

SANDEE-ICIMOD

# Karl-Göran Mäler Memorial Lecture

WINTER 2024

13 December 2024 | 09:15–10:45 (Nepal Standard Time)  
Hybrid (ICIMOD Headquarters and Zoom)

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## LECTURE

### The impacts of heat on output, labour supply, and earnings in India

#### SPEAKER



#### **E. Somanathan**

Professor  
Indian Statistical Institute  
India

#### **Abstract**

Cross-country annual panel studies show declines in total and sectoral output at high temperatures. These declines are greater in poor or hot countries. This pattern is replicated in annual panel studies of Indian states and districts. Similar effects are seen in high-frequency (daily or sub-daily) micro data in India. A recent study of informal-sector workers in the Indian capital, Delhi, in the summer finds very high losses of earnings. Taken together, these studies imply that the poor are worse affected by heat at all spatial scales. The average effects conceal large disparities that are likely to get wider as the global temperature rises. Adaptation and mitigation responses must take this into account.

#### **About the speaker**

E. Somanathan is a Professor in the Economics and Planning Unit of the Indian Statistical Institute in Delhi and founding head of the Centre for Research on the Economics of Climate, Food, Energy, and Environment (CECFEE), a policy-relevant research centre at the institute. He received his PhD in economics from Harvard University, USA. His research is in the economics of environment, development and politics. Some of his recent works are about household air pollution, groundwater depletion, climate impacts, and carbon pricing. He has served on various committees of the Government of India on environmental policy. A fellow of the Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD) and of the South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE), he was a coordinating lead author for the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He is a co-editor of the journal *Environment and Development Economics* published by Cambridge University Press.

## MODERATOR



### **Sheetal Sekhri**

Associate Professor  
University of Virginia  
USA

**Sheetal Sekhri** is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Virginia. A PhD holder from Brown University, USA, Sekhri has written prolifically about water

stress in India combining theoretical arguments with empirical evidence. Her pioneering research has explored the causes and consequences of water stress, examined the efficacy of water conservation and sustainability strategies, and set forth an agenda for scholars to pursue. As a leading economist studying water in the developing world, she has been awarded numerous grants and published in several premier outlets including the *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* and *Journal of Development Economics*.

This lecture series is organised by SANDEE-ICIMOD in memory of late Prof [Karl-Göran Mäler](#), who was one of the founders of SANDEE – and is part of the [48th Biannual research and training workshop](#).

If you would like to attend these lectures, please register [here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

SANDEE is a research capacity and academic leadership development programme of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). SANDEE supports ICIMOD's programmatic work and strengthens the Centre's economic and policy analysis.

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