 24
674 $ET = -0.115 * e - 46.3871 * \text{Albedo} + 21.6422 * \text{NDWI} + 26.5724$
675 LM num: 25
676 $ET = -0.115 * e - 40.3798 * \text{Albedo} + 5.6154 * \text{NDWI} + 24.3707$
677 LM num: 26
678 $ET = 96664.8109 * e - 21.6461 * \text{Albedo} + 17.9463 * \text{NDWI} - 95292.9134$
679 LM num: 27
680 $ET = 4.8502 * e - 15.8725 * \text{Albedo} + 17.9463 * \text{NDWI} + 12.3265$
681 LM num: 28
682 $ET = 20.024 * e - 28.4493 * \text{Albedo} + 12.197 * \text{NDWI} + 0.9958$

683 LM num: 29
684 $ET = 0.7932 * e - 34.6546 * \text{Albedo} + 0.4622 * \text{NDWI} + 24.4417$
685 LM num: 30
686 $ET = 0.6011 * e - 1.2633 * \text{Albedo} + 0.3513 * \text{NDWI} + 11.2269$
687 LM num: 31
688 $ET = 0.1805 * e - 25.6532 * \text{Albedo} + 2.8913 * \text{NDWI} + 20.8266$
689 LM num: 32
690 $ET = -4.7214 * e - 37.1299 * \text{Albedo} + 1.8818 * \text{NDWI} + 30.7137$
691 LM num: 33
692 $ET = 0.393 * e - 33.092 * \text{Albedo} + 1.007 * \text{NDWI} + 24.0881$
693 LM num: 34
694 $ET = -15.7311 * e - 71.7375 * \text{Albedo} + 18.4013 * \text{NDWI} + 56.4027$
695 LM num: 35
696 $ET = -5.8303 * e - 12.8159 * \text{Albedo} + 3.2245 * \text{NDWI} + 20.7655$
697 LM num: 36
698 $ET = -200350.1463 * e - 2.409 * \text{Albedo} + 3.9492 * \text{NDWI} + 197556.0172$
699 LM num: 37
700 $ET = 1.4974 * e - 23.349 * \text{Albedo} + 0.0716 * \text{NDWI} + 18.7703$
701 LM num: 38
702 $ET = 168543.6701 * e - 32.0044 * \text{Albedo} - 1.6346 * \text{NDWI} - 166160.355$
703 LM num: 39
704 $ET = -2.7899 * e - 28.2191 * \text{Albedo} + 14.267 * \text{NDWI} + 23.4984$
705 LM num: 40
706 $ET = 1.3557 * e - 36.5223 * \text{Albedo} + 4.9728 * \text{NDWI} + 24.2026$
707 LM num: 41
708 $ET = 1.2782 * e - 41.2456 * \text{Albedo} + 0.0655 * \text{NDWI} + 27.2176$

709 LM num: 42

710 $ET = -0.1192 * e - 26.2217 * Albedo + 13.76 * NDWI + 19.92$

711 LM num: 43

712 $ET = -0.1192 * e - 26.8974 * Albedo + 14.2941 * NDWI + 20.6799$

713 LM num: 44

714 $ET = -0.1192 * e - 30.449 * Albedo + 21.5442 * NDWI + 22.4928$

715 LM num: 45

716 $ET = -0.1654 * e - 32.2564 * Albedo + 1.5478 * NDWI + 24.0679$

717 Number of Rules : 45

718 Time taken to build model: 1.44 seconds

719 === Evaluation on test split ===

720 Time taken to test model on test split: 0.02 seconds

721 === Summary ===

722	Correlation coefficient	0.9947
723	Mean absolute error	0.4101
724	Root mean squared error	0.5705
725	Relative absolute error	8.1455 %
726	Root relative squared error	10.2988 %
727	Total Number of Instances	9324

