

**THE INDIAN SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS (INSEE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2016-2017**

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## Introduction

During the year 2016-17, the Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) organized two workshops towards building capacity for research at the economy-ecology-society interface and a book launch of the volume that emerged out of 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference (Hyderabad, 2013), held the election for President and Executive Committee besides launching its flagship journal *Ecology, Economy and Society—the INSEE Journal*. This report summarises all the activities in brief. Detailed reports of individual activities are available on the INSEE website ([www.ecoinsee.org](http://www.ecoinsee.org)), which is being updated and upgraded continuously.

## 1. Events Organized

- Research methodology workshop on *Impact Evaluation of issues related to Climate Change and Agriculture* co-organized with NABARD Chair, Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) at IEG, Delhi, 6–10 February 2017.



**Participants, Speakers and Organisers of ‘Research Methodology Workshop on Climate Change and Agricultural Economics’ co-organized with NABARD Chair, Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), at IEG, Delhi, 6 February 2017**

The workshop was envisaged to respond to the increasing relevance of the challenges that agricultural production practices are facing—in particular, food security—in the light of climate change, in a populous country with a majority of population having agriculture as a source of livelihood like India. In particular, it was thought to be a prudent exercise to carefully examine the ‘climate smart’ agricultural practices already in place for the purposes of replication and scaling up, apart from exposing the young researchers to the evaluation methods. Accordingly, the workshop was structured.



**Inaugural function; from left: Emmanuel Jimenez, Manoj Panda and Debesh Roy**

In response to the widely circulated advertisement, 160 applications from 9 different countries (India, USA, France, Vietnam, Sweden, Belgium, Benin, Bangladesh, Nepal) were received. Only 35 applicants could be selected—applicants even from France and Sweden had to be declined. This response, among others underscore the high demand for such workshops.

Inaugural session was addressed by Emmanuel Jimenez, Executive Director, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), Manoj Panda, Director, IEG and Nandan Nawn, Secretary, INSEE. Inaugural address was delivered by Debesh Roy, Deputy General Manager, NABARD titled “Research Requirement of NABARD on Agriculture and Climate Change for Sound Policy Making”. It is available on the INSEE website. Keynote Lecture was delivered by Emmanuel Jimenez titled “Global perspective on role of impact evaluation in policy making with special focus on Primary sector”.



**Participants of ‘Research Methodology Workshop on Climate Change and Agricultural Economics’**



**Participants of 'Research Methodology Workshop on Climate Change and Agricultural Economics'**

The technical sessions were addressed by internationally recognised resource persons—E Somanathan, J V Meenakshi, P S Birthal, among others—for providing an exposure to the most up-to-date methods used in impact evaluation research. Researchers were trained to identify the most suitable method for their topic of research so that their results can be meaningful to the policy makers. They were persuaded to develop the concept notes and proposals accordingly.



**E Somanathan delivering a lecture titled 'Climate Change and Indian Agriculture: Impact, Adaptation, wellbeing and research gap'**

