

**INSEE**

Indian Society for Ecological Economics

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

**Annual Report  
2018-2019**

**C/o. INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH  
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI ENCLAVE (NORTH CAMPUS)**

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# *Preface*

The Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) was established in New Delhi (India) on September 24, 1998 and registered as a Society under the Societies Act in January 1999. It is a regional society affiliated to the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE). INSEE aims to further the cause of sustainable development by providing a forum for continuous dialogue among scholars, practitioners and policy analysts working at the interface of the economy, society and ecosystem.

INSEE has 528 members as of 31st March 2019 of which 502 are life members, 6 ordinary and 10 student members. It has 10 institutional members. The membership base of the society is increasing every year.

INSEE is governed by an executive body elected by its members. The eleventh Executive Committee of the INSEE took charge on 24th April 2018. The present Executive Committee has been taking keen interest in furthering the mission and mandate of INSEE by undertaking several activities and strengthening some of the ongoing activities including promotion of INSEE's flagship journal, *Economy, Ecology and Society*.

During the period 2018-19 INSEE conducted a number of capacity building workshops, training programmes and special lectures in partnership with Universities and Institutes across India. INSEE also organised a panel discussion on 'Communicating and Engaging Ecosystem Services in Policy and Practice in India' in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun at the Ecosystems Services Partnership (ESP) Asia Regional Conference which was held at the WII, Dehradun during October 7-9, 2018. INSEE was also accorded Accreditation status to the Seventh Plenary Session of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), United Nations held at Paris, France during April 29th to May 4th 2019. Two issues of Volume 1 and Volume 2 of *Ecology, Economy and Society*, the INSEE Journal was also published which is receiving wide attention and appreciation. In the years ahead INSEE hopes to upscale its activities and help build a greener economy and society.

**K N Ninan**  
President

**Jeena T Srinivasan**  
Secretary

## Executive Committee Members of INSEE (2018-2020)



**K N NINAN**

President  
Centre for Economics, Environment  
and Society, Bangalore



**SHREEKANT GUPTA**

Vice President  
Delhi School of Economics (DSE),  
New Delhi



**JEENA T SRINIVASAN**

Secretary  
Centre for Economic and Social Studies,  
Hyderabad



**TAPAS KUMAR SARANGI**

Treasurer  
National Institute of Labour Economics  
Research and Development (NILERD),  
New Delhi



**R. BALASUBRAMANIAN**

Joint Secretary  
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University,  
Coimbatore



**RAKESH KUMAR SHARMA**

Joint Secretary  
Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public  
Administration  
(HIPA) Shimla



**SANTADAS GHOSH**

EC Member  
Department of Economics & Politics,  
Visva-Bharati Santiniketan,  
West Bengal



**AMALENDU JYOTISHI**

Amrita School of Business (ASB),  
Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham  
Bengaluru



**MANJULA M.**

EC Member  
M.S.Swaminathan Research  
Foundation, Chennai



**BROTOTI ROY**

EC Member  
Institute of Environmental Science  
and Technology,  
Autonomous University of  
Barcelona, Spain



**L. VENKATACHALAM**

EC Member  
Madras Institute of Development  
Studies, Chennai



**ASMITA KABRA**

EC Member  
Ambedkar University, New Delhi



**PRANAB MUKHOPADHYAY**

EC Member  
Department of Economics, University  
of Goa, Goa



**NANDAN NAWN**

EC Special Invitee  
Department of Policy Studies, TERI  
University,  
New Delhi



Outgoing and new INSEE Executive Committee members and Office Manager on the occasion of the 42nd Executive Committee meeting held at the TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi on 24th April 2018

*(L to R: 2nd Row): Kalyan Das, Nandan Nawn, Amalendu Jyotishi, L Venkatachalam, Shreekant Gupta, Manjula Menon and Tapas Kumar Sarangi*

*(L to R: 1st Row): Sushil Kumar Sen, Rakesh Kumar Sharma, R Balasubramanian, Pranab Mukhopadhyay, K N Ninan, Jeena T Srinivasan and Santadas Ghosh*

## Introduction

During 2018-19, the Indian Society for Ecological Economics completed twenty years since its registration. Over these years, INSEE has been engaged in furthering the cause of sustainable development by providing a forum for continuous dialogue among scholars, practitioners and policy analysts working at the interface of the economy, society and the ecosystem. The successive executive committees of the INSEE and its members have been engaged in various activities that are aimed at promoting the cause of sustainable development. The current executive committee of the INSEE which took charge on 24th April 2018, also have been actively engaged in carrying forward the aims and objectives of INSEE and the standards set by the previous committees. This report provides a summary of the major activities of INSEE during 2018-19.

