



Umwelt-Geräte-Technik GmbH



NOVEL  
LYSIMETER-TECHNIQUES

[www.ugt-online.de](http://www.ugt-online.de)

**Bucarest/Romania**  
**2015-03-17**

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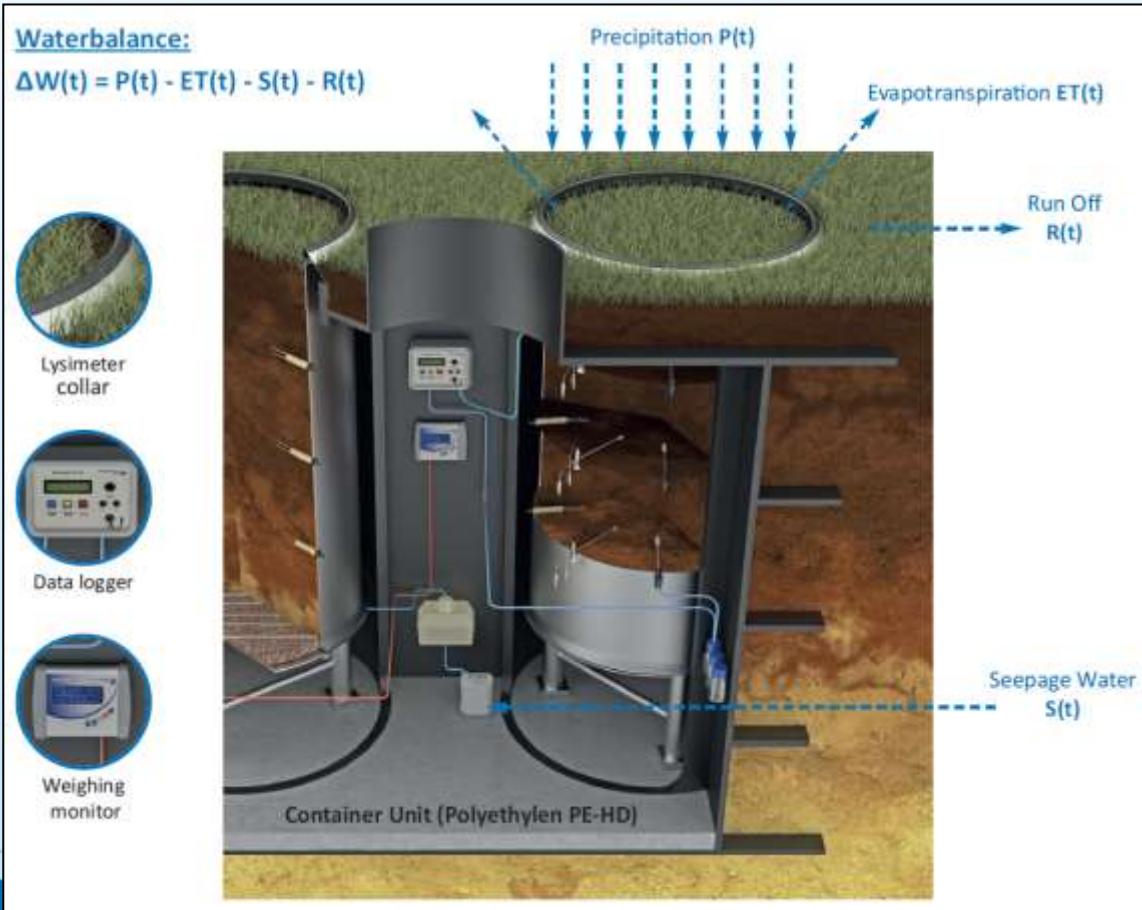
# **LYSIMETER MEASURING AND CONTROL TECHNOLOGY**

Precision, functionality and persistence

# Applications of lysimeters

- Lysimeters are used to:
  - Monitor the movement, the storage and the degradation of contaminants in the soil and the soil water
  - Monitor the correlation between the soil, environmental influences and plant parameters such as root growth or harvest
  - Determine the water balance under natural or controlled conditions

# Water balance and lysimeters



- Soil column is cut off from its surroundings to enable an insight
- Boundary conditions are influenced as little as possible

# Precision weighing system



- Load triangle with load cells

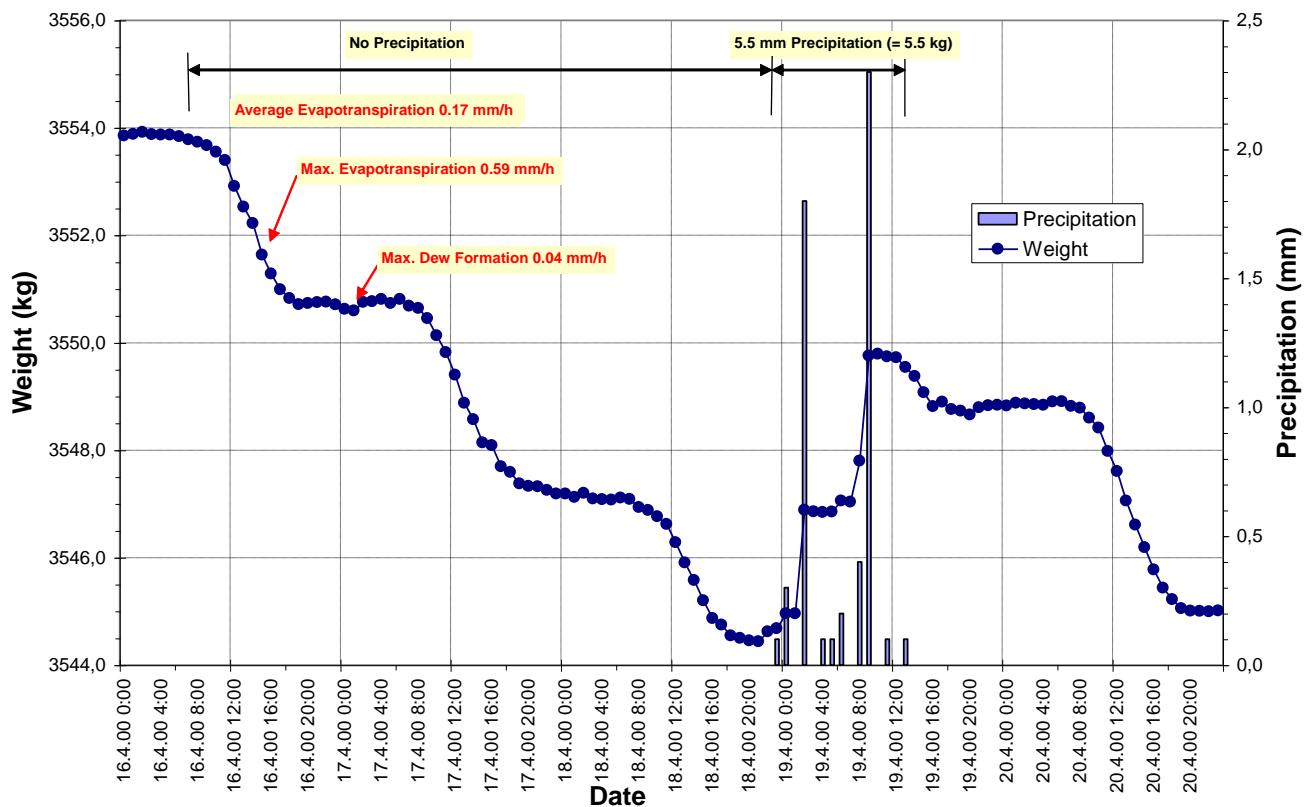


- Weighing monitor

# Precision weighing system

- Total weight: up to 5,5t
- Resolution: 100 g
- Accuracy: 10 g
  
- All kinds of precipitation can be seen in the weighing data
  - For a lysimeter with a surface area of 1 m<sup>2</sup> 1 mm rainfall accords to 1 L and means a weight increase of 1 Kg
  - Dew as a weight increase in the early morning hours and also rime in winter

# Precision weighing system



- Example of the diurnal weight change of a gravitation lysimeter planted with grass

# Lysimeter tensiometer TENSIO 160



- Designed for the use in lysimeters
- Installed horizontally
- Can be refilled and maintained in horizontal position

← **No deinstallation necessary!**

A teal-colored curved arrow points from the left towards the text "No deinstallation necessary!". To the right of the text is a teal exclamation mark icon consisting of a vertical line with a small circle at the bottom.

- ✓ Measurement doesn't need to be interrupted
- ✓ Contact between soil and ceramic is not disturbed
- ✓ Soil bedding is not disturbed
- ✓ Automatic refill is possible

# UMP-1 combined soil moisture, conductivity and temperature sensor

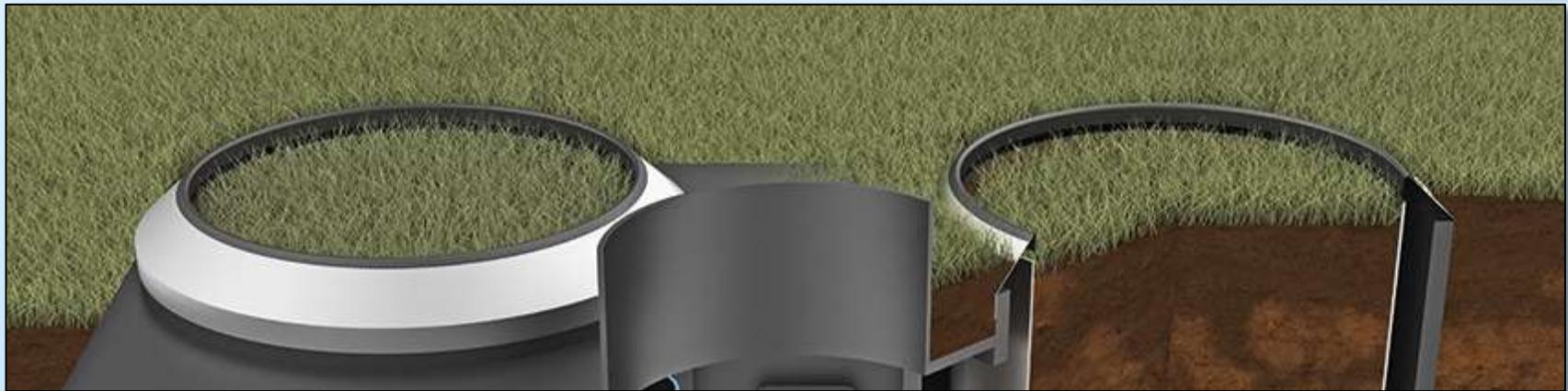


- Measuring range water content: 0 ... 100 %
- Measuring range permitivity  $\epsilon$ : 0 ... 80
- Measuring range conductivity: 0,001 ... 5 mS/cm  
Optional upgrade to 40 mS/cm
- Measuring range temperature: -20 ... +60
- Accuracy water content:  $\pm 2\%$
- Accuracy conductivity :  $\pm 1\%$
- Accuracy temperature:  $\pm 0,2^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Measurement Volume: 1000 ml



# Waterproof lysimeter collar

- Prevent dirt and water entering the lysimeter station
- Don't cause oasis effects, barely seen after installation



# Sensor grommet and isolation



- Pressure water proof
- Available in different sizes and shapes for different sensors
- Easy to install / uninstall

# Controlled lower boundary condition



- Tension at the lower boundary can be controlled according to present tension values outside the lysimeter station or according to scenarios
- Ceramic cups with a bubble point of 1 bar

