

Summary of Workshop Evaluation
A Basic Course in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
Club Hotel Dolphin, Waikkal, Sri Lanka
17th June – 4th July, 2004

Workshop Value and Quality

No. of Participants: 23
 Evaluation Forms Filled By: 21

| S.N | Questions | Respondents Grades | | | | |
|-----|---|--------------------|---|------|----|----|
| | | Low | | High | | |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Relevance of this activity to your current work | | | 1 | 3 | 17 |
| 2. | Extent to which you have acquired information that is new to you | | | 2 | 12 | 7 |
| 3. | Usefulness to you of the information that you have acquired | | | | 9 | 12 |
| 4. | Focus of this activity on what you specifically needed to learn | | | 4 | 7 | 10 |
| 5. | Extent to which the content of this activity matched the announced objectives | | | 1 | 5 | 15 |
| 6. | Overall usefulness of this activity | | | 1 | 7 | 13 |
| 7. | Extent to which the policy discussion was useful to your current work or knowledge and learning | | | 3 | 10 | 8 |

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| 8. | <p>What are the three most significant areas of information, knowledge or skills acquired from this workshop that you could now apply?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Environmental Economics - Practical and theoretical issues (4) ◆ Developing Concept Papers/Research Studies and its various methodologies (5) ◆ Develop linkages between socio-economic issues and environmental factors (5) ◆ Benefit-Cost Analysis Technique (5) ◆ Travel Cost Approach (3) ◆ Game Theory (1) ◆ Common Property Resources Issues (4) ◆ Policy Issues/Implications (4) ◆ Economic Modeling (2) ◆ Economic Valuation methods – poverty, environment, natural resources (12) ◆ Mathematical Model – Eco (2) ◆ Natural Resource Management, Forestry (3) ◆ Health, Poverty and Environmental Issues(4) ◆ Non-convexities in Environmental Issues(1) ◆ Resource Economics, Renewable Resources (3) ◆ Fisheries Economics (3) ◆ Contingent Valuation (1) ◆ Economic rationale behind decisions and mathematical application of economic theories (1) ◆ Solid Waste Management (1) ◆ Contingent Valuation (5) ◆ Welfare Economics (1) |
| 9. | <p>Other Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The most important thing that I learnt from this workshop is to give formal shape to my thinking on environmental issues. I have also learnt to broaden my horizon and look into indirect or hidden aspects of obvious environmental issues. ◆ All the economic valuation technique taught during the course was good, for me a Ph.D scholar and working in the facet of BCA, I am now clear about the practical applications. ◆ You have covered broad range of economics with environmental issues as well as poverty and environment and history of environmental economics. |

- ◆ Surveying tools class should be added if possible and general classes on econometric should be added.
- ◆ The workshop has been really productive for me; it has sharpened my intellectual thoughts.
- ◆ The assignments given have been extremely useful (although hectic) and have cleared a lot of my concepts on the use of valuation techniques. In general the participatory approaches of the lectures were useful too.
- ◆ Feeling it difficult to rank the first three most significant areas of information (though I did it somehow). Almost 90% of the lectures were extremely useful to me.
- ◆ If we are given more assignment type work, this would be more appropriate.
- ◆ I think health discussions did not have any economics at all.
- ◆ Most of the participants were from South Asia, if the resource people had given relevant examples from South Asia rather than talking about USA or developed countries that would have been more helpful.
- ◆ Logistics was great!
- ◆ SANDEE needs to increase practical courses than theoretical course. It should help in increasing the capacity in Econometrics analysis.
- ◆ Instructors of the workshop were really helpful.
- ◆ Building institutional network and also Anetwork among fellow participants representing all the South Asian Countries.

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Course Structure and Content

| S.N | Questionnaire | Yes | No |
|-----|---|-----|----|
| 1. | <p>Were the numbers of sessions each day (4 Sessions) appropriate?</p> <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The assignments were helpful in getting a practical insight into valuation issues. ◆ The number of sessions per day should be four but one session should be particularly confined to assignment activities. ◆ I feel the number of sessions were appropriate for the amount of material that was being covered. ◆ Sessions should go till 2:00pm; remaining time should be for rest, reading and exercise. ◆ It would be better if the duration of each session can be made a bit shorter. ◆ Based on trying to have a one-semester load in 3 weeks, I think it's ok to have four sessions. ◆ Sessions should start at 9:30am and continue till 7:00pm with a long lunch break (2.5hrs) | 19 | 2 |
| 2. | <p>Is the duration of each session appropriate?</p> <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The duration of session has been aptly divided. We have got enough time in- | 21 | 2 |

