

# TESTING CROP COEFFICIENT CORRECTNESS WITH SAPWAT3 VER. 2



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UFS·UV  
NATURAL AND  
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES  
NATUUR- EN  
LANDBOUWETENSAPPE

# INTRODUCTION



- Estimation of irrigation requirements for planning comes a long way.
- Started through direct measurement and extrapolation
- Relating evaporation to crop irrigation requirement:
  - Class A pan
- Relating crop growth and development to weather data:
  - Penman-Monteith

# INTRODUCTION



- Estimation or prediction of crop irrigation requirements are faced with a problem of credibility:
  - Green book – A-pan:
    - As long as calibrated and correctly placed;
    - Furthermore:
      - Heat exchange between pan and soil
      - Underground pans sensitive to environment
      - Maintain edge can cause wind break
      - Convective flows during night
  - Penman-Monteith:
    - Crop coefficients
- (Du Plessis & Wittwer, 1991; Green, 1985; Tanner, 1987; Riou, 1985; Doorenbos & Pruitt, 1977)

# THEORETICAL BACKGROUND



- Growing plants contain about 90% water by weight.
  - Transpires much more.
    - Maize plant contain 2l (2 kg) of water at maturity
      - 100000 plants/ha = 200 t/ha
      - Transpire 6000 t/ha during growing period.
  - Water requirement need to be carefully planned and managed to ensure sustainability
- 
- (Allen et al., 1998; Alois, 2007; DWA, 2004; Fairweather et al.,, undated)

# THEORETICAL BACKGROUND



- FAO 56 crop coefficients based on semi-humid areas with warm summers
- Recent study found discrepancies between FAO 56 and crop coefficients.
  - -20% for citrus in Morocco
  - +20% for apples grown in cool, humid climate
- Crop coefficients used can vary significantly from actual observed data
  - Lysimeter, eddy covariance, soil and water balance, plant physiological
  - High air temperature and water deficit could lead to stomatal closure
    - lower than expected crop coefficients
- Some crops well researched:
  - Beans, cabbage, citrus, cotton, maize, onion, peas, peppers, potatoes, sugar cane, sunflower, wheat
- Some crops less well researched:
  - Berries, canola, gourds, granadillas, mangoes, papaws
- Need exists for continuous verification of crop coefficients
- (Lazarra & Rana, 2012; Allen, 2008; Raes, et al., 2009)

# THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

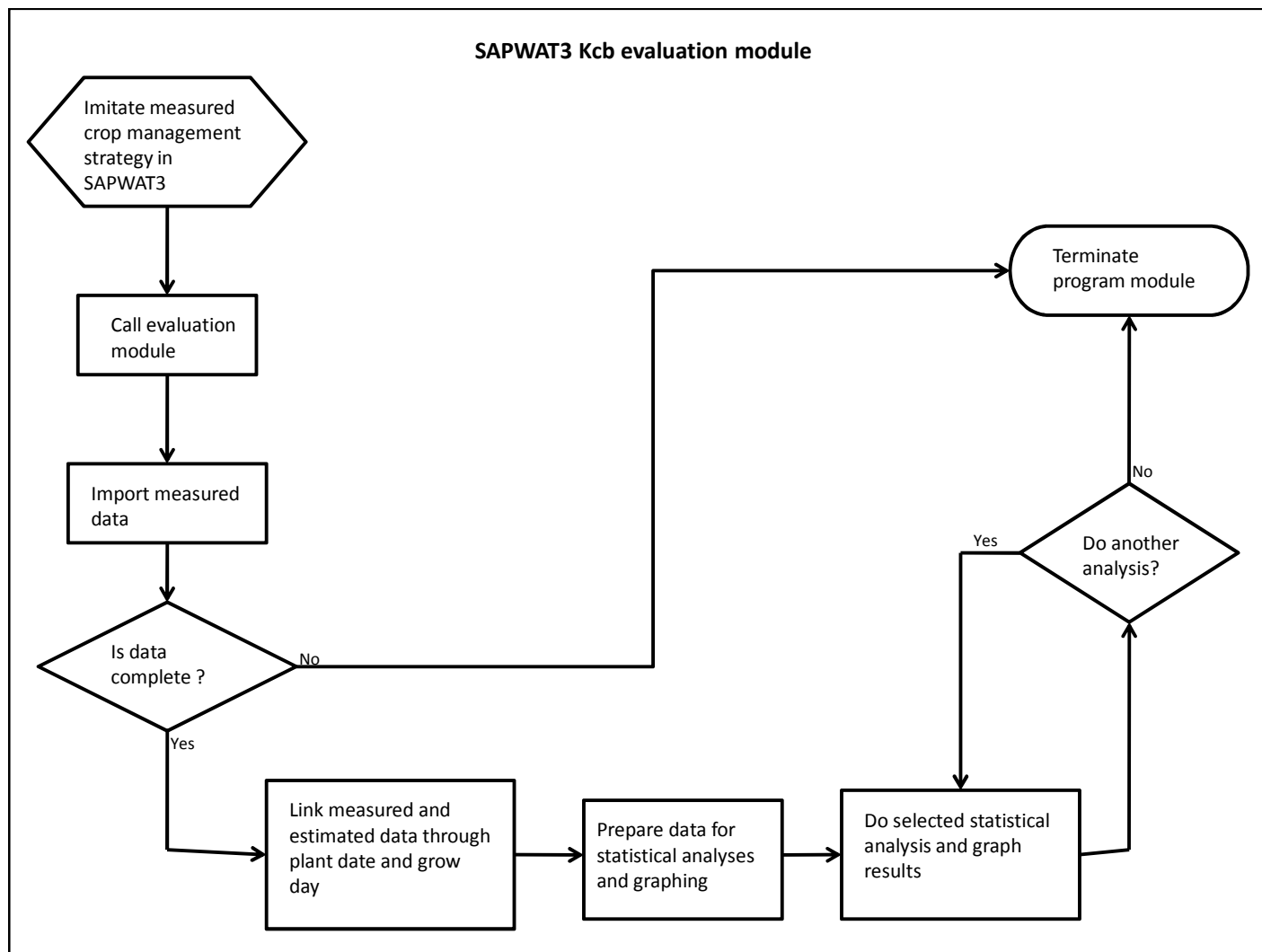


- Existing models do not have built-in routines for testing crop coefficient correctness
  - Shorter grass surface loses the similarity in aerodynamic exchange found in taller plants – lucerne (alfalfa) could be better
  - Accepting default coefficients without considering influence of climate, planting data, cultivar characteristics, agronomic practices is wrong
  - SAPWAT3 with 104 main crops and 2835 subgroups need to continuously update crop characteristics / coefficients
  - Routine to verify crop coefficients has been built into SAPWAT3 version 2
- (Smith, 1992; Raes, et al., 2009; Allen, et al., 1998; Smith, 1994; Van Heerden, et al., 2001; Doorenbos & Kassam, 1986; Van Heerden, et al., 2008)

# METHODOLOGY



- The approach to solving the problem for SAPWAT3
  - Crop observed  $ET_c =$  SAPWAT3 estimated  $ET_c$
  - $ET_c$  is related to  $K_{cb}$
  - Therefore:
    - If Crop observed  $ET_c \neq$  SAPWAT3 estimated  $ET_c$
    - SAPWAT3 crop coefficient need to be adjusted
    - Adjustment within limits
  
