

Newsletter

An aerial photograph of a village nestled in a mountainous region. The village is built on a hillside, with numerous small houses and buildings. The surrounding landscape is lush green, with dense forests and misty clouds swirling around the mountains. The overall scene is serene and picturesque.

24 April 2026

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 KW 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

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



KEY UPDATES

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



UNION MINISTER REVIEWS MEGARISE PROJECT PROGRESS IN SOHRA

On 10 April 2026, a session was held at Polo Orchard, Sohra with Shri Chirag Paswan, Honourable Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, Government of India, along with the Deputy Commissioner, representatives from line departments, and key stakeholders. The progress of the MegARISE Project was presented during the session.

The session concluded with an interaction.

KEY UPDATES

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



KFW MISSION REVIEWS PROGRESS ACROSS GANOL AND UMIEW CATCHMENTS

From 15 to 17 April 2026, a three day field visit was conducted across five project villages in the Ganol Catchment. The KfW team, including Dr. Florian Wieneke, Senior Portfolio Manager Natural Resources and Climate Asia and Shri Saravana Kumar, Sector Specialist, along with the Deputy Project Director and Catchment Management Unit team, assessed implementation quality, household reach, and community level impact.

KEY UPDATES

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



KFW MISSION FIELD INSPECTION ACROSS UMI EW CATCHMENT

On 20 and 22 April 2026, the KfW Mission team inspected key Financial Participatory Appraisal and Village Livelihood Micro Action Plan interventions across Mawrashe, Nongthymmai Pdeng, Demthring, Kyndong Nongkyntir, and Pomkaniew. The visit covered activities such as mushroom cultivation, water reservoirs, spring chambers, nurseries, irrigation structures, and plantations.

The inspection was attended by Ms. Carolin Gassner, Director, South Asia Department, and Mr. Frank Bohnet, Head of Operations, Asia, KfW Development Bank Germany; Mr. Florian Wieneke, Senior Portfolio Manager, and Ms. Sangeeta Agarwal, Senior Sector Specialist KfW; Mr. Tosanbha Marwein, Block Development Officer, Myllem Block; Mr. James Kharkongor, Deputy Project Director, MegARISE; Mr. Ralf Lennertz, Implementation Consultant Team Leader and Mr. Adrian Marbianang, Deputy Team Leader, and the Project Management Unit. The team commended the quality of implementation, strong community leadership, and active participation of women.

KEY UPDATES

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT



22ND APRIL 2026 || KfW TEAM INAUGURATES MAWLYNDIAR CMC DURING MISSION FOR SLM LOAN PHASE PREPARATIONS

On 22nd April, the KfW team inaugurated the Mawlyndiar Collective Marketing Centre (CMC), established under the KfW-supported Sustainable Land Management Meghalaya (SLM) Project, at Mawlyndiar village under Khatarshnong C&RD Block, East Khasi Hills. The visit formed part of the KfW mission to Meghalaya in preparation for the upcoming loan phase of the project.

The centre was inaugurated by Ms. Carolin Gassner, Director, South Asia Department, and Mr. Frank Bohnet, Head of Operations, Asia, from KfW Development Bank, Germany, in the presence of senior KfW officials including Mr. Florian Wieneke, Senior Portfolio Manager, and Ms. Sangeeta Agarwal, Senior Sector Specialist, along with representatives from the Government of Meghalaya, MBMA/MBDA, and local communities.

Designed primarily as a storage facility, the CMC will support farmers from Mawlyndiar and adjoining villages by enabling short-term storage of agricultural produce, thereby reducing spoilage and post-harvest losses while strengthening market linkages.

On the following day, the KfW delegation visited the Umdihar PRIME Hub, where they were briefed on its ongoing operations and future expansion plans. The hub is engaged in the processing and export of pineapple and ginger products, including frozen pineapple for international markets.

The delegation subsequently visited Umwang Pyllun IVCS, where another KfW-supported storage facility under the SLM project was inaugurated. An interactive session with IVCS members provided insights into their current activities in bay leaf, ginger, and pineapple cultivation, as well as their plans to expand into turmeric and black pepper cultivation and aggregation.

