



Assessment of Optimal Sites for Solar-Powered Irrigation Systems Using Remote Sensing and GIS: Case of the Philippines

リモートセンシングとGISを用いた太陽熱発電灌漑システムの最適立地評価：フィリピンでの事例

Jeark Principe^{1,2*}, Wataru Takeuchi²

¹ Department of Geodetic Engineering, UP Diliman, Philippines

² Institute of Industrial Science, The University of Tokyo, Japan

Poster audio guide:
ポスターの音声ガイド:



日本語

English



Abstract: A sustainable agricultural system can be supported using renewable sources of energy with solar-powered irrigation gaining global adoption. This study assesses the feasibility of deploying solar irrigation in the Philippines by examining groundwater storage anomalies (GWSA), drought intensity, and solar photovoltaic (PV) potential. GWSA was estimated using GRACE/GRACE-FO and GLDAS data, while drought intensity was assessed via the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI). Cropland areas were extracted from ESA WorldCover, and solar PV potential was evaluated using Himawari-8/9 shortwave radiation (SWR). Data processing was conducted in Google Earth Engine and ArcGIS Pro. A test site in Central Luzon revealed seasonal drought trends, with high KBDI in dry months and low during the rainy season. Given its manageable GWSA (0 to <1.648 cm) and high solar radiation (204–286 W/m²), Central Luzon becomes a prime candidate for solar-powered irrigation. This study provides insights for prioritizing solar irrigation in the Philippines. Future research should validate satellite-derived GWS estimates, cross-reference findings with existing solar irrigation projects, integrate geomorphological and socioeconomic factors, and expand the study area.

Key Words: solar-powered irrigation, GRACE, GLDAS, KBDI, AHI8/9, land cover, Philippines

I. Introduction • 背景

Solar photovoltaic (PV) pumping systems are a viable solution for off-grid irrigation, providing an environment-friendly alternative to diesel and electric pumps with proven economic and environmental benefits (Santra, 2020; Rezk et al., 2019). This study explores the feasibility of solar-powered irrigation in the Philippines by analyzing groundwater storage anomalies (GWSA), a drought index, and solar PV potential. Using satellite data, it provides insights to prioritize solar irrigation deployment in the country.

太陽光発電（PV）を利用したポンプシステムは、ディーゼルポンプや電動ポンプに代替する環境に優しいオフグリッド灌漑の重要なソリューションであり、経済的および環境的メリットが実証されています（Santra, 2020; Rezk et al., 2019）。本研究では、地下水貯留量異常（GWSA）、干ばつ指標、そして太陽光発電の潜在的能力を分析することにより、フィリピンにおける太陽光発電灌漑の実現可能性を探ります。衛星データを用いることで、同国における太陽光発電灌漑導入の優先順位付けに関する知見を提供します。

Image source: <https://www.nia.gov.ph/content/nia-intensifies-development-solar-powered-irrigation-projects>

