

# GLOSOLAN PT 2022: global outcomes and perspectives

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6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
**Global Soil  
Laboratory  
Network**  
(GLOSOLAN)

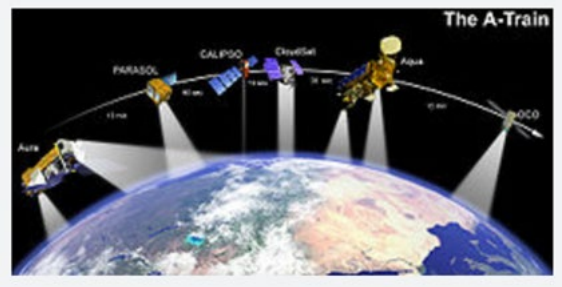


# Context:

<<The mandate of the GSP is  
**to improve governance of the limited soil resources  
of the planet**

**What you cannot (*correctly*) measure,  
you cannot (*correctly*) manage.**

(PHOTO WIKIPEDIA)



**Soil data can be obtained in different ways**

(PHOTO WIKIPEDIA)



**Many data come from by soil laboratory analysis**



**=> data provided by soil laboratories are essential for soil governance**

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**Soils are essential for food production:**



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Soils are essential for food production:



**Laboratories** are essential for soil data production



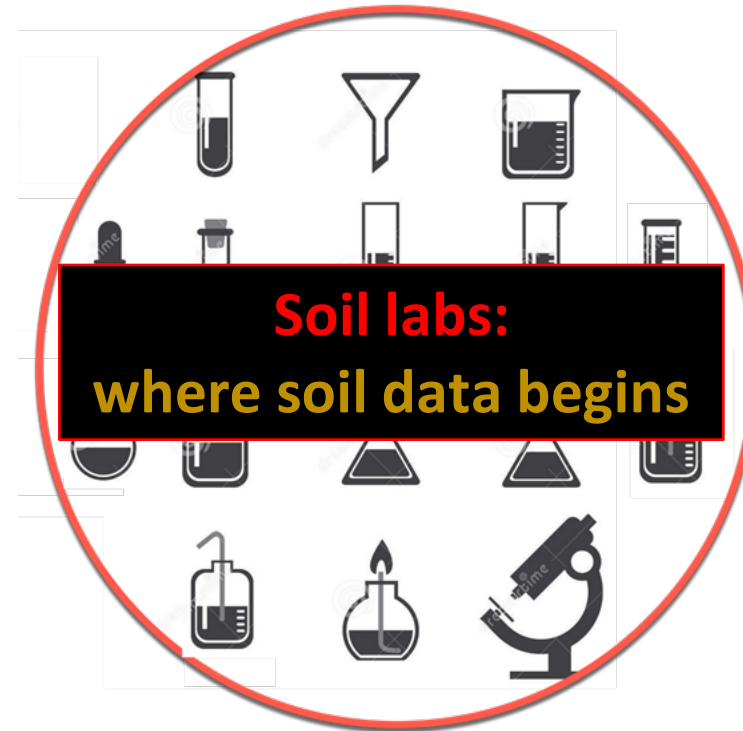
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Soils are essential for food production:



**Laboratories** are essential for soil data production



The good news : soil labs already exist all around the planet

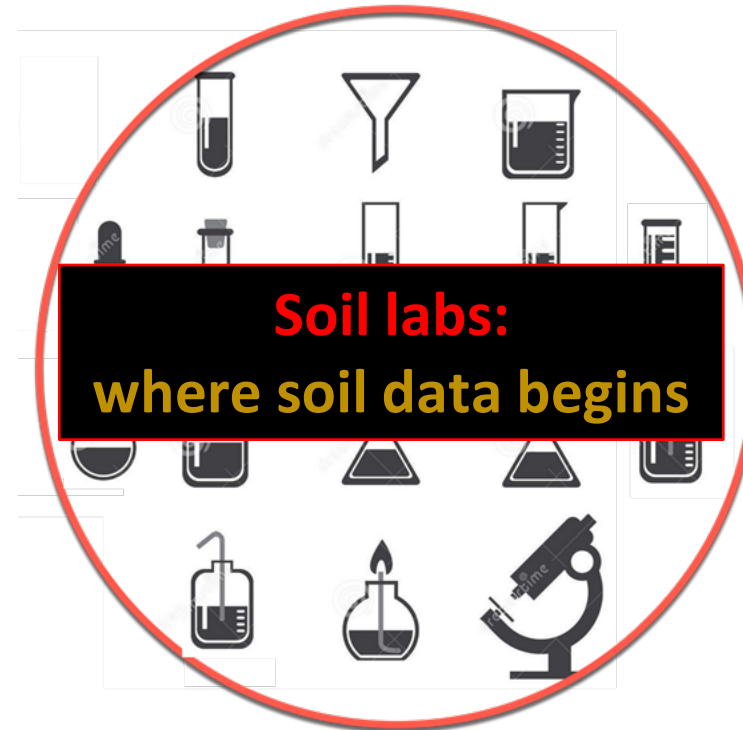
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Soils are essential for food production:



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The good news : soil labs already exist all around the planet

The bad news: soil labs are working without coordination among them...

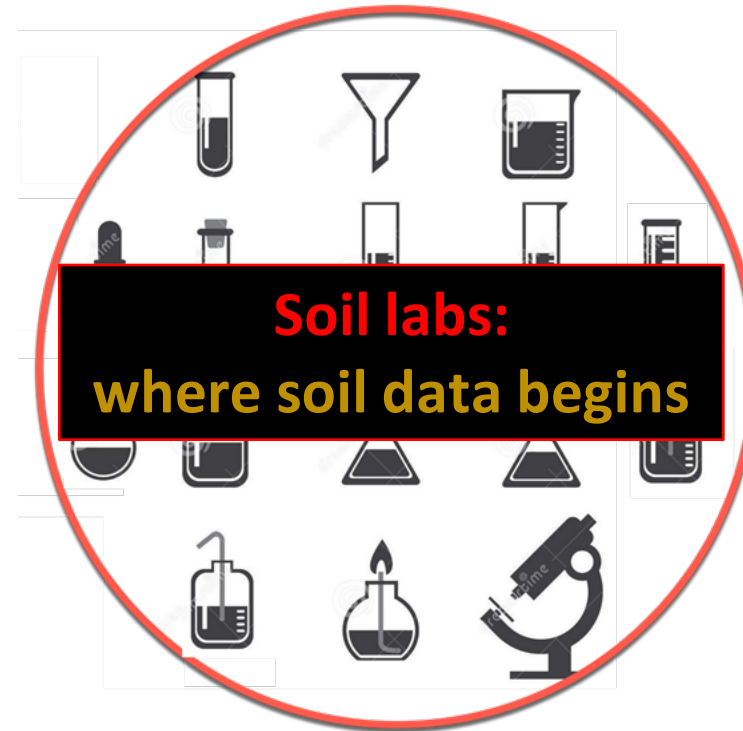
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Soils are essential for food production:



Laboratories are essential for soil data production



The good news : soil labs already exist all around the planet

The bad news: soil labs are working without coordination among them...

An option for improvement:







**Purpose:** to improve the quality of soil laboratory data to support decision making at field and policy levels

**Objectives :**

1. To strengthen the performance of laboratories through use of standardized methods and protocols.
2. To harmonize soil analysis methods so that soil information would be comparable and interpretable across laboratories, countries and regions.
3. To provide a certification for technical competencies in laboratory analysis.

The 900 labs that are  
GLOSOLAN members  
😊



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The 900 labs that are  
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For 5 years now **GLOSOLAN** helped these labs producing reliable and comparable soil data by providig SOPs, video explaining SOPs, trainings, webinars, technical publications, etc...



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**For 5 years, GLOSOLAN has been helping soil labs producing reliable and comparable soil data by providing SOPs, video explaining SOPs, trainings, webinars, technical publications, etc...**



**Now GLOSOLAN questions are:**

- 1. How reliable and comparable are the data produced by soil laboratories?**
- 2. How can GLOSOLAN help all labs to reach a minimum data quality?**



## **Part 1 = assessment:**

**how reliable and comparable are  
the data produced by soil laboratories?**

⇒ **Launching a global (planet) proficiency testing (PT)  
or inter-laboratory comparison.**

The PT design was decided according to:

our **QUESTIONS** (reliability / comparability)

**& FEASIBILITY**

(number of soil types, cost of preparation including irradiation,  
cost of sending worldwide, etc)



# QUESTIONS: 2 + 1 more

## 1. **RELIABILITY: for each lab, what is its precision?**

(i.e. when analysing several times the same sample,  
how close are the results?)

## 2. **COMPARABILITY: among all labs, dispersion of their results?**

(i.e. when the same sample is analysed by several labs,  
how close are the results?)

3.

# QUESTIONS: 2 + 1 more

## 1. RELIABILITY: for each lab, what is its precision?

(i.e. when analysing several times the same sample,  
how close are the results?)

## 2. COMPARABILITY: among all labs, dispersion of their results?

(i.e. when the same sample is analysed by several labs,  
how close are the results?)

## 3. REFERENCE VALUE : at global scale, consensus value = reference value?

(i.e. on a statistical and practical view point,  
can we provide samples with reference values acceptable worldwide?)



# FEASIBILITY:

1. Which soil characteristics?
2. How many replicates?
3. Which range?

# FEASIBILITY:

## 1. Which soil characteristics?

**pH:** top priority but difficult because too much soil weight is needed

# FEASIBILITY:

## 1. Which soil characteristics?

**pH:** top priority but difficult because too much soil weight is needed

**C:** top priority because

- soil is a main compartment in C cycle... global warming...
- and...

# Protocol for the assessment of Sustainable Soil Management



## List of contributors:

Contributors	
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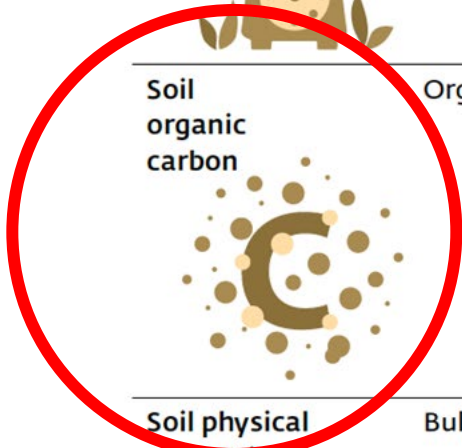




# Protocol for the assessment of Sustainable Soil Management



Indicator	Parameter/ metric	Measurement methods <sup>2</sup>	Sample characteristics <sup>3</sup>
Soil productivity	Agricultural productivity or biomass in dry matter (t ha <sup>-1</sup> year <sup>-1</sup> )	Dry weight of vegetation quadrats, or yield measurements	Quadrat method or yield measurement
Soil organic carbon	Organic carbon (%)	Walkley- Black method <a href="http://www.fao.org/3/ca7471en/CA7471EN.pdf">http://www.fao.org/3/ca7471en/CA7471EN.pdf</a> or Dumas method <a href="http://www.fao.org/3/ca7781en/ca7781en.pdf">http://www.fao.org/3/ca7781en/ca7781en.pdf</a>	Representative soil sample
Soil physical properties	Bulk density (kg dm <sup>-3</sup> )	The Core Method	Undisturbed representative sample with known volume
Soil biological activity	Soil respiration rate (gCO <sub>2</sub> m <sup>-2</sup> d <sup>-1</sup> )	Laboratory based soil respiration measurement (static or dynamic)	Representative soil sample to be analyzed within hours or refrigerated



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# FEASIBILITY:

## 1. Which soil characteristics?

**pH:** top priority but difficult because too much soil is needed...

**C:** top priority because

- soil is a main compartment in C cycle
- and « Protocole of assessment of sustainable management »
- low soil amount is needed

**N & P:** main factors of productivity / negative impact on environment  
low soil amount is needed

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**C: top priority because**

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**N & P: main factors of productivity / negative impact on environment  
low soil amount is needed**

## Which methods?



≠ METHODS →

≠ TOOLS

**Walckley & Black**

Wet chemistry



**Dumas**

Combustion (controlled atmosphere)



**Loss of ignition**

Combustion (450-550°C)



**Carbon**

≠ METHODS →

≠ TOOLS

For some methods,  
≠ procedures are possible

### Walckley & Black

Wet chemistry



duration

### Dumas

Combustion (controlled atmosphere)



NA

### Loss of ignition

Combustion (450-550°C)



Temperature

Carbon

≠ METHODS →

≠ TOOLS

For some methods,  
≠ procedures are possible

Soil characteristic

Nitrogen

**Kjeldahl**

Wet chemistry



**Dumas**

Combustion (controled atmosphere)





≠ METHODS → ≠ EXTRACTANTS

For some methods,  
≠ procedures are possible

Phosphorus

### Olsen

0.5 M NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution,  
adjusted at a pH of 8.5.

### Bray 1

0.03 M NH<sub>4</sub>F and 0.025 M HCl

### Bray 2

0.03 M NH<sub>4</sub>F + 0.1 M HCl



shaking times

# FEASIBILITY:

1. Which soil characteristics? **C N P**

2. How many replicates?

## 2. How many replicates?

Enough rep. to be able to make a statistical analysis,  
Not to much to avoid reduced efficiency

### Comparability

Compare all labs

6 rep:

A B C D E F

### Reliability

of each individual lab

## 2. How many replicates?

Enough rep. to be able to make a statistical analysis,  
Not to much to avoid reduced efficiency

### Comparability

Compare all labs

6 rep:

A B C D E F

### Reliability

of each individual lab

Estimated through PRECISION

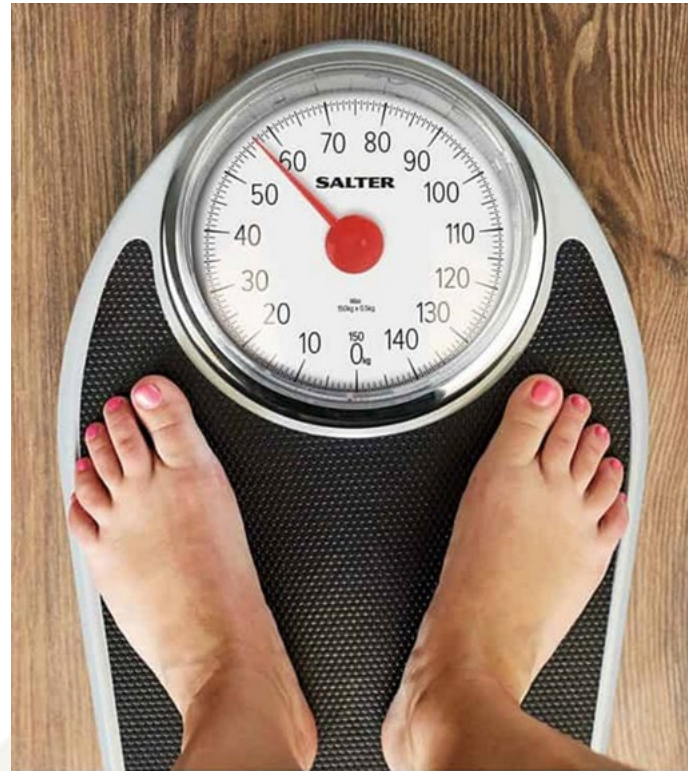
⇒ Is the analytical process under control?

⇒ or is random



# WHY PRECISION IS IMPORTANT:

If you go up and down your balance,  
you expect the same result everytime



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# WHY PRECISION IS IMPORTANT:

If you make several times the test (within short time)  
You expect the same result



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# 5 REPLICATES



5 times the same result?