SNIPPETS

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT



FIELD DEMONSTRATION ON MANAGING GUMMOSIS IN CASHEW

A field demonstration on managing gummosis in cashew was conducted at the cashewnut demonstration plot in Tingmangre. The session introduced an integrated treatment approach using *Trichoderma* as a biological control agent along with an AG Growth promoter to support plant recovery.

During the demonstration, affected bark was cleaned to remove gum deposits and infected tissue. *Trichoderma* paste was applied to suppress the pathogen, followed by the application of a growth promoter to support cell regeneration and improve plant health. The treated area was then wrapped to retain moisture and reduce the risk of further infection.

The activity highlighted a practical and sustainable approach that combines disease control with plant recovery. Regular monitoring of treated trees will continue to assess reduction in gum exudation and overall recovery.

SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



GANOL TEAM REVIEWS PROGRESS AND PLANS NEXT STEPS ON 6 APRIL 2026

On 6 April 2026, the Ganol team conducted a project review meeting to assess the progress of MegARISE implementation. The discussion covered current achievements, key challenges, and priority actions, while outlining the plan for upcoming activities within the ongoing project cycle.

FIELD VISITS AND PREPARATIONS FOR KFW MISSION

On 8 April 2026, the Umiew team assessed site readiness in Mawrashe villages, while the Ganol team visited Dopatchigre with the Deputy Commissioner, reviewing CC canal structures under Financial Participatory Appraisal 3 and the RCC check dam under Village Livelihood Micro Action Plan. The team also briefed the community in Wadagre on the upcoming mission.

On 14 April 2026, a follow up was conducted across all scheduled villages to ensure readiness for the KfW Mission.



FINANCIAL PARTICIPATORY APPRAISAL 2 AND 3 HELD IN UMIEW VILLAGES

On 7 April 2026, the Umiew team conducted Financial Participatory Appraisal 2 and Financial Participatory Appraisal 3 at Umiew Maw U Sam under Mawryngkneng Block, with 7 and 12 participants respectively.

On 8 April 2026, a session was conducted at Marbisu Mawsmi under Mawphlang Block with 12 participants.

On 11 April 2026, Financial Participatory Appraisal 2 on Sustainable Livelihoods and Financial Participatory Appraisal 3 on Soil and Water Conservation were conducted at Urmasi U Joh under Mawryngkneng Block.



SNIPPETS

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



TRENGTHENING MARKET ACCESS FOR SELF HELP GROUPS IN MAWKYNREW

Self Help Groups from Mawkyntse Block, supported by the Income Generating Activities staff of the Block Project Management Unit, are participating in the monthly Farmers' Market in Shillong, selling produce such as strawberries and finger millet.

The initiative is improving direct market access, ensuring better price realisation, and strengthening incomes and livelihoods.



MONITORING OF BAMBOO NURSERY ACTIVITIES

On 16 April 2026, the State Project Management Unit and Block Project Management Unit teams visited the bamboo nursery at Myrdon Nongbah, Umsning Block, to review macro propagation activities and assess site implementation. The visit included a walkthrough of the propagation process and helped identify improvements to strengthen future efforts.

FIELD VISIT REFLECTS PROGRESS IN SELF HELP GROUP LIVELIHOOD INITIATIVES

A field visit to a Stand Alone Village Project Implementation Committee showed encouraging progress in livelihood activities led by Self Help Groups. The interactions reflected improved financial practices, stronger management systems, and a growing commitment to strengthen ongoing efforts, indicating steady movement towards more sustainable livelihood outcomes.



PREPARATORY WORK AND BAMBOO PLANTATION DEMONSTRATION

On 16 April 2026, preparatory work for Agroforestry Models 5 and 6 was undertaken at Pamlatar Village Project Implementation Committee, alongside a bamboo plantation layout demonstration at Nongsangu. The session focused on spacing, alignment, and use of rhizomes to improve survival and growth.

These efforts are expected to enhance plantation quality and long term productivity.



PUBLIC HEARING STRENGTHENS TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

On 21 April 2026, a public hearing organised by the Meghalaya Society for Social Audit and Transparency at Mawkyrwat Block Office in South West Khasi Hills District covered eight villages under the first phase of the project.

The social audit provided a platform for communities to review progress, raise concerns, and strengthen accountability in project implementation at the grassroots level.

