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Abstract

The main causes of flood in LRRB are deforestation in upper basin, breaching of embankment and heavy rainfall. The flood frequency has increased in areas near to the river and decreased in areas lying away from river. In years from 2005-08, the severest flood occurred was in 2007, when 1115.96 sq. km. area of LRRB was affected. In year 2006 only 216.93 sq km area was affected by flood. In year 2005 and 2008 the area affected was 571.97 sq. km. and 71.6 sq. k m. respectively. The maximum area affected in a year in last 11 years was 1394.58 sq. km., in 1998. Every aspect of life is affected by flood in the basin and activities like agriculture, transportation, health are disturbed due to floods. About 80% of sampled HHs of LRB reported that their agricultural land gets degraded. Nearly 85% HHs make loss of agricultural income. About 40 per cent farmers are able to cultivate their land only after some treatment of land. More than 40 per cent said that the productivity of land increases after flood and it gives good production of *rabi* crop.

Approximately 50% of HHs in LRB has some loss of livestock. Rescue of animals and provision of fodder is a serious issue of concern during flood.. Nearly 50%t of the sampled HHs faces the problem of migration. Only 29.1% of sampled HHs is able to avail the government assistance after flood. There is change in landscape and surroundings. Around 80% people were of opinion that there is decrease in number and variety of flora and fauna in the basin.

People become homeless; they take shelter on roads, rooftops, schools, embankment and other raised grounds. There is a problem of food, water, fodder for

animals, life becomes standstill and totally dependent on nature. There is change in cropping pattern in zone three (57.9 % HHs). Roads, railway lines and electric and communication lines are severely affected. Villages become islands as they get disconnected from other parts of the region. More than 30% of HHs agrees that both *kuchcha* and *pucca* roads are affected and 65% agreed that *kuchcha* roads are certainly affected in flood. More than 25% people agree that roads are affected every flood while others say the affect on roads is in severe floods. Nearly 64.7% HHs depend on government for provision of boat. More than 90% of HHs reported that electricity supply is affected due to flood. School, colleges and markets are closed for days and months depending upon the severity of flood.

There is spread of water borne diseases like typhoid, dysentery and other gastrointestinal disorders. Other diseases like cholera, malaria, Japanese encephalitis also spread. There is much causality of human and animals. Lack toilet facility and safe drinking water pose a mental and psychological stress to people during flood. The flood causes many traumas for people but simultaneously it is very favorable for *rabi* crops..
