

Annual Report

2023-24



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Delhi – 110007
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INSEE
Indian Society for
Ecological Economics

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

**ANNUAL REPORT
2023-24**

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Preface

The Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) was established in New Delhi and registered as a Society on 29 January 1999 under the Societies Registration Act X XI of 1860. It is a regional society affiliated with the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE). INSEE aims to further sustainable development by providing a forum for continuous dialogue among scholars, practitioners, and policy analysts working at the interface of ecology, economy, and society.

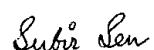
INSEE's membership base has grown over the years. Currently, it has 654 members, including 635 Life Members, 07 Annual Members, out of which 04 are Student Members, and 12 Corporate Members.

INSEE is governed by an executive body elected by its members. The term of the Twelfth Executive Committee of the INSEE ended in April 2022, and following the successful conduct of the Elections, the Thirteenth Executive Committee (2022-2024) assumed the responsibilities of the Secretariat. The same Executive Committee is in place at present.

The reporting year (2023-24) was an eventful year for INSEE, including successfully hosting the Twelfth Biennial Conference. The Annual Report summarises events and matters relevant to the Society members.



Nilanjan Ghosh
President



Subir Sen
Secretary

Executive Committee Members of INSEE (2022-24)

President



Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh
Director,
Observer Research
Foundation (ORF),
India.

Vice President



Dr. Seema Purushothamam
Professor, Azim Premji
University, Bengaluru

Secretary



Dr. Subir Sen
Associate Professor,
IIT Roorkee

Treasurer



Dr. Chandan Singha
Associate Professor,
Hindu College, University of Delhi

Joint Secretary



Dr. Shyamasree Dasgupta
Associate Professor,
IIT Mandi

Members



Dr. Pradyot Ranjan Jena
Associate Professor,
National Institute of
Technology Karnataka



Dr. Prajna Paramita Mishra
Assistant Professor,
University of Hyderabad



Dr. Manjula Menon
Associate Professor,
Azim Premji University,
Bengaluru



**Dr. Chandra Sekhar
Bahinipati**
Assistant Professor,
IIT Tirupati



Dr. Amarnath Tripathi
Associate Professor
Jaipuria Institute of
Management, Noida



Dr. Lavanya Suresh
Associate Professor,
BITS-Pilani, Hyderabad
campus

Co-opted EC Members



Dr. Mani Nepal
SANDEE Program Coordinator & Lead
Economist at ICIMOD



Dr. Balachandra Patil
Chief Research Scientist,
Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru

Introduction

2023-24 was another eventful year for the Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE). INSEE completed 24 years of its existence as a registered society, and the Thirteenth Executive Committee took over the secretariat in May 2022, which is currently in place. This year, the Twelfth Biennial Conference of INSEE was organised by INSEE from 31 January to 2 February, 2024, on “SDGs and Climate Change: Understanding the Imperatives and Intersections”. Apart from the Biennial Conference, five major activities were held. Two training workshops were conducted as a part of the INSEE-MONGABAY INDIA workshop series on Environmental Economics titled “Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services” and “Valuing and Financing Climate Action”. A Panel Discussion by IPCC authors was held on Demand Side Solutions for Climate Change Mitigation (Co-Organised with the Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia) and the INSEE-ORF Event on Climate Change Development and Natural Capital Conundrum featured a book discussion. on “Environmental Economics in Developing Countries: Issues and Challenges” edited by Achiransu Acharya (Routledge). INSEE and Ecology Economy and Society (EES) – the INSEE journal, in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology Mandi also conducted a writing workshop to provide an overview of how to write high-quality book reviews and insights from the field – two essential sections of EES.

This year the focus was to bridge the gap between policy and public understanding of crucial environmental and developmental issues -- something that Ecological Economics must strive for. Some of the endeavours are hallmarks in those directions: partnership with Mongabay-India on training programs, keynote Address by Shamika Ravi, Member, EAC-PM, at the INSEE Twelfth Biennial Conference, Joyanto Bandyopadhyay Endowment Lecture by Prof. Mihir Shah and INSEE members' organic engagement with Think20.