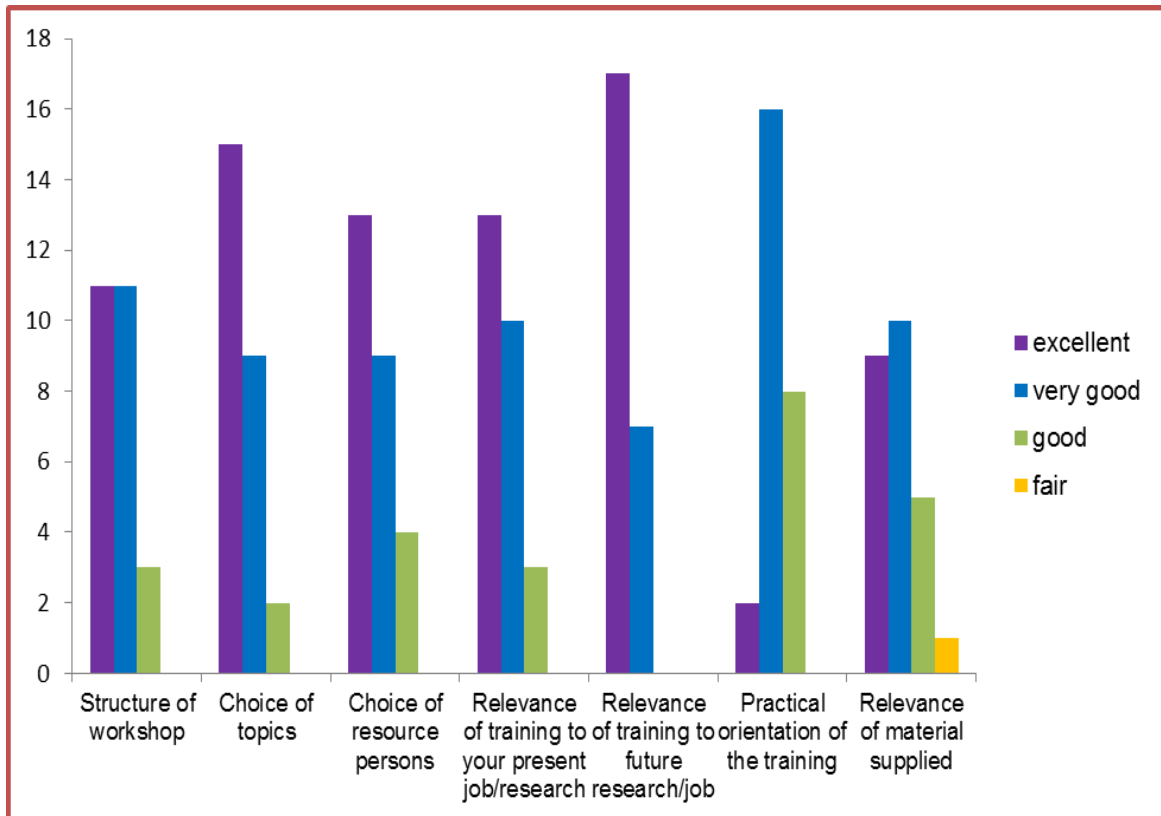
appreciated the design and structure of the workshop. However, most of them would like to have more practical training, especially hands-on STATA exercises. Participants suggested the following topics for future workshops: panel data analysis, sectoral analysis of GHG emissions and climate change impact of agricultural value chain.

Valedictory Function was chaired by Nitin Desai. M V Ashok, Chief General Manager, NABARD delivered the Valedictory Address.

Effectiveness of the workshop was captured by a short questionnaire survey at the end of the workshop. Participants seem to have



**Nitin Desai at the Valedictory Function.**



**Feedback from the participants of 'Research Methodology Workshop on Climate Change and Agricultural Economics'**

- Pre-conference Methodology Workshop on Scenarios and Models in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services co-organized with division for Sustainable Development Studies, Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad with support from Belmont forum through the Ministry of Earth Sciences, at CESS, 14 February 2017.



**Participants and Speakers at the Research Methodology workshop on 'Scenarios and Models in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services' at co-organised with Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad, at CESS, February 2017**

The objective of workshop was to strengthen national and international ties between researchers working on all aspects of biodiversity and ecosystem service scenarios that take into account modeling of impacts of global change on biodiversity and ecosystem services and feedbacks of these impacts on policy making. The larger project on Scenarios and Models in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services—of which this pre-conference is a part of—contribute to the assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

Applications were sought from early career researchers/ teachers/ M.Phil/ Ph.D students. From 70 applications received, only 30 could be selected.

The workshop was structured to provide an exposure to the participants on the methodological tools through a systematic review of their uses in Indian and international contexts towards quantify or qualify scenarios of biodiversity and ecosystem services according to different environmental and societal driving forces.

K N Ninan, Co-Chair IPBES Methodological Assessment of Scenarios and Models, Paul Leadly, University of Paris-Sud France, Simon Ferrier, CSIRO Australia and Co-Chair IPBES Assessment of Scenarios and Models and Rob Alkemade, Head TSU IPBES, PBL the Netherlands, among other delivered the lectures. Participants were divided into three groups (Nature, Drivers and

Natures benefit and Good Quality of Life) for moderated discussions — the recommendations were then placed before the house subsequently.



