

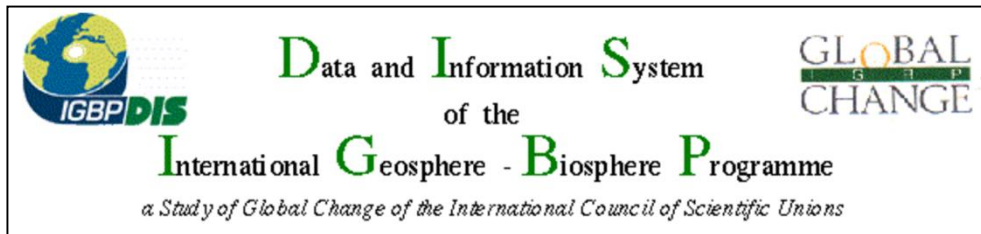
# CEOS/WGCV/LPV 2016 Report

**Miguel Román (NASA GSFC)**  
**Fernando Camacho (EOLAB/CGLS)**  
**Jaime Nickeson (NASA/GSFC)**

40th Plenary of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS)  
Working Group on Calibration and Validation (WGCV)  
March 14-18th, Canberra, Australia

# Brief History of CEOS-WGCV-LPV

- The CEOS Land Product Validation (LPV) subgroup was established as a logical extension of the **International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme Data and Information System (IGBP-DIS)** and the MODIS Land Discipline (**MODLAND**) Team Validation initiatives: <http://landval.gsfc.nasa.gov/index.html>



- LPV arose out of CEOS's recognition that standardized approaches to global product validation were essential for wide acceptance and use of long-term climate data records. A common approach to validation has encouraged widespread use of validation data, helping the Land program move toward standardized approaches for quantifying errors and uncertainties.

# Focus Areas and Co-leaders

\*ECV

Product	North America	EU / China
<b>Snow Cover (T5)*, Sea Ice</b>	Thomas Nagler (ENVEO, Austria / SnowPEX)	Tao Che (Chinese Academy of Sciences)
<b>Surface Radiation</b> (Reflectance, BRDF, Albedo [T8]*)	Crystal Schaaf (UMB, MODIS / VIIRS / Landsat)	Alessio Lattanzio (EUMETSAT)
<b>Land Cover (T9)* (GOFC)</b>	Pontus Olofsson (Boston University / CMS)	Martin Herold (Wageningen University, NL)
<b>FAPAR (T10)*</b>	Arturo Sanchez-Azofeifa (University of Alberta / FLUXNET)	Nadine Gobron (JRC, IT)
<b>Leaf Area Index (T11)*</b>	Oliver Sonnentag (U. Montreal / ABoVE, FLUXNET)	Stephen Plummer (Harwell, UK)
<b>Fire (T13)* (GOFC)</b> (Active Fire, Burned Area)	Luigi Boschetti (U. Idaho. MODIS / VIIRS / LCLUC)	Kevin Tansey (University of Leicester, UK)
<b>Land Surface Temperature</b> (LST and Emissivity)	Simon Hook (JPL, ASTER / MODIS / VIIRS HyspIRI / ECOSTRESS)	Jose Sobrino (University of Valencia, SP)
<b>Soil Moisture*</b>	Tom Jackson (USDA ARS / SMAP)	Wolfgang Wagner (Vienna Univ of Technology, AT)
<b>Land Surface Phenology</b>	Matt Jones (OSU, NCA-USGCRP)	Jadu Dash (University of Southampton, UK)

# Relaying Validation Results to our Users

LPV Web Site  
16 years and  
running..

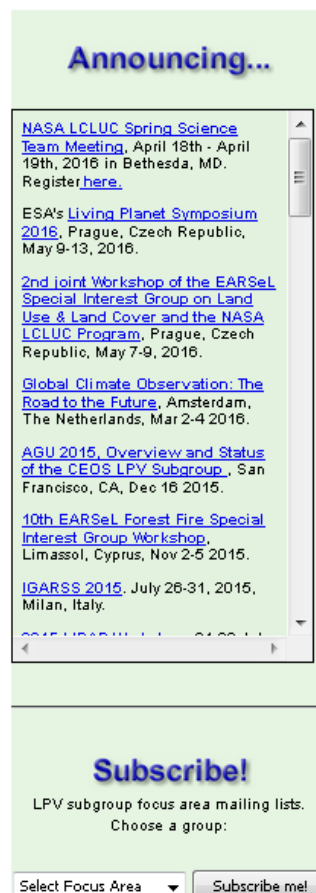
Established in 2000

Subscribed member list  
has grown *to nearly 700 members*.

~600 web hits per month.

Each focus area (ECV)  
has pull down menu of  
links to

- Home page
- References
- Collaboration
- Products



CEOS Working Group on Calibration and Validation

## Land Product Validation Subgroup

The mission of the CEOS Land Product Validation (LPV) subgroup is to coordinate the quantitative validation of satellite-derived products. The focus lies on standardized intercomparison and validation across products from different satellite, algorithms, and agency sources.

The sub-group consists of 9 Focus Areas, with 2 co-leads responsible for each land surface variable (essential climate and biodiversity variables).

Validation Stage - Definition and Current State		Variable
1	Product accuracy is assessed from a small (typically < 30) set of locations and time periods by comparison with in-situ or other suitable reference data.	Fapar Snow Cover Phenology LST & Emissivity Fire Radiative Power
2	Product accuracy is estimated over a significant set of locations and time periods by comparison with reference in situ or other suitable reference data. Spatial and temporal consistency of the product and consistency with similar products has been evaluated over globally representative locations and time periods. Results are published in the peer-reviewed literature.	Leaf Area Index Burned Area
3	Uncertainties in the product and its associated structure are well quantified from comparison with reference in situ or other suitable reference data. Uncertainties are characterized in a statistically rigorous way over multiple locations and time periods representing global conditions. Spatial and temporal consistency of the product and with similar products has been evaluated over globally representative locations and periods. Results are published in the peer-reviewed literature.	Land Cover Albedo Soil Moisture
4	Validation results for stage 3 are systematically updated when new product versions are released and as the time-series expands.	

### Validation Framework

To reach validation stage 4, LPV has developed a framework for product intercomparison and validation. This network is based on a citable protocol,

