



The First China-Australia Symposium on Crop Stress and Climate Adaptation

# Fertilizer Type Shapes Soil–Root–Shoot Responses of Faba Bean Varieties to Waterlogging Stress

Onusha Sharmita

PhD Student

Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, University of Tasmania.

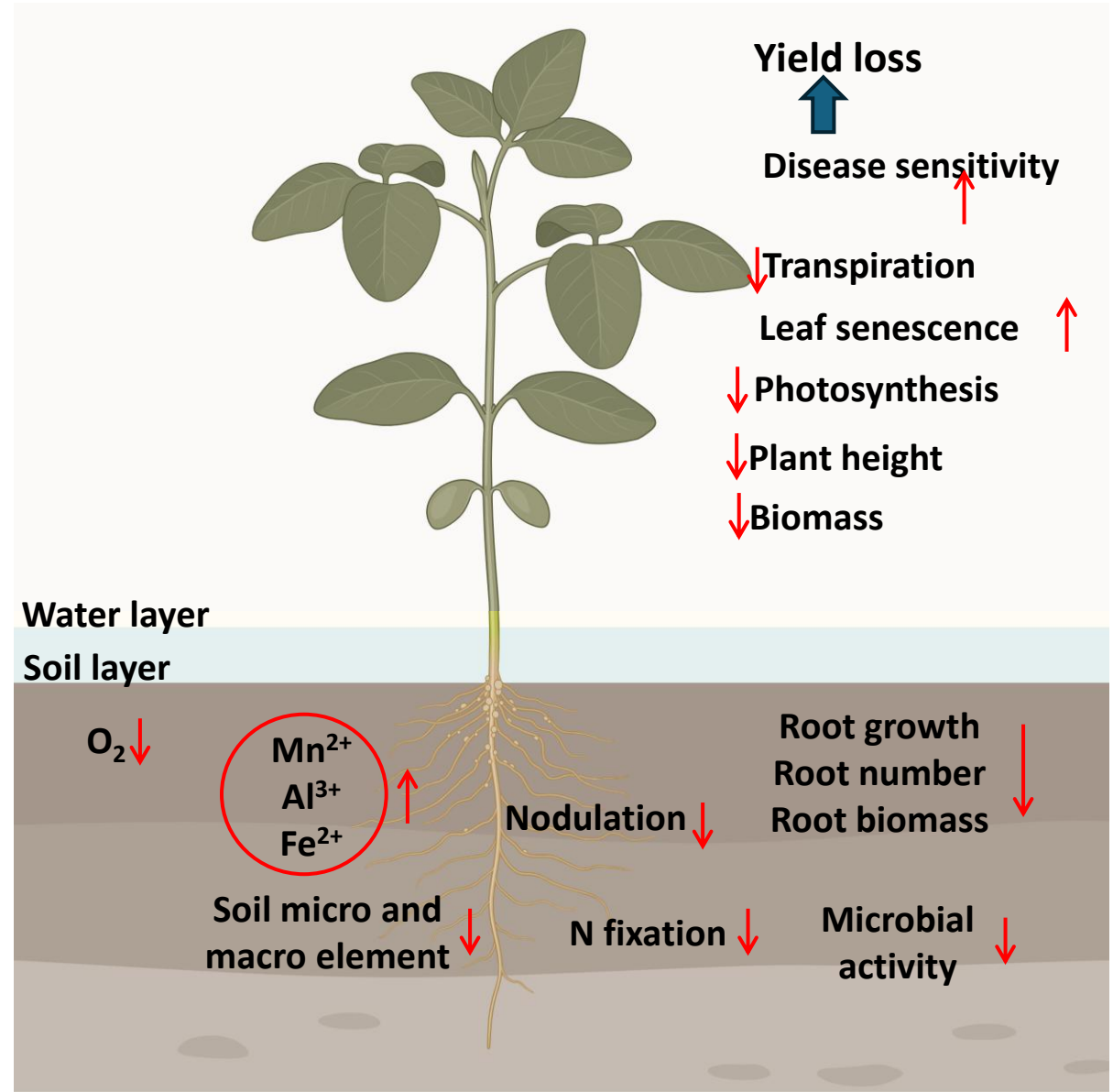
Supervisors: Dr. Chenchen Zhao

Prof. Meixue Zhou



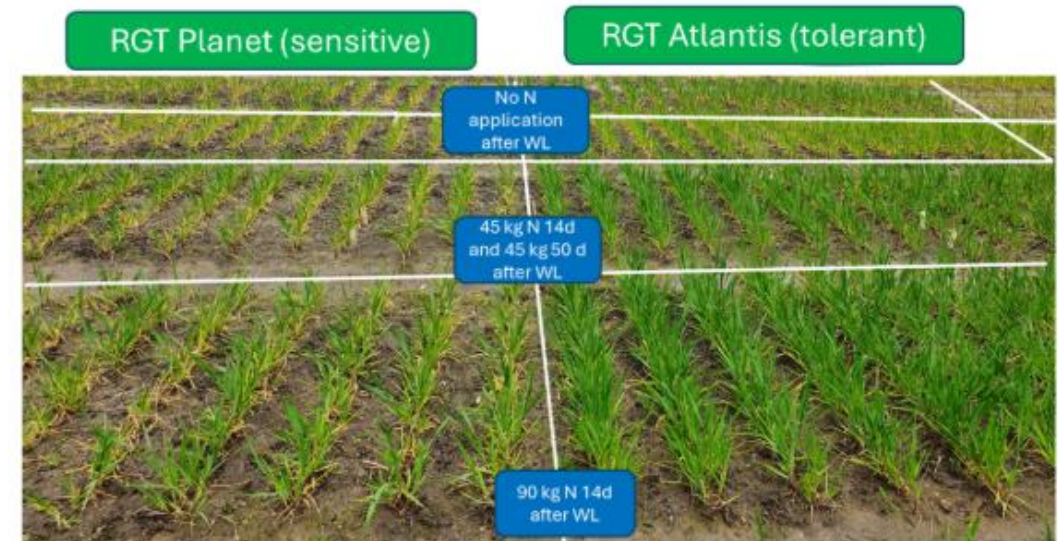
# Background

- Waterlogging is one of the major abiotic stress in crop production
- It results in anoxic/hypoxic condition
- Accumulation of toxic elements
- Lower nitrogen fixation
- Waterlogging affects above-ground features
- In Australia, waterlogging causes up to 50% yield reduction, leading to \$300M crop loss



