

**Cuadro 1**

| Cluster        | n  | PCR         | SSbCF       | IAI         | ISI         |
|----------------|----|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 (CC_Corn)    | 9  | 0.24±0.24 c | 0.62±0.06 a | 1.28±0.15 a | 0.92±0.05 b |
| 2 (CC_Soybean) | 21 | 0.24±0.22 c | 0.89±0.09 b | 1.42±0.13 a | 0.91±0.05 b |
| 3              | 2  | 0.26±0.37 a | 0.72±0.06 a | 1.24±0.08 a | 0.74±0.03 a |
| 4 (ROT-PC)     | 12 | 1.28±0.40 b | 0.90±0.08 b | 1.57±0.15 b | 0.96±0.04 b |
| 5              | 1  | 2.29 c      | 1.00 b      | 1.93 c      | 0.99 b      |

Summary of land use indicators for each cluster. Different letters within columns indicate significant differences ( $P \leq 0.05$ ). CC\_Corn= Continuous cropping that incorporate C4 photosynthesis species (mainly corn); CC\_Soybean= Continues cropping with high frequency of soybean; ROT-PC= Cropping systems that rotate with perennial pastures. PCR= Pasture/crop ratio; ISI= Intensity of soil use index; IAI= Intensification of agricultural phase index; SSbCF= Summer soybean cropping frequency.

**Cuadro 2. Indicadores de uso del suelo y propiedades del suelo**

| Variables                      | Units                   | ROT-PC | CC_Corn | CC_Soybean |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---------|------------|
| N                              | #                       | 17     | 26      | 22         |
| <i>Indicators of land use</i>  |                         |        |         |            |
| Years of continuous cropping   | #                       | 2.9    | 8.3     | 7.3        |
| IAFI                           | #                       | 1.3    | 1.3     | 1.4        |
| PCR                            | #                       | 1.3    | 0.1     | 0.2        |
| SSbCF                          | #                       | 0.9    | 0.7     | 1          |
| <i>Soil fertility</i>          |                         |        |         |            |
| SOC <sub>0-15</sub>            | g kg <sup>-1</sup>      | 34 a   | 29 b    | 27 b       |
| EC <sub>0-15</sub>             | dS m <sup>-1</sup>      | 1.4 a  | 1.3 a   | 1.0 b      |
| TA <sub>0-15</sub>             | meq 100 g <sup>-1</sup> | 4.4 a  | 4.0 a   | 4.0 a      |
| P <sub>0-15</sub>              | mg P kg <sup>-1</sup>   | 21.6 a | 20.1 a  | 17.8 a     |
| K <sub>0-15</sub>              | meq 100 g <sup>-1</sup> | 0.84 a | 0.63 b  | 0.66 b     |
| Mg <sub>7,5-15</sub>           | meq 100 g <sup>-1</sup> | 2.5 a  | 2.3 a   | 2.5 a      |
| ECa <sub>10-20</sub> *         | mS cm <sup>-1</sup>     | 792 a  | 797 a   | 725 a      |
| <i>Soil physical condition</i> |                         |        |         |            |
| Na <sub>0-15</sub>             | meq 100 g <sup>-1</sup> | 1.0 a  | 1.0 a   | 1.1 a      |
| PR <sub>7,5-15</sub>           | KPa                     | 1302 a | 1245 a  | 1116 a     |

Summary of land use indicators and soil properties by cropping system of the 64 sites. Different letters within rows indicate significant differences observed among cropping systems ( $P \leq 0.05$ ).

\*ECa<sub>10-20</sub> may also represent soil physical condition.

**Cuadro 3.** Parameters of the stochastic frontier model for soybean cultivation in the surveyed cases. Significance codes: "":  $p \leq 0.05$ ; "":  $p \leq 0.01$ ; "":  $p \leq 0.001$ ; "NS":  $p > 0.1$ .

| Variables                                                                                  | Coefficient | Standard Error | p   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|-----|
| <i>Production frontier</i>                                                                 |             |                |     |
| Intercept                                                                                  | 12.03       | 1.02           | *** |
| Sowing date                                                                                | -0.08       | 0.04           | *   |
| Cycle length                                                                               | 0.15        | 0.16           | NS  |
| Water supplied during R4-R6 (Water_PC)                                                     | 0.14        | 0.07           | *   |
| Fertilisation strategy <sup>1</sup>                                                        | -0.38       | 0.17           | *   |
| Water_PC * fertilisation strategy <sup>1</sup>                                             | 0.08        | 0.04           | *   |
| Organic carbon in soil 0-15 cm (SOC <sub>0-15</sub> )                                      | -0.10       | 0.13           | NS  |
| Electrical conductivity in soil 0-15 cm (EC <sub>0-15</sub> )                              | 0.05        | 0.14           | NS  |
| Titrateable acidity in soil 0-15 cm (TA <sub>0-15</sub> )                                  | -0.01       | 0.07           | NS  |
| Phosphorus Bray in soil 0-15 cm (P <sub>0-15</sub> )                                       | -0.01       | 0.05           | NS  |
| Exchangeable magnesium from 7.5 to 15 cm (Mg <sub>7.5-15</sub> )                           | 0.30        | 0.12           | **  |
| Exchangeable potassium from 0 to 15 cm (K <sub>0-15</sub> )                                | 0.09        | 0.05           | *   |
| Exchangeable sodium from 0 to 15 cm (Na <sub>0-15</sub> )                                  | -0.11       | 0.13           | NS  |
| Penetration resistance from 7.5 to 15 cm (PR <sub>7.5-15</sub> )                           | -0.51       | 0.06           | *** |
| Apparent electrical conductivity from 10 to 20 cm (ECa <sub>10-20</sub> )                  | -0.25       | 0.06           | *** |
| Profile water storage capacity (WSC)                                                       | 0.08        | 0.08           | NS  |
| <i>Inefficiency effects</i>                                                                |             |                |     |
| Intercept                                                                                  | -0.31       | 0.15           | *   |
| Years under continuous cropping per soybean frequency in summer cropping phase (YCC*SSbCF) | 0.37        | 0.09           | *** |
| Soybean as previous summer crop <sup>1</sup>                                               | 0.17        | 0.05           | **  |
| Pasture as previous summer crop <sup>1</sup>                                               | 0.70        | 0.22           | *** |
| Supplementary irrigation <sup>1</sup>                                                      | -0.43       | 0.21           | *   |
| <i>Model evaluation</i>                                                                    |             |                |     |
| $\sigma^2$                                                                                 | 0.03        | 0.01           | *** |
| $\gamma$                                                                                   | 1.00        | 0.01           | *** |
| Likelihood ratio                                                                           | 71.2        |                |     |

|                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| n               | 128  |
| Mean efficiency | 0.72 |

<sup>1</sup>Dummy variable.

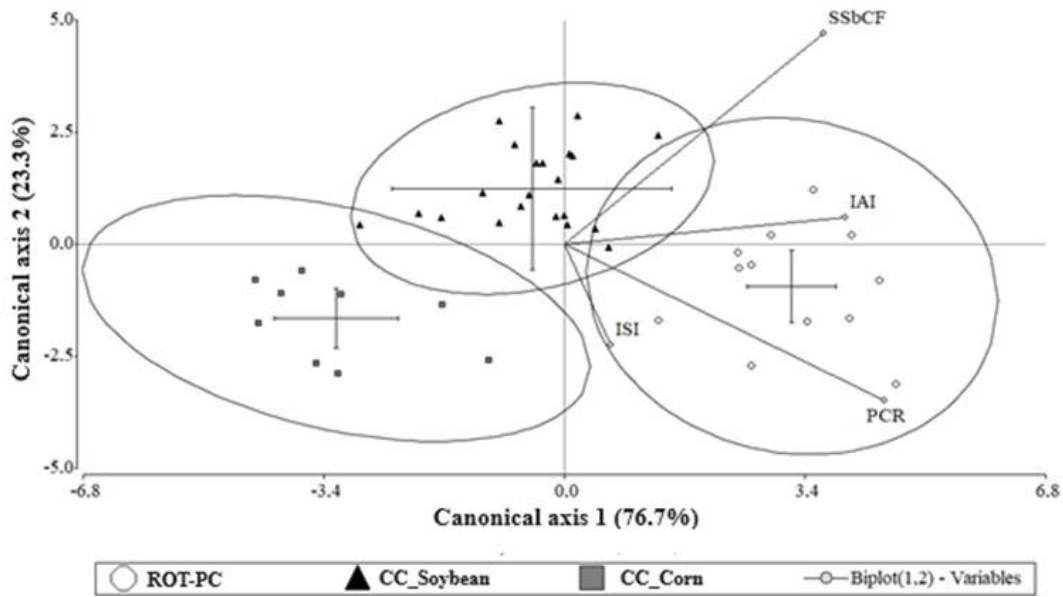
The gamma parameter was significantly different from zero ( $p \leq 0.05$ ), indicating that technical inefficiencies affecting Ya were identified.

