



13 June 2025

Newsletter

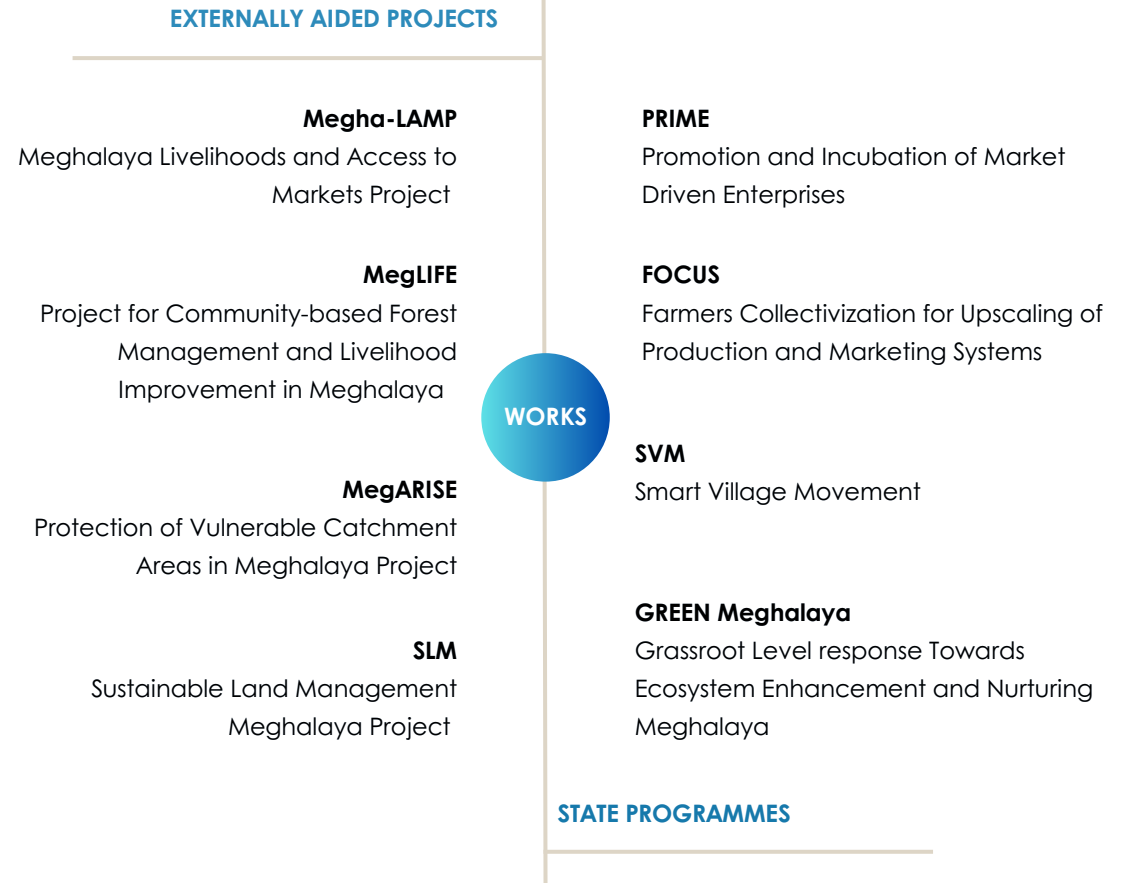
KEY HIGHLIGHTS

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

The Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA) and Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA) implement citizen-centric, community-driven projects to improve the quality of life for Meghalaya's citizens, bridge developmental gaps, and promote natural resource management, catchment area protection, forest management, agroecological practices, and market development. Incorporated under the State's Planning, Investment Promotion & Sustainable Development Department, MBMA and MBDA partner with multilateral agencies, banks, non-profits, UN organizations, government departments, and community groups to implement their works.

