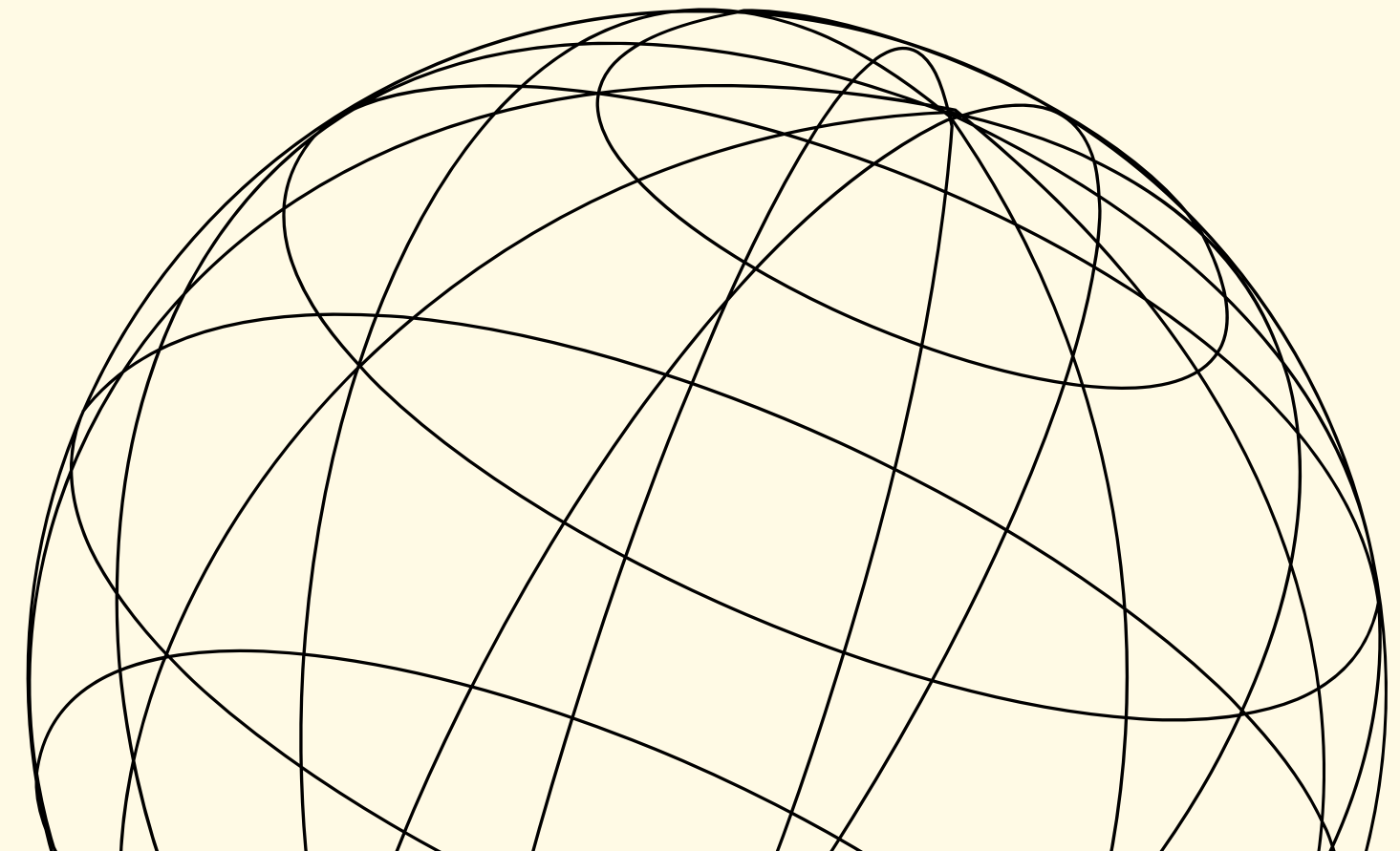


# CLIMATE CHANGE AND MODERN SLAVERY



Understanding the impacts of a changing climate  
on human mobility and decision making