*(comment:  
relevant, whatever the method  
and procedures used by the labs)*

# FEASIBILITY:

1. Which soil characteristics? **C N P**
2. How many replicates? **6 soil types & 5 rep for one soil**

# FEASIBILITY:

1. Which soil characteristics? **C N P**
2. How many replicates? **6 soil types & 5 rep**
3. Which range?

# FEASIBILITY:

1. Which soil characteristics? **C N P**
2. How many replicates? **6 soil types & 5 rep**
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**LOW to HIGH carbon content**

# FEASIBILITY:

1. Which soil characteristics? **C N P**
2. How many replicates? **6 soil types & 5 rep**
3. Which range?

**LOW to HIGH carbon content**

**0.2 to 6 % carbon**

# FEASIBILITY:

1. Which soil characteristics? **C N P**
2. How many replicates? **6 soil types & 5 rep**
3. Which range? **0.2 to 6 % carbon**

**10 SOIL SAMPLES**

A B C D E E E E E F





# After you sent the analysis , still a lot of work was done

**Processes with customs for 'difficult' countries**

**Contact the labs that were late**

**Contact the labs that did not follow the recommendations (no C data...)**

**Make the statistical analyse and check**

**Individual lab performances**

**Regional performances**

***etc...***

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# GLOBAL RESULTS

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# Statistical procedure

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# Consensus values

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Table 2: Global

Soils	INcluding outliers				EXcluding outliers				
	n.labs	min	max	mad	median	mean	sd	cv(%)	n.lab
<b>C_WB</b>									
A									
B									
C									
D									
E1									
E2									
E3									
E4									
E5									
F									
<b>C_Dum</b>									
A									
B									
C									
D									
E1									
E2									
E3									
E4									
E5									
F									
<b>C_Ig</b>									
A	42	0.03	0.73	0.19	0.52	0.49	0.22	45	35



Table 2: Global

Soils	INcluding outliers				EXcluding outliers				
	n.labs	min	max	mad	median	mean	sd	cv(%)	n.lab
<b>C_WB</b>									
A	150								132
B	160								137
C	160								134
D	160								132
E1	160								132
E2	160								126
E3	160								127
E4	160								128
E5	157								128
F	159								150
<b>C_Dum</b>									
A	49								40
B	52								44
C	53								46
D	52								44
E1	53								45
E2	53								45
E3	52								45
E4	52								46
E5	53								44
F	53								43
<b>C_Ig</b>									
A	43	0.03	0.73	0.19	0.52	0.49	0.22	45	35

Table 2: Global

Soils	n.labs	INcluding outliers			EXcluding outliers				
		min	max	mad	median	mean	sd	cv(%)	n.lab
<b>C_WB</b>									
A	150				0.18	0.18			132
B	160				1.79	1.76			137
C	160				2.36	2.32			134
D	160				2.88	2.80			132
E1	160				3.00	3.01			132
E2	160				3.08	3.00			126
E3	160				3.06	3.01			127
E4	160				3.10	3.03			128
E5	157				3.03	3.00			128
F	159				6.18	5.66			150
<b>C_Dum</b>									
A	49				1.20	1.17			40
B	52				18.26	18.36			44
C	53				24.10	24.28			46
D	52				28.50	28.60			44
E1	53				34.87	34.93			45
E2	53				34.58	34.50			45
E3	52				34.68	34.71			45
E4	52				34.60	34.71			46
E5	53				34.53	34.85			44
F	53				66.20	66.76			43
<b>C_Ig</b>									
A	43	0.03	0.73	0.19	0.53	0.49	0.22	45	35

Table 2: Global

Soils	INcluding outliers				EXcluding outliers				
	n.labs	min	max	mad	median	mean	sd	cv(%)	n.lab
<b>C_WB</b>									
A	150			0.10	0.18	0.18	0.11		132
B	160			0.39	1.79	1.76	0.39		137
C	160			0.43	2.36	2.32	0.41		134
D	160			0.44	2.88	2.80	0.43		132
E1	160			0.50	3.00	3.01	0.46		132
E2	160			0.40	3.08	3.00	0.38		126
E3	160			0.45	3.06	3.01	0.44		127
E4	160			0.47	3.10	3.03	0.42		128
E5	157			0.50	3.03	3.00	0.47		128
F	159			1.36	6.18	5.66	1.77		150
<b>C_Dum</b>									
A	49			0.45	1.20	1.17	0.48		40
B	52			1.02	18.26	18.36	1.00		44
C	53			1.22	24.10	24.28	1.12		46
D	52			2.12	28.50	28.60	1.45		44
E1	53			1.68	34.87	34.93	1.48		45
E2	53			1.45	34.58	34.50	1.62		45
E3	52			2.08	34.68	34.71	1.53		45
E4	52			1.82	34.60	34.71	1.62		46
E5	53			2.42	34.53	34.85	1.92		44
F	53			2.97	66.20	66.76	2.26		43
<b>C_Ig</b>									
A	43	0.03	0.73	0.19	0.53	0.49	0.23	45	35

Table 2: Global

Soils	n.labs	INcluding outliers			EXcluding outliers				
		min	max	mad	median	mean	sd	cv(%)	n.lab
<b>C_WB</b>									
A	150				0.18	0.18		61	132
B	160				1.79	1.76		22	137
C	160				2.36	2.32		18	134
D	160				2.88	2.80		15	132
E1	160				3.00	3.01		15	132
E2	160				3.08	3.00		13	126
E3	160				3.06	3.01		15	127
E4	160				3.10	3.03		14	128
E5	157				3.03	3.00		16	128
F	159				6.18	5.66		31	150
<b>C_Dum</b>									
A	49				1.20	1.17		41	40
B	52				18.26	18.36		5	44
C	53				24.10	24.28		5	46
D	52				28.50	28.60		5	44
E1	53				34.87	34.93		4	45
E2	53				34.58	34.50		5	45
E3	52				34.68	34.71		4	45
E4	52				34.60	34.71		5	46
E5	53				34.53	34.85		6	44
F	53				66.20	66.76		3	43
<b>C_Ig</b>									
A	43	0.03	0.73	0.19	0.53	0.49	0.22	45	35

Table 2: Global

Soils	INcluding outliers				EXcluding outliers				
	n.labs	min	max	mad	median	mean	sd	cv(%)	n.lab
<b>C_WB</b>									
A	150	0.00	9.71	0.10	0.18	0.18	0.11	61	132
B	160	0.02	20.05	0.39	1.79	1.76	0.39	22	137
C	160	0.02	21.00	0.43	2.36	2.32	0.41	18	134
D	160	0.01	25.66	0.44	2.88	2.80	0.43	15	132
E1	160	0.03	33.75	0.50	3.00	3.01	0.46	15	132
E2	160	0.03	28.96	0.40	3.08	3.00	0.38	13	126
E3	160	0.02	27.82	0.45	3.06	3.01	0.44	15	127
E4	160	0.02	26.46	0.47	3.10	3.03	0.42	14	128
E5	157	0.01	27.82	0.50	3.03	3.00	0.47	16	128
F	159	0.11	67.85	1.36	6.18	5.66	1.77	31	150
<b>C_Dum</b>									
A	49	0.00	34.80	0.45	1.20	1.17	0.48	41	40
B	52	0.02	34.20	1.02	18.26	18.36	1.00	5	44
C	53	0.02	40.70	1.22	24.10	24.28	1.12	5	46
D	52	0.03	96.77	2.12	28.50	28.60	1.45	5	44
E1	53	0.03	104.00	1.68	34.87	34.93	1.48	4	45
E2	53	0.03	104.00	1.45	34.58	34.50	1.62	5	45
E3	52	0.03	62.20	2.08	34.68	34.71	1.53	4	45
E4	52	0.03	54.20	1.82	34.60	34.71	1.62	5	46
E5	53	0.03	66.10	2.42	34.53	34.85	1.92	6	44
F	53	0.07	108.00	2.97	66.20	66.76	2.26	3	43
<b>C_Ig</b>									
A	42	0.03	9.73	0.19	0.52	0.49	0.22	45	35
B	42	1.79	10.68	1.51	6.52	6.22	2.05	33	42
C	42	2.75	10.19	1.66	7.92	7.24	1.94	27	42
D	42	1.83	16.15	3.88	10.77	9.98	3.70	37	42
E1	42	3.17	10.10	1.83	7.33	7.09	1.63	23	42
E2	42	3.25	10.90	1.58	7.44	7.18	1.77	25	42
E3	42	2.75	10.40	1.92	7.41	6.95	1.77	25	42
E4	42	2.32	10.14	1.62	7.44	7.26	1.49	21	41
E5	41	2.50	11.14	1.66	7.35	7.01	1.48	21	39
F	42	3.57	18.07	2.47	14.38	13.35	3.10	23	41



# Precision

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# Precision: interpretation of Z-score standard deviation (sd)

	Z scores				
	example 1	example 2	example 3	example 4	example 5
Rep 1	0	1	0,6	1,6	0,2
Rep 2	0	1	0,8	1,8	0,6
Rep 3	0	1	1	2	1
Rep 4	0	1	1,2	2,2	1,4
Rep 5	1	2	1,4	2,4	1,8
mean	0,2	1,2	1	2	1
<b>SD</b>	<b>0,4</b>	<b>0,4</b>	<b>0,3</b>	<b>0,3</b>	<b>0,6</b>

# Carbon

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Lab precision (or reapeatability) for:

C\_WB

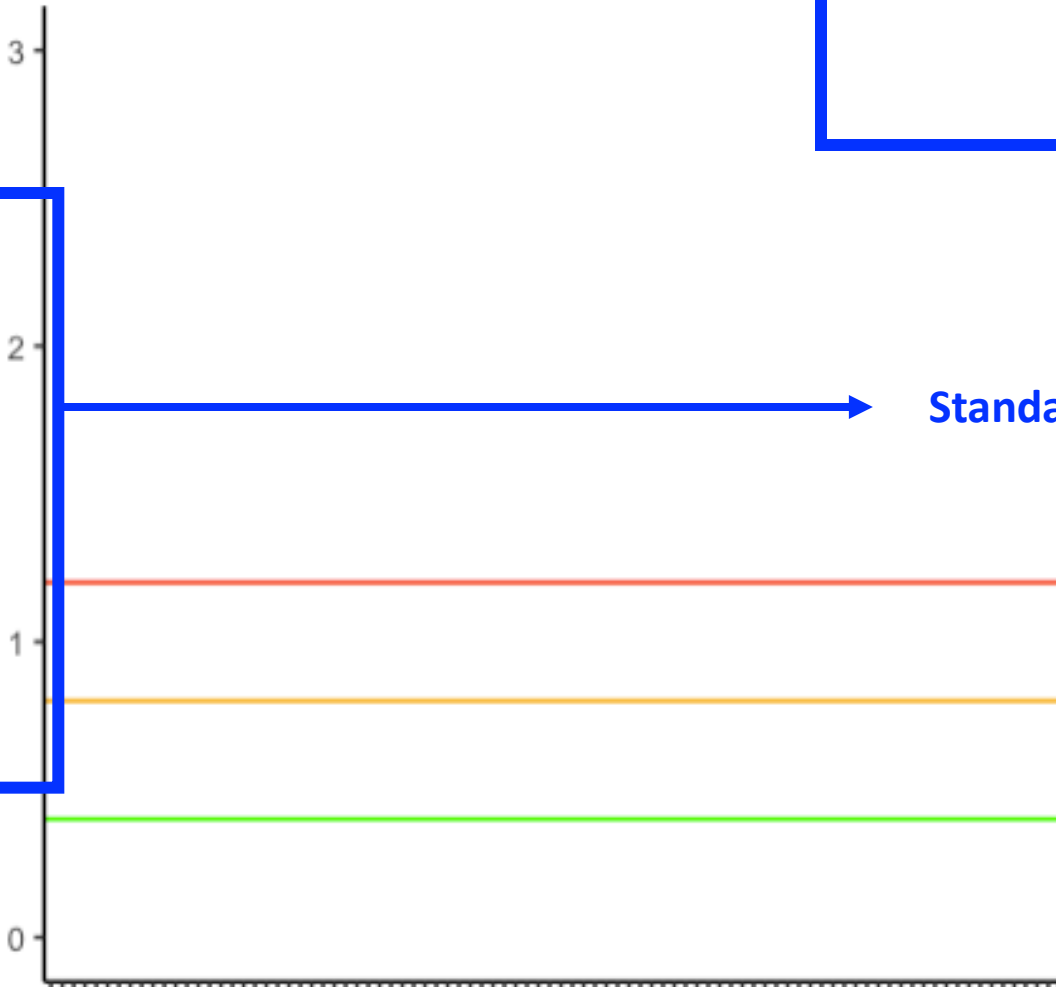
sd of the 5 replicates for soil E

Standard deviation  
(sd)

