

# Pre and Post-Monsoon Quality of Dissolved Organic Matter and Arsenic Mobilization Processes in Bengal Basin

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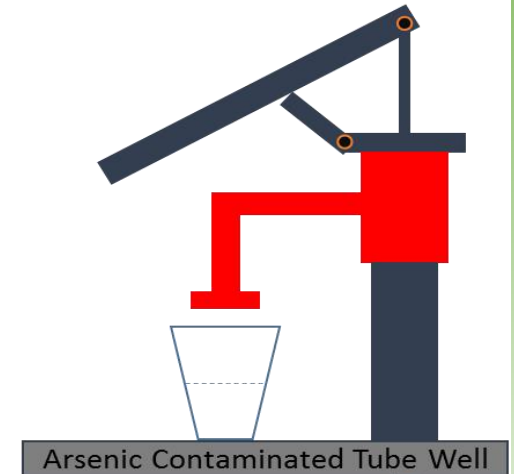
GSA Annual Meeting, Denver, CO  
26th September, 2016



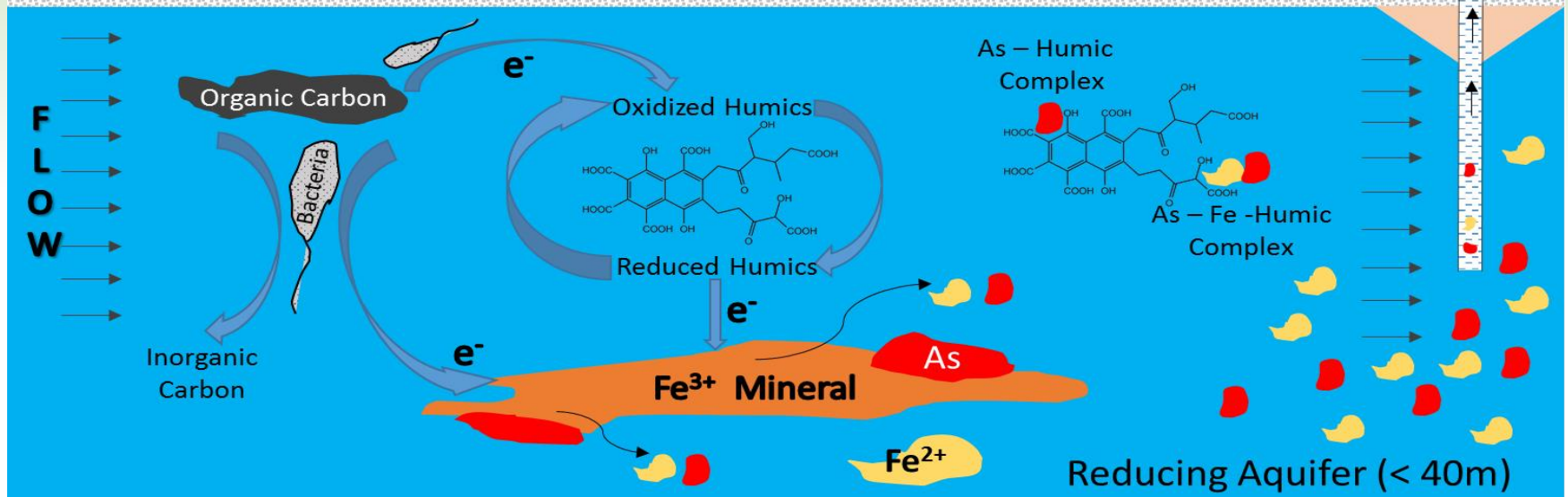
# Outline

- Dissolved organic matter (DOM) and Arsenic Mobilization
- Design of study
- Results and Discussions
- Conclusions

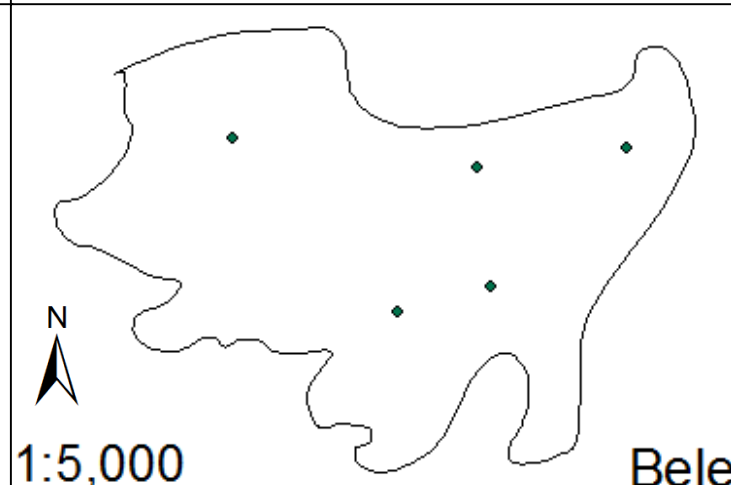
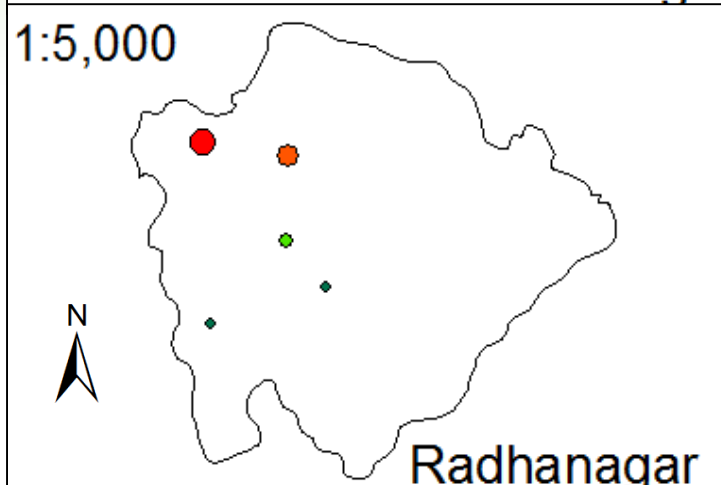
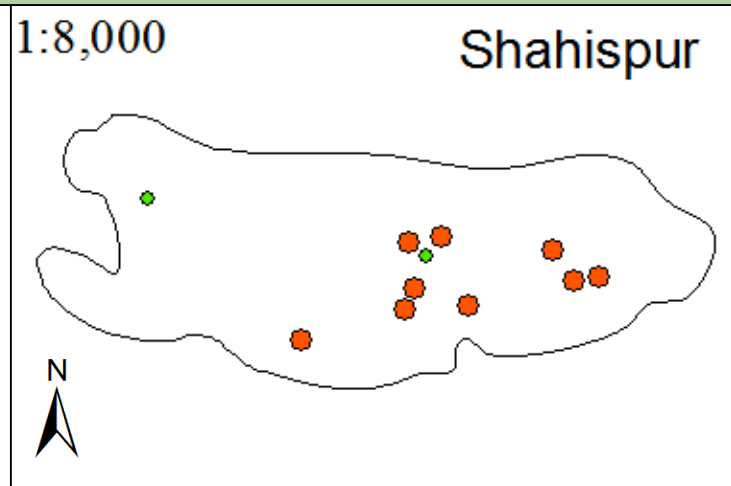
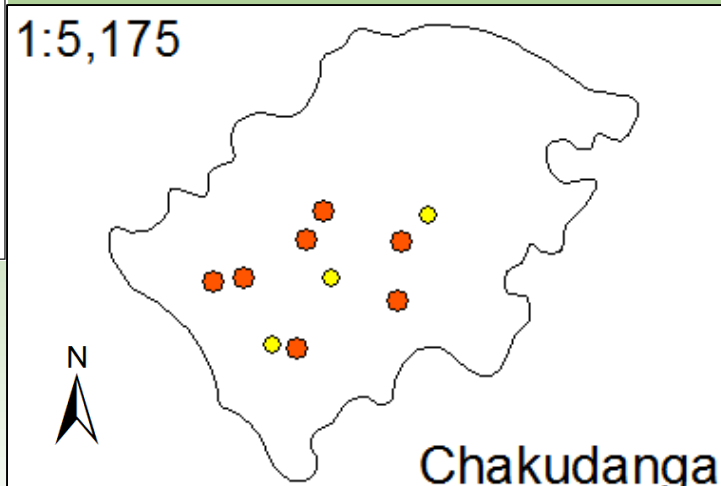
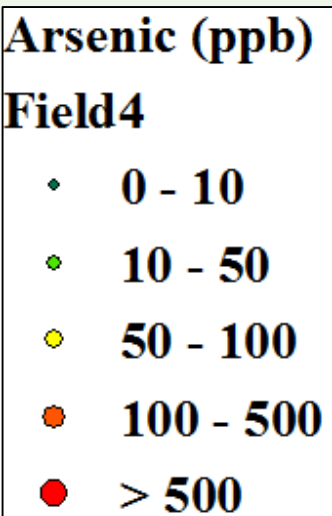
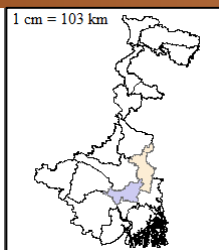
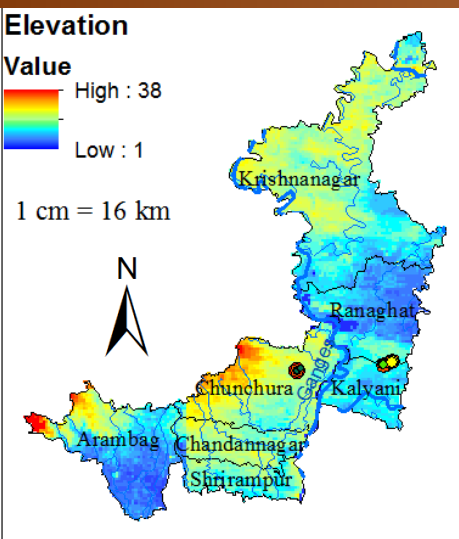
# Arsenic Mobilization



Soil Layer



# Study Site



# Sampling



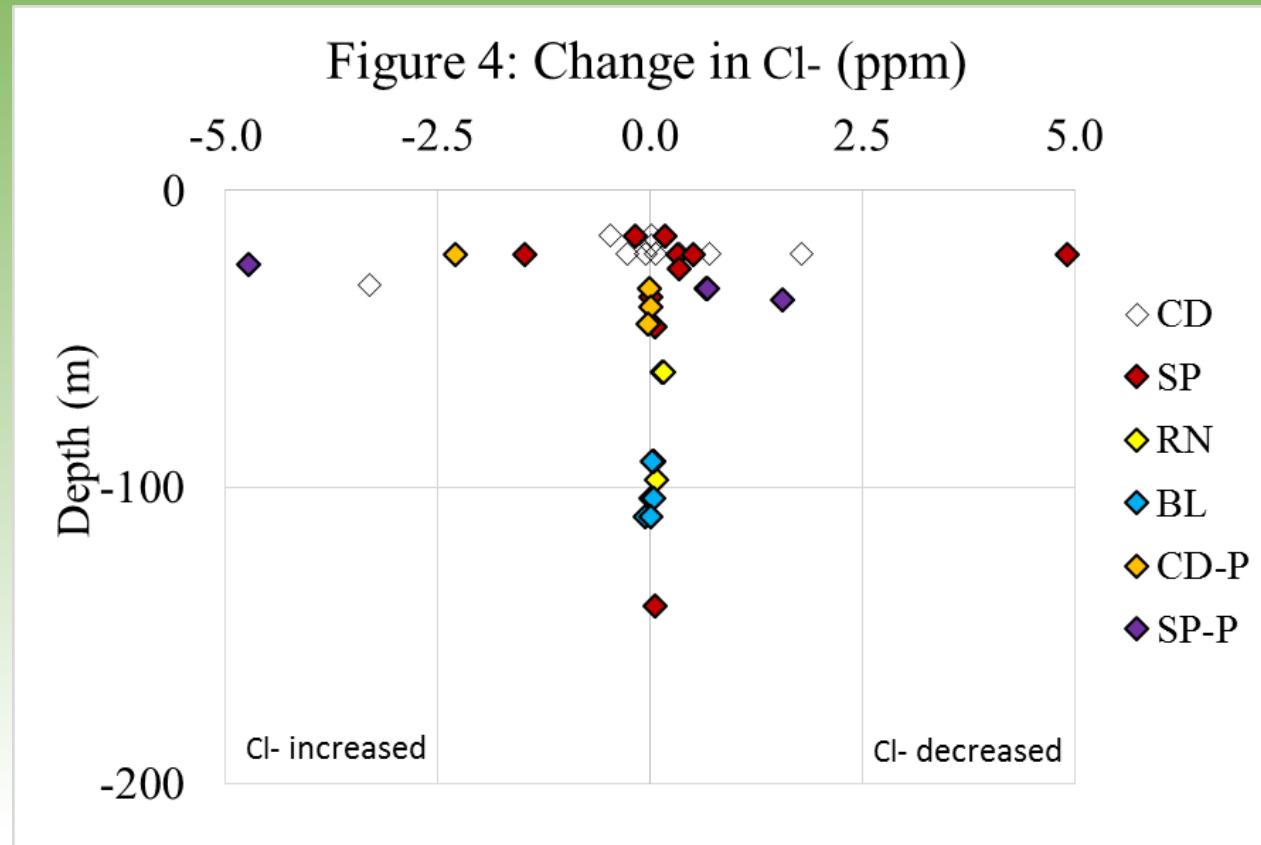
Drinking Water  
Tube Wells



Piezometers  
(*Biwas et al., 2011*)

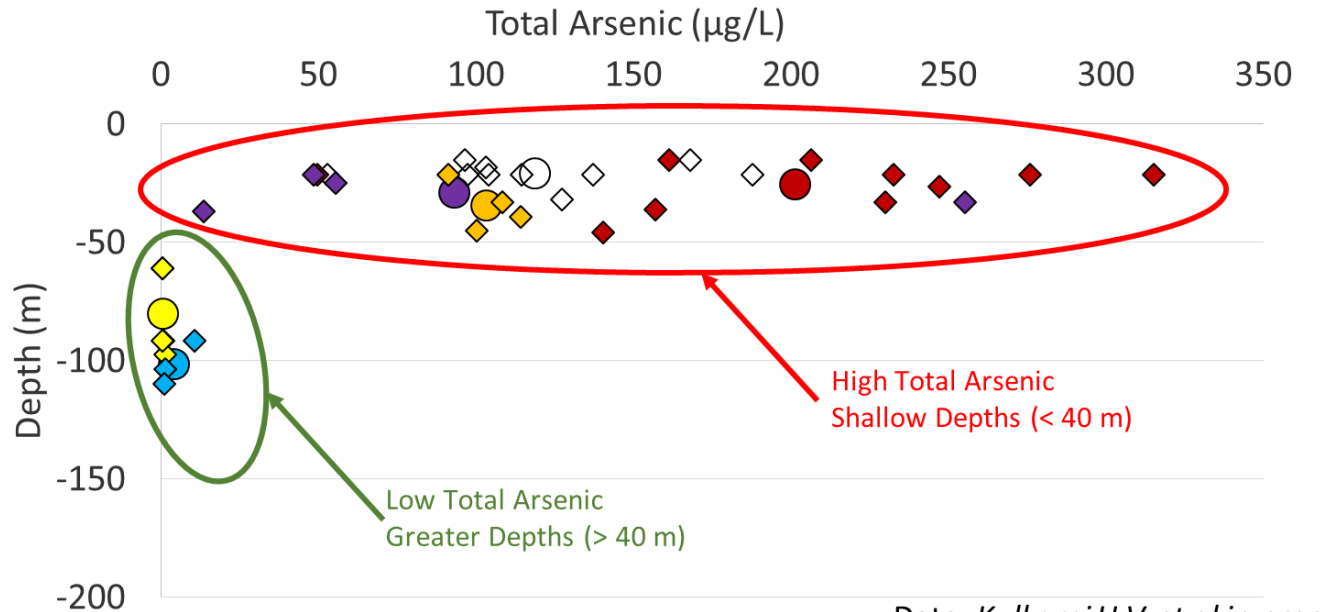
Pre-Monsoon (PRM) Sampling : 29<sup>th</sup> May – 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2015  
Post-Monsoon (PSTM) Sampling: 20<sup>th</sup> July – 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2015

# Results: Cl<sup>-</sup>



- A natural tracer (conservative anion)
- PRM – PSTM variations were observed only at shallow (< 40 m) depths.
- Suggests that variations in other parameters at greater depths may not be directly linked to the vertical mixing.

# Results: Arsenic



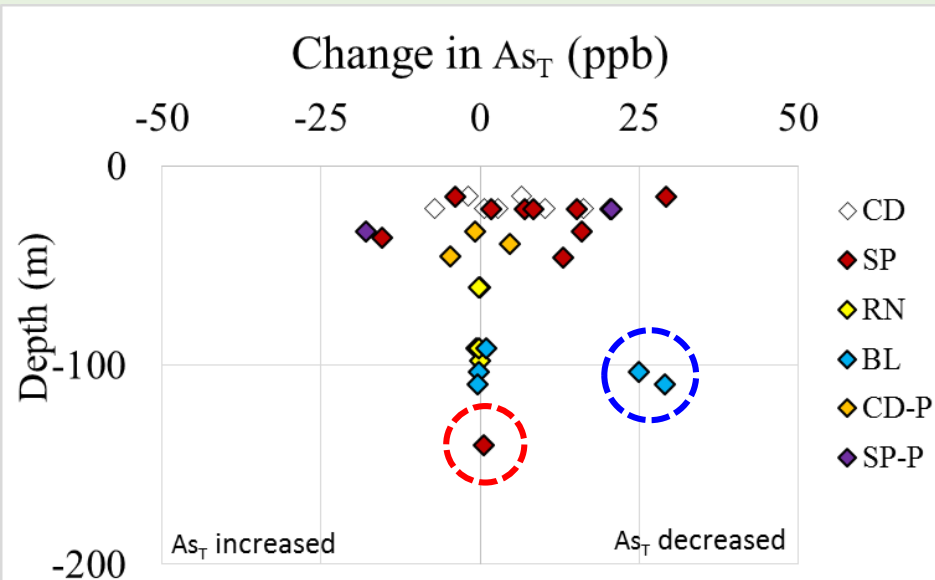
Data: Kulkarni H.V. et al in prep

✓ Well # 28, 29 have exceptionally high As at BL site.

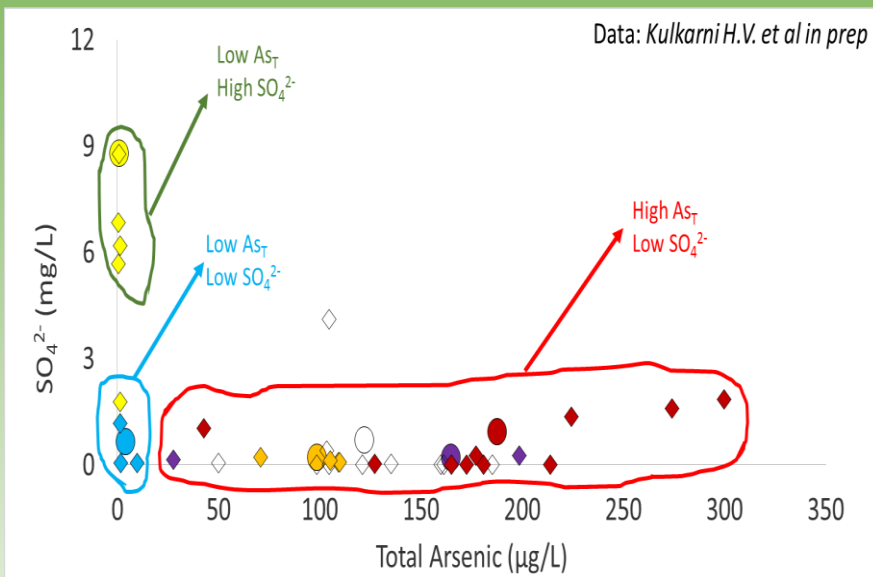
✓ Well # 22, has exceptionally low As at SP site.

➤ Shallow depths ~ Holocene Gray Sediments ~ High As

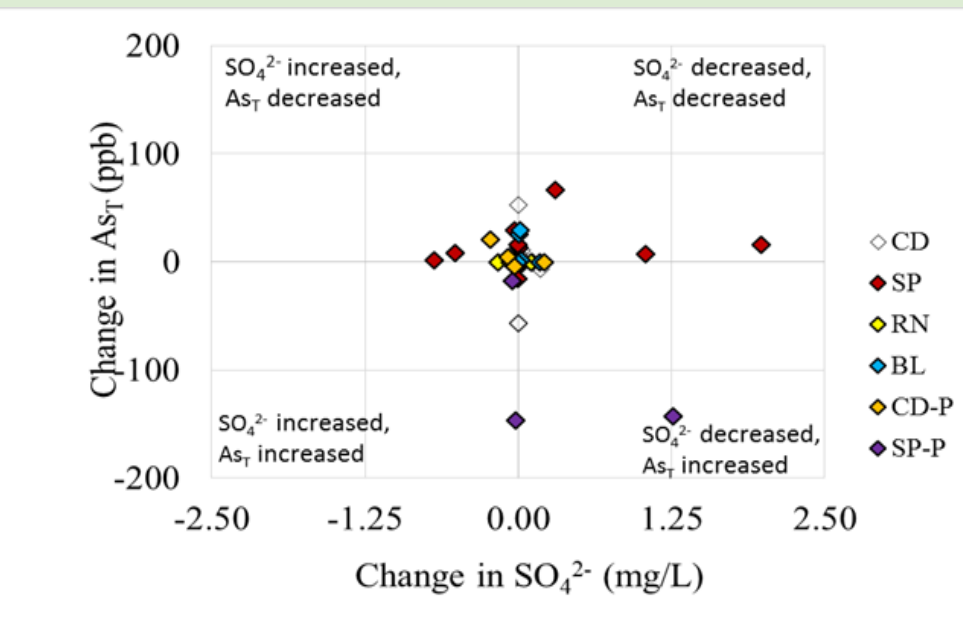
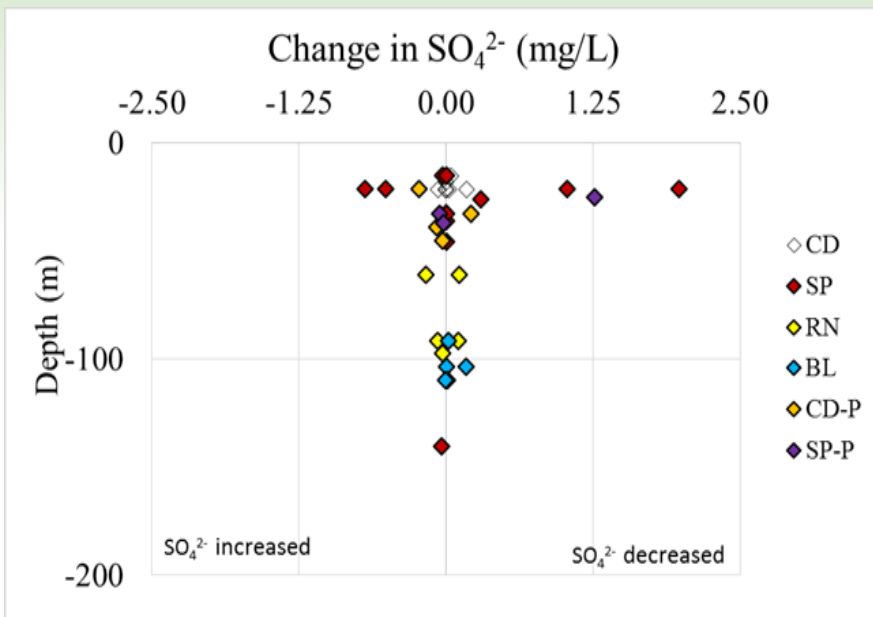
➤ Greater depths ~ Pleistocene Orange Sediments ~ Low As