- Allen, et al., 1998





# METHODOLOGY



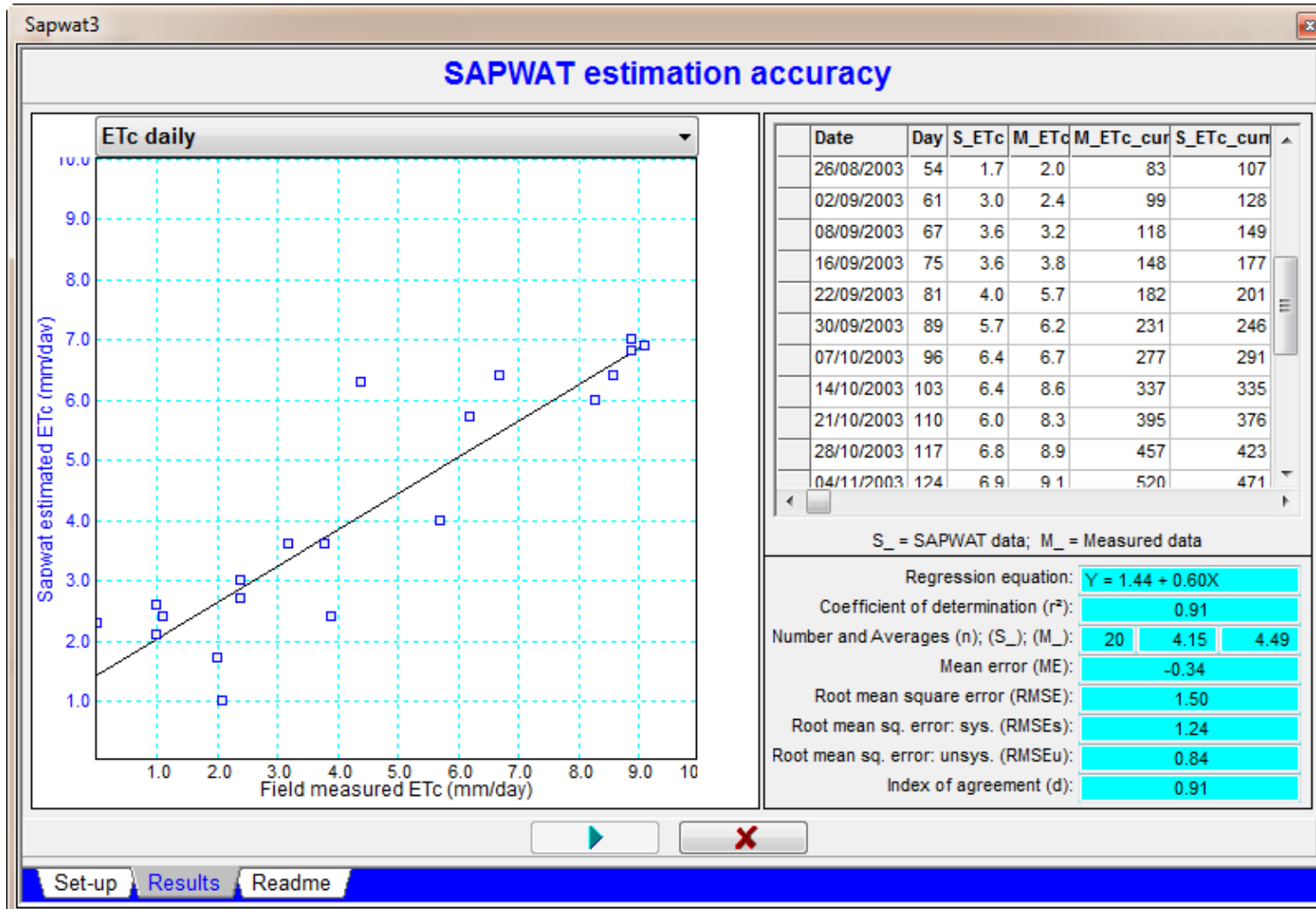
- ETc calculated with the soil water balance equation
- Calculate Kcb – basal crop coefficient
  - $K_{cb} = K_c - K_e$
- Display results supported by statistical analyses
  - SAPWAT3 ETc compared to observed ETc
  - SAPWAT3 cumulative ETc compared to observed cumulative ETc
  - SAPWAT3 Kcb compared to observed Kcb
  - SAPWAT3 Kcb curve compared to observed Kcb data

# METHODOLOGY

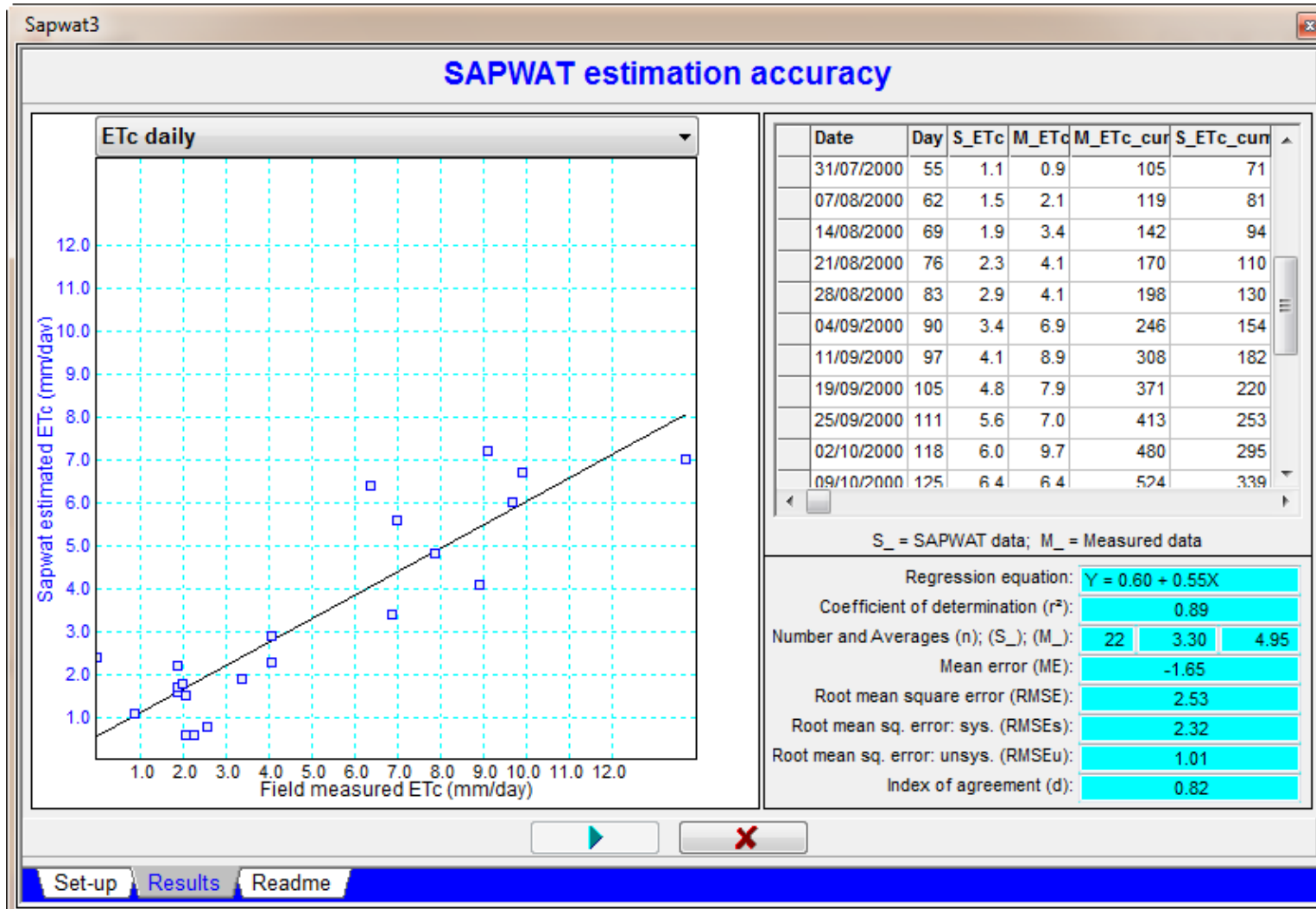


- Three case studies:
  - Lysimeter at Bainsvlei (salinity project: control)
    - Wheat, planted mid June 2003
    - Centre pivot on sandy loam
    - Neutron probe about weekly
  - Lysimeter at Bainsvlei (water table project: control)
    - Wheat, planted mid June 1998
    - Centre pivot on sandy loam
    - Neutron probe about weekly
  - Field observed data near Hertzogville, NW (scheduling service)
    - Maize, planted End December 2008
    - Centre pivot on sandy loam
    - Decagon EC-20 probe, about daily
    - Percolation-Runoff not measured
    - “Good rain year”

