



# Evaluating vegetated buffer zones for P retention in cereal and grass production

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22-23 September 2008, Uppsala - Sweden

NJF seminar 401



# Contents

1. Introduction
2. Buffer zone experimental field
3. Results
4. Conclusions



# 1. Introduction: surface runoff and buffer zones



# Headlands



# Buffer strips and buffer zones



Buffer zone  
(15 m)

Buffer strip  
(3 m)

J. Uusi-Kämpä

# Retention processes on buffer zones

1. Deposition of soil particles
2. Adsorption of P to soil surface, and infiltration of water into soil pores
3. Plant uptake of P

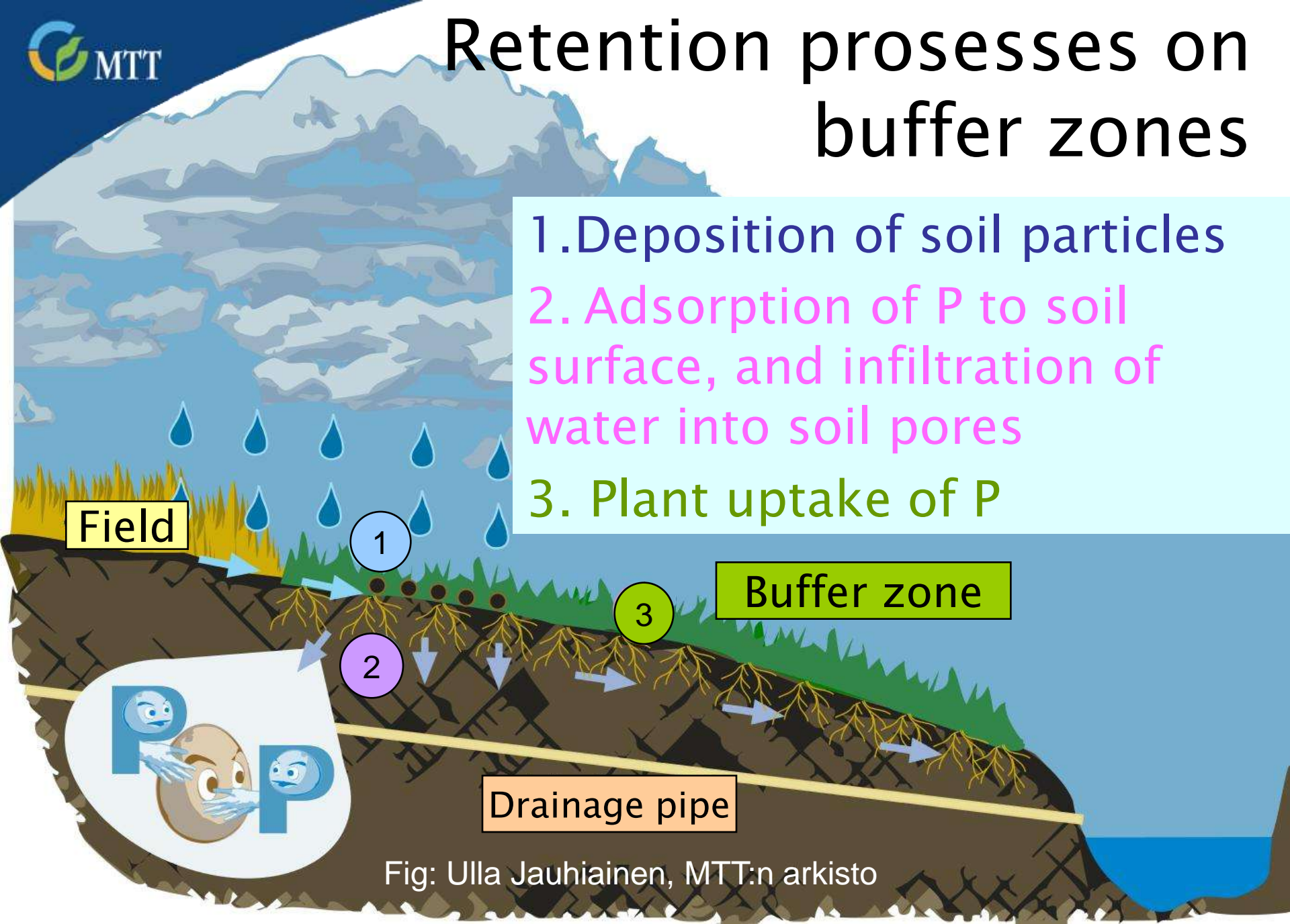
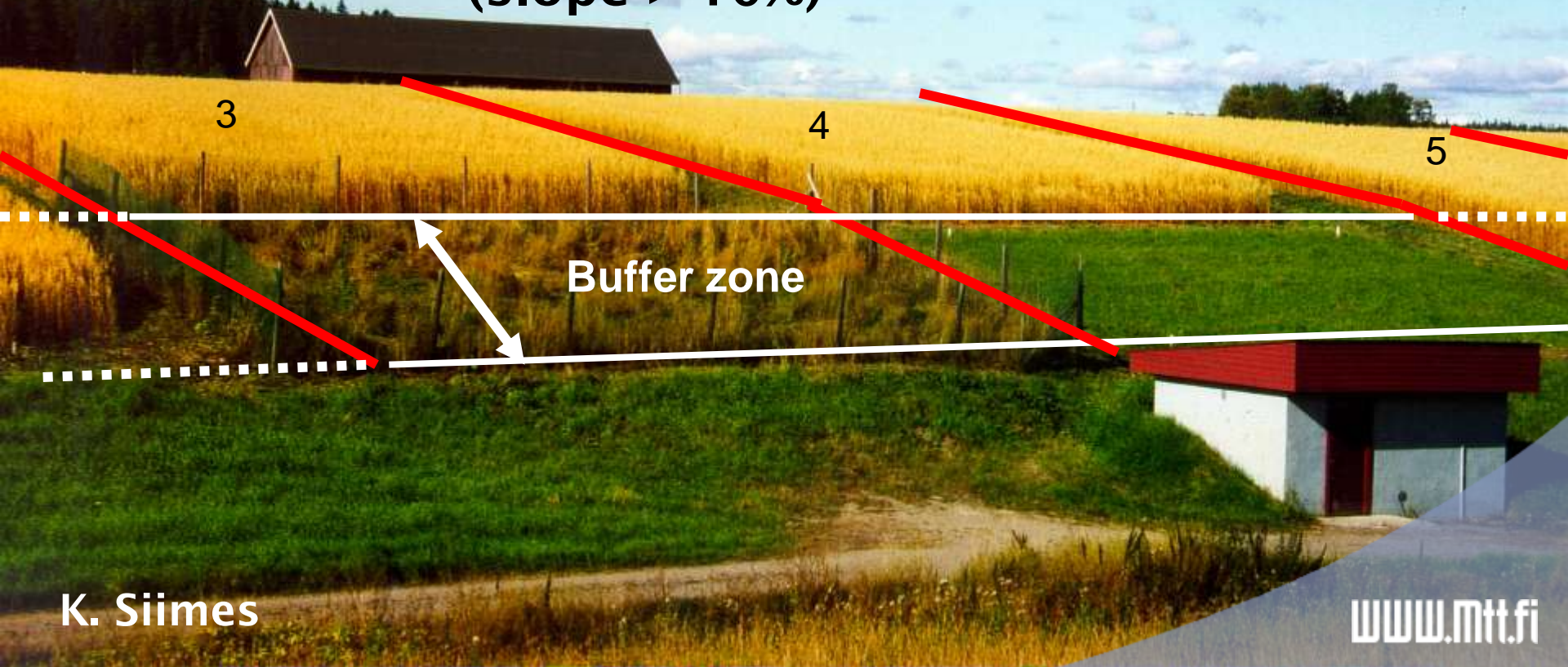