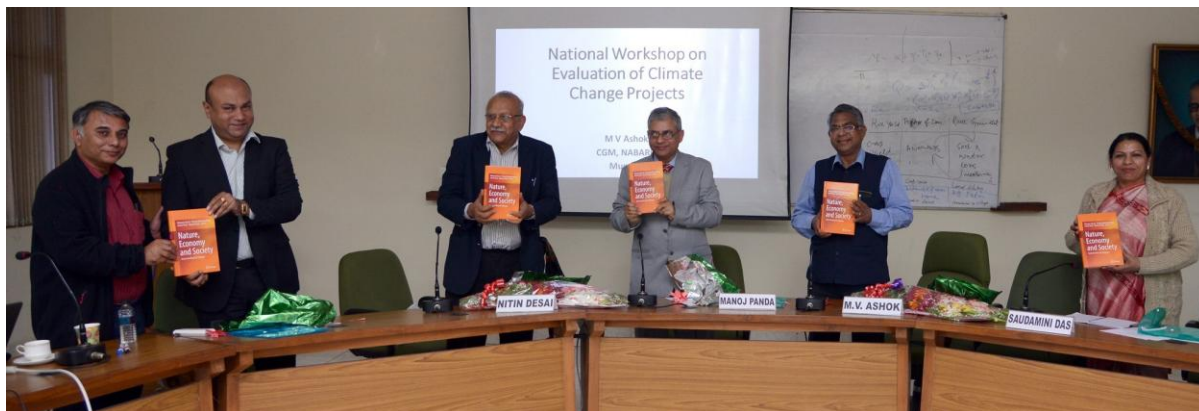
From left:, Simon Ferrier, Rob Alkemade, K N Ninan and Paul Leadly



Participants of 'Scenarios and Models in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services'

**2. Book Release of *Nature, Economy and Society: Understanding the Linkages*, edited by Nilanjan Ghosh, Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Amita Shah and Manoj Panda, published by Springer.**

Nitin Desai, former Under Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations and former Chairman of Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) released the book. Nilaljan Ghosh, one of the co-editors made a presentation on the book.



From left: Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Nilanjan Ghosh, Notin Desai, M V Ashok and Saudamini Das

**3. Website of INSEE**

It has been a constant endeavor to update and upgrade the website. Documentation of all the past events on the website is almost complete.

**ECOLOGY, ECONOMY AND SOCIETY**  
*– the INSEE Journal*

**AIMS AND SCOPE:**  
*Ecology, Economy and Society – the INSEE Journal* is an open access peer reviewed bi-annual journal. EES offers authors a forum to address socio-environmental issues from, across and within the natural and social sciences. It intends to promote methodological pluralism and inter-disciplinary research.

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**Why Publish in *Ecology, Economy and Society*?**

- Journal of Indian Society for Ecological Economics founded in 1998
- Internationally acclaimed Editorial and Advisory Board
- Open access and peer-reviewed
- Wide professional peer readership
- Journal content freely available and archived online
- No submission or review fee for contributors
- Early turnaround time
- Early view publication on acceptance before the inclusion in the print issue
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- Promotion and publicity of publications through Facebook, Twitter and other social media channels

Submissions of Research Papers will be accepted till **June 30, 2017** for the inaugural issue (expected in November, 2017). Contributions received afterwards will be considered for subsequent issues.

**Sections:**

- Commentary
- Literature Review, Thematic Survey or Essay
- Research Paper
- Dialogue
- Notes from the Field
- Book Review
- Report

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**4. Ecology, Economy and Society – INSEE Journal**

Following the approval received at the 13th General Body Meeting held on 11th February 2017, Advisory Board met on 24th March, 2017 in the Seminar Hall of TERI University, New Delhi. An advertisement for Managing Editor was published subsequently. Following the recommendation of the Selection Committee for appointment of the Managing Editor and its subsequent ratification by the Executive Committee, the incumbent Megha Nath an INSEE member assumed office on May 15, 2017. Meanwhile an advertisement seeking for Research paper was published in the *EPW* in issue dated May 6, 2017 and in the *Current Science* in the issue dated May 26, 2017 besides through INSEE website, Facebook and other social media platforms.



## 5. Publication of previous conference proceedings

- The edited volume emerging out of the 7<sup>th</sup> Conference (Tezpur 2013) will be published by Sage in August 2017.

The 'world' around us is changing – partly by its own natural interactions and cycles but also by intense anthropogenic pressures. Global Change refers to the planetary level changes in the Earth system, and it includes – more importantly -- the *effect of* and *impact on* human society.

The global economy has grown at an unprecedented rate in the recent times: be it the last century or the millennium alike. Its impact on natural systems is a cause of much worry. The overwhelming scientific evidence points to anthropogenic pressures pushing life on earth to a finite end. While numerous past international efforts have been calling for urgent and immediate globally coordinated corrective action to address this multidimensional and trans-disciplinary challenge, 2015 Paris Universal Climate Agreement and the subsequent Marrakesh Proclamation on Climate and Sustainable Development signed by 196 countries and the EU bloc provides hope towards some political action at least.

