



*Supplement of*

## **Spatial prediction of organic carbon in German agricultural topsoil using machine learning algorithms**

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1      **Table S1:** Tuning parameter ranges corresponding to the models trained by different algorithms. The ranges differ  
 2      considering the one-model (full dataset, AP1 & AP1L) or two-model approach (mineral and organic data subset, AP2  
 3      & AP2L). BRT = boosted regression trees, RF = random forest, and SVR = support vector regression.

Algorithm	Tuning parameter	Full dataset	Mineral soil data subset	Organic soil data subset
SVR	C	1-100	1-50	1-200
	epsilon	0-5	0-1	0-5
	gamma	0.001-1	0.001-1	0.001-1
RF	mtry	3-13	3-13	3-13
BRT	number of trees	100-3000	100-3000	100-3000
	shrinkage	0.001-0.1	0.001-0.1	0.001-0.1
	interaction depth	1-5	1-5	1-5
	bag fraction	0.5-0.9	0.5-0.9	0.5-0.9

4      **Table S2:** Predictive model performance of the models trained with different machine learning algorithms and datasets:  
 5      A) built on the German Agricultural Soil Inventory, B) including LUCAS data in the training set. BRT = boosted  
 6      regression trees, RF = random forest, and SVR = support vector regression.

	Algorithm	RMSE	MAE	%MAPE	%Bias	AIC	BIC	Approach
A	BRT	32.9	12.4	50.9	-32	14865	14889	AP1
	RF	33.2	12.3	48.6	-30	14913	14919	AP1
	SVR	31.6	12.3	47.4	-20	14643	14661	AP1
	BRT	9.5	6.2	35.9	-20	7500	7524	Mineral
	RF	9.1	5.9	34	-20	7288	7294	Mineral
	SVR	9.2	5.8	31.8	-10	7331	7349	Mineral
	BRT	107	90.4	48.5	-26	757	768	Organic
	RF	106.1	89.3	48.2	-28	750	753	Organic
	SVR	101.7	86.9	45.6	-22	746	754	Organic
	BRT	22	9.1	36.3	-20	12578	12602	AP2
B	RF	21.7	8.8	34.5	-20	12496	12502	AP2
	SVR	21	8.6	32.3	-10	12310	12328	AP2
	Algorithm	RMSE	MAE	%MAPE	%Bias	AIC	BIC	Approach
	BRT	31.3	11.8	47.4	-30	14568	14592	AP1L
	RF	32.5	12.1	46.8	-30	14754	14759	AP1L
	SVR	32.6	12.3	46.4	-20	14775	14792	AP1L
	BRT	9.4	6.2	35.6	-20	7429	7453	Mineral
	RF	9.1	6	34.6	-20	7268	7274	Mineral
	SVR	9.1	5.8	31.7	-10	7275	7293	Mineral
	BRT	105.4	88.4	45	-20	754	765	Organic
	RF	104.1	86.2	43.5	-20	745	748	Organic
	SVR	100.2	81.7	40.2	-12	741	749	Organic
	BRT	21.7	9	36	-20	12486	12510	AP2L

8           Table S3: Percent change in predictive model performance comparing models trained with different machine learning  
 9           algorithms and data sets: A) and B) comparison of models trained by using data from the German Agricultural Soil  
 10          Inventory, C) and D) comparison of models trained by using data from the German Agricultural Soil Inventory and  
 11          LUCAS, A) and C) comparison of models trained with different machine learning algorithms, B) and D) comparison of  
 12          the one-model approach (AP1) to the two-model approach (AP2), E) comparison of the approaches before and after  
 13          including LUCAS. BRT = boosted regression trees, RF = random forest, and SVR = support vector regression.

