

**CURRENT VULNERABILITY OF THE RICE PRODUCTION SECTOR
TO RAINFALL VARIABILITY AND EXTREMES IN THE PROVINCE OF
CAMARINES SUR, PHILIPPINES**

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ABSTRACT

This paper discusses the results of a study on vulnerability of the rice production sector to rainfall variability in the Province of Camarines Sur. Results of the study show that the province has become more exposed to climate hazards caused by the increase in rainfall variability during the period 1976-2005. It has become more vulnerable to drought, which reduced annual rice production output by nearly 20 percent. The analysis of risk of crop loss associated with drought also shows that this has been increasing over time, costing nearly P1.2 billion during the period 1996-2005. These results suggest that the increase in rainfall variability puts the province at risk of food insufficiency if no mitigating or adaptation measures are instituted.

Key words: risk, drought, climate change