

# Supplementary

## An operational global L-band soil moisture and vegetation optical depth dataset from optimized 40° SMOS brightness temperatures

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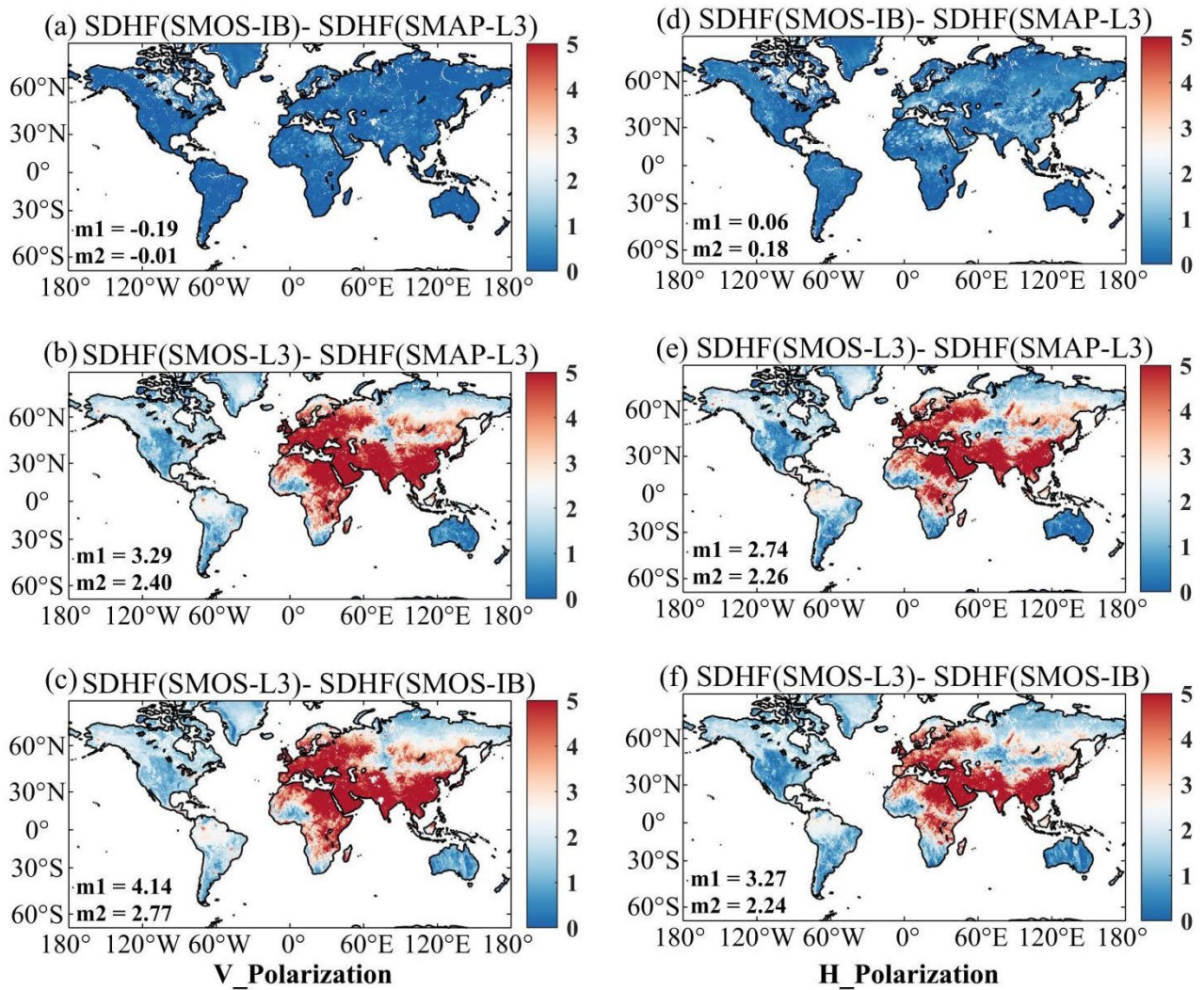
1 **Table S1** Summary of the *in-situ* networks from ISMN used in the study. The number of stations/pixels included in each IGBP  
2 land cover is also listed.

Network name	Country	No. footprints	IGBP land cover types (No.)
AMMA-CATCH	Benin, Niger	2	S (1) and G (1)
ARM	USA	15	G (6) and C (9)
FMI	Finland	2	WS (2)
FR-Aqui	France	1	ENF (1)
HOAL	Austria	1	MF (1)
HOBE	Denmark	3	C (3)
NAQU	China	1	G (1)
OZNET	Australia	11	S (2) and C (9)
PBO-H2O	USA	1	G (1)
REMEDHUS	Spain	4	S (3) and C (1)
RISMA	Canada	7	C (7)
RSMN	Romania	14	C (12)
SCAN	USA	129	Diverse land cover types: ENF (3), DBF (10), MF (3), OS (31), WS (3), G (46), C (31) and Barren (2)
SMN-SDR	China	1	G (1)
SMOSMANIA	France	17	Diverse land cover types: ENF (2), MF (5), C (9) and CNVM (1)
SNOTEL	USA	172	Diverse land cover types: ENF (63), OS (19), WS (6), G (79) and C (5)
SOILSCAPE	USA	4	Diverse land cover types: OS (2), WS (1) and S (1)
	Côte d'Ivoire,		
	Nigeria,		
TAHMO	Ghana,	3	EBF(2) and WS (1)
	Uganda,		
	Rwanda,		
	Kenya		
TERENO	Germany	1	MF (1)
TWENTE	Netherlands	4	C (4)
TxSON	USA	6	G (6)
USCRN	USCRN	64	Diverse land cover types: ENF (4), DBF (6), MF (1), CS(1), OS (8), WS (2), G (38), C (13) and Barren (1)
iRON	Canada	1	ENF (1)