Coverage spans across Meghalaya through Externally Aided Projects (EAP) such as the IFAD-supported Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project (Megha-LAMP), the JiCA-funded Project for Community-based Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement in Meghalaya (MegLIFE), and the KfW Development Bank-funded projects - the Sustainable Land Management Meghalaya Project (SLM) and the Protection of Vulnerable Catchment Area in Meghalaya (MegARISE) Project.

State programmes being implemented include the Promotion and Incubation of Market-Driven Enterprises (PRIME), the Farmers Collectivization for Upscaling Production and Marketing Systems (FOCUS), and the Smart Village Movement (SVM).



MeghaLAMP
Meghalaya Livelihoods Access to Market Project
14 September 1998-2020



GREEN
MEGHALAYA
Grassroot Level Response towards Ecosystem Enhancement and Nurturing Meghalaya

Smart Village Movement™
In Alliance With Berkeley Haas



PRIME
MEGHALAYA



KEY UPDATES

13 June 2025

PROJECT FOR COMMUNITY - BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT AND LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT IN MEGHALAYA



Celebrating Environmental Champions on World Environment Day

On World Environment Day, individuals, communities, and institutions were celebrated for their efforts in protecting nature. Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Conrad K. Sangma awarded outstanding contributors under the MegLIFE project, supported by JICA. Village Project Implementation Committees (VPICs) were recognized for their work in soil and water conservation, restoring mining-affected lands, volunteering land for forest regeneration, and community support for natural resource management. These champions are making a real difference for a sustainable future.

KEY UPDATES

13 June 2025

PROJECT FOR COMMUNITY - BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT AND LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT IN MEGHALAYA



Community-Led Plantation Drive Marks World Environment Day 2025 Across Meghalaya

On World Environment Day 2025, the MegLIFE project celebrated a state-wide community-driven plantation campaign across Meghalaya, led by VPICs, SHGs, students, teachers, and project staff. The initiative covered over 79 hectares of land, with more than 400–500 saplings planted at multiple locations, including 814 saplings in Dobu Kosi, 723 in Dobakol Changgalgittim, 350 in Agrenggittim, 208 in Saipung, and 200 in Malchapara. Significant areas included 12.2 hectares in KUT, 13 hectares in Maringpara (Zikzak), 11.84 hectares in Awro (Mawkyrwat), 10.63 hectares in Malchapara (Betasing), 8 hectares in Saipung, 4 hectares in Dobakol Changgalgittim, 2 hectares in Agrenggittim, and 16.7 hectares in Imandura (SGH), where 50 Agar saplings were planted. Activities spanned from schools like Kwordaloi and Rongara Adhoc UP to communities in Ravagre, Lower Khongrapara, and Belguri, where SHGs and villagers planted native species around homes and public areas. The celebrations were marked by student-led drives, drone-documented plantations, and a green ride by the Royal Enfield Riders Association. This collective action reflected Meghalaya's deepening commitment to ecological restoration, climate resilience, and sustainable community development.



Scan in QR Code
for highlights
of Plantation Drive

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



Over 100 IVCS Members from Dalu Block Visit Tikrikilla Prime Hub for Hands-On Learning | 30th May 2025 | Tikrikilla Prime Hub

More than 100 members from various Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS) under Dalu Block participated in a two-day exposure visit to Megharm Tikrikilla Prime Hub. The visit aimed to enhance members' knowledge in food processing, value addition, and entrepreneurship. As most participants are farmers and rural entrepreneurs, the hands-on experience supported skill development, improved product quality, and income generation. The visit also contributed to strengthening the cooperative societies by building capacity, promoting competitiveness, encouraging sustainability, and fostering practical learning.

Ginger Processing Unit Inspected to Strengthen Market Linkages

On 28th May 2024, DPD Shri A.S. Suting, DPM Smt. Aity Mary Khongjee, and the project team inspected the Ginger Processing Unit at Mawlai Mawtaraw, East Khasi Hills, to review its operations and explore market linkage opportunities.



