



16 May 2025

# Newsletter

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS



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), the KfW Development Bank-funded Sustainable Land Management Meghalaya Project (SLM) and the Protection of Vulnerable Catchment Area in Meghalaya (MegARISE) Project, and the recently-concluded World Bank-funded Community Led Landscape Management Project (CLLMP).

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).





# KEY UPDATES

## MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



### 40 Banana Fibre Extraction Machines Distributed in North Garo Hills

15th May 2025, Mendipathar

A one-day workshop on Banana Pseudostem Processing cum Distribution of Fibre Extraction Machines was held at MMCS Hall, Mendipathar, North Garo Hills. The event was graced by Shri Rupert Momin, Hon'ble MLA of Kharkutta Constituency, as Chief Guest, and Dr. Abhishek Saini, Deputy Commissioner, as Guest of Honour. Also present were Dr. Chirag Desai, Senior Scientist from Navsari Agricultural University, Gujarat, Madam Torali Marak, Assistant Commissioner, and Madam Salma Momin, Assistant Director, Department of Horticulture.

Around 40–50 members from various Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS) participated. A total of 40 Banana Fibre Extraction Machines were distributed to the IVCS members to support livelihood opportunities through value addition in banana cultivation.

16 May 2025

## PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



### Monitoring and Evaluation Training on Assessment and Reporting Formats

The SPMU and District M&E teams of MegARISE underwent a four-day training from 12th to 15th May 2025, focused on key aspects of Monitoring and Evaluation critical for project assessment and reporting. On the third day, the team conducted a field visit to Mawkynrew and Laitkyrhong villages under Mawkynrew Block to demonstrate methods for monitoring plantation survival rates and to pilot reporting tools for nursery monitoring.



## MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



### Innovation in Banana Fibre Processing by Nangrime IVCS Ltd

Nangrime IVCS Ltd's intervention at the Gairong PRIME Hub is paving the way for sustainable innovation in North Garo Hills. Supported under the Community Public Private Partnership (CPPP) model, the Government of Meghalaya has extended financial assistance, while Samvridh International Pvt. Ltd. will offer technical and marketing support to help the IVCS commercialize products like banana fibre, liquid fertilizers, and crafted paper. This initiative tackles the longstanding issue of pseudo stem wastage in banana farming by converting discarded stems into valuable by-products. Located in Kharkutta—one of the region's largest banana-growing clusters—the unit benefits from a steady supply of raw material, making year-round processing both feasible and cost-effective. Beyond reducing agricultural waste, the project will generate employment opportunities in processing, packaging, and marketing, contributing to local economic growth and providing livelihoods for rural youth.



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Update on Collective  
Marketing Centre  
Construction Status by  
Baksapara IVCS Ltd., South  
West Garo Hills

### Focus Group Discussion on Women's Empowerment at Simkalangre, South Garo Hills

On 29th April 2025, a Focus Group Discussion was held at Simkalangre to gather on-the-ground information for validating secondary data. The session focused on understanding the impact of project activities on women's empowerment, covering aspects like income generation, decision-making, and work-life balance.



### Gender Budgeting Sessions Held in Mairang and Baghmara Blocks

Gender Responsive Budgeting training was conducted on 6th May 2025 at the office of the Block Development Officer, Mairang Block, with 69 participants from 15 Integrated Village Cooperative Societies. A similar session took place on 7th May at Baghmara Bakdil Training Centre with 80 participants from 25 Integrated Village Cooperative Societies. A similar session took place on 7th May at Baghmara Bakdil Training Centre with 80 participants from 25 Integrated Village Cooperative Societies.





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



### Advance Plantation Work Underway

Advance work and staking across various sites to prepare for agroforestry implementation—covering jungle clearance and plot marking at Borsal Dobokgre, Jongchetpara Nokat, Malchapara, Mohishbathanpara, and Rabukong VPIC under Betasing Block, and completion of advance work for Models 4 and 6 in Imsambal and Arengdo villages under Kharkutta Block. These activities aim to prepare land, ensure proper layout through staking, and promote sustainable livelihoods and ecological restoration.



