

THE INDIAN SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

ANNUAL REPORT

2011-2012

**C/o. INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI ENCLAVE
(NORTH CAMPUS)
DELHI – 110 007**

Phones: 27667101, 27667288, 27667365, 27667424, 27667570

Fax: 91-11-27667410

Gram: GROWTH – Delhi – 110 007

E-mail: insee@iegindia.org

WEBSITE: www.ecoinsee.org

About INSEE

The Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) was established in New Delhi (India) on September 24, 1998. It was registered as a Society under the Societies Act in January 1999. INSEE is a regional society affiliated to the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE). The Society aims to further the cause of sustainable development by providing a forum for continuous dialogue among scholars, practitioners and policy analysts working on different aspects at the interface of economy, ecology and the social and the natural environments. In the process, INSEE seeks to catalyze the interaction between scholars from various disciplines, particularly economics and the ecological sciences, and including both natural and social sciences. It strives to promote new thinking and better understanding on a range of issues of national and international interest, such as institutions and instruments for natural resources management, energy analysis and policy, environment and trade, toxic waste management, environment and development, the valuation and accounting of ecosystem functions and services, climate change and the global commons. The list, of course, is far from being exhaustive. The Society works to disseminate the results of research and its policy implications to national and international bodies (governmental and non-governmental) through multiple avenues such as conferences, workshops, networking and publications. The activities of INSEE in 2011-12 are reported in this note, and are given below.

1. Sixth Biennial Conference of the Indian Society of Ecological Economics on ‘Nature, Economy and Society: Understanding the Linkages’

The Sixth Biennial Conference of the Indian Society for Ecological Economics on the theme ‘Nature, Economy and Society: Understanding the Linkages’ was held from 20-22 October, 2011 at the Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad. The conference addressed a diverse repertoire of issues at the interface of nature, economy and society and explores how to use the understanding for inclusion for economic growth oriented policy formulation. The discussion of issues covered cutting-edge conceptual and methodological advances being made in the different disciplines and also address

current policy relevant problems in the area of environment, development and social justice. Papers were invited under the following themes:

- A. Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services for Life and Human Well- being
- B. Accounting for Nature
- C. Global and Local Impact of Economic Growth, Trade and Globalisation on the Environment (at different scales)
- D. Alternative Approaches to Nature and Society and Assessing the Role of Knowledge and Power
- E. Social Norms, Culture and Human Behaviour in relation to the Environment
- F. Towards Green and Sustainable Socio-economic Systems
- G. Equity and Governance Issues in relation to the global, national and local commons.

The inaugural session was chaired by CH Hanumantha Rao, and was addressed by. Manoj Panda, Director of CESS; Kanchan Chopra, President, INSEE; John Gowdy, President, International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE), and Guest of Honour; Kirit Parikh, Chairman, IRADE, and Chief Guest. A new volume of SANDEE titled, *Environmental Valuation in South Asia* edited by A.K. Enamul Haque, M. N. Murty and Priya Shyamsundar (published by Cambridge University Press, New Delhi, 2011) was released by Karl Goran Maler. Nilanjan Ghosh, Secretary, INSEE proposed vote of thanks.

The conference that lasted for three days entailed two plenary sessions, (with addresses by Ian Bateman, Karl-Goran Maler, Eduardo Brandizio and Kamal Bawa), four panel sessions, two special panels by SANDEE and CSO, two special addresses (by Bina Agarwal and Juan Martinez Alier) and a total 17 technical sessions (parallel) on 7 sub themes.

About 60 papers were selected for presentation. While the technical sessions were held as parallel sessions, all other sessions were held in the auditorium and 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.

2. Pre-conference workshop: “Pathways to Interdisciplinarity: Analysing the interface of Nature, Economy, and Society”.

A pre-conference workshop titled ‘Pathways to Interdisciplinarity: Analysing the Interface of Nature, Economy and Society’ was held on 19th October, 2012. Anamika Barua was the coordinator of the Workshop, while Kanchan Chopra and Nilanjan Ghosh were the advisers. Kanchan Chopra in her inaugural address of the workshop emphasized the need for revisiting the interdisciplinary approach to understand the environment and the ecology -economics linkage. Pushpam Kumar also spoke in the inaugural session.

In the session on Analysis of Ecological and Social systems, Eduardo S Brondizio spoke on the human-environment interaction based on the work carried out by a team of researchers on the changes in the land use pattern in the Amazon region over the past years. Sharachchandra Lele continued the discussion with remark that those coming up with interdisciplinary study are those who are activists in environmental concern rather than pure academicians.

John Gowdy and Deepak Malghan took the participants to the history and various dimensions of Georgescu-Roegen fund flow approach. Purnamita Dasgupta delivered a lecture on the macro economics of measuring the environment.

