

# Using satellite soil moisture and rainfall data for the monitoring and the prediction of natural hazards

Valerio Vivaldi<sup>1</sup>, Massimiliano Bordoni<sup>1</sup>, Luca Brocca<sup>2</sup>, Luca Ciabatta<sup>2</sup>,  
Claudia Meisina<sup>1</sup>

(1) University of Pavia, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Pavia, Italy

(2) Research Institute for Geo-Hydrological Protection, National Research Council, Perugia, Italy



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[valerio.vivaldi@unipv.it](mailto:valerio.vivaldi@unipv.it)

# 1. THE PROBLEM



- **Rainfall-induced shallow landslides:** triggered by short-period but very intense rainfall events
- Triggering linked with the hydrological and mechanical response of a usually unsaturated soil to rainfall events
- **Causing widespread damages to the terrain, infrastructure, as well as urban and rural developments**
- High density of phenomena in little catchments
- **Increase in their occurrence related to the increase of extreme rainfall events due to climate change**

## 2. BACKGROUND

Methodologies for the assessment of spatial and temporal probability of occurrence or hazard of shallow landslides

### Rainfall thresholds

- + Rainfall features representative of the triggering conditions
- + Easily to be implemented at regional scale
- Soil features and geomorphological predisposing factors are not considered
- Uncertainties related to the quality and the amount of the rainfall data

### Physically-based methods

- + Quantitative analysis of the rainfall triggering conditions leading to the triggering
- + Consideration of the soil hydrological and geotechnical parameters and of the geomorphological attributes
- + Analysis of change in time of stable/unstable areas
- Significant amount of input data, difficult to be implemented at large scale
- Uncertainties on the boundary conditions of the model

## 2. BACKGROUND

Methodologies for the assessment of spatial and temporal probability of occurrence or hazard of shallow landslides

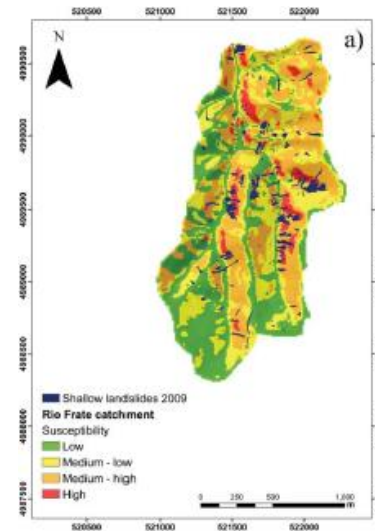
Knowledge-driven or data-driven methods

+ Consideration of the soil and geomorphological features leading to shallow landslides triggering

+ Easily to be implemented at regional scale

+ Modeling of different triggering events, characterized by peculiar inventories

- Dynamic triggering factors (rainfall, soil hydrological features) are generally not taken into account (susceptibility)



Persichillo et al., 2017

It is necessary to develop an **innovative methodology** which integrates all the advantages of the previous methods and fills their gaps

- Considering both soil and geomorphological predisposing factors and dynamic triggering factors (rainfall, soil hydrological features)
- Dynamic analysis of change in time of stable/unstable areas
- Easily to be implemented at large scale (catchment, regional)
- Able to model different typologies of triggering events for the same area

### 3. OBJECTIVES

Development and test of a dynamic data-driven method for the assessment of spatial and temporal probability of occurrence and hazard of rainfall-induced shallow landslides at large scale (catchement, regional), with the integration of satellite measures of rainfall and soil moisture

The work was realized in the frame of ANDROMEDA project, funded by Fondazione Cariplo and realized by University of Pavia and CNR-IRPI Perugia, which aims to develop a prototypal early-warning system for the assessment of shallow landslides and flood occurrence in Oltrepò Pavese area



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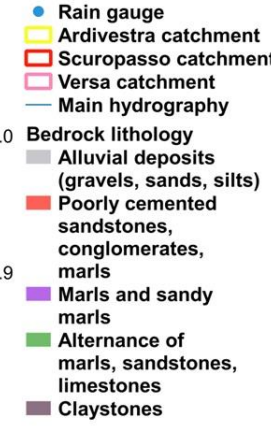
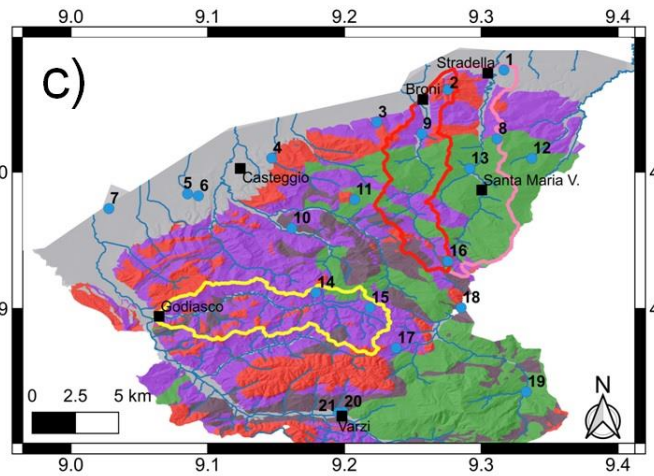
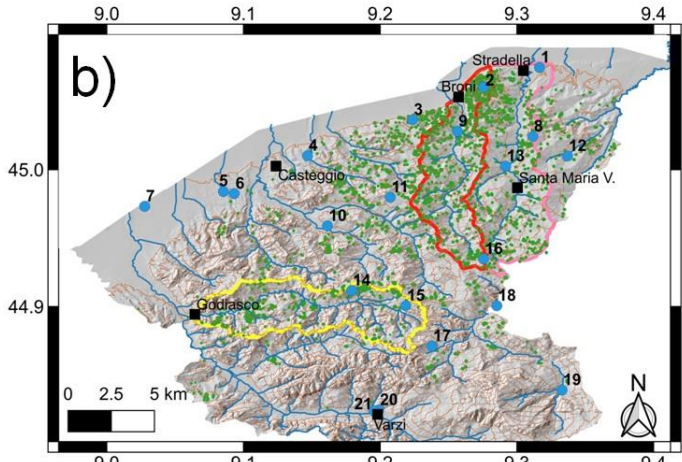
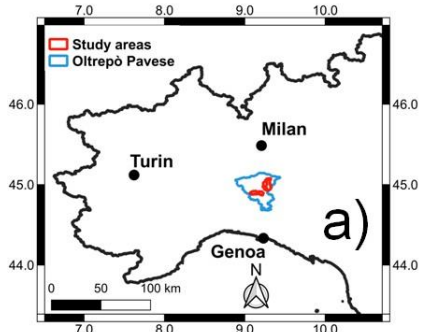




