



# INSEE is Twenty

Looking Back, Thinking Ahead



CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION  
SOCIETIES REGISTRATION ACT XXI OF 1860

Registration No. S. 34295 of 1998.

I hereby certify that The Indian Society For  
Ecological Economics

located at Institute of Economic  
Growth University Enclave Delhi - 110007

has been registered under the "SOCIETIES REGISTRATION  
ACT- XXI of 1860".

Given under my hand at DELHI on this 29th day  
of Jan One Thousand Nine Hundred and  
Ninty Eight. Nine

Registration Fee  
of Rs. 50/- paid.



  
Registrar of Societies  
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# INSEE is Twenty: Looking Back, Thinking Ahead

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

## About Indian Society for Ecological Economics

INSEE was conceived at a meeting held in New Delhi on 24 September 1998 and within four months it was registered under the Societies Registration Act (1860), as a regional society affiliated to the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE).

It aims to further the cause of sustainable development by providing a forum for dialogue among scholars, practitioners, and policy analysts from various disciplines, particularly economics and ecological sciences on a range of issues of national and international interests, such as climate change, natural resources, energy, waste, ecosystem services and valuation.

INSEE’s major activities include the following:

- Biennial Conferences,
- Seminars, Workshops, Policy Dialogues and Training Programmes,
- Networking nationally and internationally,
- Publication of Collection of Research Works,
- Dissemination through Web-based Platforms.

Over the years INSEE has expanded its activities – in addition to its regular major activity of organising conferences since the early years, it has increasingly focused on organising training workshops and other outreach events. These activities have been demand-driven given the growing interest among scholars in areas of economy, ecology and the environment.



Participants of ‘Urbanization and the Environment, Eighth Biennial, IISc, Bengaluru, January 2016



Inaugural session of 'Global Changes, Ecosystems, Sustainability', Seventh Biennial, Tezpur University, December 2013; from left: B N Goswami, Bhupen Sarmah, Nilanjan Ghosh, Pranab Mukhopadhyay and Amar Jyoti Choudhury

## Introduction

### Pranab Mukhopadhyay

1999 was a significant year—for Ecological and Environmental Economics in South Asia institutionally at large and on a personal note. It was during a refresher course in Environmental Economics sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) under the World Bank-aided Environmental Management Capacity Building Project (EMCaB) at the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), Delhi in February-March, 1999 that I first learnt of and became a life member of the Indian Society of Ecological Economics (INSEE). Later that year I was privileged to be a part of a workshop organised by the Beijer Institute, Stockholm and the inaugural meeting of the South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics, Kathmandu (SANDEE). Over two decades, INSEE and SANDEE have complimented and partnered successfully to build skills and capacity in South Asia.

INSEE has grown steadily from 8 founding members in 1999 to nearly 460 life members in 2016. The senior members have brought together and nurtured young and talented researchers and academics over the years. Not all our members are economists – there is a healthy mix of natural scientists, ecologists and other social scientists.

I became more involved with INSEE in 2006 as an EC member when Sudarshan Iyengar was the President followed by another term with Kanchan Chopra. During the Presidentship of Amita Shah (2012-14) I was invited to be Secretary. In many ways Amita and Nilanjan represented the start of the second generation of INSEE leadership. The trend continued in the next two terms, with Sharad and me following in that new tradition.

The MoEF and UNEP have played a pivotal role as did the ICSSR, the UGC and many other government agencies and international donor organisations in supporting INSEE. We have received unstinted support from the Institute of Economic Growth who hosted the Society's office since the very beginning. Our Office Manager, Sushil Sen has been with INSEE from the founding days and has always been supportive of our activities with a smile.

In recent years INSEE has looked to go beyond the metropolis to reach out to the not-so-travelled zones of our country, to encourage researchers of these areas to be a part of the vibrant research and teaching community of Ecological Economics. While the Biennials (eight so far) have given opportunities for the young and the experienced researchers to interact face to face, the eight INSEE volumes (one forthcoming) have given young researchers an opportunity to publish their work alongside senior academics in the field giving them much-desired visibility.

Looking forward, INSEE is expected to launch its Journal *Ecology, Economy and Society* by the end of 2017. This will fill a large void in the publishing arena in South Asia for researchers who seek a respectable outlet for their work. As an academic Society that has now reached a certain level of stability and visibility over the past twenty years and as the old guard slowly hands over, the challenge for the younger members would be to take the Society to newer heights so that it can play a stellar role in promoting teaching and research of Ecological Economics in South Asia.

**Pranab Mukhopadhyay** is INSEE President (2016-18).





Plenary Session in 'Nature, Economy and Society: Understanding the Linkages' Sixth Biennial, October 2011, CESS Hyderabad; from left: Karl-Göran Mäler, Bina Agarwal and Ian Bateman

## INSEE at Twenty: Bridging divides, nurturing diversity, extending globally

**Bina Agarwal**

When eight of us founded INSEE in 1998, little did we imagine how important a forum it would become. Today we have 484 members drawn not only from across India but also internationally. Our biennial conferences have run almost consistently every alternative year, hosted in a diversity of ecological landscapes. And our members work on a wide range of topics, cutting across disciplines, methodologies and approaches.

I remember, when INSEE was founded there was a divide among international scholars between environmental economics and ecological economics. Environmental economics was seen as primarily using the tools of mainstream economics, while ecological economics was seen as an interdisciplinary science that integrates ecology and economics and recognizes the interdependence of economic systems and natural ecosystems.

INSEE, however, remained both conceptually and methodologically open, and relatively free of this divide. It did not insist that members embrace one or the other approach, while recognizing the key importance of working across disciplines. I believe this openness is INSEE's strength. The imperatives of climate change, environmental degradation, and biodiversity loss are so serious and so immediate that we need to join hands strategically against the environmental skeptics, even as we debate and dispute alternative approaches within the field.

It is also pleasing to note that although INSEE is India-based, it has international reach. In particular, we have worked closely with the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE). We hosted ISEE's Ninth Biennial Conference in Delhi in 2006; several INSEE members have served on the ISEE Board; and as ISEE's first women and first southern President, I sought especially to bring to the Society the concerns and perspectives of the Global South. In 2012, the Earth Summit (Rio+20) offered a unique opportunity in this regard. As President, I seized the chance to organise with Peter May (former ISEE President who headed the local organising committee) ISEE's Twelfth Biennial conference in Rio to dovetail with the Earth Summit, under the theme: 'Challenges and Contributions of a Green Economy'. Among the 800 conference participants, many were from INSEE, and had overcome complex logistical hurdles to reach Rio de Janeiro. It was an uplifting conference, with an international cast of keynote speakers, including Jigmi Thinle, then Prime Minister of Bhutan.

Today, with its standing, I believe INSEE could play even more of a global role, not only through the high quality research our members are already doing, but also by engaging with global policy. This could include having a presence in UN conferences on Climate Change; participating in the Knowledge Action Networks of Future Earth, of whose Science Committee I have been a member; and especially in identifying pathways for India to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

India and the world today face perhaps the most serious challenges of this century, and INSEE has much to contribute in this regard. But after 20 years, it is also time to celebrate INSEE's excellence and sustainability.



**Bina Agarwal**, a member of founder Governing Body of INSEE, a former President of International Society for Ecological Economics (2012-14) is a Professor of Development Economics and Environment, University of Manchester. She is a former Director, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi and also served on the Future Earth Science Committee. She has been a recipient of Padma Shri, the Leontief Prize, and the Order of Agricultural Merit by the Government of France.



Inaugural Session of 'Ecological Sustainability and Human Well-Being' Ninth Biennial of ISEE, co-organised with ISEE, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi December 2006: from left: Jayanta Bandyopadhyay, C H Hanumantha Rao, Kirit Parikh, Joan Martinez-Alier, Robert Costanza and Pushpam Kumar

## Internalising Ecology and Economics: The soft path will not be very useful

Jayanta Bandyopadhyay

I see the Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) as an important cog in the global wheel that is making a slow but steady move towards internalizing ecology in economics, and then onward, in policy and governance. The process is slow because over the past century, priority in traditional economics has gone to quantitative analysis, proving with meticulous mathematical steps something like that 1 is greater than 0.9. The human infatuation with quantitative decision support systems has gone deep by now. The steadiness, however, is rooted in the wider natural world, where complete quantification based on incomplete conceptual accuracy fails to make the predictions real, albeit, terms like market failures. Movement for ecological economics being guided by the need for continuous conceptual clarity is on the side of reality.

The INSEE has made progress along the dual path of enhancing conceptual clarity as well as strengthening quantitative analyses. The number of members walking along the first path is quite small while majority of discussions in INSEE goes along the second path. I consider myself to be in the first group by proxy, because of my high level of ignorance of quantitative economics. The process of interaction and exchange of ideas between these two groups is the heart of the matter for the global movement for ecological economics.

From the various publications brought out by INSEE one notes such an intent and, like the slow processes all over the world, progress towards the conceptualization of a new framework for economics has been limited. This is expected to continue and there is no reason for being pessimistic. Changes in paradigms have sometime taken very long time, and that will continue. The central task of INSEE is to keep in mind the intellectual responsibility of facilitating that paradigm shift.



**Jayanta Bandyopadhyay**, former INSEE President (2006-08) is presently a Visiting Distinguished Fellow, Observer Research Foundation, Kolkata chapter. Previously he was at Centre for Development and Environment Policy, Indian Institute of Management-Calcutta, Kolkata for one and a half decades. He has been adviser to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) New Delhi and Water Diplomacy Program at Tufts University in USA.