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**Table S2** Statistics of validation results of  $IB\_HR^{SMOSIB}_{mono}$ ,  $IB^{SMOSIB}_{mono}$ ,  $IB^{RawSMOS}_{mono}$ ,  $IC^{SMOS}_{multi}$  and  $IB^{SMAP}_{mono}$  against ISMN *in-situ* SM data for 2016–2022. Best performance in terms of  $R$ ,  $ubRMSD$  and Bias of the five SM retrievals in each network is typed in bold.

Metrics	$R$					$ubRMSD$ (m <sup>3</sup> /m <sup>3</sup> )					Bias (m <sup>3</sup> /m <sup>3</sup> )				
Networks	$IB\_HR^{SMOSIB}_{mono}$	$IB^{SMOSIB}_{mono}$	$IB^{RawSMOS}_{mono}$	$IC^{SMOS}_{multi}$	$IB^{SMAP}_{mono}$	$IB\_HR^{SMOSIB}_{mono}$	$IB^{SMOSIB}_{mono}$	$IB^{RawSMOS}_{mono}$	$IC^{SMOS}_{multi}$	$IB^{SMAP}_{mono}$	$IB\_HR^{SMOSIB}_{mono}$	$IB^{SMOSIB}_{mono}$	$IB^{RawSMOS}_{mono}$	$IC^{SMOS}_{multi}$	$IB^{SMAP}_{mono}$
AMMA-CATCH	0.89	<b>0.90</b>	0.87	0.88	0.90	<b>0.024</b>	0.025	0.030	0.030	0.026	<b>0.000</b>	0.012	0.012	0.014	0.013
ARM	0.85	<b>0.85</b>	0.84	0.84	0.85	<b>0.043</b>	0.044	0.046	0.046	0.044	-0.069	-0.069	-0.068	<b>-0.064</b>	-0.069
FMI	0.48	0.46	0.36	0.49	<b>0.51</b>	0.043	0.041	0.053	0.058	<b>0.038</b>	<b>0.031</b>	0.060	0.128	0.103	0.082
FR-Aqui	0.82	0.81	0.78	0.77	<b>0.86</b>	0.035	0.035	0.037	0.043	<b>0.030</b>	-0.066	-0.047	-0.063	-0.032	<b>-0.024</b>
HOAL	0.67	0.64	0.46	0.61	<b>0.74</b>	0.044	0.046	0.054	0.050	<b>0.040</b>	-0.182	-0.171	-0.188	-0.156	<b>-0.116</b>
HOBE	0.68	0.68	0.63	0.64	<b>0.73</b>	<b>0.038</b>	0.039	0.051	0.047	0.041	-0.071	-0.070	-0.065	<b>-0.063</b>	-0.066
NAQU	0.80	0.80	0.79	0.76	<b>0.86</b>	0.054	0.057	0.054	0.064	<b>0.053</b>	0.057	0.059	0.054	0.066	<b>0.048</b>
OZNET	0.76	0.76	0.75	0.73	<b>0.76</b>	<b>0.059</b>	0.060	0.065	0.067	0.060	-0.018	-0.008	-0.007	<b>-0.004</b>	-0.009
PBO-H2O	0.85	0.85	0.81	0.85	<b>0.87</b>	0.067	0.067	0.068	<b>0.062</b>	0.063	-0.081	-0.082	-0.081	<b>-0.078</b>	-0.080
REMEDHUS	0.79	<b>0.80</b>	0.79	0.78	0.79	<b>0.046</b>	0.047	0.049	0.051	0.047	-0.033	-0.024	-0.024	-0.022	<b>-0.020</b>
RISMA	0.63	<b>0.63</b>	0.58	0.62	0.61	<b>0.062</b>	0.064	0.070	0.074	0.068	-0.096	-0.083	-0.083	<b>-0.077</b>	-0.084
RSMN	0.62	0.62	0.53	0.61	<b>0.62</b>	0.060	0.061	0.068	0.072	<b>0.058</b>	-0.011	<b>-0.001</b>	-0.011	0.005	0.002
SCAN	0.67	<b>0.67</b>	0.64	0.66	0.66	0.052	<b>0.052</b>	0.056	0.057	0.053	-0.049	-0.039	-0.037	<b>-0.034</b>	-0.040
SMN-SDR	0.57	0.57	<b>0.58</b>	0.58	0.48	0.034	<b>0.035</b>	0.039	0.040	0.039	-0.115	-0.114	-0.110	-0.110	<b>-0.097</b>
SMOSMANIA	<b>0.73</b>	0.73	0.67	0.72	0.75	0.063	0.061	0.062	<b>0.058</b>	0.057	-0.104	-0.090	-0.112	-0.074	<b>-0.074</b>
SNOTEL	<b>0.62</b>	0.62	0.56	0.58	0.60	<b>0.075</b>	0.075	0.077	0.078	0.075	-0.088	-0.084	-0.083	<b>-0.077</b>	-0.085
SOILSCAPE	0.86	0.86	0.84	0.86	<b>0.87</b>	<b>0.039</b>	0.041	0.054	0.042	0.041	-0.032	-0.019	<b>-0.010</b>	-0.016	-0.014
TAHMO	0.67	0.67	0.63	0.63	<b>0.71</b>	<b>0.039</b>	0.041	0.047	0.046	0.040	-0.039	-0.027	-0.028	<b>-0.025</b>	-0.027
TERENO	0.78	<b>0.78</b>	0.67	0.75	0.78	0.057	0.055	0.063	0.056	<b>0.055</b>	-0.191	-0.169	-0.167	<b>-0.162</b>	-0.169
TWENTE	0.75	0.75	0.69	0.73	<b>0.77</b>	0.063	0.063	0.069	0.065	<b>0.060</b>	-0.107	-0.099	-0.096	<b>-0.094</b>	-0.095
TxSON	0.85	0.85	0.84	0.84	<b>0.85</b>	<b>0.033</b>	0.034	0.036	0.038	0.033	<b>-0.056</b>	-0.060	-0.063	-0.057	-0.059
USCRN	<b>0.74</b>	0.73	0.70	0.71	0.73	0.049	0.049	0.051	0.051	<b>0.049</b>	-0.057	-0.053	-0.053	<b>-0.050</b>	-0.053
iRON	0.44	<b>0.48</b>	0.40	0.38	0.48	0.051	0.050	0.052	0.052	<b>0.050</b>	-0.114	-0.110	-0.113	-0.109	<b>-0.107</b>
Median	<b>0.67</b>	0.67	0.64	0.65	0.67	<b>0.058</b>	0.059	0.063	0.063	0.059	-0.067	-0.061	-0.062	<b>-0.056</b>	-0.061
Optimal/All	3/23	7/23	1/23	0/23	<b>12/23</b>	<b>10/23</b>	2/23	0/23	2/23	9/23	3/23	1/23	1/23	<b>11/23</b>	7/23



