

## **Building Rural Resilience Through Collaborative Governance: Insights from the Lai Chi Wo experience**

Rural resilience can be built into a rural system to help deal with shocks and uncertainties as well as better adapt to a changing world. Such resilience can be built through collaborative governance efforts. While several collaborative governance features are important, the role of effective learning and adaptation are highlighted here as being of particular interest. These features are significant as the ability of the rural system to adapt to uncertainties, particularly given the dynamism caused by urban influences, is essential in the maintenance and integrity of the system, not just during the revitalisation process but also for the sustainability of the rural community in the longer term.

One of the main aims of the Lai Chi Wo programme was to re-establish a vibrant farming community at the village. The traditional mode of farming, heavily focused on the large-scale production of rice from paddies, had proven unviable in the modern context. New forms of farming, with different crops and modes of production, had to then be trialled and experimented to adapt to the changing social and ecological demands of the village. In this way, a vibrant and productive farming community could be re-built, which could then form the backbone for revitalisation efforts.