# Sensor grommet and isolation

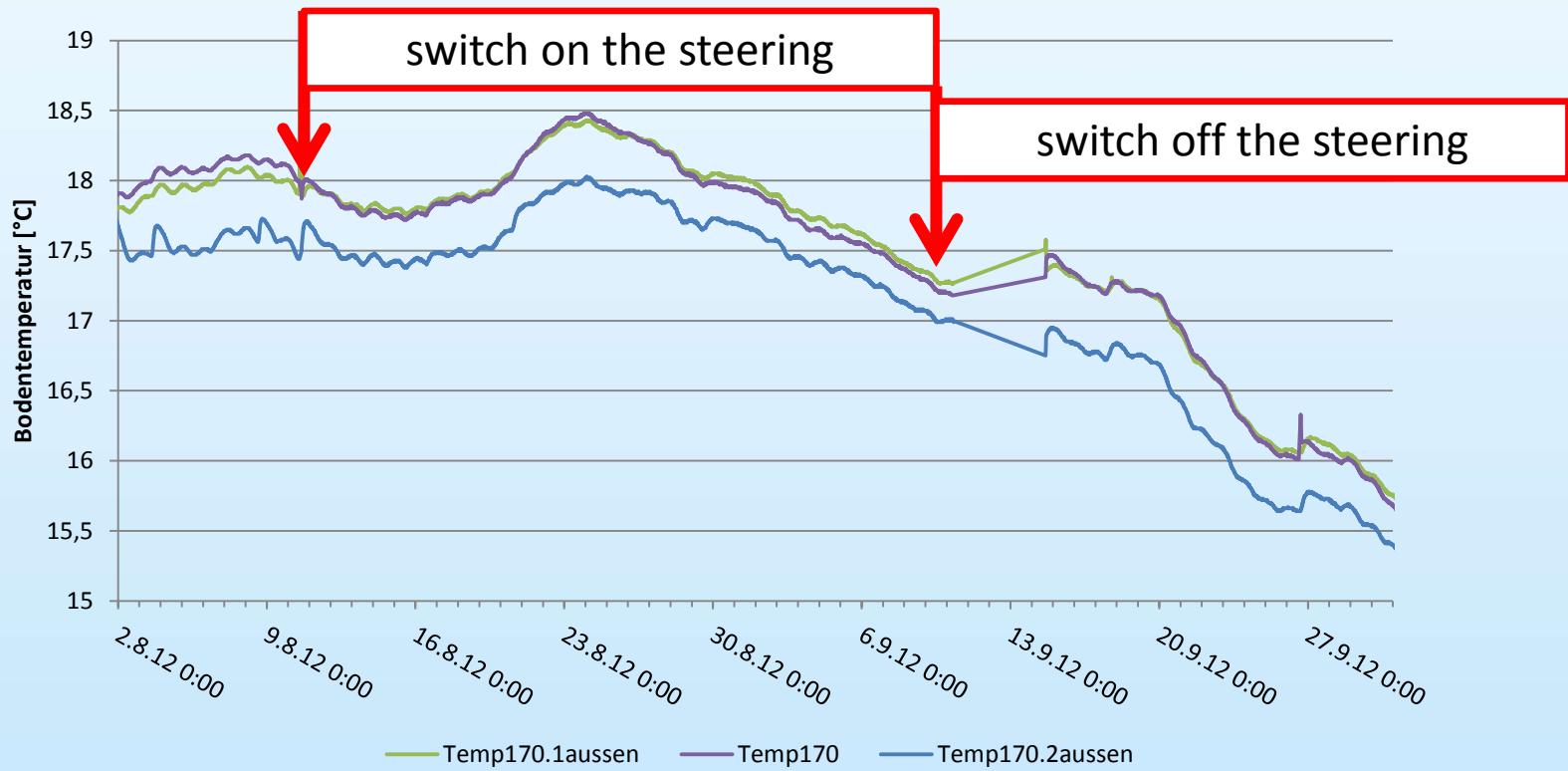


- Isolation layers or PE-vessels prevent heat exchange between surrounding air and soil in the lysimeter
-  **Prevent horizontal temperature gradients**
- Aim is an undisturbed natural temperature profile in the soil

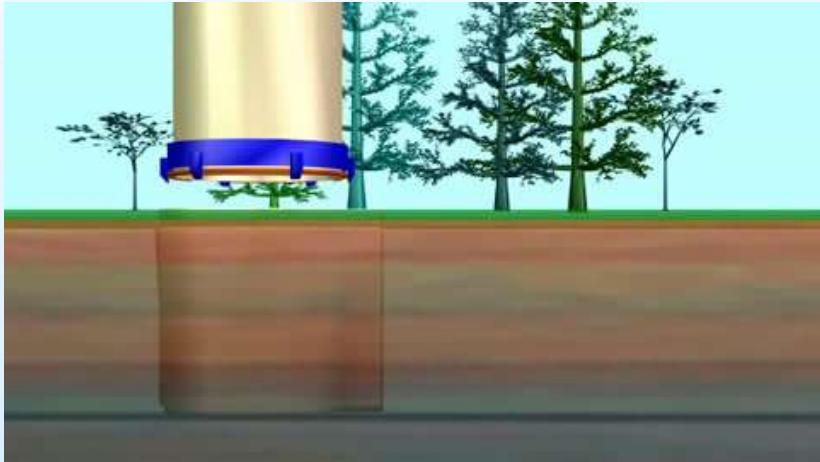
# Controlled lower boundary condition



# Controlled lower boundary condition







Function principle:

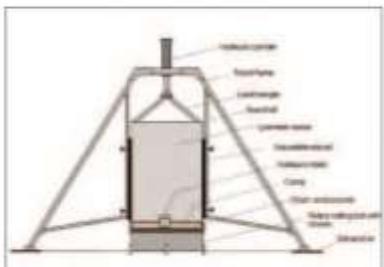
- *Excavation and base cutting of the soil monolith*

Technological operation:

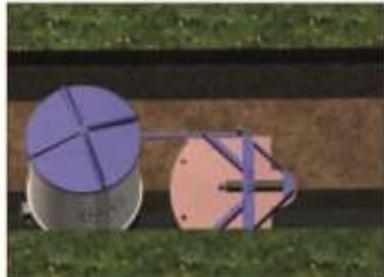
- *Undisturbed monolith excavation  
(2m<sup>2</sup>; 2,5m height)*



Graphic of the technology for obtaining large undisturbed soil monoliths



Schematic of the technology for obtaining large undisturbed soil monoliths



Scheme of the cutting plate and hydraulic pushing device



It is also possible to cut soil monoliths with already grown vegetation like here in a barley field.



The soil profile is clearly visible in the excavation pit.

**EXCAVATION TECHNOLOGIES  
FOR DIFFERENT SOIL COLUMNS  
AND MONOLITHS**

The UGT GmbH adapted this excavation technique to provide you solutions for all sizes of monoliths and for all kinds of soil. Standard sizes are soil columns with surface areas of 0,03 m<sup>2</sup>, 0,5 m<sup>2</sup>, 1 m<sup>2</sup> and 2 m<sup>2</sup>.



Cutting of a 0,03 m<sup>2</sup> (Ø 20 cm) laboratory soil column



Excavation technology for a 0,03 m<sup>2</sup> (Ø 20 cm) soil monolith.



Excavation technology for a 0,07 m<sup>2</sup> (Ø 30 cm) soil monolith on airport ground.



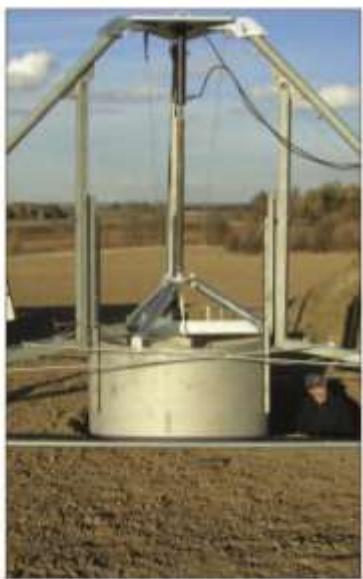
Excavation technology for a 0,5 m<sup>2</sup> soil monolith



Cutting of a 1 m<sup>2</sup> soil monolith



Excavation Technology for a 1 m<sup>2</sup> soil monolith



Excavation Technology for a 2 m<sup>2</sup> soil monolith

The base of small soil columns is cut off with steel fins, for the large monoliths a cut-off plate is used.



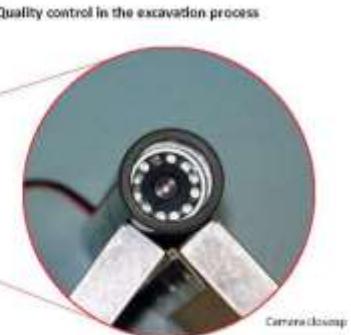
Base cutting with steel fins of a 5.5 m<sup>3</sup> soil monolith



Chain and drive chain



A wireless camera monitors the cutting process to accomplish a well-controlled cutting process



Camera closeup



Base cutting with a cut-off plate of a 2 m<sup>3</sup> soil monolith



Turning of a 2 m<sup>3</sup> soil monolith



PMMA cartridges make the soil column and its layers visible. Additionally computer tomography enables to even look inside the soil columns to find cracks or roots.



Layered soil in a PMMA cartridge





Technological operation:

- *Turning around the 2 m<sup>2</sup> soil monolith  
(11,5 t)*

# Advantages of UGT excavation technologies

- Well visible soil profile
  - the excavation pit is not damaged
- Possibility of soil mapping after lifting the monolith out of the pit
  - visible soil horizons or soil layers
- Minimal damage of the surrounding area by using the excavation tools
  - no need to dig out the area around the vessel



## 1-, 2- u. 4-fould - PE-HD Lysimeter container stations

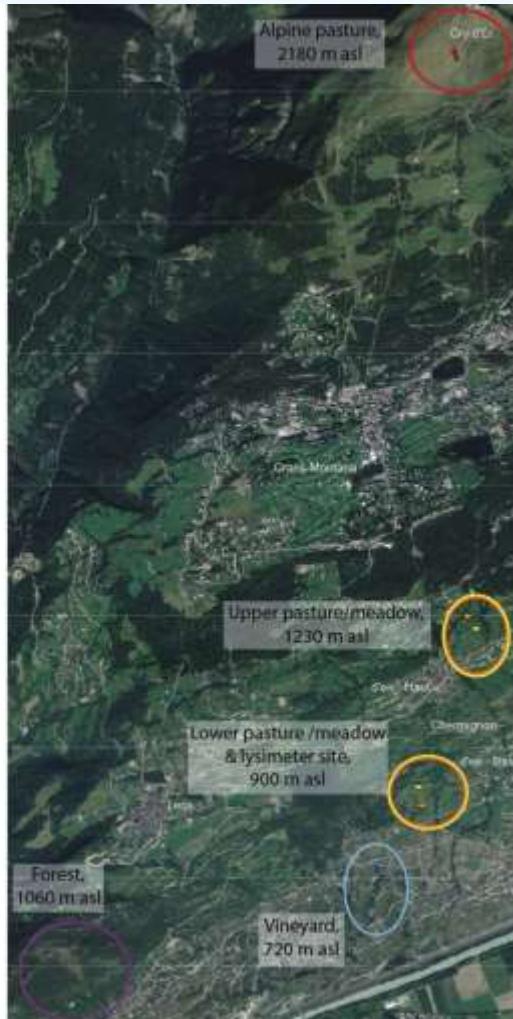
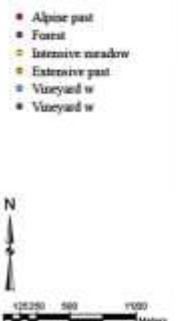


Dimensions :