Fig: Ulla Jauhiainen, MTT:n arkisto

## 2. Lintupaju experimental field

- 6 plots (70 m long, 18 m wide)
- 10-m wide buffer zones on clay soil (slope > 10%)



# Experiments on the Lintupaju field



1. Conventional tillage with autumn ploughing (1992–2002)



3. Direct drilling (2006–)

2. Pasture (2003–2005)





# Treatments



# Samplings



**Water**



**Soil**



**Plants**

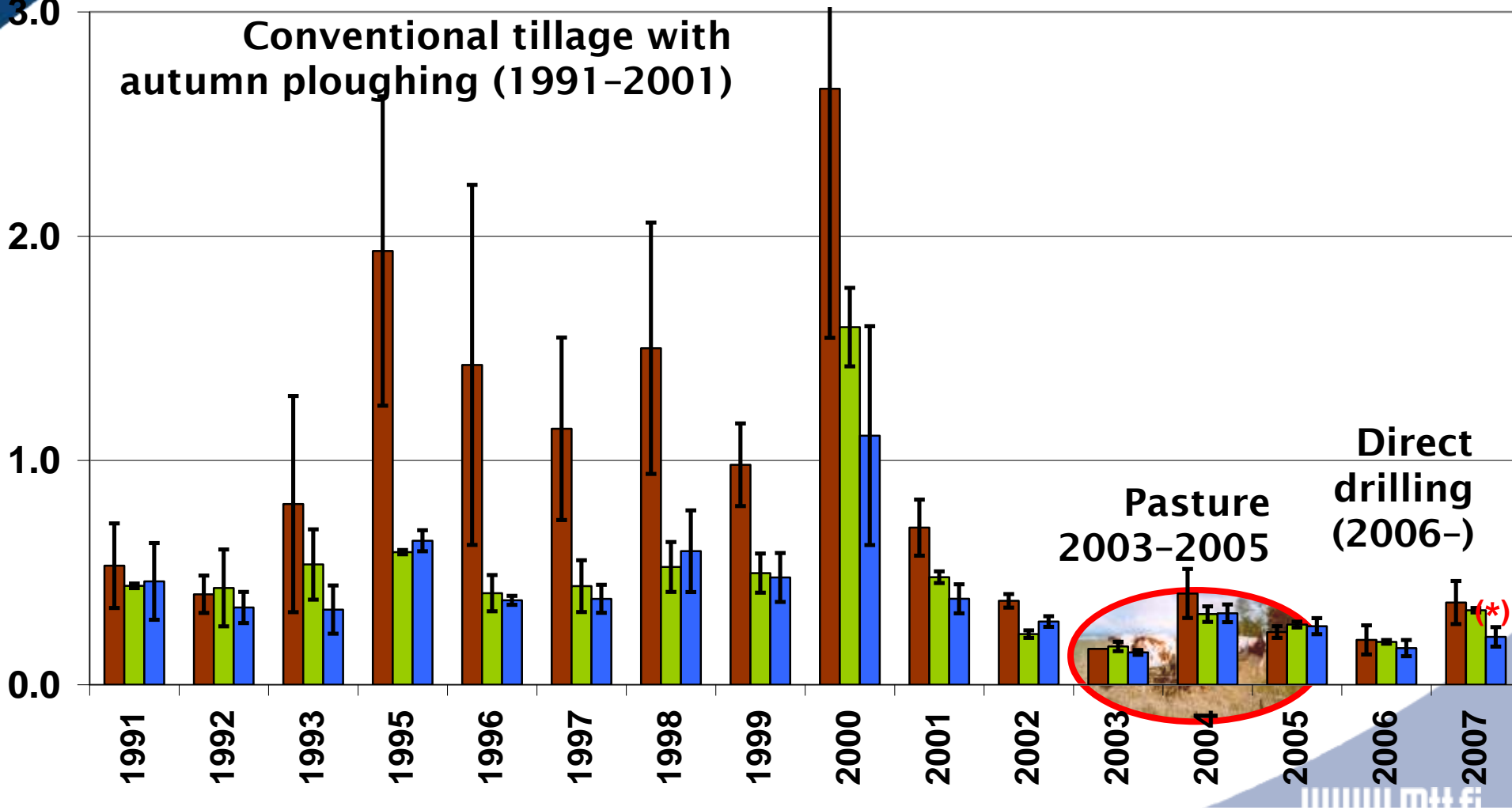
# 3. Results and discussion





# Total solids in surface runoff

TS, t ha<sup>-1</sup>