# 01 - CONTENTS

- Overview of the climate change and trafficking paradigm
- Quantitative Findings from B -PEMS
- Qualitative Findings from B -PEMS
- Programming resilience into anti -trafficking



# 02 - HUMAN SYSTEMS AND THE CLIMATE



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- Bangladesh's low-lying geography, high population density, agriculture-dependent livelihoods, and vulnerability to natural disasters make it one of the most climate-vulnerable nations.
- Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre estimates 14.1 million people were internally displaced in Bangladesh between 2015 – 2023 as a result of climatic disasters.
- Two sides to the climate change induced modern slavery paradigm – i) via displacements; ii) in-situ risky decision making.
- Let's focus first on in-situ decision making and its underpinnings.



# 03 – FINDINGS FROM B-PEMS

- Large scale panel surveys conducted by the B -PEMS project in 11 districts of the country.
- Participants were asked to recall climactic events in the last three years.
- Includes floods, droughts, tidal surges, waterlogging etc.

Number of events	Frequency of responses (N)	Percent	Cumulative
1	1749	32.39	32.39
2	539	9.98	42.37
3	451	8.35	50.72
4+	180	3.35	54.07
No such events	2480	45.93	100
Total	5399	100	



# 04 – FINDINGS FROM B-PEMS



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- Floods were the most commonly reported climactic disaster experienced by respondents.
- Respondents were most likely to have experienced flooding in situ (as in, close to their homes).

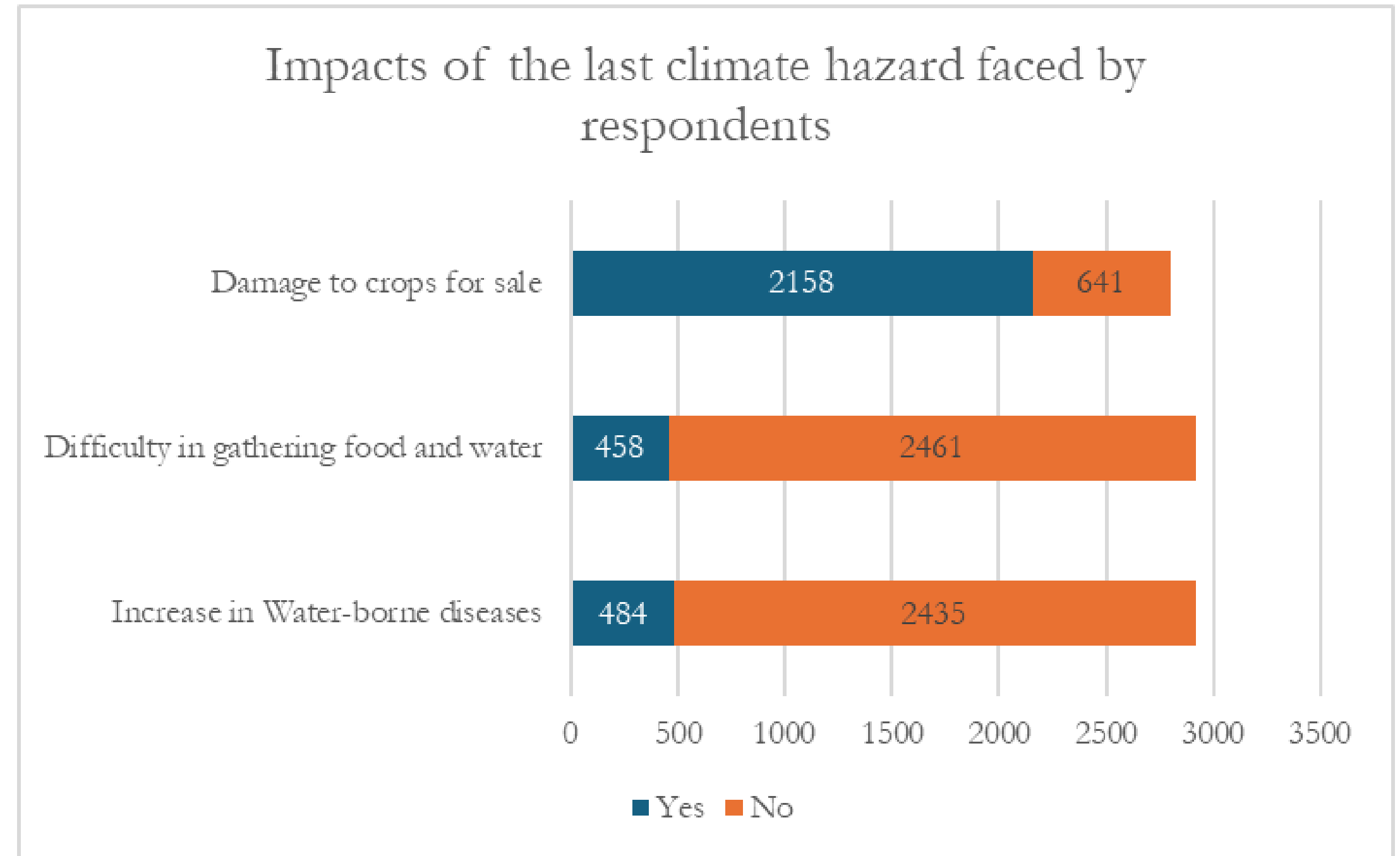
Type of events	Individuals reporting event	(N)	Percentage
Flood	1539	2920	53%
Drought	395	2920	14%
Cyclones	1167	2920	40%
Waterlogging	222	2920	8%
River bank erosion	67	2920	2%
Tidal Surge	62	2920	2%





