ENSO and Pomelo Agriculture in Thailand

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What impacts does water, above and below ground, have on our environment?

On Agriculture?



Pomelo Farming

Sever Flooding in NST in Dec 2017



What impacts of water on our environment?

- Is our area prone to flooding? Erosion? Landslides?
- How is the quality of our soil for growing crops?
- Are we seeing any changes in the amount of precipitation our location receives each year/each month- over the past five years?
- How did the amount of precipitation change during the recent El Nino?











- Siam Ruby Pomelo is the best pomelo in Thailand growing only in a small area in Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand.
- Red, Sweet and Juicy is the key.
- 1 Pomelo costs \$10 at the farm, \$50 in department stores in Bangkok.
- Export to China, Singapore and Hong Kong with millions USD/year.
- Flooding in NST causes sever damage to the orchard.

Wirat Suksaeng is the orchard owner





Water is so important

- Before harvesting, farmers stop
 watering Pomelo for 10-14 days.
- Keep soil moisture low, make pomelo very sweet.
- If soil moisture is too low, pomelo will damage causing 10% product loss.







Objective

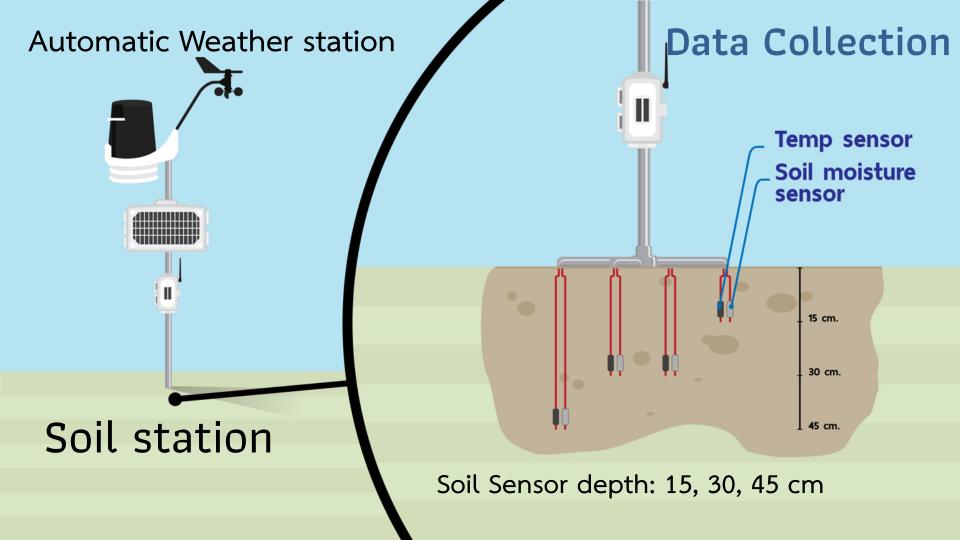
- Deploying automatic weather station and soil station at the orchard.
- Measuring rain fall, air moisture, soil temp, soil moisture.
- Installing Eco-camera with online services
- Data visualization near real time online