# Waterlogging mitigation Strategies

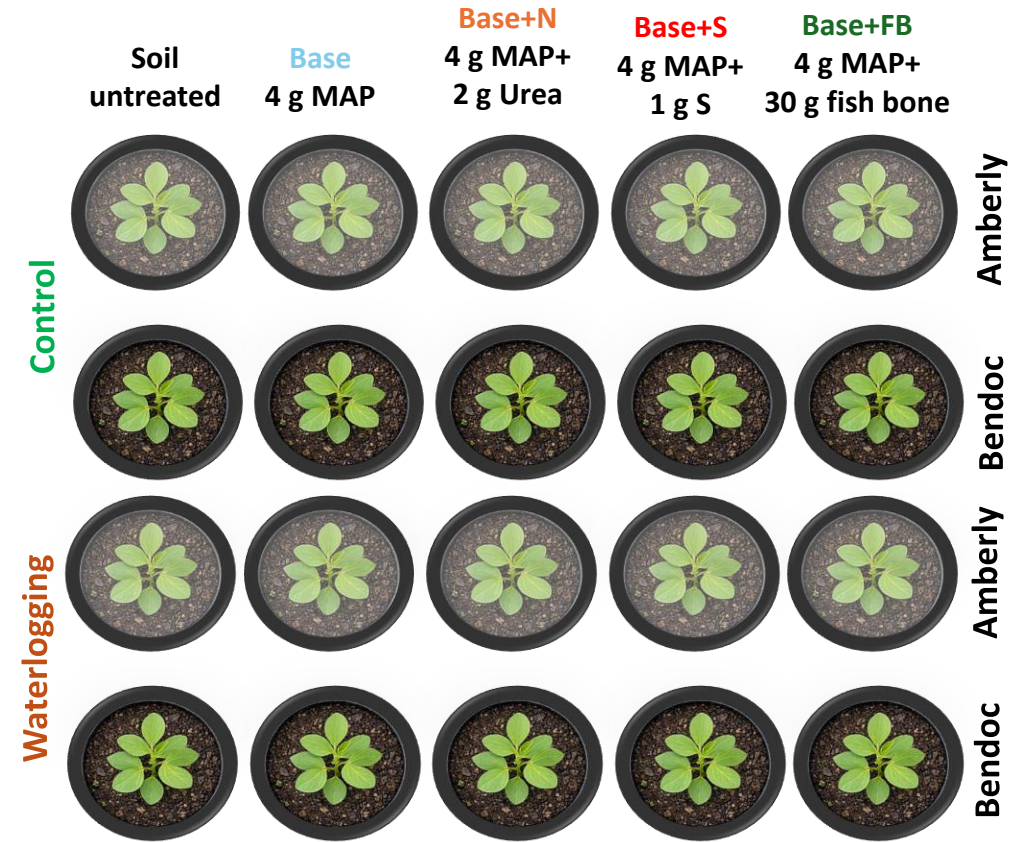
- Fertilizer treatments have been utilized as one of the most promising mitigation strategies
- Fertilizer addition enhances nutrient supply, root recovery, regrowth, and ATP production
- Fertilizer addition resulted in better plant performance in barley



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- However, fertilizer type in faba bean waterlogging mitigations are yet to be investigated

