

PHILIPPINES CLIMATE RISK PROFILES

LUZON



HIGHLIGHTS

- Luzon concentrates half of the total agricultural production in the Philippines, producing 44% of the crops, 57% of the livestock, 66% of the poultry, and 52% of the fishery for the entire country. While Central Luzon remains the rice granary of the Philippines, the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) is the key source of cabbage, potato, and other highland vegetables.
- Tropical cyclones (typhoons) and droughts are the key climate-related hazards affecting Luzon. Heavy rains and floods associated with strong typhoons disrupt the activities of most lowland rice farmers, while highland vegetable and upland corn growers are vulnerable to soil erosion, landslides, and strong winds. Drought has detrimental effects on upland corn and rainfed production.
- Low productivity associated with floods and/or droughts occurring during the crops' vegetative stages results in significantly lower farm incomes and reduced capacity to invest in household and farm resilience building.
- Common adaptation practices adopted by farmers in Luzon include: maintenance of existing drainage canals; re-adjustment of the cropping calendar (delayed planting); use of rain-water harvesting tanks and/or of water pumps; building of crop shelters (greenhouses) to protect crops from strong winds and heavy rains; use of traditional pest control methods integrated crop and livestock farming and organic farming, among others.
- To promote climate-resilient agriculture, the government, through its regional offices and institutional partnerships has actively supported the development and dissemination of new crop varieties, of Alternative Wetting and Drying (AWD) technology and the Rice Crop Manager (RCM) tool. In addition, climate information service systems, farmer field schools (FFS), and radio programs have been set up to increase farmers' capacity to reduce climate risks.
- Across the value chains, actors remain confronted with a series of barriers that prevent uptake of climate-smart practices, such as: low awareness of adaptation opportunities and limited technical skills to implement them; low financial capacity to make long-term investments in technology and equipment; limited access to insurance schemes; unfavorable market prices, among others.
- Partnerships between private, research and non-governmental agriculture stakeholders can help enhance effectiveness of public efforts to increase resilience of the sector; leveraging funds and knowledge from different sources would help address financing gaps and scale-out successful interventions, thus enlarging the pool of beneficiaries.



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