# 4. STUDY AREAS

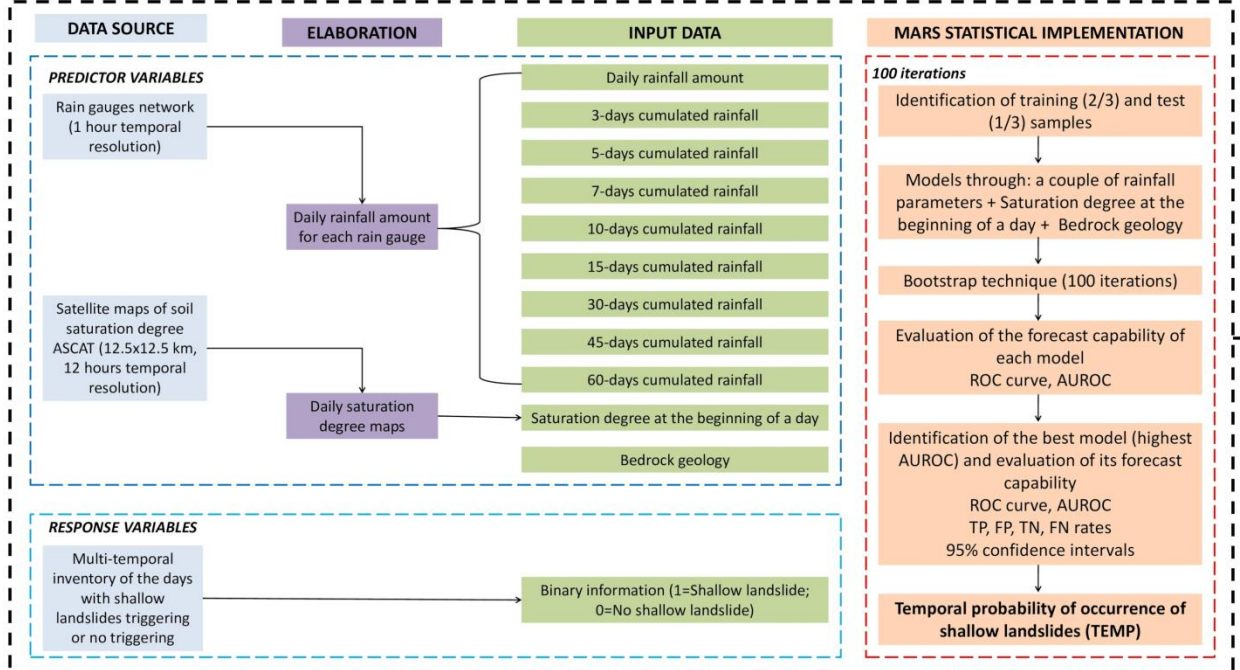
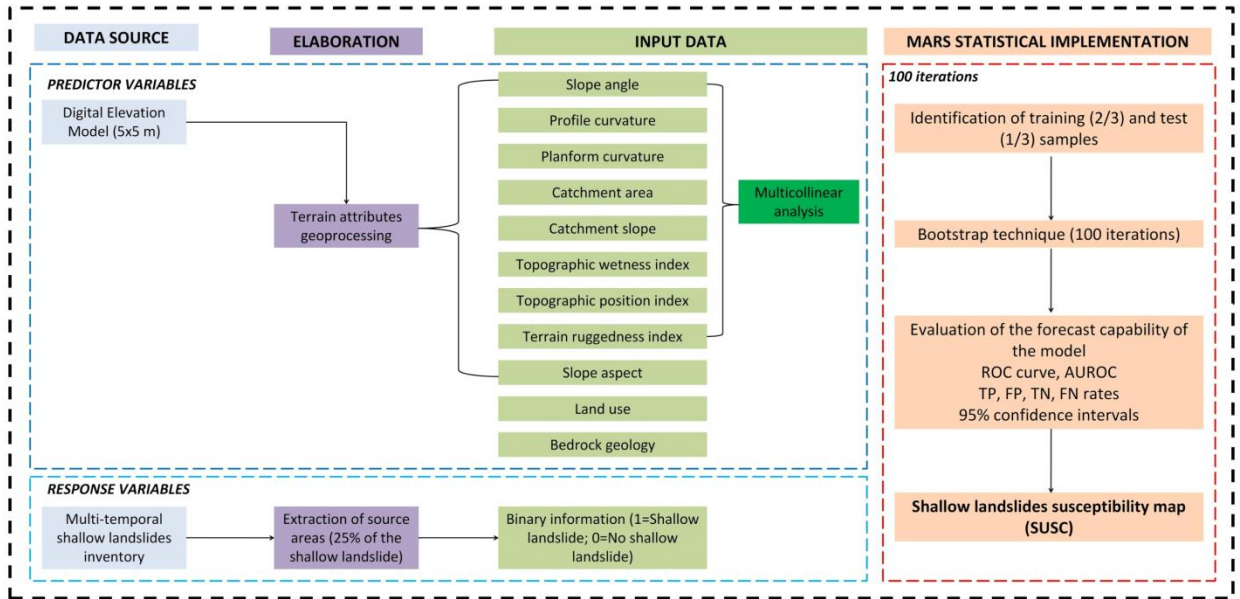
## Oltrepò Pavese area (720 km<sup>2</sup>)

