

Annual Report 2021-22



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INSEE
Indian Society for
Ecological Economics



ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

C/o. INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH
UNIVERSITY ENCLAVE, DELHI – 110 007

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Foreword

The Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) was established in New Delhi (India) on September 24, 1998. It was registered under the Societies Act in January 1999. INSEE is India's only academic society in the field of ecological and environmental economics, and allied areas. Our members are globally recognized scholars of ecology, environment, natural resources, energy, climate change, agriculture and several other areas and many have served in India's top institutions such as the Planning Commission and Finance Commission, and are recipients of national and international honours such as the Padma awards. INSEE is affiliated to the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE) and aims to further the cause of sustainable development by facilitating dialogue among scholars, practitioners and policy analysts at the interface of the economy, society and the ecosystem. The Society also provides 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. 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.

This report enlists and provides a brief synopsis of INSEE activities during April 2021 – March 2022, including INSEE lectures, workshops and training courses for research dissemination and capacity building; the INSEE Biennial Conference 2021; updates regarding the launch of new INSEE Website; and INSEE Membership status. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic INSEE activities, including the international conference 2021; INSEE Lectures and INSEE Workshops, were held virtually via Zoom.

INSEE Lecture Series

1. INSEE Lecture by Dr. Ram Ranjan (Shiv Nadar University) on April 27, 2021

Industrial Wastewater Remediation using Agroforestry

Abstract: Industrial effluents and municipal wastewater are increasingly finding their way into freshwater bodies, posing serious health and environmental challenges. In this paper, the potential for industrial wastewater remediation through agroforestry is explored for a periurban farming region in India. Farmers are incentivized under a payment for ecosystem services (PES) mechanism to convert their farmlands into poplar-based agroforestry and utilize industrial effluents for irrigating trees. Additional income can be derived through sale of poplar timber which enhances the attractiveness of such a PES mechanism. A dynamic optimization model compares farmers' optimal land use allocation to a socially optimal case. Further, the firm's effluent discharge outcomes are compared to an alternative arrangement where it is fined for discharging untreated wastewater into waterbodies in absence of the agroforestry remediation option. Results support the attractiveness of such PES mechanisms in addressing the industrial effluent discharge problem while simultaneously mitigating the effects of water scarcity through wastewater reclamation. The optimal level of tax required to accomplish complete treatment of effluents by polluting firms is several times higher compared to PES payments. Further, the incentive to convert farmland into poplar plantations improves with PES payments but declines with higher profitability of agricultural crops

Speaker Bio: Dr. Ram Ranjan (INSEE life member) is Associate Professor of Resource Economics at Shiv Nadar University. In the past, he has worked with Macquarie University and CSIRO in Australia, University of Florida, and USDA Economic Research Services at Washington DC. Dr. Ranjan obtained his Masters degree from Delhi School of Economics and PhD from Penn State University in Resource Economics. His research interests are in water scarcity management, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation responses. A unifying theme for his recent work has been managing risks through mitigation and adaptation measures as well as understanding how changes in natural environments create complex feedbacks in inter-linked human, ecological and economic systems.

2. INSEE Lecture by Prof. Neha Khanna (Binghamton University, USA) on August 31, 2021
Environmental Justice and the Covid-19 Pandemic: Evidence from New York State

Abstract: The decline in human mobility and socioeconomic activities during the COVID-19 pandemic has been accompanied by reports of significant improvements in air quality. We evaluate whether there was a uniform improvement in air quality across neighborhoods, with a special attention to race. We focus on New York state, an early epicenter of the pandemic in the United States. Using a triple difference-in-differences, we find the lockdown decreased disparity in air quality between census tracts with high and low shares of non-white population in rural New York, whereas the racial gap remained unchanged in urban areas.

