

Kanchan Chopra

I received my Ph. D. from the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, where my early work was in the area of Development and Agricultural Economics. Since the mid-nineteen eighties however, I have worked in the field of environment and development. While being grounded in Economics, I have attempted to bring in learning from different relevant disciplines into both an extension of the discourse and the framing of policy conclusions in this area. Over the years, I have authored and co-authored several books, the most recent being “ Biodiversity, Landuse change and human well-being: A Study of aquaculture in the Indian Sundarbans” (with Pushpam Kumar and Preeti Kapuria) (Oxford University Press 2009).

From 2005 to 2009, I was Director, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi where I was a member of the faculty for close to three decades. I am currently on the Editorial and advisory Boards of several international journals including *Environment and Development Economics*, and *Ecological Economics*. Presently, I am Fellow and Board member, Beijer Institute of Ecological Economics, Stockholm and Member, Scientific Advisory Committee, International Institute of Applied System Analysis, Vienna both institutions working in cutting edge issues of ecology and environment.. In India, I continue in advisory and consultancy positions with the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the World Bank and the WWF. I am also associated with the UNEP in different advisory groups, including one which drew up the conceptual framework for the next Global Environmental Outlook.

As some of you are aware, I was one of the founder members of the Indian Society for Ecological Economics and its First President from 1998 to 2000. The experience I gained in different national and international fora since then, convinced me yet again of the need for a careful and rigorous interdisciplinary analysis of environmental issues facing India and the world. To recollect, as Member, Assessment Panel of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and Co-chair of its Responses Working Group from 2001 to 2005, I had occasion to work with an international team of experts from a range of disciplines. This was extended learning in working across disciplinary perspectives. I also had the privilege of being Senior Associate of the Ecological and Environmental Economics Programme hosted by the ICTP, Trieste, Italy from 2002 to 2005. This innovative programme brought together leading international experts from different sciences.

I see that a great deal of expertise and understanding has been created, both in India and across the world. My specific agenda for the next two years would be to carry forward the agenda of enabling rigorous interdisciplinary research and deliberation on issues of the ecology and environment through workshops, newsletters, the biennial conference and training programmes.

Saudamini Das

I am a reader at the University of Delhi with 20 years of undergraduate and post graduate teaching. Recently I finished my Ph d from University of Delhi which was sponsored by the South Asian Network for Developmental and Environmental Economics and the results have received wide acclaim as a pioneering work on storm protection services of mangroves. Research paper from the thesis got published in the *Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences, USA* and the *American Museum of Natural History, New York* has produced a short movie on it. My other research areas are ecosystem services, coastal vulnerability and adaptation to specific climate change issues.

I visualize INSEE having high social responsibility at the present juncture when climate change has forced people to think of adopting a pro nature life style. INSEE can deliver its responsibility by giving appropriate feed back at the level of policy makers and by making our next generation sensitive to issues relating to environment and ecology. Thankfully, we have visionaries like Prof Gopal Kadekodi, Kanchan Chopra and many others in INSEE who are able to deliver the first goal. I being in the teaching profession want to work on the second objective by (i) involving students in some form in INSEE and (ii) working for the INSEE newsletter.

Uppeandra Dhar

Devoted over four decades to explore, analyze and better understand the complexities of structural and functional dynamics of the Himalayan ecology. And my major scientific contributions in biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of its components, development of approaches for prioritization of sites and species, strategies and action plan for biodiversity conservation are widely acclaimed.

As Director, Govind Ballabh Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIHED), Almora (2003-2008), developed interdisciplinary approaches for finding solutions to complex environment linked development issues and as Core Head, Conservation of Biological Diversity, GBPIHED (1990-2003), contributed in the integration of biodiversity issues with other environmental variables, developed and implemented Action Plan on Himalayan biodiversity, developed approaches on conservation education involving students and teachers and generated resources (over 15 peer-reviewed funded projects from National and international funding agencies).

As a Member of INSEE and ex –Member, Executive Committee, organized a Training Programme on “Environmental Economics for Practicing Scientists and Ecologists” (October 16-20, 2001) and prepared a Commentary (along with my colleagues of GBPIHED) on “Ecological Economics – Synchronizing Systems and Values”. Besides, during III Biennial Conference on “Biodiversity and Quality of life” in December 2003, organized a pre-conference workshop on biodiversity in IIM, Calcutta.

A Fellow of National Academy of Sciences, Allahabad, India and recipient of ICFRE Award of Excellence in Forest Conservation (2003), have authored/co-authored five books on biodiversity and conservation; edited three conference proceedings and edited/co-edited twelve booklets on various aspects of biodiversity; authored/co-authored 114 research publications (including 33 in proceedings and books). Besides, I have mentored 18 PG students for their M.Phil/Ph.D. degrees.

My major professional activities, at present, include, i) Member National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai and ii) Expert on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services under The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), Bonn, Germany.

Vision for INSEE:

I see INSEE and its members a professional body of immense intellectual capacity to strengthen and promote interactions between ecologists and economists at various levels so as to develop robust methodologies of measuring biophysical quantities and the use of various indicators in economic valuations. I also envisage contributing in utilizing the potential of existing biophysical indices in economic assessments of our natural wealth. And, as a Member, Executive Committee I will strive to contribute in developing biodiversity indicators of changing patterns and their application in ecological economics.

NILANJAN GHOSH

I am a natural resource economist and econometrician by training. I obtained my doctorate from Indian Institute of Management Calcutta. In a decade's experience in research, publications, and consultancy in academia and the corporate world, I have conducted research projects funded by Swedish Research Council, The Swedish Research Council FORMAS, UNEP (Nairobi), UNCTAD, and many other illustrious donors. Presently, I head the research, consultancy, and publications initiatives of Takshashila Academia of Economic Research Limited (TAER), Mumbai (India), an economic research and consultancy centre, set up Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX), Mumbai, as Senior Vice President, since May 2007. Prior to that, I was a faculty member at TERI University, and senior research professional at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). In December 2008, I visited School of Social Sciences, Växjö University, Sweden, for research and teaching.

My publications so far include (incorporating accepted publications) 2 books (one published by VDM Verlag, Germany; and one forthcoming, co-edited with Joachim Spangenberg), 20-odd referred papers as journal articles and book chapters (in reputed international journals and volumes), 4 papers in referred international conference proceedings, 13 articles (non-refereed) as an editor or editorials (in form of popular writings), 5 book reviews in journals, and many working papers. I have worked in 13 funded research projects as principal investigator, co-principal investigator, and advisor.

For details about my research projects: www.taerindia.com/profile.html

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What issues would I like to address, being an office-bearer at INSEE?

1. **Enhance the membership base and diversity, by bringing in ecological scientists, sociologists, political scientists, and institutionalists, as members:** This will promote more cross-disciplinary exchanges, and push the frontiers of the ways ecological economics is practiced in India.
2. **Bring in the corporate sector:** So far, there has hardly been much participation of corporate sector in INSEE. Being from the corporate sector, I would like to bring in more corporate participation in this forum.
3. **Workshop on “Water and Economics”:** I have plans to organize this workshop with other interested colleagues in INSEE.

Haripriya Gundimeda

I hold a masters degree in mathematics and a Ph.D. in Development Policy and work on various issues relating to environment and development economics. I am currently working as an Associate Professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, at the Indian Institute of Technology in Bombay, India. Before joining IIT Bombay, I have worked as an Associate Professor at the Madras School of Economics in Chennai. I was also a Visiting Scholar at the Institute of Behaviour Sciences, at the University of Colorado, Boulder, as well as a Ratan Tata Fellow at the Asia Research Centre, at the London School of Economics, and a Political Sciences and Visiting Researcher at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

My main areas of research have been green accounting, mitigation aspects of climate change, energy demand and pricing, valuation of environmental resources, and issues relating to the development in India. I am also actively involved with the Green Indian States Trust (GIST) in India and has been the lead author of six of the eight monographs for the GIST. Right now, I am jointly coordinating an international project on “The economics of ecosystems and biodiversity” hosted by United Nations Environment Program. In this project we aim to show that economics can be a powerful instrument in biodiversity policy.

