



**Crop Monitoring as an
E-agricultural tool in
Developing Countries**



GROUND SAMPLING AND DATA COLLECTION

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AFS	Area Frame Sampling
GPS	Global Position System
CV	Coefficient of variation of population total estimator

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first objective of the work-package D51.1 aims to adapt and design the segment sampling methods and collect the ground samples using these adapted methods. The ground sampling approach on the Huaibei Plain was investigated by establishing the study area in the county of Mengcheng for the first year of implementation and in the county of Guoyang for the second year of implementation. This deliverable describes the two approaches used to adapt the grounds sampling method and more specifically the way with which the segment sample data are collected. The deliverable contains also an analysis of the samples included in the databases. The approaches that we finally adopted are results of an extensive discussion between partners of the E-AGRI consortium, especially with the Joint Research Centre of the Commission.

1 INTRODUCTION

The objective of this study is to estimate the crop acreages on county level in Huaibei Plain using ground sampling database combined with remote sensing data. According to the targets, two counties in Anhui province, Mengcheng and Guoyang, were chosen for the study area (Figure 1.1), and the following three aspects had been conducted: collection of background data, design and implementation of segment sampling method, establishment and assessment the spatial model. This deliverables focuses on the approaches with which the samples are collected.

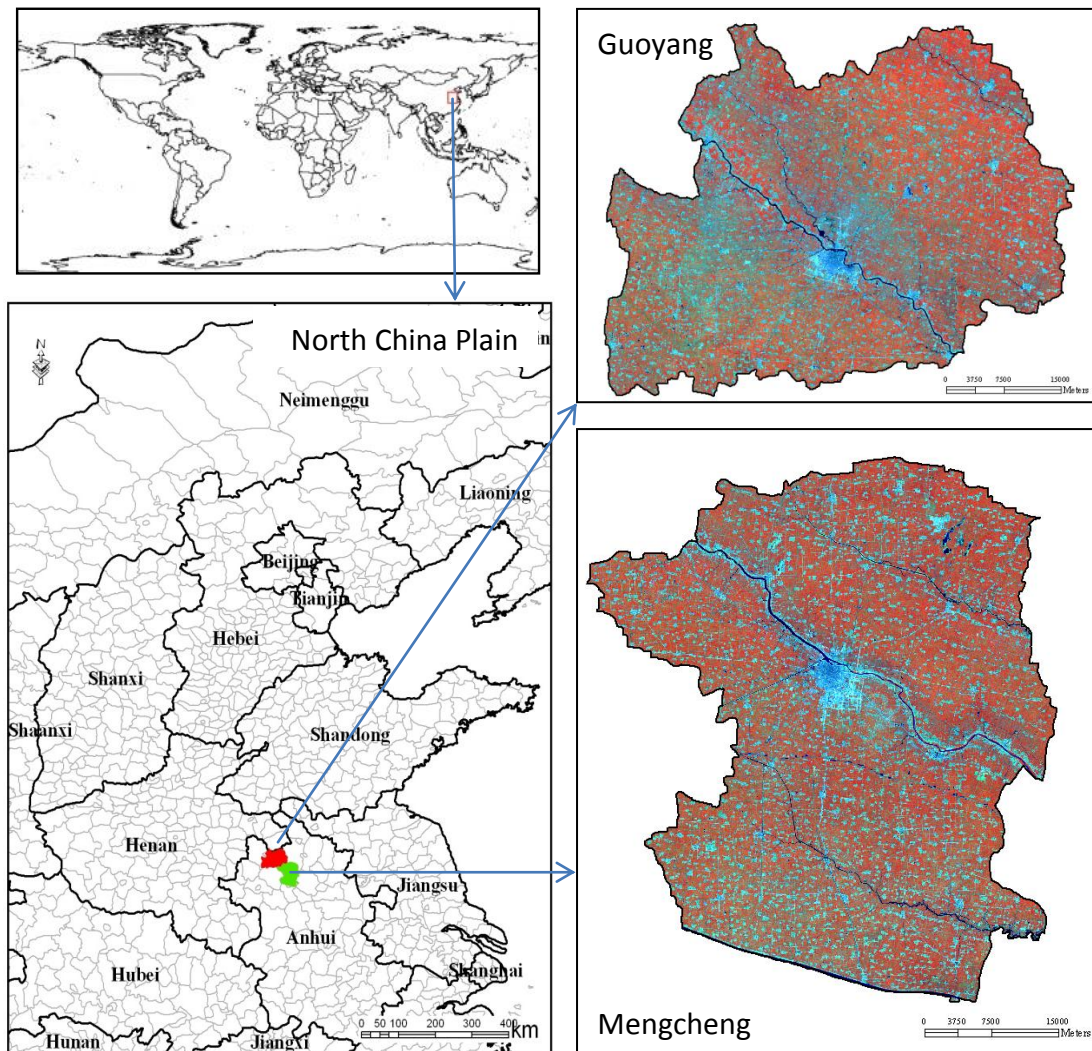


Figure 1. 1 The study area

Mengcheng and Guoyang are located at the east of Bozhou City, north of Anhui province, south of Huang-Huai plain, hinterland of Huaibei plain. They belong to a temperate and semi-humid monsoon climate zone, located at a transitional zone between northern subtropical and warm temperate zone, featured with notable alternate wetting and drying climate, humid and hot in summer, dry and cold in winter.

Mengcheng County is ranging between N 32°55' - 32°30', and E 116°15' - 116°50'. The shape of Mengcheng County is slightly rectangular, extending 40 km from east to west, and 60 km from north to south. It has a population of 1,320,000 inhabitants and an area of 214,880 ha. The climate in Mengcheng county can be described as warm temperate semi-humid monsoon type, with an annual average temperature of 14.7°C, the annual average frost-free period 216 days, the average annual precipitation of 822 mm. With a fertile soil, a mild climate and a moderate rainfall, the crop production including wheat, rice, maize and potato are of high-quality.

Guoyang County is ranging between N 33°27' - 33°47', and E 115°53' - 116°33', with a total area of 2107 km². Governed by an annual average temperature of 14.6°C, frost free period of 218 days and average annual precipitation about 830mm, the region is wealthy in terms of light, heat and reasonable water resources. As its maximum precipitation and highest temperature occur in the same period of season, the climate is favourable for the growth of dry crops such as wheat, soybean, maize, sweet potato, and etc. In 2010, the crop planting area of the county was 267,000 hectares, with grain sown area of 241,000 hectares, including wheat 118,000 hectares, maize 40,000 hectares and soybeans 75,000 hectares. Guoyang County is one of national grain commodity production bases.

2 SEGMENT SAMPLING DATABASE

2.1 Collection of background data

Background data includes the statistical crop area of recent 10 years, crop phenology data and ancillary geographic data, such as boundary of administrative units and road map, were collected.

2.1.1 Statistical data of crop area

The crop area statistical data for whole Anhui Province from 2000 to 2011 were collected, including agricultural productions (grain, cotton, oil-bearing crops), and cultivated area (paddy field, total sown area, and area of orchards, etc. Table 2.1 lists the categories of data which were collected. For the categories such as grain yields, sown areas and area of orchards, the data was grouped by county. For other fields, the data was grouped by prefecture. In 2009, there were 17 prefectures including 105 counties.

Table 2.1 The fields of the collected statistical data in Anhui province from 2000-2011

Fields (area)	Fields (area)	Fields (area)
total sown area	sown area of grain crops	cereal
rice	wheat	maize
soybean	tubers	oil-bearing crops
peanuts	rapeseed	sesame
cotton	fibre crops	sugar crops
tobacco leaf	medicinal materials	vegetables
melon	area of tea plantations at year-end	area of orchards at year-end
medicinal materials	vegetables	

Figure 2.1 shows crop production and acreage in Anhui province. Figure 2.2 displays the variation of total sown area from 2000 to 2011 in Anhui Province. In recent year, the total sown area tends to be stable around 9,000,000 ha.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
县(市)	County (City)	粮食(吨)	棉花(吨)	油料(吨)	播种面积(公顷)	#木本	播种面积(公顷)	果园面积(公顷)	农作物播种面积	粮食作物播种面积	谷物	#稻谷	#小麦	#玉米
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
全省合计	Total								909951	680295	580906	233878	286817	777947
合肥市	Hefei								487416	278263	258518	195417	32225	16255
合肥市辖区	Hefei Region of City	74291	792	11798	11700	9052	26693	366						
合肥县	Changfeng	606143	5859	68279	6752	51052	146600	387						
长丰县	Fendong	671116	4784	139082	78888	60857	182072	476						
肥东县	Feiwei	551900	7461	97146	60323	48872	142045	838						
淮南市	Huainan								284583	280122	105970	381	123101	39575
淮北市辖区	Huabei Region of City	220289	773	2078	24947	293	59726	5118						
淮北市	Suiyi	989912	3280	8491	111002	0	224867	104						
亳州市	Bozhou								1017034	843933	500997	3093	415513	176204
亳州市辖区	Bozhou Region of City	854670	13074	7742	128984	0	260149	806						
涡阳县	Guoyang	1274167	2019	7330	131448	0	279244	193						
蒙城县	Wengcheng	1248927	4208	24389	122396	978	244928	385						
利辛县	Lixin	1102437	1338	7352	118919	2607	235713	108						
滁州市	Suzhou								980417	776997	588170	8101	376338	200107
滁州市辖区	Suzhou Region of City	1098414	9087	38843	141855	548	279553	4359						
凤阳县	Dangshang	255895	5396	38523	37273	0	87043	48010						
滁县	Xiaonan	696748	12537	20273	91890	65	183863	8235						
灵璧县	Lingbi	962925	4365	68865	120171	2021	230048	1108						
泗县	Sixian	787995	7503	67232	88332	5227	190090	40						
蚌埠市	Bengbu													
蚌埠市辖区	Bengbu Region of City	181712	193	2727	22008	12920	47551	475	635766	468294	498447	106283	239179	81543
怀远县	Huayuan	1208947	8372	72853	126745	52284	237073	1682						
五河县	Wuhe	775193	3405	61081	71475	36765	177464	869						
固镇县	Guzhen	478234	19299	161338	70532	1723	153878	486						
阜阳市	Fuyang								1218504	987188	704805	81440	489107	285103
阜阳市辖区	Fuyang Region of City	883724	2897	16519	105404	35	221210	948						
界首市	Jieshou	373911	2503	6384	38880	0	84477	535						
临泉县	Lingquan	1056996	6065	21436	113580	1316	253218	780						
太和县	Taihe	950466	3038	9123	115680	0	231287	325						
阜南县	Funan	846920	1819	25247	97792	17359	205316	213						
颍上县	Yingshan	1043671	4159	8449	103273	37049	215075	297						
淮南市	Huainan								245074	210124	189795	92498	101448	2288
淮南市辖区	Huainan Region of City	663771	1288	10406	58389	40221	128502	775						
凤台县	Fengtai	587888	470	5089	45881	32487	98331	647						
毛集	Maaji District	118885	32	915	9905	6520	20241	19						
滁州市	Chuzhou								865730	681234	540302	340041	285551	31038
滁州市辖区	Chuzhou Region of City	300832	2731	25033	27899	22458	73124	757						
天长市	Tianchang	689168	161	24169	58940	57821	118883	7						
明光市	Mingguang	537816	505	28778	55533	28831	123406	738						
来安县	Lianan	442991	288	38884	46512	35874	95594	648						
全椒县	Quanjiao	431656	5329	60657	40454	29299	87832	217						
定远县	Dingyuan	1116104	1258	38813	101948	74553	212305	639						
凤阳县	Fengyang	716424	608	18844	66788	38400	144578	1108						
滁州市	Luodi								881402	675616	548842	411510	214570	23711
六安市辖区	Luan Region of City	838992	5274	74557	94127	80393	206921	654						
寿县	Shouian	1413888	4182	55609	121420	105482	244591	290						

Figure 2.1 Crop-specific crop production and acreage in Anhui (prefecture 2000-2011)

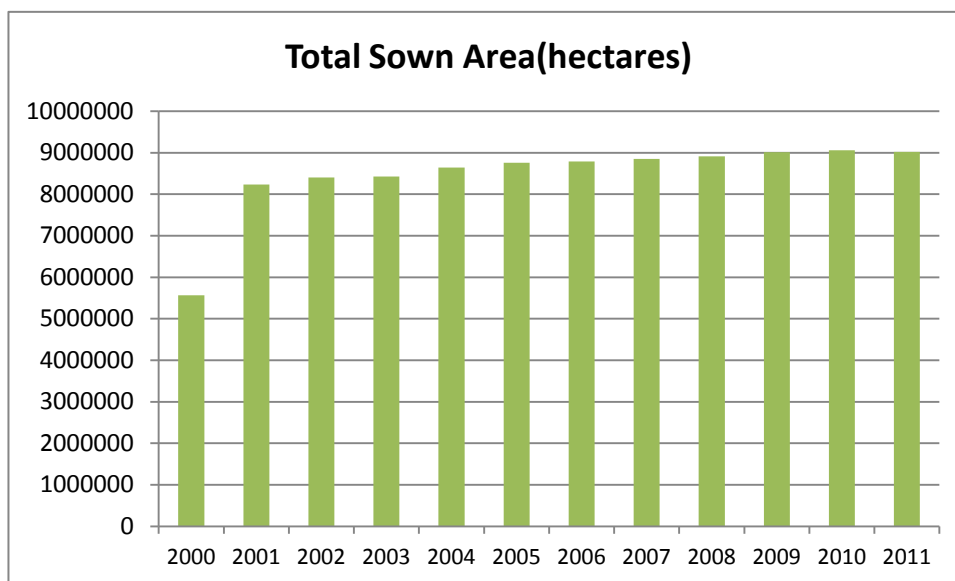


Figure 2.2 The variation of total sown area in Anhui Province from 2000 to 2011

Mengcheng and Guoyang belong to Bozhou City. There are six counties in Bozhou, they are Bozhou Region of City, Qiaocheng District, Guoyang county, Mengcheng county, Lixin city, and Development District. Before 2006, there were five counties in Bouzhou City. But in the end of 2005, a new zone, Development District, was independent out Qiaocheng District. In order to compare with other data, we collected the statistics data of all counties of Bozhou at the same time. The data was from 1999-2010 and were grouped by county, including 23 fields such as total

sown area, sown area of grain crops, cereal, rice, wheat, maize, soybean, tubers, bearing crops, peanuts, rapeseeds, sesame, cotton, fibre crops, sugar crops, tobacco leaf, medicinal materials, vegetables, area of tea plantations at year-end, area of orchards at year-end, medicinal materials, vegetables and melon. The data came from Bozhou Statistical Yearbook. Table 2.2 to 2.4 show the change of main crop area of Bozhou, including winter wheat, soybean and maize from 1999 to 2010.