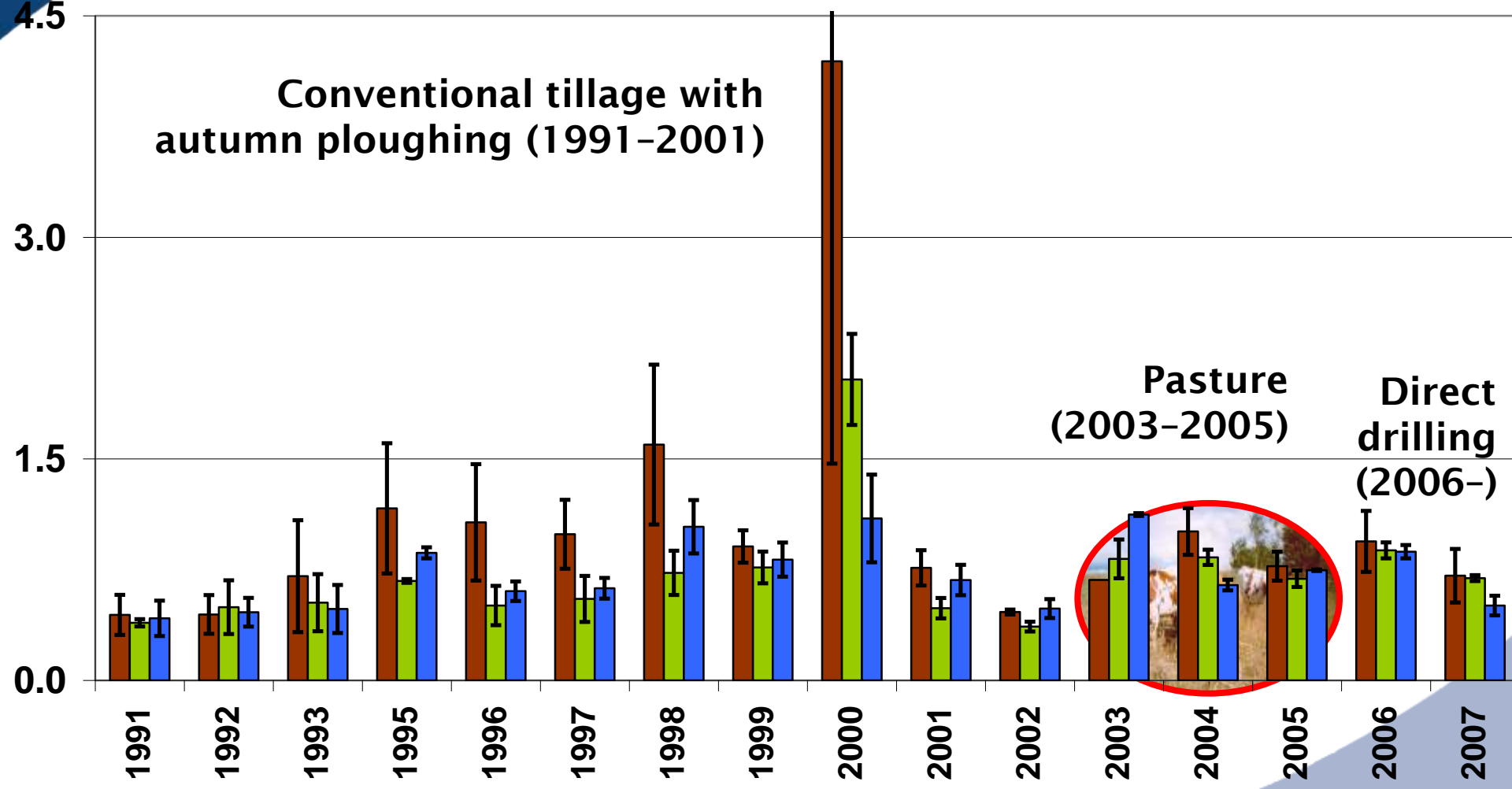


■ No-BZ / Grazed-BZ   
 ■ Grass BZ   
 ■ Vegetated BZ with scrubs and herbs



# Total phosphorus in surface runoff

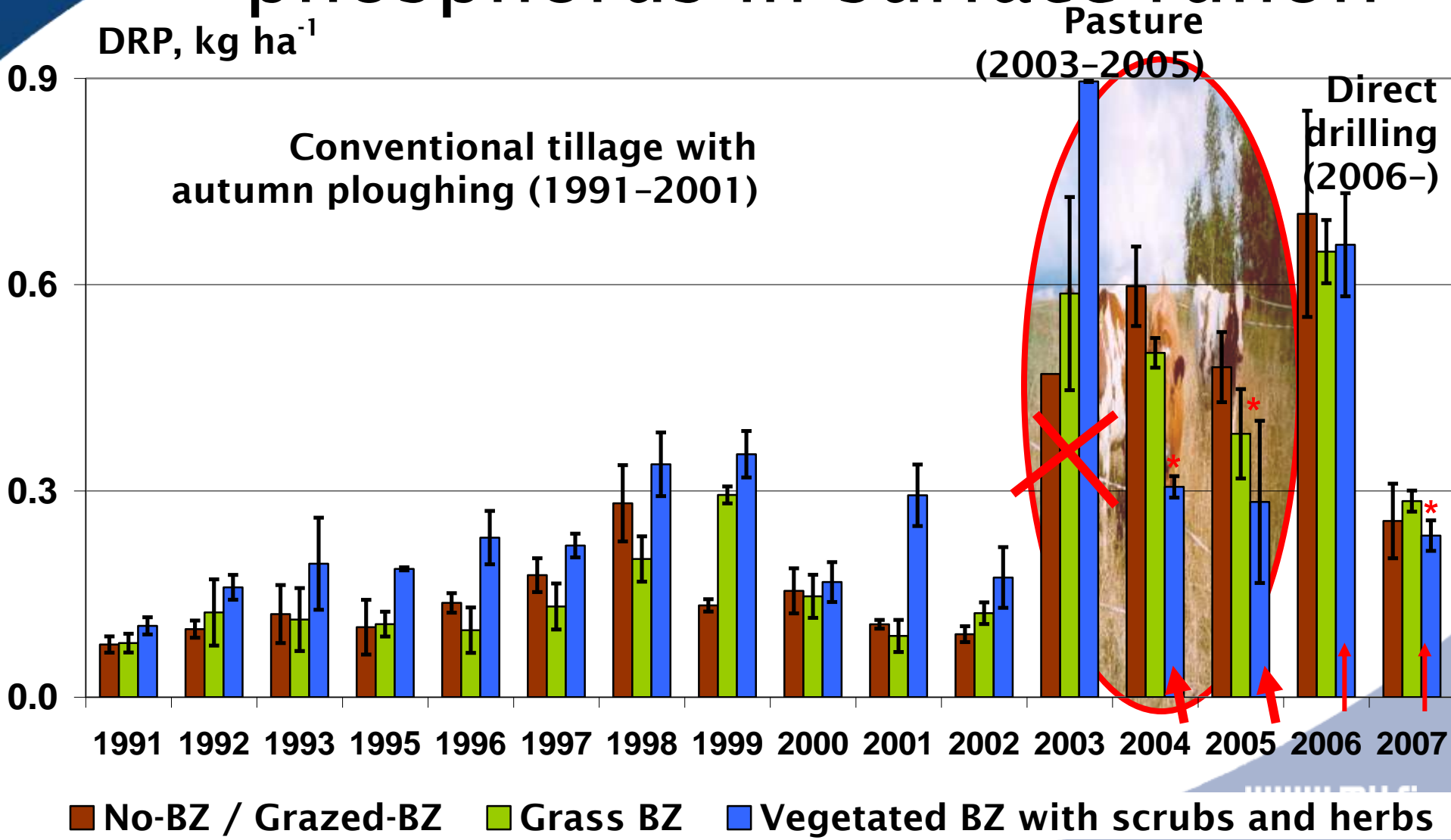
TP, kg ha<sup>-1</sup>



■ No-BZ / Grazed-BZ ■ Grass BZ ■ Vegetated BZ with scrubs and herbs



# Dissolved reactive phosphorus in surface runoff

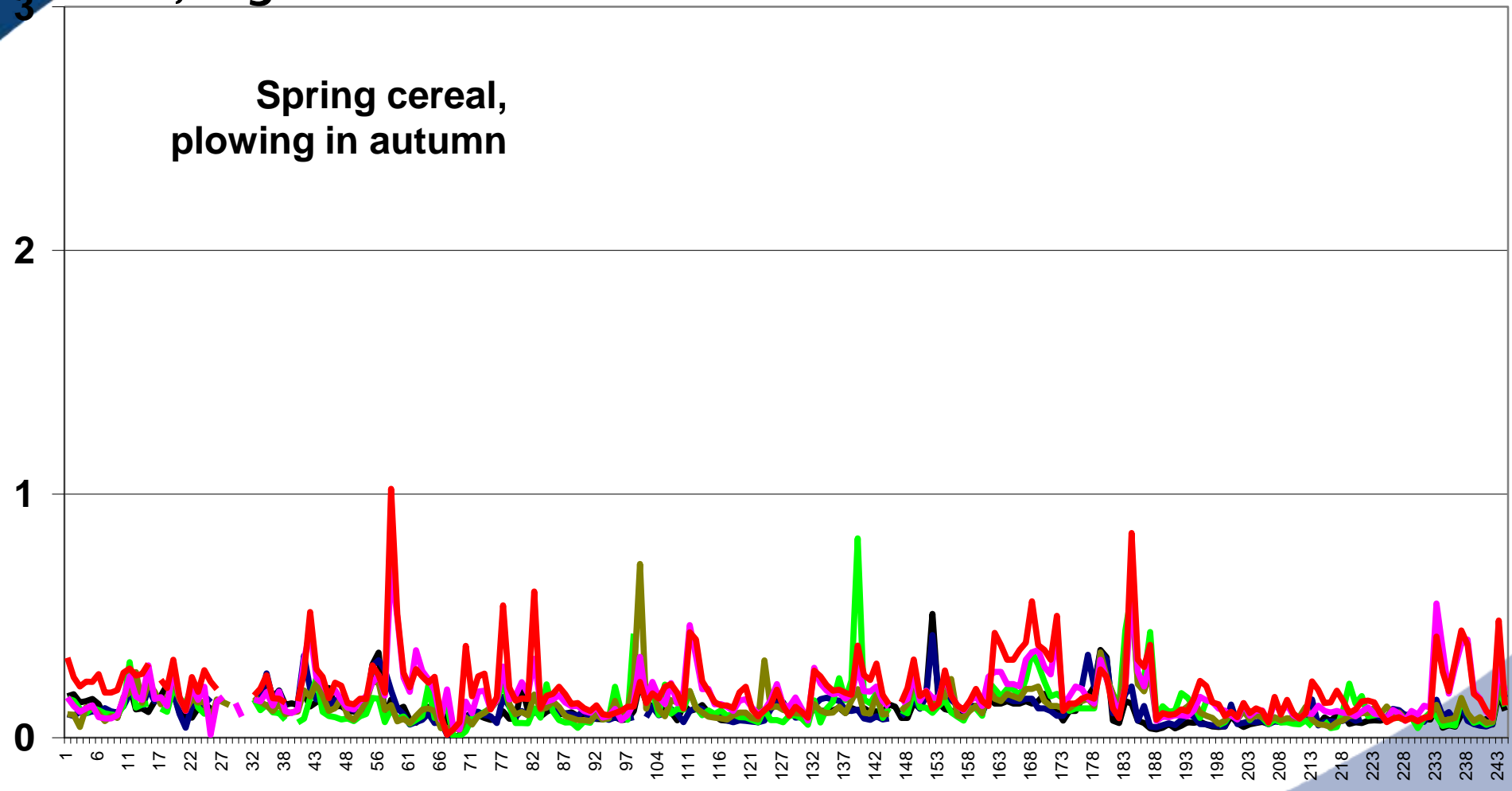




# DRP concentrations in surface runoff (1991-2001)

DRP, mg L<sup>-1</sup>

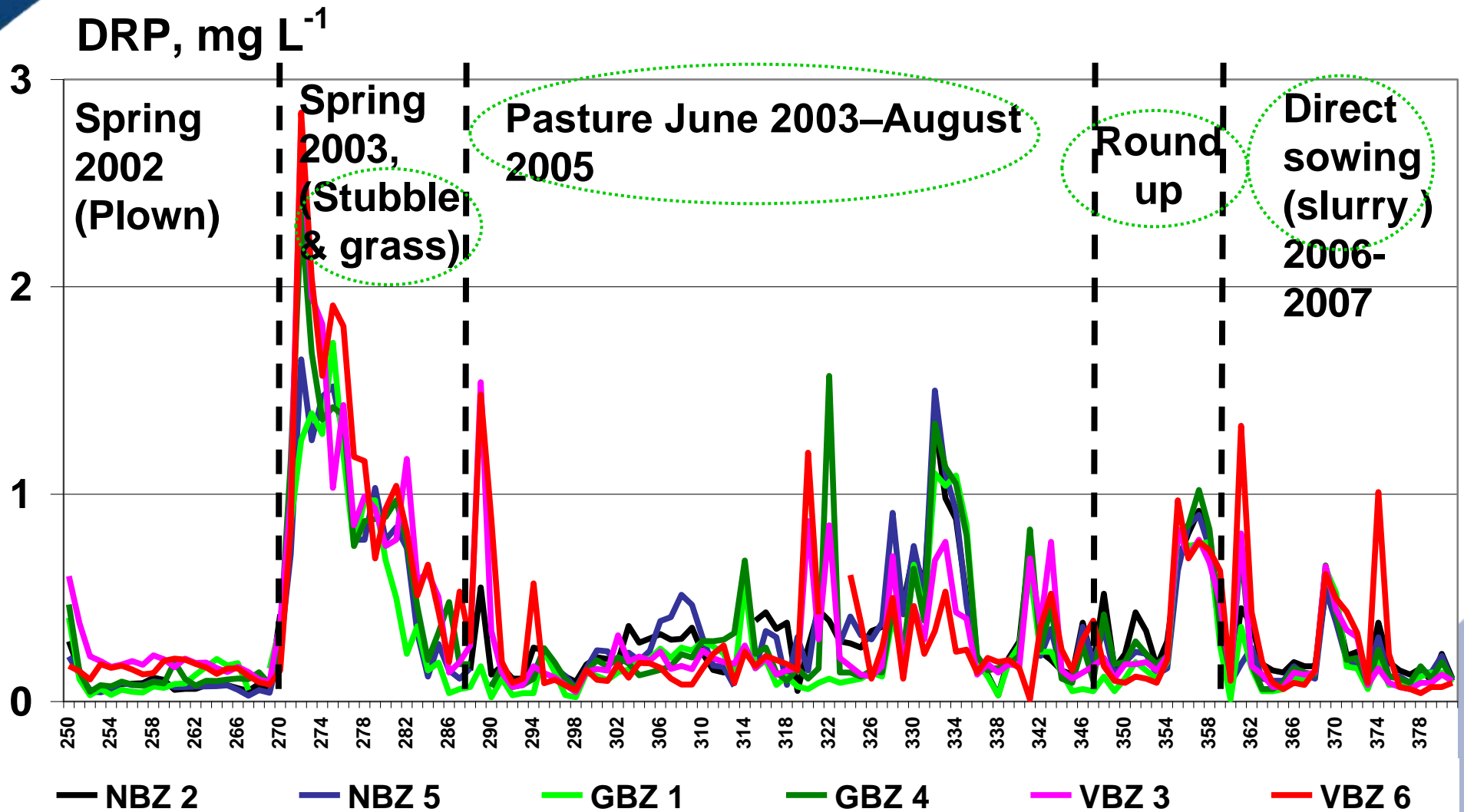
Spring cereal,  