- Height: 1,5 m ... 4,0 m
- Length: 2,5 m ... 3,5 m
- Width: 2,5 m ... 3,5 m
- Materials: PE-HD 80 / 100

Weight of the station: 500... 1500 kg









## Slope weighing lysimeter



$$ET = P - R_{surf} - R_{perco} - dS$$

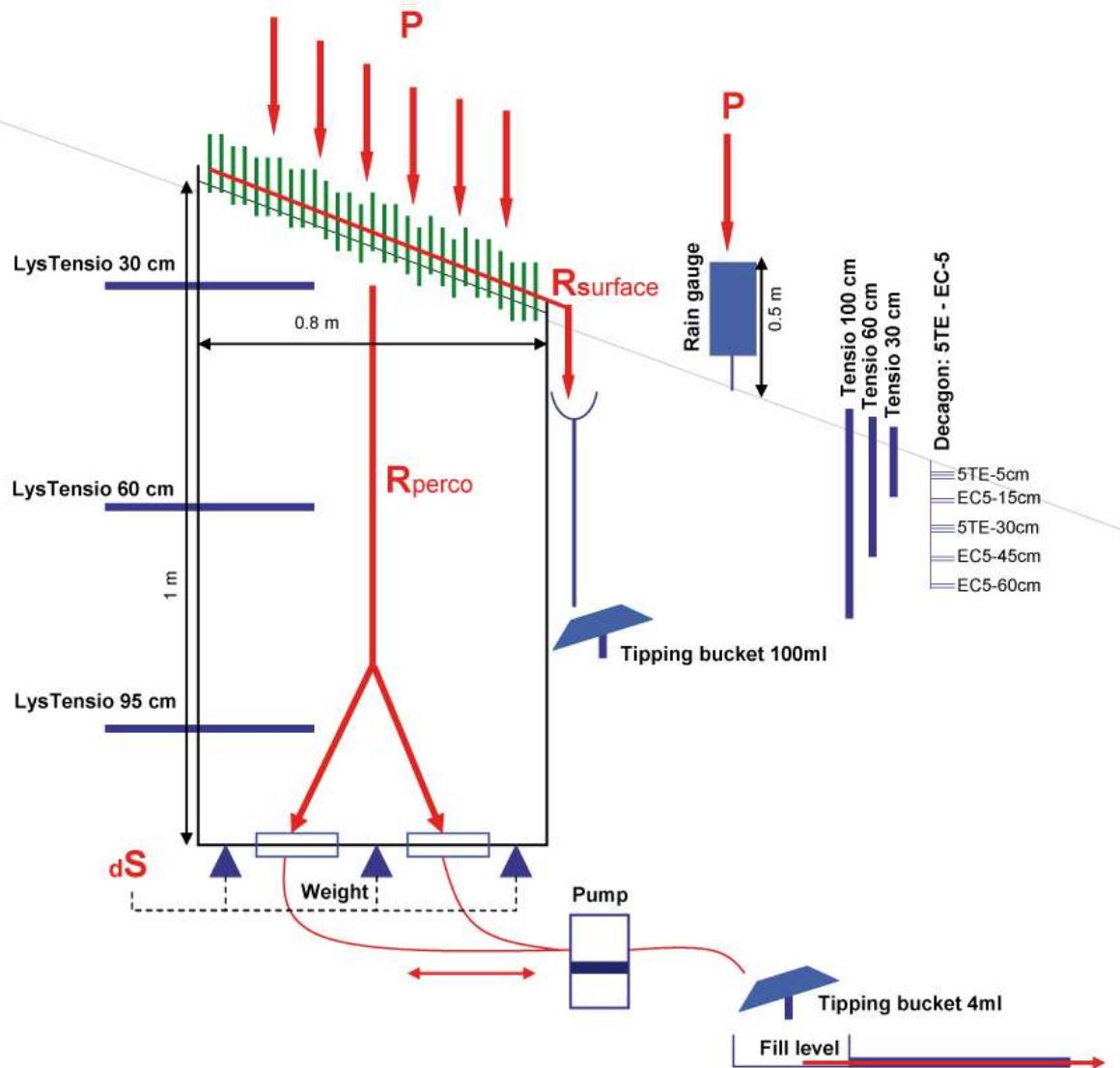
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**Rolf Weingartner**  
**Bruno Schädler**

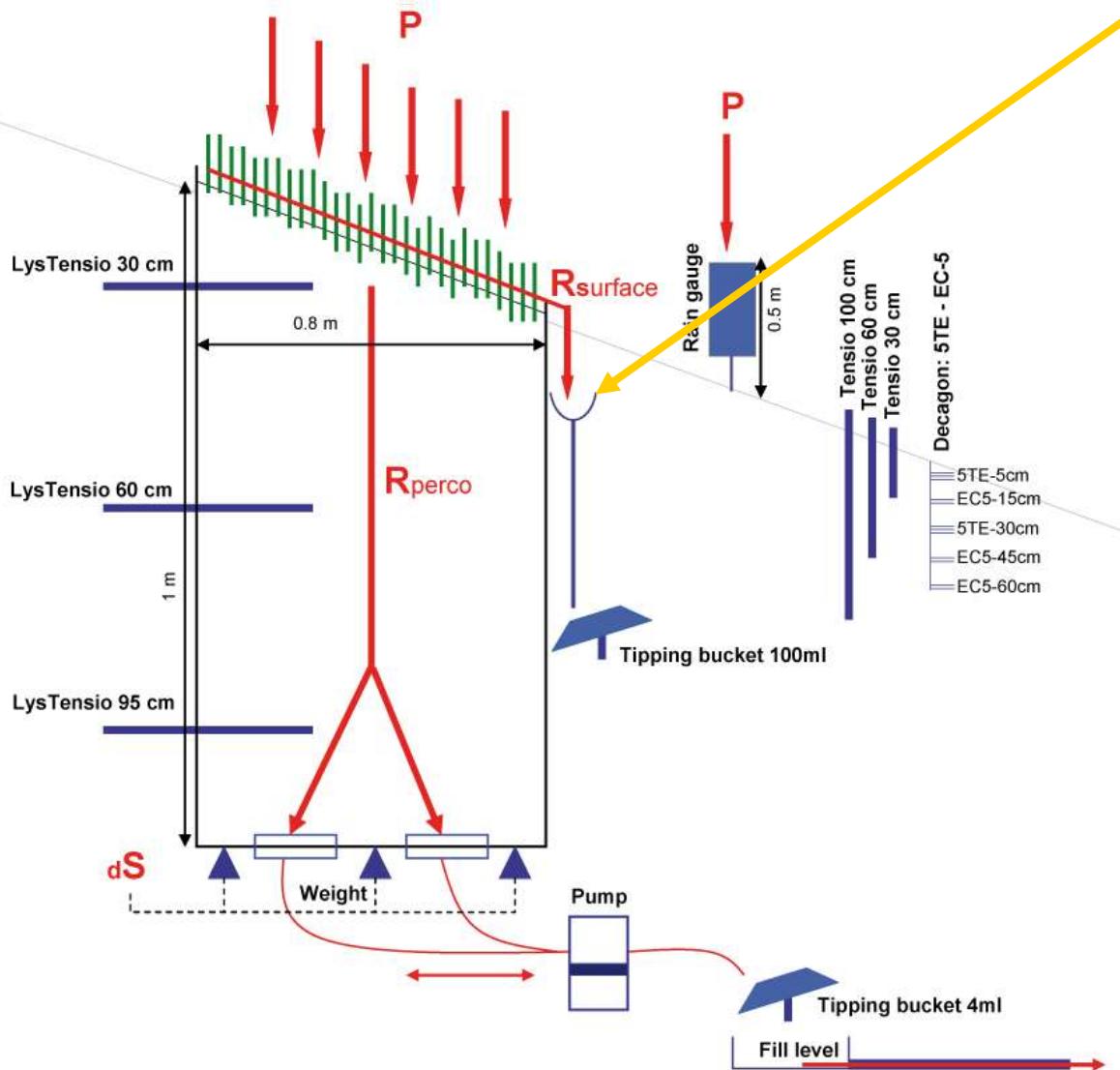
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**Karl Herweg**

Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research  
**University of Bern**  
**Switzerland**