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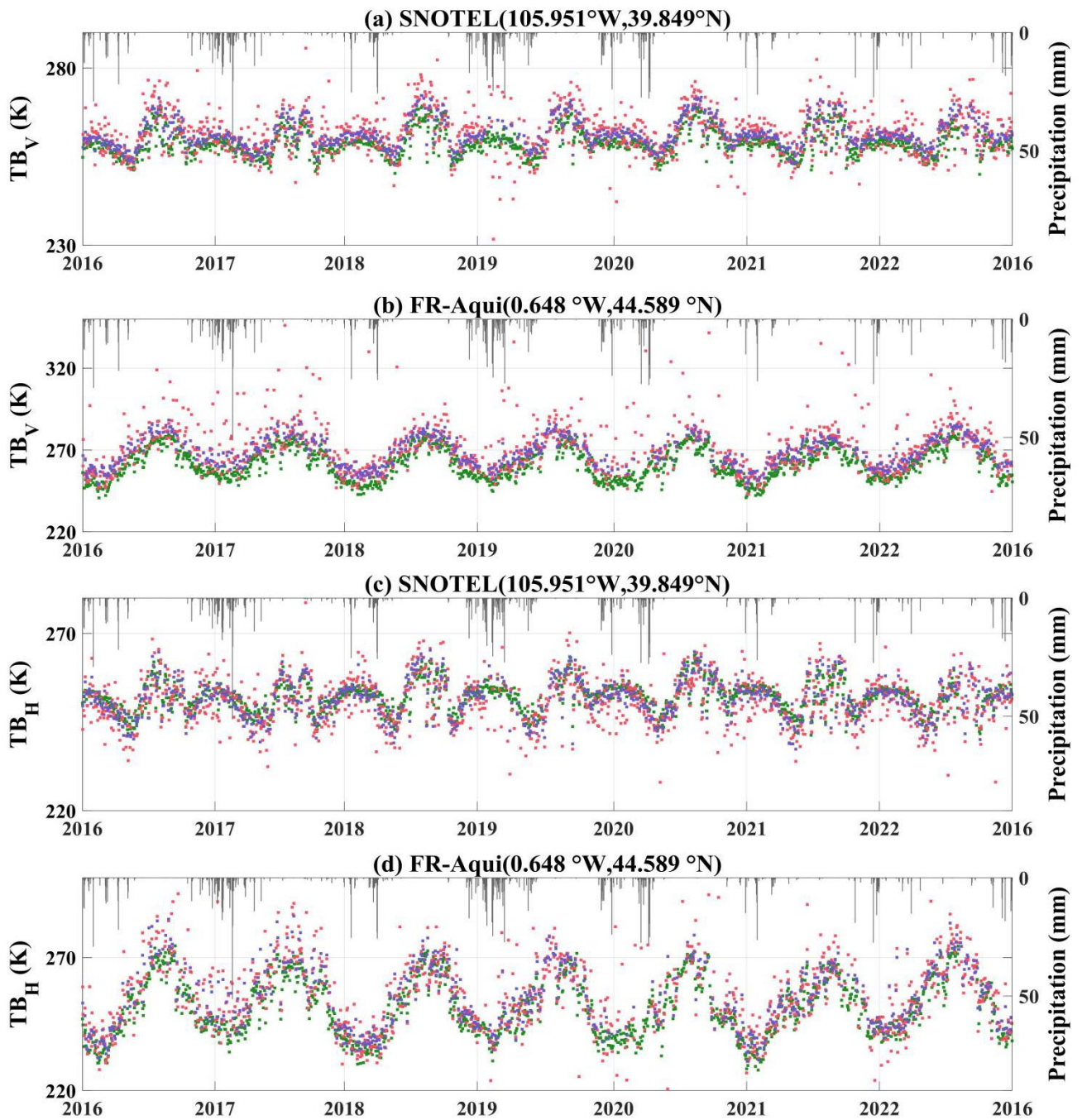
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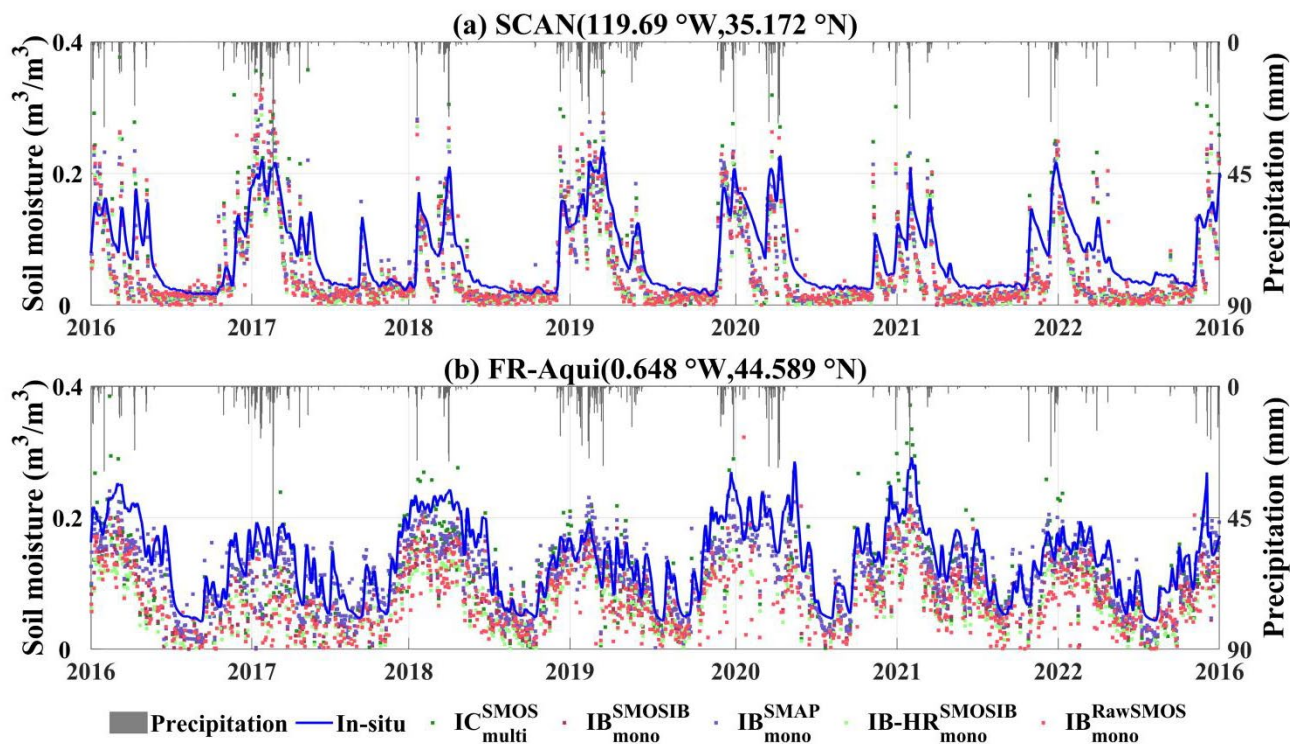
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**Figure S1** Maps of the standard deviation of the high-frequency variations (SDHF) difference of the TB time series for each of the three TB products in V-polarization (a) - (c) and H-polarization (d) - (f). The TB SDHF were computed after removing the seasonal trend that was estimated with a 30-days moving window average filter. m1 and m2 denote the spatial mean and median SDHF difference value, respectively.