The Journal of the Society came out with its new volumes and there was further consolidation of the editorial board. INSEE continued to receive financial support from the Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR) for the Journal. The Registration under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act was successfully renewed and the renewed certificate is valid for a period of Five years with effect from 1st April 2023. The society completed the financial audits and the financial support in kind received from esteemed members is placed on record. In this report, we summarise the major and minor activities.

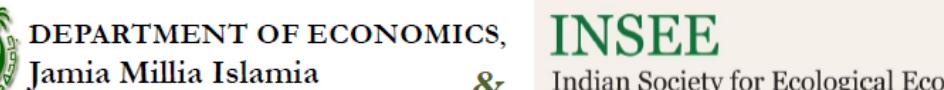
Major Activities

INSEE – JMI Panel Discussion on Demand-side solutions for Mitigating Climate Change

VENUE: Online

TIME: 13.30-14.30 IST

DATE: 5 June 2023, Monday.



On the occasion of World Environment Day

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS,
Jamia Millia Islamia & **INSEE**
Indian Society for Ecological Economics

Cordially invites you to a **PANEL DISCUSSION** by IPCC authors on

**Demand side solutions for
Mitigating Climate Change**

PANELISTS:

Leila Niamir (IIASA-International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria)
Diana Urge-Vorstaz (CEU-Central European University, Hungary/Austria)
Keigo Akimoto (RITE-Research Institute of Innovative Technology for the Earth, Japan)

MODERATOR:

Joyashree Roy (AIT-Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand, Jadavpur University, India and INSEE)

CO-CHAIRS:
Asheref Illiyani, Dept of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia
Nilanjan Ghosh, Observer Research Foundation and INSEE

VOTE OF THANKS:
Nandan Nawn, Dept of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia
and INSEE

5th June, 2023 (Monday)

TIME: 10:00-11:00 hrs Central European Time / 13.30-14.30 hrs Indian Standard Time
15:00-16:00 hrs Bangkok time / 17:00-18:00 hrs Japan Time

VENUE: MS Team. Link below.

INSEE, in collaboration with the Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia organised an online Panel Discussion by the IPCC authors on **Demand-side Solutions for Mitigating Climate Change** on World Environment Day on 5 June 5 2023 (Monday).

In 2018, IPCC 1.5°C Special Report featured a Low Energy Demand scenario that presented energy demand side solutions that generate not only climate benefits but are synergistic with multiple sustainable development goals. The Sixth Assessment Report of IPCC, published in 2022-2023, includes a new chapter dealing with the energy demand side assessment and is attracting international attention as it has

quantified a very high mitigation potential in comparison to traditional supply-side measures alone. All these led to developing an active research community on EDITS (Energy Demand changes Induced by Technological and Social innovations) across regions to better understand the demand side solution issues, quantitatively and comprehensively. The panel comprising of IPCC author, Leila Niamir (IIASA-International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria), Diana Urge-Vorstaz (CEU-Central European University, Hungary/Austria) and Keigo Akimoto (RITE-Research Institute of Innovative Technology for the Earth, Japan) presented what are these demand side solutions, their mitigation potential, links to wellbeing and what method/models are being used to advance this knowledge. Joyashree Roy (AIT-Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand, Jadavpur University, India and INSEE) was the event's moderator. Nilanjan Ghosh (ORF Kolkata, and the Centre for New Economic Diplomacy, ORF & President, INSEE) and Asheref Illiyan, (Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia) were the session co-chairs. Nandan Nawn (Department of Economics, JMI and Associate Editor of Ecology, Economy, Society—the INSEE Journal) presented the vote of thanks.

[View details.](#)

INSEE – Mongabay-India Workshop II on Environmental Economics: Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services

VENUE: Online

TIME: 09:30AM – 12:30PM IST

DATE: 19 July 2023, Wednesday

INSEE, in collaboration with Mongabay-India, conducted a series of workshops on the intersection of journalism, environment, and economics — “Environmental Economics for Journalists”. The second workshop of the series was held on 19 July 2023. The workshop was titled, **‘Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services: Internalising Values in Policy, Institutional and Market Interventions’**.

