Department of Economics and Research Management, The Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB)

The Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB) is the only university of its kind in Norway and comprises 7 departments and 3 research centres. UMB employs about 870 persons, has an academic staff of over 400, and around 2800 students of which approximate 250 are PhDs. Teaching includes various Bachelor, Master, and PhD programs within biosciences, (agricultural sciences, biology, biotechnology), natural resource management, engineering, landscape architecture and economics/ social sciences.

UMB is internationally acknowledged for its expertise in agricultural sciences and management of natural resources and the environment, and prides itself on the existing fruitful interaction between natural scientists, technologists and social scientist as a firm basis for both research and teaching at the University. A major part of teaching and courses at UMB has a distinct environmental profile. At present, about 40% of the university's research is related to environmental issues. Resource economics is an important area of research, and the integration of natural sciences and economics has been a strategic tool for strengthening the interdisciplinary research.

The Department of Economics and Resource Management has 25 permanent faculty positions covering a broad field of subjects (agricultural economics, agricultural marketing, Agricultural policy, aquaculture economics, development economics, energy economics, environmental and resource economics, international trade, organizational theory). The largest group of researchers are within the field of environmental and resource economics/ecological economics. This group covers a wide variety of competences.

The group has long experience in interdisciplinary cooperation both towards natural scientists of different disciplines and with social scientists like sociologists, political scientist and anthropologists. It has gained substantial international attention for this work. The group has a comprehensive network dominantly within Europe and the US, but also Africa and South-East Asia. It should also be emphasized that we have long experience working with different behavioural models especially in trying to understand conflicts around environmental, agricultural and land use policies. Currently the group is involved in three EU funded projects (Path, Seamless, Verhi-Children).

The coordinator of the series is Arild Vatn who is full professor of environmental sciences at the Department of Economics and Resource Management. His main expertise is in institutional and ecological economics. He has long experience in interdisciplinary research being leader of several large research programs on environmental issues involving both natural scientists and other social scientists. He was awarded the UMB research prize in 2002. He has acted as keynote speaker at several international conferences. He is currently the vice-president of the European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE) and member of the editorial board for *European Review of Agricultural Economics* and *Environmental Values.*