- Representative of northern Italian Apennines
- Different geomorphological settings: steep slopes (>15-20°) and narrow valleys with marly, arenaceous, conglomeratic bedrocks - medium steep slopes (10-15°) and large valleys with marly, clayey and chaotic bedrocks
- Soil heterogeneity: clayey-sandy silts/silty sands with thickness around 1 m - silty clays with thickness > 1-1.5 m
- High susceptibility towards shallow landslides (density till > 50 landslides per km<sup>2</sup>)
- Three catchments representative of the typical geological and geomorphological settings: **Ardivestra (medium steep slopes, clayey and chaotic bedrocks)** **Scuropasso-Versa (very steep slopes, marly, arenaceous, conglomeratic bedrocks)**



Bordoni et al., 2020

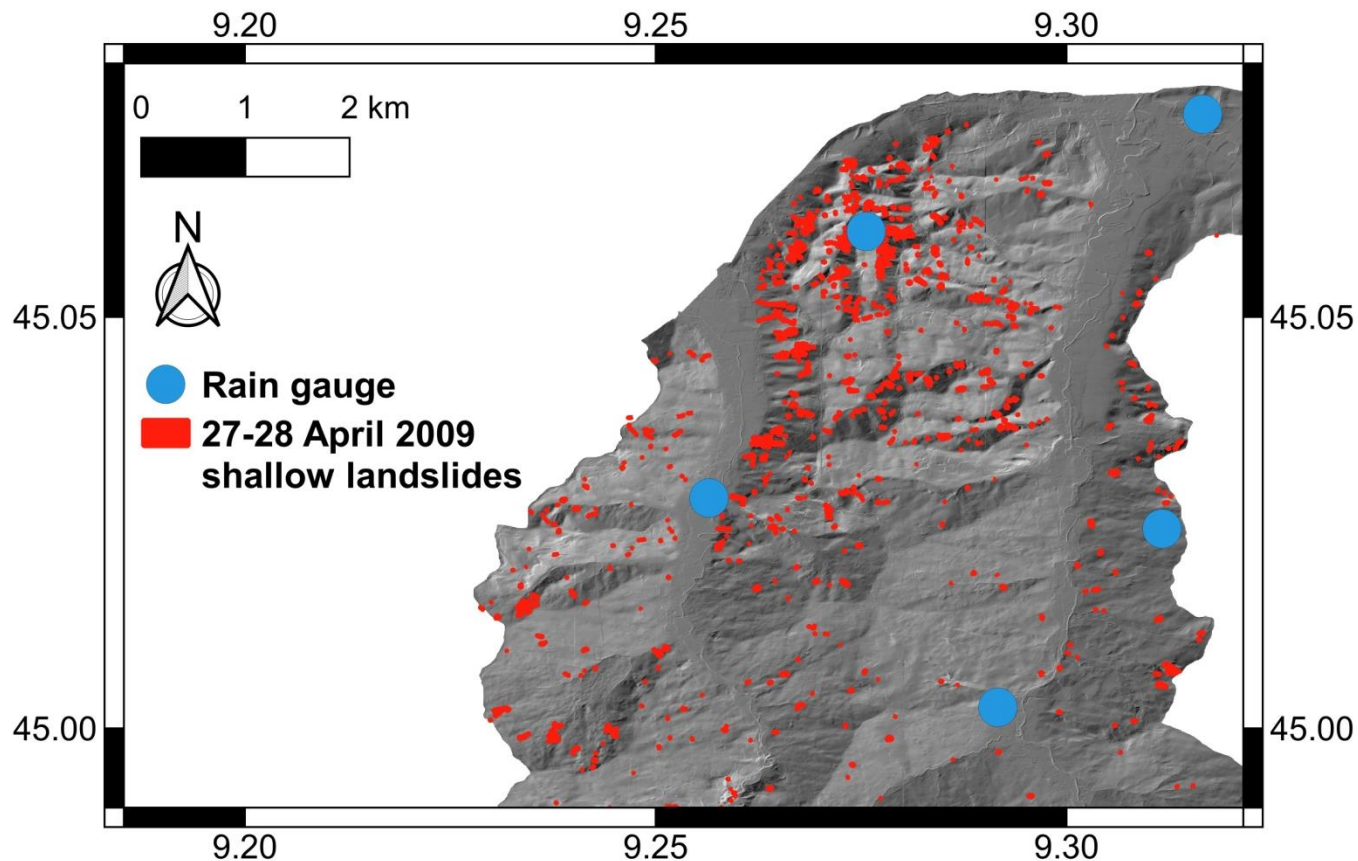
# 5. METHODS



**SUSC x TEMP =  
Dynamic Landslides  
Probability Index  
(DLPI)**

## 5. METHODS

For a certain day, rainfall attributes measured by a particular rain gauge are representative of a triggering event if a **shallow landslide occurred in that day in a radius of less than 10 km from the rain gauge**





