

## SYNTHESIS REPORT ON FLOODS AND DROUGHTS

ANUPA GHOSH<sup>1</sup> AND JOYASHREE ROY<sup>1</sup>

---

*This article presents the results of field studies conducted in selected river basins of Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan to study the socio-economic vulnerability to floods and droughts. The vulnerability to extreme events is high in developing economies characterized by the predominance of the primary sector, inadequate infrastructure. To analyze the impacts of extreme events on developing South Asian nations, the field studies concentrate on selected hotspots in flood prone river basins of Bangladesh, India and Nepal, and drought prone river basins of India and Pakistan. The objective of the survey has been to assess the disaster-prone regions' socio-economic character, vulnerability to drought and flood, measures adopted to cope with the impacts and identify the policies needed to improve the coping capacity of the affected stakeholders. Predominance of rural societies with high incidences of poverty and low literacy rates characterizes almost all the hotspots. Agriculture and livestock rearing are the two most important occupations across the hotspots. Cultivation of flood/drought resistant crops, storing of food grains, medicines, fodder and other essentials, saving for contingencies, loans, migration, extra labour work, sale of livestock and other assets, etc. are some of the common adaptation practices. Government and NGO relief programmes are also available in varying degrees across countries. Some of the policies identified by stakeholders that will strengthen the coping capacities of the regions are insurance schemes; better loan facilities; irrigational facilities; access to safe drinking water; improved calamity resistant agricultural inputs, public distribution schemes, infrastructure and relief works.*

---