

## Social effects of natural disasters on small scale farmers in rural areas

**Matlakala FK**

*Department of Social Work, University of Limpopo, South Africa*

**Makhubele JC**

*Department of Social Work, University of Limpopo, South Africa*

**Nyahunda L**

*University of Limpopo, Department of Social Work, University of Limpopo, South Africa*

### Abstract

Disasters have devastating impact on the livelihoods of small-scale farmers in rural areas. In many case, the small-scale farmers are mainly vulnerable to disasters due to their lack of resources to cope with them. This paper was aimed at exploring the social effects of natural disasters on small-scale farmers in rural areas. The study adopted a qualitative research approach and case study design. The study was conducted at Runnymede village in Tzaneen and 10 participants were purposively sampled to form part of focus group discussion. The data was collected until the level of saturation and analysed thematically using thematic content analysis. The study found that small-scale farmers have challenges in accessing their small-holding farms, others end up being homeless, displaced, experienced health related risk and some psychological effects as a result of disasters. The participants indicated that due to natural disasters, they were unable to access their small-holding farms. This is due to the fact that people in low-resourced and under-developed areas, with low socio-economic conditions are unable to build shelters that are strong enough to withstand heavy storm. Accordingly, the study recommends better infrastructure and drainage systems to deal with heavy rainfall and avoid floods.

**Keywords:** natural disasters, effects, small-scale farmers, displacement, health-related risk.

Full Text: [PDF](#)



This work is licensed under [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

European Journal of Economics, Law and Social Sciences ISSN 2519-1284 (print) ISSN 2510-0429 (online)

Copyright © IIPCCCL-International Institute for Private, Commercial and Competition law