CMC Building and ARV Inaugurated at Laitnongrim

The Collective Marketing Centre and Agri Responsive Vehicle at Laitnongrim, Mawphlang Block, were inaugurated by Shri Rodonald Majaw, RPM, and Smt. Aity Mary Khongjee, DPM, East Khasi Hills, in the presence of the IVCS Managing Committee and members.



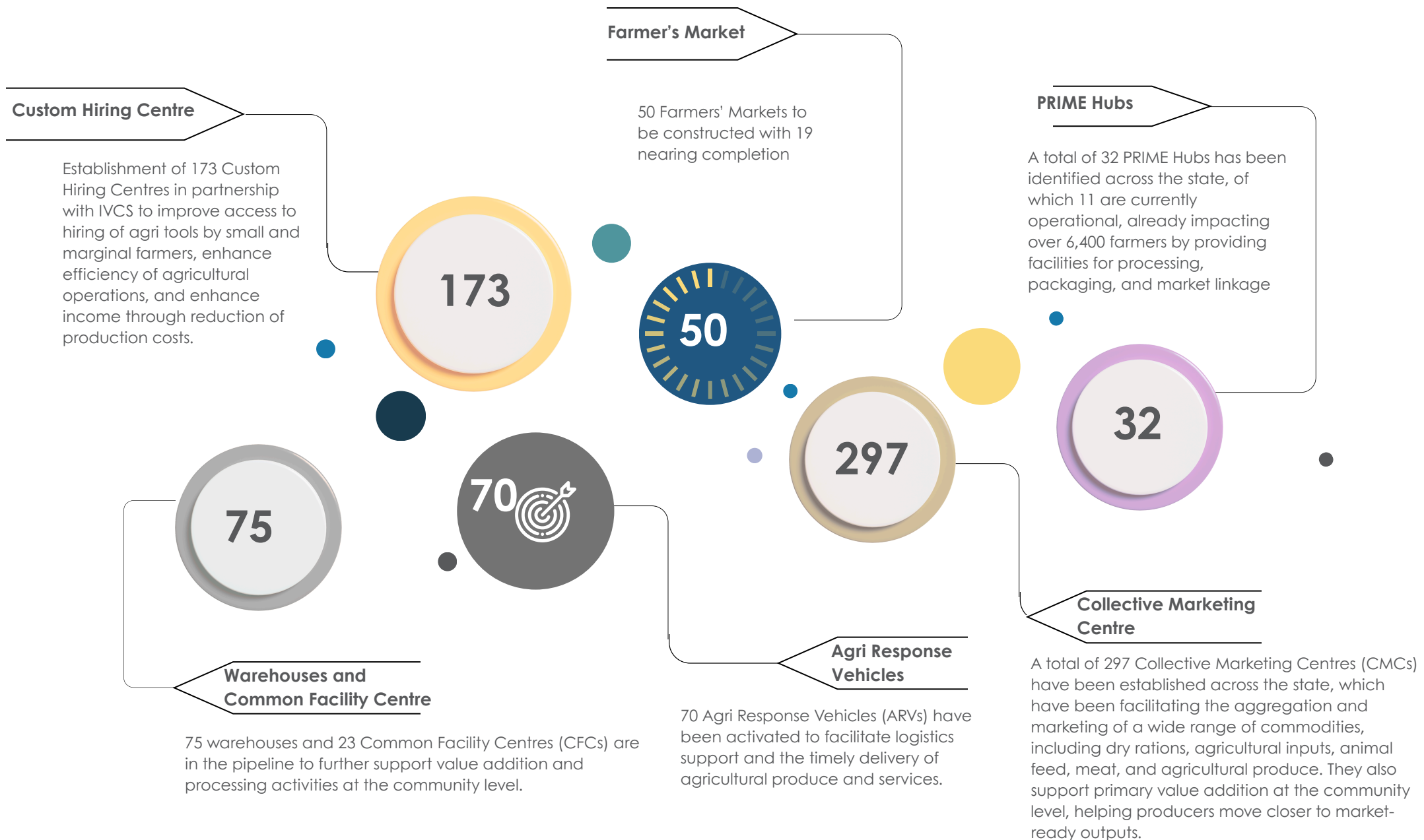
Review meeting of Megha-LAMP held at MBMA Office, Springside on 2nd June 2025 with District Project Managers and State Component Heads in attendance.

