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## Philippines

**Post:** Manila

### Typhoon Haiyan Damage Summary

**Report Categories:**

Agricultural Situation

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**Report Highlights:**

Despite being one of the strongest storms ever recorded, agricultural damage from Typhoon Haiyan (referred to as Yolanda in the Philippines) is not expected to affect the nation's food security as a whole as the impacted regions were not key crop and livestock producing areas. At a Task Force Yolanda meeting at the Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA), the Acting Undersecretary for Field Operations (DA-UFO) stated that damage resulting from the November 8, 2013 typhoon is estimated at P10.6 billion (\$241 million). Of the estimate, total agricultural production losses are anticipated to reach P8.6 billion (\$195 million) while damage to agricultural infrastructure is estimated at P2.0 billion (\$45 million). Although the estimated rice loss of 147,000 MT represents less than one percent of national annual production, the DA has authorized the importation of an additional 500,000 MT of rice to reinforce buffer stocks. This, and considerable food aid donations and relief assistance from numerous international groups, are likely to sufficiently augment existing food inventories according to the DA. Even though agricultural losses were relatively low, the Philippine Government official death toll stood at 5,500 people as of Nov. 30 and the DA estimates some one million fishermen and farmers have, at least temporarily, lost their livelihoods.

**General Information:**

The Philippines is visited by an average of 20 typhoons or tropical storms annually, the majority of which occur in the second half of the year. Typhoon Haiyan (referred to as Yolanda locally) passed through the central Philippine islands on November 8, and was one of the strongest ever recorded. Tremendous winds and storm surges laid waste to numerous coastal municipalities, settlements and farmlands. More than 5,500 people are reported to have perished (as of Nov. 30) and roughly four million have had their homes destroyed or damaged. The DA estimates some one million fishermen and farmers, at least temporarily, have lost their livelihood.

At a recent DA Task Force Yolanda meeting, the DA-UFO presented the following official estimates of damage to the agricultural sector from Typhoon Haiyan (as of Nov. 22, 2013). Overall agricultural losses are estimated at P10.6 billion (\$241 million) with P8.6 billion (\$195 million) coming from production losses and close to P2.0 billion (\$45 million) from agricultural infrastructure damage.

<b>Estimated Typhoon Yolanda Losses Compared to Total National Production</b>				
<b>COMMODITY</b>	<b>AREA AFFECTED</b>	<b>ESTIMATED PRODUCTION LOSSES</b>		<b>TOTAL NATIONAL PRODUCTION (2012)</b>
	<b>TOTAL (HA)</b>	<b>TOTAL (PHP)</b>	<b>VOLUME (MT)</b>	<b>VOLUME (MT)</b>
<b>PRODUCTION LOSS</b>	<b>154,954</b>	<b>8,605,702,124</b>	<b>267,008</b>	-
Rice	77,719	2,380,624,200	147,357	18,032,430
Corn	21,699	295,915,473	23,011	7,406,840
Cassava	6,238	93,112,717	13,305	2,234,000
Coconut	41,662	1,515,198,470	NA	15,828,030
Abaca	405	3,420,000	70	68,530
Vegetables	466	9,733,058	947	NA
Banana	6,008	431,291,160	46,800	9,226,200
Mango	697	65,218,379	5,366	767,850
Other Crops	60	2,000,000	300	3,609,440
Livestock		2,316,588,515		2,464,440
Fisheries		1,492,600,152	29,852	2,316,120

Source: Philippine Department of Agriculture

<b>Typhoon Yolanda Agricultural Infrastructure Losses</b>	
<b>FACILITIES/INFRA/EQUIPMENT DAMAGED</b>	<b>1,983,274,420</b>
Irrigation	674,058,810
NFA Facilities	105,091,520
Fisheries Sector	351,051,000
Livestock Sector	576,600
Post-Harvest	52,496,490

Other Infrastructure/Facilities/Equipment	800,000,000
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Source: Philippine Department of Agriculture

According to the initial DA typhoon damage summary, rice suffered production losses valued at P2.4 billion (\$55 million), involving 147,000 MT of paddy in an affected area of 78,000 hectares. Losses to livestock reached P2.3 billion (\$53 million). Coconut losses were estimated at over P1.5 billion (\$34 million) involving 42,000 hectares, while fisheries suffered similar losses (P1.5 billion or \$34 million). The initial estimates on agricultural damage and production losses are currently undergoing field validation and may still change, according to the DA.

Agricultural losses at the national level from Typhoon Haiyan were relatively low as the affected areas were not highly productive. Furthermore, a considerable portion of the fourth quarter rice crop in the region had been harvested prior to the arrival of the typhoon (according industry contacts). The DA reported rice loss of approximately 147,000 MT due to Typhoon Haiyan is not expected to significantly affect the country's immediate food security as it represents less than one percent of total annual production. Just to be sure, however, the DA has authorized the importation of an additional 500,000 MT of rice. This, and considerable food aid donations and relief assistance from numerous international groups, are likely to sufficiently augment existing food inventories.

According to press releases, despite the negative effect of Typhon Haiyan on the economy, Philippine government economic planners still expect the country's GDP growth in the range of 6-7 percent in 2013. GDP expansion for the first three quarters of 2013 was reported at 7.4 percent. The Visayas group of islands accounts for around 12 percent of Philippine GDP.

Moving forward, the DA's Acting Undersecretary for Field Operations (DA-UFO) has stated that the DA's recovery efforts will focus on rebuilding agricultural infrastructure and restoring the livelihoods of farmers and fishing communities in the affected regions of the Visayas. They are already in the process of distributing rice and vegetable planting seeds (which they have an ample supply of) to any farmer whose crops were destroyed. In addition, fallen coconut trees/palms are to be cleared and converted into coco-lumber via a DA cash-for-work program. The DA is also looking at introducing intercropping techniques with cacao and coconut trees in the region to boost farmer incomes.