The event started with examples of economic valuation of ecosystem services for Net Present Value (NPV), estimation of the state’s gross ecosystem product, and valuation of tiger habitats. The internalisation of the values will be discussed from the policy, institutional, and market mechanisms angles. Madhu Verma, INSEE Fellow & Senior Economic Adviser, Iora Ecological Solutions, New Delhi, was the workshop’s resource person.

MONGABAY
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WORKSHOP FOR JOURNALISTS
Economic valuation of ecosystem services

 19th July 2023
 9.30 AM to 12.30 PM

 **Madhu Verma**
INSEE Fellow &
Senior Economic Adviser,
Iora Ecological Solutions



SESSION 1
Putting economic valuation to practice
A journey through the studies on NPV, natural resource accounting and tiger habitat valuation

SESSION 2
Valuation as a base for economic instruments
Classification and case studies of the 13th, 14th and 15th Finance Commissions

The workshop spanned over two sessions:

- Session 1: Putting economic valuation to practice: A journey through the studies on NPV, natural resource accounting and tiger habitat valuation.
- Session 2: Valuation as a base for economic instruments: Classification and case studies of the 13th, 14th and 15th Finance Commissions.

The workshop was planned to cater to journalists and copy editors covering environmental and/or developmental issues from South Asia to create a basic understanding of South Asia's environmental concerns. Prior journalistic experience (at least four years) was made a prerequisite to be able to participate in the workshop. The workshop could be attended free of cost and journalists from across the country and South Asia participated in this free online workshop.

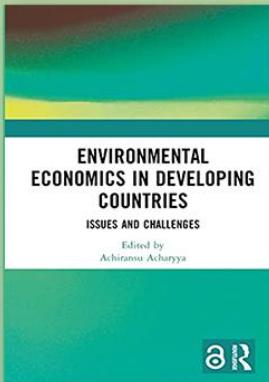
[View details.](#)

INSEE – ORF Book Discussion “Environmental Economics in Developing Countries: Issues and Challenges” (Routledge, 2023)

VENUE: Observer Researcher Foundation (ORF) Kolkata

TIME: 15:30 – 17:00 PM IST

DATE: 29 September 2023, Friday



BOOK DISCUSSION

CLIMATE CHANGE, DEVELOPMENT, AND THE NATURAL CAPITAL CONUNDRUM

The Role of Economics

SEPTEMBER 29, 2023 | 3.30 PM IST
ORF KOLKATA

SPEAKERS

 SUGATA HAZRA Professor of Oceanography, School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University	 JEENA T SRINIVASAN Associate Professor, Centre for Economic and Social Studies	 PRANAB MUKHOPADHYAY Professor of Economics, Goa Business School	 SUMANA BANDYOPADHYAY Professor, Department of Geography, Calcutta
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ANCHOR PRESENTATION **MODERATOR** **WELCOME REMARKS** **VOTE OF THANKS**

 ACHIRANSU ACHARYYA Editor, Environmental Economics in Developing Countries: Issues and Challenges (Routledge, 2023)	 DR NILANJAN GHOSH Director, ORF Kolkata and President, Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE)	 ANIRBAN SARMA Deputy Director and Senior Fellow, Observer Research Foundation (ORF) Kolkata	 DEBOSMITA SARKAR Junior Fellow, ORF Kolkata
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In collaboration with ORF Kolkata, INSEE organised a book discussion session on 29 September 2023 on the publication titled “Environmental Economics in Developing Countries: Issues and Challenges” (Routledge, 2023).

The book edited by Achiransu Acharyya (Department of Economics, Visva-Bharati University in Santiniketan, West Bengal), studies the environmental challenges developing economies face in a post-COVID-19 world. It analysed nature conservation policies to minimise ecological damage arising from economic development and discusses the policy objectives of sustainable development. The discussants included Sugata Hazra (School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University), Jeena T Srinivasan (Centre for Economic and Social Studies), Pranab Mukhopadhyay (Goa Business School) and Sumana Bandyopadhyay (Department of Geography, Calcutta University). The session was moderated by Nilanjan Ghosh, Director, ORF Kolkata and President, Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE).

