

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Summary	III
Zusammenfassung	V
1. General introduction of the project	1
1.1. Background	1
1.2. The role and history of bio-physical crop growth models in the assessment of crop yields and consumptive water use	5
1.3. Objectives and goals of the research	6
1.4. Contents and structure of the dissertation	6
2. GIS-based EPIC – Structure and relevant processes of a large-scale agricultural model	11
2.1. The GEPIC model framework	11
2.2. Relevant processes of the field-scale model EPIC	12
3. A global and spatially explicit assessment of climate change impacts on crop production and consumptive water use	17
3.1. Introduction	18
3.2. Materials and methods	19
3.3. Results	22
3.4. Discussion	30
4. Regionalization of a large-scale crop growth model for sub-Saharan Africa: model setup, evaluation, and estimation of maize yields	42
4.1. Introduction	43
4.2. Data and methods	44
4.3. Results	48
4.4. Discussion	57
5. Modeling maize yield responses to improvement in nutrient, water and cultivar inputs in SSA	70
5.1. Introduction	71
5.2. Methods and data	72
5.3. Results	76
5.4. Discussion	85
6. Effects of ecological and conventional agricultural intensification practices on maize yields in sub-Saharan Africa under potential climate change	99
6.1. Introduction	100
6.2. Methods and data	101
6.3. Results	103
6.4. Discussion	109
6.5. Conclusions and limitations	112

7.	Conclusions and outlook	133
7.1.	General conclusions	133
7.2.	Model limitations	135
7.3.	Outlook	136