

Newsletter

05 September 2025

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), 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
in partnership with IFAD



GREEN
MEGHALAYA
Grassroot Level Response towards Ecosystem Enhancement and Nurturing Meghalaya

Smart Village Movement™
In Alliance With Berkeley Haas



PRIME
MEGHALAYA



MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT

The IFAD Implementation Support Mission was conducted in Shillong to review overall project progress. The mission placed particular focus on financial reporting and documentation to support project completion, while also engaging with project teams to strengthen implementation and ensure accountability in the final phase.



KEY UPDATES

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT

Coordination meeting held with DRDA & BDOs in East Khasi Hills

On 4 September 2025, a coordination meeting was held with Shri. Peter Tremi Passah, MCS, Project Director, District Rural Development Agency, East Khasi Hills; Shri. T. Marwein, Block Development Officer (BDO), Mylliem; Shri. A. Lyngdoh, BDO, Mawryngkneng; Shri. K. Nongsten, BDO, Mawphlang; and Shri. James T. Kharkongor, Deputy Project Director, MegARISE, along with the Project team.

The meeting reviewed challenges in forming Village Project Implementation Committees and actions taken, and it was agreed that quarterly review meetings with BDOs will be held to strengthen coordination and progress monitoring.



KEY UPDATES

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT

Financial Participatory Approach (FPA) Contests

FPA contests were organized across Umiew and Ganol catchments, engaging participants in drawing, storytelling, and planning activities. At Sangkarigre, communities proposed soil and water conservation measures such as gabion and retaining walls, along with livelihood projects like dairy farming and piggery. On 23 August, the Catchment Management Unit and State Project Management Unit teams visited Umiew to verify FPA activities and document community contributions. At Lyngkynshieh Village, during the meeting on 26 August, contestants showcased ancestral wisdom on environmental protection through storytelling and drawings, reflecting unity and inclusivity.



MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



Farmers trained on IPM & ginger value addition in EGH

On 22 August 2025 at Gabil Rongmil PRIME Hub, ginger farmers from Jakusan MPCs and Gabil Rongmil IVCS learned low-cost pest control methods and hands-on processing of dry ginger, powder, oil, packaging, and candy-making to boost income.

East Garo Hills | 22 Aug 2025 | Williamnagar

A facilitation programme on overdue repayment was held for DPMU credit officials and IVCS MC members at DRDA Hall. The session provided an overview of outstanding loans, discussed ground issues with MC members, and explained repayment procedures to strengthen IVCS sustainability.



4 ginger farmers trained on pest management & value addition in EGH

On 29 August 2025, 84 farmers from four villages joined a training at Ronga Agal, Dambo Rongjeng Block. The Krishi Vigyan Kendra led sessions on pest management, nutritional value, and value addition, while Horticulture Inspector highlighted traditional practices, modern techniques, and crop insurance to boost productivity and income.

Piggery training held at Anchengbok IVCS

On 29 August 2025, a one-day training at Anchengbok IVCS guided farmers on pig rearing. Shri. Simchil Momin, Piggery Service Provider, explained pig varieties, piglet selection for breeding and fattening, disease management, vaccination, and the importance of choosing suitable boars and sows.



East Jaintia Hills & East Garo Hills | Aug 2025

Orientations and trainings on Rapid Survey Logframe were held to strengthen capacity of Village Facilitators, VEC Secretaries, and INRM leaders in capturing direct and indirect beneficiary households under INRM and MegaLAMP.



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



SHGs Gearing Up for Growth

At Umnongkrem, the MegLIFE team met with Self Help Groups to review activities, address challenges, and align business plans. Members actively shared concerns and are now preparing to start their enterprises.

Health Camp at Demthring VPIC Hall

On 1st September 2025, a health camp at Demthring VPIC Community Hall, Thadlaskein Block, West Jaintia Hills, provided villagers with check-ups and screenings for early detection, improving access to basic healthcare. The camp was organised by the Human Resources team, MBDA/MBMA.



Tracking Progress at Umling & Rongsahep

On September 2–3, 2025, review meetings at BPMU Umling and Rongsahep VPIC tracked progress, resolved delays, and set timelines for pending works. The Project Management and BPMU teams agreed on closer coordination and regular follow-ups to ensure smoother implementation.

Shillong, 25–27 Aug 2025

Three-day MegLIFE orientation trained new BPMU and DPMU staff on forest management, agroforestry, income generation, conservation, and MIS/Appverse monitoring, with sessions on procurement, gender, audits, and knowledge management.



Hands-on training in aromatic cultivation and processing

A training on aromatic crops was held at Tiehbah, Eastern West Khasi Hills, where farmers received field exposure on cultivation and processing techniques. The team also visited Pyndenglitha, East Khasi Hills, to strengthen knowledge and practical skills in aromatic crop cultivation and processing.



