

# Advanced SAR Descriptors for Land Cover Characterization

Avik Bhattacharya

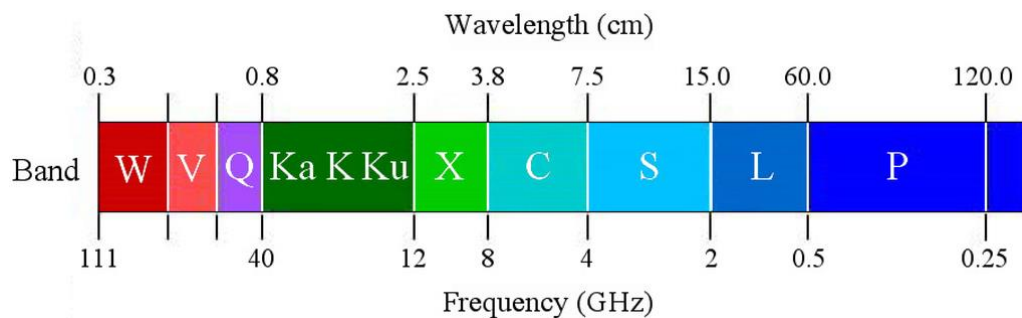
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Microwave Remote Sensing Lab  
Centre of Studies in Resources Eng.  
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay  
Mumbai-400076, India  
[www.mrslab.in](http://www.mrslab.in)



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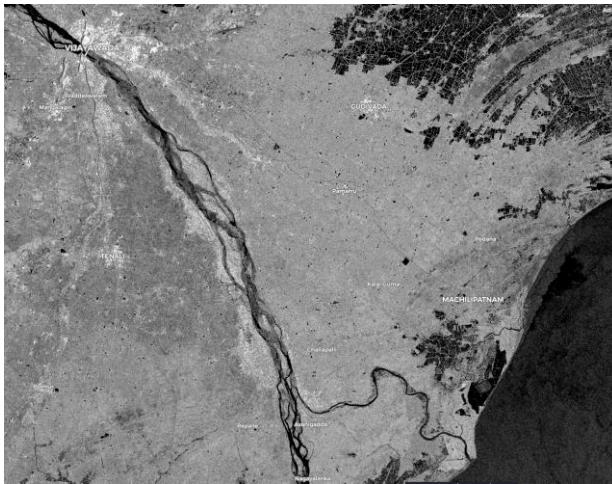
## Remote Sensing Spectral Regions

- Microwave Remote Sensing
  - Microwave



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# Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) Imaging Satellites: Images



Sentinel-1 SAR image (VV Polarization)

**Advent of the south-west monsoon season**



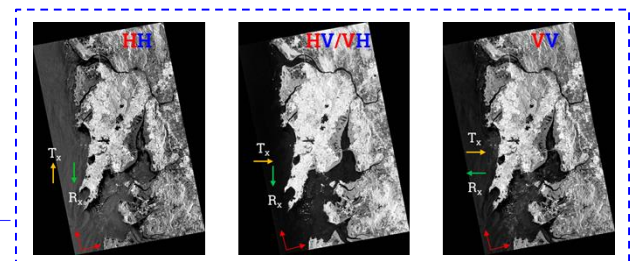
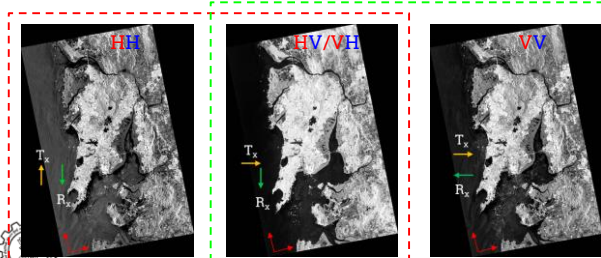
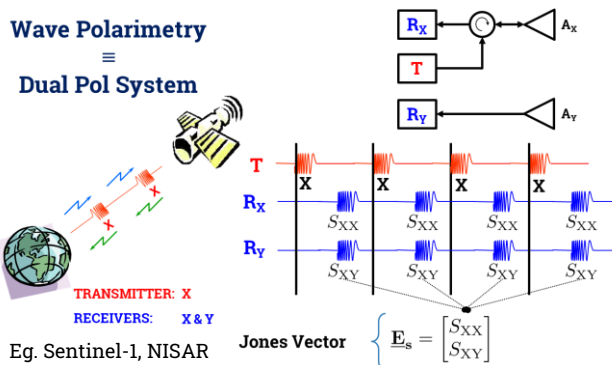
Sentinel-2 Optical Image (FCC)



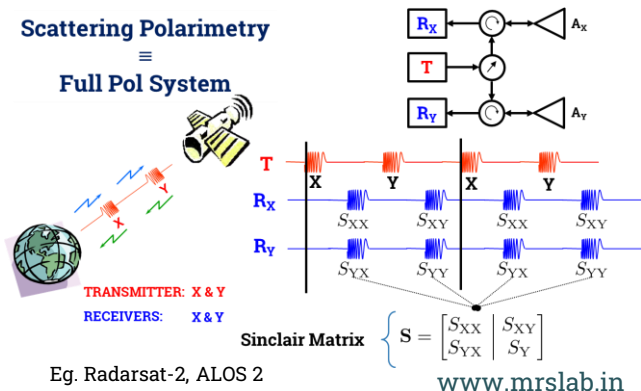
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## SAR Imaging Modalities

**Wave Polarimetry**  
≡  
**Dual Pol System**



**Scattering Polarimetry**  
≡  
**Full Pol System**

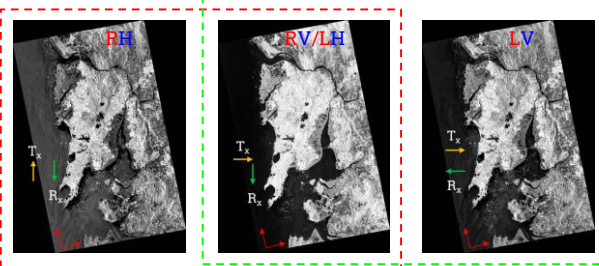
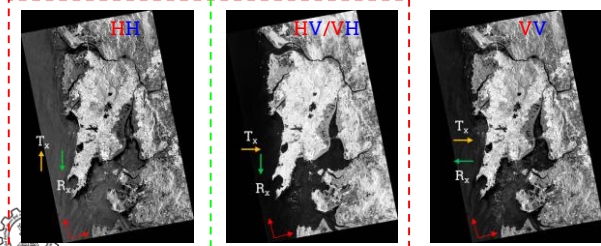
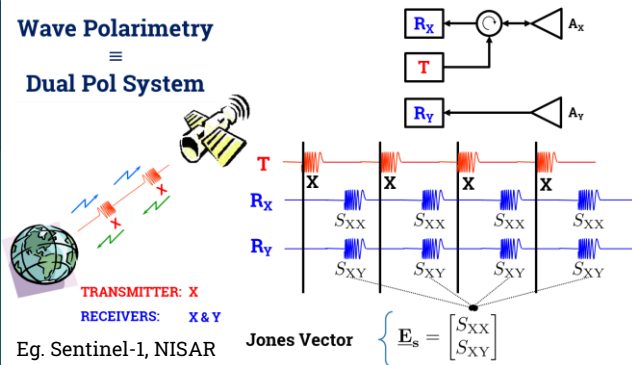


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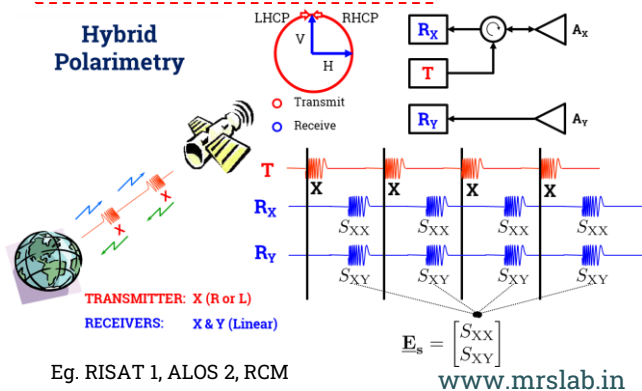