### Advance Plantation Work Underway Across Multiple Blocks

Plantation activities for 2025 have begun, with agroforestry alignment and staking completed in Umsning Block, including Pamlatar Group 2, and groundwork in progress at Rabukong. The 2024 plantation cycle at Dokasaram has been successfully completed. Preparatory work is ongoing in Thadlaskein, Zikzak, and Tuidam, blocks while jungle clearance has started in Shallang and Sohbar and continues in Daistong, Saipung, and Mawkyrwat Blocks.

### Hands-on Training on Half Moon Terrace Held in Resubelpara

On May 5th, 2025, the Block Project Management Unit organized a hands-on training at Thapa Dangre, Resubelpara Block, for 22 Village Community Facilitators. The session focused on half-moon terracing—a technique that helps capture rainwater, retain soil moisture, and control erosion. These semicircular bunds are especially suited for Meghalaya's high-rainfall conditions and are maintained by Village Project Implementation Committees with continued technical support.



### Training on Piggery as a Business for SHGs Held in West Garo Hills

On May 7, 2025, the Veterinary Department conducted a training on piggery as a business activity for Self Help Groups at SMELC, Dakopgre, Tura. Covering SHGs from Tikrikilla, Selsella, and Rongram Blocks, the initiative promotes income and food security through livestock farming, skill development, and access to markets and finance—supporting inclusive and sustainable rural livelihoods.





# PROGRESS OVERVIEW

16 May 2025

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

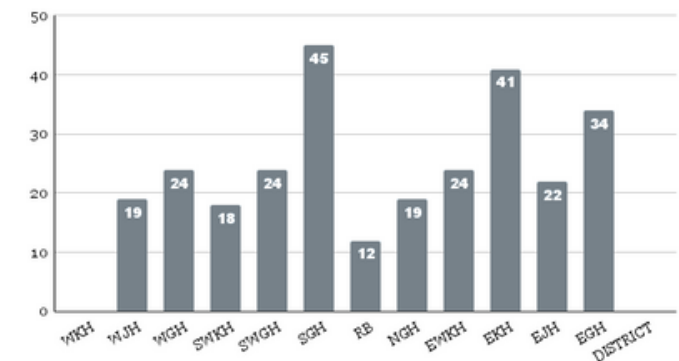
Achievements as on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2025



## 1299 number of SWC achievements

A total of 1,299 Soil and Water Conservation initiatives have been implemented, aimed at restoring and conserving natural resources, improving livelihoods, and strengthening local institutions. These efforts focus on sustainable forest management practices, including the construction of trenches to retain water and enhance soil moisture. The overarching goal is to improve community well-being in Meghalaya while safeguarding the environment.

## 1299 number of SWC achievements





## PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



### Plantation advance work started at the SWGH districts

The Ganol team carried out a plantation activity as part of the advance work at Asinagre VPIC under Rerapara Block, South West Garo Hills . The activity took place on 12th May 2025, with 16 individual landowners participating through Asinagre VPIC. And on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 the team successfully carried out advanced work at Bongpara VPIC under the Rerapara Block, South West Garo Hills (SWGH). A total of eight individual landowners actively participated in the initiative.



The Ganol Team visited Boldamgre village under Rongram Block, West Garo Hills and identified 13 plots for plantation activities. The selected models include 13 plots.

### Plantation Model Identification at New Dengasi village

The Ganol-Catchment Management team visited New Dengasi village under Rerapara Block to assess suitable plantation models. Five plots were identified—one for Assisted Natural Regeneration and four for Agroforestry



### 4 Villages Taken Up Advance Work Under Ganol Project

Advance work was carried out on 13th–14th May in Aguragre, Samingre, Selbal Nokat, and Matchurigre B under Rongram Block, West Garo Hills. The Ganol CMU Tura Team led staking and lining demonstrations and guided landowners to begin jungle clearance. Village leaders extended full support and assured continued monitoring of progress.