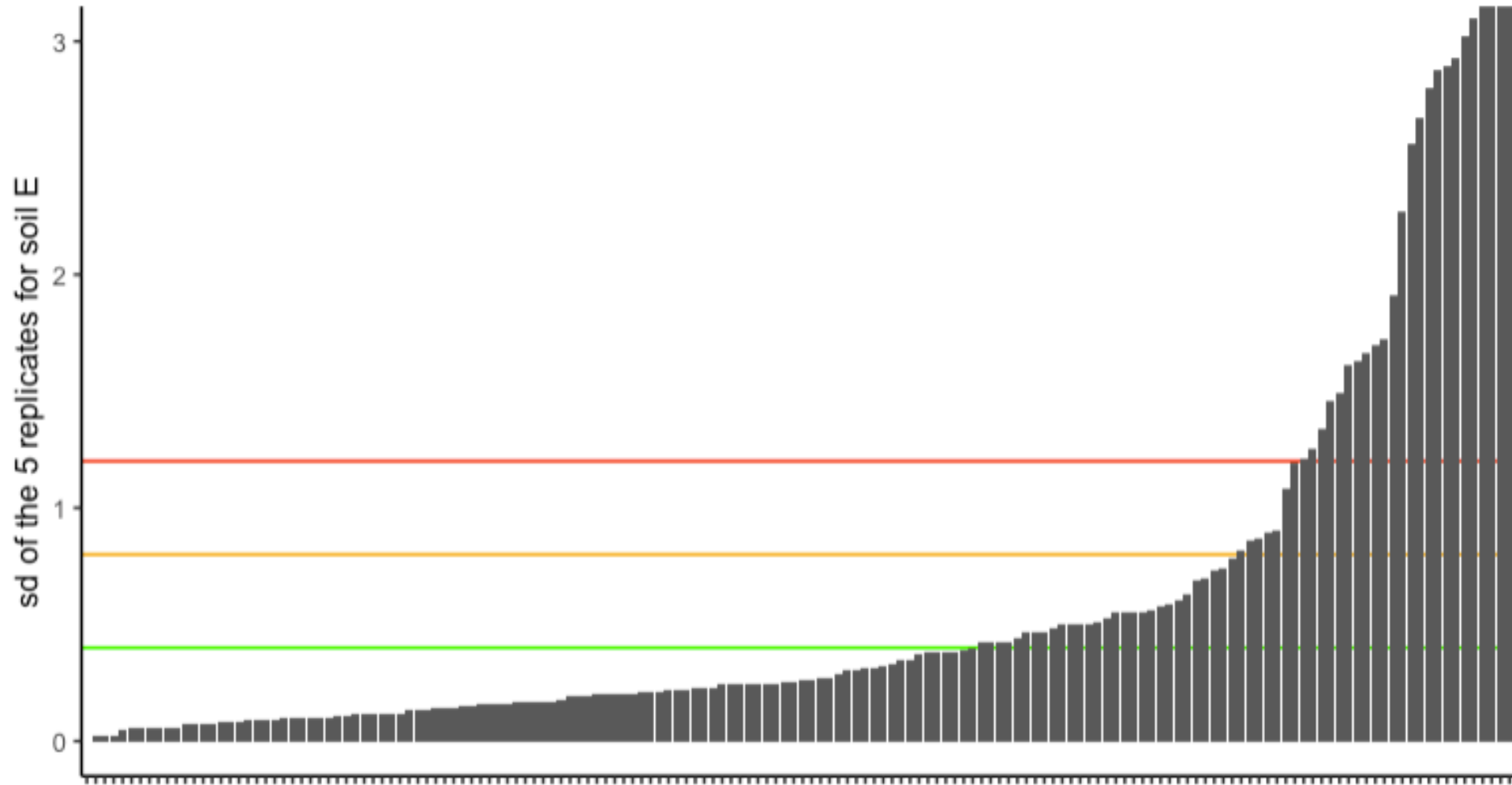
1.2

0.8

0.4



Lab precision (or reapeatability) for: C\_WB

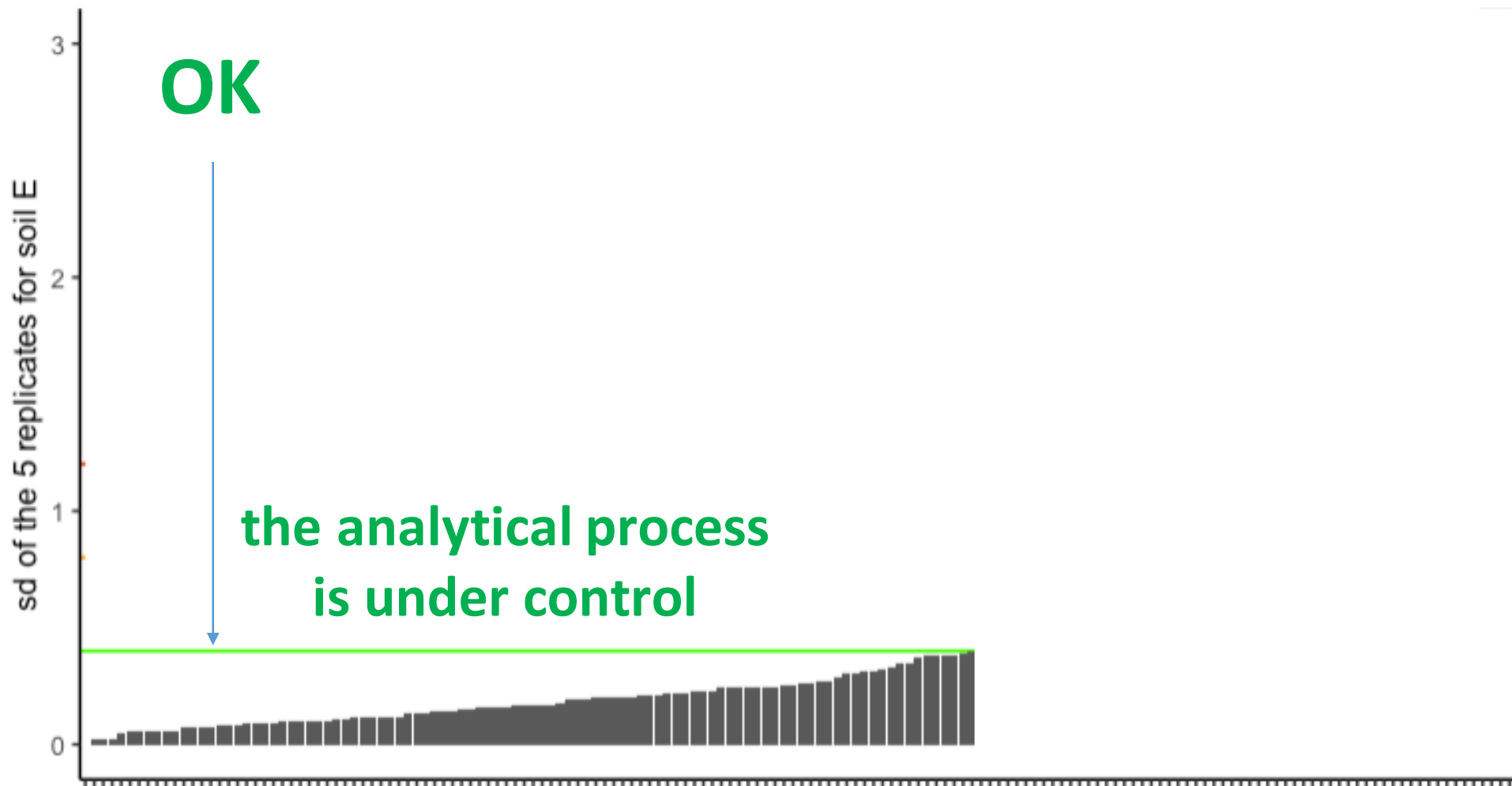


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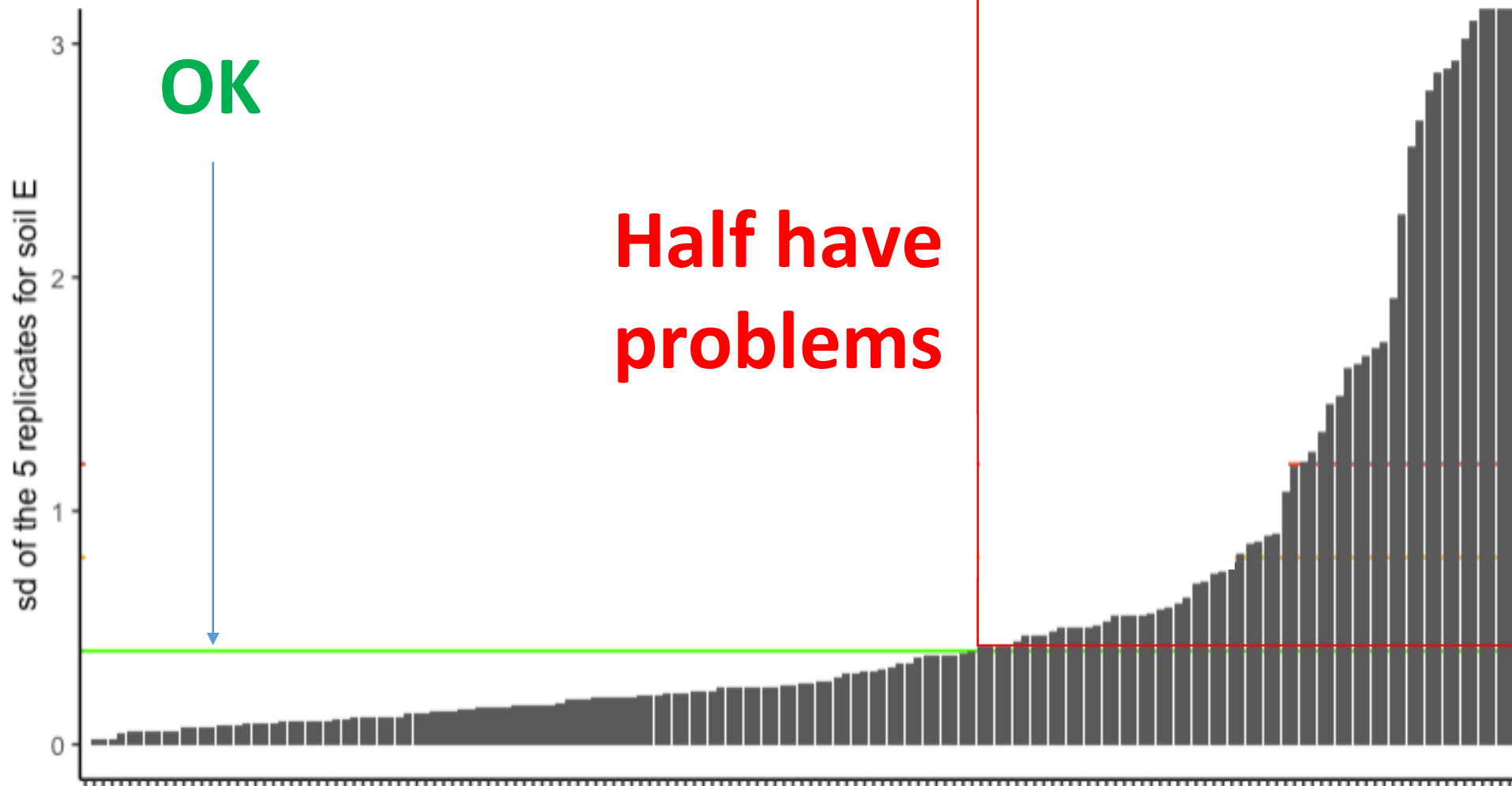




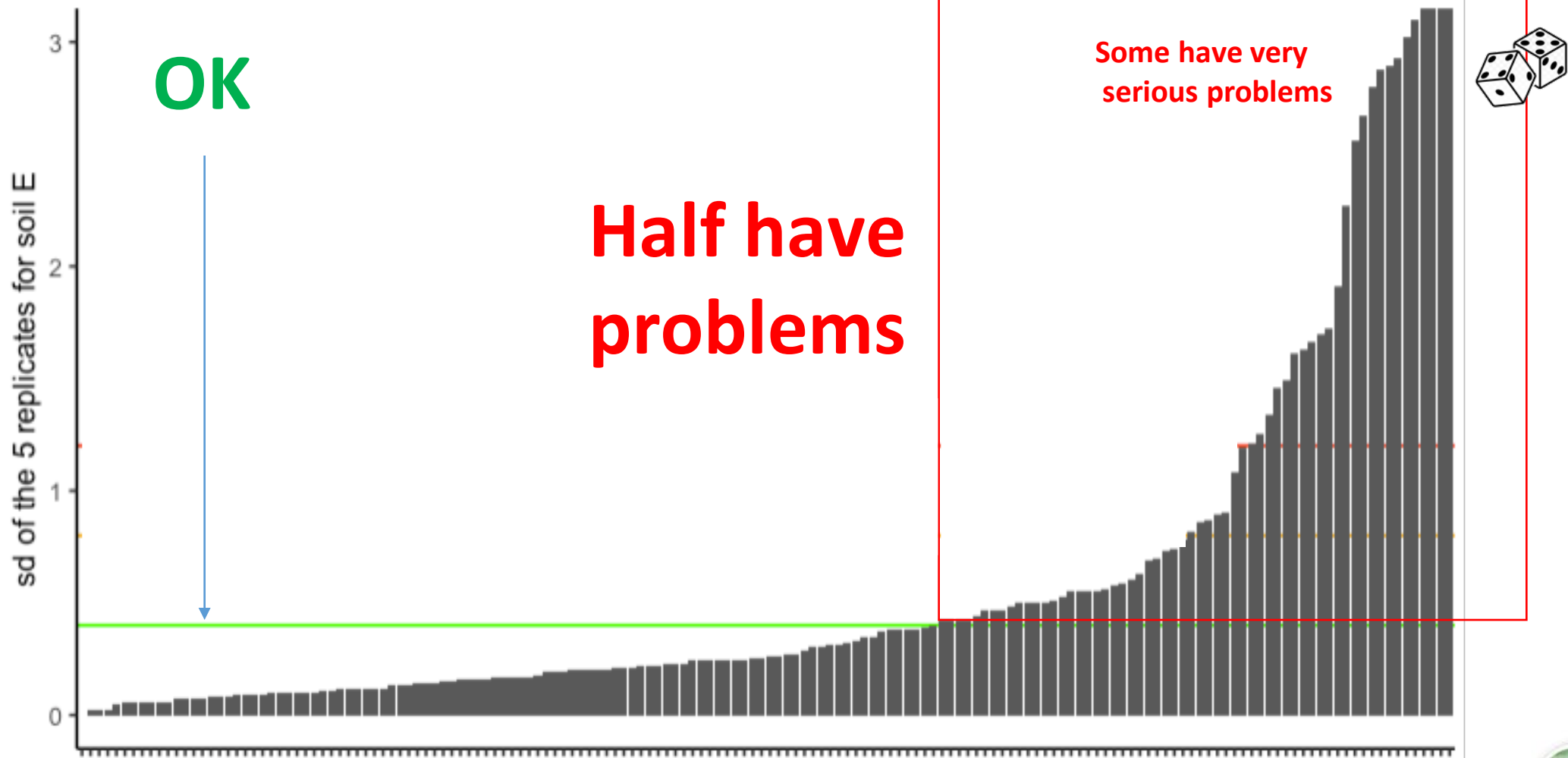
Lab precision (or reapeatability) for: C\_WB



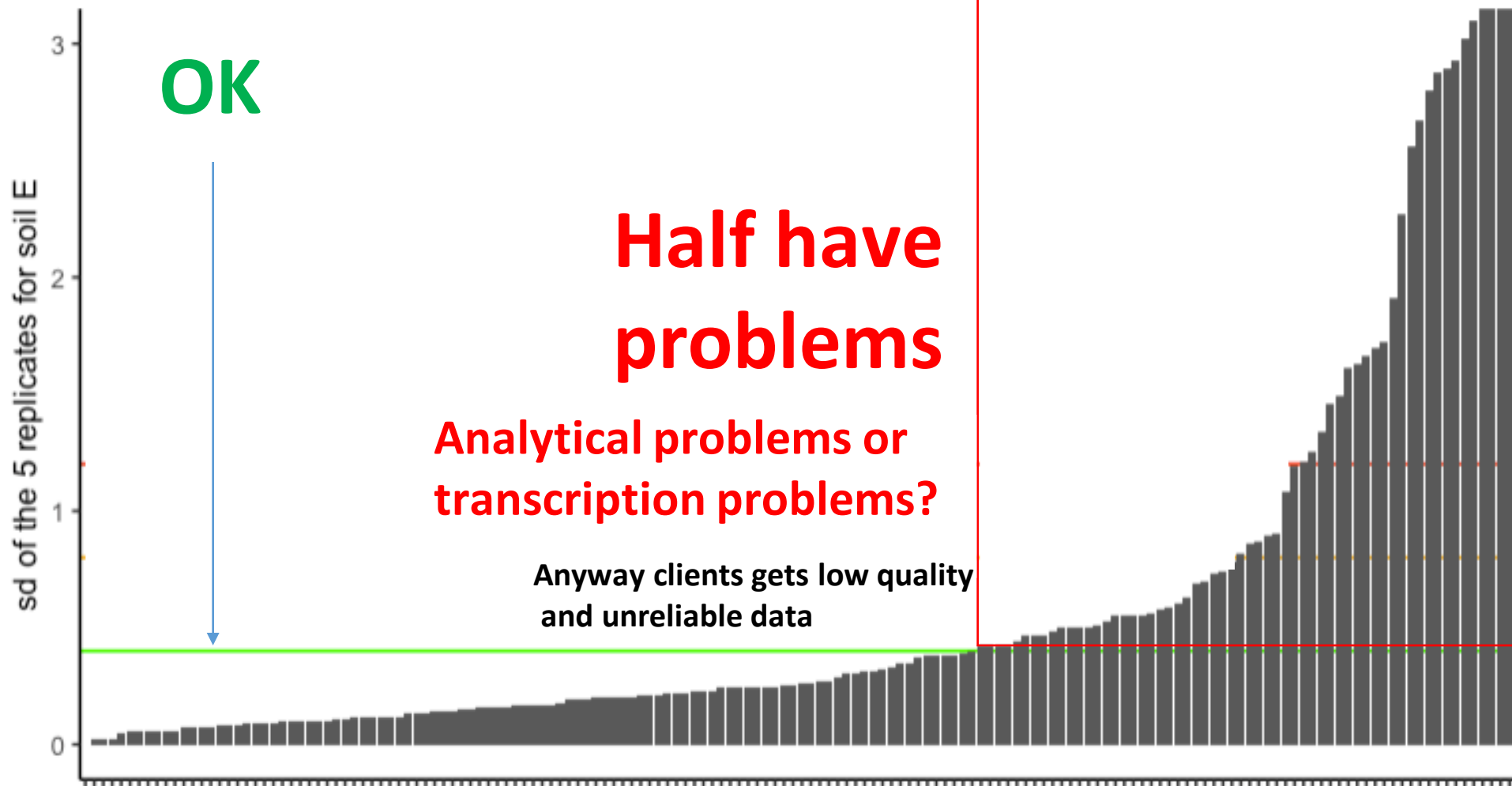
Lab precision (or reapeatability) for: C\_WB

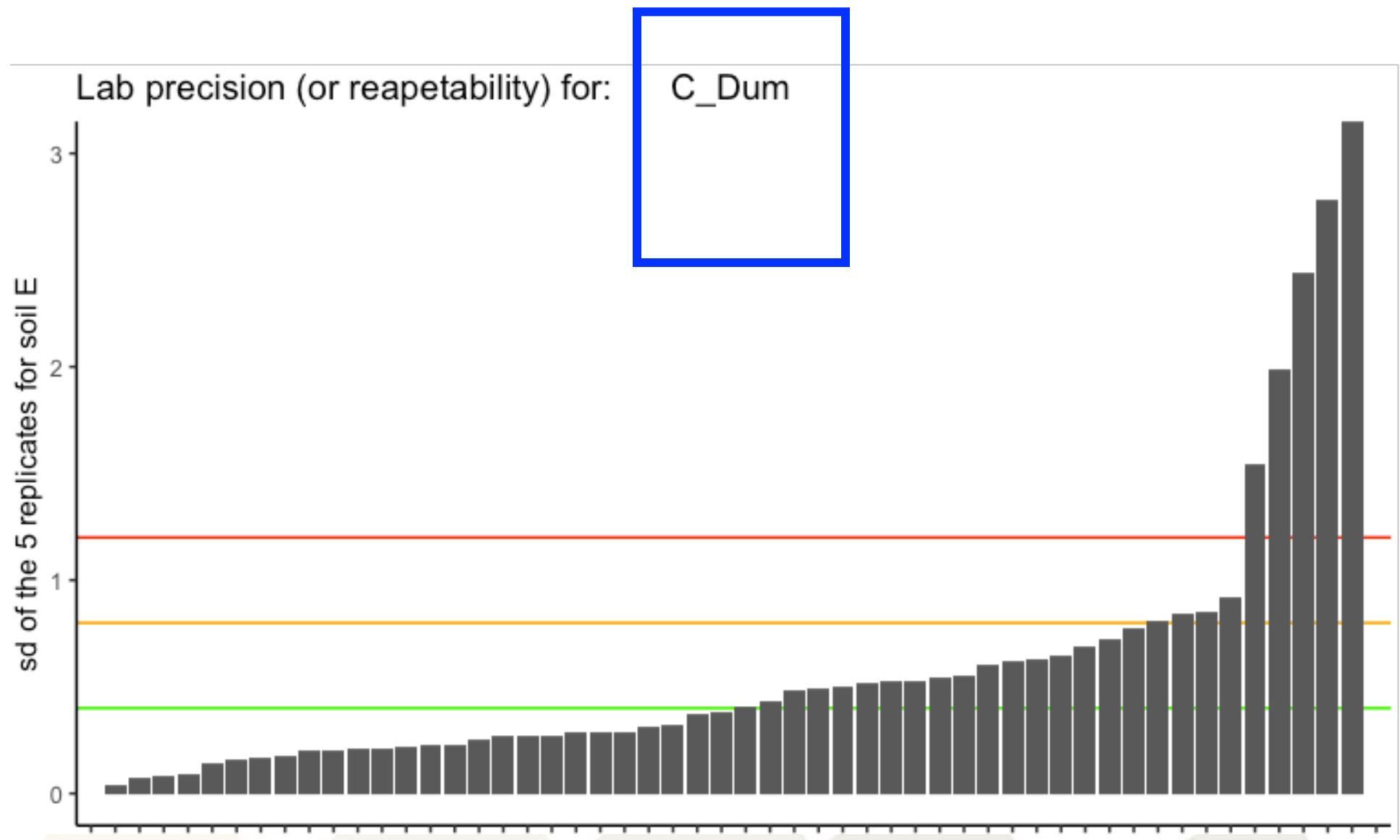


Lab precision (or reapeatability) for: C\_WB



Lab precision (or reapeatability) for: C\_WB





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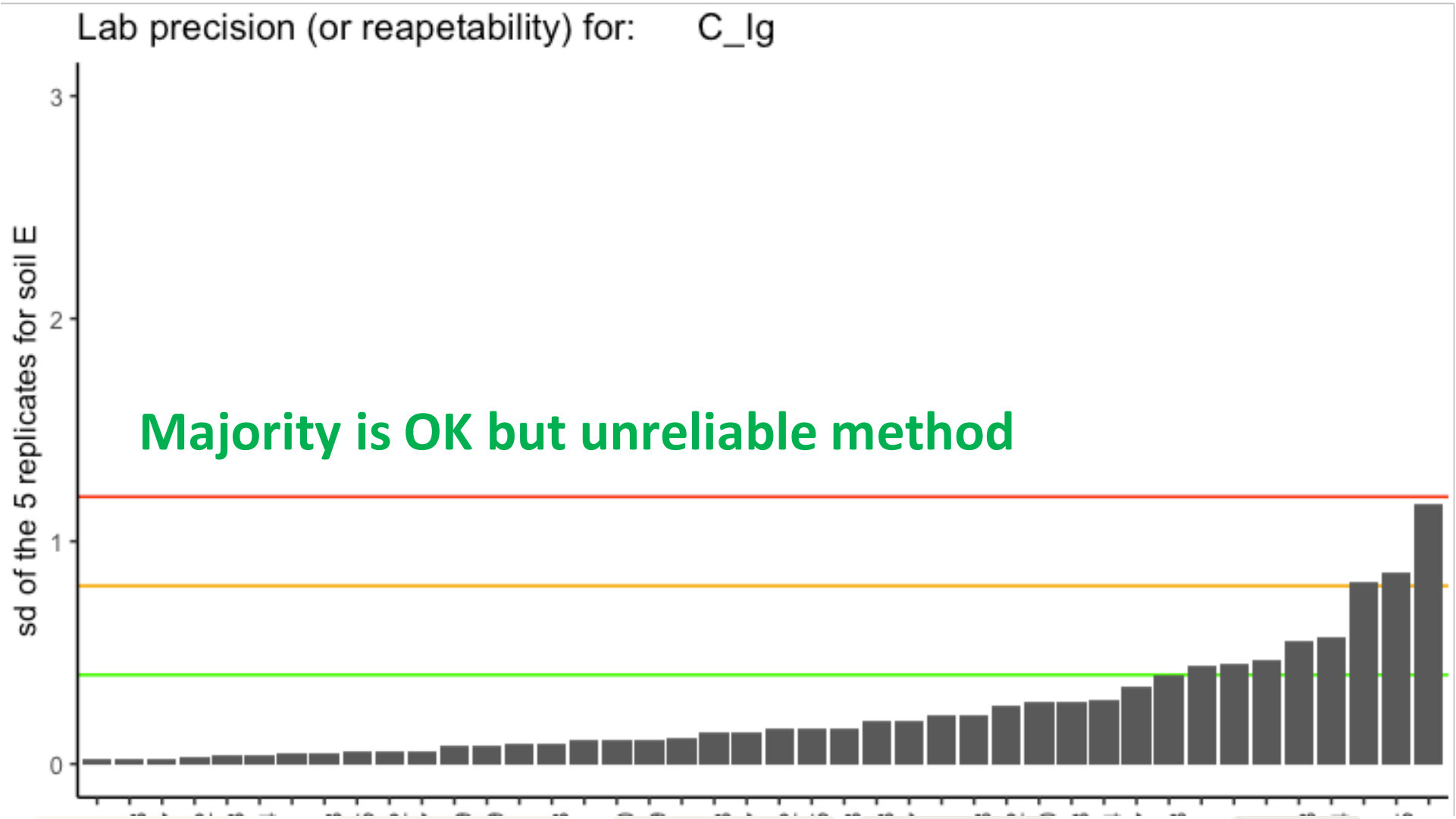