## SAR Imaging Modalities

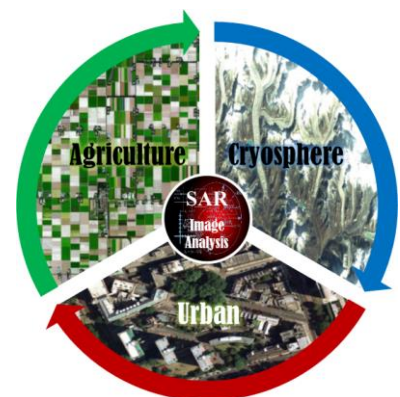
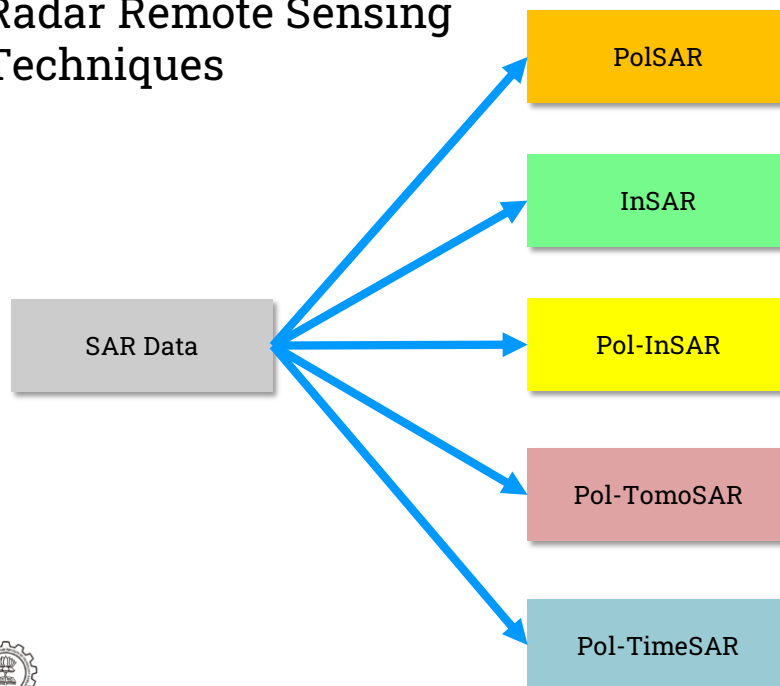
### Wave Polarimetry ≡ Dual Pol System



### Hybrid Polarimetry

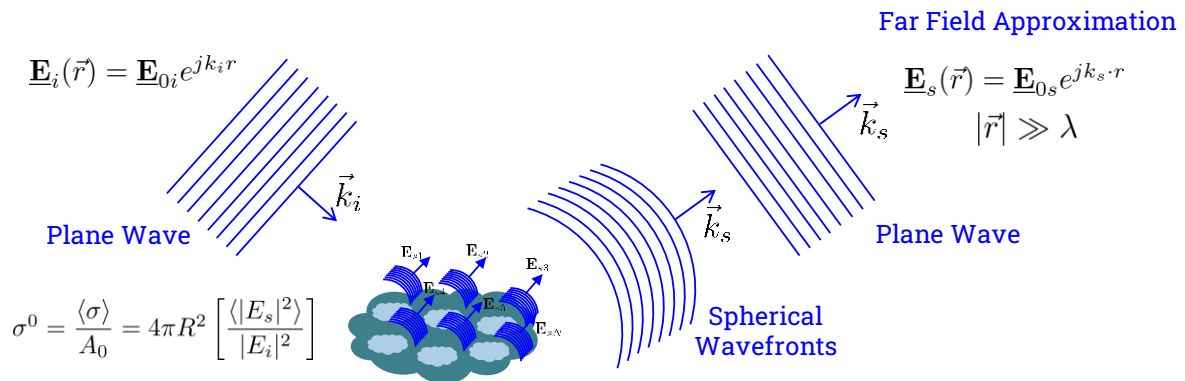


## Radar Remote Sensing Techniques



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## Scattering from an Extended Target



$$\sigma^0 = \frac{\langle \sigma \rangle}{A_0} = 4\pi R^2 \left[ \frac{\langle |E_s|^2 \rangle}{|E_i|^2} \right]$$

$$\underline{E}_s(\vec{r}) = \frac{e^{jkr}}{r} [\mathbf{S}] \underline{E}_i(\vec{r})$$

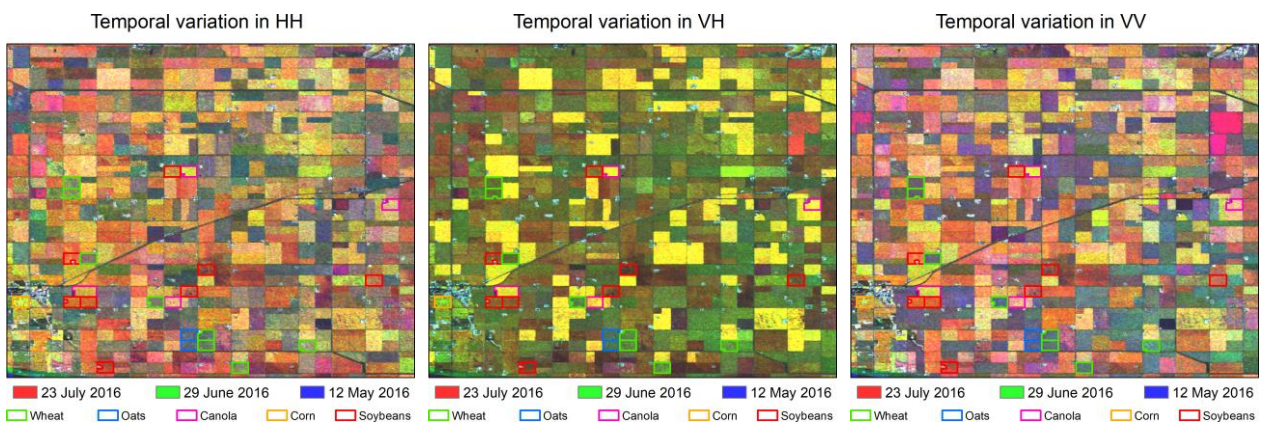
$$\begin{bmatrix} E_{s\perp}(\vec{r}) \\ E_{s\parallel}(\vec{r}) \end{bmatrix} = \frac{e^{jkr}}{r} \begin{bmatrix} S_{\perp\perp}(\vec{r}) & S_{\perp\parallel}(\vec{r}) \\ S_{\parallel\perp}(\vec{r}) & S_{\parallel\parallel}(\vec{r}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} E_{i\perp}(\vec{r}) \\ E_{i\parallel}(\vec{r}) \end{bmatrix}$$

$2 \times 2$  Complex Scattering Matrix

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## Temporal Variation in SAR Backscatter Intensity

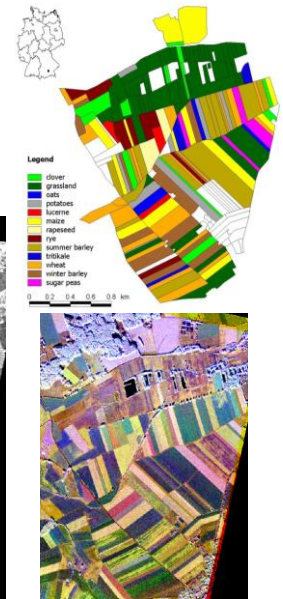
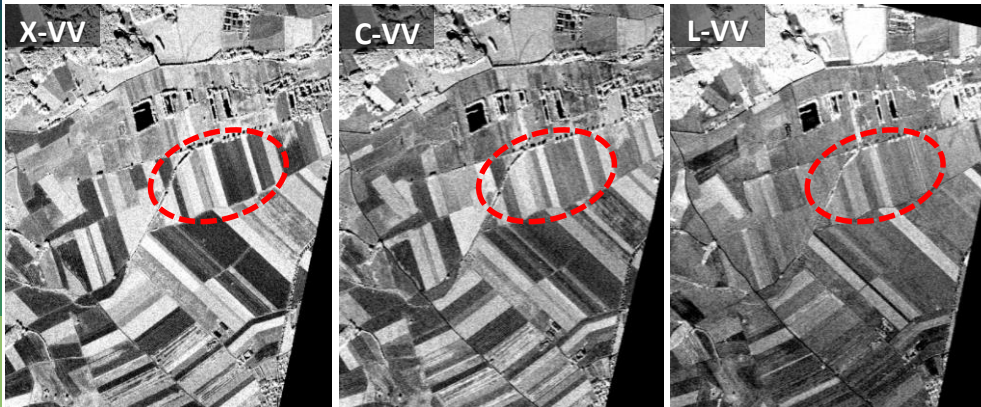


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## Dependence of Frequency on Target

