

FOOD SECURITY STRATEGIES UNDER DROUGHT HAZARD: A CASE STUDY OF MILAMPERUMAWA,

Reducing vulnerability of a victim or at risk community is now high on the agenda of disaster mitigation efforts, local or regional or international. However, case studies that document local experience are rare, especially from South Asia, a region attracting a widest range of disasters and housing a largest number of victim population in the world. South Asian Series on Vulnerability Reduction is jointly launched by Disaster Mitigation Institute (DMI) and Duryog Nivaran (DN) to fill this gap.



The focus is on publishing fresh, local and exploratory experience from South Asia. Mihir R. Bhatt of Disaster Mitigation Institute and John Twigg of Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG) (UK) are the series editors.

This is the second in the series on vulnerability reduction and focuses on the food insecurity caused primarily by drought. This case study focuses on a typical village in Sri Lanka, Milamperumawa, where the main source of livelihood is agriculture. Drought increases the level of chronic food insecurity among the poorest strata of the affected areas and also creates transitory food insecurity among "haves" of the area. When the community is already in extreme poverty conditions, threat of chronic food insecurity will be increased due to the prolonging drought. Therefore this study attempts to understand how farmers in Milamperumawa village secure their food under the 1995/96 drought and what strategies they have adopted to mitigate the impact.