

PHILIPPINES CLIMATE RISK PROFILES

VISAYAS

HIGHLIGHTS

- Agriculture is a major contributor to the economy of the Visayas island group, responsible for over five percent of the Regional Gross Domestic Production (GDP) and employing almost three million people.
- The agricultural sector in Visayas is plagued by a variety of challenges including a reliance on rainfed agriculture, a lack of information dissemination regarding new technologies and best practices, agricultural labor shortages, and limited access to financial capital, among others.
- The Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change in the world, with climate impacts disproportionately affecting agricultural and rural communities. The country is affected by a range of climate impacts and extreme weather events including droughts, temperature extremes and typhoons. Super typhoon Haiyan was especially devastating, causing PHP \$31 billion in damages in 2013.
- Adaptation options to combat the negative consequences of climate change and extreme weather events were proposed across the value chain. Adaptation options included: improved post-harvest storage infrastructure, crop insurance, improved crop varieties, water harvesting techniques (including farm dams, water impoundment and rainwater collection), diversified farming systems including integrated crop-livestock systems and alley cropping between coconut trees (e.g. banana and other annual crops), and improved forecasting and dissemination, among others.
- Common barriers to these measures include challenges in communicating the benefits and effectiveness of adaptation strategies to traditional or difficult-to-reach farmers, insufficient financial resources and limited access to credit. In the aftermath of major catastrophes such as typhoon Haiyan, farmers often lack the financial capacity to clear their lands of debris before replanting.
- A host of climate change specific policies and programs exist to support rice, corn and coconut value chains in Visayas including the Philippine Climate Change Adaptation Project and Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture. One particularly successful programs conducted is the Sustainable Corn Production in Sloping Areas initiative implemented by the Bureau of Soils and Water Management which was able to establish community based techno-demo farms benefiting corn production dependent families.



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON
Climate Change,
Agriculture and
Food Security



CIAT
International Center for Tropical Agriculture
Since 1967 / Science to cultivate change



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