Airborne E-SAR data, June 14, 2000: Bavaria, Germany

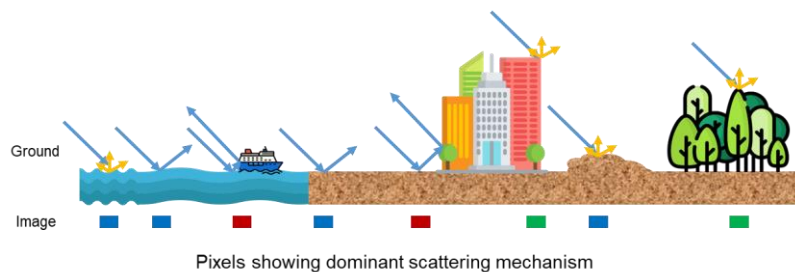


Adapted from EO-college lecture notes <https://eo-college.org/resource-spectrum/radar/>

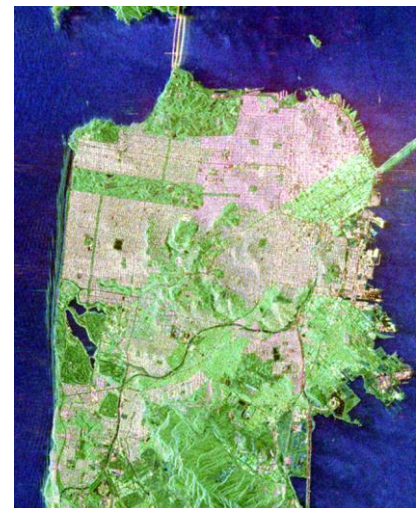
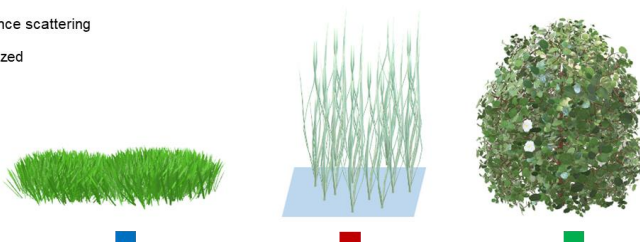


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## Sensitivity to Target Geometry & Polarization



- Odd-bounce scattering
- Double-bounce scattering
- Cross polarized



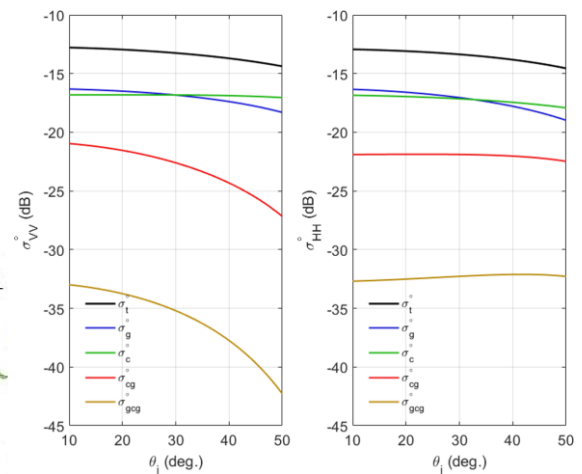
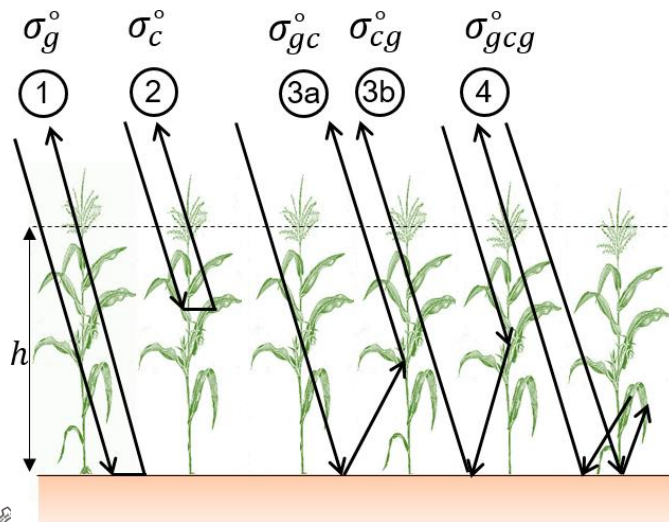
Pauli RGB

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## Dependence of Target Geometry & Polarization

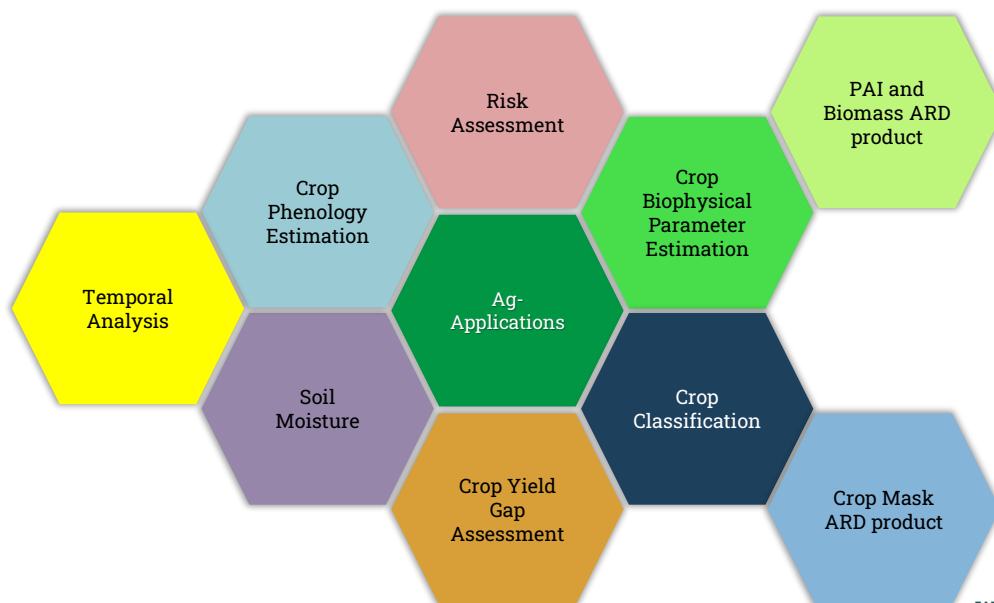
Soil-Vegetation Interaction using a physical model



$$\sigma_{tpq}^\circ = \sigma_{g pq}^\circ + \sigma_{c pq}^\circ + \sigma_{gc pq}^\circ + \sigma_{cg pq}^\circ + \sigma_{gcg pq}^\circ$$

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## Research Components in SAR Agriculture



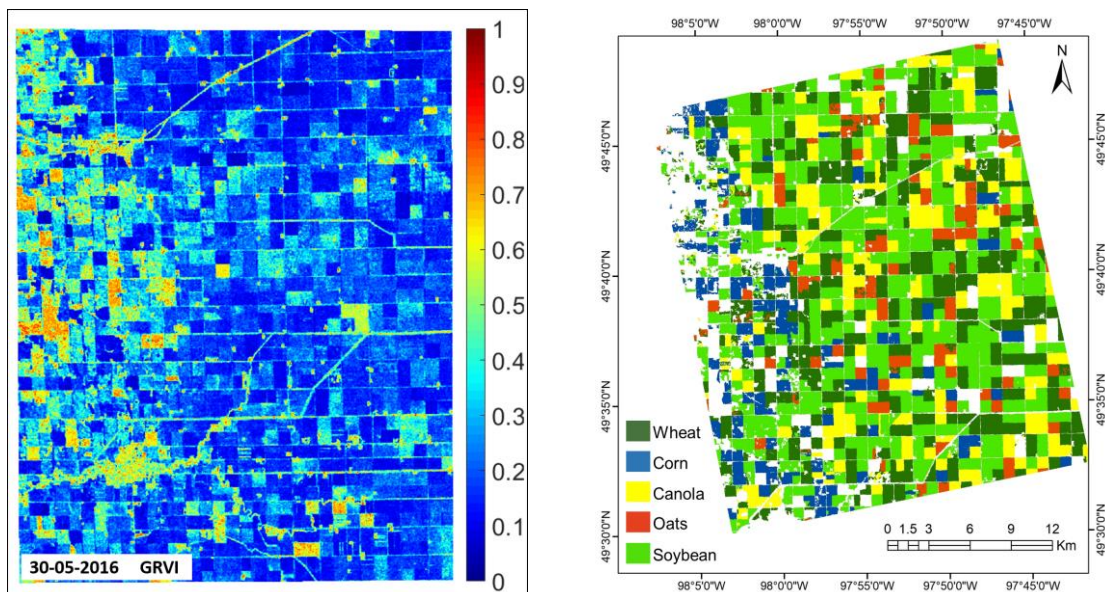
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# Crop Characterization with Full-Pol SAR



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## Radar Vegetation Index: Temporal Variation

