

Staff Training on Water and Economics

Post 1970s the intimate relationship between water and economics has attracted significant attention in academic as well as policy circles. Assigning economic value to water has led to heated debates as it gives tertiary importance to social, cultural and political aspect of water. Despite the resistance shown to the influence of economics in water, its role continues to grow thereby enlarging its scope in water sector. New forms of partnerships between public, private and civil society organizations, new institutions, policies and laws are emerging to manage water resources that are creating new patterns of water management. A study on the relationship between water and economics therefore becomes important as it covers a wide range of issues that addresses social, cultural, political and economic aspects of water. Realizing the significance of the role played by economics in water, the Crossing Boundaries(CB) Project proposed training on Water and Economics to be included in the curriculum of Partner Institutions (PIs).

The objective of the training was to develop alternate ways of approaching economics (beyond the narrow neo-classical economics) and to develop a module on 'water and economics' to be introduced into the existing courses of PIs. The Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) with inputs from the CB Project designed and implemented the course.

The staff training included five days (10 -14 March 2008) of classroom sessions and three days (15-17 March 2008) field trip to Tarun Bharat Sangh in Rajasthan. Prof. Jayanta Bandopadhyay (Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, Kolkata), Prof. Kanchan Chopra (Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi) and Dr. NC Narayanan Centre for Technology Alternatives for Rural Areas-Indian Institute of Technology(CTARA-IIT Bombay, Mumbai) were the core organizers of this workshop.

Sessions and Resource Persons

- Why Water Engineers need to know the Emerging Relation of Water and Economics by Prof. Jayanta Bandyopadhyay, Head Centre for Development and Environment Policy, Public Policy and Management, Indian Institute of Management-Calcutta, Kolkata, India. (jayanta@iimcal.ac.in)
- Introduction to Economics by Dr. Vikram Dayal, Associate Professor, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, India. (vikday@iegindia.org)
- Economics and the Environment: An Introduction by Dr. Purnamita Dasgupta, Associate Professor, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, India. (pdg@iegindia.org)
- Economics and Natural Resources by Prof. Ramprasad Sengupta, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. (rps0302@mail.jnu.ac.in)
- Introduction to Ecological Economics by Prof. Kanchan Chopra, University of Delhi Enclave, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, India.(kanchan@iegindia.org)
- Institutional Economics and Property Rights for Water by Prof. K V Raju, Centre for Ecological Economics and Natural Resources, Institute of Economic and Social Change, Bangalore, India. (kvraju2008@gmail.com)
- Valuation, Privatization and Pricing of Water Systems by Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh, Takshashila Academia of Economic Research (TAER) Limited, Mumbai, India. (nilanjan.ghosh@taerindia.com)
- Economics of Forest Watershed Services by Dr. Sarachchandra Lélé, Senior Fellow, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bengaluru, India. (slele@atree.org)
- Economics Associated with Floods: With Special Reference to Bangladesh by Dr. Nabibul Islam, Sundarban Environmental and Livelihood Security (SEALS) Project, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Environmental Economics and Water Pollution by Prof. M.N. Murty, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, India. (MNM@ieg.ernet.in)
- Economics of Participatory Irrigation/Management by Prof. R. Parthasarathy, CEPT University, Ahmedabad, India. (r.parthasarathy@yahoo.co)

- Political-Economy of Water Policy Reforms in South Asia: With Special Reference to Sri Lanka by Dr. Madar Samad, Principal Researcher, South Asia Regional Office, International Water Management Institute, Hyderabad, India. (m.samad@cgiar.org)
- Economics in Groundwater Management: Markets and Nexus with Politics by Dr. Navroz K. Dubash, Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, India. (ndubash@gmail.com)
- Economics of Community Managed Irrigation in Nepal by Prof. Ashutosh Shukla, Nepal Engineering College (NEC), Kathmandu, Nepal. (shuklashailaja@yahoo.com)