



# Rapid Agricultural Impact Mapping of Hurricanes Using Open-Source Tools

Eugene G. Yu<sup>1,2</sup>, Mahabaleshwara S. Hegde<sup>1</sup>, Liping Di<sup>2</sup>, Peisheng Zhao<sup>1,2</sup>, Zhong Liu<sup>1,2</sup>, Suhung Shen<sup>1,2</sup>

1. NASA Goddard Earth Sciences Data and Information Services Center (GES DISC), Greenbelt, MD 20771, USA
2. Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems (CSISS), George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, MSN 6E1, Fairfax, VA 22030, USA

---

**CSISS**

*Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems*



# Outlines

---

- Introduction: challenges
- Methodology
- Workflow
- Use cases
- Conclusion
  - Findings
  - Workflow & its reusability
  - Future directions

**CSISS**

*Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems*



# Introduction: The Challenge

---

- Hurricanes pose significant threats to agriculture, causing substantial damage to crops, soil, and infrastructure
- Annual agricultural losses from hurricanes can reach billions of dollars
- Rapid assessment is crucial for effective disaster response and recovery
- Vulnerable rural communities often face disproportionate impacts

**CSISS**

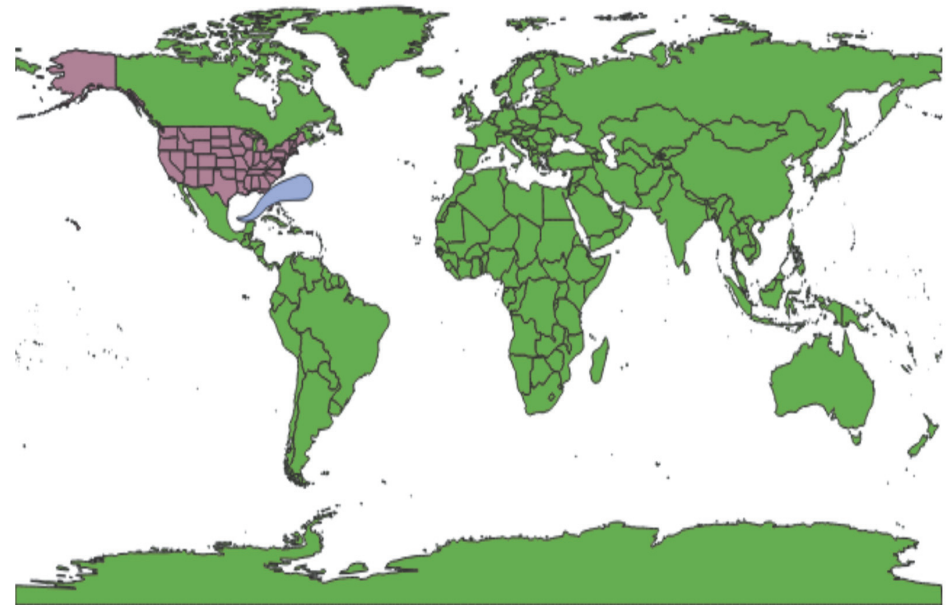
*Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems*



# Deal with the Challenge: An Open-Source Workflow

---

- Open-source workflow leveraging QGIS and Jupyter Notebooks
- Rapid assessment of hurricane impacts on agricultural areas
- Automated integration of publicly accessible datasets
- Comprehensive analysis through geospatial techniques



*Openness, Accessibility, Reproducibility, and Collaboration*



# The Library

---



- To support the retrieval and ingestion of diverse dataset, we have implemented a library.
  - To be released at the github repo of eugenegedisc/hurricane-impact-assessment
- What are the implementation technical stacks of the library?
  - Python
  - GDAL is the core for data reading, ingesting, and transform
- What does the library do?
  - Retrieval of data from different source
  - No code, low code to use the library by configuration
  - Convert the data
  - Able to communicate with Giovanni programmatically