## 05 – FINDINGS FROM B-PEMS

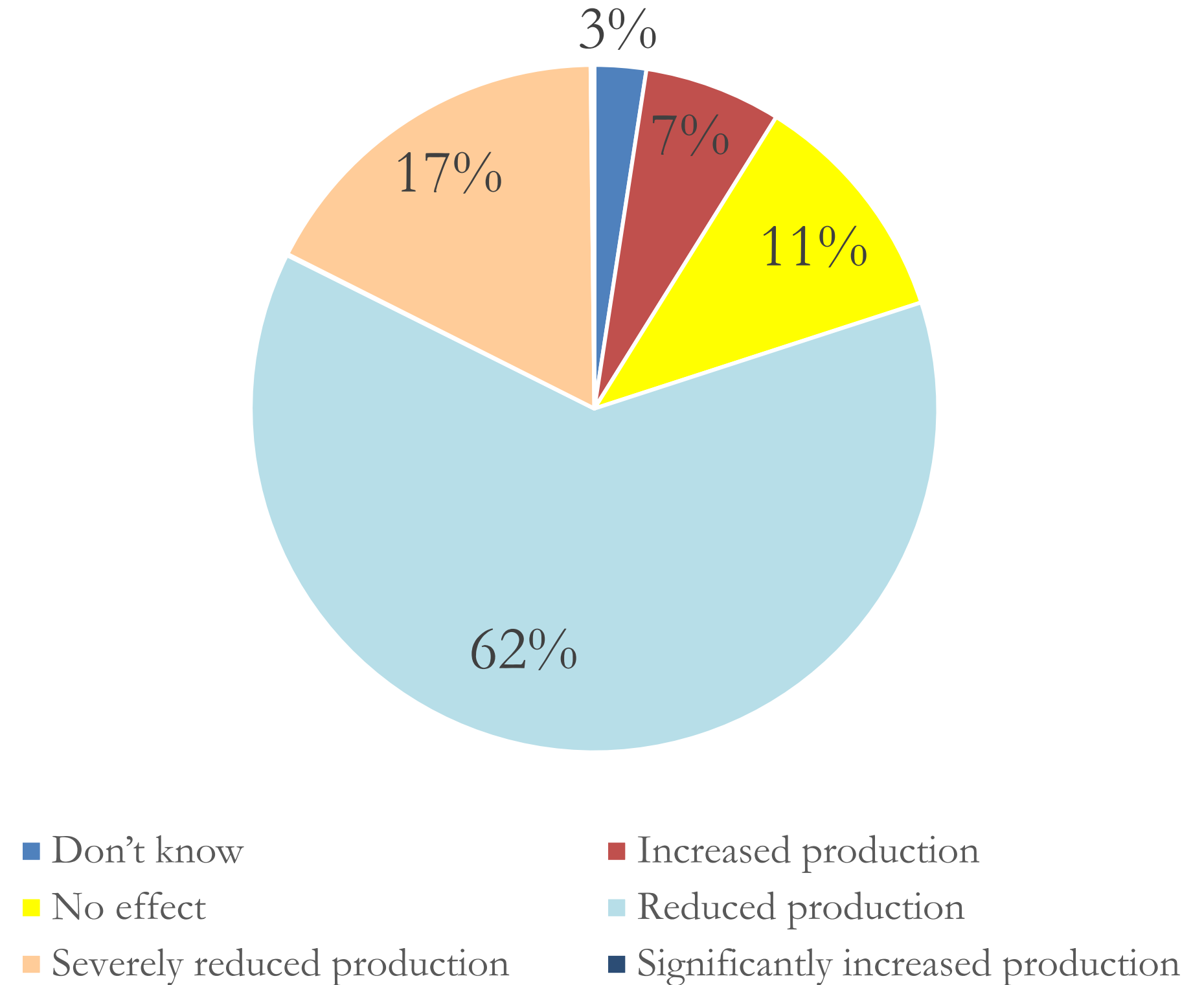
- Climactic hazards created different kinds of pressures on the communities.
- 77% reported damage to their crops while close to 14% reported that during the last disaster food and water were difficult to obtain.



