Combating the Risks of Climate Change to Food Security: The Insurance Factor

May 2023 Tashia Bhogal MRoA



Contents



- 1. Munich Re Group Overview
- 2. Agriculture and Economy
- 3. Significance of Agriculture Insurance
- 4. Climate Change at a glance
- 5. Impact of Climate Change on Food Security
- 6. How Insurance creates Resilience
- 7. Case Studies

Munich Re Group





- Asia
- Australia & New Zealand

Munich Re (Group)

~Founded 1880

~Revenue: € 67.1bn¹

~Assets under mgt: € 240.3bn

~41,000 employees

Revenue (in € bn)

2022		67.1
2021	5	9.6
2020	54.9	Э
2019	51.5	
2018	49.1	
2017	49.1	

Rating					
A.M Best	A+ (Superior)	stable			
Fitch	AA (Very Strong)	stable			
Moody's	Aa3 (Excellent)	stable			
S&P	AA- (Very Strong)	stable			

Munich Re Global presence in Agriculture



Strong presence in over 40 countries across the world – top 5 being USA, India, Brazil, China and Thailand



Agriculture and Economy An overview





Climate Change at a glance







The number of disasters has increased by a factor of five over the last five decades, driven by climate change and more extreme weather



Number of Natural Disasters* by type of event

- Climate change is amplifying the occurrence of extreme weather events, such as storms, floods, heatwaves, and droughts.
- Rising global temperatures lead to more energy in the atmosphere, increasing the likelihood of intense and prolonged weather events.
- Warmer ocean temperatures fuel stronger and more destructive tropical cyclones, while higher temperatures and drier conditions contribute to the severity and frequency of wildfires and droughts.

Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture and Food Security



Climate change affects agricultural production in many regions

Sub-Saharan Africa and South & South-east Asia are the regions likely to be most impacted by climate change



Altered Growing Conditions

Wheat-growing areas are expected to shift, with a potential decline of 46% in production areas by 2100

Decreased Crop Yields

For every 1-degree Celsius increase in temperature, crop yields can decline by 5-15%

Lost Livelihoods

Farmers' livelihoods are threatened as they suffer from significant losses due to extreme weather events

Rise in Food Prices

Climate change impacts on food production can contribute to a 30% increase in food prices by 2050

It is estimated that 80% of the impact of climate change would be concentrated in the regions of Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America

A single drought can lower an African country's medium-term economic growth potential by 1 percentage point, as per IMF research More than 140 million economically disadvantaged people from developing economies will be forced to migrate internally due to climate change impacts by 2050 Climate change poses a serious threat to food security

Role of Insurance in Managing Climate Change and Combating Food Security



Risk Management

Insurance helps farmers mitigate risks associated with climate change. It provides a safety net by indemnifying for crop losses.

Access to credit

Insurance coverage improves farmers' access to credit and loans by mitigating risks of default in case of a calamity



Sustainable Development

Insurance can enable farmers to sustainably manage resources by encouraging them to adopt environmentally friendly practices.

Case Study - India



In the year 2019, India saw the most delayed withdrawal of monsoon in it's recorded history. This trend of late monsoon withdrawal is increasing due to climate change disturbing the seasonal cycles.



In 2019, late withdrawal of monsoon resulted in unseasonal heavy rains. Typically, rainfall occurs until mid-September, but it rained heavily in October, coinciding with the harvesting period leading to the destruction of crop.



Crop on 10.7* million ha of agricultural land was damaged. States in Central India were the worst-hit. Losses amounted to well over \in 2 bn.



Crop insurance claims of $\sim \in 1$ bn were disbursed to around 5 million farmers providing crucial support for revitalizing their livelihoods.



Case Study - Thailand



In 2011 due to the early onset of monsoon season, the La Nina effect and remnants of multiple tropical storms, rainfall in Thailand reached its highest level in 50 years. The flooding was also exceptional in terms of duration.



Thailand experienced heavy floods from July to Nov 2011. The event is still one of the country's worst disasters and the most expensive flood loss on record for the global insurance industry.



The floods damaged 10.4 mn rais* (~17,000 sq.km) of agriculture area. Out of total livestock population of 94 mn, over 24 mn were affected. The total loss to Agriculture sector amounted to \in 800 mn.



Farmers across all provinces were compensated with € 600 mn under the Crop Insurance Scheme.





Case Study – South Korea



In 2019, typhoons over the western North Pacific occurred as expected, but the number of typhoons affecting the Korean Peninsula (KP) was the highest in the last 60 years owing to Climate change. Lingling, the thirteenth TC that occurred in 2019, was the 7th strongest event recorded in South Korea.



In 2019, three typhoons Lingling, Tapha and Mitag hit Korea within a span of two months from September to October.



Losses incurred due to typhoons Lingling, Tapha and Mitag were to the tune of € 199mn (affecting western part), €138mn (affecting South-east part during harvest season) and € 44 mn respectively.



The insurance industry disbursed approximately €350 million in claims, providing vital support to farmers and enabling them to recover and sustain their livelihoods



Case Study – South Africa



In 2016, South Africa experienced its warmest summer period in recorded history. This period of unprecedented high global temperatures is thought to have been the result of systematic global warming under the enhanced greenhouse effect in combination with natural variability in the form of an intense El Niño event.



South Africa has been frequently affected by droughts in the recent years and one of the major drought events occurred in 2016 which was regarded one of the worst droughts on record in South Africa, exacerbated by a powerful El Nino weather pattern.





South Africa's agriculture sector incurred losses of about € 752 million due to the severe drought.



Although the number of insured farmers for Drought is extremely low in South Africa limited, The largest Insurance loss in one year amounted to \notin 37 million





Thank You!