**CSISS**

*Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems*



# Data Sources - weather

---

- National Hurricane Center (NHC)
  - Provides hurricane track data, wind patterns, and intensity measurements essential for mapping hurricane paths and impact zones
- NOAA Office of Water Prediction (OWP)
  - Supplies observed and forecasted precipitation data critical for flood risk assessment and water-related impact analysis
- NASA IMERG Precipitation Data
  - Integrated Multi-satellite Retrievals for Global Precipitation Measurement (IMERG) provides high-resolution precipitation estimates from NASA's GES DISC

**CSISS**

*Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems*



# Data Sources – Agricultural & Data Integration

---

- USDA Cropland Layers (CDL)
  - Detailed agricultural land use data identifying crop types, distribution, and acreage for precise impact assessment
- USDA Agricultural Statistics
  - Quick Stats (<https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/> )
  - Field crops and their expected productivity
- US Census Bureau Socioeconomic Data
  - Critical demographic economic indicators to identify and prioritize vulnerable rural communities for targeted disaster response
- Data Integration
  - Combing these datasets enables comprehensive analysis and more accurate identification of at-risk agricultural areas

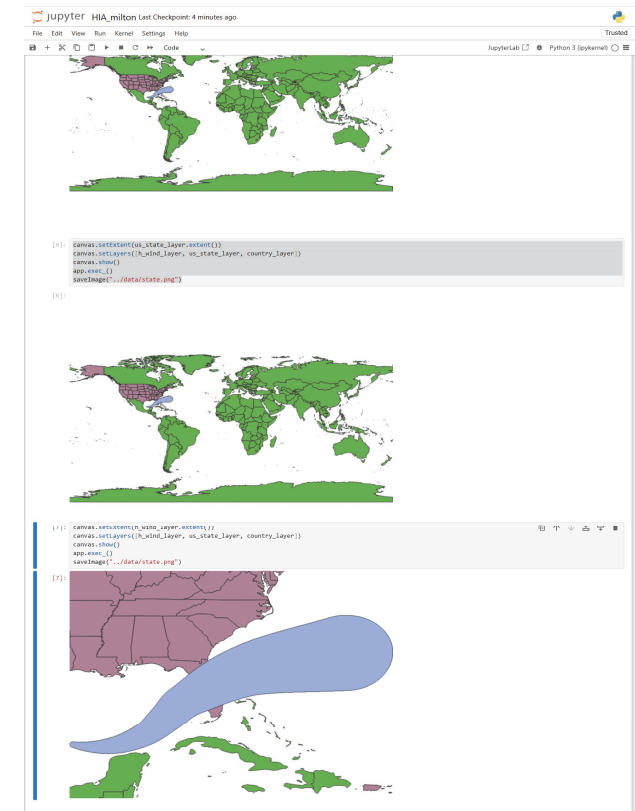
**CSISS**

*Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems*



# Core workflow: Impact Assessment

- Soil Erosion Modeling
  - Estimation of soil loss using precipitation data, topography, and soil characteristics
- Crop Loss Estimation
  - Application of hurricane damage indices (e.g. Hurricane Composite Intensity Index) to estimate agricultural losses
- Vulnerability Assessment
  - Integration of socioeconomic data to identify vulnerable communities and prioritize response
- Comprehensive Impact Analysis
  - Synthesis of all analyses to provide a complete assessment of hurricane-induced damage





# Key Features and Benefits of the Geospatial Workflow

- **Rapid Assessment**
  - Timely and accurate identification of affected agricultural regions, enabling quick response, and resource allocation.
- **Community Prioritization**
  - Identification of vulnerable rural communities for targeted disaster response based on socioeconomic indicators
- **Reproducibility**
  - Standardized workflow that can be consistently applied across different hurricane events and geographic regions
- **Comprehensive Integration**
  - Seamless combination of ground observations, model outputs, satellite imager, and advanced GIS capabilities
- **Open-Source Accessibility**
  - Freely available tools and methodologies that can be adapted and improved by the broader community
- **Data-Driven Decision Making**
  - Quantitative analysis supporting evidence-based resource allocation and policy development



