



# BUVARD: an online tool to design vegetative buffer zones in a french context

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*Irstea. Non point source pollutions team*



[www.irstea.fr](http://www.irstea.fr)

**AGENCE FRANÇAISE  
POUR LA BIODIVERSITÉ**

Établissement public du ministère de l'Environnement

1<sup>st</sup> september 2017

# Background

## Regulatory context

- Water Framework Directive  $\Rightarrow$  good ecological status for waterbodies
- Drinking water standards

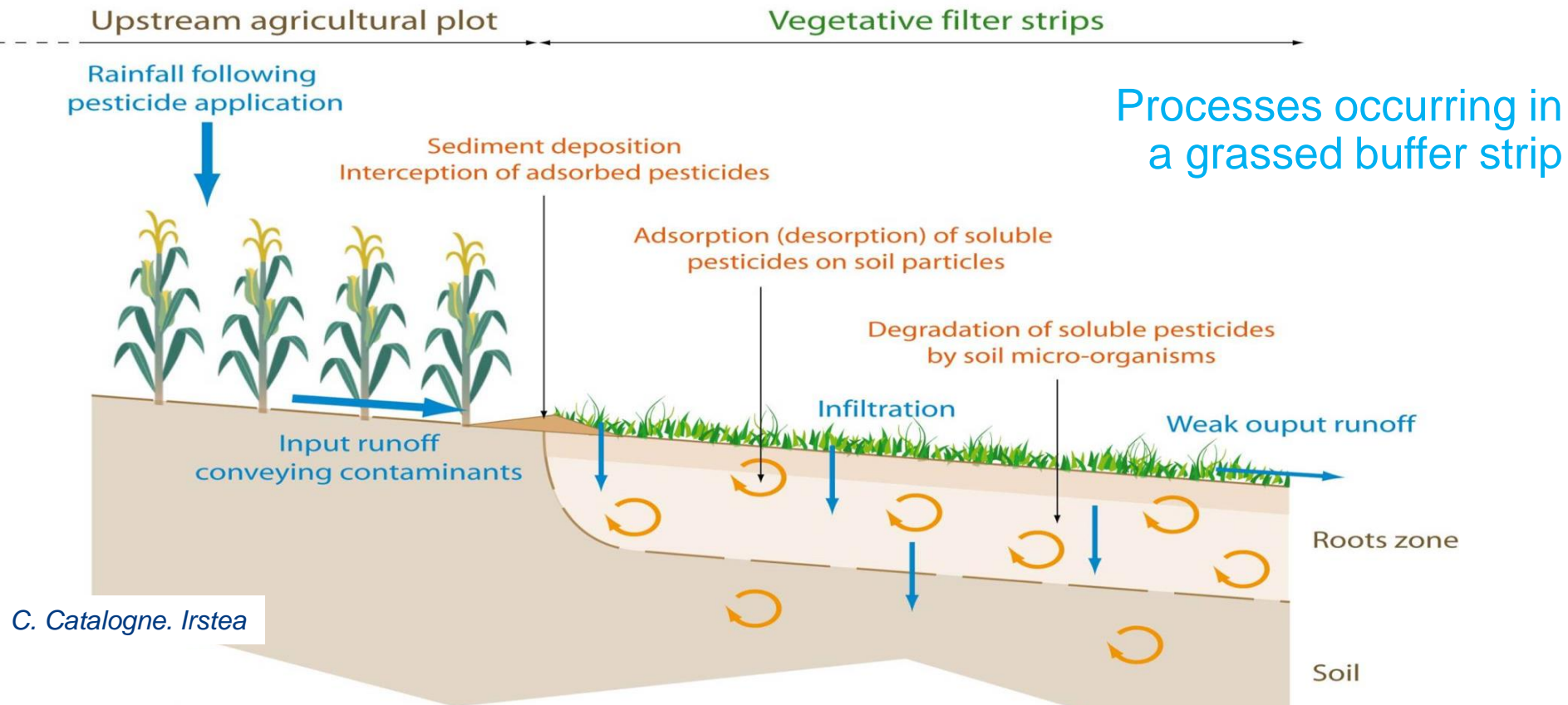
**Buffer Zones** can be useful to prevent and limit the transfer of pollutants from agricultural fields to water resources, in parallel **with agricultural good practices**.

- Vegetated Filter Strips (VFS) are particularly useful for pollutants transported through surface runoff and sediment
- They need to be properly designed, considering the particular context in which they are implanted

Development of a specific tool to design VFS, once a diagnosis has been realized and VFS's position chosen:

