



Emerging Issues and Priorities: Adapting to Climate Extremes and Slow Onset Disasters

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Background



- Land: 181,035 Km²
- Population: 15 M
- GDP: \$1,040 (2013)
- Poverty rate: 19.8% (2011)
- Agriculture sector contributed to GDP: 31.6%
- Labor force employed in agriculture sector: 64.6 % (2013)
- Total exported agricultural product: 354.3 thousand tons (2011)

Cambodia is one of the most vulnerable country due to its lack of adaptive capacity

Emerging Issues: Loss+ Damage

Cambodian is affected by climate changes in four ways: (1) Increases in temperature, (2) change in rainfall patterns (3) floods and droughts, and (4) sea level rise (Nang et al., 2014)

Physical

- Floods and storms destroy Infrastructure.
- ⑩ → ↑ challenges in livelihoods activities.

Environmental

- Natural resources degradation and changes in ecosystem services (eg. fish population suffer, and forest are in danger)

Economic

- Lots of farm land cannot be used, crops and animal production are threatened.
- → Food shortages, poverty, more diseases, and ↓ GDP.

Social

- Displacement
- Migrations
- Indebtedness

Emerging Issues (Cont)

- **The Extreme Disasters**

- Flash flood-1987-2007 there were 12 severe floods which claimed 1125 lives and cost up to \$US 300 M (Heng, 2010).
- High temperature → ↑ numbers of pests (worms, grasshoppers, small caterpillars & brown leafhoppers) that can destroy may hectares of rice within a night (Nang et al., 2014)
- Windstorms- esp. costal zones
- Vector-born diseases- Children expose to more incident of illnesses

- **Slow Onset Disasters**

- Drought- Prolonged drought brought about huge damage and fail of agriculture crops
- Land degradation- ↑ erosion and land infertile
- Water quality- Sedimentation and limited access to clean water

Priorities

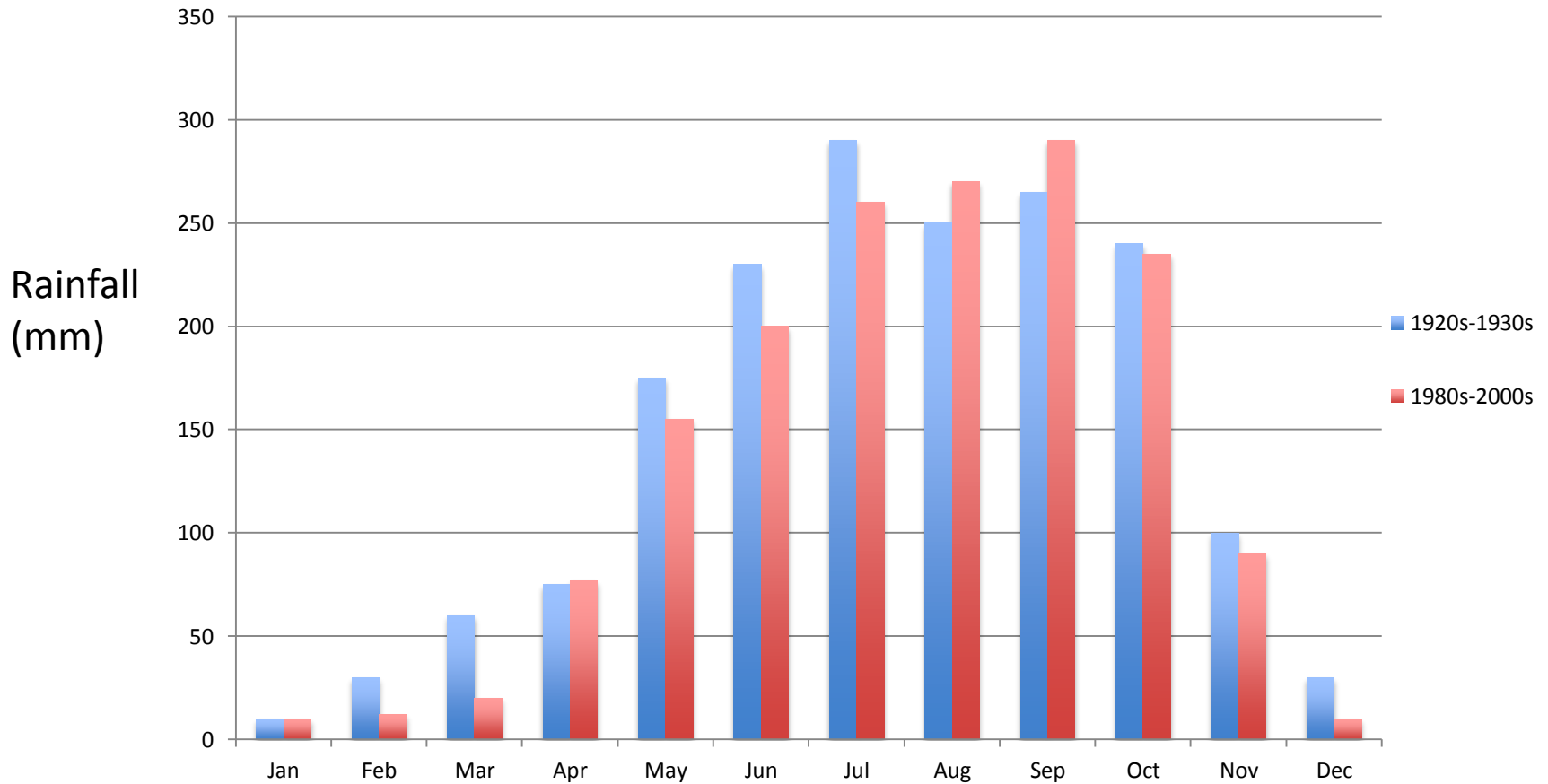
- ❑ Empirical findings indicating that **access to and control over livelihood resources** (human, natural, physical, financial and social) are crucial
- ❑ Awareness raising of climate change impacts
- ❑ Developing plans for disaster response. Ensure that the most vulnerable groups have extra support
- ❑ Reducing factor that contribute to climate change (Protect forest resources, reforestation)
- ❑ Developing tools (policies/guidelines) for community participation and advocacy to deal with climate change at local, national and global levels
- ❑ Encourage farmers to more climate resilience crops
- ❑ Building the community to adapt their current practices to a change in climate (eg. preparing risk assessment, protecting ecosystems, improving agricultural methods, managing water resources, building settlement in safe areas, developing early warning systems, improving insurance coverage, and developing safety social nets)



Thank You!

Change in rainfall patterns

Chrey Bak (Kg Chhnang)



Source: LI/Diepart C. J, 2014

