Ranjeet John

PhD in Biology (Ecology track), 2010

Ranjeet is currently a Research Associate in the Center for Global Change and Earth Observations (CGCEO) Michigan State University, Previously he was a Post-Doctoral Research Associate in University of Toledo (UT) in the Landscape Ecology and Ecosystem Science (LEES) Lab (Jan 2011 to 8/2014) and an Adjunct Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences (DES) at UT (Sep 2013 to Aug 2014). His research mainly focuses on the applications of Remote Sensing and GIS technologies to study biophysical attributes of the Earth's surface at varying scales. His current position in the LEES lab requires him to synthesize existing meteorological and medium to coarse resolution satellite-derived data (e.g., vegetation health and drought indices). In addition, his tasks also involve scaling up *in situ* observation from various eddy covariance flux towers (advanced climate stations) to a regional scale in context of rapid climatic and socioeconomic changes. In order to fulfill the tasks, he is required an understanding of ecological processes governing ecosystem function.

Ranjied studied as a PhD student in DES from 2005 to 2010 under the supervision of Dr. Jiquan Chen. During this period, he was trained in framing research questions and hypotheses, develop data processing chains, and write up the results in peer-reviewed journal manuscripts. He believes that the professors and researchers at UT have varied and diverse inter-disciplinary domain knowledge which helps him succeed in his career. While asked about the studying and working experience at UT, he says that "it's a mixture of hard work and fun".

> "There were fun times during/after field work/conferences in the Oak Openings, Chequamegon National forest, the Missouri Ozarks, Mongolian grasslands, San Francisco and on Lake Erie."

Ranjeet suggests current DES students to learn more about disciplines beyond their own interests. In addition, he encourages students to take advanced statistics courses (e.g., learn and get better at R!).