Plenary Session in 'Nature, Economy and Society: Understanding the Linkages' Sixth Biennial, CESS Hyderabad, October 2011; from left: Kamal Bawa, Kanchan Chopra and Eduardo Brondizio

## The Indian Society for Ecological Economics: Recollections and Reflections

Kanchan Chopra

The idea was mooted in an informal discussion on the lawns of the home of Juan Martinez-Alier in Barcelona in the summer of 1997. Surely, the challenges facing sustainable development in the global South were different from those in Europe and North America. So why not constitute a South Asian or an Indian Society to highlight them? And about a year later, on the afternoon of September 24, 1998 around fifty or so professionals belonging to different backgrounds assembled in one of the seminar rooms of the India International Centre in New Delhi to witness the launching of a new professional society, focused on "furthering the cause of sustainable development". Conceived of as an affiliate of the International Society for Ecological Economics, it was named the Indian Society for Ecological Economics (with the acronym INSEE). Richard Norgaard, the then President of the International Society was present at the Delhi meeting and so were many others who were to become the driving force behind the activities of the society. Office bearers were quickly, somewhat arbitrarily, finalised and the details left to them to work out.

The tasks to be accomplished were almost daunting. But completed with ease, with the generous support of a large number of well-wishers. Pravin Visaria, the then Director of the Institute of Economic Growth provided the new Society an academic home. The registration as a Society under the Indian Societies Act was facilitated by the efforts of Sushil Sen (the Office Manager of INSEE). Doris Capistrano at the Ford Foundation pitched in with a generous grant for the first year and the Institute of Social and Economic Change in Bangalore offered to host the First Conference. We were ready to hold our first conference.

The membership expanded, though not as rapidly as one would have hoped for. The First Conference, held in December 1999 was probably a bit of a loosely organised affair when compared to the sleek organisation of the conferences of today, with fewer inputs from information technology. The enthusiasm however was tremendous and the academic standards aimed at rigorous from the beginning. There followed biennial conferences focussed on broad thematic areas and workshops focussed on methodology and/or policy.

In December 2006, the INSEE, all of eight years old, co-hosted the Ninth Biennial Conference of the International Society for Ecological Economics. The links with the ISEE continued: many of INSEE members served on the Board of ISEE, one as its President. On the organisational side, regular elections have been held by INSEE, even at the time when these involved a considerable transaction and travel cost. In recent times, use of electronics has made this process faster and less cumbersome. And we have already seen the leadership pass on to the so-called next generation. We know that the future is secure.

The first two decades saw edited volumes published from selected, peer-reviewed papers presented at INSEE conferences. These constitute important source material for scholars. We do not however have a Society journal. Hopefully this will also happen soon. On another count, there is some concern. Should a professional society just reflect the state of research in its domain or should it attempt to mould it? Through its training programmes and attempted inter disciplinary focus, INSEE attempts to add to the narrative on sustainable development. How effectively, only the future will tell.



**Kanchan Chopra**, Founder President of INSEE (1998-2000) was again elected its President during 2010-2012. Till 2009 she was Director and Professor, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi. She works in the area of environment and development, is Fellow of the Beijer Institute of Ecological Economics, Stockholm and of the South Asian Network on Development and Environmental Economics. She was elected as a Fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences in 2011. She has been a recipient of the Kenneth Boulding Award by the International Society for Ecological Economics.

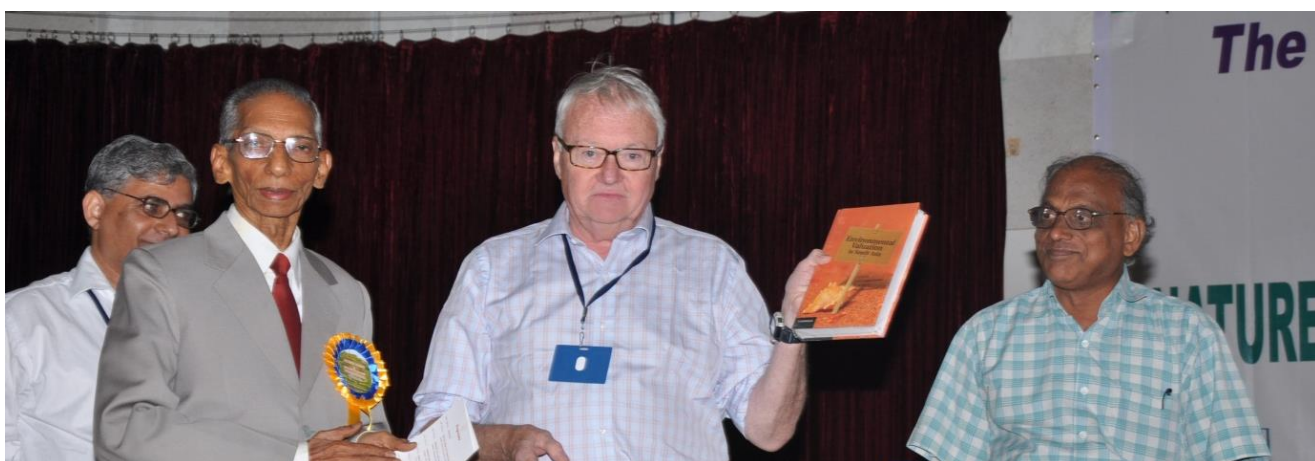




Inaugural Session of 'Biodiversity and Quality of Life', Third Biennial, IIM-C, Kolkata, December 2003; from left: V B Eswaran, Gopal Kadekodi, Shekhar Chowdhury, Charles Perrings, Mohan Munasinghe, Sudarshan Iyenger and Jayanta Bandyopadhyay



Participants of 'Global Change, Ecosystems, Sustainability', Seventh Biennial, Tezpur University, December 2013



On the eve of release of *Environmental Valuation in South Asia*, Sixth Biennial, CESS Hyderabad, October 2011; from left: Manoj Panda, C H Hanumantha Rao, Karl-Göran Mäler and M N Murty



Participants of pre-conference 'Rejuvenating Urban Lakes', Jakkur lake, Bengaluru, January 2016





Session on 'Rethinking Science, Ethics and Ecosystems' at 'Nature, Economy and Society: Understanding the Linkages', Sixth Biennial, CESS, Hyderabad, October 2011; from left: Rajeshwari Raina, Sudarshan Iyengar, Shambu Prasad and Deepak Malghan

## My Reflections on INSEE

Sudarshan Iyengar

Being an INSEE member is a different experience. The members blend professionalism with concern meaningfully and beautifully in their quest for understanding the problems and looking for its solutions. In less than two decades it has an impressive membership that has crossed 450 members. The Society is not only young in age but it also consists of members who are also relatively young.

With INSEE, tradition of undertaking multi-disciplinary research has found fresh expression and has brought scientists and social scientists together. Selection of themes for its biennial conferences are finalised after serious deliberations taking into account the problems that bother the society in present times. A notable feature is the methodology workshops that are held with all sincerity to train the young scholars and researchers. A heartening aspect of INSEE is that members have made significant impact at international level as well. INSEE thus has become part of a global community of ecological economists who are looking at the problems that humanity is facing. INSEE should now be able to create opportunities to view the socio-economic and socio-ecological realities so that problem analysis, interpretations and solutions become more realistic and workable.

I have enjoyed working as a Secretary and later as President of the Society for a term. The affection, sympathy and cooperation were immense! What should INSEE be doing more in coming years to make it more relevant for the society in India and of course for humanity as a whole? INSEE members have to work towards integration of *shashvat* – permanent values leading to harmony. It would call for regulation of self by self. The academic discourse in INSEE members' efforts should be informed with value based self-regulation in production, consumption, conservation and preservation. We need to internalise Arne Naess's message 'equating value with value for *humans* reveals a *racial prejudice*'.



**Sudarshan Iyengar**, former INSEE President (2008-10) is currently the Distinguished Chair in Gandhian Philosophy at Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Mumbai. Previously he was Vice Chancellor, Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Director, Centre for Social Studies, Surat and Director, Gujarat Institute of Development Research. His areas of research interest are Gandhian thought and praxis, natural resource development and management, people's institutions and role of non-government organisations initiatives in social development. He has edited/authored seven books and published more than 65 research articles.



Keynote addresses at 'Global Change, Ecosystems, Sustainability', Seventh Biennial, Tezpur University, Assam, December, 2013; from left: Gopal Kadekodi, Anantha K Duraipapp and Amit Bhaduri

## The Day INSEE Was Born

Gopal K Kadekodi

The day, 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1998 when about 50 of environmental, ecological scientists, sociologists and economists, met at India International Centre, New Delhi, it was a great day in Indian environmental and ecological research, movement and history. For many of us it sounded like what Neil Armstrong had said on July 21, 1969, 'That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind'. In the last meeting of the day evening, chaired by Gopal K Kadekodi, it was all in one voice echoed to establish a society for the cause, to be named as Indian Society for Ecological Economics. Came in a single thought, in the voice of Professor Anil Gupta of IIM, Ahmedabad, to announce that Kanchan Chopra shall be the first President of the society. The entire group overwhelmingly approved. At that launching meeting itself, there were more than fifty academicians who signed the document of approval of the Society.