India has a good pool of talented ecological and environmental economists and I see INSEE providing an active forum to facilitate the exchange of ideas between practitioners and policy makers both national and international. As an office bearer I envision INSEE to actively build capacity to the local policy makers to internalize the environment and ecology in their decision making.

Arabinda Mishra

Dr Mishra is the Director of the Climate Change Division in TERI. He is working with a team of researchers in the field of climate change and forestry & biodiversity. As the Director of the Division, he has to provide them with research direction, and also ensure quality and integrity. Human resource management, financial planning, mentoring and counseling is part of his job description.

Concurrently, Dr Mishra holds the position of the Dean, Faculty of Policy & Planning at the TERI University. He joined the Department of Policy Studies, TERI University as an Associate Professor in May 2005. Earlier he was a Fellow for four years in the Centre for Multi-disciplinary Development Research (CMDR) in Karnataka, an institution affiliated to the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), and, before that, taught for over 10 years at the graduate and under-graduate level in different government colleges of Orissa.

His research experience covers varied themes such as climate change risks and community-level vulnerability assessment, management of ecosystems and their services for poverty alleviation, institutions and governance aspects of environmental management, health determinants and policy, health accounting, natural resource accounting, trade-related environmental regulations, and productivity measurement. His doctoral work is based on an econometric approach to factor productivity and technological progress in Indian manufacturing sector. He is particularly well conversant with project and programme evaluation techniques and has led a number of impact assessment studies at the country-wide level, of which a major one is a socio-economic and environmental assessment of power sector reforms in India.

Specializing in resource and environmental economics, Dr Mishra is able to bring in a strong element of interdisciplinarity in his research covering both the natural science and social science domains. As the project leader of the Ecosystem Services and Poverty Alleviation Study in South Asia (ESPASSA), he was involved in an international collaboration of scientists from various disciplines that investigated the links between ecosystems and poverty in South Asia to identify ways in which the poor are dependent on the services provided by ecosystems in the region. This increased understanding of environment-poverty linkages, with particular attention to the role of climate change as a natural driver behind changes in ecosystem processes, was used to propose an international research agenda on technical, economic, legal and institutional interventions for poverty alleviation through better management of ecosystem services.

His health-sector related work relates to an internationally sponsored work on reproductive health accounting in the Indian state of Karnataka (report available online

<http://www.resourceflows.org/index.php/articles/c87/>). He was a team member of a national-level research study during 2001-03 on the impact of economic reforms on the health sector in India. Presently, there is an ongoing vulnerability assessment study in the state of West Bengal which includes climate change impacts on living standards and public health in the coastal region. Further, there is ongoing research in TERI under his lead on costs of adaptation to climate change impacts, which has health as a focal sector.

Earlier, he has acted as the lead researcher in an IDPAD (Indo-Dutch Programme on Alternatives in Development)-funded study on common property water resources in rural India that brought out key insights regarding the functioning of water markets and community management institutions. A recently completed study looks at the institutional aspects of water infrastructure in the Ganga sub-basin and analyzed the possible impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities living in proximity to such infrastructure.

His interest in the area of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has led to the design of an international Masters programme in Development Practice that involves the innovative use of highly cost-effective web-based technology for promoting interdisciplinary and cross-cultural collaboration among development practitioners of the South Asia region. The use of web-based technology was also present in another collaborative exercise conducted by the University under his coordination with the objective of capacity development among civil servants in Afghanistan.

He has to his credit a number of publications and has organized/ participated in a number of seminars/ conferences/ workshops at both national and international levels in the capacity of a speaker and discussant.

Kinsuk Mitra

Dr Kinsuk Mitra is the President of Winrock International India in 1998 and has been instrumental in its development since its inception. Kinsuk is a natural resource economist by training. He studied economics at the Presidency College, Calcutta and pursued his masters and doctorate in Natural Resource Economics at the University of Florida.

