

21 November 2025

Newsletter

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Government of Meghalaya
Meghalaya Basin Development Authority | Meghalaya Basin Management Agency

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), the Smart Village Movement (SVM), the Grassroot Level response Towards Ecosystem Enhancement and Nurturing (GREEN Meghalaya), the Cluster Development Programme (CDP), the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM) in Meghalaya, and the Meghalaya State Bamboo Mission (MSBM).

EXTERNALLY AIDED PROJECTS

Megha-LAMP

Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project

MegLIFE

Project for Community-based Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement in Meghalaya

MegARISE

Protection of Vulnerable Catchment Areas in Meghalaya Project

SLM

Sustainable Land Management Meghalaya Project

WORKS

PRIME

Promotion and Incubation of Market Driven Enterprises

FOCUS

Farmers Collectivization for Upscaling of Production and Marketing Systems

SVM

Smart Village Movement

GREEN Meghalaya

Grassroot Level response Towards Ecosystem Enhancement and Nurturing Meghalaya

CDP

Cluster Development Programme

PMJVM

Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission in Meghalaya

MSBM

Meghalaya State Bamboo Mission

STATE PROGRAMMES



MeghaLAMP
Meghalaya Livelihoods Access to Market Project
14 September 2016-2020



GREEN
MEGHALAYA
Grassroot Level Response towards
Ecosystem Enhancement and
Nurturing Meghalaya

Smart Village Movement™
In Alliance With Berkeley Haas



PRIME
MEGHALAYA



KEY UPDATES

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



CLOSING CEREMONY OF 72ND ALL INDIA COOPERATIVE WEEK IN MEGHALAYA

On 20 November 2025, the Closing Ceremony of the 72nd All India Cooperative Week was held at Matchakolgre LP School Playground, New Tura, with over 500 members from 127 cooperatives. Shri R. Yanthan, IAS, welcomed participants, and Shri Thomas A. Sangma, Chief Guest, highlighted the theme “Cooperatives as Vehicles for Atmanirbhar Bharat”, stressing digital adoption for market linkages.

Awards were presented to All Garo Hills Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd, Muktidata Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd (WGH), and Kerupara IVCS Ltd (SWGH), with South Garo Hills as the best-performing district. Exhibition stalls featured 24 cooperatives and government departments.

The programme concluded with interactive sessions on cooperative formation, financial inclusion, and innovative business models, enhancing learning and awareness among members.

72nd All India Cooperative Week in Meghalaya

KEY UPDATES

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT

ACTIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO SECURE PLANTATION LAND UNDER THE UMIEW CATCHMENT

The Village Community Facilitator under the Umiew catchment has intensified its outreach, raising awareness and engaging closely with communities on upcoming plantation initiatives. The focus is on securing suitable land early, allowing teams to plan methods, prepare sites, and streamline next year's plantation activities well in advance.



AWARENESS PROGRAMMES STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

On 19 November 2025, the Ganol Catchment Management Unit organised awareness programmes in Buripara and Rongjigre villages to inform households about development opportunities, enhance community participation, and encourage future project adoption. Both villages demonstrated strong interest, with households proactively sending representatives to take part in the sessions.



“Review meeting chaired by Shri Vibhor Aggarwal, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, West Garo Hills, Tura, on 13 November 2025 at the NIC Conference Hall to assess the progress and key issues of the MegARISE project. Also present were Miss Richa Kulkarni, IAS, SDO (Sadar), West Garo Hills, and Smt Cherime W. Sangma, MCS, Block Development Officer, Rongram, along with staff from the Ganol Catchment Management Unit.”

SNIPPETS

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



COOPERATIVE WEEK CELEBRATED ACROSS DISTRICTS

Cooperative Week 2025 was observed across Meghalaya with key events in Nongstoin and Williamnagar. On 19 November, the Office of ARCS, MBMA, and MCAB Nongstoin held the 72nd All India Cooperative Week ceremony at Nongpyndeng, graced by Hon'ble Minister Shri M. Dkhar, Shri R. Yanthan, IAS (RCS), Shri A.S. Suting, and other officials, along with stalls set up by Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS), Cluster Level Facilitators, and Cooperative Societies.

Earlier on 17 November, Cooperative Week was celebrated at DRDA-I, Williamnagar under the theme "Cooperative as a Vehicle for Atmanirbhar Bharat." Officials from NABARD, MCAB, and ARCS, along with representatives from IVCS and PACS of North and East Garo Hills, discussed cooperative roles, challenges, and opportunities in strengthening local economies and promoting self-reliance.



Training on Post-Harvest Management of Pineapple & Khasi Mandarin

A four day training, from 10 to 13 November at Assam Agricultural University (AAU), organised by MBMA in collaboration with AAU, equipped participants with improved techniques for handling, storage, transport, spoilage reduction, and value addition for Pineapple and Khasi Mandarin.



