

SIX REASONS TO TALK ABOUT DRR IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

1 THE PRODUCTION OF SUSTAINABLE, STABLE AND SUFFICIENT NUTRITIOUS FOOD IS A MAJOR CHALLENGE FOR THE COMING YEARS.

How will the estimated increase of 60-70 percent of food production be achieved to meet the global demand of a growing population by 2050?

AT LEAST USD 80 BILLION IN CROP AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION HAS BEEN LOST IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OVER THE PAST DECADE AFTER 140 MEDIUM AND LARGE-SCALE DISASTERS THAT AFFECTED MORE THAN 250000 PEOPLE EACH. ASIAN COUNTRIES SUFFERED 60 PERCENT OF THESE LOSSES, MOSTLY AS RESULT OF FLOODS. EXTENSIVE DISASTERS HAVE AN ESPECIALLY HIGH IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE UNDERMINING THE LIVELIHOODS OF THE AFFECTED POPULATION AND THEREBY SETTING BACK DEVELOPMENT GOALS. THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR ABSORBS AROUND 22 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT CAUSED BY NATURAL HAZARDS AND DISASTERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE INDIRECT LOSSES THEREBY EXCEED THE DIRECT DAMAGE.

2 AGRICULTURE CONSTITUTES A CRUCIAL SECTOR IN THE ECONOMIES OF MANY COUNTRIES. WORLDWIDE, THE LIVELIHOODS OF 2.5 BILLION FAMILY FARMERS DEPEND ON AGRICULTURE

FAMILY FARMS PRODUCE ABOUT **80%** OF THE WORLD'S FOOD

Source : FAO Infographics, 2014

5 INVESTING IN RESILIENCE REQUIRES SECTOR SPECIFIC ACTION, PARTICULAR AT LOCAL LEVEL. AGRICULTURE, INCLUDING FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FORESTRY, FOR INSTANCE, IS KEY IN PROVIDING SERVICES TO THE LOCAL LEVEL THAT ENHANCE DISASTER RESILIENCE, AND LINK FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, SUSTAINABLE LAND WATER AND FOREST MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES, AND TO HEALTH SYSTEMS.

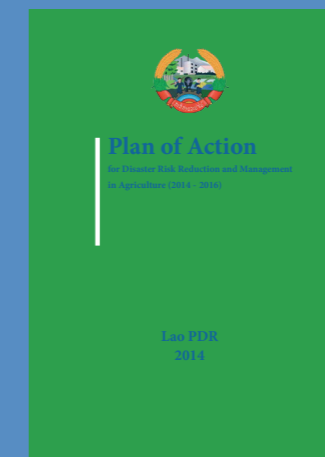


Integrated pest management training at a farmers' field school in Nakhong Village, LAO PDR (FAO, 2015)

3 CLIMATE CHANGE WILL INCREASE THE FREQUENCY AND INTENSITY OF DISASTERS TRIGGERED BY HYDRO-METEOROLOGICAL HAZARDS AND IS EXPECTED TO HAVE A PROFOUND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE. WORLDWIDE, THE AVERAGE ANNUAL NUMBER OF CLIMATE-RELATED DISASTERS DOUBLED IN THE DECADE 2003-2013 WITH RESPECT TO THE 1980S.

According to the International Food Policy Research Institute, climate change will cause an increase of between 8.5 and 10.3 percent in the number of malnourished children in all developing countries, relative to scenarios without climate change.

6 MAINSTREAMING DRR INTO SECTORAL AND OTHER MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PLANS HAS BEEN EMPHASIZED IN SFDRR AS ONE OF THE NEW PATHWAYS FOR REDUCING RISKS.



Example from Lao PDR - Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Agriculture

Practitioners' Workshop on **RISK REDUCTION & RESILIENCE IN ASIA**



The 8th Practitioners' Workshop on Risk Reduction and Resilience in Asia provides a unique opportunity for practitioners and organizations to jointly reflect on the outcomes of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction which took place in Sendai, Japan in March 2015. The workshop is organized by and for practitioners with relevant technical expertise and knowledge of risk reduction in Asia. The participants will identify ways to translate the Sendai commitments into practice and implement the framework on the ground - putting policy debates aside.