plowing in autumn



— NBZ 2    — NBZ 5    — GBZ 1    — GBZ 4    — VBZ 3    — VBZ 6



# DRP concentrations in surface runoff (2002–2007)





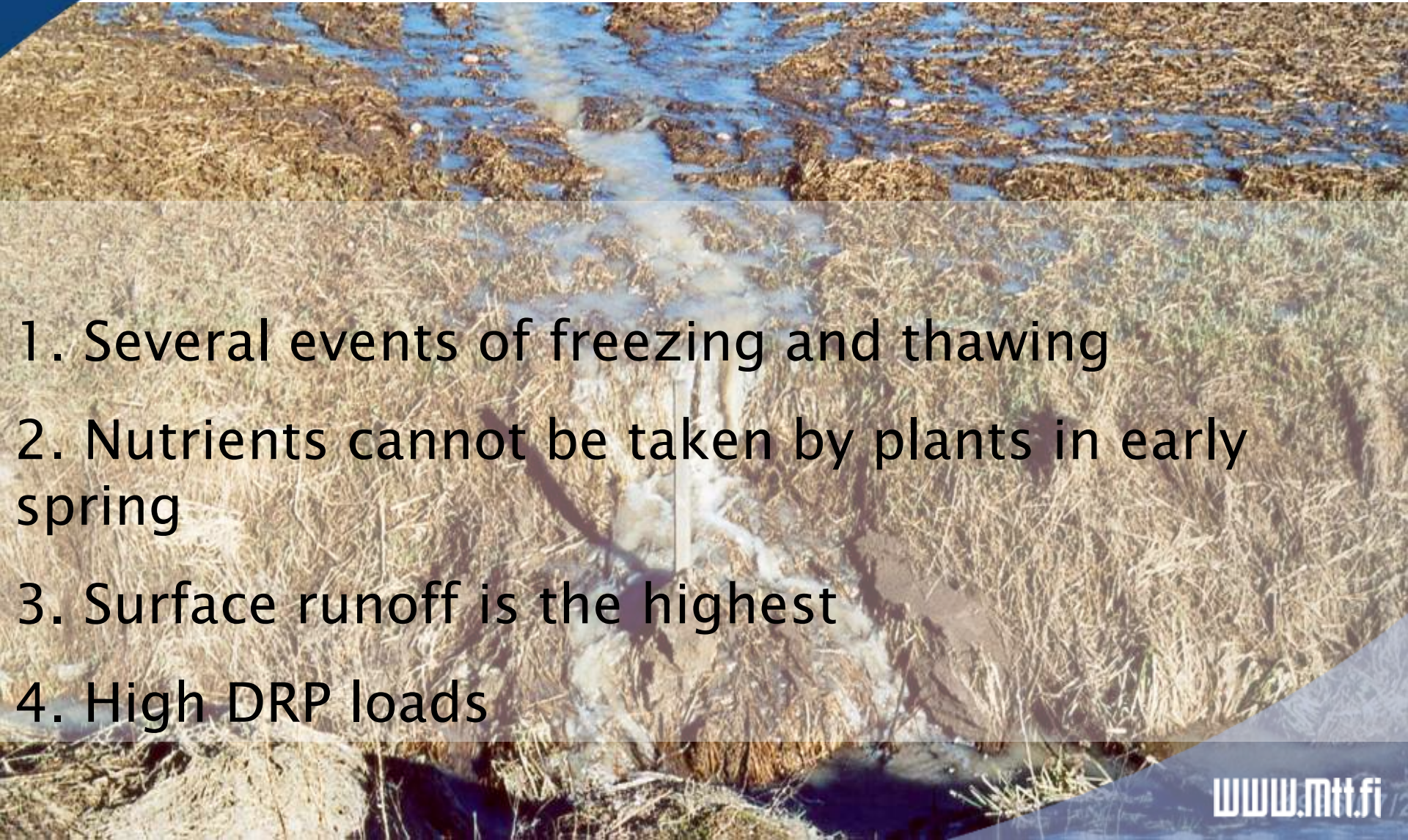
# Mean annual loads

Treatment	Runoff	Erosion	Total P	Particle P	DRP
(n)‡	mm yr <sup>-1</sup>	t ha <sup>-1</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup>	kg ha <sup>-1</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup>		
Conventional tillage with autumn ploughing, 1992–2002 ( <i>precipitation 660 mm yr<sup>-1</sup></i> )					
