

PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGES ON

DROUGHT

Drought, unlike other abruptly occurring disaster, is a onset disaster that gives ample response time to prepare against its odds unlike other abruptly occurring disasters i.e, earthquake, flash flood, cyclones etc. Indeed the devoid of rain in a particular region/zone makes the phenomenon of drought imminent, however, its intensity and devastating impact can certainly be reduced through timely and inter-harmonious actions by the concerned stakeholder.

Following are some of the critical tips that the individuals and community can do to reduce the risks of drought and mitigate its impact.

BEFORE THE DROUGHT

WATER & FOOD/FODDER

Water Conserving and economical use in household activities, e.g.

- Keep water and the water storage means under shade.
- Secure timely storage of water.
- Ensure the use of water purification tablets in drinking water.
- Avoid wastage of water such as loose running water tap, broken/leaked water pipes/tanks.
- Drip watering to mixed planting during evening hours to avoid evaporation.
- Use scientific means for making minimal use of water for harvesting.
- Use brackish water than sweet for washing, bath or other purpose etc.
- Construction of reservoirs to hold emergency water supplies. Rehabilitation of Tarais (community pond)
- Harvest rain water for use in agriculture.

Human Food

- Ensure scientific harvesting for human food (e.g, sweet potato, cassava, indigenous vegetable & legumes) that give more productivity with less water consumption
- Ensure timely storage of food
- Ensure economical use food items
- Establish nurseries/seed banks to ensure a stable supply of seeds and other essential plant materials.

Animal Food/Fodder

- Ensure scientific harvesting for animal food and fodder that give more productivity with less water consumption.
- Avoid unnecessary cutting of local trees, shrubs and plants grazed/eaten by the animals.
- Ensure preserving and flourishing of vegetation around the villages/areas through scientific means

MEDICAL & HEALTH CARE

Health Care Human

- Ensure
 - (i) regular vaccination to the family members.
 - (ii) use of clean drinking water and water purification tablets
 - (iii) regular and uninterrupted visits to medical centers for necessary checkups.
 - (iv) regular vaccination of pregnant women and newly born children either at medical centers or during the visits of medical teams.
 - (v) provision of nutritious food to the pregnant women and newly born children.
- Install, regulate and maintain the drinking water purification plants.
- Report the civil administration on the spread of viral disease.

Health Care Animal

- Ensure
 - (i) regular vaccination of animals at the prescribed time determined by the Local Health Departments.
 - (ii) immediate medical treatment to the animals on determination of some disease,
 - (iii) immediate segregation of animals caught with some spreading infectious disease from the healthy ones
 - (iv) immediate burial of animals who dies particularly due to some spreading disease
- Do not eat meat or take milk of sick animal.
- Report the civil administration on the spread of viral disease in the animals.

DURING THE DROUGHT

RESCUE

- If survival is difficult/not possible then immediately migrate to the nearest Communication Centers (village or town) along with live stocks that have no or least drought effects for continuous and sustained water/food/fodder/health support

WATER, FOOD/FODDER

- Conserve water during the drought period
- Optimum use of all available water (both surface and ground) for irrigation.
- Purify drinking water by boiling.
- Use water purification tablets for clean drinking water.
- Except drinking do not use sweet water for other purposes
- Use brackish water for other needed usages.
- Conserve ration/food during the drought period.
- Use healthy food/dry ration including pulses/rice/chickpeas/in stockpiling.
- Propagation of drought resistant crops (e.g crops that require less water such as root crops - sweet potato, cassava, and indigenous vegetables and legumes).
- Education & information drive to generate community appreciation of water management and crop life-saving techniques.
- Use healthy food to avoid children malnutrition.

Ensure:-

- scientific harvesting for human food (e.g, sweet potato, cassava, indigenous vegetable & legumes) that give more productivity with less water consumption
- timely storage of food
- availability/provision of fodder
- economical use of water and food items
- scientific harvesting for animal food and fodder that give more productivity with less water consumption.
- preserving and flourishing of vegetation around the villages/areas through scientific means
- Avoid unnecessary cutting of local trees, shrubs and plants grazed/eaten by the animals.