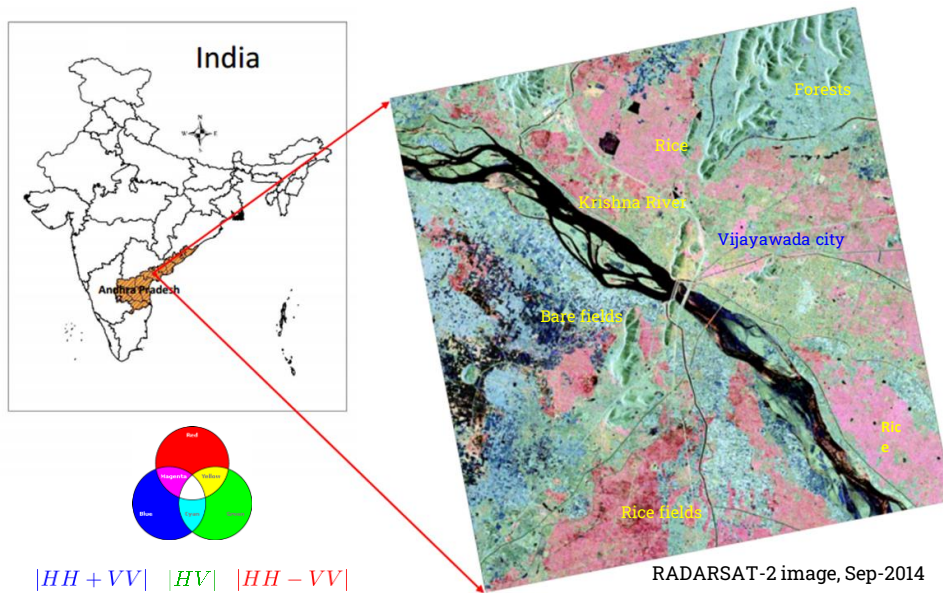


A Generalized Volume Scattering Model Based Vegetation Index from Polarimetric SAR Data,  
D. Ratha, D. Mandal, V. Kumar, H. McNairn, A. Bhattacharya and A. C. Frery, *IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Letters*, 2019

[www.mrslab.in](http://www.mrslab.in)



## Vijayawada, India: SAR Image Visualization

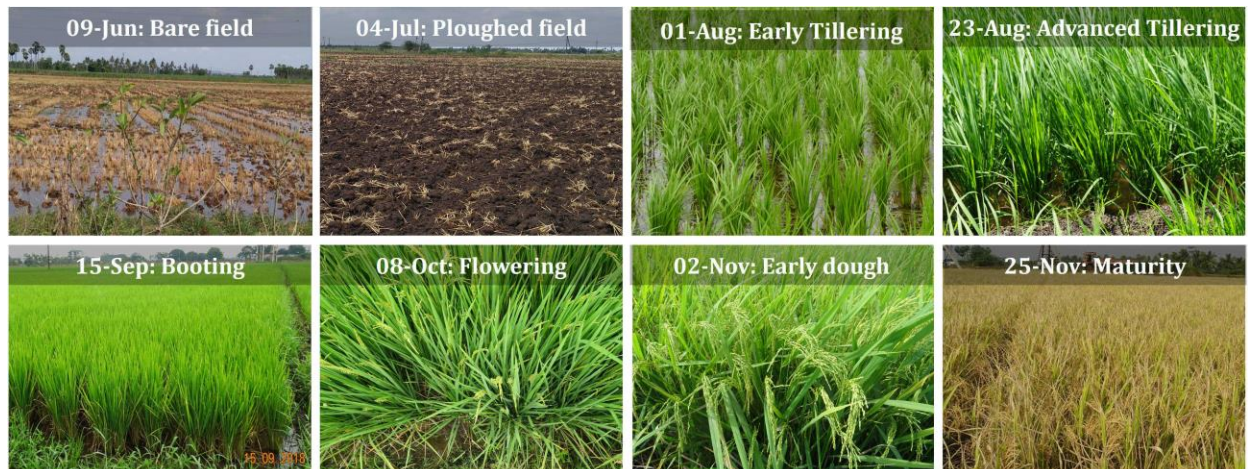


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## Transplanted Rice (TR)



- In traditional farming, rice is primarily grown by **transplanting seedlings into flooded puddled fields**.

- The TR cultivation requires a **high amount of water** (150 cm) for puddling and further maintenance of standing-water conditions

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## Direct Seeded Rice (DSR)

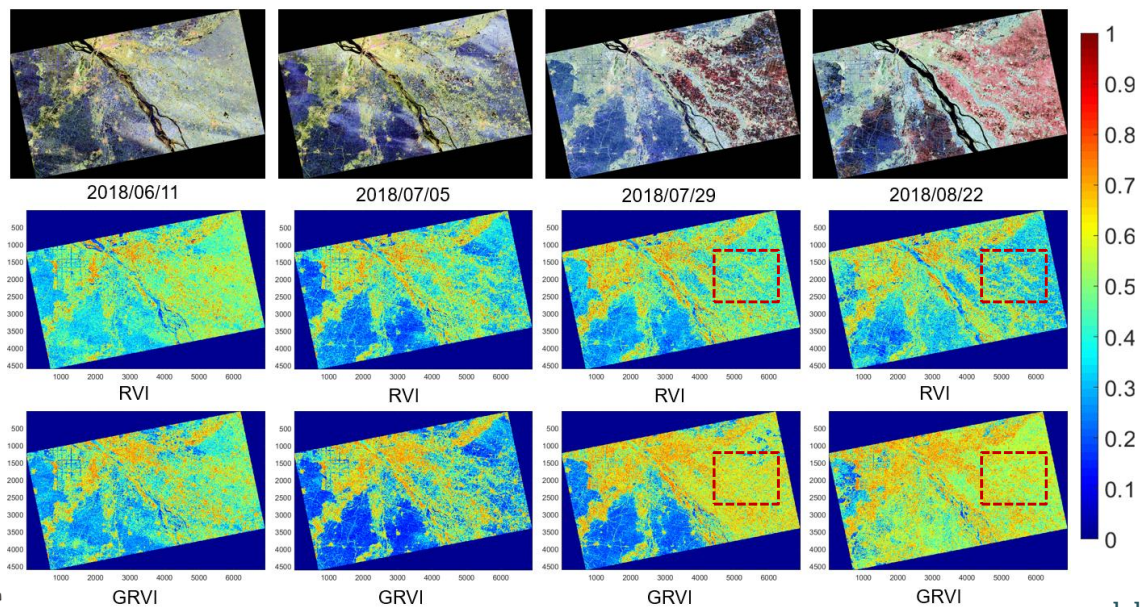


- DSR cultivation includes **alternate wetting and drying** instead of **standing-water condition**.
- The DSR method of cultivation **reduces water consumption** by ~30% by eliminating the nursery raising, puddling, transplanting, and **initial standing-water condition** during early tillering stage [www.mrslab.in](http://www.mrslab.in)



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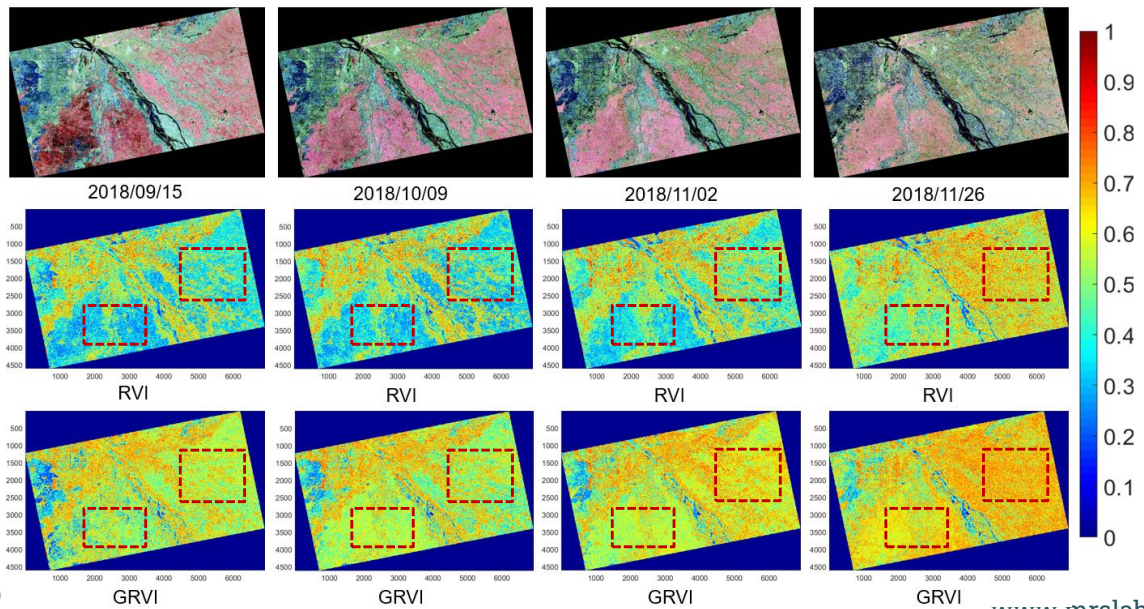
## Vegetation Index: Temporal Variation