Kanchan Chopra had put in lots of thoughts, negotiating with the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE), in particular with the then President Richard Norgaard of University of California, Berkeley, to conceive an Indian chapter of the ISEE. Norgaard was also present in the first meeting of the academicians with common interest, held at New Delhi. She, spent enormous time and energy in contacting most of the scholars and policy makers to agree to have such a society in India. The entire world of environmental and ecological researchers and policy makers in India owe a great debt to her zeal, skill in drafting the constitution, and having it registered under Indian Society's Act. Moreover, she was also instrumental to have an office established within Institute of Economic Growth, to manage the affairs of INSEE.

The responsibility of the first President was not easy either. To showcase the existence of the society, Kanchan Chopra managed to have the first conference of INSEE at Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, at which over one hundred fifty scholars from all over India attended. The theme of that first conference was Inter-disciplinarity in Environmental Research: Concepts, Barriers and Possibilities. Much later, she was also elected as President once again in 2010-11. The research community is happy that her association is continuing as ever.



**Gopal K Kadekodi**, former INSEE President (2002-04) is currently an Honorary Professor at Centre for Multi-Disciplinary Development Research, Dharwad, India. Previously, he was the Director of Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore and Professor at the Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi. His areas of research include Common Property Resources, Energy, Natural Resource Management and Valuation, Economic Development and Governance. He has authored 14 books and more than 100 articles in national and international journals.





UNEP Panel on 'Food Security & Ecosystems' at 'Global Change, Ecosystems, Sustainability', Seventh Biennial, Tezpur University, December 2013; from left: Devinder Sharma, Harpinder Sandhu, Joan Martinez-Alier, Pushpam Kumar and Gopal Kadekodi

## INSEE 1998-2017: Priorities for Comings Days

**Pushpam Kumar**

The INSEE has survived, thrived and shown dynamism through its programme, activities and achievements in last 20 years. Since its founding meeting, I have been part of it through my various roles. Today, the relevance of Ecological Economics is much more than any point of time in the history. Global stage is just right through Agenda 2030 and Paris Agreement endorsed by the governments—including India—of the world. Twenty years of time is long but not that long to feel so nostalgic about it. So basking in the glory of INSEE, I would like to share three priorities areas for INSEE in coming years:

*Creating New Knowledge and Effective Engagements with Policy:* As any professional society, INSEE should definitely create and advance the new knowledge and attempt to find solution to challenges. In Ecological Economics, correcting the compass of progress (moving beyond GDP), non-linear changes in ecosystems, up-scaling the findings of micro / meso scale to macro scale, internalizing natural capital into macroeconomics easily come to mind. But what is equally important is the engagement with contemporary policy framing and implementation in the country. If the schools are being closed due to air pollution, on average two persons die every minute due to pollution, conflict over land, forest and mines become a norm, Ecological Economics has a big role to play. I have also been the elected Board Member of International Society for Ecological Economics and European Society for Ecological Economics, and I have no hesitation in stating that INSEE has some of the finest brains, to be found anywhere in the world. They should become the catalyst of change.

*Capacity Development through shared vision about the problem:* The INSEE must prioritise the capacity development agenda. India is the second big nation to face the gap between demand and supply of technical manpower, which is likely to increase. The INSEE should grab this opportunity and attempt to narrow this gap by organizing and harmonizing the conundrum of environment and development. The problems in India are numerous ranging from degraded land, urbanization (solid waste, e-waste, chemical waste), widening gap between region, section and gender, unsustainable consumption of the rich and deteriorating ecosystems of the marginal poor. For example, Diamond- Biodiversity trade off in Chhatarpur, MP, ulterior motives of industry in Orissa and in Chhattisgarh over extractives are tip of the iceberg of hard trade off where Ecological Economics can provide much needed clarity. These problems are staring at us and they do not know the boundary of any discipline. Not addressing them in a more potent way would be a lost opportunity for the INSEE.

*Membership and Funding:* It is true that we have grown considerably but still being around 450 out of total population of 1.3 billion, is vanishingly small. A comparison could be made with China where few hundred thousand members of Ecological Economics are making the Ecological Civilization of China as happening.

INSEE has been fortunate in soliciting financial resource if we compare with similar other associations in India but with its increasing popularity, ever growing mandate and aspiration, we need to have a dedicated team to raise resource to fuel its activities. I sincerely hope that in coming days, we will roll out necessary pathways to operationalize the priorities. INSEE is here to stay and I consider myself as privileged fellow traveller.



**Pushpam Kumar** is Senior Economic Advisor, United Nations Environment. He is also a Research Scientist, The Earth Institute, Columbia University, New York and Extra Ordinary Professor, University of Pretoria. Previously, he has been with the University of Liverpool, Cambridge University, Institute of Economic Growth and University of Delhi as Researcher and Professor in Ecological Economics. He was Faculty-in Charge (IEG), Treasurer and Secretary of INSEE during 2000-2006.



Inaugural of 'Urbanisation and the Environment', Eighth Biennial, IISc, Bengaluru, January 2016; from left: M N Chanakya, Seema Purushothanam, Sharachchandra Lélé, Rajeswari Raina and Sunita Narain

## At the Cross-roads: Sub-discipline or Inter-discipline

**Sharachchandra Lélé**

'Ecological economics' is a confusing term. By using ecology as an adjective to economics, it gives the impression of being a sub-discipline of economics, just like 'agricultural economics' or 'feminist economics'. But the founders of ecological economics always thought of it as 'advancing understanding of the relationships among ecological, social, and economic systems'.

INSEE has made significant efforts to achieve this broader vision by promoting interdisciplinary thinking. Organizing pre-conference training in 'hydrology for social scientists', panel discussions with political ecologists and historians, and even an entire conference on environmental governance: INSEE has consistently reached out to other disciplines that are relevant to on environmental issues.

Nevertheless, the majority of INSEE's members continue to be economists and the majority of papers presented by the rank and file members at most conferences continue to be papers in environmental economics—which is definitely a sub-discipline of economics. Is that our vision for INSEE—a gathering of environmental economists?

The time has come for a bolder and broader vision. Scholars from the Indian sub-continent have made path breaking contributions to our understanding of environmental problems through the disciplines of environmental history, political ecology, human ecology and now socio-hydrology. Students are passionately interested in, and universities are responding with, postgraduate programmes in Conservation, Sustainable Development, Human Ecology and Sustainability Studies, while programmes in environmental economics are few and far between.

The future lies in more interdisciplinary approaches, approaches that do not involve adding 'environment' or 'ecology' as adjectives (and appendages) to a hegemonic discipline, approaches that bridge not only the divide between ecology and economics but also the bigger divide between the economics and non-economics social sciences. INSEE can become the meeting point and the crucible for such approaches. Re-naming itself as the 'Interdisciplinary Society for Ecology, Economy and Equity' would set us on this broader, bolder path for the next twenty years.



**Sharachchandra Lélé**, a member of founder Governing Body of INSEE and former INSEE President (2014-16) is currently a Senior Fellow at the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bengaluru. He sees himself as an interdisciplinary environmental researcher, bridging the natural sciences, economics, and political science to understand the concepts of, and pathways to, sustainable and equitable development.





Panel Discussion on 'Biodiversity and Livelihoods: threats and options' at 'Biodiversity and Quality of Life', Third Biennial, IIM-C, December 2003; from left: Lucy Emerton, P S Ramakrishnan, Y K Alagh and Sekhar Singh



Session at 'Ecology and Human Well Being', Fourth Biennial, IGIDR, Mumbai, June 2005; from left: Madhu Verma, Narpat S Jodha and Sudhakar Reddy



Round Table on 'From Ecological Economics to Ecology, Economy and Society: Engagements with Interdisciplinarity in Environmental Research' at 'Urbanization and the Environment', Eighth Biennial, IISc Bengaluru, January 2016; from left: Kanchan Chopra, Desmond McNeill and Arild Vatn



Keynote address at 'Urbanization and the Environment', Eighth Biennial, IISc Bengaluru, January 2016; from left: Barbara Harris-White and Bejoy Thomas



Invited lecture at 'Biodiversity and Quality of Life', Third Biennial, IIM-C, December 2003; from left: Hans Opschoor, Gopal K Kadekodi and Jeffrey McNeely





Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) Panel on 'Green Accounting' at 'Global Change, Ecosystems, Sustainability', Seventh Biennial, Tezpur University, Assam, December, 2013; from left M N Murty, G S Haripriya, T C A Anant and Kanchan Chopra

## Capacity Building in Research and Teaching of Environmental Economics in South Asia: three initiatives

M N Murty

The credit for what we have achieved so far in capacity building in Environmental and Resource Economics in Indian Subcontinent should be attributed to the following three major initiatives took place during last three decades: (i) India Environmental Management Capacity Building and Technical Assistance Project funded by World Bank, (ii) South Asian Network for Development Economics and Environment (SANDEE) and (iii) Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE). I am proud to be one of the active participants in all these three initiatives.

In the first initiative I happened to be a member of Committee and a resource person for organising faculty upgradation programmes. I was course director of first 6 weeks course in Environmental and Resource Economics organized at Institute of Economic Growth which was attended by more than 30 faculty members from Economics departments of many Indian universities. It happened to be mother of all courses providing a much needed direction to many courses of this type subsequently done in India. Many of those economists who attended this course are now leading teachers of this subject in India.

