

Invisible Humanitarian Women Workers of South Asia

The formal sector women workers of humanitarian system were facilitated on the World Humanitarian Day, August 19, 2019 across the world. The humanitarian women workers who remain invisible and therefore not recognized are women farmers and agriculture labour. They fight droughts and floods, and also cyclones on almost every third year in India.

From All India Disaster Mitigation Institute's (AIDMI's) ongoing work with women farmers in India—Assam, Odisha, Kerala and Gujarat—it is found that it is these farmer women and agriculture labour who are most affected from drought and floods and it is these women who do the most to come out of agriculture and horticulture loss and damage caused by droughts and floods. The steps they take are ingenious. The plans they make are realistic.

In the desert areas of Kutch; delta areas of Sundarbans; and costal metro areas of Mumbai it is the women farmers (fish farmers included) who face uncertainties and can take actions to transform India into green economy.

To do so what the women farmers need is leadership training; capital to form and protect agri-cooperatives; investments in agri-business; a closer look at the role of family farming; responsible investment in food and nutrition; and protection for native plants and pastoralism.

AIDMI held discussions with these women farmers and labourers on August 19, 2019. Far more work is needed in South Asia UNDRR and FAO with these women famers to reduce risk and build resilience against extreme events in South Asia.