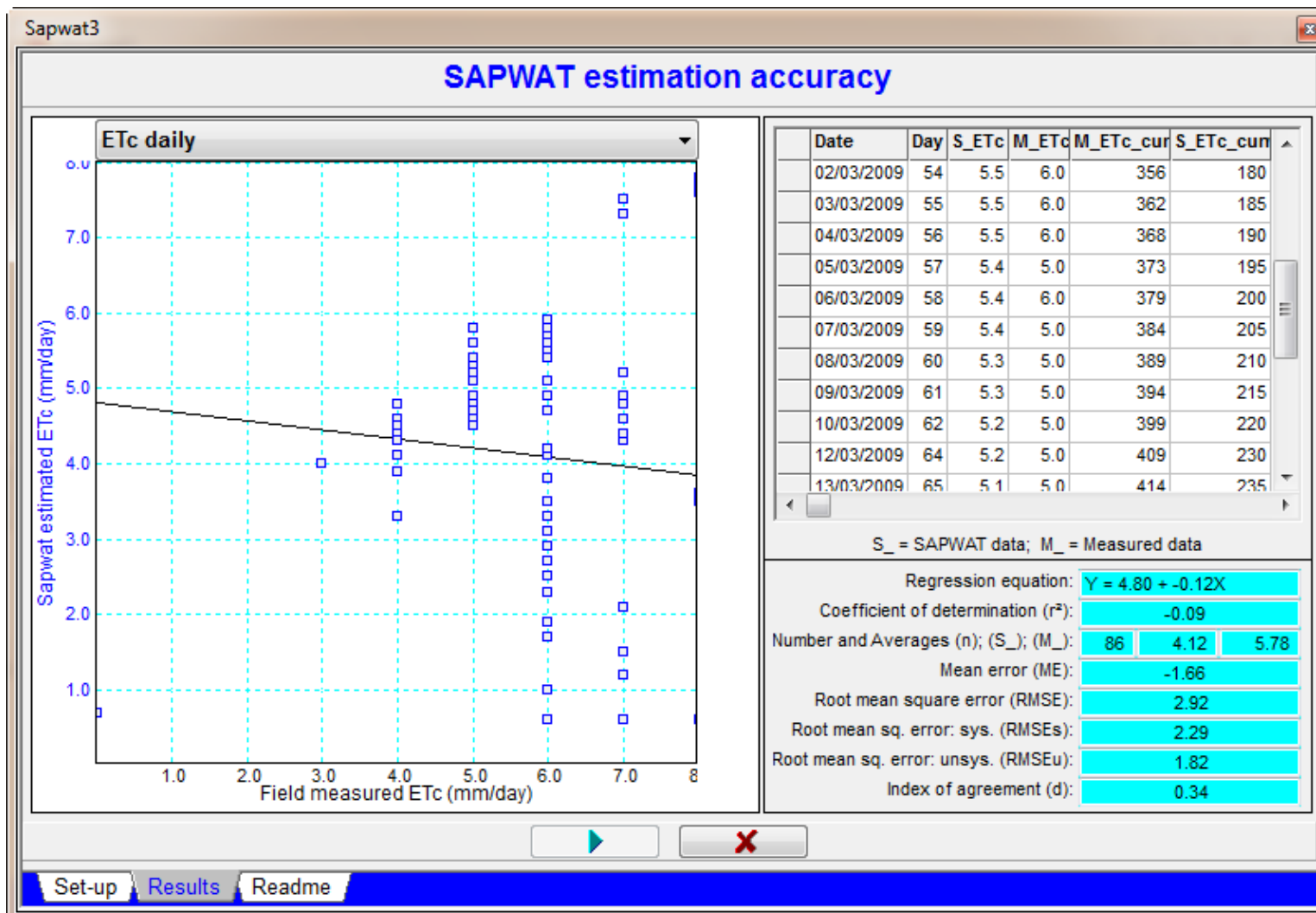
# ETC DAILY: LYSIMETER 1



# ETC DAILY: LYSIMETER 2



# ETC DAILY: FIELD DATA

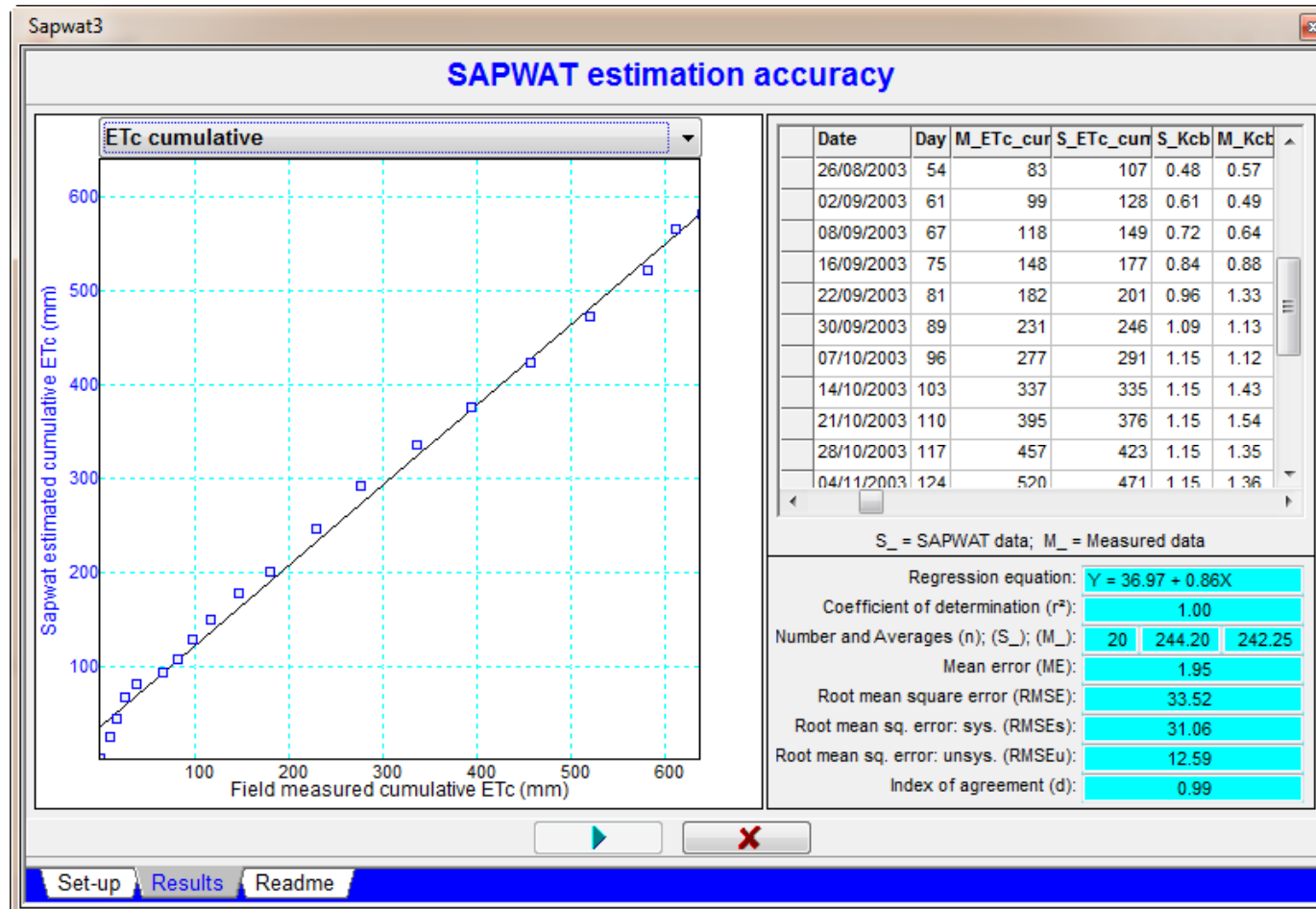


# ETC DAILY RESULTS: DISCUSSION

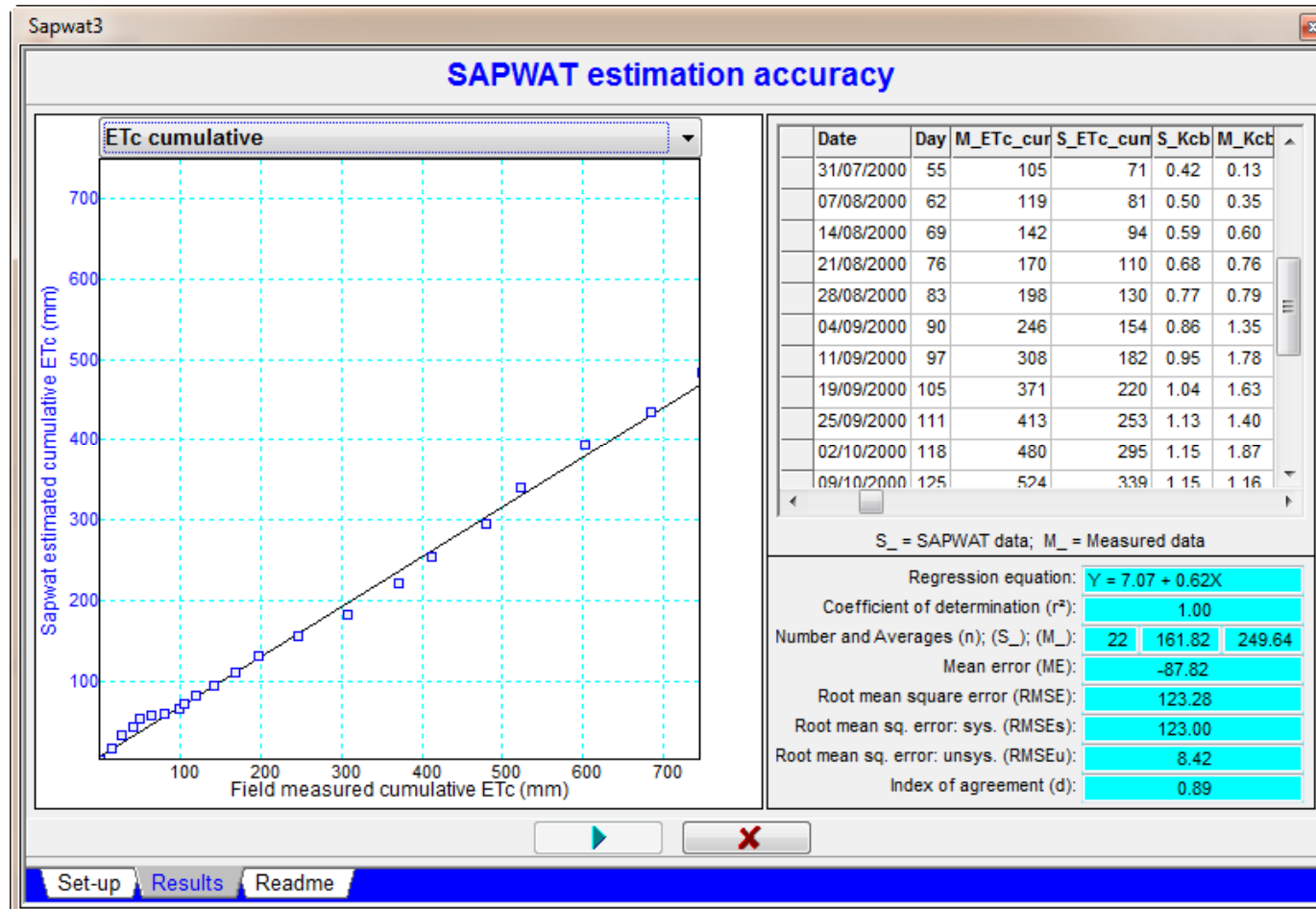


- “Practical” acceptable slope 0.7 – 1.3
  - Lysimeter 1 is closest with slope = 0.6
  - Field observed data shows negative slope – no use
- Graph interpretation:
  - Lysimeter 1 = slope low;
  - Lysimeter 2 = slope too low;
    - Observed data substantially higher than estimated data;
  - Field data = not usable
    - Observed data rounded to nearest integer could have influence, but will not solve the problem
    - High observed data values at beginning of growth due to excessive water – lost through percolation but not picked up
- Snedecor & Cochran, 1991; Wilmot, 1981