# 5. METHODS

## Available data

### For SUSC:

- Digital Elevation Model 5x5 m, land use map, bedrock geological map, soil lithotechnical map, inventory of deep landslides
- Multi-temporal inventory of shallow landslides occurred since 2008

### For TEMP:

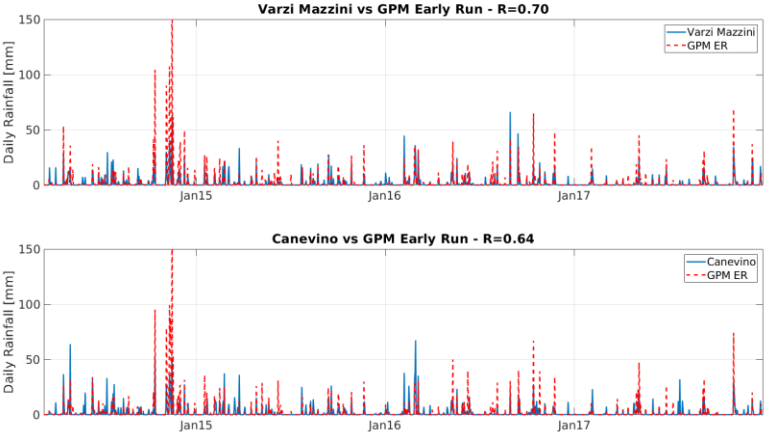
- Rainfall data from rain gauge network, since 2008
- Kriging-interpolated maps of rainfall attributes since data measured in correspondence of the rain gauges of the network
- Satellite maps of soil moisture acquired through ASCAT (since 2008) and Sentinel-1 (since 2015)
- Satellite maps of rainfall acquired through GPM since 2014
- Rainfall derived from satellite maps of soil moisture (SM2RAIN; Brocca et al., 2014) since 2008

# 6. RESULTS

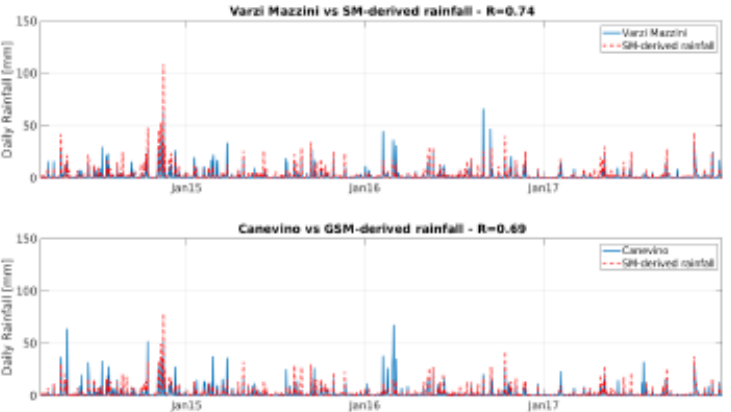
## Comparison between satellite and field measured rainfall and soil moisture

### Rainfall

Rain gauge vs GPM:  $R=0.64-0.70$

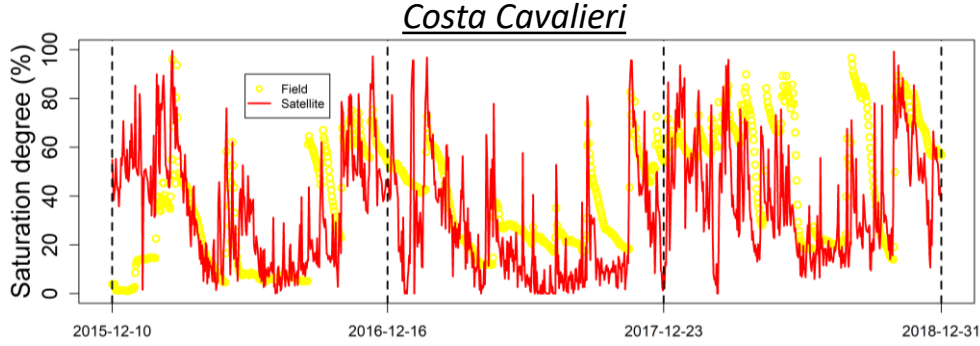
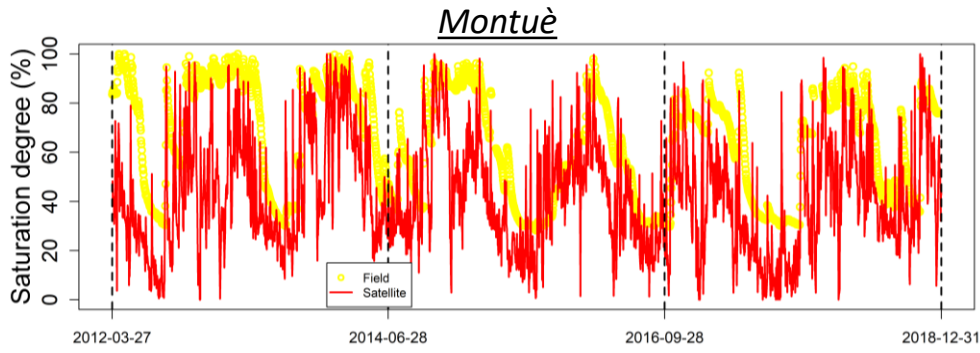