Lab precision (or reapeatability) for: C\_Dum



**Using high tech. instruments but still problems => human factor?**

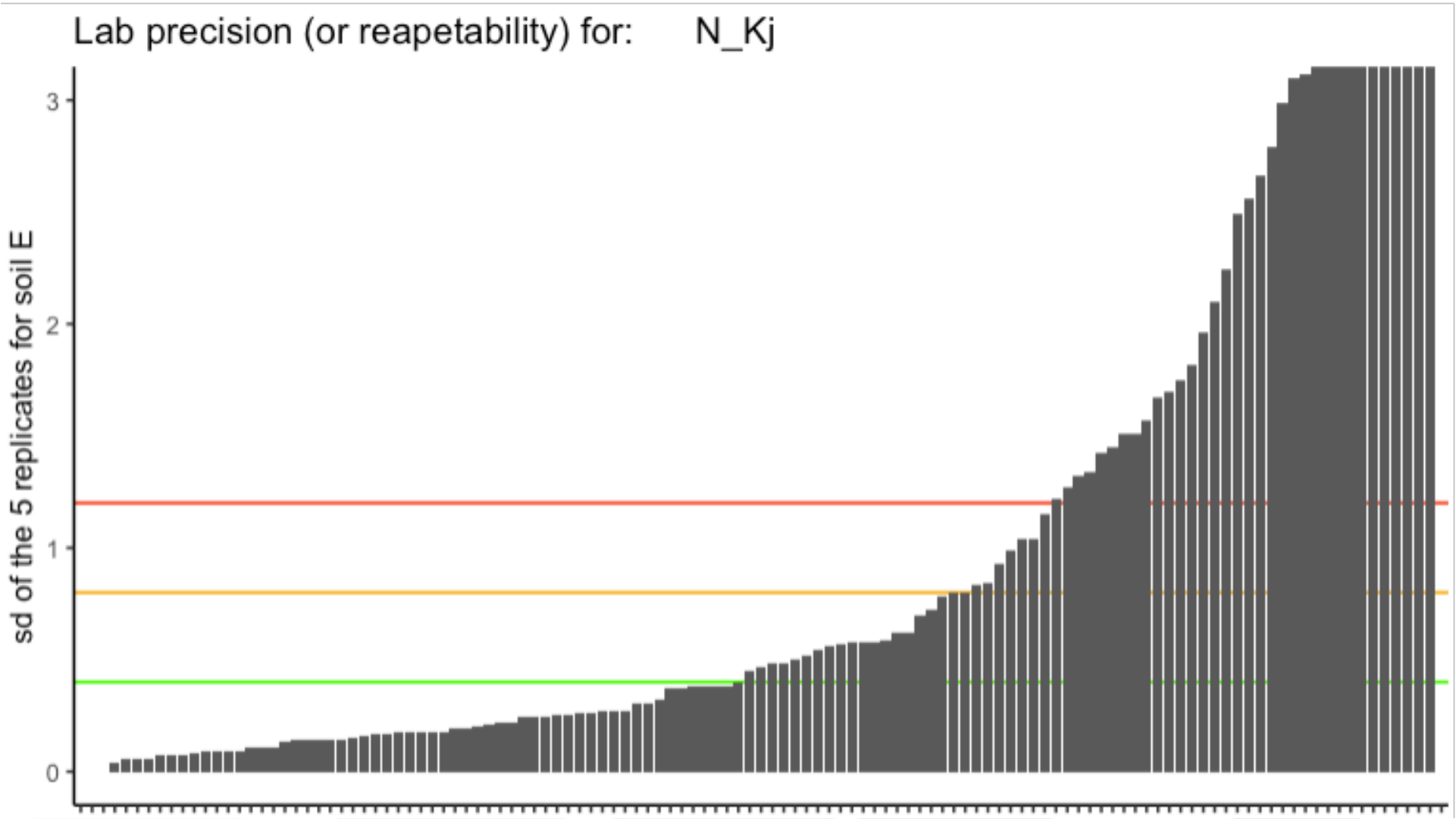




# Nitrogen

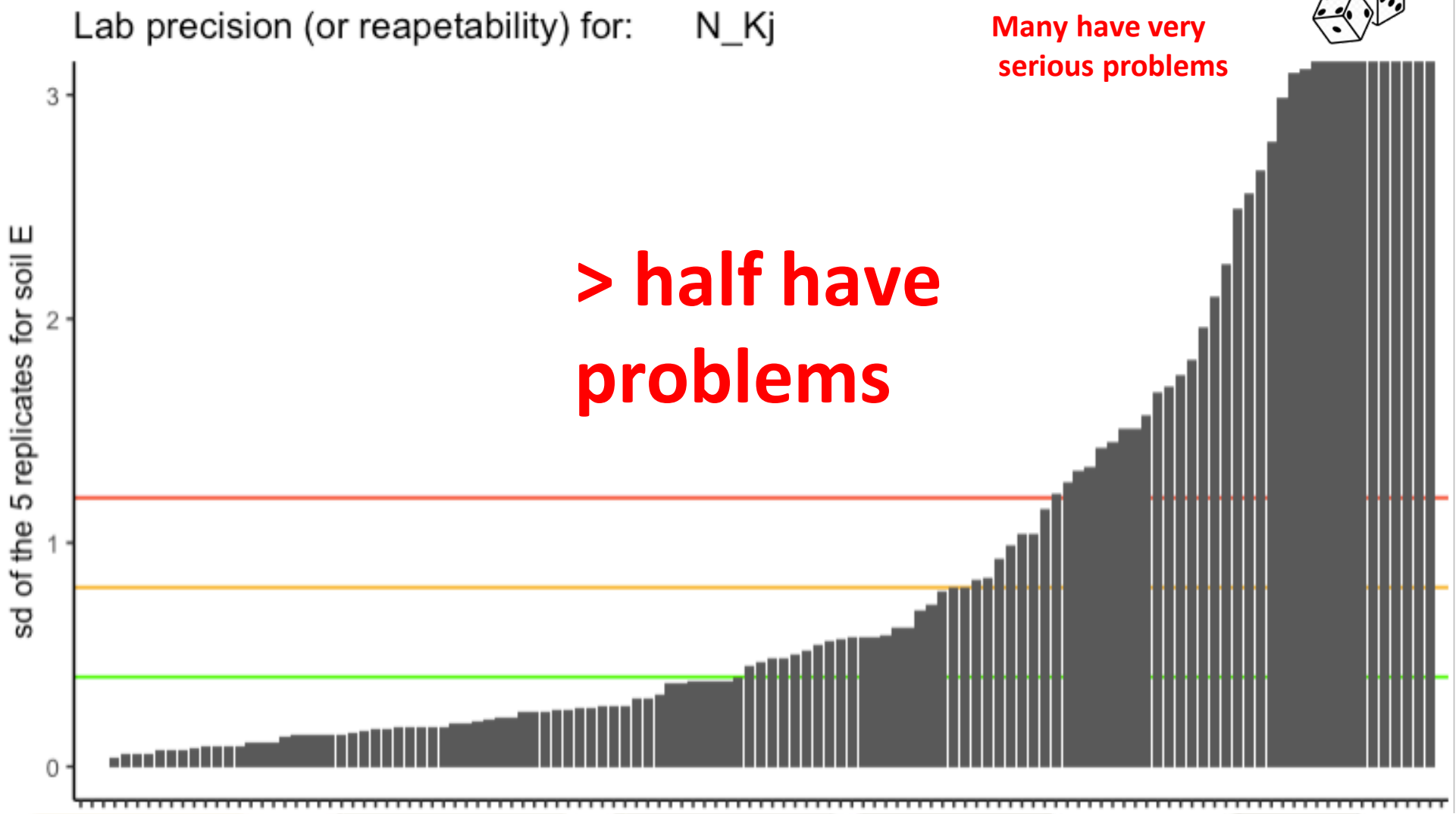
6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the **Global Soil Laboratory Network** (GLOSOLAN) | 22-24 November 2022





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Lab precision (or reapeatability) for: N\_Dum



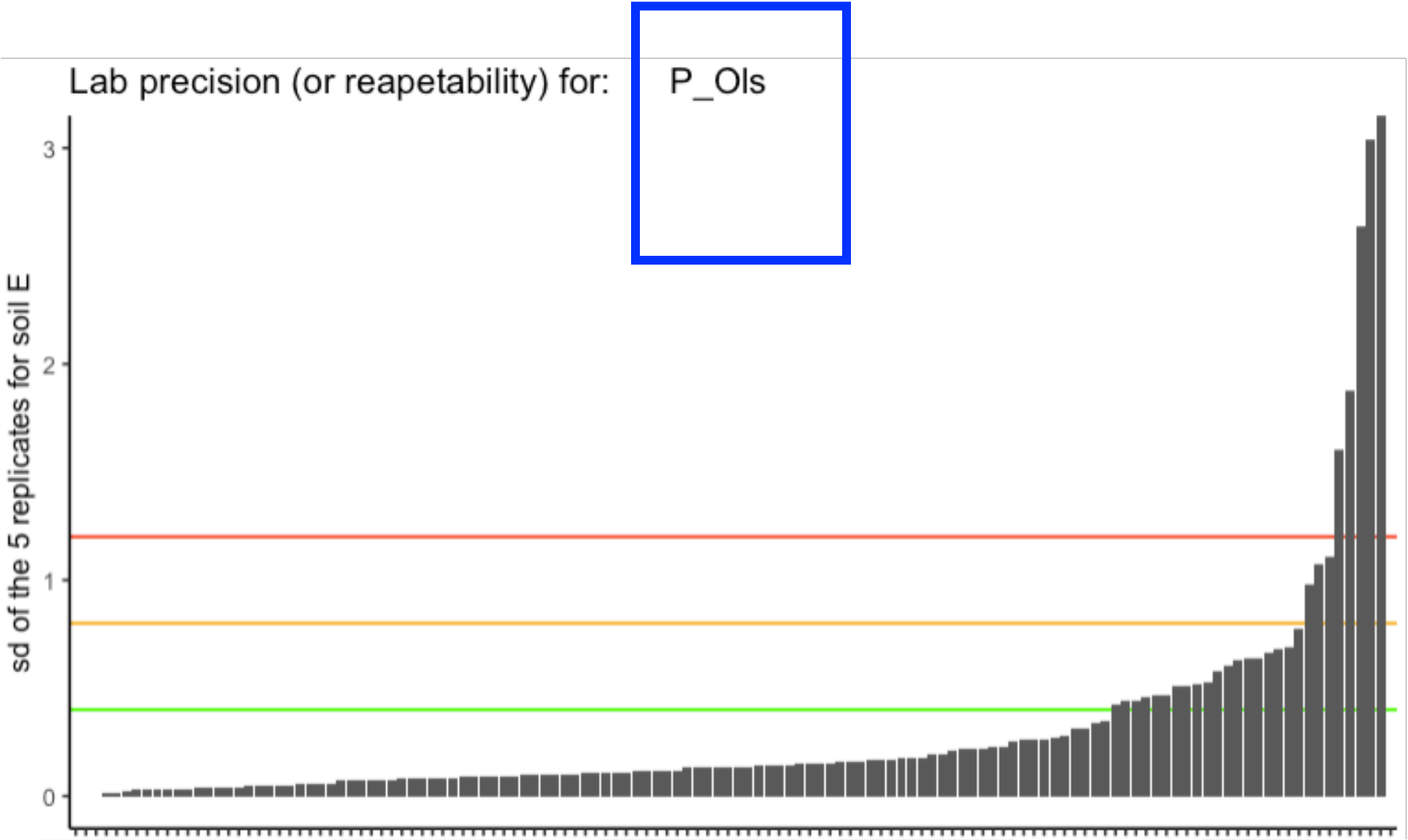
**Using high tech. instruments but still problems => human factor?**



# Phosphorus

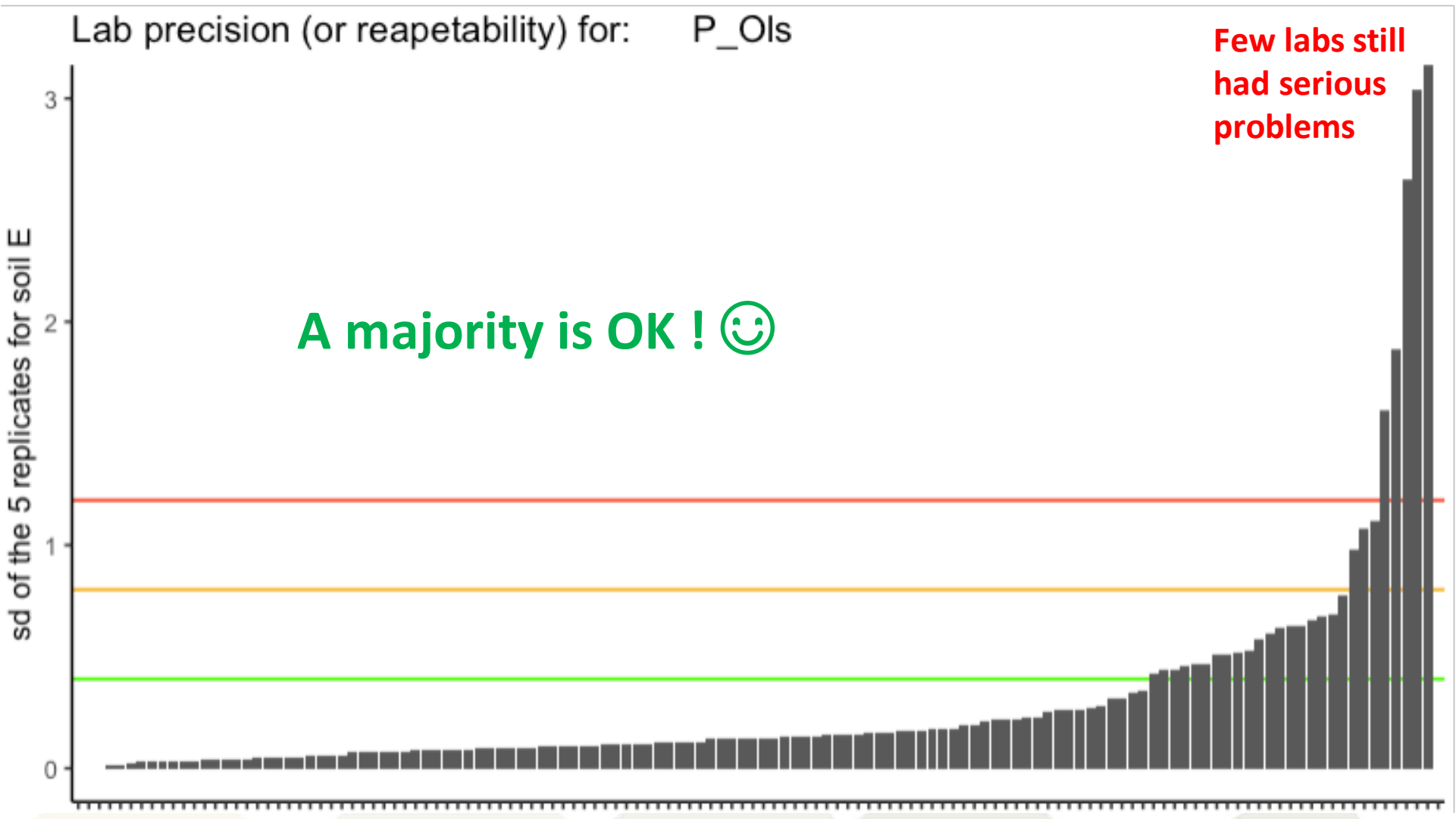
6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the **Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN)** | 22-24 November 2022