# ETC CUMULATIVE: LYSIMETER 1

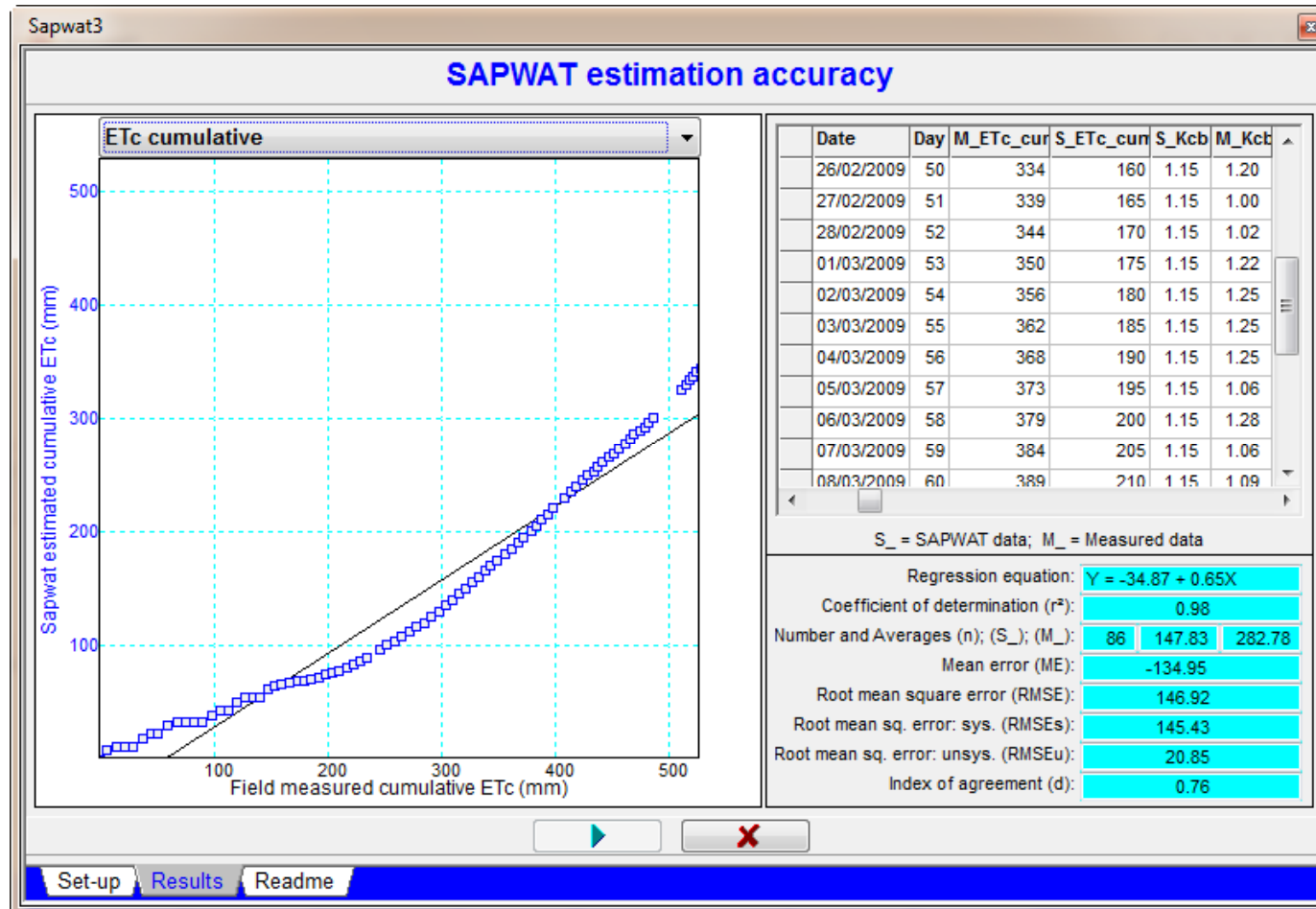


# ETC CUMULATIVE: LYSIMETER 2





# ETC CUMULATIVE: FIELD DATA

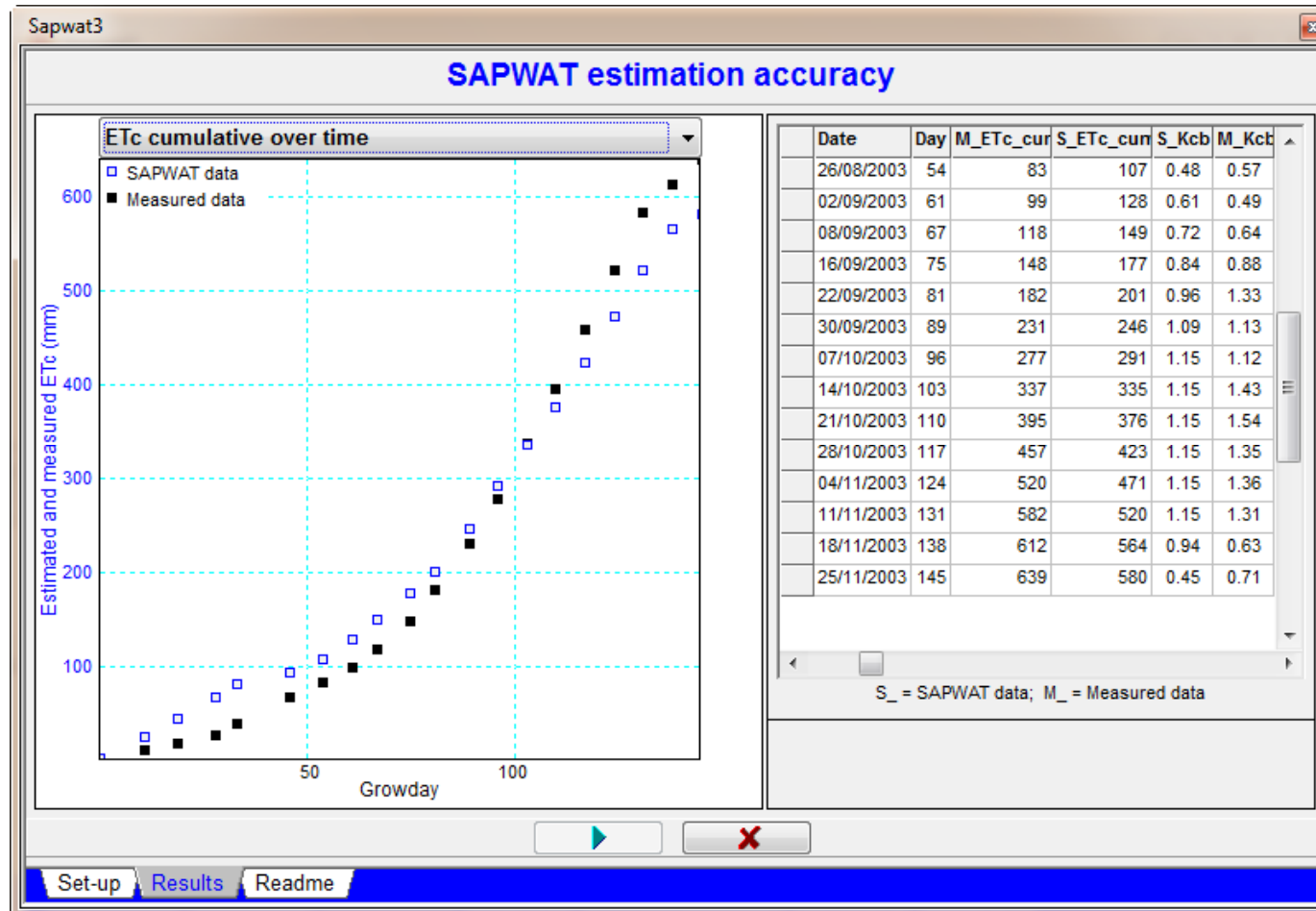


# ETC CUMULATIVE RESULTS: DISCUSSION

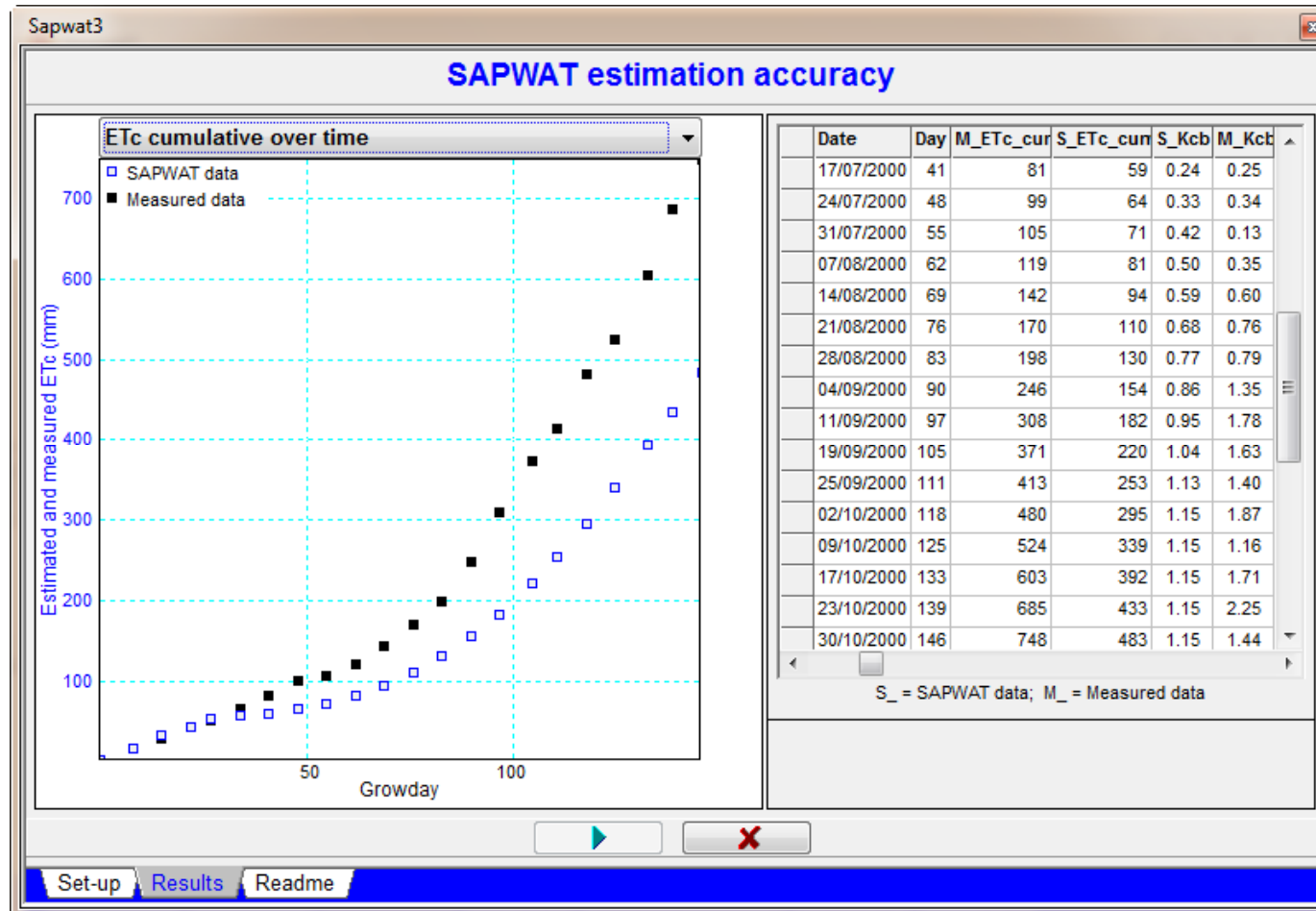


- Lysimeter 1 shows a slope within acceptable values range at 0.86
- Slope of lysimeter 2 is too shallow at 0.62,
  - Observed cumulative ETc of 700 compared to 450 for estimated cumulative ETc
- Slope of field data 16 too shallow at 0.65,
  - Observed cumulative ETc of 500 compared to 300 for estimated cumulative ETc
  - Excessive rain with no measurement of percolation could be the cause
- Graph interpretation:
  - Lysimeter 1 = good;
  - lysimeter 2 = predicted and observed data on line, slope too shallow,
  - field data = predicted and observed data approximately on line, slope too shallow
- Snedecor & Cochran, 1991; Wilmot, 1981

