

# A Longitudinal Analysis of the Pattern of Change Over Time for Soybean Yield (1990–2013) By Country

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Figure 1. Soybean Yield (n=797) by Country from 1990–2013.

## METHODS

¾ A sample of 797 records across 34 countries with 24 repeated measurements (1990–2013) of soybean yield (hg/ha) from the Food and Agriculture Organization and World Data Bank were used for this longitudinal analysis.

- The dependent variable, soybean yield (hg/ha), is treated as a continuous variable.
- Countries with multiple (>1) average annual temperatures or countries with <20 occasions were excluded.

### Assessing Pattern of Change Over Time (1990–2013)

¾ A spaghetti plot (Figure 1) shows the pattern of change over time (1990–2013) for soybean yield (hg/ha) by country. The plot shows that soybean yield generally increased over time for most countries, with some countries showing a decrease. The plot also shows that the variance of soybean yield increased over time, suggesting that the pattern of change over time is not linear.

- A Shapiro-Wilk's test indicates normality is not met ( $p < 0.0001$ ). This may be due to deviations in the residual tail ends seen in the QQ plot causing the non-normality. Based on the body of evidence, it appears that normality is reasonably met.

The variances and covariances from the marginal V matrix from the Random Linear model appear to decrease as years pass. There is inherent autocorrelation in that years closer together are more correlated than years farther apart.

¾ Soybean yield increased on average by 133 hg/ha per year (Table 1) from 1990 to 2013. A variance-covariance matrix was estimated.