Rain gauge vs SM2RAIN:  $R=0.69-0.74$



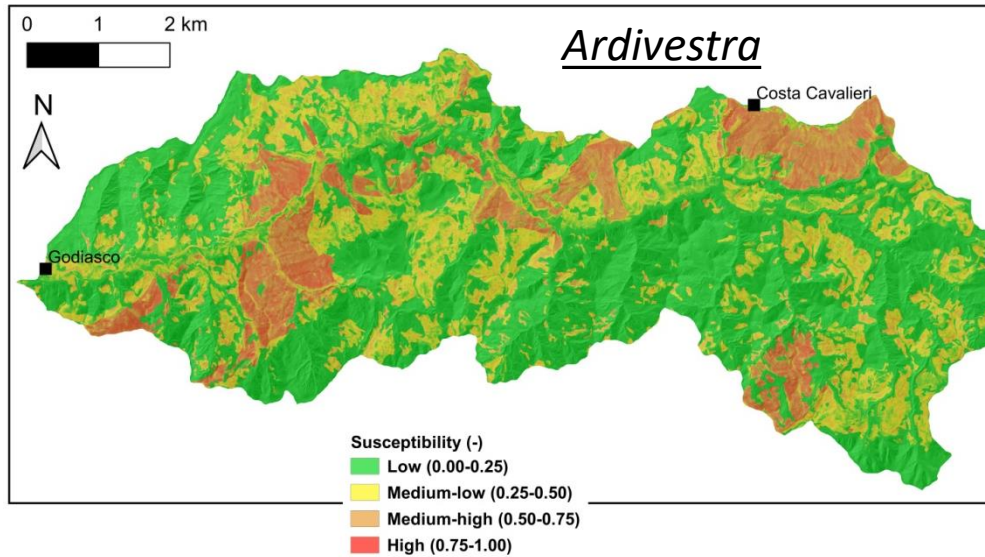
### Soil moisture

Field vs ASCAT:  $R=0.64-0.71$



# 6. RESULTS

## Susceptibility maps

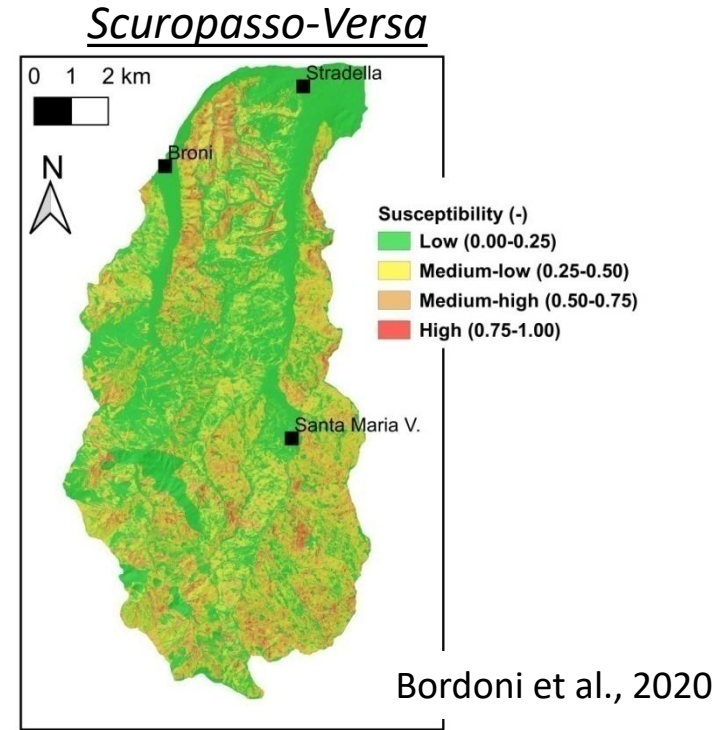


Significant parameters: slope angle (non-linear), tpi (non-linear), catchment area, land use, lithotechnical units

AUROC=0.90

TP=85%, TN=75%, FP=25%, FN=15%

Ef=86%, HK=70%



Significant parameters: slope angle (non-linear), tpi (non-linear), twi (non-linear), planform curvature (non-linear), catchment slope (non-linear), slope aspect, land use, lithotechnical units