**BUVARD** = **BU**ffer strip runoff **A**ttenuation and pesticide **R**etention **D**esign tool

# Key drivers of VFS efficiency

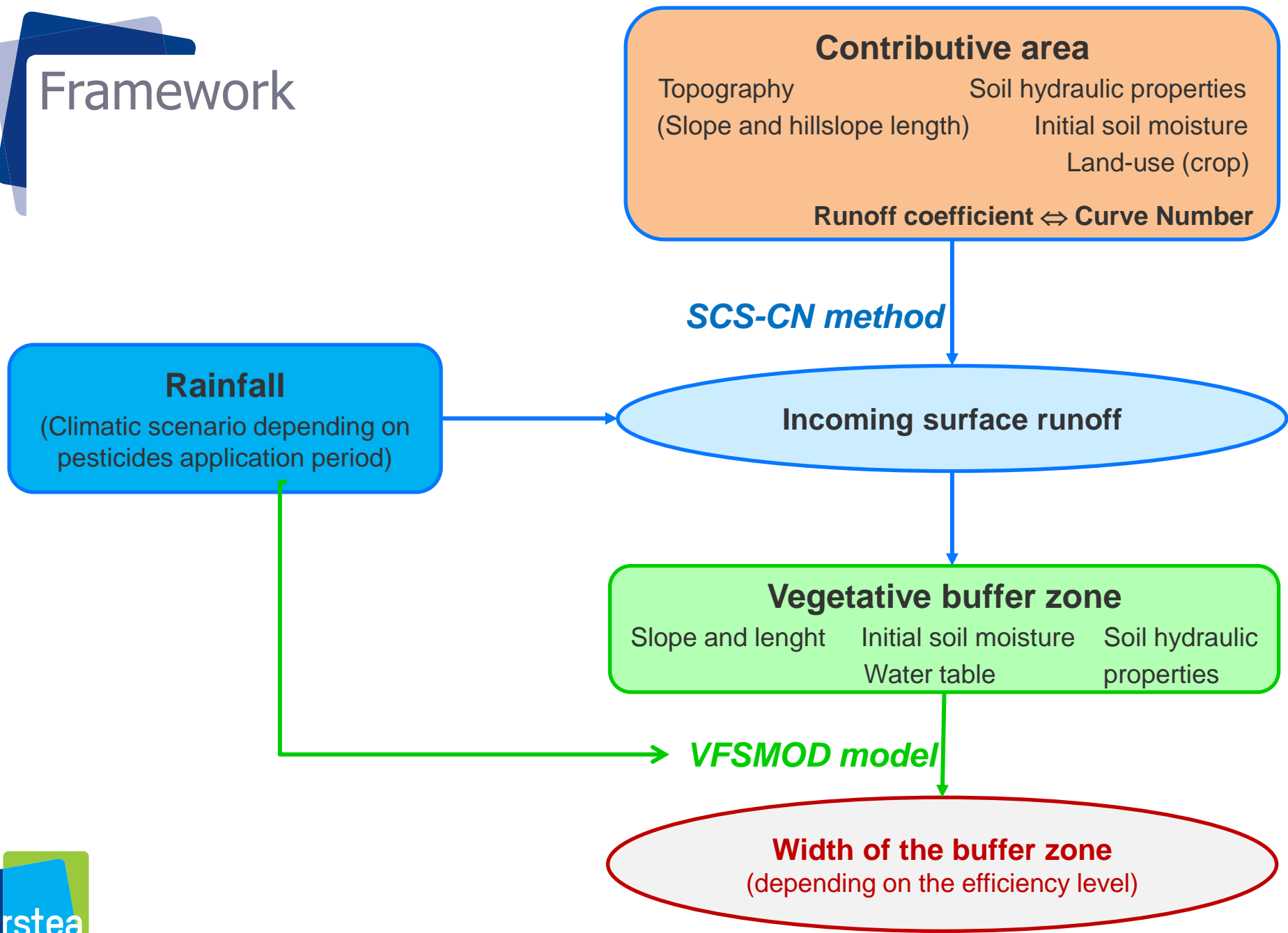


The infiltration of water and pesticides is often the main process shaping pesticide transport reduction

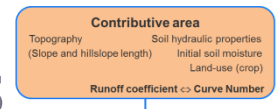
- Diversity of the capacity of active substances to be sorbed ( $K_{oc}$ ) or degraded ( $DT_{50}$ )
- Difficulty to assess the mobilization and transport of suspended matters

⇒ **BUVARD only considers surface runoff reduction**

# Framework

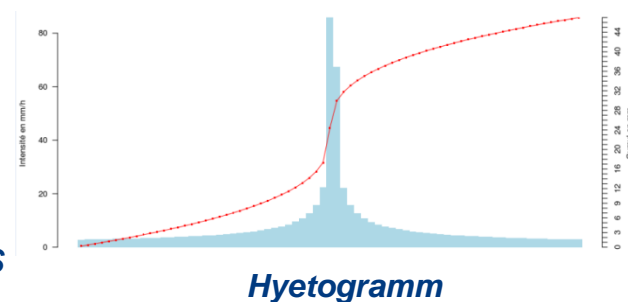


# Surface runoff generated on contributive areas



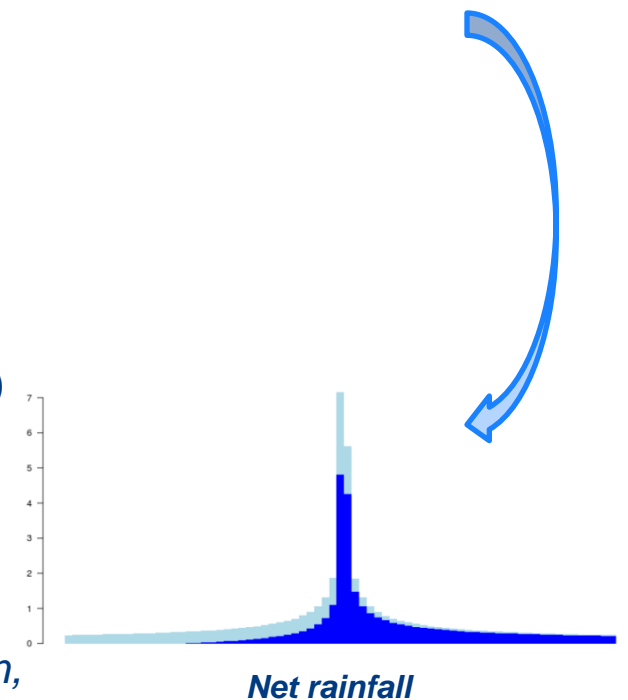
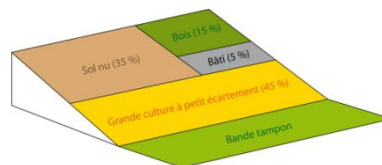
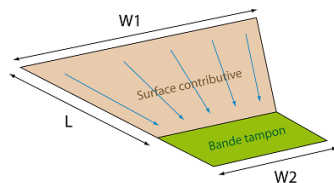
## Rainfall event characterization

- Based on Intensity-Duration-Frequency rainfall French data.
  - Return period of one year, per season; 4\*4 km grid
  - Several forms of hyetogramms are available
- Parameters: geographical coordinates of the catchment's outlet, season, duration of the event, form of the rainfall event (moderate, intensive)*



## Incoming runoff event assessment

- Assessment of the net rainfall.
- Based on the Curve Number method (USDA-SCS, 1972)



*Parameters : Curve Number (kind of soil, soil occupation, hydrological conditions), initial humidity conditions*

# Surface runoff generated on contributive areas

**Contributive area**  
Topography (Slope and hillslope length)    Soil hydraulic properties  
Initial soil moisture  
Land-use (crop)  
Runoff coefficient  $\leftrightarrow$  Curve Number