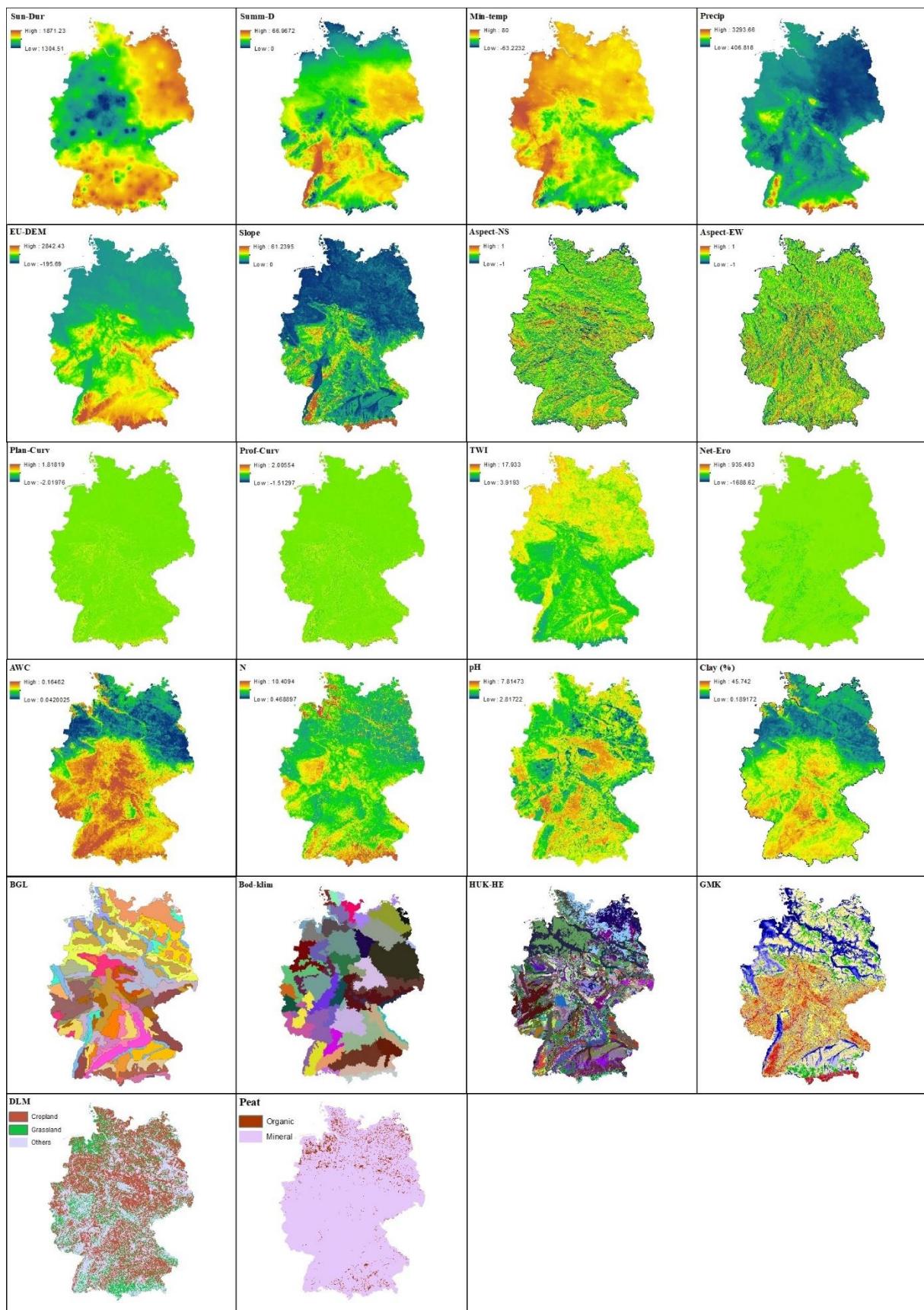
	Algorithm	RMSE (%)	MAE (%)	MAPE (%)	Approach
A	BRT to RF	0.9	-0.8	-4.5	AP1
	RF to SVR	-4.8	0.0	-2.5	AP1
	BRT to SVR	-4.0	-0.8	-6.9	AP1
	BRT to RF	-4.2	-4.8	-5.3	Mineral
	RF to SVR	1.1	-1.7	-6.5	Mineral
	BRT to SVR	-3.2	-6.5	-11.4	Mineral
	BRT to RF	-0.8	-1.2	-0.6	Organic
	RF to SVR	-4.1	-2.7	-5.4	Organic
	BRT to SVR	-5.2	-4.0	-6.0	Organic
	BRT to RF	-1.4	-3.3	-5.0	AP2
B	RF to SVR	-3.2	-2.3	-6.4	AP2
	BRT to SVR	-4.5	-5.5	-11.0	AP2
	Algorithm	RMSE	MAE	MAPE	Approach
C	BRT	-33.1	-26.6	-28.7	AP1 to AP2
	RF	-34.6	-28.5	-29.0	AP1 to AP2
	SVR	-33.5	-30.1	-31.9	AP1 to AP2
D	Algorithm	RMSE	MAE	MAPE	Approach
	BRT to RF	3.8	2.5	-1.3	AP1L
	RF to SVR	0.3	1.7	-0.9	AP1L
	BRT to SVR	4.2	4.2	-2.1	AP1L
	BRT to RF	-3.2	-3.2	-2.8	Mineral
	RF to SVR	0.0	-3.3	-8.4	Mineral
	BRT to SVR	-3.2	-6.5	-11.0	Mineral
	BRT to RF	-1.2	-2.5	-3.3	Organic
	RF to SVR	-3.7	-5.2	-7.6	Organic
	BRT to SVR	-5.2	-8.2	-10.7	Organic
	BRT to RF	-1.4	-3.3	-3.1	AP2L
	RF to SVR	-3.3	-3.4	-8.6	AP2L
	BRT to SVR	-4.6	-6.7	-11.4	AP2L
	Algorithm	RMSE	MAE	MAPE	Approach