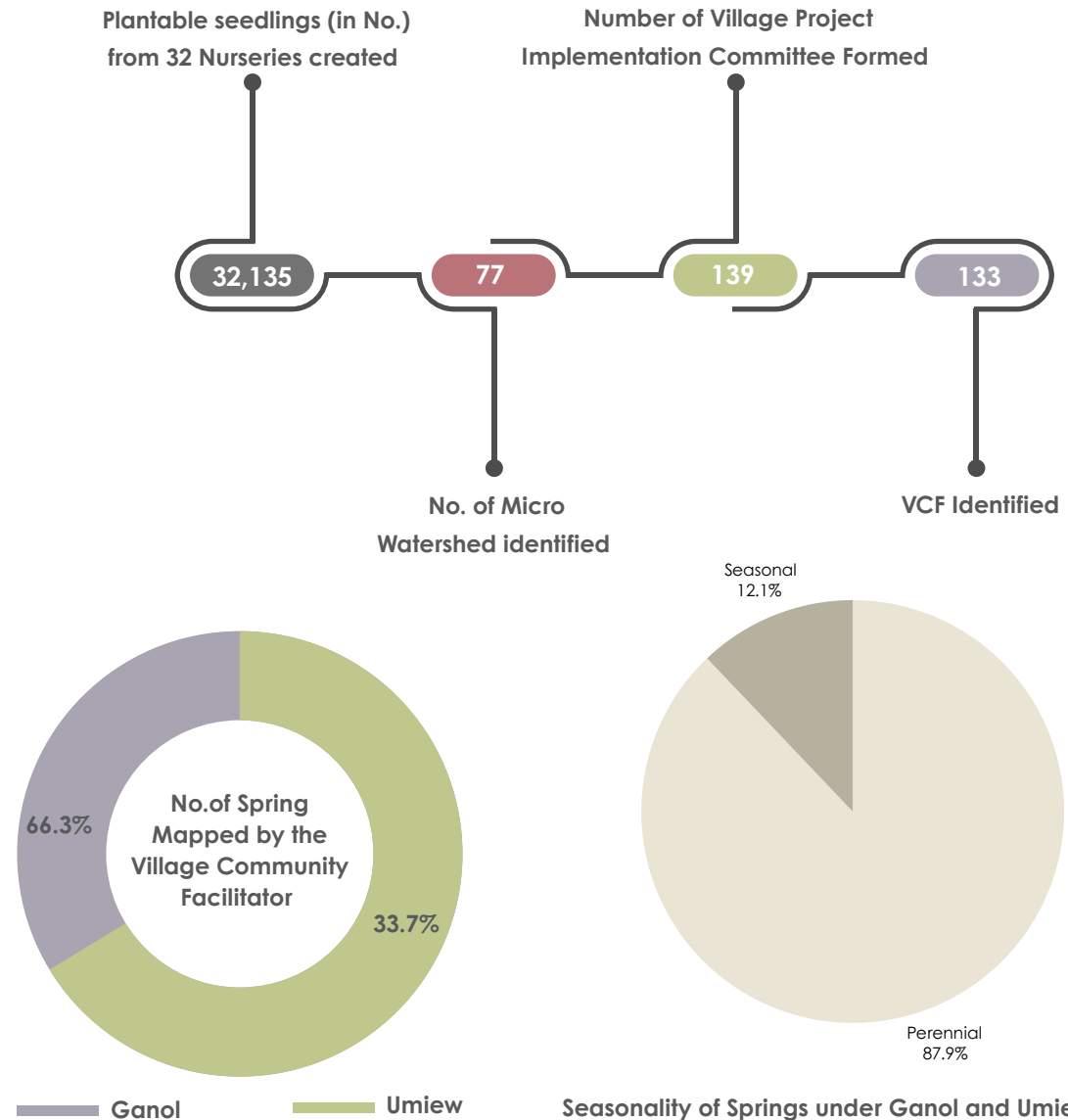
