

# **Floods: Dos and Don'ts**

## **Before**

- Ignore rumours, stay calm, don't panic.
- Keep your mobile phones charged for emergency communication; use SMS.
- Listen to radio, watch TV, read newspapers for weather updates.
- Keep cattle/animals untied to ensure their safety.
- Prepare an emergency kit with essential items for safety and survival.
- Keep your documents and valuables in water-proof bags.
- Know the safe routes to nearest shelter/raised pucca house.
- Evacuate immediately to safe places when directed by government officials.
- Store enough ready-to-eat food and water for at least a week.
- Be aware of flash flood areas such as canals, streams, drainage channels.

## **During**

- Don't enter floodwaters. In case you need to, wear suitable footwear.
- Stay away from sewerage lines, gutters, drains, culverts, etc.
- Stay away from electric poles and fallen power lines to avoid electrocution.
- Mark any open drains or manholes with visible signs (red flags or barricades).
- Do not walk or drive in the flood waters. Remember, two feet of moving flood water can wash away big cars as well.
- Eat freshly cooked or dry food. Keep your food covered.
- Drink boiled/chlorinated water.
- Use disinfectants to keep your surroundings clean.

## **After**

- Do not allow children to play in or near flood waters.
- Don't use any damaged electrical goods, get them checked.
- If instructed, turn off utilities at main switches and unplug appliances - do not touch electrical equipment if wet.
- Watch out for broken electric poles and wires, sharp objects and debris.
- Do not eat food that has been in flood waters.
- Use mosquito nets to prevent malaria.
- Be careful of snakes as snake bites are common during floods.
- Don't use the toilet or tap water if the water lines / sewage pipes are damaged.
- Do not drink tap water until advised by the Health Department that the water is safe to drink.

## **If you need to evacuate**

- Raise furniture, appliances on beds and tables.
- Put sandbags in the toilet bowl and cover all drain holes to prevent sewage backflow.
- Turn off power and gas connection.
- Move to a higher ground / safe shelter.
- Take the emergency kit, first aid box, valuables and important documents with you.
- Do not enter deep, unknown waters; use a stick to check water depth.
- Come back home only when officials ask you to do so.
- Make a family communications plan.
- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet.

## **Dos and Don'ts for Floods in Agriculture**

### **Dos**

- Keep cattle / animals in the shed and ensure their safety.
- Provide clean drinking water to animals.
- Adopt submergence tolerant varieties of crops in flood prone areas.
- Drain out excess water from the fields after floods.
- In heavily flood affected areas, select high lands for raising of community nursery with short duration HYV rice varieties. After receding of flood water, farmers may undertake transplanting of the same.
- If there is total damage of seedlings or rice crop in the main field, undertake late and staggered planting with the old seedlings of the varieties if the field is heavily damaged.
- In high land situation, arhar and sesame can be selected for cultivation.
- Harvest the matured crops immediately on getting heavy rainfall forecast and keep the harvested produce in safe place.
- In partially affected fields, drain out excess water from rice field and apply  $1/3^{\text{rd}} \text{N}_2 + 50\% \text{K}_2\text{O}$  as top dressing if the crop is at tillering stage.
- Undertake direct seeding of rice with the photoinensitive short duration variety if crop is damaged due to flood.
- If the seeds are washed away by floods, make alternate arrangement of seeds.
- Apply excess N fertilizer to the flood affected crops after receding of flood water.

### **Dont's**

- Don't leave the harvested produce in the open field.
- Don't allow waterlogging for long, as it leads to rotting and development of diseases.