

Thailand's RID and UNDP Team Up to Boost Yom-Nan Basin Resilience

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In a decisive move to address the increasing threats of floods and droughts in Thailand's Yom-Nan River Basin, the Royal Irrigation Department (RID), in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has launched a new climate resilience project with support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

At the heart of this initiative is a commitment to Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)—a strategy that combines engineering with nature-based solutions—and robust community engagement. The project aims to enhance water resource management and agricultural resilience by harnessing modern technology, reliable data, and inclusive infrastructure development.

Nature and Technology Join Forces

One of the project's key goals is to empower local farmers through access to real-time weather and water data, enabling them to better plan planting cycles and reduce exposure to extreme climate events. To ensure this data translates into action, training sessions will be held, helping farmers adopt improved practices that boost productivity while safeguarding natural resources.

In parallel, infrastructure upgrades will play a vital role. New floodgates will be constructed and existing ones modernized to better regulate water flow during heavy rains and dry spells. Complementing these developments, EbA strategies—such as wetland restoration and natural water retention systems—will be employed to restore ecological balance and buffer communities against climate shocks.

Community at the Core

Unlike top-down development models, this initiative puts local communities at the center. From planning to implementation, residents will have a voice in shaping the infrastructure improvements that affect their lives. This participatory approach ensures that solutions are not only technically sound but also socially relevant and sustainable.

Farmers will also receive training in climate-smart agriculture, learning to use water more efficiently and adopt resilient practices that can withstand changing weather patterns. Access to modern tools and expanded market opportunities will further help them build lasting economic and environmental resilience.

By weaving together data, technology, nature-based solutions, and community participation, this RID-UNDP collaboration marks a bold step toward climate adaptation in Thailand. It's a model that recognizes the complexity of environmental challenges and the need for equally nuanced, inclusive responses.