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Kamla-Raj JHE 2024

PRINT: ISSN 0970-9274 ONLINE: ISSN 2456-6322

J Hum Ecol, 86(1-3): 1-9 (2024)

DOI: 10.31901/24566608.2024/86.1-3.3356

A Multi-Domain Assessment of Flood Adaptive Capacity: A Case Study

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KEYWORDS Adaptation. Vulnerable Population. Embankments. Barak Valley. Asset

ABSTRACT Enhancing flood-affected people's adaptive capacity is necessary as structural measures fail to mitigate its impacts. This research investigates the flood-coping ability of the selected population of Barak Valley, Assam, utilising ten indicators distributed across six adaptive capacity domains. The data obtained from household surveys indicates limited access to credit (46%) and remittances (34%), and moderate saving rate (52%) in the asset domain. Very few respondents (12.4%) experienced occupational changes in the livelihood flexibility domain, but 55.6 percent engaged in multiple economic sectors. Social organisation is robust, with a significant portion of respondents (60.2%) affiliated with local institutions and trusting government organisations. In the agency domain, many believed participating in local decision-making was relevant (57%). Regarding flood risks, the majority (76.7%) believed they were worsening. Adaptive capacities exhibited variations across domains, with their distribution notably influenced by the income levels of households.