SNIPPETS

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



REVIEW MEETING STRENGTHENS FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE AND MARKET LINKAGES

On 14 April 2026, a review meeting of Wagipara Chadembe Integrated Village Cooperative Society Ltd., Zikzak, assessed progress and operational efficiency. Discussions focused on trial marketing, timely deposit of sales proceeds, and effective use of working capital under Livelihood Improvement Finance Company of Meghalaya to support advance payments to farmers.

The meeting also emphasised timely loan repayment by Self Help Groups, improved record keeping, and stronger financial accountability. Five Self Help Groups repaid their loan interest, with provisions to renew the principal, reflecting improved credit discipline.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REVIEWS PROGRESS AND FUTURE DIRECTION OF IVCS

On 11 April 2026, the Annual General Meeting of Mulait Brisumer Integrated Village Cooperative Society reviewed activities, performance, and financial status for the past year.

Discussions focused on strengthening membership, improving financial practices, and exploring alternative livelihood opportunities to support continuity and growth.



PUBLIC HEARING TO STRENGTHEN TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

On 14 April 2026, a public hearing at the Deputy Commissioner's Office, West Jaintia Hills, organised by the Meghalaya Society for Social Audit and Transparency, provided a platform for citizens to raise concerns and share feedback.

The process supported timely issue resolution, identified service gaps, and strengthened accountability and public trust in development programmes.



SNIPPETS

MBDA/MBMA PROGRAM



BAMBOO MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR FIELD TEAMS

A two day training by the Meghalaya State Bamboo Mission for District Project Managers and apprentices focused on key aspects of bamboo management, including sustainable harvesting practices, procurement processes, and mobilisation strategies.

Field visits to Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Bhoirymbong, and Lum Sohpet Bneng provided practical exposure and field level understanding.



ESSENTIAL OILS TRAINING FOR FARMERS

From 7 to 10 April 2026, a four day training under the Aroma Mission engaged 66 farmers from Khasi, Jaintia, and Garo regions on value addition and product development of essential oils.

The programme combined practical and classroom sessions on products such as soaps, mosquito repellents, and floor cleaners, supporting skill development and livelihood activities.



PES ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE MONITORING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

On 16 and 17 April 2026, Green Field Associates carried out Payment for Ecosystem Services activities across multiple blocks in Meghalaya. The exercise included collection of Annual Reports from villages in Bhoirymbong, Khliehriat, Wapung, and Mawryngkneng. The team also engaged with village leaders and community members to deepen participation, reinforce local stewardship, and support effective implementation of conservation efforts.

₹7 LAKHS A
YEAR

2021

2.35 LAKHS

Livestock farming

FROM DAILY WAGES TO ₹7 LAKHS A YEAR

Clinton Sangma from Makbilkol village in North Garo Hills did what many in his village did. He worked as a mason and took up daily wage labour whenever work was available. The income was irregular, just enough to get by, with little room to plan ahead.

Things began to change in 2021 when he accessed ₹2.35 lakhs through the Piggery Mission with support from the Integrated Village Cooperative Society. He used it to start pig farming. Around the same time, he began attending training sessions through the Veterinary Department, picking up practical knowledge on managing livestock better. That combination made a difference. The farm became more stable, and losses reduced.

Over time, he added a rice mill. It turned out to be a practical decision. Farmers in the area needed the service, and the husk from milling became feed for his pigs. One activity started supporting the other. He runs the mill twice a day, morning and evening, which has made it a reliable service in the locality.

Earlier, his earnings from piggery were around ₹74,000 a year. Today, with both pig farming and the mill, his annual income is about ₹7 lakhs. He no longer needs to travel to sell. Buyers come to him, whether for piglets or full grown pigs, especially during local demand periods.

He now serves as the Chairman of the Upper Kharkutta Four Brother Integrated Village Cooperative Society. The role has added another layer to his journey, from managing his own work to being involved in the wider functioning of the community.

He is now looking to expand further by introducing improved pig breeds. The idea is simple. Build on what is already working and grow it steadily.

Building a ₹7 Lakh Livelihood Through IVCS

Megha **LAMP**
Meghalaya Livelihoods Access to Market Project

Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to
Markets Project

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