728

729

730

731 **Reference**

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Figures

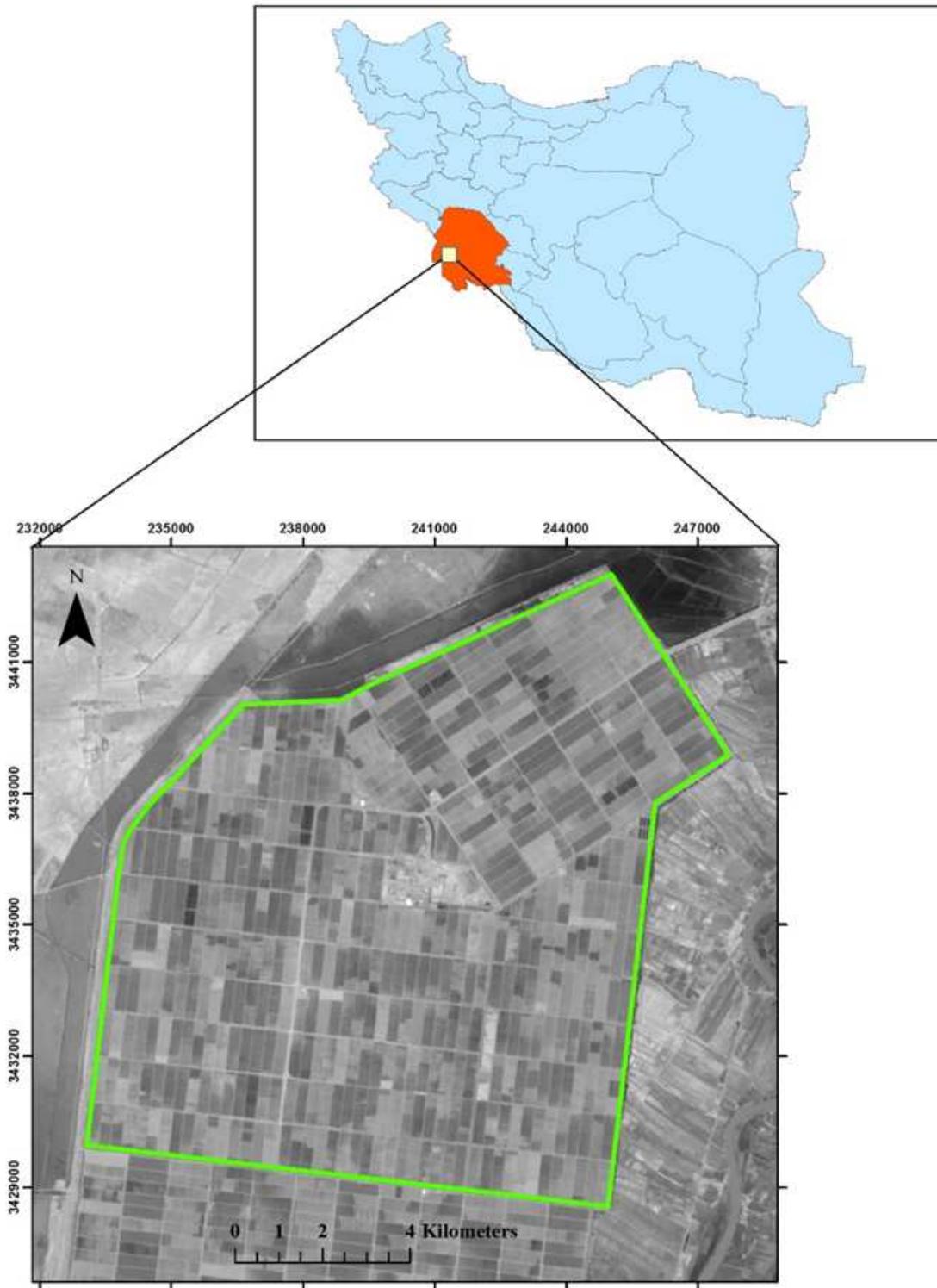


Figure 1

