

Evolution of Agricultural Insurance

18th Century

Origins date back to farmer mutual insurance companies in Europe in the mid-18th Century for livestock mortality and crop hail

20th Century

Emigrating farmers took crop hail to North America, Latin America, South Africa and Oceania at the start of the 20th century

1945

Post second world war, many governments formed **public sector crop insurers** to offer subsidised crop insurance to small farmers. Most of these programs failed with high underwriting losses (see Hazell et al. 1986)

• 1990s

Since the 1990s, there has been a proliferation of **Public Private Partnerships** PPPs for agricultural insurance (See Mahul & Stutley 2010: <u>download here</u>)



Rationale for public intervention in agriculture insurance

Agricultural insurance markets often suffer from market inefficiencies and information asymmetries:

SUPPLY

- Limited availability of adequate data for product design and pricing (agricultural and meteorological) due to weak data infrastructure and systems
- Geographically disbursed farmers are hard to reach, leading to high cost of last-mile distribution
- Limited underwriting and financial capacity of domestic insurers
- Limited provision of reinsurance by international reinsurers due to low understanding and appetite

DEMAND

- Affordability majority of small-scale producers have low disposable incomes
- Low understanding and trust in insurance
- Low access Limited or seasonal presence of service providers results in limited transactions and lower quality of service
- Lack of access to customized products or services due to low profitability of the segment (not being the target customer segment for the insurance providers)



Government support can span both technical and financial roles

Potential Roles of Government



Facilitate outreach and stimulate demand



Link to social Society nets





Link to credit



Built awareness

Support development of lastmile distribution channels



Training of insurance sales agents



Facilitate the use of technology



Develop access & market linkages:

- Link to input schemes
- Link to credit schemes
- Link to other services e.g., agribusiness/information



Financial Support





Policy & Market development support





Act as reinsurer of last resort



Promote coinsurance pool

Support for product design and development



Product development and pricing (short run)



Technical support for insurers (long run)

Enabling environment



Institutional framework



Legal framework



Consumer protection



The shift towards Public-Private Partnerships



Government sets terms and conditions and operates through nationally owned mono-line insurance company, typically as a monopoly

- ✓ High penetration | Well diversified portfolios | Social criteria prioritized
- Poor services to the farmers (usually monopoly) | Usually not reinsured so Governments assume full liability | High Fiscal Cost for Governments

Examples: India (former NAIS); Mexico (former ANAGSA); China (former PICC); Panama (ISA); Philippines (PCIC); Canada (several provinces), Brazil (former COSEP)



Coinsurance arrangements usually sets terms and conditions. Insurance companies competes for service. Public sector provides the plans /guidelines and financial stability

- Moderate to high penetration | Well Diversified Portfolios | Technical and Commercial criteria balanced with social criteria
- Difficult to establish | high costs of coordination |

Examples: Spain, Turkey, Italy, Mexico, Brazil, USA, China, India, South Korea, Kenya, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia





