



Dr. Shibendu Shankar Ray
(July 02, 1963 – May 04, 2021)

An outstanding leader and scientist, Dr. Shibendu Shankar Ray sadly passed away due to Covid-19 on May 4th, 2021. The GEOGLAM community mourns his untimely death. For more than 20 years Dr. Shibendu Ray worked at the Indian Space Research Organization's Space Applications Centre on Remote Sensing Applications in Agriculture. He was the founding Director of the Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC), Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, and served the Center since its inception in 2012 until his last breath. He led a team of scientists and researchers in operational national-level agricultural programs on Crop Forecasting (FASAL), Drought Assessment and Monitoring (NADAMS), Horticulture Inventory & Development (CHAMAN), Crop Insurance (KISAN), and Crop Intensification, amongst others. As the Director of the MNCFC, New Delhi, he organized numerous national and international conferences to provide young scientists and researchers with the opportunity to learn from distinguished leaders in the field of remote sensing and also providing them a platform for networking. An expert in remote sensing, he published numerous articles, research reports, and books in the field of remote sensing-based agriculture monitoring. He was an active member of the GEOGLAM Community and participated in the Crop Monitors, JECAM program, and Asia-Rice. He was instrumental in developing international relations for the Indian remote sensing society with GEOGLAM, JECAM, Asia-Rice, NASA Harvest, China Crop-Watch, JAXA, FAO, ESA, and many more.

“Shibendu was a special colleague, with a great sense of humor and a positive disposition. He shared enthusiasm for his work and a recognition of the need for international cooperation. He had a wealth of experience in satellite remote sensing of agriculture and provided exemplary leadership to his team. He was an enthusiastic supporter of GEOGLAM and will be missed by the international community.” Chris Justice

“Shibendu was an important and valued member of JECAM, and the driving force behind the creation of the network's four newest Indian research sites. Shibendu placed a high value on international collaboration and actively engaged in network activities with much enthusiasm and passion. His deep remote sensing knowledge, experience and leadership are irreplaceable. Along with Shibendu's family, friends, and colleagues, we mourn his loss. His passing is a loss not only to India but to us all”. Andrew Davidson

“Shibendu was a great navigator to promote space-based technology for crop management in Asia, especially for rice crop. He always emphasized the importance to engage space agencies with Agriculture organizations / ministries and young researchers to implement space-based crop management in Asia. He co-hosted ISRO-ISRS-ACRS-GEOGLAM-ISPRS WG III/10 Tutorial on Agricultural Monitoring at MNCFC in October 22, 2017 and it was very good memory and our community treasure. We, Asia Rice community have lost our great mentor”. Shin-ichi

“An excellent scientist, a great mentor, a leader best known for his simplicity and high thinking; he was easily approachable and brought smiles to all his mentees during their tough times. The soul has departed, but his

contribution to the science of space-based Ag-monitoring will be alive forever. The GEOGLAM community will miss his scientific insights, congeniality, and his positive and enthusiastic nature. I personally have lost my guru, my mentor, and a great friend.” Meghavi Prashnani

“Shibendu was a great scientist, mentor to many, and a wonderful colleague. The GEOGLAM community mourns his loss and on behalf of the community I send best wishes and our sympathies to his loved ones. May he rest in peace”
Ian Jarvis