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| | <p>between the sessions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ It is better to have one hour class especially during afternoon. ◆ Duration will be fine, if the resource persons are good and co-operative. | | |
| 3. | <p>If you were to improve on the structure of the program, what would you suggest?</p> <p>Reading Material Discussion/Assignment Sessions Lecture Sessions</p> <p>Other Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Discussion session should be in the end of all the lectures by one lecturer. ◆ The course overlooked replacement cost method and a session cost method. Since these techniques are widely used, at least one session should be on this. ◆ The reading material provided is enough to get an insight to Environmental Economics. But in my perception, I believe that there should be some more sessions where one can go for reading and doing assignments thoroughly. ◆ In the structure of the program, solid waste management's theoretical program is found missing so the course is not a complete package. ◆ Theory should be less as most of the participants have considerable knowledge in theory. ◆ At least one practical example for application in each lecture related to the relevant field if possible should be cited by resource persons. ◆ Introductory sessions should deal with the basics of the course and advance topics should be kept for latter sessions. ◆ It is better to get two days for the assignment, which will improve the quality of work as well give more time to think and work out the assignment. Better to split the assignment in the first two weeks. There were more assignments on the 2nd week which was quite tiring. ◆ The course duration was for 18 days effectively (Half a day in the first and last day). I think it can be made for full 3 weeks (21 days), to accommodate more discussion/assignment sessions without compromising with number of lecture sessions. ◆ Allow time for reading and encourage discussions by asking lead questions. | <p>More</p> <p>15 14 8</p> | <p>Less</p> <p>1 2</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The assignments should be completed and discussed the same day itself so that more time can be allotted for reading and preparing for next sessions. Had the solution set for each assignment been given, it would have been more useful. More empirical problems should be included during the sessions. ◆ A full assignment for working out the different methodologies would be of great help (TCM, CVM etc. so that the exact methods would be clear.) ◆ Since this type of course is basic in nature, due care must be taken about building fundamental efficiency such as making candidates fit for empirical applications and not putting much emphasis on case studies. First making them theoretically and technically fit, then going for case studies. ◆ More discussions sessions especially in policy instruments and implications on environment and poverty. ◆ Have R & R every alternate day or after every two days so that there is ample time to read. | | |
| 4. | <p>Has the amount of theoretical/conceptual information you have received been appropriate?</p> <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The theoretical/conceptual information would have been clarified further, if we were given more time for reading. ◆ For participants who have basic idea of economics and the environment techniques, the schedule SANDEE has designed is perfectly alright. ◆ Need regular assignment (may be quick) based on the exercise.(2) ◆ Valuation method's practical side should be increased because now it is equal to theoretical side. ◆ Theme for pre-proposals and groups should be decided earlier so that participant can discuss more on their ideas/projects. ◆ This has been appropriate for the time period of the course and was a good introduction to the subject and its applications. Further, study is now required on our part. ◆ The materials are potential enough for information. ◆ I think two sessions based on econometric techniques and software applications would be really helpful for the researchers though it means one/two extra days in | Yes 21 | No |

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| | <p>the workshop.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Most of the theory is ok, but I think more econometrics theory and model should be incorporated. ◆ More practical exercise with applied econometric analysis should be added. | | | | | |
| 5. | <p>Please self-assess your intake (overall ability to grasp) the material presented in the sessions? Please Rank.</p> | Low High | | | | |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | | | | 4 | 16 | 1 |
| <p>Comments:</p> | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Since the reading materials supplied are there, I can improve my knowledge on the subject by reading those materials. I appreciate SANDEE's effort for providing reading materials that is very helpful in expanding the knowledge and understandability of Environmental Economics. ◆ I was able to grasp most of the presented material and even if could not understand a couple of complex mathematical models, Prof. Bhattacharya and Enamul Haq were especially helpful in making me understand the economic implications. ◆ The session should be arranged in the manner where basics part of environmental and natural resource economics is covered earlier and than gradually shift towards difficult concepts. Else, it would be difficult to grasp. ◆ I feel that I have learnt as expected from this course in side of concept, methods and group behavior and also practical work. Besides, it gave me an opportunity to discuss my project issue with the resource persons. It was fruitful. ◆ It's not possible to grasp every thing in 20days. However, most of the topics discussed were clear to me and in the future I can use them for my empirical work. ◆ There was some material and lectures that were difficult to grasp but others were extremely useful. ◆ Few materials with rigorous mathematics could not be grasped properly. ◆ Since this is the first ever course I did in environmental economics I need to put in more effort to grasp the subject thoroughly. ◆ A very good researcher may not necessarily be a good teacher; the thrust should be given on grasping of the student. A teacher should be very much convincing to his audience. ◆ I think it would be great if some of the sessions taken during the earlier part of the course are transferee to the last week of the workshop. ◆ All the materials are very good, but it will be good if the resource person give the theory for concept from application not from their research paper. ◆ Few of the resource people were not co-operative. | | | | | | |