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## Vegetation Index: Temporal Variation



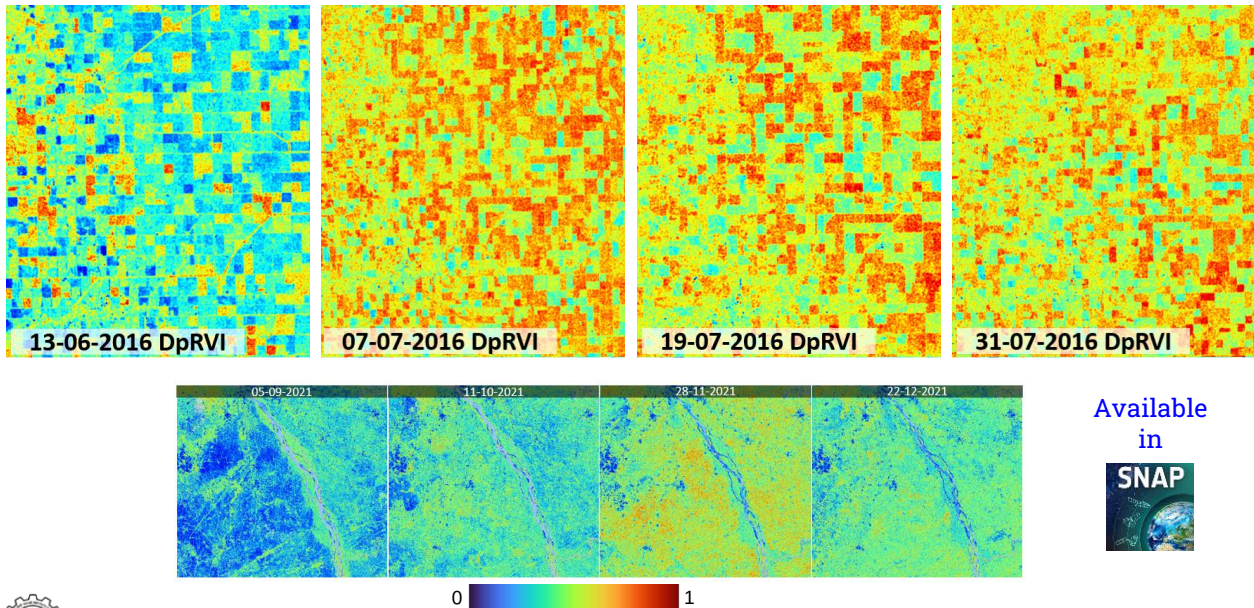
## Crop Characterization with Dual-Pol SAR



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## Dual-pol Vegetation Index: DpRVI (SLC)



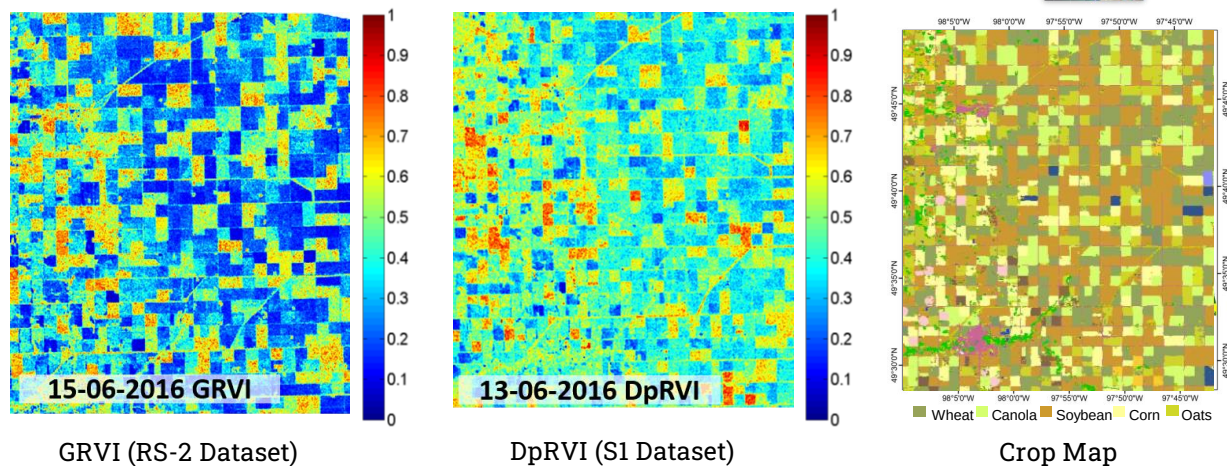
Available  
in



Dual polarimetric radar vegetation index for crop growth monitoring using sentinel-1 SAR data, D. Mandal, V. Kumar, D. Ratha, S. Dey, A. Bhattacharya, J. M. Lopez-Sanchez, H. McNairn, and Y. S. Rao, *Remote Sensing of Environment*, 247 (2020): 111954.

[www.mrslab.in](http://www.mrslab.in)

## Full & Dual Polarimetric Radar Vegetation Indices



A Generalized Volume Scattering Model-Based Vegetation Index From Polarimetric SAR Data,  
D. Ratha, D. Mandal, V. Kumar, H. McNairn, A. Bhattacharya and A. C. Frery, *IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Letters*, vol. 16, no. 11, pp. 1791-1795, 2019



Dual polarimetric radar vegetation index for crop growth monitoring using sentinel-1 SAR data,  
D. Mandal, V. Kumar, D. Ratha, S. Dey, A. Bhattacharya, J. M. Lopez-Sanchez, H. McNairn, Y. S. Rao, *Remote Sensing of Environment*, vol. 247, 2020

[www.mrslab.in](http://www.mrslab.in)

