



We have
1001 reasons
to invest in sorghum

GRAIN QUALITY

**GLOBAL APPROACH TO INTEGRATE NEW TARGETS
IN BREEDING WORK**



Joël ALCOUFFE

Sorghum breeding coordinator RAGT2n



Sorghum plays a significant role in human food especially in regions with challenging climates and lower incomes

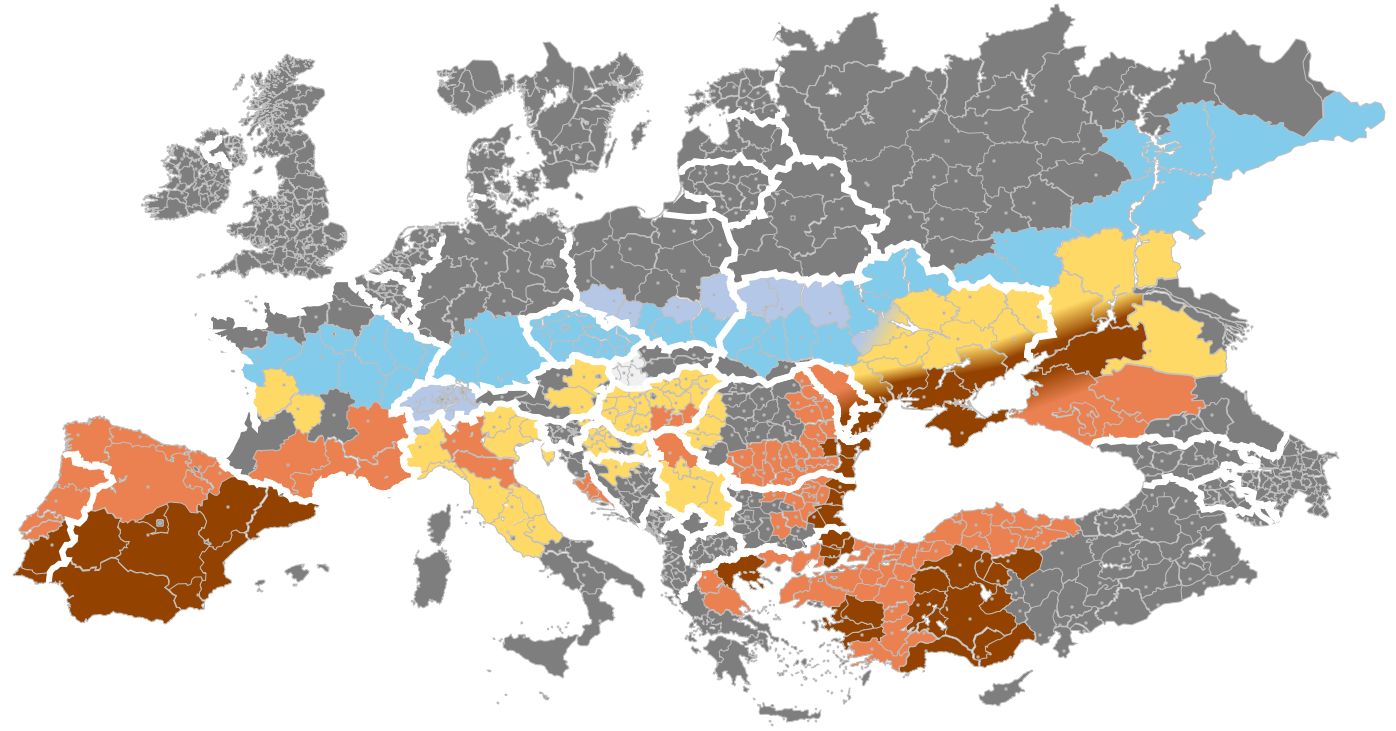
Even if in Europe grain sorghum production is mainly dedicated to feed, uses in human food are emerging.

In both cases, grain quality qualification and improvement are important for the value chain.

NITROSORG project is an example of collaborative work which addressed the objective to develop tools to be implemented in breeding strategies

Remind main GRAIN breeding targets

- **EARLINESS**
- **YIELD**
- **PLANT ARCHITECTURE**
- **STABILITY ACROSS ENVIRONMENTS**
 - Lodging resistance
 - Drought tolerance
 - Temperatures
 - Stay Green
 - Diseases (stem, foliar)
- **GRAIN**
 - COLOR
 - TANIN
 - **Grain content & quality**



NITROSORG

JAN 2022 – JUNE 2025

Total project amount: 243 343 €

(without public salaries)

CASDAR Grant (Public founding) : 192 562€



NITROSORG PARTNERS

Nancy Terrier, INRAE, UMR AGAP
(Molecular Physiologist, biochemist)
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David Pot, CIRAD, UMR AGAP
(GENETICIST)
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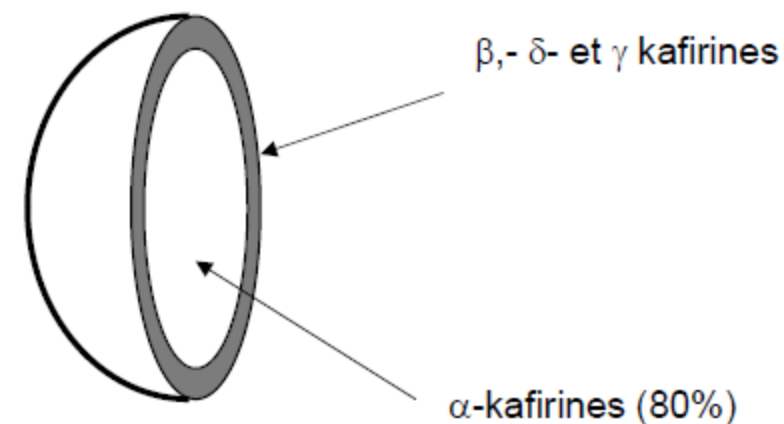
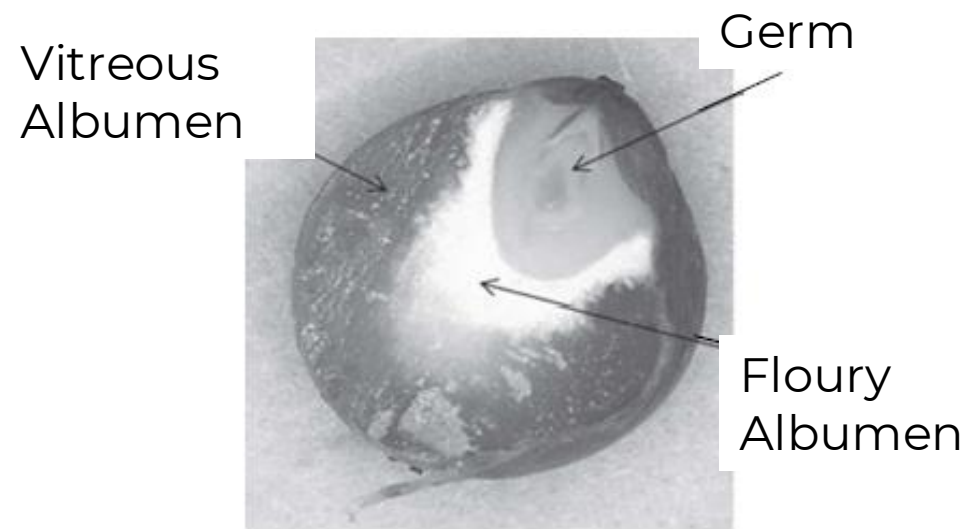
UE
PEAT



