

THE INDIAN SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

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About INSEE

The Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) was established in New Delhi (India) on September 24, 1998. It was registered as a Society under the Societies Act in January 1999. INSEE is a regional society affiliated to the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE). The Society aims to further the cause of sustainable development by providing a forum for continuous dialogue among scholars, practitioners and policy analysts working on different aspects at the interface of economy, ecology and the social and the natural environments. In the process,, INSEE seeks to catalyze the interaction between scholars from various disciplines, particularly economics and the ecological sciences, and including both natural and social sciences. It strives to promote new thinking and better understanding on a range of issues of national and international interest, such as institutions and instruments for natural resources management, energy analysis and policy, environment and trade, toxic waste management, environment and development, the valuation and accounting of ecosystem functions and services, climate change and the global commons. The list, of course, is far from being exhaustive. The Society works to disseminate the results of research and its policy implications to national and international bodies (governmental and non-governmental) through multiple avenues such as conferences, workshops, networking and publications. The activities of INSEE in 2010-11 is reported in this note, and are given below.

1. Workshop on “Integrated Ecosystem Modeling” organised by INSEE, ATREE and LUPIS, 23-24 June, 2010, Bangalore.

Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Land Use Policies and Sustainable Development in Developing Countries (LUPIS) and Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) organised a workshop on “Integrated Ecosystem Modelling” on 23-24 June, 2010 at Royal Orchid Resorts, Yelahanka, Bangalore. The objective of the Workshop was to appraise the relevance and importance of Ecosystem modelling for Sustainable Use of Natural resources such as land, water, mangroves, wetlands, forest and wildlife and biodiversity resources. The

workshop had served as a forum to share methods for integration and/ or dynamics in modeling the socio-ecological systems. There were presenters from seven developing countries including India. INSEE sponsored five of its life members to participate in the workshop, and present their work. The selection was based on the abstracts submitted.

2. INSEE Panel at the IASCP Biennial Conference, Hyderabad, January 11, 2011.

In the 13th Biennial Conference titled “Sustaining Commons: Sustaining our Future”, of the *International Association for the Study of the Commons* (IASCP), 10-14 January 2011, Hyderabad, India, INSEE organised a panel on 11th January 'Diversion of CPLRs from Primary Uses: Exploring Policy framework for Sustainability and Inclusion of Local Communities', with Prof. Amita Shah as the Moderator. The panellists were Prof. Gopal Kadekodi, Mr. Sanjay Upadhyay, Prof. Nirmal Sengupta, Dr. Sharad Lele, and Dr. Seema Purushothaman. Prof. Gopal Kadekodi spoke on ‘Converting Common Lands for Mining: Lessons from India’, Prof. Nirmal Sengupta on ‘Diversion of Land for Mining Activities’, Shri Sanjay Upadhyay on ‘ Diversion of CPLRs from Primary Uses: Exploring Appropriate Policy Framework in Indian Context - Towards a Right based approach or a new legal framework required ?’. Dr. Seema Purushothaman and Dr. Sharadchandra Lele's presentation was ‘Implications of trends in Access, Benefits and Status of Common Lands in Karnataka’.

A news report on the discussion in the panel and other events during the conference was carried by *The Hindu* in its Science and Technology section on 12th January, 2011 <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/article1081246.ece>, titled "*Tragedy of the commons' avoidable* ' by V. Sridhar.

3. INSEE-TAER Seminar on “Climate Change and Markets”, February 11, 2011

The Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) and Takshashila Academia of Economic Research (TAER) organised a one-day seminar on *Climate Change and Markets: Opportunities, Challenges, and Policy Concerns*, in association with TERI University at the TERI University campus in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi , on February 11,

2011. The seminar was marked by 12 paper presentations, a participation of around 100 participants, and was highlighted by the presence of Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Dr. Jairam Ramesh, as Chief Guest, who also released a book on *Debate over Climate Change and Global Warming* co-edited by INSEE Secretary Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh and published by TAER. Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Former Cabinet Minister and MP, was also present as the Guest of Honour.