NBZ (245)	160 ± 20	1.3 ± 0.5	1.3 ± 0.5	1.2 ± 0.5	0.16 ± 0.02
GBZ (245)	130 ± 20	0.6 ± 0.09	0.8 ± 0.1	0.6 ± 0.1	0.16 ± 0.03
VBZ (245)	140 ± 20	0.5 ± 0.1	0.8 ± 0.08	0.5 ± 0.07	0.26 ± 0.02
Pasture, 13 May 2003–8 May 2006 ( <i>precipitation 653 mm yr<sup>-1</sup></i> )					
NBZ (71)	130 ± 20	0.26 ± 0.06	0.9 ± 0.1	0.3 ± 0.07	0.59 ± 0.08
GBZ (72)	120‡ ± 20	0.24 ± 0.03	0.8 ± 0.03	0.3 ± 0.03	0.51 ± 0.01
VBZ (72)	110* ± 4	0.23 ± 0.003	0.7(0.07) ± 0.05	0.3 ± 0.06	0.41(0.05) ± 0.01
Direct drilling, 9 May 2006–17 Apr. 2008 ( <i>precipitation 674 mm yr<sup>-1</sup></i> )					
NBZ (28)	100 ± 20	0.40 ± 0.08	0.7 ± 0.1	0.5 ± 0.09	0.20 ± 0.05
GBZ (28)	100‡ ± 10	0.34 ± 0.02	0.6 ± 0.02	0.4 ± 0.01	0.20 ± 0.01
VBZ (28)	70*** ± 20	0.30(0.05) ± 0.06	0.5 ± 0.09	0.4 ± 0.06	0.16(0.07) ± 0.03

# Buffer zones in different seasons



# Surface runoff in spring

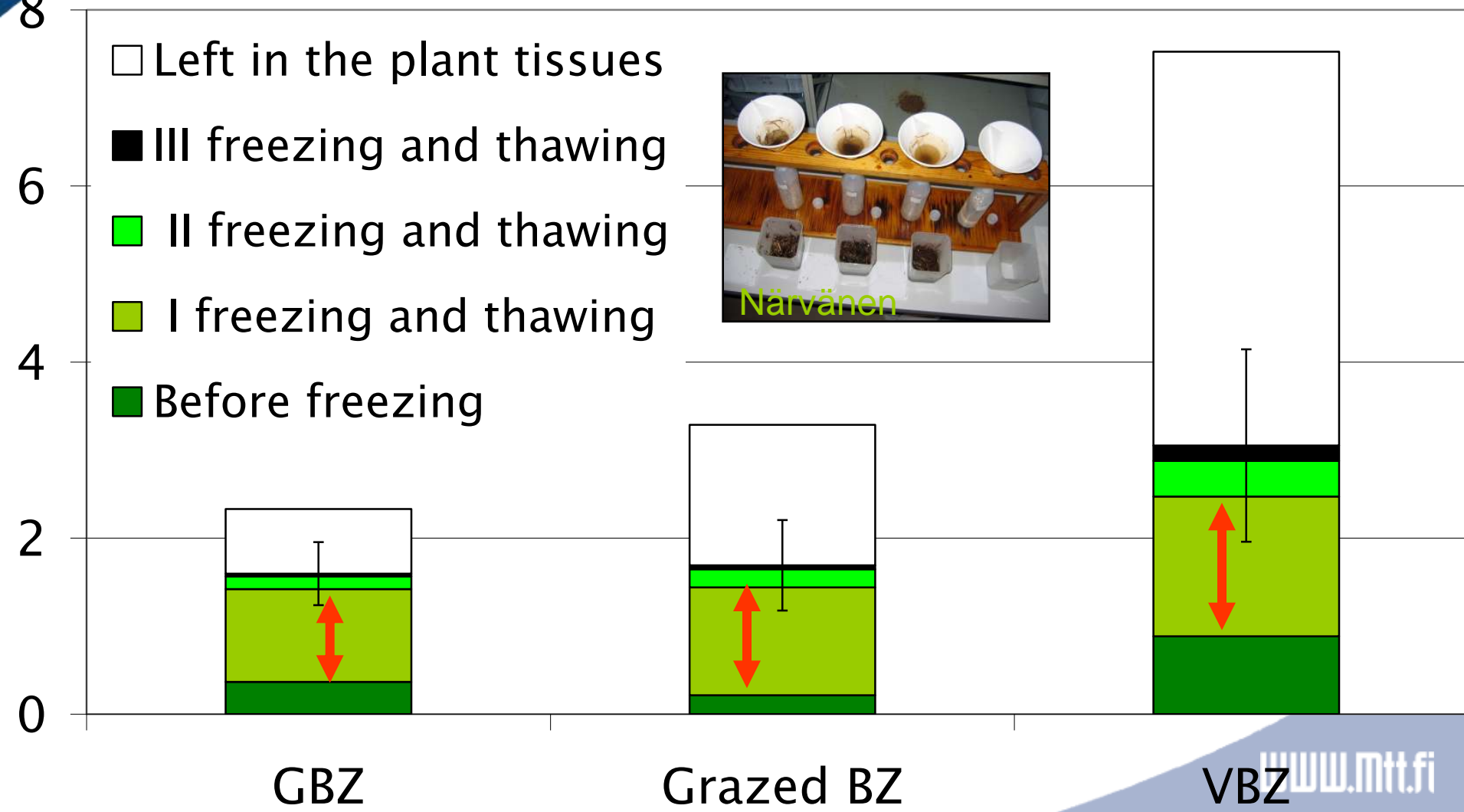


1. Several events of freezing and thawing
2. Nutrients cannot be taken by plants in early spring
3. Surface runoff is the highest
4. High DRP loads