## EVENTS ORGANIZED

During 2018-19, INSEE completed twenty years of its existence since its registration. As in the previous years, INSEE has been actively engaged in promoting the cause of sustainable development by organizing various training programmes and workshops, special lectures, panel discussions in conferences organized by other organisations and institutions working in similar fields etc.

The following are the important events organized by INSEE during the past year.

### a. Workshop on Ecological Economics (27 September 2018)

INSEE organised a one-day workshop on Ecological Economics in association with the Department of Economics of Satyawati Morning and Evening Colleges on 27th September 2018 at Satyawati College (Day) in Delhi. The workshop was intended for college teachers and researchers with an intention to introduce them to the core concepts of ecological economics which goes beyond environmental economics by combining ecological, social and economic knowledge in an integrated way. It has been called the "science of sustainability". The workshop highlighted that instead of resorting to a single unit of account - money - ecological economics uses a variety of indicators and includes the biophysical structure of economic processes. Its approach is fundamentally social-metabolic, meaning that the economy is seen as an open system -open to the entry of energy and materials and to the exit of wastes and emissions. Social -metabolic processes take place in a state of permanent non-equilibrium: energy and materials continuously flow throughout the economy. The economy is thus considered a subsystem of society (i.e. of the cultural, institutional and power structures), and is itself a subsystem of a larger finite global ecosystem, the Biosphere. Some of the core concepts of ecological economics were qualitatively and quantitatively discussed with special reference to the Indian context.

Asmita Kabra, Professor and Dean, School of Human



**Session 1:** Transcending externalities and market failures - Exploring ecosystem services and valuation [AsmitaKabra]

**Session 2:** Crafting global carbon market-based solutions - prospects and limits[AsmitaKabra]

**Session 3:** Theoretical and conceptual framework of Ecological Economics[Nandan Nawn]



*Participants of the workshop on Ecological Economics held at the Satyawati College, Delhi on 27 September, 2018*



*Participants interacting with the resource persons*

Ecology, Ambedkar University, Delhi and Nandan Nawn, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Policy Studies, TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi, acted as resource persons for INSEE at the workshop.

**b. WII-INSEE Panel Discussion at Ecosystems Services Partnership (ESP) Asia Regional Conference held at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, October, 2018)**

The Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun in partnership with the Indian Society for Ecological

Economics (INSEE) organised a Panel Discussion on: Communicating and Engaging Ecosystem Services in Policy and Practice in India at the Ecosystems Services Partnership (ESP) Asia Regional Conference held at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun from 9th to 12th October, 2018. The panel was held from 10.30 am to 12 noon on 11th October 2018. K N Ninan, Madhu Verma and Jyothis Sathyapalan were the panelists from INSEE and V B Mathur, Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun from WII. K N Ninan (INSEE) and V B Mathur (WII) chaired the panel discussion



**SESSION PROGRAM (ID) T1 8 WII-INSEE Panel Discussion on: Communicating and Engaging Ecosystem Services in Policy and Practice in India**

**Session Hosts: K N Ninan (Indian Society of Ecological Economics) and Vinod B Mathur (Wildlife Institute of India)**

**Time duration of the whole session: 10.30 am to 12 noon (One and half hour)**

**Timetable speakers**

Time duration	First name	Surname	Organization	Title of presentation
10.30 to 10.40	Karachepone	Ninan	Indian Society for Ecological Economics, Delhi	Introduction and Introducing the Panellists
10.41 to 10.56	Vinod	Mathur	Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun	Ecosystem Services: Capacity Constraints and Policy Uptake Issues
10.57 to 11.12	Madhu	Verma	Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal	Tiger Reserve Valuation: Communicating and Engaging in Policy and Practice
11.13 to 11.28	Jyothis	Satyapalan	National Institute for Rural Development, Hyderabad	Marine Ecosystem Valuation and Policy Engagement
11.29 to 11.44	Karachepone	Ninan	Centre for Economics, Environment and Society, Bengaluru	Valuation of Biodiversity and Forest Ecosystem Services: Communicating and Engaging in Policy and Practice
11.45 to 12.00	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>	Open house Q & A/Discussion

**c. Workshop on Research Methodology in Environmental Economics (16-22 November 2018)**

INSEE organized a workshop on 'Research Methodology in Environmental Economics' jointly with the Department of Economics & Politics, Visva-Bharati (A Central University in District Birbhum, Santiniketan, West Bengal) under UGC-SAP (DRS II) programme during 16-22 November 2018. The week-long Workshop aimed at developing policy-oriented research skills relating to

different areas of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics. Altogether 25 participants, mostly research scholars from different universities and research foundations, had attended the workshop. Twenty four participants had their Master degree in Economics, while one had his training in Geography, and who is diversifying into 'resource economics' for his research. The following table shows the diversity of participants based on their institutions of origin at their Master's degree level.