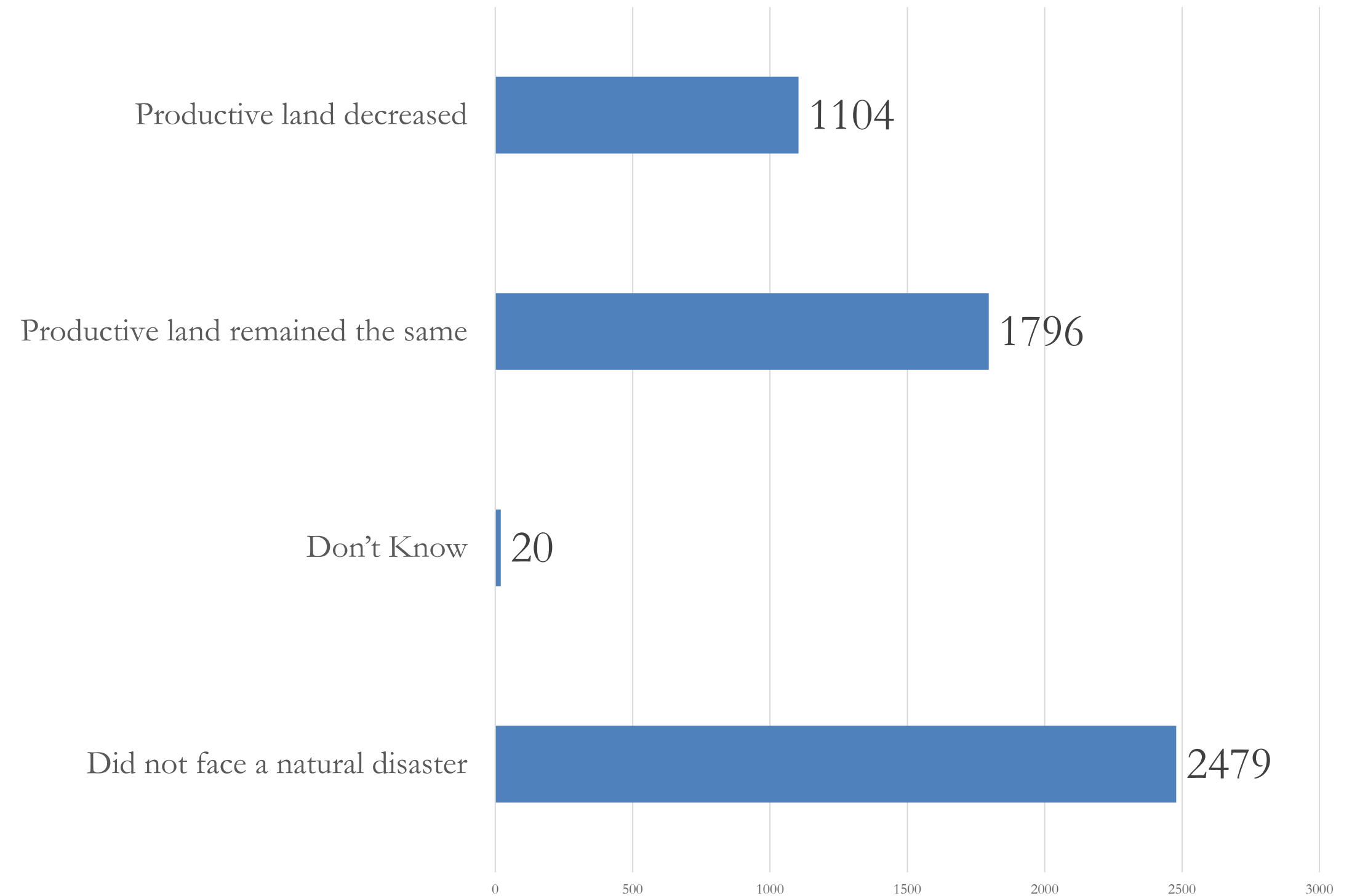
## Impact of Changing Weather on Crop / Fish Production