Cashew Pest Management Demonstration

On 18 November 2025 at the Cashew Nut Demonstration Plot, Bordeaux paste was applied 3-4 feet above the tree base to control gummosis, stem canker, collar rot and pink disease, while preventing stem and root borer entry. Mechanical control using cellotape was also demonstrated to block ants and mealy bugs.



IVCS Mobilisation and Capacity Building in Selsella Block

From 10 to 18 November 2025, mobilisation programmes at 9 IVCs in Selsella Block focused on increasing membership, promoting share subscription and savings, guiding 17 KCC loan applications, and introducing the Prime SEED Scheme for small business support.

SNIPPETS

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



PILLINGAKATA B IVCS WINS STATE EXCELLENCE AWARD

On 14 November 2025, during the opening ceremony of the 72nd All India Cooperative Week at State Central Library, Shillong, Pillingakata B IVCS Ltd, Umling Block, Ri Bhoi, received the State Excellence Award along with a cash prize of ₹50,000. The award was presented by Shri Methodius Dkhar, Minister In-Charge of Cooperation, and Shri Richard Yanthan, IAS, Registrar of Cooperative Societies.



Vanilla and Cinnamon Plantation Field Visits in Rongram and Dadenggre Blocks

From 13 to 20 November 2025, field visits were conducted for geofencing and data collection in Rongram Block, covering Ronjigre, Jongdikgre, Buripara, Chiokgre, Romba Adingre and Dumindikgre for vanilla and in Dobadamgre, Dadenggre Block for cinnamon cultivation.



Ginger Mission Geo-Tagging at Chengaldare IVCS

On 12 and 13 November 2025, field visits were conducted at Chengaldare IVCS, Dadengre Block for geo-tagging under the Ginger Mission.

SNIPPETS

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



7 VILLAGES COVERED IN MEGLIFE INSPECTIONS

On 12 November 2025, MegLIFE inspected four villages: Mowtyrshiah B, Mowtyrshiah A, Umpliang and Mowkaiaw to review RCC tanks, nurseries, plantation sites and community halls, recommending spill pipe extensions, infrastructure completion, sapling transplantation and fencing at the Umpliang AR plantation.

On 13 November 2025, inspections in three villages: Mawtharap, Khah and Laitdombah identified the need for plinth protection, proper plantation alignment, RCC overflow corrections, slope stabilisation, pond dewatering and embankment reinforcement.



Elephant Corridor Conservation Awareness at Doldegre Village

On 4 November 2025, Doldegre Village, Gambegre Block, hosted an awareness programme on Elephant Corridor conservation, emphasising the importance of movement pathways and community action to reduce human-elephant conflict. Participants expressed their support for corridor protection.



MegLIFE VPIC Audit Review Session

On 17 November 2025, a review meeting was held at BPMU MegLIFE Latyrke with VPIC Executive Committees, Village Community Facilitators, and MegLIFE staff. The session reviewed statutory audits, strengthened financial records, systematic and transparent financial management.



Mulait Bri Sumer IVCS Audit Compliance Meeting

On 18 November 2025, an Audit Compliance Meeting was held at Mulait Bri Sumer with MegLIFE staff and IVCS members. The session reviewed audit findings, ensured compliance with recommendations, and strengthened transparency and management practices.

SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



GANOL TEAM BEGINS VILLAGE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (VPIC) FORMATION IN BALNANGRE AND KANCHIKONA

On 14 November 2025, the Ganol team conducted a meeting with Balnangre and Kanchikona villages under Rerapara Block, South West Garo Hills, to initiate the formation of Village Project Implementation Committees (VPICs). Balnangre, inhabited by the Garo community with 104 households, and Kanchikona, home to 54 Koch households, actively participated in the discussions.

The team briefed both villages on project objectives, roles and responsibilities, VPIC structure, required documentation, and processes related to unskilled wage and work execution.



53 Participants Join FPA Contest 2 and 3 Across Umiew CMU Villages

On 14, 17, 18 and 19 November 2025, the Umiew CMU conducted Financial Participatory Appraisal (FPA) Contest 2 and 3 in Mawwan, Pomlakrai Rngi, and lewpomtiah. Mawwan recorded 12 participants in FPA 2 and 16 in FPA 3; Pomlakrai Rngi had 11 in FPA 2 and 10 in FPA 3; and 14 participants joined from lewpomtiah and Mawtyllup.



3 Plantation Sites Assessed for Post-Survey Review in Myllichem Block

On 1 November 2025, the team visited three plantation areas, Pomkaniew, Lynkien Shyiap and Mawiong for a post survey assessment. Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) activities were found to be well executed, with saplings properly planted in forest gaps and showing excellent survival and overall health.