Amir-Kabir sugarcane Agro-Industry location area

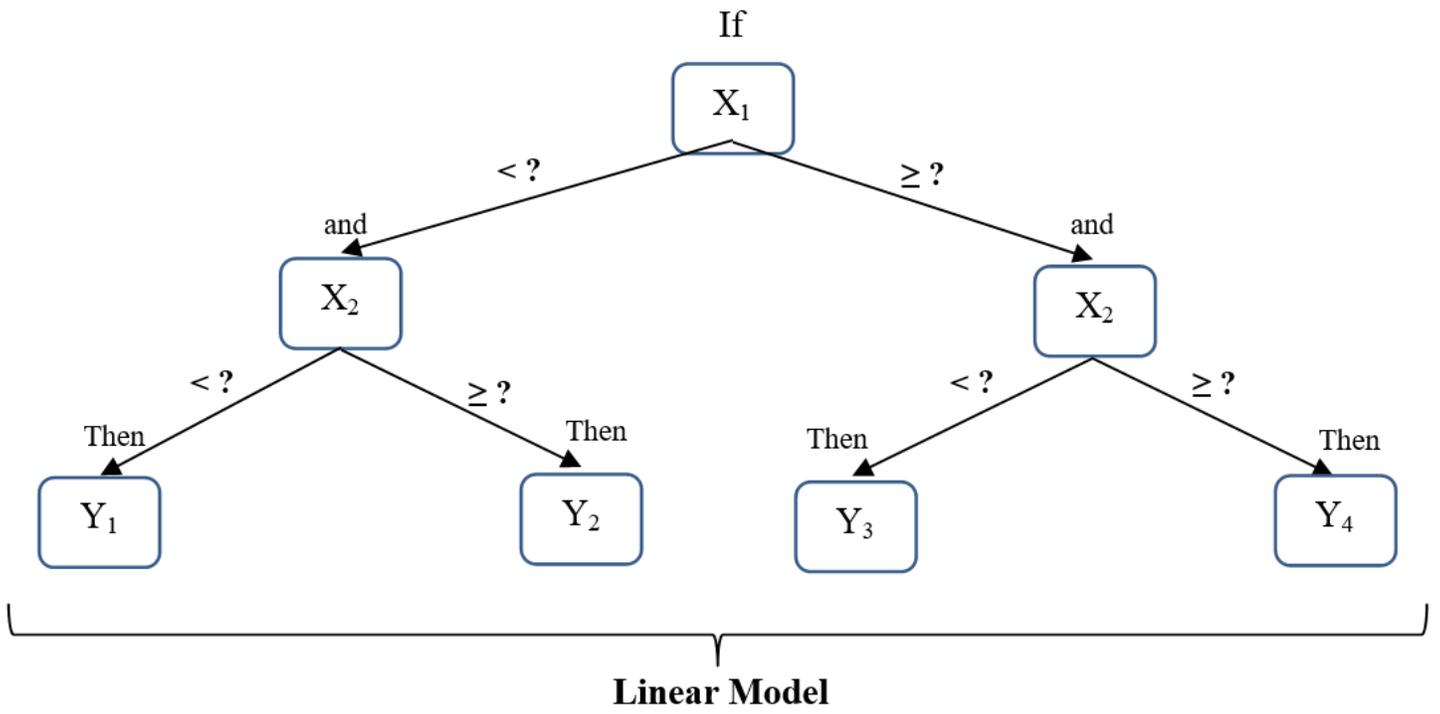


Figure 2

Structure of M5 decision tree (Models Y1–Y4 are linear regression models)