Table 2.2 Statistical data of winter wheat area from 1999 to 2010 (unit: hectares)

County	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Bozhou Region of City	345543	325926	311040	306705	299758	337366	361370	371779	391181	406372	415619	418356
Qiaocheng District	76447	67624	59781	62777	61787	63621	73782	73599	81897	82382	85444	86871
Guoyang	91819	91279	91993	89022	89903	96867	103847	109762	112206	116752	118574	118092
Mengcheng	88837	78088	73714	68445	68190	92359	94081	96256	98731	103420	107394	108438
Lixin	88440	88935	85552	86461	79878	84519	89660	92030	98174	103674	104092	104835
Development District								132	173	144	115	120

Table 2.3 Statistical data of soybean area from 1999 to 2010 (unit: hectares)

County	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Bozhou Region of City	104048	110925	117134	128235	146727	176702	218511	238431	278947	240758	224471	212151
Qiaocheng District	20353	22397	21235	21720	24792	26988	37868	39479	47438	40337	43873	51238
Guoyang	39924	44433	48108	52469	60244	69999	84902	93352	113409	95397	84248	75726
Mengcheng	13154	13374	15418	15092	18122	24777	31139	35349	34170	36356	32306	24073
Lixin	30617	30721	32373	38954	43569	54938	64602	70211	83869	68630	63975	61069
Development District								40	61	38	69	45

Table 2.4 Statistical data of maize area from 1999 to 2010 (unit: hectares)

County	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Bozhou Region of City	123006	93581	105317	113633	113211	106634	102610	101307	138153	135362	176204	182196
Qiaocheng District	33462	23327	23477	26155	24161	24446	23254	23928	28713	23166	27820	28752
Guoyang	27517	25581	30614	32472	30405	26500	21147	19904	24668	25384	38733	40032
Mengcheng	34107	21847	25840	27448	27976	26749	31238	31597	53627	55196	68202	70514
Lixin	27920	22826	25386	27558	30669	28939	26971	25797	31055	31559	41391	42789
Development District								81	90	57	58	109

As shown by Figure 2.3 below, from 1999 to 2010, the area of main crops of Mengcheng County were unstable. From 2004, the area of winter wheat and maize were slowly increasing, especially the maize area. Figure 2.4 shows the crop area variation of Guoyang County. From 1999 to 2010, the winter wheat area was slowly increase from 8900ha to 11800ha, and remained relatively stable in the last three years. However, relatively large change occurred in the area of soybean and maize.

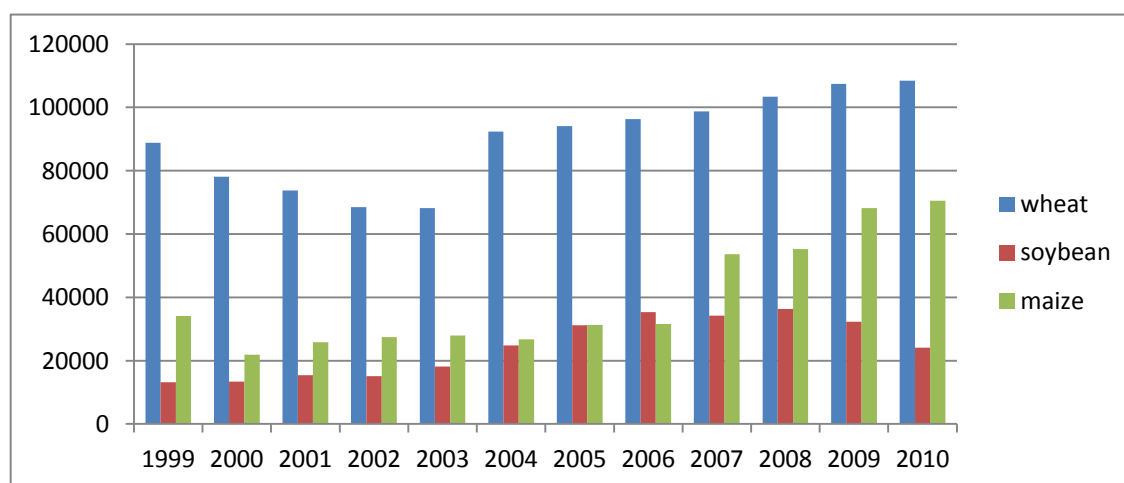


Figure 2. 3 The main crop area of Mengcheng County from 1999 to 2010

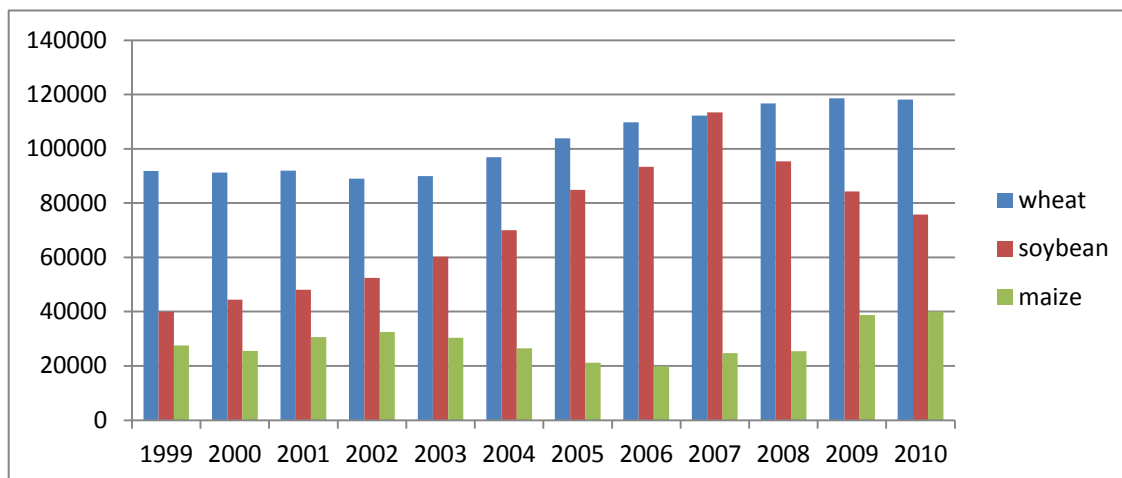


Figure 2. 4 The main crop area of Guoyang County from 1999 to 2010

2.1.1.1 Mengcheng County

The global objective is to estimate the 2011 acreages of maize and soybean of the Mengcheng County using field survey combined with high resolution remote sensing data. The monitored crops are wheat in winter and maize and soybean during this summer season (Table 2.5).

Table 2.5 Official statistics on crop areas in Mengcheng (hectare)

Crop /growth season	2007	2008	2009	2010
Rice (all year)	1,400	881	1,215	2552
Wheat (winter-spring)	98,731	103,420	107,394	108438
Maize (summer)	53,627	55,196	68,202	70514
soybeans (summer)	34,170	36,356	32,306	24073
Potato/Sweet potato (summer)	7,312	4,360	5,171	12035
Peanut (summer)	7,675	9,262	4,262	4614
Rape (winter-spring)	1,097	839	570	482
Sesame (summer)	2,449	1,768	1,019	673
Cotton (spring-summer)	11,991	10,006	4,141	5209
Medicinal herbs (all year)	844	646	454	1606
Vegetables (all year)	20,248	16,302	15,088	15332
Cultivated Arable land (spring)	132,911	131,213	127,655	131067
Cultivated Arable land (summer)	139,716	134,777	131,866	136608

The official statistics were collected at level of county. As shown by Figure 2.5 below, maize has covered an increased part of the county total area from 25% in 2007 to 34% in 2010 whereas soybean tends to be stable around 34,000 ha. The unpublished official statistics showed an area of 100,000 hectares for the maize sowing area in 2011.

However this might be an underestimated figures as the statistical data at county level are not entirely reliable. A possible explanation to this underestimation is that the official figure of arable land does not include the river bed areas which are now cultivated by farmers. These river beds might increase the official figure of up to 20%.

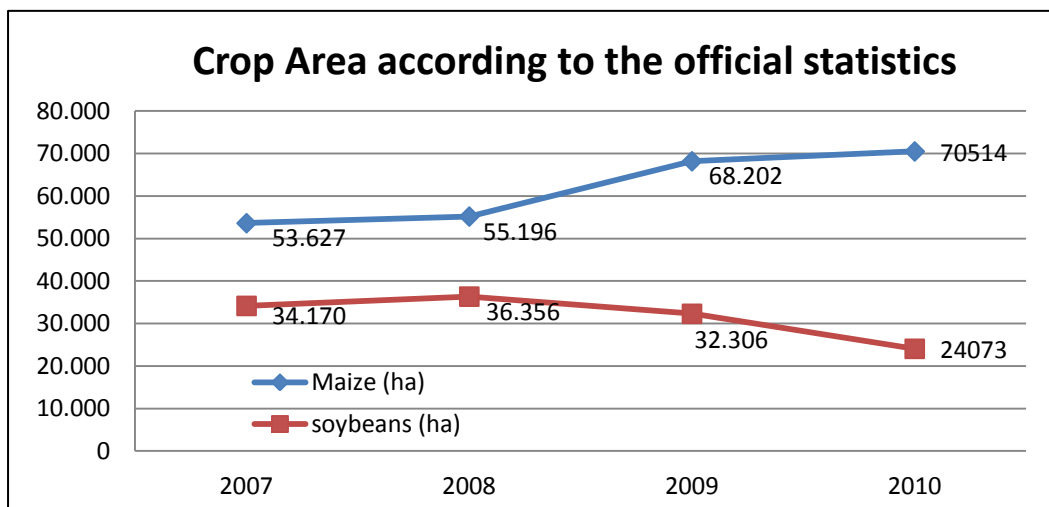


Figure 2. 5 *Maize and Soybean crop area according to the official statistics of Mengcheng county for 2007-2010*

2.1.1.2 Guoyang County

The global objective is to estimate the 2012 acreages of winter wheat and maize and soybean of the Guoyang County using ground sampling units . According to the official statistics, the main cultivations are wheat in winter and soybean during the summer (Table 2.5). Figure 2.6 shows the the official statistics data of main crop area for 2007-2010.

Table 2.6 Crop areas (Mengcheng official statistics)

Crop /growth season	2007	2008	2009	2010
Rice (all year)				
Wheat (winter-spring)	112206	116752	118574	118092
Maize (summer)	24668	25384	38733	40032
soybeans (summer)	113409	95397	84248	75726
Potato/Sweet potato (summer)	3301	2789	4613	5779
Peanut (summer)	923	990	851	609
Rape (winter-spring)	1031	693	599	395
Sesame (summer)	3496	3306	2671	1275
Cotton (spring-summer)	4021	3250	1906	1638
Medicinal herbs (all year)	2990	2716	2766	3010
Vegetables (all year)	16743	16806	16988	17469
Cultivated Arable land (spring)	16743	16806	16988	17469
Cultivated Arable land (summer)	136991	140217	140833	140604

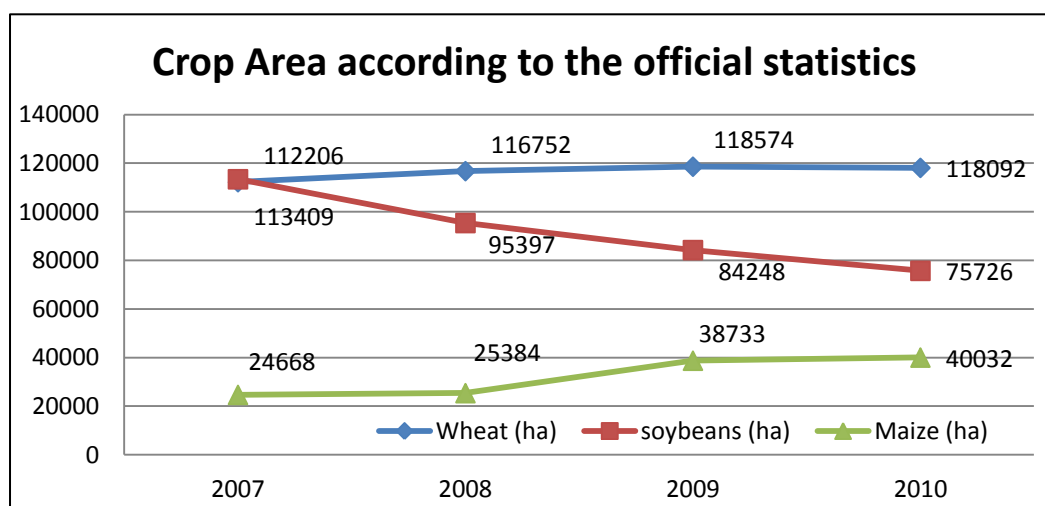


Figure 2. 6 Winter wheat and maize and soybean crop area according to the official statistics of Guoyang county for 2007-2010

2.1.2 Crop phenology data

Phenology data of typical crops were collected and sorted in two tables. The first table (Table 2.7) lists the crop phenological phase in accordance of chronological order. The temporal resolution was month and all 12 months in a year were covered, including the major periods of sowing, seedling emergence and harvesting of the four staple crops. The second one (Table 2.9-2.10) lists the phenol-phase of crop in accordance of crop growth period.