D	BRT	-30.7	-23.7	-24.1	AP1L to AP2L
	RF	-34.2	-28.1	-25.4	AP1L to AP2L
	SVR	-36.5	-31.7	-31.3	AP1L to AP2L
	Algorithm	RMSE	MAE	MAPE	Approach
E	BRT	-4.9	-4.8	-6.9	AP1 to AP1L
	RF	-2.1	-1.6	-3.7	AP1 to AP1L
	SVR	3.2	0.0	-2.1	AP1 to AP1L
	BRT	-1.1	0.0	-0.8	Mineral
	RF	0.0	1.7	1.8	Mineral
	SVR	-1.1	0.0	-0.3	Mineral
	BRT	-1.5	-2.2	-7.2	Organic
	RF	-1.9	-3.5	-9.8	Organic
	SVR	-1.5	-6.0	-11.8	Organic
	BRT	-1.4	-1.1	-0.8	AP2 to AP2L
	RF	-1.4	-1.1	1.2	AP2 to AP2L
	SVR	-1.4	-2.3	-1.2	AP2 to AP2L

14 Table S4: List of covariates, their abbreviations and their SCORPAN ID.

SCORPAN ID	Covariates	Abbreviation
S	Net erosion	Net-Ero
	Available water capacity	AWC
	Total nitrogen	TN
	pH	pH
	Soil organic map	Peat
	Clay content	Clay
C	Multi-annual grid of annual sunshine duration over Germany	Sun-Dur
	Multi-annual grids of number of summer days over Germany	Summ-D
	Multi-annual grids of monthly averaged daily minimum air temperature (2m) over Germany	Min-temp
	Multi-annual grids of precipitation height over Germany	Precip
O	Landuse	DLM
R	Digital elevation model	EU-DEM
	Slope	Slope
	Aspect north south direcion	Aspect-NS
	Aspect east west direction	Aspect-EW
	Plan Curvature	Plan-Curv
	Profile curvature	Prof-Curv
	Topographic wetness index	TWI
	Geomorphographic map	GMK
P	Large-scale landscape unit map (Bodengrosslandschaft)	BGL

	Large-scale soil climate region map (Bodenklima)	Bod-klim
	Hydrological unit	HUK-HE
N	X coordination	x
	Y coordination	y

