

# SANDEE Advanced Course on Programme Evaluation for Natural Resource and Environmental Economists

14 – 15 December 2018

**Application Deadline:** 22 October 2018

The South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE), an initiative of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), is organizing a two-day advanced course on programme evaluation from 14 to 15 December 2018 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The course targets researchers who are working on SANDEE-funded studies related to environment and development economics. The course will introduce theories and practical strategies for undertaking impact evaluation of natural resource and environmental programmes and policies. It will identify key issues in programme evaluation and addresses methodological possibilities for drawing causal inferences as they are used in resource and environmental economics.

## Why should you apply?

Evaluation of programmes – be it before programmes and projects are designed, or after they are implemented – is increasingly viewed as critical for learning about what works and what does not, and for raising overall accountability in public policy. Unfortunately, resource and environmental economists have little or no training or guidance on how to conduct such evaluations using sound and rigorous empirical methods. This short course will expose participants to impact evaluation (IE) of programmes, projects, and policies (using econometric methods) in the environmental and development economics arena. There is sparse but growing literature on the application of IE methods to climate change, household energy, water and air pollution control, sanitation and hygiene, livelihoods, and forest conservation policies, including in the SANDEE research community.

## What will you do?

1. We will review the whats, hows, and whys of impact evaluation, with particular emphasis on the role of control groups, and pre-and post-measurement, and covariate data to define counterfactual scenarios (including formal definitions of all terms).
2. We will review detailed examples of the main methods for evaluation – randomized experiments and quasi-experiments (including natural experiments and matching methods) – with a clear description of the pros and cons of each method.
3. We will work in groups to develop a plan for evaluating some real life projects. The emphasis will be on defining the counterfactual situation and identifying potential cofounders.
4. We will do stylized evaluations in class and in evenings using econometric software STATA so that we can apply concepts.
5. Finally, we will place econometric evaluations within the broader context – how can we move beyond press-button evaluations; what do we do under time, resource, and data constraints; when and where should we rely on theory-based evaluations and mixed methods to complement and/or substitute for econometric evaluations.

Participants will have to think about and articulate a solution to the evaluation problem in all three aspects of empirical work – study design, data collection, and analysis.

## Who will teach you?

- *Subhrendu K. Pattanayak, Oak Professor of Environment and Energy Policy, Duke University, USA and Faculty Fellow, SANDEE*
- *Mani Nepal, SANDEE Programme Coordinator and Lead Economist, ICIMOD*

## What should you read?

- Pattanayak, S.K. Rough guide to impact evaluation of environmental and development programs. [http://www.sandeeonline.org/uploads/documents/publication/847\\_PUB\\_Working\\_Paper\\_40.pdf](http://www.sandeeonline.org/uploads/documents/publication/847_PUB_Working_Paper_40.pdf)
- Ferraro, P.J., and SK Pattanayak. 2006. "Money for Nothing? A Call for Empirical Evaluation of Biodiversity Conservation Investments". PLOS Biology 4(4): e105 (0482-0488).
- Additional readings will be provided shortly before and during the course.

## Course Fee

Researchers conducting research with SANDEE and researchers invited to present and defend their research proposals (by invitation only) for the research grant competition at the "Research and Training Workshop" – to be held in December 2018 – are eligible to apply for the SANDEE scholarship. The scholarship is equivalent to USD 2,000 and will cover travel, course registration, and food and hotel costs in Kathmandu for three nights (no cash). There are limited seats available for interested researchers who would like to pay to attend the course. The registration and course fee for researchers from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka (SANDEE-ICIMOD countries) is USD 300. SANDEE researchers who have SANDEE research grants or who are invited for presenting their research proposal in December Workshop do not have to pay registration fee. For researchers outside SANDEE-ICIMOD countries, the registration fee is USD 500. The fees cover course materials, hotel (three nights, twin sharing), and food. Participants will have to manage their travel, visa, etc. personally or through their respective institutions. As seats in this category are limited, registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

## How should you apply?

Eligible and interested candidates are requested to email a one-page CV and an application with a short letter of interest (as one pdf document) explaining the relevance of this course to their research and teaching indicating the category they are applying for (SANDEE scholarship or paid) to Neesha Pradhan ([neeshap@sandeeonline.org](mailto:neeshap@sandeeonline.org)) no later than **22 October 2018**.