



Food Security in the Asia-Pacific Region

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I. Causes of emergency food needs

➔ Major natural factors cause emergency food shortage:

- ❑ Climate change and global warming amplify extreme weather conditions, such as typhoons and heat waves. They further magnify seasonal stresses, such as droughts and floods. Such impacts on agriculture and food security would be severe.
- ❑ Natural disasters affect livelihoods and farming. Droughts, floods, typhoons and other extreme weather events lead to sharp variations in food production.
- ❑ Driven by extreme weather disasters, emergency food needs have increased dramatically, and cause short-term transitory insecurity in recent years especially in the Asia-Pacific Region.

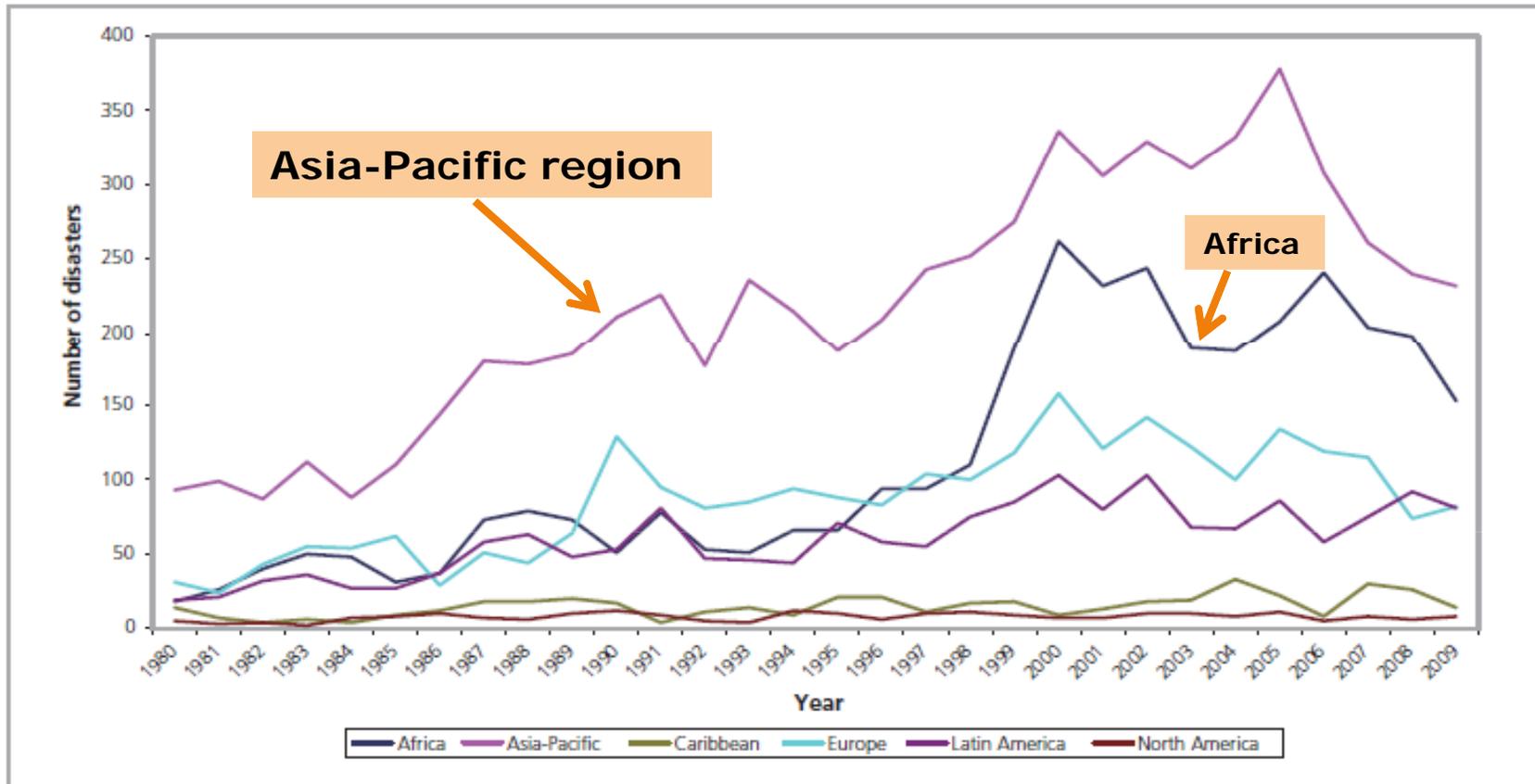




Asia-Pacific most prone to natural disasters but lacks preparedness.