Speaker Bio: Professor Neha Khanna (INSEE life member) is an environmental economist focusing on air quality in the US. Her work has focused on climate change, global oil markets, the EKC, conspicuous consumption and environmental status signaling and voluntary self-regulation. She serves on the Board of Directors for the AERE and is President-Elect of NAREA. She has served on the American Statistical Association's Committee on Energy Statistics, on the editorial boards of Contemporary Economic Policy and Ecological Economics and as Editor Agricultural and Resource Economics Review. She received the coveted SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities and NAREA Distinguished Member Award. She has published in Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, Journal of Law and Economics, Land Economics, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Environmental and Resource Economics, Ecological Economics and Economics Letters among others. She has a Ph.D in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University and a Masters in Economics from Delhi School of Economics

3. INSEE Lecture by Dr. Carlos Madeira (Central Bank of Chile) on March 23, 2022

The impact of climate change on economic output in Chile: past and future

Abstract: Using region-industry panel data for Chile over the period 1985 to 2017, we find no effect of precipitation changes on GDP and a negative impact of higher summer temperatures on Agriculture-Silviculture and Fishing. An increase of one Celsius degree in the month of January implies a 3% and 12% GDP reduction in Agriculture and Fishing, respectively. There is also a negative effect of higher temperatures in January on Construction and Electricity, Gas, and Water. Our analysis suggests that climate change did not have a big impact on the Chilean economy during this period. Stress test exercises that select only the negative and statistically significant coefficients imply that the Chilean GDP would fall between -14.8% and -9% in 2050 and between -29.6% and -16.8% in 2100, according to our model.

Speaker Bio: Carlos Madeira is a senior economist at the Central Bank of Chile, having led the Household Finance team and coordinated several workshops for the Central Bank of Chile and the Inter-American Development Bank. Carlos published over 20 articles in FinTech, credit regulation, household finance, economic expectations, monetary policy disagreement and pension policy. His research is published in top journals such as the Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Money Credit and Banking, Journal of Banking and Finance, Journal of Applied Econometrics, and Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control. He is Co-Editor of the open access journal Economics and a Scientific Committee Member for conferences such as IFABS, LACEA and IFC. Carlos holds a PhD in Economics from Northwestern University and a BA from Nova SBE.

INSEE Workshops and Training Courses

1. **Three-day INSEE Training Course by Prof. Vikram Dayal (Institute of Economic Growth) and Dr. M Rahul (Indian Economic Service) on September 20, 22, 24, 2021**

R for Ecological Economics

Course Description: Participants will get practice in using core methods in the R software, including the tidyverse package around which a lot of current developments in R happen. A flipped classroom model will be followed. Participants will have to view portions of a video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yj6h0-iLm6s>) and read material that will be shared with them in advance. There will be three sessions with a day's gap in between to allow for practice and reading / viewing. Participants who would be beginners in R should be able to get a reasonable familiarity and comfort with key elements in R, and be in a position to explore the large world of R themselves at the end of the course. Participants would probably need to devote about two hours a day for a week, (including the live online sessions).

Instructors' Bio:

Vikram Dayal is a Professor at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi. He has been using the R software in teaching quantitative economics to diverse audiences, and is the author of the Springer book and video Quantitative Economics with R: A Data Science Approach.

M Rahul is an officer of the Indian Economic Service, currently posted as Deputy Director in Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. He has a PhD in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

2. Shiv Nadar University-Heidelberg University-INSEE Joint Workshop on October 11-12, 2021

Socio-ecological Transformations: Perspectives from Ecological Economics and MINE-Framework

Description: Greta Thunberg has given the protest for the environment and against the climate crisis a personal face. Her central statement is: "Politics is doing far too little for climate protection. This is irresponsible towards young people." Something new has happened with this: The school strike of the Fridays for Future movement represents a new stage in the struggle to protect and care for the natural foundations of life: Who would have expected the emergence of such a strong and high-profile protest movement before 2019? Suddenly, the youth has emerged as an addressee and promoter, indeed as a driving force for a socio-ecological transformation. But what are the characteristics of the much demanded "socio-ecological transformation"? What is being transformed and where is the transformation leading? This workshop aims to approach these questions step by step and from an interdisciplinary perspective based on the approach of Ecological Economics. • What are socio-ecological transformations? • Why is it useful to analyse these transformation processes using an interdisciplinary framework? • How can such an interdisciplinary framework be developed? • What perspectives and theoretical dimensions are opened by this approach?