# Experimental Overview and Data recording

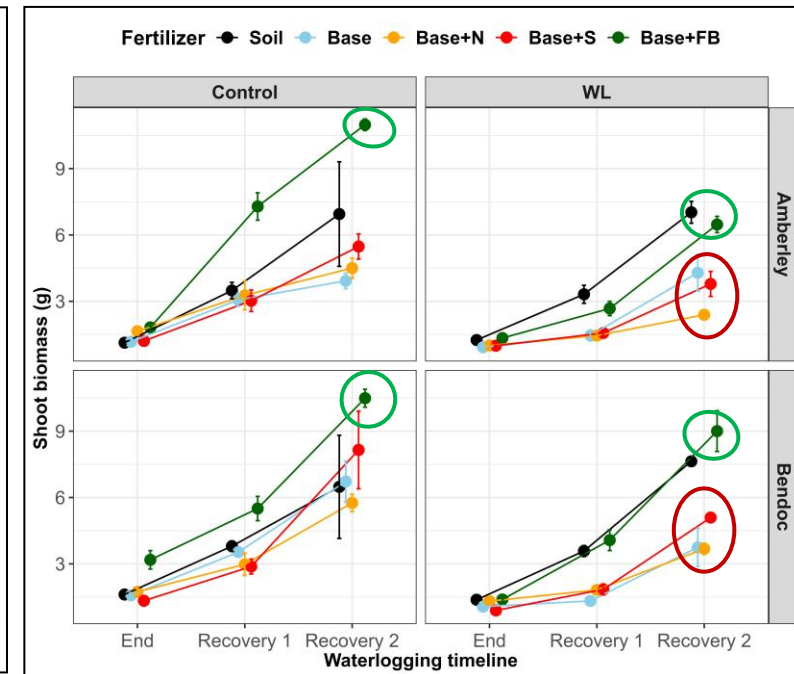
