Review of: "The Consequences of Political and Economic Choices: Exploring Disaster Vulnerability with the Structure, Resource, and Behaviour Change model (SRAB)"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is an interesting article. The paper looks at the disaster vulnerability from the Structure, Resources and Behavior Change Model. The Authors have used this conceptual approach to examine the disaster vulnerability in Sok Trang Province in the Mekong Delta in Vietnam by pick up a case study in one commune which is the Tan Hung Commune. To do so, the Authors examine the rice production in relation to policy framework, natural resources changing, water resource governance, the government policy to develop the irrigation system in response to shortage of water that affect the rice production in the Mekong and the choices of farmers to grow the rice crop 3.

Indeed, the Authors have presented a clear outline, the conceptual frameworks of vulnerability, the methodology, the finding, the discussion and conclusion. The Authors have presented a strong conceptual framework, which outlines the structural changes affect the resource uses and behavioral changes. They have also concluded that structural changes have affected the resource uses, particularly water management and the changes in behaviors in rice farming among farmers to cultivate the rice crop 3, which at the end brings the vulnerability to them. However, the findings somehow do not fully address what discuss in the conceptual frameworks. I see these issues in different ways:

1. Data presented in the key finding is more or less about the rice production and its policy alone. I doubt that other policies such as climate change, regional water governance, industrial uses of water, etc., do reflect in the analysis and they have also affected the rice production, water, and behaviors of farmers in VMD.
2. I also see the issue of climate change as part of this overarching effects on water, which cause water shortage and also salinity.
3. Where is the hydropower effects in the Mekong Region that undermine the water flow and the effect on the agriculture? I did not see the discussion around the impacts of hydropower dams on changing river flow and the salinity in the VMD. Where are the effects of 15 Vietnamese hydropower dams in the Sesan and Srepok River Basin in the 3S Region on the Mekong Delta.
4. On the other hand, I view the choice for rice crop 3 is an economics choice, which farmers seek to improve their economic incomes. By choosing to grow crop 3, they will make more incomes. Also, this is a way in which farmers build adaption to changing environment, climate change and salinity. This is a pro-active activity that Vietnamese farmers have instead of waiting for the government intervention in the context of changing environment, which is a good and right initiative.

The discussion and conclusion are somehow based on a Tan Hung Commune, which is to some extent difficult to generalize the situation for the entire VMD, and it is hard from my view to generalize that these will lead to vulnerability. The discussion is also narrow framewed within the Vietnese context, policy, and practice, not in exchange with other place or contrines or region. Are there any cases in other places of other countries or regions that share these similarities or differences. I would suggest if the Authors could fill these gaps by providing more data and information.