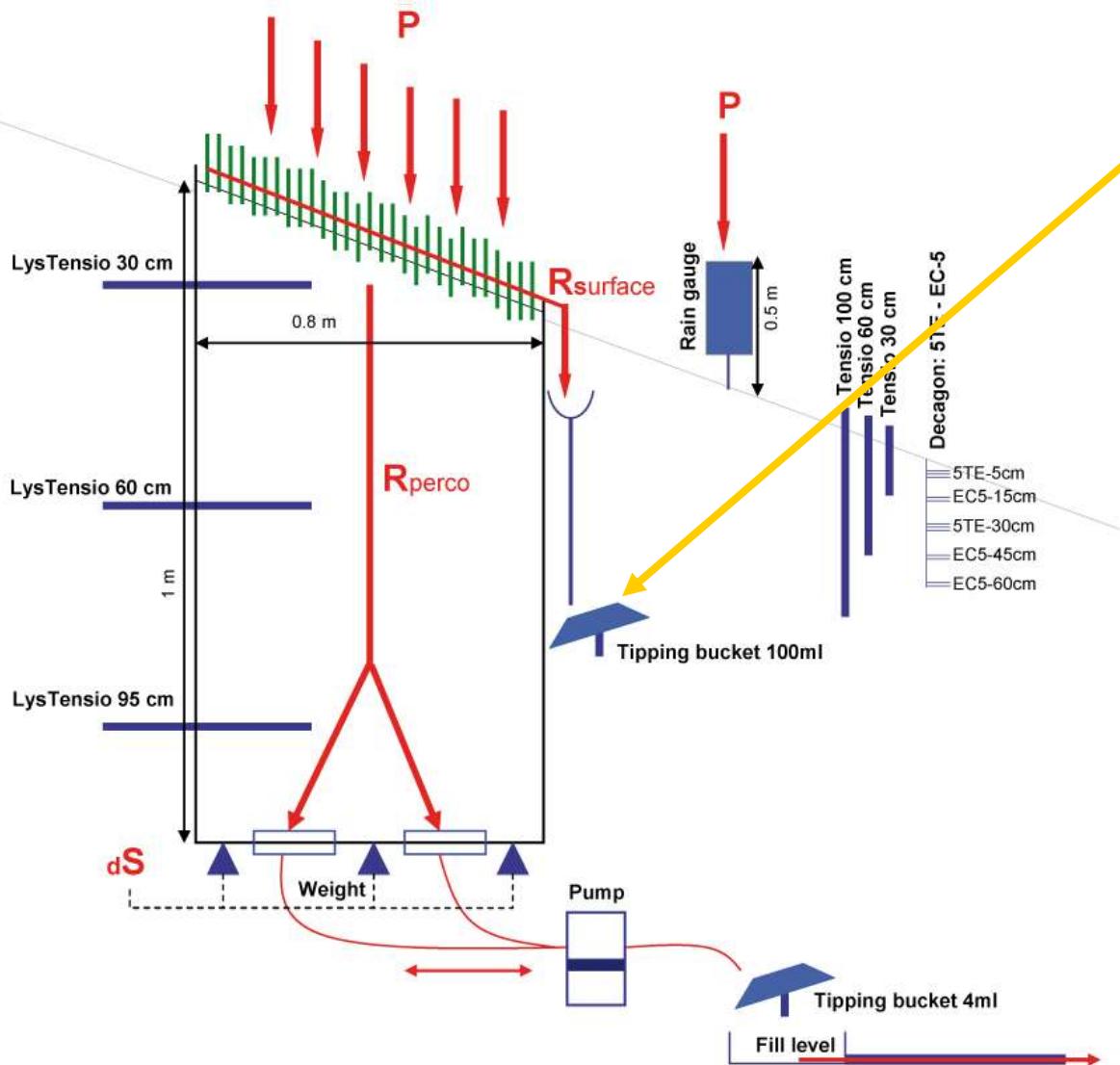
## Slope weighing lysimeter



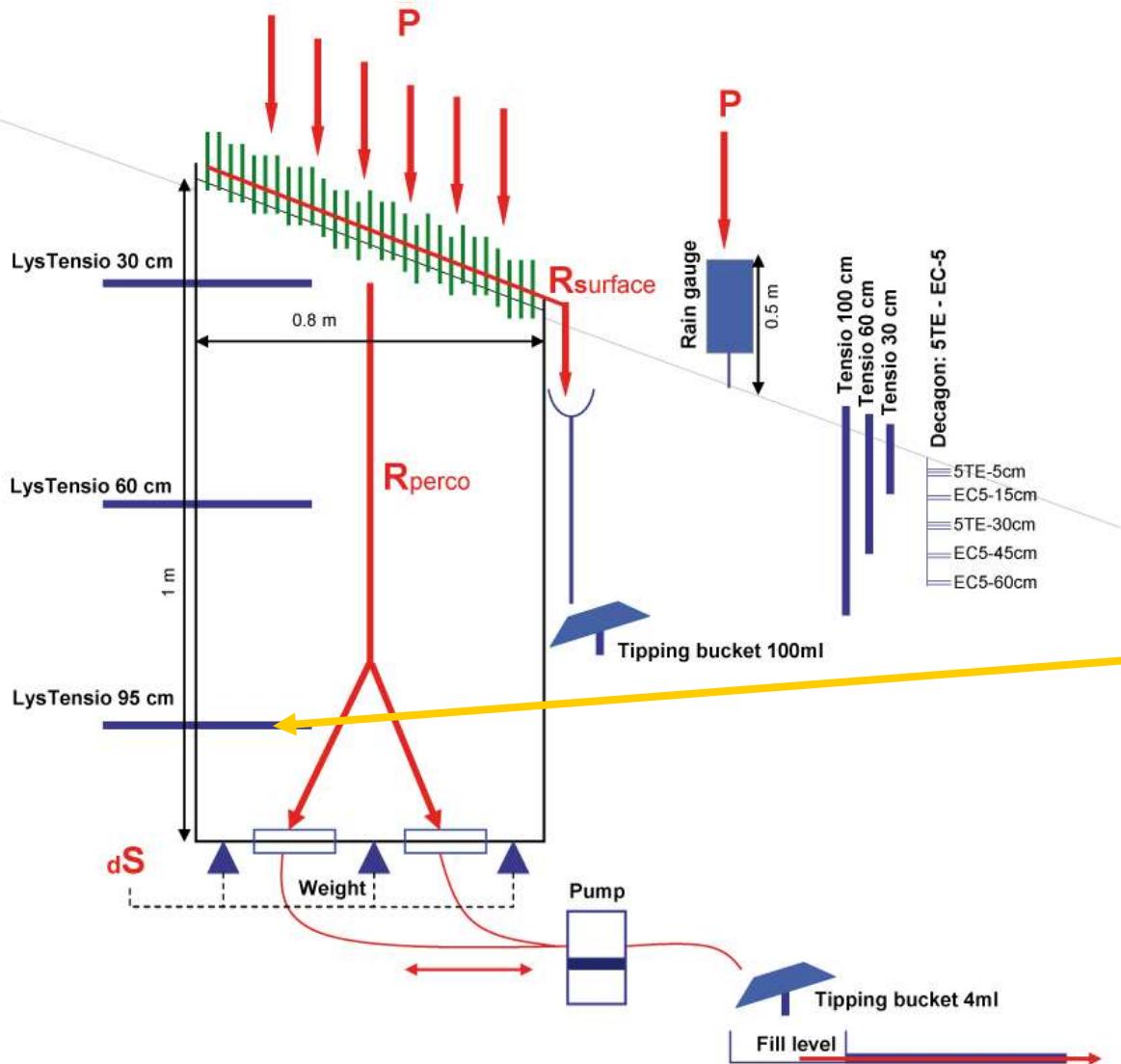
## Slope weighing lysimeter



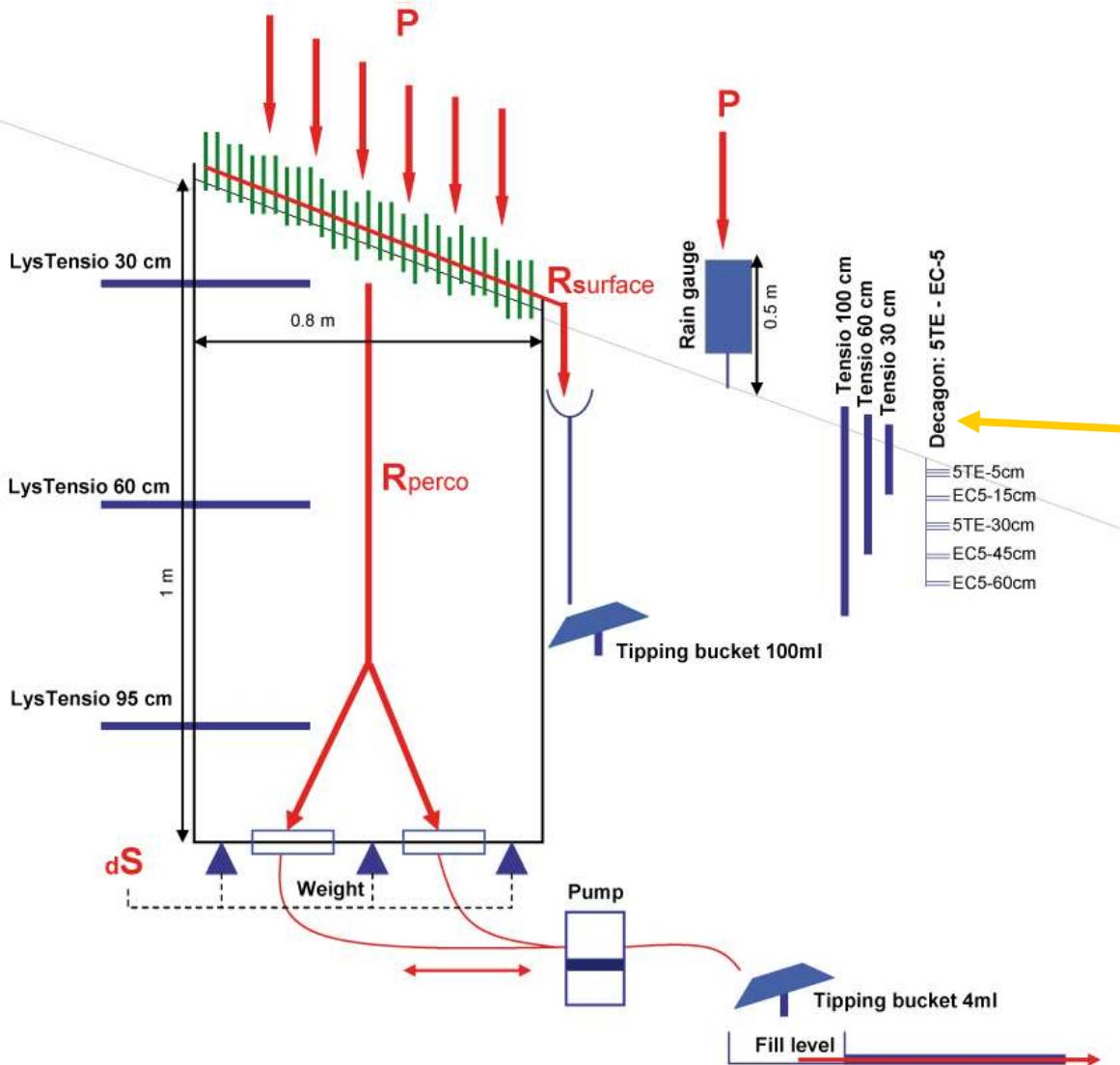
## Slope weighing lysimeter



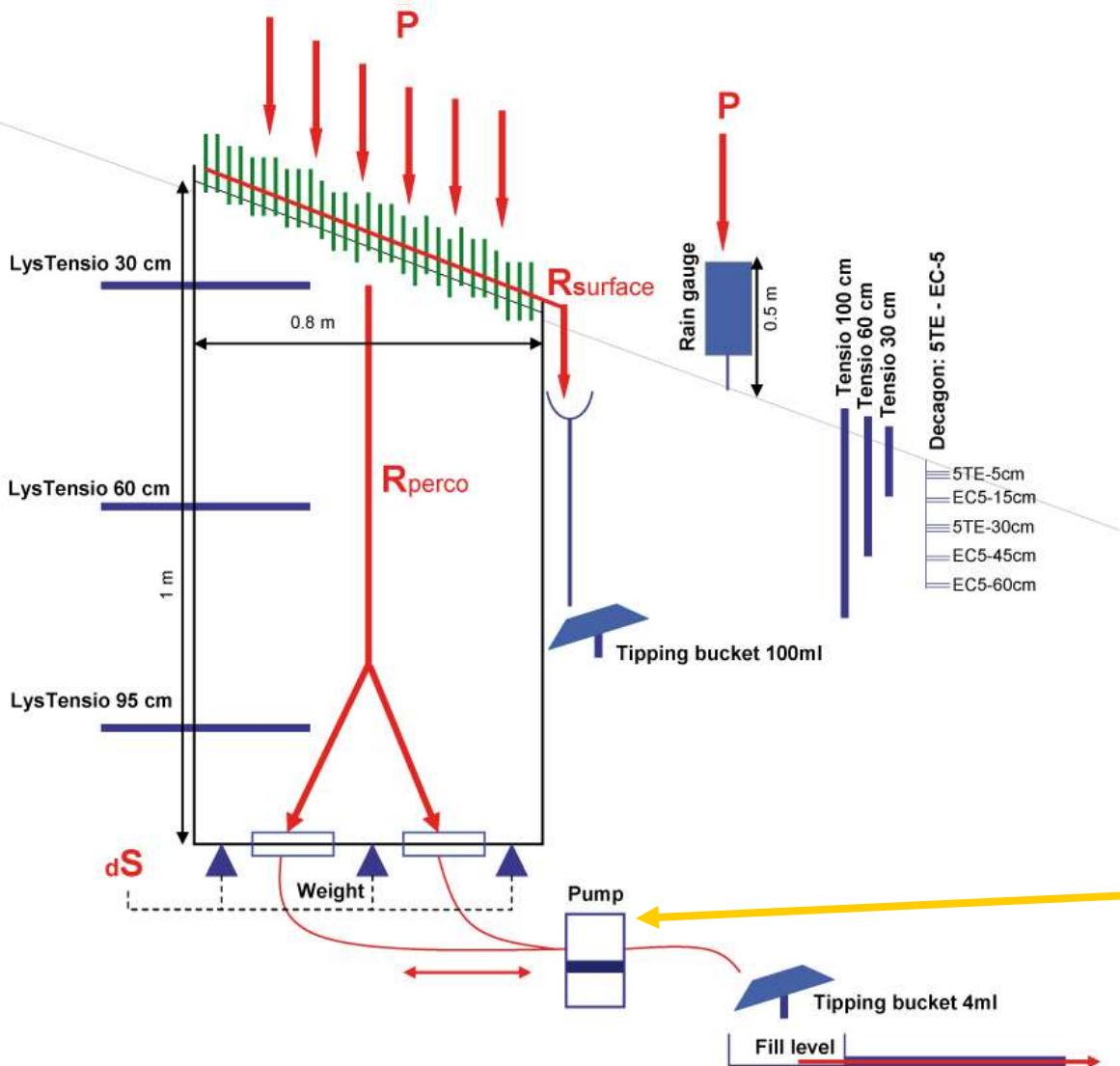
## Slope weighing lysimeter



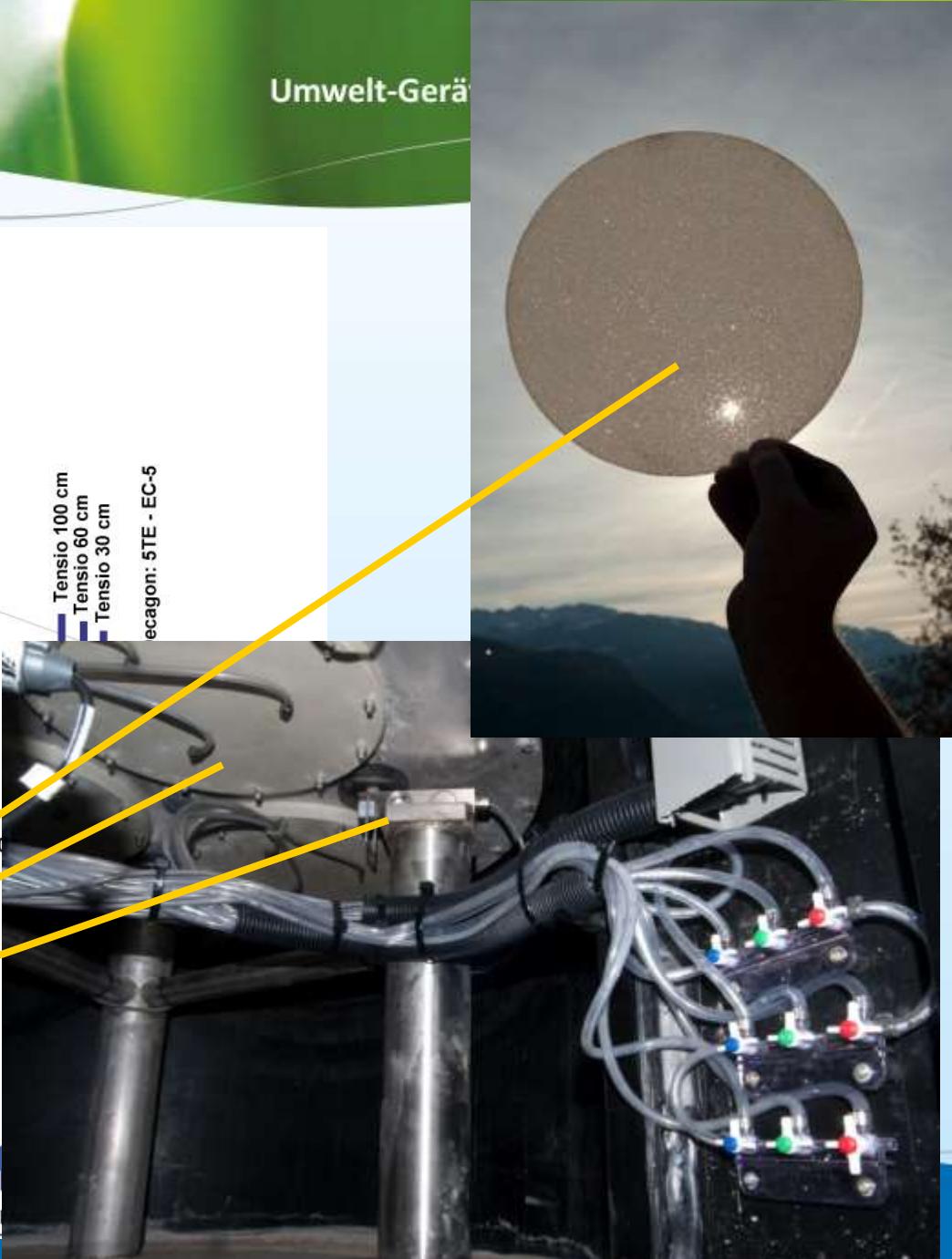
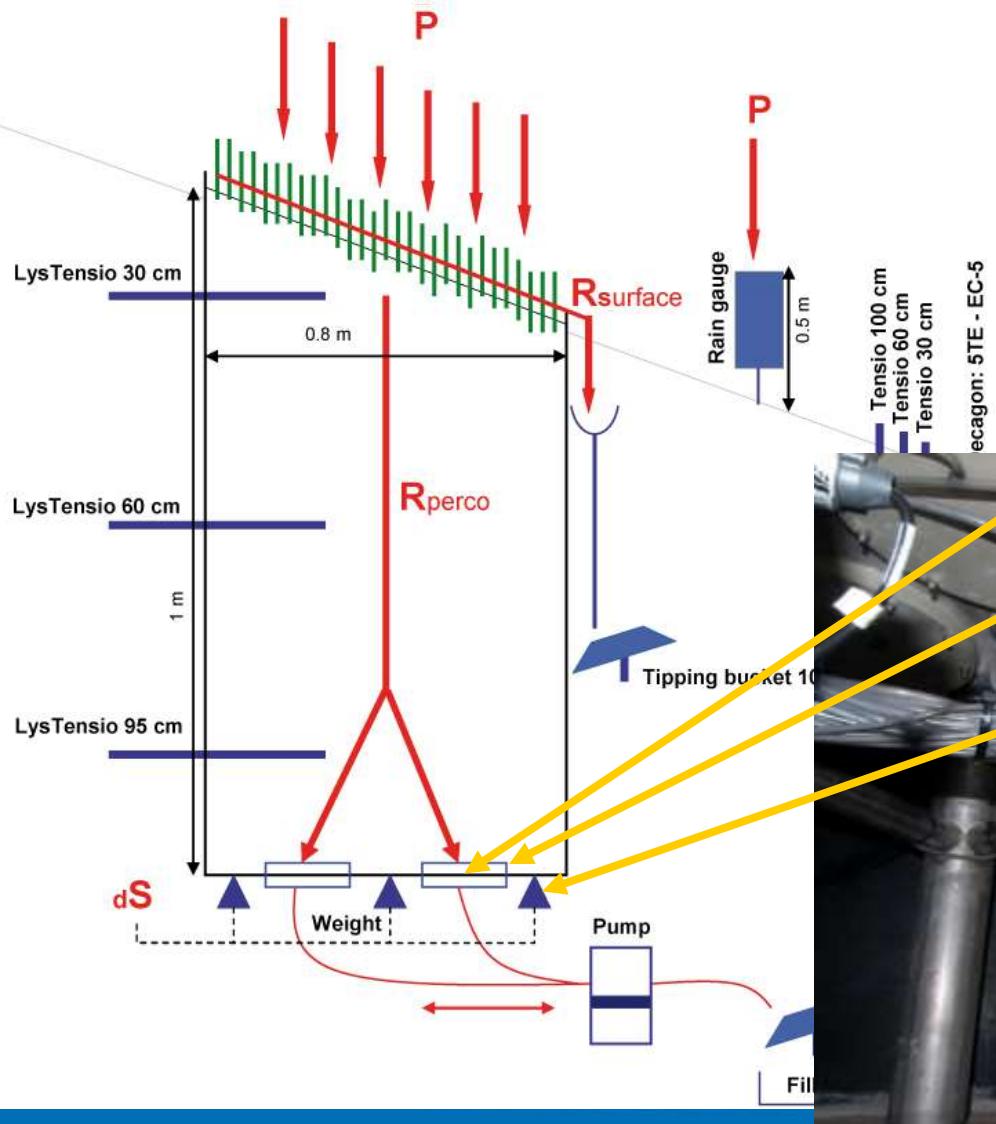
## Slope weighing lysimeter



## Slope weighing lysimeter



# Slope weighing lysimeter







Hillside lysimeter at Sierre/Switzerland

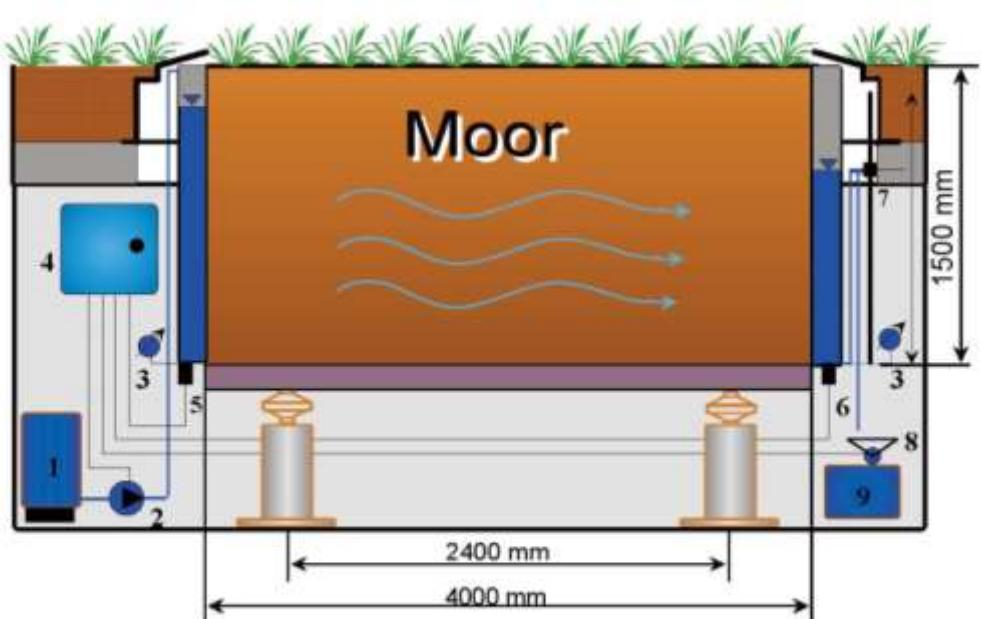


Access shaft of the lysimeter station



Hillside lysimeter at Sierre/Switzerland direct after installation





Scheme of a moor lysimeter