*WII-INSEE Panel Discussion: L to R: Dhaval Negandi, Jyothis Sathyapalan, V B Mathur (Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun) and K N Ninan at the ESP Asia Regional Conference held at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun on October 11, 2018.*



*L to R: Dhaval Negandhi, Madhu Verma and K N Ninan at the ESP Asia Regional Conference held at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun during October 9-11, 2018*



*Participants of the Research Methodology Workshop on Environmental Economics with Pranab Mukhopadhyay and Santadas Ghosh held at the Department of Economics and Politics, Viswa Bharathi University during November 16-22, 2018.*

### Participants' Institutional background

Name of the University	Number of Participants'
Calcutta University	2
Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University, (AKTU, Lucknow)	1
Kalyani University	1
Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT)	1
Rabindra Bharati University	2
University of Burdwan	5
University of Hyderabad	1
University of Madras	1
University of North Bengal	1
Visva-Bharati University	10
Total =	25

A series of lectures were delivered by several resource persons of which five were life members of INSEE. Santadas Ghosh, Associate Professor, Viswabharati and EC member was the convener of the workshop.

## Resource Persons in the Workshop

Resource Person	University/Institution	INSEE Association
Pranab Mukhopadhyay	Goa University	Ex-President, INSEE
Nandan Nawn	TERI University	Ex-Secretary, INSEE
Santadas Ghosh	Visva-Bharati	EC-member, INSEE
Rabindranath Bhattacharya (currently adjunct professor)	Jadavpur University	Life Member, INSEE
Achiransu Acharyya	Visva-Bharati	Life Member, INSEE
Soumyendra Kishore Datta	University of Burdwan	
Soumyananda Dinda	University of Burdwan	
Rajarshi Majumdar	University of Burdwan	
Saumya Chakrabarti	Visva-Bharati University	
Soumyadip Chattopadhyay	Visva-Bharati University	
Amit Kumar Biswas	Visva-Bharati University	
Biswajit Mandal	Visva-Bharati University	

In the Inaugural Session of the Workshop, Santadas Ghosh explained the objective and motivation of the Workshop. He also introduced INSEE to the participants and described the role played by INSEE to bring the research fraternity together who have shared interest in Environmental and Resource Economics. Later, taking some time off from their lecture sessions and upon the queries posed by the participants, the Ex-President and Secretary of INSEE (Pranab Mukhopadhyay and Nandan Nawn) had also elaborated on INSEE using its website - its online membership application procedure and journal submission procedure.



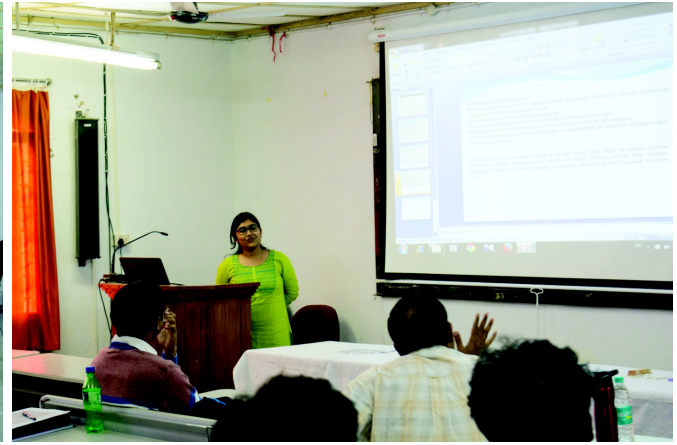
*Nandan Nawn delivering a lecture in the Research Methodology Workshop on Environmental Economics held at Viswabharathi University during November 16-22, 2018*



*Rabindranath Bhattacharya delivering a lecture in the Research Methodology Workshop on Environmental Economics held at Viswabharathi University during November 16-22, 2018*



*A Workshop Participant presenting her concept note before a panel of experts*



*A Workshop Participant getting comments on her presentation from experts*

By the end of the Workshop, participants were expected to gain conceptual clarity and theoretical knowledge in these fields covered in the lectures. The specialty of the workshop was the opportunity that the participants had to make their presentations. Each participant was asked to develop some research concept notes, mainly focusing on the background/motivation, research questions and proposed methodology based on learning in the

workshop and having some link with Environmental/ Resource Economics. A panel of experts comprising of Rabindranath Bhattacharya, Santadas Ghosh and Saumya Chakrabarti had acted as the jury and provided comments and observations to improve upon their research concept notes. Feedbacks from participants were very encouraging and the Workshop was a grand success.