Context: sorghum GRAIN

Main features

- **80% STARCH & PROTEINS** located in albumen > genetic variability <
- **STARCH:** mainly AMYLOSE & AMYLOPECTIN in pellet form
- **KAFIRINS:** main sorghum proteins, storage proteins

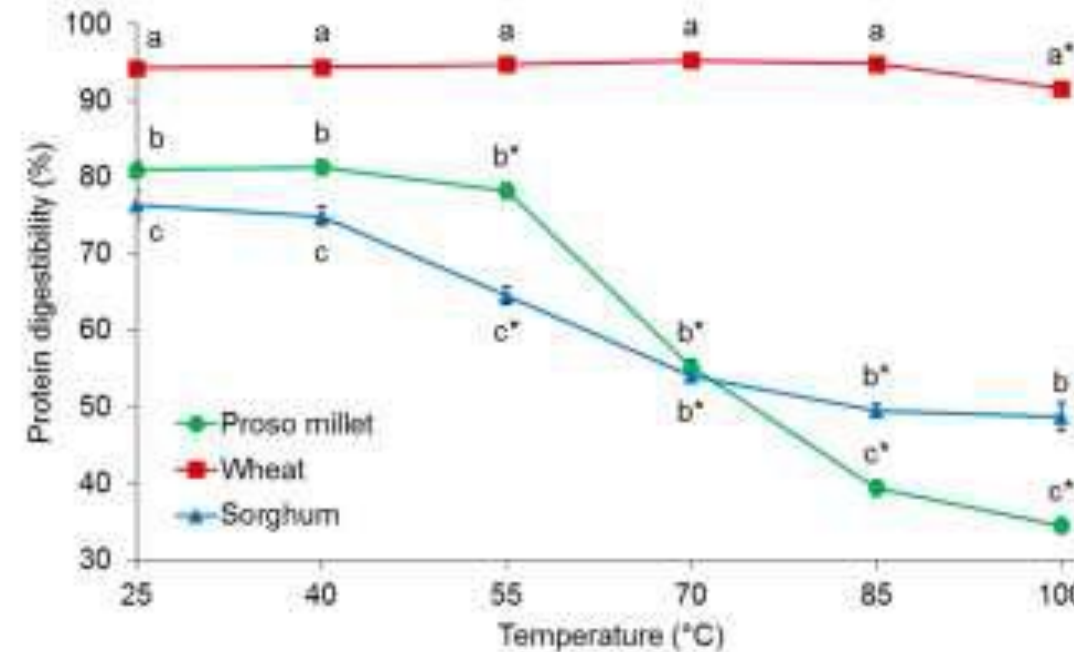


Corps protéique du grain de Sorgho

Context: sorghum GRAIN

Low digestibility

- Interactions between proteins and other grains components
tanins, starch, cell wall
- Kafirin storage form in albumen
- Development of disulfide bridges during grain formation and baking



Gulati et al., 2017

Limit for food – digestibility decrease after baking

Criteria not yet targeted

NITROSORG OBJECTIVES

Develop **PHENOTYPING TOOLS** & GENOMIC+ PHENOMIC **PREDICTION MODELS**

DELIVER TO BREEDERS PARTNERS phenotyping & prediction tools for targeted criterias

Characterize current commercial varieties offer and variability available in breeding programs (protein content, digestibility, vitrosity, tanin content, starch)

Characterize « world » diversity trough a selected panel to look for **relevant sources**

Better understanding of biochemical factors impacting **protein digestibility**

VALIDATE these factors in poultry feeding: **define an ideotype**

PROJECT ORGANIZATION

WP1

Genetic PANELS

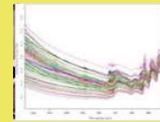
- Commercial offer
- Breeders ressources
- World diversity



PHENOTYPING



SPiR measures
Grain + leaves

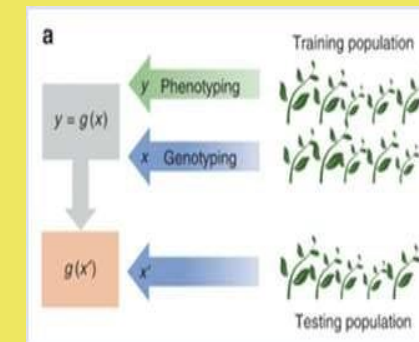


Protein content & digestibility estimation
(chemical + NIRS)