PROGRESS OVERVIEW

13 June 2025

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT

SNAPSHOT OF MEGHA-LAMP'S AGRI INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRESS



PROJECT FOR COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT AND LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT IN MEGHALAYA



IVCS Exposure Visit to Sirsi

Our IVCS 4-day exposure visit to Sirsi, Karnataka, was a truly enriching and inspiring experience! Members from South Garo Hills MBDA-MegLIFE-SPMU had the opportunity to explore jackfruit value addition, black pepper processing, and intercropping techniques through engaging visits to the Kadamba and Totgar's Cooperative Societies, along with various local agro-enterprises. The visit showcased the power of community-driven innovation and value-chain development in transforming rural livelihoods. Our members returned motivated, equipped with new skills, and ready to drive positive change in their own communities



Conservation Pond of Nayapara VPIC, Tikrikilla Block, West Garo Hills

Inter-District Exposure Visit on Arecanut Plantation Models

21 VPIC leaders from Tikrikilla Block visited Kharkutta Block, North Garo Hills, to learn about Arecanut Plantation Models 13–16. At Rangsha village, they observed half-moon terracing and model plots, with a brief cultural stop at Rogma Gitil.



IVCS Inter-District Exposure Visit to Rome Village, West Garo Hills

On 9th June 2025, eight members from four IVCSs in Tikrikilla Block visited Rome Village, Dadenggre Block, for an exposure programme hosted by Pringprang IVCS under MeghaLAMP. Participants observed key infrastructure such as the CMC, processing units, stock rooms, and office systems, including an ongoing warehouse construction—taking away useful ideas to enhance their own IVCS operations.



Advance Plantation Work Underway Across Blocks

Plantation activities for 2025 have begun with staking completed in Mawkyrwat Block and at Daljagre village under Rongram Block (Model 15). The advance work, including site preparation and pit digging, ensures timely monsoon planting, better species-site matching, and improved coordination for higher survival rates.

