



## **Timothy Randhir (1965-Present)**

Assistant Professor of Natural  
Resources Conservation

**University of Massachusetts**

---

*"The environmental field is a very promising and challenging area where you can have a big impact on the society." Timothy Randhir, 2006.*

---

### **Overview**

Dr. Randhir's primary interests include: watershed management, water quality, ecological economics, complex systems, dynamic modeling and optimization, spatial analysis and simulation, complex systems, Institutional economics, GIS-Internet-Simulation interfacing, systems modeling, climate change, land use policy, international trade and development, common pool resource management, nonpoint source pollution, and natural resources policy and management.

*This interview was conducted in 2010.*

### **Early Life and Education**

Timothy Randhir became interested in conservation and resource policy as a student in his native India. Randhir has his undergraduate degree in agricultural sciences from Annamalai University, but he did not become interested in environmental issues until graduate school. While earning his master's degree in agricultural economics from the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in India, he became interested in water resources and began networking with faculty in that field of study. He went on to get his doctorate in agricultural economics from Purdue University, where he won a departmental Outstanding Thesis Award.

### **Career**

Randhir is now an Assistant Professor of Natural Resources Conservation at the University of Massachusetts (UMass), where his research and teaching interests include ecosystem modeling and simulation, watershed management, natural resource management and policy, water resources, ecological economics, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Randhir says he enjoys being in an

academic position where he can think independently and set his own goals, all while making significant contributions to conservation science. He has numerous publications in scientific journals and was selected as a Lilly Teaching Fellow at UMass, a Berg Fellow of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, and was nominated for Distinguished Teacher Award in 2004. Randhir is an Editor of the International Journal of Ecological Economics and Statistics and also serves as a reviewer for several journals in the field. He says one of his most significant achievements has been in developing a transdisciplinary approach to environmental problems that links science to policy.

## **Importance of Mentoring to Career**

Randhir says that mentors have played an important role by inspiring and guiding his career choices, most notably his graduate professors in India, who fostered his interest in water resources, and Dr. John Lee, his advisor at Purdue. “He helped me study advanced issues within his [Lee’s] area of interest, and he gave me a lot of flexibility and encouragement in pursuing my goals,” Randhir says. Randhir says that UMass does not have very high minority enrollment, so he participates in recruiting and helping minority students. Additionally, he was involved in the task force for graduate admissions, and is a part of minority recruitment efforts for his department. He also serves on a number of doctoral and master’s degree thesis committees.

## **Highlights**

Randhir says the true highlight of working in the environmental field is seeing the tangible differences you can make through your work. He notes that the field abounds with opportunities, and encourages interested young minorities to pursue them: “The environmental field is a very promising and challenging area where you can have a big impact on the wider society.”

## **For More Information**

**Email:** [randhir@eco.umass.edu](mailto:randhir@eco.umass.edu)

**Professional Website:** [eco.umass.edu/people/faculty/randhir-timothy-o/](http://eco.umass.edu/people/faculty/randhir-timothy-o/)