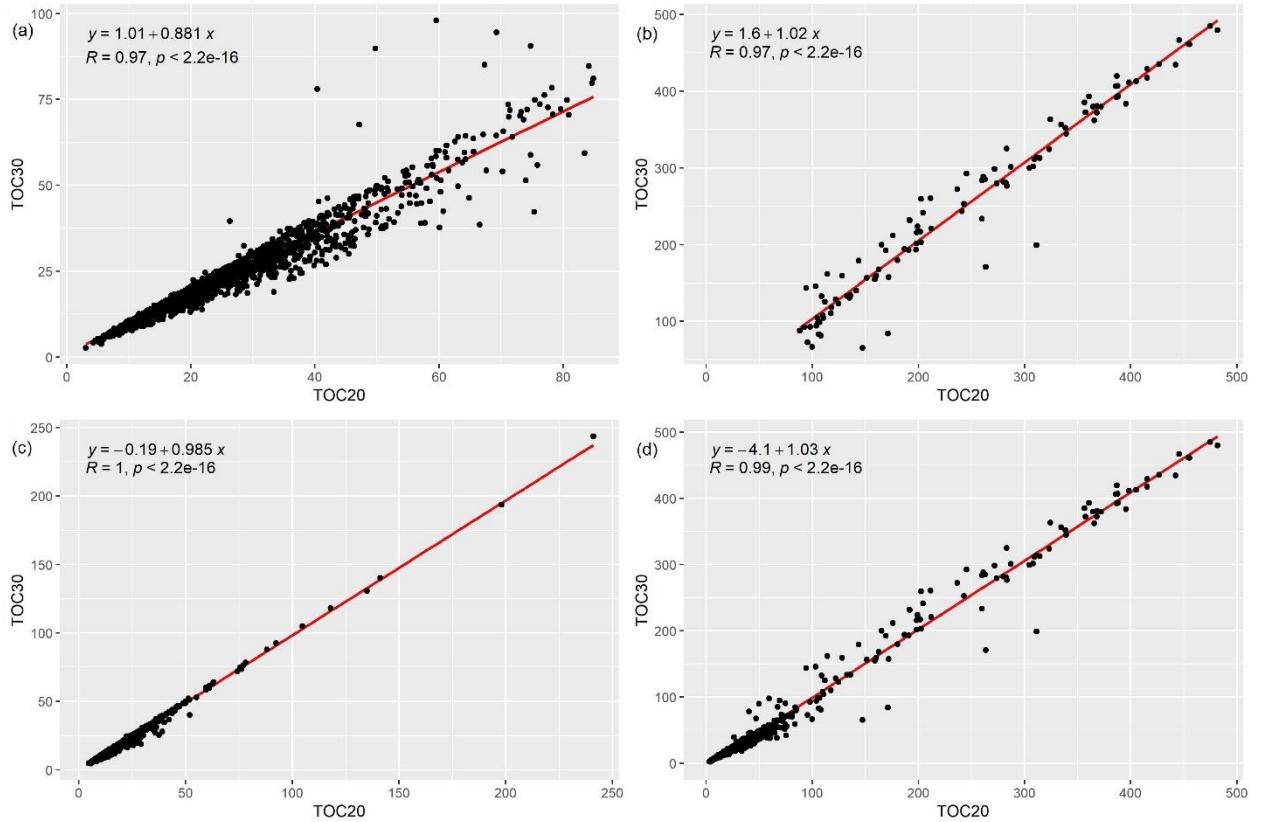


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Figure S1: Selected covariates: Sun-Dur) sunshine duration (DWD, 2017), Summ-D) summer days (DWD, 2018b), Min-temp) minimum temperature (DWD, 2018a), Precip) precipitation (DWD, 2018c), EU-DEM) digital elevation model (European Union Copernicus Land Monitoring Service, 2016), Net-Ero) net soil erosion and deposition rates (Borrelli et al., 2018), AWC) available water capacity (Ballabio et al., 2016), N) total nitrogen (Ballabio et al., 2019), pH map of pH (Ballabio et al., 2019), %Clay) % Clay (Ballabio et al., 2016), BGL) soil scapes unit (BGR, 2008) [Legend], Bod-