## 06 – FINDINGS FROM B-PEMS

- In most cases, decrease in production was not a one-time thing.
- 62% of respondents reported that their output had reduced as a result of changing / unpredictable weather over the last 10 years.
- 17% reported that it had severely reduced their production.



Change of holding of productive land due to climate hazards over ten years



## 07 – FINDINGS FROM B-PEMS

- Climate change has impacted not just productivity over the years but size of productive land holding.
- In the past ten years, 20.4% of respondents reported having had their productive land size decreased directly as a result of climate hazards / natural disasters.



# 08 – FINDINGS FROM B-PEMS



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- The decrease in productive capacities, and thereby earnings, has not translated adequately into adaptive capabilities of households.
- This leaves households with the potential for taking risky mobility decisions that engender pathways into trafficking and modern slavery.

In the past 10 years, have you or someone in your household started or joined a new business or trade to counteract climate losses?	Frequency of responses (N)	Percent	Cumulative
Yes	118	2.19	2.19
No	5281	97.81	100.00
Total	5399	100	

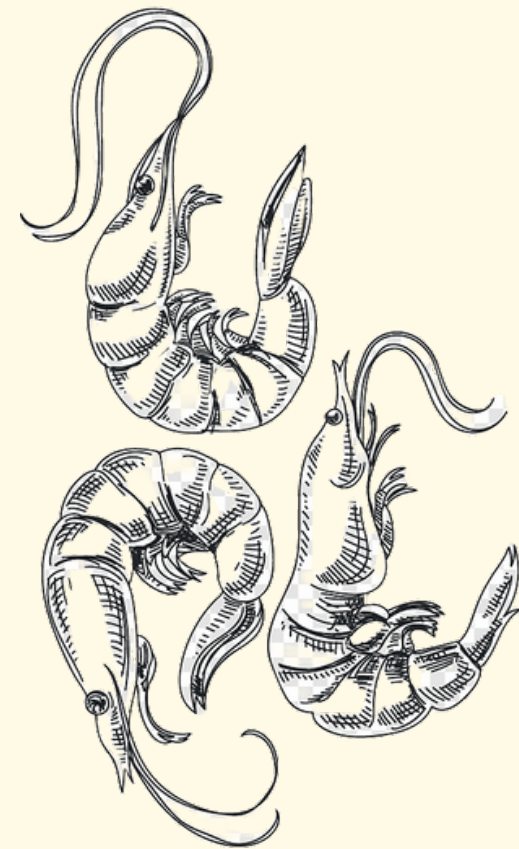


# 09 – QUALITATIVE FINDINGS FROM B-PEMS



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- Climate change magnifies the potential to take risky mobility decisions.
- Poor shrimp farmers in Southern Bangladesh have their fields perennially water-logged due to collusion between the state and large businesses.
- Increasing temperatures and frequency of cyclones forces them to abandon investment in their shrimp ponds.
- Unable to subsist on their produce, farmers decide to engage in domestic and irregular cross-border migration.
- Working informally in construction and brick kilns leaves them vulnerable to deportation, abuse of rights and withholding of pay.
- The changing climate exacerbates an already vulnerable situation.