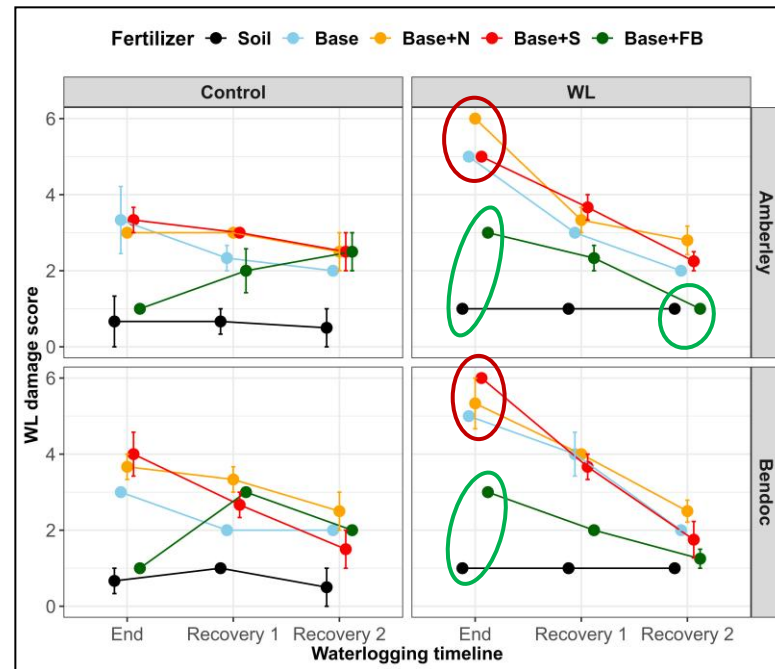
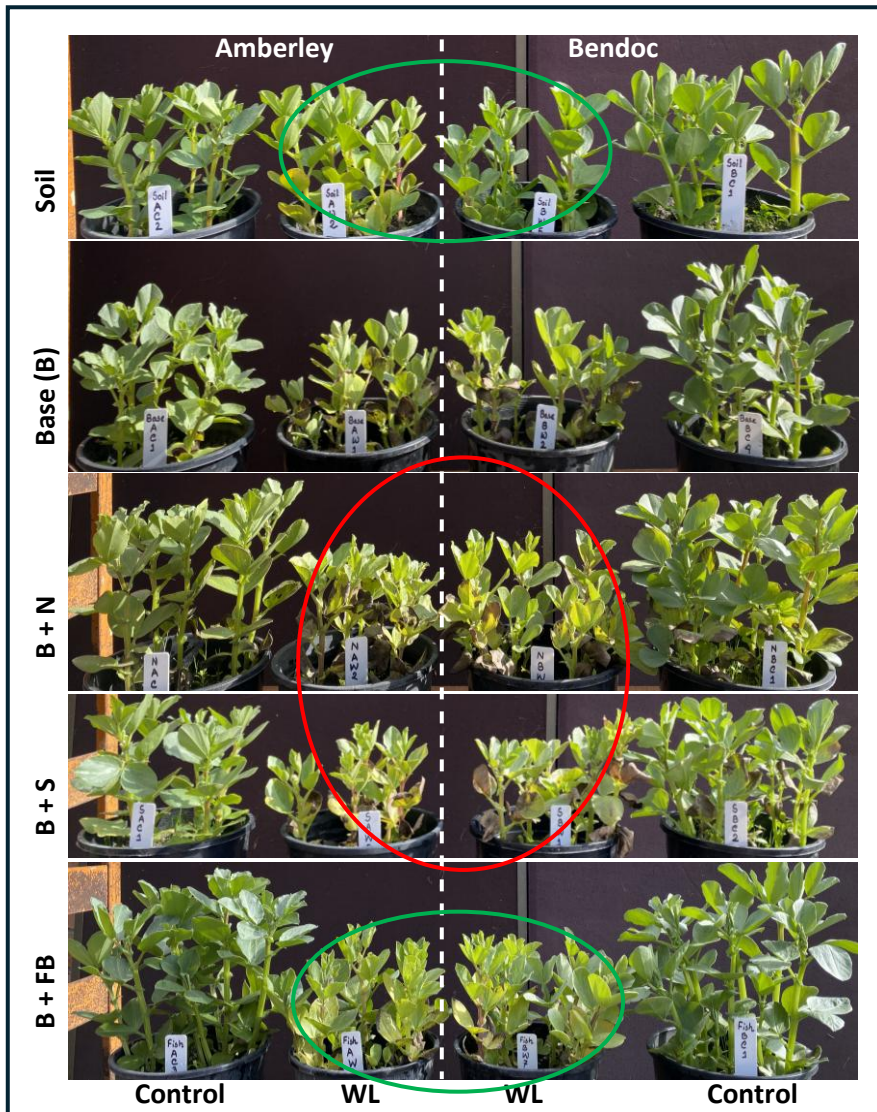