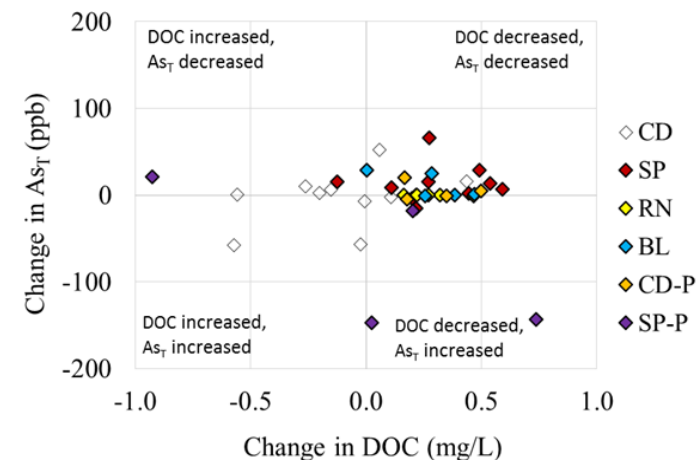
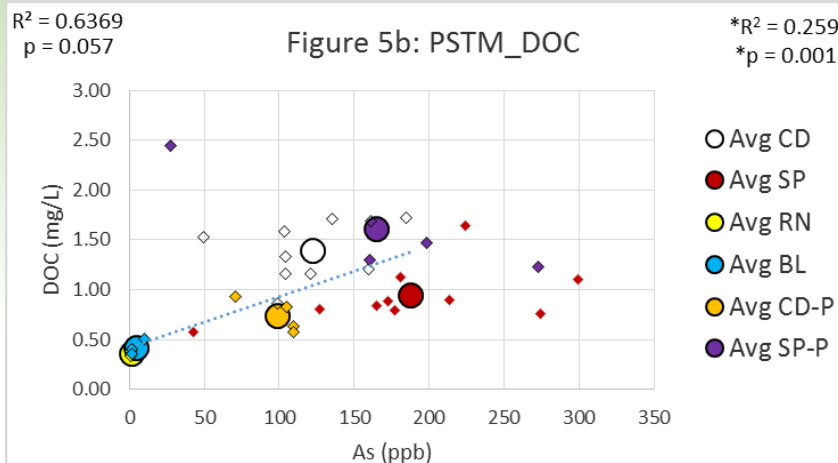
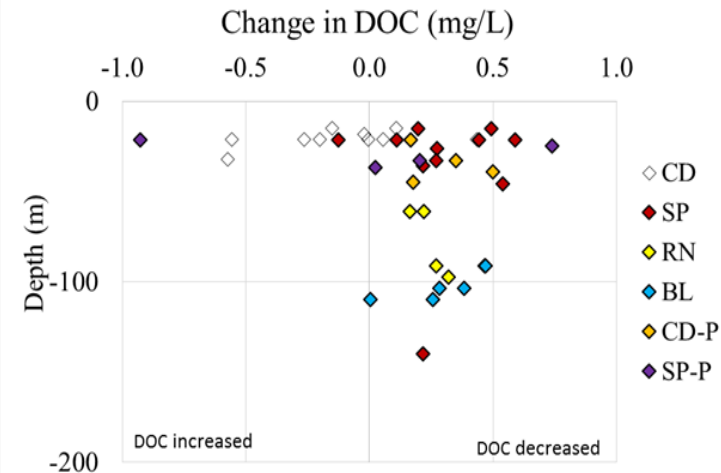
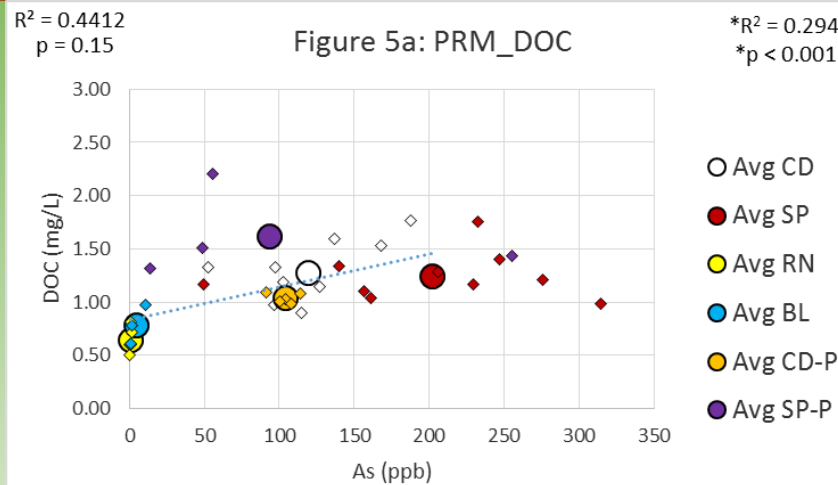
# Results: $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$



- High As ~ Low  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  / Low As ~ High  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$
- CD & SP sites are High As – Low  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ , consistent with dominant microbial Fe (III) reduction and As release.
- RN site is Low As – High  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ , consistent with lack of microbial Fe (III) reduction. Comparatively less reducing conditions.
- BL site is Low As – Low  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ , interestingly, two wells (28,29) at this site had exceptionally high As. May explain overall low  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  concentrations.



# Results: DOC

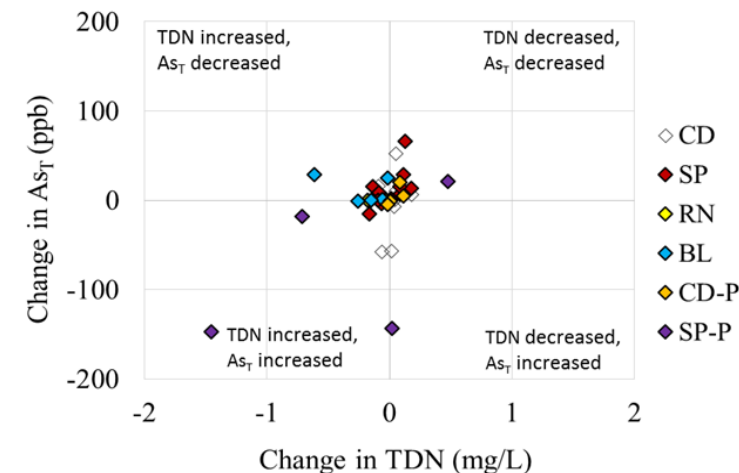
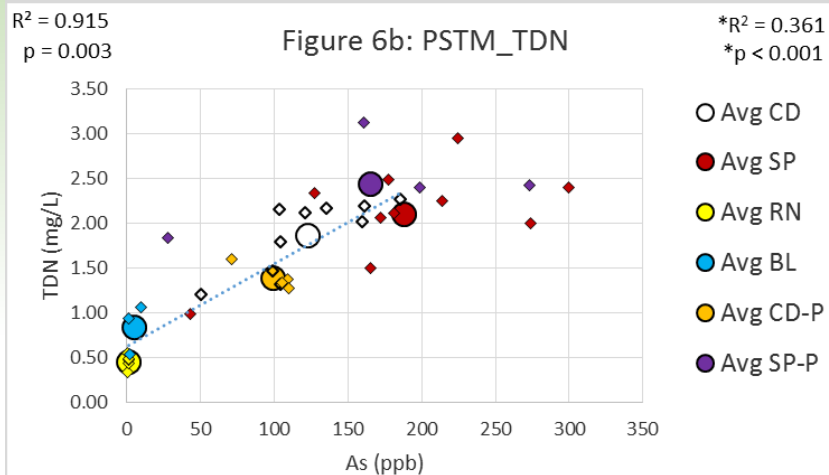
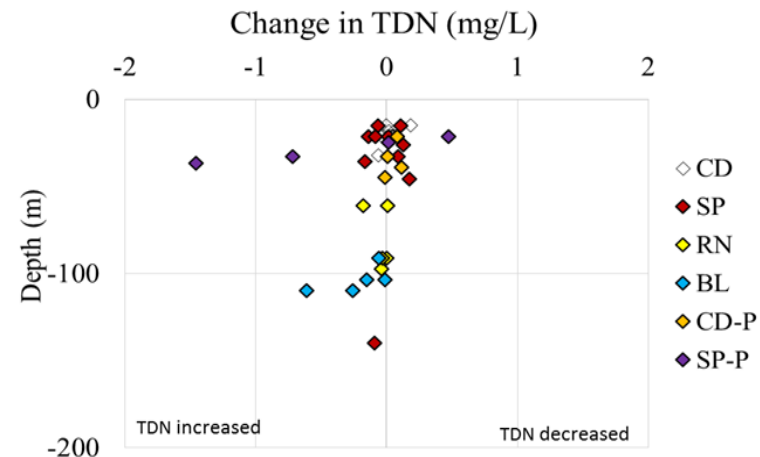
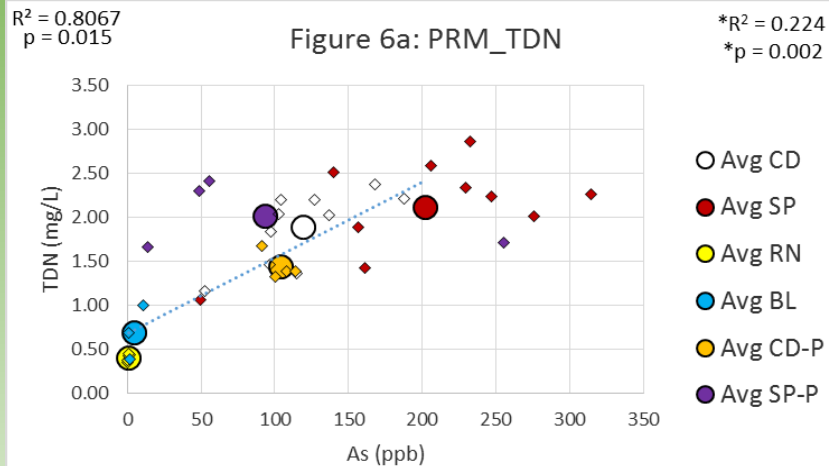


$R^2$  and  $p$  values from linear regression of average values,  $n = 6$ .

$*R^2$  and  $*p$  values from linear regression of all samples,  $n = 39$

- Wells at CD & SP sites have  $1 \text{ ppm} > \text{DOC} < 2.5 \text{ ppm}$ , consistent with high As, low  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$
- Wells at RN & BL sites have  $\text{DOC} < 1 \text{ ppm}$ , consistent with low As, high  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$
- PRM-PSTM DOC varied (mostly decreased) in both shallow and deep samples.