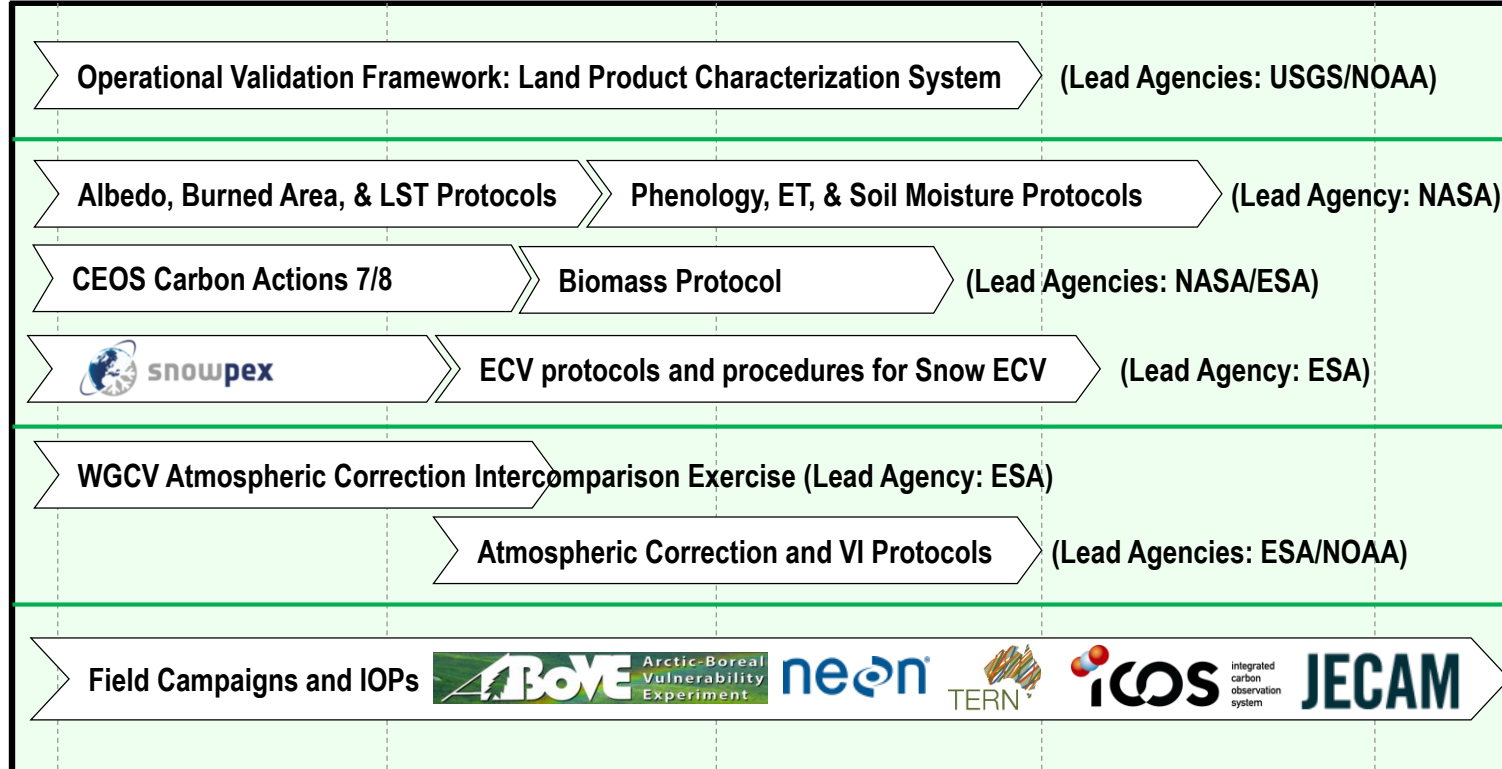


<http://lpvs.gsfc.nasa.gov>



# CEOS-LPV 5-Year Roadmap

<2016      2017      2018      2019      >2020



## Vision

All missions support validation & validation is on-going

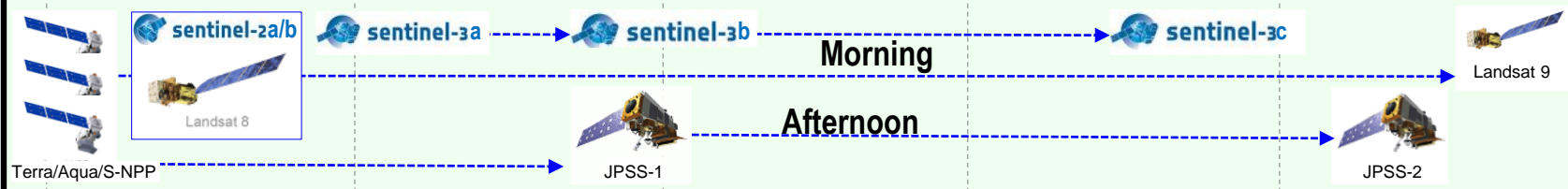
Uncertainty information determined through standard practices & protocols

Algorithms are iteratively improved based on validation results

## New Missions



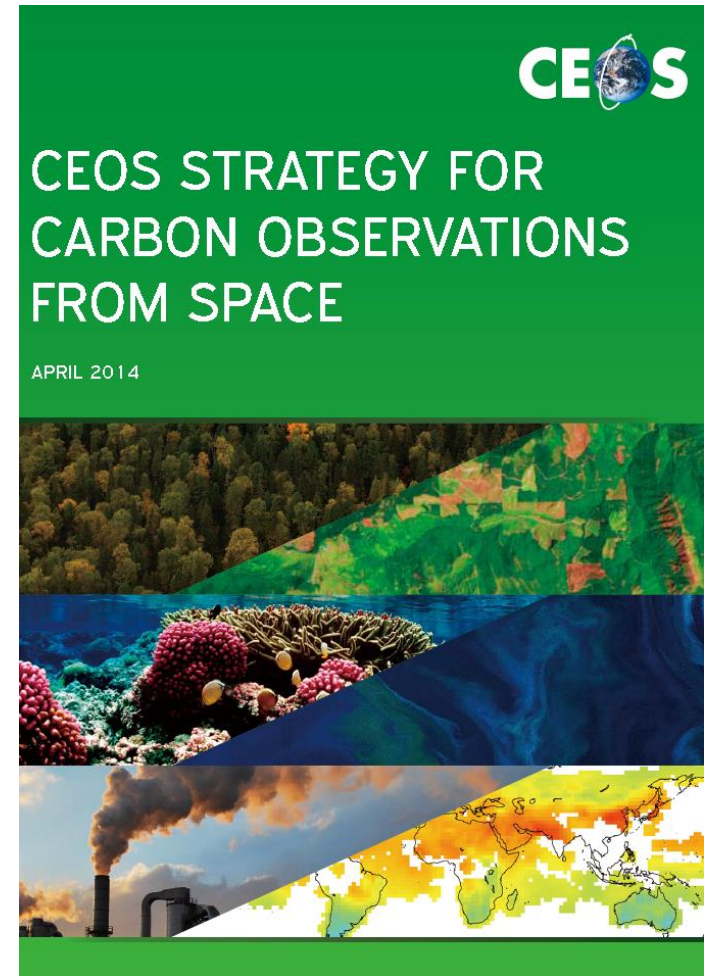
## Sustained Missions



# LPV Biomass Subgroup

CEOS member agencies have called for the establishment of a 'Biomass ECV' subgroup:

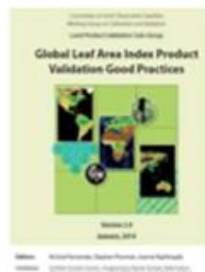
- **Carbon Action 7:** "Improve and expand upon the availability of the *in-situ observations needed for the calibration and validation of satellite land data products used for carbon science*".
- **Carbon Action 8:** "The *CEOS WGCV's Land Product Validation (LPV) Subgroup* will continue its work to validate satellite land data products and *expand the number of land variables addressed* as priorities are identified and available resources permit, and where no other body takes responsibility (e.g., GOFC-GOLD).



Lead Coordinating  
Agency: NASA

# A Land Validation Framework

## Validation Good Practice Document



Fernandes et al., (2014). Global LAI Product Validation Good Practices.  
[doi:10.5067/doc/ceoswgcvi/lpv/lai.002](https://doi.org/10.5067/doc/ceoswgcvi/lpv/lai.002)

Lead Agency:  
NASA

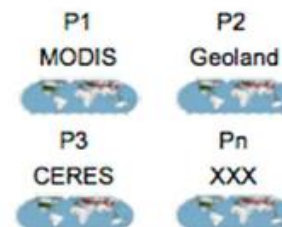
## Fiducial Reference Data Sets



Example of fiducial reference data for soil moisture.