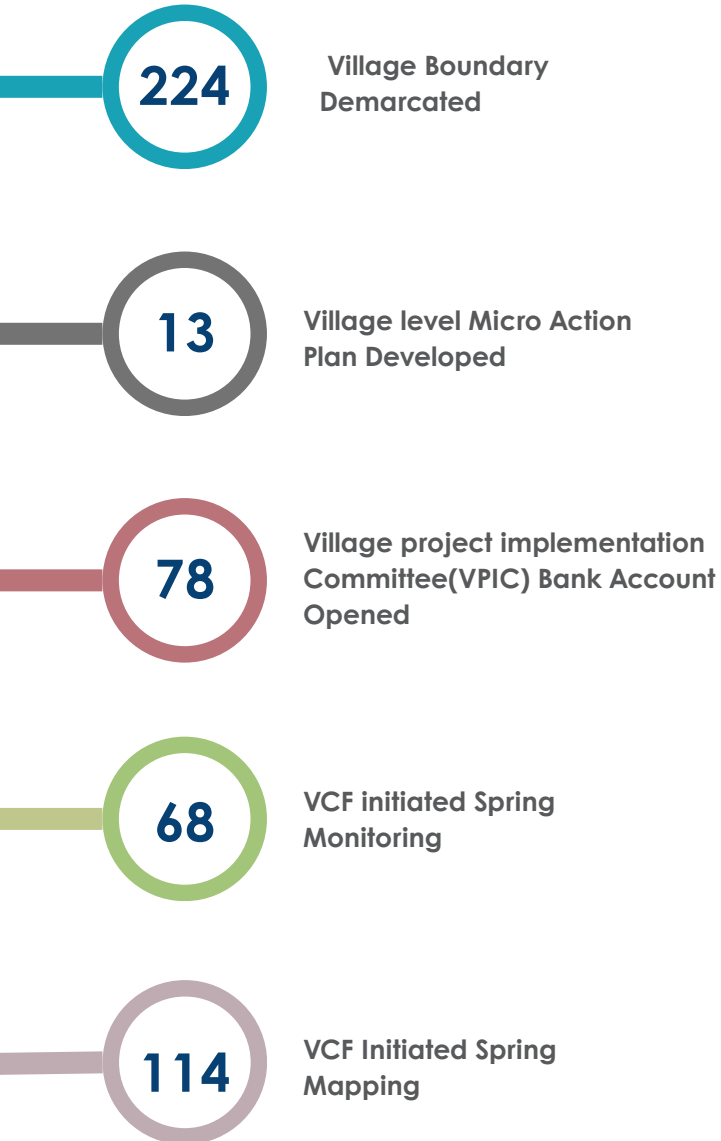