- ❑ The Asia-Pacific region is particularly at risk to different types of natural disasters due to its geological and geographical features.
- ❑ The Pacific-Rim earthquake belt is an area with seismic and volcanic activities among the highest in the world. Nearly one-third of the world's tropical cyclones form within the western Pacific. This makes the Pacific basin the most active in tropical cyclones on Earth. Consequently certain areas of the Asia-Pacific region are frequently devastated by typhoons, storm surges, floods, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and drought that cause billion worth of damages of agricultural production.
- ❑ People in the region are 4 times more likely to be affected by natural disasters than those in Africa and 25 times more vulnerable than Europe or North America.

Disasters by global regions



Source: ESCAP based on data from EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database – www.emdat.be – Université Catholique de Louvain – Brussels – Belgium

The Asia-Pacific region has suffered more disasters than Africa, Europe, Latin America, Caribbean and North America.

II. Food reserve to meet emergency food needs

➔ Food reserve is a solution:

- ❑ Food reserve has been a policy instrument used by policymakers to support emergency food needs arising from the impact of natural disasters.
- ❑ Particularly, emergency response reserves stress the function of maintaining a small scale stock for immediate food relief to meet emergencies induced by natural disasters.



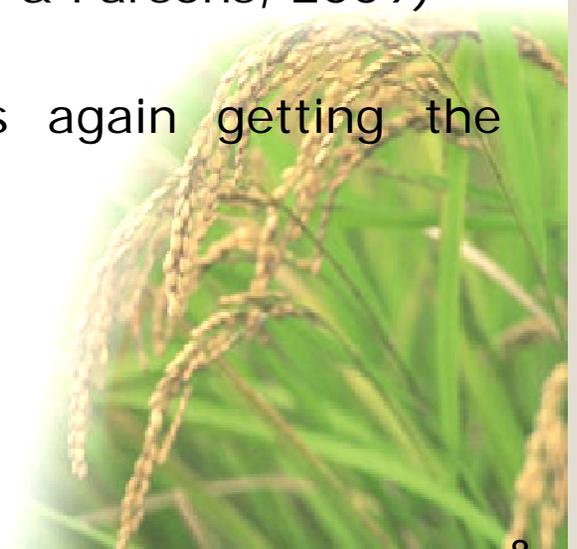
➔ 1. The significance of food reserve

- ❑ Food reserve serves can be treated as an **insurance policy** against natural disasters.
- ❑ The significance of food reserve relies on its **capability to activate emergency food relief** when an extreme natural disaster occurs and causes food crisis.
- ❑ To some extent, food reserve serves as **a first source to expedite food release**. Therefore, it is a first defense line to ensure food security.



➔ 2. Rising importance of food reserve

- ❑ A **FAO study** agreed that those **economies with reserve stocks were able to respond more quickly** than those without reserves. (FAO, 2009)
- ❑ Recently, some economies with cereal stocks-to-use ratios at a record low reacted against the high cost of food imports by restocking domestic reserves. (Willoughby & Parsons, 2009)
- ❑ Therefore, the idea of food reserve is again getting the attention of policymakers.



III. International food reserve cooperation for emergency food needs

➔ **Examples from G20 and ASEAN Plus Three:**

➔ **G20 Group Pilot project for an Emergency humanitarian food reserves.**

➔ **ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR).**



1. G20 Emergency Food Reserve

- ❑ 2011, G20 Agriculture **Ministers' meeting endorsed a Ministerial Declaration and Action Plan on Food Price Volatility.**
- ❑ Ministers agreed on the need to study the feasibility of an **"Emergency Humanitarian Food Reserve."**
- ❑ The objective is to create an **emergency humanitarian food reserve** pilot project, involving the civil society and the private sector.





2. ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR)

- ❑ The “ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve” (APTERR) comes from the “*ASEAN Food Security Reserve Agreement (AFSR)*” signed by ASEAN ministers in 1979.
- ❑ The purpose is to create a regional rice stockpile dedicated to emergency response.
- ❑ ASEAN members with Japan, Korea and China have decided to set up APTERR, as a permanent mechanism to promote cooperation in safeguarding food security and meeting emergency food needs.
- ❑ The APTERR is based on the principle of mutual assistance and collective-self reliance.