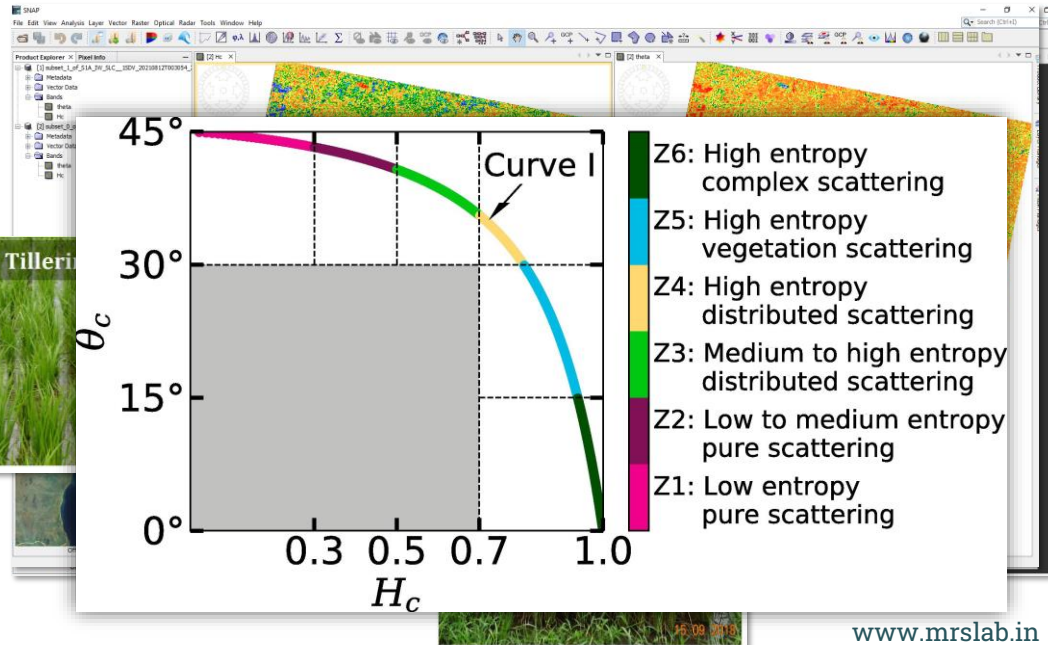


# Crop Phenology Mapping Using Advanced Descriptors II

Sentinel-1  
12 Aug 2021

Sentinel-1  
17 Sep 2021

12-Aug: Early Tillering



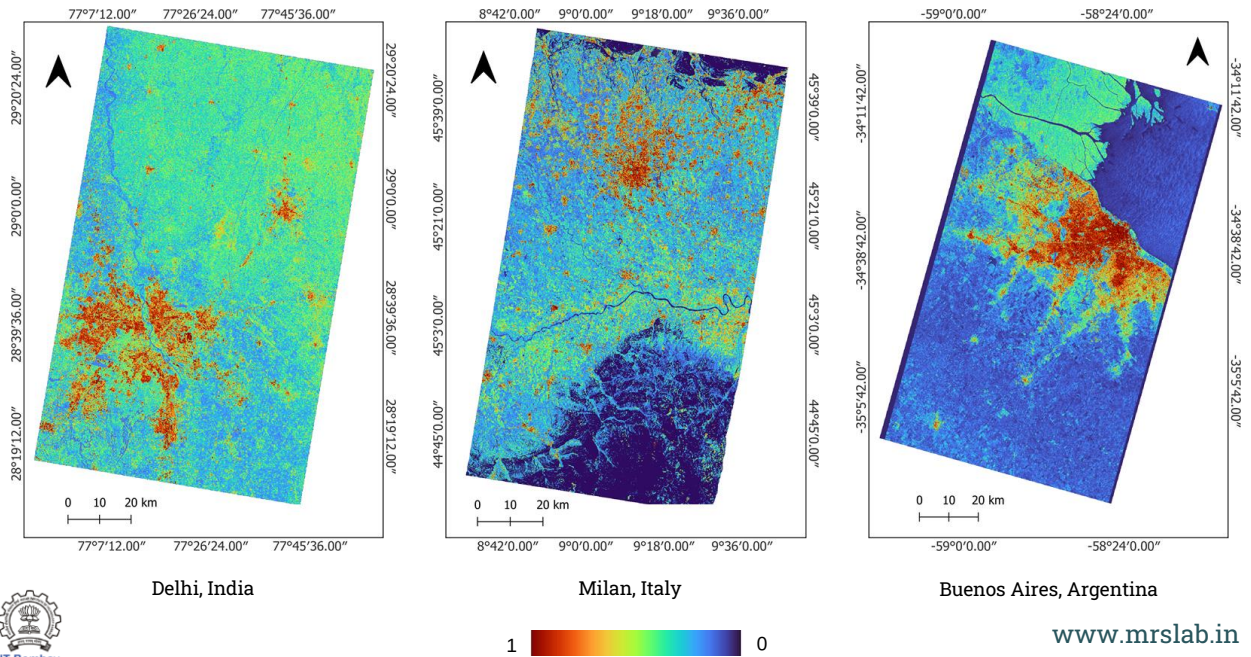
[www.mrslab.in](http://www.mrslab.in)

## Built-up Area Characterization with Dual-Pol SAR

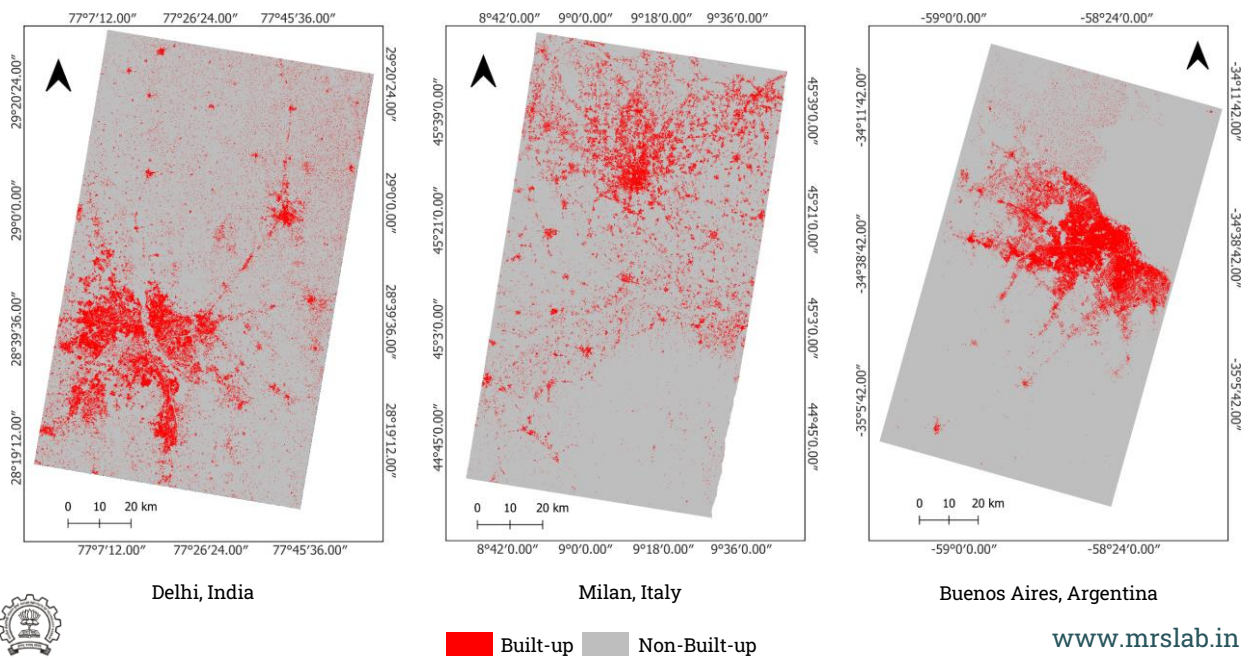


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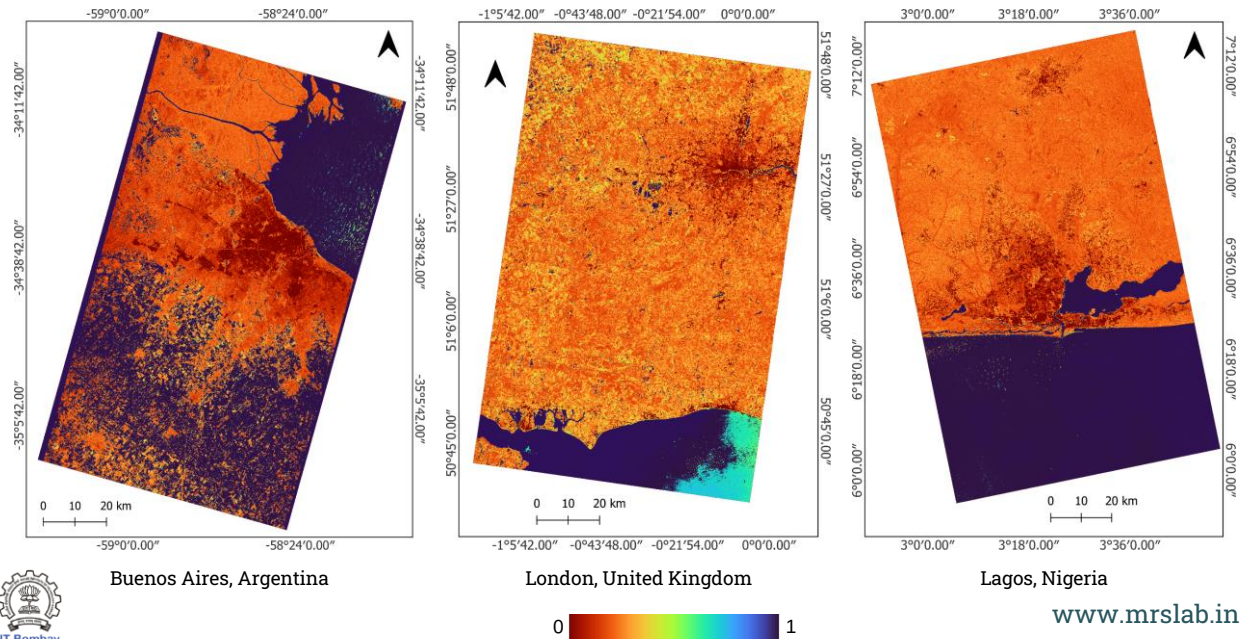
## Dual-pol Radar Built-up Index (DpRBI)