[View details.](#)

INSEE – EES – IIT Mandi Online Workshop on Writing Book Reviews & Field Reports

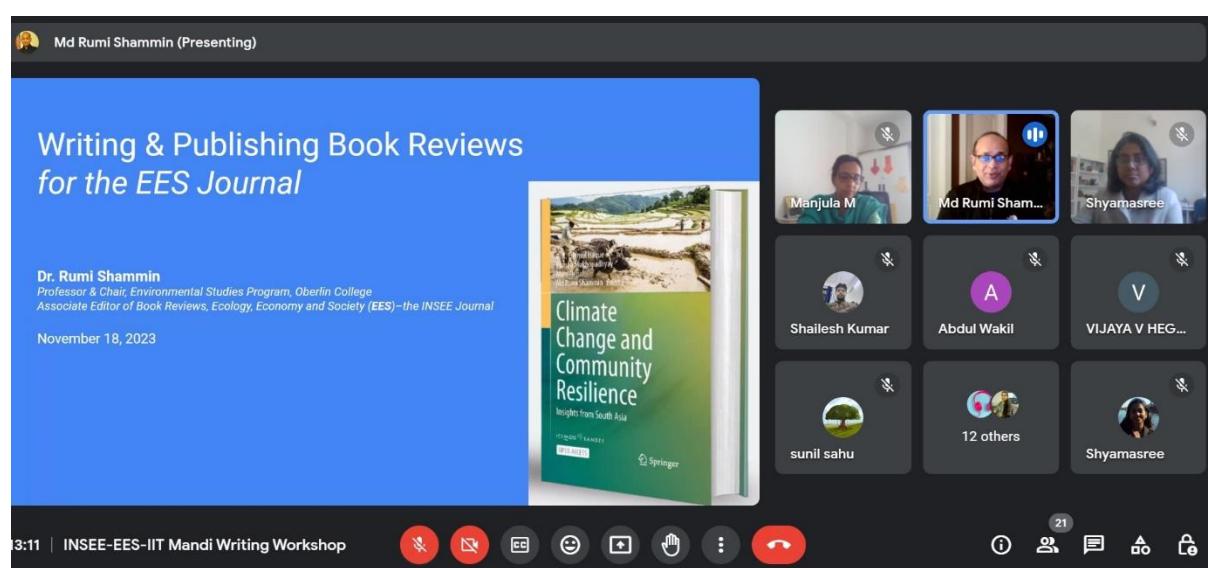
VENUE: Online

TIME: 13:00 –15:30 PM IST

DATE: 18 November 2023, Saturday

A writing workshop was organised by the Indian Society for Ecological Economics and Ecology, Economy and Society – The INSEE Journal (EES), in collaboration with Indian institute of Technology Mandi, to provide an overview of how to write high-quality book reviews and field reports (or Insights from the field) – two essential sections of EES. The workshop is specifically designed for young INSEE members, who are students/research scholars/ early-career researchers who are potential contributors to these sections of EES.

Associate Editors of EES, Prof. Md Rumi Shammin, Director of the Environmental Studies Program at Oberlin College, Ohio, USA and Dr. Veena Srinivasan, Founder and Executive Director of WELL Labs were the resource persons of the workshop. Prof. Rumi Shammin, in his talk discussed the importance of engaging in writing diverse academic pieces and how 'Book Reviews' fits into the overall fabric. Topics, such as, characteristics of a good book review, their significance in the changing landscape of readership, the difference between a book review and an opinion piece are discussed. Dr. Veena Srinivasan discussed the expectations from a field report/ insight from the field, how to structure a good academic piece of writing and their characteristics. The workshop was attended by eighteen participants, mostly the research scholars, PhD students.



The biggest problem we have right now.

1. There are major language issues that make it difficult for us to send the papers out for review.
2. The thinking is incomplete. The authors have not figured out what their central point is.
3. The logic is poor. The central point cannot be supported by the data/evidence presented.
4. The writing is poorly structured. It's difficult to trace the argument through the paper.
5. The figures are poorly done and do not support the text.