WP2

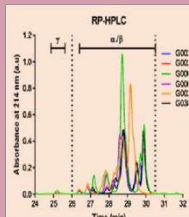
PHENOMIC PREDICTION



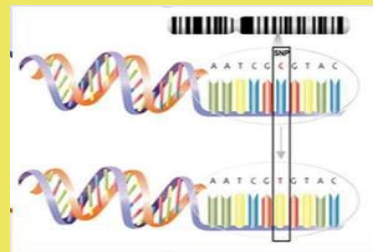
improve performances predictions

WP3 IDEOTYPES DEFINITION

Test 5 varieties + CORN check

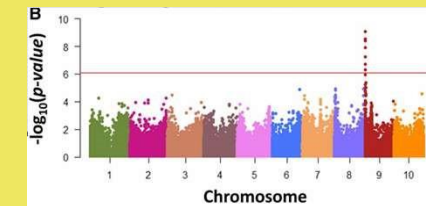


GENOTYPING



GENOMIC PREDICTION

GWAS



TOOLS DEVELOPMENT

DATA SET NIRS & Biochemicals

2018-2023

1500 samples – 4 programs, 6 sites

WEST AFRICA

Improve productivity, resiliency & insure food security



2021-2024

3200 samples 3 sites **FRANCE**

Improve grain quality & adaption for poultry feed



NIRS: Bruker-TANGO = all samples

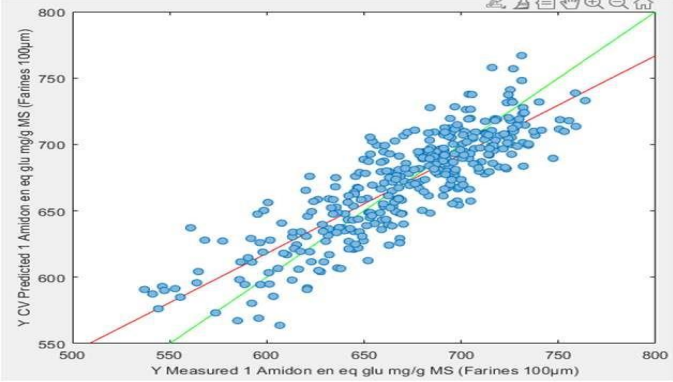
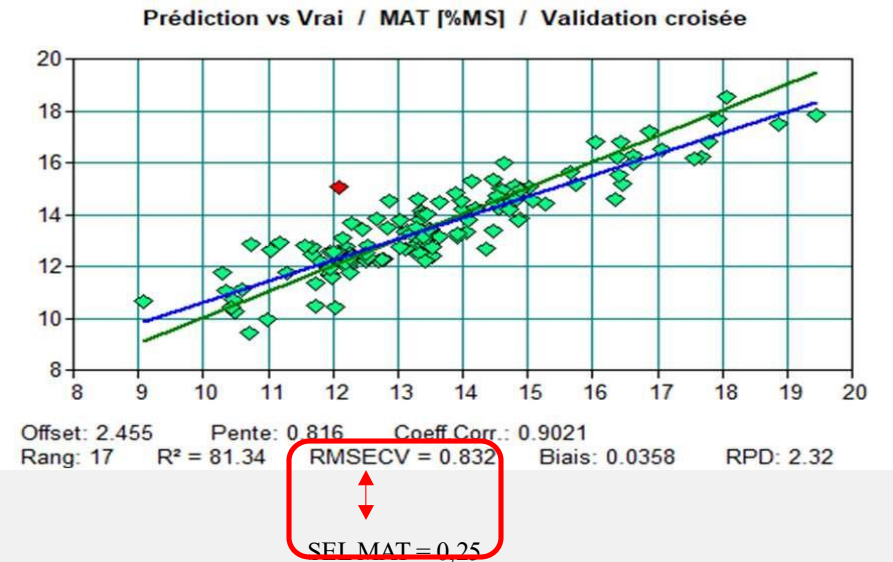
REFERENCE DATAS

- STARCH: enzymatic method (420 samples)
- PROTEINS: Kjeldahl method (240 samples)

BIOCH& SPIR SELMET lab

NIRS CALIBRATION

WHOLE GRAIN



Labo	Calibration (Cross Validation - 353 ech)					Validation (59 échantillons)			RPD
	Prétraitement	Nb LV	SECV	CV biais	R²CV	SEP	Pred biais	R²Pred	
SEL	1050-2535 nm SNV D1 pol2 15pts MeanCenter	9	23.4	-0.13	0.726	23.67	1.5	0.732	1.89

OK FOR PROTEINS

OK FOR STARCH



Laurent BONNAL



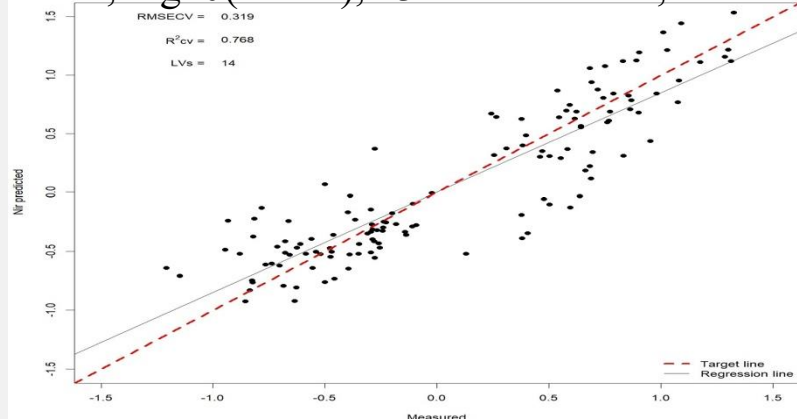
Armel SOTILLO Mathilde SINGER



NIRS CALIBRATION

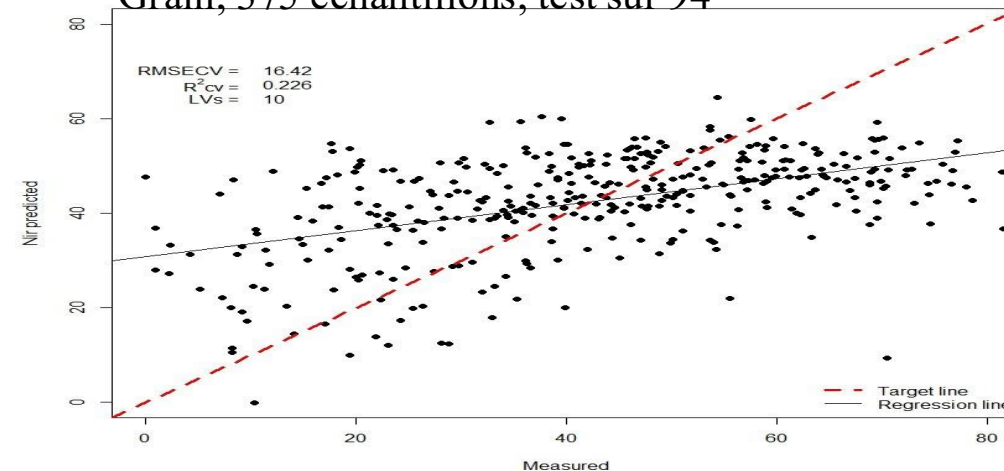
WHOLE GRAIN

Grain, log10(tanins), 131 échantillons, test sur 34



TANIN

Digestibilité des protéines
Grain, 375 échantillons, test sur 94



PROTEIN DIGESTIBILITY ?