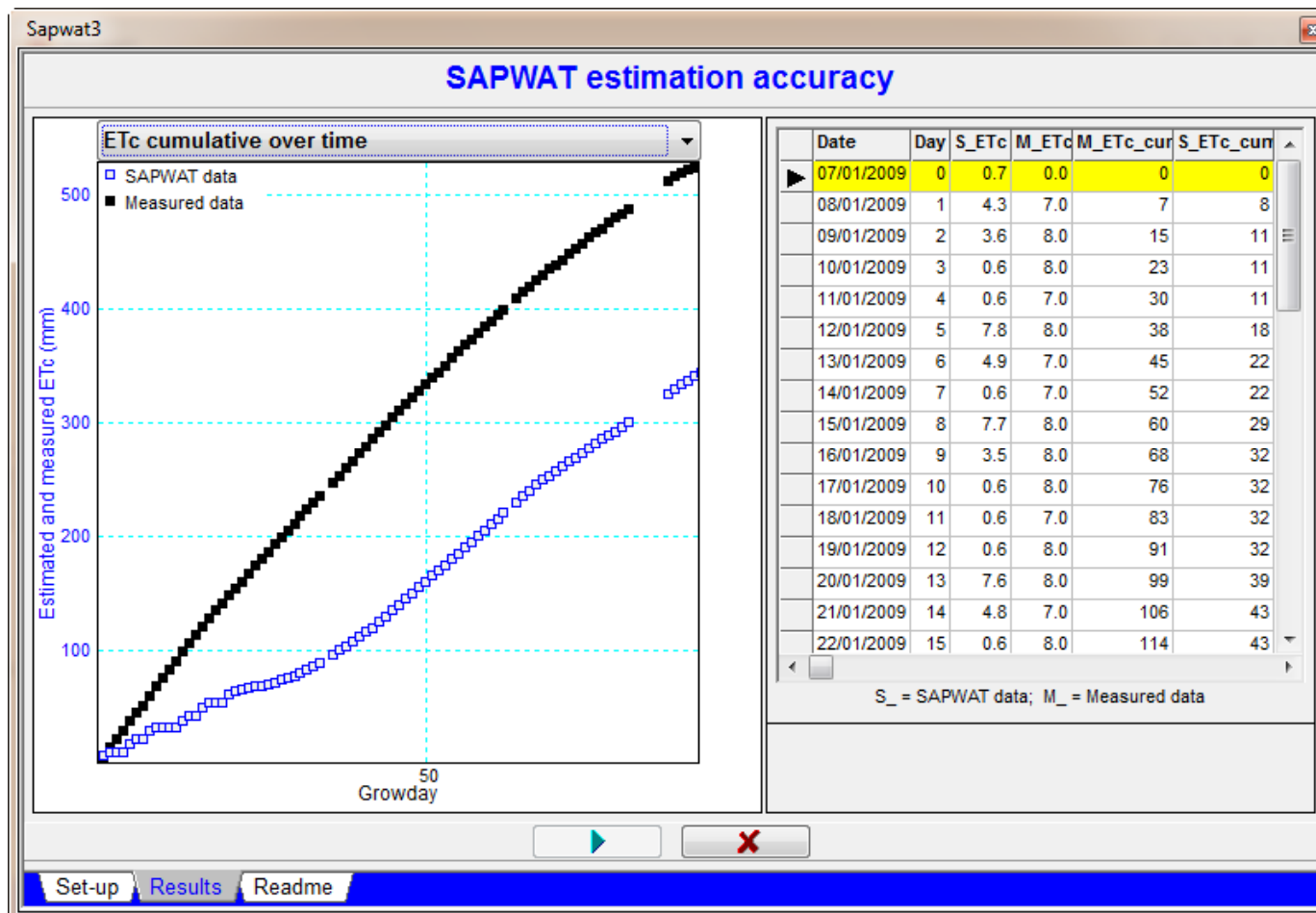
# ETC OVER TIME: LYSIMETER 1



# ETC OVER TIME: LYSIMETER 2



# ETC OVER TIME : FIELD DATA

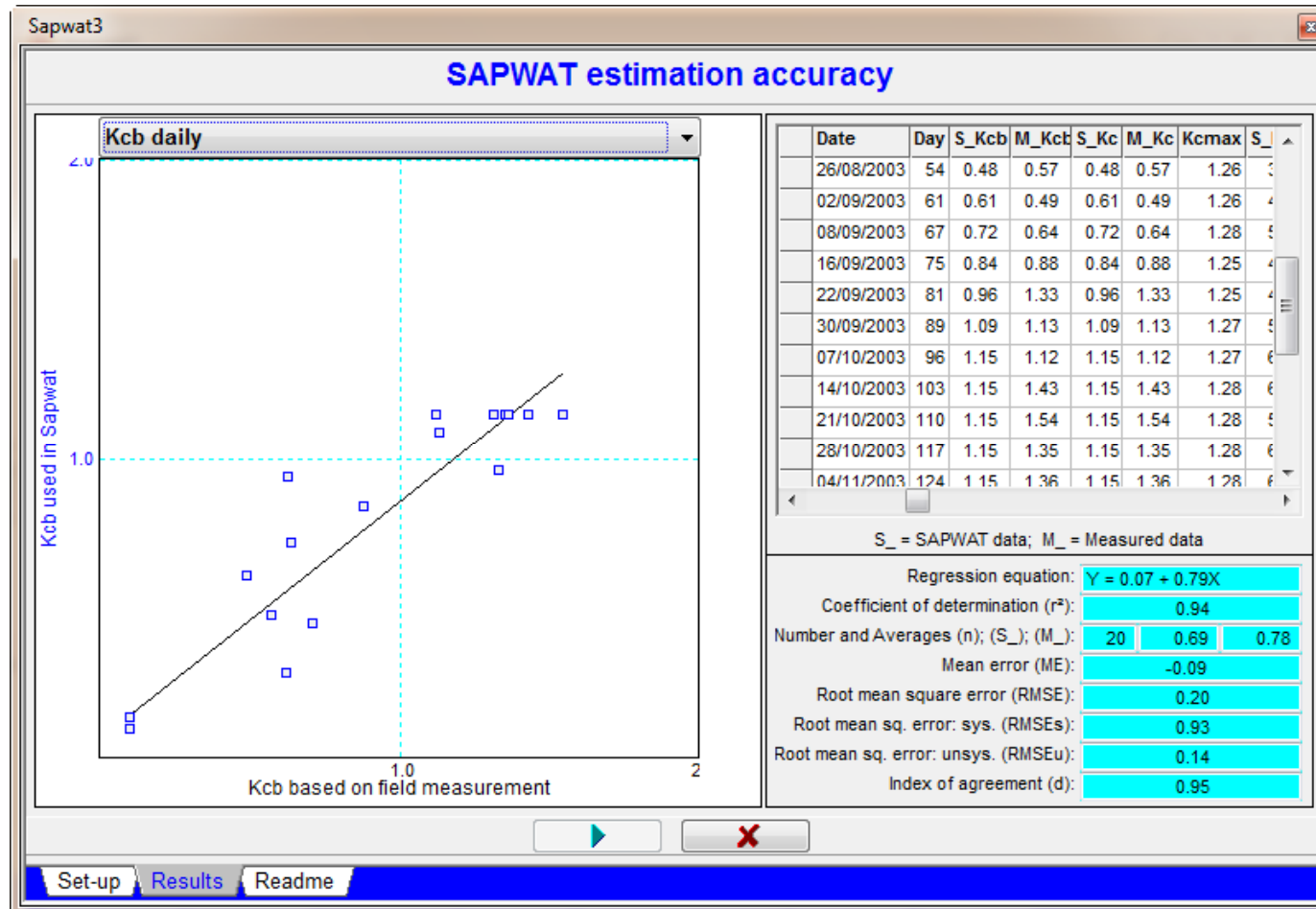


## ETC OVER TIME RESULTS: DISCUSSION

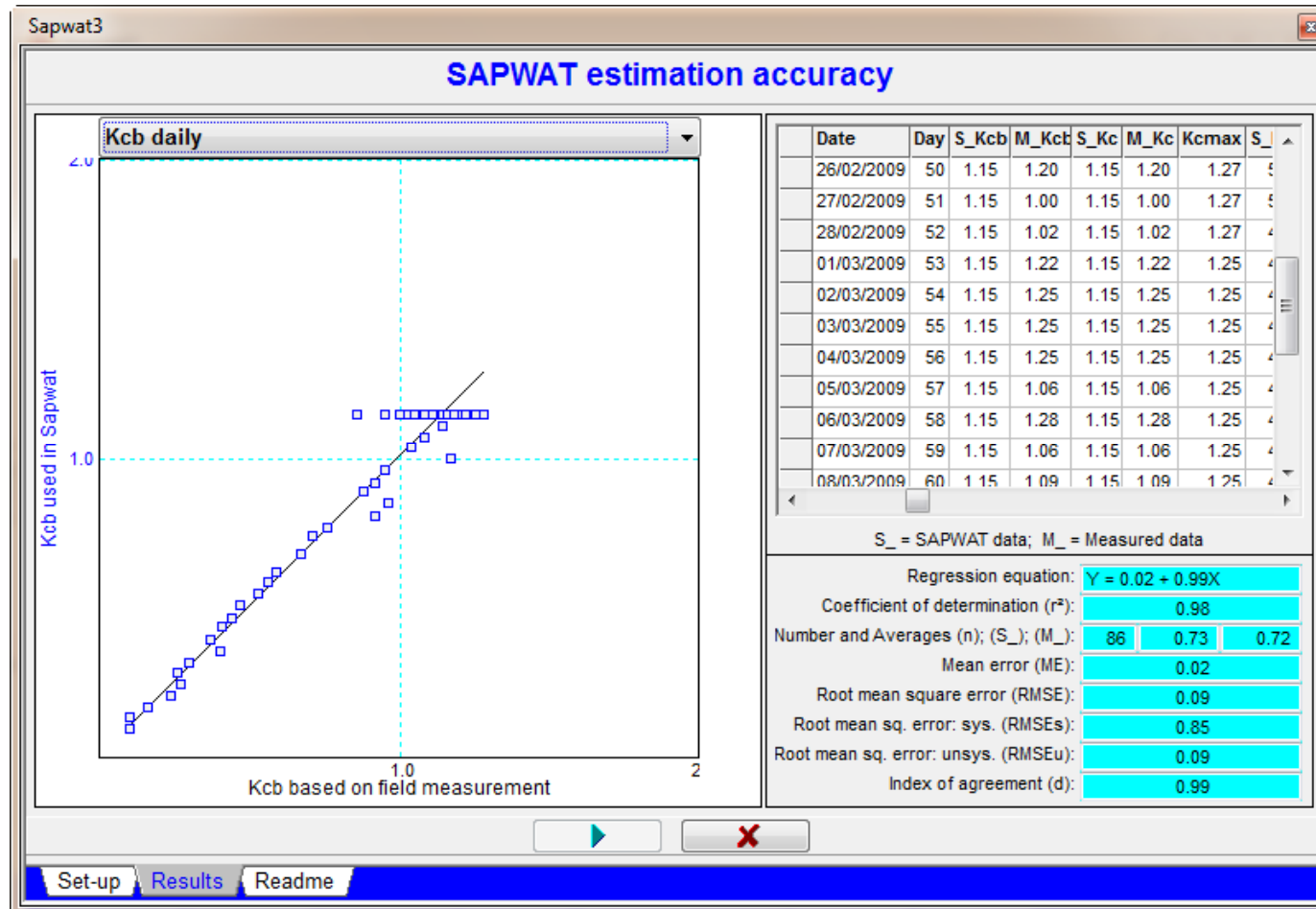


- In Lysimeter 1 the cumulative ETc curves of estimated and observed data follow a similar line – indicating an acceptable degree of similarity
- The estimated and observed curves of lysimeter 2 is divergent
  - Excessive observed ETc?
  - Under-estimation of cumulative ETc?
- The estimated and observed curves of field data is very divergent
  - Excessive observed ETc?
  - Under-estimation of cumulative ETc?