In the second initiative, I was one of its resource persons for more than 10 years since in its inception. I am also currently Fellow of SANDEE. Luckily for India and South Asia, SANDEE started as the World Bank programme in India ended thus providing a much needed continuity of providing incentives for young scholars to pursue research and increase their teaching capabilities in Environmental and Resource Economics. I was one of the editors of book *Environmental Valuation in South Asia* (Cambridge University Press). This book is a testimony of the quality of research work done by young scholars in South Asia with the support of SANDEE.

The third initiative INSEE could be seen as an outcome of first two initiatives with more teachers and researchers belonging to inter disciplinary subject of Ecological Economics working in the region. Being one of the founder members of INSEE I have been very much impressed by the spectacular success of this initiative. I feel proud to participate in its activities with whatever capacity that is possible.



**Maddipati Narasimha Murty**, a former Professor of Economics, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, is currently Visiting Honorary Professor, TERI University, Delhi and Fellow, South Asian Network for Development Economics and Environment (SANDEE). He specializes in Public Economics and Environmental and Resource Economics. He has published 10 books including 6 books in Environment and Resource Economics, and a large number of research papers in national and international journals of Economics.



Panel Discussion on 'Biodiversity: Assessment and Valuation', at 'Biodiversity and Quality of Life', Third Biennial, IIM-C, Kolkata, December 2013; from left: Jyoti Parikh, S P Singh, Kirit Parikh and Charles Perrings

## Memories of INSEE

### Jyoti Parikh

INSEE was born in the year 1998. At that time, two large projects were going on in the country. One was capacity building for Agenda 21 (CAP 21), funded by the UNDP and the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). It was directed from IGIDR and involved 14 institutions. The other was Environment Management Capacity Building, EMCaB supported by the World Bank and MoEF, which had four different activities each led by different institutions. Research was led by IGIDR training by IEG, fellowships to go abroad by National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) and for course and curriculum by Madras School of Economics mobilized the subject of Environment Economics.

This was the opportune time to launch INSEE as a huge number of ecologists and economists were getting interested in environmental economics. Regular economists were looking at environmental economists and the others such as engineers and other technical experts managing pollution or biodiversity specialists also appreciated this approach. We also did work at IGIDR on "Green GDP", which had the uphill task to break the on-going myth that one has to choose between economic growth and pristine clean environment. Sustainable development that balances both became the new *mantra* but we are still fighting these battles till today, though it is now easier with more people joining the flow.

Our group consisting of Jayanta Bandyopadhyay, Kanchan Chopra, V B Eswaran, Gopal Kadekodi, Kirit Parikh, U Shankar, myself and many others got the needed impetus from these two projects. INSEE subsequently put the efforts on a sustainable path that has sustained many activities and provided a platform for all, especially young generation to continue.

From time to time, it is worth remembering how we started and where we have reached.



**Jyoti K Parikh**, a member of founder Governing Body of INSEE, a former INSEE Vice-President (2000-02) is the Executive Director of Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe). She was associated with Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai for nearly two decades, besides International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Austria and the Planning Commission, New Delhi. She was Advisor to various Ministries of Government of India.



Inaugural Session of 'Nature, Economy and Society: understanding the linkages', Sixth Biennial, CESS, Hyderabad, October 2011; from left: Karl-Göran Mäler, M N Murty, Manoj Panda, Kanchan Chopra, Kirit Parish, C H Hanumantha Rao, John Gowdy and Nilanjan Ghosh

## INSEE: Major Achievements and Challenges Ahead

**C H Hanumantha Rao**

Surprisingly, the discipline of Agricultural Economics, as taught and practiced in India, until recently, has not been concerned with the issues of sustainable use of natural resources. My own research work on this subject until the early eighties was basically concerned with the issue of raising productivity per unit of land through intensification of inputs to the economically optimum level, but oblivious of adverse ecological consequences from their over-use because of input subsidies or lack of knowledge of appropriate technologies.

I was sensitized to ecological considerations since the 1980s when I was exposed to the issues of sustainability, largely as a result of the work being done by the NGOs in different parts of the country and through my association at the policy level with the official committees such as the Technical Committee on Drought Prone Area Programme and Desert Development Programme.

The emergence of the Indian Society for Ecological Economics, filled, in a substantial measure, the existing vacuum in the discipline of economics as taught and practiced in India. Thanks to the theoretical and empirical work of a high order done by the members of the INSEE, the economic profession in India now is much better sensitized and equipped to make an impact on policies bearing on the sustainable use of natural resources and protecting the livelihoods of the poor and the marginalized sections.

However, during the same period, the threats to the sustainable use of natural resources and to the livelihoods of those dependent on them have increased on account of the growing scarcity of land, water and mineral resources, their appropriation by the corporations through questionable means, and ineffective regulation by the government. Therefore, the members of the INSEE face a formidable professional challenge by way of sharpening their tools of analysis for addressing the complex issues and communicating their findings in an intelligible manner not only to the policy makers but also to the grass root activists working for the protection of environment and to the people adversely affected by the degradation of environment.



**C H Hanumantha Rao**, former INSEE President (2000-02) is presently Honorary Professor, Center for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad. He is a former Chairman of CESS, Hyderabad, and Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, and Chancellor, Hyderabad Central University; Member, Planning Commission, and Seventh & Eighth Finance Commissions. He has been a recipient of Padma Bhushan.





Session at 'Nature, Economy and Society: understanding the linkages', Sixth Biennial, CESS, Hyderabad, October 2011; from Left Amita Shah and Amita Baviskar

## INSEE: Two Decades of a Glorious Journey

**Amita Shah**

At the outset, I take this opportunity to heartily congratulate the INSEE movement on completing 20 years of capacity building of younger generation of researchers in the field of environment. I also complement the current team of INSEE for their commitment and dedication to carry forward the glorious traditions laid down by the founding team. I am extremely proud of my long association with INSEE. Looking back at INSEE, I find three important features which made it an outstanding organisation: (i) combining high quality academics with a longer time frame, which has not taken roots in most countries, within and outside the developing world; (ii) striking a balance and to an extent combining Nature, People and Political Processes; and, (iii) its quest for remaining a learning organisation.

By and large, set in micro-economics, INSEE has 'created' and 'provided' opportunities for fresh thinking on macro-economic issues. This in a sense is, by far the most important contribution that it has made over time. Yet another significant role of INSEE could be noted as bringing together wide-ranging issues and equally wide-ranging approaches and views at one platform. Besides knowledge sharing, it provided space for diversity of views which was always respected in INSEE and which also gave it a very democratic character. This helped scholars like me from somewhat smaller organisations to come and share their research and learn from some of the well experienced and highly accomplished academicians in this field of inquiry.

While reflecting on my own association with INSEE, I am aware of the fact that this is not the time as well as space to talk about personal experiences. I still feel tempted to share my initial INSEE story which might have some tips for both – early learners as well as institution builders. My work supported by INSEE had a fairly simple question about understanding the link between 'land degradation and migration in a dry land region in India (the place where I belonged to). In a way, this was a macro-economic question. I took up the analysis with lots of support from INSEE. The reason I thought important to share it is the fact that the simple analytical work that I could take up through the INSEE support, helped me, and perhaps many like me, in linking micro economic issues within a macro context. It was a great learning experience for a novice like me. This is a place where one could commit mistakes and learn to improve with support of very well meaning academicians who are committed to extend the boundaries of knowledge in the field by bringing in and encouraging new talent.

The journey of INSEE thus far has been magnificent and has helped a large number of young researchers to learn and grow. It also has contributed a great deal to the process of academic excellence across developing countries. The advent of internet and other electronic communication have further facilitated this process. The next phase may move forward by involving a larger number of academicians across the globe in general and groups of practitioners in particular. So far practitioners have shied away from hard-core research. However, we can ill afford to ignore the field experiences of these well-meaning practitioners. It must become an integral part of INSEE. Though, I understand, this process is fairly challenging. INSEE must become a part of this next phase, which would essentially call for 'dedicating' to 'people' and 'environment'. I wish INSEE a glorious future.



**Amita Shah**, former INSEE President (2012-14) currently is Honorary Fellow at the Centre for Development Alternatives, Ahmedabad. She is a former Professor and Director, Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad. She has extensively written and published on environment, poverty and migration related issues.



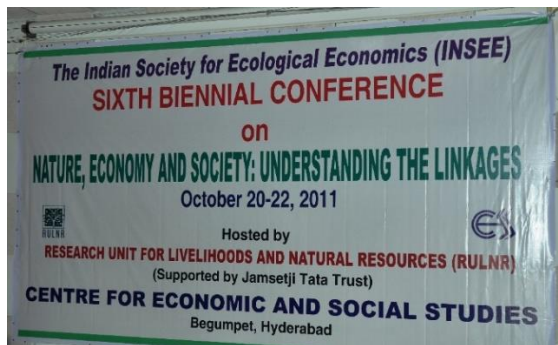
**Ninth Biennial  
Conference, 2017, Thrissur**

**Sustainability, Institutions,  
Incentives :  
Voices, Policies and  
Commitments**

**8 - 10 November 2017**

## Biennial Conferences and Training Programs

Biennial Conferences are held regularly since 1999. The conferences have attracted an average of 125-150 participants from young students to renowned academicians, policymakers and practitioners. Distinguished members and scientists have served as members of the Scientific Advisory Committee and Local Organising Committee for the conferences. Selected papers are published as edited volumes [p. 22].



We also organize training programs to equip young and mid-career researchers with interdisciplinary knowledge and approaches. It has been a practice to organise pre- or post- conference training workshops.