Drone photo mapping at NST, Thailand

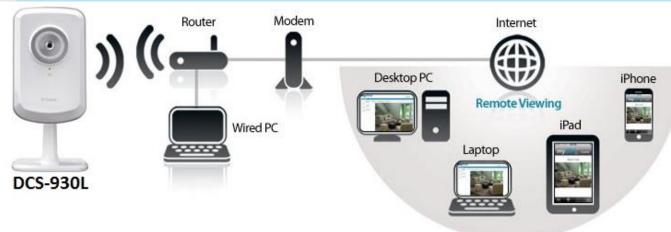






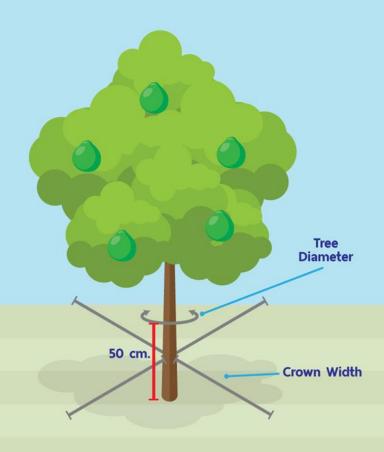


Eco-camera



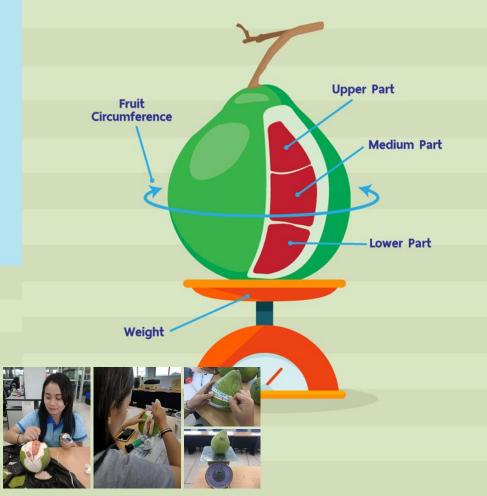
Ecocam for monitoring weather, soil,

leaf, and fruit condition

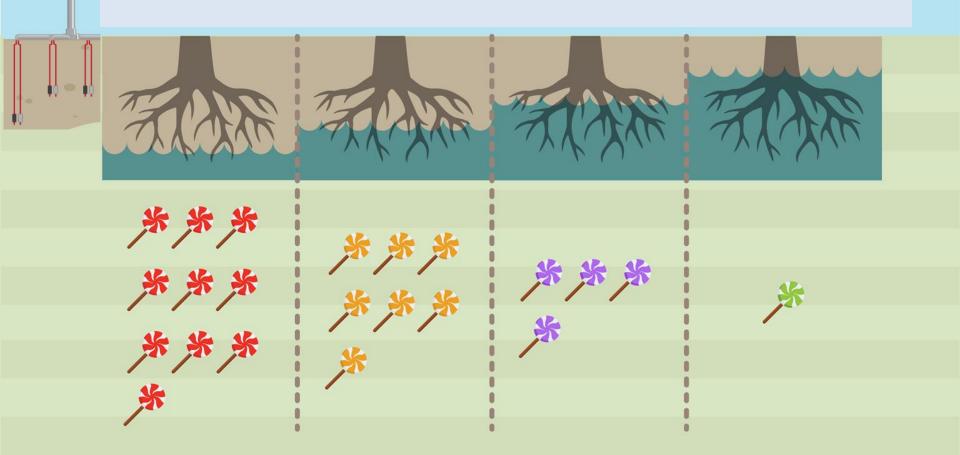


Tree DBH and crown width

Fruit Sweetness