Table 2.7 Annual Crop Growth and Development

Date	Crop	Growth Stage
From December to February	Winter wheat	Slow growth stage, ear differentiation
	Rape	Coming into leaf, budding, and bolting
March	Winter wheat	Jointing
	Rape	Budding, bloom
April	Winter wheat	Heading and bloom, grain filling and milk ripeness in the last third of the month
	Rape	Bloom, scab
	Cotton	Seeding
May	Winter wheat	Milk ripeness, ripeness, harvesting
	Rape	Ripeness, harvesting
	One-season rice	Seeding, raising rice seedlings
June	Winter wheat	Finishing harvesting within the first third of this month
	Maize	Seeding
	Cotton	Budding
	One-season rice	Transplant, reviving, tiller
July	Maize	Tasseling, bloom
	Cotton	Bloom
	One-season rice	Jointing, heading, bloom
August	Maize	Grain filling, milky ripeness
	Cotton	Bloom, splitting boll

Date	Crop	Growth Stage
	One-season rice	Bloom, milk ripeness
September	Rape	Seeding
	Maize	Ripeness, harvesting
	Cotton	Opening bolls, picking up cottons
	One-season rice	Milk ripeness, ripeness, harvesting
October	Winter wheat	Seeding
	Rape	Emergency of seedlings
November	Winter wheat	Emergency of seedlings, tiller
	Rape	In the fifth euphylla, transplant

Table 2.8 Winter wheat growth and development process

Crop	Sowing stage	Tillering stage	Overwintering	Reverging	Jointing stage	Heading	Maturation period
Winter wheat	later October – early November	early December			later February – early March	early April	later May – June/early

Table 2.9 Single-season rice growth and development process

Crop	Sowing stage	Full heading stage	Maturation period
One-season Rice(indica type)	Late March- Early April	Mid September – Early October	End October- Early November
One-season Rice (japonica type)	End March- Mid. April	Early September- Late September	Early October- Mid. October

Table 2.10 Maize growth and development

Crop	Seeding-emergence of seedling	Emergence of seedling-jointing	Jointing -Heading	Heading-grain filling	Harvesting
Spring maize	later April - later May	later May -early June	early July & middle	August early	later August - early September
Summer maize	middle June - later June		Early August		later September

2.1.3 Ancillary geographic data

The boundary of administrative units and road map were collected.

The boundary of administrative units was download from <http://ngcc.sbsm.gov.cn/>. The information of administrative division of three levels of province, regions (shi) and counties by the end of 2009. The results show that Anhui Province has 17 district-level shi and 106 counties.

Figure 2.7 shows the administrative units of Anhui.

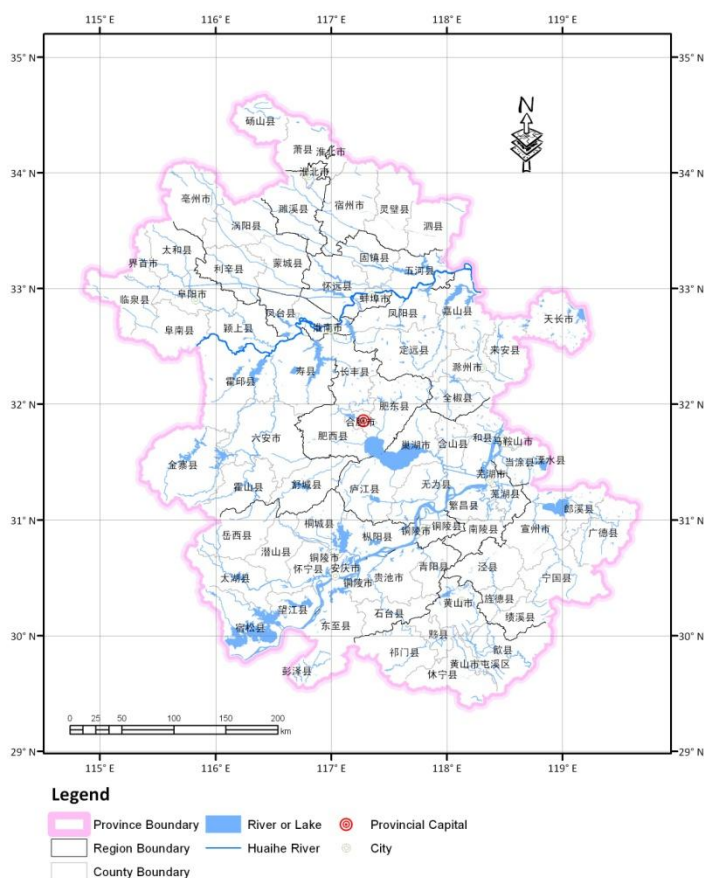


Figure 2. 7 Administrative regions in Anhui Province

The road map of Guoyang County was extracted from the Rapideye images by visual interpretation (Figure2.8). It was used for the result correction of hard classification. For other counties, the road map was download from <http://ngcc.sbsm.gov.cn/>.

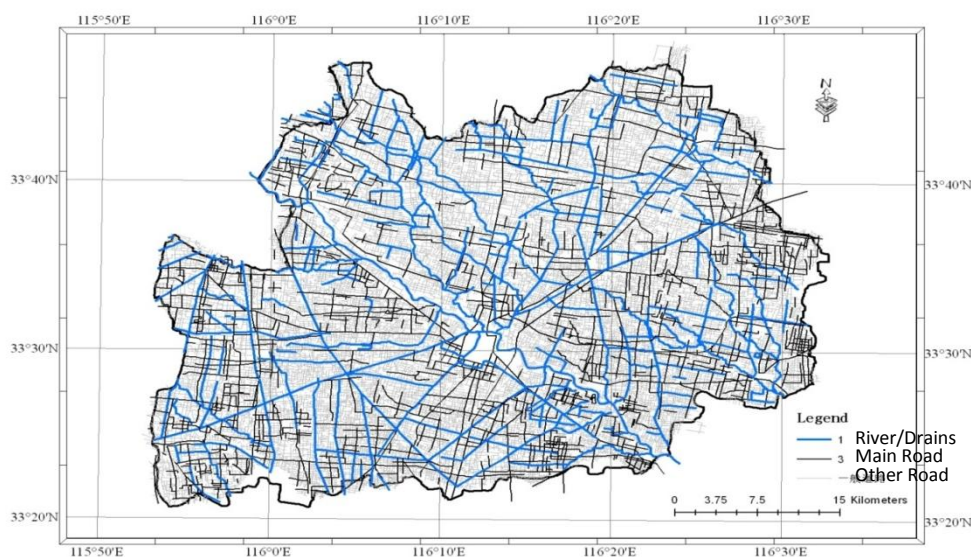


Figure 2. 8 Road map of Guoyang county

2.2 Design of Ground Sampling Units

In order to find the best way to estimate the acreage of the main crops on county level using ground sampling database, different sampling methods were used to design the ground sampling units of Mengcheng and Guoyang. For Mengcheng County, the ground sampling units were physical boundaries, and the area of each unit was different. For Guoyang County, sampling units were designed based on systematic sampling method. All units were circle boundaries, and the area of each unit was same.

2.2.1 Mengcheng County

For Mengcheng County, we designed two types of the Ground sampling units. One type was used for the establishment of the crop area spatial extrapolation model. The other type was used for interpretation signs and validation data.

2.2.1.1 The Ground sampling units for the spatial extrapolation

In order to assess the area of the main crops of the Mengcheng County, an Area Frame Sampling (AFS) scheme based on segments with physical boundaries was derived. The strategy was to survey in the field 100 segments randomly selected in the arable stratum during the cropping season in order to determine the proportions of the various crops (mainly maize and soybean at the time of the survey).

To determine the importance of the various strata (mainly arable land and non-agricultural land as no permanent crops were found in the county) and identify the arable stratum before the

survey, a grid of points was interpreted on Google Earth (GE) Very High Resolution (VHR) imagery. All the points in the grid are stratify using photo-interpretation. 100 arable points were selected and the corresponding segments were built around these points through the physical boundaries on GE imagery.

In practice, the stratification was based on a grid of 532 points located every 2 km while the selection of the segment points was made from 4 km grids (called grid A and grid B), i.e. subsets of the 2 km one, in order to have a regular distribution of the segments in the county (Figure 2.9).

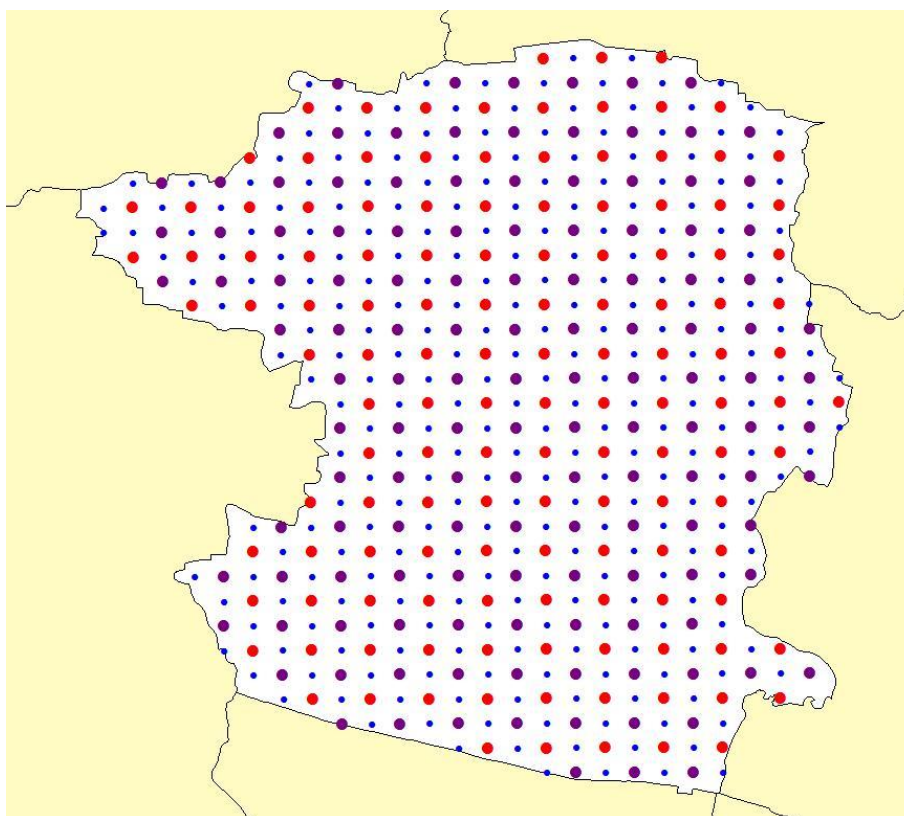


Figure 2.9 2 km grid (blue dots); 4 km grid A (red dots); 4 km grid B (purple dot)

Grids A and B points were interpreted on Google Earth imagery prior to the field survey. The classes of the stratification were defined as follows:

- Arable land
- Non agriculture (urban, artificial, water)
- Permanent crops / poplars
- “Thematic” doubt (doubt between arable and non-arable land)
- “Geometric” doubt i.e. point falling on arable/non arable border

About 20 to 30% of the GE coverage of the Mengcheng County was based on Landsat TM data

(30m) at the time of the interpretation of the 4km grids. No VHR images were available. As a result, from 14 to 22% of the points mainly located on the eastern part of the county were considered as doubtful by the interpreter (Figure 2. 10).



Figure 2. 10 Example of grid point falling on TM data and considered doubtful

The 100 points serving as seeds for the segments to be surveyed in the arable stratum were selected as follows: a grid of points located every 4 km was built and interpreted. Some 94 arable points were found on this grid (grid B), a 2nd grid, shifted by 2 km in X and Y with respect to the first one was created and interpreted on Google Earth (GE) prior to the survey (grid A). The six arable points needed to reach the target of 100 was randomly drawn from the set of arable points of this second grid.

Segments of irregular size were drawn around each of the 100 arable points following the physical boundaries observed on GE imagery. Since it was noticed on the GE VHR imagery that the fields present a structure of narrow strips, the survey technique was adapted and redesigned to take advantage of this structure: starting from a corner, the surveyor had to walk perpendicularly to the strips and mark each start of a new crop as shown on Figure 2. 11 below. The same operation was repeated on the opposite boundary of the segment. In case the crop

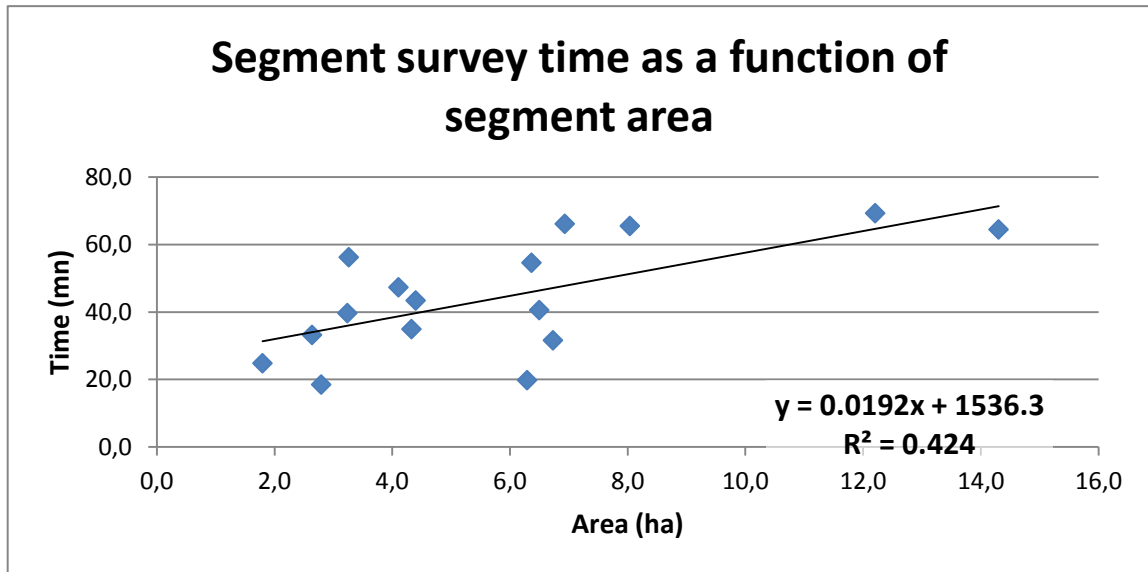
plot would not be a rectangle, the surveyor had to walk around the plot perimeter to take points every second. Points were taken using a Trimble GeoXT in stand-alone mode.