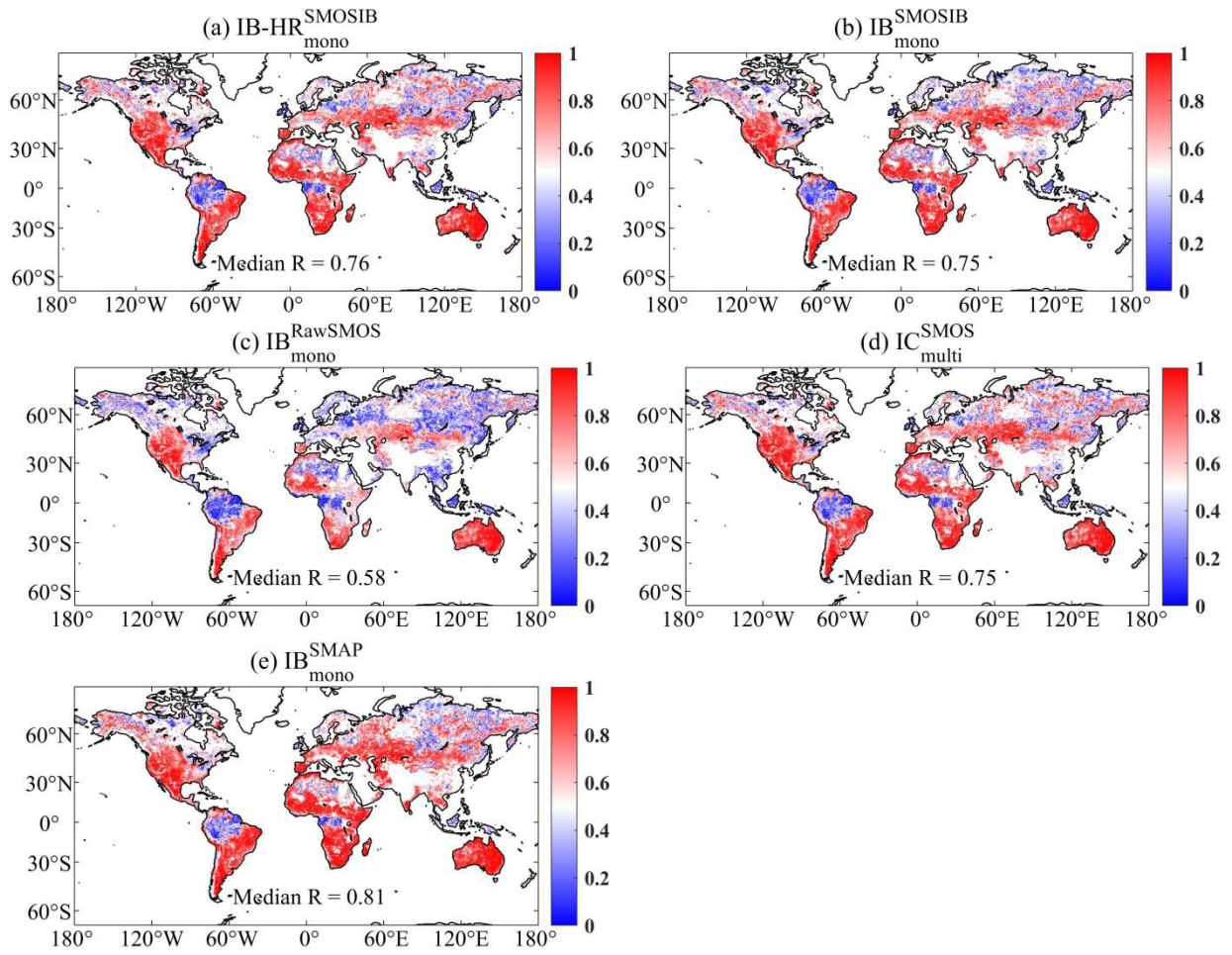


**Figure S2** Time series of the three TB products and *in-situ* measurements between 2016 and 2022 at two sites from (a) SCAN and (b) FR-Aqui network, respectively. Each plot also contains daily precipitation shown in the axis on the right side (grey bar).

