

SANDEE's 6th Set of Research Grants, Nov 2003

SANDEE recently made several research grants to researchers from 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.

- **Estimation of abatement costs of air pollution in Durgapur City of West Bengal, Kakali Mukhopadhyay, IIMC, Calcutta, India.**

Urbanization and extensive energy utilization have made urban air pollution a growing problem in India. Kakali will estimate the cost of abating emissions caused by key industries. She will estimate the extent of deterioration in air quality and estimate air pollution abatement cost in Durgapur, West Bengal and suggest policies for air quality management in urban industrial areas of West Bengal. This is a conditional grant.

- **Hill Farming Technology in Bangladesh: Assessment of Productivity, Risk and Impact on Livelihoods of the Farmers, M. A. Monayem Miah, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Bangladesh**

The hill tract regions of Bangladesh have high potential for agricultural development. A number of improved cultivation techniques have been developed by the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute for preventing soil erosion and degradation. But farmers are reluctant to adopt these new technologies. Besides, research on socio-economic factors that constrain hill farmers is limited. Therefore, the present day study is designed to measure the impact of soil erosion on productivity of major crops grown in the hill region; and estimate costs and benefits of soil erosion. With this information, organizations involved in improving the socio-economic conditions of hill people can formulate programs for controlling soil erosion and creating job opportunity in this region.

- **Non-Market Valuation of Bhutan's Protected Mountainous Areas as International Eco-tourists Destination, Prabhat K. Pankaj, Sherubtse College, Kanglung, Bhutan.**

The main objective of the study is to estimate the value of tourism benefits of protected mountainous areas in Bhutan. Prabhat proposes to undertake this study with the use of the travel cost method. This will be the first such study in Bhutan. Perhaps, the question of looking into visa-fee for international tourists is also the first of its kind, which is much needed at the current stage of Bhutan's economic development and ecotourism policy evolution.

- **Estimating WTP for fresh water and analyzing averting behavior of arsenic affected peoples of Bangladesh, Zakir Hossain Khan, North South University, Bangladesh.**

In Bangladesh, almost 70% of the people suffer from malnutrition. In this situation, arsenic contamination of ground water is a major threat for their health and productivity. The primary goal of Zakir's study is to assess the cost of morbidity or

social loss from household's point of view as a result of drinking contaminated water. He also seeks to analyze factors that determine defensive actions taken by people in arsenic prone areas.

- **Groundwater Irrigation in Haryana: Institutions and Markets, A. Banerji and J. V. Meenakshi, Delhi School of Economics, India**

This study attempts to analyse the market structure for groundwater transactions in Haryana, and the factors that determine this structure. It focuses on two distinct agro-ecological zones: one with high tube well density and one where tube wells are more dispersed, in order to understand the structure and functioning of informal water markets and their impacts. Abhijit and Meenakshi will estimate a model of supply that could share some features of well-known models of oligopoly. They will also estimate a water production function, followed by simulation exercises to study the effect of policy parameters on water prices and overall water use.

- **Towards prevention of water pollution: An analysis of willingness to pay of households and expenditures of government, Baber Nasim Khan, WWF, Pakistan (Study Grant)**

This study is an investigation into the detrimental effects of water contamination on human health. The study draws upon the link between epidemiology and economics. The study focuses on a city in Pakistan and seeks to assess household willingness to pay for clean water. This is particularly important given the incidence of cholera and gastroenteritis in the area.

- **Pesticide Use, Human Health and Farm Productivity in Jhikhu Khola Watershed, Kavrepalanchok District, Nepal, Kishor Attreya, Kathmandu University, Nepal (Study Grant)**

The goal of this study is to examine pesticide related health impairments and find out its effects on farm households. The study will focus on vegetable farming, which is subject to high doses of pesticides. Kishor seeks to understand the behaviour of farmers and applicators and assess the costs they bear as a result of exposure to these farm pesticides.