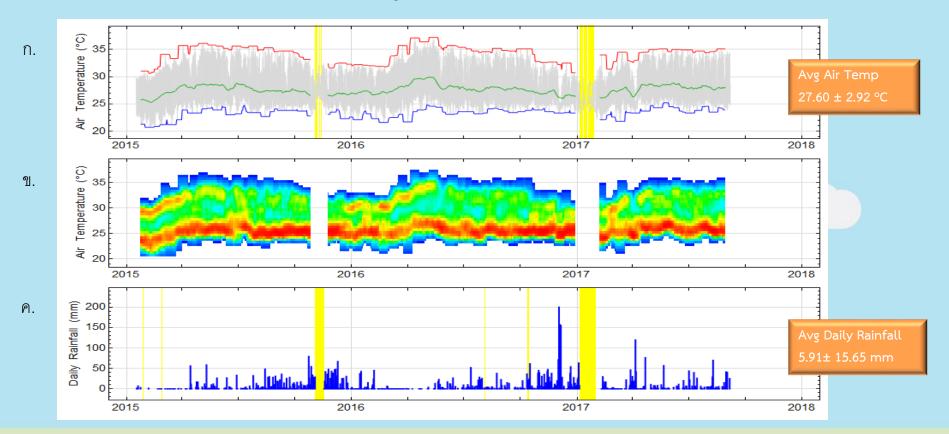


Sweetness and Water level



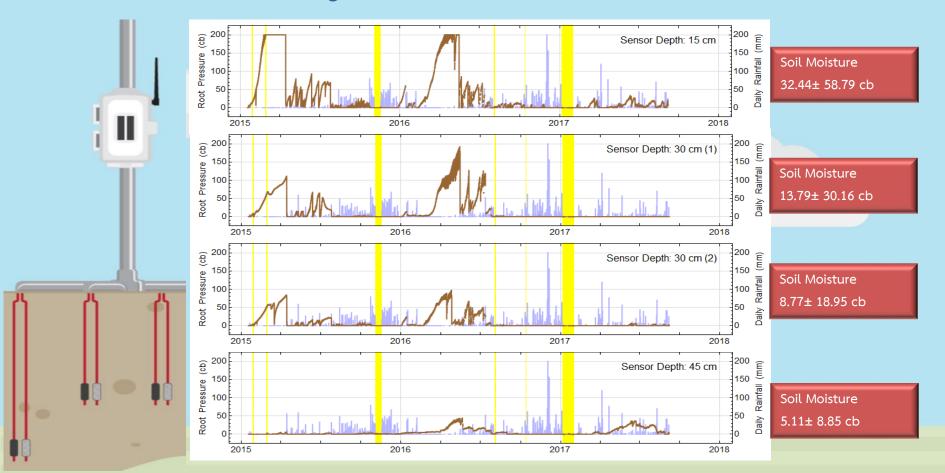
❖ Air Temp and rainfall 3 years (2015-2017)

Results



5 Flooding events in 2017, 1 Flooding event in 2018

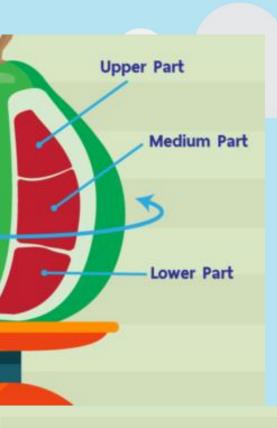
❖ Soil moisture 3 years (2015-2017) at 15, 30 & 45 cm

