

**THE INDIAN SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2013-2014**

**C/o. INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH**

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## 1. Events Organized: Workshop on “Valuing and Accounting for the Environment in Asia” (October 2013)

This workshop was organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) in collaboration with the 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), INSEE, the United Nations Statistics Department (UNSD) and World Bank in Bangkok between 8-10 October 2013. The objectives of the workshop were a) to illustrate the policy need for better measures of wealth and income and to provide information on statistical tools to measure the contribution of the environment to the economy and the impacts of economic activity on the environment; b) to discuss various methods for valuing the environment and examined current practices in Asia in implementing environmental-economic accounts, and c) to help and enable countries to implement the System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA) developed by the UN.

Eighty delegates from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam, including academics and senior officials from statistics offices as well as planning and environment ministries attended the meeting. In addition there were resource persons from countries such as Australia, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States and donors representing multiple agencies.

Country experiences with implementing the SEEA were shared during the workshop. While the participants discussed a variety of challenges related to integrating environment into national accounts in Asia, three priority issues emerged: a) the need for raising awareness and advocacy within governments at multiple levels to show the links between environmental-economic accounts and policy needs; b) institutionalization of efforts to build environmental accounts through identification of coordinating mechanisms and piloting of accounts, particularly in sectors such as forests, water and land; c) training and skill building related to environmental-economic accounting and valuation of ecosystem services.

## 2. Events Organized: Pre-conference ICSSR-INSEE-SANDEE workshop: “Experimental Methods in Ecological Economics” (December 2013)



A pre-conference workshop titled ‘**Experimental Methods in Ecological Economics**’ was held on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 prior to the INSEE Biennial Conference. The workshop had five

sessions two each by Gautam Gupta and Neeraj Hatekar and one by Krishna Pant. The secretary of INSEE, Pranab Mukhopadhyay welcomed the participants and introduced the workshop. Gautam Gupta talked about the 'Methodological issues' involved in Experimental methods and how these are implemented in Environmental Economics. Neeraj Hatekar presented on Strategic Choices in experiments and also discussed a Public Goods Game. Krishna Pant from Nepal made a presentation on his work in Nepal on residue burning.

A total of 26 participants from all over India were invited to participate. These were selected from about 40 applications that were received in response to a call in August, 2013 with a deadline for applications on 20<sup>th</sup> September.

The workshop covered registration fee, travel and shared accommodation for the entire period of Conference December 4-8, 2013 for the selected participants. Applicants had to submit a letter of interest, their CV and indicate their current research interest.



### 3. Events Organized: Biennial Conference (December 2013)

The **Seventh Biennial Conference** of the Indian Society of Ecological Economics on '**Global Change, Ecosystems and Sustainability**' was held from 5-7 December, 2013 at Tezpur University. The conference was jointly hosted by Tezpur University (TU), Assam and Omeo Kumer Das Institute of Social Change & Development (OKD Institute), Guwahati. The conference was supported generously by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE), the Central Statistical Organisation of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, New Delhi and the Indian Council of Social Science Research ICSSR, New Delhi.

The conference addressed the crucial issues of sustainability in the context of anthropogenic pressures that have accelerated global change and put at risk our ecosystems. The contributions and plenary talks covered theoretical, methodological as well as empirical issues. Papers were invited under the following sub-themes:



1. Understanding Global Change (Global Change and Society, Bio-physical contours of Global Change, Climate Change, Global Environmental Governance)
2. Managing Ecosystems (Role of Institutions, Exploring Alternative Instruments, Issues of Scale and Time, Ecological Conflicts and Environmental Movements)
3. Sustainability: Approaches and Implications  
(Ecological Sustainability, Economic Approaches to Sustainability, Sustainability of Social and Cultural Systems, Equity, Poverty and Sustainability)
4. Environment and Development in the North East: (Environmental Security, Population dynamics and Ecology, Natural Disasters, Local Governance & Environment)

The conference was for three days from December 5-7, 2013 and hosted about 140 delegates from India, and international delegates from Australia, Bangladesh, Germany, Malaysia, Nepal, and Spain, in addition to participants from local universities.



The inaugural session was chaired by Amarjyoti Choudhury, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, TU. Bhupen Sarmah, Director, OKD Institute co-chaired the session. B.N. Goswami, Director, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune gave the inaugural lecture titled: “The Science of Climate Change”. Nilanjan Ghosh, Acting President, INSEE delivered the Presidential address and Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Secretary, INSEE presented the plan of the Conference.