As part of the discussion, interesting group exercises were carried out by the participants and the outcome of the excise were reviewed by eminent resource persons present at the workshop. Two participants, namely, Indrani Roychowdhury and DPS Chandrakumara, presented their works.

3. Ph.D. Scholars workshop in Ecology and Economics, in association with SANDEE, at Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad, October 23, 2011

A Ph.D. Scholars’ workshop on Ecology and Economics was held at CESS, Hyderabad, as a follow-up of the Sixth Biennial Conference of INSEE. It was a one day workshop (held on October 23, 2011) for Ph.D. scholars working at the interface of

Ecology & Economics and focused on spatial and temporal ecological changes from anthropogenic intervention. Economic trade-offs and valuation issues were addressed. Jagdish Krishnaswamy, A.K. Enamul Haque, Nilanjan Ghosh and Pranab Mukhopadhyay acted as faculty for the workshop. The workshop also enjoyed extremely valuable advises and comments from Manoj Panda, Director, CESS, for the Ph.D. scholars. Some selected Ph.D. scholars made presentations of their ongoing work. The Workshop was coordinated by Nilanjan Ghosh and Pranab Mukhopadhyay.

4. Book on *Environmental Governance* from selected papers presented at Fifth Biennial Conference of INSEE at Ahmedabad

INSEE initiated the publication of the volume on “Environmental Governance: Approaches, Imperatives, and Methods” from selected papers prepared for or presented at the INSEE Fifth Biennial Conference held at Gujarat Vidyapith, 21-23 January, 2009. The editors of the volume are Jayanta Bandyopadhyay, Kanchan Chopra and Nilanjan Ghosh. The volume published by Bloomsbury, New Delhi, with world distribution rights, consists of 17 papers (including the introductory chapter) from ecological economists, scientists and policy makers from around the world..

5. Special INSEE edition in *Conservation and Society*

A special edition on Ecological Economics is being contributed by INSEE in the journal *Conservation and Society*, published from ATREE, Bangalore. The process is coordinated and edited by Seema Purushothaman from INSEE, with Bejoy Thomas also being invited as a guest editor. The Section will consist of around 5 peer reviewed papers (including the editorial for the section). The Journal will communicate the volume and issue numbers shortly.

6. Session on The Draft National Water Policy organized in collaboration with Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM)

SOPPECOM, in collaboration with The Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) organized a session on Draft National Water Policy on 26 March from 4 to 6 pm

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at Pune. This session was a part of the 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’ to be held on 26 and 27 March 2012. The workshop, *inter alia*, sought to provide critical feed back for the future direction for water sector in the 12th Plan.

A. Vaidyanathan chaired the session. There were presentations by Ramaswamy Iyer and Jayanta Bandyopadhyay, two eminent members of INSEE, apart from a present by Mohile. Achyut Das, Rohini Nilekani, Dinesh K. Mishra, and Vijay Shankar were the discussants for this session. Amita Shah, Vice President, INSEE and Director, GIDR also participated in the workshop.

The session is a follow up of the larger consultative process on water sector adopted by the Planning Commission for formulation of the 12th Five Year plan. The consultative process has already proposed a comprehensive Water Framework Law, which however needs further deliberations.

Future Events

1. Amita Shah is planning to hold a Ph.D. workshop at GIDR.
2. Two more Ph.D. workshops are proposed to be held: one at CMDR, Dharwad, (in terms of the interests expressed by Gopal Kadekodi); and the other at IIT, Guwahati with Anamika Barua being the contact person at Guwahati. The EC agreed in principle but it was decided that Kadekodi and Barua be requested to submit formal proposals to the EC for the same.
4. G. Haripriya will organize a panel on Climate Change and Urban Biodiversity during 8-10 October 2012 at Mumbai, in association with INSEE as decided in the last EC meeting.

INSEE Membership

As on March 31, 2012, INSEE has 364 Life members and 6 Life Members Corporate Bodies and 1 student member. The total membership thus stands at 371.

Executive Committee Members of INSEE (2010-2012)

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|-----------------|---|-----------------------|
| President | : | Kanchan Chopra |
| Vice President | : | Amita Shah |
| Secretary | : | Nilanjan Ghosh |
| Treasurer | : | Kinsuk Mitra |
| Joint Secretary | : | Nandan Nawn |
| Member | : | Uppeandra Dhar |
| Member | : | Seema Purushothaman |
| Member | : | Saudamini Das |
| Member | : | Haripriya Gundimeda |
| Member | : | Arabinda Mishra |
| Member | : | Jayanta Bandyopadhyay |
| Member | : | Pranab Mukhopadhyay |

Sushil Kumar Sen
Office Manager
The Indian Society for Ecological Economics
C/o. Institute of Economic Growth
University of Delhi Enclave
Delhi-110007
Website: www.ecoinsee.org