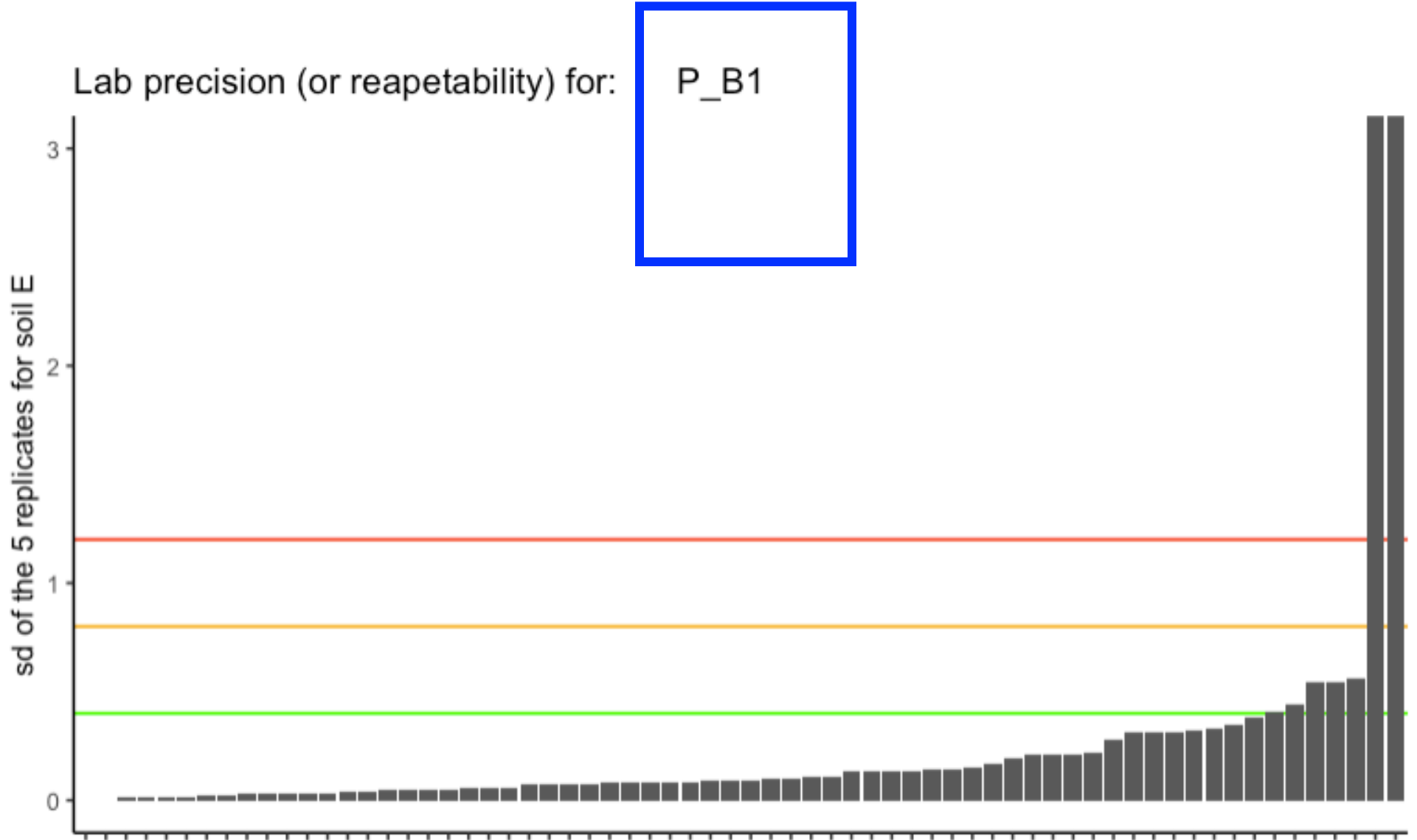
6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the **Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN)** | 22-24 November 2022



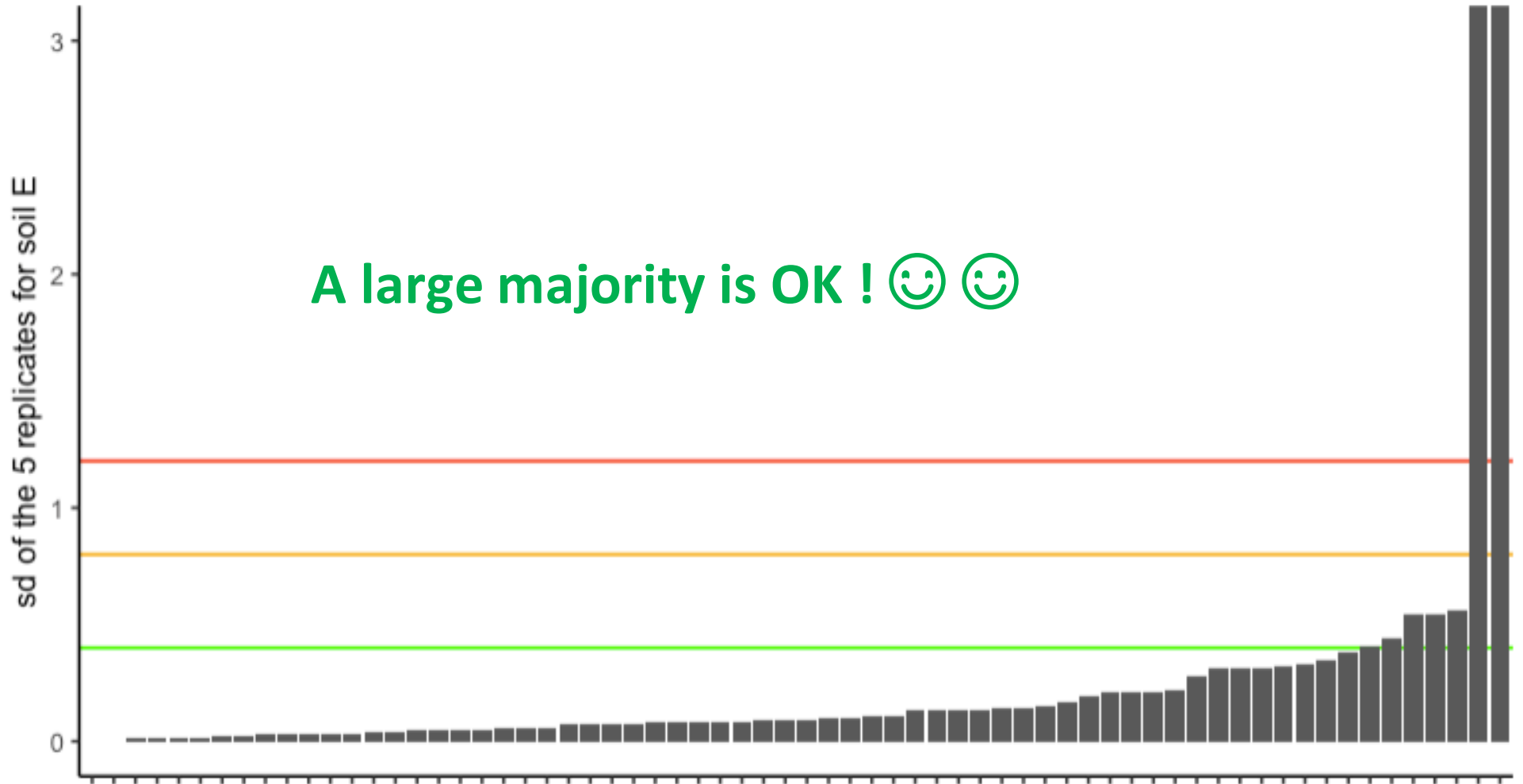


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Lab precision (or reapeatability) for: P\_B1



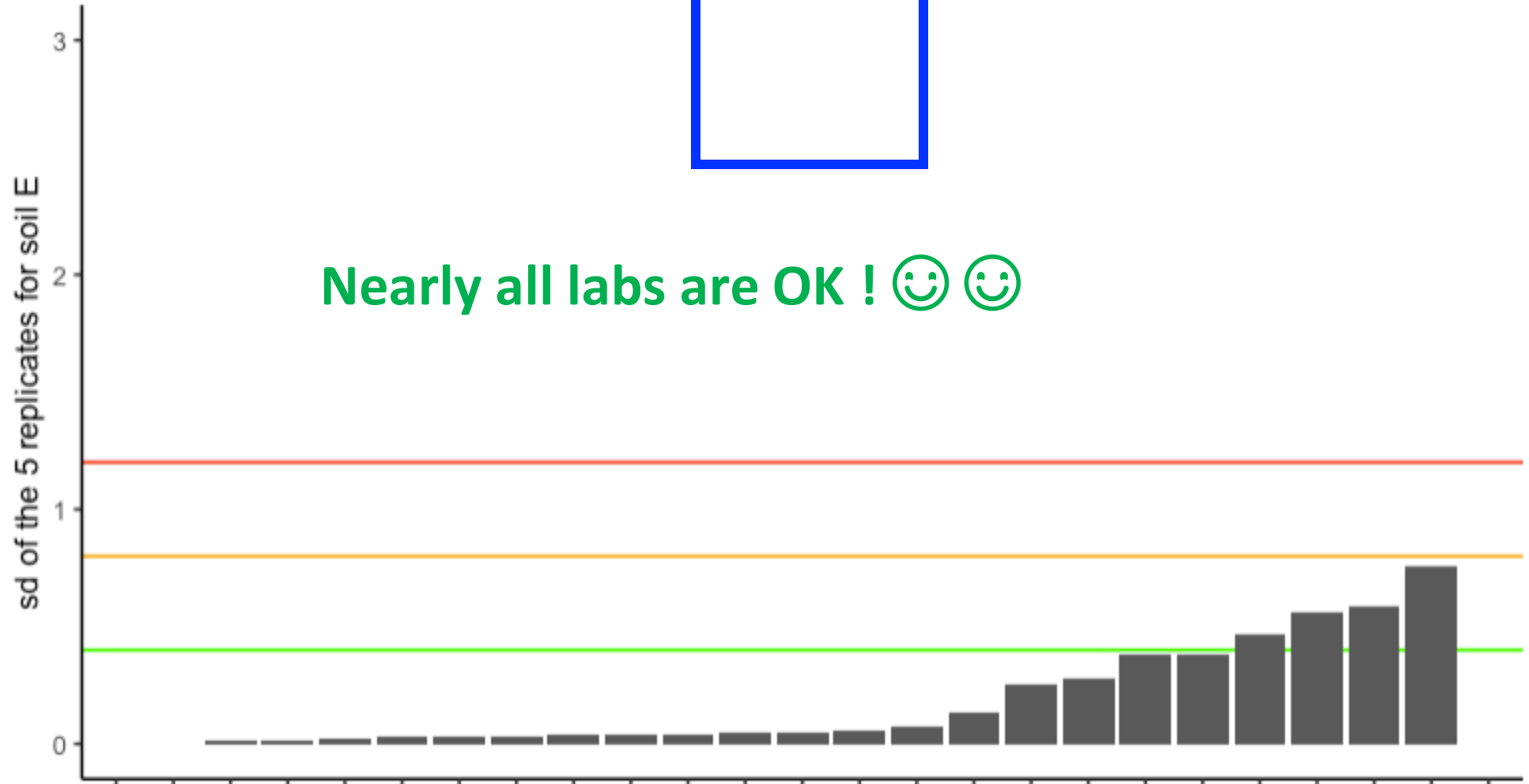
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Lab precision (or reapeatability) for:

P\_B2



Nearly all labs are OK ! 😊 😊

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# Comparability & accuracy

How distant/different are the results from each lab  
Compared to the consensus value.

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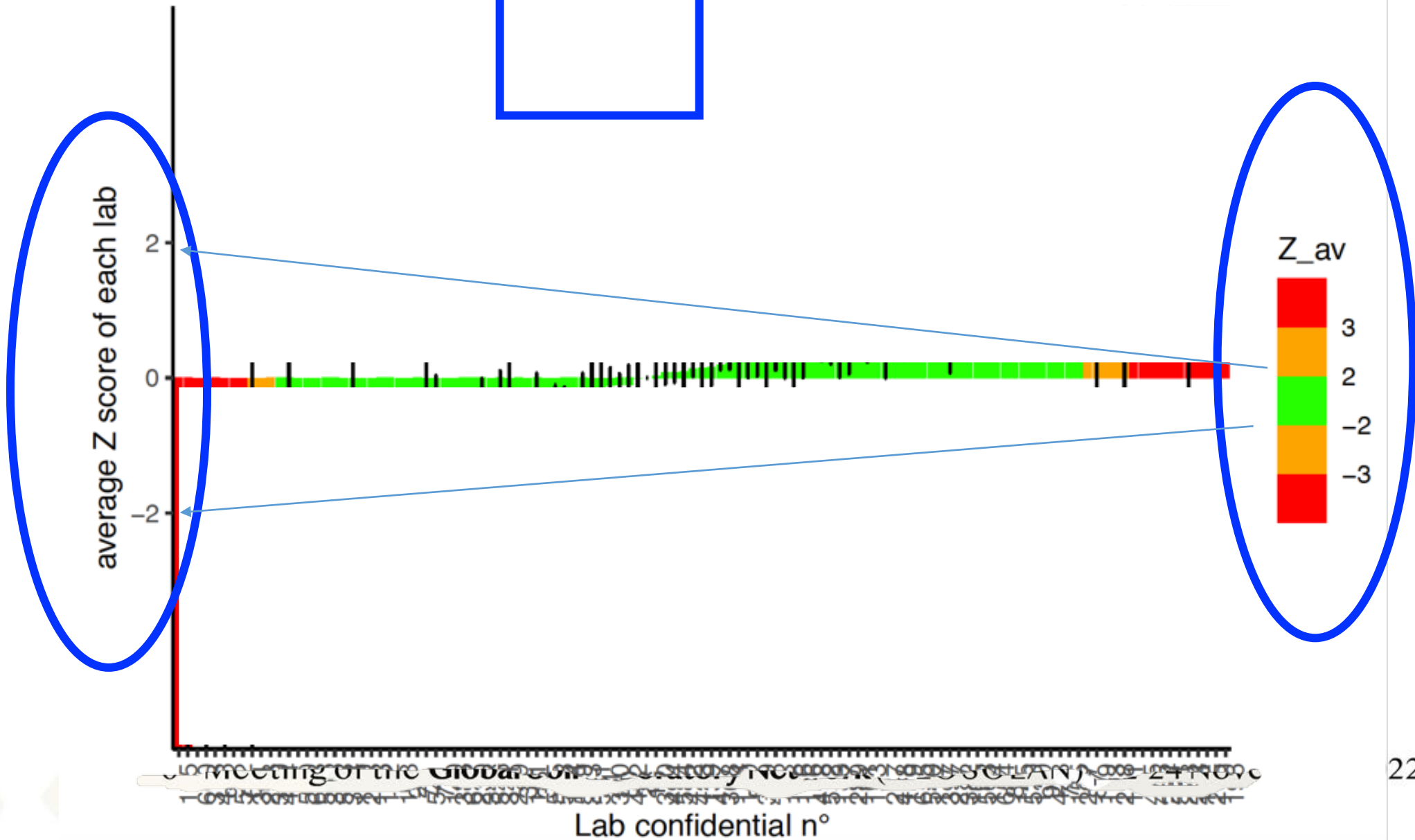
# Carbon

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## [1] 115

Z score 'average for C\_WB



## Z score 'average for C\_WB

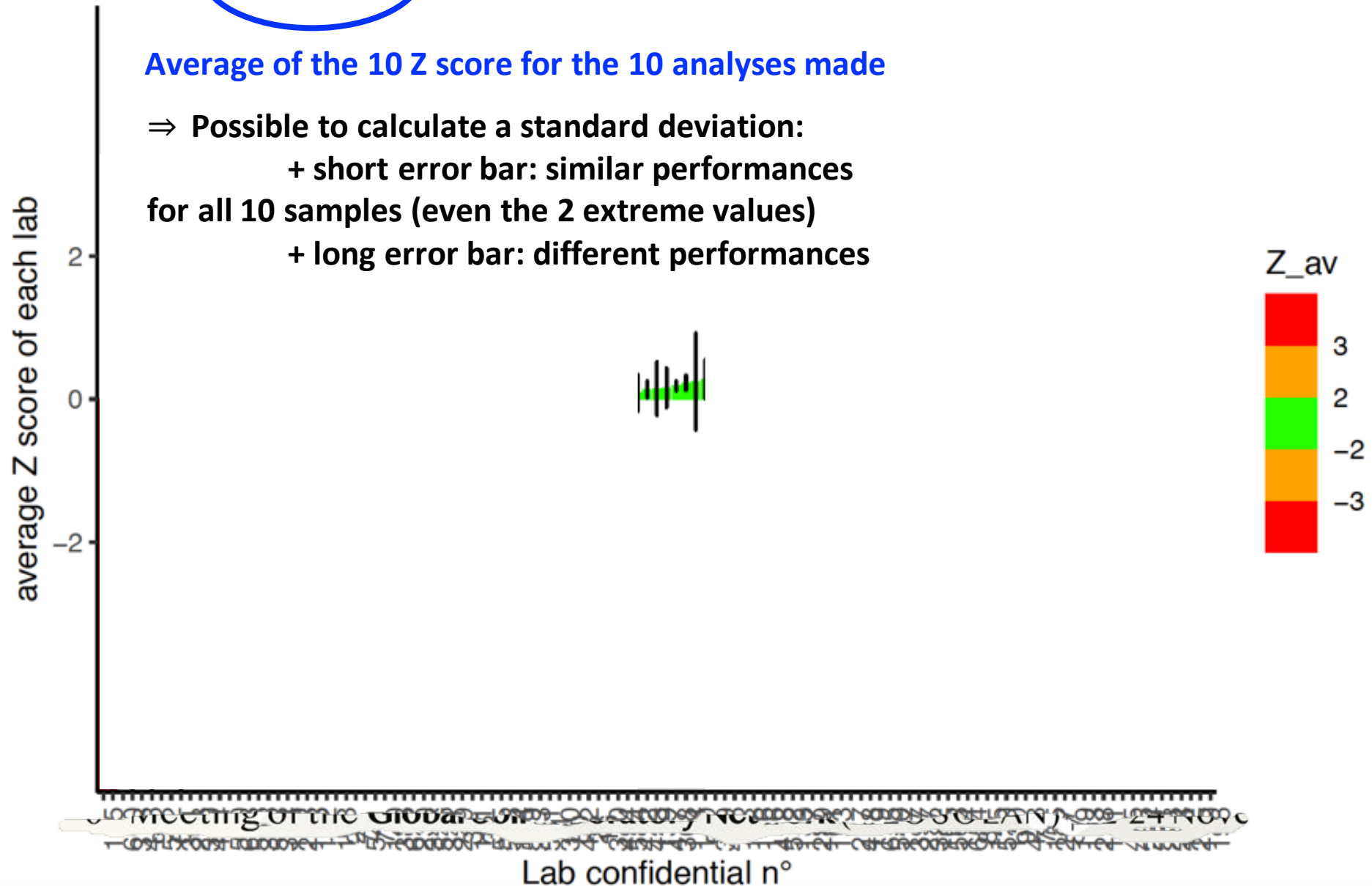
Average of the 10 Z score for the 10 analyses made

⇒ Possible to calculate a standard deviation:

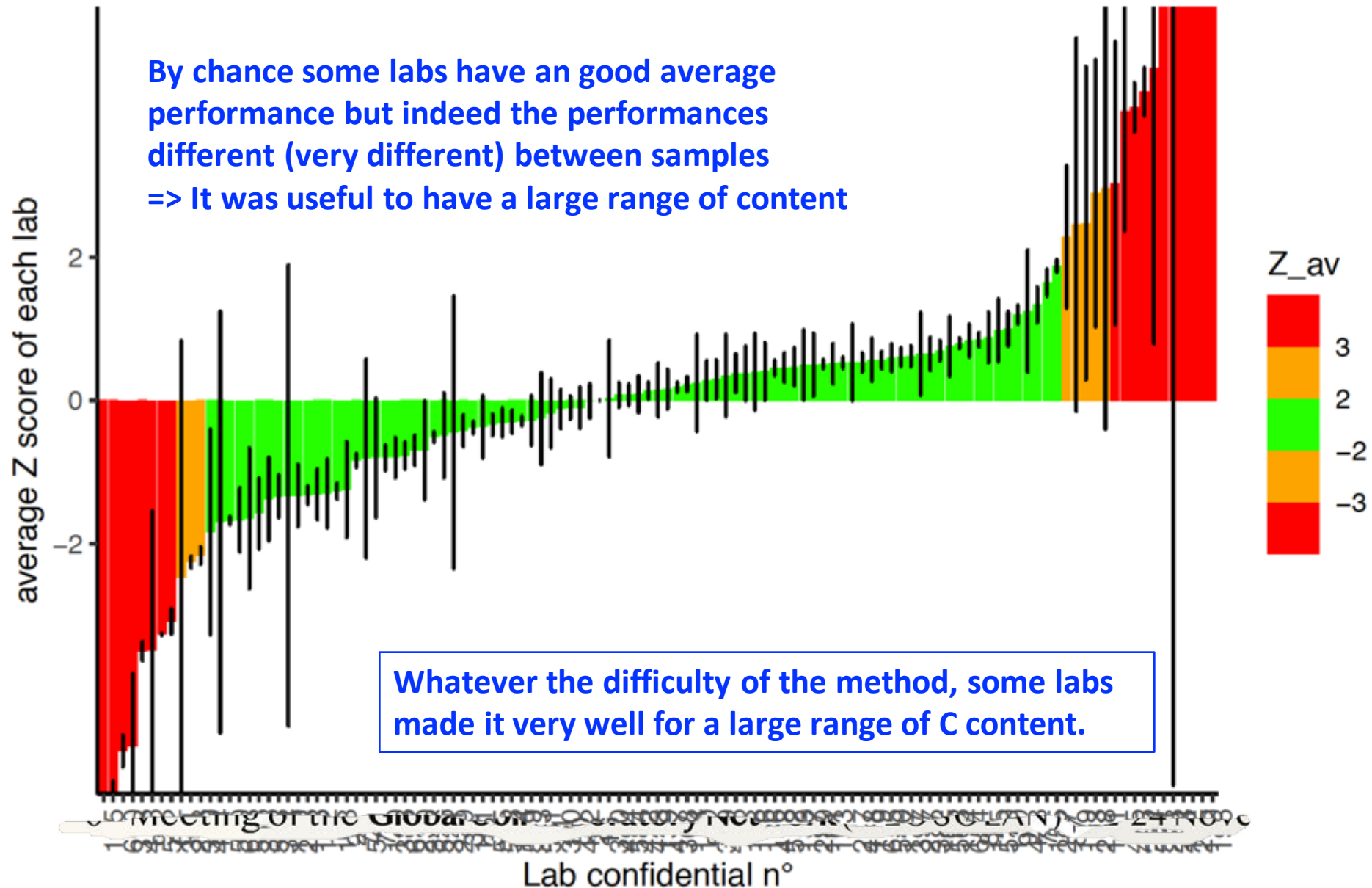
+ short error bar: similar performances

for all 10 samples (even the 2 extreme values)

+ long error bar: different performances



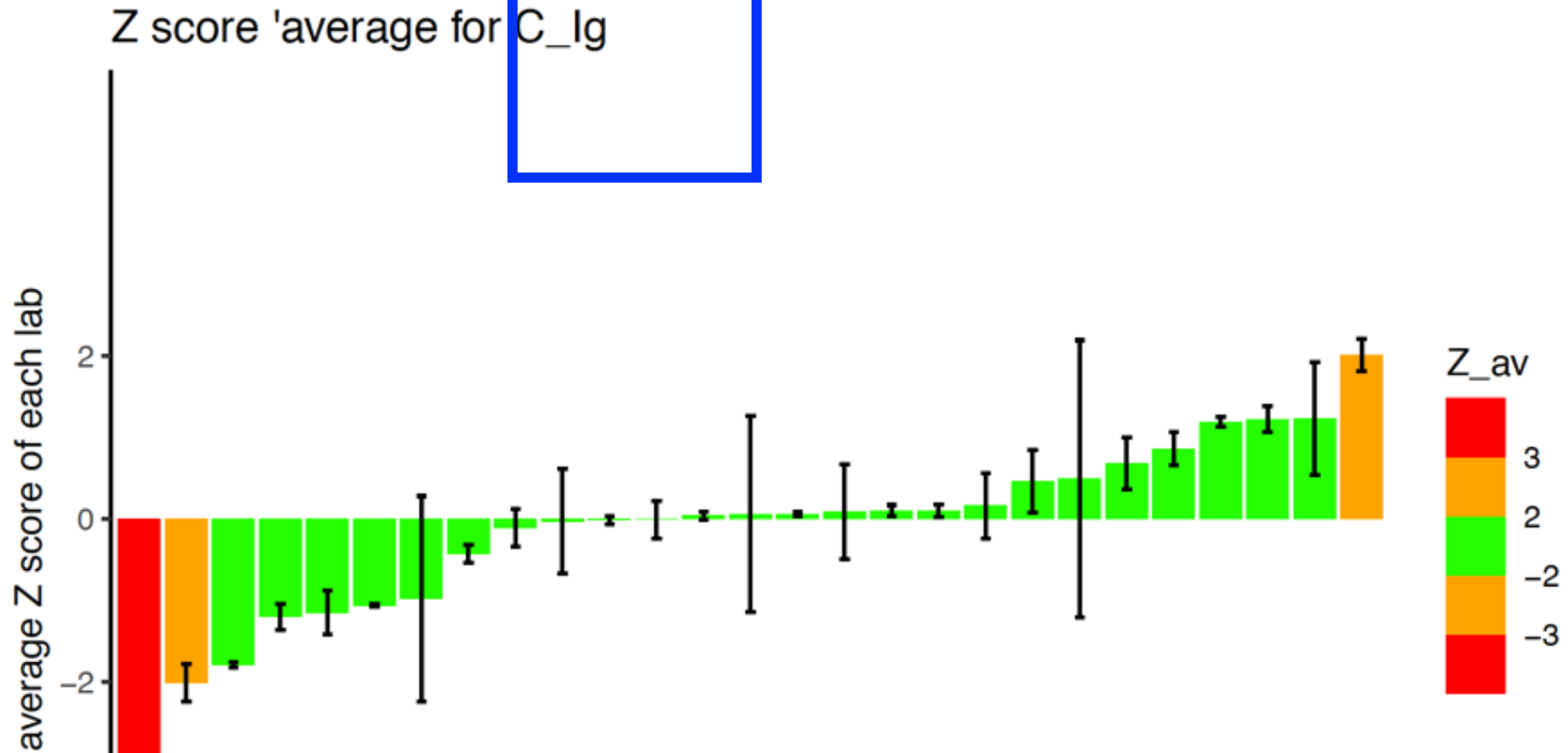
### Z score 'average for C\_WB

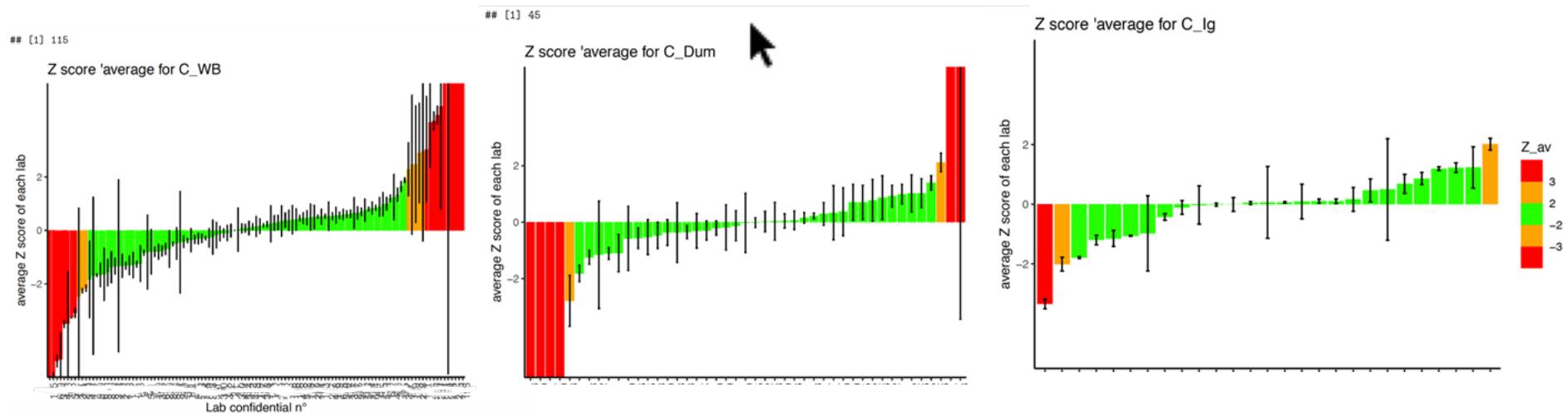




### Z score 'average for C\_Dum







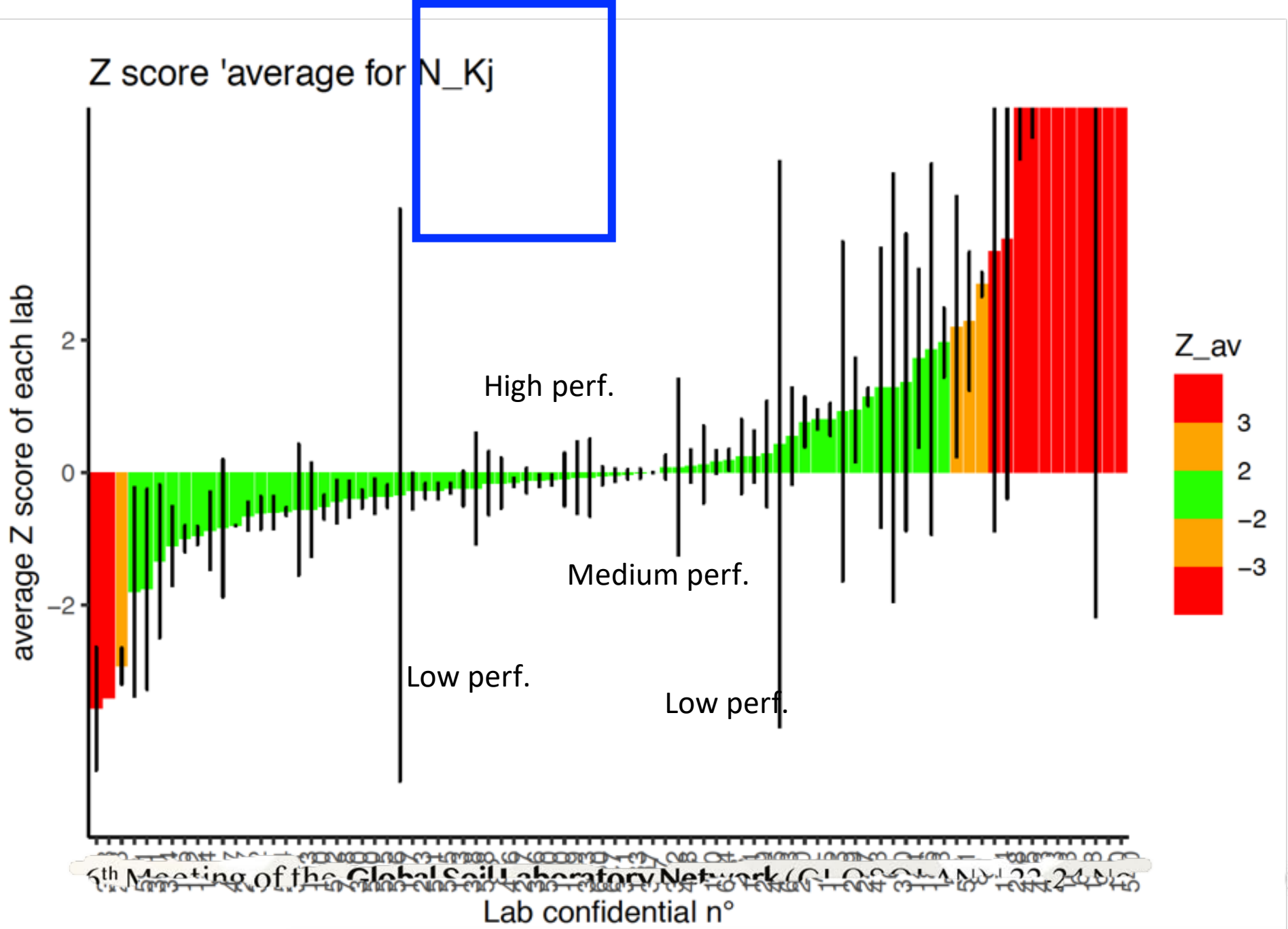
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# Nitrogen

6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the **Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN)** | 22-24 November 2022

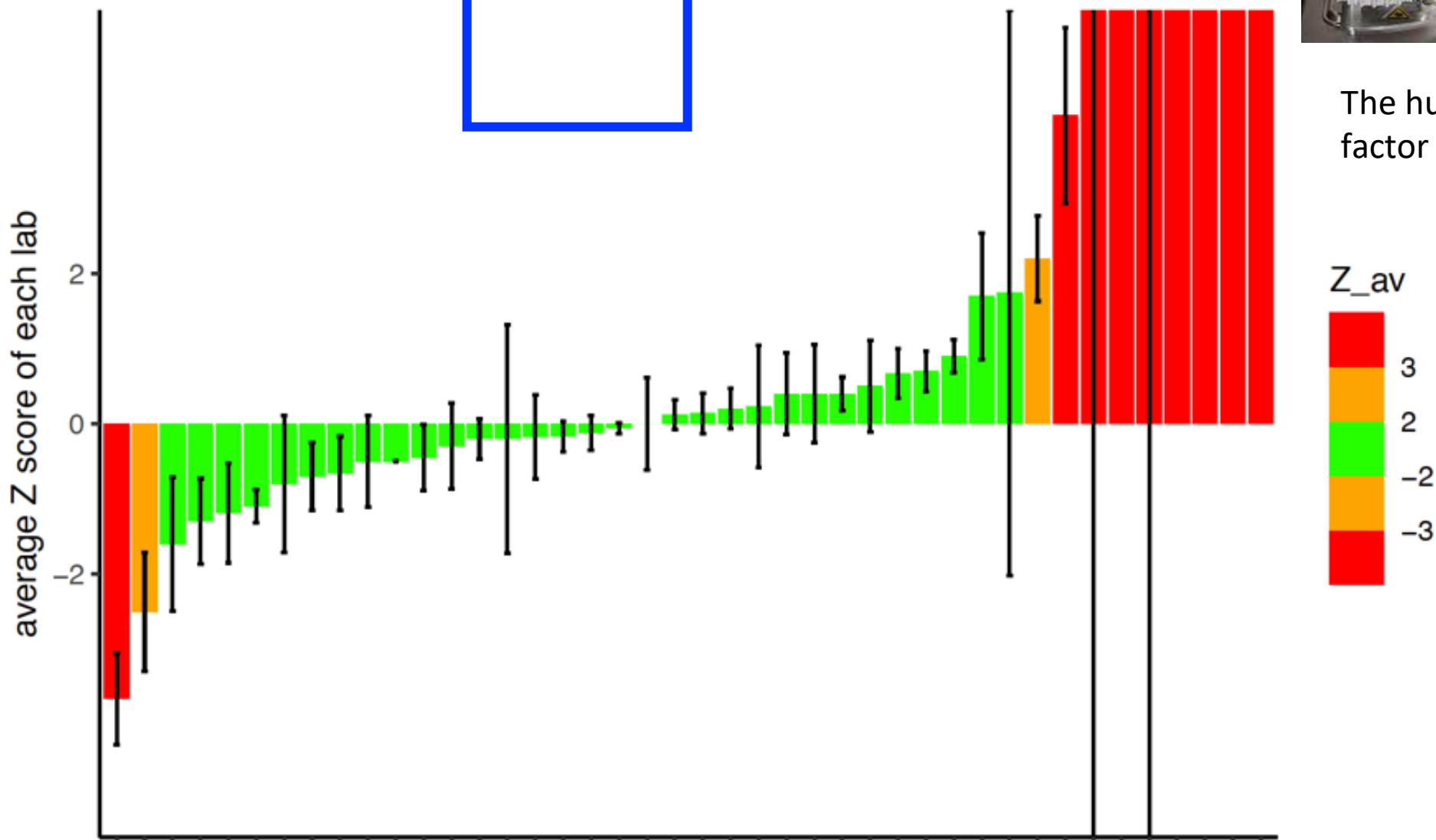




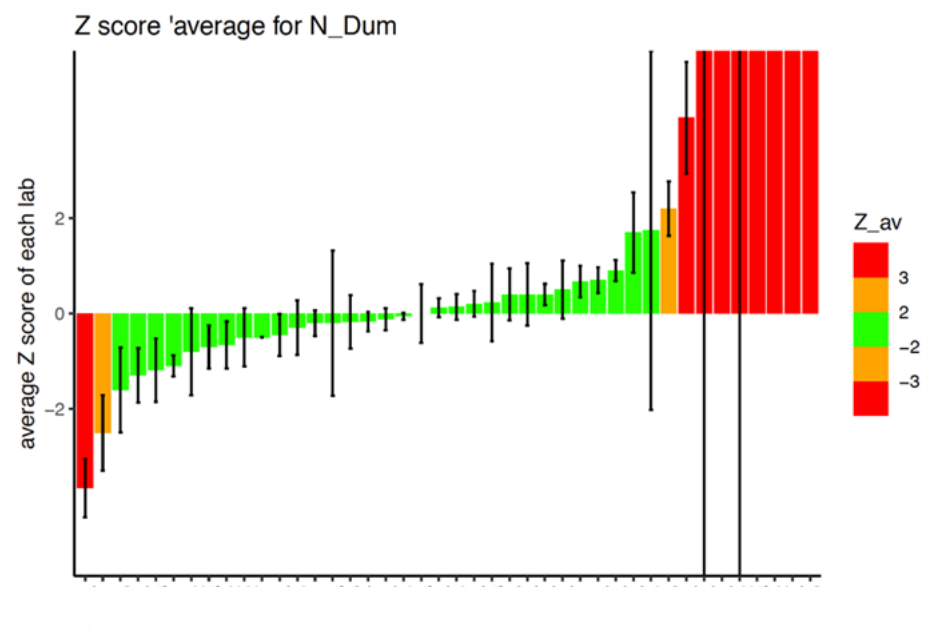
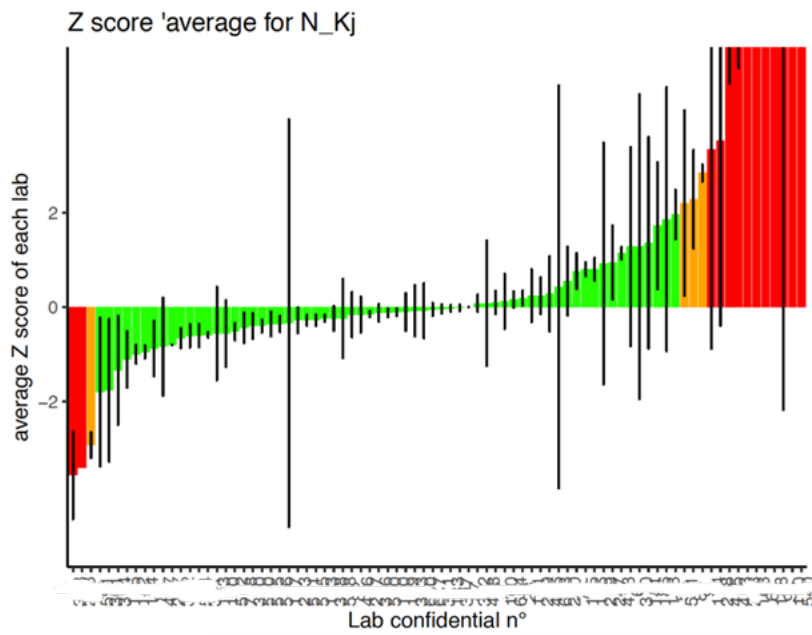
5th Meeting of the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GSLN) - 22-24 Nov 2017



Z score 'average for N\_Dum



The human factor ?