#### Cuadro 4

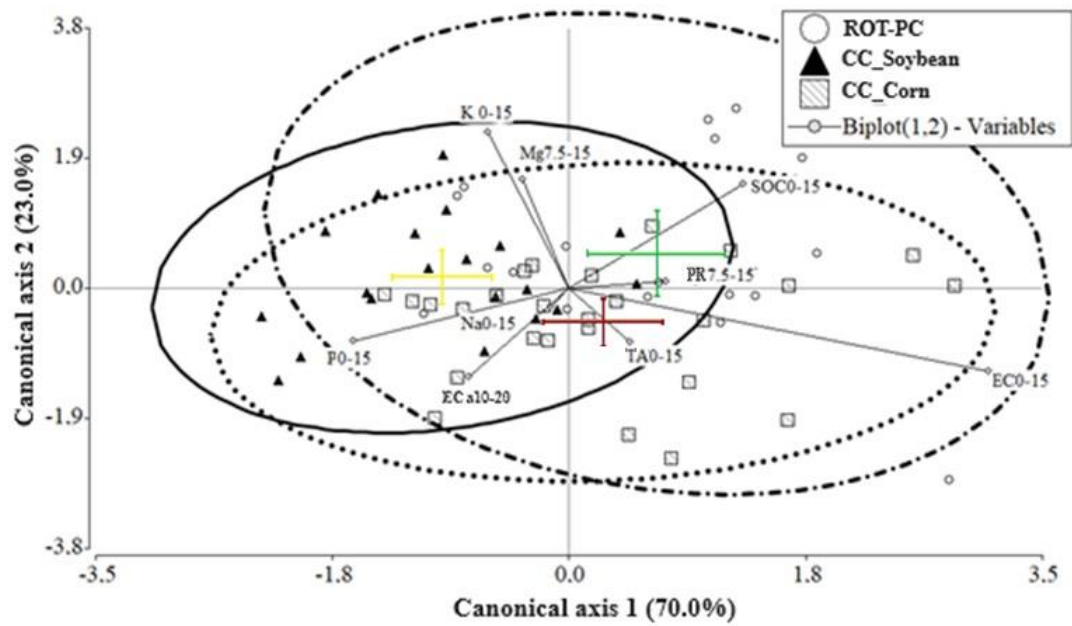
Summary of Mann-Whitney U test to compare means of each variable based on production level. Significance code "\*" indicates significant differences ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) between production levels (consecutive columns) for each continuous variable. Contingency table for dummy variables, values show adjusted residuals.

| Variable                                        | Unidades            | Ysup      | t-test | Ymed       | t-test | Yinf       |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|--------|------------|--------|------------|
| Ya                                              | Mg ha <sup>-1</sup> | 4.8 ± 0.4 | *      | 3.1 ± 0.0  | *      | 1.7 ± 0.2  |
| Yg <sup>Exp</sup>                               | Mg ha <sup>-1</sup> | 1.3 ± 0.4 | *      | 3.1 ± 0.1  | *      | 4.4 ± 0.2  |
| Yg <sup>Re</sup>                                | Mg ha <sup>-1</sup> | 1.0 ± 0.4 | *      | 1.8 ± 0.7  | *      | 2.3 ± 0.2  |
|                                                 | %                   | 80        |        | 58         |        | 52         |
| Yg <sup>Ef</sup>                                | Mg ha <sup>-1</sup> | 0.3 ± 0.4 | *      | 1.3 ± 0.8  | *      | 2.1 ± 0.2  |
|                                                 | %                   | 20        |        | 42         |        | 48         |
| <i>Resources</i>                                |                     |           |        |            |        |            |
| Water_PC                                        | mm                  | 182 ± 59  | *      | 79 ± 33    | NS     | 91 ± 17    |
| PR <sub>7,5-15</sub>                            | kPa                 | 1111 ± 60 | NS     | 1160 ± 326 | *      | 1418 ± 115 |
| EC <sub>0-15</sub>                              | mS m <sup>-1</sup>  | 127 ± 21  | *      | 107 ± 26   | NS     | 99 ± 19    |
| SOC <sub>0-15</sub>                             | g kg <sup>-1</sup>  | 33 ± 5.6  | NS     | 32 ± 7.3   | NS     | 32 ± 4.9   |
| <i>Management efficiency</i>                    |                     |           |        |            |        |            |
| YCC*SSbCF                                       | #                   | 4 ± 2     | NS     | 5 ± 1      | *      | 8 ± 1      |
| C4 species as previous summer crop <sup>1</sup> | #                   | 1.9       | *      | 0.5        | *      | -2.4       |
| Soybean as previous summer crop <sup>1</sup>    | #                   | -3.3      | *      | 0.2        | *      | 3.1        |
| Pasture as previous summer crop <sup>1</sup>    | #                   | 2.6       | *      | -1.3       | *      | 2.6        |
| Supplementary irrigation <sup>1</sup>           | #                   | 4.9       | *      | -2.5       | *      | -2.5       |