Lead Agencies: Various

## Global Satellite Product Subsets



Subsets over fiducial reference data sites for each product automatically delivered.

Lead Agencies:  
USGS/NOAA

## Online Validation Tool

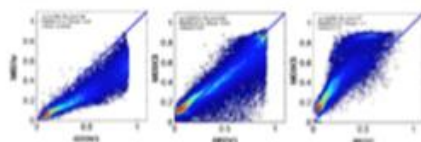


Example of OLIVE validation tool for LAI and FAPAR [3].

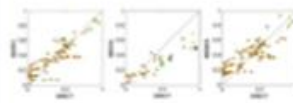
Lead Agency: ESA

Lead Agency: ESA

## Standardized Intercomparison Report



## Standardized Validation Report

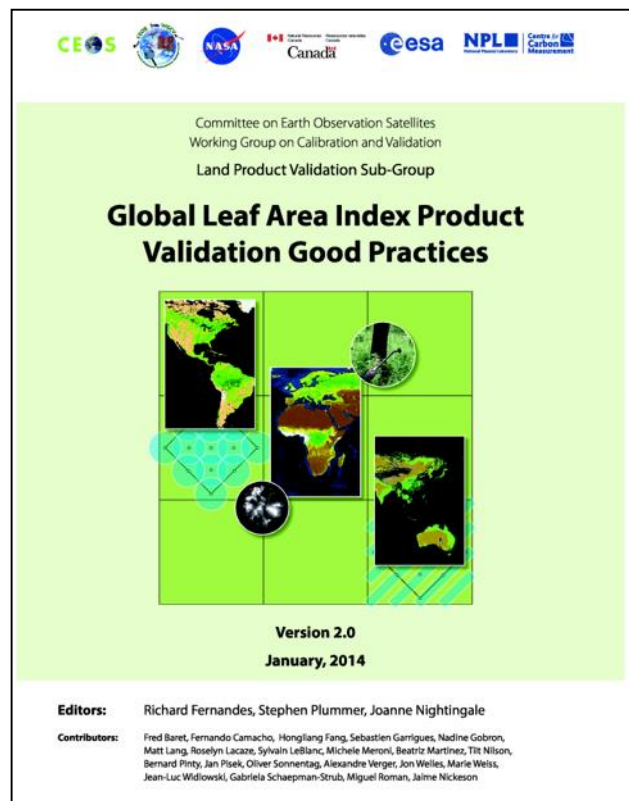


FAPAR	GEOS-1				MODIS			
	Chlorophyll	Background	Chlorophyll	Background	Chlorophyll	Background	Chlorophyll	Background
RMSE	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12
RMSE	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12
RMSE	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12
RMSE	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12

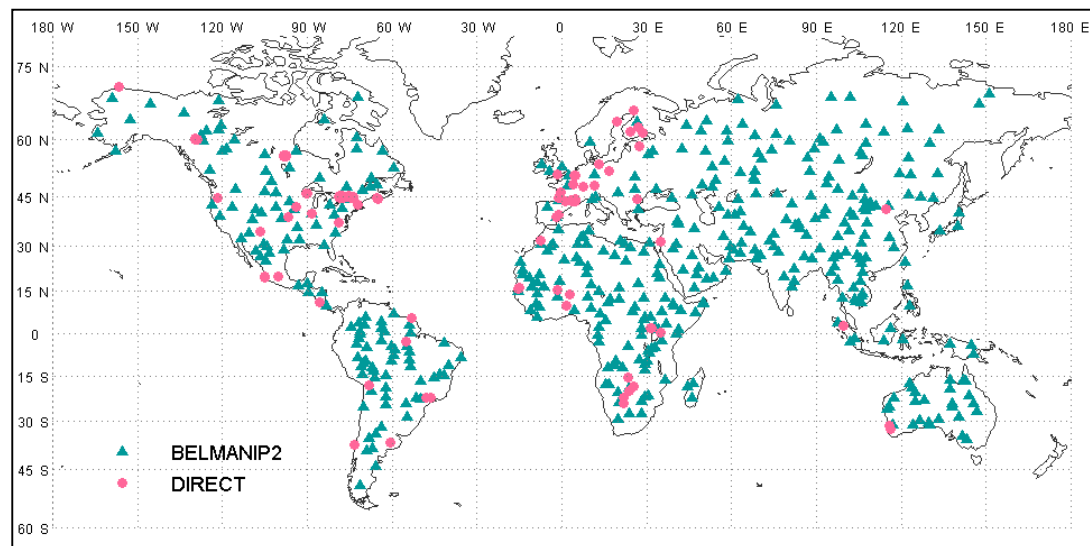
# **CEOS Agency Contributions to LPV & Science Highlights**



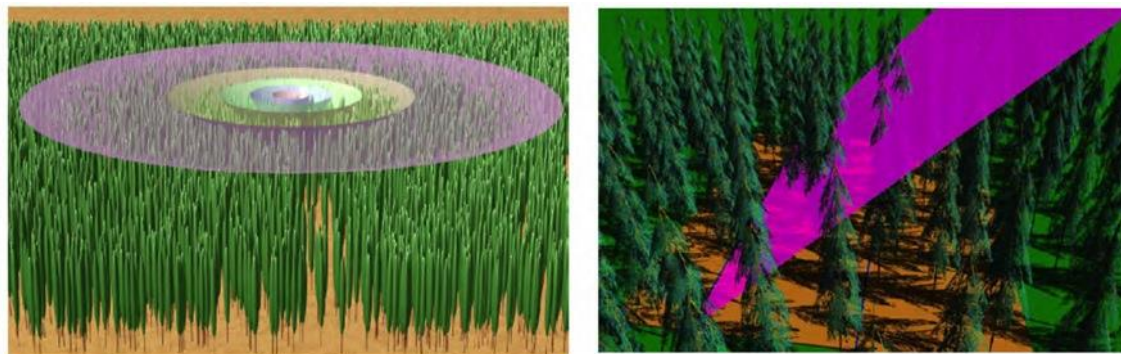
# Global Leaf Area Index Product Validation Good Practices



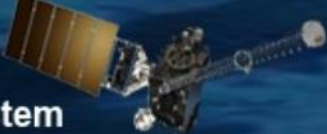
**Figure 1:** Global Leaf Area Index (LAI) Good Practices



**Figure 2:** Location of reference LAI sites available for direct validation and inter-comparison studies.



**Figure 3:** Depiction of spatial footprint of a LAI-2000 instrument as a function of zenithal view ring (left) and the TRAC instrument (right) for a given solar illumination condition.



## NOAA/USGS Land Product Characterization System

A web-based system that is designed to use moderate- to high-resolution satellite data for the characterization and validation of CEOS-endorsed time series products, including GOES-R ABI, Landsat-8/Sentinel-2, and the Land Science products from MODIS and VIIRS.