Kinsuk divides his workload between his interests in development and in institutional management and strengthening of Winrock International India. His areas of work range from environmental impact assessments to natural resources policy to ecosystems services. His main concerns are in utilization of natural resources and its environmental implications on one hand and meeting the needs of the people, specially the poor, on the other. He works on a micro level to develop decentralized systems that are responsive to local needs and uses that experience to facilitate the process of transforming the policy framework to support the actions on the ground. He works with his eyes and ears close to the ground and spends a lot of time in the field working directly with marginalized communities in remote areas of India. He enjoys the wilderness and has a special affinity for the mountains.

Kinsuk pursues a vision of building a national institution that is both a think tank consisting of expert teams with an in-depth understanding of current developmental challenges and a facilitator of change that brings about tangible impacts on the ground. He promotes proliferation and application of information technology in Winrock International India's day to day functioning and participatory, transparent and dynamic organizational systems. He stays closely connected to his 55 enthusiastic colleagues to collectively fulfil Winrock International India's mission.

Nandan Nawn

Having joined West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata, an institution for imparting interdisciplinary legal education in 2001, as a teacher of economics, I have gained a fair amount of exposure to the legal and regulatory system of this country. My interest in environment and ecology has helped me to offer an optional course in Ecology, Economics and Law [<http://www.nujs.edu/courses/ecology-economics-and-law-course-structure-and-references.pdf>]. I also offer a second optional course on Law and Economics, contextualized in the Indian legal regime, apart from two compulsory papers in Economics to the first year students as a foundation for their further legal studies.

Being in the Executive Committee for the last two years has been a rewarding and learning experience for me. I understand that the first priority of the forthcoming EC shall be the delineation of work/function and the corresponding responsibility/accountability for the next two years, to be decided in a democratic manner, irrespective of the type of activities, i.e. seminars, workshops, publications, outreach programs, etc., that the society will undertake. Personally, I would like the society to reach younger members of the society through organizing one-day workshops in the universities/colleges, so as to expand its membership base, bring fresh energy, thought, innovative ideas and many other essential inputs to carry it forward.

Seema Purushothaman

Academic interests and background: a) Ecosystem services, Land use drivers and Sustainability indicators; b) Economic instruments for equitable conservation. Current work covers Ecosystem services for and from production landscapes, their linkage to food and agrarian crises from Ecological economics and Policy perspectives.

Experience: In the field of environmental and natural resource economics since 1990. Part of ATREE programs on Ecosystems services and Land, water & Livelihoods. Officiated as Associate Director and Center Convener for two years each. Experience prior to ATREE cuts across government service and research institutions.

Networks: a) INSEE (EC member 2008-10); b) ISAE Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (Life Member); c) Bio-Sustainability committee-Diversitas (Member, 2008 onwards); d) SANDEE

Publications: <http://www.atree.org/seemap>

Vision for INSEE: To help INSEE strengthen the rigor of inter disciplinary research aimed at development strategies beyond pure economic growth. I would like this to be ideally accomplished through sequential symposia, outcomes of which could be synthesised into publishable documents to be shared with larger academia and policy discourse.

Amita Shah (Ph.D.), an economist, has wide ranging experience of conducting research on various aspects of socio-economic development. Currently, she is Director of Gujarat Institute of Development Research. The major areas of research interest include dry land agriculture and forestry, environmental impact assessment, gender and environment, agriculture-industry interface, migration and rural livelihood, trade and sustainable agriculture, and chronic poverty. Her recent research work include poverty-natural resources interface; women and development; trade and environment; diversion of land; employment guarantee; valuation of regeneration of CPLRs etc. She has conducted micro level studies in various parts of India. Her major strengths are carrying out analytical studies in the various areas pertaining to ecology and human well-being; organizing collaborative research and training programmes; and association with large bodies of

research, policy makers, and development organizations within and outside India. She has been closely associated with a number of research and training initiatives of INSEE and also ISEE, and envisages active role in taking forward emerging perspectives on ecology and human development into the mainstream discourses within social science research and training, policy making, and public debates through networking, dissemination, and continuous dialogues with various stake holders in different parts of the country and abroad.