*Participants of the Research Methodology Workshop on Environmental Economics with Rabindranath Bhattacharya and Santadas Ghosh*

d. Lecture on 'Urban Flooding, Vulnerability & Resilience: Lessons from South Asia' by Susmita Dasgupta (7 December 2018)

The Department of Economics, Goa University organised a talk in collaboration with INSEE and the Indian Institute of Architects (Goa Chapter) on Urban Flooding, Vulnerability & Resilience: Lessons from South Asia by Susmita Dasgupta, Lead Environmental Economist, World Bank on 7th December 2018. She presented her work on Dhaka city which is routinely devastated by floods. Pranab Mukhopadhyay organised this event. E F N Rebeiro, Former Director, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi presided over the meeting.

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, GOA UNIVERSITY**  
 announces a talk  
 IN COLLABORATION WITH  
**INDIAN SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS, (INSEE)**  
 &  
**THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS (GOA CHAPTER)**  
 ON

**URBAN FLOODING  
 VULNERABILITY & RESILIENCE  
 LESSONS FROM SOUTH ASIA**

BY: **DR. SUSMITA DASGUPTA**  
 LEAD ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMIST, WORLD BANK

The talk will be chaired by  
**PROF. E.F.N. RIBEIRO**  
 EX. CHIEF PLANNER - GOVT. OF INDIA,  
 FORMER DIRECTOR SCHOOL OF PLANNING & ARCHITECTURE, NEW DELHI

& Introduction by  
**PROF. P.K. SUDARSAN**,  
 HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, GOA UNIVERSITY

**SPEAKER'S BIOGRAPHY**  
 Dr. Susmita Dasgupta is a Lead Environmental Economist in the Environment and Energy Research Group of the World Bank with a specialisation in empirical research. Her research focuses on environmental management in developing countries. Dr. Dasgupta has done extensive projects on health hazards of pollution, poverty/ environment nexus, setting priorities in pollution control, biodiversity loss, impacts of climate change on coastal zones and climate resilience, adaptation to climate change, cost effective regulations, monitoring and enforcement of regulations. She has conducted research activities in Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Cuba, India, Iran, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Vietnam and Yemen and has published numerous articles and books related to development and environment.

**DR. SUSMITA DASGUPTA**  
 LEAD ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMIST  
 WORLD BANK

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED TALK**  
 The seminar will discuss the need for better urban design, better and more elastic, resilient during the monsoon season, according to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the World Meteorological Organization. Thus, climate change will impact on cities in coastal areas and flood plains. Dr. Dasgupta will present her research related about work on the city of Dhaka which is routinely devastated by floods. Her work provides a road map for strengthening urban climate - disaster resilience and adaptive capacity of South Asian cities. She argues that climate - smart policies require local planners to better understand the likely damage from current flooding, potential damage from climate - related risks, and measures that can be taken to cope with current and future flooding and adaptation costs. In this presentation, Susmita Dasgupta will discuss the outcomes of a multidisciplinary research conducted by a team of hydrologists, economists and regional planners for building local resilience to flood - disaster risk. The research assesses Dhaka's preparedness for urban flood emergencies, estimates probable damage from extreme rainfall events by 2050 with or without climate change, develops structural and non-structural measures to cope with current and future flooding, evaluates the reduction in economic damage resulting from implementing these measures, and estimates adaptation cost. These provide important lessons for urban planners and economists who seek answers in critical knowledge gap related to the assessment of flood disaster risk.

**DATE:** 7TH DECEMBER 2018 **TIME:** 2:30 PM TILL 4:00 PM  
**VENUE:** CONFERENCE HALL, ADMIN BLOCK,  
 GOA UNIVERSITY, TALEGAO PLATEAU, GOA  
 ALL ARE cordially invited (open to public)

Structural adaptation priority climate change measures  
 Regional planner economist deliberation Pollution Adaptation cost  
 Smart policies  
 urban planners Biodiversity loss Environment Infrastructure



Susmita Dasgupta delivering a lecture at Goa University

e. IEG-INSEE Public Lecture by Susmita Dasgupta, Lead Economist, World Bank (12 December 2018)

The NABARD Chair of the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), Delhi in partnership with INSEE organised a Special Lecture on: **The Economics of Building Resilience to Flooding: A Case of Dhaka City** by Susmita Dasgupta, World Bank at the IEG, Delhi on 12th December 2018. Shreekant Gupta and Saudamani Das helped in organising the event which was well attended. Kanchan Chopra presided over the event.

