ENVIRONMENTAL-ECONOMIC ACCOUNTING IN INDIA

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The initial focus is compilation of asset accounts for selected sectors.

Water, Timber, Minerals (Energy and Non Energy) and Aquatic Resources identified.

The first Challenge was to identify indicators and Statistics, measurement unit, at desired disaggregation level for asset accounts.

These have been decided - broadly based on FDES 2013 and relevant for the SEEA Tables for respective sectors.
SEEA Implementation in India...Contd.

• The Basic Table format in SEEA Central Framework was used for developing sector wise formats.

• The basic table format in the Central Framework was expanded suitably to make a format which will be more clear to data source agencies.

• Appropriate explanation of the terms were also given in the format for better understanding.
SEEA Implementation in India ...Contd.

- Detailed frameworks for asset Accounts were prepared for the following Sectors:
  - Water
  - Timber
  - Minerals (Energy and Non-Energy)
  - Coal
  - Aquatic assets
- For the remaining Sectors, Statistics and Indicators were prepared sector wise using FDES set of statistics to assess the data availability.
ASSET ACCOUNTS FRAMEWORK FOR WATER

• Table 5.11.2 of SEEA CF was used as the basic reference table.
• The Table was expanded to include all components and flows.
• Concepts and definitions were included for better understanding and clarity.
• Some related additional information were also included.
• The Format is WATER ACCOUNTS FRAMEWORK_INDIAN.xlsx
ASSET ACCOUNTS FRAMEWORK FOR TIMBER

• Table 5.8.1 of SEEA CF was used as the basic reference table.
• The basic table was expanded to include all components and flows.
• The framework includes three components viz-
  - Cultivated Timber resources,
  - Natural timber resources available for wood supply, and not available for wood supply.
• The Format is Data requirement-forest_timber_account.xlsx
Asset Accounts FRAMEWORK FOR Aquatic Resources

- Basic Table: Table 5.9.2 of SEEA CF.
- The basic table was expanded to include all components and flows.
- The Framework included Natural Aquatic Resources and Cultivated aquatic resources — fixed assets (for breeding) and — inventories (for harvest).
- The format is Aquatic_Resources-Accounts.xlsx
Problems Experienced

• Given federal structure of Indian polity, many environment related sectors such as forest, land and soil, etc fall under the jurisdiction of the State governments.

• In some cases data is scattered to different agencies.

• Data is collected by the respective agencies with respect to some of the identified indicators/statistics but not compiled in the required accounting format.

• Data periodicity is not annual. E.g. data on minerals is collected once in five years. Forest survey data is collected in every two years.
Problems Experienced... Contd.

- Data are not be available at the proposed disaggregation level for many indicators under different sectors. For example, species wise data, data by class/grade of minerals.
- Data are not currently available for many identified indicators/statistics such as data on evapotranspiration, data on soil water and glaciers, natural aquatic resources.
- Inadequate resources and capacity for collection/compilation.
ASSET ACCOUNTS FOR WATER – Experience so far and data Gaps

• Limited data available for compilation of accounts on glaciers and soil water.
• Data is scattered over at least 4-5 government agencies.
• Data is available but not compiled in the format desired. For Eg. utilization of groundwater is available as per minor irrigation census conducted every two years.
• No periodic assessment/monitoring of certain Statistics. For Eg. Discoveries of water in new aquifers (volume) for increase in stocks.
• Problems with periodicity – annual cycle of data collection not maintained.
Current Status

• Constitution of Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) on Environmental Economic Accounting in India.

• Headed by the Director General, National Statistics Office.

• Terms of reference or mandate is
  ✔ assessment of Data Availability,
  ✔ Resource Requirement and
  ✔ Capacity Development
Current Status...Contd.

- Union Ministries to examine the existing data sets on aspects such as measurement unit, periodicity and disaggregation level for compilation of asset accounts.

- Simultaneously Central Statistics Office will explore the possibility of developing a trial asset account in respect of few sectors such as water, timber based on available data.

- A regular Training Programme on SEEA in collaboration with Training Division, NSO.
THANK YOU