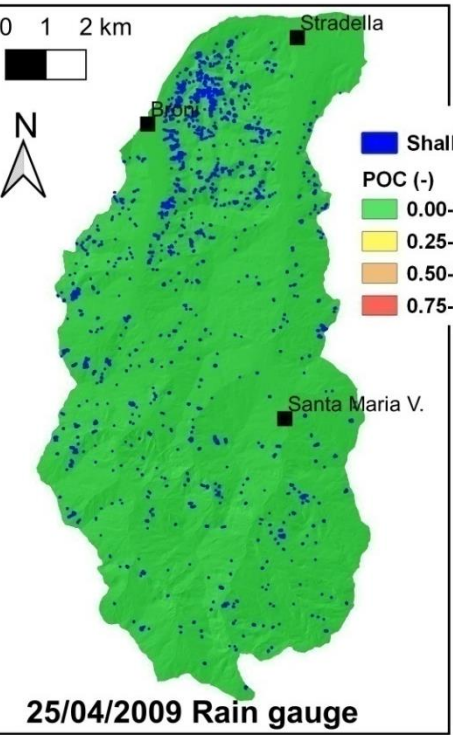
AUROC=0.89

TP=88%, TN=76%, FP=24%, FN=12%

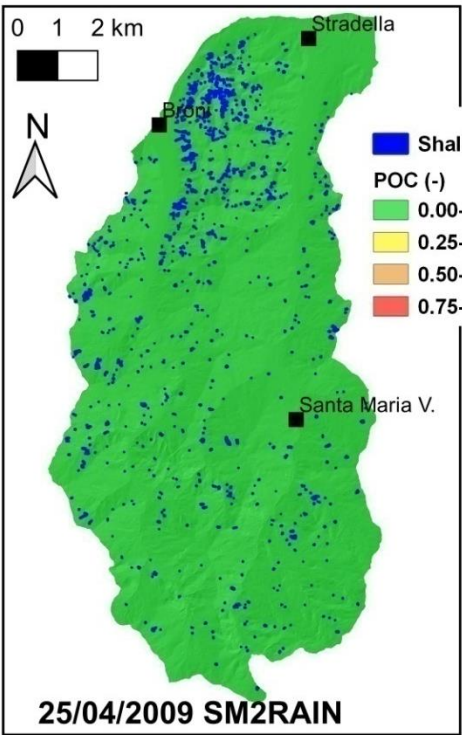
Ef=82%, HK=76%

# 6. RESULTS

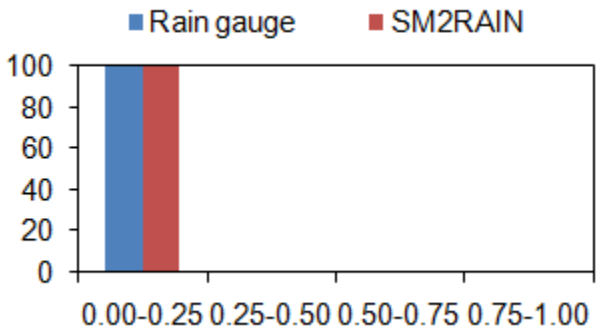
## Scuropasso and Versa catchments - 25/04/2009



3d-rain=0.4-0.6 mm  
 30d-rain=141.6-149.8 mm  
 Sat.=56%



3d-rain=0.0-5.0 mm  
 30d-rain=141.0-193.0 mm  
 Sat.=56%

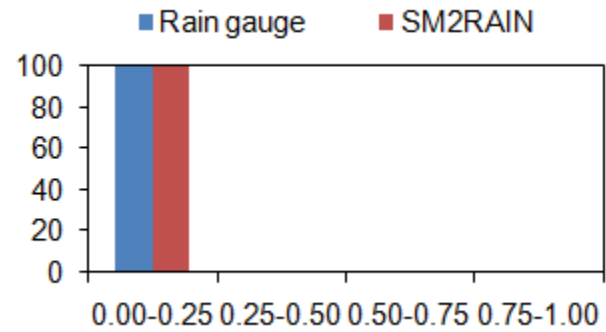
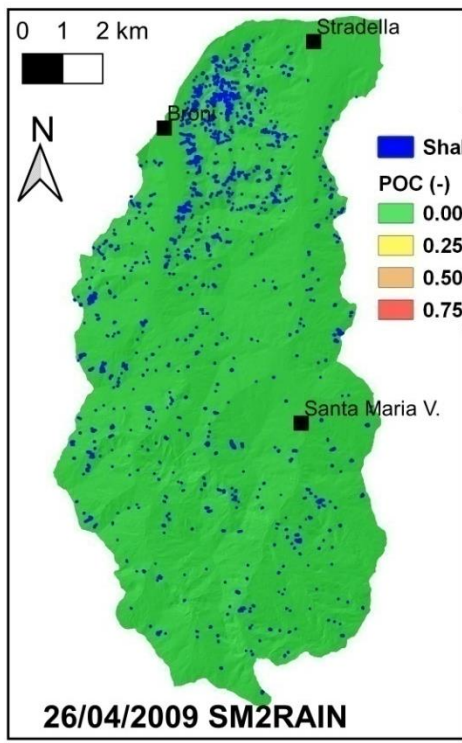
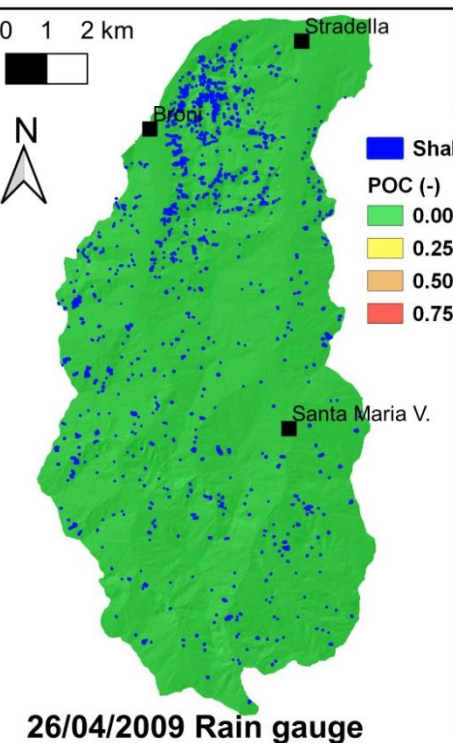