**IEG**  
 सत्यमेव जयते

**INSEE**  
 Indian Society for Ecological Economics

*Invitation*  
 to a  
**SPECIAL LECTURE**

**ECONOMICS OF BUILDING RESILIENCE TO FLOODING: A CASE OF DHAKA CITY**

**DATE:** Wednesday 12th December 2018 | **TIME:** 3:00 PM  
**VENUE:** V. K. R. V. Rao Room, Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi  
**CHAIR:** Professor Kanchan Chopra, Former Director, Institute of Economic Growth and Former President, Indian Society for Ecological Economics  
**SPEAKER:** Dr. Susmita Dasgupta, Lead Environmental Economist, World Bank, Washington DC

Please join us for High Tea after the talk

**Professor Manoj Panda**  
 Director, Institute of Economic Growth

**Professor K.N. Ninan**  
 President, Indian Society for Ecological Economics

**BIOGRAPHY OF THE SPEAKER**  
**Susmita Dasgupta** is a Lead Environmental Economist in the Environment and Energy Team of the Development Research Group. Her research area is environmental management in developing countries. She has conducted her research in Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Cuba, India, Iran, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Mexico, Tunisia, Vietnam and Yemen, and has published numerous books and papers.

**ABSTRACT**  
 This talk presents the results of a multiyear and multidisciplinary research project by a team of hydrologists, economists and regional planners for building local resilience to flood-disaster risk. Inter alia, it assesses Dhaka's preparedness for urban flood emergencies, estimates the economic damage from extreme rainfall events by 2050 and a reduction in these damages from appropriate policy interventions. The implications of this study for similarly placed developing country megacities are also highlighted.

**Kerala Flood Relief**

f. Training Course on Remote Sensing, GIS and Machine Learning Methods for Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (4-5 January 2019).

INSEE in collaboration with Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), New Delhi conducted a two-days training on "Remote Sensing, GIS and Machine Learning Methods for Environment, Natural



*Susmita Dasgupta, Kanchan Chopra, Saudamini Das and Shreekant Gupta at the IEG-INSEE Public Lecture held at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi on 12 December 2018*



*Participants at the IEG-INSEE Public Lecture by Susmita Dasgupta held at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi on 12 December 2018.*

Resources and Agriculture", January 4-5, 2019 for research scholars and early career academics.

Remote sensing and GIS tools provide access to spatially delineated satellite imagery-based high-resolution data for research applications in economics. Multi-year satellite imagery provides both space and time dimensions that have potential to enhance our understanding of environmental systems and design policies for promoting efficient management of natural resources and sustainable agricultural practices. In recent years several authors have utilized satellite data in

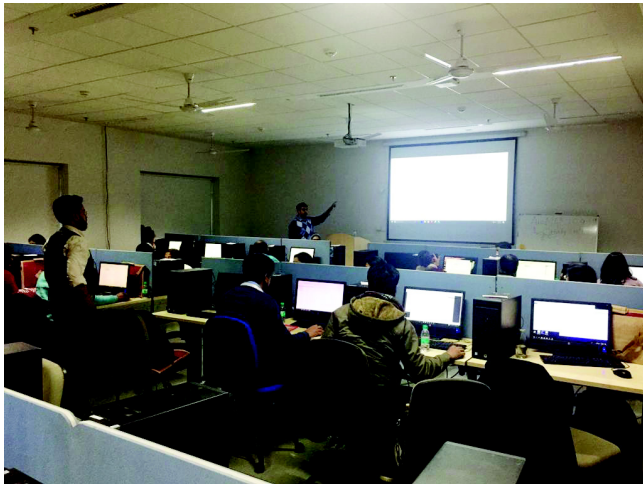
conjunction with coarse administrative surveys and filed surveys for innovative econometric applications, especially in areas of natural resource economics and agricultural economics.

Machine learning methods, on the other hand, allow for the design of flexible models that allow accurate out-of-sample prediction of the response variable. An active debate in the economics literature concerns itself with similarities and differences of machine learning models from the traditional regressions' methods for observational data developed by econometricians over the years. Machine learning is not understood as being a 'better' substitute for regressions. Regression analyses lead to statistical inference from past social phenomenon or policy interventions, which is often of higher interest to economists than out-of-sample predictions enabled by machine learning. However, economists now argue for using machine learning methods for applications in various policy evaluations, situations, especially efficient estimation of heterogeneous treatment effects, etc.



