

Newsletter

23 January 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



KEY UPDATES

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



200-MT WAREHOUSE INAUGURATED AT DONDIMA IVCS TO STRENGTHENING LOCAL AGRO INFRASTRUCTURE

A 200-Metric Ton warehouse constructed under the CM Elevate Scheme was inaugurated on the 20th January 2026 at Dondima Integrated Village Cooperative Society Ltd., Purakashia C&RD Block, South West Garo Hills, by Shri Ian Botham K Sangma, Hon'ble MLA, 55 Salmanpara Constituency. The programme was attended by Shri Linekar K Sangma, Hon'ble MDC, Nogorpara Constituency; Shri R. Z. D. Shira, Additional Deputy Commissioner & Project Director, DRDA ; Dr Aba Liptos K Sangma, Block Development Officer, Purakashia Block; the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency and Meghalaya State Skill Development Society (MSSDS) teams; and members of Dondima IVCS along with other IVCS from the area. Certificates were also distributed to members of Dondima IVCS Ltd. and Josipara Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd. who completed MSSDS training in agro-processing. Addressing the gathering, Shri Ian Botham K Sangma emphasized self-sustained growth through effective use of local resources and urged youth to pursue self-reliance by leveraging regional skills and opportunities for entrepreneurship.

KEY UPDATES

MBDA/MBMA PROGRAM



8 YEARS | UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION SUBMITTED FOR MEGHALAYA'S LIVING ROOT BRIDGES

After 8 years of sustained and dedicated effort, the Jingkieng Jri / Lyu Chrai Cultural Landscape (Living Root Bridges) of Meghalaya have reached a historic milestone. The UNESCO World Heritage nomination dossier has now been officially submitted to the Archaeological Survey of India and forwarded to UNESCO, Paris. A landmark moment for the state and its people!

This achievement is the result of deep collaboration and perseverance. It reflects the collective work of Meghalaya Basin Management Agency, Living Root Bridge team, committed local communities especially the Indigenous people of Syrwet U Barim – the traditional knowledge holders and custodians of the bridges and the land along with dedicated officers, advisors, the World Bank and many others who worked tirelessly to present this extraordinary living heritage to the world.

A truly proud moment for Meghalaya and a powerful example of community-led conservation rooted in tradition, care and resilience.

KEY UPDATES

MBDA/MBMA PROGRAM



MEGHALAYA STATE GEO PORTAL WINS NATIONAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY

The Meghalaya State GIS and UAV Centre, Meghalaya Basin Development Agency, under the Planning, Investment Promotion and Sustainable Development Department, was conferred the Award of Excellence in the category "Excellence in Use of Geospatial Technologies for Transportation, Urban Development, and Other Projects" at the 6th Digital Transformation Summit and Awards for the Meghalaya State Geo Portal. The award ceremony was held on the 16th January 2026 in New Delhi.

KEY UPDATES

MBDA/MBMA PROGRAM



ROOTS RENEWED RECEIVES BEST JURY AWARD AT NEIDFF

Roots Renewed, a documentary produced during 2023-2024 under the Community Led Landscape Management Project (CLLMP), received the Best Jury Award at the North East International Documentary Film Festival. The recognition reflects the collective efforts of the State and District Project Management teams and the active participation of community members, whose experiences and insights shaped the film.

The award highlights effective institutional coordination and community collaboration, and reflects the role of documentary storytelling in presenting community-led landscape management practices and field-level outcomes.

Roots Renewed Receives Best Jury Award

SNIPPETS

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



2,800 SAPLINGS PLANTED UNDER OFF-SEASON VEGETABLE DEMONSTRATION PLOT AT LOWER RAJAPARA IVCS

Field activities under the Off-Season Vegetable Demonstration Plot implemented by Lower Rajapara IVCS have been successfully completed for the current season. A total of 2,000 cabbage saplings and 800 brinjal saplings were planted. The plantation work has been concluded, and the crops are presently at the early growth stage.



19 JANUARY 2026 | TURA, WEST GARO HILLS

A discussion on Phase-I computerization support for PACS in the Garo Hills Region was held at Tura, involving the Cooperation Department and the MBMA team. Shri Kit Miller N. Sangma, District Development Manager, NABARD, West Garo Hills, also participated in the meeting. The programme was organised by the Office of the ARCS, Garo Hills Region, in collaboration with MCAB, NABARD, and MBMA.



22 JANUARY 2025 | SOUTH WEST KHASI HILLS DISTRICT

An awareness programme on the formation of MPACS was conducted at Gilagora village under the Koraibari cluster. The programme was organised by the DPMU, South West Khasi Hills District, in collaboration with the Office of the Sub-Registrar of Cooperative Societies and Meghalaya Cooperative Apex Bank, South West Khasi Hills. Participants from Gilagora, Upper Gilagora, Koraibari, Upper Koraibari, Rongdangngai, and Kaitakona villages attended the programme.