# Results: TDN

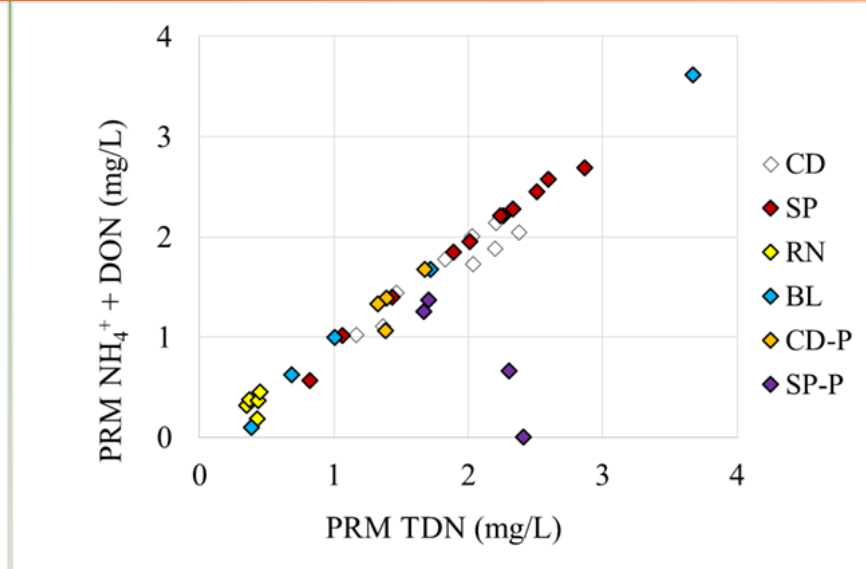
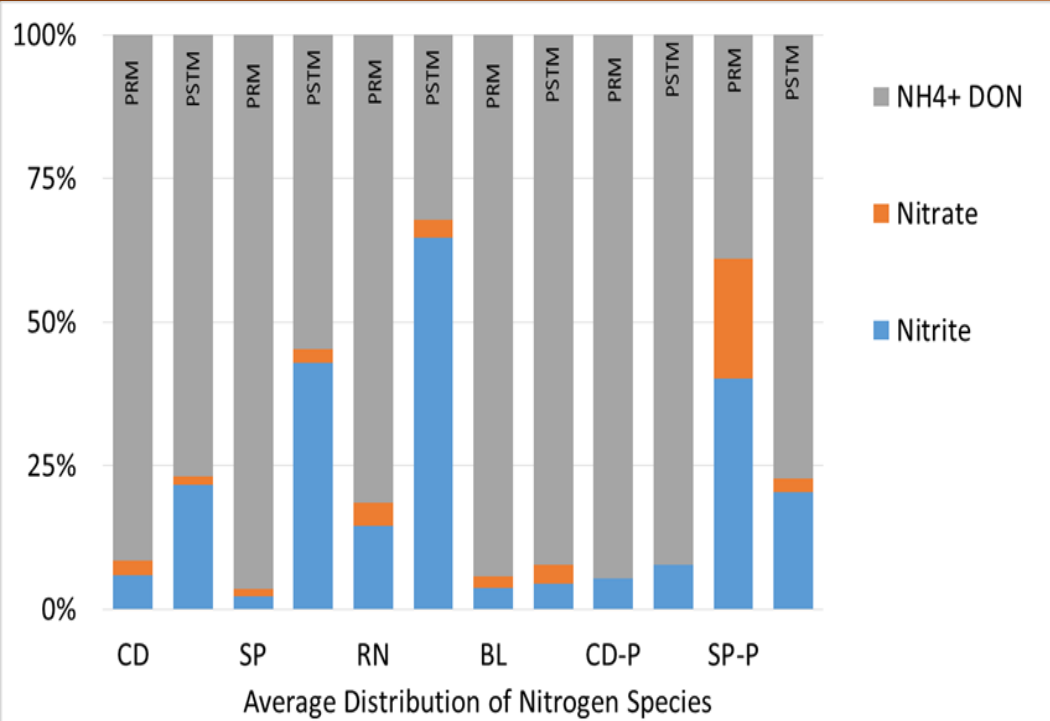


$R^2$  and  $p$  values from linear regression of average values,  $n = 6$ .

$*R^2$  and  $*p$  values from linear regression of all samples,  $n = 39$

- Wells at CD & SP sites have  $1 \text{ ppm} > \text{TDN} < 3 \text{ ppm}$ , consistent with high As, high H:P, high DOC and low  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ .
- Wells at RN and BL sites have  $\text{TDN} < 1 \text{ ppm}$ , consistent with low As, low H:P, low DOC and high  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ .

# Results: TDN

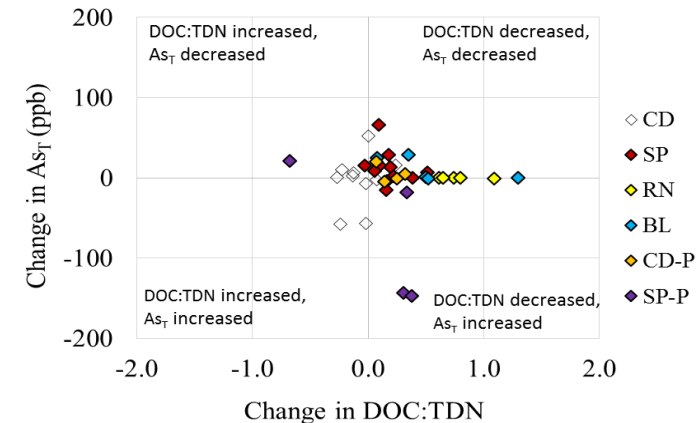
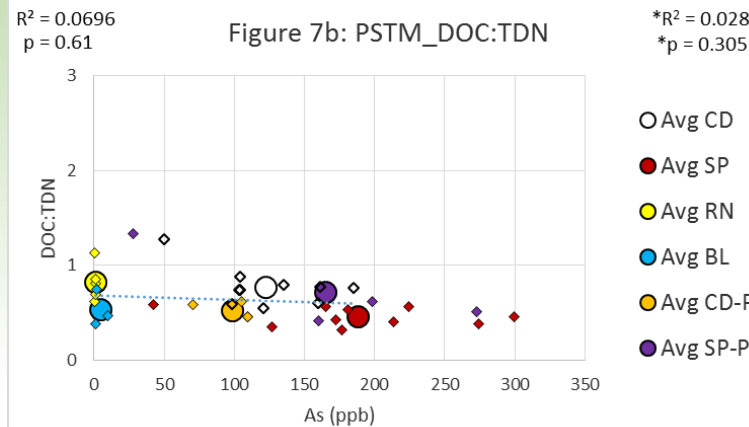
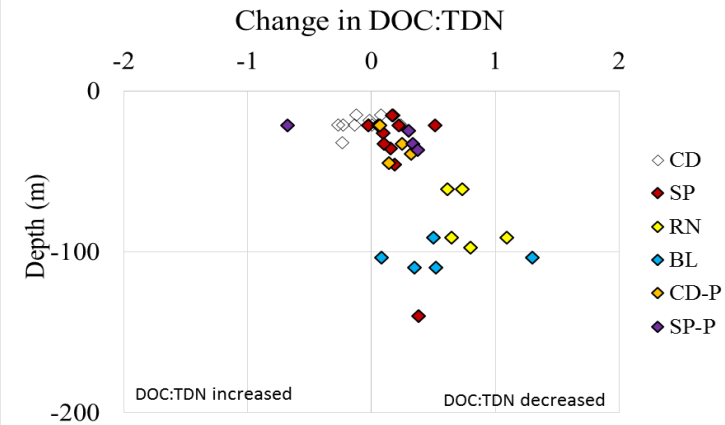
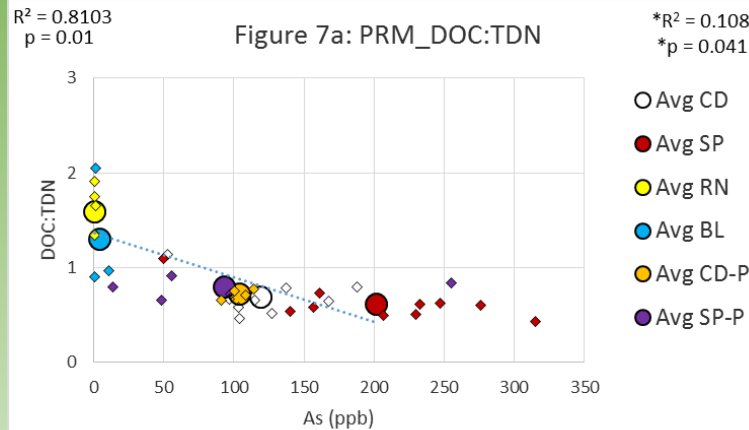


- $TDN = NO_3^- + NO_2^- + NH_4^+ + DON$
- Considerable  $NO_2^-$  increased at CD and SP sites in PSTM samples, may indicate some nitrate/nitrite using bacteria activity due to mixing of oxygenated rainwater at shallow depths (?).
- Considerable increase in  $NO_2^-$  at RN (deep wells) site also occurred. RN and BL sites are comparatively less reducing than CD & SP sites. But this increase in PSTM  $NO_2^-$  at RN alone, may not be associated with mixing of oxygenated rainwater at such greater depths.
- $(NH_4^+ + DON)$  is strongly correlated with TDN, and hence also with  $As_T$

# Results: (DOC:TDN)

$R^2$  and  $p$  values from linear regression of average values,  $n = 6$ .

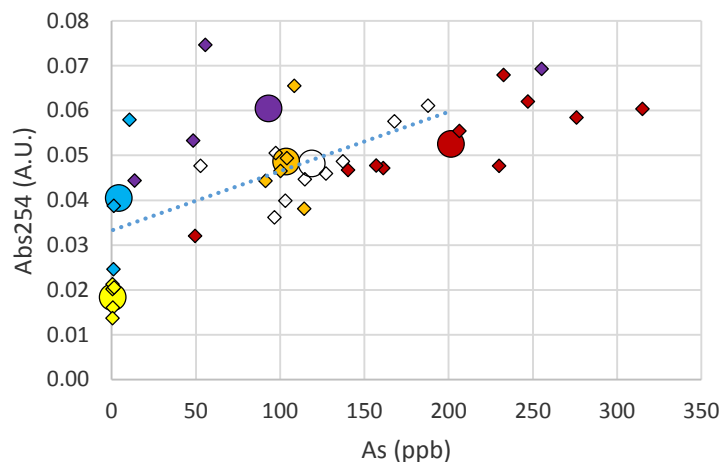
\* $R^2$  and \* $p$  values from linear regression of all samples,  $n = 39$



- High As ~ Low DOC:TDN during PRM. No correlation during PSTM.
- Wells at CD & SP sites have DOC:TDN < 1 (i.e. DOC < TDN) during both PRM and PSTM.
- Wells at RN & BL sites have DOC:TDN > 1 (i.e. DOC > TDN) during PRM and DOC:TDN < 1 (i.e. DOC < TDN) during PSTM.

$R^2 = 0.479$   
 $p = 0.128$

Figure 9a: PRM\_abs254

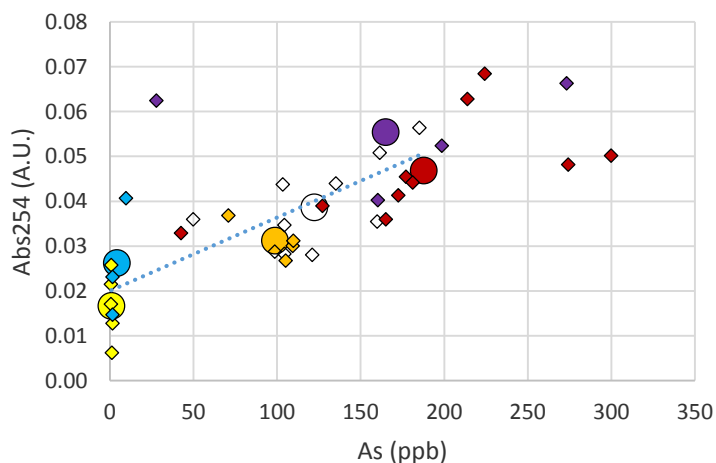


\* $R^2 = 0.316$   
 \* $p < 0.001$

○ Avg CD  
 ● Avg SP  
 ● Avg RN  
 ● Avg BL  
 ● Avg CD-P  
 ● Avg SP-P

$R^2 = 0.8452$   
 $p = 0.009$

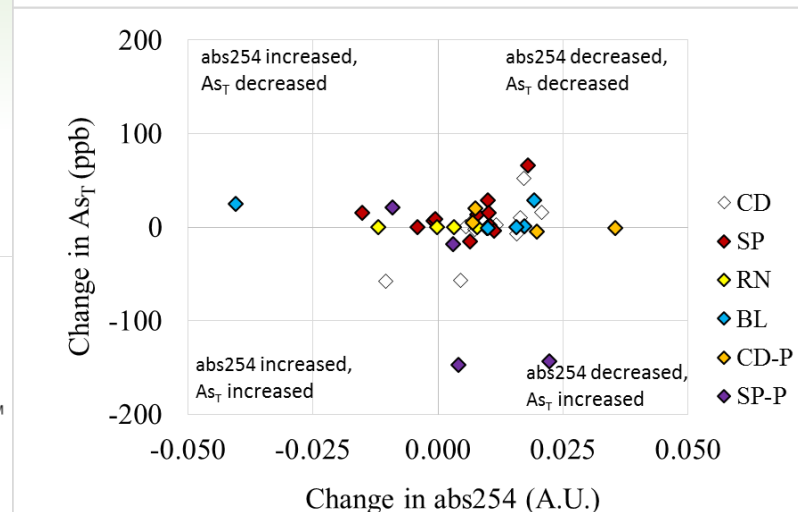
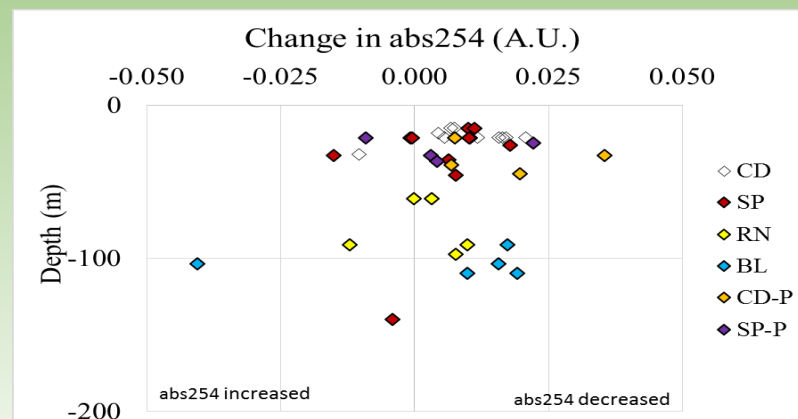
Figure 9b: PRM\_abs254



