# Editorial

This issue of TES contains two articles from South Asia. The first article "Linking medicinal plant production with livelihood enhancement in Bangladesh: implications of a vertically integrated value chain" by A. K. M. Shahidullah and C. E. Haque, looks at the product chain of medicinal plants between village-based marginal farmers and the manufacturers who use the plants in their commercial production. The study looks at the wider acceptance of the non-traditional agricultural practices in the local communities, and the effect that the growing of such crops, such as medicinal plants, can have on the individual farmer's livelihood. The study shows that there is a slight benefit in the livelihoods of the poor farmers who convert from traditional crops to non-traditional crops, such as medicinal plants. However, the study points out most of the economic benefits end up in the hands of the middlemen between the farmers and producers. The study concludes that a more integrated value chain with only the producers and processors of the medicinal plants being the commercial actors involved will help to eliminate the price-inflation by the middlemen, and result in higher prices to the farmers for their products.

The second article, "Mixed integer programming for pollution control of Indian tropical rivers: a case study" by R. Babbar and H. Joshi, describes a new optimization model that can assist in the management of effluent released into rivers so that water quality standards and goals for the river can be met. The optimization model is based on parameters for biological oxygen demand (BOD) levels in a stream, and is based upon the simulating capabilities of the QUAL2E water quality model. Using the River Hindon as a case study, the model was able to model the BOD levels in the river resulting from wastewater effluent from numerous industrial point sources. The model was then used to predict how the BOD levels in the river will be influenced (positive or negative) by changes in the water quality of the industrial effluent along the course of the river. The authors conclude that river managers can use the optimization model to help set the effluent standards for the industries, so that the river can meet its water quality goals (as determined by the managing authorities).

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As always, editors welcome any articles which deal with the relationship between environmental issues, planning and regulation in a transdisciplinary perspective.

Paul Thorn
Co-Editor