KEY UPDATES

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



FIELD REVIEW IDENTIFIES SCALABLE, RESOURCE-BASED LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES IN SAIPUNG BLOCK, EAST JAITIA HILLS

A two-day field visit to Tuidam, Tuituk, and Situng villages under Saipung C&RD Block reviewed livelihood interventions, Soil and Water Conservation works, and community engagement with Village Project Implementation Committees and Self Help Groups. Discussions identified bamboo-based value chains, demand for broom grass cultivation with processing support in Tuidam, and amla value addition through solar drying in Tuituk and Situng, highlighting scalable, resource-based livelihood opportunities with strong community ownership and income growth potential.



PROJECT REVIEW MEETING IN SOUTH WEST GARO HILLS

A review meeting chaired by the newly appointed Deputy Commissioner, South West Garo Hills was held to assess the progress of ongoing project activities. The District Project Management Teams of MegLIFE and MLAMP presented updates on implementation status, focusing on achievements against planned targets, strengthening inter-departmental coordination, and providing strategic direction for timely and effective execution of project interventions across the district.

SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



FIELD INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED FOR FPA-2, FPA-3, AND VLMAP PROJECTS IN MAWRYNGKNENG BLOCK

From 5 to 9 January 2026, Umiew Engineers and Catchment Management Unit teams conducted field inspections across project sites for Financial Participatory Appraisal (FPA) -2 & FPA-3 winning ideas and Village Level Micro Action Plan (VLMAP) site verification. On 12 and 13 January 2026, the teams visited Mawkathein VPIC to inspect the ongoing FPA-3 Stone Masonry Retaining Wall construction and Warbah Nongkrem VPIC to assess site feasibility for another FPA-3 activity.



GANOL ENGINEERS BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION OF FPA-2 AND FPA-3 ACTIVITIES IN SROPGRE AND ANCHENGGRE

On the 12th of January 2026 Engineers from Ganol visited Sropgre and Anchenggre villages to initiate the implementation of FPA-2 and FPA-3 activities.



CATCHMENT PROJECT MANAGER REVIEWS VLMAP WORKS ACROSS MYLLIEM AND MAWPHLANG BLOCKS

On 8 January 2026, the Catchment Project Manager visited Mawrashe village, Mylliem Block, to inspect ongoing protection works under VLMap. On 14 January 2026, the manager visited Pomkaniew Village Project Implementation Committee to review ongoing and completed works, and Umsawmat village, Mawphlang Block, to assess the completed protection wall and ongoing irrigation canal.

SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



PLANTATION AWARENESS PROGRAMS IN RONGRAM BLOCK, WEST GARO HILLS

On 8 January 2026, the Ganol team conducted a plantation awareness program at Durakalakgre Village, discussing strategies for successful plantation and highlighting long-term benefits for the community and environment. Around 30 hectares of the village forest reserve have been designated for Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) plantation, and community members were encouraged to undertake plantation on barren lands previously used for Jhum cultivation to promote sustainable land use and increase green cover.

On 15 January 2026, Ganol CMU Foresters conducted similar awareness programs at Baladinggre and Babadamgre villages, further engaging communities in plantation and sustainable forestry initiatives.



GANOL TEAM CONDUCTS PRA AT RONGJIGRE VILLAGE, WEST GARO HILLS

On the 15th of January 2026 the Ganol team conducted a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) at Rongjigre Village, Rongram Block, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya.



FPA CONTEST-1 HELD ACROSS MULTIPLE VILLAGES

FPA Contest-1 was conducted by the Umiew team on 9 January at Umthlong (Mawphlang Block), on 14-15 January at Kyntonsyrwa and Mynsain (Khatarshnong Laitkroh Block), and under the Ganol Catchment on 14 January at Chismokgre (Rerapara Block, South West Garo Hills).



COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PRAS CONDUCTED ACROSS MULTIPLE VILLAGES IN EAST KHASI HILLS

Participatory Rural Appraisals conducted by the Umiew team across Umtynngar, Diengkynthong, Laitkor Rngi, and Nongrimsadew villages (8-13 January 2026)