2 Field Inspections Review VLMAP Works

On 13 and 19 November 2025, Umiew Field Engineers inspected Myllichem Marbaniang to review the irrigation canal, retaining wall and mushroom structures. On 19 November, Catchment Management Unit (CMU) Engineers and SPMU Engineer jointly inspected three sites under Mawphlang Block.

SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



12 MER LANDOWNERS ATTEND AWARENESS PROGRAMME

On 14 November 2025, an awareness session was held with landowners of 12 Mer in the presence of the Headman and the Environment Manager from the State Project Management Unit. The team highlighted the importance of environmental conservation and briefed participants on upcoming plantation activities and available support. Landowners expressed strong interest, agreed to share the information with those who could not attend, and committed to working with the Committee to improve the Wah Umiew watershed.



2 Villages Assessed for New Plantation Areas

On 15 November 2025, the team visited Mawsawa and Mawblah to assess potential plantation sites. During the visit, they provided a practical GPS demonstration to Village Community Facilitator (VCF) and jointly carried out plot demarcation.



5 Sites Inspected for FPA and VLMAP Feasibility

On 19 November 2025, the Field Engineers and the External Expert inspected Mawkatheih, Rangbihbih, Laitkyrhong, Madan Lyngdoh and Madan Football to review ongoing construction works and assess site feasibility for FPA 2, FPA 3 and VLMAP activities.

SNIPPETS

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT



CLOVER TEAM CONDUCTS PRE-HARVEST VISIT TO GINGER DEMO PLOT

On 19th November 2025, the Clover team carried out a field visit to Banskhen, Umsning, to inspect the ongoing ginger demonstration plot. The team observed that the crop is now nearing its harvest season, indicating healthy growth and promising yields.

FARMERS TRAINED ON DEVELOPING A CERTIFIED ORGANIC FARMING SYSTEM

A training and awareness programme on developing a Certified Organic Farming System was conducted, with active participation from farmers and Internal Inspectors. The session covered essential topics, including organic standards, documentation protocols, and best practices for transitioning to certified organic production.

Following the training, the documents collected by the Internal Inspectors were thoroughly reviewed to ensure accuracy, completeness, and compliance with certification requirements. The programme concluded with key guidance to strengthen field-level documentation and farmer preparedness for the certification process.



SNIPPETS

MBDA/MBMA PROGRAMMES



STATEWIDE PES AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ACROSS MEGHALAYA

From 13 to 19 November 2025, Green Field Associates conducted a weeklong PES awareness campaign across all districts of Meghalaya, reaching villages in Khasi, Jaintia and Garo Hills. Programmes were held in over 40 locations, engaging communities through awareness sessions and field visits. The campaign strengthened understanding of PES principles and encouraged active community participation in sustainable ecosystem management.

VDVK CONVERGENCE AWARENESS PROGRAMS FOR IVC MEMBERS

From 29 October to 4 November 2025, awareness programs on VDVk formation were held across Tikrikilla, Demdema, and Gambegre blocks. Sessions engaged IVC representatives from Migasal, Dabanggre, Saldoa, DKJB, Khurang, Muskan, Hazarika, and Songsni Bakrime villages, covering objectives, formation procedures, and village-level roles. Participants showed clear understanding and agreed to initiate VDVks under their respective IVCs.



STORY OF THE WEEK

Ravi Kumar Choudhary

EMPOWERING THE FARMING COMMUNITY OF PILLINGKATA

The Pillingkata B Integrated Village Cooperative Society Ltd (IVCS) has strengthened the farming community in Pillingkata Village, Ri Bhoi District, home to Khasi, Garo, and other non-tribal groups. This progress is largely due to Ravi Kumar Choudhary, IVCS chairman and manager, who has spent the past three years enhancing the IVCS, believing it can address village challenges and improve farmers' incomes.

Ravi focused on mobilizing membership, informing residents that the IVCS provides banking-like services locally, saving them the 25 km travel to Byrnihat. During COVID-19 in 2021, he and the IVCS conducted awareness sessions, enrolling 104 members in the first year, growing to 210 members by the second year, covering Pillingkata, Umtyrnga, and Pyngker-C. Residents began savings, accessed loans, and shifted from storing surplus funds at home to depositing with the IVCS.

Under his leadership, 107 members received loans totaling Rs 42.13 lakh with no defaults, supporting small businesses including Darisha Ryndong's fast-food enterprise. Ravi also assists other IVCS in Ri Bhoi, training secretaries, verifying accounts, and guiding bookkeeping and data collection.

Ravi facilitated project-supported solutions for village water needs, coordinating with the State Council of Science, Technology and Environment (SCSTE) to install 26 household tanks, while the IVCS procured an additional tank and constructed a rainwater harvesting tank at the local dorbar. He also helped members like Arika Choudhary obtain solar panels for her shop and supported women in accessing loans to start businesses.



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