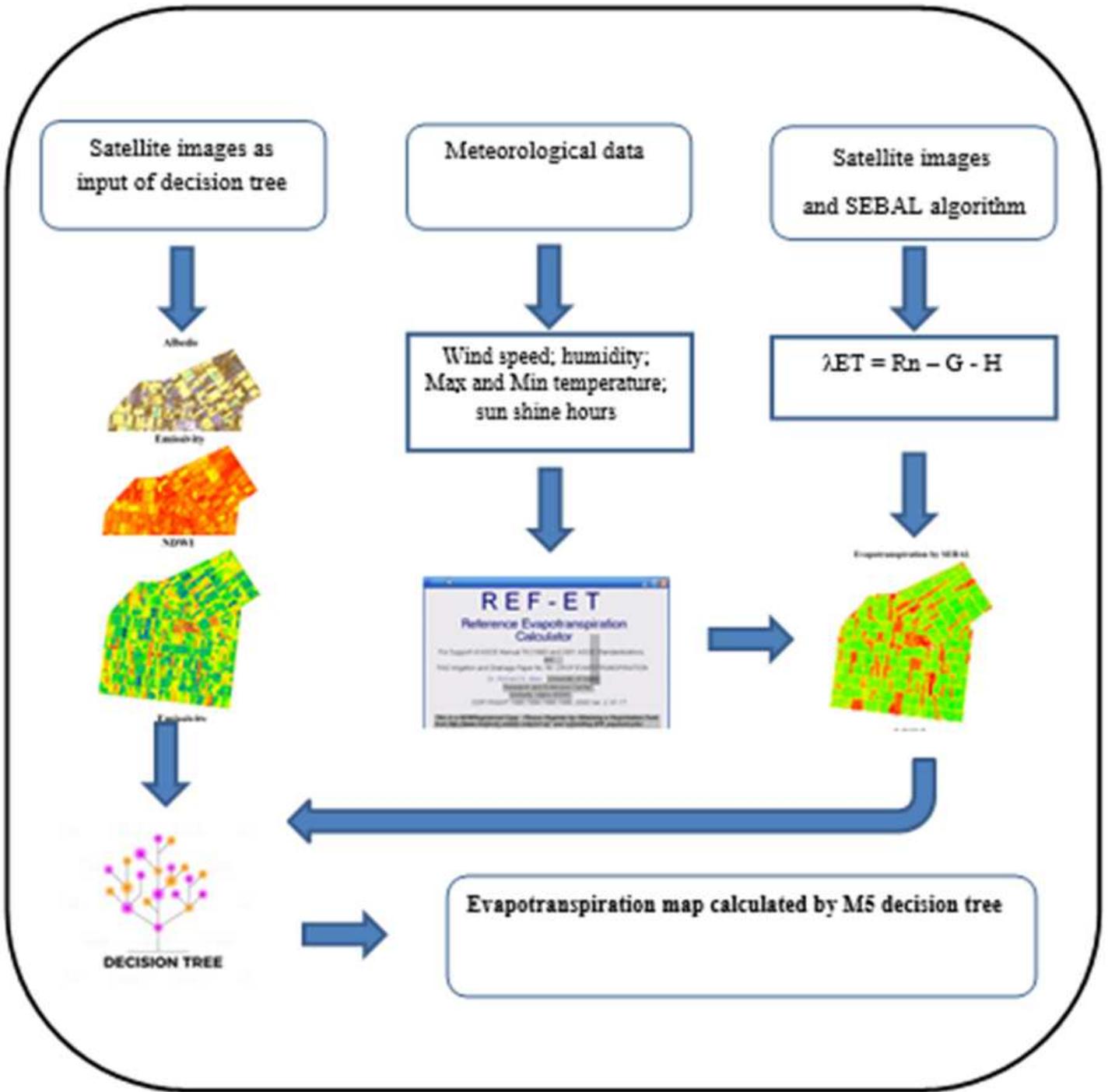


Figure 3

Flowchart of the M5 decision tree and SEBAL algorithm

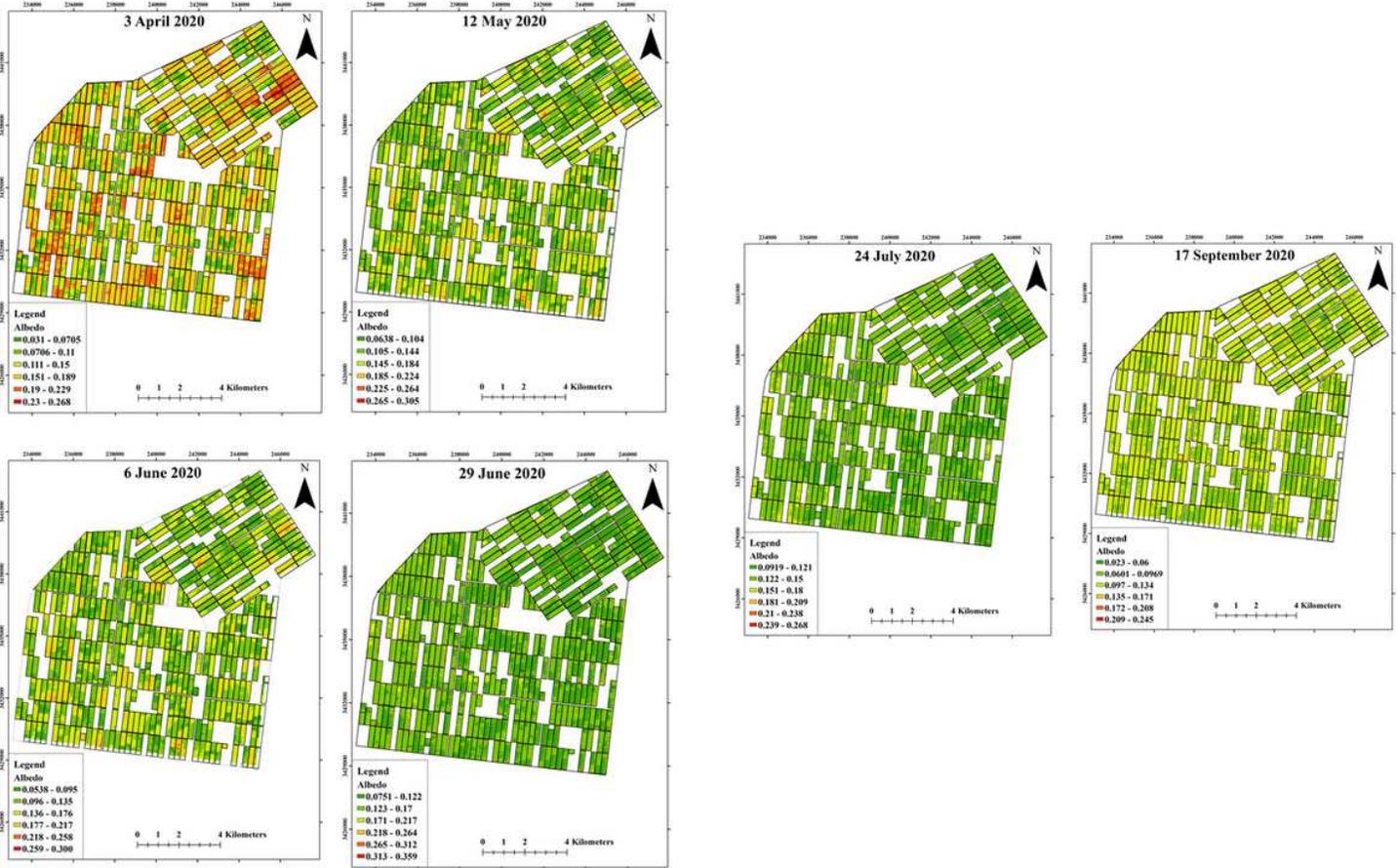


Figure 4

Albedo input images for M5 decision tree