6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the **Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN)** | 22-24 November 2022

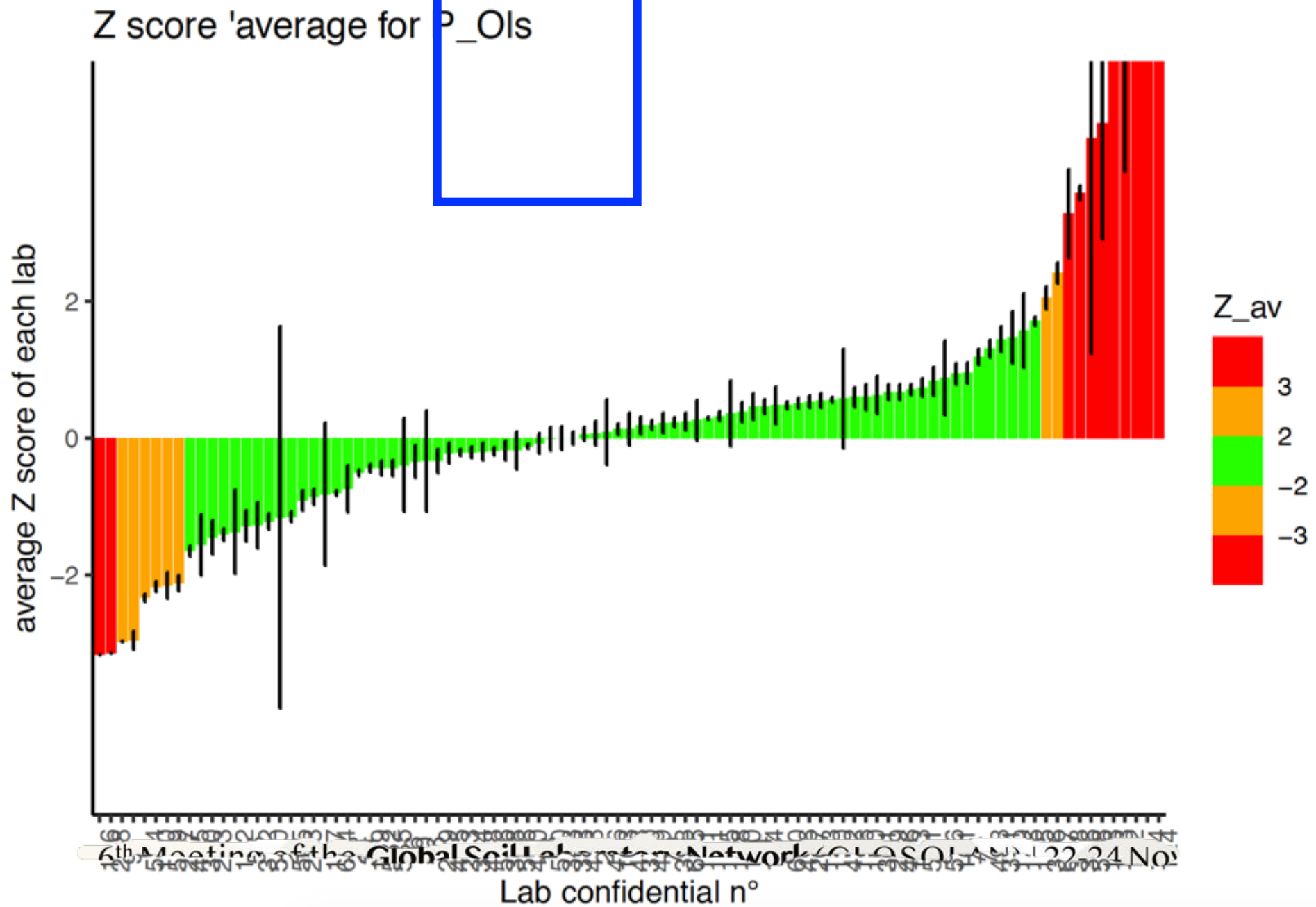




# Phosphorus

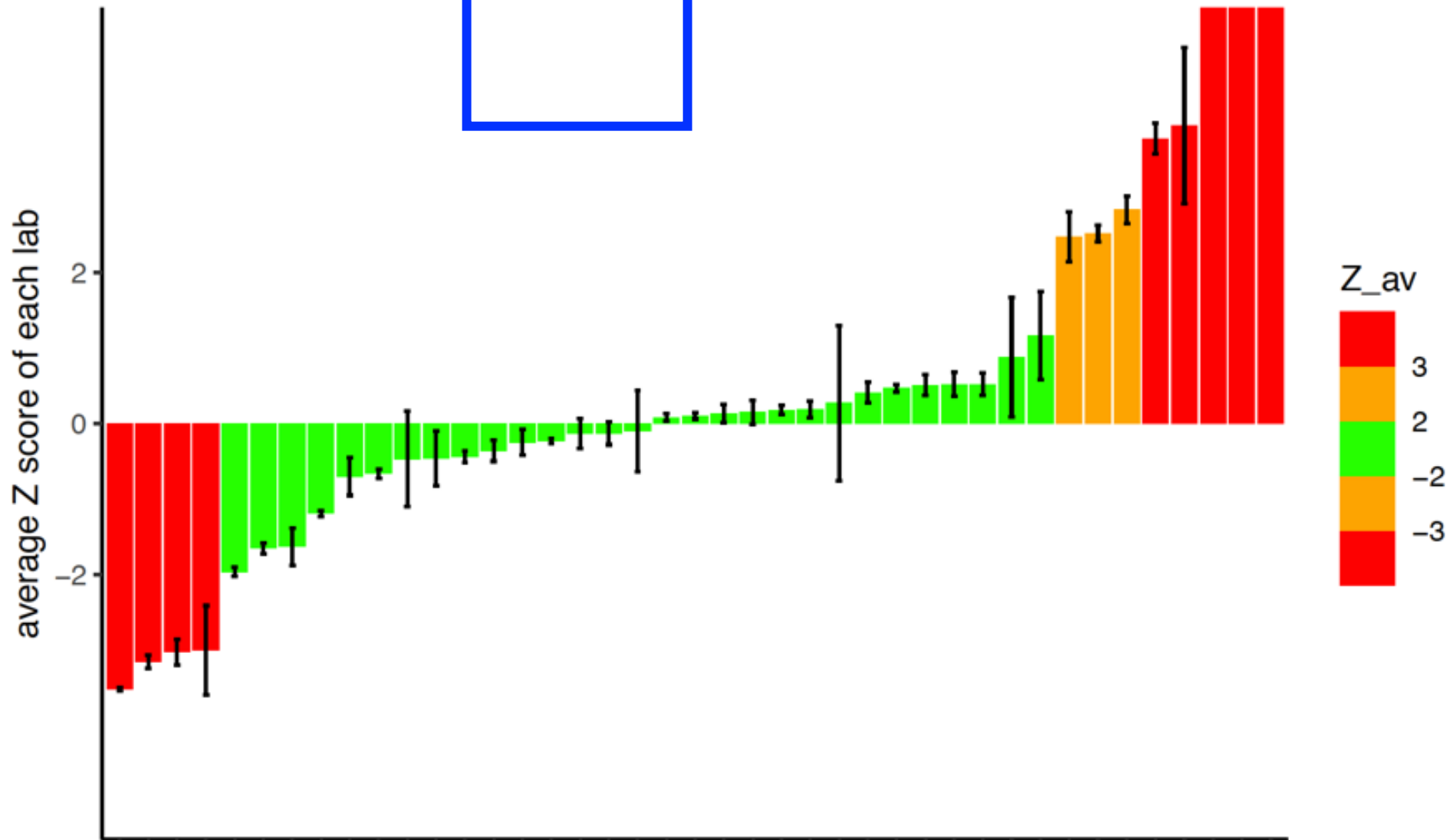
6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the **Global Soil Laboratory Network** (GLOSOLAN) | 22-24 November 2022

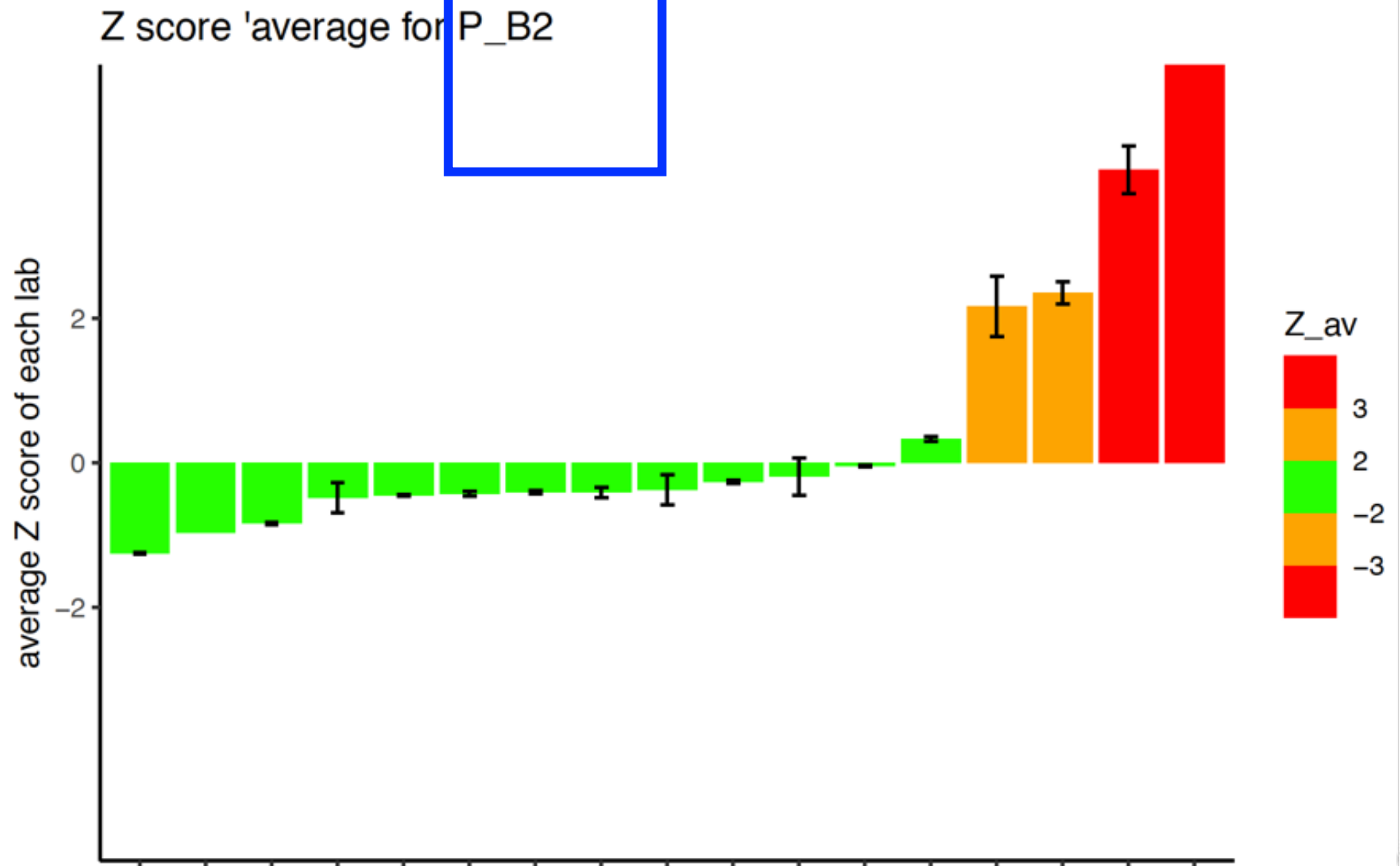


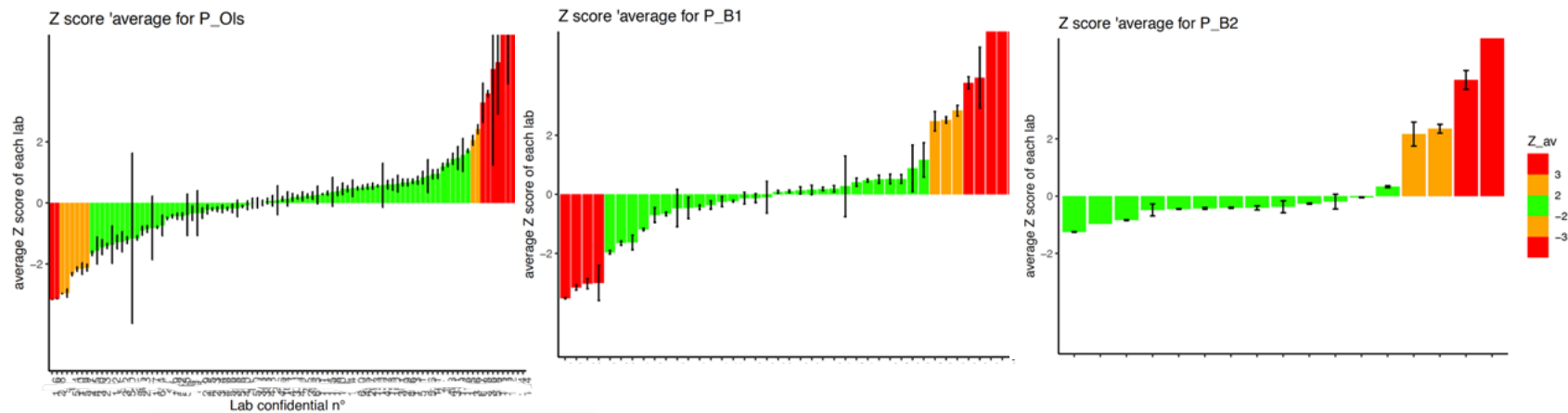


6th Meeting of the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) 22-24 Nov 2017

Z score 'average for P\_B1







6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the **Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN)** | 22-24 November 2022



6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the **Global Soil Laboratory Network** (GLOSOLAN) | 22-24 November 2022



## **Part 1 = assessment:**

**how reliable and comparable are  
the data produced by soil laboratories?**



# QUESTIONS: 2 + 1 more

## 1. RELIABILITY: for each lab, what is its precision?

many labs have **insufficient** precision: **need to develop IQC**

# QUESTIONS: 2 + 1 more

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many labs have **insufficient** precision: **need to develop IQC**

## 2. COMPARABILITY: among all labs, dispersion of their results?

Depends on method but even with high tech  
Analytical problems &/or transcription mistakes ?

# QUESTIONS: 2 + 1 more

1. **RELIABILITY: for each lab, what is its precision?**

many labs have **insufficient** precision: **need to develop IQC**

2. **COMPARABILITY: among all labs, dispersion of their results?**

Depends on method but even with high tech  
Analytical problems &/or transcription mistakes ?

3. **REFERENCE VALUE : at global scale,**

**consensus value = reference value : YES !**



**Purpose:** to improve the quality of soil laboratory data to support decision making at field and policy levels

**Done but need to go forward**

**Objectives :**

1. To strengthen the performance of laboratories through use of standardized methods and protocols.
2. To harmonize soil analysis methods so that soil information would be comparable and interpretable across laboratories, countries and regions.
3. To provide a certification for technical competencies in laboratory analysis.