Gilles CHAIX

GENETIC DIVERSITY AVAILABLE

WORLD DIVERSITY PANEL

303 SELECTED GENOTYPES

Sources	Nombre de génotype	Sources
✓ Core Collection CIRAD (CCC)	30	Deu et al. 2006
✓ Reference Set GCP	73	Billot et al. 2013
✓ CCC + Ref Set	30	Billot et al. 2013 ; Deu et al. 2006
✓ Sorghum Association Panel (SAP)	119	Boatwright et al. 2021 ; Sukumaran et al., 2012 ; Cuevas et al., 2018 ; Luo et al., 2016
✓ Référence bibliographique • Duressa et al., 2020	2	Duressa et al., 2020
• Kardes et al., 2021	24	Kardes et al., 2021
• Yan et al., 2011	8	Yan et al., 2011
• Axtell et al., 1981	13	Axtell et al., 1981
✓ Autres • Collection ICRISAT	1	Hess et al., 2002
• AG (MAGADJ13)	1	
• Control (BF201)	1	
• NITROSORG (Sorgho Bleu)	1	



Fabien de BELLIS



PRIVATE ELITE PANEL

60 INBRED LINES PER BREEDER

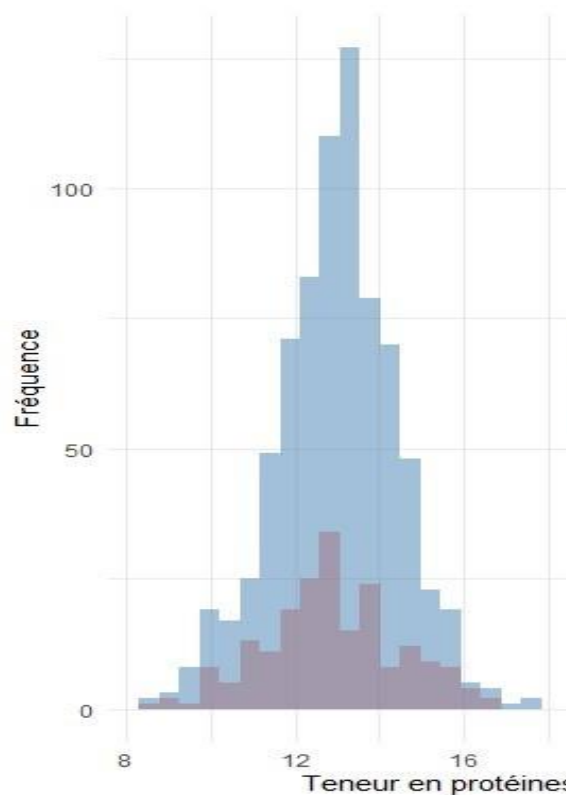


Clothilde BOUBEE DE GRAMONT
Patrice JEANSON

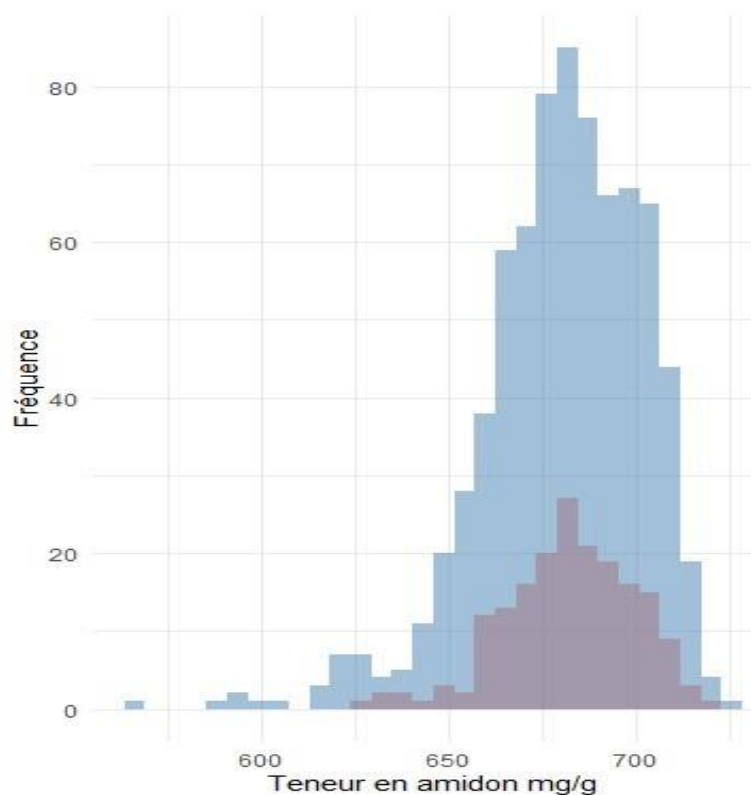
Quentin DUPRAT
Joël ALCOUFFE

GENETIC DIVERSITY AVAILABLE

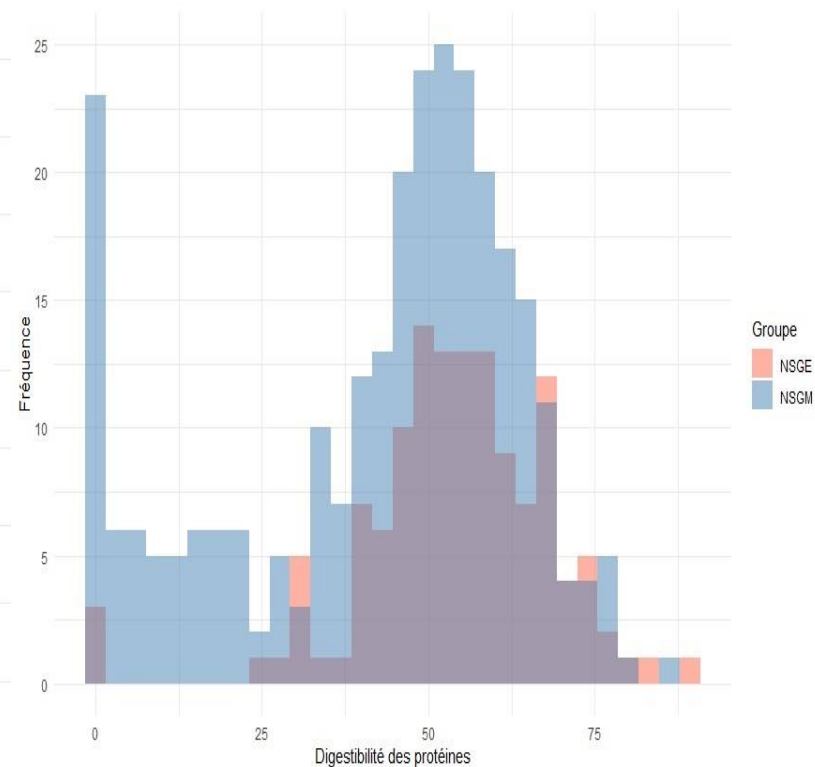
Variability 2024 datas



Protein content%



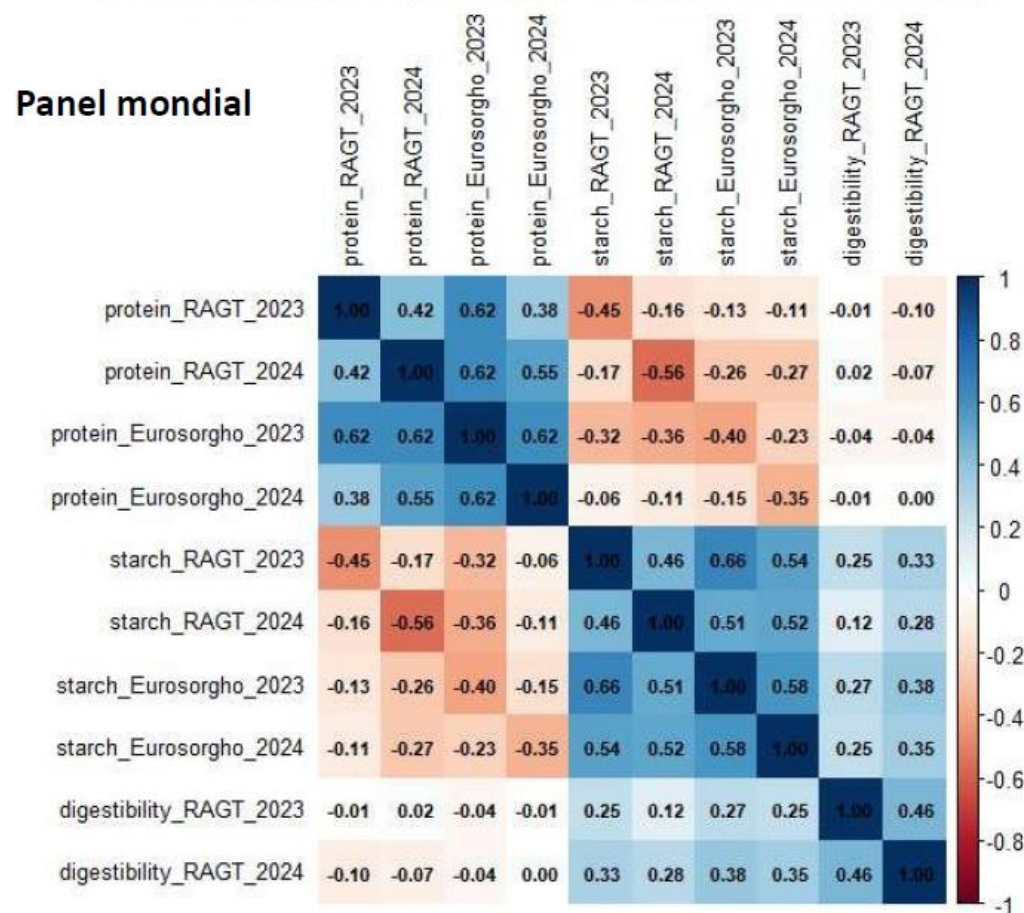
Starch content mg/g



Protein digestibility%

COMPARISONS ENVIRONMENT – TRAITS

Corrélations triées (Protéines → Amidon → Digestibilité)