[Download Workshop Poster](#)

INSEE Biennial Conference 2021
INSEE-IITD International Conference 2021
[Download Full Programme Booklet](#)

The INSEE 11th Biennial Conference organized in collaboration with IIT-Delhi during 15-17 December 2021, was an intense *online* 4-day event (including a post-conference workshop on Behavioral Economics) marked by a scholarly exchange of ideas and sharing of new research on the theme of *Sustainable Societies, Ecological Systems and Economic Development*. This year's conference had a policy focus on sustainable development goals (SDGs) of the United Nations and ongoing national crises like air pollution, limited water access and water quality management, health, climate change, agriculture, urbanization, accelerated biodiversity losses due to ongoing deforestation and other land use changes. The conference was built around the three aspects of sustainability as recognized by the Brundtland Commission in 1987: economy, environment, and society with a focus on air, water, solid waste, energy, transport, and health. The interdependence between economic growth and ecological systems whereby economic growth feeds on natural resources and emits wastes which threaten their provision is long recognized. Economic sustainability by way of growth and development has guided conventional development under the assumptions of unlimited natural resources market all and a strong belief in development 'trickling down' to reduce inequality. However, increasing recognition of the limits to growth and natural resources necessitates sustainable development which expands developmental concerns to include natural, social and human capital.

Being the only academic society in India in the field of ecological economics and multi-disciplinary socio-environmental research, INSEE brought together the South Asian academic and policy research community in the field, and dedicates its flagship conferences to core ecosystem challenges confronted by the world community at large, and South Asia in particular. Indeed, researchers spread across Asia, Australia, Canada, Europe and North America participated in the 11th Biennial conference of INSEE to present their work and ideas. **Overall, the conference received above 700 registrations and more than 1,600 unique sign-on across all the virtual sessions held during the conference. A total of 70 papers were presented across 24 parallel sessions spread through the first day of the conference.**

The conference featured plenary lectures, paper presentations and discussions on sustainable development and management of ecological resources. New and unpublished research was presented on air pollution policy, health impact of coal plants, climatic change and crop damage, crop resilience to droughts, sustainable energy deployment, water literacy, groundwater management, forest-food-health nexus and the use of artificial intelligence in sustainable development. Managing climate related risks calls for tangible inputs from both the social sciences and engineering disciplines. The deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) can meaningfully contribute to improvements in energy efficiency, better climate predictions, monitoring of resource depletion and greener transportation (Vinuesa, et al. 2020). Our conference featured an exclusive session on the role of AI and ML in environmental management. Finally, a post-conference workshop was organised on the cutting-edge area of behavioral economics in the context of environmental issues.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing travel restrictions, the conference was held in the virtual mode consisting of online lectures and discussions, and only the core organizing team being physically present at the IIT-Delhi campus.

Conference Highlights

INSEE-SANDEE Karl-Göran Mäler Memorial Lecture

Lecture Title: Sustainable Development and Inclusive Wealth: Problematics

Speaker: Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta, Frank Ramsey Professor Emeritus of Economics, Cambridge University

Chair: Dr. Pushpam Kumar, United Nations Environment Programme, Washington DC

Plenary Lectures

- **The Microeconomics of Climate Change: Lessons for India**

Speaker: Professor Matthew E. Kahn, University of Southern California, U.S.A.

