



## **Current status of the precipitation validation sites of the International Precipitation Working Group**

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This paper presents information on the current status of the precipitation validation sites of the International Precipitation Working Group. The inter-comparison of precipitation products from satellite data sets, models and surface data have been undertaken over the last 5 years for three regions, Australia, the United States and Europe. Results indicate that model-derived rainfall estimates perform better than satellite estimates during cold seasons while conversely, the satellite estimates perform best in warm seasons. This suggests that the satellite retrievals rely upon the convective nature of systems to identify and retrieve rainfall: stratiform precipitation being much more difficult to identify. The relative performance of the satellite versus model rainfall estimates also indicates that models have difficulty in identifying localised precipitation.

The results of the inter-comparisons have also investigated the occurrence of precipitation as retrieved by the satellite, model and radar estimates: these results show that while the model-derived products tend to over-estimate the rain areas, the satellite retrievals underestimate the rainfall occurrence. This can, in part, be attributed to the temporal and spatial resolutions of the models and the satellite techniques.

In recent months additional inter-comparison sites have been added to the IPWG validation network, including southern Africa, Brazil, Taiwan and Korea. The initial results from these sites will be presented together with plans for future ground validation sites.