The course provided basic principles for acquiring, reading and analysis of satellite sensor data using specialized spatial image processing software. The training programme covered techniques for incorporating such data into econometric modelling in conjunction with survey data and / or administrative data. Fundamental concepts of machine learning was covered including kernelized regression, classification,

clustering and representational learning, and their applicability in economics. Instructors provided hands-on training of spatial modelling and machine learning tools including ERDAS Imagine, ArcMAP, Python and



SAS.

The course was coordinated by Shreekanth Gupta, (Professor of Economics, Delhi School of Economics and Vice President, INSEE). The instructors were Gaurav Arora (Assistant Professor of Economics, IIIT Delhi) and Saket Anand (Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, IIIT Delhi). About

22 participants attended the course.

### g. NIRD&PR - INSEE one day workshop on Promoting Nature-Based Solutions for Mahatma Gandhi NREGS for achieving SDGs 2030 (8 February 2019)

INSEE organized a one-day workshop on **Promoting Nature-Based Solutions for Mahatma Gandhi NREGS for achieving SDGs 2030** on 8th February 2019 at the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad. The nature-based solutions are "actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits" (IUCN2018). Nature-based solutions are promoted internationally for achieving the sustainable development goals 2030. Incorporating such solutions in the planning and implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, can promote sustainability. The Mahatma Gandhi NREGS aims to augment rural livelihood security by creating sustainable natural and human made assets through public works, which is implemented in convergence with other development programmers to create synergies in rural development. There are many examples of such synergies which not only helped to



*Participants of the Training Course on Remote Sensing, GIS and Machine Learning Methods for Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, held at the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, New Delhi during January 4-5, 2019*

enhance rural livelihoods, but also promoted sustainable natural assets. The widespread and long-lasting impact of natural assets are in the form of various ecosystem services. Integrating nature-based solutions in planning and execution of works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS can address ecological linkages with human livelihoods more effectively in planning, implementation and monitoring of outcomes. It will also encourage the Gram Panchayats to modify their perspective plans towards achieving the United Nations 2030 agenda of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Against this backdrop, the Centre for Wage Employment at NIRDPR organized a one-day workshop in collaboration with the Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE), to understand the significance of nature-based solutions in planning, execution and monitoring of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS with the aim to localize SDGs. The workshop deliberated on themes such as Nature-Based Solutions, Ecosystem Services and GIS based planning for strengthening Natural Resource Management. The workshop elaborated on different aspects of nature-based solutions in augmenting human livelihood by taking examples of natural assets under MGNREGS. The expected outcome of the workshop

aimed at better targeting of future course of action with respect to research, capacity building and monitoring of activities under MGNREGS. There were about 30 participants selected based on nominations from the government (Centre and State level) and direct application from the non-governmental and academic institutions for the workshop.

The workshop was coordinated by Jyothis Sathyapalan (Centre for Wage Employment, NIRD& PR and INSEE member) and Jeena T Srinivasan (Secretary, INSEE). Shreekant Gupta, (Delhi School of Economics and Vice President, INSEE) and Shalini Dhyani (NEERI and INSEE member) were resource members for INSEE.



*NIRD&PR - INSEE workshop on Promoting Nature-Based Solutions for Mahatma Gandhi NREGS - ( L to R: Meeekha Hanna Paul, Jeena T Srinivasan, W R Reddy (Director-General of NIRD & PR, Hyderabad). Jyothis Sathyapalan, Shreekant Gupta and Shalini Dhyani*



*NIRD&PR - INSEE workshop- group discussions in progress*

## INSEE AWARDS / HONOURS

### a. Bina Agarwal Prize for Ecological Economics

An MOU was signed between INSEE and Bina Agarwal to institute the **Bina Agarwal Prize for Ecological Economics** to be awarded biennially, for outstanding contributions in Ecological Economics. This





*Participants of the NIRDPR-INSEE workshop on Promoting Nature-Based Solutions under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS with W R Reddy (Director-General of NIRD & PR) and the resource persons*

international prize has been established by Bina Agarwal (INSEE's founding Governing Board member) to honour pioneering intellectual contributions in this interdisciplinary field, which is of critical importance today in global efforts to enhance human well-being and environmental sustainability with social justice. The award carries an honorarium of Rs 2 lakhs, a citation, and coverage of awardee's expenses within India for attending the award ceremony at INSEE's biennial conference or any related event. Those who have made substantial and original contributions in Ecological Economics (broadly defined to include all environmental social sciences) are eligible for the award. The contributions should include an outstanding body of published research of excellence (in terms of authored books and papers) in Ecological Economics, mainly as it relates to South Asia and available in English. Additional weight will be given to nominees whose work demonstrates impact beyond the academe, such as on government policy and/or community practices. Nominees can be of any discipline or nationality and can be based anywhere globally. A Prize Jury Charter was also signed, and the selection will be made by an international jury. Individuals, organizations or other interested parties are eligible to nominate.