## Built-up map using DpRBI

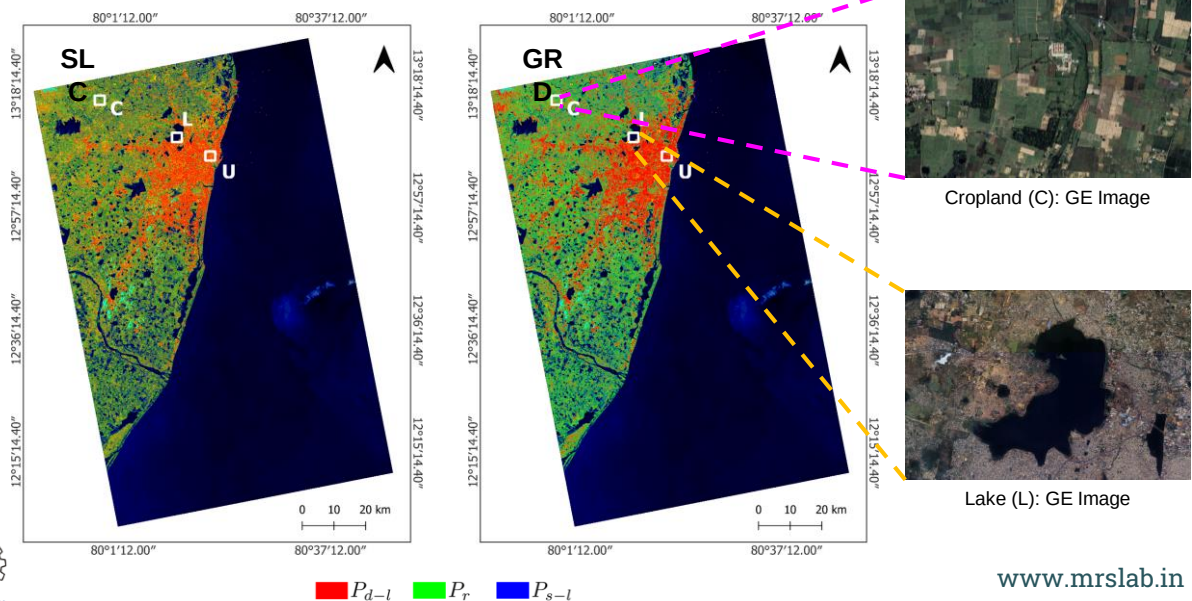


## Dual-pol Radar Surface Index



## Scattering Power Components Over Land Cover

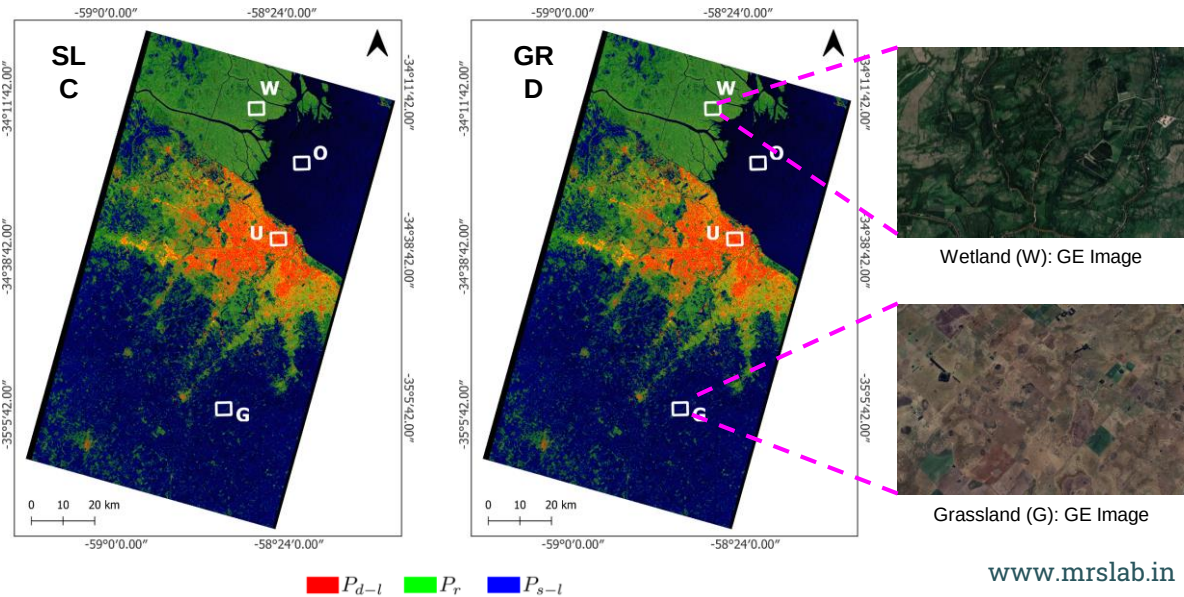
Chennai, India





# Scattering Power Components Over Land Cover

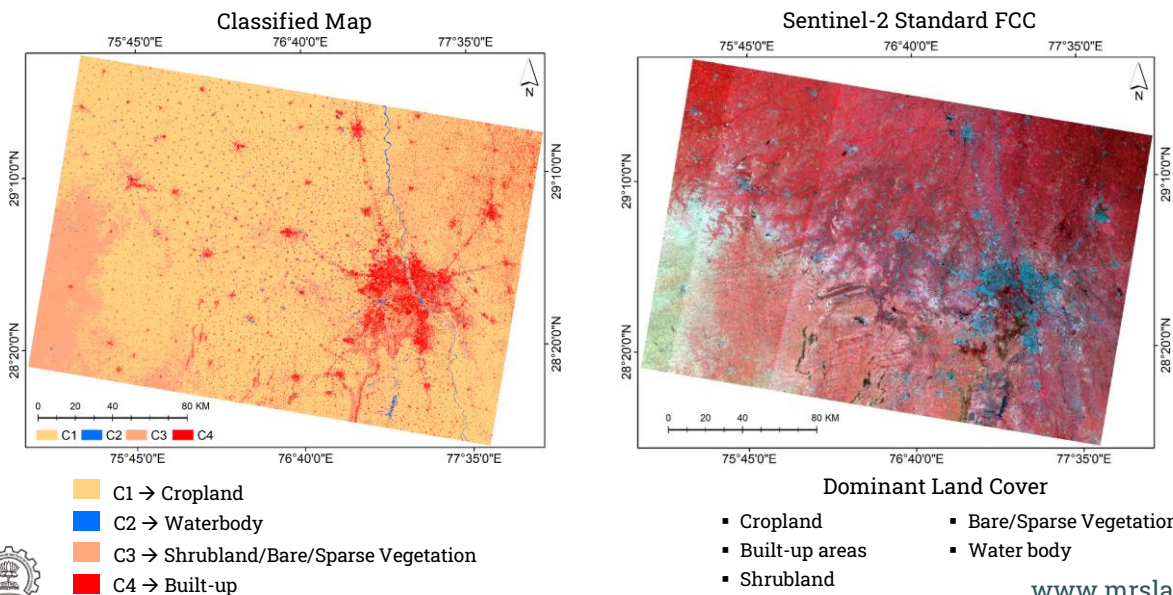
Buenos Aires, Argentina



## A Cloud-Based Clustering Framework for Urban Area Segmentation

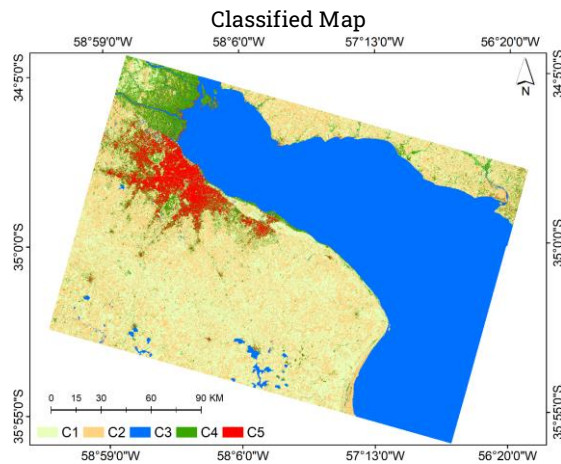
30

Delhi, India



# A Cloud-Based Clustering Framework for Urban Area Segmentation 31

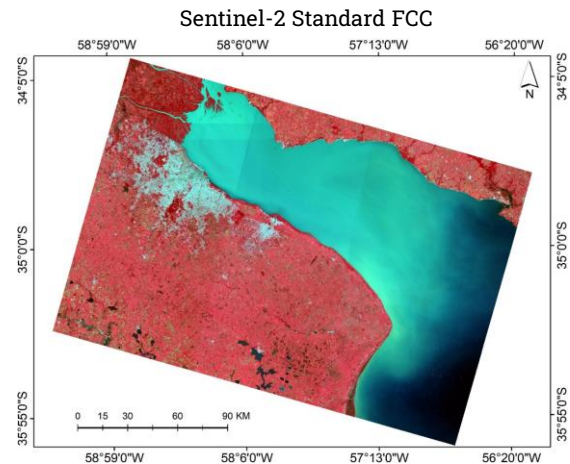
## Buenos Aires, Argentina



- C1 → Grassland
- C2 → Cropland
- C3 → Waterbody
- C4 → Tree Cover (Forest)
- C5 → Built-up