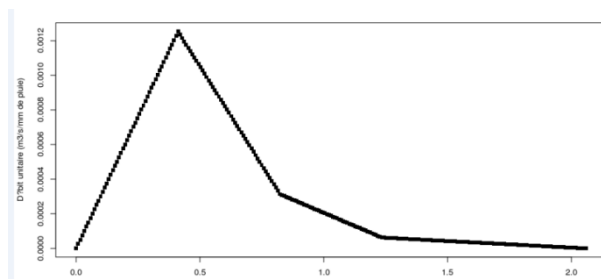
SCS-CN method

**Rainfall**  
(Climatic scenario depending on pesticides application period)

Incoming surface runoff

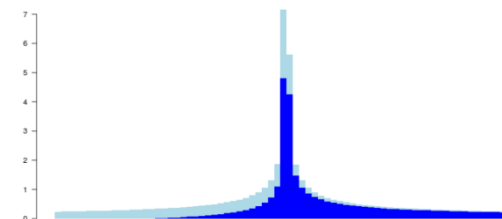
## Incoming runoff event assessment

Parameters : length and surface of the contributive area

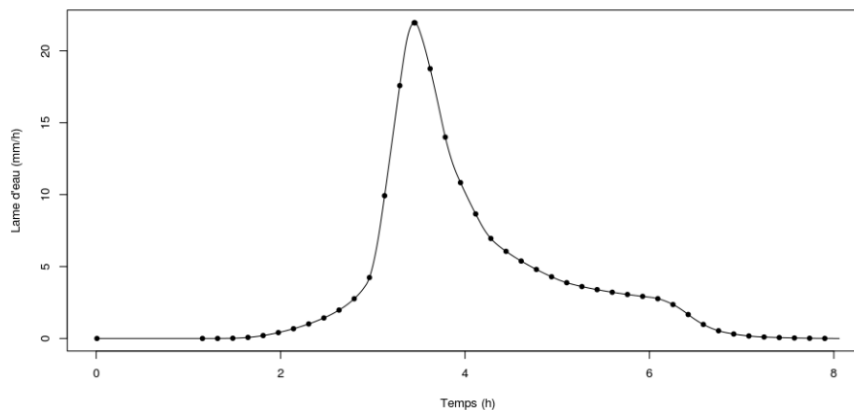


Unit Hydrograph

Convolution

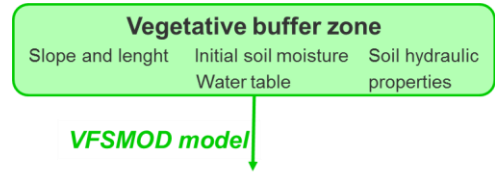


Net rainfall



Surface runoff discharge

# Buffer zone efficiency modelling

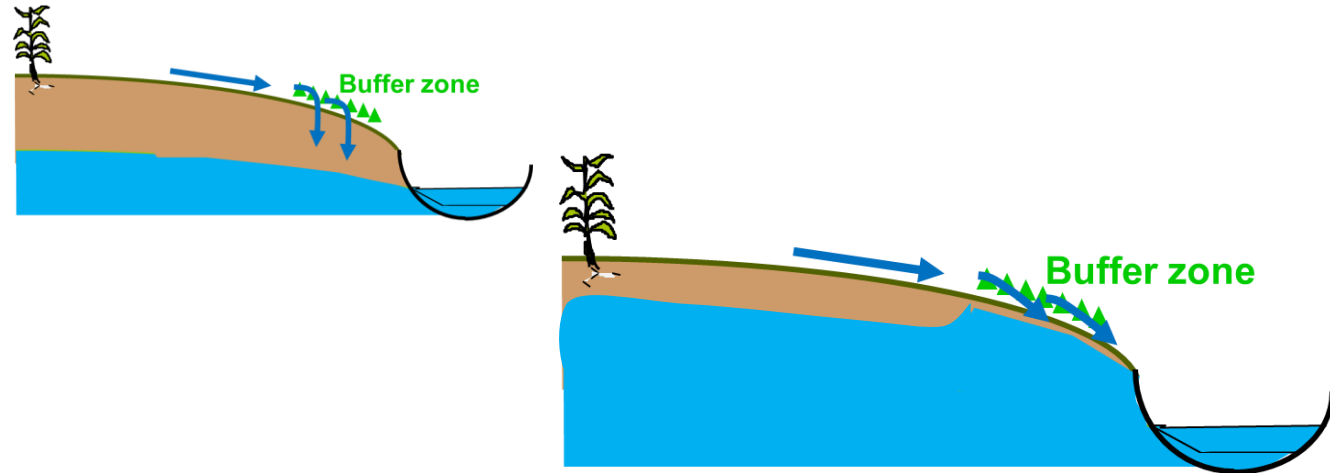


VFSMOD: a mechanistic model to represent water, sediment and pesticides transport inside a VFS.

Original version uses Green and Ampt equation to represent non limited infiltration  
Yet, the presence of a water table may reduce infiltration capacities



(Gril, 2010)



⇒ Need to take into account the water table influence : VFSMOD is now coupled with SWINGO algorithm describing soil infiltration in presence of a water table