Environment correlations

Proteins: 0,38 to 0,62

Starch: 0,46 to 0,66

Digestibility year correlation 0,46

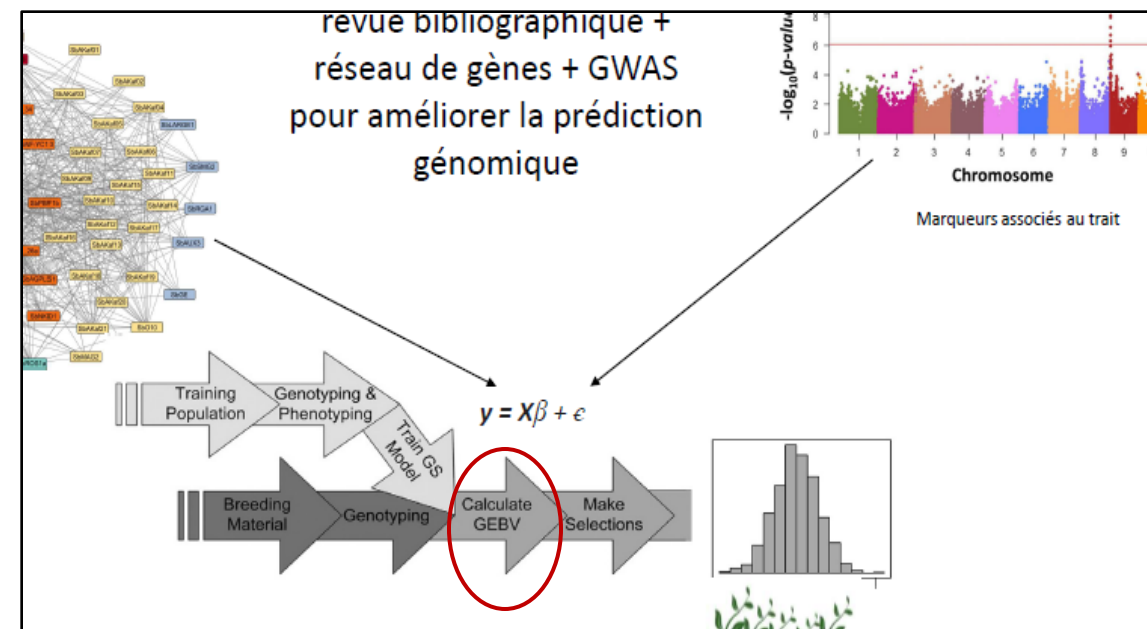
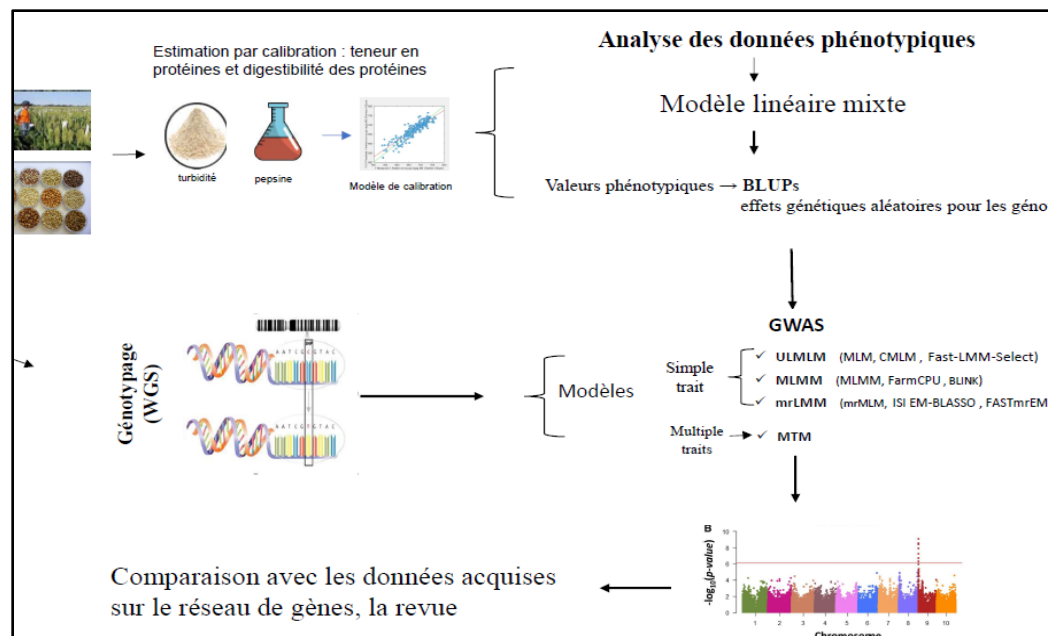
Traits correlations

Proteins – Starch négative

Digestibility – Proteins ~ 0

Digestibility- starch ~ 0,25

IN PROGRESS



GWAS – GENETIC DETERMINISM

PHENOMIC PREDICTIONS



PhD Mamadou SENE



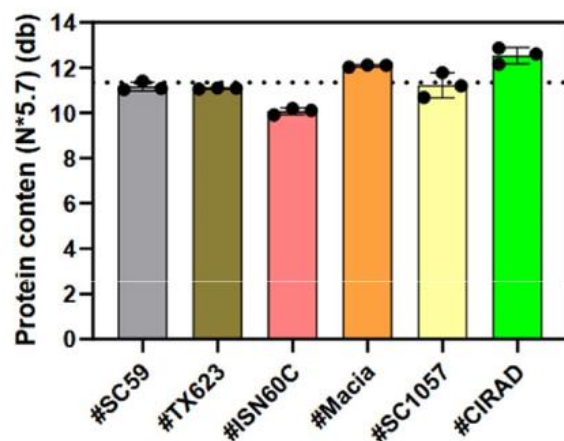
**Genomic Estimated
Breeding Value**

5 VARIETIES DIGESTIBILITY ANALYSIS

IN VITRO ANALYSIS

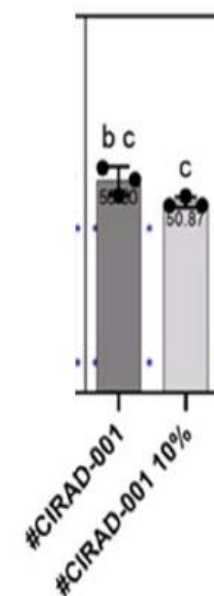
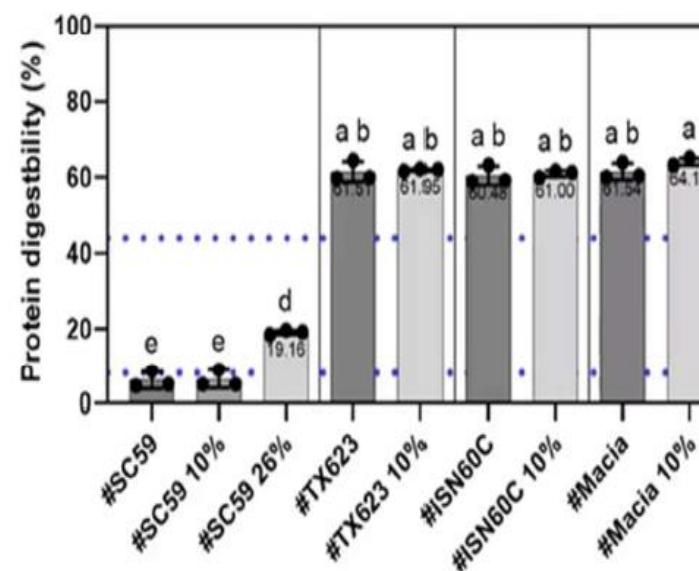
	Prot	Dig
CIRAD001	+++	++
N60C	+	+
TX623	+	+++
SC59	+	-
Macia	++	+++

