

## Supporting Information for

# Determination of optimal predictors and sampling frequency to develop nutrient soft sensors using random forest

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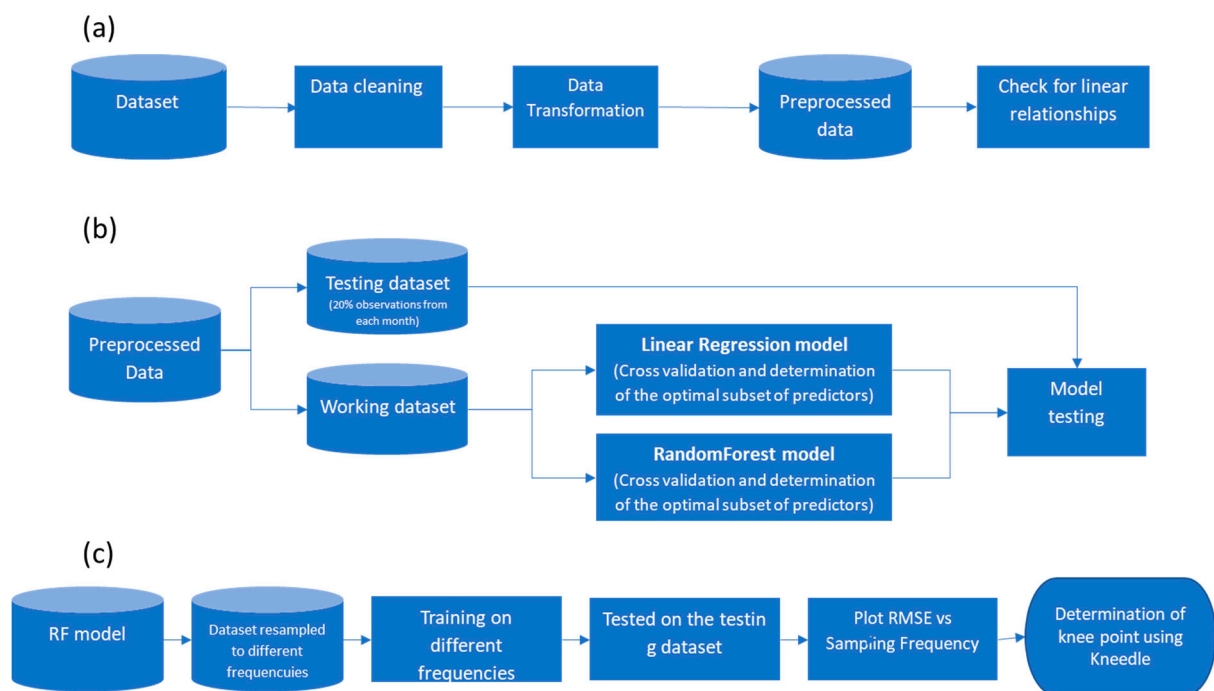
SI contains two tables and two figures.

**Table S1.** Pearson coefficient between dependent variables and predictors for Erlabrunn and Kahl am Main stations.

| Station: Kahl am Main |                     |                    |       |           |       | Station: Erlabrunn |                     |           |       |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------|-----------|-------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------|
| NO <sub>3</sub> -N    | OPO <sub>4</sub> -P | NH <sub>4</sub> -N |       |           |       | NO <sub>3</sub> -N | OPO <sub>4</sub> -P |           |       |
| month_sin             | 0.83                | pH                 | -0.66 | week_cos  | 0.30  | month_sin          | 0.81                | month_sin | -0.31 |
| Temp                  | -0.77               | O2                 | -0.66 | month_cos | 0.29  | Temp               | -0.79               | week_sin  | -0.30 |
| week_sin              | 0.73                | month_sin          | -0.61 | Temp      | -0.27 | O2                 | 0.75                | O2        | -0.29 |
| O2                    | 0.68                | week_sin           | -0.55 | O2        | 0.20  | week_sin           | 0.68                | Temp      | 0.19  |
| week_cos              | 0.53                | Temp               | 0.51  | Flow      | 0.09  | week_cos           | 0.60                | Flow      | 0.16  |
| Flow                  | 0.44                | week_cos           | -0.32 | Conduct   | 0.04  | month_cos          | 0.41                | Conduct   | -0.11 |
| Conduct               | -0.38               | Flow               | -0.23 | month_sin | 0.04  | Conduct            | -0.15               | week_cos  | -0.09 |
| month_cos             | 0.33                | month_cos          | -0.17 | week_sin  | -0.03 | Flow               | 0.11                | pH        | -0.05 |
| pH                    | 0.11                | Conduct            | 0.11  | pH        | 0.01  | pH                 | 0.06                | month_cos | -0.01 |

**Table S2.** Hyperparameters tuning results

| Parameter                                      | Kahl am Main       |                     |                 | Erlabrunn          |                     |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
|  | NO <sub>3</sub> -N | OPO <sub>4</sub> -P | NH <sub>4</sub> | NO <sub>3</sub> -N | OPO <sub>4</sub> -P |
| Bootstrap                                      | True               | True                | True            | True               | True                |
| Depth of the trees                             | 30                 | 20                  | 30              | 30                 | 30                  |
| Minimum number of samples to split a node      | 12                 | 6                   | 6               | 12                 | 6                   |
| Minimum number of samples to be at a leaf node | 20                 | 6                   | 6               | 6                  | 6                   |



**Figure S1.** Flowchart illustrating the study's progression: (a) Data cleaning procedure, (b) Model development, and (c) Identification of the optimal sampling frequency.



**Figure S2.** Map of Bavaria with the study site highlighted on the top left