

## **Impacts of Flash Flood on Farmers' Livelihoods in Upland Areas: A Case Study of Rice Production in Nathen Village, Kasi District, Vientiane Province, Lao PDR**

**Author** Phomma Thammavong  
**Country** Lao PDR  
**University** Khon Kaen University  
**Degree** MS  
**Course** Rural Development Management  
**Study** Independent Study Report  
**Year** 2015

### **Abstract**

This research aims to fulfill four main objectives: 1) To understand the natural characteristics of flash floods; 2) To study the impacts of flash floods on the livelihood of rice production farmers; 3) To identify coping strategies of the farmers against the flash floods in relation to gender role; and 4) To formulate guidelines on how to mitigate the impact of flash floods on the farmers' agricultural livelihood.

Nathen village is located in Kasi district in the northern part of Vientiane province in Lao PDR. This is a case study where quantitative and qualitative approaches were applied. A household questionnaire interview was conducted with 40 flood affected household members and 15 household members were selected for an in-depth interview with some key informants including relevant government agencies, chief of the village and development organizations (NGOs). Furthermore, two (2) focus group discussions were conducted with 10 respondents — the village head, an NGO staff, a local government official, a committee member tasked to prevent and control disasters of the village, the head of youth union, the head of women union, and four villagers.

Findings indicate that many household members, including men and women, have experienced heavy flash floods, which were caused by the overflowing of the Lik river due to the unusual heavy rains and storms. The flash floods affected the agricultural production areas like rice and crop production, including livestock, household assets, health care, facilities, and other belongings. When faced with flash floods, both men and women played various important roles as coping strategies which could be classified as risk reduction, risk mitigation, or risk coping strategies. The local communities were given the power and responsibility to decide and choose an appropriate flash flood risk management strategy such as distribution of in-kind supports.