

## **SANDEE's Second Set of Research Grants, June 2001**

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

- **Institutional Structure and Sustainable Collective Action, Rucha Ghate, SHODH: The Institute for Research and Development, Nagpur.** In India, forest management regimes based on collective action are sometimes promoted by NGOs, others are state sponsored and still others are self-initiated. Are they all equitable and efficient? What is the difference in forest management strategies adopted by user groups initiated through NGOs, the state and self organized groups? These are some of the main questions that this research attempts to answer.
- **A study of environmental pollution from prawn farming in coastal areas of West Bengal. Debarata Lahiri, Indian Institute of Technology, Karagpur.** This study examines the environmental costs imposed on mangroves as a result of prawn farms. It examines social costs in relation to three types of prawn-farming technologies.
- **Economics of Land-Use Options in a Degraded Dry Deciduous Forest, Seema Purushottam, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree-breeding, Coimbatore.** This study seeks to conduct a detailed economic analysis of alternative options for reforestation of a degraded tropical dry deciduous forest area. Locally feasible land use strategies include eco-tourism, extractive conservation, forest plantation establishment and groforestry. Benefits and costs associated with these land uses to different stake holder groups will be estimated.
- **An Economic Analysis of Arsenic Contamination in Ground Water in the Bengal Basin, Joyashree Roy, Jadavpur University.** In this study, the author seeks to explore demand for arsenic free water in areas of West Bengal. Using pre-existing dose-response functions, the author will also estimate the costs to households that result from drinking arsenic contaminated water.
- **Valuation of Life and Injury Risk, S. Madheswaran, Gokale Institute of Politics and Economics.** Conducting benefit-cost analyses of health and safety regulations requires placing a monetary value on reductions in health risks, including risk of death. Empirical studies on this problem are practically non-existent in South Asia. Hence, this study seeks to use primary as well as secondary data to examine whether the Indian labor market compensates workers for accepting job risks.