Insurance for Long-term Post-Disaster Recovery and Adaptation

SVRK Prabhakar IGES, Japan

Keynote Presentation at Session on Insurance and risk mitigation strategies: Ensuring recovery after climate-induced loss. At International Conference on Mountain People Adapting to Change: Solutions Beyond Boundaries Bridging Science, Policy and Practice. 9-12 November 2014

Risk Insurance in Post-Disaster Recovery?

- Typical view of disaster recovery:
 - Infrastructure
 - Health
 - Education
 - Transportation
 - Livelihoods
 - Agriculture
 - Fisheries
 - Manufacturing
 - Social capital
 - Community building

Insurance?

- Though insurance is purchased before disaster, its actual role is in post disaster recovery.
- Insurance can be effective when it is combined with post-disaster reconstruction.
- However, insurance has largely been missing from the portfolio of post-disaster recovery approaches.

What is limiting the potential of risk insurance in post-disaster recovery? How can Insurance be effective?

The Notion of Insurance Effectiveness vis-a-vis Recovery

- Traditional understanding of insurance effectiveness:
 - Has the insurance delivered the contractual obligations i.e. payoffs as agreed in the contract.



Emphasis on:

- Economies of scale (How many people are insured),
- Avoiding moral hazard and adverse selection, to

Minimize basis risk

Payoff to the insured

What is Limiting Risk Insurance Role in Post-disaster Recovery?

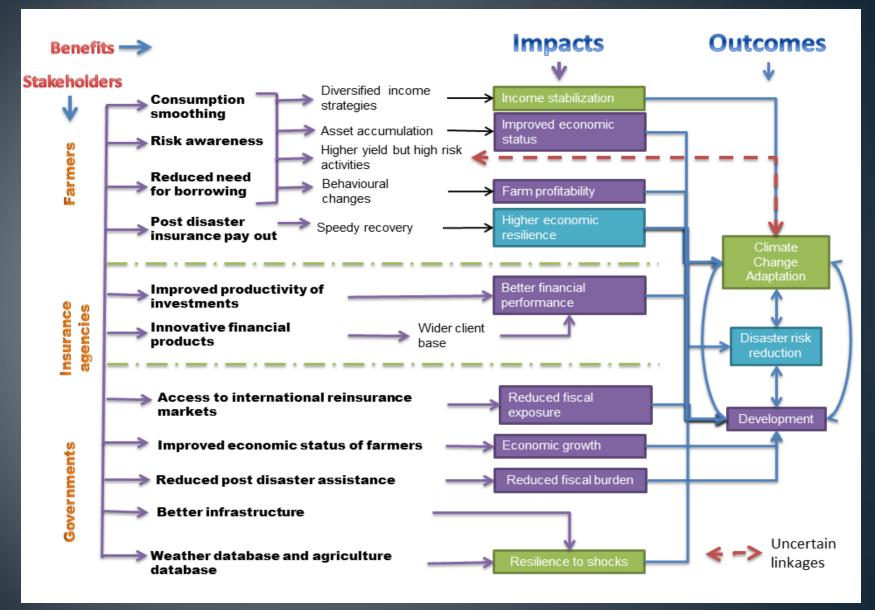
- Can promote emphasis on <u>risk mitigation</u> especially when insurance is made mandatory, proper insurance price signals are given and combined with risk mitigation measures: Insurance is largely subsidized in developing countries when present (especially in agriculture sector); In urban sector, insurance is either not mandatory or largely absent.
- 2. Can stabilize rural incomes: reduce the adverse effects on income fluctuation and socio-economic development: Delayed payments, insufficient coverage of hazards and losses, high basis risks
- 3. Can reduce burden on government resources for post-disaster relief and reconstruction: Heavy subsidization.
- 4. Provides opportunities for public-private partnerships. The culture of PPPs is still in infancy in most developing countries

