

Contents

I	FLOODS IN BANGLADESH	7
1	The Flood Action Plan (FAP)	7
2	Living despite, with, or from the Floods?	9
II	SCOPE OF THE RESEARCH	11
1	Region	11
2	Time and Place	12
3	Methods	16
3.1	Participation and Observation	16
3.2	Discussions	16
III	LIFE EXPERIENCES:	
	FACES OF THE RIVER	21
1	Environmental Change and Living Conditions	21
2	"The river destroys our houses"	22
3	"Floods are good"	26
3.1	Normal Floods	26
3.2	Excessive Floods: 1988	28
3.3	Drought: 1994	31
4	Local Knowledge: Reading the Signs	33
5	What the River does: Of God and Man	34
6	Intermediary Conclusion: Catastrophe or Crisis?	36
IV	PERSISTENCE THROUGH FLEXIBILITY:	
	THE EVERYDAY ART OF	
	CRISIS MANAGEMENT	40
1	Crisis and Local Scenario	40
2	Creating Security	43
2.1	The Material Culture	43
2.2	New Land	44
2.3	Cultivation Strategies	45

2.4	Capital	58
2.5	Network of Acquaintances	66
2.6	Network of Relatives	68
2.7	Crisis Culture	68
3	Behaviour in Crises	72
3.1	Selling Animals	73
3.2	Sale and Lease of Land	73
3.3	Labour	74
3.4	Fishing	74
V	CONCLUSION	76
VI	PERSPECTIVES:	
	IN THE ENGINEERS' BLIND SPOT	79
VII	APPENDIX	82
1	The Research Situation	82
2	Life Stories	85
3	The Components of the Flood Action Plan	95
4	Questionnaire	97
5	Glossary	99
6	Bibliography	101