

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate the Risk Mitigation Strategies that farmers along the east-west corridor in Trinidad used. It involved going onto the field to farmers in Sangre Grande, Caura and Aranguez, in Trinidad. The major risks found among these farmers were;

⇒ Flooding, which occurred on an annual basis, during the rainy season in Trinidad?

Flooding caused damage to the farmer's harvest, livestock, personal property and homes. Depending on the size of the land holdings, losses of in excess of \$10,000 were incurred. Flooding was critical in areas like Caura and Aranguez, where a major river runs in each of these areas, and farming is done close to or on the banks of these rivers. Flooding however, was reported in Sangre Grande as well.

⇒ Praedial Larceny, which is the stealing of the farmer's harvest. This usually takes place at night, when the farmer is asleep, or if he resides away from the farm, not at the garden. Losses due to Praedial Larceny runs into the thousands of dollars, as either the produce are stolen, or damaged before they are picked.

⇒ Landslides, to a lesser extent. In times of heavy rainfall, and subsequent flooding, the banks of the river erode, and its structure becomes unstable. When this gives way, the land from above slips downward, and into the raging waters of the river, taking with it, the farmers' crops and agricultural produce.

Farmers tried ways to mitigate these two major risks, however their effectiveness are limited, mainly due to a lack of resources, and according to some farmers, insufficient aid by the government of the day.