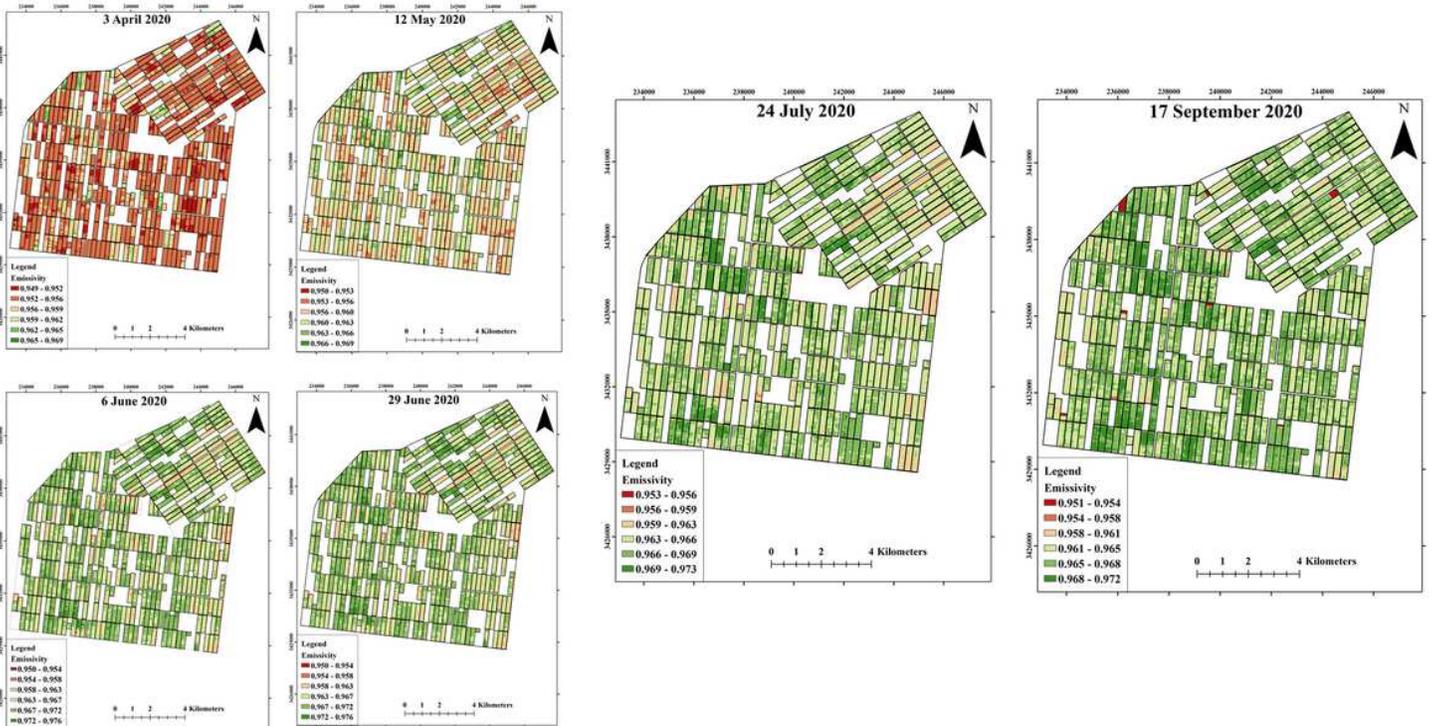


Figure 5

Emissivity input images for M5 decision tree

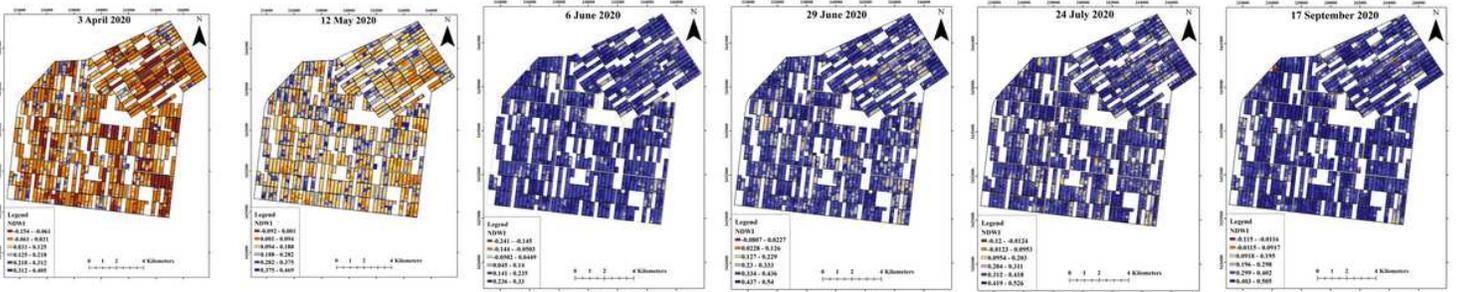


Figure 6

NDWI input images for M5 decision tree

