

Dr Shibendu Shankar Ray

Jul 02, 1963 – May 04, 2021

### **Obituary**

Dr. Shibendu Shankar Ray, our colleague with an ever smiling face was a prominent figure as far as scientific pursuits are concerned in the field of applications of space technology and geomatics for agriculture. He has been instrumental in bringing forth new ideas in monitoring of crops, spatial data collection and optimizing many routine input activities to a remote sensing program.

Currently, as the founder Director of the Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, New Delhi he has brought about yeoman changes in the way data is collected, analysed and interpreted to meet societal needs for agriculture monitoring. The FASAL, NADAMS, CHAMAN programs of the MoA&FW have been greatly benefitted from his expertise.

As an institution builder and manager of various national level programs he has greatly used his knowledge obtained from various countries and their technologies in similar fields. His active involvement in the use of geomatics for agriculture and allied activities has been recognized by the Indian Society of Geomatics which conferred upon him the National Geomatics Award in 2015. In addition he is also a recipient of many awards of various societies, ISRO award of excellence to name a few. But none of this ever clothed him in ego or high handedness and he was an easily approachable and helping person.

His untimely passing away has left all of us in grief and shock. The Society would deeply miss an enthusiastic and highly energetic person who had brought laurels to the programs he has handled. The Indian Society of Geomatics offers its homage to the departed soul, prays that the soul attains eternal peace and the family and all members associated with him, get courage to bear this huge loss.