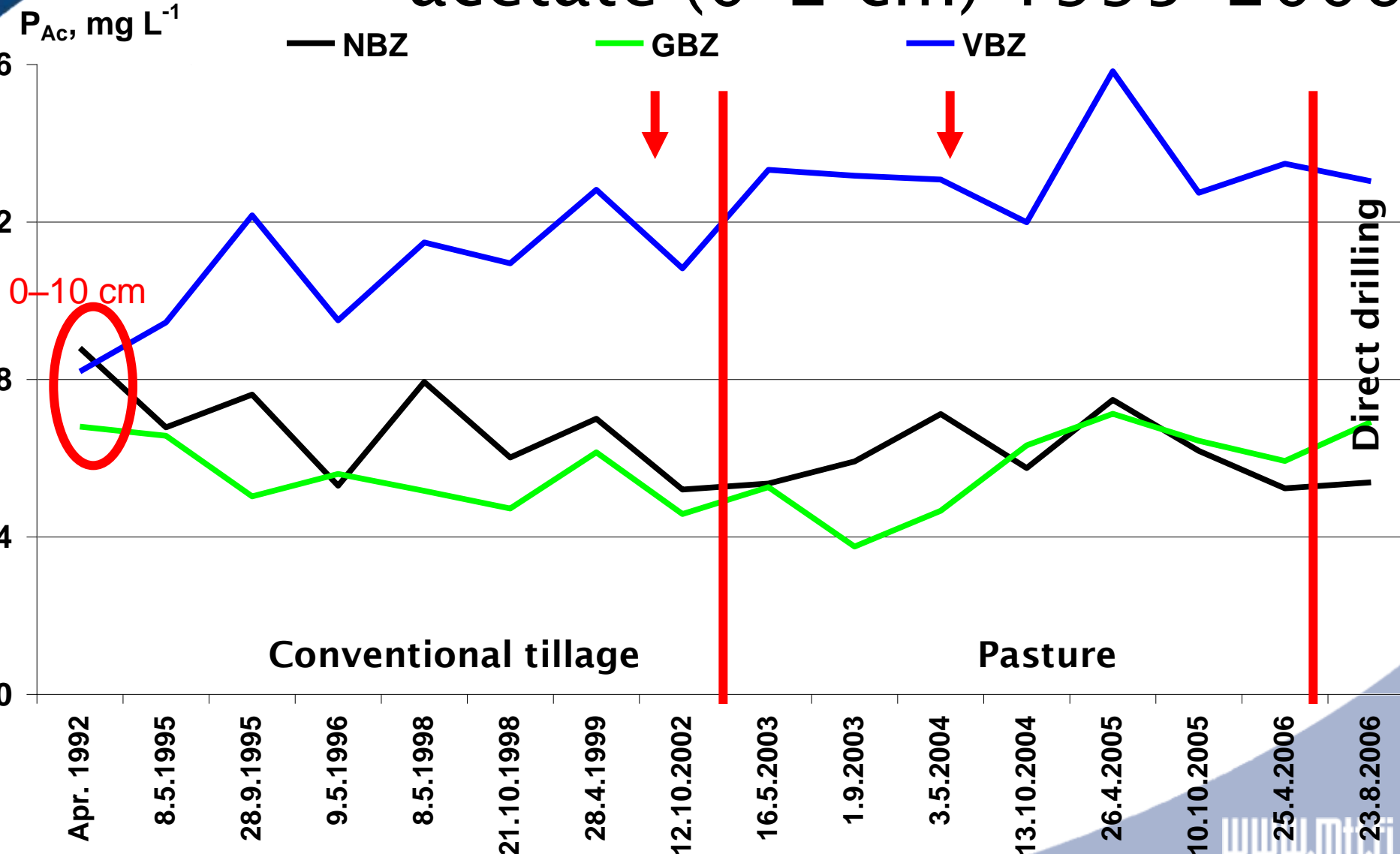


# Potential TP loss from plants after freezing and thawing

TP, kg ha<sup>-1</sup>

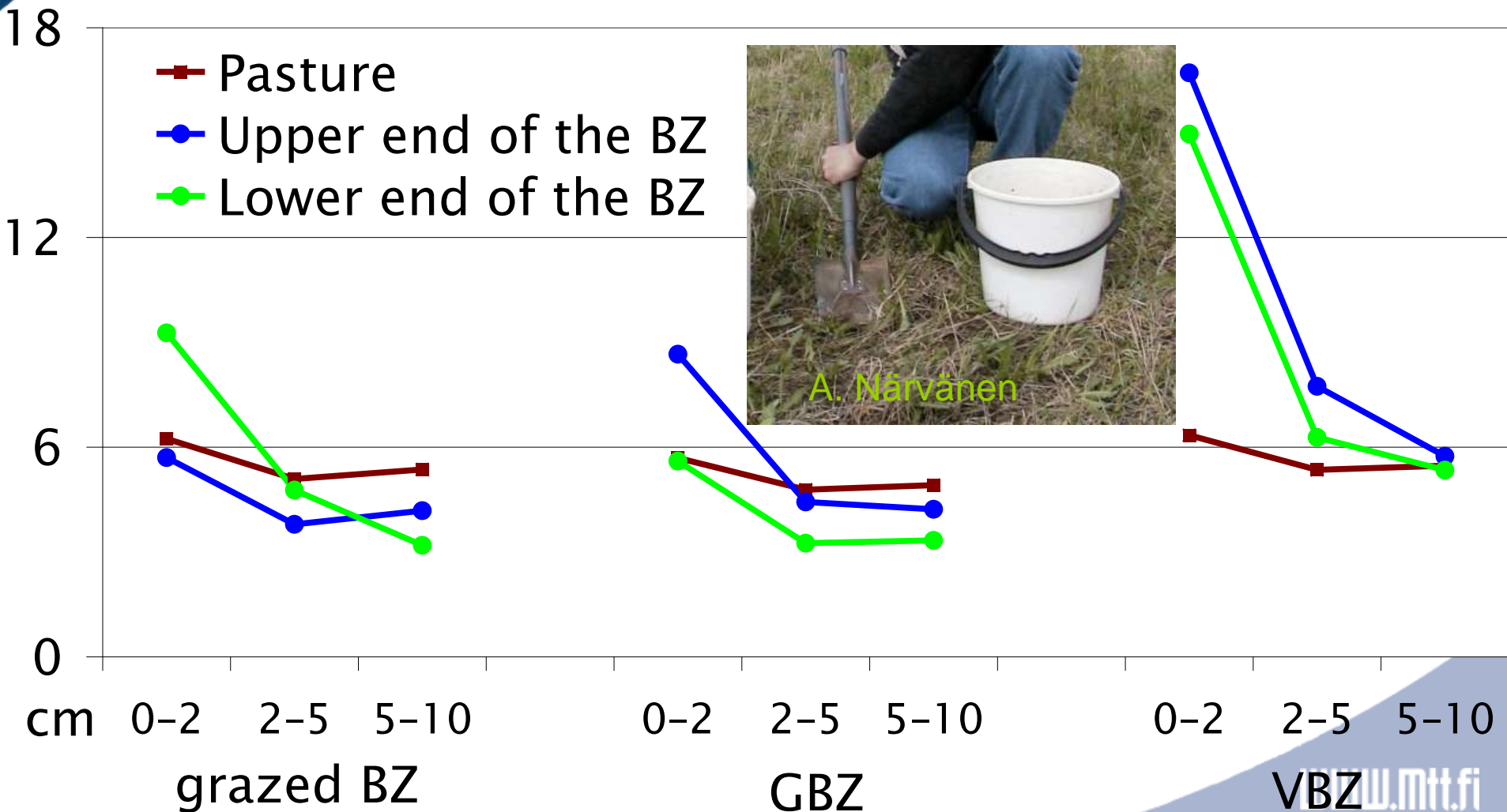


# Soil P extracted by ammonium acetate (0–2 cm) 1995–2006



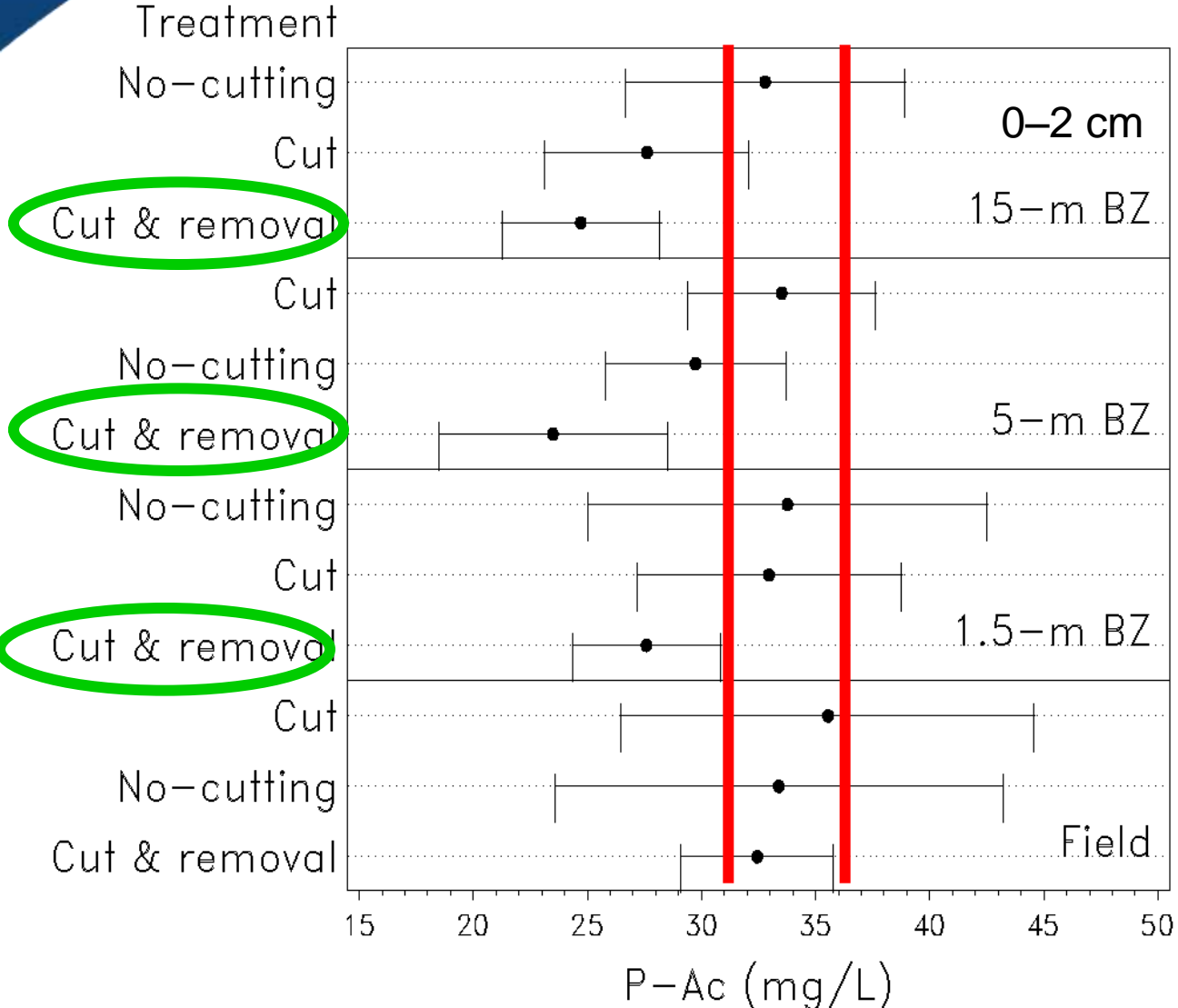
# Soil P extracted by ammonium acetate (pH 4.6)

P<sub>Ac</sub>, mg L<sup>-1</sup>





# Soil P in surface soil of BZs managed in different ways



## 4. Conclusions (1/2)

- Buffer zones were effective in decreasing losses of eroded soil particles, total P and particulate P in surface runoff from fields ploughed in autumn
- The retention of DRP was low, the DRP loads to surface runoff might increase on BZs in winter and early spring
- > The grass should be cut and the swathe removed on the BZs
- > Innovations, with them DRP can be retained on BZs especially in winter and spring → StoP



## 4. Conclusions (2/2)

- On pasture and in direct drilling, the mean annual DRP load was slightly smaller on the VBZ with native scrubs and herbs compared with NBZ ( $p=0.05$ ,  $p=0.07$ , respectively)
- There was a significant treatment x season interaction on surface runoff, TP, and DRP and almost significant on total solids (erosion), and PP.

Thank you!

