

Water Resources Management in Action: Lesson Learn from Thailand

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ABSTRACT

Water management is a critical issue in Thailand. Particularly in the central lowland region, where much of the land is dedicated to commercial agriculture. Promoting local community participation in shaping policies and developing models for water resource diversion is therefore of paramount importance. Insights derived from case studies in Suphanburi Province indicate that participatory processes that enable community members to engage in learning about watershed mapping and sustainable water resource utilization have significantly enhanced their decision-making capacity. When communities are empowered to negotiate with government agencies on water resource management, the potential for conflicts between governmental bodies and local stakeholders diminishes. This empowerment fosters improved collaboration and trust between communities and government organizations. Consequently, community members exhibit higher levels of satisfaction and a willingness to cooperate with state-led water management initiatives. Additionally, the participatory approach has elevated awareness about the importance of engaging in activities aimed at enhancing agricultural income. These activities incorporate technologies that not only boost productivity but also mitigate the financial burdens associated with flooding and drought.

Keywords: water resources; local management; Thailand; participation; community