\* $R^2 = 0.274$   
 \* $p = 0.001$

○ Avg CD  
 ● Avg SP  
 ● Avg RN  
 ● Avg BL  
 ● Avg CD-P  
 ● Avg SP-P

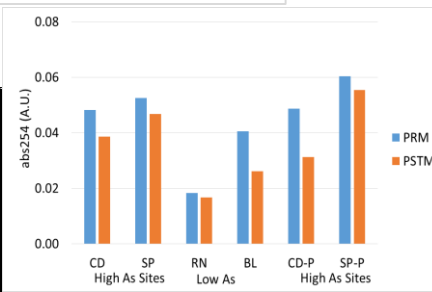
- High AS ~ High abs254
- CD & SP sites had higher abs254 than RN & BL sites, consistent with higher H:P ratio, higher DOC and higher dissolved iron (?) at CD & SP.
- Post-Monsoon changes: Significant,  $p = 0.002$ , t-test,  $n = 39$ . At all sites, PSTM abs254 intensity decreased. This decrease was correlated with decrease in arsenic in majority of samples.

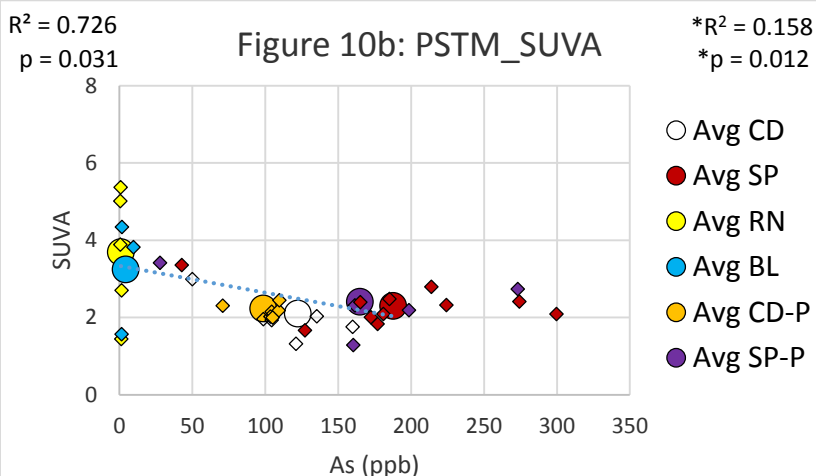
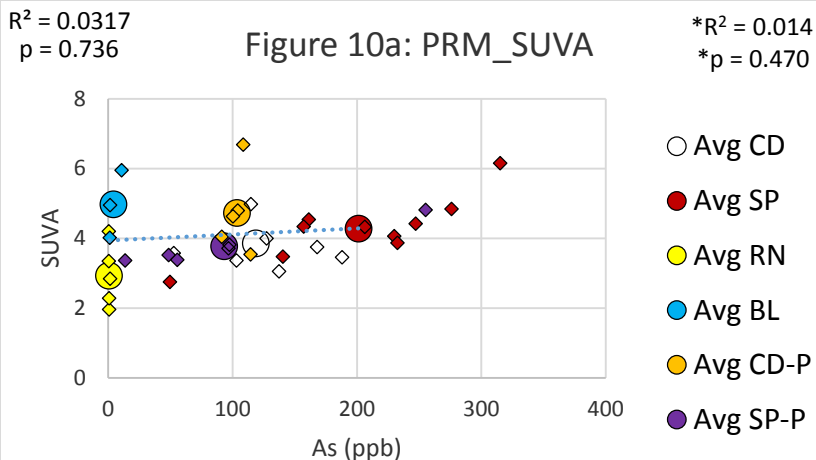


- $R^2$  and  $p$  values from linear regression of average values,  $n = 6$ . Trend line shows average trend.
- \* $R^2$  and \* $p$  values from linear regression of all samples,  $n = 39$

Avg. abs254 (A.U.)

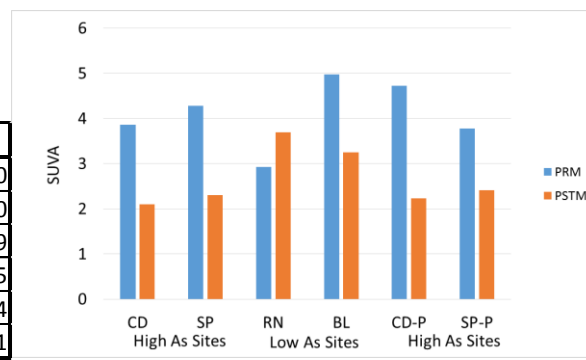
SITE	PRM	PSTM
CD	0.05	0.04
SP	0.05	0.05
RN	0.02	0.02
BL	0.04	0.03
CD-P	0.05	0.03
SP-P	0.06	0.06



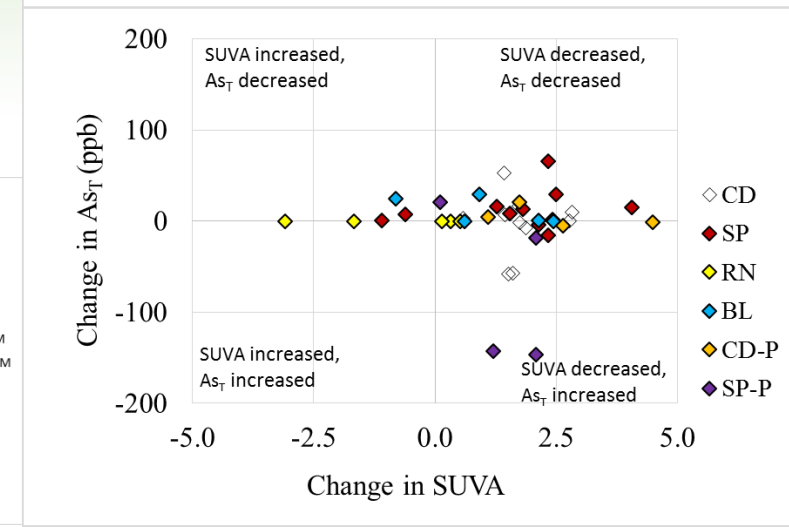
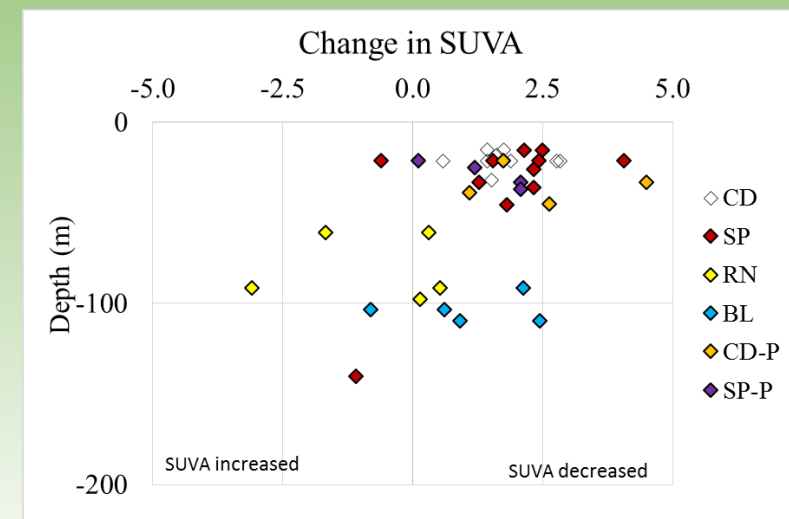


- $R^2$  and  $p$  values from linear regression of average values,  $n = 6$ . Trend line shows average trend.
- $*R^2$  and  $*p$  values from linear regression of all samples,  $n = 39$

SITE	PRM	PSTM
CD	3.86	2.10
SP	4.28	2.30
RN	2.93	3.69
BL	4.98	3.25
CD-P	4.73	2.24
SP-P	3.78	2.41

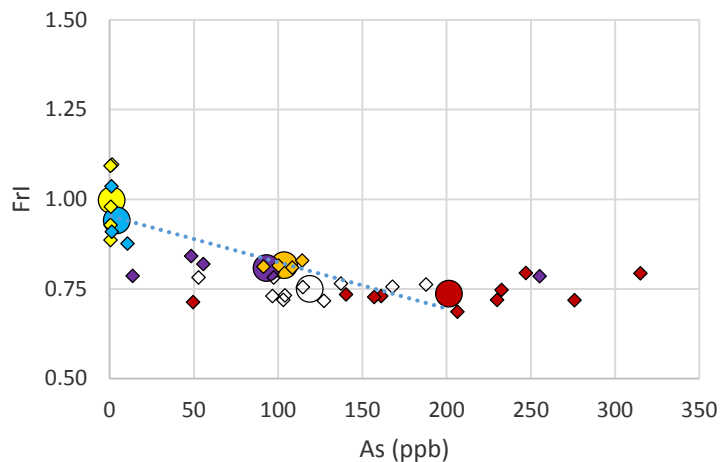


- No correlation with As during PRM.
- Post-Monsoon changes: Significant,  $p < 0.001$ , t-test,  $n = 39$ .
- During PRM, all sites have SUVA in the similar range. PSTM SUVA of shallower samples seems to decrease significantly than that of deeper samples. Dilution at shallower depths.
- Decrease in SUVA consistent with decrease in DOC and abs254, but contrasting with seemingly increase in H:P ratio.