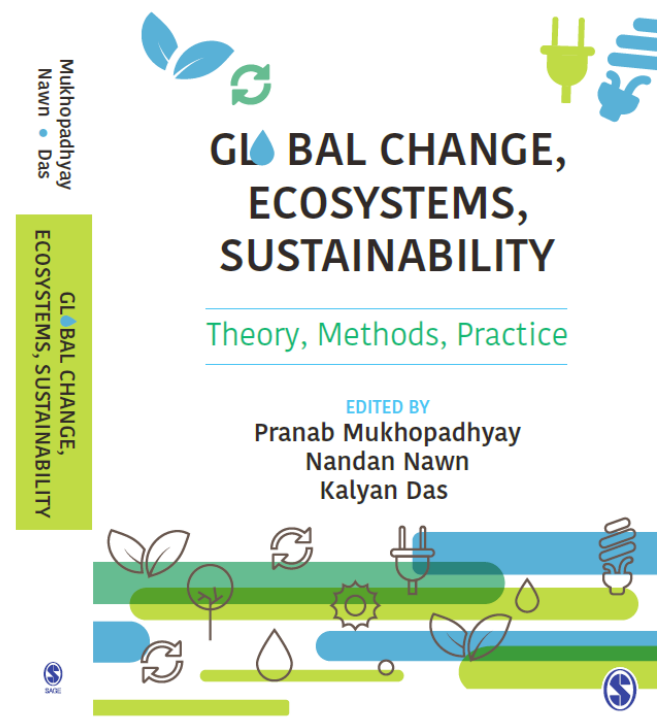
What has engaged researchers working in this area are the identification of the drivers, as well the *type, nature* and dimensions of the changes, especially of the ecosystems from which human beings draw their direct sustenance. While understanding the complex ecosystems is difficult due to the inherent non-convexities and uncertainties, it makes the need for corrective action more critical as these processes are often irreversible.

Notwithstanding the historical neglect in the trajectories of economic development of its connection with ecological sustainability, the nature of global changes has made it impossible not to recognize it. The other neglect has been linking of social and economic processes with natural system dynamics. Trans-discipline of ecological economics addresses both, in connecting global changes with the broader question of development. The popular terms in such ecology-economy-society interface like vulnerability, adaptation and mitigation aptly captures these connections.

This volume combines papers presented at the Seventh Biennial Conference of the Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) on the theme of 'Global Change, Ecosystems, Sustainability' with some specially invited papers for this volume.

The papers are classified into two groups. The first, titled 'Making Sense of Global Changes: Macro Dimensions' focuses on the current debates on global change. It reviews the status and examines the drivers, direction and magnitude of global change. It also studies the methods that would enhance our understanding of the impacts.

The second group titled: 'Sustainability, Ecosystems and Institutions: from the practice' addresses the complex interaction between nature, scale and intensity of vulnerabilities. It also discusses the adaptation and mitigation strategies at the Macro, Meso and Micro level.



## **6. INSEE Election**

On 9th May 2016, the Executive Committee of INSEE had appointed Jagdish Krishnaswamy (then a member of the EC) as the Returning Officer for the 10th INSEE election. Election was announced on XYZ. A total of 15 candidates filed their nomination: one for President and 14 for the Executive Committee. 71 members voted in the election.

Election results was announced on 6th June 2016: Pranab Mukhopadhyay was declared elected unopposed and following members were declared elected for Executive Committee: Saudamini Das, Nandan Nawn, Bejoy K Thomas, Bibhu Prasad Nayak, K N Ninan, Kalyan Das, Brototi Roy, Jeena T Srinivasan, Ramachandra Bhatta and P Balachandra. On 16th July, 2016, the newly elected members assumed office. Subsequently Joyashree Roy and E Somanathan were coopted in the EC.

The Executive Committee is grateful to Jagdish Krishnaswamy and Smita Manohar (of LBWonline) for smooth conduct of the election.

## **7. Membership of the INSEE**

As on March 31, 2017, INSEE has 465 Life members, 10 Life Members Corporate Bodies, 1 ordinary member and 8 student members. The total membership thus stands at 484.

**Executive Committee Members of INSEE (2016-2018)**

<b>President:</b>	Pranab Mukhopadhyay
<b>Vice President:</b>	K N Ninan
<b>Secretary:</b>	Nandan Nawn
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Kalyan Das
<b>Joint Secretary:</b>	Bibhu Prasad Nayak
<b>Joint Secretary:</b>	Jeena T Srinivasan
<b>Member:</b>	P Balachandra
<b>Member:</b>	Ramachandra Bhatta
<b>Member:</b>	Saudamini Das
<b>Member:</b>	Brototi Roy
<b>Member:</b>	Joyashree Roy
<b>Member:</b>	E Somanathan
<b>Member:</b>	Bejoy K Thomas

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Sushil Kumar Sen  
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