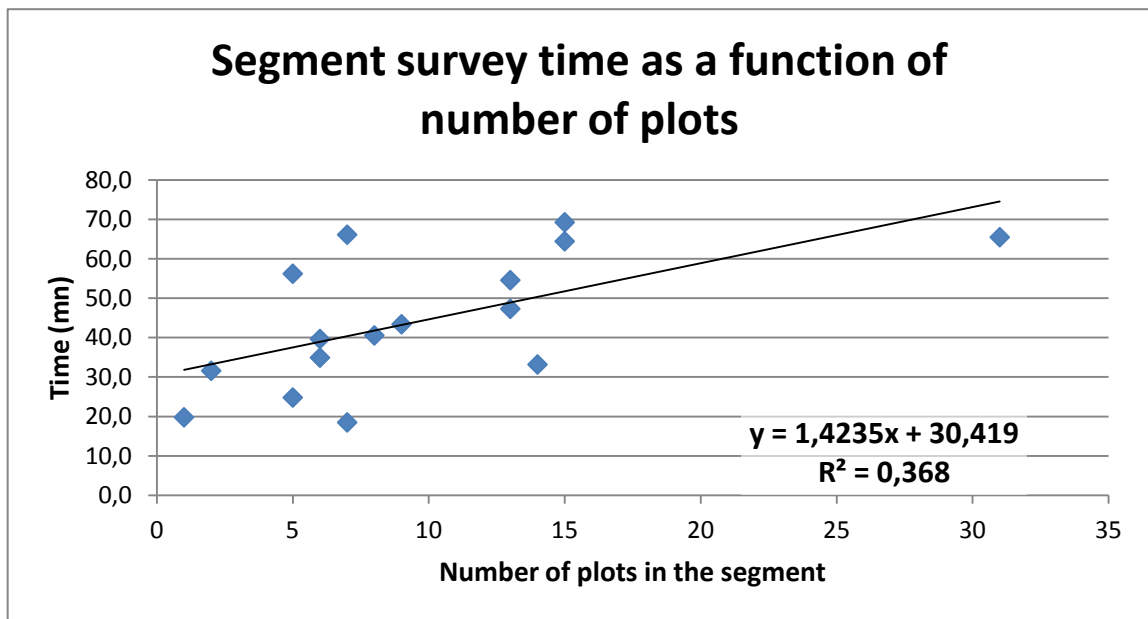
Figure 2. 11 Methodology followed for surveying the segments

The method was applied to surveyed 83 segments. The navigation to the segments was made using a GPS connected to a laptop on which a recent HR image was displayed. For one segment (B120) close to the Mengcheng city, the land cover had changed from arable land on the 2004 GE image to built-up area (Figure 2.25). The survey was executed in two close periods of time. The first 16 segments were surveyed with 3,5 days and the rest of 67 segments were carried out with a second period of 15 days. Without considering the time to reach the segment, the survey of a segment took from 18.5 mn for a 2.8 ha segment with 7 plots to nearly 70 mn for a 12.2 ha segment with 15 plots. Figure 2.12a below shows the relation between the segment total area and the time to survey the segment while Figure 2.12b shows the relation between the survey time and the number of different plots in the segment. On average 45 mn were needed per segment, with an average segment size of 5.9 ha.

Figure 2. 13 below shows the distribution of the 16 + 67 segments surveyed. A stripe with no segment can be observed to the east; this is due to the fact that arable points could not be identified with confidence on the TM data available on GE for the 1st stratification. However since the landscape is homogeneous on the whole county, this should not introduce any bias.



a



b

Figure 2. 12 a & b: Segment survey time as a function of (a) segment area and (b) number of plots in the segment

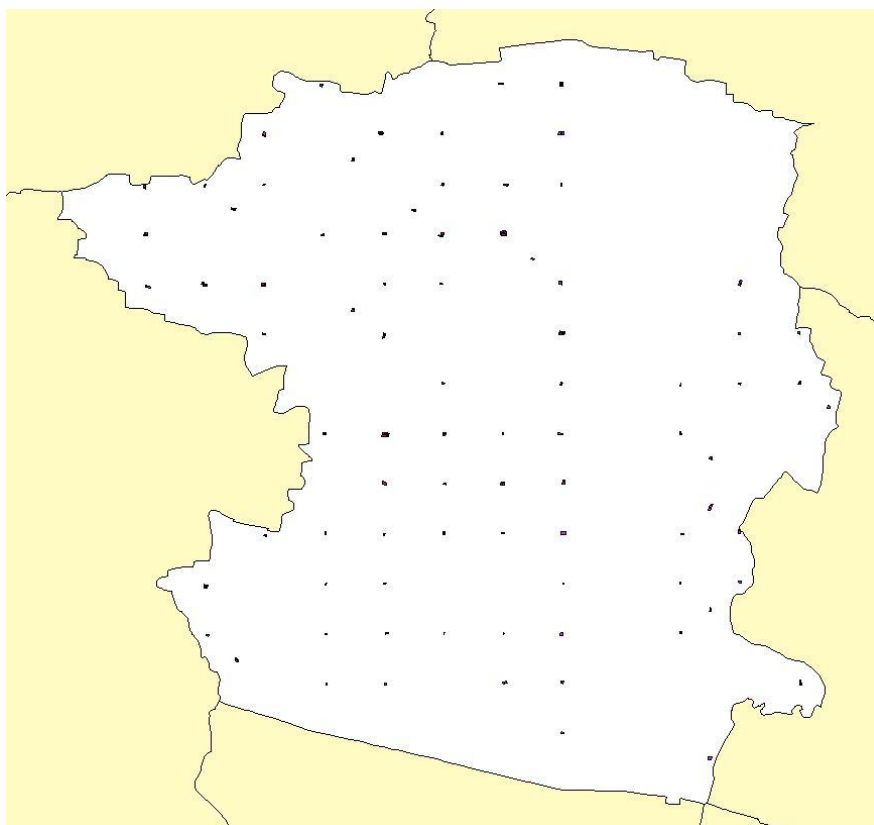


Figure 2. 13 Distribution of the 83 surveyed segments

2.2.1.2 The Ground sampling units for validation

According to the remote sensing images and the official statistical data, it could be found that Mengcheng was a large agricultural county mainly planting of winter wheat and maize and soybean. The area of winter wheat accounted for 88% of the arable land in winter. The total area of maize and soybean accounted for 83% of the arable land in summer. In this situation, the ground sampling units should be more evenly distributed within the county. At the same time, the each sampling unit must fall within the arable land, and was easy to reach. So we adopt the grid-based random sampling method to design the units. There were three main steps.

Step one: to determine the remote sensing monitoring classification system of Mengcheng county based on the remote sensing images.

- Arable land: land to grow crops, including vegetated land and recreational land;
- Roads: including expressways, national highways and provincial roads, county roads;
- Settlements: urban land use, rural settlements;
- Water body: rivers, ponds and reservoirs;

- Woodland: does not contain the nursery or fast-growing trees planted in arable land.

Step two: to design the sample frame (See Figure 2.14).

- Mengcheng was divided into 5'×5' grids. All the grids in the county boundary are included;
- There were 40 squares in Mengcheng county in total.

Step three: to design the position and size of the ground sampling units.

- All ground sampling units should be in the grids, and each unit corresponds to one grid;
- There were 30 ground sampling units in total.
- The minimum distance between the two units should be greater than 10km.
- Taking into account the time of field survey, and according to past experience, the average size of sample units was set to 500m × 500m;
- All units use the physical boundary of the fields.

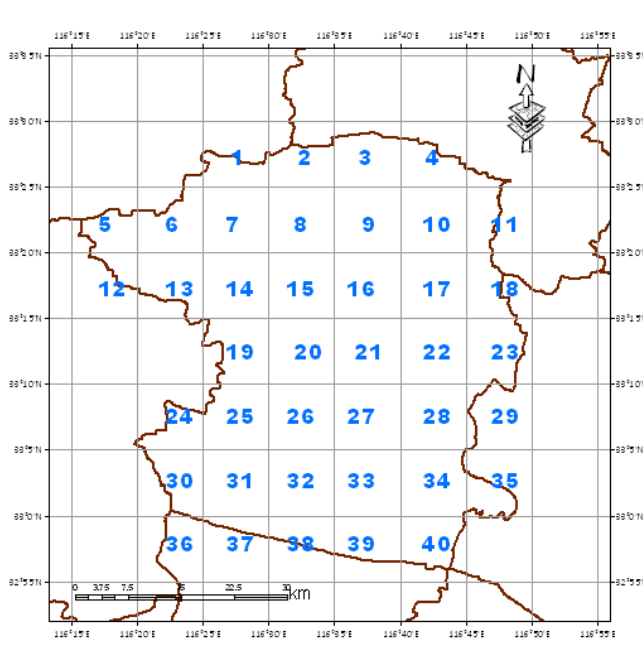


Figure 2. 14 The sample frame of Mengcheng county

The design of field sampling frame was basically completed through above process. These units would be used as interpretation signs and validation data.

2.2.2 Guoyang County

For Guoyang county, an Area Frame Sampling (AFS) scheme based on systematic sampling with

circle boundaries was devised. From this AFS, a total of 193 sampling units were designed according to the rule of sampling at equal interval. The average area of each unit was 4.62 hectare, and the field survey was conducted from March 2012 to August 2012 respectively. The Trimble GeoXT2000 Differential GPS was used to investigate the areas and boundary of each crop within the units. The specific processes are described as follows:

Step one: to determine the remote sensing monitoring classification system of Guoyang county. It was as same as the system of Mengcheng county.

Step two: to design the AFS based on systematic sampling with circle boundaries.

- Guoyang county was divided into $0.01^{\circ} \times 0.01^{\circ}$ ($36'' \times 36''$) grids. All the grids in the county boundary are included;
- In order to provide convenience for field investigation and positioning, the cross point coordinate of each grid must be the integer multiples of 0.01° ;
- By taking the cross point of each grid as the centre, circles with radius of 120m and area of 4.52ha were established, and there were 2074 circles in Guoyang county in total. (See Figure 2.15)

Step three: Pre-identification of sampling units based on GoogleEarth (See Figure 2.16).

- Based on the established classification system and by taking GoogleEarth as the base map, visual interpretation method was used to draw the land use map for each selected circle, and to identify the land use type of the covered areas of each circle.
- When the areas of arable land of a circle exceeded 50%, the circle was defined as cropland, otherwise it was defined as non-cropland. Among 2,074 circles, 1732 circles were identified as cropland, accounting for 83.5%; 342 circles were identified as non-cropland, accounting for 16.5%.

Step four: Identification of cropland sampling units

- Equal interval sampling at proportion of 10 percent was conducted among 1732 circles which were defined as cropland, and the first sampling point was selected by random sampling;
- A total of 193 circles were sampled and the interval between two circles was 0.03° . Each circle was a ground sampling unit. (See Figure 2.17).

Step five: to make landcover map of the sampling unit (See Figure 2.18) .

- The projection of the landuse map extracted from the GoogleEarth was converted into latitude and longitude coordinates and it was saved in a shapefile format, and then imported into GPS (Trimble GeoXT).

The design of field sampling frame was basically completed through above process, and the crop area sampling survey program based on ground survey were carried out based on this field sampling frame. These units would be used as interpretation signs and validation data. At the same time, these samples will be used for the crop area spatial extrapolation.