Stack of a moor lysimeter in operation



Moor lysimeter directly after installation



Finn Spaderator vessel with smooth cutting tools



Spaderator vessel in starting position



Cutting of the Finn Spaderator



Vertical excavation technique for ten soils



Ten soil column with a diameter of 200 mm

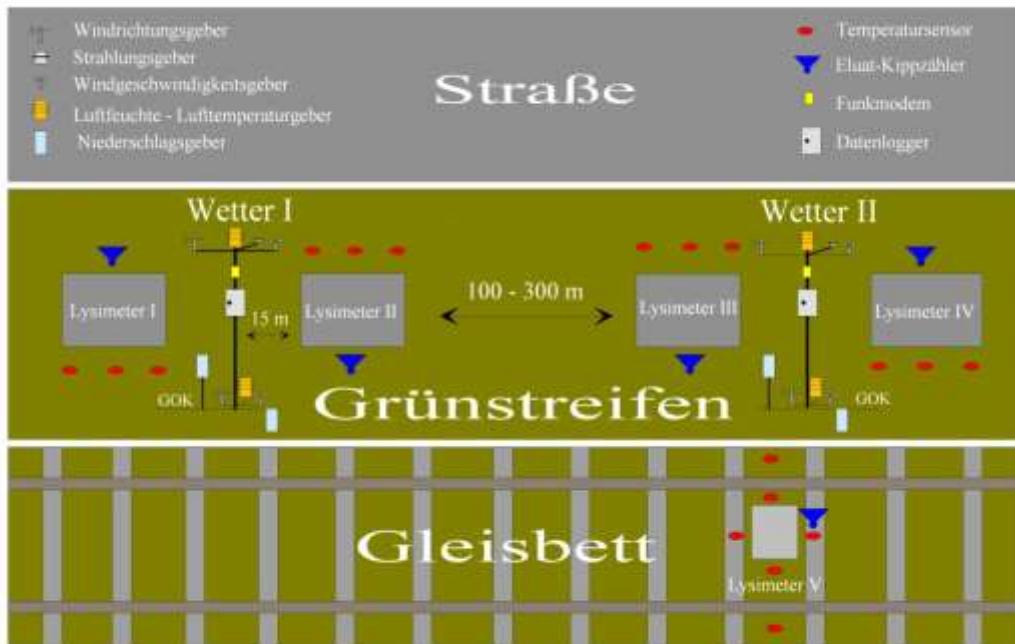


Soil profile of the cut smooth



Borrowed top soil smooth with cut tools

### Berlin-Projekt Urban Track



The main task of the Urban-track lysimeter is the evaluation and optimization of the water retention properties of various substrate and vegetation systems and the monitoring of emissions by penetrating lubricants and fuels in the roadbed field of urban transport.

