

Manage waste in Ban Don Kho community, Na Riang Subdistrict, Phrom Khiri District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province.

Currently, the increasing amount of waste is a result of lifestyle changes among the population, driven by shifts in production and consumption behaviors. These factors have contributed to the rise in community waste. A survey on the waste problem in Ban Don Kho village, which consists of 287 households and a total population of 1,023 people, found that each household generates an average of about 30 kilograms of waste per month. The types of waste identified include 20 kilograms of wet waste per month and 10 kilograms of dry waste per month. This has led to impacts in the village, particularly waste management issues, affecting 84 people, or 48.24 percent of the population. The driving factors behind this waste generation have increased various pressures, especially due to the lack of cooperation and awareness among residents regarding proper waste management and sorting. As a result, the amount of waste has significantly increased. Improper waste disposal can impact disease control and prevention. Therefore, it is essential for the community to be educated on proper waste sorting and disposal methods.

The waste management operation using a community-based approach in Ban Don Kho village is carried out through the establishment of a working committee, consisting of community leaders, representatives from various households, and other relevant stakeholders within the community. The project began with a survey and data collection on the waste situation in the community, gathering information on the problems, waste volume, types, and community behavior regarding waste sorting. Meetings were held to explain the project, share findings on the waste issues, and jointly set agreements for community waste management. A village-wide community meeting was organized to enhance community capacity, with 140 participants (one representative from each household). Waste management rules for households and the community were established, such as reducing plastic bag usage in every household and sorting waste into wet waste, sellable waste, hazardous waste, and non-recyclable waste. Households were encouraged to create wet waste bins to reduce global warming or make bio-fermented liquids. Furthermore, every household was encouraged to bring sellable waste to monthly meetings. Additionally, the project provided education on the benefits of proper waste sorting and disposal, as well as the health impacts on families and the community, reaching all groups, including underprivileged individuals and migrant workers, to ensure proper waste management knowledge and practices. A learning exchange platform was also set up to review and summarize the lessons learned in order to foster cooperation between the village committee, leaders of various community groups, and relevant agencies. Monthly meetings were held to provide feedback within the community, ensuring the project's sustainability.

The approach to solving the waste management issues in Ban Don Kho village utilizes the community's potential, with support from local network partners. This collaboration has raised awareness among the residents about the importance of household waste management. Joint efforts

were made to establish a capable working group to manage the project, ensuring that households and underprivileged individuals in the community gain knowledge about proper waste management and actively participate in correct waste sorting. An environment conducive to community waste management was created, with signs and promotional symbols on waste sorting and management displayed throughout the community. A designated area for buying and selling recyclables was set up, along with information on waste management. Households adopted waste-sorting behaviors and found ways to utilize waste. It was found that 70% of participating households (98 out of 140 households) properly sorted and utilized waste. For the remaining households, waste generated from improper sorting and usage was reduced by 50%. The community became a model for waste sorting, achieving its target. Next year, the district plans to continue the waste management project, aiming to establish it as a learning hub for promoting community health and wellness in southern Thailand.