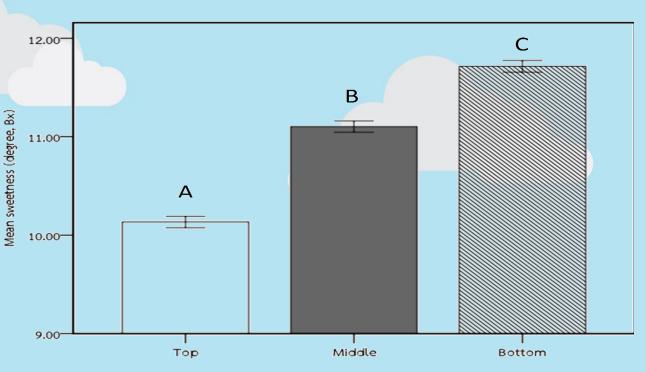


Soil moisture at 15, 30 & 45 cm and daily



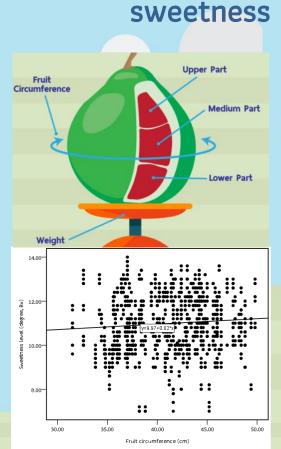
Sweetness depending on fruiting parts

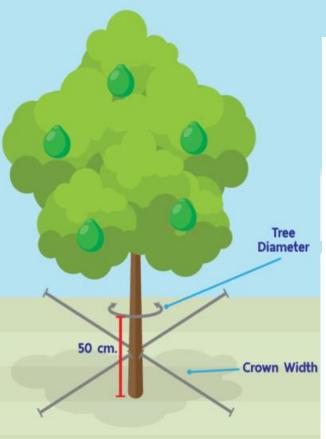


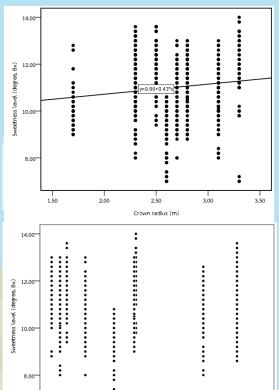


❖ Pomelo size and

Crown radius, tree diameter and sweetness







40.00

45.00

50.00

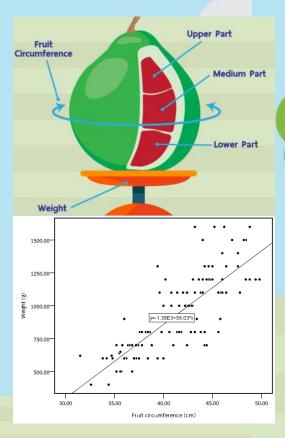
55.00

Treediameter (cm)

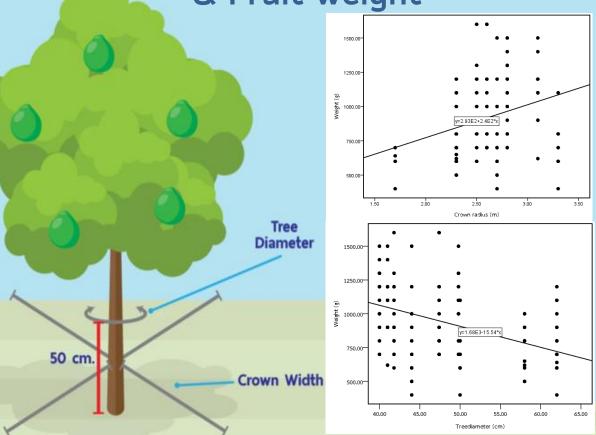
60.00

65.00

Fruit Weight & size



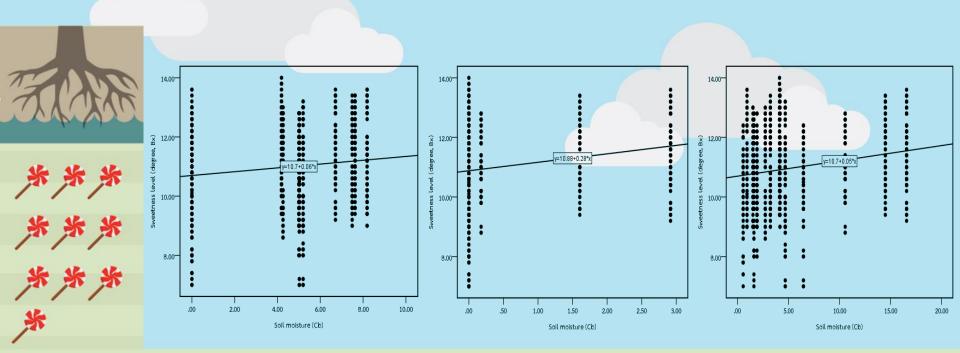
Crown radius, tree diameter & Fruit weight



❖ Soil moisture at 15, 30, 45 cm and sweetness
❖ Soil becomes drier, Pomelo becomes sweeter

Soil depth 30 cm

Soil depth 45 cm



Soil depth 15 cm



Conclusion

- Water is important.
- Too much is not good for farmers.
- Precision Farming using automatic weather station, soil station & Ecocam help farmers irrigate their Pomelo orchard, reduce the cost, improve Pomelo quality, gain better incomes.

Acknowledgements

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