

INSEE XIII Biennial Conference

Pre and Post Conference Workshops on

Tools and Methods for Decision making on Ecological Restoration

11th and 15th of January 2026

Co-organized by

**The Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE)
and Foundation for Ecological Security (FES)**

in collaboration with
Indian Institute of Technology Mandi

The pre-and post-conference workshop will be open only for the registered paper presenters in the XIII INSEE Biennial Conference. Also, there is no additional cost for the workshop. Since there are only 20 seats for the workshop, the registration will be accepted on a first come first serve basis. Please fill in the form mentioned below to register for the pre-and post-conference workshop only after you register for the conference. Please note it is mandatory to attend both pre-and post-conference workshops as well as all sessions during the conference for the participants to receive a certificate of completion. This is important since all the sessions are linked and they draw insights for each other. The dates are as follows: Pre-conference workshop - 11 January 2026, conference dates 12-14 January 2026; post-conference workshop - 15 January 2026.

Click [here](#) to register.

Background

Ecological restoration is increasingly recognized as a critical response to the socio-economic impacts associated with loss of biodiversity and climate change. However, restoration is often planned and implemented without sufficient clarity on what and how to restore, and for whom, leading to fragmented, unsustainable, and/or inequitable outcomes. This workshop seeks to address this gap by introducing participants to practical tools, methods, and decision-making frameworks that support inclusive and context-specific ecological restoration.

Objectives

- To familiarize participants with various tools and methods for choosing socio-ecologically informed processes to restore degraded ecosystems.
- To introduce available decision-support rubrics (such as UNCCD global courses, multi-criteria analysis, and social benefit cost analysis) that help identify appropriate restoration strategies for specific contexts and communities.
- To provide a platform where participants can explore the suitability of the tools in the field and reflect on their adaptability and shortfalls.
- To strengthen participants' capacity to design and implement context specific restoration initiatives.

Workshop Plan

Registered participants will be provided with case studies beforehand. They will have to familiarize themselves with the assigned case study before arrival at the workshop venue. Participants will continue to work on this assigned case study during the workshop days and present a final analysis at the end of post conference day of the workshop. Based on the understanding gained from the pre-conference workshop, conference deliberations, as well as based on a structured field visit on the second day of the workshop, these short projects are expected to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the cases under discussion and offer possible improvement to make the restoration inclusive and sustainable.

Workshop Sessions (Tentative)

Pre-conference (11 January 2026)

Session	Method	Facilitator
1. Introduction (10-11 AM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to the workshop Self-introduction by the participants and resource persons 	Participants would be asked to share their name, where they come from and name of a natural resource with whom they identify themselves with (if possible, also draw the natural resource on a Meta Card)	FES and INSEE team
2. Approaches to Ecological Restoration (11AM – 12 Noon) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Popular starting points of restoration (e.g. mined areas, disaster affected areas, silted dams, diminishing crop yield, polluted water bodies) with examples. Discussion on the assigned case studies 	Participants would be asked to form groups of 3-4 and briefly talk about the assigned case studies as a group.	FES and INSEE team
3. Diagnostic tools (12 Noon – 1PM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golden rules of restoration: Right species and right place Diagnostic Tools (such as Manual GIS, SEHAT, CLART, and CWB, participation ladder, experimental learning tool and others) for evidence-based planning and monitoring of ecological restoration. 	Presentation and short videos along with interaction	FES
4. Decision-Making Rubric for Restoration (2-3:30PM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frameworks for different contexts Overview of UNCCD rubric on restoring agricultural land. Where and when to apply Multi- Criteria Analysis, Social Benefit Cost Analysis and Inclusive Assessment of potential outcomes of restoration methods. Other suitable tools and methods for decision making in specific contexts. 		FES
5. Case based discussion (3:30 – 4PM)	Group activity: identifying strengths and	INSEE &

30 mins for group exercise and 30 mins for presentation by the groups)	weaknesses in the case study assigned and possible ways to improve (process and tools that could be applied). This forms the take-home project to be completed and presented during the post conf workshop.	FES / Living Landscape
--	--	------------------------------

Main Conference (12 – 14 January 2026)

- Sessions during the conference will nurture deeper connections between restoration theory, economics, and practice. Participants will continue to reflect on and integrate these insights into their project on assigned cases.
- Groups meet before the post conference day of the workshop to finalize the issues identified with the cases assigned; division of tasks for the field visit to accomplish project completion and presentation

Post Conference: Field Visit and Consolidation (15 January 2026 – half day)

- **Objective:** Enable firsthand exploration of possible application of learning outcomes from the pre-conference workshop.

Field visit: With identified questions about the group projects from the first day of the workshop, visiting a degraded landscape or a site where restoration is already underway

- **Field Activities:**
 1. Orientation at the site: understanding the ecological, sociological, and political-economic backdrop of degradation.
 2. Deliberations with stakeholders at the site
 3. Group Work: Deliberate, develop and present a creative critique of the assigned case study (with respect to frameworks, tools, methods, processes, outcomes etc.)
 4. Reflection and Feedback (short pre & post survey)

Abbreviations:

- ✓ CLART - Composite Landscape Assessment and Restoration Tools
- ✓ CWB- Crop Water Budgeting
- ✓ SEHAT- Socio Ecological Health Assessment Tool