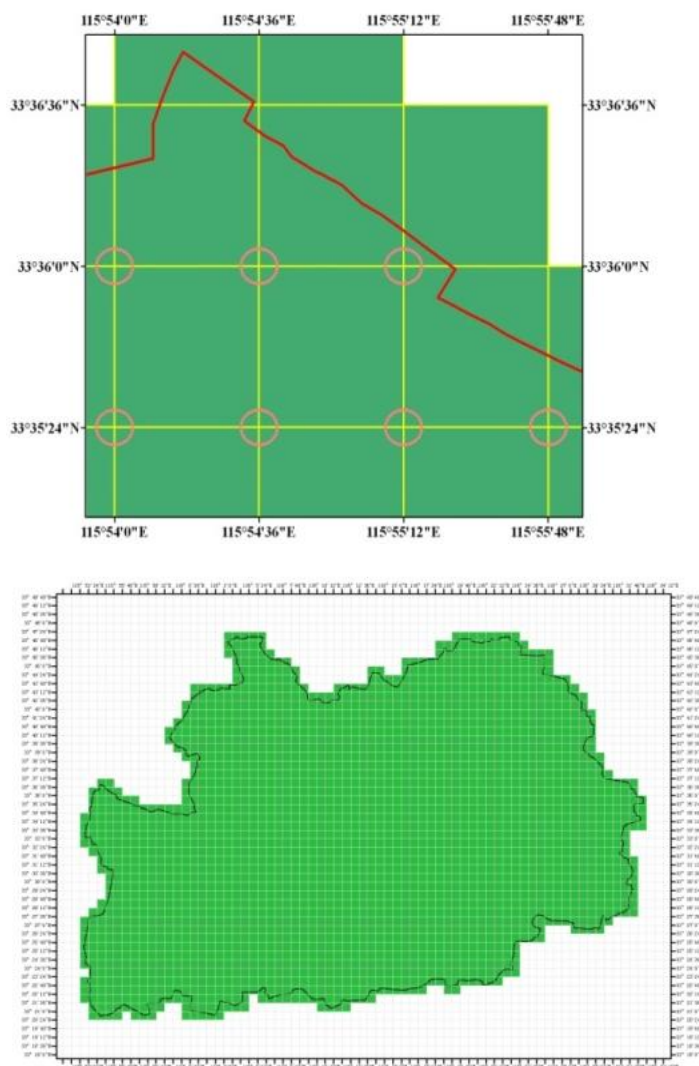


Figure 2. 15 The second step for ground sampling units

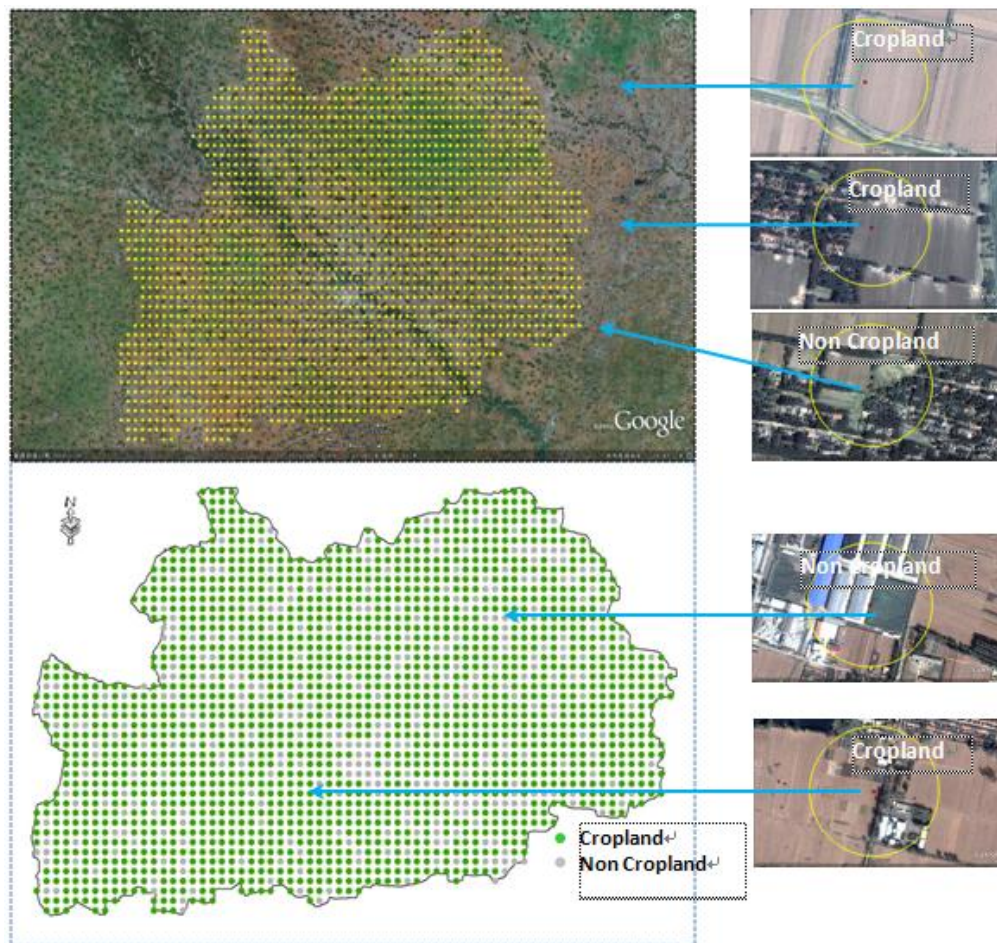


Figure 2.16 The third step for ground sampling units

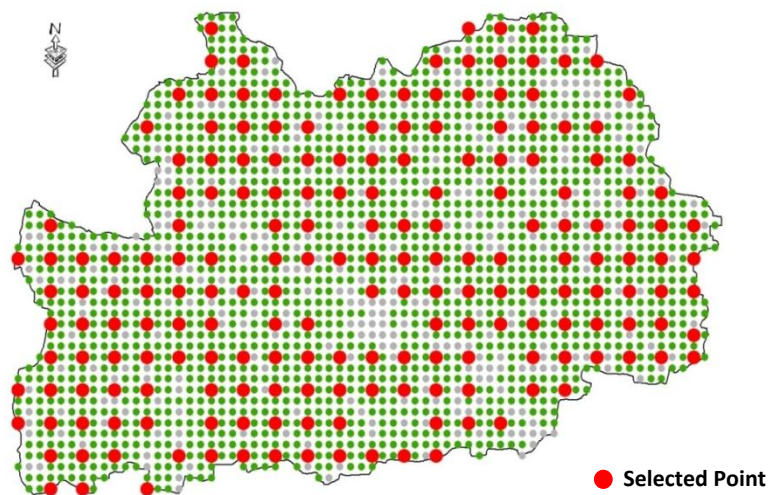


Figure 2.17 The fourth step for ground sampling units



Figure 2.18 The fifth step for ground sampling units

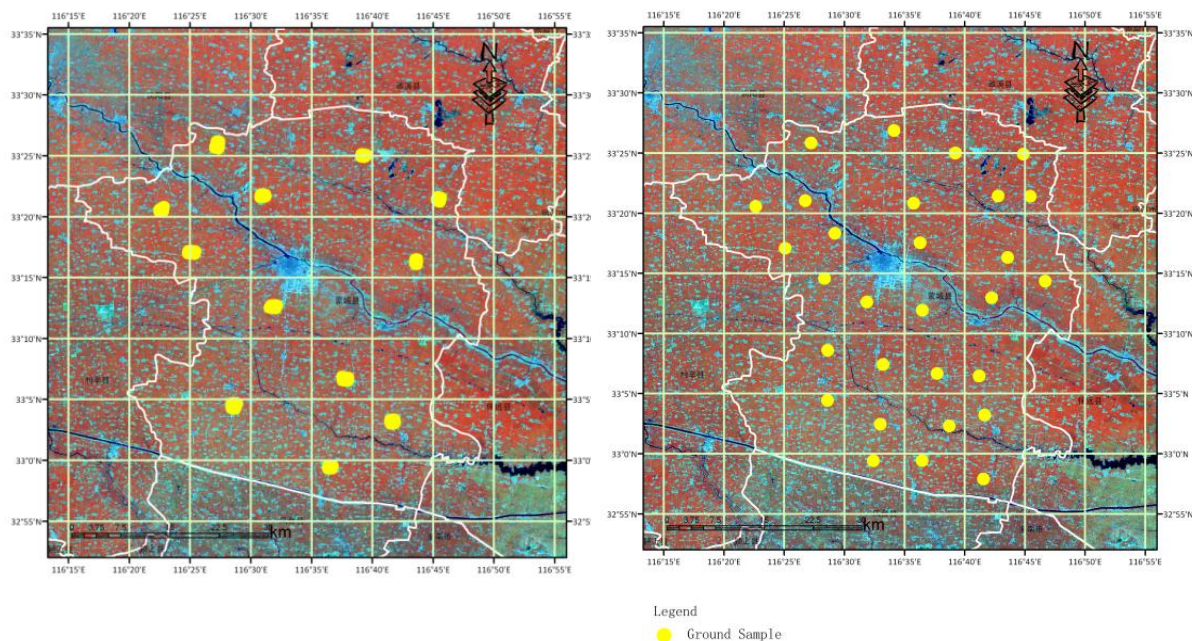
2.3 Survey of Ground Sampling Units

2.3.1 Mengcheng County

Three times of field survey had been carried out based on the field sampling frame in Mengcheng County.

The first time was from June 8 to 12 in 2011. According to the old program design, only 12 ground sampling units of winter wheat had been measured through differential GPS, each unit measured 500m×500m on average (Figure 2.19a). Every unit had physical boundary. For second time, we changed the program design and adjusted the number of ground sampling units, 18 units were added based on the original (Figure 2.19b). The survey time was from July 18 to 25 in 2011 for collecting maize ground information. All units had physical boundary. The third time was from November 15 to 23 for collecting wheat winter ground information.

The results were saved in the “Field_MC_Wheat_201106.shp” and “Field_MC_Maize_201107.shp” and “Field_MC_Wheat_201111.shp”.



(a)

(b)

Figure 2.19 The distribution of the ground sampling units

2.3.2 Guoyang County

Three times of field survey was conducted in Guoyang county. The first time was from April 4 to 21 in 2012. The main crop was winter wheat. The second time was from July 3 to 21. The main crops were soybean and maize. Four staff participated in the field measurement. They spent 18 days to complete measurement of 193 sampling units.

When the field map had no change, then the crop type of each land block was directly marked on the map; when the boundary was changed, the GPS was used to record the changed boundary of the land block, and the crop type of each land block was marked on the map.

Data preparation and measurement process is shown in Figure 2.20 to 2.21. The results were saved in the “Field_GY_Wheat_201204.shp” and “Field_GY_Maize_201207.shp”.

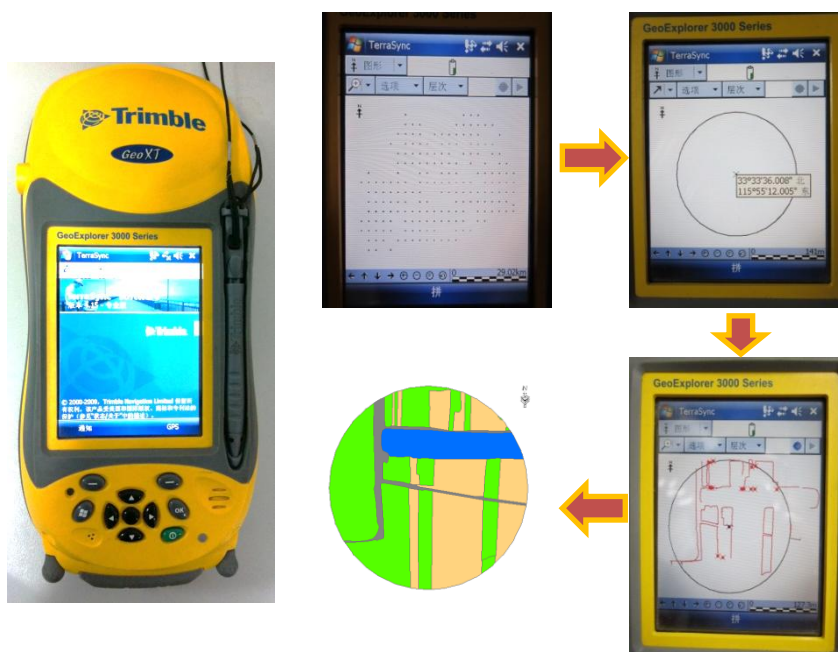


Figure 2.20 Field sampling process



Figure 2.21 Field sampling photos

2.4 Segment sampling database

2.4.1 Mengcheng County

2.4.1.1 The Ground sampling units for the spatial extrapolation

Table 2.11 below shows the crop area statistics of the 16 segments surveyed in the first period while Table 2.12 provides the same statistics for the segments surveyed in the second period.

Table 2.13 provides the synthesis of the whole sample set. On average **maize and soybean** cover nearly **77% and 20% of the arable land** respectively.

It can be noticed that the segments surveyed in the first period, which were located around Mengcheng city, were larger (nearly 6 ha on average vs 3.3 ha), had a higher percentage of maize (nearly 90% vs 74%) and a lower percentage of soybean (10% vs 22%) than the ones surveyed in the second period. The smaller segment size in the second sample sub-set is mainly due to the choice of the surveyors to take as segment limits the first parcel boundaries found in the field whereas originally the surveyors had tried to follow the segments boundaries identified on the GE imagery. This has no impact on the estimations.

Table 2.11 Statistics about the 16 segments surveyed in August 2011, Mengcheng

	Maize	Soybean	Other crops	Non agriculture
Average (%)	89.5%	9.9%	0.5%	0.1%
Std dev (%)	2.3%	2.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Total Area (ha)	83.99	9.50	0.31	0.11
Average, min and max segment Size	5.87 ha / 1.8 ha - 14.3 ha			

Table 2.12 Statistics about the 67 segments surveyed in September 2011, Mengcheng

	Maize	Soybean	Other crops	Non agriculture
Average (%)	73.8%	22.1%	3.6%	0.5%
Std dev (%)	3.2%	3.0%	1.6%	0.2%
Total Area (ha)	158.09	51.52	9.22	0.72
Average, min and max segment Size	3.28 ha / 0.6 ha – 8.8 ha			

Table 2.13 Statistics about all the segments (83) , Mengcheng

	Maize	Soybean	Other crops	Non agriculture
Average (%)	76.8%	19.8%	3.0%	0.4%
Std dev (%)	2.7%	2.5%	1.3%	0.2%
Total Area (ha)	242.08	61.02	9.53	0.83
Average segment Size	3.78 ha			

Segment sample stratification

The results from the various stratifications are presented in

Table 2.14 below:

- Preliminary stratification made on grids A and B (4 km grids) and used for selecting the 100 arable segments to be surveyed; interpretation based on GE imagery.
- Second stratification of the same 2 grids focussing on doubtful points (thematic doubt) and based either on the new GE VHR imagery on the one hand and on Spot 2.5m 2011 imagery acquired after the field survey on the other hand;
- 3rd stratification based on spot 2.5m 2011 imagery and a 2 km grid (532 points) comprising the first two 4km grids; the percentage of arable land in the county was derived from this stratification. For comparison purposes, this same grid was also interpreted on the new GE imagery.

No point falling on a permanent crop (or small wood) was found; as areas with trees correspond to villages, points falling on such areas were affected to the non agriculture stratum. Points falling on the centre of tree hedges were assigned to the non agriculture stratum as points falling on a roads, paths, irrigation canals (Figure 2.22) whereas points falling at the border of hedges were affected to the “geometric doubt” stratum (Figure 2.23).

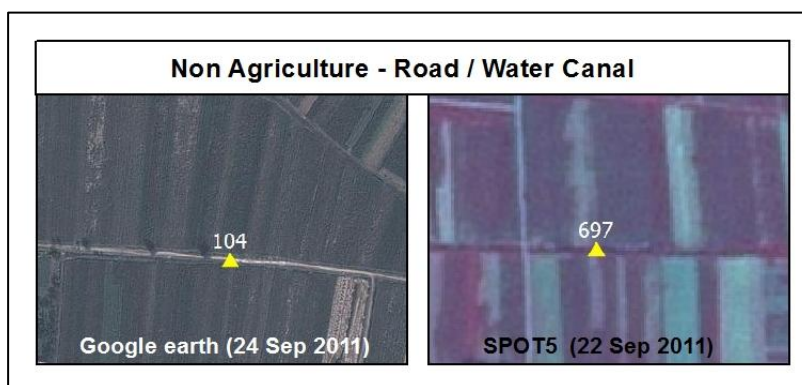


Figure 2.22 Points fall on a road (104) and on a water canal (697)

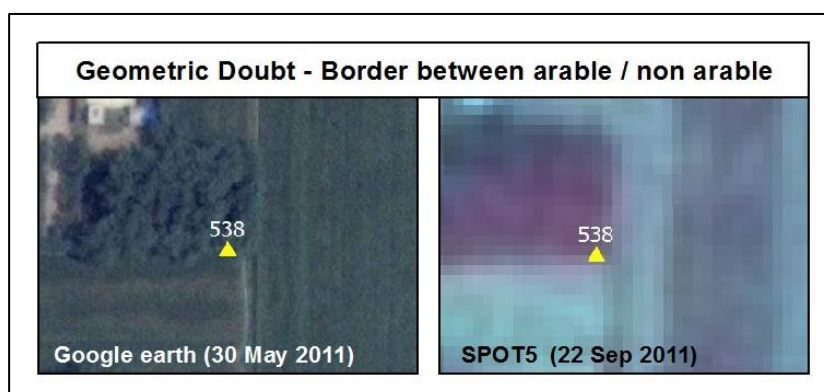


Figure 2.23 Point falls on the border between woodland and cropland (geometric doubt)