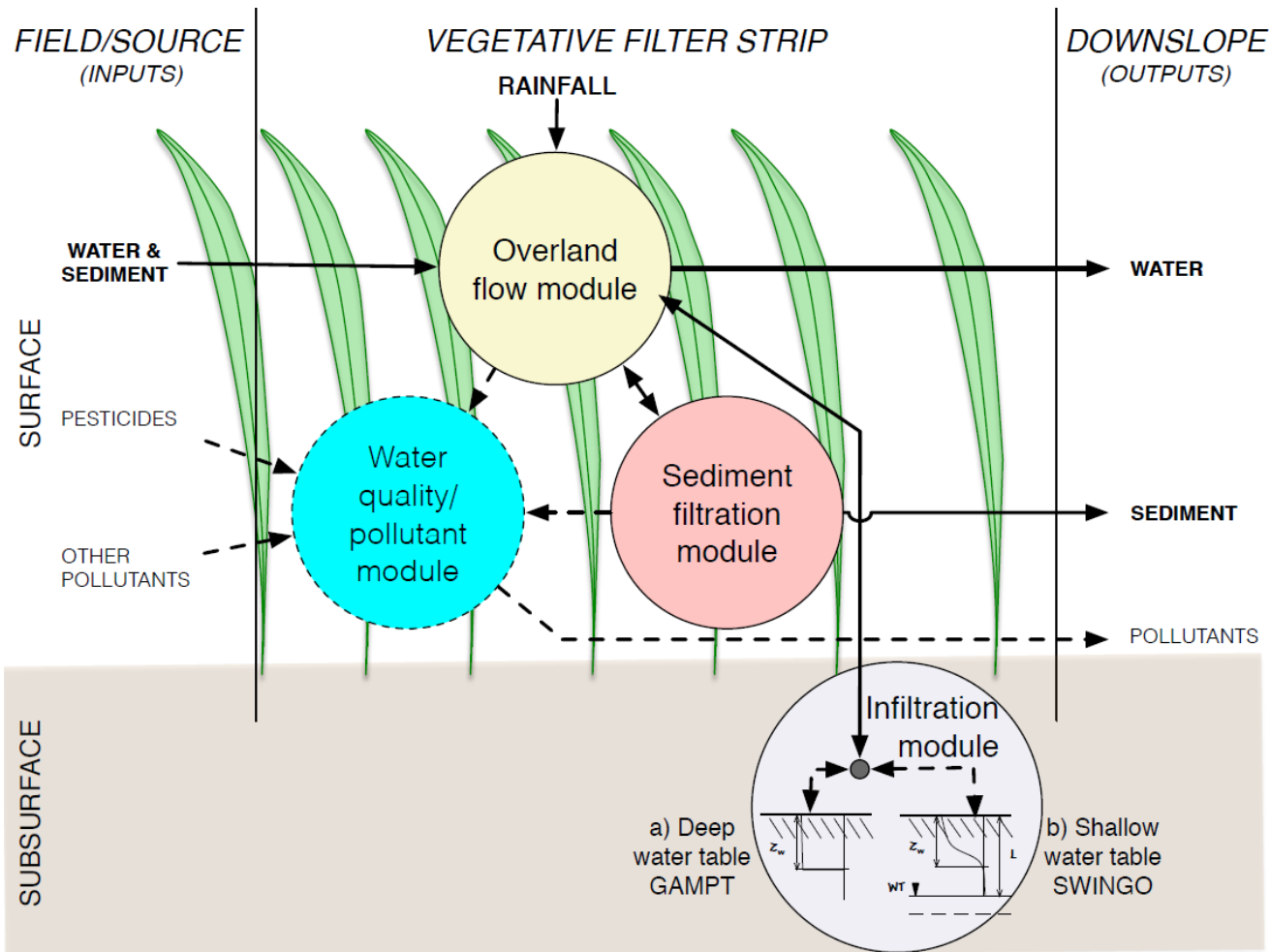
**R. Muñoz-Carpena, C. Lauvernet, N. Carluer.** Shallow water table effects on water, sediment and pesticide transport in vegetative filter strips: Part A. Unsteady rainfall infiltration and soil water redistribution. (Under review in HESS)

**C. Lauvernet and R. Muñoz-Carpena.** Part B. model coupling, application, factor importance and uncertainty. (Under review in HESS)

# Buffer zone efficiency modelling

**Vegetative buffer zone**  
 Slope and length    Initial soil moisture    Soil hydraulic properties  
 Water table

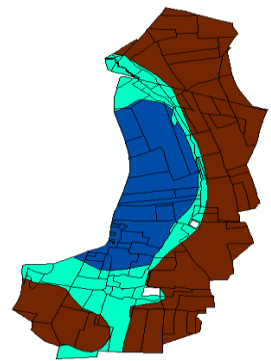
VFSMOD model



*Parameters: Topography and dimensions (slope, width), Soil hydrodynamic characteristics (Saturated Conductivity, Van Genuchten parameters), Soil humidity status (depth of the watertable)*



# Application of "comprehensive" BUVARD on a test catchment



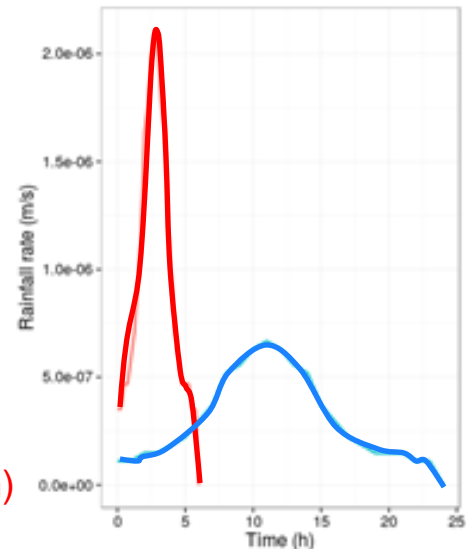
## La Fontaine du Theil Catchment

- 128 ha, polyculture (maize, wheat, meadows) and breeding
- Brown soils (G1), brown leached soils (G2), hydromorphic brown soil in low lands (G3); frequent presence of a shallow water table
- Mean slope: 3.9%
- Monitored from 1998 to 2006 by ARVALIS and UIPP
- A diagnosis of the risk of pesticides transfers towards surface water was performed  
⇒ proposal of VFS implantation (PROWADIS)

⇒ BUVARD was used to assess their optimal size.

## Designing representative scenarios:

- Two seasons: winter and summer
- Two rainfall scenarios per season:  
long and moderate / short and intense



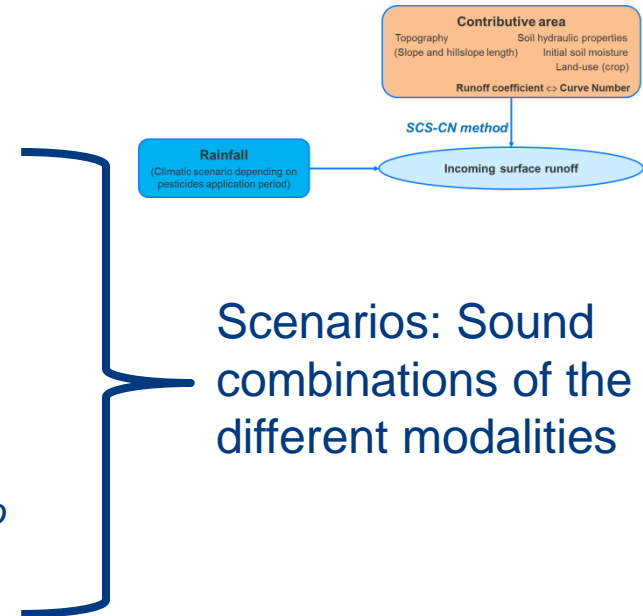
Summer, long and moderate, 6 h (21.4 mm)

Winter, long and moderate, 24 h (26.7 mm)

# Application of "comprehensive" BUVARD

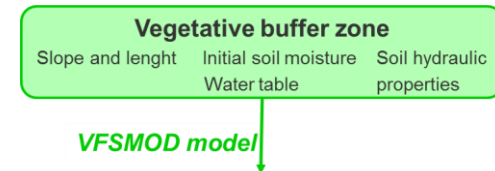
## Designing representative scenarios, contributive area

- Two crops: wheat and cover crop / wheat and corn
- Two initial soil humidity status: moderate and wet
- Water table depths: 1, 2.5 and 5 m
- Crop % soil covering: 10 and 90 %
- Curve number values from 69 to 86 (+8 points compared to USDA values)



