



Short Course Organized by Board of Study in Agricultural Economics of the Postgraduate Institute Of Agriculture (PGIA)

# The Economics of Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity

January 21<sup>st</sup> and January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016

## INTRODUCTION

Ecosystem services and biodiversity face growing threats and the loss affects human welfare. This course will study the economics of providing, valuing, protecting and restoring ecosystem services and biodiversity. The course will start with an overview of ecosystem services and biodiversity and introduce the international frameworks (MEA and TEEB) used to study and classify ecosystem services. The participants will then learn the methods used in economics to study and value ecosystem services and biodiversity and become familiar with the frontier of research at the intersection of ecosystem services and economics. The course will introduce discrete choice econometric methods and land use optimization models as tools to incorporate ecosystem services into economic decision making. The course will end with a discussion on Green Accounting and how ecosystem services can be incorporated into national accounting.

## TARGET GROUP (30 PARTICIPANTS)

Early or mid-career professionals/scientists in DoA, CEA, UNDP, other government and non-government organizations in forestry, land and species conservation, environmental management, green accounting, corporate environmental responsibility, and graduate students looking to specialize in the above areas.

## OBJECTIVES

The course is designed to enable the participants to:

1. Understand the importance of ecosystem services and biodiversity as they related to the human (economic) system.
2. Learn the analytical methods used in economics to study and value ecosystem services and conservation.
3. Become familiar with the current frontier of research at the intersection of ecosystem services and economics by reading and evaluating current research articles.
4. Complete a short research project to identify and analyze ecosystem services in Sri Lanka.

## TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The concepts in this course will be taught using a combination of lectures, videos, journal articles, discussions, and a short group project. The teaching pedagogy will focus on active learning and flipped classroom methods. Group work and presentations will be part of the interaction.

## COURSE FEE

Rs. 8,000 per participant (includes tea, lunch, and course material). **Accommodation will not be provided.**

## RESOURCE PERSON

The course will be led by Dr. Sahan T. M. Dissanayake (B.A., M.A., Ph.D.), Assistant Professor of Economics at Colby College, Maine, USA and Visiting Lecturer at the PGIA. Dr. Dissanayake has done extensive work on ecosystem services and land conservation. He has worked on understanding preferences related to multiple ecosystems including grasslands in Illinois, riparian buffers in Oregon, forests in Nepal and Ethiopia, and coral reefs in Okinawa and studied optimal land conservation within military installations in the US.

## APPLICATION FORMS

Application forms can be obtained from the PGIA office or downloaded from the website ([www.pgia.ac.lk](http://www.pgia.ac.lk)).

The course fee can be paid

- 1) By a cheque (To: Director, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture) or
- 2) At any branch of the Peoples Bank (To Current Account No: 057-1-001-3-1338027, Peradeniya Branch) or
- 3) In person at the Shroff Counter at the PGIA.

The completed application forms along with a cheque/copy of the payment of full course fees should be sent by **18<sup>th</sup> January 2016** to

Assistant Registrar, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA), P.O. BOX 55, Old Galaha Road, University of Peradeniya.  
Tel: 081-2385517 Fax: 081-2388318

**Enrollment is limited to 30 participants on a first come, first serve basis.**

## FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT

**Dr. Sahan Dissanayake**, Course Coordinator–TEEB, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, Peradeniya.  
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