ASEAN Food Security Information System

The Earthquake in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia

The earthquake in Central Sulawesi on June 16, 2026

On June 16, 2026, a magnitude 6.7 earthquake struck Central Sulawesi, Indonesia, with its epicenter located approximately 42 km southeast of Palu City at a depth of around 10 km. The earthquake caused casualties, injuries, and widespread damage to homes and infrastructure. It was followed by at least 71 aftershocks, prompting residents to evacuate buildings and gather in open areas due to concerns about further seismic activity.

The earthquake occurred in a region with a history of destructive seismic events. Many residents were reminded of the devastating magnitude 7.5 earthquake and tsunami that struck Palu in 2018, causing more than 4,340 fatalities, as well as the magnitude 6.2 earthquake that affected Mamuju in 2021.

Indonesia is highly vulnerable to earthquakes and volcanic activity because it is located along the Pacific Ring of Fire, where several active tectonic plates meet, making seismic events frequent throughout the country.

Damage and losses

Impact on the affected area

The earthquake caused extensive damage to agricultural infrastructure and facilities, including agricultural warehouses, post-harvest machinery and equipment, drying floors, farm access roads, agricultural offices, and irrigation canals. Although the earthquake affected several areas in Central Sulawesi—namely Sigi District, Parigi Moutong District, and Palu City—the most severe impacts were concentrated in Sigi District. At present, no official data are available regarding the total agricultural area affected.

A total of nine agricultural warehouses were damaged by the earthquake. Of these, four warehouses sustained heavy damage, including two units in Kamamora A Village and two units in Kamamora B Village (Sigi District). These structures completely collapsed and are no longer usable. In Sopu Village (Sigi District), two warehouses sustained moderate damage, mainly characterized by significant wall splitting, while three additional warehouses experienced light damage, primarily consisting of structural cracks.

The earthquake also severely affected post-harvest processing facilities. A total of five Rice Milling Units (RMUs) sustained heavy damage, including three units in Kamamora A Village and two units in Kamamora B Village. All of these facilities were buried beneath collapsed buildings, rendering them completely inoperable.

Drying facilities were also impacted. Seven drying floor areas sustained damage, with two areas in Kamamora A Village classified as heavily damaged due to severe cracking and surface splitting. In Sopu Village, five drying floor areas experienced light damage, mainly

consisting of partial surface cracks. In addition, one drying floor area in Uenuni Village (Sigi District) was also reported to have been affected.

Agricultural transportation infrastructure experienced relatively minor damage. A total of seven farm access roads and general access routes sustained light damage, including two roads in Kamamora A Village, one in Kamamora B Village, three in Sopu Village, and one in Palolo Sub-district. The damage was mainly characterized by partial cracking and splitting of the road surfaces.

The earthquake also damaged agricultural machinery and equipment. Five units were reported as affected, including four vertical dryers in Uenuni Village. Among these, one unit sustained moderate damage, while the remaining three experienced light damage. In addition, one corn sheller in Palolo Sub-district (Sigi District) sustained light damage after being struck by falling debris, resulting in visible dents.

One Agricultural Extension Center Office (Balai Penyuluhan Pertanian, BPP) in Kamamora A Village sustained severe damage. The building suffered a collapsed roof and walls, rendering the facility unusable.

Furthermore, two tertiary irrigation canal units in Uenuni Village (Sigi District) sustained light damage as a result of the earthquake.

Agricultural devastation

Agricultural land: No official reports have yet quantified the damage on agricultural crops.

Affected crops: No official reports have yet quantified the damage on agricultural crops.

Government responses and countermeasures

Assessment activities were conducted by the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) Central Sulawesi Province in coordination with local authorities and relevant stakeholders. Rapid assessments focused on evaluating structural damage, accessibility, and the immediate impacts of the earthquake. The assessment process remained ongoing, and additional information was expected as more comprehensive field data became available.

Sources:

1. Food Crops and Horticulture Office of Central Sulawesi Province, Indonesia
2. Reliefweb (2026, June 16) IDN: Earthquake - 06-2026 - Central Sulawesi Earthquake - Magnitude 6.7 (2026-06-16)
3. The Associated Press (2026, June 17) A 6.7 magnitude earthquake shakes part of Indonesia, killing at least 1, causing damage and injuries.