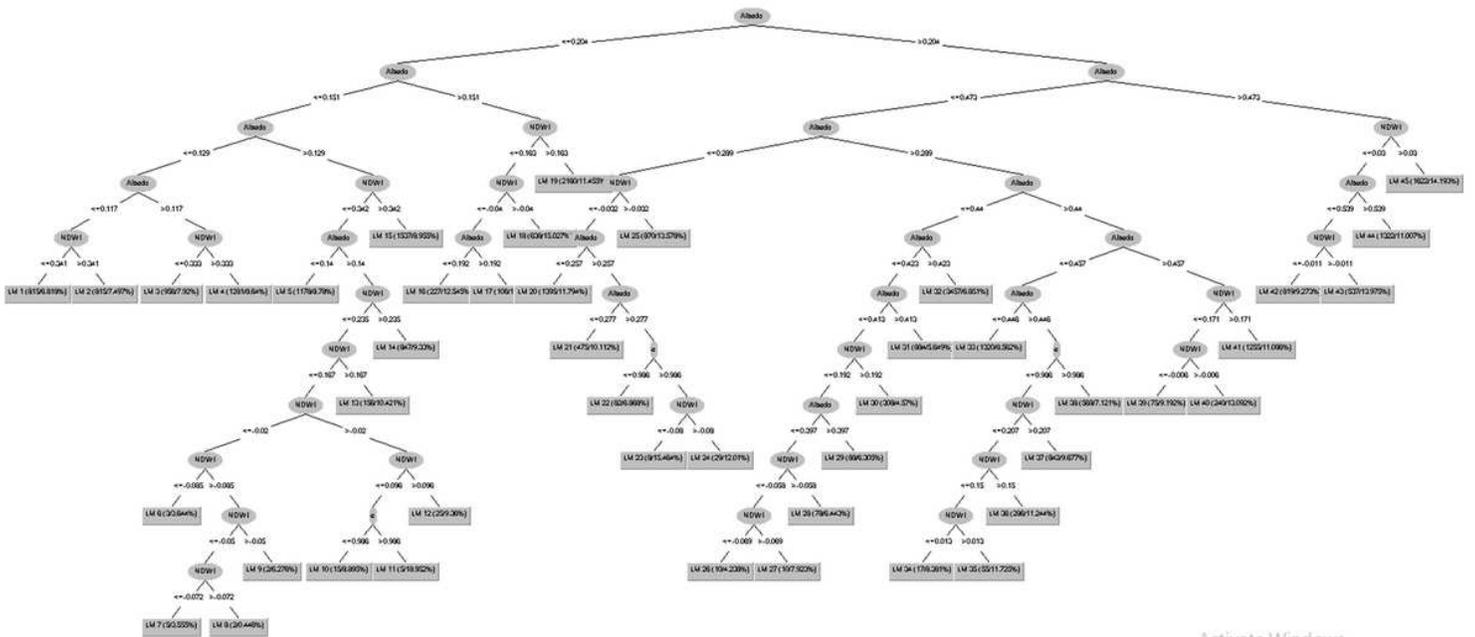


Figure 7

Decision tree for the evapotranspiration estimation

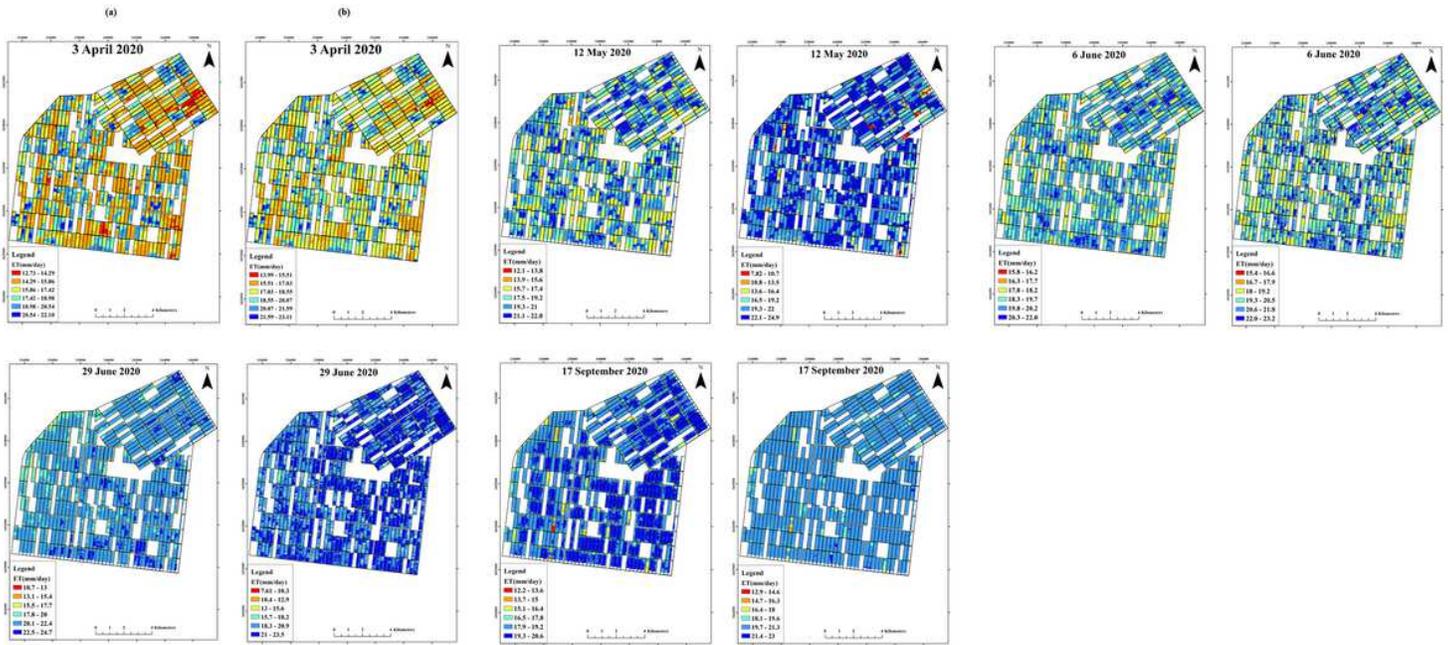


Figure 8

Evapotranspiration map calculated