The Prize Jury for the first round of prize comprises of Clem Tisdell (Chair), John Gowdy and E Somanathan. Nandan Nawn, Rajeswari Raina and Jeena T Srinivasan (prize contact person) were nominated as the members of the Prize sub-committee. The call for nominations was announced in 2018 and the first award will be presented during the Tenth INSEE Biennial Conference.

#### **b. INSEE Fellow**

The Indian Society for Ecological Economics decided to confer the honour and title of INSEE Fellows to those Life Members of INSEE who have made outstanding contributions to research, teaching, training, policy and practice of Ecological Economics and related disciplines (natural and social sciences) in its broadest sense.

The honour and title of INSEE Fellow will be conferred every two years to not more than three Life Member of INSEE (aged 55 years and above and who have been INSEE Life Members for at least TEN years). The past Presidents of INSEE are considered as honorary INSEE fellows. The award will consist of a citation and conferring of the title of Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) Fellow on the selected Life Member. INSEE President is the ex- officio secretary of the INSEE Fellows Selection Committee

Nominations can be made by any Life Member of INSEE in the prescribed nomination form. Self-nominations and nomination of deceased members at the time of submitting the nomination form are not eligible. The Fellows will be selected by an INSEE Fellows Selection Committee consisting of three INSEE Life Members.

The jury for selecting INSEE Fellows 2019 comprised of Kanchan Chopra (Chair), Amita Shah and K J Joy. The Call for nominations has been circulated for INSEE Fellows on 6th February 2019.

### **PUBLICATION of JOURNAL**

INSEE had launched its Flagship Journal Ecology, Economy and Society at the Ninth INSEE Biennial Conference held at KILA, Thrissur, Kerala from 8th to 10th November 2017. A pre-print version of the journal was released at the conference. The inaugural issue of the journal was published in April 2018 after registration with the Registrar of Newspapers in India and with ISSN numbers for both web and print versions of the journal. The electronic version of the journal is now available online at <https://ecoinsee.org/journal/>. INSEE distributed about 400 complementary copies of EES 1(1) to various libraries and individuals seeking subscription.

Prof. Jayanta Bandyopadhyay has stepped down as editor of EES and Kuntala Lahiri Dutt has joined as editor of EES-the INSEE Journal. Nandan Nawn has taken charge as new Managing Editor of EES from Megha Nath.

To facilitate the financial sustainability of the journal INSEE sought donations from its members for the Earmarked Fund for INSEE Journal. Following this appeal INSEE members donated around Rs 3.76 lakhs towards the journal.

INSEE is thankful to the Editors (Kanchan Chopra, Kamal Bawa, Jayanto Bandopadyay and Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt), Associate Editors, the Editorial Advisory Board members and the Managing Editors (Megha Nath earlier and now Nandan Nawn) for the unstinted efforts in bringing out this journal.

### **TENTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT**

The conference announcement and call for papers of the Tenth INSEE Biennial Conference was made on 1st January 2019. The announcement was hosted on INSEE

website, INSEE google group mail, published in Economic and Political Weekly (print and web), Current Science, ISEE and EAREE websites. The conference brochure was also sent to many institutions and universities across India.

The conference theme is on Climate Change and Disasters: Challenges, Opportunities and Responses will be organized jointly with Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), during 6-8 November at CESS, Hyderabad.

### *Theme*

The risks arising from climate change are many, such as unforeseen and extreme weather events like heat waves, typhoons and cyclones, coastal and river flooding, and prolonged droughts. These can have adverse economic, social and environmental consequences and affect human well-being and the overall quality of life. The rising demand for food due to rising population and incomes coupled with declining production of staples such as wheat, rice and maize due to the adverse effects of climate change will undermine food security and affect the poor and vulnerable people.