Selected at the beginning



Protein Digestibility

Hamza MAMERI



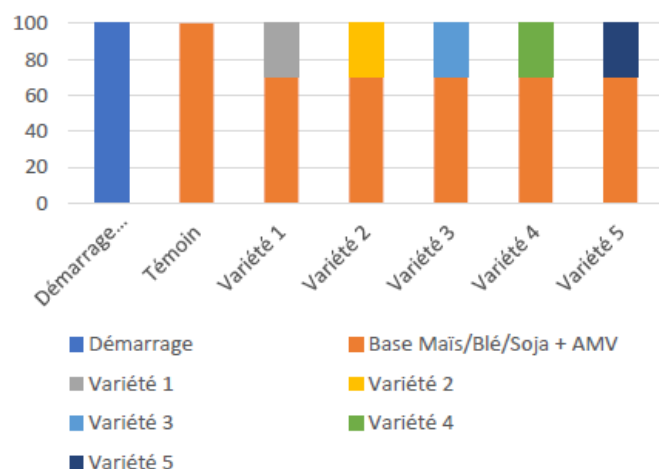
5 VARIETIES DIGESTIBILITY ANALYSIS

IN VIVO ANALYSIS

Characterize animals answer at 2 levels

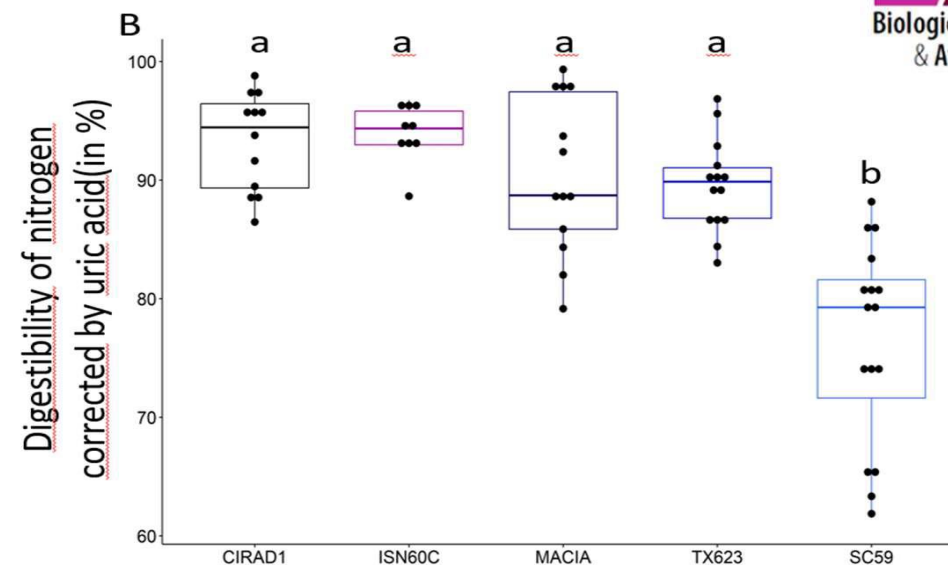
- **proteins:** nitrogen + amino acids
- **energy** (not finalized)

