



GIEWS Update

The Philippines

Typhoons Sarika (Karen) and Haima (Lawin) severely affected the agriculture sector in the central and northern parts of Luzon

Highlights:

- In mid-October, the Philippines was struck by two typhoons in close succession, Sarika, a Category 4 event on 16 October and Haima, a Category 5 event on 19 October. Central and northern parts of Luzon were the most affected areas.
- Strong winds, heavy rains and localized floods caused the loss of life and severe damage to the agriculture sector, including losses of the main staple rice paddy crop, as well as of maize and other high value crops. In addition, losses were reported in the livestock and fishery sectors.
- The impact of the strong typhoons has severely compromised the livelihoods of the affected households.

Overall damage to agriculture is high

Although a comprehensive damage evaluation is not yet available, preliminary official estimates indicate that, as of 24 October, some 456 232 hectares of paddy, maize and high value crops (such as mango, banana, papaya, cassava and vegetables) were adversely affected by both typhoons (see Table). The overall damage to the agriculture sector was estimated to be close to USD 212 million. Hardest hit was the rice sector, followed by those of high value crops and maize. Overall, 66 500 farmers were negatively affected. Assessments were still ongoing, as of the end of October, which are expected to provide more detailed information on the extent of the damage.

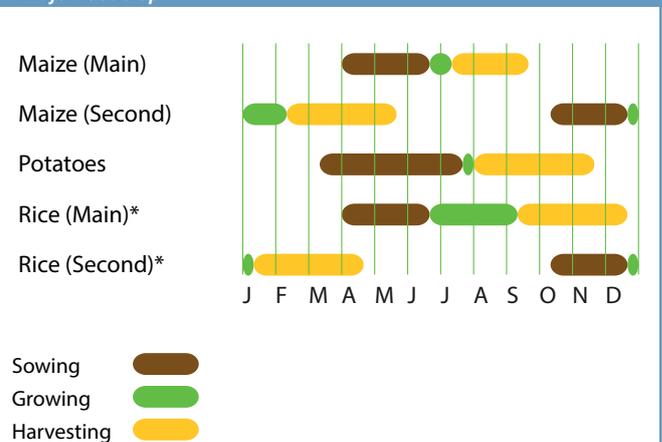
Significant paddy losses at sub-national level

At the time of the typhoons, harvesting of the 2016 main season paddy crop, representing 55 percent of the annual production, was ongoing, while planting of the mostly irrigated 2016/17 secondary season crop was about to commence. Although a

comprehensive evaluation of the flood damage is not yet available, preliminary official estimates from the Philippine Department of Agriculture, as of 24 October, indicate that 394 470 hectares of paddy crops were affected, mainly in Region I (Ilocos Region),

Figure 1: The Philippines - Crop calendar

**major foodcrop*



Source: FAO/GIEWS).

Region II (Cagayan Valley), Region III (Central Luzon), Region IV-A (Calabarzon), Region V (Bicol Region) and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). The affected area represents 15 percent of the estimated total area planted to the 2016 main season rice crop, out of which 12 118 hectares, less than 1 percent, were reportedly lost. Although significant localized crop losses are expected in the most affected areas, the impact on the national 2016 paddy output is expected to be limited. As such, and assuming no major weather setbacks during the remainder of the season, FAO's current outlook for the 2016 paddy output remains positive, pointing to a likely recovery from the 2015 weather-reduced level to 18.7 million tonnes. The final outcome will also depend on the timely provision of inputs to the affected farmers for planting of the 2016 secondary season before the end of the sowing period by late December to early January.

As regards the other crops, damage to the 2016 main season maize crop is also expected to be limited as the harvest was virtually completed by September.

Localized losses to livestock and fishery sectors also severe

According to official forecasts, there have been significant localized livestock losses and damage to fishing gear, fish ponds and related equipment. Reportedly, a large number of boats, which are a

key mode of transport for goods and people, and provide an essential source of income, have been destroyed. The Department of Agriculture estimates the total production loss for fisheries and livestock at USD 1.8 million and USD 194 316, respectively.

Typhoons negatively impacted livelihoods and food security of affected households