The LPCS includes:

- data inventory
- access and
- analysis functions

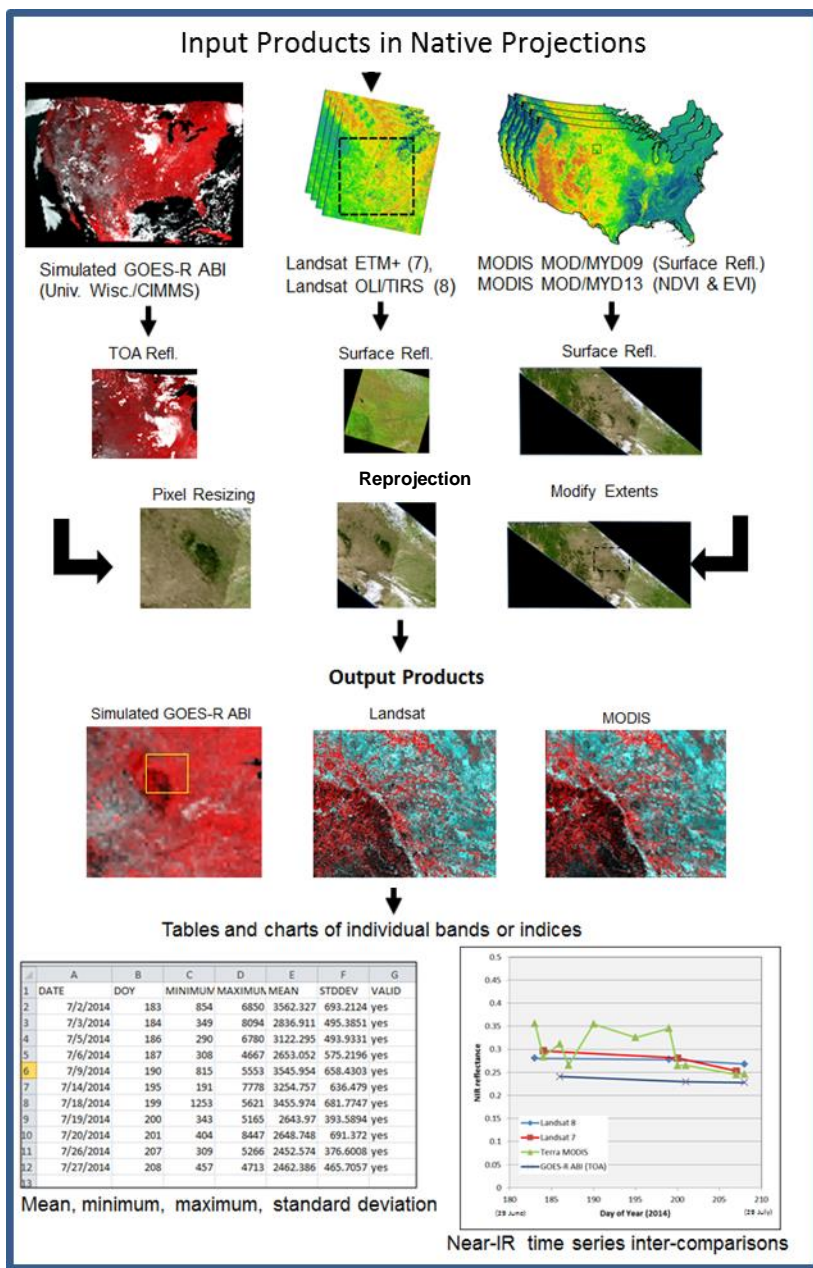
that will permit selection of data to be easily identified, retrieved, co-registered, and compared statistically through a single interface.

**Kevin Gallo: NOAA/NESDIS/STAR**

**John Dwyer: USGS/EROS**

**Greg Stensaas: USGS/EROS**

**Ryan Longhenry: USGS/EROS**



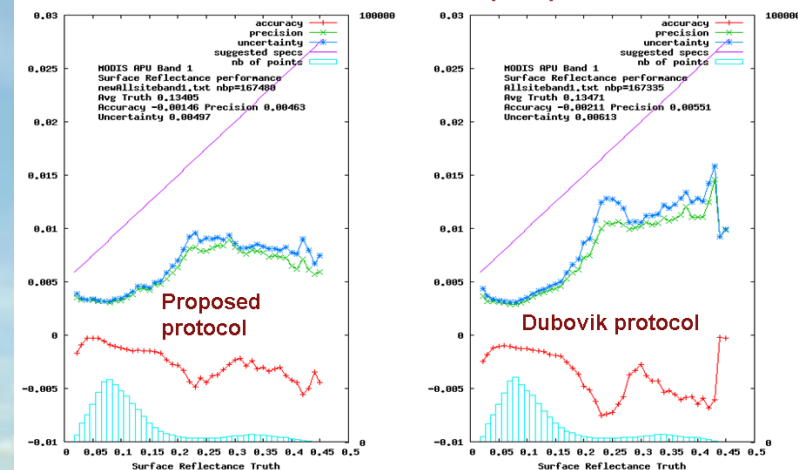


# CEOS-WGCV Atmospheric Correction Intercomparison Exercise

**The Problem:** A standard land surface reflectance protocol for using reference AERONET products needs to be agreed on by the CEOS Land member agencies.

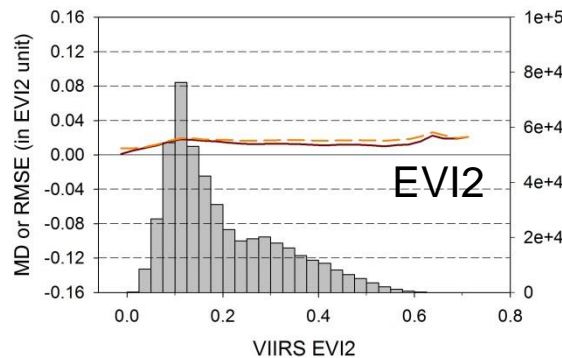
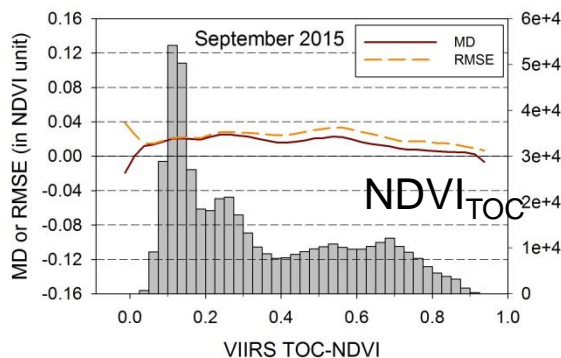
**The Solution:** A validation protocol for Land surface reflectance climate data records that requires the aerosol model for each AERONET site to be readily available.

APU for MODIS band 1 (red): YR 2003



# Vegetation Index Product Intercomparison (Lead: Tomoaki Miura)

**Goal:** To evaluate the radiometric compatibility and long-term stability of Suomi NPP VIIRS and Aqua MODIS Normalized Difference VI (NDVI) (both TOA and TOC), Enhanced VI (EVI), and Two-band Enhanced VI (EVI2).