II. Methodology • 手法

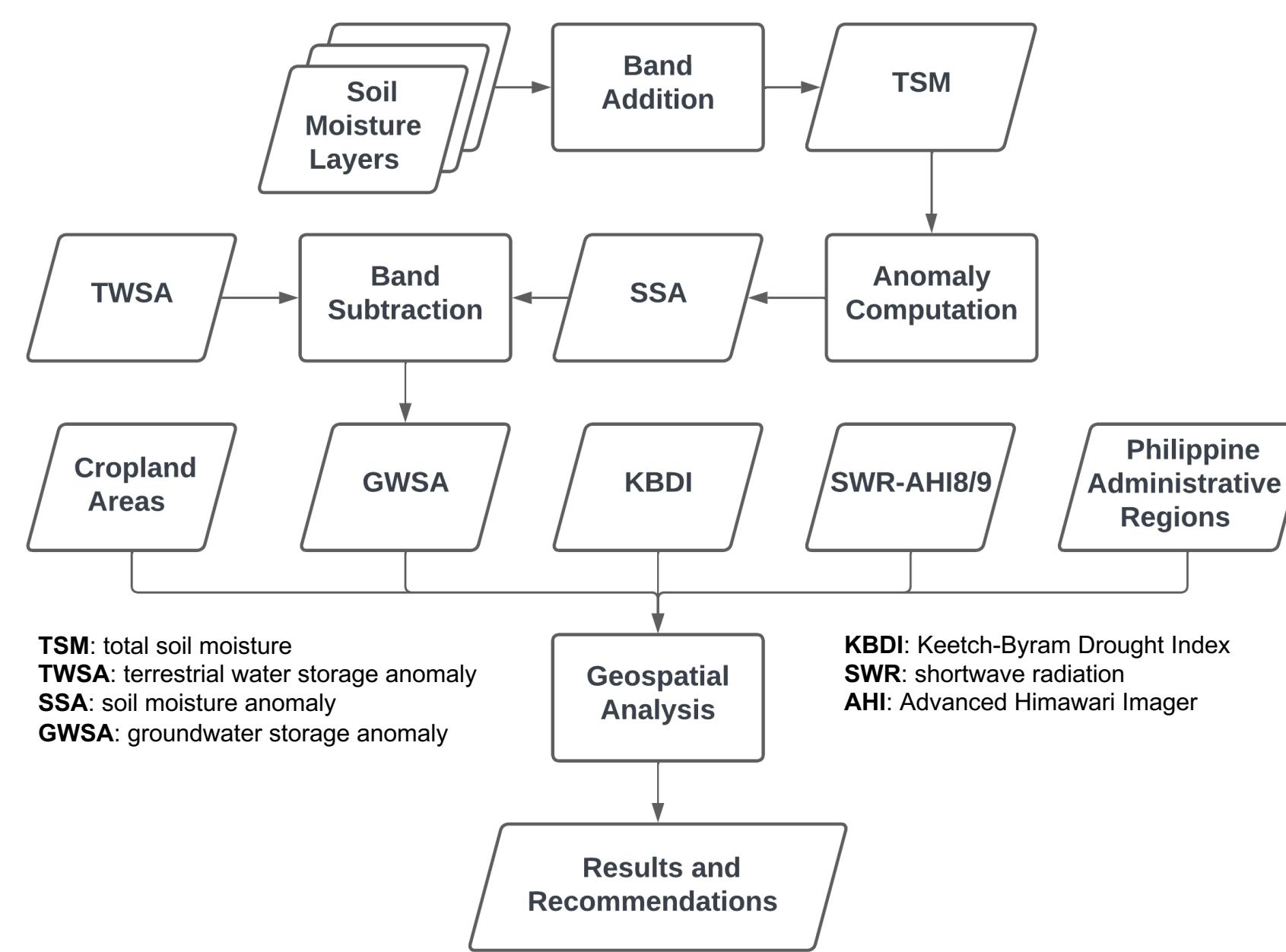


Figure 1. Methodology of this study.

図1. 本研究の方法。

Table 1. Data used in this study.

Parameter	Unit	Spatial Resolution	Mission/Product	Source
Liquid water thickness	cm	0.5°	GRACE/GRACE-FO	NASA JPL
Soil moisture	kg/m ²	0.25°	GLDAS-2.1	NASA GES DISC
Cropland area	N/A	10 m	ESA WorldCover	ESA
Shortwave radiation	W/m ²	5 km	AHI 8/9	JAXA
Drought index	unitless	4 km	KBDI	IIS-UTokyo

• Total soil moisture (TSM) was computed by summing up soil moisture (SM) values in the four soil layers (Eq. 1):
全土壌水分（TSM）は、4つの土壤層の土壤水分（SM）値を合計して算出した（式1）：

$$TSM = SM_{0-10} + SM_{10-40} + SM_{40-100} + SM_{100-200} \quad (1)$$

• Groundwater storage anomaly (GWSA) was computed as the difference between TWSA and SSA (Rodell M. et al., 2006) (Eq. 2):
地下水貯留異常（GWSA）は、TWSAとSSAの差として計算した（Rodell M. et al., 2006）（式2）：