$R^2 = 0.8728$   
 $p = 0.01$

Figure 11a: PRM\_FrI

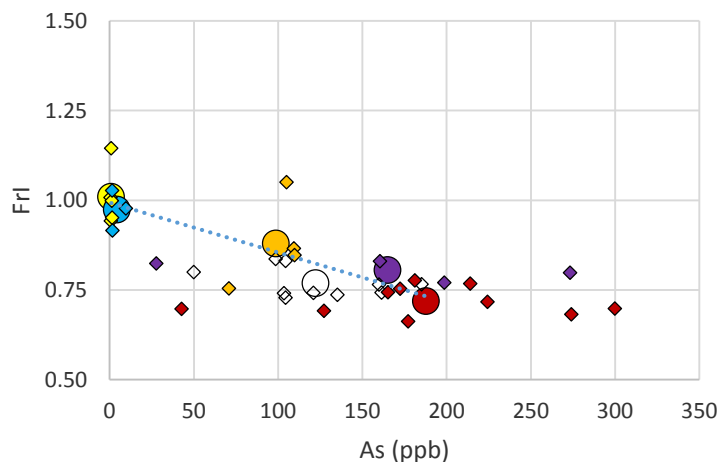


\* $R^2 = 0.141$   
 \* $p = 0.018$

○ Avg CD  
 ● Avg SP  
 ● Avg RN  
 ● Avg BL  
 ● Avg CD-P  
 ● Avg SP-P

$R^2 = 0.9116$   
 $p = 0.003$

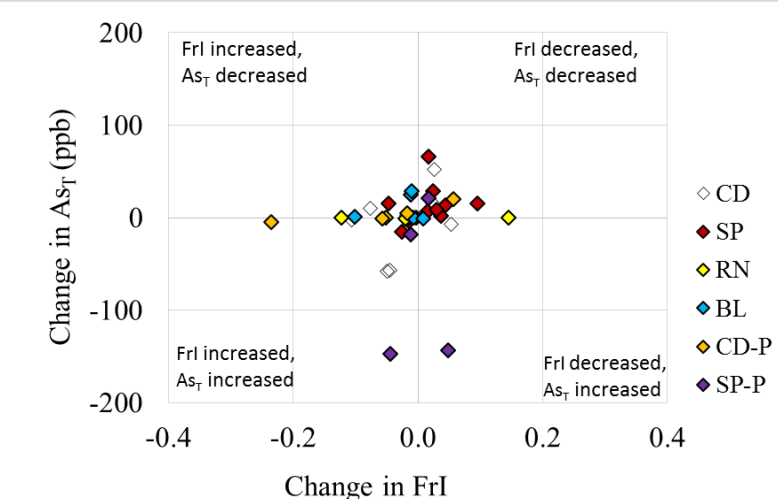
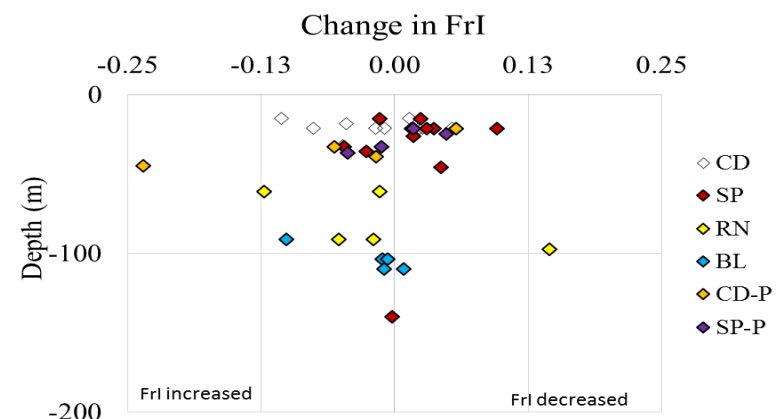
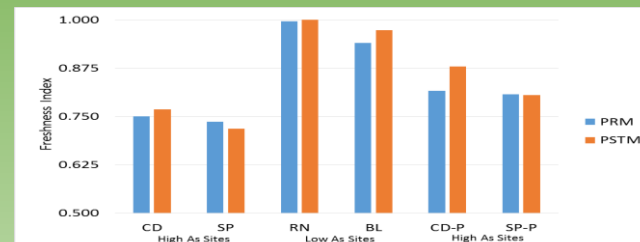
Figure 11b: PSTM\_FrI



\* $R^2 = 0.179$   
 \* $p = 0.007$

○ Avg CD  
 ● Avg SP  
 ● Avg RN  
 ● Avg BL  
 ● Avg CD-P  
 ● Avg SP-P

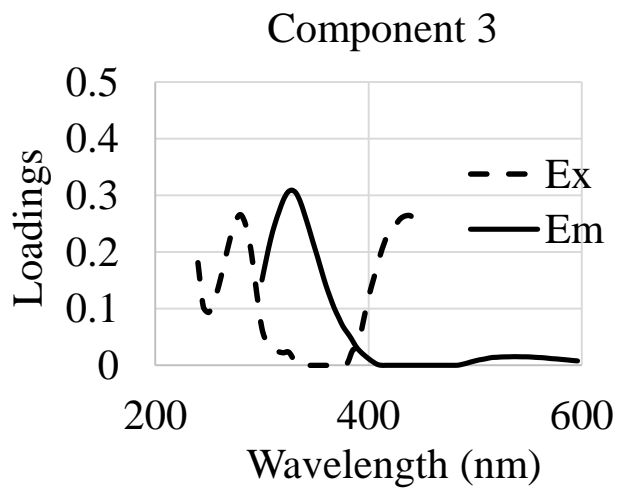
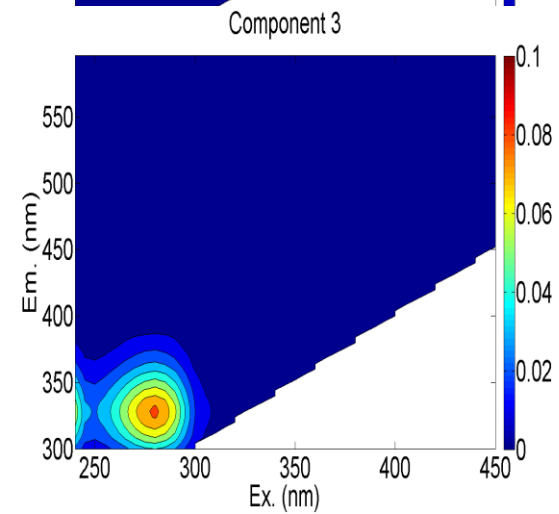
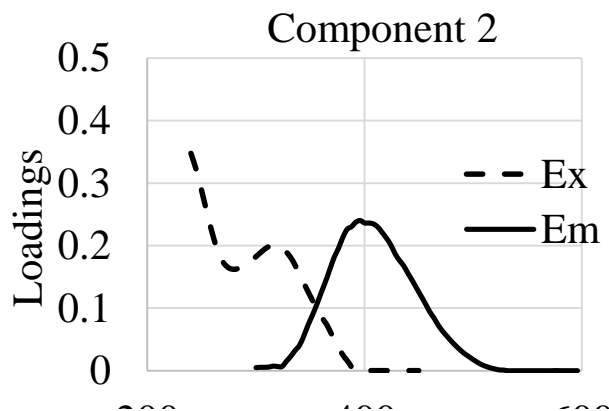
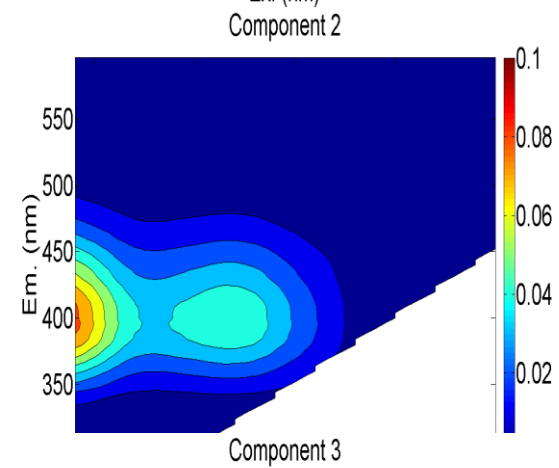
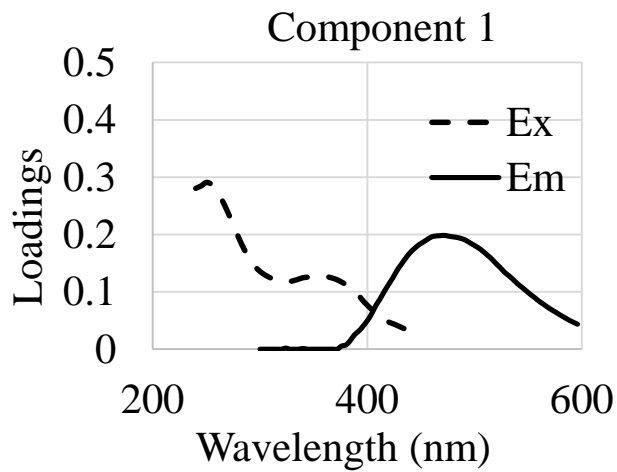
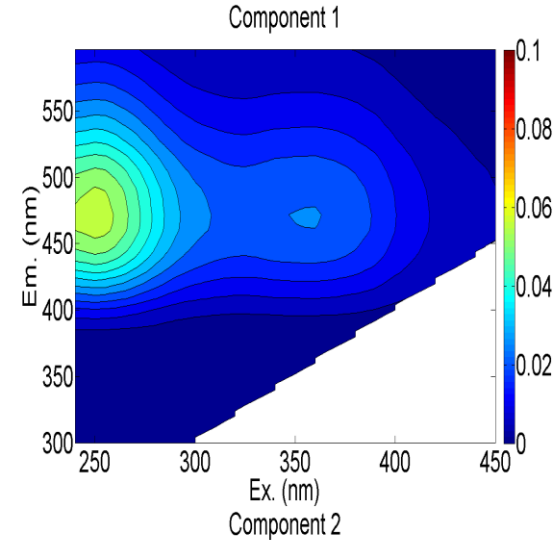
- High As ~ Low FrI / Low As ~ High FrI
- CD & SP sites have lower FrI than RN & BL sites, consistent with Murshidabad study.
- Post-Monsoon changes: Not Significant,  $p = 0.279$ , t-test,  $n = 39$



Avg. FrI

SITE	PRM	PSTM
CD	0.75	0.77
SP	0.74	0.72
RN	1.00	1.00
BL	0.94	0.97
CD-P	0.82	0.88
SP-P	0.81	0.81

- $R^2$  and  $p$  values from linear regression of average values,  $n = 6$ . Trend line shows average trend.
- \* $R^2$  and \* $p$  values from linear regression of all samples,  $n = 39$

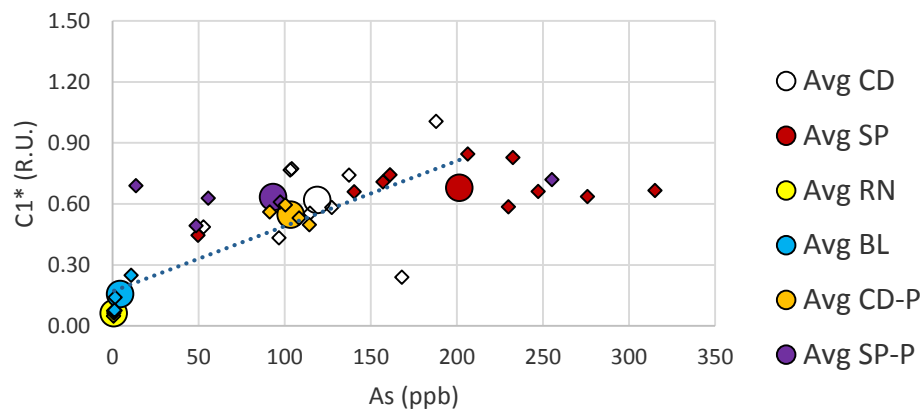


EEM spectra (left) and emission-excitation curve (right) showing loadings of three PARAFAC components identified in the model

$R^2 = 0.8183$   
 $p = 0.013$

Figure 13a: PRM\_C1\*

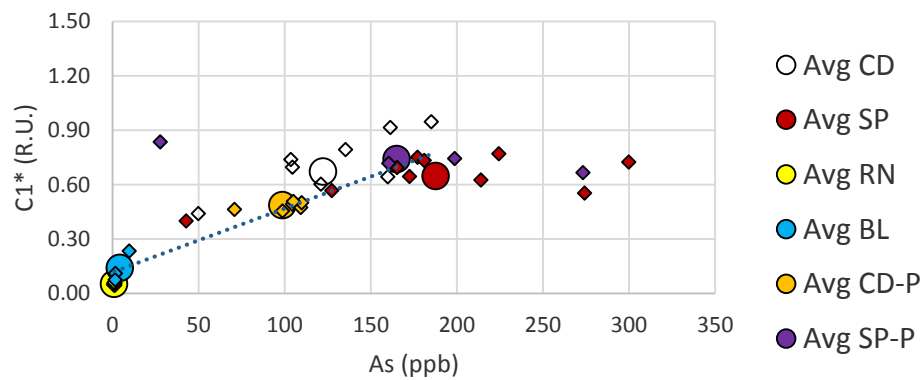
\* $R^2 = 0.121$   
 \* $p = 0.03$



$R^2 = 0.9069$   
 $p = 0.003$

Figure 13b: PSTM\_C1\*

\* $R^2 = 0.341$   
 \* $p < 0.001$

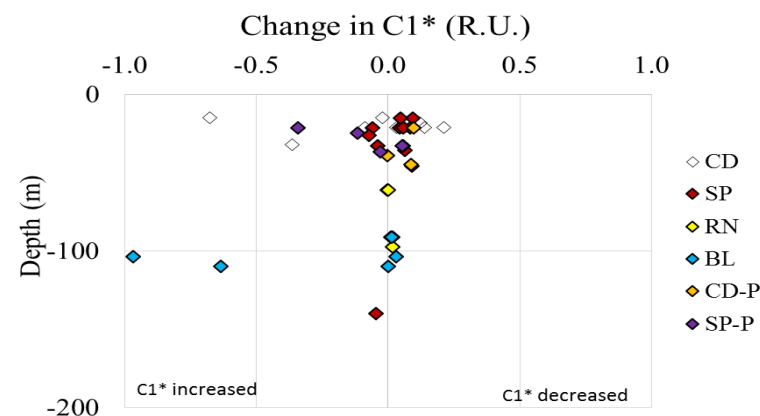
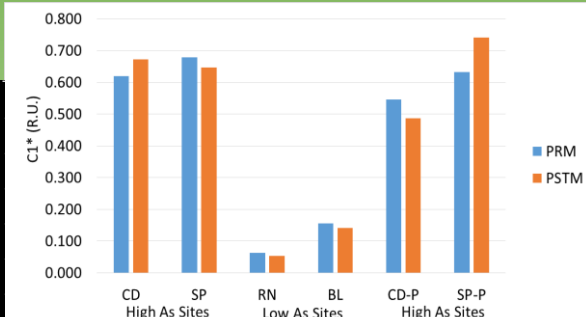


• Arsenic increases with increase in C1\*

• Post-Monsoon changes: Not Significant,  $p = 0.19$ , t-test,  $n = 39$

Avg. C1\* (R.U.)