‘Experimental Methods in Ecological Economics’, a Pre-conference Workshop organized by INSEE & SANDEE, Tezpur University, Assam, December 2013



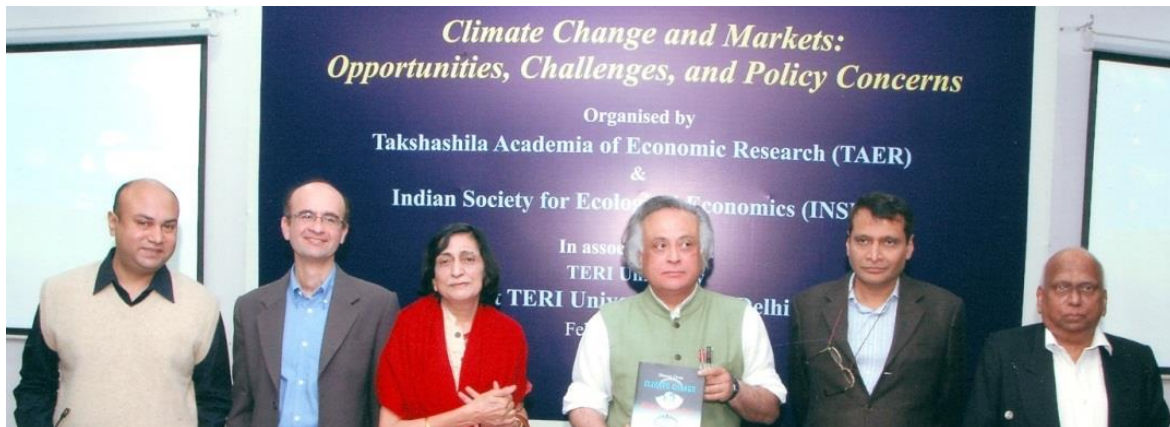
<b>Pre- or post- Conference Training Program Themes [Date]</b>	<b>Biennial Conference Themes [Date]</b>	<b>Host Institution</b>
-	Ecological Economics for Sustainable Development [22–24 December, 1999]	Institute of Social and Economic Change, Bangalore
Hydrology for Social Scientists [18 December, 2001]	Water Resources, Sustainable Livelihoods and Eco-System Services [19-21 December, 2001]	Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal
Biodiversity for Social Scientists [17 December, 2003]	Biodiversity and Quality of Life [18-20 December, 2003]	Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta
Ecosystem Services in Coastal and Marine Systems [2 June 2005]	Ecology and Human Well Being [3-4 June, 2005]	Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai
Introduction to Theoretical Ecological Economics: Analytical Study of Scale [20 January, 2009]	Environmental Governance [21-23 January, 2009]	Gujarat Institute of Development Research and Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Ahmedabad
Pathways to Interdisciplinary: Analysing the Interface of Nature, Economy and Society [19 October, 2011]	Nature, Economy and Society: Understanding the Linkages [20-22 October, 2011]	Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad
Experimental Methods in Ecological Economics [4 December, 2013]	Global Change, Ecosystems, Sustainability [5-8 December, 2013]	Tezpur University, Assam and OKD Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati
(Field based) Rejuvenating Urban Lakes [3 January, 2016]	Urbanization and the Environment [4-6 January, 2016]	Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment and National Institute for Advanced Studies, Bengaluru

*Forthcoming*

Sustainability, Institutions, Incentives [5-7 November, 2017]	Sustainability, Institutions, Incentives: Voices, Policies, Commitments [8-10 November, 2017]	Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), Thrissur, Kerala
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Seminar 'Climate Change and Markets: Opportunities, Challenges, and Policy Concerns', coorganised with Takshashila Academia of Economic Research (TAER) at TERI University, New Delhi, February 2011; from left: Nilanjan Ghosh, Bhavik R Bakshi, Kanchan Chopra, Jairam Ramesh, Suresh Prabhu and Madhoo Pavaskar

## Workshops and Capacity Building for teachers and researchers

One of the aims of INSEE has been to build capacity among young researchers. In pursuit of this a number of workshops have been organised over the years:

1. 'Interdisciplinary in Environmental Research: Concepts, Barriers and Possibilities' at Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Environment and Development (CISED), Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore, July, 2001.
2. 'Capacity Building on Micro Watershed Development and Management', at Society of Hill Resource Management School (SHRMS), Jharkhand, March 2004.
3. 'National Symposium on Conservation and Valuation of Marine Biodiversity', at Zoological Survey of India – Marine Biological Station, Chennai, December 2005.
4. 'Compensation and Rewards for Ecosystem Services', at Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal, February 2008.
5. 'Faculty Training Programme on Water and Economics' jointly organized with Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi (IEG) at IEG, March, 2008.
6. 'Integrated Ecosystem Modeling' jointly organized with Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) and Land Use Policies and Sustainable Development in Developing Countries (LUPIS) at ATREE, Bangalore, June, 2010.
7. Post Conference Ph.D. Scholars workshop in Ecology and Economics, in association with South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE), at Centre for Economic and Social Studies, (CESS) Hyderabad, October, 2011.
8. 'Training Workshop on Ecology and Economics' organised with Gujarat Institute of Development Research (GIDR) and South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE) at GIDR, November- December, 2012.
9. Post Conference Workshop on the 'Practice of Ecological Economics in the South Asian context' at Tezpur University, Assam, December, 2013.
10. One day Workshop 'Social Science for Conservation Biologists: An Introduction' in the Student Conference on Conservation Science 2014, Bangalore, September, 2014.
11. Capacity Building Workshop on 'Ecology, Society and Development in North East India: Concepts and Methods' in collaboration with Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU), Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh at Department of Economics, RGU, September, 2015.
12. Research Methodology Workshop on 'Climate Change and Agricultural Economics', in collaboration with NABARD Chair, Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), Delhi at IEG, February, 2017.
13. One day methodology workshop on 'Scenarios and Models in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services' in collaboration with Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad, at CESS, February, 2017.

## Research Seminars, Round tables, Symposiums

INSEE has made significant efforts towards engaging academics, policy makers and practitioners in seminars, symposiums and policy dialogues:

1. 'Water Policy Issues', at India International Centre, New Delhi, May 2002.
2. 'Watershed Development and Management', at Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad, October 2003.
3. 'Climate Change and Markets: Opportunities, Challenges, and Policy Concerns', in association with Takshashila Academia of Economic Research (TAER) and TERI University, at TERI University, New Delhi, February 2011.
4. 'Valuing and Accounting for the Environment in Asia' in association with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE), United Nations



Session titled 'Alternatives to Green Growth' at 'Growth, green growth or de-growth? New critical directions for India's sustainability', IHC, New Delhi, September 2014, from left: Ramaswamy Iyer, Sagar Dhara and Aditya Nigam

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI) of the United Nations Environment and Development Programmes (UNDP-UNEP), the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity, the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Core Environment Programme, the Economy and Environment Program for South East Asia (EEPSEA), the United Nations Statistics Department (UNSD) and World Bank in Bangkok, October 2013.

5. 'Growth, green growth or de-growth? New critical directions for India's sustainability' in collaboration with the National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (CSIR-NISTADS) and TERI University, New Delhi, at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, September 2014.

## Panels at Conferences and Workshops organised by other Societies

Our dissemination efforts have included initiating policy dialogues, and hosting panels at conferences held across the country:

- 'Diversion of CPLRs from Primary Uses: Exploring Policy framework for Sustainability and Inclusion of Local Communities' at 'Sustaining Commons: Sustaining our Future', 13th Biennial Conference of the *International Association for the Study of the Commons* (IASCP), Hyderabad, January 2011.
- 'Draft National Water Policy' at two-day national workshop 'Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts in India: Overview and Visioning of Forum's Work in the Context of Changing Water Sector Discourse' in collaboration with Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM), March, 2012.
- 'Valuing Ecosystems: Challenges and Approaches at the 72nd Annual Conference of Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, Banaras Hindu University, November 2012.
- 'Conservation in Cities' in Urban Biodiversity Conference 2012, at IIT Mumbai, October, 2012.



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





Inaugural Session, 'Ecology and Human Well Being', Third Biennial, IGIDR, Mumbai, June 2005; from left: R Radhakrishna and Juan Martinez-Alier.



Session in 'Nature, Economy and Society: Understanding the Linkages', Sixth Biennial, CESS, Hyderabad, October 2011; from left: Jyothis S and Deepak Malghan

## Dissemination through web-based platforms

We maintain a well-functioning website ([www.ecoinsee.org](http://www.ecoinsee.org)). It hosts papers and presentations from seminars, workshops and conferences, apart from resources of various kinds for researchers and teachers including announcements, news & events and opportunities. Some of the information is also shared through INSEE's Facebook page. The website also hosts a discussion forum for its members.

INSEE members regularly exchange their views, opinions and scholarly contributions, on an email based web-group [<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/INSEE-members>].