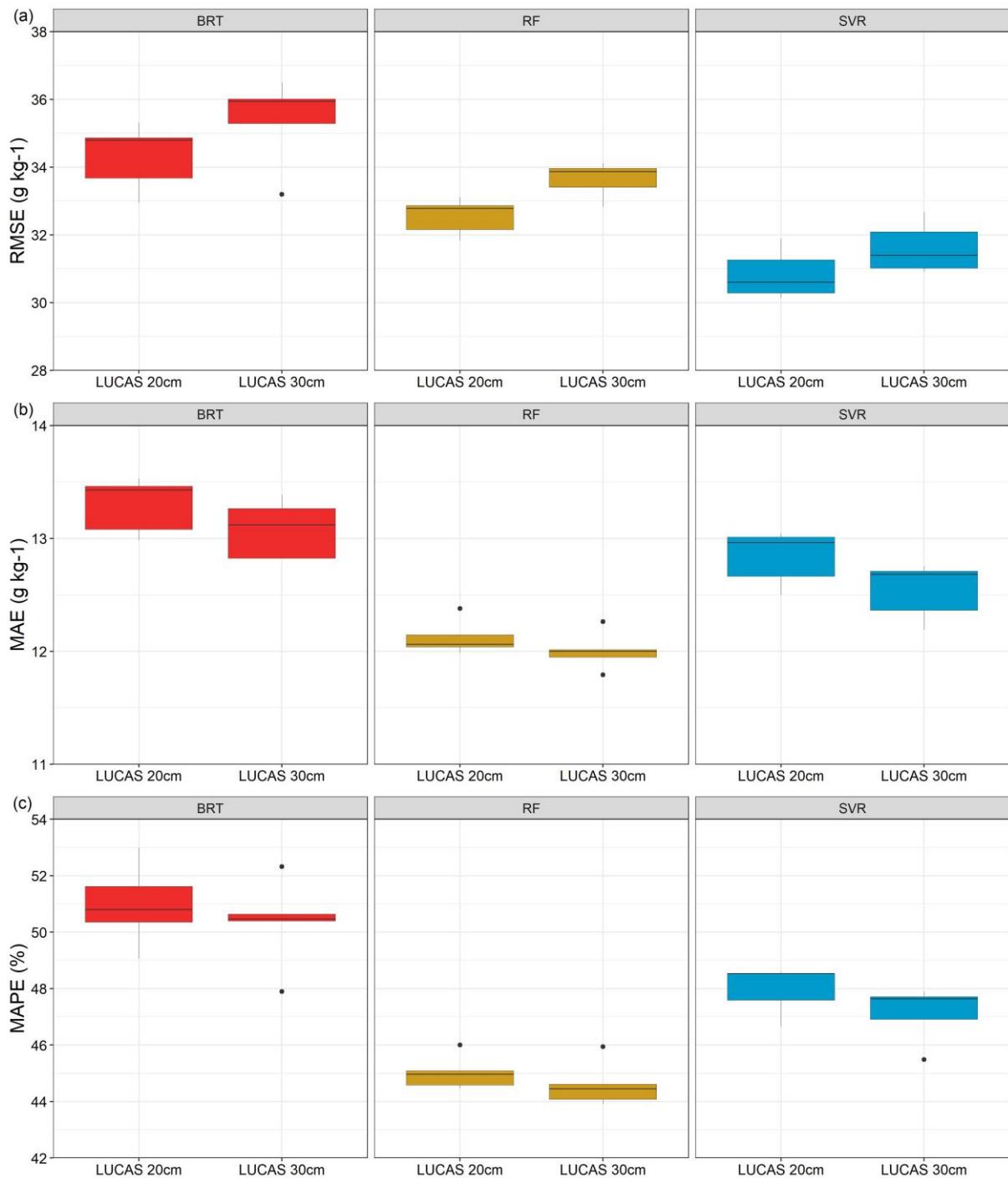
21 Klim) soil-climate region (Roßberg et al., 2007), HUK-HE hydrogeological unit of hydrogeological map(BGR, SDG,  
22 2019), GMK geomorphographic map of Germany (BGR, 2007) [[Legend](#)], DLM) Land use (BKG, 2019), Peat) Organic  
23 soils (Roßkopf et al., 2015).