E.g. Sugarcane Insurance in Japan

Farmer 1: Okinawa mainland, has <100 acres Premiums: ¥9,000×7 years=¥63,000 Indemnities: \$83,000 (in 2012) = NET BENEFIT! Farmer 2: Okinawa mainland, has area of 338a Premiums: ¥70,000×10years=¥700,000 Indemnities: $\pm 1,470,000$ (in 2012) = NET BENEFIT! Farmer 3: Irab island Premiums for 24 years = $\pm 3,000,000$ Indemnities: $\pm 5,000,000$ (in 2012) = NET BENEFIT! **Evidence for farmers investing in better management**

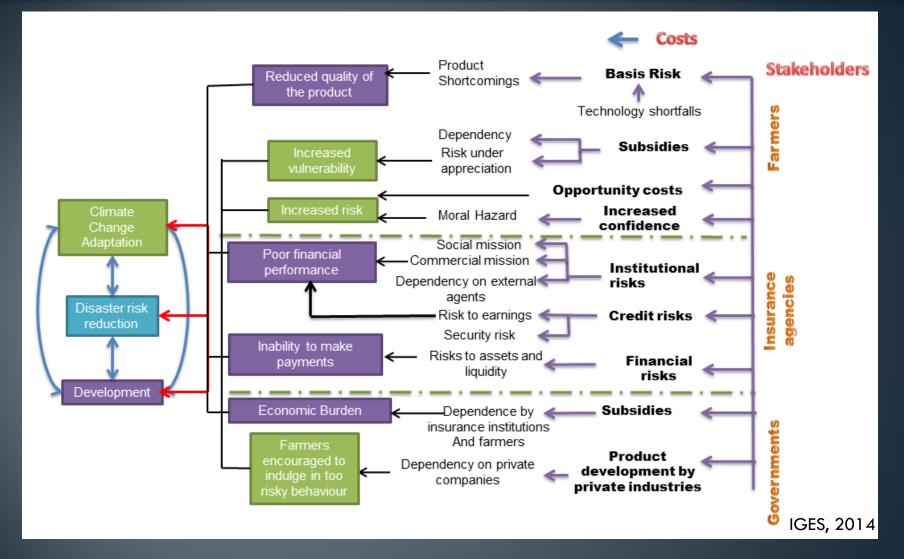
practices?