Chair: Dr. Jagdish Krishnaswamy, Indian Institute of Human Settlements, Bengaluru

- **Skills for the Green Economy: What, Where and How Much?**

Speaker: Dr. Francesco Vona, French Economic Observatory of Sciences-Po, Paris

Chair: Professor Pulapre Balakrishnan, Ashoka University

- **Valuation of Ecosystem Services – I & II**

Speaker: Dr. David Simpson, American University, Washington DC

Chair: Dr. Bhim Adhikari, International Development Research Center, Ottawa

Dr. Madhu Verma, World Resources Institute, New Delhi

- **Promoting Corporate Social Responsibility in Asia: Opportunities and Challenges**

• **Speaker:** Professor Madhu Khanna, University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign

Chair: Professor B.N. Goldar, Institute of Economic Growth (retired)

- **Effects of Community Characteristics on the Spatial Distribution of Toxic Pollution**

Speaker: Professor Madhu Khanna, University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign

Chair: Professor Ramprasad Sengupta, Jawaharlal Nehru University (retired)

Contributed Sessions

Session	Chair
Environmental Policy, Competitiveness and Green Technology	Prof. Aparna Sawhney, Jawaharlal Nehru University
Economics of Groundwater Extraction and Policy - I	Dr. K.J. Joy, Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management
Economics of Groundwater Extraction and Policy - II	Prof. J.V. Meenakshi, Delhi School of Economics
Models of Emission Generation Technologies and Applications	Prof. Sushama Murty, Jawaharlal Nehru University
Air Pollution and Health	Prof. Neha Khanna, Binghamton University
Air Pollution	Prof. E Somanathan, ISI Delhi
Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Environment	Dr. Saket Anand, IIT-Delhi
Contingent valuation methods	Dr. Kavita Sardana, TERI SAS
Urban and Peri-Urban Ecosystem Management	Dr. Soumya Dhanaraj, Madras School of Economics
Health impacts of Air Pollution	Dr. Kanishka Kacker, ISI Delhi
Water and Sanitation	Dr. Viju James
Climate Change and Agriculture	Prof. A.K. Enamul Haque, East West University
Climate Extremes: Impacts and Adaptation Responses	Prof. Seema Purushottam, Azim Premji University
Ecological-Economic Interactions in Rural Society	Prof. M.G. Chandrakant, ISEC Bangalore
Green technology adoption and related issues	Prof. Joyashree Roy, Asian Institute of Technology
Sustainable Forest Development	Prof. Saudamini Das
Global Environmental Change	Prof. Haripriya Gundimeda, IIT Bombay
Growth and Environment	Prof. Vidya Mahambare, Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai
Marine Resource Development and Policy Issues in Coastal Societies	Dr. Sandip Kumar Agarwal, IISER Bhopal
Networks, collective action and local environmental outcomes	Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh, Observer Research Foundation
Sustainable Development Goals: Lessons for Economic Policy	Dr. Tanmoy Das, XIM University Bhubaneswar
Human Behavior and the Environment	Kiriti Kanjilal, IIT-Delhi

Symposium on Narpat S. Jodha

Chair: Jayanta Bandyopadhyay, Observer Research Foundation

Speakers:

- Kanchan Chopra, Institute of Economic Growth (retired)
- Sharachandra Lele, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment
- Harpinder Sandhu, Federation University Australia



**Ecology, Economy
and Society -
the INSEE Journal**

Editor's Report – Ecology, Economy and Society: The INSEE Journal

Kamal Bawa, Kanchan Chopra, Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt

The INSEE launched its Journal in the Ninth Conference in 2017, after almost four years of intense discussions in successive Executive Committees. The bi-annual, open access, peer-reviewed journal, which was christened “Ecology, Economy and Society” to reflect the range of issues and methodologies it sought to cover has completed four years of publication. In this short session, we will reflect on the journey of the INSEE journal in this period. The contents of the first two issues show- cased the support the journal received by way of submissions from a galaxy of leading experts in climate change, institutional economics, environmental economics and political ecology. Simultaneously, “conversations” on contemporary issues reflected a range of approaches and “special sections” focused on areas of significance or alternative epistemologies, e.g. ecological distribution conflicts, new epistemologies of water and sustainability transitions from an ecological economics perspective. Research papers published have increased consistently over time, with the latest issues being able to include three to four. The Notes from the field section provides insights into newer insights and observations not yet ready to take the form of a research paper. The reach of the journal is gradually extending to include less researched newer areas at the interface of different disciplines while it continues to provide researchers with an opportunity to publish in core areas of environmental economics.