$$GWSA = TWSA - SSA \quad (2)$$

III. Results & Discussion • 結果と議論

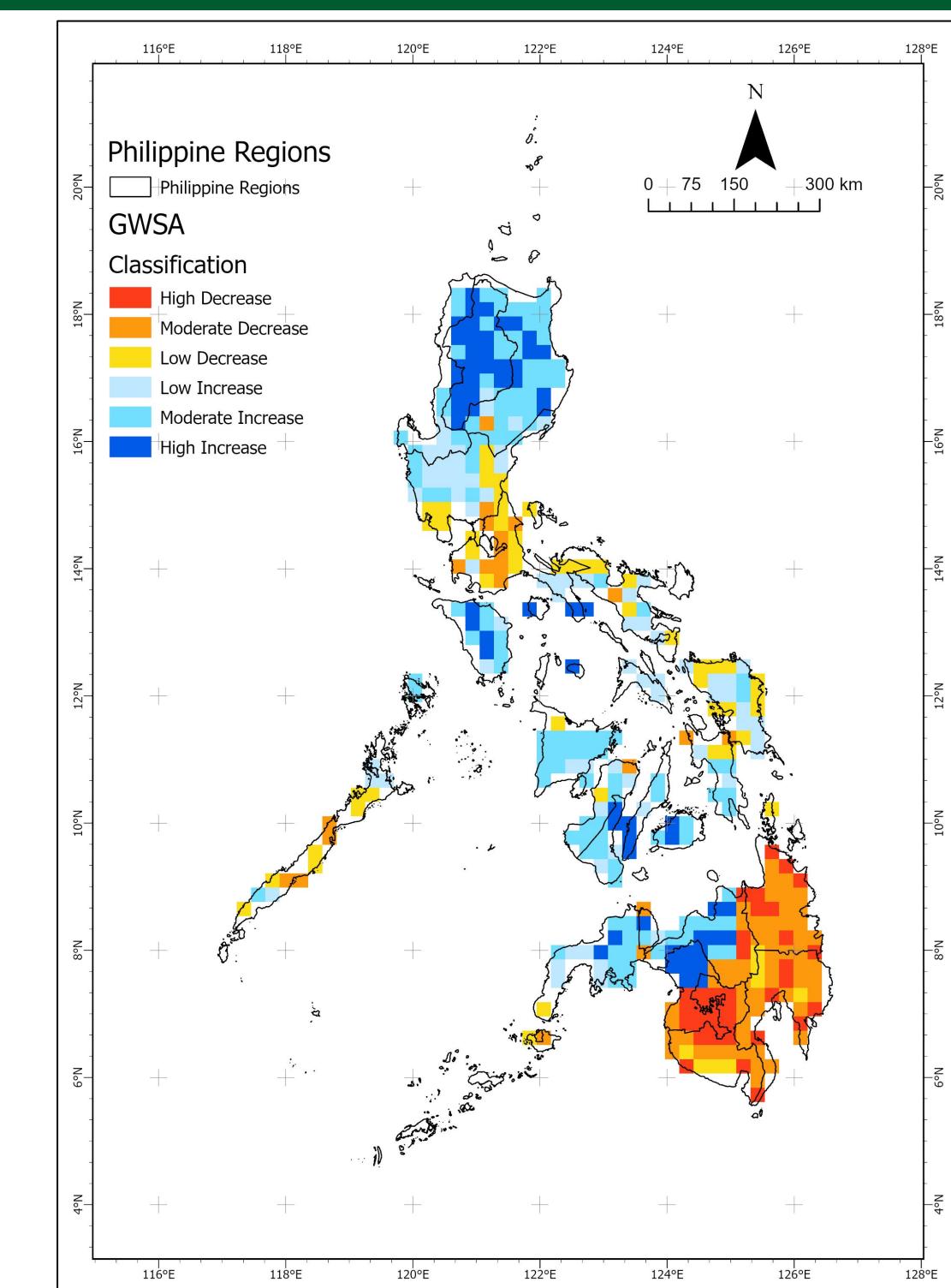


Figure 2. Trend in groundwater storage based on GWSA.
図2. GWSAに基づく地下水貯留量の推移

Table 2. GWSA classification.