At 'Global Change, Ecosystems, Sustainability', Seventh Biennial, Tezpur University, Sonitpur, December 2013; from left: Seema Purushothanam, Satya Prakash, Sushil Sen, Juan Martinez-Alier and Lekha Mukhopadhyay



Session titled 'Is there a need for GDP growth?' at 'Growth, green growth or de-growth? New critical directions for India's sustainability', IHC, New Delhi, September 2014, from left: R. Nagaraj, Sukumar Muralidharan, Arun Maira, Pronab Sen, Amar KJR Nayak and Ajay Dandekar



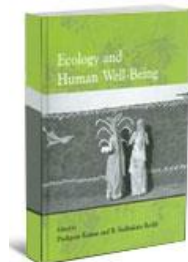
## Publications

### Books



#### *Global Change, Ecosystems, Sustainability*

Edited by Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Nandan Nawn and Kalyan Das  
(Sage, forthcoming, August 2017)



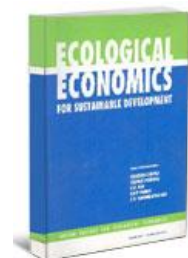
#### *Nature, Economy and Society: Understanding the Linkages*

Edited by Nilanjan Ghosh, Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Amita Shah and Manoj Panda (Springer, 2015)



#### *Environmental Governance Approaches, Imperatives and Methods*

Edited by Jayanta Bandyopadhyay, Kanchan Chopra and Nilanjan Ghosh (Bloomsbury, 2013)



#### *Ecology and Human Well-Being*

Edited by Pushpam Kumar and B Sudhakara Reddy (Sage, 2007)

#### *Biodiversity and Quality of Life*

Edited by Nirmal Sengupta and Jayanta Bandyopadhyay (Macmillan, 2005)

#### *Water Resources, Sustainable Livelihoods and Eco-System Services*

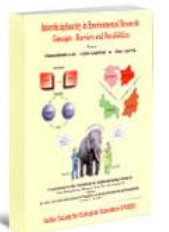
Edited by Kanchan Chopra, C. H. Hanumantha Rao and Ramprasad Sengupta (Concept, 2003)

#### *Interdisciplinarity in Environmental Research: Concepts, Barriers and Possibilities*

Edited by Sharachchandra Lele, Gopal Kadekodi and Bina Agrawal (Indian Society for Ecological Economics, 2002)

#### *Ecological Economics for Sustainable Development*

Lead Contributors Kanchan Chopra, Charles Perrings, U R Rao, Kirit Parikh and C H Hanumantha Rao (Academic Foundation, 2001)



### Special Section in *Conservation and Society*

#### *Conservation and Society*

Volume 11 • Number 4 • 2013

(Volume 3 - Issue 4 as per RNI Registration no. MAHENG/2011/38800)

#### *Special Section: Alternative Approaches to Conceptualising and Assessing Ecosystem Services*

Guest Editors: Seema Purushothaman, Bejoy K. Thomas, Rosa Abraham, and Uppeendra Dhar

Introduction: Beyond Money Metrics: Alternative Approaches to Conceptualising and Assessing Ecosystem Services  
Seema Purushothaman, Bejoy K. Thomas, Rosa Abraham, and Uppeendra Dhar 321

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity: Recent Instances for Debate  
Beatriz Rodriguez-Labajos and Joan Martinez-Alier 326

Ecosystem Services: Origins, Contributions, Pitfalls, and Alternatives  
Sharachchandra Lele, Oliver Springate-Baginski, Roan Lakerveld, Debal Deb, and Prasad Dash 343

Understanding the Social and Ecological Outcomes of PES Projects: A Review and an Analysis  
Bhim Adhikari and Arun Agrawal 359

Tiger, Lion, and Human Life in the Heart of Wilderness: Impacts of Institutional Tourism on Development and Conservation in East Africa and India  
Nilanjan Ghosh and Emil Uddhammar 375

The editors of Sage Publication's well-known journal *Conservation and Society* collaborated with INSEE for a special section (Oct-Dec, 2013) titled 'Beyond Money Metrics: Alternative Approaches to Conceptualising and Assessing Ecosystem Services' with Seema Purushothaman and Bejoy Thomas as the guest editors and contributions from INSEE members.

## *Ecology, Economy and Society: the INSEE Journal*

The open access bi-annual peer reviewed journal aims to offer authors a forum to address socio-environmental issues from, across and within the natural and social sciences. The journal welcomes contributions at the ecology-economy-society interface that contribute to informed debates. Contributions could be conceptual or theoretical pieces or be methodological and empirical. The journal believes in 'methodological pluralism' and contributions may address broader developmental considerations vis-à-vis ecological systems, sustainability, equity and justice.

It would encourage papers that connect theory with the practice. It welcomes trans/inter-disciplinary approaches including (but not limited to) ecological economics, environmental economics, political ecology, energy analysis, environmental science & engineering, political economy, environmental sociology, ecological and environmental history, social ecology and human ecology.

Contributions should be academically rigorous, logically consistent and offer expositional clarity. Contributors could be academics and activists, civil society and policymakers, professionals and students. The Journal will have the following sections: Commentary; Literature Review, Thematic Survey or Essay; Research Paper; Conversations; Notes from the Field; Book Review; Reports.

All journal content shall be freely available. There will be no submission or review fee for the contributors. Authors who publish in *Ecology, Economy and Society* will release their articles under the Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial license ([Attribution 4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/)). The journal will be published two times a year, in March and September.

### **Editors**

Jayanta Bandyopadhyay, (formerly with) Centre for Environment and Development, IIM-C, Kolkata  
Kamal Bawa, University of Massachusetts, Boston  
Kanchan Chopra, (formerly with) Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi

### **Associate Editors**

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Rohan D'Souza, Kyoto University, Kyoto  
Rucha Ghate, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Kathmandu  
Jagdish Krishnaswamy, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru  
Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt, Australian National University, Canberra  
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### **Managing Editor**

Megha Nath

**Contact:** [insee.ees \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:insee.ees[at]gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.ecoinsee.org/journal](http://www.ecoinsee.org/journal)





Inaugural session of 'Ecological Sustainability & Human Well-Being' Ninth Biennial of ISEE, December 2006, India Habitat Centre

## International Links

INSEE hosted the Ninth Biennial Conference of the International Society for Ecological Economics on 'Ecological Sustainability and Human Well-Being' at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, 15 -18, December 2006 which saw a galaxy of world renowned academics participating in the conference.



At the final session of 'Ecological Sustainability & Human Well-Being' Ninth Biennial of ISEE, December 2006, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi; from left: Peter May, Amartya Sen and Joan Martinez-Alier

Among the INSEE Members, Bina Agarwal was the ISEE president (2012-14) with Kanchan Chopra (2003-05), Pushpam Kumar, Jayanta Bandopadhyay, Sharachchandra Lele (2012-15) and Rajeswari Raina (2016-) have been on the ISEE Board. Apart from the institutional participation there has been active academic participation by INSEE members presenting papers in the biennial conferences hosted by the ISEE.

Many INSEE members have been associated with SANDEE, as Executive Directors, Board Members, Advisors, Grantees, Associates, Fellows and (grant) Awardees.



Plenary Session on 'Millennium Ecosystems Assessment' at 'Biodiversity and Quality of Life', Third Biennial, IIM-C, Kolkata, December 2003; from left: Jayanta Bandyopadhyay, Jeffrey McNeely, Kanchan Chopra and Robert Scholes

## Financial Support

INSEE is a not-for-profit Society and all its activities are made possible by generous financial support from the Government of India through its various ministries, development trusts and organisations, both national and international

### Government of India organisations:

Central Statistical Office, Ministry of Statistics,  
Planning and Implementation  
Indian Council for Social Science Research  
Centre for Studies in Science Policy, Jawaharlal Nehru  
University  
Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of  
India  
Ministry of Finance, Government of India  
National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development

National Institute of Science, Technology and  
Development Studies  
Northern Regional Centre of the Indian Council of  
Social Science Research  
Science & Engineering Research Board, Department of  
Science and Technology  
Planning Commission, Government of India  
University Grants Commission

### Other Governments

European Commission

Royal Norwegian Embassy

### Bilateral and International organisations:

German Technical Cooperation  
Indian Canada Environment Facility  
Institute of International Education, New York

International Development Research Centre  
Swedish International Development Agency  
United Nations Environment Programme

### Civil society organisations, donor agencies and individuals

Ford Foundation, New Delhi  
HIVOS (India Office)  
International Society for Ecological Economics  
Rohini Nilekani  
SACI Waters, Hyderabad

Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and Allied Trusts  
South Asian Network for Development and  
Environmental Economics  
Winrock International India, New Delhi  
World Wildlife Fund-India, New Delhi.