Parallel to these developments, successive Managing Editor have worked hard towards recognition by the journal in the UGC Care list, its listing by Cross Ref and Scopus and several international forums. Readership, as measured by the number of hits at the website has also increased exponentially. We the Editors, together with colleagues on the Editorial Board and the INSEE-EC can justifiably claim that the journal has come a long way in its short life time. There is a great deal more to do, of course.

Presented by Prof. Kanchan Chopra (Editor) and Prof. Asmita Kabra (Associate Editor)

Post-Conference Workshop on Behavioral Economics

Session I: Behavioral Economics – Theory & Applications

Instructor: Sandip K. Agarwal, IISER Bhopal

- 1) Review of Classical Choice Theory
- 2) Behavioral Decision-making Theory: Prospect Theory
- 3) Application of Prospect Theory – Agricultural Index Insurance
- 4) Social Norms and Energy Conservation
- 5) Role of Salience and Inattention in framing of public policies

Session II: Designing Experiments in z-Tree

Instructor: Tanmoy Das, XIM University, Bhubaneswar

In this session, candidates will learn how to code experiments and surveys in z-Tree.

z-Tree software is an open-source software and can be downloaded for FREE by following the instructions below.

- 1) Go to link: <https://www.uzh.ch/ztree/ssl-dir/index.php>
- 2) Click on “Obtain a license.”
- 3) Select all ‘Terms and Conditions.
- 4) Fill in your personal details: name, email id, etc.
- 5) For ‘I request for a license’ select ‘myself.’
- 6) You will receive a username & password in your email.
- 7) Use the username and password to login here: <https://www.uzh.ch/ztree/ssl-dir/index.php>, and download the latest version.

Readings

Shogren, Jason F., and Laura O. Taylor. “On behavioral-environmental economics.” *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy* 2.1 (2008): 26-44.

Venkatachalam, L. “Behavioral economics for environmental policy.” *Ecological economics* 67.4 (2008): 640-645.

Croson, Rachel, and Nicolas Treich. “Behavioral environmental economics: promises and challenges.” *Environmental and Resource Economics* 58.3 (2014): 335-351.

Conference Web and Social Media Coverage

Website: www.ecoinsee.org/insee-conference-2021

YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCoEuNEjloRG_1Kik5Hy6Xag/videos

LinkedIn: <https://in.linkedin.com/in/indian-society-for-ecological-economics-39b822226>

Twitter: www.twitter.com/INSEE16

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/ecoinsee

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Shweta Gupta (student volunteer)

INSEE Membership

During April 2020 - February 2022 INSEE enrolled 59 Life Members, 24 Student Members and 4 Ordinary Members. INSEE membership fee structure was revised ([click for details](#)) and the tenure of Student Members was changed from 5-years to 1-year starting January 7, 2021 (subsequent to approval from INSEE General Body). Overall, as on April 1 2022, INSEE has a total of 607 Life Members; 15 Student Members (11 of whom have memberships valid until 2023, 3 with membership valid until 2025, and 1 being enrolled for year 2022) and 11 Institutional Members. As on April 2020, INSEE had 548 Life Members; 16 Student Members and 11 Institutional Members.

INSEE Website

On September 6, 2021 a new INSEE website was launched. The website revamping exercise effected by the INSEE EC website committee (1) yielded a modern layout and design which is compatible across different devices: mobile, tablet and PC; and (2) ensured greater autonomy, ease of management and updating and enhanced security for our web data, all by moving to a standard free content management system (CMS) i.e. **WordPress**. Overall, the purpose of this exercise of revamping the INSEE website was to provide a modern design and layout, and also an efficient mechanism for how it is managed. INSEE Life Member Mr. Saif Ali (L-565) assisted the website committee through the launch of the new website. Furthermore, the domain account for www.ecoinsee.org were transferred to BigRock in October 2021 on the account that its original domain holder Net4India filed for bankruptcy.