The inaugural session was chaired by Prof. Bhavik Bakshi, Vice Chancellor of TERI University, and was marked by interesting deliberations by Shri Jairam Ramesh, and Shri Suresh Prabhu. The ensuing three sessions of the seminar, revolving around the themes of “Critical Issues of Climate Change and Solutions,” “The Role of Environmental Markets,” and “Towards Development of Derivative Markets” were marked by probing questions from an audience that actively participated in the deliberations during the presentation of the 12 papers. The day-long deliberation attempted to answer the following: Can markets really help an economy like India to fulfill its obligations under the various environmental conventions to combat desertification, biodiversity degradation, and global climate change? Can markets further create the possibility of engaging various rural communities in formal market transactions, thereby reducing the extent and magnitude of poverty? What types of markets can do that? Can electronic exchanges on environmental products work under such circumstances? How can they be established, and what types of products can be traded there? The three sessions were chaired by Prof. Jyoti Parikh (Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh took her place, as Prof. Parikh had to leave early), Prof. Kanchan Chopra and Dr. Madhoo Pavaskar.

4. Book on *Environmental Governance* from selected papers presented at Fifth Biennial Conference of INSEE at Ahmedabad

INSEE has tied up with MacMillan Publishers for the publication of the volume on “Environmental Governance” containing selected papers prepared for or presented at the INSEE Fifth Biennial Conference held at Gujarat Vidyapith, 21-23 January, 2009.

The manuscript is already in press and will come out by June 2011. The volume will be edited by Prof. Jayanta Bandyopadhyay, Prof. Kanchan Chopra and Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh. The volume will be titled, *Environmental Governance: Approaches, Imperatives, and Methods*, and will consist of 16 papers from ecological economists, scientists and policy makers from around the world. MacMillan publishing has agreed to organise a book release event in association with INSEE, once the book is published.

5. Special INSEE edition in *Conservation and Society*

A special edition on Ecological Economics is being contributed by INSEE in the journal *Conservation and Society*, published from ATREE. Dr. Seema Purushothaman and Prof. Upendra Dhar are the coordinating editors from INSEE. The theme of the edition will be “Ecosystem services: issues in concept, economic valuation, institutional underpinnings or political implications”. Papers are supposed to be based on empirical studies in a South Asian country and should preferably include a comparative South-South or South-North perspective.

6. Sixth Biennial Conference

The Sixth Biennial Conference of the Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) on “Nature, Economy and Society: Understanding the Linkages” will be held during 20-22 October, 2011 at the Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad. The conference shall address a diverse repertoire of issues at the interface of nature, economy and society and explore how to use the understanding for inclusion for economic growth oriented policy formulation. It expects to attract papers, panels and symposia that will focus on the themes identified below. The discussion of issues is expected to cover cutting-edge conceptual and methodological advances being made in the different disciplines and also address current policy relevant problems in the area of

environment, development and social justice. Papers have been invited under the following themes:

- A. Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services for Life and Human Well- being
- B. Accounting for Nature
- C. Global and Local Impact of Economic Growth, Trade and Globalisation on the Environment (at different scales)
- D. Alternative Approaches to Nature and Society and Assessing the Role of Knowledge and Power
- E. Social Norms, Culture and Human Behaviour in relation to the Environment
- F. Towards Green and Sustainable Socio-economic Systems
- G. Equity and Governance Issues in relation to the global, national and local commons.

INSEE has constituted a Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), members of which are acting as theme coordinators, reviewers, and advisors. Prof. Kanchan Chopra is the chairperson of the SAC.

Abstracts have already been received, reviewed, and full papers have been invited for selected abstracts. The papers will be reviewed further before final acceptance, and only selected papers from those invited will finally be invited for presentation at the Conference. INSEE will be covering the travel and accommodation costs for one author for an accepted paper for presentation at the Conference.

A Local Organising Committee (LOC) for the Conference with Prof. Manoj Panda, Director, CESS, as the chairperson and Prof. Gopinath Reddy, Professor, CESS, as the convener, has also been formed.

7. Learning Forum on Georgescu-Rogan

INSEE has been coordinating the formation of a web-based learning forum on Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen. The construction of the forum is under progress.

8. INSEE Membership

As on March 31, 2011, INSEE has 308 Life members and 6 Life Members Corporate Bodies and 2 ordinary members. The total membership thus stands at 316.

9. Executive Committee Members of INSEE (2010-2012)

President	:	Professor Kanchan Chopra
Vice President	:	Dr. Amita Shah
Secretary	:	Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh
Treasurer	:	Dr. Uppeandra Dhar
Joint Secretary	:	Dr. Kinsuk Mitra
Member	:	Dr. Seema Purushothaman
Member	:	Dr. Nandan Nawn
Member	:	Dr. Saudamini Das
Member	:	Dr. Haripriya Gundimeda
Member	:	Dr. Arabinda Mishra
Member	:	Dr. Jayanta Bandyopadhyay
Member	:	Dr. Pranab Mukhopadhyay