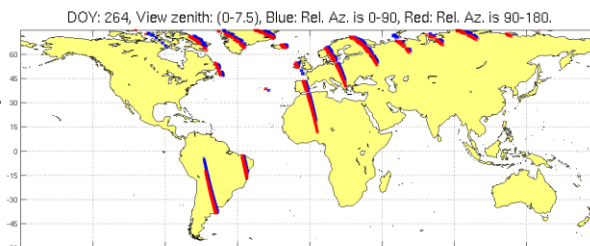
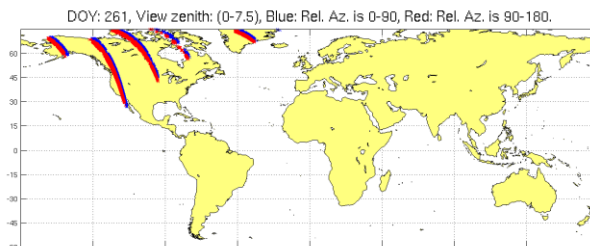
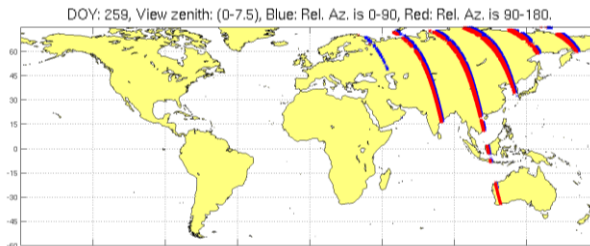


**Mean Difference (MD) and RMSE over Dynamic Range for Sep. 2015**

Vegetation Index	MD	RMSE
NDVI <sub>TOA</sub>	0.018	0.021
NDVI <sub>TOC</sub>	0.019	0.024
EVI	0.022	0.024
EVI2	0.015	0.017

**Difference Summary for Sep. 2015**

MODIS-VIIRS overlapping orbital tracks  
(Red = forward scattering geometry; Blue = backward scattering geometry)



(Vargas et al., 2013)

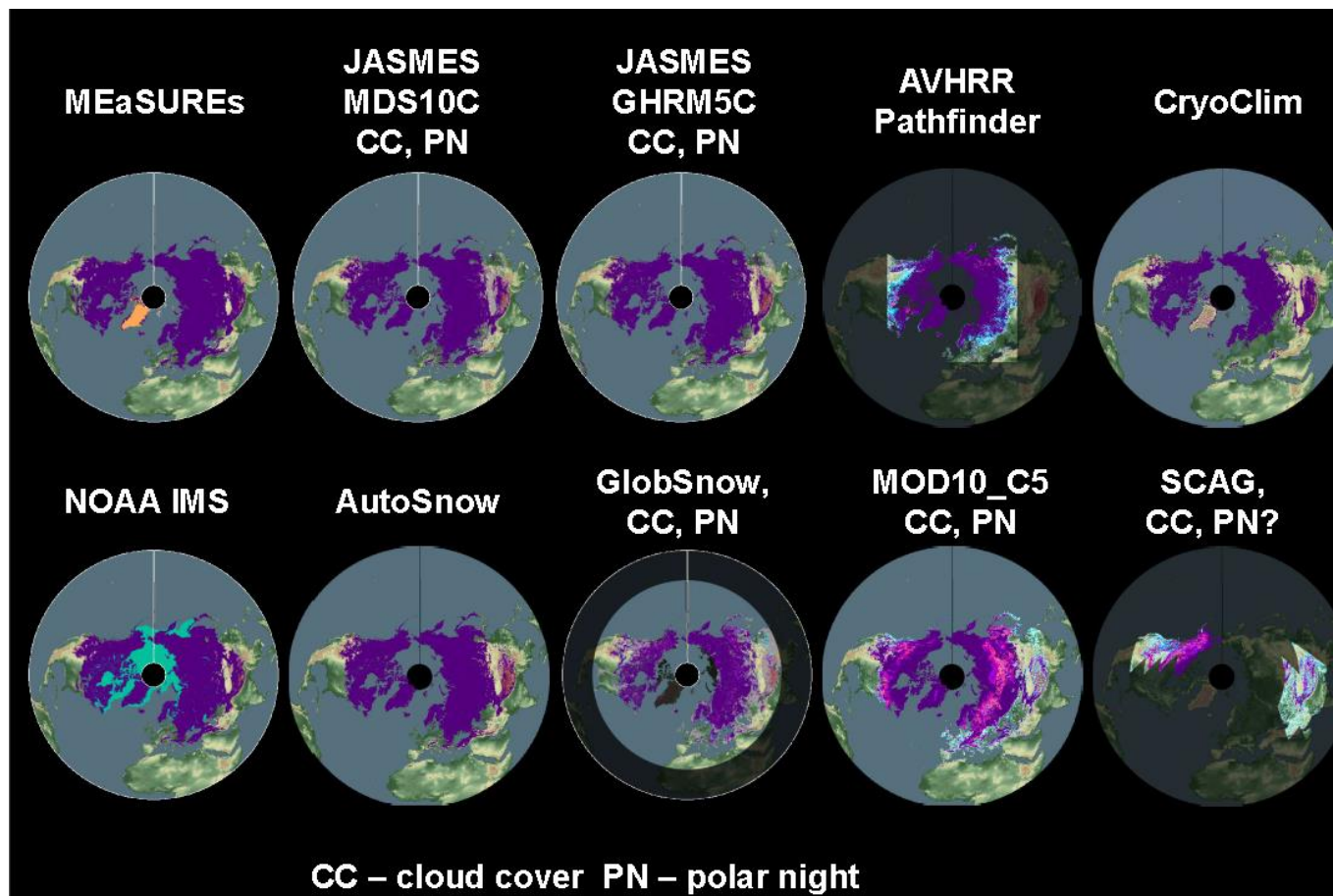


UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII  
MĀNOA





# Satellite Snow Product Intercomparison

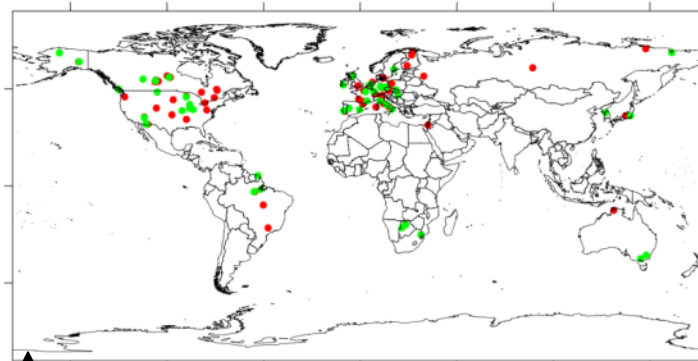


**Major Outcomes:** (1) agreed protocols and procedures for validation and intercomparison of snow products. (2) agreed reference data sets and approaches for analyzing temporal trends; (3) agreed framework for reporting results (i.e., website, peer-review.)

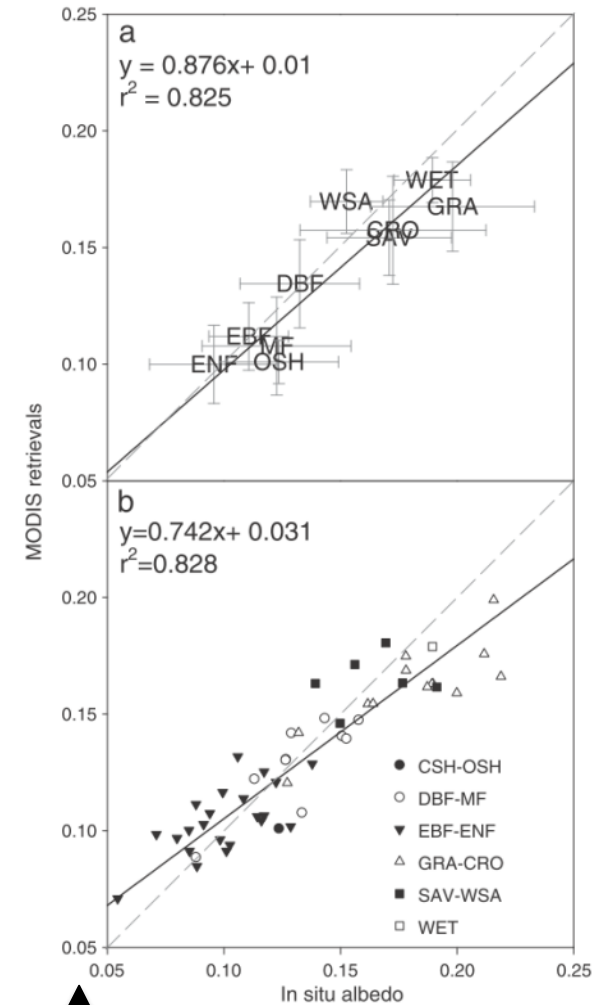
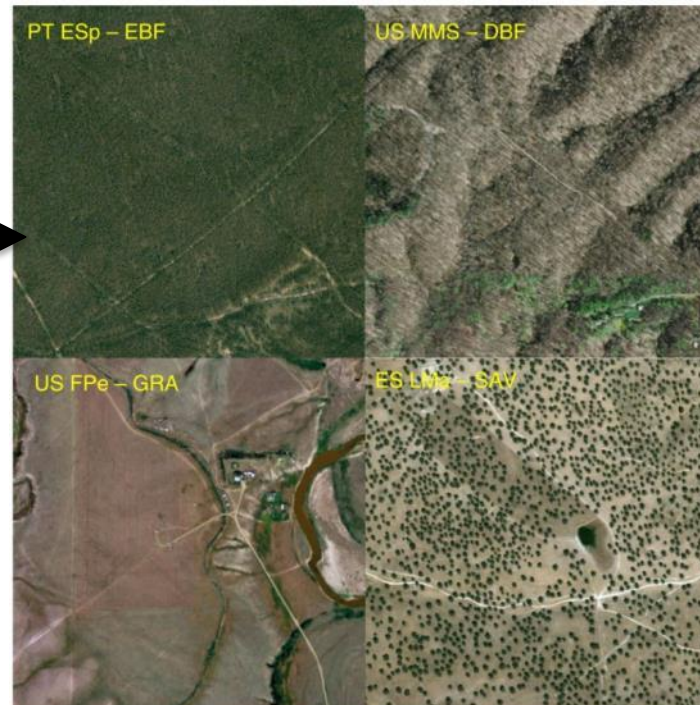
# Intercomparison of MODIS Albedo Retrievals and In-Situ Measurements across the Global FLUXNET Network

- The LaThuile FLUXNET Synthesis Dataset has offered an unprecedented opportunity to select sites according to their spatial representativeness across a wide range of plant functional types (PFTs) and geographical areas.

**Figure 2:** Classification of four FLUXNET sites according to their spatial representativeness at the resolution of MODIS satellite imagery (~1 km<sup>2</sup>).



**Figure 1:** Spatial distribution of the 120 FLUXNET sites for which albedo measurements are available.



**Figure 3:** MODIS albedo retrievals vs. in-situ observations grouped by plant functional types (PFTs) (a), and by individual sites classified by PFT (b).





# Remote Sensing of Environment

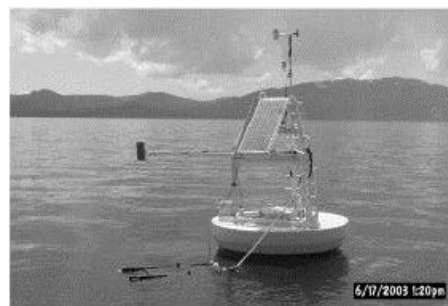
Volume 154, November 2014, Pages 19–37



## Validation of Land Surface Temperature products derived from the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) using ground-based and heritage satellite measurements

Pierre C. Guillevic<sup>a</sup>, , , James C. Biard<sup>b, c</sup>, Glynn C. Hulley<sup>a</sup>, Jeffrey L. Privette<sup>c</sup>, Simon J. Hook<sup>a</sup>, Albert Olioso<sup>d</sup>, Frank M. Göttsche<sup>e</sup>, Robert Radocinski<sup>a</sup>, Miguel O. Román<sup>f</sup>, Yunyue Yu<sup>g</sup>, Ivan Csiszar<sup>g</sup>

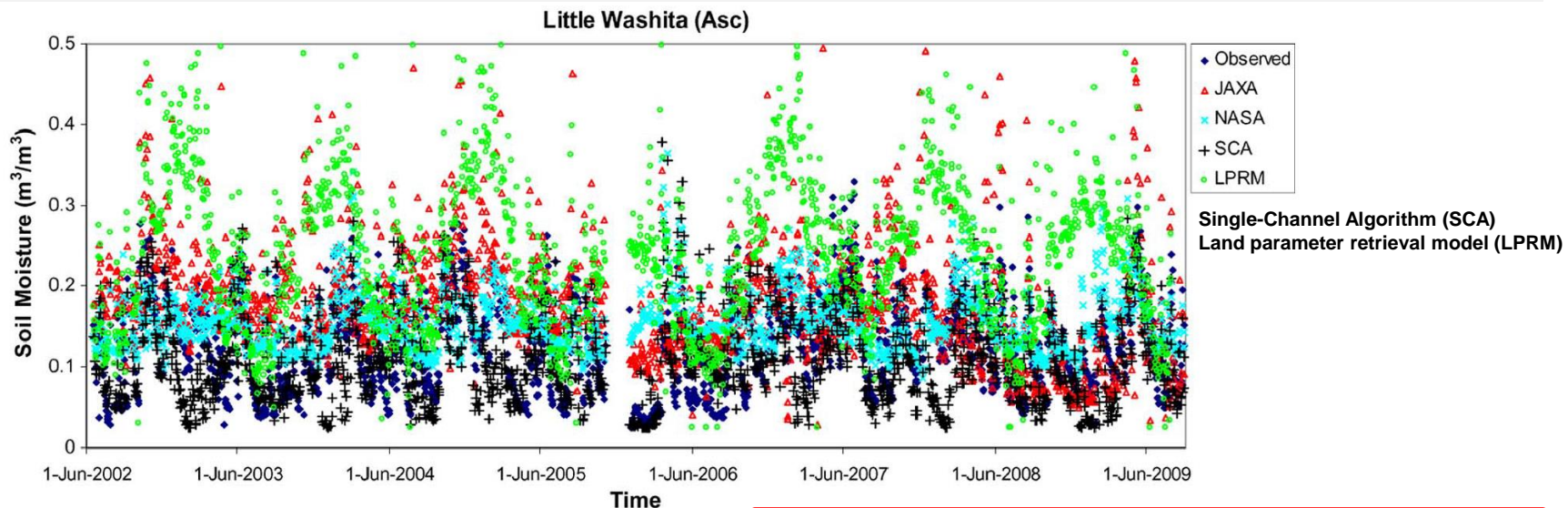
- V1 LST Protocol Published!
- Uses VIIRS as case study
- Interagency Collaboration has been key to LST Focus Area team's success.