# KCB DAILY: LYSIMETER 1



# KCB DAILY: FIELD DATA





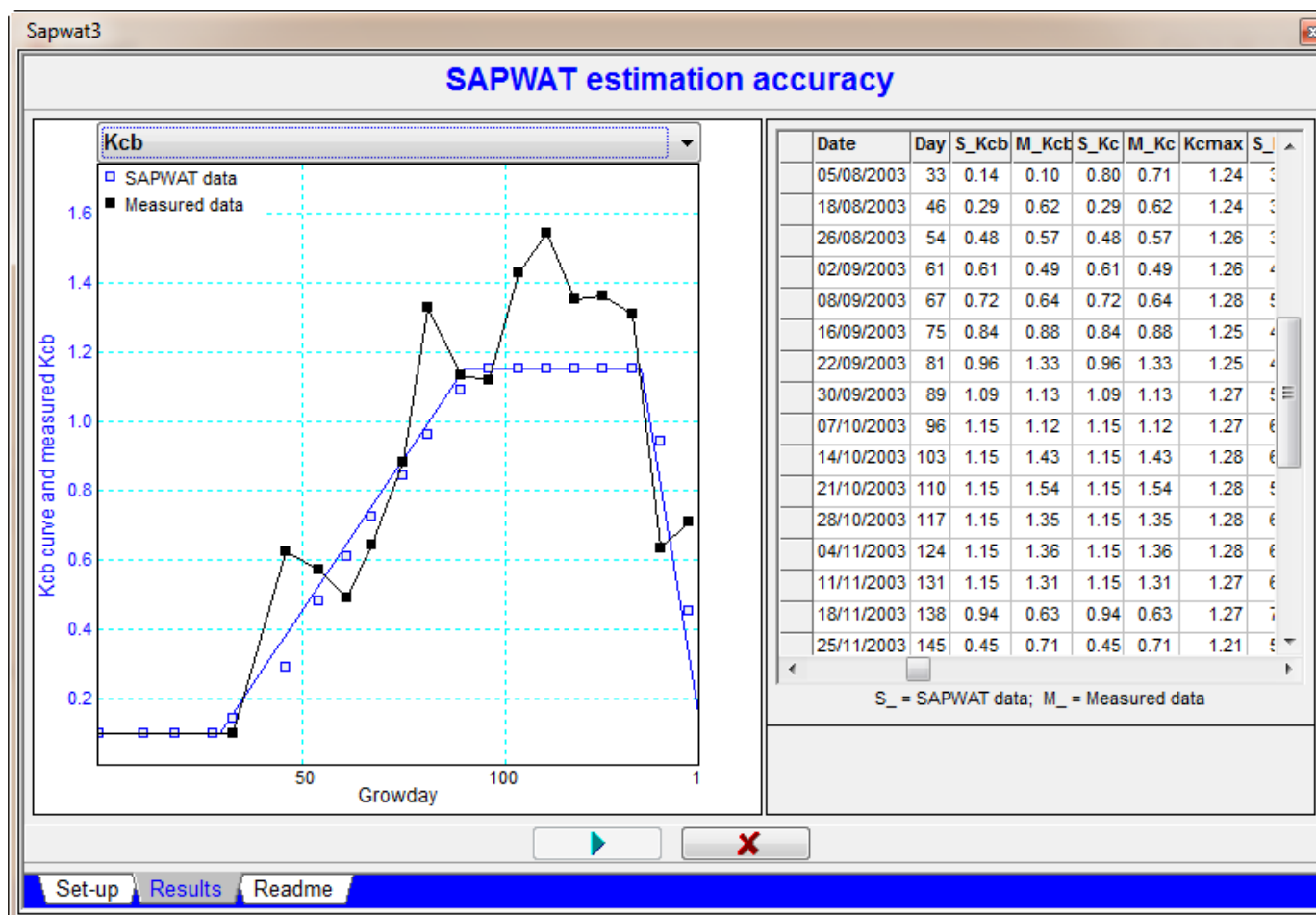
# KCB DAILY RESULTS: DISCUSSION



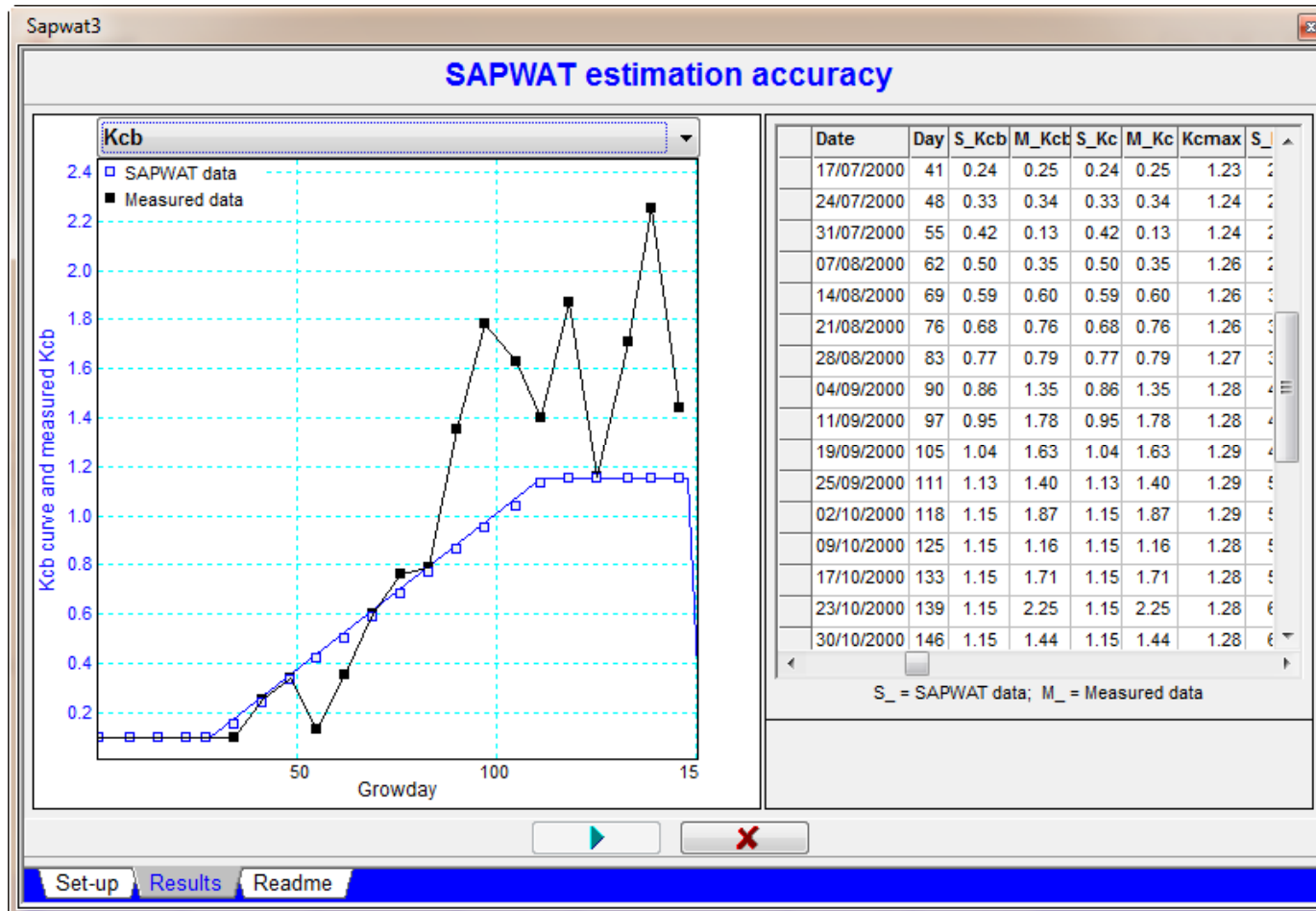
- Acceptable slope 0.7 – 1.3
  - Lysimeter 1 and field data is within the acceptable range with slopes of 0.79 and 0.99 respectively
- Graph interpretation:
  - Lysimeter 1 = acceptable
  - field data = acceptable
- Snedecor & Cochran, 1991; Wilmot, 1981