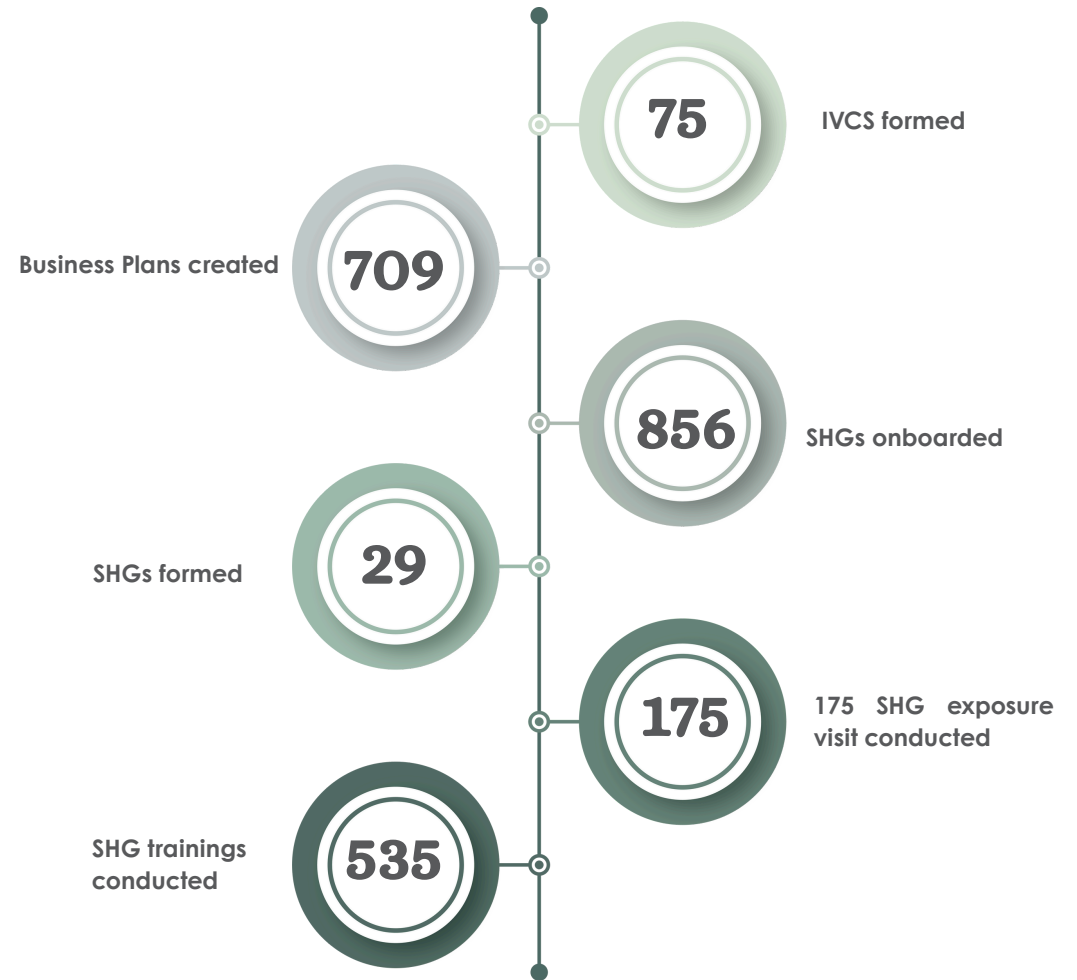


PROGRESS OVERVIEW

13 June 2025

PROJECT FOR COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT AND LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT IN MEGHALAYA

SNAPSHOT OF INTEGRATED VILLAGE COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES AND SELF-HELP GROUPS PROGRESS



PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT

Inspection of Plantation Preparations at Aranggre VPIC

On 5th May 2025, the CMU Ganol team inspected the ongoing preparatory works for the plantation at Aranggre VPIC under Rongram Block. Five plots have been cleared of jungle and staked in advance. The proposed plantation will follow the AGF 13 model. Overall, the site is progressing well and is on track for the upcoming plantation activities.



Joint SPMU, CMU & IC Visit Pomkaniew Village

A joint team comprising the SPMU, CMU, and Implementation Consultant (IC) conducted a field visit to Pomkaniew Village under Myllem Block for the finalization of the Village Level Micro Action Plan (VLMAP) on the 9th June 2025.



Site Inspection of Ongoing Activities under the Umiew Catchment

The State Project Management Unit (SPMU) conducted a field visit to villages under the Umiew Catchment to review FPA 2 and FPA 3 activities. Key observations include:

- **Mawrashe:** Ongoing construction of a mushroom cultivation unit under FPA 2.
- **Pambot:** Ongoing construction of a check dam under FPA 3; workers were seen collecting sand from the stream.
- **Demthring:**
 - Vermi compost unit under FPA 2 is approximately 80% complete.
 - Check dam under FPA 3 is under construction.
- **Myllem Marbaniang:**
 - One mushroom cultivation unit under FPA 2 is yet to start.
 - Another mushroom cultivation unit under FPA 2 is ongoing.
 - Permanent nursery under FPA 3 is under construction.