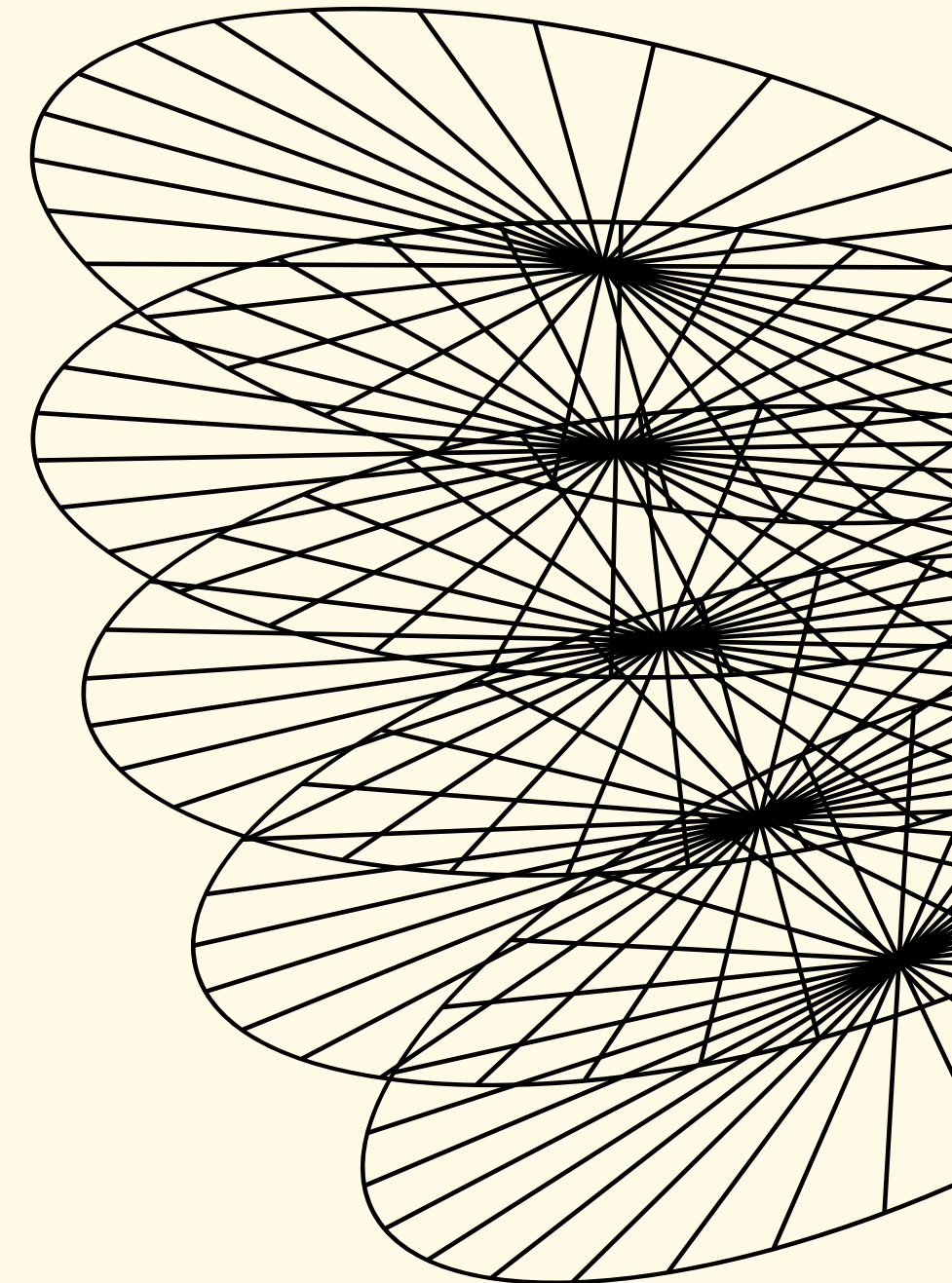


# 10 – QUALITATIVE FINDINGS FROM B-PEMS

- Climate change impacts act as a catalyst in taking decisions on mobility.
- Families in the central region who have faced persistent loss of homes due to river erosion are deprived from state support and rehabilitation.
- Young men from the region regularly opt for irregular migration pathways into the Middle East, Malaysia and Europe.
- Individuals having faced deportation in foreign countries continue to seek out other options for irregular migration.
- Erosion of homes and productive lands, coupled with a lack of adaptive solutions in -situ leads to big gambles on international migration.