The outcomes of the workshop will be harnessed to support regional and global disaster risk reduction efforts in support of the motto "DRR is everyone's business".

The workshop program revolves around the following four themes:

- Enhancing Community Resilience
- Expanding Preparedness for Response
- Innovation and Risk-Informed Development
- Mainstreaming DRR Within and Across Sectors - Focusing on Agriculture and Resilient Livelihoods

DISASTER IMPACTS ON AGRICULTURE SUB-SECTORS

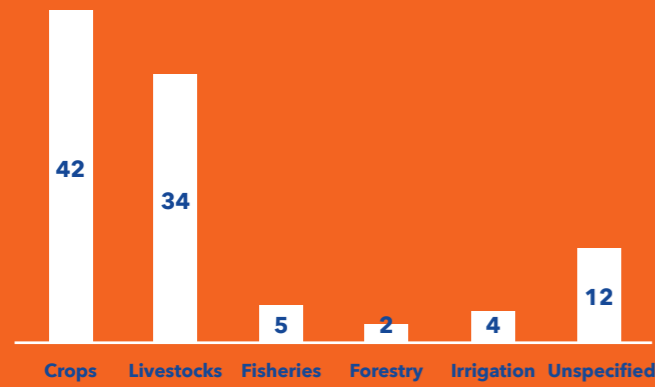


Figure: Damage and losses to agriculture subsectors (percentage share of total within the sector)

Source: FAO based on data from post-disaster needs assessments, 2003-2013

RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS

The capacity of people's livelihoods to absorb and recover from hazards and/or effects of climate change and other shocks and stresses without compromising (and potentially enhancing) long term prospects.

Resilient livelihood systems withstand threats or adapt to new pathways in times of crises.

RESILIENCE IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Resilience of the agriculture sector refers to the ability to prevent disasters and crises as well as to anticipate, absorb, accommodate or recover and adapt from them in a timely, efficient and sustainable manner.

It includes protecting, restoring and improving livelihoods as well as food and agricultural systems. This implies to better link humanitarian assistance and development.

LINKAGES TO GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030:

The SFDRR stresses the importance of sectoral engagement to reduce damages and losses, and to build resilient livelihoods through systematically including DRR into planning, implementation and policy making.

Involvement of sectoral agencies will enhance efficiency in DRR delivery through their existing technical delivery capacities at all levels and in particular at local level.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, out of the 17 SDGs, a total of 10 goals make clear references to DRR and under the target 2.4 in the context of sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices.

UNFCCC

Although the agricultural sectors do not yet feature prominently in the formal UNFCCC negotiations, it is increasingly clear that they have a critical role to play in the global response to climate change. Many countries explicitly mention action in agriculture, forestry and/or land use in their INDCs, which will form the basis of the new climate agreement to be finalized in Paris at COP21.

LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

International standards for sustainable agriculture do exist; however, they are limited when it comes to disaster risk reduction.

Legislation and policies need to explicitly include DRR aspects to inform sector planning and investment.

As an example, Cambodia has a sector specific national Plan of Action for DRR in agriculture. Currently, DRR measures are mainstreamed in the Climate Change Priorities Action Plan for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Sector (2014-2018).

CRITICAL DATA AND INFORMATION GAPS

National and international disaster loss databases typically report populations affected and damage to housing and other infrastructure, but seldom report damage or losses in the agriculture sector. As a result, there is no clear understanding of the extent to which natural hazards and disasters impact the agriculture sector and subsectors in developing countries.

The availability of such data would improve agricultural planning and the development of innovative risk transfer mechanisms.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Disaster preparedness activities in the agricultural sector are mostly focusing on early warning and preparedness measures, reflecting the importance and relevance of these measures to the agricultural sector.