Conceptual framework for insurance benefits

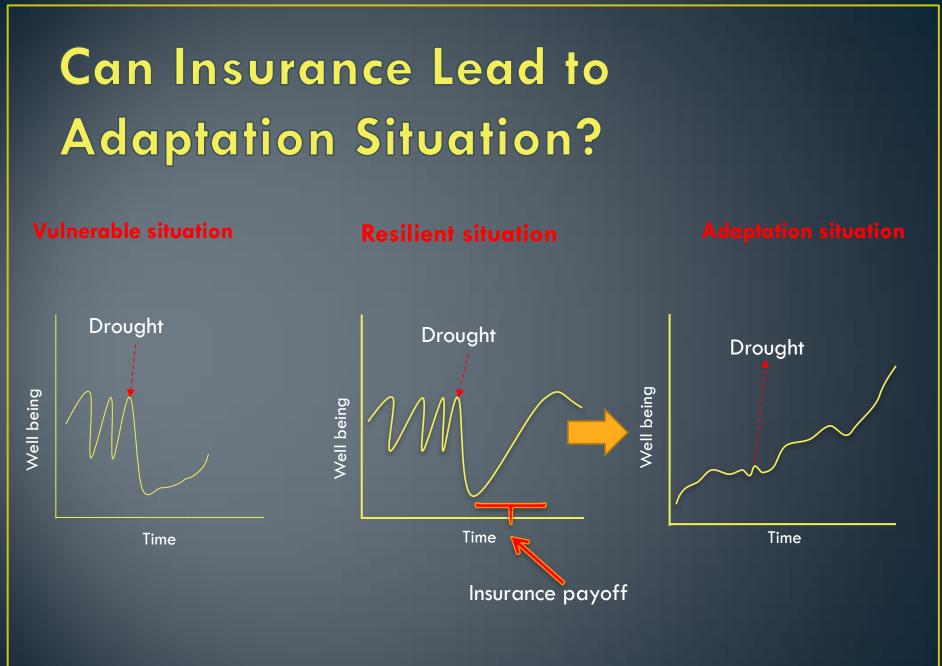


IGES, 2014

Conceptual framework for insurance costs



The message: Insurance can have both costs and benefits and net benefit in terms of long-term recovery is not always assured at the overall system level depending on how the insurance is designed



From Prabhakar (ed.), 2014

Assessing the insurance for Long-term Recovery

- How the payoffs are made and spent?
- Has there been long term reduction in risks?
- How much losses were covered?

Firm's profita

bility

Risks Covered

Afford

ability

Payoff to the insured

Expectations from the Session

- How to build political consensus on an promoting risk insurance, moving away from relief mindset to mitigation?
- How to make insurance affordable to the most vulnerable while

still conveying the proper price signals and
maximizing DRR, CCA and SD benefits

Thank You! prabhakar@iges.or.jp

Acknowledgements: The author gratefully acknowledges the financial support from the S8-3-4 Sushinhi project of Ministry of Environment, Government of Japan and Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) under the project No. ARCP2013-SP50-Prabhakar.

How Insurance Can Lead to Longterm CCA-DRR Benefits?

- When it was combined with post-disaster reconstruction
 - Combining fire and earthquake insurance with reconstruction of houses
- Mandatory requirement
 - Japan, mandatory fire and earthquake insurance with right insurance price signal has led to higher emphasis on risk mitigation leading to long-term reduction in risks
- Right price signal
 - Avoiding subsidies (e.g. agriculture) and instead spending on risk mitigation options

- Appropriate insurance and contract design
 - Multi-peril and location specific insurance approaches including weather index insurance
 - By reducing basis risks
 - Mandatory combination of risk mitigation and risk spreading instruments
 - Reducing basis risks, lessening disaster losses
 - Making female members of household the beneficiary of insurance payoff
 - Economic empowerment and share in risk management decisions
 - Innovative solutions such as linking savings with insurance
 - Effectively high liquidity situation of households that can be used for nutrition, health and education

References

- IGES. 2014. Impact pathway framework for assessing disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation benefits of agriculture insurance. IGES Research Report No 2014-xxx. Hayama, Japan: Institute for Global Environmental Strategies.
- Prabhakar, S.V.R.K. 2014. Insurance effectiveness: Objectives and Expectations. Presented at Regional Consultation on Evidence for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Effectiveness of Insurance: Challenges and Opportunities, 4-5 July, Bangi, Malaysia.
- Prabhakar, S.V.R.K (Ed.). 2014. Adaptation decision making frameworks and tools: Multicriteria decision making tools for prioritizing adaptation actions at community level. Hayama, Japan: Institute for Global Environmental Strategies.
- Prabhakar, S.V.R.K., G.S. Rao, K. Fukuda and S. Hayashi. 2012. Promoting risk insurance in the Asia-Pacific region: Lessons from the ground for the future climate regime under UNFCCC. In P. Schmidt-Thomé and J. Knieling (Eds), Climate Change Adaptation – Implementing climate change adaptation strategies, Berlin: Blackwell Publishers and BaltCICA.
- Prabhakar, S.V.R.K., A. Arpah, C. Claudio, and H.V. Hung. 2013. Scaling up Risk Financing in Asia and the Pacific Region: Bottom-up Lessons from Agriculture Insurance in Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam. Project Research Report. Asia Pacific Adaptation Network, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Prabhakar, S.V.R.K. and K. Fukuda. 2010. Promoting Risk Insurance in the Asia-Pacific Region: A Convergence Approach for the Future Climate Regime. In IGES Working Paper Series, 14. Hayama, Japan. IGES.