

Country: Thailand

Focus of case study: Flood preparedness

Summary: The Songkhram River is an important branch of the Mekong River in the Sakon Nakhon basin in Northeast Thailand. The Lower Songkhram River Basin is a flood-plain area with freshwater swamp forests, swamps, marshlands and small streams. Floods do not often lead to deaths, though they do cause a large amount of damage to housing, paddy fields, and equipment. Communities in the Lower Songkhram River Basin have developed a number of ways to deal with floods. Early warning and preparedness includes stocking rice for the household and placing the storage containers in a high place in case of a flood. People who earn their living through fishing have developed a wide range of equipment that is appropriate to the conditions in the rivers and other wetlands. For example, when the water level is high, they use traps or fishing hooks. When it is low, they use *mong* and *uan tap taling*, a type of net that is anchored along the riverbank. People have adapted rice farming for different seasons. In years past, people practiced *na pree*, which is planting during the wet season. After repeated floods, they changed to practice *na prang*. *Na prang* is planting during the dry season, also practiced. In addition to varying the crop calendar, villagers also cope with climate variability by planting suitable rice varieties. Another way of coping with climate risks is to increase certain existing activities. People in Pak Yam catch fish in times of floods to buy rice and some villagers migrate to Bangkok, or abroad, to find employment.

Class of adaptation practice:
diversification, storage, exchange,
communal pooling, mobility

External support: financial

Local rural institutions: social

External institutions: social

Capacity building: information exchange/
coordination among groups, ability to plan
and strategize, ability to maintain
operations and improve production,
inclusion of women and youth

Source: Source: UNFCCC Local Coping Strategies Database: “Preparing For Floods in Northeastern Thailand.”