Fertilizer	Composition
Soil	NA
MAP	10% N, 21.9 % P, 1.5% S, 1.6% other
S	100% S
Urea	46.7% N, 20% C, 26.7% O, 6.7% H
Fish Bone	9.95% N, 44.37% C, 6.54% H, Al (148.3), Cd (<1.0), Cr (2.07), Cu (18.03), Fe (587), Pb (<1.0), Mg (1720), Mn (26.47), P (30200), K (9326.67), Na (6976.67), Zn (97.10)

	Sowing	Before WL	14 days WL	33 days WL	33 days recovery	60 days recovery
Plant height						
SPAD						
Licor						
Biomass						
Nodule score						
Damage score						
Soil element						
Root element						
Shoot element						

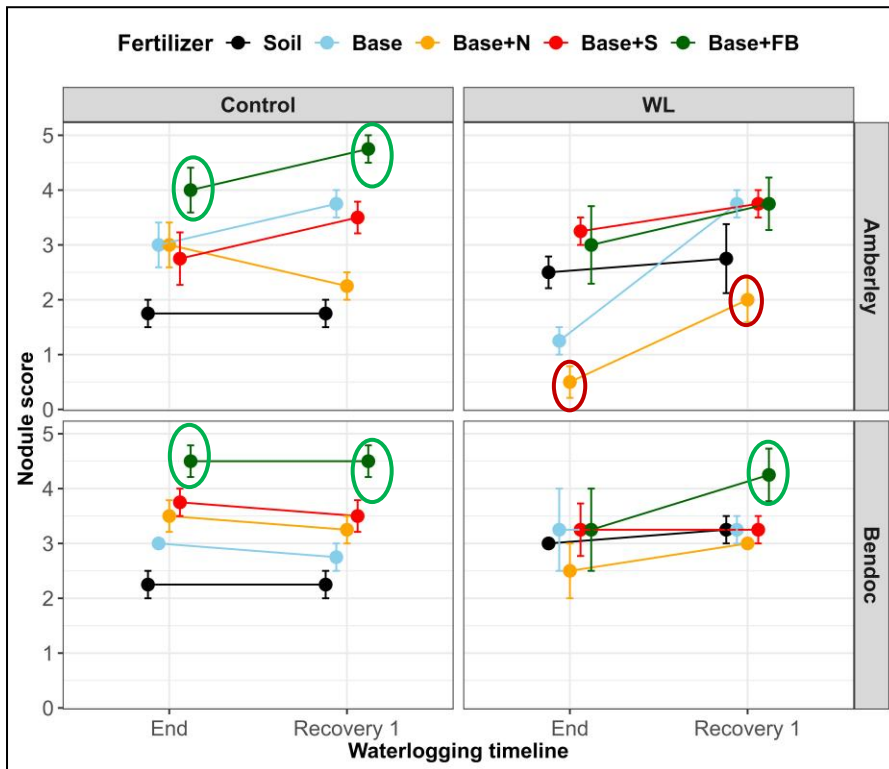
# Waterlogging induced damages

- Higher damage in chemical fertilization
- Base+FB treatment enhanced biomass accumulation
- Chemical fertilizers reduced biomass accumulation