14:23 | INSEE-EES-IIT Mandi Writing Workshop

Veena Srinivasan (Presenting)

Veena Srinivasan (Presenting)

V VIJAYA V HEGDE...

AJC Bose

S Sangram Mane

Z Zonun Gabriella

A Abdul Wakil

M Shyamasree

11 others

Shyamasree

20

INSEE – Mongabay-India Workshop III on Environmental Economics: Valuing and Financing Climate Action

VENUE: Online

TIME: 10:30AM – 13:30PM IST

DATE: 5 December 2023, Tuesday



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WORKSHOP FOR JOURNALISTS

The blues with the green money: Valuing and financing climate action

 10.30 AM to 1.30 PM

 5th December, 2023



Photo by Ayush Manik/Flickr



Nilanjan Ghosh
Director, Observer Research Foundation
President, INSEE

SESSION 1
Efficiencies and deficiencies of environmental markets in combating climate change

SESSION 2
Challenges and opportunities of financing climate action

INSEE, in collaboration with Mongabay-India, conducted a series of workshops on the intersection of journalism, environment, and economics—“Environmental Economics for Journalists.” The third workshop of the series, **‘Environmental Economics: Valuing and Financing Climate Action,’** was held on 5 December 2023.

The Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP28), set to happen in December in Dubai, was expected to foreground the discussions on climate finance in the media and public space. This workshop was curated to provide an orientation to journalists towards this direction. The workshop was led by Nilanjan Ghosh, President of INSEE and Director at the Observer Research Foundation. Titled **The Blues with the Green Money: Valuing and Financing Climate Action**, the workshop is designed to shed light on the concept of climate finance in two sessions.

- Session 1: The efficiencies and deficiencies of the environmental markets in combating climate change
- Session 2: The challenges and opportunities of financing climate action

The workshop could be attended free of cost and journalists from across the country and South Asia participated in this free online workshop.

[View details.](#)

The Twelfth Biennial Conference of INSEE

VENUE: BML Munjal University, Haryana

DATE: 31 Jan – 2 Feb 2024

The Twelfth Biennial Conference of INSEE was organised during 31st Jan – 2nd Feb, 2024. The theme of the conference was "**SDGs and Climate Change: Understanding the Imperatives and Intersections**". It witnessed a footfall of 117 registered participants, along with 35 panellists and other participants.

With the mid-term review of the SDGs approaching in September 2023, it could aptly be stated that the global development paradigm was at a critical crossroad! The forces that emerged as perennial stressors for global development ambitions in the form of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are global warming and climate change. No doubt, SDGs, which have emerged as the cornerstone of global development governance have been impeded by this "global common bad". All the SDGs need to be achieved while combating forces of global warming and climate change. SDG13 therefore talks of climate action to combat climate change either through mitigation and/or adaptation efforts. Climate change has its ubiquitous impact on all human endeavours thereby affecting SDG achievements.

Given this background, the overarching question that the Biennial Conference wanted to address is: What should be the development trajectory that needs to be followed by nations of the global south to achieve the avowed development ambitions while combating the forces of global warming and climate change? How would the concerns of distributive justice and "just transition" pan out under the conditions of the polycrisis faced by the planet due to the threats of climate change, the pandemic and the Ukraine crisis, all of which are proving inimical for the achievement of the SDGs?

The inaugural session on 31st January 2024 started with Prof. Shyam Menon, Vice Chancellor, BML Munjal university welcoming the audience and conference participants and Prof. Sangeeta Dutta Gupta speaking about the sustainability mission of the host university. In his presidential address, Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh talked the relevance of the conference theme, the synergies and conflicts between the Sustainable Development Goals, ways to achieve the targets in a coherent manner, and the role of ecological economists and social scientists to address the question of sustainability. Dr. Shamika Ravi, in her Keynote Address, touched upon several issues at the intersection of sustainability and climate change. She talked about the agricultural

policy, health and air pollution, resilience actions plan, and deliberated on the need for precision policies at a more granular sub-national level for effective outcomes.

