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OCCURRENCE OF FLOOD IN ANNAMALAINAGAR

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ABSTRACT

Flood is a natural phenomenon due to which every year in India 40 mha of land is affected. Flood resulted due to heavy rainfall or over flow of water from river that inundates low lying areas. Flood causes loss of life, damages the irrigation canals, loss of sewage disposal, severe water contamination, making the land unworkable, preventing the crops being planted or harvested, decaying of standing crops, incidence of more pests and diseases, loss of produce worth in crores and psychological damage to those who affected etc.

Annamalainagar is situated in coastal taluk Chidambaram in cuddalore district which has 52.5 km coastal line. Out of total rainfall 72 per cent is received from Northeast monsoon in this district. This district is under very high risk damage and vulnerable to cyclonic depressions which resulted in rain and causes flood. In Annamalainagar 67.08 per cent of annual average rainfall (1542.33mm) is received only during Northeast monsoon from October to December. Compared to average rainfall, out of 31 years of study from1985 to 2015,in 17 years above average and in 14 years below average rainfall was noticed. Out of 31 years, drought (less than 75% of normal) occurred during 1988, 1995, 2003 and 2012. In Annamalainagar severe flood was noticed in 1996, 2005 and in 2015 which indicates that flood occur at an interval of 10 years.

Flood recharges the ground water, making the soil fertile and improves the nutrients availability. The flood damage can be minimized by structural and nonstructural measures. The measures are to protect the banks of river with sandbags, construct farm pond and divert flood water, improve the drainage facility, desilting of tanks and canals etc. Grow flood tolerant rice varieties like ADT-40, Swarna sub-1 and apply Nitrogenus fertilizers during pre flowering stage after receding of flood waters.

KEYWORDS: Coefficient of variation, drought, flood and normal rainfall