
Aide memoire

<i>Session</i>	Session 4 – <i>Interlinkages between biodiversity and agriculture: Part II – Policies and institutions</i>
<i>Title of presentation</i>	Environmental-economic accounting for agriculture and biodiversity
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Abstract

In policy, agriculture and biodiversity are often considered as competing agendas. One consequence is that information to support decision making in each area is not integrated to any degree and focuses on quite different issues – agricultural information with a focus on production and biodiversity with a focus on conservation of species and habitat. Environmental-economic accounting, and specifically ecosystem accounting, provides a platform for bringing together these apparently distinct information requirements by taking a spatial and landscape perspective to measurement. This presentation introduces the new measurement platform, described in the UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), and highlights the work that is underway to implement environmental-economic accounting around the world.

Key considerations

- Current information structures do not support an integrated view of agriculture and biodiversity and hence do not support joint analysis of the linkages.
- Ecosystem accounting, developed in recent years within the broader scope of environmental-economic accounting, provides a spatial approach to measurement that directly supports integrated measurement and analysis of agricultural and environmental considerations.
- Implementation of ecosystem accounting and the SEEA is expanding rapidly around the world and can support a wide range of analytical and policy needs.

Key discussion points and conclusions

- Work to implement environmental-economic accounting requires multi-disciplinary and multi-sector engagement and collaboration, facilitating this type of work is challenging.
- Accounting approaches can be implemented on the basis of available data and progressively improved over time.
- Spatially based measurement approaches are often considered a technical challenge but the largest barrier is generally the requirement to change mindsets and see economic and environmental factors as intrinsically connected.

Key question/s that you would pose at the roundtable discussions

- What can be done to best facilitate multi-disciplinary and multi-sector engagement to progress integrated approaches to measurement and analysis?
- How can we move analysis and measurement beyond interesting case studies into national and international level policy discourse?