# PROGRESS OVERVIEW

16 May 2025

## PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT

Achievements as on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2025





### Training on Organic Production, Certification and ICS Management



On 12 May 2025, the Sustainable Land Management Meghalaya (SLM) Project, in collaboration with Clover Organic Pvt. Ltd., conducted a comprehensive training programme on Organic Production, Certification, and Internal Control System (ICS) Management at the Project Management Unit (PMU) in Shillong. The session brought together key stakeholders including PMU staff, representatives from MSRLS, BRDC, district and block-level NGO partners, and field functionaries involved in implementing the SLM project.

The sessions, led by Mr. Sanjay Agarwal (CEO), Ms. Archana Singh, and Mr. Akash Gupta, focused on building understanding of organic farming, certification under the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP), and Internal Control System (ICS) documentation.

Participants explored the historical and ecological context of chemical agriculture and the need for sustainable alternatives. Group activities encouraged teams to define

organic farming and assess Meghalaya's suitability—highlighting small landholdings, high rainfall, forest resources, and niche crop potential.

Technical sessions detailed the certification process, required documentation, and benefits of group certification. A walkthrough of the Farm Diary and inspection formats helped clarify compliance requirements. Practical demonstrations on composting and a role-play exercise on farmer outreach further reinforced learning.

The training concluded with a shared vision of an "Organic Meghalaya" and a vote of thanks by Project Coordinator Mr. Joshi Tuisum, who urged continued collaboration at the grassroots. Follow-up activities include a composting workshop in Mawphlang and district-level ICS planning sessions.

This training marks a key milestone in Meghalaya's path toward certified organic farming and sustainable land management.

### Strengthening Collaboration & Evaluating Progress: SLM Project Partners' Review Meeting

On May 5, 2025, a review meeting was convened with key project stakeholders, chaired by Project Director Smt. Saloni Verma, IAS. The session focused on evaluating progress, addressing challenges, and enhancing coordination across partners. Implementing agencies—DoH, BRDC, MSRLS—alongside NGO partners, PMU staff, and consultants (Crisil, Clover Organics) participated.

### Value Chain Analysis on Oranges and Honey Held at Durama Cooperative

A value chain analysis focused on oranges and honey was conducted at the Durama Multipurpose Cooperative Society on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025. The session saw active participation from around 50–60 farmers, who engaged in discussions on cultivation practices, pricing strategies, and marketing avenues.

### Improving Bay Leaf Market Access: Crisil Engages with Farmers

The DPMU, EKH, conducted a meeting with the Crisil team at Diengkynthong's PRIME Hub on April 6, 2025. Farmers from three IVCS - Khrang, Mawlyndiar, and Raidmawshuit - participated, sharing marketing challenges for bay leaf. Following the discussion, the district and CRISIL teams, along with the farmers, visited Sohkynduh village's bay leaf cultivation area under Mawlyndiar IVCS.



## GREEN MEGHALAYA, PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM



### GREEN MEGHALAYA AWARENESS DRIVE

Green Field Associates conducted awareness programs across blocks, to promote reforestation, biodiversity conservation community-led afforestation. The initiative also focused on green belts, sustainable farming & urban green spaces.



### 2828 Applications Collected to Promote Long-Term Forest Conservation

Green Field Associates collected 2617 applications from villages for the month of May 2025, to encourage continued conservation of natural forest owned by communities, clans and private individuals and incentivize their commitment to continue conservation for at least 30 years.



# STORY OF THE WEEK

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT MEGHALAYA PROJECT (SLM)

## **"EMPOWERING FARMERS THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE"**

*The Story of Mawlingngai Village under the SLM Project*

Mawlingngai Village in Umsning Block, Ri Bhoi District, is emerging as a promising example of sustainable agriculture under the Sustainable Land Management Meghalaya (SLM) Project. Through the coordinated efforts of four farmer groups—Mawlingngai Clusters I to IV—the village is transitioning toward organic farming with ginger as the primary crop, supplemented by off-season vegetables like French beans.

To support this transition, each cluster received working capital, enabling investments in inputs and improved practices. Clusters II and IV been identified to receive support through drip irrigation systems and solar-powered Spowdi units to enhance water efficiency and reduce labour requirements, aligning with sustainable farming goals. Smt. Baltis Makdoh of Cluster II, is set to receive the Spowdi system, that will irrigate her ginger plot efficiently. She shared that this would make it easier for her to manage larger area while reducing drudgery and minimising wastage of water.

The initiative has mobilised 28 farmers, with Cluster I covering 1.351 hectares through seven members. Bah Makdoh, former village chairman and Cluster IV member, noted that the new systems would sustain ginger farming in the long term.

While certification efforts are ongoing, the project has laid a strong foundation for sustainable agriculture through community engagement, appropriate technology, and strategic support.



**"In Mawlingngai, we are not just growing crops  
—we're cultivating a future where farming  
respects the land, empowers our people, and  
sets a lasting example for the rest of  
Meghalaya."**

**— Smt. Baltis Makdoh, Cluster II Farmer**





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