El Niño in the Philippines

El Niño is caused by the warming of sea surface temperature in the Pacific and can affect air and sea currents. This phenomenon is expected to result in reduced rainfall that may lead to droughts, stronger typhoons and higher risk of forest or grass fires (PAGASA). Severe damages in farms, fisheries and forests may affect 30 percent of the country’s population relying on agriculture as a primary source of livelihood.

**QUICK FACTS**

- **USD 49.4 million** worth of total damages and production losses in crops
- **57 111 metric tonnes** of crops lost, including rice, corn and high value crops such as banana and rubber
- **5 out of 9 regions** affected are found in Mindanao, which are already suffering from declining agricultural productivity due to unstable peace and order situations
- **47 111 affected farmers** may need support to recommence their farming activities in the next cropping season

**FAO SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT**

- FAO has committed its readiness to provide technical assistance to affected areas when necessary. The Organization is working closely with the Department of Agriculture (DA) and Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao’s Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF-ARMM) for the conduct of a damage assessment on the effects of recent clash between the Government and armed groups and the ongoing drought in the province of Maguindanao and the municipality of Pikit, in the province of North Cotabato.

- FAO and DAF-ARMM organized a workshop on Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis on agricultural crops on 21 April 2015. The assessment resulted in a project proposal for the restoration of farm households affected by natural and human-induced disasters in Maguindanao and North Cotabato.

- FAO and the World Food Programme (WFP) co-lead the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster, which was reactivated in ARMM.

- FAO is also actively participating in the formulation of the ARMM Humanitarian and Development Action Plan. The plan aims to identify critical humanitarian needs to support government and private sector initiatives, toward building resilience in responding to crises.