by SEBAL algorithm for column (a) and evapotranspiration map calculated by M5 decision tree for column (b)

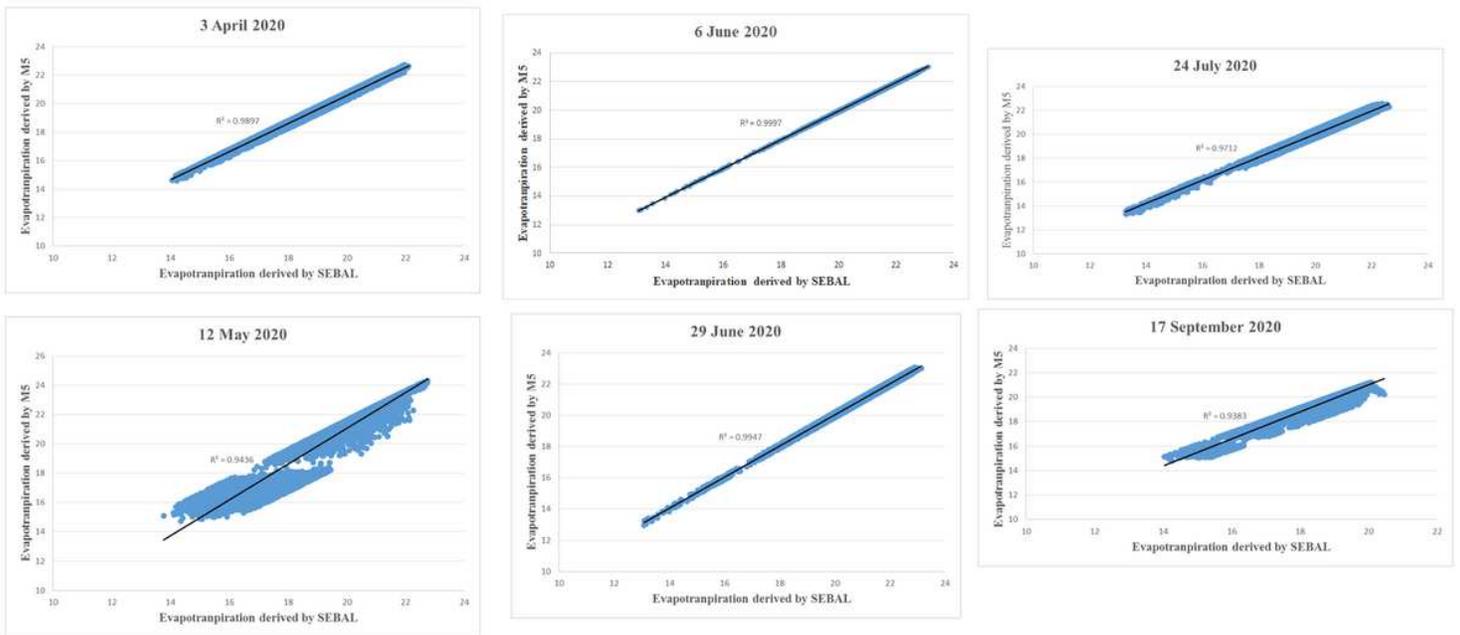


Figure 9

Comparing the results between the SEBAL algorithm and M5 decision tree

Supplementary Files

This is a list of supplementary files associated with this preprint. Click to download.

- [CombiningadecisiontreewithGIS.docx](#)