

Abstract

Trinidad and Tobago is a Small Island Developing state located in the Caribbean Sea off the coast of Venezuela. Compared to the other Leeward Islands the geographical location of Trinidad and Tobago makes the twin island state less susceptible to tropical cyclones or hurricanes. However, of the two islands Tobago is more vulnerable than Trinidad due to its juxtaposition to the hurricane pathway through the Caribbean. Agricultural production in Tobago is negatively affected by the impacts of hurricanes because the output levels are drastically reduced. Risk mitigation is done by farmers as a mean of minimizing the impacts on there production levels. Surveys were conducted to gain insight on the measures taken by farmers to alleviate the problem resulting for natural disasters. However, of the farmers surveyed 54.6% stated that they did not employ risk mitigation strategies. Those that did use mitigation strategies employed either one of two types wind breaks or good agricultural practices, with success rate of 50 and 75 % respectively. Although of the 54.6% that did not employ any mitigation strategy 58.3% said this practice was successful. SPSS analysis showed that there was no correlation between mitigation strategies employed and success this was verified by a one way ANOVA. The author acknowledges that these findings may be flawed as a result of the small sampling size. Impact mitigation strategies which should be employed include

1. Development and dissemination of hurricane resistant agricultural practices.
2. Development and dissemination of measures and techniques to reduce hurricane impacts on the forestry sector;
3. Development and dissemination of measures and techniques to reduce hurricane impacts on the fisheries sector.