Kappa index=1.00

Bordoni et al., 2020

# 6. RESULTS

## Scuropasso and Versa catchments - 26/04/2009



3d-rain=10.8-11.4 mm  
 30d-rain=152.0-161.2 mm  
 Sat.=53-54%

3d-rain=15.0-17.5 mm  
 30d-rain=158.5-203.0 mm  
 Sat.=53-54%

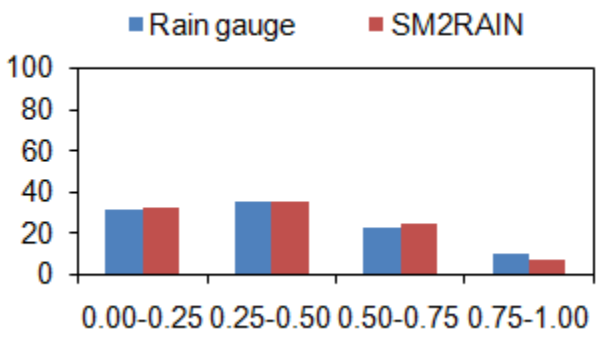
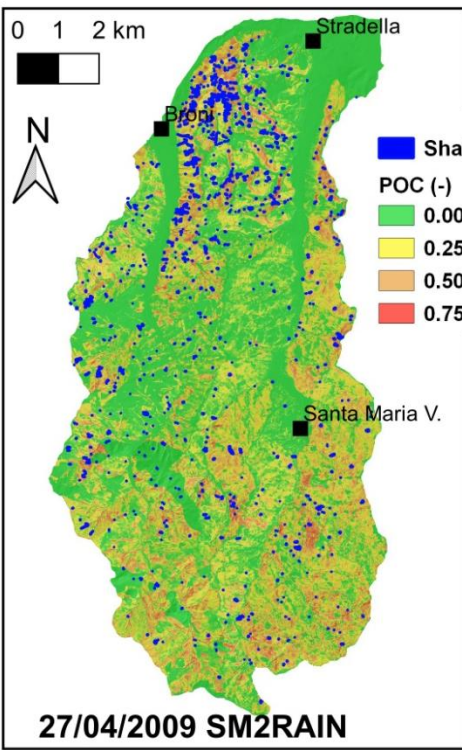
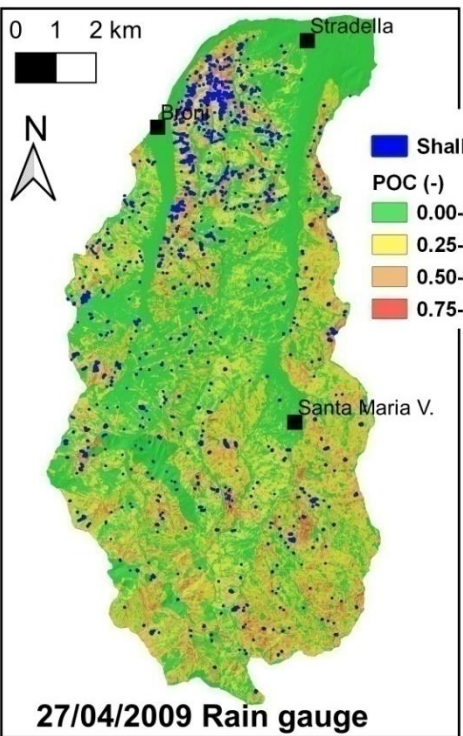
Bordoni et al., 2020

Kappa index=1.00



# 6. RESULTS

## Scuropasso and Versa catchments - 27/04/2009 → Triggering moment



3d-rain=113.6-125.8 mm  
 30d-rain=260.2-264.4 mm  
 Sat.=80%

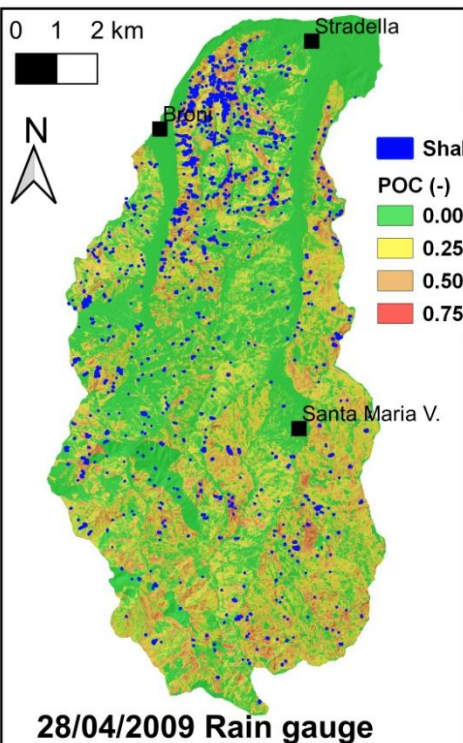
3d-rain=63.0-75.0 mm  
 30d-rain=176.5-211.0 mm  
 Sat.=80%