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# 11- ADAPTATION AS PREVENTION

- It is important to situate impacts of climate change in the context of existing marginalisation of vulnerable communities.
- How can we imagine the 'Prevention' paradigm in this context?
- The B-PEMS project looks at adaptation and resilience building as a key factor in reducing these risks.
- Resilience - Mobilizing communities to pressure local government for rehabilitation or better governance.
- Adaptation - Adopting flood-tolerant or saline tolerant crop varieties to reduce economic pressure during lean seasons.
- *Awareness* –Increased awareness leading to informed and safe migration decisions.
- *Capacitation* -

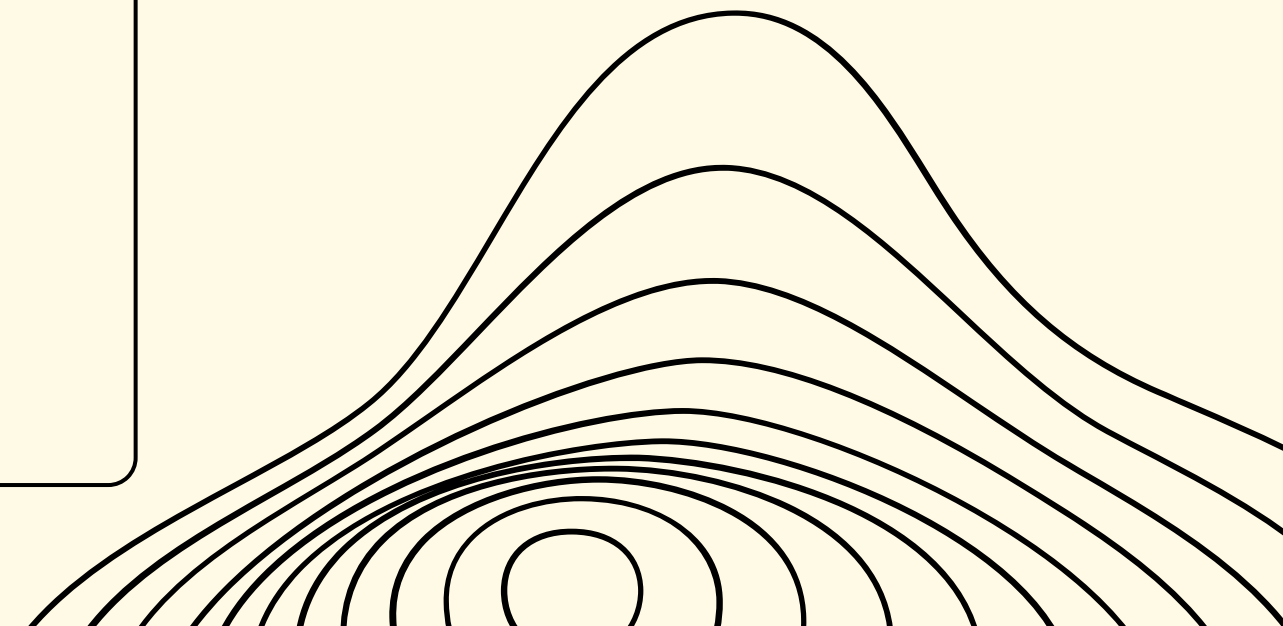


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# QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- How can we reimagine the prevention paradigm to be more effective in the context of a changing climate?
- Would climate adaptation and resilience building 'work' as prevention?
- What are some other ways in which we can program climate change considerations into anti-trafficking work?





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**THANK YOU!**

