

Brief Report on Tsunami Ready Activities at Eriyad Panchayat

Report prepared by

**College of Climate Change and Environmental Science
Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur**



Activities Conducted for Tsunami Ready Program at Eriyad Panchayats

As part of the **Tsunami Ready Program**, initiated by the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) and the College of Climate Change and Environmental Science (CCCES), Kerala Agricultural University (KAU), a series of detailed and community-driven activities were conducted at Eriyad Panchayat along with the help and assistance from DDMA, Thrissur. The program aimed to prepare coastal communities for tsunami-related emergencies through capacity building, community engagement, and practical preparedness exercises.

The activities included consultation meetings, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), training programs and awareness campaigns. These initiatives were designed to empower communities, ensure effective planning, and promote sustainable disaster management practices.

1. Consultation Meetings with Stakeholders

Consultation meetings were conducted with local stakeholders, including panchayat representatives, fishermen, school authorities, elected representatives and community leaders. These meetings served as a platform to identify specific needs, vulnerabilities, and priorities. Participants actively contributed by sharing insights from past disaster experiences and offering suggestions for improving disaster preparedness and response mechanisms.





2. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)

PRA sessions were conducted to involve the community in identifying risks, resources, and evacuation strategies. Key activities included hazard mapping and social mapping. Community members actively participated, ensuring that the disaster management plans were tailored to their unique needs and geographic characteristics. To check the knowledge about climate change and disasters, a questionnaire (Google form) was created incorporating questions regarding climate change and disaster management.

2.1. Social survey

A socio-economic survey was conducted at Eriyad Panchayat as a part of PRA activities to assess the living conditions, income levels, employment status, education, and access to basic amenities among residents. The survey aimed to identify key socio-economic challenges and opportunities for development within the community. Data was collected through household interviews and questionnaires, providing valuable insights into the economic disparities, occupational patterns, and social well-being of the population. The findings will help local authorities and policymakers implement targeted welfare programs and infrastructure improvements to enhance the overall quality of life in Eriyad Panchayat. Detailed report on the survey is attached separately.





3. Awareness Programs

Awareness campaigns were conducted to educate both the general public and local representatives about tsunami risks, early warning systems, and disaster preparedness measures.

a) For the General Public

Awareness sessions focused on creating a basic understanding of tsunamis, their causes, and the potential impact on the local community. Key elements included:

- **Tsunami Basics:** Informing the public about tsunami triggers, such as undersea earthquakes, and the associated risks for coastal areas.
- **Early Warning Systems:** Explaining how early warning messages are disseminated through SMS, sirens, radio, and TV, and how the public should respond to these alerts.
- **Evacuation Procedures:** Educating the community about safe zones, evacuation routes, and assembly points.
- **Household Preparedness:** Encouraging families to prepare emergency kits, including essentials such as food, water, first-aid supplies, and important documents.

These sessions were conducted through interactive community gatherings and visual presentations to ensure effective communication and engagement.



b) For Representatives and Leaders

Specialized training and awareness programs were conducted for panchayat members, ward members, and local leaders. These sessions focused on:

- **Disaster Management Roles:** Clarifying the roles and responsibilities of elected representatives during emergencies, including decision-making and resource mobilization.
- **Coordination with Agencies:** Training representatives on how to coordinate with KSDMA, DDMA, coastal police, and other first responders.
- **Community Leadership:** Building their capacity to guide and support the community during disasters, including leading evacuation efforts and addressing public concerns.
- **Policy Advocacy:** Encouraging representatives to incorporate disaster risk reduction measures into local development plans.

The targeted sessions ensured that local leaders were well-prepared to act as effective facilitators during emergencies.

4. Training Programs for Map Preparation and Disaster Planning

Selected community members and local leaders were trained to prepare hazard maps and evacuation plans. Training programs included the use of GPS tools enabling participants to create accurate maps of hazard-prone areas and safe zones. These maps have become vital resources for the community to rely on during tsunami emergencies.





5. Outcomes and Impact

The activities under the Tsunami Ready Program have achieved the following:

- Increased awareness among the public about tsunami risks and response strategies.
- Development of community-specific hazard and resource maps.
- Enhanced preparedness among elected representatives and community leaders.
- Strengthened collaboration between the community and disaster management authorities.

Conclusion

The PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal) activities and related initiatives conducted at Eriyad Panchayat as part of the Tsunami Ready Program have significantly enhanced community preparedness and resilience. Through participatory mapping, risk assessment, and capacity-building exercises, residents gained a better understanding of tsunami risks and response strategies. Awareness campaigns and evacuation drills have strengthened the local disaster management framework. These efforts ensure that Eriyad Panchayat is better equipped to respond effectively to potential tsunami threats, safeguarding lives and livelihoods in the coastal region.

The Tsunami Ready Program at Eriyad Panchayat has successfully integrated scientific knowledge with local participation, ensuring practical, inclusive, and sustainable disaster preparedness. By engaging the general public, representatives, and local leaders, the program has laid a strong foundation for building disaster-resilient communities along Kerala's coast.