Bordoni et al., 2020

Kappa index=0.97-0.99

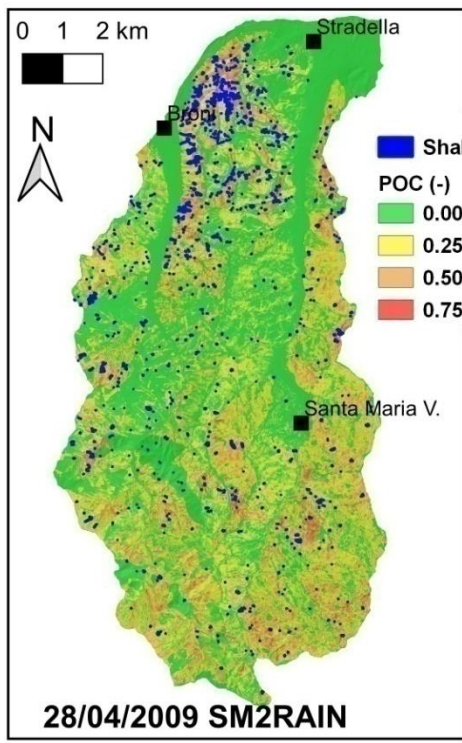
# 6. RESULTS

## Scuropasso and Versa catchments - 28/04/2009 → Triggering moment



28/04/2009 Rain gauge

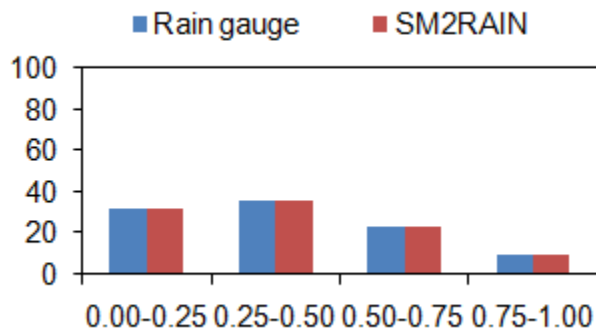
3d-rain=113.6-125.8 mm  
 30d-rain=260.2-264.4 mm  
 Sat.=80%



28/04/2009 SM2RAIN

3d-rain=63.0-75.0 mm  
 30d-rain=176.5-211.0 mm  
 Sat.=80%

Kappa index=1.00



	Rain gauge	SM2RAIN
<b>AUROC</b>	0.88	0.88
<b>TP</b>	91.8	91.8
<b>TN</b>	84.1	84.1
<b>FP</b>	15.9	15.9
<b>FN</b>	8.2	8.2
<b>Ef</b>	85.3	85.3
<b>Hk</b>	75.9	75.9

## 7. CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

### Advantages and limits of the proposed methodology

- + Considering the most important soil and geomorphological predisposing factors and dynamic triggering factors
- + Dynamic assessment of spatial and temporal probability of occurrence of rainfall-induced shallow landslides at large scale, with evaluation of its change in time according to different rainfall-soil moisture features
- + Correct modeling of different triggering events, with reliable assessment of the real events and of the correct day of triggering
- + Integration with satellite maps of rainfall and soil moisture
- Significant number of false positives
- Unstable conditions modeled also for 1-2 days following the triggering moment

### Future developments

- Integration with more resolved satellite data (e.g. Sentinel-1, 1x1 km)
- Considering maps of soil moisture modeled at typical depths of sliding surfaces (1 m from the ground)
- Hazard scenarios for different return times

## 8. REFERENCES

Bordoni M, Vivaldi V, Lucchelli L, Ciabatta L, Brocca L, Galve JP, Meisina C (2020) Development of a data-driven model for spatial and temporal shallow landslide probability of occurrence at catchment scale. *Landslides*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10346-020-01592-3>

Persichillo MG, Bordoni M, Meisina C, Bartelletti C, Barsanti M, Giannecchini R, D'Amato Avanzi G, Galanti Y, Cevasco A, Brandolini P, Galve JP (2017) Shallow landslides susceptibility assessment in different environments. *Geomatics Nat Hazards Risk* 8(2):748–771. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19475705.2016.1265011>

# THANKS FOR THE ATTENTION

For more information on ANDROMEDA project:

- Prof. Claudia Meisina (Principial Investigator) [claudia.meisina@unipv.it](mailto:claudia.meisina@unipv.it)
- Massimiliano Bordoni (Responsible of the communication) [massimiliano.bordoni@unipv.it](mailto:massimiliano.bordoni@unipv.it)

Website: <https://progettoandromeda.unipv.it/>

E-Mail: [andromeda@unipv.it](mailto:andromeda@unipv.it)



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