Table 2.14 Stratification results, Mengcheng

(a) Preliminary stratification based on Google Earth imagery (2004) for grids A and B (4 km grids)

Stratum	Grid A	Grid B	Grid A %	Grid B %
Arable	84	86	63.6%	64.7%
Non agriculture	17	24	12.9%	18.0%
Permanent crop / trees	1	4	0.8%	3.0%
Not sure arable or not	12	10	9.1%	7.5%
Border arable / non arable	18	9	13.6%	6.8%
Total	132	133	100%	100%

(b) Revised stratification based on new Google Earth imagery (V2, 2011) and SPOT 2011 (grids A and B)

Stratum	Grid A	Grid A	Grid B	Grid B	Grid A	Grid A	Grid B	Grid B
	GE V2	SPOT	GE V2	SPOT	GE(%)	Spot (%)	GE (%)	Spot (%)
Arable	94	105	93	98	71.2%	79.5%	69.9%	73.7%
Non agriculture	18	22	25	26	13.6%	16.7%	18.8%	19.5%
Permanent crop / trees	1	0	4	0	0.8%	0%	3.0%	0%
Not sure arable or not	1	0	2	3	0.8%	0%	1.5%	2.3%
Border arable / non arable	18	5	9	6	13.6%	3.8%	6.8%	4.5%
Total	132	132	133	133	100%	100%	100%	100%

- (c) stratification based on Spot 2.5m image of 22/09/2011 and GE and a 2km grid (532 points). Doubtful points were reallocated to the arable stratum using 3 hypotheses: 50%, 0%, 100% of the doubtful points are arable. The 6 points falling outside the Spot image were reallocated proportionally to the importance of the arable, non-agriculture and permanent crop strata (i.e. 76% of these 6 points were considered arable)

Spot 5 (2011)					
Stratum	# points	%	Reallocation		
			50%	0%	100%
Arable	379	71.2	73.1	72.1	74.1
Non agriculture	136	25.6	26.9	27.9	25.9
Permanent crop / trees	0	0.0			
Not sure arable or not	1	0.2			
Border arable / non arable	10	1.9			
Outside image	6	1.1			
Total	532	100	100	100	100

Google Earth (2004-2011)					
Stratum	# points	%	Reallocation		
			50%	0%	100%
Arable	397	74.6	76.3	74.6	78.0
Non agriculture	117	22.0	23.7	25.4	22.0
Permanent crop / trees	0	0.0			
Not sure arable or not	0	0.0			
Border arable / non arable	18	3.4			
Total	532	100	100	100	100

- (d) Agreement between the Spot 2.5m and the GE stratifications

		GE imagery					Total
		No satellite data	Arable Land	Non agriculture	Thematic doubt	Geometric doubt	
Spot5 (22/9/2011)	No satellite data	0	6	0	0	0	6
	Arable Land	0	366	9	0	4	379
	Non agriculture	0	20	106	0	10	136
	Thematic doubt	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Geometric doubt	0	4	2	0	4	10
	Total	0	397	117	0	18	532

Assuming that the county area is of 2148.8 km², the arable land stratum is of 157,075 ha (73.1% of 2148.8 km²). The maximum error due to the reallocation of the doubtful points is of 2,222 ha i.e. 1.4% of the estimated area.

In total 50 points, i.e. 9% of the points of the 2km grid, were classified differently using GE and Spot5 images (

Table 2.14d). Most of these changes are due to differences in the registration of the respective images (Figure 2.24). However for seven of these 50 points, a real land cover change occurred between the date of the GE images (2004-2011) and summer 2011 (see Figure 2.25) Six of those seven points changed from arable to non-arable while one had the opposite change. Figure 2.25 shows one arable segment close to Mengcheng city fully converted into a large road, another point falling on a village area in 2004 appearing to be on a fully arable area in 2011, and finally an arable land in 2004 converted to woodland in 2011

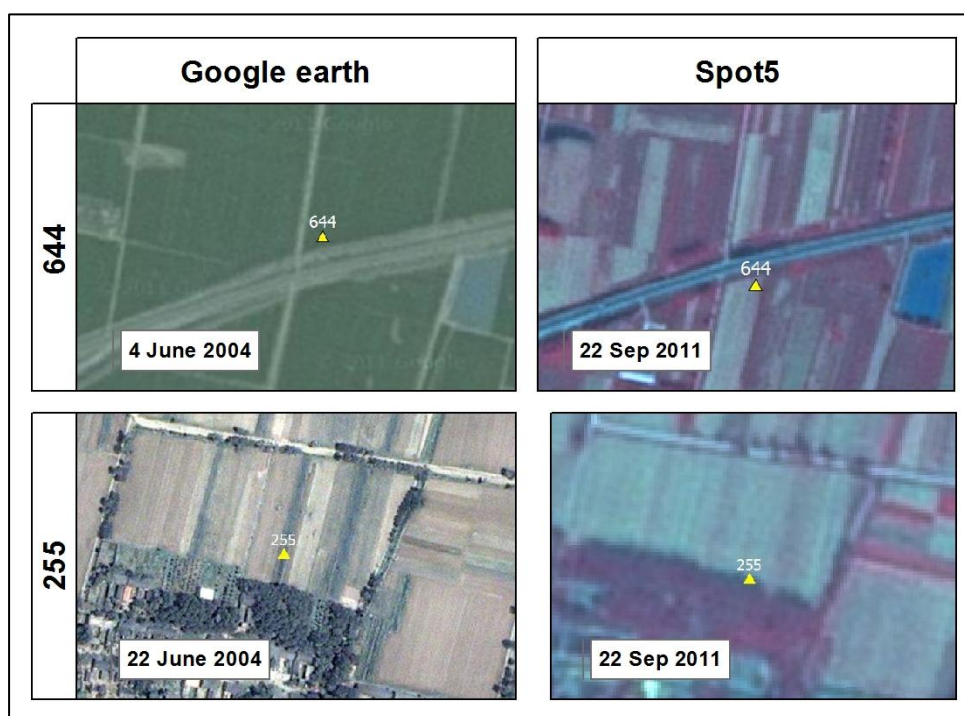


Figure 2.24 Differences in the registration of SPOT5 and GE images

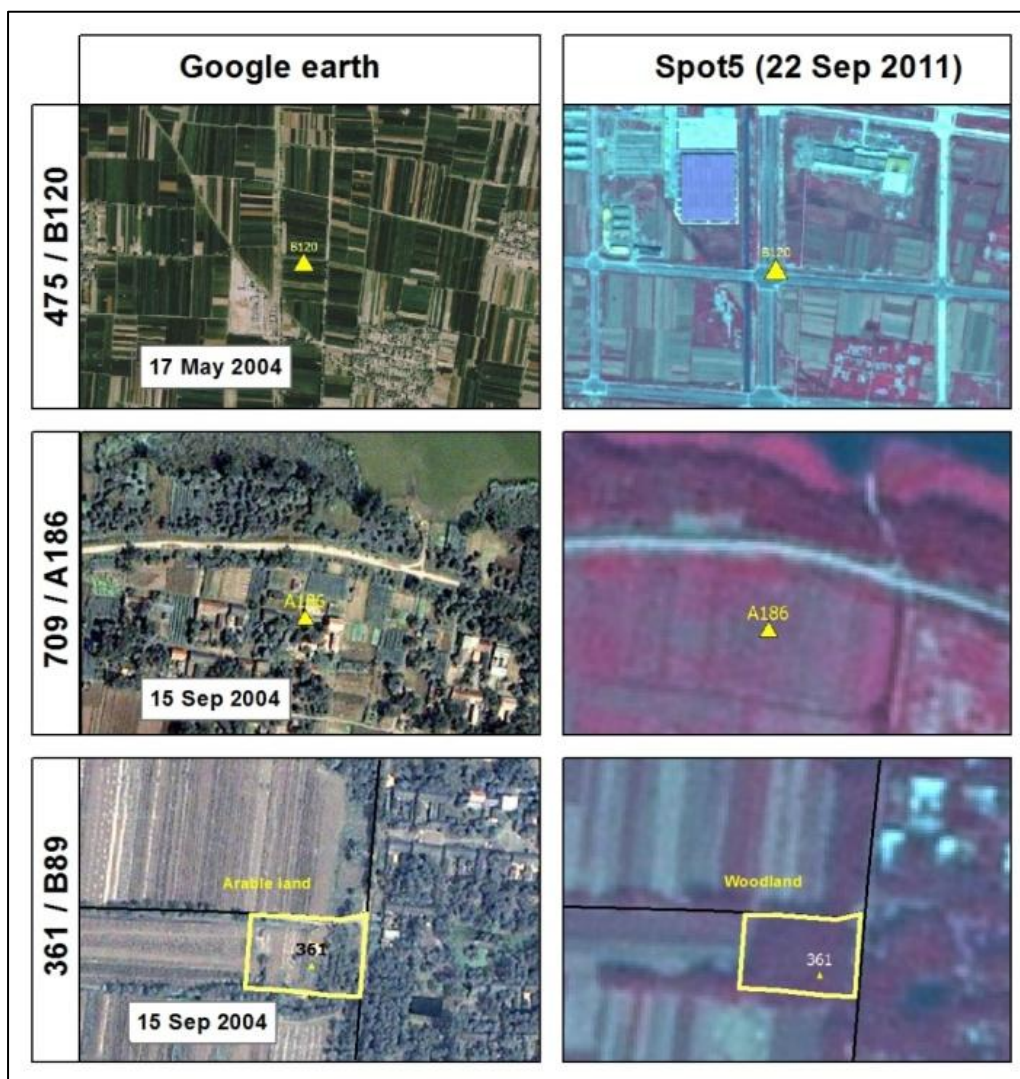


Figure 2.25 Changes in land cover between GE 2004 imagery and Spot 2011 imagery (top: conversion of arable land into built up / road area; middle: conversion of a village area into arable land, bottom: conversion of arable land to Woodland).

2.4.1.2 The Ground sampling units for validation

The database contains vector files that were produced in the design of sampling units, Raw GPS data, GPS routes, photos, sketches, etc. , that were acquired in the field investigation process, as well as the vector files of the field survey results.

Figure 2.26 shows the survey results of some sampling units.

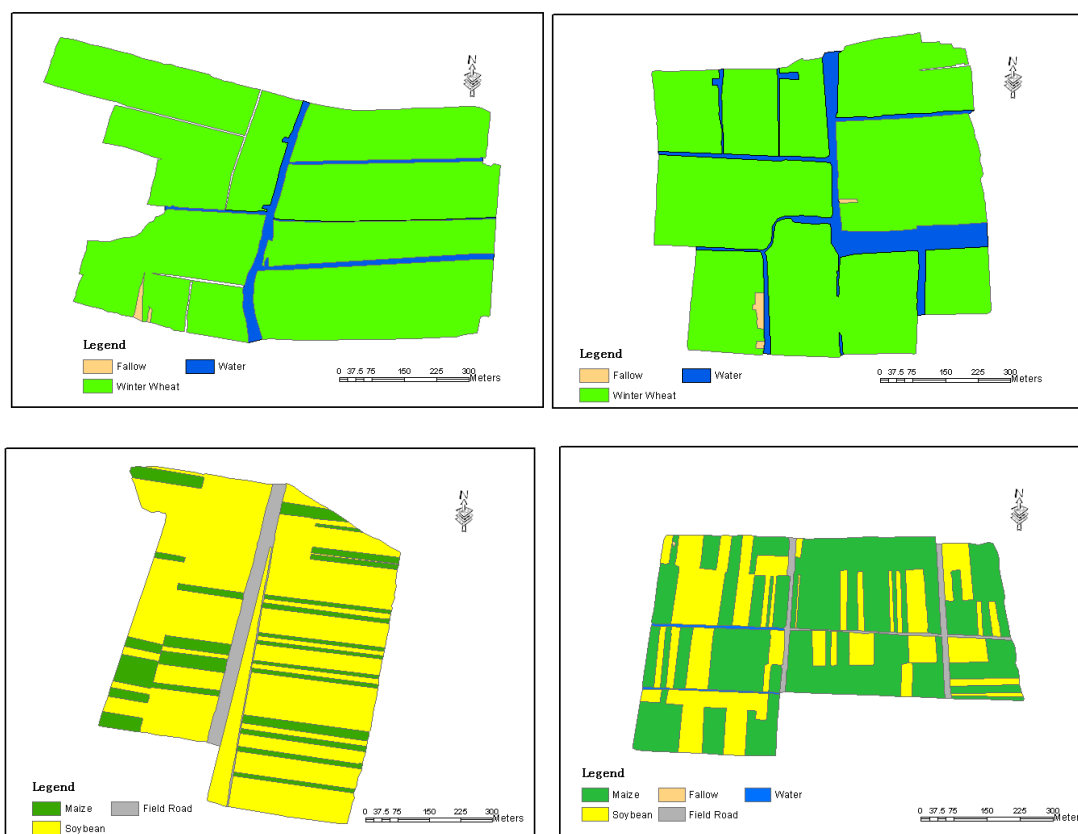


Figure 2.26 The landcover map of Mengcheng ground sampling units

Table.2.15 shows the statistics of winter wheat area from 2011 to 2012. Table.2.16 shows the statistics of maize area in 2012.