Bamboo seeds sprouting at Myrdon Nongbah VPIC, under Umsning BPMU

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



27 VPICs reviewed in East Khasi Hills; new nursery set up in SWGH

On 25 August 2025, the Ganol Catchment team visited the newly established VPIC Nursery at Mukdangra Village, Rerapara Block. The same day in East Khasi Hills, the Umiew Catchment team met with Village Community Facilitators from 27 VPICs at Sadew to review ongoing works, MoA updates, spring mapping, FPA contests, Appverse issues, and other field challenges.

3-day field visit to Ganol Catchment

On 19–21 August 2025, the State Project Management Unit team visited multiple villages in Ganol Catchment to review soil and water conservation works, Village Level Micro Action Plan activities, and community nurseries, while also monitoring progress under FPA3.



3 villages prepared VLMAPs in South West Garo Hills

In August 2025, VLMAP preparation was carried out at Asinagre and Sanchonggre on the 20th and Mukdangra on the 25th under Rerapara and Rongram Blocks.

30 participants trained from 15 VPICs

On 21–22 August 2025, a two-day training in Umiew Catchment built capacity of Village Community Facilitators and Bookkeepers on Bookkeeping, Procurement, and MIS.



Two-Day Review & Forecasting Workshop 2025

2 days of review and planning on 28–29 August 2025 brought Retd. IFS officers, IAS (Retd.), the Technical Specialist, and all MegARISE staff together at Shillong Club, Shillong. The workshop assessed progress and outlined strategies for the year ahead.

Both catchments presented updates, with the APD-MegARISE providing inputs on work progress, engineering works, soil and water conservation estimates, and related activities. Sessions covered sector-wise presentations, AWPB 2025, UCs, and VLMAP guidelines, along with group activities on 2026 forecasting. The event closed with recognition of staff for outstanding field visits.

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT



Demonstration on EPT

A demonstration on Energy Pillar Technology (EPT) was conducted by Clover SMEs under the SLM Project in the cashew demonstration plot at Rongtebak IVCS, Dadenggre Block, West Garo Hills. The initiative forms part of rejuvenation measures aimed at enhancing cashew fruit production.

Additionally, intercultural operations were carried out, including the pruning of dead and old branches that no longer contribute to fruiting.



Identification of Demo Plot

Demo plot identification activities were carried out for various crops across different locations: Vegetables at Kentra Village (NGH), Orange at Oragitok (WGH), and Pineapple at Bandanggre (WGH).



Field Visit at Barato

Clover team conducted a field visit to Barato, showcasing a demo plot and carrying out geofencing of areas under the Lifespice Cooperative Society.



GREEN Meghalaya (Grassroot Level response Towards Ecosystem Enhancement and Nurturing Meghalaya)



PES Interventions in Meghalaya

Over 40 villages across 15+ blocks benefited from Payment for Ecosystem Services interventions, focusing on boundary demarcation, village mapping, and forest ownership verification to strengthen community forest management. Implemented by Green Field Associates, the activities spanned districts in Khasi, Jaintia, and Garo Hills, with significant work carried out in villages such as Tiniang, Amagoan, Darenggre, and Syngku.

STORY OF THE WEEK

SLM



Farmers Turn to Vermi Composting for Healthier Soil and Crops

Sohpook Organic Producers Company Ltd. has been actively engaged in promoting sustainable and organic farming practices under the certification of National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) supported by the KfW-SLM Project. To strengthen soil fertility management and reduce dependency on external chemical inputs, the company initiated vermi composting as a farmer-led solution.



The Initiative

- **36** composting beds set up across **4 villages**
- **500 hectares** of farmland under organic cultivation
- **358 farmers** trained and benefited

Training & Capacity Building



From 13–16 January 2025, farmers received hands-on training on bed preparation, composting techniques, and use of vermi wash. Each bed now produces around 200 kg of compost every 45 days, ensuring a steady supply of organic inputs. Farmers have already applied compost in ginger fields, reporting improved soil health, stronger crops, and lower costs.

The vermi composting initiative of Sohpdok Organic Grower Producers Company Ltd. under the NPOP certified Organic Farming – KfW-SLM Project is a remarkable example of how farmer-led solutions can improve soil health, crop productivity, and livelihoods. With 36 composting beds across 4 villages, covering 500 hectares and benefiting 358 farmers, this initiative stands as a model of sustainable agriculture and community resilience

A farmer from Sohpdok noted: “We no longer depend on costly fertilizers. Vermi compost has improved our fields and reduced expenses.”

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