Building resilience to address these climate risks poses a challenge to governments, societies and entities. Mainstreaming 'resilience' into development plans is therefore critical to tackling poverty, inequality, ill health and poor sanitation, as well as realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), since poor and marginalized people and poor countries that have low adaptive capacity are most vulnerable to the adverse consequences of climate change. Improving climate and disaster risk management can also lead to larger gains in development and poverty reduction. Building resilience will also be helpful in coping with uncertainties arising from the complex and dynamic interactions between climate change and other parameters such as health.

What are the likely impacts of climate change on human and natural ecosystems? How will it affect different sectors and sections of the society? What are the alternatives and policy options to address the risks posed by climate change and extreme weather events?

INSEE proposes to provide a platform for interdisciplinary engagement on these issues and invites contributions from students, researchers, practitioners and policy-makers at its Tenth Biennial Conference

organized jointly with the Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad, Telangana, and held at CESS from 6-8 November 2019. INSEE also plans to conduct a one-day workshops for young scholars and researchers as associated events of the conference.

### Sub-themes

1. Climate Change: Macro Perspectives
  - 1.1. Vulnerability assessment
  - 1.2. Growth, human well-being and SDGs
2. Impacts, Mitigation and Adaptation
  - 2.1. Agriculture, fisheries, forests, mining
  - 2.2. Biodiversity and ecosystem services
  - 2.3. Urban ecosystems
  - 2.4. Energy and renewable energy
  - 2.5. Water, lakes, rivers, and marine ecosystems
  - 2.6. Health, sanitation and nutrition
3. Incentives, Institutions, Governance, Communities
  - 3.1. Carbon prices, taxes, trading and finance
  - 3.2. Regulatory measures
  - 3.3. Governance, Communities and Action
4. Extreme Weather Events and Disasters
  - 4.1. Droughts, Floods and Cyclones
  - 4.2. Other extreme events
5. Climate Justice and Equity
  - 5.1. Gender
  - 5.2. Vulnerable sections and regions
6. Building Climate Resilience
  - 6.1 Nature-based solutions
  - 6.2 Other alternative approaches, Technology, Infrastructure

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## OTHER MATTERS

### a. MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

There were some issues and delays observed in getting new members enrolled. The membership committee investigated this in detail and took a decision to directly handle membership applications through [insee.membership@gmail.com](mailto:insee.membership@gmail.com) instead of through the INSEE office. Once the membership application is approved by the committee the INSEE office corresponds with the applicant for payment of membership fee and assignment of membership number after the applicant remits membership fee.

### b. ACCREDITATION STATUS TO THE SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION OF IPBES BEING HELD AT PARIS, FRANCE FROM APRIL 29TH TO MAY 4TH 2019

INSEE got Accreditation status to the Seventh Plenary Session of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), United Nations being held in Paris, France from April 29th to May 4th 2019.

### c. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM ICSSR

INSEE received a maintenance grant of Rupees One Lakh for the year 2018-19 from the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi for supporting its office functions.

### d. INSEE EC AND GB MEETINGS

The followings meetings of the Executive Committee and the General Body of INSEE was conducted during 2018-19.

- ◆ The 42nd Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) was held at 10.30 a.m. on Saturday, April 21st, 2018 in the Conference Hall, The TERI School of Advanced Studies, Delhi.

- ◆ The 43rd Meeting of the Executive Committee of INSEE was held electronically through Skype at 10.00 am on Saturday, November 3rd 2018.
- ◆ The 44th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) was held at 10.30 a.m. on Saturday, March 9th, 2019 at AM Khusro Hall, Institute for Economic Growth, New Delhi.
- ◆ The 15th meeting of the General Body of the Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) was convened at 02.30 pm on the 9th March 2019 at the AM Khusro Room, Institute of Economic Growth Delhi.

### e. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR POSTING MAILS IN GOOGLE GROUP

As some issues have been observed in recent times in the circulation of mails in the INSEE google group which were inappropriate and making personal attacks and abuse, the executive committee approved some guidelines for posting mails to INSEE google group. It was made clear that the INSEE google group mail platforms can be used for having internal debates and discussions but INSEE cannot take a stand on an issue.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

INSEE expresses its gratitude to all INSEE members for the support extended to INSEE in organising its various events and activities. INSEE also thanks the institutes, universities, agencies and organisations who sponsored and supported the INSEE to conduct its various events and activities during 2018-19. Thanks, are also due to the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) for its financial assistance to INSEE. INSEE is also grateful to the Institute for Economic Growth, Delhi for providing office space to INSEE and for extending necessary support for the functioning of INSEE Office managed by Sushil Kumar Sen, Office Manager of INSEE and the team.

**Sushil Kumar Sen**

Office Manager

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