MEDICAL & HEALTH CARE

- Ensure
 - (i) immediate vaccination of the family members.
 - (ii) use of clean drinking water
 - (iii) use of water purification tablets
 - (iv) visits to medical centers for necessary checkups.
 - (v) vaccination of pregnant women and newly born children either at medical centers or during the visits of medical teams.
 - (vi) provision of nutritious food to the pregnant women and newly born children.
 - (vii) Immediate/timely vaccination of animals/livestock
 - (viii) immediate medical treatment of the animals upon determination of some disease.
 - (ix) immediate segregation of animals caught with some spreading infectious disease from the healthy ones
 - (x) immediate burial of animals who dies particularly due to some spreading disease
- Install, regulate and maintain the drinking water purification plants.
- Report the civil administration on the spread of viral disease/outbreak of epidemic in the animals.

AFTER THE DROUGHT

- Close coordination between all stakeholders, agricultural scientists, meteorologists, irrigation engineers and agricultural field staff to inform and assist farmers to adapt agricultural practices.
- Increase production in favorable areas to make up for losses in seriously affected areas.
- Carryout mixed mitigation and preventive measure on the activities mentioned under “Before & During” drought measures

DROUGHT SERVICE MESSAGES FOR
FOR
CIVIL ADMINISTRATION

As the drought is a dawdling onset disaster that do renders ample response time to prepare against its odds, unlike other abruptly occurring disasters i.e, earthquake, flash flood, cyclones etc. Indeed the devoid of rain due to climatic change in a particular region/zone makes the phenomenon of drought unavoidable to be prevented; hence its intensity and devastating impact through inter-harmonious actions by the concerned stakeholder departments can certainly be reduced.

It is imperative to mention the critical elements of such disaster than other disasters in consonance to avert/prevent or reduce the impact its affects:-

- It is slow/gradual in occurrence
- It provides ample response time to handle
- It involves long term continued supervision and relevant sustained support
- It implies more responsibility of Civil Administration deliver than general masses / public of the area
- Most of the actions and activities overlaps all the three phase of drought i.e, before, during & after

Following are some of the critical tips that the individuals and community can do to reduce the risk and mitigate the impact of looming/impending drought.

BEFORE THE DROUGHT

PLANNING, COORDINATION & DEVELOPMENT

- Ensure following strategic and tactical level of planning & development of field sector projects :-
 - Communication (roads, tele transportation means etc)
 - Water (sweet water wells, water purification, water points etc)
 - Health (medical/health care, nutrition, vaccination etc)
 - Food & Fodder (wheat , hay etc)
 - Power (Electricity, coal , POL etc)
- Carryout close coordination mechanism network between following departments :-

- Meteorological
- Agricultural
- Irrigation
- Health
- Food
- Forest
- Telecommunication
- Road & Transport
- Energy
- Check & ensure:-
 - Updated “Food Security Plan”
 - Availability of stocks as per policy in the established godowns.
 - Establishment of “Public Service Committees”
 - Village to village “Public Service Announcements & Awareness Program” that helps to create consciousness among masses about vital conservation issues.
 - Establishment of “Emergency Operation Centres” to monitor the situation and address needs of the people/affectees.
 - Community training on drought preparedness & emergency response
 - Timely provision of food and fodder.
- Provincial Government to assist District Administration in above assignments in kind and coin and as well in mega projects like:-
 - Exploration of water sources , creating water points and laying the water supply lines for the provision of water from other locations.
 - Construction of reservoirs for emergency water supplies/storage.
 - Maintaining the food (wheat) and Fodder stocks.

FOOD CAMPAIGN

• **Human Food**

- Ensure provision and maintaining of stock, includes wheat and other basic necessary dry food items.
- Calculate needed and timely distribution of wheat and other food items to the people.
- Propagation of drought resistant crops (e.g., crops that require less water such as root crops - sweet potato, cassava, and indigenous vegetables and legumes).
- Educate & information drives to generate community appreciation of water management and crop life-saving techniques.

