

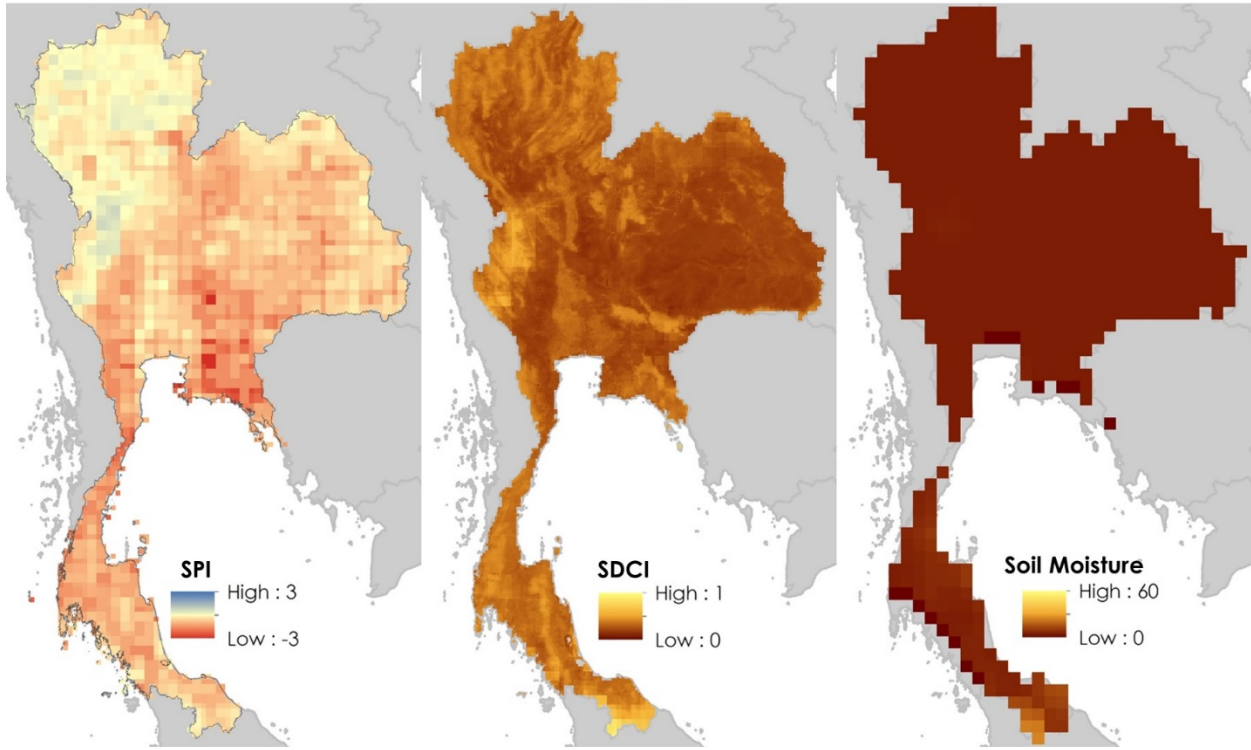
## CAREER SPOTLIGHT

**Sean McCartney** is the Center lead of the NASA Develop program at Goddard Space Flight Center. We asked Michael to describe a typical workflow for one of this geospatial technology projects.

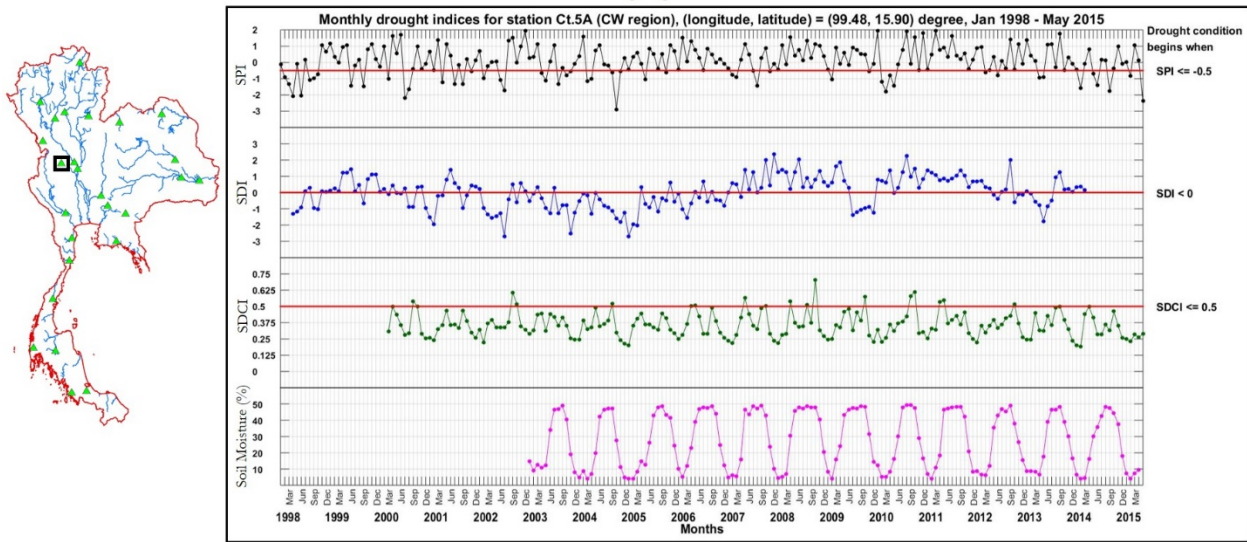
“When we first start work on a project, we meet with the end user, for example members of an embassy. With the embassy members, we identify exactly what they wanted from us in terms of data and products. Once we knew what we were trying to create and what results we are looking for, then we start gathering data. We have to determine what data is needed and what is appropriate for the project. We also have to identify the tools we will use to acquire and analyze the data. These include the software packages that we need to do statistics and the imaging software. Then we review the research literature to help us wrap our brain around what has already taken place. For our project with Thailand, the whole process (from meeting with the embassy to completing the literature review) took place one year in advance of collecting data. We spent the next 3 weeks completing another intensive literature review. Then we started the data acquisition and analysis process. We went back and forth between looking at the data and comparing the data to our model. This iterative process for analyzing the data took 7 weeks. At the end of the project, we crafted different deliverables such as maps, and science journal papers, and posters. We selected the deliverable for our results that had the best chance of being effective when handed to the agency we were working with on the project. When the project is complete, we back up everything on to external drives with root folders subdirectories. We use very specific systems for storing data so that someone else could access the data and build off this project for a future project.”



(A)



(B)



Example of Sean's Work with the Thailand Embassy Project.