Classification	Max Value (cm)
High Decrease 大きな減少	-6.313
Moderate Decrease 中程度の減少	-1.630
Low Decrease 僅かな減少	0.000
Low Increase 僅かな増加	1.648
Moderate Increase 中程度の増加	4.738
High Increase 大きな増加	9.701

• 6 out of the 17 regions experienced decrease in GWS (-14.178 cm to <0 cm). Highest decrease in Northern Mindanao (-12.441 cm). Highest increase in BARMM (6.525 cm).

17地域中6地域でGWSが減少した(-14.178cmから0cm未満)。最も減少したのは北部ミンダナオ(-12.441cm)であった。BARMMで最も増加した(6.525cm)。

• Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) exhibited a low increase in GWS (0 to <1.648 cm): opportunity for solar-powered irrigation (groundwater remains available for extraction).

イロコス、カガヤン渓谷、中央ルソン、コーディエラ行政区（CAR）では、GWSの僅かな増加(0~1.648cm未満)を示した。地下水の取水ができ、太陽光発電灌漑に適しているかもしれない。

• KBDI: consistent seasonal trend of drought levels (high during cool dry and hot dry, and low during rainy seasons (Fig. 3c, 4)).

KBDI: 干ばつレベルの一貫した季節的傾向（冷涼な乾季と高温の乾季に高く、雨季に低い（図3c,図4）。

• GWSA: increases during cool-dry to hot-dry seasons and decreases towards the first part of the rainy season. Thereafter, GWSA increases during the rainy season until the dry-cool months (Fig. 4).

GWSA: 冷涼な乾季から高温の乾季に向けて増加し、雨季の初期になると減少する。その後、GWSAは雨季から乾季にかけて増加する（図4）。

IV. Conclusions • 結論

• RS data was used to assess the feasibility of deploying solar PV systems for irrigation in cropland areas across the Philippines.

RSデータを用いて、フィリピン全土の農地における灌漑用太陽光発電システムの導入可能性を評価した。

• Most regions in the country have experienced an increase in groundwater storage based on GWSA.

フィリピンのほとんどの地域では、GWSAによると地下水貯留量が増加している。

• Central Luzon identified as a prime candidate due to high-value crop production (e.g., rice), extensive croplands and high solar potential, and manageable seasonal drought conditions. ルソン島中部は、高価値作物（コメなど）の生産、広大な農地と太陽光発電の潜在能力の高さ、管理可能な季節性の干ばつ状況から、有力な候補地として特定された。

V. Future Work • 今後の課題

Future research should focus on validating satellite-derived GWS estimates with existing solar irrigation projects, incorporating geomorphological and socioeconomic factors, utilizing AMSR2 data to account for land surface water, and expanding its application to larger study areas such as the whole Asia Pacific region. 今後の研究では、衛星由来のGWS推定値を既存の太陽光灌漑プロジェクトにより検証すること、地形学的・社会経済学的要因を組み入れること、地表水を考慮するためにAMSR2データを活用すること、そしてアジア太平洋地域全体などより広い調査地域へ適用を拡大することに重点を置く。

For further details, contact: Jeark Principe, Bw-605, 6-1, Komaba 4-chome, Meguro, Tokyo 153-8505 JAPAN (URL: <http://wtlab.iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp/>) E-mail: japrinciple@up.edu.ph

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References: Available upon request • 参考文献 ご要望に応じます。

Figure 3. (a) The Philippine administrative regions; (b) cropland areas extracted using ESA WorldCover 2020. Blue pin marks the location of a test pixel (120.858903° E, 15.406952° N); (c) KBDI; (d) shortwave radiation (SWR) in the Philippines.