For example, the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS) provides information on the world food supply/demand situation and early warnings of impending food crises to inform early actions.

At country level, agro-climatic bulletins, based on weather forecasts, are used as an effective measure to inform farmers' seasonal decisions on practices that can reduce risks.

QUOTES

"DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IS A KEY COMPONENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER."

"AGRICULTURE'S ROLE IS CRITICAL TO REDUCING DISASTER RISK AND ENHANCING RESILIENCE. RISK SENSITIVE FARMING, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, FISHING AND FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES OFFER SMART SOLUTIONS."

POST DISASTER RECOVERY ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING

DRR measures are essential aspects of sustainable recovery and rehabilitation.

This requires culturally sensitive strategic coordination between humanitarian and development interventions, and direct investments into and across risk sensitive sectors.

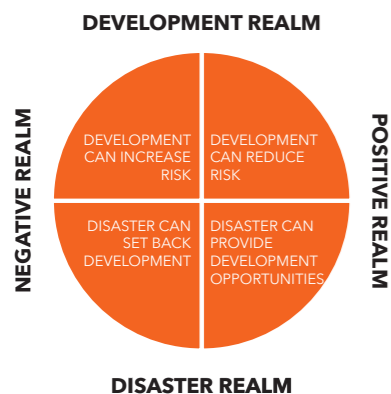
Building back better in agriculture, however, has not been systematically applied yet.

BUDGET ALLOCATION

In most countries disaster risk related budget allocations are focusing on emergency funds and response. Specific budget allocations for DRR hardly ever reach into the agricultural sector.

An exception are the Philippines: 5% of agencies' budgets at national level are allocated for DRRM and CCA and 5% of the local disaster risk reduction and management fund for DRRM-responsive Comprehensive Development and Land Use Plans (CDP and CLUP) (Source: National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan 2011-2028.)

DISASTER - DEVELOPMENT LINKAGES



MAINSTREAMING DRR INTO DEVELOPMENT

The key purpose of mainstreaming DRR is to make certain that all national and sectoral development programs and projects are:

1. designed with evident consideration for potential disaster risk and to resist hazard impacts
2. not inadvertently increasing vulnerability to disasters in all sectors
3. designed to contribute to developmental aims and to reduce future disaster risk

Based on Trobe & Davis (2005)

EXAMPLES OF CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

- DRR platforms and programmes
- National governments, committees and initiatives
- NGO consortiums and humanitarian organizations
- Universities and research centres
- Knowledge networks and think tanks
- Sectoral and Global Alliances
- International financial and technical Institutions
- Private sector

INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS AND SET-UPS

Disaster risk reduction involves a huge number of stakeholders. Coordination and cooperation within and across related sectors including their clear defined responsibilities and roles are needed to reach sustainable disaster risk reduction.

DRR platforms - despite their value added for DRR awareness raising and capacity development - did not create incentives for sectors to take up DRR proactively. This underlines the need for the integration of DRR into government multi-sectoral development planning and budgeting, as well as the direct involvement of sectors.

EMERGING TRENDS

1. Increased recognition of the complementarities and synergies between DRR and CCA.
2. Development of agriculture-specific plans for DRR/M that integrate strategic measures in the sector along the HFA/SFDRR priorities for action.
3. Growing recognition of the importance of national drought management policies for preparedness and early response.
4. Growing evidence that investing in disaster risk reduction is more cost-effective in reducing the impact of disasters on agriculture than other kinds of investments and post-disaster interventions

CHALLENGES

1. Creating capacities through sectoral line agencies, along with clear institutional and financial commitments
2. Moving from concept to action and outreach to the most vulnerable
3. Timely access to sector specific information and early warnings.
4. Up-scaling of known and new risk reduction technologies and practices
5. Solid operational and action-oriented partnerships across sectors to address the challenge of multiple risks at all levels, and to optimize available resources.