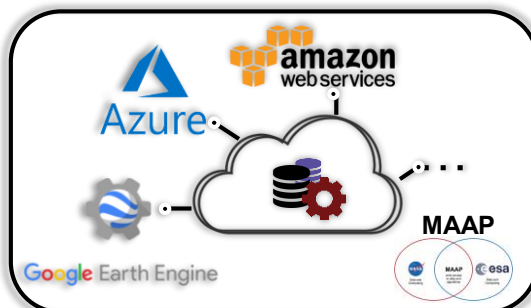
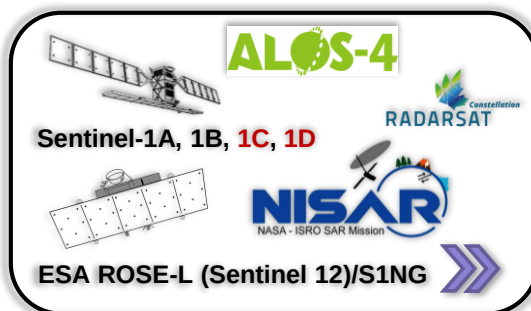


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### Dominant Land Cover

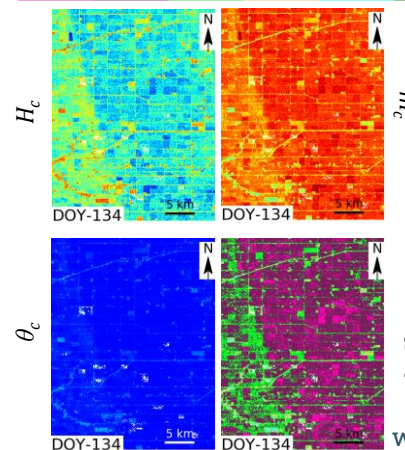
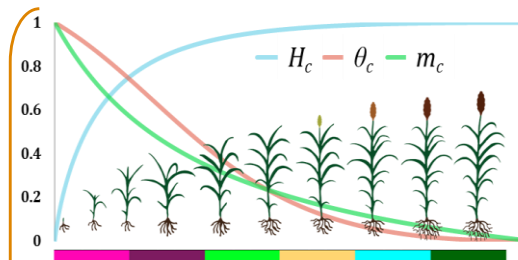
- Waterbody
- Grassland
- Built-up
- Cropland
- Tree Cover (Forest)

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Google Earth Engine App @ MRSLab  
 URL: <https://bnarayanarao.users.earthengine.app/view/dpgdr>



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New Dual-Pol  
GRD Product  
Descriptors

$H_c/\theta_c$  Clusters

[www.mrslab.in](http://www.mrslab.in)

The functionalities are  
now available in  
version 9.0.0

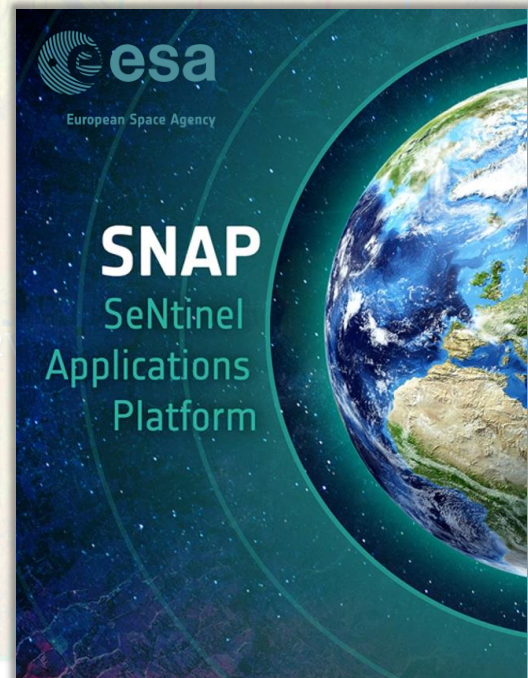
★ Compact RVI (CpRVI) :

A Generalized Volume Scattering Model Based Vegetation Index from Polarimetric SAR Data,  
D. Ratha, D. Mandal, V. Kumar, H. McNairn, A. Bhattacharya, A. C. Frery,  
*IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Letters*, vol. 16, no. 11, pp. 1791-1795, 2019

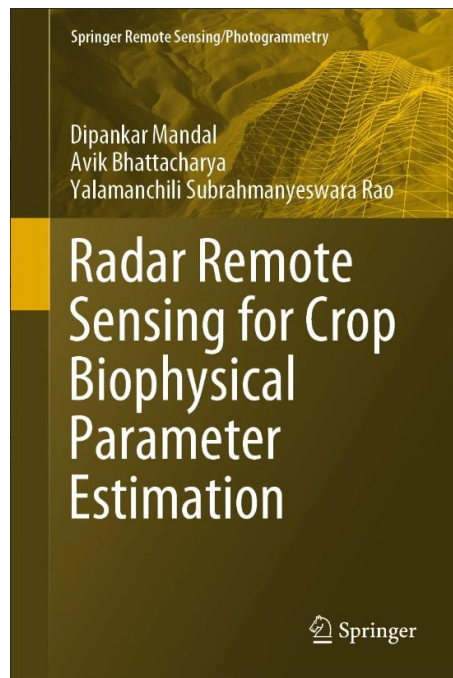
Dual polarimetric radar vegetation index for crop growth monitoring using sentinel-1 SAR data,  
D. Mandal, V. Kumar, D. Ratha, S. Dey, A. Bhattacharya, J. M. Lopez-Sanchez, H. McNairn,  
Y. S. Rao,  
*Remote Sensing of Environment*, vol. 247, 2020

A radar vegetation index for crop monitoring using compact polarimetric SAR data,  
D. Mandal, D. Ratha, A. Bhattacharya, V. Kumar, H. McNairn, Y. S. Rao, A. C. Frery,  
*IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing*, vol. 58, 2020

Dual-polarimetric descriptors from Sentinel-1 GRD SAR data for crop growth assessment,  
N. Bhogapurapu, S. Dey, A. Bhattacharya, D. Mandal, J. M. Lopez-Sanchez, H. McNairn,  
C. López-Martínez, Y. S. Rao,  
*ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing*, vol. 178, 2021



applications



## About this book :

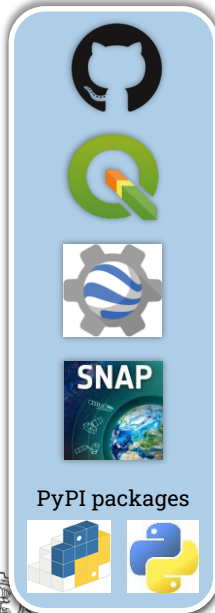
This book presents a timely investigation of :

- Basic Theory of Radar Polarimetry
- Vegetation Models: Empirical and Theoretical Approaches
- Evolution of Semi-empirical Approach: Modeling and Inversion
- Biophysical Parameter Retrieval Using Full- and Dual-Pol SAR Data
- Biophysical Parameter Retrieval Using Compact-Pol SAR Data
- Radar Vegetation Indices for Crop Growth Monitoring

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## Reproducibility and Replicability



The codes are available through this link:

<https://github.com/mrslab-iiitb>

[https://plugins.qgis.org/plugins/polsar\\_tools/](https://plugins.qgis.org/plugins/polsar_tools/)

<https://bnarayanarao.users.earthengine.app/view/dpgrd>

### Vegetation Indices

Generalized Radar Vegetation Index (GRVI)

Dual-pol Radar Vegetation Index (DpRVI)

Compact-pol Radar Vegetation Index (CpRVI)

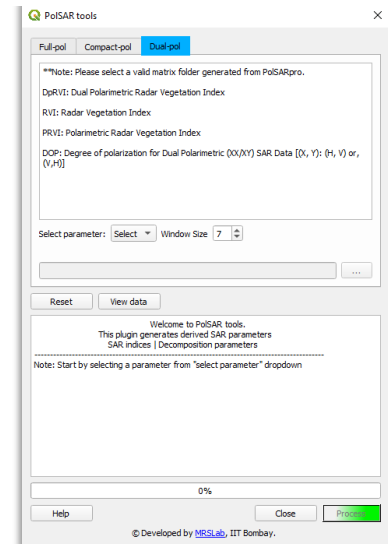
### Model-free (MF#Components) Decomposition Techniques

MF3CF, MF4CF for full-pol SAR data

MF3CC for compact-pol SAR data

MF3CF: <https://pypi.org/project/mf3cf/>

MF3CC: <https://pypi.org/project/mf3cc/>



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## Our Collaborators :

### Research Collaborators:



### Satellite Data Access and Projects:



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