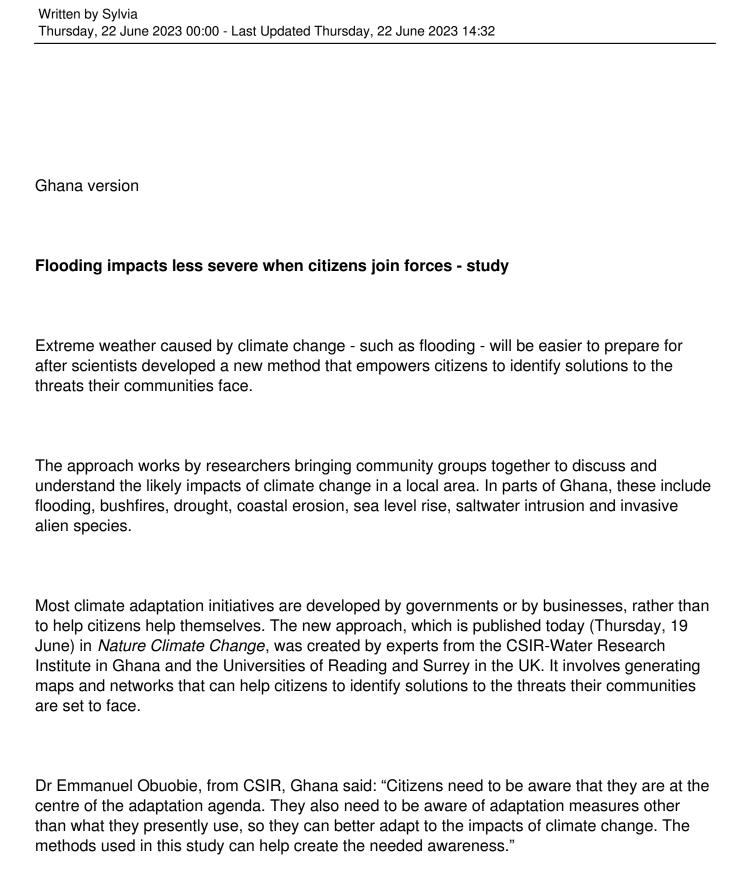
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Written by Sylvia Thursday, 22 June 2023 00:00 - Last Updated Thursday, 22 June 2023 14:32

Adaptation plans

The method was piloted by communities in the lower Volta Basin in Ghana. The citizens in each group worked together to discuss the actions that individuals can take to help protect themselves, their households and their communities from the consequences of climate threats. These included afforestation and storing freshwater, tree planting, dredging rivers and blocking flood channels with sandbags.

Participants discussed their shared experiences in putting in place these actions before developing their own 'personal adaptation plans', identifying which specific interventions they intended to pursue, how they might achieve them and the expected timeframe. Overall, participants found that the process increased their awareness and their preparedness for climate change impacts.

Global collaboration

The method was piloted internationally, namely in Reading, Oxford and Wallingford in the UK, and by villagers on Majuli Island in the Assam region of India with help from the Indian Institute of Management Nagpur.

In India, communities discussed major challenges from flooding and erosion impacting housing and vulnerable agriculture. Their solutions included short-term actions such as storing feed for livestock before floods and longer-term measures such as exploring alternative sources of income (such as fishing and weaving).

In the UK, groups discussed the impacts of flooding and heat stress. Actions included storing more long-life food and better-insulating homes from heat to help households respond to floods and heat waves. Proactive actions included lobbying the government for action to prevent the greatest impacts of climate change.

Participants from all three regions involved in the study shared their results and learned how their responses were applicable to where they lived. A participant from Ghana said: "I have

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more information on how other people are adapting to climate change in the UK and India and these are also applicable to me here in the village."

Notes to editors

"Empowering citizen-led adaptation to systemic climate change risks" will be published on Thursday, 22 June 2023 at 16:00 BST and 11:00 US Eastern Time.

The DOI number for the paper will be 10.1038/s41558-023-01712-6. Once the paper has been published online, it will be available at the following URL: https://www.nature.com/articles/s415 58-023-01712-6

Dr Emmanuel Obuobie is available for comment. Contact CSIR-Water Research Institute, Commercialization Division at +233202960900 or commercialdivision09@gmail.com to arrange.