The Conference hosted two panels from academic networks -1) A panel by IDEEA modelling team on India's Zero Carbon Energy Pathway through modelling of the electricity sector in India and 2) Blue fears and blue hopes: The social economy of dried fish in India by the Dried Fish Matters – DFM network. Apart from that there were five institutional panel – 1) Turning 'tragedy' into promises: Strategies for an alternative future for India's commons by Foundation of Ecological Security (FES); 2) Building public discourse for better policy: How to work with media? By Mongabay India 3) Forest restoration issues – Challenges and way forward by South Asian Network for Development and Environment Economics (SANDEE); 4) Business and SDGs: Working for each other for climate change by BML Munjal University and 5) a panel on Agroforestry by the Nature Conservancy.

There were seven parallel sessions in which fourty papers were selected for oral presentation and another forty for poster presentation. Out of this, thirty-six papers and twenty posters were presented. The topics of the sessions ranged from SDGs, gender and health, blue economy, institutional imperatives and environmental governance, SDG finance and climate finance, green accounting and ecosystem service valuation, green growth and water, and food and nutritional security. As a part of the conference, Springer Nature organised a special session on "Ethical Concerns and the Influence of Social Media and AI on Scholarly Publications."

The Twelfth Biennial Conference hosted the first Prof Jayanta Bandyopadhyay Endowment Lecture. The inaugural lecture on "Water Governance in India" by Prof. Mihir Shah was a landmark event at the Twelfth INSEE Biennial Conference. In it, he discussed the barriers to Water Governance Reform in India that appear in the form of structures of power, knowledge, and consciousness.

Professor Biswanath Goldar, Professor Saudamini Das, and Professor M V Nadkarni were conferred the title of INSEE fellow for their outstanding contributions to ecological economics and allied areas.

[View details.](#)

Other Matters

A. Publication of Ecology, Economy and Society: The INSEE Journal

In the year 2023-24, *Ecology, Economy and Society – the INSEE Journal* released two issues, Volume 6 No. 2 in July 2023 and Volume 7 No. 1 in January 2023.



Features pertaining to indexation –

- Enlisted under UGC Care List
- Has Scopus Index
- Received the DOAJ seal
- DOI obtained for EES with a license from Crossref
- In the Free Journal Network
- AgEcon Search

B. Executive Committee and General Body Meetings

The following meetings of the Executive Committee and the General Body of INSEE was conducted during 2023-24:

- The 54th meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of the Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) was held online **on 7 April 2023 (Friday)**.

- The 55th meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of the Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) was held online **on 29 June 2023 (Thursday)**.

The nineteenth General Body Meeting was held on January 31, 2024 at BML Munjal University, Haryana in an offline mode.

C. Think20 Engagement

During India's G20 Presidency, INSEE members made notable contributions to Think20 publications, including "Our Uncommon Future Intersectionality of Climate Change and SDGs In the Global South: Lighthouse Cases and Learnings from India". [Click here](#) to see details.

D. INSEE Fellow

Three members were conferred the title of INSEE fellow during the Twelfth Biennial Conference:

1. Professor Biswanath Goldar
2. Professor Saudamini Das
3. Professor M V Nadkarni

Learn more about their achievements on our [INSEE Fellows webpage](#).

E. Membership Matters

As of 1 April 2023, INSEE had 634 members, comprising 618 Life Members, 12 Student Members, and 1 Corporate Member. The number rose to 654 members, comprising 635 Life Members, 07 Annual Members, out of which 04 are Student Members, and 12 Corporate Members.

F. Financial Assistance

The Society has received generous support from the Indian Council for Social Science Research. INSEE received ICSSR Annual Grant-in-aid for Publication of the Journal 'Ecology, Economy and Society: The INSEE Journal' for 2023-24 vide letter 14-J-1/2021-22/PRS dated 20.03.2024. INSEE also received a donation from Nitin Desai (Life Member, INSEE) for the maintenance of the Journal. INSEE also received a donation from Jayanta Bandyopadhyay (Life Member, INSEE) for sponsoring lectures in the Twelfth Biennial Conference and a one-time grant from the Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) for the same.
