

Socio – economic status of Tsunami affected farmers and scope of agriculture and allied sectors in Andaman and Nicobar islands

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26th December 2004 devastating Earthquake followed by Tsunami has shattered the life of Island people. This study was conducted by CARI, Port Blair to observe the impact of this natural calamity on agriculture and allied sectors. It was found that agriculture activities were standstill, livestock and fisheries sector also badly affected due to tsunami. People have lost not only agriculture area but also livestock, boats, fishing nets, houses etc. People had only few options to run their livelihood. It is because agriculture standing crops, farm implements, planting material, seed and fertilizer were washed out. The estimated loss was about Rs. 50472 in terms of crops per family and Rs. 15775 as implements lost. Similarly, livestock loss was irrecoverable. The houses were damaged and people were forced to sift in intermediate shelters. Though, farmers had experiences in agriculture since settlement but still there is a need of creation of awareness and exposure of modern technologies.

The agriculture and allied sector revived due to the interventions of government, NGO and other agencies. They have not only provide immediate relief but initiated agriculture development work in terms of construction of ponds for rainwater harvesting, distribution of farm implements, inputs, animals, boat and fishing nets. However, agriculture and allied sector is getting momentum towards revive phase. More efforts are required to educate the farmers, fishermen and livestock owners to develop agriculture and allied sectors.

Key words: Earthquake, Tsunami, Fishermen, Animal husbandry, Agriculture

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