

SEMINAR NOTICE

Ecosystem Restoration and Livelihood" by NABARD Chair Unit of Institute of Economic Growth

Venue: Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi Enclave, Delhi.

Motivation

Ecosystems provide a bunch of Supporting, Provisioning, Regulating and Cultural Services that enhance wellbeing of people. Though contribution of ecosystem services (ES) to human welfare is being talked about since as early as 1960s, the ES and welfare connection was laid out very systematically in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) Report in 2005. The MEA report provided the details of the ecosystem services from different ecosystems, how and by how much do they contribute to human welfare, what is the scope of substituting these services by human made services, which services are irreversible and have no or little substitutes available, etc. The report also described the drivers, at local, regional, national and international level, that are responsible for the loss of some of these ecosystems and consequently, the loss of human welfare. After such extensive scholarly work, there has been significant increase in institutional interventions at different levels to conserve the natural ecosystems and to restore the loss to the ecosystems, wherever possible, so that the ecosystem services start flowing and benefit the people, especially the population at the margins. This seminar intends to discuss the ecosystem service livelihood link and showcase the evidences, if any, where the investment in ecosystem restoration has actually caused some positive impacts on people's welfare, especially livelihood, as livelihood dependency on ecosystems are more direct and easily assessable. In India, interventions under many developmental schemes like MGNREGA, climate adaptation/mitigation schemes, private initiatives under Corporate Social Initiatives, etc. are directly contributing to restoration of ecosystems and natural resource base of rural areas. However, the ultimate impact of these schemes on wellbeing of people is yet to be showcased. If strong evidence is found that ecosystem restoration has improved or has potential possibility for improving the wellbeing of people, then investment in ecosystem restoration can be advocated as one of the important policy options for poverty reduction, the first Sustainable Development Goal.

Theoretical and Empirical Papers are invited on the following areas:

Ecosystem, rural livelihood and poverty link
Ecosystem service valuation
Restored Ecosystems and impact on livelihood
Ecosystem management, synergy and trade offs
Corporate Social Initiatives and livelihood

Limited number of high quality and policy relevant empirical or theoretical papers with a clear cut message will be accepted for presentation at the seminar. Papers may be submitted to email: ecosystem_seminar@iegindia.org

Important Dates:

Last date of paper submission: 5th February 2018
Information on acceptance: 10th February 2018
Seminar dates: 8-9 March 2018