

CLASSIFYING AN INCIDENT

An incident is only classified as a disaster according to fixed thresholds in terms of human deaths, households directly affected (displaced) and economic damages/losses, viz.:

- threshold for human deaths is $10 \geq$ deaths, (1000 to 1 million is catastrophic),
- threshold for households affected is $100 \geq$ households,
- threshold for monetary value of property damaged or lost, is 8 million US dollars (2003 base value)
- declaration of a state of emergency
- request for national support. (EM-DAT)

THE PURPOSE OF AGRICULTURAL INTERVENTION

To maintain farming activity by the affected community through protection of critical resources in order to:

- enhance job and financial security
- limit the erosion of farmers' collateral
- ensure access to affordable food of good quality.

Sustainable development is society's investment in the future, that investment will be squandered if it is not protected adequately against the risk of a disaster"
" IFRCRC 2002 World Disaster Report

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agriculture
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PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL



**AGRICULTURE RISK &
DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

AGRICULTURAL RISK and DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Disaster management is not a separate sector or discipline but an approach to solving problems relating to disasters impacting on the sector.

Gujarat State Disaster Management

INTRODUCTION

Agricultural risk and disaster management refers to the systematic process of implementing policies, strategies, administrative decisions and operational skills to lessen the impact of natural hazards, related environmental or technical disasters. It comprises all forms of activities, including structural and non-structural measures to prevent or limit adverse effects of hazards.

When a situation (incident and/or vulnerability) arises, it should be reported at the closest point of entry to an Agricultural District or Regional office. Any farmer, or member of the community, could report on the situation.

On conclusion of a “snap shot survey”, the process of evaluation will commence. Depending on the extent of the incident and the vulnerability of the community, the institutional capacity will be assessed and the type of assistance will be determined. The nature of assistance required would dictate the level, criteria and which institutions will provide assistance.

Since this Department is committed to protect the natural and agricultural resource base, it will encourage and provide incentives that will be equitable, consistent and predictable. Any such assistance will be of an advisory (technical) or relief nature.

VISION

An institutionalized and well implemented Departmental Disaster Management System, contributing to the preservation of lives, natural heritage and the environment.

MISSION

To successfully implement the Disaster Management Act, Act 57 of 2002, through well-trained, well-resourced and committed staff.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Departmental Disaster and Risk Management Unit is to guide the Department to achieve the following outcomes to:

- **Ensure**
 - integration of disaster risk management into agricultural programmes as a best practice in the interests of sustainable development.
 - inclusion of disaster Risk Management principles to all policies to ensure a holistic approach to disaster management
 - development of partnerships and organizational arrangements with and between government agencies, civil society, development partners, communities and other stakeholders
 - Prioritization of institutional capacities for disaster risk reduction at all levels
- **Enhance**
 - the use of knowledge, skills, training, innovation and information sharing to build safe and resilient societies from disaster risks.
 - the identification, assessment, monitoring and early warning of disaster risks
 - the effectiveness of response through stronger disaster preparedness

DEFINING DISASTER

A disaster results from the combination of hazards, conditions of vulnerability and insufficient capacity (or measures) to reduce the potential negative consequences of the disaster risk. Thus, a disaster is viewed as a serious disruption to community life which threatens, or causes:

- Death or injury in that community,
- And/or damage to property

Which:

- Is beyond the day to day capacity of the prescribed statutory authorities,
- Requires special mobilization,
- Requires organization of resources other than those normally available to those authorities

A disaster is not measured by the event that can cause damage; instead, a disaster is the measure of damage caused by an event.