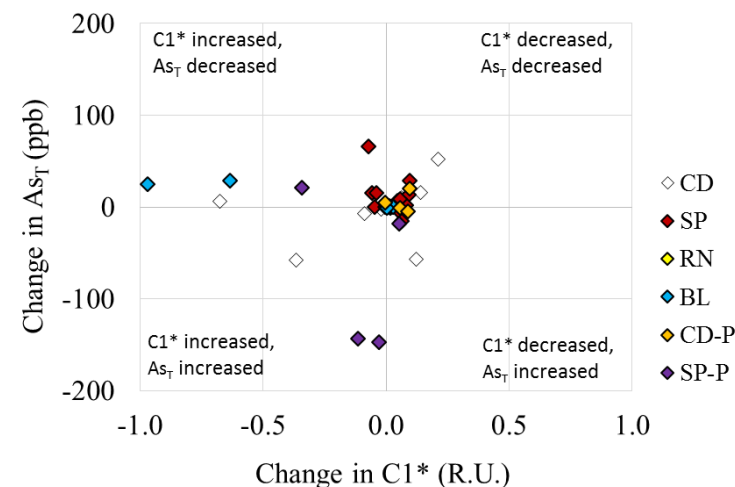
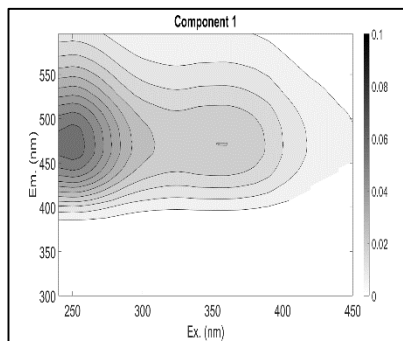
SITE	PRM	PSTM
CD	0.62	0.67
SP	0.68	0.65
RN	0.06	0.05
BL	0.16	0.14
CD-P	0.55	0.49
SP-P	0.63	0.74

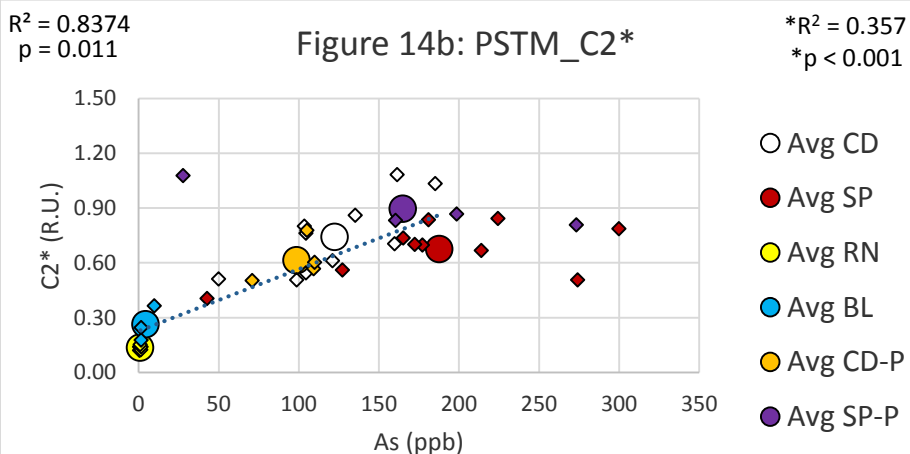
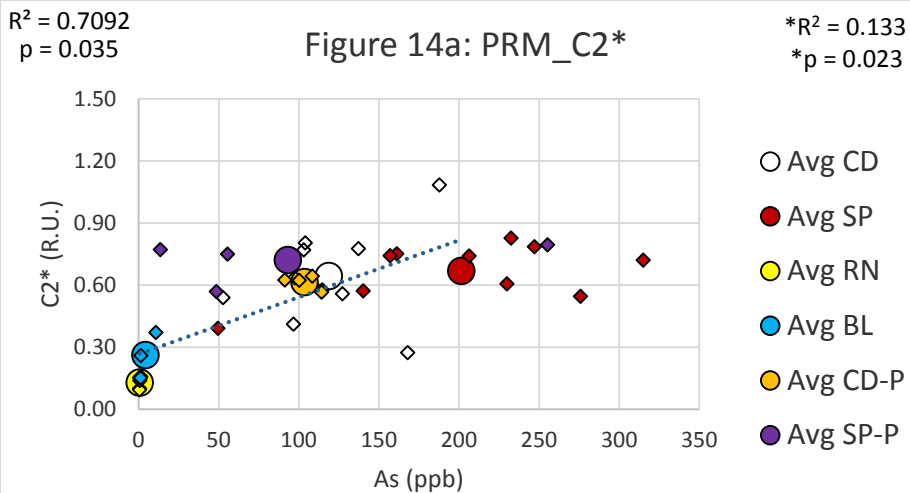


•  $R^2$  and  $p$  values from linear regression of average values,  $n = 6$ . Trend line shows average trend.

• \* $R^2$  and \* $p$  values from linear regression of all samples,  $n = 39$

C1\*: Terrestrial Humic-like  
 240 (360) / 460

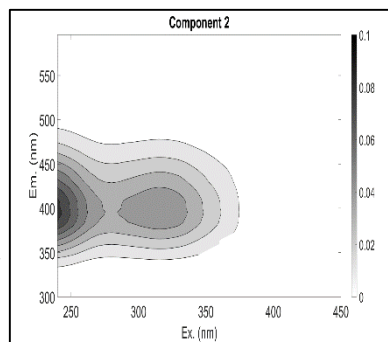




•  $R^2$  and  $p$  values from linear regression of average values,  $n = 6$ . Trend line shows average trend.

•  $*R^2$  and  $*p$  values from linear regression of all samples,  $n = 39$

C2\*: Humic-like, impacted by agriculture, wastewater activity  
240 (320) / 400

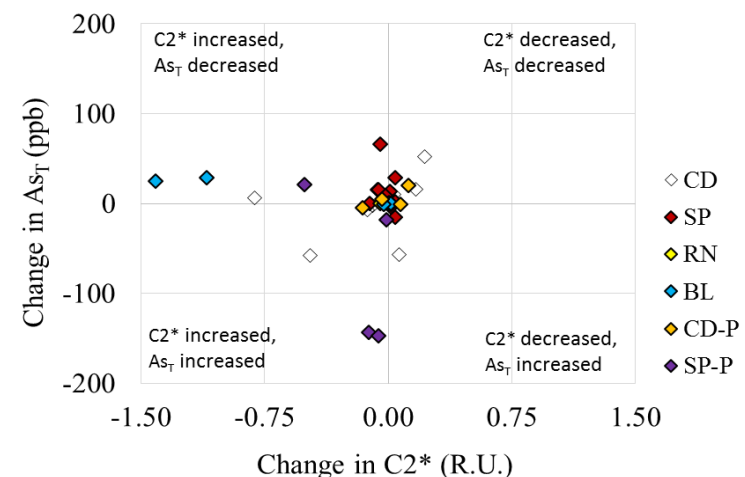
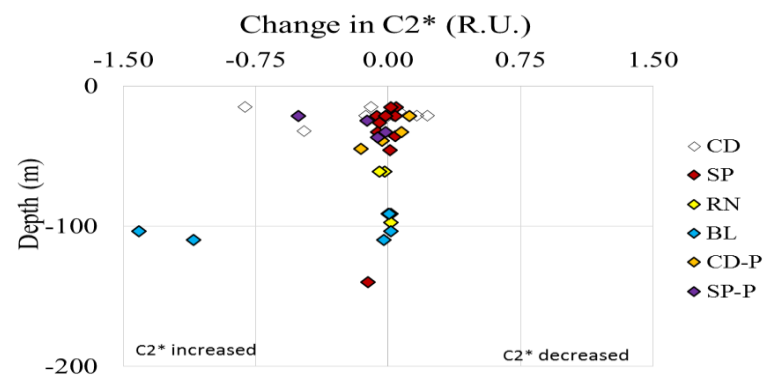
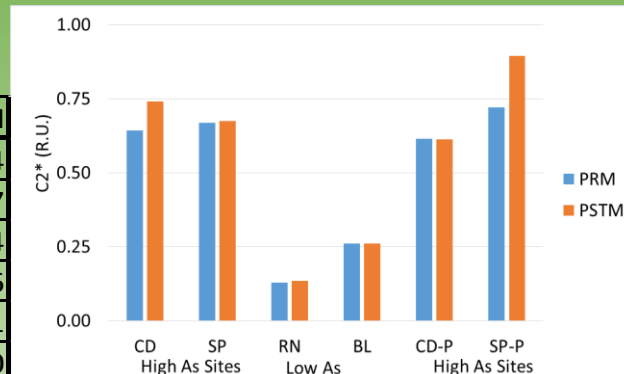


• Arsenic increases with increase in C2\*

• Post-Monsoon changes: Significant,  $p = 0.037$ , t-test,  $n = 39$

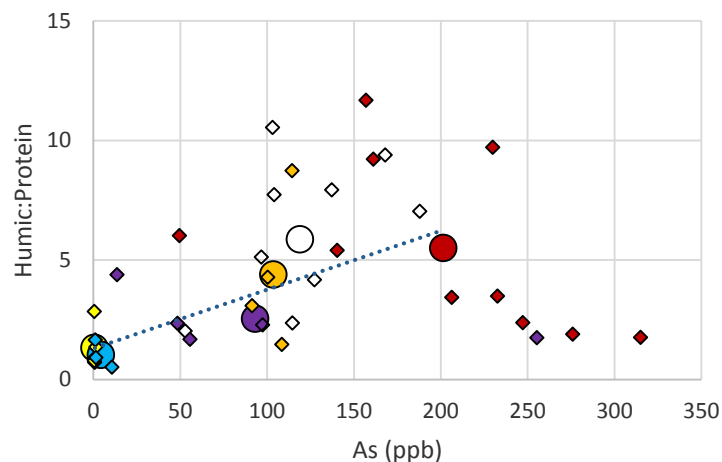
Avg. C2\* (R.U.)