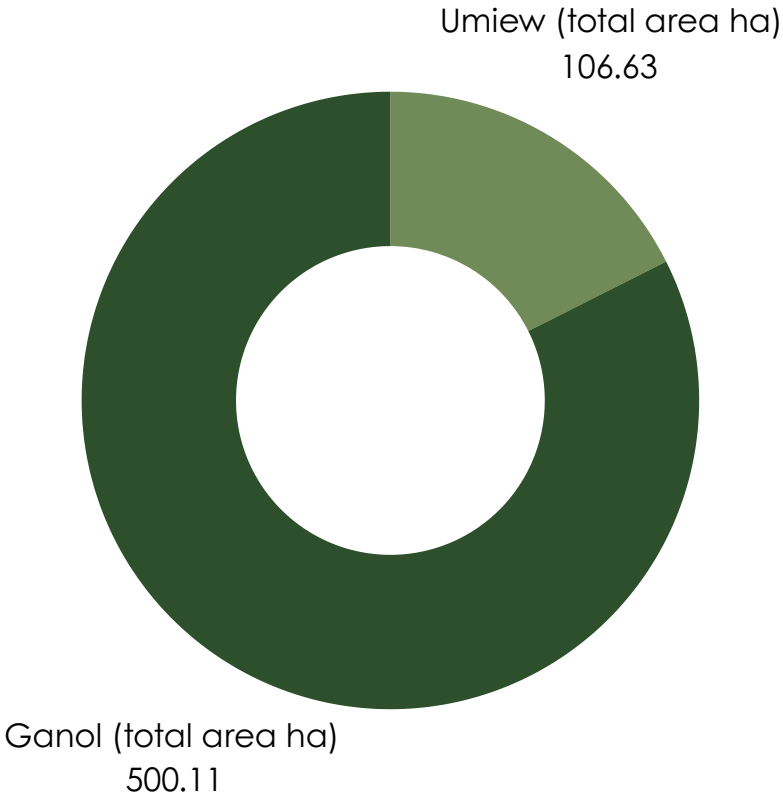
Out of the seven activities reviewed, six are ongoing, while one—the mushroom cultivation unit at Myllem Marbaniang—has yet to commence.

PROGRESS OVERVIEW

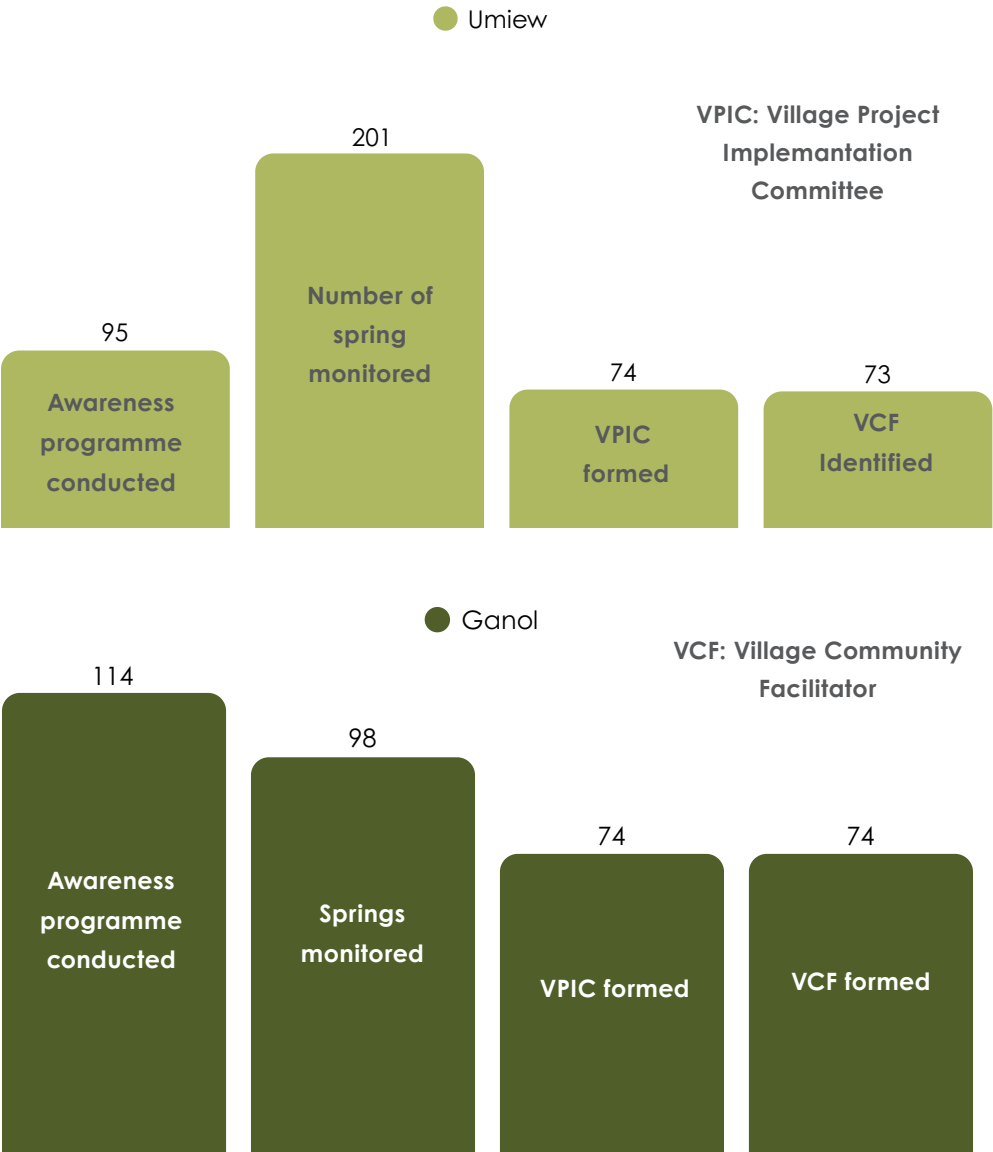
PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT

13 June 2025

PLANTATION UPDATE



CATCHMENT-WISE PROGRESS UPDATE – 12TH JUNE 2025





Ginger Seed Distribution by Sohpoock FPC

The Sohpoock Organic Grower Producer Company Limited (FPC) successfully distributed high-quality ginger seeds to farmers for the current planting season. A total of 29,283 kg of certified NPOP ginger rhizomes were procured from Tomonpo Anglong Grower Producer Company Ltd., Ri Bhoi District, and distributed to 267 member farmers of the Sohpoock FPC.

This initiative aims to encourage timely sowing and promote uniform crop establishment, essential for a successful harvest. The entire distribution process was closely monitored by FPC officials to ensure transparency and accountability.

As part of the broader mission to support sustainable ginger cultivation and enhance farmer incomes, this effort reflects the continued commitment of the Sohpoock FPC to empower local farmers.

Clover team conducted field visit

'Block Level Workshop on Sustainable Land Management conducted at various locations during the week with the BDOs, BPMU and also the various departments.

The workshops focused on presenting the objectives of the SLM project and emphasized the importance of aligning village selection with the value chain approach.

Field Visit to for Field Trial Plots

A field visit was conducted to Lummuriap, Barato, and Saphai villages to inspect and geofence the identified plots under the ongoing field trial in collaboration with ICAR. The visit aimed to ensure proper plot demarcation and readiness for the trial activities as part of the joint research and demonstration initiative

Meeting on ICS Formation for NPOP Certification

On 9th June 2025, a meeting was held at Life Spice, Laskein (West Jaintia Hills) to discuss the formation of an Internal Control System (ICS) within the Growers Group to facilitate NPOP certification.

Participants included MBMA staff, the Clover team, farmers and members from Maitluti SHG and Īaroilng SHG, as well as representatives from NGOs CKDS and SURE.

During the discussion, participants proposed forming the ICS under the existing farmer union in Laskein. A follow-up meeting is expected to be scheduled soon, involving the existing farmer union, based on the availability and convenience of stakeholders.



