

FOREWORD



Few detailed studies have been carried out on the distributional economic and social impacts of disasters. This may be because of the intrinsic complexity that characterises making long-term social and economic calculations.

The global interdependence of food supply chains is well known. Thus, when one part of the agricultural production network is affected by natural hazards or climate-induced disasters, the consequences reverberate globally—supply decreases and food prices increase. In agricultural production systems, food supply, supply chain infrastructure and transport to and from local markets are all vulnerable to disruption by natural disasters and climate change, so affecting the availability and affordability of food.

In the developing countries of Asia, we see, for example, that 22% of the total economic impact of natural disasters is in the agriculture sector: on crops, livestock, fisheries, and forestry. But as data is scarce, little is known about the substantial impact of natural disasters and climate change, by which we mean the burden placed on those people who rely on agriculture for their very livelihood. None of the primary global hazard databases are consistent in their accounting of direct and indirect agriculture losses from natural hazards, although some national databases separately record losses in agriculture.

To better understand this distributional impact of disasters on food security and to assess the policy implications, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) organised a study that brought together leading academics from around the globe with policymakers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to examine various approaches to build resilience into food value chains, share knowledge, and gain a better understanding of risk reduction from different disciplinary perspectives.

This two volume study, the outcome of that research, address the varying vulnerabilities of people, places and sub-sectors. It also introduces concepts and methods of analysis as well as illustrates the impacts on food security at the local, national, and regional levels. Volume One sets the stage by focusing on the relationship between natural disasters and climate change, and exploring their economic and social aftermaths more broadly. Volume Two goes on to discuss the resilience measures currently available before presenting national ‘adaptation roadmaps’ in terms of information sharing, preparedness, and enhancing effective decision-making capacity through a focus on improving the role of the financial markets via investment and insurance.

Together, the two volumes clarify pathways for resilience for addressing disaster risk management and adaptation to climate change. As stakeholders in this field continue to research, debate, analyse, and propose new options for improving resilience, publications such as this provide fresh insights that can be used to develop effective policies. This study emphasises the need for holistic actions: improved resilience of global food security rather than narrow sectoral approaches; innovative disaster-risk management measures rather than reliance on established patterns; and ensuring governments and the private sector take the lead in implementing robust institutional frameworks rather than entrusting the task to communities and international agencies.

I would like to thank the authors of all the chapters for their contribution, skilfully woven together by the editors of the two volumes. I would also like to thank the government officials, from Cambodia, the Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam, who all participated in this study through ERIA’s Capacity Building Programme. Although originally joining as observers, each went on to produce a national ‘adaptation roadmap’, an achievement beyond our original expectation.

I am confident that together these two volumes will make a significant contribution to policy development and academic understanding in this field, where new insights are urgently needed.



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