SITE	PRM	PSTM
CD	0.64	0.74
SP	0.67	0.67
RN	0.13	0.14
BL	0.26	0.26
CD-P	0.61	0.61
SP-P	0.72	0.90



$R^2 = 0.7835$   
 $p = 0.019$

Figure 15a: PRM\_Humic:Protein

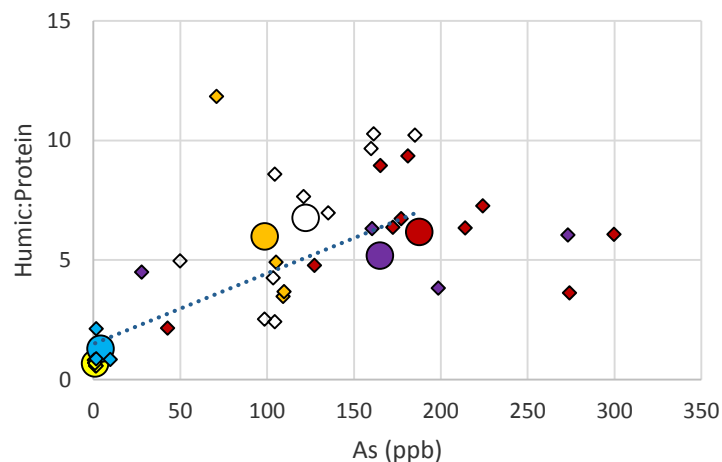


- Avg CD
- Avg SP
- Avg RN
- Avg BL
- Avg CD-P
- Avg SP-P

$*R^2 = 0.159$   
 $*p = 0.012$

$R^2 = 0.7676$   
 $p = 0.022$

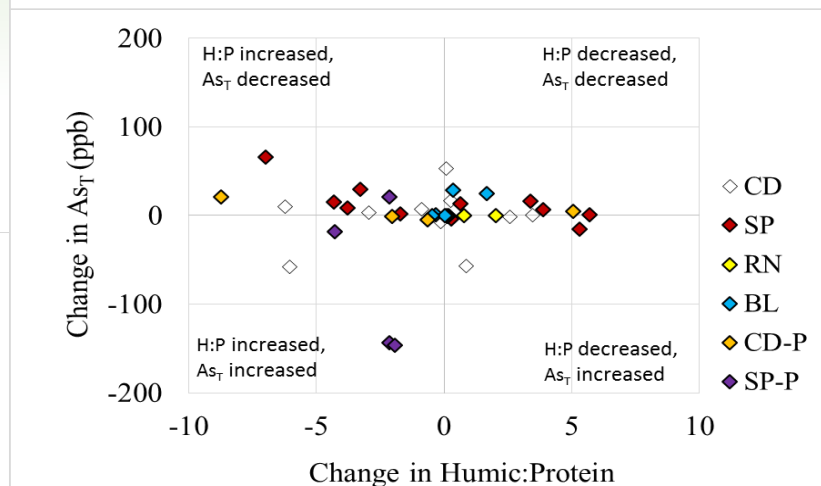
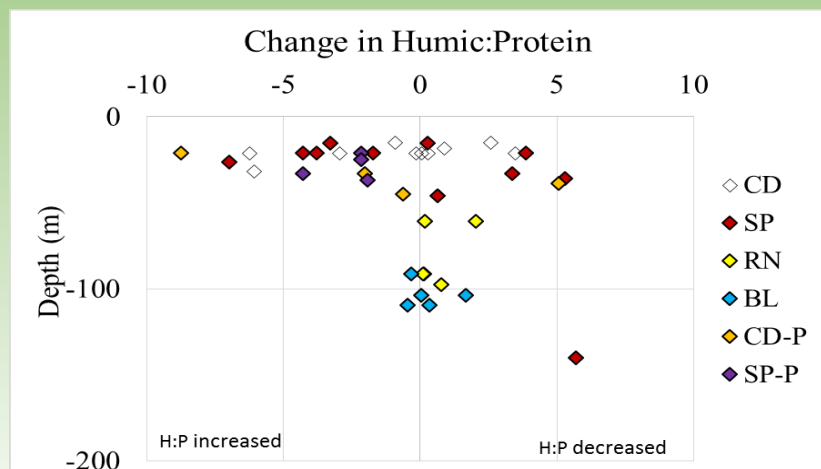
Figure 15b: PSTM\_Humic:Protein



- Avg CD
- Avg SP
- Avg RN
- Avg BL
- Avg CD-P
- Avg SP-P

$*R^2 = 0.35$   
 $*p < 0.001$

- High As ~ High Humic:Protein
- CD & SP sites have higher H:P than RN & BL sites, consistent with Murshidabad study. So, High As – High H:P – Low  $SO_4^{2-}$
- PSTM changes: Not Significant,  $p = 0.292$ ,  $t$ -test,  $n = 39$ . Increased in many shallow samples. The only deep well # 22 (140 m, SP site, exceptional low As) showed decrease in H:P ratio. All other deep wells at RN and BL sites, did not show such decrease in H:P.



- $R^2$  and  $p$  values from linear regression of average values,  $n = 6$ . Trend line shows average trend.
- $*R^2$  and  $*p$  values from linear regression of all samples,  $n = 39$

Avg. Humic:Protein

SITE	PRM	PSTM
CD	5.86	6.76
SP	5.50	6.16
RN	1.32	0.67
BL	1.03	1.28
CD-P	4.39	5.98
SP-P	2.55	5.17

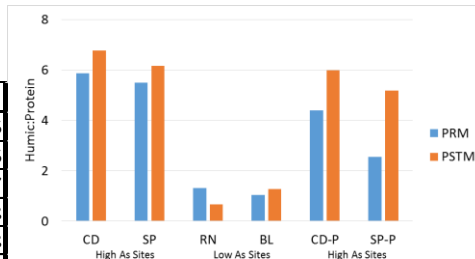


Figure 16a: PRM\_SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>\_Humic:Protein

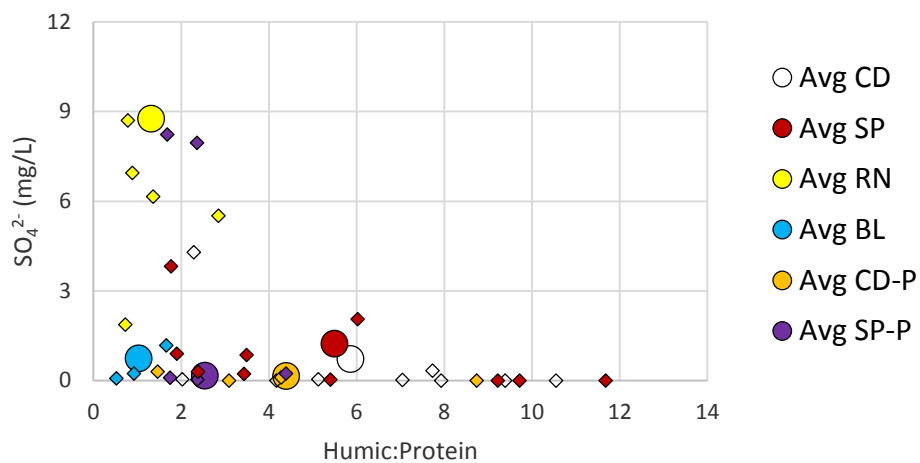
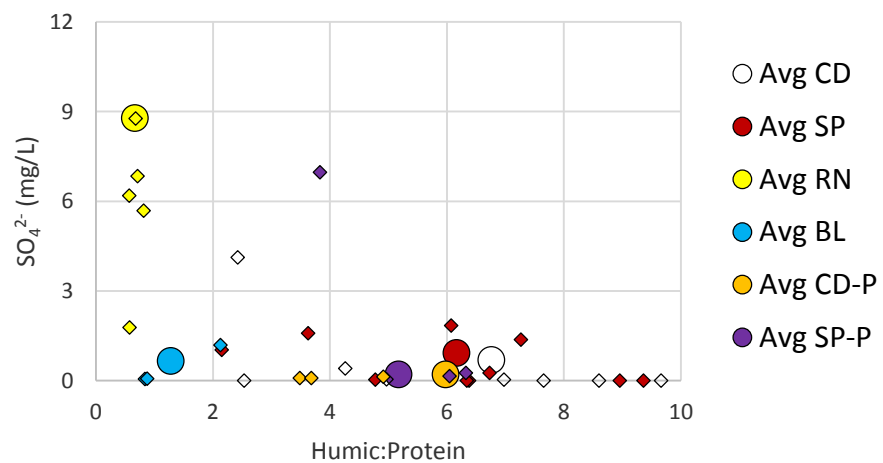


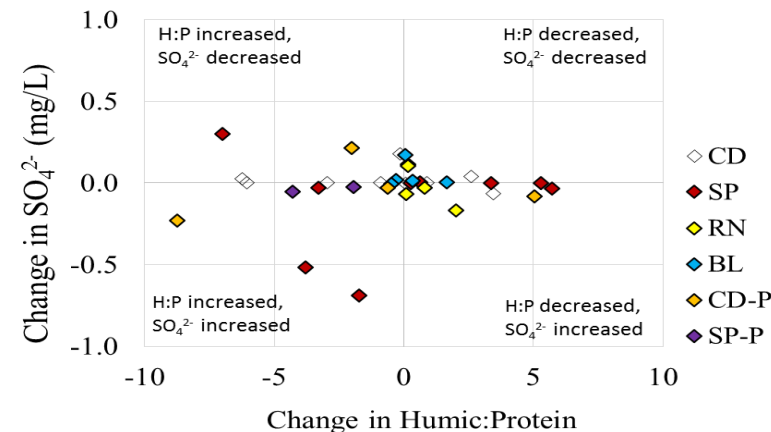
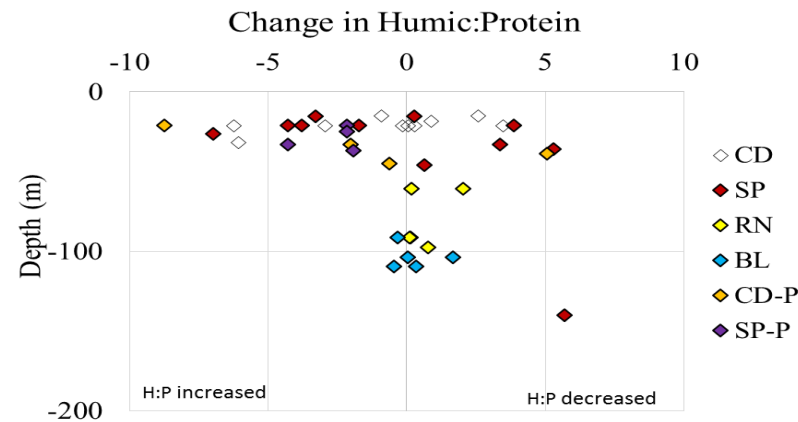
Figure 16a: PSTM\_SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>\_Humic:Protein



SITE	PRM	PSTM
CD	0.72	0.69
SP	1.23	0.92
RN	8.76	8.77
BL	0.74	0.65
CD-P	0.15	0.20
SP-P	0.16	0.20

SITE	PRM	PSTM
CD	5.86	6.76
SP	5.50	6.16
RN	1.32	0.67
BL	1.03	1.28
CD-P	4.39	5.98
SP-P	2.55	5.17

- High Humic:Protein ~ Low SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> / Low Humic:Protein ~ High SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>
- CD & SP sites are high Humic:Protein – low SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, support humic-mediated microbial Fe (III) reduction and As release.
- Wells at RN site have high SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> and low Humic:Protein, supporting presence of less humified DOM associated with lower microbial reductive dissolution and less As release.
- Wells at BL have low SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> and Humic:Protein, consistent with As- SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>.
- PRM-PSTM Humic:Protein varied (mostly increased) at shallow depth, overall statistically not significant (p = 0.292, t-test, n = 39).



# Summary

- Vertical mixing due to monsoonal recharge was limited to shallow depths (< 40m).
- Redox sensitive processes and DOM quality was affected even at greater depths.
- Shallow depths ~ High As ~ Low  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  ~ High DOC ~ High TDN ~ High abs254 ~ Low  $\beta$ :  $\alpha$  ~ High Humic: Protein.
- At shallow depths, mixing effect, vertical movement exceeds lateral movement, less sedimentary DOC transported laterally.
- At greater depths, no mixing effect, irrigation pumping is stopped which slows down the lateral movement, less sedimentary DOC transported laterally.

# Thank You

For Any Questions, Please Contact  
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