Measuring Green GDP of India: A Way Forward to Develop Data Base

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Measuring wealth or income in India accounting for the <u>contribution</u> of natural resource stocks using the recently developed methodologies requires the development of a comprehensive database. A top-down approach of developing these accounts may not be feasible in big countries like India. A bottom-up approach in developing these accounts could ensure to take into account region-specific values of environmental changes. Database could be generalized by extending database of ASI accounts, input-output accounts, the cost of cultivation accounts of agriculture and NSS consumer expenditure accounts.

I Methods for Measuring Green GDP

Recent literature on the measurement of sustainable income has developed in two important ways for an accounting of contribution of natural resource stocks. One set of studies directly addresses the problem of measuring genuine savings or extended wealth formation including changes in human resource capital and natural capital.¹ The second set of studies uses the extended conventional national income accounting methods for an accounting of changes in natural resource stocks by SEEA (System of Environmental-Economic Accounting) and by extended input-output Tables.² International experience in integrating natural resource accounts with SNA (2008) has made progress in three directions: (a) attempts to estimate genuine savings for different countries, (b) implementation of practical aspects of SEEA and integration of them to the national accounts, and (c) using SEEA methodology for preparing natural resource accounts of specific resources and sectors. In India, an attempt could be now made for integrating practical aspects of SEEA with current national income accounting practices.³

¹See Hamilton, 1999, Arrow, et. al. 2012, and Dasgupta, 2013

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²See UN, 1997, 2000, 2003 and European Union, 2006

³See Murty and Panda, 2013.