## Designing representative scenarios, VFS:

	G1	G2	G3
Reference layer	B	E	S
Ksat (mm/h)	13.17	6.97	10.59
n	1.95	1.92	1.98
alpha (m <sup>-1</sup> )	0.44	0.33	0.38
m	0.49	0.48	0.49
Saturated water content	43.5	39.9	42.7
Residual water content	11.700	10.400	10.900



VFS soil parameters, according to kind of soil

# Results, for a 70% efficiency level for surface runoff mitigation

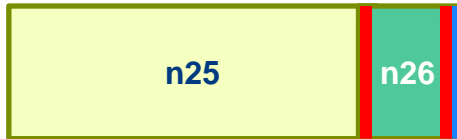
## Influence of hillslope length



With no VFS between plots n27 and n28:  
5 ; 12.4 ; 14.2

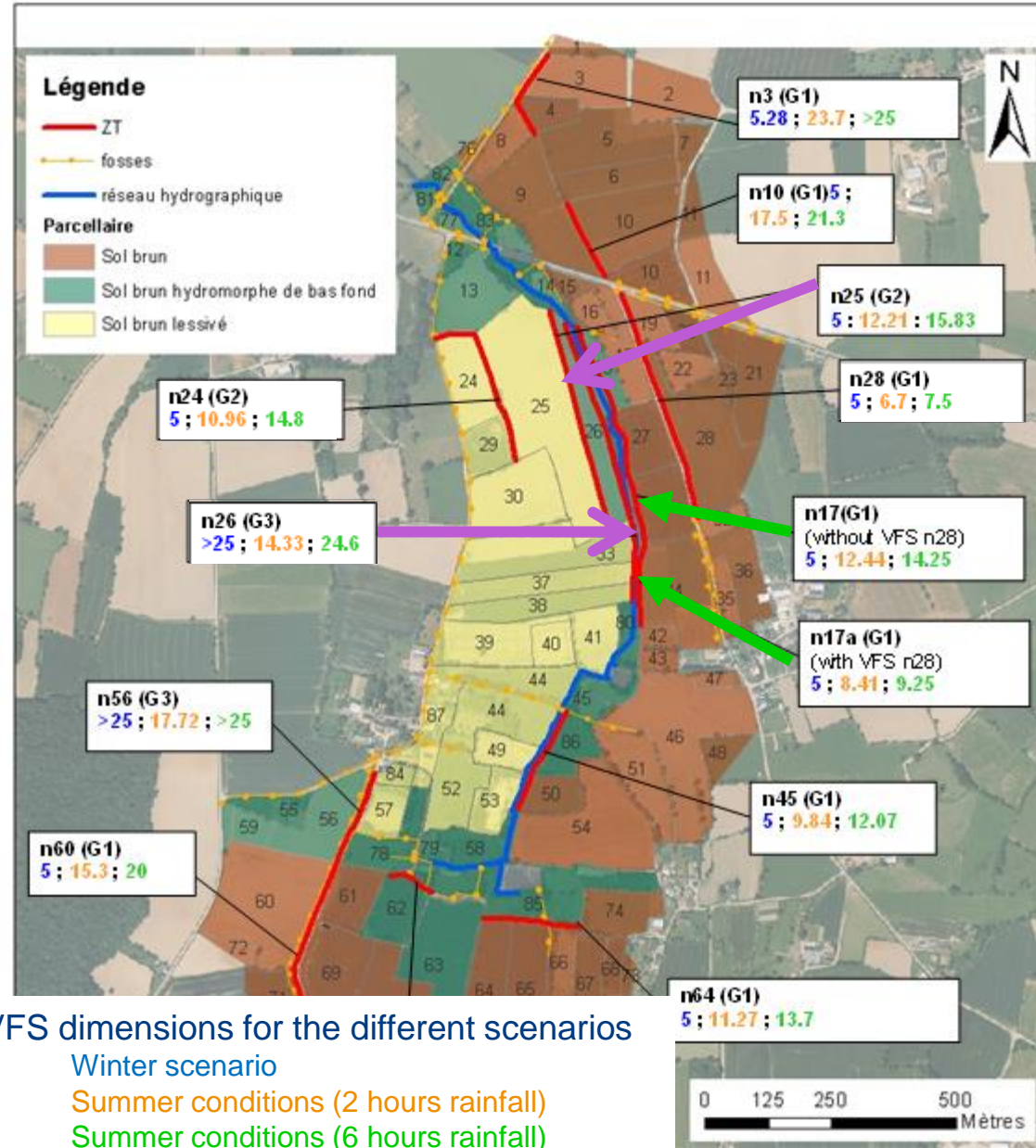
With a VFS between plots n27 and n28:  
5 ; 8.4 ; 9.2

## Influence of VFS soil



VFS in n25 (brown soil)  
5 ; 12.2 ; 15.8

VFS in n26 (hydromorphic soil)  
5 ; 14.3 ; 24.6





# Learnings from "comprehensive" BUVARD application

- BUVARD allows to design each buffer zone by taking into account its characteristics as precisely as desirable
- Yet processing the entire method for each buffer zone is tedious

⇒ Evolution towards a more user-friendly approach

- Inspired from TOPPS-Prowadis project
- Based on the definition and pre-calculation of a large number of scenarios, covering a wide range of conditions

⇒ Elaboration of nomograms, accessible from a web-interface, along with an on-line help.

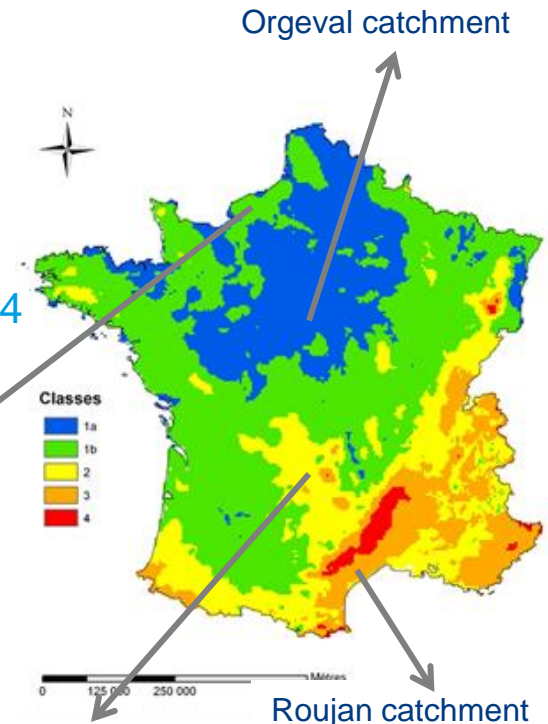
# BuvarD online: choice of rainfall scenarios