Comparisons of sorghum varieties by substitution in a check feed

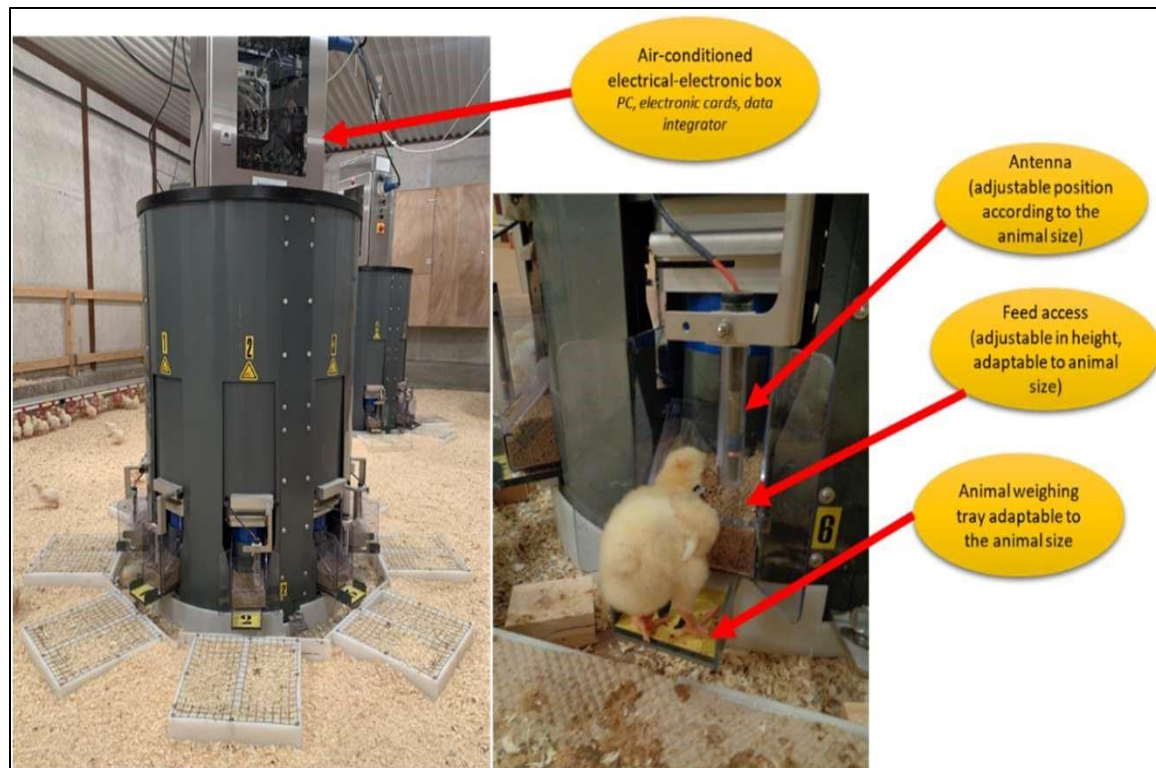


Flavie DEROUIN TOCHON

Few differences between genotypes, except tannin one



CHICKEN PERFORMANCE TRIAL



Eva PAMPOUILLE



10 Chickens ROSS308 mâles (fast growth)

36 days

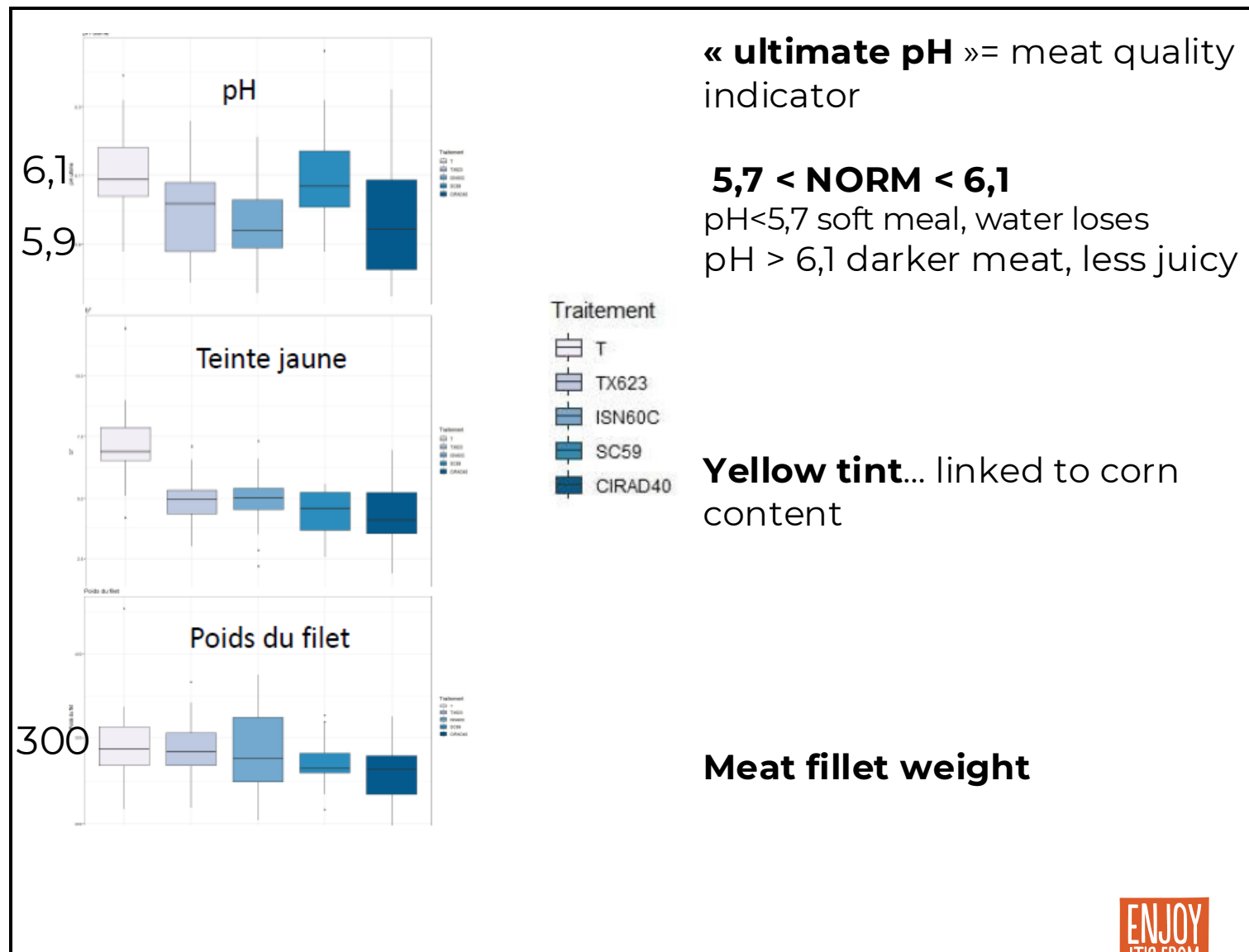
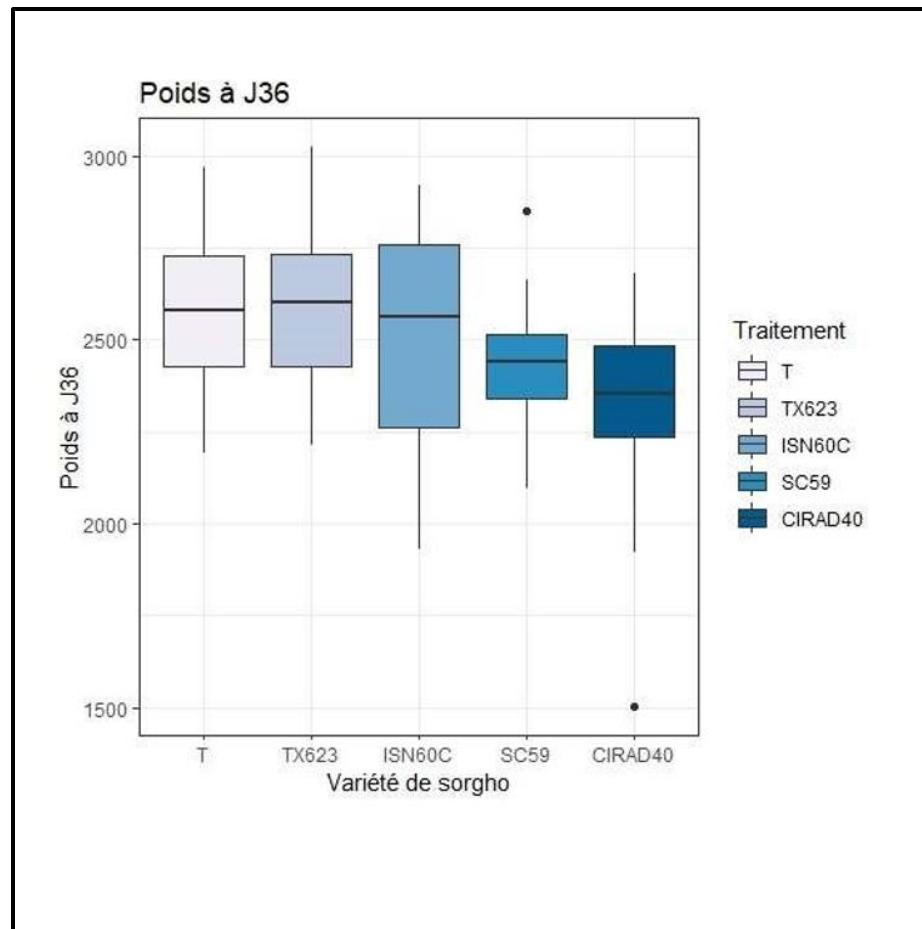
Daily performances analysis

Statistic unit = chicken

TRIAL RESULTS

QUALITY RESULTS

WEIGHT + 36 DAYS



Conclusion

- **global approach across on entire chain value**
- **huge amount of data cumulated**
- **not finalized: work in progress for analysis and valorization**
- **regrets on tested varieties (not enough contrasted)**
- **some tools yet in implementation step (NIRS equation)**



Thank You

köszönöm