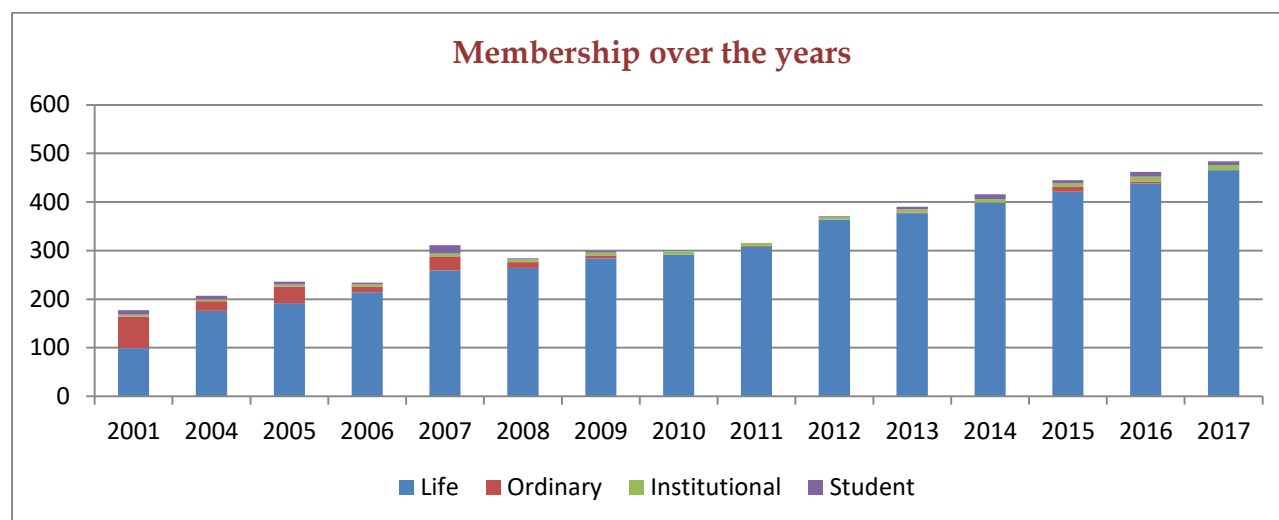
### In-kind support

Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi (since 1999)  
[office space for registered office and secretariat  
assistance]  
Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad  
Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad  
Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Ahmedabad  
Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal  
Indian Institute of Management-Calcutta, Kolkata  
Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research,  
Mumbai

Institute of Social and Economic Change (ISEC),  
Bengaluru  
International Centre for Integrated Mountain  
Development, Kathmandu  
International Development Research Centre, New Delhi  
OKD Institute of Social Change and Development,  
Guwahati  
Tezpur University, Sonitpur  
TERI University, New Delhi  
The Energy Research Institute, New Delhi  
United National Development Programme, New Delhi

## Membership

The INSEE members represent a wide range of social and natural scientists, environmentalists, ecologists, policy makers, administrators, planners, and institutions/corporate bodies interested in the interface of ecology and economics. As on 15 March 2017, it has 484 members, including individual life members (465), institutional life members (10), ordinary members (1), and student members (8).



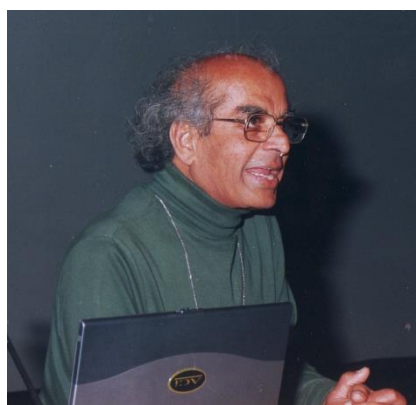
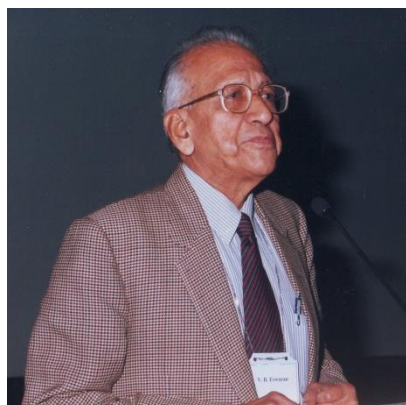
## Governance Structure

INSEE is governed by an elected Executive Committee with a two year term. The Rules and Regulations are framed in accordance with the Memorandum of Association of INSEE (<http://ecoinsee.org/memorandum>).

### Office Bearers and Executive Committee Members

#### 1998-2000

Kanchan Chopra	IEG, Delhi	President
M V Nadkarni	ISEC, Bangalore	Vice President
C K Varshney	JNU, Delhi	Secretary
Bina Agrawal	IEG, Delhi	Member
V B Eswaran	Civil Services, GOI (formerly)	Member
Sharachandra Lele	ISEC, Bangalore	Member
Dinesh K Marothia	Ministry of Agriculture, Delhi	Treasurer
Jyoti Parikh	IGIDR, Bombay	Member





## 2000-2002

C H Hanumantha Rao	Former Director, IEG	President
Jyoti Parikh	IGIDR, Bombay	Vice President
Ramprasad Sengupta	IIM, Calcutta	Secretary
Sharachchandra Lele	ISEC, Bangalore	Joint Secretary
V B Eswaran	Civil Services, GOI (formerly)	Treasurer
Bina Agarwal	IEG, Delhi	Member
Kanchan Chopra	IEG, Delhi	Member
Anil K Gupta	IIM Ahmedabad	Member
Gopal Kadekodi	CMDR, Dharwad	Member
Pushpam Kumar	IEG, Delhi	Faculty-in-charge, INSEE
M V Nadkarni	Gulbarga University	Member
P S Ramakrishnan	JNU	Member
Katar Singh	IRM, Anand	Member
A Vaidyanathan	MIDS, Chennai	Member

## 2002-04

Gopal K Kadekodi	CMDR, Dharwad	President
V B Eswaran	Civil Services, GOI (formerly)	Vice-President
Sudarshan Iyengar	GIDR, Ahmedabad	Secretary
Pushpam Kumar	IEG, Delhi	Treasurer
Bina Agarwal	IEG, Delhi	Member
Jayanta Bandyopadhyay	IIM, Calcutta	Member
Kanchan Chopra	IEG, Delhi	Member
Uppeandra Dhar	GBPIHED, Almora	Member
Sharachchandra Lele	CISED, Bangalore	Member
U Sankar	MSE, Chennai	Member
Nirmal Sengupta	MIDS, Chennai	Member
Ramprasad Sengupta	JNU	Member
Katar Singh	IRMA, Anand	Member

## 2004-06

Narpat Singh Jodha	ICIMD, Kathmandu	President
Jayanta Bandyopadhyay	IIM, Calcutta	Vice-President
Pushpam Kumar	IEG, Delhi	Secretary
Madhu Verma	IIFM, Bhopal	Joint Secretary
E Somanathan	ISI, Delhi	Treasurer
Bina Agarwal	IEG, Delhi	Member
Kanchan Chopra	IEG, Delhi	Member
R J Ranjit Daniels	Care Earth	Member
V B Eswaran	Civil Services, GOI (formerly)	Member
Sudarshan Iyengar	South Gujarat University	Member
Gopal K Kadekodi	ISEC, Bangalore	Member
Sharachchandra Lele	CISED, Bangalore	Member
B Sudhakar Reddy	IGIDR, Mumbai	Member





## 2006-08

Jayanta Bandyopadhyay	IIM, Calcutta	President
KV Raju	ISEC, Bangalore	Secretary
Nilanjan Ghosh	TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi	Joint Secretary
Madhu Verma	IIFM, Bhopal	Treasurer
M G Chandrakanth	University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore	Member
Kanchan Chopra	IEG, Delhi	Member
R J Ranjit Daniels	Care EARTH, Chennai	Member
Bijlee Madhukar Deshmukh	Institute of Technology, Aurangabad	Member
Navroz K Dubash	JNU	Member
Anil Kumar Gupta	IIM, Ahmedabad	Member
Gopal K Kadekodi	ISEC, Bangalore	Member
Pushpam Kumar	IEG, Delhi	Member
Nirmal Chandra Sahu	Berhampur University	Member

## 2008-10

Sudarshan Iyengar	Gujarat VidyaPeeth, Ahmedabad	President
Nilanjan Ghosh	TAER, Mumbai	Vice-President
R Parthasarathy	GIDR, Ahmedabad	Secretary
Kinsuk Mitra	Winrock International, Gurgaon,	Treasurer
Purnamita Dasgupta	IEG, Delhi	Joint-Secretary
Seema Purushothaman	ATREE, Bangalore	Joint-Secretary
Bijlee Madhukar Deshmukh	Institute of Technology, Aurangabad	Member
Gopal K Kadekodi	CMDR, Dharwad	Member
Sharachchandra Lele	ATREE, Bangalore	Member
Pranab Mukhopadhyay	Goa University	Member
Nandan Nawn	NUJS, Kolkata	Member
Amita Shah	GIDR, Ahmedabad	Member
Madhu Verma	IIFM, Bhopal	Member

## 2010-12

Kanchan Chopra	IEG, Delhi	President
Amita Shah	GIDR, Gujarat	Vice-President
Nilanjan Ghosh	MCX, Mumbai	Secretary
Kinsuk Mitra	Winrock International	Treasurer
Nandan Nawn	NUJS, Kolkata	Joint Secretary
Saudamini Das	Swami Sharddhanand College, Delhi University	Member
Uppeandra Dhar	GBPIHED, Almora	Member
Haripriya Gundimeda	IIT, Bombay	Member
Arabinda Mishra	TERI School of Advance Studies, New Delhi	Member
Pranab Mukhopadhyay	Goa University	Member
Seema Purushothaman	ATREE, Bangalore	Member



## 2012-14

Amita Shah	GIDR, Gujarat	President
Nilanjan Ghosh	MCEI Ltd., Mumbai	Vice-President
Pranab Mukhopadhyay	Goa University	Secretary
Purnamita Dasgupta	IEG, Delhi	Treasurer
S Jyothis	CESS, Hyderabad	Joint Secretary
Vishwa Ballabh	XLRI, Jamshedpur	Member
Anamika Barua	IIT, Guwahati	Member
Rabindra N Bhattacharya	IGIDR, Mumbai	Member
Kanchan Chopra	IEG, Delhi	Member
Jagdish Krishnaswamy	ATREE, Bangalore	Member
Kinsuk Mitra	InsPIRE Network for Environment	Member
Nandan Nawn	NUJS, Kolkata	Member
Seema Purushothaman	Azim Premji University, Bangalore	Member

## 2014-16

Sharachchandra Lele	ATREE, Bangalore	President
Seema Purushothaman	Azim Premji University, Bangalore	Vice-President
Rajeswari S. Raina	NISTADS	Secretary
Saudamini Das	Swami Shaddhanand College, Delhi University	Treasurer
Kalyan Das	OKDISCD, Guwahati	Joint Secretary
P Indira Devi	Kerala Agricultural University	Member
G Haripriya	IIT Bombay	Member
K J Joy	SOPPECOM	Member
Ashish Kothari	Kalpavriksh	Member
Jagdish Krishnaswamy	ATREE	Member
N C Narayanan	IIT Bombay	Member



INSEE-NISTADS award for the best articles published in the popular media at Eighth Biennial, IISc Bengaluru, January 2016; from left: Brototi Roy, Juan Martinez-Alier, Rajeswari Raina and Balachandra Patil



2016-18

### President

Pranab Mukhopadhyay is with the Department of Economics, Goa University, Goa. He studied at Presidency College and Jawaharlal Nehru University and is a Fellow of the South Asian Network of Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE). His current research interest is in the area of ecosystem services, institutions and development.