For each case, four rainfall scenarios are considered:

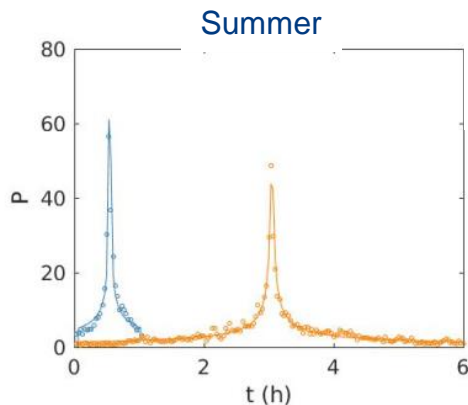
- Short summer rainfall (1 hour)
- Moderately long summer rainfall (6 hours)
- Short winter rainfall (2 hours)
- Moderately long winter rainfall (12 hours)

Based on available Intensity-Duration-Frequency French data, 4 climate areas were identified by automatic classification.

A reference hyetogram is calculated and associated for each rainfall scenario



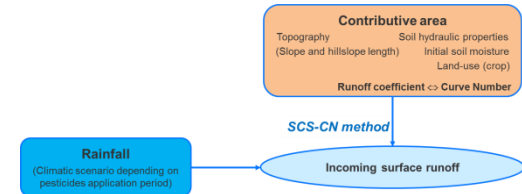
Bourville catchment  
1 and 6h summer rainfall



# BuvarD online: choice of scenarios

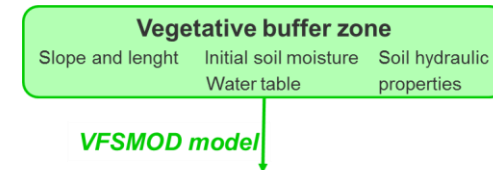
## Incoming surface runoff

- 4 french climatic zones \* 4 typical rainfall events
- Contributive area slope: 0.1;1 ;5 ;10 ;20 %
- Contributive area length: 25; 50; 100; 150; 200; 250; 300
- Curve Number: 42 to 99, step of 3
- Initial humidity status: 2, 3



## Buffer zone

- 6 (4 + 2) kinds of soils, based on the AIM-TEC project
- Slopes: the same as the contributive area's one
- Width for optimisation: 1-3-5-7-9-11-13-15-20-25-30
- Water table depths: 050,100,200,400 cm



- $4*2*2 * 20*5*7 * 6*4 = 268\ 800$  scenarios for VFS
- 11 widths of VFS \* 268 800 => 2 956 800 simulations

*Brown, C., Balderacchi, M., van Beinum, W., Capri, E., Trevisan, M., 2012. Definition of Vegetative Filter Strip Scenarios for Europe. Environment Department, University of York, Heslington, York, YO10 5DD, UK, p. 71.*

# Buvard online: <https://buvard.irstea.fr>

## Paramètres de dimensionnement

### Localisation du site d'étude (caractéristiques climatiques)

Longitude (Lambert II étendu)

Latitude (Lambert II étendu)

[Aide](#)

Catchment geographic position  
(climatic zone)

### Caractéristiques de la bande tampon

Type de sol de la bande tampon

[Aide](#)

Etat de la bande tampon

[Aide](#)

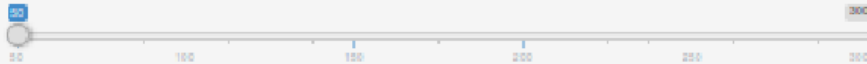
VFS characteristics

Pente de la bande tampon (%)

[Aide](#)

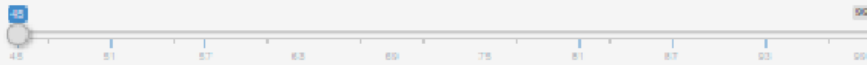
### Caractéristiques de la zone contributive

Longueur du versant contributeur (m)



[Aide](#)

Sensibilité au ruissellement estivale (curve number)



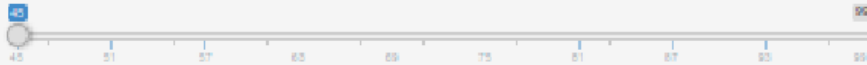
[Aide](#)

Profondeur de nappe sous la bande tampon en été

[Aide](#)

Characteristics of the contributive area

Sensibilité au ruissellement hivernale (curve number)



[Aide](#)

Profondeur de nappe sous la bande tampon en hiver

[Aide](#)



# Buvard online

## Example of online help for the choice of the VFS soil

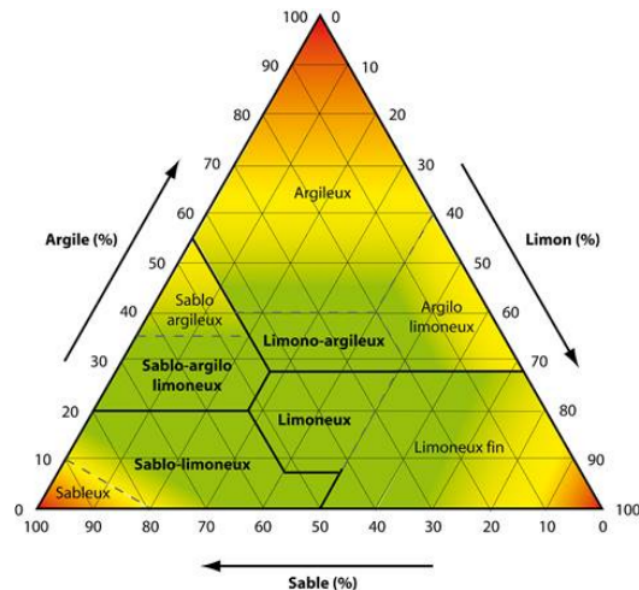
### Détermination du type de sol de la bande tampon