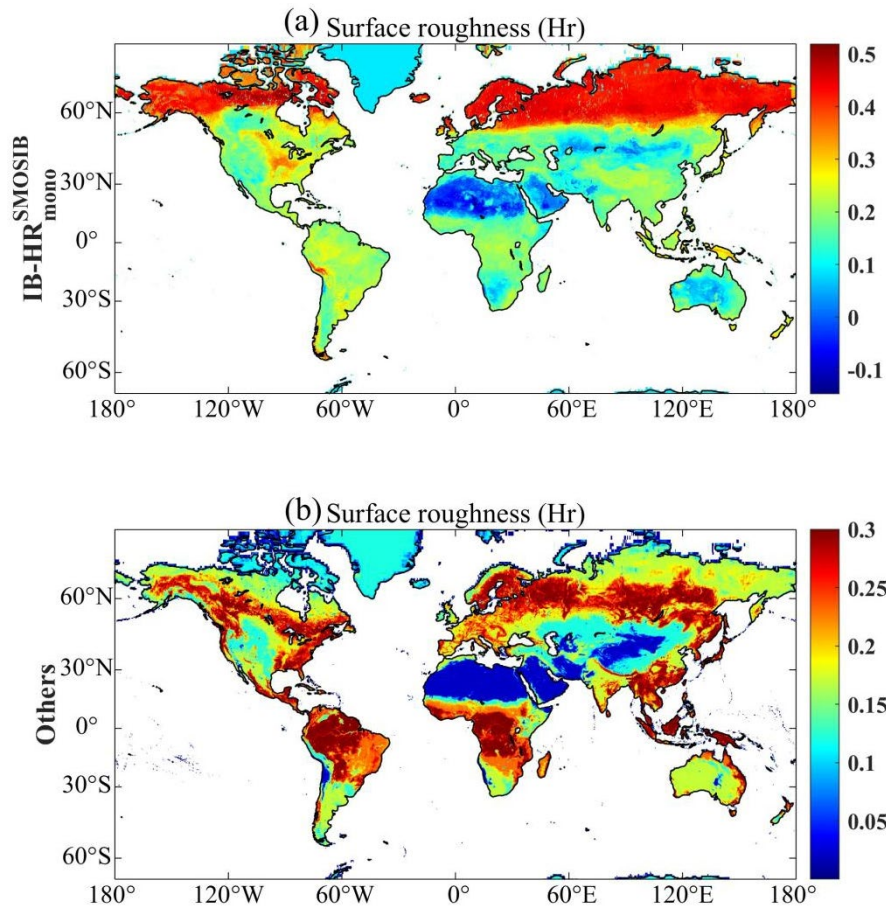




**Figure S3** Time series of the five SM products and *in-situ* measurements between 2016 and 2022 at two sites from (a) SCAN and (b) FR-Aqui network, respectively. Each plot also contains daily precipitation shown in the axis on the right side (grey bar). Note that a 7-day moving window filter was applied to the *in-situ* observations to distinguish them from the satellite-based SM.



**Figure S4** The spatial distribution of the TCA-based  $R$  calculated by soil moisture anomaly estimates for (a)  $IB-HR^{SMOSIB}_{mono}$ , (b)  $IB^{SMOSIB}_{mono}$ , (c)  $IB^{RawSMOS}_{mono}$ , (d)  $IC^{SMOS}_{multi}$  and (e)  $IB^{SMAP}_{mono}$ .