### Torstraße - Rosenthaler Platz, Berlin





Measuring plots with weightable lysimeters and weatherization

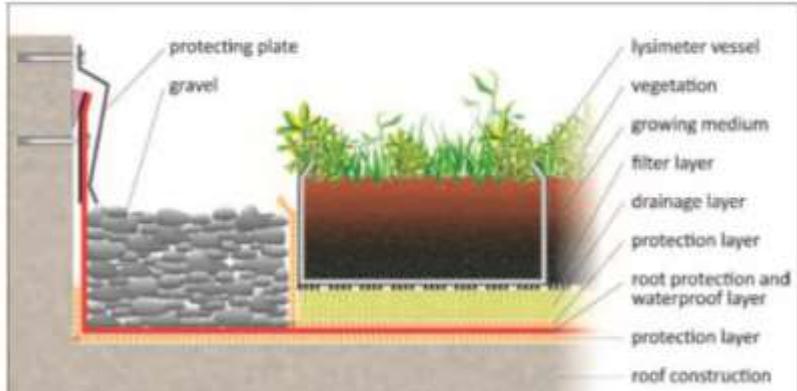
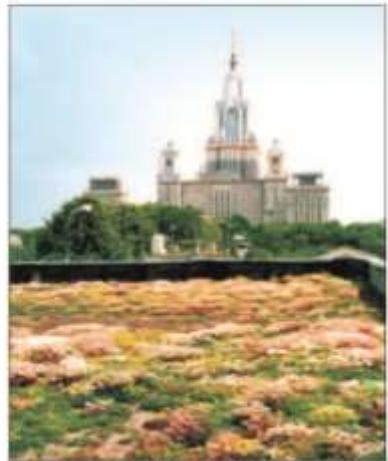


View over the test roofs with different vegetation systems

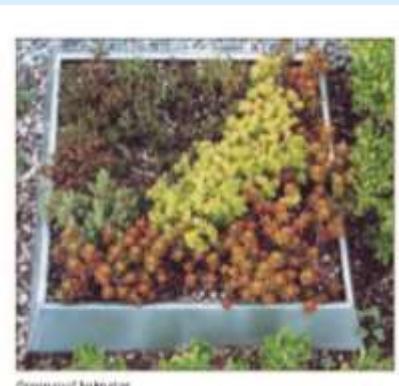


Lysimeters integrated in the green roof construction

Universidad Autónoma  
Chapingo (UACH)  
Mexico City  
Mexico

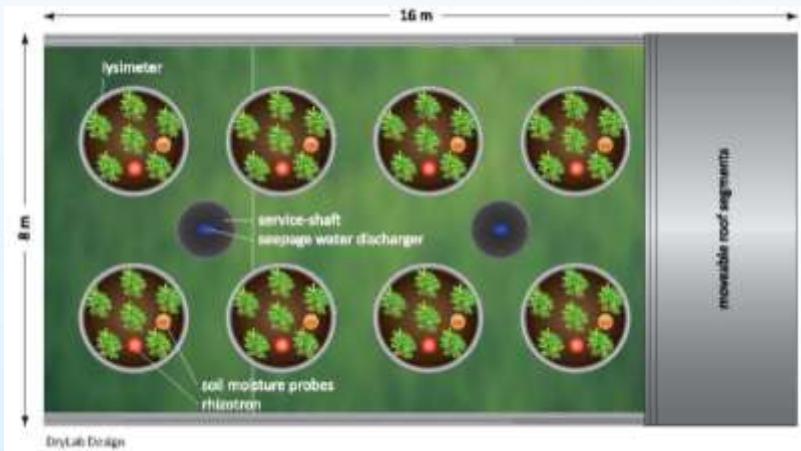


Scheme of a Green Roof Construction



## Scientific Measuring tasks and Advantages of Green Roofs:

- Retardation of precipitation run-off from the roof, relief of canalization and water clearing systems
- Water retention (50 – 90%) of rainwater and successive return in the atmosphere by evaporation, thereby increasing the air humidity and cooling surrounding air
- Decrease of heat irradiation of buildings and train lines in the summer period
- Air pollution mitigation due to deposition of particulate matter (PM) on the rough vegetation surface, adsorption, binding and uptake of some parts of PM
- Reduction of sound reflection
- Mitigation of urban problems due to their positive optical appearance and environmental impact
- Improvement of urban space quality and its aesthetical worth





## The DryLab

is used to simulate different future settings of climate change and to check the drought assimilation of defined tree species. An outdoor laboratory like DryLab is a big advantage compared to an indoor laboratory, because all environmental impacts except the managed one are conform to the real outdoor conditions.



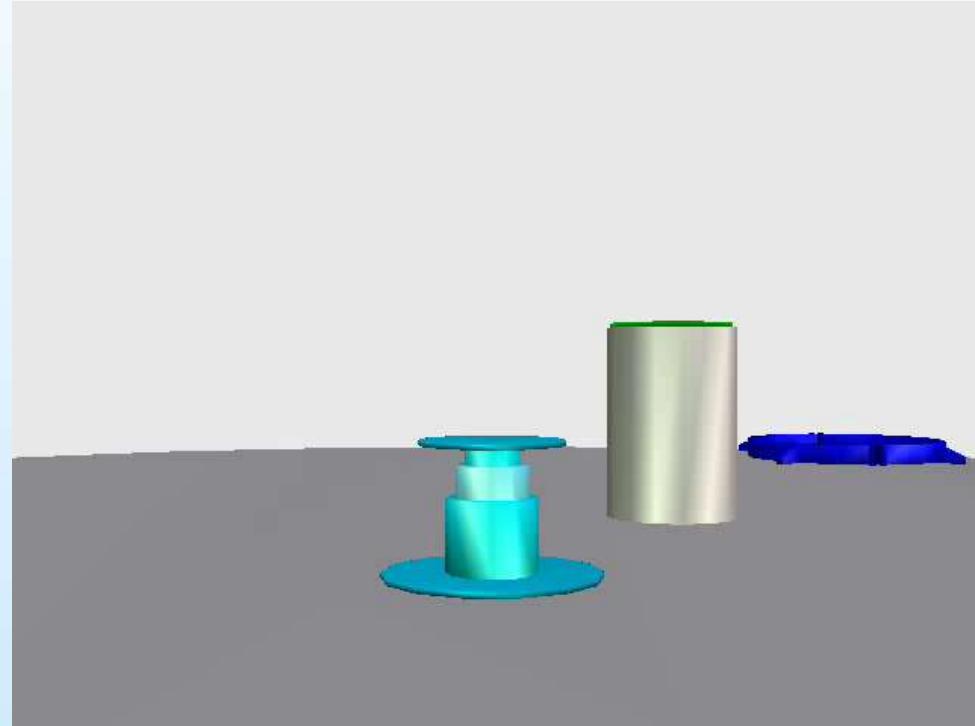
Root Laboratory (Rhizarium)  
Forestry Botanical Garden  
Eberswalde



10 weighable lysimeter for non-invasive root observation, and the detection of water and solute fluxes



Nondestructive On-signature of the root and shoot growth native and exotic tree species



**Technological operation:**

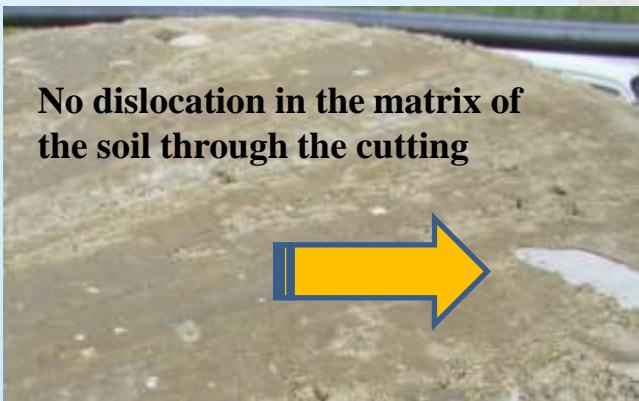
- *Cutting of the monolith in different soil layers*
- *Preparation of lysimeter vessel for the next application*



Reference: J. Plant Nutr. Soil Sci. 2007, 170, 345 - 346



Vertical cutting technology



Horizontal cut surface



View on the cutting wire



Horizontal cutting technology



Cut through stone enclosure

## University of Krakow / Poland



## University of Tehran / Iran

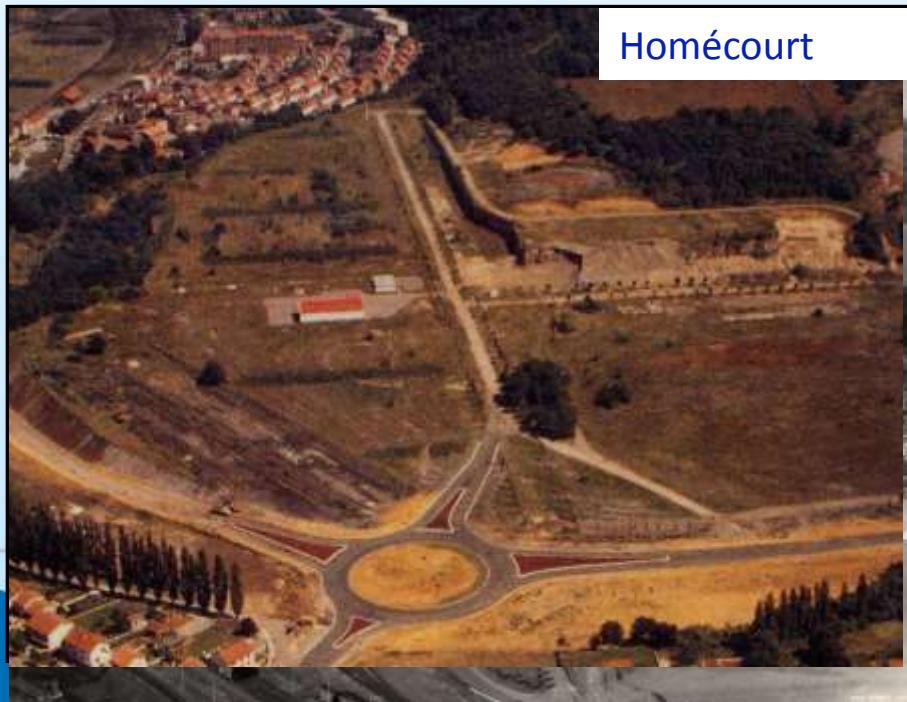


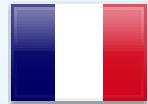


## Remediation

Planning, construction and maintenance of a large lysimeter station in Homécourt for the *Groupement d'Intérêt Scientifique sur les Fiches Industrial GISFI*