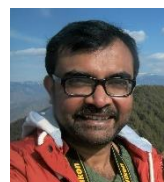
### Vice President

K N Ninan is Chairperson, Centre for Economics, Environment and Society, Bangalore and Co-Chair, Methodological Assessment of Scenarios and Models of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Earlier he was Professor of Ecological Economics, ISEC, Bangalore. His recent books include *Building a Climate Resilient Economy and Society-Challenges and Opportunities* and *The Economics of Biodiversity Conservation - Valuation in Tropical Forest Ecosystems*.



### Secretary

Nandan Nawn is with the Department of Policy Studies at TERI University. He studied at Calcutta University and Jawaharlal Nehru University. Among his interests include agricultural energetics, social metabolism, and environment and development. His papers have been published in *Economic and Political Weekly*, *Journal of Agrarian Change* and *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities* among others. He is a co-editor of the 'Review of Environment and Development' in *Economic and Political Weekly*.



### Treasurer

Kalyan Das is with OKD Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati. He studied at Jawaharlal Nehru University. His present research interests include industry, environment, labour market and livelihood issues and is involved in number of research projects on North East India. He is the Editor of *Social Change and Development*



### Joint Secretary

Bibhu Prasad Nayak is with the Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS), Hyderabad Campus, Hyderabad. Previously he was with The Energy Research Institute (TERI), New Delhi and Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru. He studied at Jawaharlal Nehru University



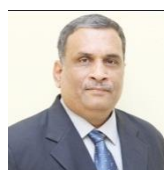
### Joint Secretary

Jeena T Srinivasan, is with the Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad. She had studied at Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram and Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore. She has been a Fulbright -Nehru APE Fellow at the Cornell University, USA. Her areas of research interest include wetlands, fisheries, groundwater and urban wastewater use in agriculture etc. Her papers have been published in *Environment and Development Economics* and *Ecological Economics* among others



### Members

P Balachandra has studied at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and also been with it for the last 30 years apart from visiting numerous universities in India and abroad. He works on energy, environment and sustainability. He has been He has been involved with several projects with funding from international multilateral institutions, ministries of Government of India as well as private organizations. He has authored/co-authored several books and International and National journals. He has supervised several doctoral students.



Ramachandra Bhatta is presently Emeritus Scientist (Economics) Indian Council of Agricultural Research, College of Fisheries, Mangalore. Earlier he has worked with the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, Chennai. He has been a visiting Professor in several institutions abroad. He has received fellowships from SANDEE and World-Bank aided Environmental Economics. He was associated with several international and national funded projects related with coastal policy and marine resource economics. He has also published extensively in peer reviewed journals.



Saudamini Das is presently with the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi and a Fellow of South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE). She has been a Maler Scholar at Beijer Institute of Ecological Economics, Stockholm. She works on environmental and climate change issues including extreme events. Her works have been published in journals like *Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences* and *World Development* besides as book chapters.



Brototi Roy, a postgraduate from TERI University, New Delhi is pursuing PhD at the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain, where she focuses on environmental justice movements in South and South East Asia. Her research interests include ecological distribution conflicts, ecologically unequal exchange, languages of valuation, environmental justice struggles and degrowth. She is the co-founder of Degrowth India Initiative, a platform to discuss the approach to socio-ecological justice and equity.



Joyashree Roy is with the Department of Economics at Jadavpur University. She has been an ICSSR national fellow, a Ford Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellow at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, USA. She initiated and coordinates the Global Change Programme as well as Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (SYLFF) Project on Tradition, Social change and Sustainable Development at Jadavpur University. She has published more than 90 peer reviewed journal articles, authored and edited books.



E Somanathan received his PhD in economics from Harvard in 1995 and taught at Emory University and the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor before joining the Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi in its Economics and Planning Unit. He is presently on leave from this job and is the Executive Director of South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE). He was a Co-ordinating Lead Author for Working Group III of the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and is the Editor of the journal *Environment and Development Economics*.



Bejoy K Thomas is currently a Fellow at ATREE, Bengaluru. He has studied at Cochin University and University of Tilburg. His early research was on multidimensional poverty and participatory development. He recently co-led a socio-hydrological research initiative on water in urbanizing areas. He has been a Royal Bank of Canada Visiting Fellow at the Water Institute, University of Waterloo, Canada.



The administrative office of INSEE is hosted by the Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi.

Sushil Kumar Sen is working as an Office Manager of the INSEE since its inception. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics. He has published more than 20 articles in national and international journals. His book entitled *Consumer Protection Rights in India: Role of National Forum* is forthcoming. He is the Academic Programmes Officer of the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi.



Surendra Thakur is working as Accountant of INSEE since 2014. He holds a B Com (H) from Lalit Narayan Mithila University, Darbhanga. He is working as the Hostel Assistant at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi.





After the Post Conference Workshop ‘Practice of Ecological Economics in the South Asian context’, Tezpur University, Assam, December, 2013; from left Kanchan Chopra, Nandan Nawn, Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Pushpam Kumar, Joan Martinez-Alier, Anamika Barua and Sushil Sen [photo courtesy: Santadas Ghosh]

## Endnote

**Nandan Nawn**

<sup>1</sup> In the lifecycle of INSEE, 2017 appears as an interesting moment; of attaining ‘adulthood’, while still retaining its teenage status. Surely it is a moment of excitement and uncertainty, of envisaging unending possibilities and unforeseen challenges all at the same time. We thought it would be a good idea to look back at the journey, and capture the moments as well as events. After all, it is time to celebrate this journey, gauge its strengths and moments of weaknesses. It is also a time to record the history not just for the posterity, but also for the larger society. It is a time to etch the future in abstraction for the future torchbearers to make it real.

<sup>2</sup> On behalf of the Executive Committee of INSEE, I thank all those who have agreed to contribute. Much of the documentation could happen only due to efforts of Brototi Roy, Sushil Sen and Vivek Tyagi. I would like to thank in particular Kanchan Chopra and Pranab Mukhopadhyay for offering their comments and suggestions on the idea in its raw form. Of course, responsibility of errors and omissions, if any, shall rest on me.

<sup>3</sup> This shall remain as an ‘evolving’ document, to be updated when the opportunity arises. At times, we will release a temporarily frozen version, as this one.

**Nandan Nawn** is INSEE Secretary (2016-18).

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## Contact

Sushil K Sen  
Office Manager, Indian Society for Ecological Economics  
c/o Institute of Economic Growth, University Enclave  
Delhi 110007, India  
Email: [insee@iegindia.org](mailto:insee@iegindia.org)  
Website: [www.ecoinsee.org](http://www.ecoinsee.org)

Front and Back cover: speakers and participants of various INSEE programmes;  
Front inside cover: first page of the Memorandum of Association of INSEE;  
Back inside cover: Minutes of the First EC meeting



# THE INDIAN SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

C/o INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, UNIVERSITY ENCLAVE, DELHI-110007, INDIA

## INDIAN SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

### Co-option of 2 members to the Executive Committee and Appointment of Office-bearers

The first meeting of the Executive Committee of the INDIAN SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS held on July 28th, 2000 at 6.00 pm at India International Centre, Conference Room #1, New Delhi. This was the first meeting of the newly elected Executive Committee following the Society's elections that were completed in June 2000. The following members were present for the meeting:

1. Prof. C H Hanumantha Rao - President
2. Prof. Kanchan Chopra
3. Prof. Ramprasad Sengupta
4. Prof. Bina Agarwal
5. Dr. Sharachchandra Lele
6. Prof. Anil K Gupta

The following resolutions pertaining to the composition of the committee and the appointment of office-bearers were passed in this meeting:

#### Resolution 1: Co-option of two members to the Committee

Resolved that the following members of the Society are co-opted to the Executive Committee:

- a) Prof. P.S. Ramakrishnan, New Delhi
- b) Shri V.B. Easwaran, New Delhi

#### Resolution 2: Appointment of office-bearers

Resolved that the following persons will be the office-bearers, in addition to the President:

- a) Vice-President: Prof. Jyoti Parikh
- b) Secretary: Prof. Ramprasad Sengupta
- c) Joint Secretary: Dr. Sharachchandra Lele
- d) Treasurer: Shri V.B. Easwaran

  
PRESIDENT

  
SECRETARY