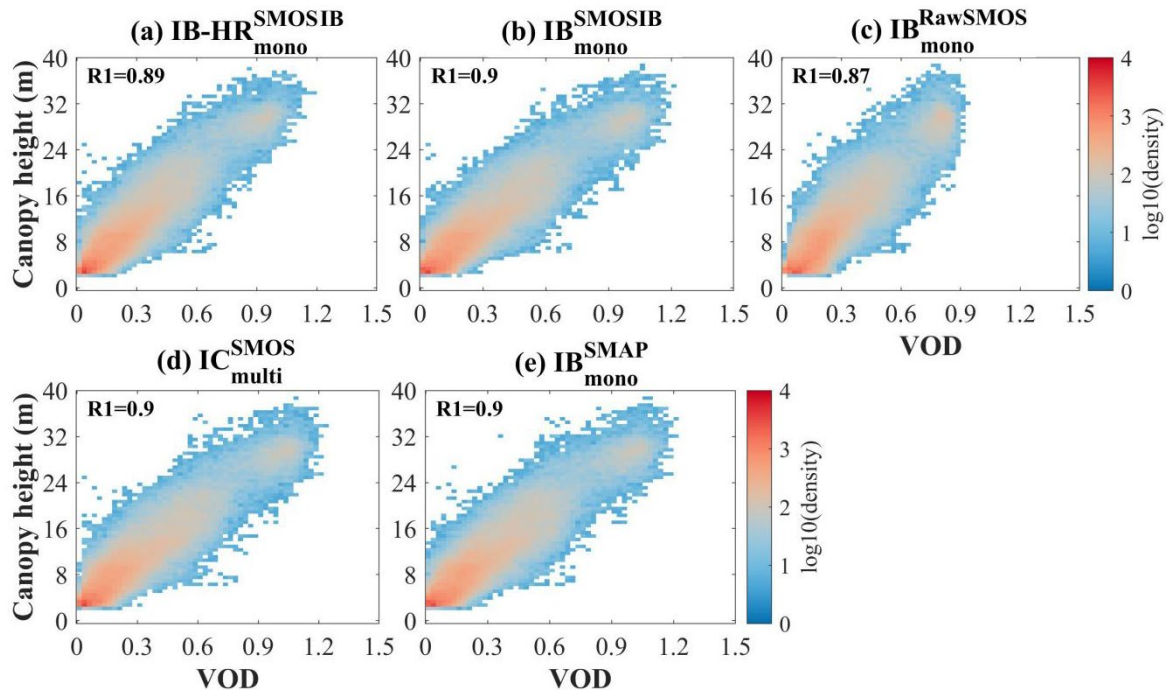
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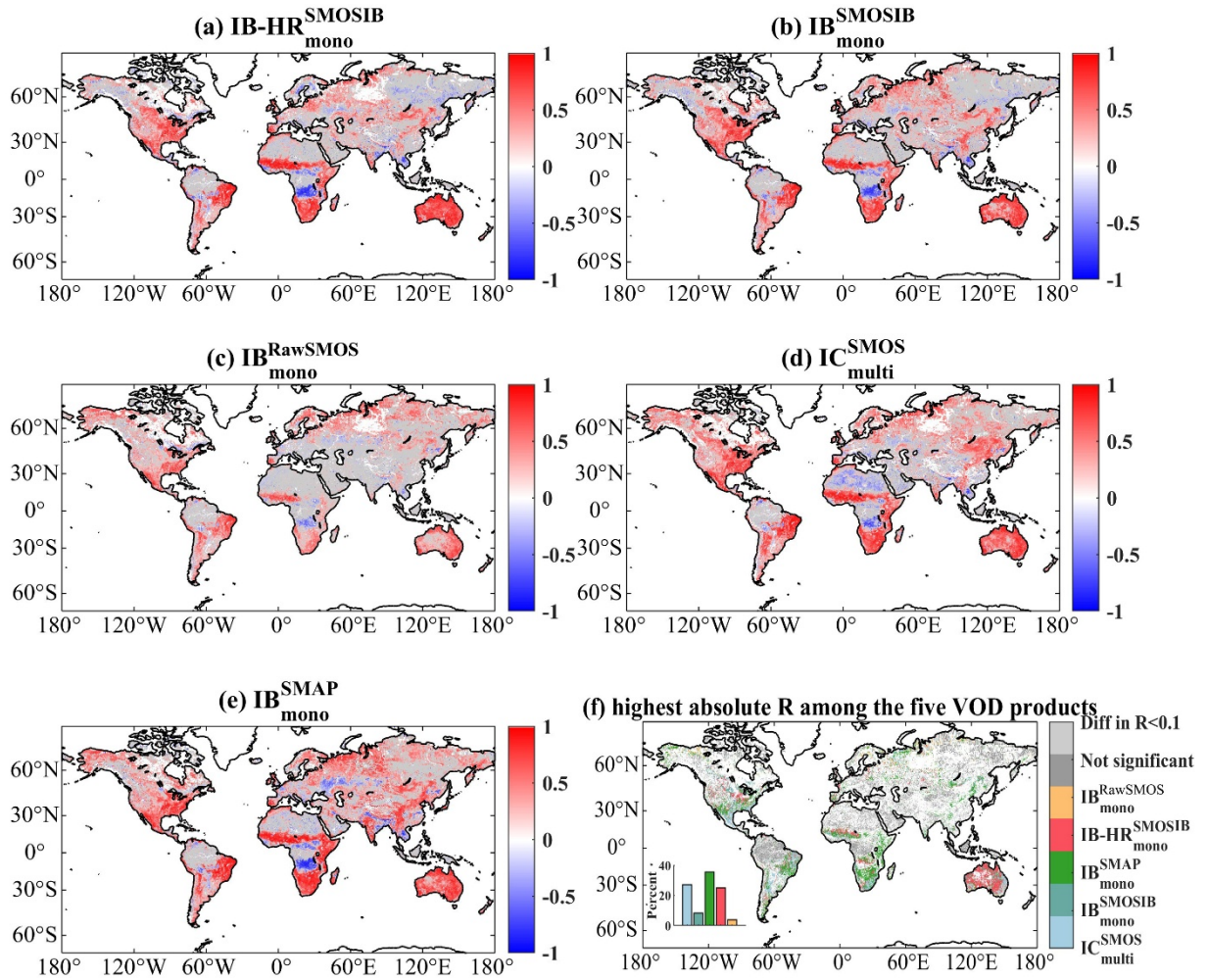
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**Figure S5** The spatial distribution of input Hr values for (a)  $IB\_HR^{SMOSIB}_{mono}$  and (b) other products (e.g.,  $IB^{SMOSIB}_{mono}$ ,  $IB^{RawSMOS}_{mono}$ ,  $IC^{SMOS}_{multi}$  and  $IB^{SMAP}_{mono}$ ).