Le choix du type de sol de la bande tampon se rapporte simplement à sa texture, c'est-à-dire sa teneur relative en argile, limons et sables (cf. diagramme triangulaire ci-dessous). Avec une certaine habitude, celle-ci peut-être estimée sur le terrain à l'aide d'un prélèvement effectué à la tarière. Une analyse granulométrique (par tamisage par exemple) est toutefois recommandée pour obtenir un résultat fiable (voir les méthodes de détermination de la texture recommandées par l'Organisation des Nations unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture : [ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/cdrom/fao\\_training/FAO\\_Training/General/x6706f/x6706f06.htm](ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/cdrom/fao_training/FAO_Training/General/x6706f/x6706f06.htm)). Si possible, les variations de texture avec la profondeur seront prises en compte, **en retenant la texture la plus défavorable en termes de capacité d'infiltration dans les 50 premiers centimètres de profondeur.**

Le recours à des bases de données pédologiques est aussi une solution intéressante (BDGSF : <https://www.gissol.fr/tag/bdgsf>, BDAT : <https://www.gissol.fr/le-gis/programmes/base-de-donnees-danalyses-des-terres-bdat-62>). La texture (ou la classe texturale) s'avère en effet souvent l'un des premiers paramètres renseignés dans ces bases de données. Il faut cependant rester prudent en raison de la résolution de ce type de données, souvent insuffisamment détaillée pour restituer toute la variabilité spatiale des sols, notamment aux échelles considérées pour l'implantation d'une bande tampon.

L'utilisation du triangle des textures ci-dessous est proposée pour déterminer la catégorie texturale de sol à partir des données de texture. Sont reportées :

- En vert : les quatre textures proposées dans l'interface.
- En jaune : les textures proches pouvant leur être assimilées si elles sont rencontrées sur le terrain, en considérant les résultats avec prudence.
- En rouge : les textures pour lesquelles les résultats fournis dans l'interface ne peuvent plus être considérés comme valables.



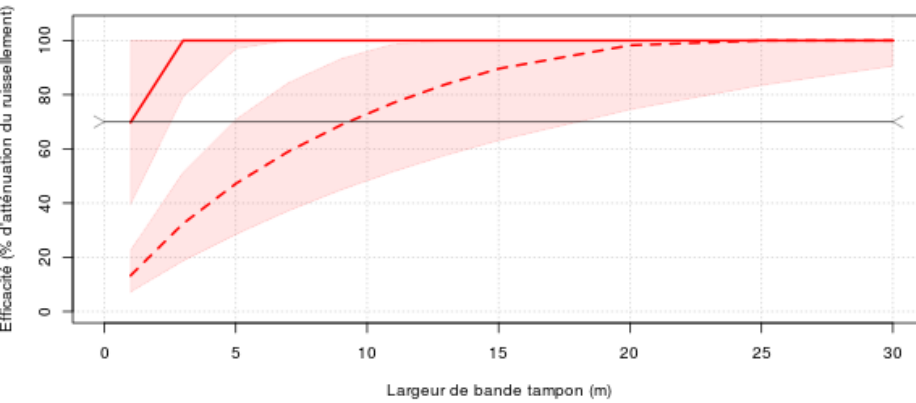


# Buvard online

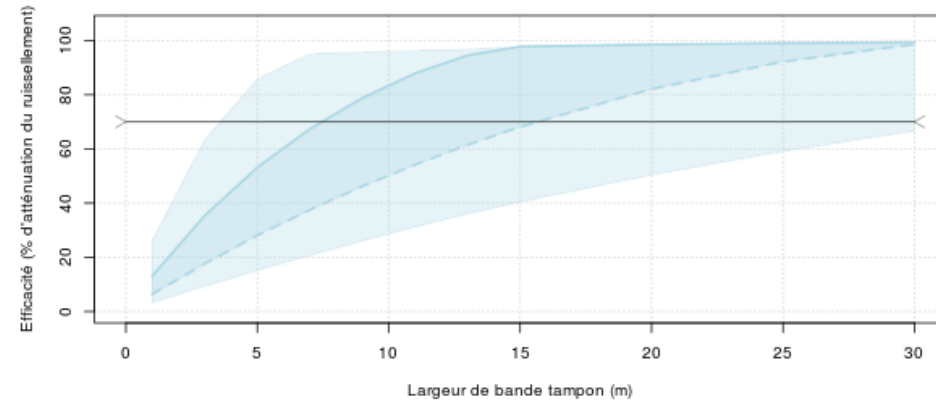
## Results

- Average initial conditions
- - - Wet initial conditions

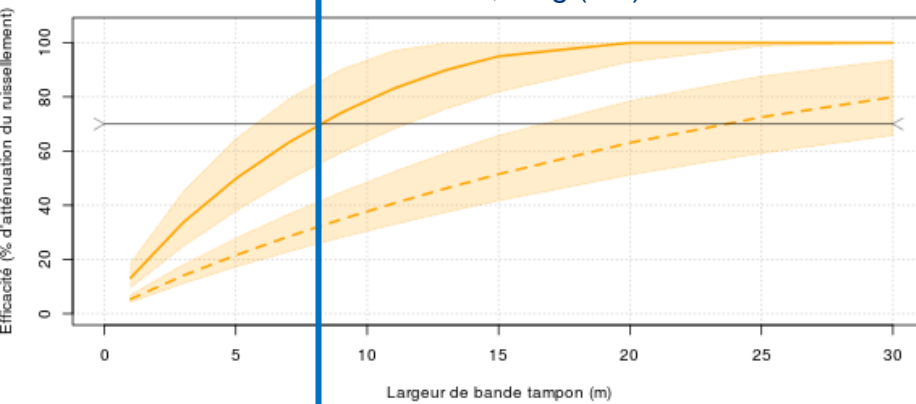
### Summer, short (1 h)



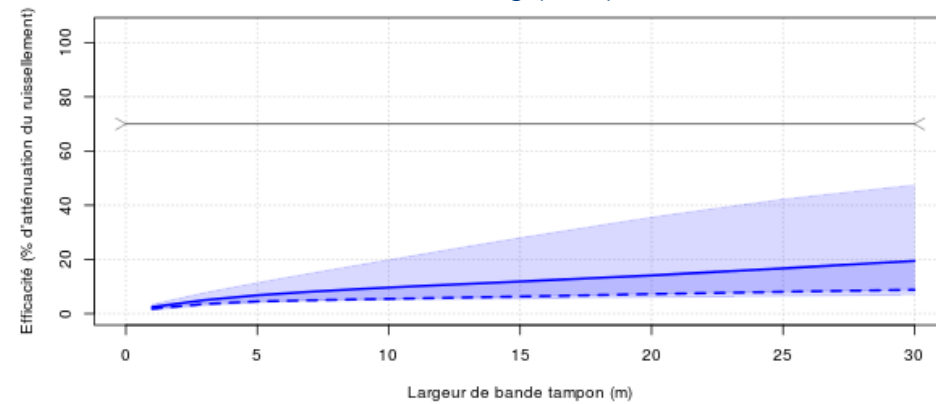
### Winter short (2 h)



