

## Understanding snow accumulation dynamics in glacierized HMA catchments





Achille Jouberton<sup>1,2</sup>, Thomas E. Shaw<sup>1</sup>, Stefan Fugger<sup>1,2</sup>, Evan S. Miles<sup>1</sup>, Pascal Buri<sup>1</sup>, Michael McCarthy<sup>1</sup>, Yota Sato<sup>3</sup>, Koji Fujita<sup>3</sup>, Abdulhamid Kayumov<sup>4</sup>, Shaoting Ren<sup>5</sup>, Wei Yang<sup>5</sup>, Francesca Pellicciotti<sup>1,6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL), Birmensdorf, Switzerland; <sup>2</sup>Institute of Environmental Engineering, ETH Zurich, 8093 Zurich, Switzerland; <sup>3</sup>Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Nagoya University, Nagoya, Japan; <sup>4</sup>Center for the Research of Glaciers of the Tajik Academy of Tajikistan, Dushanbe, Tajikistan; <sup>5</sup>State Key Laboratory of Tibetan Plateau Earth System, Resources and Environment, Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research (TPESER), Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China. <sup>6</sup>nnstitute of Science and Technology Austria ISTA, Earth Science Faculty, Vienna, Austria. Corresponding author: Achille Jouberton (achille.Jouberton@wsl.ch)

## **Motivations:**

Precipitation phase change has exacerbated glacier mass loss in High-Mountain-Asia (HMA)<sup>1</sup> and will continue to do so in the future.



Recent glacier mass loss in the Southeastern Tibetean Plateau was arritbuted to a change in precipitation phase during the monsoon months<sup>1</sup>.







Contributors to recent mass loss

GMB = Glacier mass balance

Snowfall amounts strongly control glacier mass balance<sup>2</sup>, and their estimate depend on the representation of precipitation phase.

## Snowfall seasonality and sensitivity to warming:



## Methods:

- Downscaled and bias-corrected ERA5-Land reanalysis (100m, hourly) at three catchments in HMA.
- Land-surface model T&C simulates glacier and snowpack dynamics using an energy-balance approach.
- Four precipitation phase parametrizations tested:
  - Single-Ta threshold ('Ta' = 2m air temperature [°C])
  - Dual-Ta threshold
  - Dynamic-Ta thresholds (Ding parametrization<sup>3</sup>)
  - Psychrometric energy balance (Pomeroy et al. 2013)

**Perspective**: Validating a precipitation partitionning scheme **at high altitudes is difficult** due to the lack of direct measurements, but can be constrained with more commonly measured variables (e.g. surface albedo, precipitation, snow depth). Example below at Parlung No.4 glacier



- The winter-accumulation regime glacier (Kyzylsu) **is less sensitive** to the parametrization's choice as well as to a 2°C degree warming.
- The summer accumulation-type glacier (Trakarding-Trambau) is **most sensitive** to +2°C warming.