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| 6. | <p>Please identify three sessions that were MOST useful to you</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Public Goods, Externalities, Common-property, Inter Temporal issues, Non Convexities (10) ◆ Introduction/Economics of non-renewable resources (7) ◆ Revealed preferences – TCM (7) ◆ Environmental Project evaluation and Cost-Benefit Analysis (5) ◆ The problem of non-market values: Economic Valuation (3) ◆ Common property resources and Institutional Issues (8) ◆ History of Environmental Economics (2) ◆ Green Income Accounting (4) ◆ Cost-effectiveness of water and indoor air pollution (2) ◆ Economic instruments (1) ◆ Forestry Model (5) ◆ Poverty and Environment (5) ◆ Environmental Valuation (1) ◆ Fisheries management (2) ◆ CVM Methods (4) |
| 7. | <p>Please Identify three sessions that were LEAST useful to you.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Costs of air pollution – detailed Colombo Study (5) ◆ Benefits of Clean Water – Ganga Case Study (1) ◆ Welfare Economics – Overview, links to Environmental Economics (6) ◆ Examples of Use of Economic Instruments (9) ◆ Measuring Environmental health effect/costs (4) ◆ Counting ecosystem as economic component of water infrastructure(1) ◆ Ecosystem considerations in water supply decisions (1) ◆ Introduction to renewable resources – fishers, rents (2) ◆ Cost Benefit Analysis(1) ◆ Cost – effectiveness of water and air pollution (3) ◆ Biodiversity and protected areas (3) ◆ CVM exercise (1) ◆ CPR and institutional issues – conditions for co-operation (1) ◆ Choosing discount rates (1) |

8.

Any other comments you would like to make.

- ◆ I especially come up with the objective to learn evaluation techniques used in Environmental Economics. I have evolved a good understanding of the area. The pedagogy is extremely good. I appreciate the whole organizing team of SANDEE. I am grateful for the nice hospitality as well. I will share the knowledge I have gained in this course.
- ◆ It was an excellent training program, but there was deficit of Game Theory and Linear program. At work we need to use of software like SAS, Limdep and SPSS. There should be a class on it.
- ◆ Nice and fruitful program which provided confidence and knowledge in environmental economics.
- ◆ Including a session on contrasting policy relevance research as many results of research cannot have policy implications.
- ◆ Show documentary of successful natural resource management practices, like the Nago mbo solid waste management.
- ◆ Fund success and failure stories of policy, resource use.
- ◆ At least pocket money should be provided to buy sweets for family and kids.
- ◆ I feel Priya should take more sessions than what she took as her lectures have been very clear and gave food for thought.
- ◆ There must be session on water policies. The waste disposal trip was not very useful; instead it would be better to have a full day library visit.
- ◆ CPR is important no doubt but there were too many sessions on it.
- ◆ The total time frame of the course can be reduced by 2/3 days by cutting down some session like lesser sessions on CPR, instruments and welfare economics.
- ◆ Rather than having reading time in the last session, it is better to have a day off.
- ◆ I would have liked to utilize the two scheduled R & R days fully staying indoor and going through the reading material. But some city trips was organized, tagged with library visit. I had to go, but it had a negative utility for me. One day rest at the end of each day is absolutely necessary to internalize the week's lecture.
- ◆ If you can arrange a course on econometrics related to EE that would be beneficial to many researchers.
- ◆ Overall Dr. Priya's sessions were more lively and easy to understand.
- ◆ Lucy's lecture was useful and has given insight for incorporating issues related to ecosystem in environmental research.
- ◆ This program has immensely helped me in clarifying many of my doubts and also provided me insight into many of the complex environmental issues.
- ◆ All of you are very caring and sharing, very much concerned about our career.
- ◆ I have not only leaned and made friends but also thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and needless to say the afternoon volley-ball meets both at the beach and the pool.
- ◆ More class is needed on policy implications, methods and process as well as environmental problems.
- ◆ SANDEE should select same level or same category level of participants. All participants should come from pure economics background.