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26 **Figure S2: Regression plot for SOC depth extrapolation in A) Mineral soils, B) Organic soils, C) Cropland, D)**  
 27 **Grassland.**



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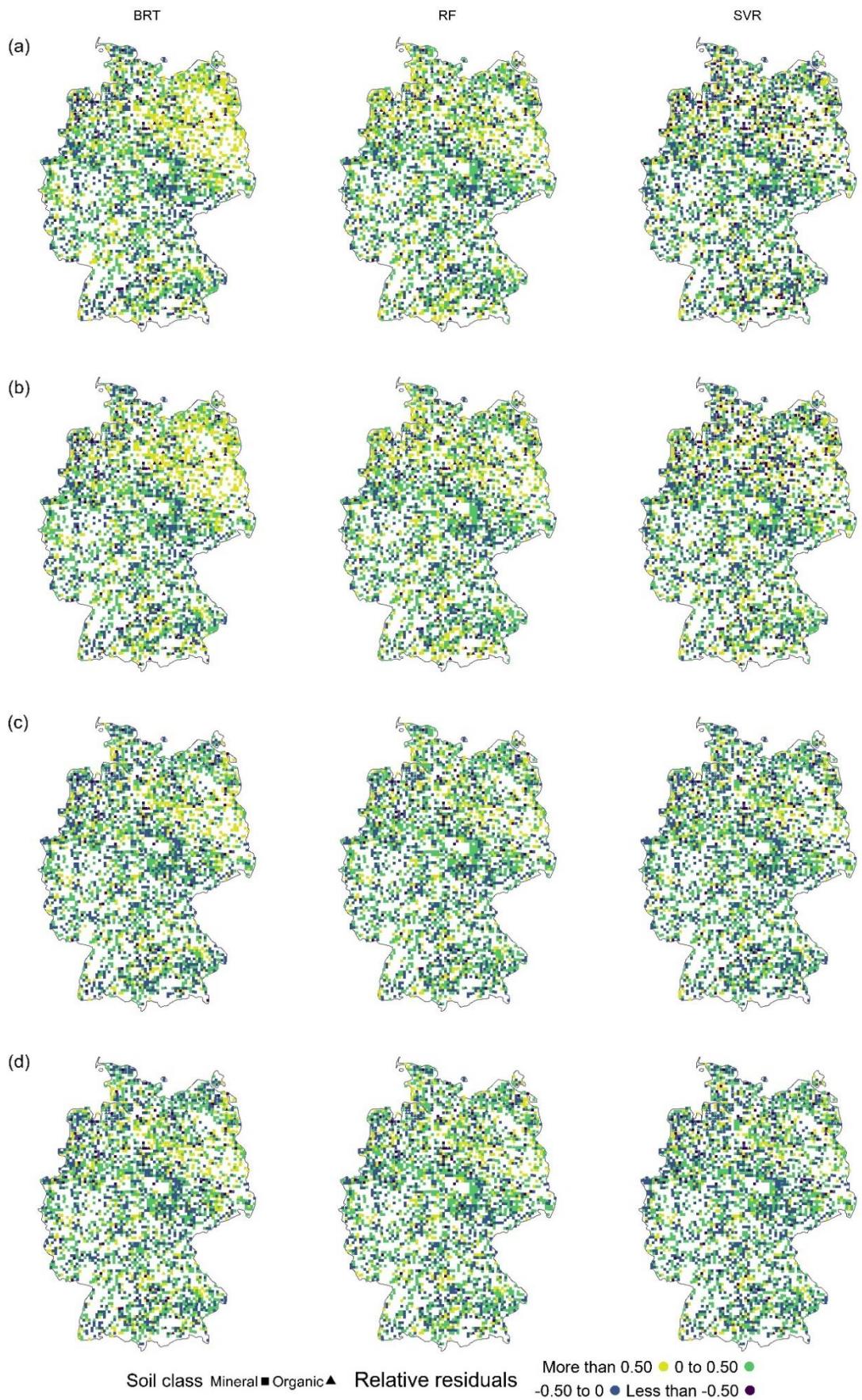
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**Figure S3: Boxplots comparing model performance with regards to the three machine learning algorithms considering LUCAS at the original sampling depth (20 cm) versus LUCAS with depth extrapolated (30 cm): A) RMSE ( $\text{g kg}^{-1}$ ), B) MAE ( $\text{g kg}^{-1}$ ) and C) MAPE (%). BRT = boosted regression trees, RF = random forest, and SVR = support vector regression.**

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34 **Figure S4: Spatial distribution of relative residuals from the models trained with the different machine learning**  
 35 **algorithms. A) AP1 approach, B) AP1L approach, C) AP2 approach and D) AP2L approach. BRT = boosted regression**  
 36 **SVR = support vector regression.**