

## **SANDEE's 7th Set of Research Grants, June 2004**

SANDEE recently made several research and study grants in South Asia. A brief description of these grants is presented below. This information may be particularly useful to new applicants seeking to obtain SANDEE research funding.

### **Managing recyclables for effective urban waste management: A case study in Thimphu, Bhutan, Anjana Giri, Bhutan.**

Solid Waste Management in urban areas is a worldwide problem. Anjana, in this project, aims to review existing solid waste management practices in Thimphu, Bhutan. In particular, she will analyse gaps, problems and economic constraints associated with recycling. She will examine the recycling sector to assess the feasibility of successful public-private partnerships in waste management in Thimphu.

### **Economic Inquiry into Collective Action and Household Behaviour in Micro Watersheds, D. Suresh Kumar, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, India.**

Empirical studies that examine collective action in watershed management are relatively rare. In this research, Suresh Kumar will study the existence and extent of collective action in managing micro watersheds in Coimbatore District of Western Tamil Nadu. The study will try to bring out the factors responsible for the emergence and existence of collective action at community level and household level. The research result can be used by researchers and policy makers for recommending improvements for sustainable watershed management.

### **Pesticide Use, Human Health, and Household Productivity in a Mid-hills Watershed, Nepal, Kishor Atreya, Aquatic Ecology Center, Kathmandu University, Kathmandu, Nepal**

The goal of this study is to examine acute health problems that result from pesticide use and exposure. The study will also assess costs associated with such illnesses and their impacts on farm households. The study will focus on vegetable farming, which is subject to very high doses of pesticides in Nepal. Kishor also seeks to understand the behaviour of farmers and applicators and the mitigative actions they take in using pesticides.

### **Common Property Rights, Market Access and Forest Quality: A Household Level Analysis in Nepal, Resham B. Dangi, Nepal**

Empirical evidence has produced ambiguous results about the impact of community forestry in Nepal. While it is reported that forest stocks have significantly increased after the transfer of property rights from the state to local communities, there is also evidence of many community forestry groups being inactive and underutilized. Resham Dangi, a forester in Nepal, seeks to obtain and analyse both bio-physical data about forests and economic data about the use of these forests. Using a programming approach, he will examine the economic potential of community forests and assess whether the current property rights structure allows communities to meet their needs, given this potential.

### **Economic impacts of changes in hydrological services from forest ecosystems: Studies in two agro climatic regions of the Western Ghats of India, Sharachandra Lele, Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Environment and Development, Bangalore, India**

The hydrological services of tropical forest ecosystems are probably one of the most important but least well understood aspects of forest-society linkage. The complexity of the biophysical relationship between forest cover and hydrology is confounded by difficulties in estimating and aggregating the direct and indirect benefits that accrue to 'downstream' stakeholders. Sharad Lele proposes to take on this challenge by studying the economic impacts of changes in the quality of forest cover on agricultural incomes in the Western Ghats region of peninsular India.

**The Economic Implications of Natural Disasters: A Study based on Contemporary and Historical Evidence from South Asia, Tirthankar Roy, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, India**

Windstorms, floods, and earthquakes have long been a part of life in South Asia. The costs of these events are large, particularly for the poor and the vulnerable. In this study Trithankar proposes to study the economic costs of natural disasters, the coping strategies adopted, the rate of recovery and the variables influencing this recovery. The study will be based on both historical records and current surveys.

**The Analysis of Heterogeneity Effect on Peoples' Participation in Joint Management of Protected and Reserved Forests in West Bengal, Lekha Mukhopadhyay, Jadavpur University, Calcutta (*Study Grant*)**

Designing voluntary collective action programmes for managing common pool resources is a difficult task in heterogeneous societies. Lekha proposes to highlight this issue in the context of forest management around the Buxa Tiger Reserve in West Bengal, India. She will examine the impact of economic, political and ethnic heterogeneity on household and village community's decision to participate in forest management programmes.

**Rural poverty and forest dependency: Empirical evidences from rural areas of Sri Lanka, Widanage Rupananda, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka (*Study Grant*)**

Rupananda seeks to investigate non-timber forest product extraction by poor households in Sri Lanka. He is particularly interested in understanding how a variety of rural development policies affect household behavior and use of non-timber forest products.