INSEE Journal



Volume 4 Issues 1 and 2 of EES-The INSEE Journal were published, printed and disseminated among its subscribers during Academic Year 2021-2022.

Additional Reporting Items

- INSEE received its first-ever ICSSR grant of Rs. One Lakh for supporting the activities of Ecology, Economy and Society- the INSEE Journal.
- INSEE launched a new [official YouTube channel](#) –INSEE Official – on December 2, 2021 which currently hosts the six plenary lectures that were delivered during the 11th Biennial Conference of INSEE.
- INSEE launched a new **LinkedIn Page** on November 28, 2021 to disseminate INSEE activities among the interested audiences.

Acknowledgments

INSEE acknowledges with thanks the generous support of funding agencies, collaborators, partners and donors towards the society's activities, in particular Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Indian Council for Social Science Research, International Development Research Center (Canada), Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) and TATA Trusts.

GALLERY

INSEE-SANDEE Karl-Göran Mäler Lecture : 16:30-18:00 (IST), December 15

Sustainable Development and Inclusive Wealth: Problematics.



Prof. Sir Partha Dasgupta
Frank Ramsey Professor Emeritus of Economics
Cambridge University

Plenary: 11:30-13:00 (IST), December 15 & 16
Promoting Corporate Social Responsibility in Asia



Madhu Khanna
University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign

Plenary: 09:30-11:00 (IST), December 15 & 17
Valuation of Ecosystem Services



David Simpson
American University

Plenary: 09:30-11:00 (IST), December 16
The Microeconomics of Climate Change:
Lessons for India



Matthew E. Kahn
University of
Southern California

Plenary: 15:30-17:00 (IST), December 17
Skills for Green Economy: What, where and how much?



Francesco Vona
French Economic Observatory
of Sciences-Po

INSEE-IIITD

International Conference 2021

ATTENDANCE FREE

Register: <https://ecoinsee.org/>

December 15-17, 2021 | Online

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Karl-Göran Mäler
1939 - May 20, 2020

Swedish economist and joint recipient
of the Volvo Environment Prize
along with Sir Partha Dasgupta

INSEE-IIIITD
International Conference 2021

The Eleventh Biennial Conference of INSEE
Dec 15-17



**The Economics
of Biodiversity:
The Dasgupta
Review**



Prof. Sir Partha Dasgupta
Leader, The Dasgupta Review

INSEE-IIIITD
International Conference 2021

The Eleventh Biennial Conference of INSEE
Dec 15-17



Plenary: 11:30-13:00 (IST), December 15 & 16

Effects of Community Characteristics on the Spatial Redistribution of Toxic Pollution



Speaker: Madhu Khanna, UIUC

Eleventh INSEE Biennial Conference

Sustainable Societies, Ecological Systems and Economic Development

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DELHI

Register @ <https://ecoinsee.org/>

Plenary: 09:30-11:00 (IST), December 16

The Microeconomics of Climate Change: Lessons for India



Speaker: Matthew E. Kahn
University of Southern California

Dr. Kahn will talk about his Yale University Press book
*Adapting to Climate Change:
Markets and the Management of an Uncertain Future*, 2021

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Register @ <https://ecoinsee.org/>

Plenary: 15:30-17:00 (IST), December 17

Skills for Green Economy: What, where and how much?

Speaker: Francesco Vona
French Economic Observatory of Sciences-Po, Paris



Studies on the relationship between “green policies” and the labour market have been often relegated to the grey literature due to the lack of clear definitions of green jobs and skills.

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Plenary: 09:30-11:00 (IST), December 15 & 17

Valuation of Ecosystem Services

Speaker: David Simpson, American University



Dr. Simpson’s work focuses on the economics of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and strategies for their protection.

Eleventh INSEE Biennial Conference

Sustainable Societies, Ecological Systems
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