

## **Resilience of Tsunami Affected Households in Coastal Region of Tamil Nadu, India**

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### **Abstract**

This paper investigates the magnitude of income shocks and their recovery of tsunami affected households during the post-tsunami period 2005-2008 in Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu, India. Most farmers suffered from decline of income and assets immediately after tsunami. During the 2004/05 planting season, our estimate indicates that farming households saw their income drop by as much as 30 percent. By 2007/08 agricultural season, households showed a near complete recovery of their incomes. After tsunami, there is a major transformation of the livelihood from agricultural production to wage labor. The major coping strategies dominated by receiving aid, borrowing money for most households. Other coping strategies included consumption reduction followed by removing children from school. The empirical results showed strong growth convergence during post-tsunami period. During the post-tsunami period, nearly in all categories of nominal incomes, such as the recovery was observed. However, when the price increase is taken into account, the effect of the recovery become less obvious. Shock sensitivity analysis indicated that the access to factor markets such as aid received, access to credit market and access to labor market, are an important household resilience enhancing factors in terms of income shock recovery. As the results, the speed of the recovery was different in biophysical environment and in social environment in tsunami affected area. Government needs to carefully monitor soil and water to suggest recovery of agricultural production and support disaster affected people by providing access to factor market so that they can recover from income loss quickly.