GREEN MEGHALAYA (GRASSROOT LEVEL RESPONSE TOWARDS ECOSYSTEM ENHANCEMENT AND NURTURING MEGHALAYA)



Empowering VCFs with Tech & Training for Forest Conservation

As part of ongoing capacity-building efforts under the Green Meghalaya initiative, 22 Village Council Forest (VCF) members were equipped with tablets and trained on using the CM Connect and Geofencing apps for precise forest boundary mapping. A hands-on field session was conducted at the PES forest in Sohryngkham village, followed by a community orientation on June 10, 2025. The program focused on enhancing local capacity through training in hydrological spring mapping, GPS-based data collection, and green technologies, while also promoting afforestation, biodiversity conservation, and community-led forest stewardship—fostering a people-driven green movement across Meghalaya.

2,295 Saplings Across 78.37 ha

2,295 saplings were planted across 78.37 ha—814 in Dobu Kosi, 723 in Dobakol Changgalgittim, 350 in Agrenggittim, 208 in Saipung, and 200 in Malchapara. Major sites included KUT (12.2 ha), Maringpara (13 ha), Awro (11.84 ha), Malchapara (10.63 ha), Saipung (8 ha), Dobakol Changgalgittim (4 ha), Agrenggittim (2 ha), and Imandura (16.7 ha, with 50 agar). Student-led drives, SHG and community plantings, drone footage, and a Royal Enfield Riders green ride showcased Meghalaya's commitment to ecological restoration and climate resilience.



Green Field Associates Leads Green Meghalaya Awareness Drive Across 3 Blocks

Green Field Associates conducted awareness campaigns in Jirang Block, Rongara Block, Bhoirymbong block. The drive promoted reforestation, biodiversity conservation, and community-led afforestation, while also highlighting green belts, sustainable farming, and urban green space development.



STORY OF THE WEEK

MegLIFE

FLAMES IN THE HILLS – THE BRAVE HEARTS OF DOMTYNRONG VILLAGE

On the afternoon of April 10th, 2025, the quiet hills of Domtynrong Village were broken by the roar of flames at around 2:30 p.m., a fire broke out at the Domphotsiej Reisohlwai Plantation Plot, a cherished piece of land planted with young saplings just the year before. Smoke curled into the sky, and the crackling of fire spread across the hillside. The hard work—months of effort and dreams—was on the brink of being swallowed by flames.

There were no adults nearby, no fire engines—just smoke, heat, and growing fear. But out of that fear stepped two unlikely heroes: **Bitarsing K. Dewsaw and Bashanbor K. Dewsaw, both just nine years old, students of Class II at Momen Roy Upper Primary School in Phlangkynshi.**

From their homes nearby, the boys saw the smoke and knew something was wrong. Without waiting for help or thinking of their own safety, they ran toward the fire. Armed with nothing but their courage and a few sticks they found along the way, they began to fight back.

For over an hour, they battled the blaze—faces flushed from the heat, eyes stinging with smoke, but hearts full of determination. They did not run or give up—and against all odds, they won. Thanks to their quick action, the fire was brought under control. The plantation was saved.

And this was no ordinary plantation. The Domphotsiej Reisohlwai Plot had been developed under the Project for Community-Based Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement in Meghalaya (MegLIFE Project)—an ambitious initiative to restore degraded landscapes, recharge water sources, and improve rural livelihoods through community-driven natural resource management, financed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). This plot was part of that vision—nurtured by the village with care, meant to grow into a legacy of green cover and sustainability.

Their actions came from a deep sense of care for the land they had grown up around. But as admirable as their instinct was, it also reminded us how dangerous fire can be and how quickly children can find themselves at risk when adults or systems are not close at hand. Their story will be remembered not just for their courage, but for the quiet warning it carries: that while plantations can be regrown, children must be protected. They didn't act for praise or reward, but because they believed something worth saving was slipping away. In doing so, they reminded us that sometimes, the strongest hearts come in the smallest forms.



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