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**Record of performances but not yet certificates**

- Organisation of regional PTs in 2023

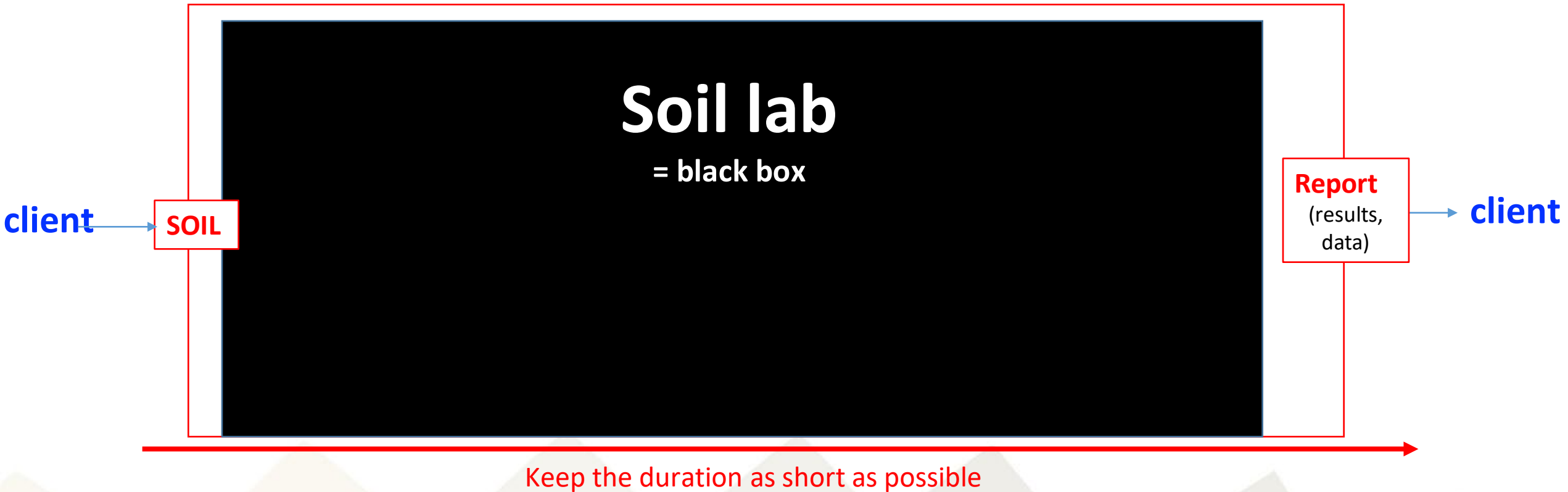
## **Part 2 = future perspectives:**

(suggestions to be discussed)

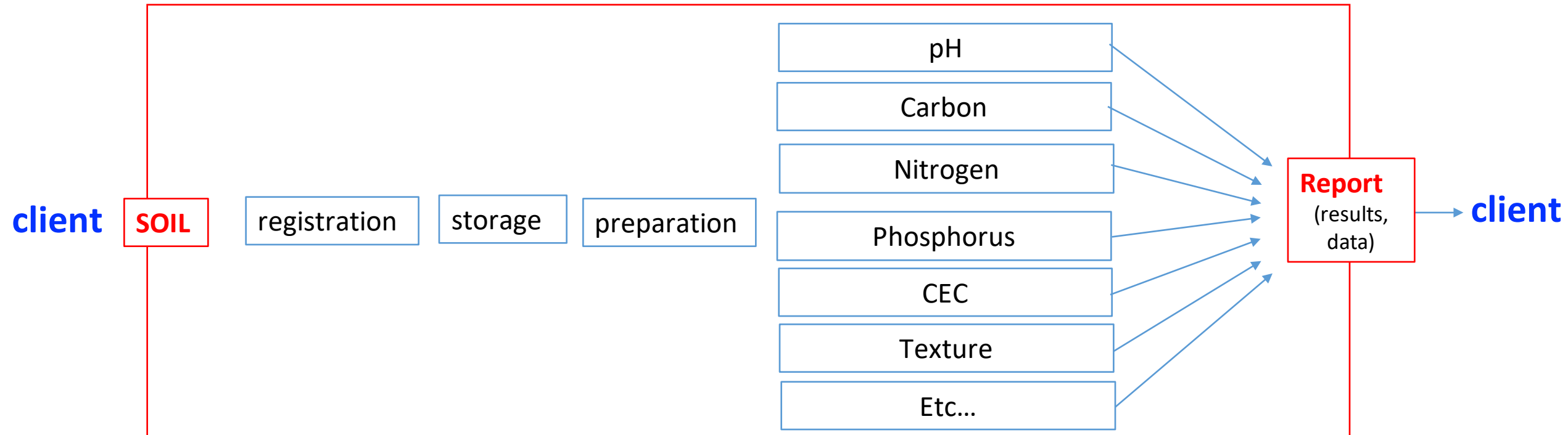
**Which actions/activities  
to improve all labs performances ?**

# let's consider the laboratories as 'factories producing data'

global situation of labs was a black box  
GLOSOLAN has opened the door and brought some light...

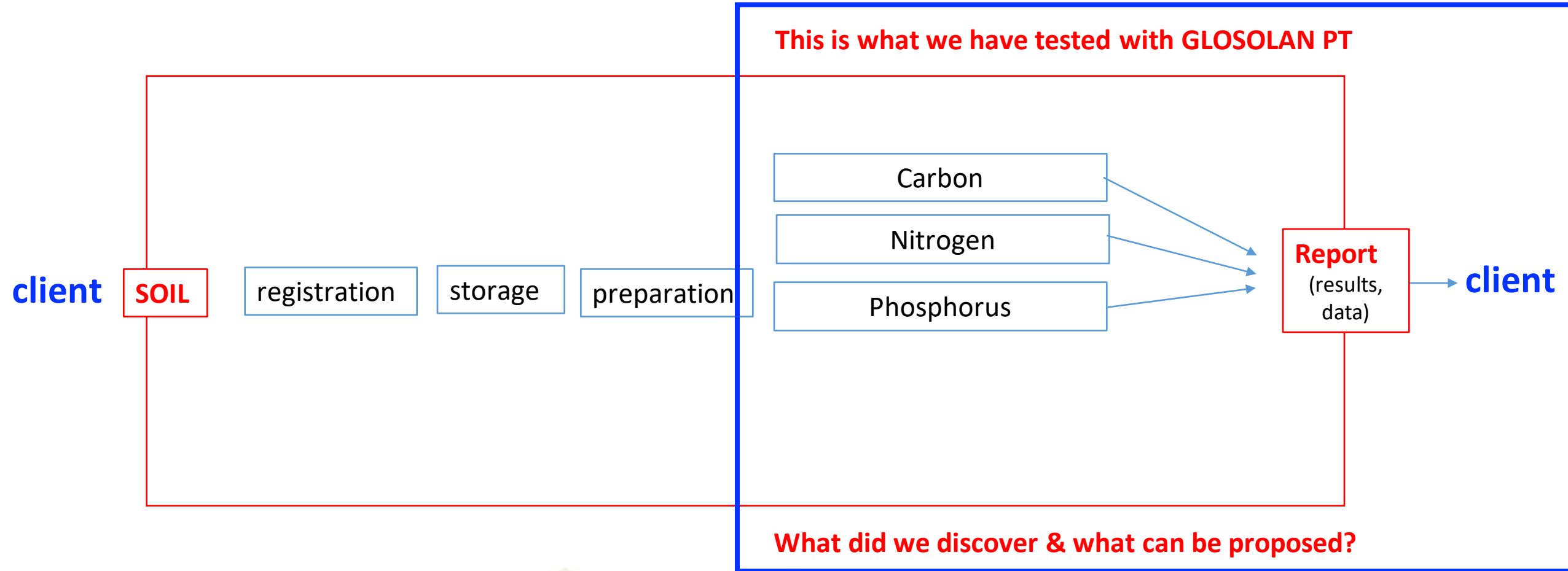


# This is how it looks inside the 'factory':

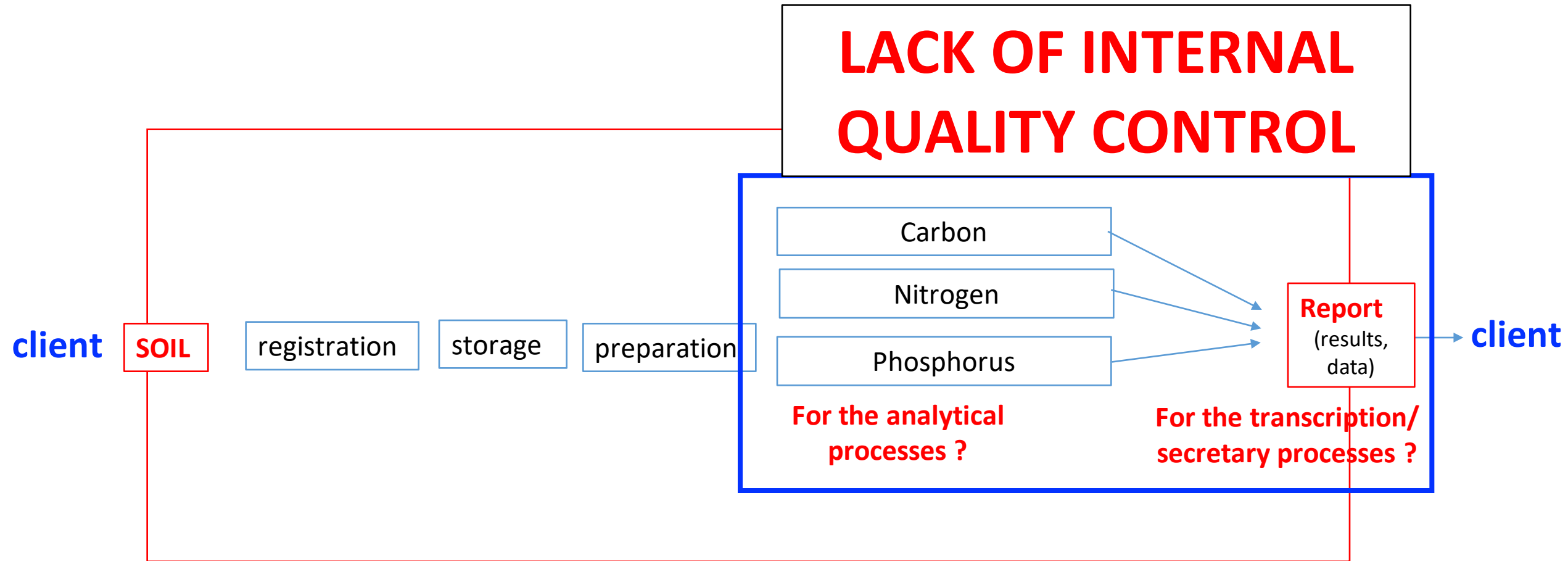




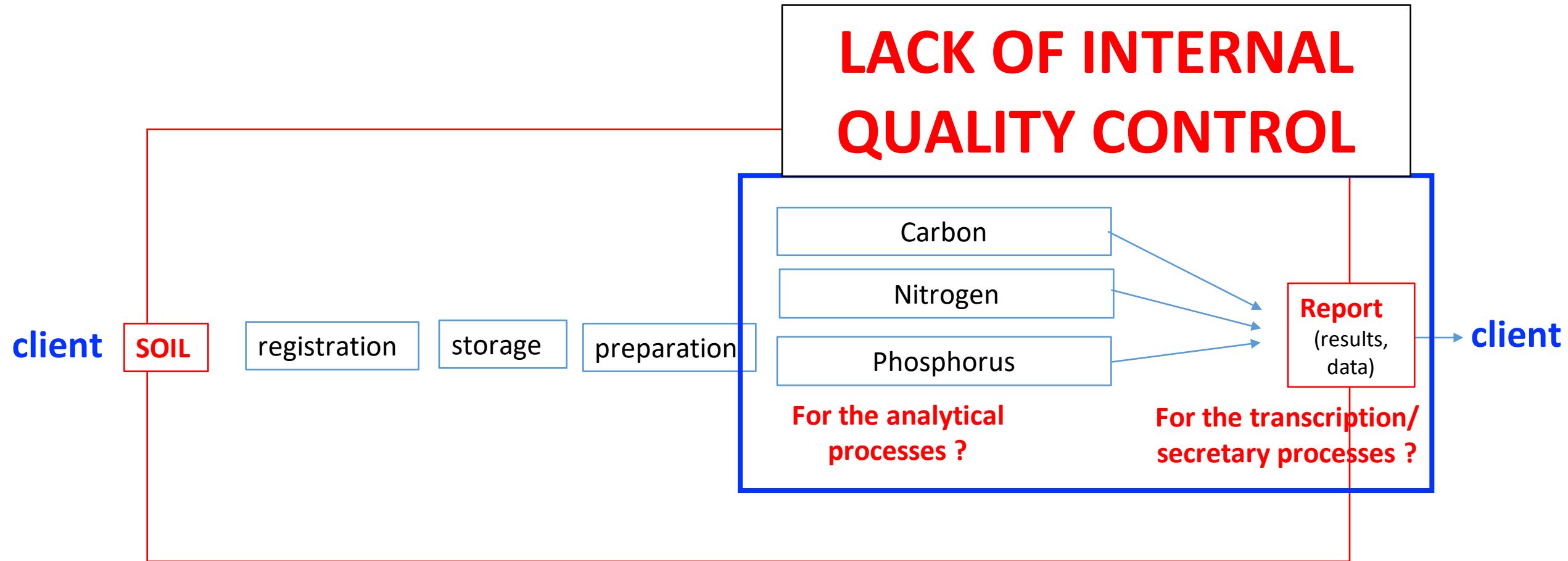
# This is how it looks inside the 'factory':



# This is how it looks inside the 'factory':



This is how it looks inside the 'factory':



Labs with poor 'precision' performances need to take action  
Request GLOSOLAN members support or GSP/GLOSOLAN secretary

**(confidentiality guaranteed!)**

# **EXTERNAL QUALITY CONTROL?**

**ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY BUT...**  
**Cannot be organised by GLOSOLAN for all labs**

**REGIONAL PTs are necessary**

# EXTERNAL QUALITY CONTROL?

6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the **Global Soil Laboratory Network** (GLOSOLAN) | 22-24 November 2022



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**ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY BUT...  
Cannot be organised by GLOSOLAN for all labs**

**REGIONAL PTs are necessary... how to do?**

## **REGIONAL PTs are necessary... how to do?**

- **Each region or sub-region must organise PTs**
- **Glosolan will organise GLOBAL PTs involving only high performing labs to assure accuracy and comparability**



# Human factor ?

6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the **Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN)** | 22-24 November 2022



# Human factor ?

**GLOSOLAN has done many activities to help labs**

**Now GLOSOLAN needs the help of high performing labs to  
train the less successful labs,  
on a regular basis...**

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**Performances**



**All participants know where they are..**

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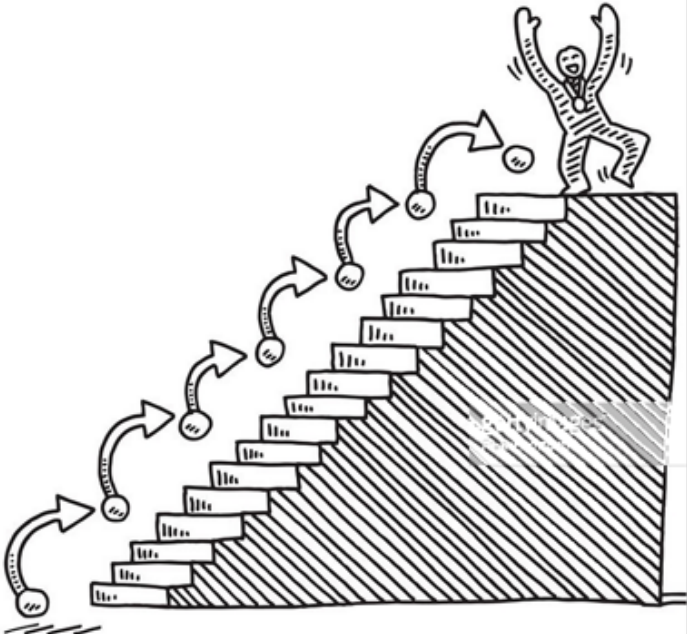
**Now GLOSOLAN needs the help of high performing labs to  
train the less successful labs,  
on a regular basis...**

**Performances**



**All participants know  
where they are..**

**It is important to reach  
the highest step....**



**It is also important to help  
each other to reach  
the highest step!**



# Human factor ?

**GLOSOLAN has done many activities to help labs**

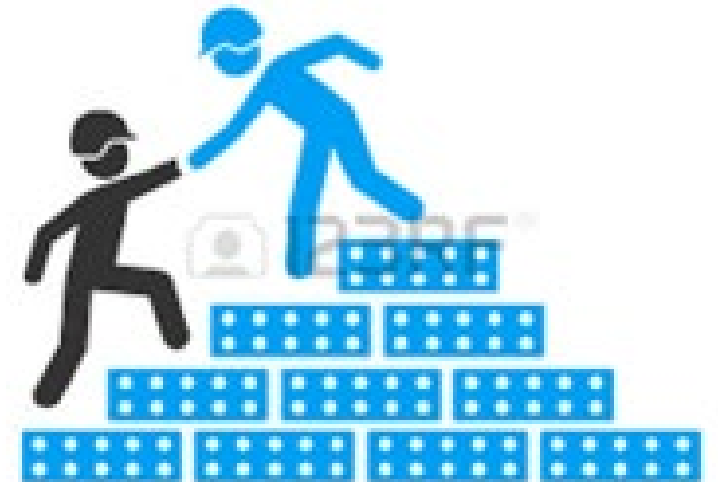
**Now GLOSOLAN needs the help of high performing labs to  
train the less successful labs,  
on a regular basis...**

**Performances**



**All participants know  
where they are..**

**FOR THE FUTURE**



Data are important

Precision

Accuracy



6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the **Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN)** | 22-24 November 2022



Data are important

Precision

Accuracy

Health &  
Safety too !



6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the **Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN)** | 22-24 November 2022







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**Record of performances but not yet certificates**



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

A decorative graphic consisting of a series of colored squares and dots arranged in a curved path, transitioning from light orange to dark grey.

# GLOSOLAN

GLOBAL SOIL LABORATORY NETWORK

**Thanks for your attention**  
**Thank you to PT participants**

**Thank you also to  
Lucrezia, Nok, Michael, Filippo, and many others who all  
joined the work that I presented.  
Without their dedication GLOSOLAN would not have such  
an unique vision of GLOBAL soil labs!**