(French scientific community of interest - industrial wasteland)





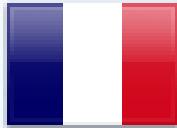
Plots systems with different vegetation the data loggers are stored weatherproof in the grey boxes



UGT suction probe technology



Fully automated by the control unit



## ANDRA - Agence National pour la gestion des Déchets Radioactifs



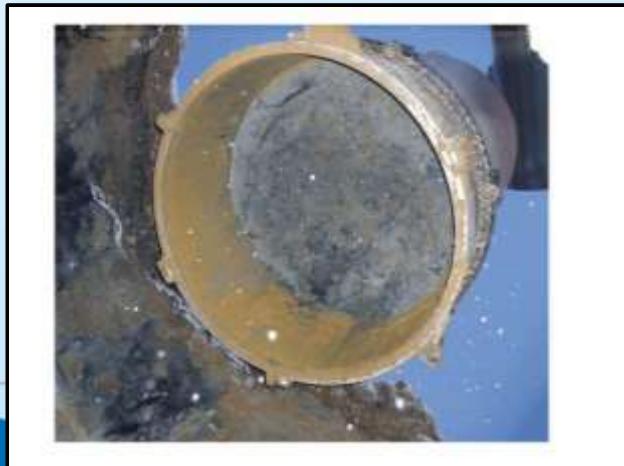
Test of a loam block in Bure as a repository for radioactive waste from the French Atomic Energy economy with the help of UGT-lysimeters





## Ecological major project Bohlen

Built the UGT GmbH for DOW 2005/2006 - Olefinver (Leuna, Buna) a 4-fold lysimeter HD-PE for the investigation of contaminated soil at the former refinery locations



## Lysimeter Station in Shixia



Adaptation to extreme climatic conditions

This 2010 built in Miyun catchment area in Shixia / China 2-station has a specially designed, climatically adapted collar design sectors to ensure a reliable weighing despite extreme temperature variations



Loess Plateau Pingliang / Xian China 2012

Monolith extraction and Lysimeterinstalation  
on terraced hillsides for erosion research



# Dew and fog in Miyun, China



Presented by:

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Department of Soil Physics, Lysimeter Station Falkenberg, Germany

Heinz Borg, Martin-Luther-University, Faculty of Science III, Halle,  
Germany

Xiao Hujie, Beijing Forestry University, Institute of Soil and Water  
Conservation, Beijing, China



Actual evapotranspiration and 14-day-average (mm/d *lines*), precipitation  
and seepage water (mm/d *columns*) of one of the lysimeter in Miyun.

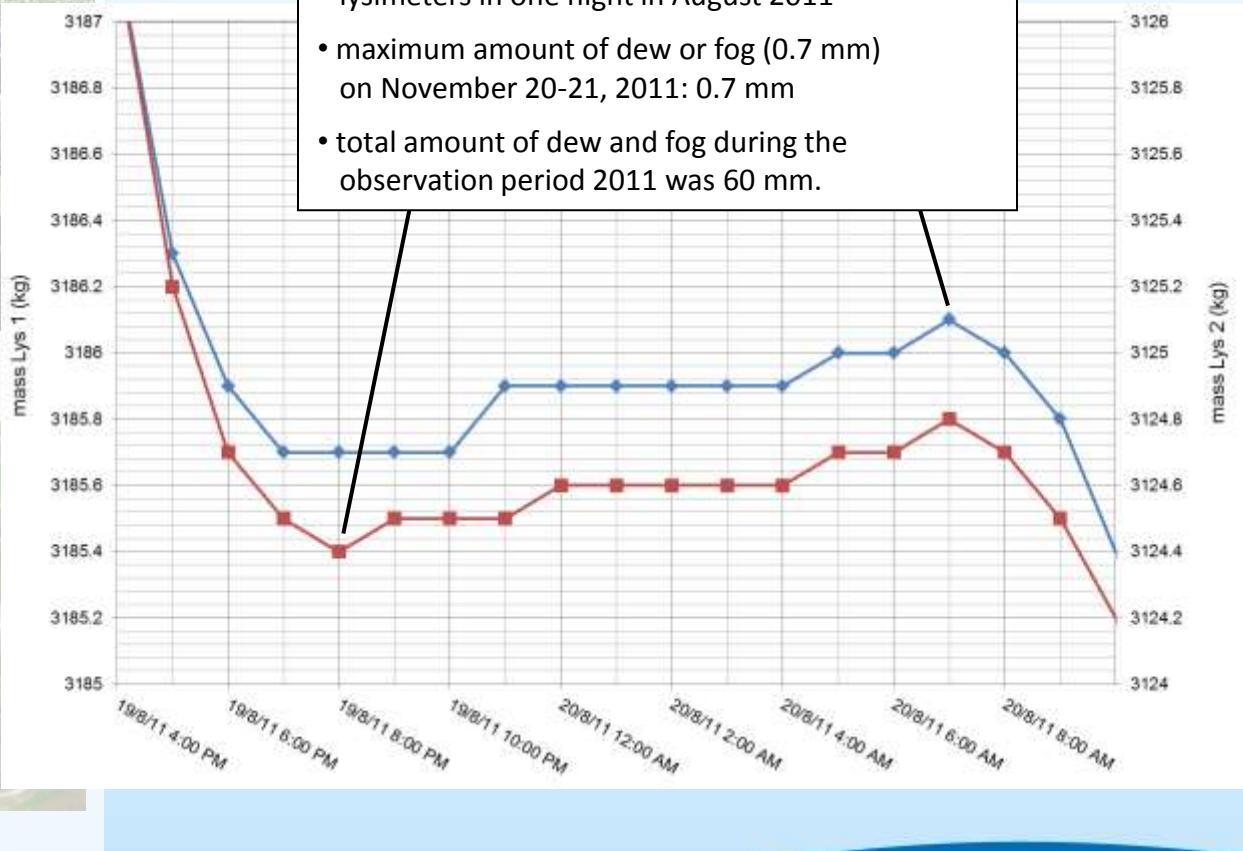
The results shows a very good agreement with the results of the  
modelling with STOFFBILANZ.

# Dew and fog



## Example for the formation of dew on August 19-20, 2011

- 0.4 mm of dew measured in both lysimeters in one night in August 2011
- maximum amount of dew or fog (0.7 mm) on November 20-21, 2011: 0.7 mm
- total amount of dew and fog during the observation period 2011 was 60 mm.



Example of an overnight mass change of 2 lysimeters planted with maize in China, August 2011





## German-Russian BMBF joint project

Lysimeter use in steppe of Siberia to develop sustainable agronomic, site conditions, adapted useful strategies to reduce wind erosion and the decrease of humus content of the soil



## Tailings piles at Zielitz in Germany



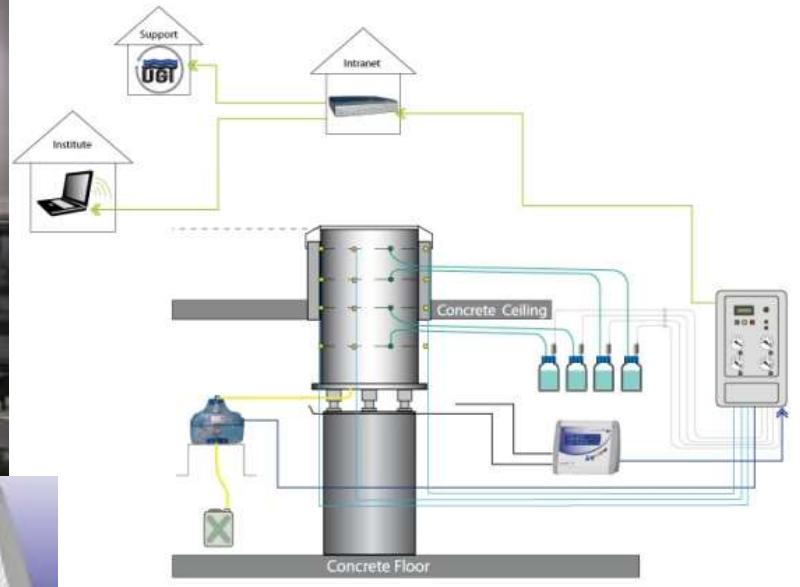


Agroscope Zurich-Reckenholz Switzerland





- Lysimeter Project Zurich-Reckenholz



*UGT – 72 Lysimeter within 7 months*



Flooded wetland at Spreewald



Area of the piled piling (3 m x 6 m) with groundwater lowering



Completed lysimeter station including a weather station



Excavation of four soil profiles in the restricted area



Excavation of the lysimeter extraction pit for the installation of two 2-field containerized lysimeter stations



Insertion of the lysimeter into the station



View of the lysimeter station including the weather station



Filling of the excavation pit after lowering the station



Lysimeter stations after the installation of the waterproof soils and deactivation of the groundwater lowering



Delivery of the lysimeters to the chemical industry site



Loading and transport of the cut soil monoliths



Total view of the contaminated lysimeter station with different monolith compositions