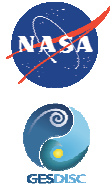
# Decision-Ready Infographics

---

- Spatial Joins and Overlay Analysis
  - Combining all aligned data layers to create comprehensive spatial representations of hurricane impacts
- Interactive Mapping
  - Development of queryable dynamic maps that allow stakeholders to explore specific impact areas
- Visual Data Summaries
  - Creation of charts, graphs, and statistical summaries that quantify damage across different agricultural sectors
- Decision Support Reports
  - Automated generation of concise reports highlighting priority areas for intervention and resource allocation

**CSISS**

*Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems*



# Reproducibility & Accessibility

---

- Open-Source Repository

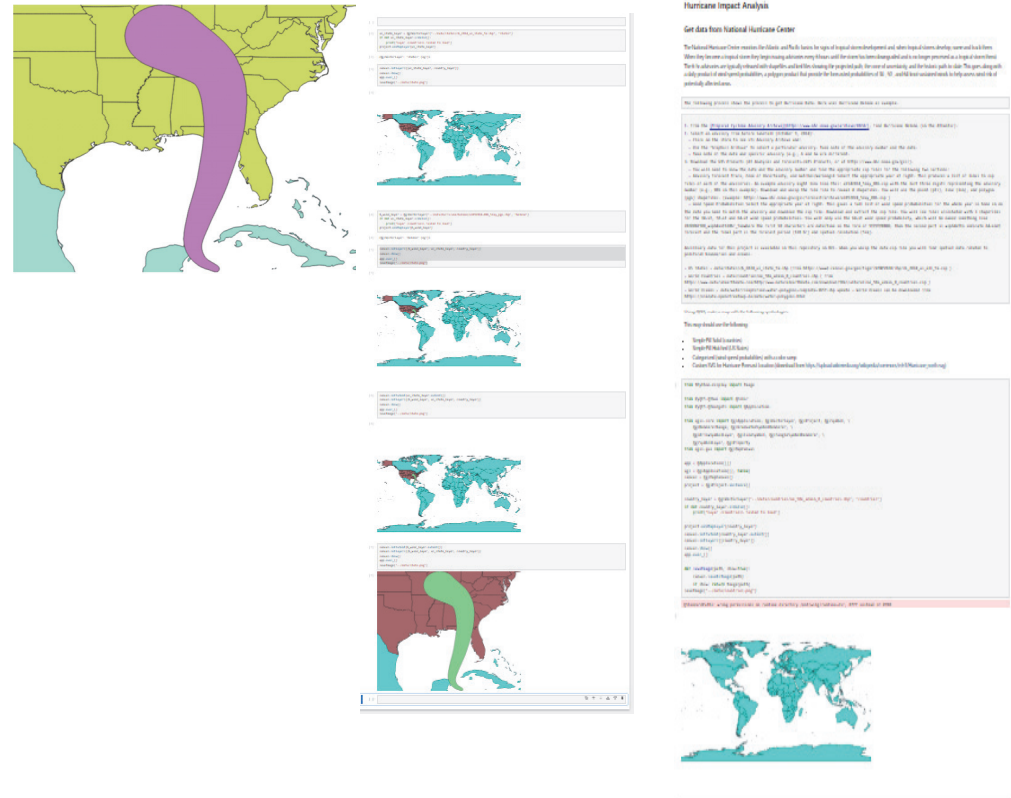
- The complete workflow, including reproducible notebooks and tutorials, will be released on GitHub to serve as a valuable resource for the community
  - Github repo: [eugenegesdisc/hurricane-impact-assessment](https://github.com/eugenegesdisc/hurricane-impact-assessment)
- Detailed documentation and step-by-step guides to empower users to implement the workflow in their own contexts
- Well-commented code and Jupyter notebooks that can be easily understood and modified
- Community collaboration platform for continuous improvement and innovation
- Educational resources for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers

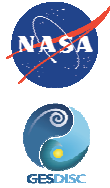
**CSISS**

*Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems*

# Case Study: Hurricane Helene (2024)

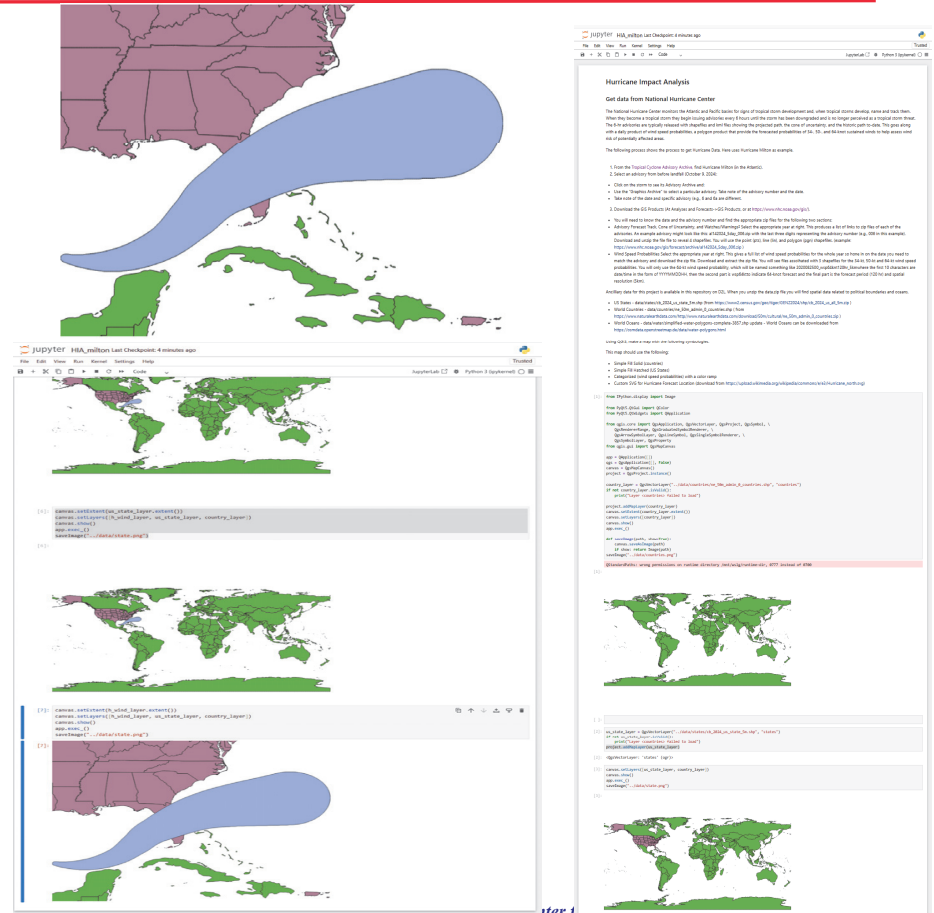
- Southern United States
- Crops affected: cotton, peanut, and pecan crops
- Agricultural losses: estimated more than \$10 billion ([link, Georgia, North Carolina](#) )
- Key Outcomes
  - Rapid identification of priority areas enabled targeted deployment of emergency agricultural support





# Hurricane Milton (2024)

- Florida Peninsula
- Crops affected: citrus groves and vegetable farms
- Agricultural losses: estimated more than \$1.5 billion ([link](#))
- Key Outcome
  - Predictive modeling allowed for pre-positioning of resources and targeted evacuation
  - Monitoring the hurricane via time-triggering event to re-run the workflow





# Conclusion and Future Directions

---

- Contributes to agricultural resilience and disaster preparedness through accessible geospatial technology
- Demonstrates the power of leveraging open geospatial web services and open data for comprehensive hurricane impact analysis
- Prioritizes disaster response to mitigate adverse effects on agriculture
- Promotes sustainable recover efforts and long-term agricultural planning in hurricane-prone regions
- Future directions
  - Leverage large models (language and vision) for improved automation of workflow creation, execution, and curation
  - Adopt standard interfaces and integrate with existing workflow platform, e.g. Galaxy workflow platforms

**CSISS**

*Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems*