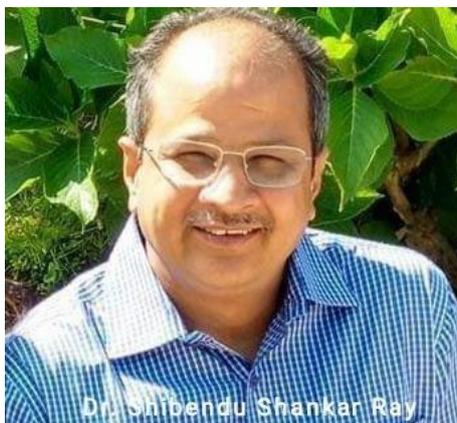


Obituary of Dr. Shibendu Shankar Ray



(July 02, 1963 – May 04, 2021)

Dr. Shibendu Shankar Ray was an outstanding Indian agriculture physicist. He obtained academic excellence through Masters and Doctorate degrees from the prestigious Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. Dr. Ray contributed very actively towards ISPRS activities. He served as Chair, International Society for Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing (ISPRS), Working Group VIII/6 on Agriculture, Ecosystem and Bio-diversity (2008-2012) and Co-Chair ISPRS Working Group III/10 on Agriculture and Natural Ecosystems Modelling and Monitoring (2016-2022). He served as Vice-President, Indian Society of Remote Sensing (ISRS), 2014-2016 and Vice-President, Indian Society of Agro-Physics, 2015-2017.

Dr. Ray has contributed significantly to developing, demonstrating and operationalizing procedures for various aspects of agricultural resources management using Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System over the years. Most significant contribution of Dr. Ray was towards the establishment and growth of the Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC) under Department of Agriculture & Cooperation as its first Director and institutionalizing the various national programs that exploit the earth observation data for agro-meteorology, horticulture assessment to build a reliable national level operational agricultural system. He was also actively involved in GEOGLAM activities at the international level. He published 67 peer-reviewed scientific papers, two books, many edited books and invited talks at both national and international forums. Many awards including Hari Om Prerit Ashram (PRL), Pisharoty and Satish Dhawan (ISRS), National Geomatics (ISG) and Merit and Team (ISRO) have been conferred on him.

Dr. Ray belongs to that genre of scientists who can radiate energy and bring a smile on your face, even in an adversity. In addition to being a vivacious person he was always helpful and took a lead role in the organization of things, be it official or inter-personal. He was a ray of enthusiasm, energy, positivity and happiness to all his family members, colleagues and friends.

While the ISPRS and ISRS fraternity share our deepest condolences to his beloved family and his colleagues on the unbearable loss, we cherish the moments that he spent with us and his long professional association with us.

Rest in Peace, Dr. Shibendu Ray.