Table 2.15 The statistics of Mengcheng winter wheat area from 2011 to 2012

Code	Position	Total Area (m ²)	Winter Wheat Area (m ²)		Variation (m ²)	Reason
			2010-2011	2011-2012		
dm340012011	Mengcheng	292547.203	286622.75	286729.75	107	---
dm340022011	Xuzhai	258043.266	205787.078	245929.5	40142.422	fallow→winter wheat
dm340032011	Qianmajia	271801.016	222037.391	216337	-5700.391	winter wheat→fallow
dm340042011	Xiaochenzhuang	278382.5	266042.547	266546.219	503.672	---
dm340052011	Xiaojian	491820.375	472031.5	456682.516	-15348.984	winter wheat→fallow
dm340062011	Mengcheng	429826.367	391710.859	392450.359	739.5	---

dm340072011	Xiwang	319884.555	299642.656	296417.18	-3225.476	fallow→winter wheat
dm340082011	Caiyoufang	408184.531	380870.844	381200.188	329.344	—
dm340092011	Xiezhuang	426372.391	401127.031	396623.406	-4503.625	winter wheat→fallow
dm340102011	Licang	406786.438	404193.094	360351.563	-43841.531	winter wheat→fallow
dm340112011	Guozhuang	312162.953	293881.219	295676.203	1794.984	fallow→winter wheat
dm340122011	Mengcheng	579180.891	548962.156	507870.641	-41091.515	winter wheat→fallow
dm340132011	Mengcheng	273179.2282		260632.3277		
dm340142011	Mengcheng	286470.3538		271423.3613		
dm340152011	Mengcheng	340417.1728		259441.7532		
dm340162011	Youzhuang	301985.3323		290289.3101		
dm340172011	Limiao	269678.8655		255320.0052		
dm340182011	Zhangzhuang	213970.5007		203338.5468		
dm340192011	Maweiba	348006.565		328794.2074		
dm340202011	Liqiao,	228631.5314		189178.3574		
dm340212011	Mengcheng	176783.3058		137110.0935		
dm340222011	Mengcheng	178839.3202		168795.4408		
dm340232011	Mengcheng	117574.0675		108979.5205		
dm340242011	Mengcheng	212497.8371		202923.8692		
dm340252011	Mengcheng	260029.5092		240504.4927		
dm340262011	Mengcheng	223537.0746		205992.0852		
dm340272011	Mengcheng	333711.9745		322752.7547		
dm340282011	Mengcheng	261934.2866		240979.709		
dm340292011	Yuefang	160364.8291		155829.7661		
dm340302011	Hetong	269505.453		262222.625		

Table 2.16 The statistics of Mengcheng maize area from in 2012

Code	Position	Total Area (m ²)	Maize Area (2012) (m ²)
YM340012011	Mengcheng	292547.2	286622.8
YM340022011	Xuzhai	258043.266	231348.766
YM340032011	Qianmajia	271805.6	162509.8
YM340042011	Xiaochenzhuang	278382.5	170769.188
YM340052011	Mengcheng	491820.4	54246.5
YM340062011	Mengcheng	429826.367	388547.094
YM340072011	Guiying	319884.6	245605.6
YM340082011	Caiyoufang	395867.984	379564.141
YM340092011	Xiezhuang	426362.8	394496.6
YM340102011	Zhenqiaozhuang	406790.391	315073.141
YM340112011	Guozhuang	312163.0	273848.9
YM340122011	Mengcheng	579172.234	502318.484
YM340132011	Mengcheng	273179.2	70627.4
YM340142011	Mengcheng	286470.3538	248244.8824
YM340152011	Mengcheng	340417.2	244088.1
YM340162011	Youzhuang	301985.3323	255557.5105
YM340172011	Limiao	269678.9	254765.9
YM340182011	Zhangzhuang	213970.5007	196866.2548
YM340192011	Maweiba	348006.6	63216.0
YM340202011	Liqiao	228631.5314	176721.4995
YM340212011	Mengcheng	176783.3	133607.2
YM340222011	Mengcheng	178839.3202	162597.7499
YM340232011	Mengcheng	117574.1	100289.7
YM340242011	Mengcheng	212497.8371	183044.4988
YM340252011	Mengcheng	260029.5	226817.2
YM340262011	Mengcheng	223537.0745	203159.9537
YM340272011	Mengcheng	333712.0	296687.5

Code	Position	Total Area (m ²)	Maize Area (2012) (m ²)
YM340282011	Mengcheng	261934.2866	248557.1649
YM340292011	Mengcheng	160391.4	97598.9
YM340302011	Mengcheng	252941.787	178611.3871

2.4.2 Guoyang County

Figure 2.27 shows the survey results of some sampling units.

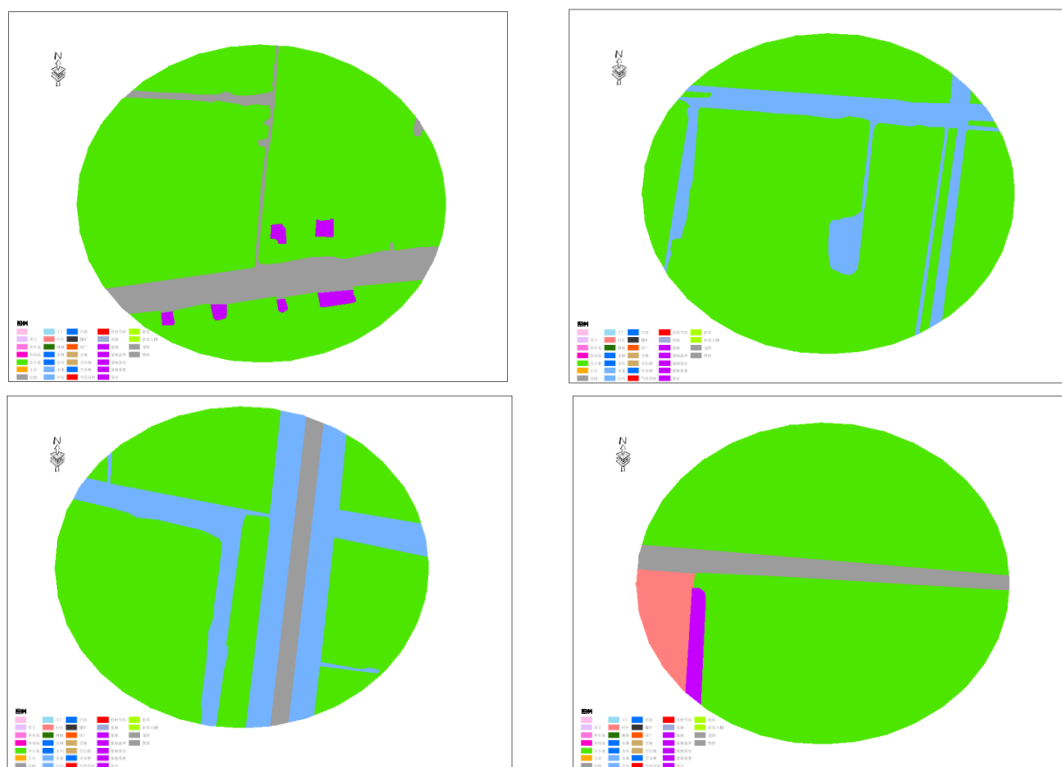


Figure 2.27 The landcover map of Guoyang ground sampling units

Table.2.17 shows the statistics of winter wheat area in 2012. Table.2.18 shows the statistics of maize and soybean area in 2012.

Table 2.17 The statistics of Guoyang winter wheat areain 2012

Unit: m²

ID	Winter Wheat	Other	Total
1	41637.682	2199.620	43837.3
2	40516.722	3287.680	43804.4
3	43842.002	0.000	43842.0
4	38183.150	5642.402	43825.6
5	34051.812	9764.340	43816.2
6	37854.147	5959.655	43813.8
7	36857.738	6932.564	43790.3
8	39459.212	4387.490	43846.7
9	31908.593	11881.709	43790.3
10	41325.129	2507.473	43832.6
11	39167.809	4669.493	43837.3
12	15507.792	28298.959	43806.8
13	41755.183	2058.619	43813.8
14	41296.929	2538.023	43835.0
15	42967.794	843.658	43811.5
16	40627.173	3184.279	43811.5
17	27264.950	16551.202	43816.2
18	40902.125	2899.927	43802.1
19	42048.936	1739.016	43788.0
20	38472.203	5346.299	43818.5
21	39532.062	4298.189	43830.3
22	40291.119	3525.032	43816.2
23	35755.578	8062.924	43818.5
24	29201.368	14617.134	43818.5
25	28872.365	14927.337	43799.7
26	35269.123	8544.678	43813.8
27	40307.570	3480.382	43788.0
28	37567.444	6260.457	43827.9
29	39329.961	4504.991	43835.0
30	41395.630	2446.372	43842.0
31	40293.469	3541.482	43835.0
32	26212.140	17578.161	43790.3
33	40631.873	3198.379	43830.3
34	43238.046	571.055	43809.1
35	39614.313	4180.688	43795.0
36	41618.882	2206.670	43825.6
37	35426.575	8363.727	43790.3
38	19122.125	24729.277	43851.4
39	40476.771	3362.881	43839.7
40	39419.261	4415.690	43835.0
41	40939.725	2899.927	43839.7
42	42937.244	850.708	43788.0
43	42972.494	862.458	43835.0
44	32778.101	11023.951	43802.1
45	16628.752	27182.699	43811.5
46	37127.990	6676.411	43804.4
47	34730.968	9066.383	43797.4
48	42213.437	1579.214	43792.7
49	41990.185	1837.717	43827.9
50	38241.901	5590.701	43832.6
51	36610.986	7191.066	43802.1
52	24444.924	19378.278	43823.2
53	41306.329	2533.323	43839.7
54	41945.535	1901.167	43846.7

ID	Winter Wheat	Other	Total	ID	Winter Wheat	Other	Total
55	29810.023	14001.428	43811.5	83	28597.412	15237.540	43835.0
56	40768.174	3059.728	43827.9	84	30475.079	13305.822	43780.9
57	38469.853	5325.149	43795.0	85	43804.402	0.000	43804.4
58	30529.130	13305.822	43835.0	86	31896.842	11909.909	43806.8
59	37529.844	6305.108	43835.0	87	41400.330	2401.722	43802.1
60	0.000	43816.152	43816.2	88	34587.617	9237.935	43825.6
61	29929.874	13876.877	43806.8	89	31250.587	12558.515	43809.1
62	39647.214	4190.088	43837.3	90	35520.576	8323.776	43844.4
63	40681.223	3130.229	43811.5	91	42810.343	1026.959	43837.3
64	25826.737	16236.299	42063.0	92	43071.195	728.507	43799.7
65	39705.964	2373.522	42079.5	93	35403.075	8413.077	43816.2
66	43477.749	314.903	43792.7	94	43792.652	0.000	43792.7
67	37454.643	6366.208	43820.9	95	35732.078	8086.424	43818.5
68	34268.014	9555.188	43823.2	96	42119.436	1656.765	43776.2
69	38568.554	5233.498	43802.1	97	31053.185	12786.467	43839.7
70	40573.122	3231.280	43804.4	98	41407.380	2382.922	43790.3
71	24931.379	18898.873	43830.3	99	43183.996	643.906	43827.9
72	28580.962	15246.940	43827.9	100	32420.897	11409.355	43830.3
73	31567.839	12271.813	43839.7	101	19843.582	23937.319	43780.9
74	38079.749	5722.302	43802.1	102	42514.240	1299.562	43813.8
75	40328.720	3468.632	43797.4	103	37377.093	6455.509	43832.6
76	40826.924	3003.328	43830.3	104	26595.194	17223.308	43818.5
77	35419.525	8354.327	43773.9	105	39992.667	3802.335	43795.0
78	38949.257	4852.794	43802.1	106	41186.478	2610.874	43797.4
79	35706.227	8133.425	43839.7	107	9432.986	34369.065	43802.1
80	37308.942	6504.860	43813.8	108	41130.077	2669.624	43799.7
81	40810.474	2972.777	43783.3	109	42298.038	1499.314	43797.4
82	41607.132	2225.470	43832.6	110	40561.372	3240.680	43802.1

ID	Winter Wheat	Other	Total	ID	Winter Wheat	Other	Total
111	39752.965	4030.287	43783.3	139	36289.033	7529.469	43818.5
112	38314.751	5506.100	43820.9	140	42612.941	1217.311	43830.3
113	37518.094	6307.458	43825.6	141	40956.176	2843.526	43799.7
114	39863.416	3962.136	43825.6	142	40638.923	3144.329	43783.3
115	28823.014	14990.787	43813.8	143	41759.883	2051.569	43811.5
116	37323.042	6467.259	43790.3	144	37727.246	6084.206	43811.5
117	37189.091	6624.711	43813.8	145	20485.138	23286.364	43771.5
118	37280.742	6516.610	43797.4	146	42206.387	1590.965	43797.4
119	40502.621	3311.180	43813.8	147	42439.039	1348.912	43788.0
120	40892.725	2909.327	43802.1	148	43122.895	690.906	43813.8
121	41708.182	2091.519	43799.7	149	40152.468	3666.034	43818.5
122	41809.233	2023.369	43832.6	150	42283.938	1508.714	43792.7
123	43339.097	479.404	43818.5	151	34117.613	9679.739	43797.4
124	23446.165	20332.386	43778.6	152	42126.486	1668.515	43795.0
125	22532.007	21305.295	43837.3	153	36227.932	7595.270	43823.2
126	42587.091	1212.611	43799.7	154	40406.271	3398.131	43804.4
127	41550.731	2246.621	43797.4	155	30667.781	13113.120	43780.9
128	41193.528	2594.424	43788.0	156	28649.113	15155.289	43804.4
129	39832.865	3964.486	43797.4	157	37435.843	6363.858	43799.7
130	29213.118	14614.784	43827.9	158	34373.765	9421.236	43795.0
131	41583.631	2244.271	43827.9	159	39983.267	3821.135	43804.4
132	36667.386	7141.715	43809.1	160	18123.366	25692.786	43816.2
133	30409.279	13385.723	43795.0	161	27502.302	16292.699	43795.0
134	34279.764	9512.887	43792.7	162	39334.661	4450.941	43785.6
135	33718.109	10105.093	43823.2	163	42356.788	1466.413	43823.2
136	39069.108	4728.243	43797.4	164	31074.335	12694.816	43769.2
137	39644.864	4157.188	43802.1	165	42688.141	1092.760	43780.9
138	41694.082	2117.369	43811.5	166	43773.851	0.000	43773.9

ID	Winter Wheat	Other	Total
167	41339.229	2460.473	43799.7
168	39414.561	4378.090	43792.7
169	31657.140	12166.062	43823.2
170	27920.606	15843.845	43764.5
171	42469.589	1332.462	43802.1
172	42439.039	1353.612	43792.7
173	36937.639	6878.513	43816.2
174	36437.084	7346.167	43783.3
175	42305.088	1504.014	43809.1
176	38509.803	5280.498	43790.3
177	32416.197	11357.654	43773.9
178	35978.830	7804.422	43783.3
179	36714.387	7085.315	43799.7
180	42138.236	1633.265	43771.5
181	43118.195	660.356	43778.6
182	38702.505	5101.897	43804.4
183	40883.325	2888.176	43771.5
184	42248.687	1562.764	43811.5
185	43804.402	0.000	43804.4
186	37790.697	6004.305	43795.0
187	40514.371	3271.230	43785.6
188	33598.258	10180.293	43778.6
189	42295.688	1492.264	43788.0
190	43581.150	223.252	43804.4
191	41153.577	2643.774	43797.4
192	41647.082	2117.369	43764.5
193	41200.578	2566.224	43766.8