Monolith excavation in 4 m depth

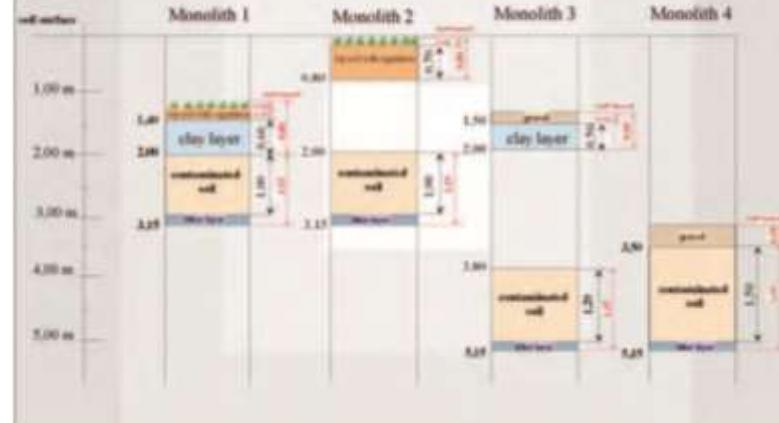


View of the partial monolith



Soil profile of the contaminated site

### Soil Layers of the Monoliths

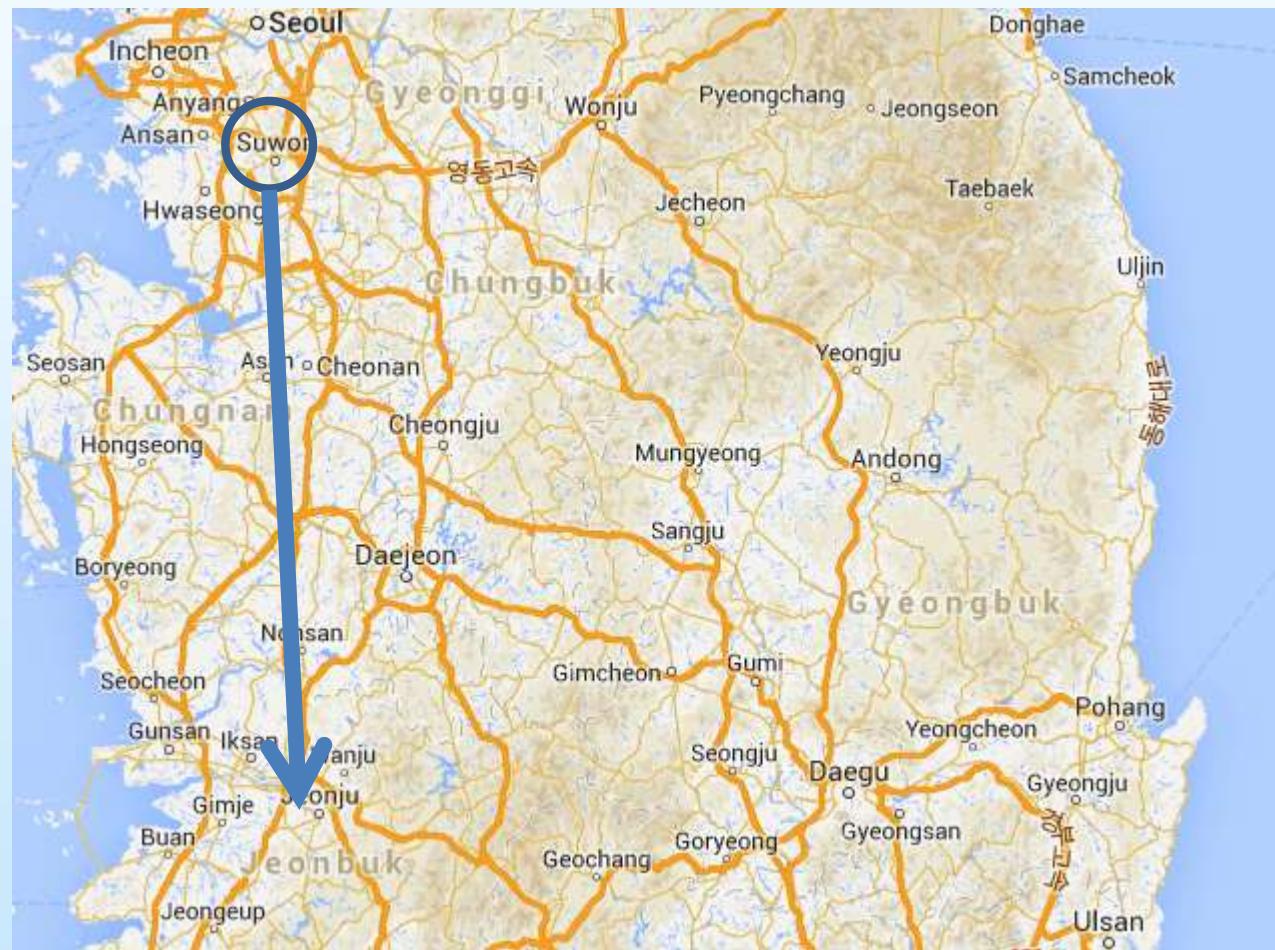




## Sanierung des Uranbergbaus



Haldensanierung des Uranbergbaus im Dienst der WISMUT  
GmbH  
Errichtung des Langzeit-Halden-Monitorings auf sämtlichen  
Thüringer Standorten und tlw. im Sächsischen Untertagebau



## The new lysimeter station in Jenju South Korea:

**54 Lysimeters: 1m<sup>2</sup>**

**38 Lysimeters: 30 cm diameter**

**3 Erosion plots**

**3 Rain simulators**

**Call for bids:**

**January 2012**

**Project planning:**

**October 2012**

**Sign up the contract:**

**March 2013**

**Start of Production:**

**March 2013**

**Construction of the base**

**September 2013**

**Start with excavation of the lysimeters**

**October 2013**

**Handover**

**May 2014**

**20 World Congress of Soil Science**

**June 2014**

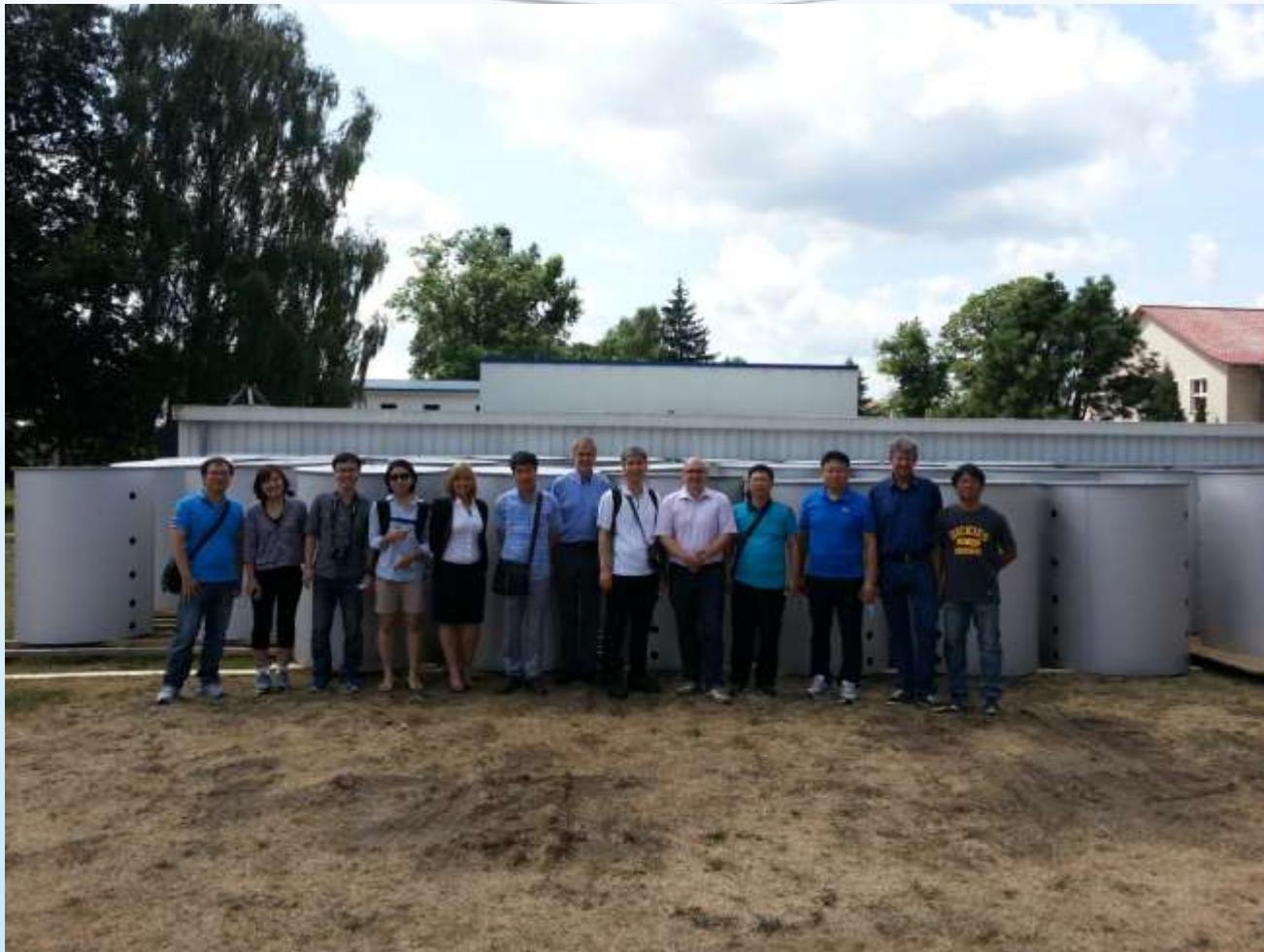


# April 2013





**June 2013**



July 2013



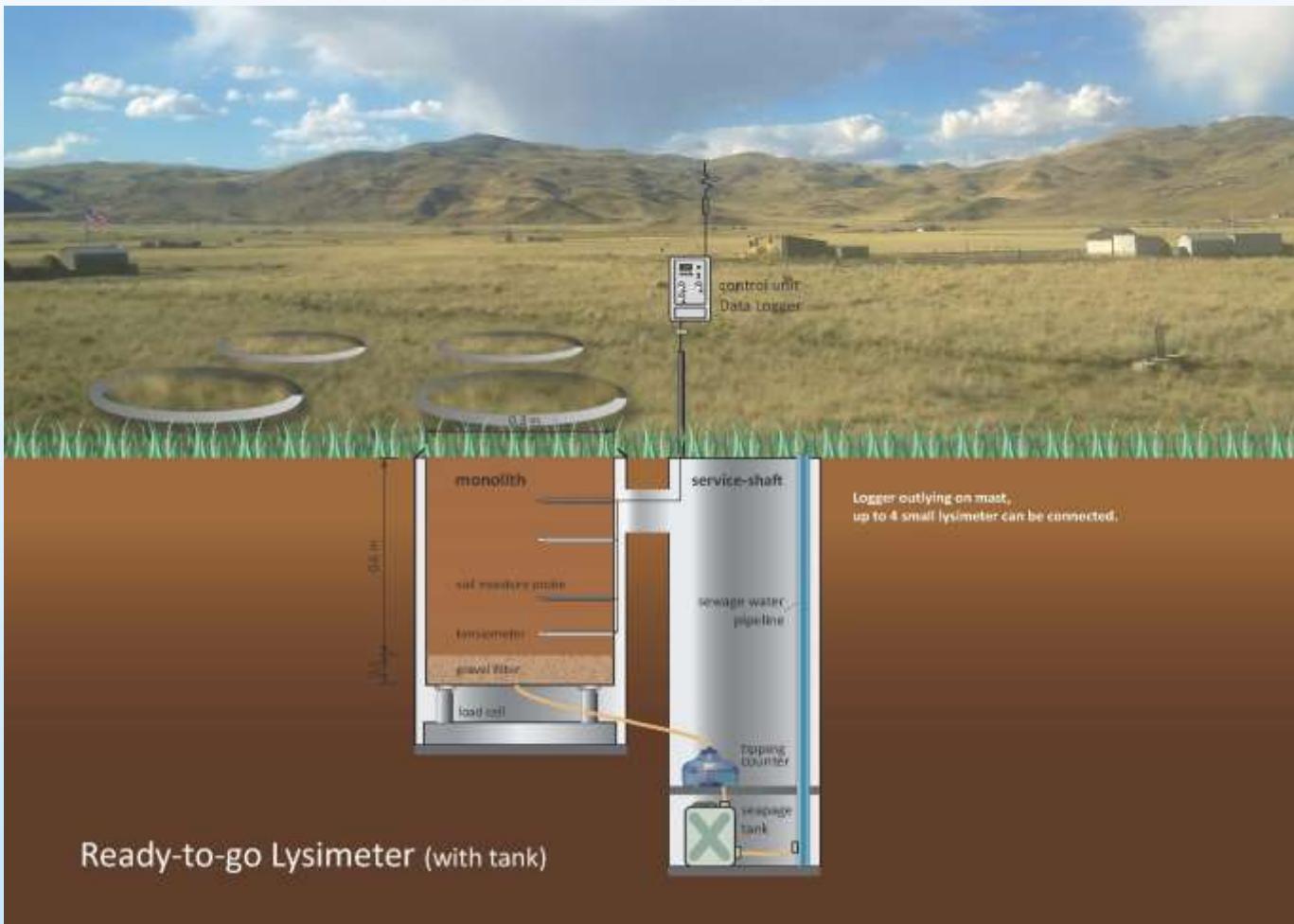


**November 2013**









## The Ready-To-Go Lysimeter:

Different sizes are possible

- 30cm depth
- 60cm depth
- 90cm depth

and all depths are available in

- 30cm diameter
- 0.5m<sup>2</sup> surface area



At one data logger (attached outside on a mast) you can connect up to 4 Ready-To-Go Lysimeters. The logger is connected with the SVADSS Data Integration Box, which enables the plug and play use to get the measured data via Internet.





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