図3 (a) フィリピンの行政区域、(b) ESA WorldCover 2020を用いて抽出した耕作地面積。青いピンはテストピクセルの位置(120.858903° E, 15.406952° N)、(c) KBDI、(d) フィリピンの短波放射(SWR)

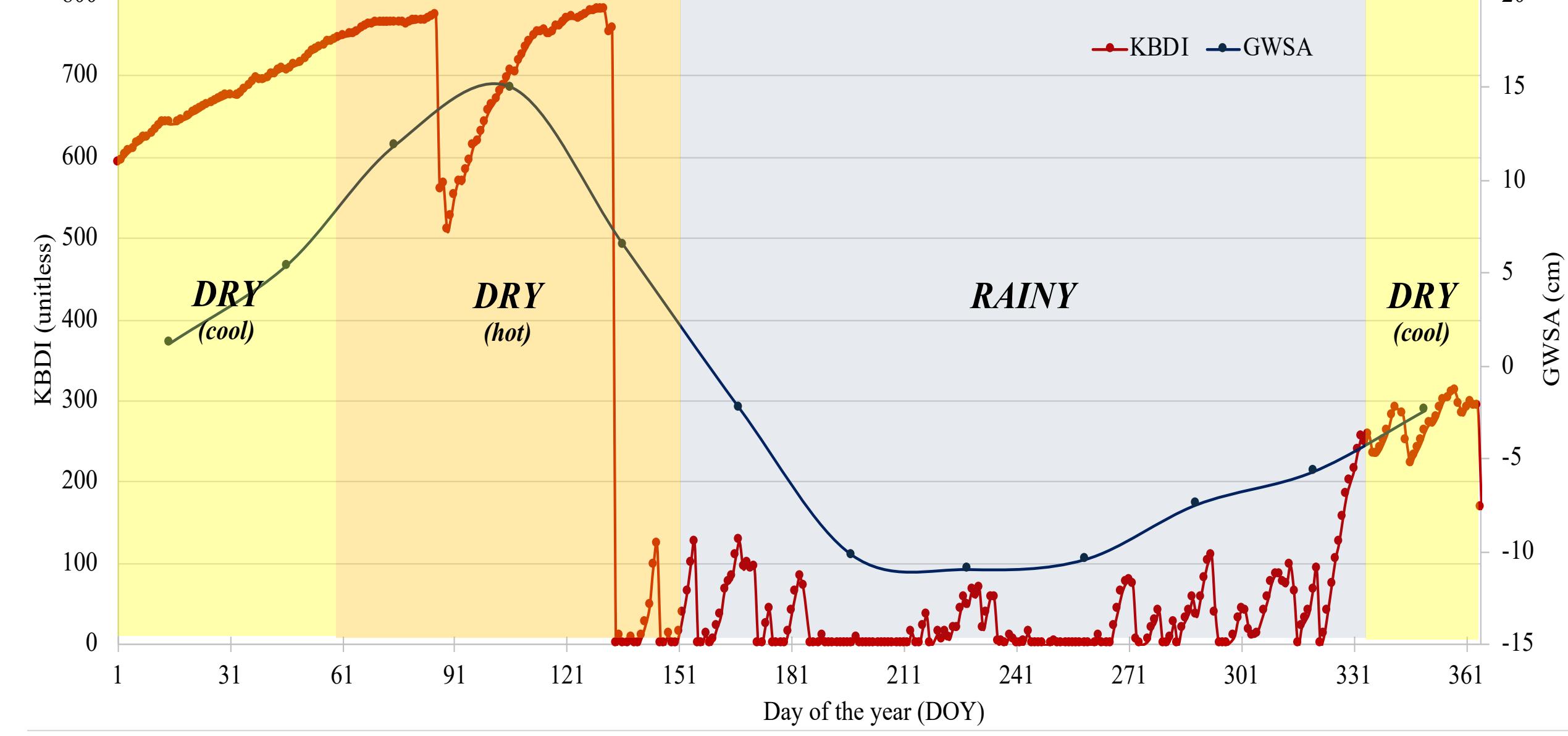


Figure 4. KBDI and GWSA values of a test cropland pixel in Central Luzon, Philippines for the year 2024 covering three distinct seasons in the country: cool dry, hot dry, and rainy.

図4. 2024年におけるフィリピン・ルソン島中部の試験農地ピクセルのKBDI値とGWSA値。本国の3つの主要な季節（涼な乾期、高温な乾期、雨期）をカバーしている。