# Nodule formation

- Waterlogging reduced nodule number in both varieties
- Base+FB enhanced the active nodule number in Bendoc during recovery
- Base+N suppressed the nodule number, higher impact on Amberley



Sharmita et al. 2026 (unpublished)

# Fertilizer driven mechanisms

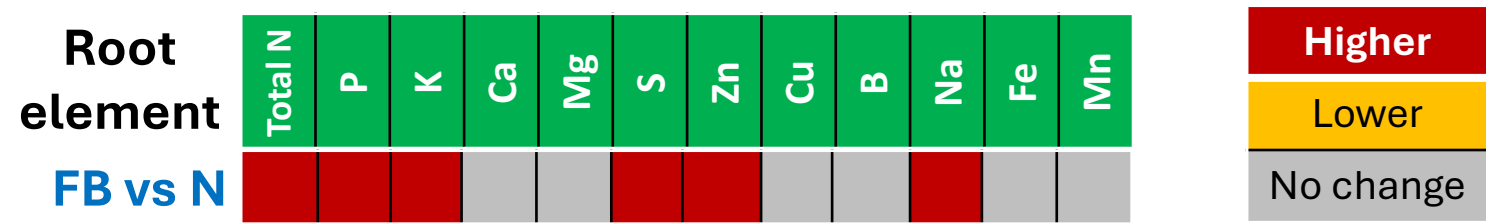
Base+Fish Bone → Nodule ↑ → Biomass ↑ → SPAD ↑ → Damage ↓ → WL mitigation ↑

Base+N → Nodule ↓ → Biomass ↓ → SPAD ↓ → Damage ↑ → WL mitigation ↓

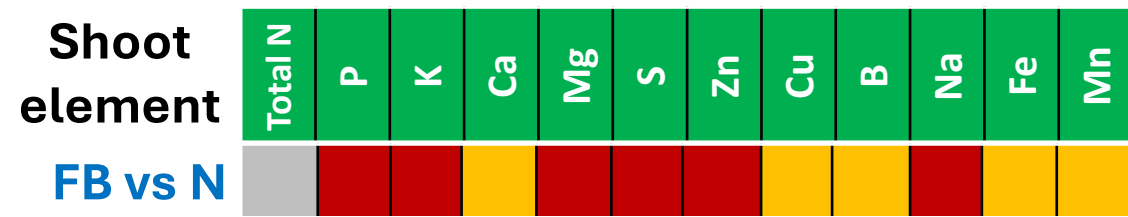
How these findings align with soil, root, and shoot element?

