

## Abstract

Twenty-five dasheen farmers from various parts of Rio Claro who experienced natural disasters were interviewed. The aim of the study was to find out if they implemented any measures to prevent their gardens from being affected by these hazards and how successful they were. Previous research showed that the natural events that affected farmers were flooding, drought and fire. Further research showed that fire was the natural event that was feared the most but flood-affected farmers the most. This will be further explored in the literature review.

The process of finding out how the farmers implemented risk mitigation strategies was done by using an already formatted risk mitigation questionnaire, with minor revisions to determine the means of coping with these disasters, the success of the measures implemented, the difficulties in implementing the measures and other measures that were used to reduce the vulnerability of disasters. All interviews were conducted via face-to-face method and all responses were recorded and analyzed using SPSS.

The results showed that flooding affected 64% of the farmers and they reported that this was due to location of the garden and the magnitude of the event. Farmers suffered money and time lost due to damages done especially to their goods, according to 64% of the farmers. In an attempt to cope with these disasters, farmers implemented measures such as digging ponds and purchasing pumps, cutting fire trace and building banks. The success of these measures ranged from 0% to 100%. The difficulties reported were that the farmers lacked the power to decide, no support, lacked the necessary labour and material.