

**International Workshop 8<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> December, JNU New Delhi  
Transdisciplinary Disaster Research Programme, JNU-National  
Disaster Management Authority- and the Network of Asia-  
Pacific Schools and Institutions of Public Administration and  
Governance, Sri Lanka (NAPSIPAG)**

**THEME: Disasters and Agriculture: Preparing Governance for  
Resilient & Sustainable Agrarian Livelihoods in Asia**

*Call for Papers*

*Concept Note:*

The impact of natural hazards and disasters upon agriculture and its associated agrarian life has been least studied in disaster research. The agriculture sector – including crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry provides one of the biggest support in the post-disaster resilience building by absorbing approximately 22 percent of the economic impact caused by disasters in developing countries (FAO Report 2015).

Between 2003 and 2013, natural hazards and disasters in developing countries affected more than 1.9 billion people and caused over USD 494 billion in estimated damage; yet its impact upon the agriculture sector per se has been underreported or not reported. No development and livelihood regeneration policy can be sustained in the absence of sector-specific quantitative data. Disasters destroy critical agricultural assets and infrastructure, and they cause losses in the production of crops, livestock and fisheries.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations identified trends in the economic impact of disasters on crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry in 78 post-disaster needs assessments undertaken in the aftermath of disasters in 48 developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America between (2003–13). The findings show that the 78 disasters caused a total of USD 140 billion in damage and losses on all sectors, of which USD 30 billion was in the agriculture sector and subsectors alone.

Disasters change agricultural trade flows, and cause losses in agriculture-dependent manufacturing subsectors such as the textile and food processing industries. Disasters can slow economic growth in countries where the sector is important to the economy and where it makes a significant contribution to national Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Agriculture contributes as much as 30 percent of national GDP in most countries of South Asia and more than 60 percent (58% in India) of rural households depend upon agriculture as their principal means of livelihood. Agriculture employs over 30

percent of the labour force in these countries. Recurrent floods and droughts have a direct impact on the livelihood and food security of millions of small farmers, pastoralists, fishers and forest-dependent communities. Every flood and drought eliminates millions of animals including livestock. This constitutes loss to the rare genetic material besides its great economic and emotional value to those in villages.

As per estimates in India conducted by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the share of agriculture and allied sectors (including agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishery) was 15.35 per cent of the Gross Value Added (GVA) during 2015–16 at 2011–12 prices. Most of the South Asian countries excel in producing a number of agricultural products such as fruits, vegetables, tea, coffee, spices besides food grains for the world market. The whole agro-industry is divided into several sub-segments such as canned, dairy, processed, frozen food to fisheries, meat, poultry and food grains.

There are many departments which could be held accountable for the health and sustenance of the agriculture sector. Resilience-building would mean that these institutions be made functional and responsible towards the communities which they serve or towards the purpose for which they were constituted.

**Some key institutions identified for studies and gap identification are:**

1. The Ministry of Agriculture
2. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation
3. Role of Agricultural Research Institutes/Universities/NGOs including soil, seeds, alternative farming, crop-science, irrigation and forestry departments.
4. National Dairy Development Board, Animal shelters, and protection of livestock from distress sale during drought.
5. Rural and Agricultural Marketing, innovations in agricultural machinery.
6. The State Animal Husbandry and Livestock Development Departments, including availability of vaccines, developing drought-resistant breeds of cattle, fodder cultivation, etc.
7. Local village governance institutions for preparedness and dissemination of information.
8. Community based organizations (CBOs), Self-help groups (SHGs) and Non-government organizations (NGOs) in villages.
9. Role of Information Technology in mitigation of the impact of disasters upon agriculture and agrarian life.
10. Small Farmers' programmes and Business Plan Consortiums. to make agro-based activities sustainable
11. Institutional Responsibility towards 'Human and Animal' diseases prevention during and after disasters.

The high impact of disasters on agriculture calls for the following urgent requirements in research on disasters.

**Papers which are comparative in analysis and international in their outlook are invited in the following areas :**

1. Enhanced mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and resilience building within the agriculture policy, planning and institutional designs to make agriculture despite disasters, sustainable.
2. All institutions which affect and impact upon the agriculture and associated human and animal life should be well-informed and trained to mitigate the impact of disasters.
3. The key data gaps on the impact of disasters on the agriculture sectors in developing countries must be systematically collected and included in national and international disaster loss databases.
4. Humanitarian aid and official development assistance to the agriculture sector should be focused upon to build resilient livelihoods and sustainable food production systems.
5. The agriculture sectors should work to enhance local action and build resilience of the most vulnerable and their issues of food insecurity and safety from trafficking. Local institutions should create appropriate awareness, preparedness for coping with such situations.
6. The need to transfer laboratory research work and research papers with innovative ideas to the field.
7. Is there a gap between research and administrative policy-making in the agriculture sector? If yes, how to get over it?
8. The need for agrarian reforms, land reforms, organized homestead farming and analysis of per capita land-holding. Is the gap widening between the top 10% and the bottom 10% land-holdings?
9. Dealing with disability, gender and marginalized with reference to caste, class or religion.
10. Insurance and safety nets and the role of macro-economic planning and sustenance of agriculture and farmers.
11. Issues which have the potential to influence development and agrarian subsistence such as the effects of disasters on the agricultural land, Seasonality of crops, Water Supply and management of small landholding farming skills and science.

**Requirements to be observed by authors :**

1. Abstracts in not less than 1000 words , 11 font, 1.5 space, Times Roman font, 3-4 latest key references in APA style divided as follows :
  - a) Title
  - b) Problem identified for analysis and its location
  - c) Central argument of the paper
  - d) Key writings/reports/laws/judicial decisions on the issue
  - e) Initiatives to overcome the problem
  - f) Relativity with similar problem and governmental initiatives to resolve it
  - g) Findings and recommendations
2. Boarding/ lodging/food during conference period would be provided

to all whose abstracts have been selected. Travel support (a fraction of the total travel cost depending upon the availability of funds) would be provided only to NAPSIPAG members and invited DRP experts.

3. NAPSIPAG membership does not entitle members to the right of selection and support. The paper selection process would precede their right to receive travel support on a priority.
4. It is not mandatory but an expectation that the selected authors would submit their full papers within two months of the conference.
5. Co-authors are welcome but not supported for stay and travel.
6. **DRP values original writings. Plagiarism may lead to disqualifications for ever from all DRP-NAPSIPAG workshops/conferences.**
7. **LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016, 5 PM. Date for releasing the list of shortlisted authors on the website and NAPSIPAG GOOGLE MAIL:1<sup>st</sup> October.**

**NAPSIPAG Members should submit their abstracts to :**

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