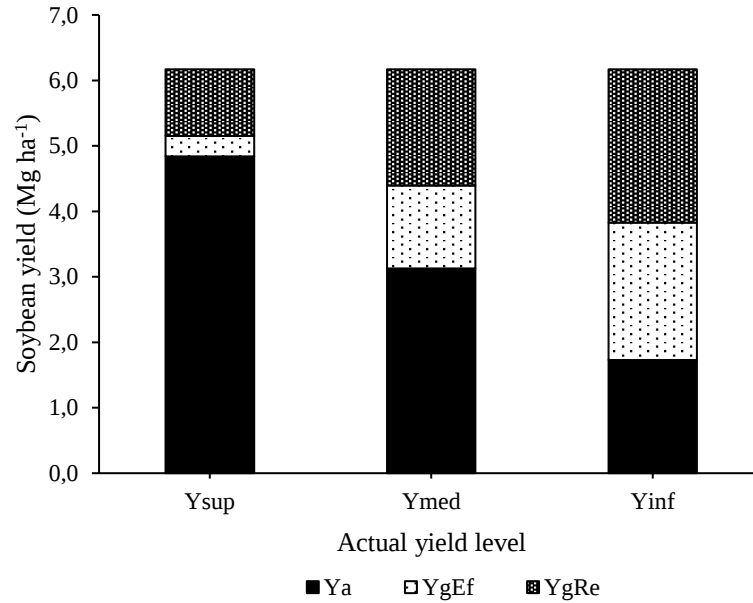
<sup>1</sup>Dummy variable



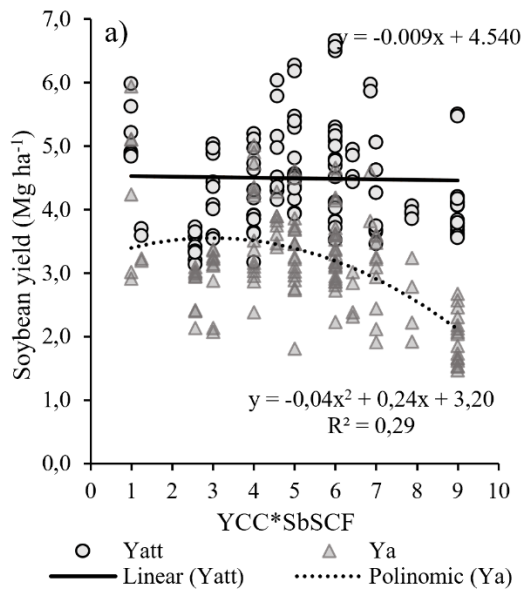
**Figure 1.** Biplot with linear discriminant analysis (LDA) for the CC\_Soybean (black triangle), ROT-PC (empty circle) and CC\_Corn (gray square) groups based on selected land use indicators. Circles represent prediction ellipses (95%) for the clusters of the three groups. Crosses indicate confidence intervals (95%).



**Figure 2.** Biplot with linear discriminant analysis (LDA) by cropping system (CC\_Corn, CC\_Soybean, and ROT-PC) for the selected soil properties that best represented the surveyed soil quality information. Crosses indicate confidence intervals (95%): ROT-PC (green), CC\_Corn (brown) and CC\_Soybean (yellow). Circles represent prediction ellipses (95%): ROT-PC (line and dot), CC\_Corn (dotted line) and CC\_Soybean (solid line).



**Figure 3.** Stacked column chart of soybean exploitable yield gap ( $Yg^{Exp}$ ), decomposed into a gap attributed to the difference in resource availability ( $Yg^{Re}$ ; column with high dot density) and technical efficiency gap ( $Yg^{Ef}$ ; column with low dot density), based on production level. Y<sub>sup</sub> is the mean of 90th percentile of actual yield ( $Y_a$ ); Y<sub>med</sub> is the mean of  $Y_a$  between P45 and P55; Y<sub>inf</sub> is the mean of 10th percentile of  $Y_a$ . Significant differences in Table 5.



**Figure 4** Actual yield ( $Y_a$ ; Mg ha<sup>-1</sup>) (triangles) and attainable yield ( $Y_{att}$ ; Mg ha<sup>-1</sup>) (circles) based on the number of years under continuous cropping weighted by the frequency of soybeans in the summer agricultural phase (YCC\*SSbCF).  $R^2$  indicates if function is significant.

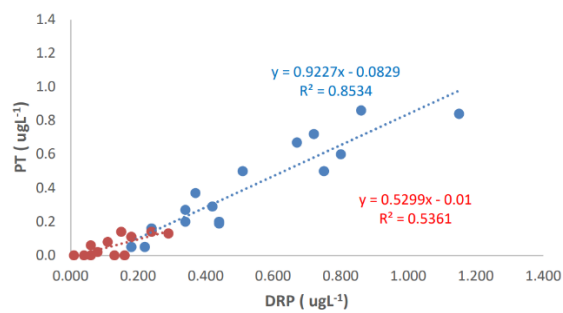


Figura 5: Concentración de DRP en función de la concentración de PT en ambas cuencas. Los círculos azules representan a la cuenca agrícola, mientras que los círculos rojos representan a la cuenca ganadera.