Table 2.18 The statistics of Guoyang Soybean and maize area in 2012

Unit: m²

ID	Soybean	Maize	Other	Total
1	41637.682	0.000	2199.620	43837
2	40540.222	0.000	3264.180	43804
3	36911.788	6260.457	669.756	43842
4	38183.150	0.000	5642.402	43826
5	26837.246	7162.866	9816.040	43816
6	15373.841	22480.306	5959.655	43814
7	36857.738	0.000	6932.564	43790
8	39435.712	0.000	4410.990	43847
9	31603.090	0.000	12187.212	43790
10	41325.129	0.000	2507.473	43833
11	493.505	38916.357	4427.441	43837
12	16553.552	2220.770	25032.430	43807
13	40519.072	573.405	2721.325	43814
14	36798.987	4497.941	2538.023	43835
15	8373.127	33285.705	2152.620	43811
16	31476.189	9148.634	3186.629	43811
17	26635.144	472.354	16708.653	43816
18	40902.125	0.000	2899.927	43802
19	20158.485	21890.451	1739.016	43788
20	38491.003	0.000	5327.499	43819
21	35706.227	3825.835	4298.189	43830
22	39557.913	733.207	3525.032	43816
23	34216.314	1539.264	8062.924	43819
24	29201.368	0.000	14617.134	43819
25	28872.365	0.000	14927.337	43800
26	35196.273	169.202	8448.327	43814

ID	Soybean	Maize	Other	Total	ID	Soybean	Maize	Other	Total
27	38566.204	1741.366	3480.382	43788	55	23483.765	6314.508	14013.178	43811
28	32825.101	4742.343	6260.457	43828	56	40768.174	0.000	3059.728	43828
29	39329.961	0.000	4504.991	43835	57	38469.853	0.000	5325.149	43795
30	41395.630	0.000	2446.372	43842	58	25880.787	4648.343	13305.822	43835
31	40293.469	0.000	3541.482	43835	59	26651.594	10878.250	6305.108	43835
32	25685.736	526.405	17578.161	43790	60	0.000	0.000	43816.152	43816
33	40631.873	0.000	3198.379	43830	61	29116.767	733.207	13956.778	43807
34	43238.046	0.000	571.055	43809	62	39647.214	0.000	4190.088	43837
35	38695.455	918.858	4180.688	43795	63	35579.326	5101.897	3130.229	43811
36	41618.882	0.000	2206.670	43826	64	22865.710	9101.633	10095.693	42063
37	35426.575	0.000	8363.727	43790	65	25941.888	13764.076	2373.522	42079
38	18130.416	991.709	24729.277	43851	66	43447.198	0.000	345.453	43793
39	39062.058	1414.713	3362.881	43840	67	33908.461	3532.082	6380.309	43821
40	9663.289	29755.973	4415.690	43835	68	33297.455	970.559	9555.188	43823
41	26183.940	14755.785	2899.927	43840	69	38568.554	0.000	5233.498	43802
42	41374.479	1562.764	850.708	43788	70	39541.463	1833.017	2429.922	43804
43	39879.866	3092.628	862.458	43835	71	22717.658	2213.720	18898.873	43830
44	1539.264	30945.084	11317.704	43802	72	33718.109	3031.528	7078.265	43828
45	9879.491	6749.262	27182.699	43811	73	31497.339	70.501	12271.813	43840
46	34855.520	0.000	8948.882	43804	74	33854.410	4225.339	5722.302	43802
47	34730.968	0.000	9066.383	43797	75	40331.070	0.000	3466.282	43797
48	41987.835	225.602	1579.214	43793	76	36925.889	0.000	6904.363	43830
49	41428.530	556.955	1842.417	43828	77	32061.344	3358.181	8354.327	43774
50	25476.584	12765.317	5590.701	43833	78	38949.257	0.000	4852.794	43802
51	30176.627	6434.359	7191.066	43802	79	35217.423	488.804	8133.425	43840
52	23587.166	876.558	19359.478	43823	80	35029.421	2279.521	6504.860	43814
53	41306.329	0.000	2533.323	43840	81	39120.809	1689.665	2972.777	43783
54	41945.535	0.000	1901.167	43847	82	41607.132	0.000	2225.470	43833

ID	Soybean	Maize	Other	Total	ID	Soybean	Maize	Other	Total
83	26270.891	2326.521	15237.540	43835	111	14429.132	25323.832	4030.287	43783
84	30475.079	1099.810	12206.012	43781	112	24567.125	13747.626	5506.100	43821
85	43804.402	0.000	0.000	43804	113	37518.094	0.000	6307.458	43826
86	30827.583	0.000	12979.169	43807	114	39936.266	0.000	3889.286	43826
87	40643.623	756.707	2401.722	43802	115	18804.872	183.302	24825.628	43814
88	32101.294	2427.572	9296.685	43826	116	36686.186	0.000	7104.115	43790
89	31250.587	0.000	12558.515	43809	117	36448.834	1424.113	5940.854	43814
90	35520.576	0.000	8323.776	43844	118	36751.987	411.254	6634.111	43797
91	41898.534	911.808	1026.959	43837	119	39980.917	521.705	3311.180	43814
92	43071.195	0.000	728.507	43800	120	40892.725	0.000	2909.327	43802
93	35403.075	0.000	8413.077	43816	121	41708.182	0.000	2091.519	43800
94	43505.949	0.000	286.703	43793	122	41809.233	0.000	2023.369	43833
95	35473.575	0.000	8344.927	43819	123	43339.097	0.000	479.404	43819
96	42119.436	0.000	1656.765	43776	124	22971.461	474.704	20332.386	43779
97	29986.275	0.000	13853.377	43840	125	22532.007	0.000	21305.295	43837
98	36552.235	3799.985	3438.082	43790	126	42587.091	0.000	1212.611	43800
99	35309.074	7874.922	643.906	43828	127	41341.579	390.104	2065.669	43797
100	31833.392	0.000	11996.860	43830	128	41193.528	0.000	2594.424	43788
101	20811.791	1139.760	21829.350	43781	129	39832.865	0.000	3964.486	43797
102	42514.240	0.000	1299.562	43814	130	22327.555	6885.563	14614.784	43828
103	32390.347	4986.746	6455.509	43833	131	40450.921	1132.710	2244.271	43828
104	26595.194	0.000	17223.308	43819	132	36667.386	0.000	7141.715	43809
105	39912.766	0.000	3882.236	43795	133	22085.503	8323.776	13385.723	43795
106	11475.155	29711.322	2610.874	43797	134	30143.726	4389.840	9259.085	43793
107	9432.986	0.000	34369.065	43802	135	32263.446	0.000	11559.756	43823
108	41130.077	0.000	2669.624	43800	136	38648.454	0.000	5148.897	43797
109	42298.038	0.000	1499.314	43797	137	40878.625	0.000	2923.427	43802
110	40561.372	0.000	3240.680	43802	138	41694.082	0.000	2117.369	43811

ID	Soybean	Maize	Other	Total	ID	Soybean	Maize	Other	Total
139	36289.033	0.000	7529.469	43819	167	41332.179	0.000	2467.523	43800
140	42521.290	0.000	1308.962	43830	168	39872.816	0.000	3919.836	43793
141	40956.176	0.000	2843.526	43800	169	31478.539	0.000	12344.663	43823
142	40613.072	0.000	3170.179	43783	170	26064.089	0.000	17700.362	43764
143	39720.064	2051.569	2039.819	43811	171	42469.589	0.000	1332.462	43802
144	35823.728	1821.267	6030.155	43675	172	42439.039	0.000	1353.612	43793
145	18736.722	5421.500	19613.280	43772	173	37106.840	0.000	6709.312	43816
146	37130.340	3003.328	3663.684	43797	174	35153.972	0.000	8629.279	43783
147	42439.039	0.000	1348.912	43788	175	42575.340	0.000	1233.761	43809
148	43122.895	0.000	690.906	43814	176	3633.133	33532.457	6624.711	43790
149	40152.468	0.000	3666.034	43819	177	32416.197	0.000	11357.654	43774
150	42283.938	0.000	1508.714	43793	178	30754.732	5224.098	7804.422	43783
151	34117.613	0.000	9679.739	43797	179	29260.118	7454.268	7085.315	43800
152	42126.486	0.000	1668.515	43795	180	42138.236	0.000	1633.265	43772
153	35443.025	1001.109	7379.068	43823	181	43118.195	0.000	660.356	43779
154	35992.930	4413.340	3398.131	43804	182	39527.362	0.000	4277.039	43804
155	19422.928	11240.153	13117.820	43781	183	39898.666	0.000	3872.836	43772
156	10246.094	18403.019	15155.289	43804	184	42248.687	0.000	1562.764	43811
157	37435.843	0.000	6363.858	43800	185	43804.402	0.000	0.000	43804
158	34834.369	324.303	8636.329	43795	186	37790.697	0.000	6004.305	43795
159	39983.267	0.000	3821.135	43804	187	36516.985	3997.387	3271.230	43786
160	18123.366	0.000	25692.786	43816	188	33598.258	0.000	10180.293	43779
161	27502.302	0.000	16292.699	43795	189	42295.688	0.000	1492.264	43788
162	39334.661	0.000	4450.941	43786	190	43581.150	0.000	223.252	43804
163	42079.486	0.000	1743.716	43823	191	41153.577	0.000	2643.774	43797
164	30235.377	838.958	12694.816	43769	192	40906.825	740.257	2117.369	43764
165	42688.141	0.000	1092.760	43781	193	41200.578	0.000	2566.224	43767
166	43773.851	0.000	0.000	43774					

3 THE CROP AREA SPATIAL EXTRAPOLATION MODEL

Because the sampling fraction of Guoyang was too small, the ground sampling units were used for interpretation and validation. The spatial extrapolation model of Guoyang County had been build. The details will be described in the D51.2. Here we summarise the essence of the approach.

3.1 The spatial extrapolation model

The specific process is to calculate the average value of crop area within samples and total samples separately. The total crop area of Guoyang county are calculated by multiplying the above two value. In the calculation process, assuming the mean value of the ground sampling units is approximately equal to the mean value of the population. This assumption will be discussed further in the following research.

According to the steps of design of ground sampling units, the calculation formula is as follows:

$$\bar{s}_w = \sum_{i=1}^{193} s_i \quad (3.1)$$

$$N = \frac{S_{\text{county}}}{S_c} \times 83.5\% \quad (3.2)$$

$$\hat{S} = \bar{s}_w \times N \quad (3.3)$$

where,

s_i is area of target crop of each ground sample;

\bar{s}_w is the average value of crop area of all ground samples;

N is total samples of crops;

S_{county} is total area of Guoyang county;

S_c is the mean area of ground sampling units;

\hat{S} is the total area of crops;

83.5% is a coefficient which is calculated in the third step of the sampling unit design. It means that 83.5% of total area is cropland in Guoyang county.

3.2 Accuracy assessment on the spatial extrapolation

The measurement results of 193 ground samples were utilized to extrapolate the main crop area of Guoyang county. By using above Model, the extrapolation of winter wheat, soybean, and maize area of 2012 was conducted, and the result of the extrapolation is illustrated as follows:

Table3.1 Extrapolation result of 2012 main crop area of Guoyang county

Crop	Total Area (kha)	Hard Classification result (k ha)
Winter Wheat	148.61	148.95
Soybean	136.79	143.31
Maize	11.73	10.16

The hard classification result of the winter wheat area was extracted from RapidEye image using SAM classifier. The area of soybean and maize was extracted from Liss3 image using NN classifier. Because many tree and other land-cover were misclassified as maize. So we used the result of ground sampling units and the result of visual interpretation to modified the result of the maize area.

Relative error (r) and coefficient of variation of population total estimator (CV) are selected as indices to evaluate the results of population extrapolation and error estimation. Relative error and CV are calculated according to (3.4) and (3.5), respectively.

$$r = \frac{|S - \hat{S}|}{S} \times 100\% \quad (3.4)$$

$$CV(\hat{S}) = \frac{\sqrt{v(\hat{S})^2}}{\hat{S}} \times 100\% \quad (3.5)$$

Where S is the truth value of population total, which is hard classification result extracted from remote sensing data. $CV(\hat{S})$ is coefficient of variation of population total estimator. Table 3.2 shows the relative error (r) and $CV(\hat{S})$ of main crop area.

Table3.2 Relative error (r) and $CV(\hat{S})$ of 2012 main crop area

Crop	Relative error (r) %	$CV(\hat{S})$
Winter Wheat	0.23	3.10
Soybean	4.55	6.56
Maize	15.45	76.49

It is found that the relative error and CV of winter wheat area are less than 5%. For soybean area, the relative error is small but the CV is more than 5%. For maize area, the relative error and CV are higher.

4 CONCLUSIONS

In Mengcheng County, the ground sampling units were designed based on grid-based random sampling method. All units has physical boundaries. We surveyed 83 units. The average area of units was 29.77 hectare. Every day we could investigate 4-6 units. Because the number of units was too small, the ground sampling units only used as validation data. In the next study, we will further explore the optimal number and size of ground sampling unit, and build the crop area extrapolation model based on the ground sampling units with physical boundaries.

In Guoyang County, the ground sampling units were designed based on systematic sampling. A total of 193 sampling units were selected according to the rule of sampling at equal interval. Every sampling unit had circle boundary. The average area of each unit was 4.62 hectare. Combined with the physical boundary, all ground sampling units have the same size and shape. It can help us to save the field survey time, at the same time can accurately calculate the number of total samples. Field survey was conducted in April and July, respectively, each less than 20 days.

The spatial extrapolation model and the sampling fraction is suitable for calculated the area of winter wheat and soybean. Each crop area accounted for 60% of the of Guoyang total area. This conclusion requires further verification. For maize area, the relative error and CV is too high. One reason is that maize area was less than 10% of total area of Guoyang area. The ground sampling units and the spatial extrapolation model need to be redesigned.

In conclusion, the approach of ground sampling applied in Guoyang has a relative high time efficiency in comparison with what was applied in Mengcheng. However this temporal efficiency was obtained at expenses of the estimation accuracy. A third approach will be designed and applied in the third implementation year and a cost efficiency analysis will be made and described in the deliverable D55.1.