# Fish bone VS N: waterlogging scenario

➤ FB treatment provided higher nutrient access

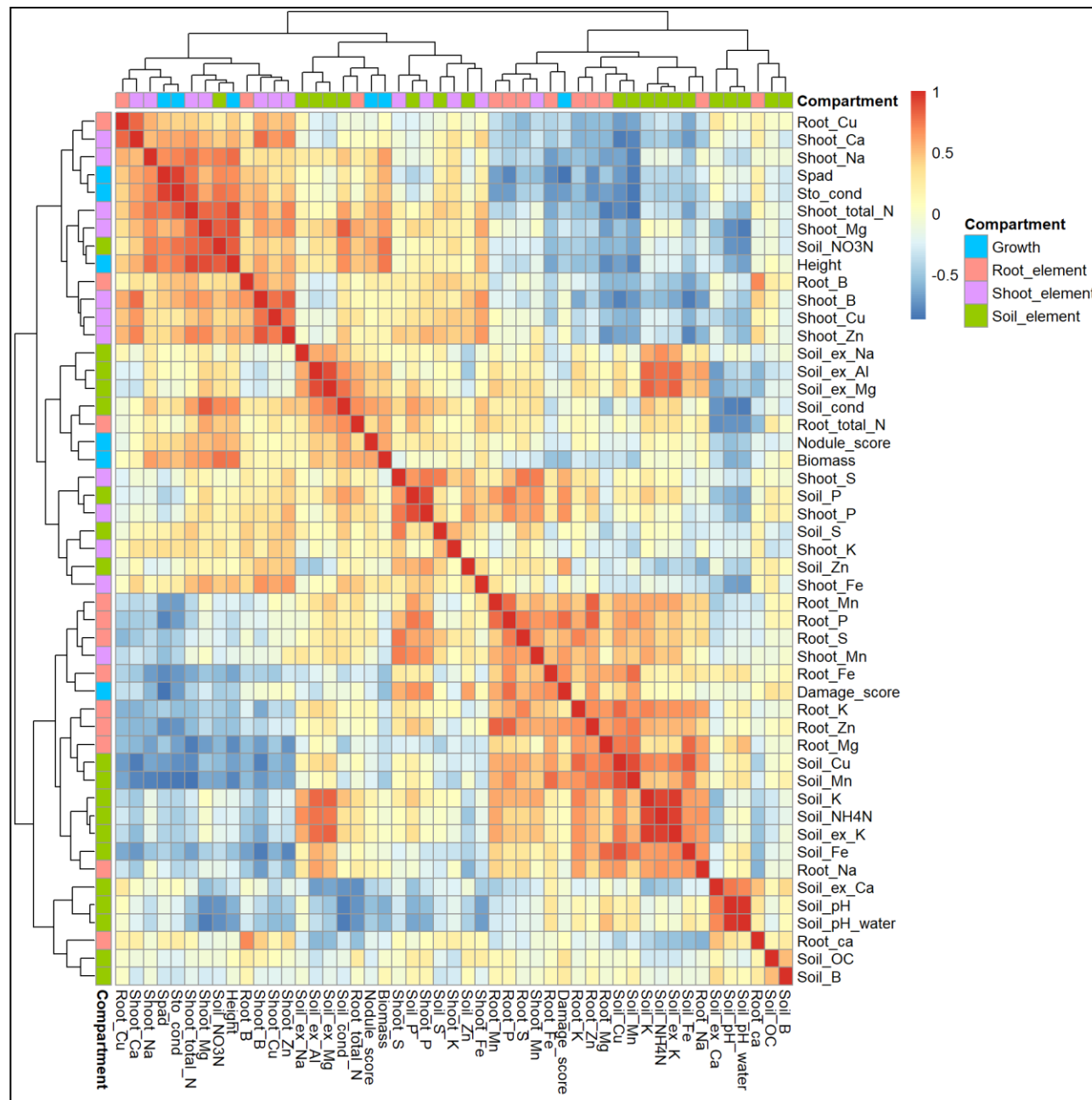


➤ FB treatment restricted toxic element uptake in shoot



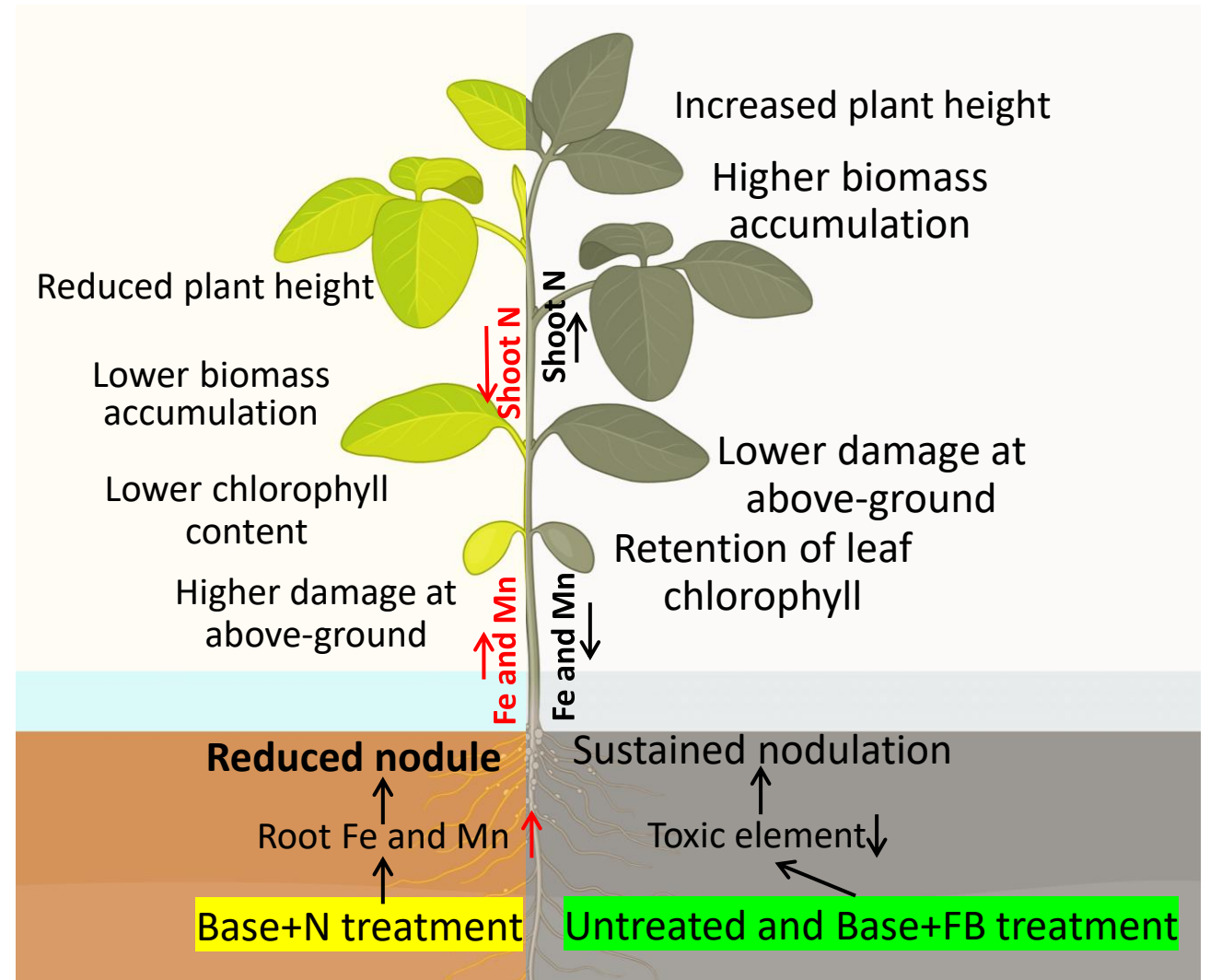
# Correlation among growth and soil-root-shoot element

- Correlation analysis revealed strong linkages between soil chemical properties, nutrient uptake in roots and shoots, and plant performance traits
- Height, biomass, SPAD, and stomatal conductance were positively correlated with shoot total N
- Damage score was positively correlated with shoot Mn ( $r = 0.65$ ), shoot P ( $r = 0.62$ ), and root Mn
- Nodule score showed moderate positive associations with biomass ( $r = 0.58$ ), shoot total N ( $r = 0.51$ ), leaf SPAD value ( $r=0.35$ ), and stomatal conductance ( $r=0.39$ ).



# Summary and Future perspective

- Base+N treatment restricted nodule formation, reduced biomass accumulation, and higher damage due to higher root and shoot toxic element
- Base+FB treatment enhanced faba bean adaptations by sustained nodulation, biomass accumulation, chlorophyll retention, and lower damage
- Future study is needed to understand the effect of N and FB treatment on root and soil associated microbes under waterlogging conditions in faba bean



Sharmita et al. 2026 (unpublished)

# Acknowledgement



# Thank you!

## Questions and Suggestions?

Please contact  
[Onusha.Sharmita@utas.edu.au](mailto:Onusha.Sharmita@utas.edu.au)