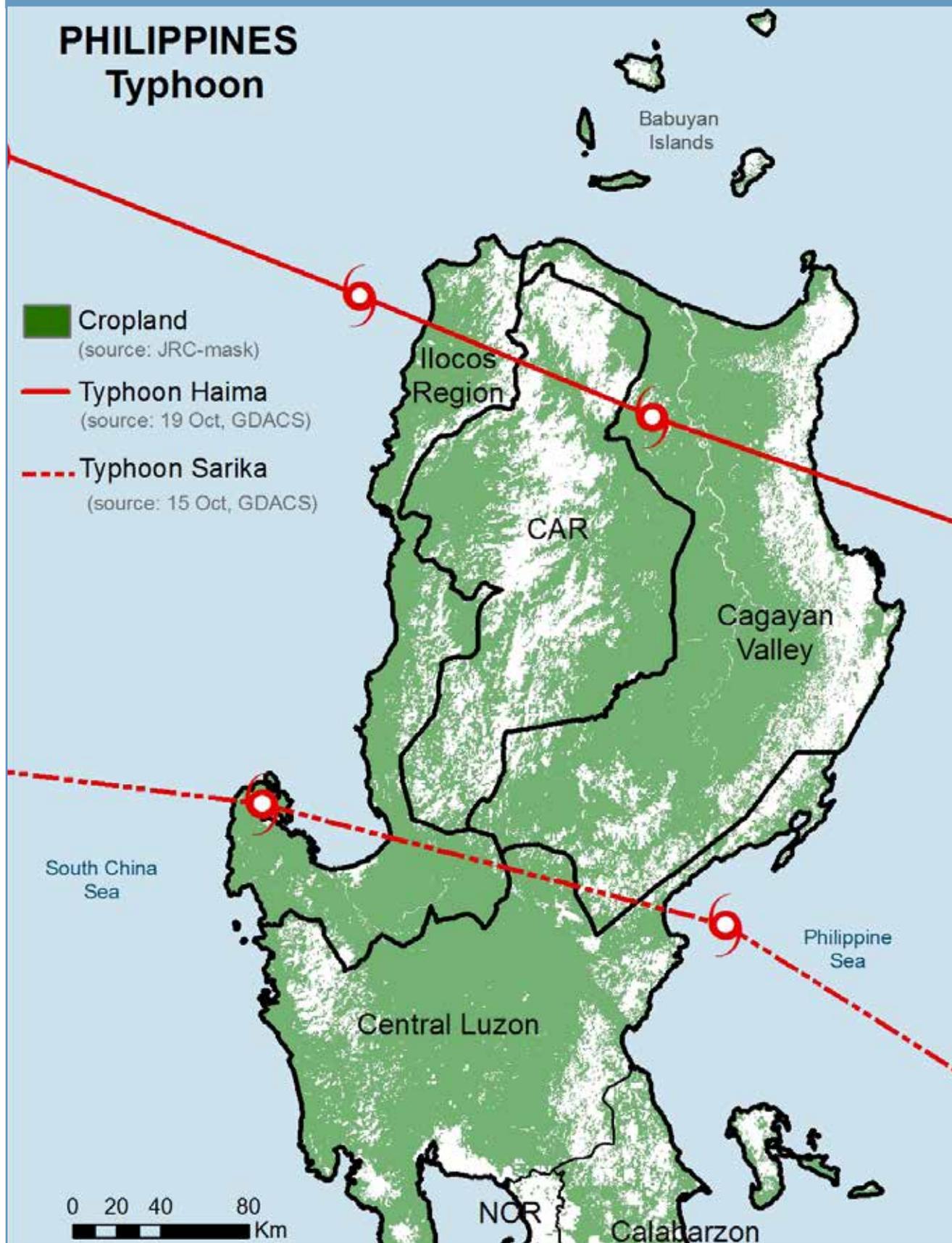
According to latest official estimates, as of 25 October, at least 1.5 million people have been negatively affected by the recent typhoons, mainly concentrated in Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon and CAR. Large numbers of people are still living in temporary shelters and relying on humanitarian support. Most of the population affected by the typhoons is critically dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods and many are vulnerable to food insecurity. It is critical that affected farmers receive appropriate and timely agricultural assistance, including rice and maize seeds for planting of the 2016/17 secondary season crops, irrigation tools, fertilizers for rice and maize crops, as well as equipment for planting and harvesting, together with the provision of storage facilities. In the livestock sector, there is an urgent need for feed and vaccines. Furthermore, there is an immediate need to rebuild fishing gears and boats and rehabilitate fish ponds in the most affected provinces of Ilocos Norte and Pangasinan in the Ilocos Region.

Table: The Philippines - Official partial estimates of damage caused by typhoons Haima and Sarika

	Land affected			Total losses/damage	
	Land affected (hectares)	Land lost (hectares)	Total (hectares)	Amount of losses (tonnes)	Amount of losses/damage (USD million)
Total crops	249 102	14 559	456 232	248 872	213 913
Rice	238 876	12 118	394 470	224 078	161 577
Maize	4 669	988	28 187	5 658	12 522
High value crops	5 557	1 453	33 575	19 136	35 870
Livestock					194
Fisheries					1 776
Farm to market roads and fish cages					921

Source: The Philippines National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), Department of Agriculture.

Figure 2: The Philippines - Path of typhoons Haima and Sarika



Source: The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (EC-JRC).

This report is prepared by the **Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS)** of the Trade and Markets Division of FAO. The updates focus on developing anomalous conditions aimed at providing early warnings, as well as latest and more elaborate information than other GIEWS regular reports on the food security situation of countries, at both national and sub-national levels. None of the information in this report should be regarded as statements of governmental views.

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