National Centers for  
Environmental  
Information



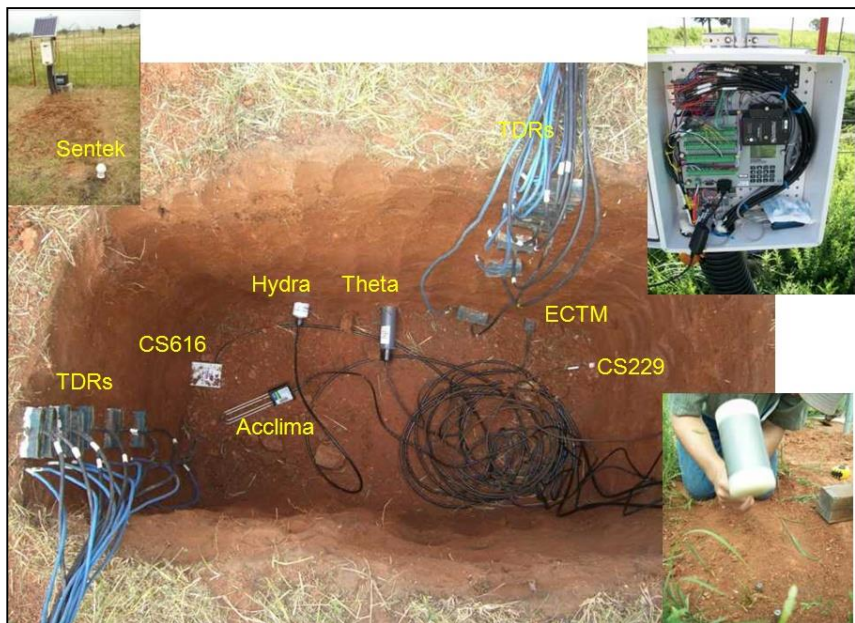
# SMAP In Situ Soil Moisture Testbed (Oklahoma)



***Jackson et al., (TGRS)***

**IEEE-GRSS Highest Impact Paper Award**

- In order to conduct an efficient validation program we need observations that are calibrated and referenced to the same standard.
- Validation activities show when there is room for improvement in the standard (NASA/JAXA) products, and the potential pitfalls in using the products without a careful evaluation.
- **Announcement: 3<sup>rd</sup> Satellite Soil Moisture Validation & Application Workshop, 21-22 September 2016.**

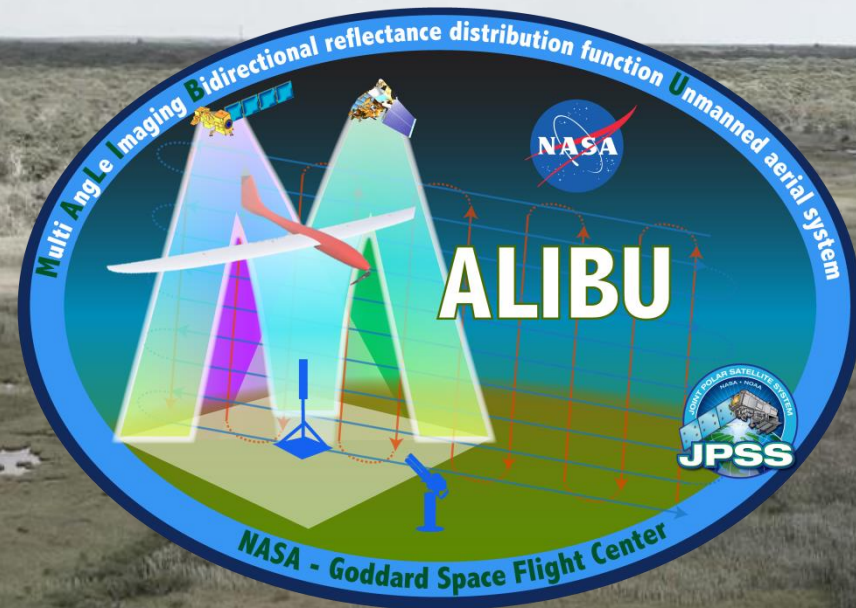


Lead: Tom Jackson (USDA/SMAP)



WGCV36 Action Items	Assigned to:	Due Date	Status
WGCV-36-1: LPV to address the specification of the requirements for a worldwide network of land surface spectral directional measurements for validation of spaceborne retrievals.	LPV	WGCV 37	Closed

# MALIBU (Multi Angle Imaging Bidirectional Reflectance Distribution Function sUAS)

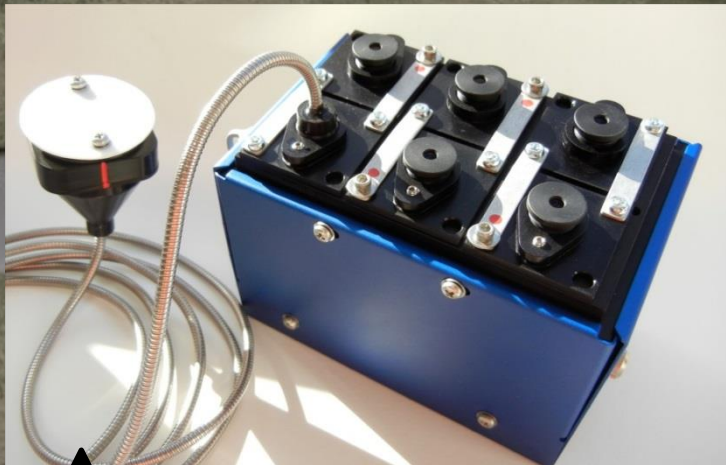


**What is MALIBU:** The first semi-autonomous sUAS platform at NASA/GSFC with a full blanket exemption to conduct operations across the US (FAA-Section 333 ) and Canada (TCAN).

**Driver / Need:** Multi-angular reference datasets for the assessment of terrestrial essential climate variables (ECVs), including: satellite-derived spectral/broadband BRF, BRDF, albedo, VI, PRI, LAI/fAPAR, snow cover, and phenology metrics.