- **Animal Food/Fodder**

- Ensure provision and maintaining of animal fodder, including wanda, green fodder, grazing and other feed stock.
- Calculate needed and timely distribution of basic food & fodder to the affected areas.

HEALTH CAMPAIGN

- **Health Care Human**

- Ensure regular vaccination of locals at the described time determined by the Local Health Departments.
- Ensure regular and uninterrupted visits of medical teams for vaccination.
- Ensure regular vaccination of pregnant women and newly born children.
- Ensure provision of nutritious food.
- Establish and existence of Health Center BHU including their specialized staff.
- Ensure provision of water tablets to the locals on regular bases for ensuring clean drinking water.
- Install, regulate and maintain the drinking water purification plants.

- **Health Care Animal**

- Ensure regular vaccination of animals at the described time determined by the Local Health Departments

DURING THE DROUGHT

PLANNING, COORDINATION & OTHER ARRANGEMENT EFFORTS

- Establishment of “Emergency Operation Centres” to monitor the situation and address needs of the people/ affectees.
- District Administration to coordinate the relief and rescue efforts renders by various national and international outfits (govt departments, military, local NGOs, INGO, CSRs, Embassies, UN agencies and other partners etc).
- Arrange transport for people’s evacuation and relief distribution to the affected areas.
- Deployment of Health Teams.
- Ground implementation to ensure any financial.

RELIEF & RESCUE EFFORTS

- Immediate provision & dispatch of following relief efforts:-
 - Food, fodder and water.
 - Medical teams with necessary medical assistance.
- Immediate arrange for following rescues efforts:-
 - Evacuate of the sick and affected people to the nearest health facility (hospitals, health care centers) for medical treatment.
 - Dispatch of medical teams and para medics for medical assistance and vaccination.
 - Controlled shifting /migration (when inevitable) to other areas during drought period to avoid deaths due to hunger, water, health and malnutrition reasons.
 - Provision of transport means to evacuate the sick and affected people to the nearest health facilities (hospitals, health care centers)

EDUCATIONAL/PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGNS

- Conserve water during the drought period
- Purify drinking by boiling water for drinking.
- Use water purification tablets for clean drinking water.
- Accept drinking o not use sweet water turned to brackish for other needed usages.
- Conserve ration/food during the drought period.
- Include/ healthy food/dry ration including pulses/rice/chickpeas/in stockpiling.
- Propagation of drought resistant crops (e.g., crops that require less water such as root crops - sweet potato, cassava, and indigenous vegetables and legumes).
- Education & information drive to generate community appreciation of water management and crop life-saving techniques.
- Use healthy food to avoid children malnutrition.

PROVISION & STORAGE OF FOOD & FODDER EFFORTS

- **Human Food**
 - Dispatch of food through already maintained stock, includes wheat and other basic necessary dry food items.
 - Ensure uninterrupted and timely distribution of wheat and other food items to the people.

- **Animal Food/Fodder**

- Dispatch of food through already maintained stock of animal food & fodder, including wanda, green fodder, grazing and other feed stock.
- Timely dispatch and distribution of basic food/fodder for the animals of affected areas.

HEALTH EFFORTS

- **Health Care Human**

- Ensure immediate dispatch of medical teams for vaccination and other medical assistance.
- Ensure vaccination of pregnant women and newly born children.
- Ensure provision of nutritious food.
- Augment the Health Center including their specialized staff.
- Ensure provision of water tablets to the locals on regular bases for ensuring clean drinking water.
- Ensure operational worthiness of clean drinking water plants.
- Health departments to ensure vaccination and avoidance of outbreak of epidemics and local diseases e.g., (Malaria, Skin diseases, Sukha, and TB).

- **Health Care Animal**

- Ensure dispatch of medical & para medic teams for the vaccination of animals by the Local Health Departments and others partners.

AFTER THE DROUGHT

- Ensure the mixed mitigating and preventive measure on the actives mentioned under “Before & During” drought measures

