

Facilitator's summary

International Seminar on “Valuation of Forest Ecosystem Services and Integrated approaches to Maximize its Benefits

1. Process towards valuation of forest ecosystem services based upon the comparative and reliable data sets such as FRA2015 will require additional improvement in data quality and comparison of various valuation methods as well as analysis of interactive functions and/or hierarchic structure on relevant services represented by such data.
2. It is difficult to find an absolute evaluation method at this stage, but the report of the Science Council of Japan in 2001 demonstrated a calculation of the total value of some major services at the country level by the replacement cost method as well as indicated a hierarchic structure among relevant services. This method has successfully been used and should be noted as a milestone analysis related to forest ecosystem services.
3. The reference level in the replacement cost method by the Science Council of Japan in 2001 was “non-forest” which reflects the history of tree planting in the degraded/bare land and subsequent the seamless forest management. However, “forest business as usual” seems to be practical in the reference level of the marginal valuation based upon cost and benefit analysis for evaluation of the willingness to pay of the stakeholders for a specific ecosystem service.
4. For example, the contingent valuation method, which involves directly asking the stakeholders, in a survey, how much they would be willing to pay for a given forest ecosystem service, would provide alternatives/options for justification of PES and/or environmental tax introduction at a watershed/landscape level.
5. For generating awareness among tax payers or stakeholders, the information dissemination seminars open to the public like today's are indispensable. Additional case study analysis and examples of practical use will be provided in future seminars.
6. Parallel to information dissemination activities and valuation trials, there seems to be an urgent mandate to enhance the research related to analysis on the interactive functions and/or the hierarchic structure among the relevant services and impact analysis of various silvicultural options on such services. Under the global collaborative partnership generated through FRA2015 process, Japan should provide its additional contribution including application and dissemination of soil condition analysis tool through FAO projects in different ecological zones.