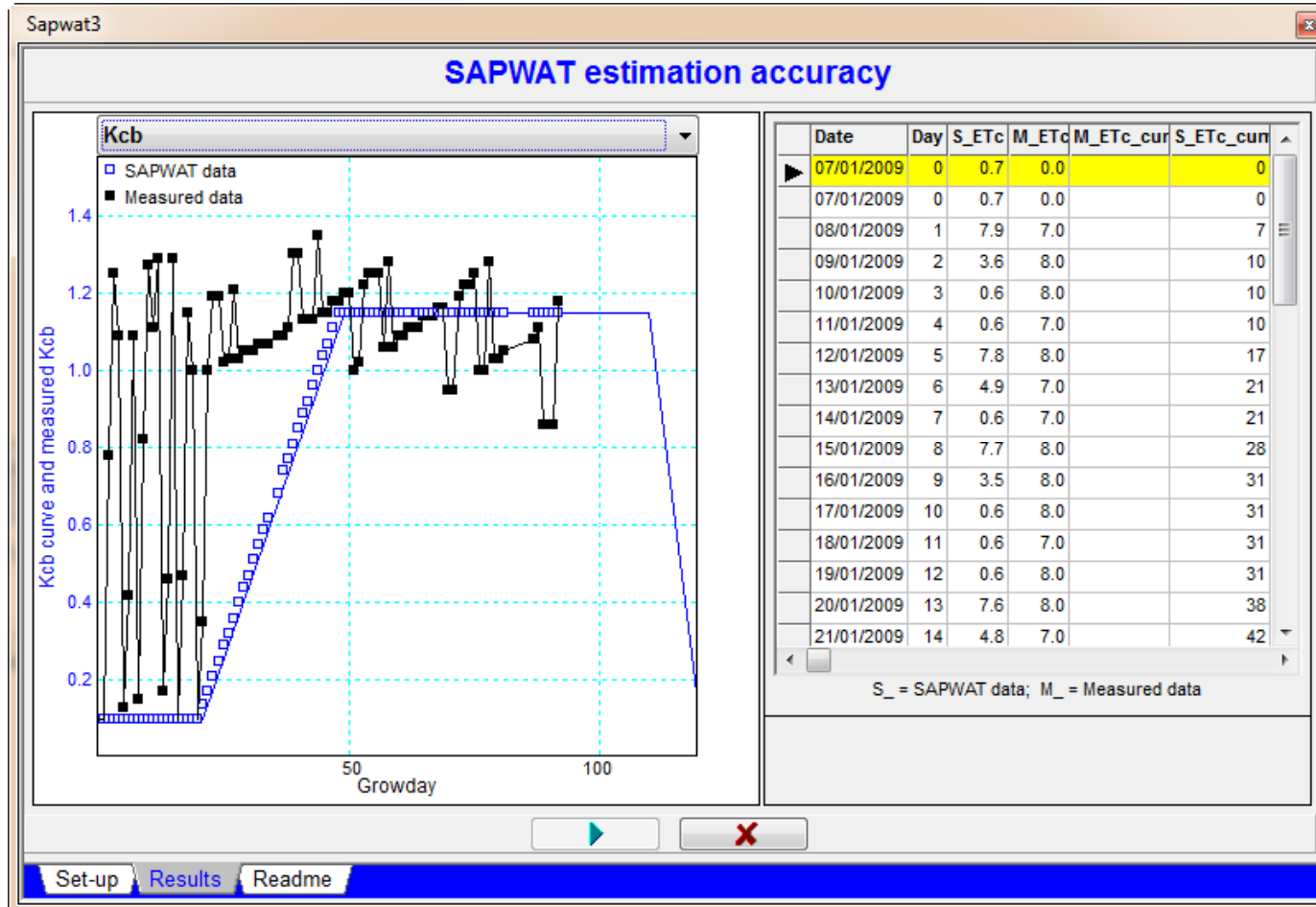
# KCB CURVE: LYSIMETER 1



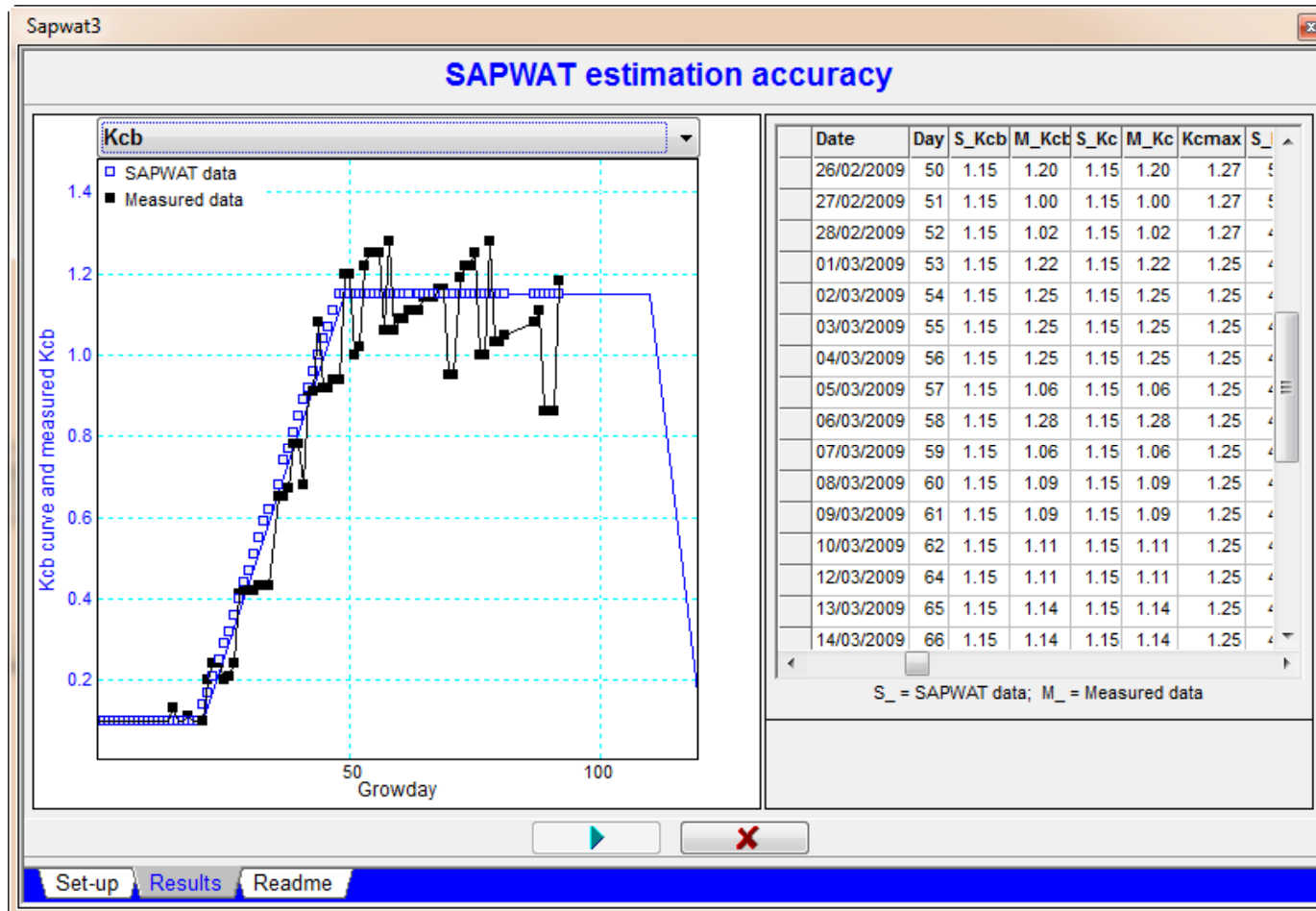
# KCB CURVE: LYSIMETER 2



# KCB CURVE: FIELD DATA WITHOUT CANOPY DEVELOPMENT



# KCB CURVE: FIELD DATA WITH CANOPY DEVELOPMENT



# KCB CURVE RESULTS: DISCUSSION



- Lysimeter 1
  - Predicted and observed Kcb values follow a similar curve
    - Good comparison, though observed values are higher for mid-season stage
- Lysimeter 2
  - Predicted and observed Kcb values follow a similar curve
    - Not a good comparison, observed values are much higher for mid-season stage
    - Observed Kcb values beyond 1.5 – 1.6 for grass reference are unexpected
- Field data
  - Too high values for initial and development stages, even allowing for soil evaporation
  - Mid-season stage values show good comparison
- Field data with incorporation of canopy development
  - Good comparison between observed and predicted values
  
- Allen, et al., 1998

# CONCLUSIONS



- Lysimeter 1
  - Graphs and analyses data show that this case can be used for verification of crop  $K_{cb}$  values.
    - Accurate measurement at all levels required.
- Lysimeter 2
  - Graphs and analyses data show that this case should not be used for verification of crop  $K_{cb}$  values.
    - Analyses gives  $K_{cb}$  values higher than expected maxima.
    - The result: data is skewed at all levels of analyses.
- Field data
  - Graphs and analyses show that the use of this data can only be used if:
    - Rainfall and irrigation is limited so that over-extension of soil water capacity is limited.
    - Canopy development data also be noted and used in the analyses.
- The module could be extended to include observed sap flow data as input.
- The inclusion of remote sensing data in this module need to be investigated.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



- To my co-presenters, prof Sue Walker and prof Lean van Rensburg for guidance and for making data available.
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- Thank you

Thank You  
Dankie

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