There were two plenary sessions. The first one was chaired by Kanchan Chopra and the plenary talks were delivered by Juan Martinez Alier on “Environmental Conflicts and valuation Languages- cases from India and Latin America” and by Sharad Jain on “Environmental flow assessment”. The second one was chaired by Gopal Kadekodi and the plenary talks were given by Anantha Duraiappah on “Science Policy Interface” and Amit Bhaduri on “Growth , Democracy and Environment from an Indian Perspective”.

Six panels were organized during the conference:



- a) The South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE)

sponsored a panel on “Climate Change and Adaptation” chaired by R.Balasubramaniam. Panelists included Sarvana Kumar, K.P.Pant, and Saudamini Das.

- b) The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) sponsored a panel on “Food Security and Ecosystems” chaired by Pushpam Kumar. Panelists included Devinder Sharma, Juan Martinez Alier, Harpinder Sandhu and Gopal Kadekodi.



- c) The Central Statistical Organisation, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India sponsored a panel on “Green Accounting”, chaired by Kanchan Chopra. Panelists included T.C.A. Anant, G.S. Haripriya, and M.N. Murty.

- d) There was a panel on “Radical Ecological Democracy” chaired by Ashish Kothari. The other panelists were Sagar Dhara, Soma KP and Joan Martinez Alier.

- e) Arvind Susarla chaired a panel on ‘Himalayan Mountain Ecology and Disaster Risk Management’. The other panelists were Siddarth Bhatia and Nandita Hazarika
- f) Jayanto Bandopadhyay chaired a panel on “Water Resources in North-East India: Issues, Conflicts and the Way Forward”. The other panelists were Partha Jyoti Das, K J Joy, Nimmi Kurien, Chandan Mahanta and Neeraj Vagholikar.



In addition to the above plenary and panel sessions, there were 18 technical sessions on 4 sub themes and about 48 papers were selected for presentation in these sessions. While the technical sessions and panel sessions were held parallel, the plenaries were attended by all the participants. The papers presented in the parallel sessions dealt with a range of topics on the sub themes of the conference.



Given that this was the first time that INSEE was organizing a conference in the North Eastern region it was only appropriate that a plenary discussion was held on the “Development of NE Regions: Opportunities & Challenges for Sustainability”. This plenary was chaired by Chandan Sarma. Other speakers included Van Lal Chhawna, Indraneel Dutta, Arupjyoti Saikia and Ranjay K Singh.



The valedictory session was chaired by Mihir Kanti Choudhury, Vice-Chancellor, Tezpur University. Kanchan Chopra, Acting Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee summed up the deliberations of the Conference and Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Organising Secretary of the conference proposed the Vote of Thanks. Details of Local Organizing Committee, Scientific Advisory Committee and Theme Coordinators are given in the Appendix.



#### 4. Events Organized: Post Conference workshop (December 2013)



Immediately following the 7<sup>th</sup> biennial conference, a Post Conference Workshop on the “Practice of Ecological Economics” in the South Asian Context was held on 8<sup>th</sup> December. 18 invited participants including academic and action researchers as well as reflective practitioners took part in the workshop. Kanchan Chopra chaired the workshop. The panelists



were Vikram Dayal (Institute of Economic Growth), Sharachchandra Lele (Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)), Jagdish Krishnaswamy (ATREE) and Ashish Kothari (Kalpavriksh). Ritajyoti Bandyopadhyay (Center for Studies in Social Sciences) sent his talk by email.

The workshop began with a short review of related literature and moved on to the ways of

and need for bringing in plurality in ecological economics methods. It debated the need and scope to be plural and inclusive in societies like INSEE.

**List of participants in the workshop:**

1. Joan Martinez Alier	2. Anamika Barua
3. RN Bhattacharya	4. Haripriya Gundimida
5. Jagdish Krishnaswamy (Panelist)	6. Gopal Kadekodi
7. Amit Bhaduri	8. Kanchan Chopra (Chair)
9. Saudamini Das	10. Vikram Dayal (Panelist)
11. KJ Joy	12. Ashish Kothari (Panelist)
13. Pushpam Kumar	14. Sharad Lele (Panelist)
15. Pranab Mukhopadhyay	16. MN Murthy
17. Nandan Nawn	18. Seema Purushothaman (Co-ordinator)
19. Ritajyothi Bandopadhyay (email)	



## **5. Publications during 2013-14**

INSEE has signed an agreement with Springer Publications to publish the Sixth Biennial Conference Volume.

## **6. INSEE Website**

INSEE's website has been re-developed by M/s. LBWOnline and they are maintaining it for next two years.

## **7. INSEE Membership**

As on March 31, 2014, INSEE has 399 Life members and 7 Life Members Corporate Bodies, and 10 student members. The total membership thus stands at 416.

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## APPENDIX

### List of Local Organising Committee (LOC) for the INSEE 2013 Conference

Sl. No.	First Name	Surname	Institution
1	Amarjyoti	Choudhury	Tezpur University and Chairperson, LOC
2	Viswa	Ballabh	Xavier Labour Relations Institute, Jamshedpur
3	Anamika	Barua	Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati
4	Nandarani	Choudhury	Tezpur University
5	Saswati	Choudhury	Omeo Kumar Das Institute for Social Change and Development, Guwahati
6	Amiya	Das	Tezpur University
7	Kalyan	Das	Omeo Kumar Das Institute for Social Change and Development, Guwahati
8	Kedilezo	Kikhi	Tezpur University
9	Pranab	Mukhopadhyay	Goa University, Panaji & Secretary, INSEE
10	Nandan	Nawn	National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata
11	Sushil	Sen	Institute of Economic Growth & INSEE Office Manager

### Members of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) for the INSEE 2013 Conference

No.	First Name	Surname	Institution
1	Amita	Shah	Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad, and Chairperson of SAC
2	Juan Martinez	Allier	Autonomous University of Barcelona
3	Bina	Agarwal	University of Manchester
4	Vishwa	Ballabh	Xavier Labour Relations Institute, Jamshedpur
5	Anamika	Barua	Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati
6	Amita	Baviskar	Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi
7	Rabindra N.	Bhattacharya	Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai
8	Robert	Chandran	Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Kolkata
9	Kanchan	Chopra	Acting Chairperson (due to ill health of Amita Shah)
10	Rohan	D'Souza	Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
11	Purnamita	Dasgupta	Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi
12	Nilanjan	Ghosh	Multi Commodity Exchange, Mumbai
13	John	Gowdy	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, New York

<b>No.</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Institution</b>
14	G.S.	Haripriya	Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai
15	Sugata	Hazra	Jadavpur University, Kolkata
16	Ashish	Kothari	Kalpavriksh, Pune
17	Marina Fischer-	Kowalski	Institute of Social Ecology, Vienna
18	Jagdish	Krishnaswamy	Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE), Bengaluru
19	Pushpam	Kumar	United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi
20	Kavi	Kumar	Madras School of Economics, Chennai
21	S.	Lele	Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE), Bengaluru
22	Kinsuk	Mitra	Inspire Network, New Delhi
23	Pranab	Mukhopadhyay	Goa University, Panaji
24	Nandan	Nawn	National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata
25	LMS	Palni	GB Pant Institute, Pantnagar
26	Seema	Puroshottaman	Aziz Premji University, Bengaluru
27	Jyothis	Sathyapalan	Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad
28	Joyashree	Roy	Jadavpur University, Kolkata
29	Bhupen	Sarmah	Omeo Kumar Das Institute for Social Change and Development , Guwahati
30	Mahesh	Shankaran	National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru
31	Satish	Shetye	Goa University, Goa
32	Madhu	Verma	Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal

## INSEE 2013 Conference Themes and Theme Co-ordinators

<b>Conference Theme: Global Change, Ecosystems, Sustainability</b>	
<u>Subthemes:</u>	
<b>1. Understanding Global Change</b>	<b>Jagdish Krishnaswamy, Kavi Kumar, Joyashree Roy &amp; Mahesh Shankaran</b>
1.1 Global Change and Society	
1.2 Bio-physical contours of Global Change	
1.3 Climate Change	
1.4 Global Environmental Governance	
<b>2. Managing Ecosystems</b>	<b>Viswa Ballabh, Robert Chandran, S. Jyotish &amp; Pushpam Kumar</b>
2.1 Role of Institutions	
2.2 Exploring Alternative Instruments	
2.3 Issues of Scale and Time	
2.4 Ecological Conflicts and Environmental Movements	
<b>3. Sustainability: Approaches and Implications</b>	<b>G.S.Haripriya, Ashish Kothari, S. Lele, Nandan Nawn &amp; Seema Puroshottaman</b>
3.1 Ecological Sustainability	
3.2 Economic Approaches to Sustainability	
3.3 Sustainability of Social systems	
3.4 Equity, Poverty and Sustainability	
<b>4. Environment and Development in the North East</b>	<b>Anamika Barua, Purnamita Dasgupta, &amp; Bhupen Sarmah</b>
4.1 Environmental Security	
4.2 Population dynamics and Ecology	
4.3 Natural Disasters	
4.4 Local Governance & Environment	