## Benefits:

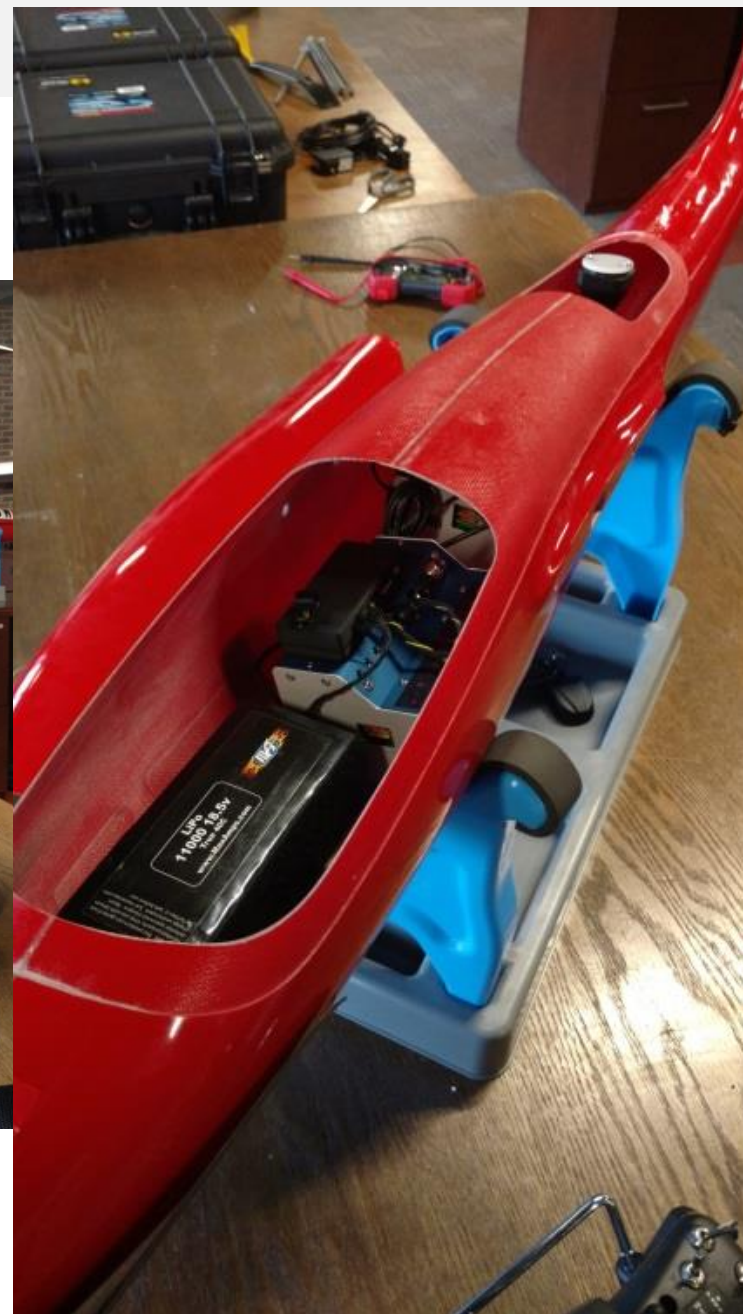
- Follows a “federated approach” for instrument calibration, data processing, and product evaluation.
- Data collection at a fraction of the costs of heritage airborne platforms (~\$100 x flight hour).
- Calibration and quality-assurance builds on CEOS-RADCALNET and LPV validation protocols.



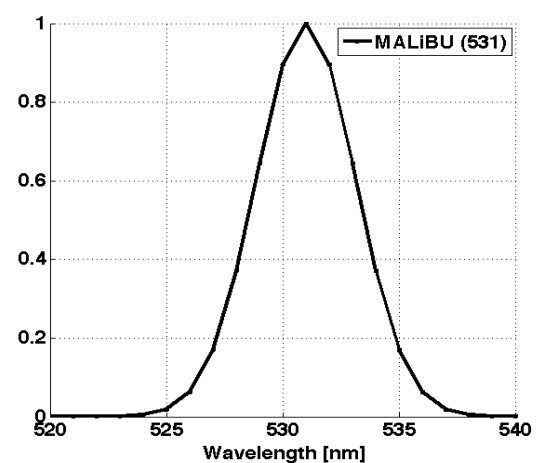
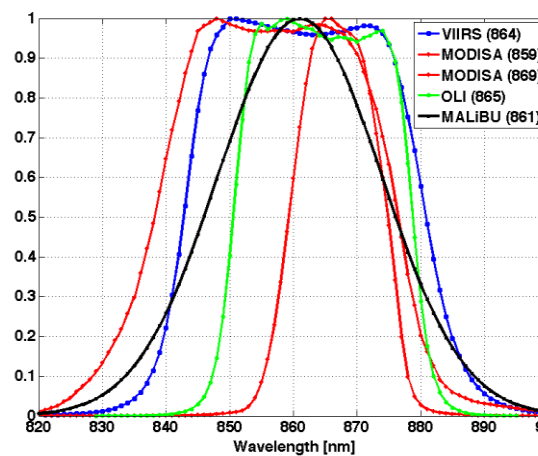
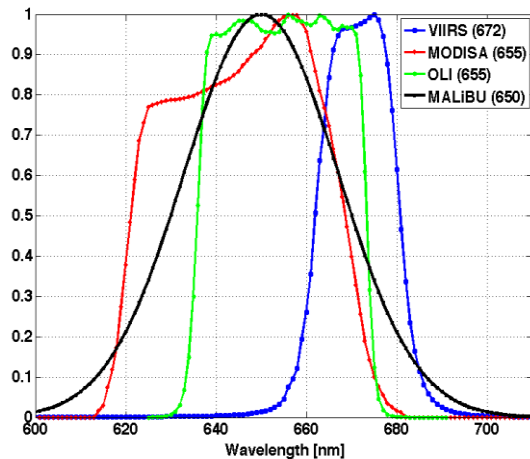
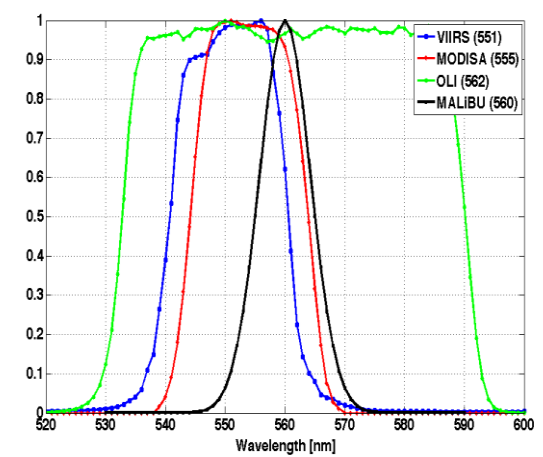
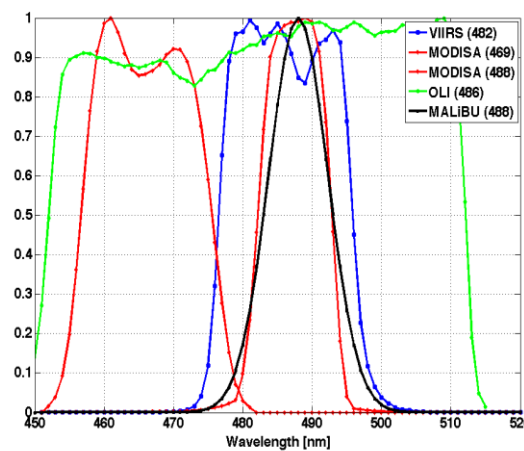
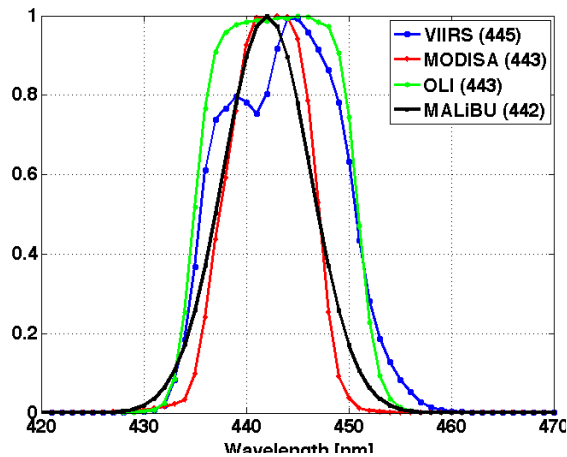
MALIBU's 6-channel optical payload, with one channel attached to a reference diffuser.



# MALIBU Platform



# MALIBU Spectral Response



The MALIBU instrument design includes two [Tetracam optical units](#) matching the optical Land channels of key Land sensors such as Landsat-8 OLI, Sentinel-2 MSI, Terra/Aqua MODIS, Terra MISR, and Suomi-NPP/JPSS VIIRS.





# CEOS-LPV Core Sites

