

10th set of grants, December 2005

1. Timber logging in Pakistan's northern areas: a market based approach to conservation, Moeed Yusuf, Pakistan

Pakistan's woody biomass is disappearing at a rate of 4-6% per year. In large part, this is a result of excessive timber felling motivated by high timber prices. In this study, Moeed seeks to develop a market-based instrument for reducing deforestation. He will study the market for imported timber, identify an appropriate tariff structure and examine whether imported timber can be competitive. The premise of the study is that rationalization of import duty could play a role in stemming timber logging in Pakistan.

2. Valuing the impact of diarrhoea on child health in slums in Bangladesh
Md. Jahangir Alam, Bangladesh

Contaminated drinking water and poor sanitation facilities are a major cause of diarrhoea, a common water-borne disease among slum children in Bangladesh. In this study, Jahangir will assess the welfare gains to slum households from avoiding diarrhoeal attacks among children. This empirical analysis will provide policy inputs to planners, international organizations and domestic NGOs and help identify the benefits of some specific slum intervention programs.

3. Health benefits from reducing air pollution in Dhaka city
Tanzir A. Chowdhury and Mohammad Imran, Bangladesh

The air quality of Dhaka city is deteriorating at an accelerating rate due to hazardous vehicular emissions. Vehicular air pollution is one of the major causes of many diseases like irritation, headache, fatigue, asthma, high blood pressure and heart problems. In this study, Tanzir and Imran will estimate the benefits to the citizens of Dhaka from a reduction in air pollution to safe levels, using a dose response function and cost of illness approach. The study will generate significant inputs for transport analysts and policy makers, who are considering strategies such as introduction of CNG and a metro system in Dhaka.

4. Willingness to Pay for Reducing Pollen Allergy in Islamabad, Shabib Haider Syed, Pakistan (Conditional Grant)

The mulberry tree, commonly found all over Islamabad, is now understood to contribute significantly to pollen pollution, which has become a major problem in recent years. Pollen pollution is a source of respiratory allergies and asthmatic attacks, which are on the rise. In this study, Shabib will estimate the value that residents of Islamabad place on clean air and what they are willing to pay reduce pollen contamination. He will try to identify least cost solutions that the government can take up in order to mitigate the effects of pollution, keeping in mind residents' willingness to pay.

5. Energy planning and poverty reduction in Nepal-India region. Y. B. Thapa, Nepal (Conditional Grant)

Nepal has no sources of commercial energy such as fossil fuels but has significant hydropower potential, which is utilized at a below optimal levels. Nepal and India have been trying to co-operate on water and energy related issues for many years, yet there is much that remains unclear and more that can be done to benefit both countries. The proposed study seeks to examine macroeconomic linkages between Nepal and India in order to assess the impact of greater cooperation in energy planning. Using macro-models, it will assess the implications of inter-connected power systems on energy prices, use and on economic growth in Nepal..