IV. APEC as a platform to meet emergency food needs

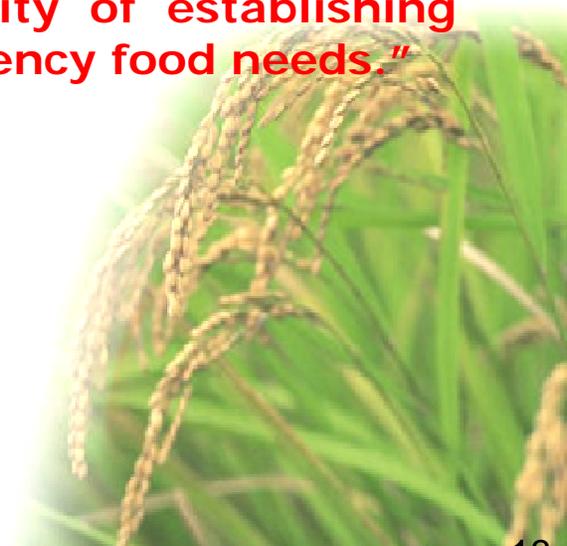
- ➔ APEC has an unique stake in the establishment of a regional food emergency mechanism able to address emergency food needs.
- ➔ With member economies across a wide geographic span that covers various climate zones suitable for different staple crops, APEC will benefit from a regional cooperation that features diverse sources of food, which helps to meet emergency food needs and reduce food security risks.



➡ 1. Niigata Declaration on APEC Food Security

2010 APEC Niigata Declaration on APEC Food Security

- ❑ APEC ministers agreed on “the importance of social protection measures” such as safety nets and other policies that **protect the most vulnerable from shocks such as natural disasters.**
- ❑ Ministers agreed **“to examine the feasibility of establishing cooperative approaches to address emergency food needs.”**





2. APEC Food Emergency Response Mechanism

- ❑ In 2011, Chinese Taipei proposed “APEC Food Security Forum-APEC Food Emergency Response Mechanism” with APEC funding.
- ❑ The purpose of this forum is to seek the most effective way to support emergency food needs in line with Niigata Declaration.
- ❑ The **APEC Food Emergency Response Mechanism (AFERM)** could serve as a solution to address emergency food insecurity through the building of a strong coordinated reserve buffer system.
- ❑ Such 2011 initiative can be used to **fulfill one of APEC’s 2012 objectives**.





3. Food security: One of this year's APEC priorities

- Russia's 2012 APEC chairmanship will promote
 - trade and investment liberalization,
 - reliable supply chains,
 - innovative growth, and
 - **strengthening food security:**
 - ✓ pursue sustainable agricultural development and stable markets including increased transparency, monitoring and **information exchange** on agricultural production.
 - ✓ **develop policies for community resilience** and a more inclusive food supply for socially vulnerable population groups.
- Therefore, APEC Food Emergency Response Mechanism (**AFERM**) could be a feasible option to fulfill the 2012 APEC priority, "strengthening food security".



APEC Food Emergency Response Mechanism (AFERM)

- ❑ The AFERM is to create a network of virtual food stock.
- ❑ APEC economies that participate in AFERM can contribute any of earmarked crops in kind or in cash.
- ❑ With analyses and assessments conducted by the AFERM Expert Team, the mechanism will come up with optimal levels of specific crops including rice, maize and wheat.
- ❑ The AFERM will be operated with the principles of cost-effective, voluntary basis, collective action, risk sharing, and self-management.
- ❑ The AFERM is designed for short term emergency food relief in times of natural disasters.



The Progress of AFERM

- ❑ APEC AFERM Working Meeting was held in Chinese Taipei on 10-11 April 2012.
- ❑ In the meeting, it is further confirmed that the AFERM is to be conducted in fully-grant form of food relief from earmarked reserves to be pledged by APEC member economies. As a result, the mechanism **will not cause market distortion**.
- ❑ It is decided that AFERM will function with existing humanitarian food relief programs. In addition, AFERM would function with flexibility, such as considering changing economic conditions.
- ❑ It is recommended 1) a relevant feasibility report needs to be further refined, 2) a revised report will be submitted to APEC meetings for consideration to be adopted as a pathfinder initiative, and 3) APEC member economies are welcome to participate and give comments on AFERM.

Thank you!