### Summer, long (6 h)



### Winter long (12 h)





# Conclusions. Perspectives

BUVARD allows to design VFS by taking into account the very local characteristics of their position, given a desired efficiency level

- « Comprehensive » BUVARD can describe all situations. *For experienced users*
- BUVARD-online is simpler to use, yet restricted to a given (very large) number of cases. *For non-experienced users*
- BUVARD-MM (MetaModel) will allow to continuously cover the whole range of simulated scenarios. *(Extension of BUVARD-online)*

VFSMOD makes it possible to simulate suspended matters and pesticides, given data is available

Application to European sites:

- Readily possible for « Comprehensive » BUVARD, if local rainfall data is available
- Would be possible for BUVARD online (and BUVARD-MM) if regional rainfall scenarios are available

For BUVARD use, please visit the model's  
main web site from October 2017:

<https://buvard.irstea.fr>

or subscribe to the diffusion list

to be notified when it becomes useable

[zt\\_eq\\_PollDiff@irstea.fr](mailto:zt_eq_PollDiff@irstea.fr)



Thank you for your attention

[nadia.carluer@irstea.fr](mailto:nadia.carluer@irstea.fr)



Hyetograph

Contributive area-hydrograph

Vegetative buffer zone

3SP02\_85010200\_SILj250 20

Rainfall Duration (2) n=2 :  
01,06 (S) ; 02,12 (W)

Rainfall intensity (1) n=2 :  
P or M ( Peak/Moderate)

Saison (1) n=2 : W or S

Classe de climat (1) n=4 : 1:4

Water table depth (3) n=4 :  
050,100,200,400 cm.

Soil Type jeune/vieux (4) n=6:  
silt loam(SIL); sandy loam(SAL) ; clay  
loam (CL); sandy clay loam (SCL)  
SILj , SALj ,CLOj , CLOv , SCLj , SCLv

Contributive area length (3) n=7:  
025 ; 050:50:300

Slope (1), n=5 : (on supprime 0.5% et 2%)  
ABCDEFG = 0.1 ; 1 ; 5 ; 10 ; 20 %

Curve Number (2), n=20 : 42:3:99

VFS length for design : n=11  
1-3-5-7-9-11-13-15-20-25-30

Entre ( ) le nombre de caracteres => toujours 20 caract.

n= le nombre d'éléments

Nb scénarios =  $4*2*2 * 20*5*7 * 6*4 = (244608) 268\ 800$  scénarios

Nb simus = 11 lgr VFS \* 268 800 = (2 690 688) => 2 956 800

# Buvard online: <https://buvard.irstea.fr>



## Bienvenue dans la fenêtre de dimensionnement de votre bande tampon

- 1) Renseignez un-à-un tous les paramètres décrivant votre site d'étude dans le panneau de gauche en vous aidant de l'aide
- 2) Examinez les résultats pour les différents scénarios implémentés en fonction de l'efficacité recherchée
- 3) Déterminez la largeur de bande tampon optimale et exportez vos résultats.

## Choice of the scenario

### Localisation du site d'étude (caractéristiques climatiques)

Longitude (Lambert II étendu)

[Aide](#)

Latitude (Lambert II étendu)

### Caractéristiques de la bande tampon

Type de sol de la bande tampon

[Aide](#)

Etat de la bande tampon

[Aide](#)

Pente de la bande tampon (%)

[Aide](#)

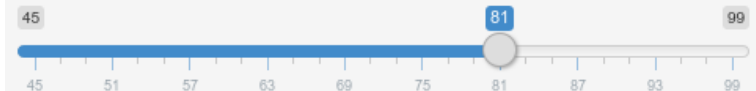
### Caractéristiques de la zone contributive

Longueur du versant contributeur (m)



[Aide](#)

Sensibilité au ruissellement estivale (curve number)

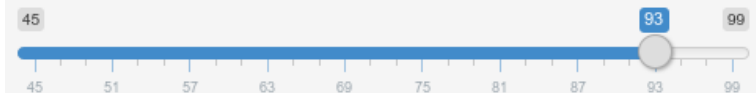


[Aide](#)

Profondeur de nappe sous la bande tampon en été

[Aide](#)

Sensibilité au ruissellement hivernale (curve number)



[Aide](#)

Profondeur de nappe sous la bande tampon en hiver

[Aide](#)

	Winter						Summer					
	G1		G2		G3		G1		G2		G3	
Crop	Wheat	Interme- diate crop	Wheat	Interme- diate crop	Wheat	Interme- diate crop	Wheat	Corn	Wheat	Corn	Wheat	Corn
Ksat (mm/h)	14,53		14,53		11,08		14,53		14,53		11,08	
Texture	silt-loam		silt-loam		silt-loam		silt-loam		silt-loam		silt-loam	
Initial hydrological group	C		C		C		C		C		C	
Water table depth	5		5		1		5		5		2.5	
Final hydrological group	B		B		C		B		B		C	
Hydrological conditions	unf	fav	unf	fav	unf	fav	fav	unf	fav	unf	fav	unf
Crop % soil covering	10	90	10	90	10	90	90	25	90	25	90	25
Curve Number II	84	69	84	69	92	82	83	89	83	89	83	89
Curve number III	92	84	92	84	96	91	92	95	92	95	92	95

# VFS Soil parameters

Soil	Silt loam	Sandy loam	Clay loam	Sandy clay loam
Nomenclature	SIL	SAL	CLO	SCL
AIM-Tec project soil	R1	R2	R3	R4
<b>n (Van Genuchten)</b>	1.6647	1.44	1.45	1.3636
<b>Alpha (1/m)</b>	0.54	2.4	1.01	1.91
<b>Theta_r</b>	0.0679	0.055	0.0833	0.0655
<b>Theta_sat VFS</b>	0.458	0.478	0.456	0.49487
<i>Theta_sat Rosetta</i>	<i>0.4538</i>	<i>0.4674</i>	<i>0.4282</i>	<i>0.3984</i>
<b>Ksat VFS (cm/day)</b>	23	98.626	49.487	53.934
<i>Ksat Rosetta (cm/day)</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>109.3</i>	<i>6.72</i>	<i>12.89</i>
<i>Ksat SWC (cm/day)</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>7.1</i>	<i>18</i>