

## **SANDEE's first set of Research Grants, Sept 2000**

SANDEE is glad to announce its first set of research grants. The grants that were recently approved include:

- **Property Rights and Natural Resources: Equity, distributional implications and socio-economic performance of common property resources, Bhim Adhikari, Nepal.** The proposal investigates how socioeconomic asymmetry of resource users influences the efficiency of common resources use, equity of resource distribution, empowerment and welfare of community members.
- **Environment, Interest Groups, Property Rights and Local Self-government. Pranab Mukhopadhyay, India.** A system of local-self government in the Konkan region of India will be studied to understand the dynamics of the interaction between institutions and stakeholders. These will lead to a better understanding of natural resources are impacted when institutions change.
- **Migration and Induced Farm Investment under Fragile Natural Resources, Amita Shah, India.** The main objectives of this study are to examine how migration and poverty are linked to land productivity. Of particular interest is how this relationship is influenced by state interventions, such as watershed programs.
- **Interrelationship between Poverty, Private Property and Common Property Natural Resource Management in South India, R. Balasubramanian, India.** This proposal seeks to understand how individuals and communities are coping with the degradation of communal irrigation tanks in Southern India and how these coping strategies in turn impact the performance of tanks.
- **Industrial Pollution Control: Choosing the Right Option, Vinish Kathuria, India.** Despite numerous laws and new institutions, success in pollution abatement in India has been limited. This study seeks to understand why traditional methods have failed. It seeks to assess the effectiveness of current environmental policy and the feasibility of options such as pollution charges and two-tier monitoring to control pollution in industrial estates.
- **Health Impact of Vehicular Air Pollution: An Empirical Estimate from Dhaka, Bangladesh, Mainul Haq, Bangladesh.** The challenge of this study is to assess the impact on human health of vehicular pollution in the absence of daily ambient air quality data, which is unavailable in Bangladesh. In this innovative project, the investigator seeks to use information available from frequent 'hartal (strike)' days in Dhaka, when mechanized vehicles are not allowed on the streets, to assess impacts on health.