



# ***The value of collective and individual assets in building urban community resilience***

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# Introduction

- The Bangkok Metropolitan Region (BMR), an area with a population of 10.07 million (2007) and Thailand's economic and political capital city, is at risk from the impacts of climate change, alongside other environmental hazards including pollution of air and waterways.
- The BMR has faced such hazards before, notably the 2011 floods, and the likelihood of future such events is high. It is important to ensure that all residents of the BMR are able to prepare for future potential shocks, and that no one gets left behind.

# Objectives

- To understand how organised urban communities in Bangkok are planning for and responding to environmental and other crises, in order to identify approaches to fostering more sustainable, inclusive and resilient urban development.
- To explore how low-income communities in Bangkok prepare for a potential shock such as flooding, drought or an economic crisis.

# Research Questions

1. What are existing adaptive mechanisms of households for crises?
2. Do communities have collective resilience strategies and what role do community assets play?

# Methodology – Case Studies

- We focus on urban and peri-urban communities which had experience of the collective upgrading program Baan ManKong ('secure housing')

<b>Communities</b>	<b>Number of Households</b>	<b>Average Income</b>	<b>Type of Employment</b>	<b>Established Year</b>	<b>Type of Tenure</b>
<b>Royklong</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>More than 20,000</b>	<b>Business, Self-employment, Farmer</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Baan ManKong land lease</b>
<b>Sirin&amp;Friend</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>5,000-10,000</b>	<b>Self-employment</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Baan Mankong land purchase</b>
<b>Rangsit</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>More than 20,000</b>	<b>Self-employment</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Baan ManKong land purchase</b>

# Findings: Answering Research Questions (1)

## ***What are existing adaptive mechanisms of households for crises?***

- Respondents to the household questionnaires generally demonstrated that they were able to take short-term actions to cope with the effects of a crisis

## ***Do communities have collective resilience strategies and what role do community assets play?***

- The responses from the surveys suggest a lack of long term planning in terms of how to use resources in the community to plan for the future, even in the case of crises that they had previously faced. There seemed to be more reliance on external support and networks

# Findings: Answering Research Questions (2)

Example of willingness to adapt to various assets and crises

**Table 2: Households' willingness to adapt in order to deal with future crises**

Asset	In the future, there are possibilities of several different crises. Do you want to invest or adapt in the management of each asset? How?	Frequency		
		Royklong Community	Sirin and Friend Community	Sangsan Nakhon Rangsit Community
Food	Plant Vegetable	39	81	30
	Change the planting way	40	25	29
	Plant and change planting way		18	3
	No preparation		4	
<b>Total</b>		79	128	62

# Discussion

- As Baan Mankong upgrading gets completed, community leaders involved in that process are beginning to fade out to more of a beneficiary-style approach where residents wait for external support.
- Our fieldwork also shows that households are able to cope with crises, and that there is autonomous adaptation taking place based on lived experiences. This is an area where local knowledge can be used in conjunction with technical specialist knowledge and planning.
- A history of past crises, particularly flood crises, being met with provision of external relief efforts to affected communities, risks creating an expectation of future such assistance being provided, to the detriment of taking longer-term preparatory action to reduce the impact of such crises, There is an opportunity for communities to make use of their past collective action to continue this for initiatives



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