

## **SANDEE's Third Set of Research Grants, March 2002**

SANDEE recently made several new grants to researchers from South Asia. A brief description of some of these grants is presented below. These may be particularly useful to new applicants seeking to obtain SANDEE research funding.

- **A Framework for the Economic Analysis of the Protection and Sustainable Use of Traditional Knowledge: Effectiveness of Incentive Mechanisms, Aparna Bhagirathy, India.** Aparna seeks to develop a framework for analyzing the role of traditional knowledge in property rights regimes, including intellectual and common property rights. Building on recent developments in bio-technology and global trade with IPR, this study focuses on incentive mechanisms needed for the conservation and sustainable use of traditional knowledge rather than merely valuing traditional knowledge. The study will identify measures to determine the efficiency of different incentive mechanisms including benefit sharing, IPR and non-monetary incentives.
- **Income Inequality and the Demand for Environmental Goods: Analyzing the Distributional Effects of an Irrigation Project on Three Tribal Economies, Arabinda Mishra, India.** Arabinda seeks to study the impact of development interventions on forest resource use. Often, state-led development interventions result in changing the traditional homogeneity of tribal communities. The resulting change in income distribution within a tribal community subsequently affects the pattern of demand for forest goods. Economic theory provides the concept of the 'distributional characteristic of a good' that is based on a postulated relationship between the degree of income inequality and the demand pattern for that good. The proposed research seeks an empirical verification of this relationship for forest goods. The specific setting of the proposal involves an irrigation project and three categories of tribal communities – project-unaffected, project-displaced and project-benefited.
- **Income and Information Elasticities of Demand for Environmental Quality, E. Somanathan, India.** This study aims to investigate household willingness-to-pay for an environmental good, specifically clean drinking water. The study will examine the role of information (about positive health effects of water purification) and household income as determinants of willingness-to-pay. The study will also attempt to obtain information from Delhi and surrounding areas about coping actions that households take to obtain clean water and expenditure incurred in doing so.
- **Valuation of Environmental Resources: A case study of Margalla Hills National Park in Northern Pakistan, Himayatullah Khan, Pakistan.** Himmy seeks to undertake a valuation study of the Margalla Hills National Park. He will investigate individual visitors' (Pakistani and foreigners) willingness-to-pay for recreational benefits by using the travel cost method. The objective of the study is to help policy makers and planners establish park entrance fees and develop management plans for national parks in Pakistan.

- **Trade-off between Carbon Emissions, Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction in India, Vijay Prakash Ojha, India.** The overall goal of Vijay's study is to identify policy instruments that would reduce carbon emissions and to evaluate their impact on the economy in general and on GDP and poverty reduction in particular. Vijay will be looking at two key policy instruments: carbon taxes and tradable permits for this purpose. He will be using a computable general equilibrium model for his analysis.
- **Shrimp Culture, Environmental Consequences and Poverty in Coastal Bangladesh: A Benefit-Cost Analysis, Zulfiqar Ali, Bangladesh.** Whether shrimp culture should be stopped or continued has become part of an intense debate in Bangladesh. Zulfiqar will estimate the benefits and costs of shrimp culture vis-à-vis paddy cultivation practiced in the same area. The study will examine the environmental externalities associated with shrimp farming for different land use options. The study will also analyze the redistribution of benefits among different economic and social groups.
- **Social Benefit-Cost Analysis of Shrimp Farming in the Coastal Tracts of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, L. Umamaheshwari, India (Study Grant).** Indiscriminate land use brings with it adverse social and environmental impacts. Moreover, land is becoming a scarce commodity due to population pressure, increasing non-agricultural use and diversion to commercial activities such as shrimp farming. Intensive shrimp farming in cultivable land may cause adverse environmental effects due to salinisation of land and groundwater. Uma's study is similar to Zulfiqar's and will examine various externalities associated with shrimp farming.