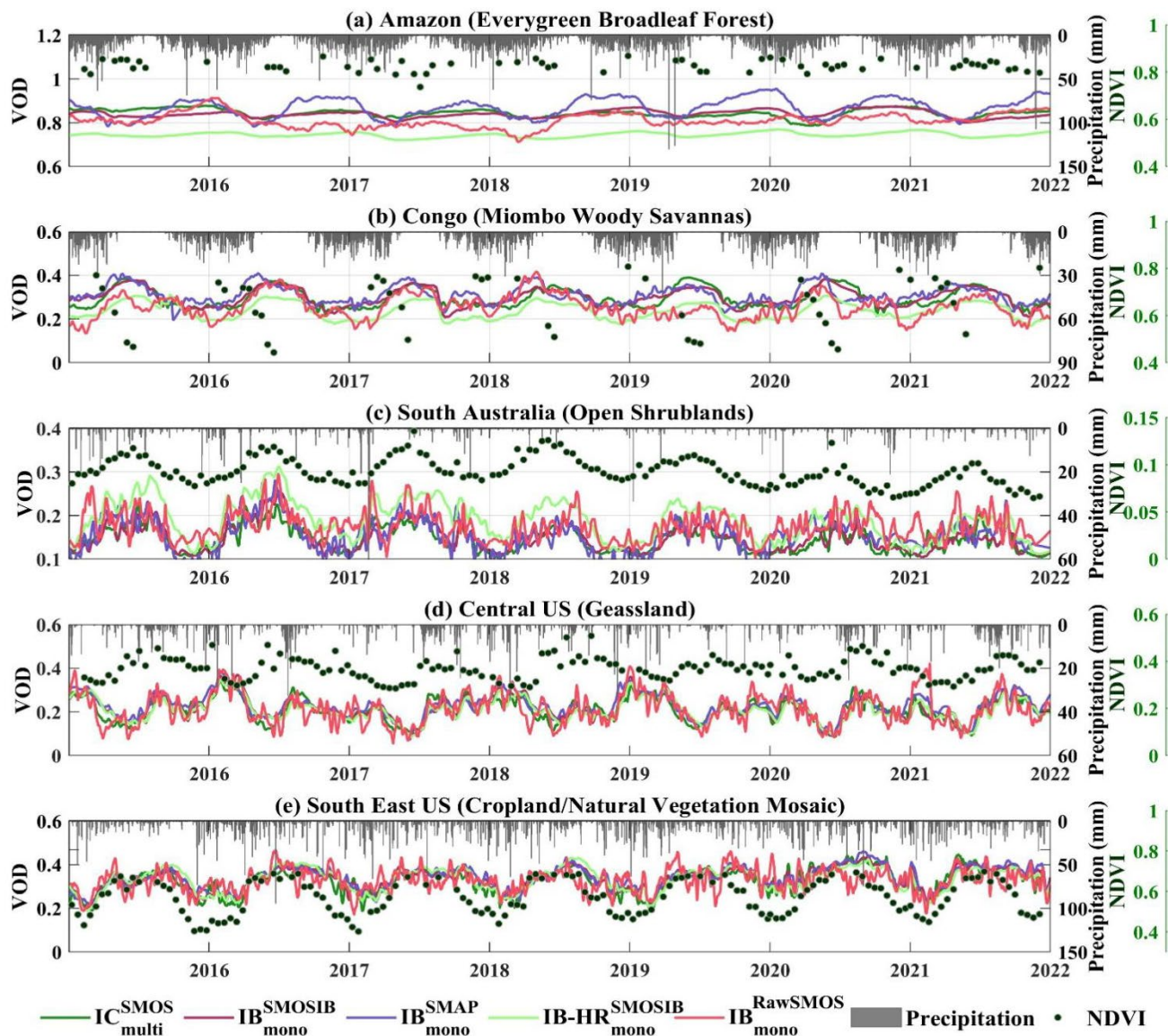




**Figure S6** Global density plots of VOD vs. canopy height (a-e) for five products: (a)  $IB\_HR^{SMOSIB}_{mono}$ , (b)  $IB^{SMOSIB}_{mono}$ , (c)  $IB^{RawSMOS}_{mono}$ , (d)  $IC^{SMOS}_{multi}$  and (e)  $IB^{SMAP}_{mono}$ .  $R1$  denotes the correlation coefficient computed spatially between VOD and corresponding proxies.



**Figure S7** Correlation coefficient ( $R$ ) of the temporal relationship between 16-day composite of VOD and NDVI (2016 – 2022) for (a)  $IB-HR^{SMOSIB}_{mono}$ , (b)  $IB^{SMOSIB}_{mono}$ , (c)  $IB^{RawSMOS}_{mono}$ , (d)  $IC^{SMOS}_{multi}$  and (e)  $IB^{SMAP}_{mono}$ . (f) maps of the above five VOD datasets with the highest absolute  $R$  values with NDVI. The dark grey color indicates pixels with non-significant ( $p > 0.05$ )  $R$  values, and the light grey color indicates pixels with  $R$  difference for each paired VOD product  $< 0.1$ . White areas mean “no valid data”.



**Figure S8** Time series of the five VOD products over five pixels corresponding to (a) Everygreen broadleaf forest (64.79 °W, 6.65 °S), (b) Miombo woody savannas (23.71 °E, 8.85 °S), (c) Open shrublands (124.54 °E, 30.31 °S), (d) Grasslands (110.39 °W, 34.31 °N) and (e) Cropland/Natural vegetation mosaic (86.83 °W, 35.34 °N) between Jan 2016 and Dec 2022. Each plot also contains daily precipitation and NDVI information. Note that a 7-day moving window filter was applied to the VOD values of the five products to distinguish them from the NDVI values.