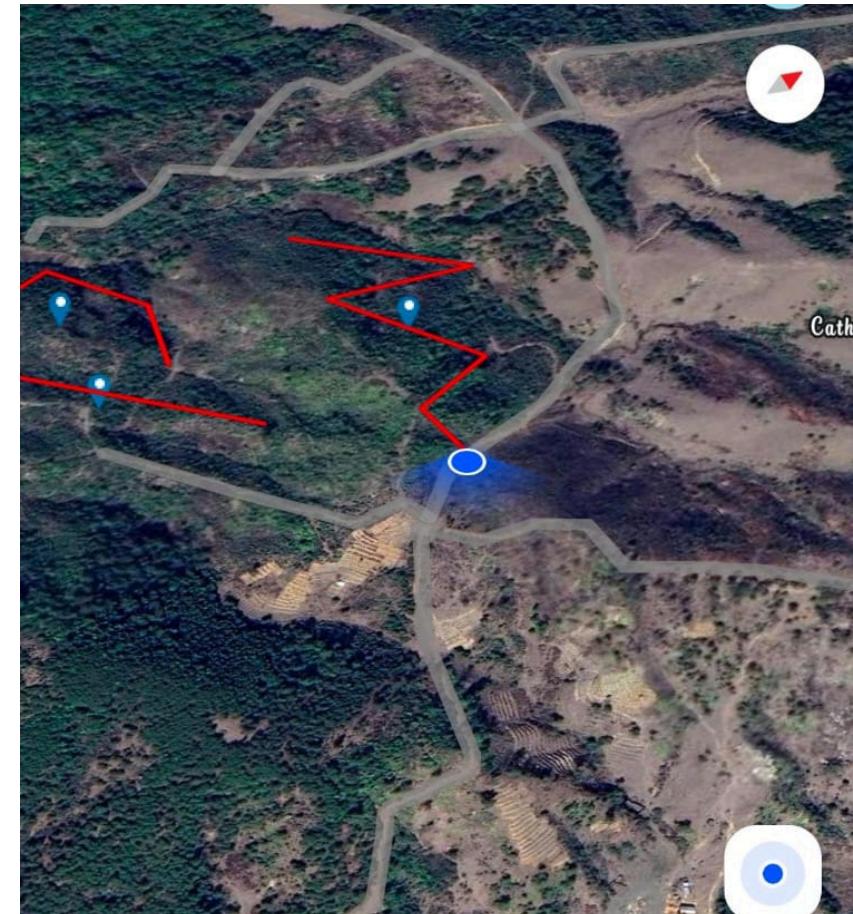
SNIPPETS

MBDA/MBMA PROGRAMMES



1,700 MT STORAGE CAPACITY UNDER CONSTRUCTION ACROSS 6 INSTITUTIONS

Under the CM Elevate Scheme, 1,700 Metric Ton (MT) of storage capacity is currently under construction across six IVCS/Village Organisations (VO) /Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO) to strengthen post-harvest infrastructure. The 100 MT warehouse at Nongdait Nongtwah IVCS and the 500 MT facility at Kuparstar IVCS have each reached 80% completion, while the 200 MT warehouse at Mawlongoid VO has achieved 85% progress. The 500 MT warehouse at NWE Rangasora is nearing completion at 95%, and the 200 MT warehouses at Mawkyrwat Agro Fed FPO and Balat Multipurpose Cooperative Society have each recorded 90% completion.



STATEWIDE PES AND MRV ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED ACROSS MEGHALAYA

Green Field Associates carried out extensive Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) activities across Meghalaya, focusing on Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) to ensure effective implementation. MRV exercises were conducted across villages and community reserves in Garo Hills (North, East, West, South, South West), Khasi Hills (East, West, South West, Eastern West), Ri Bhoi, and Jaintia Hills (East and West).

Additionally, PES deforestation ground truthing was carried out at Balwatgre Village, Chokpot Block, South Garo Hills to strengthen field-level forest monitoring.

SNIPPETS

MBDA/MBMA PROGRAMMES



COMMUNITY AWARENESS PROGRAMMES ADVANCE PES AND FOREST CONSERVATION ACROSS MEGHALAYA

Community awareness programmes were conducted across multiple districts in Meghalaya to promote PES objectives, sustainable forest management, and environmental conservation. In West Khasi Hills, the villages of Umthli, Umjaru, Nongriat, Mawiawa, Mawmluh-2, lawnaw, Nongumkap, and Shiliang Rynniaw were covered, while Eastern West Khasi Hills included Mawrang, Nongrilong, Nonghilliang, and Sawlad. In Ri Bhoi District, outreach reached Mawrathud, Jatalong, Umkon, Himpala, Mynsain, Itsohpa-ir, and Umlakhar villages. Awareness programmes were also conducted at Dametgre and Nanil Songittal in South Garo Hills and Daring Apal in East Garo Hills. These focused initiatives strengthened community participation and reinforced the long-term sustainability of PES interventions across the state.

Story of the week

From a modest home-based start to a thriving food processing enterprise, Loritha Momin's journey reflects the tangible impact of IVCS-led livelihood support. She began her enterprise, M/S Sengrim Food Products, in 2018 with banana chips priced at ₹10 per packet, selling about 50 packets a day to a local school.

A turning point came in 2022, when she joined the Banana Producer Group under Sengga Integrated Village Cooperative Society (IVCS). Through IVCS support under Meghalaya Livelihood and Access to Markets Project, she accessed a ₹5,000 loan and received food processing and hygiene training, enabling her to scale operations and diversify products.

Today, Loritha produces 9 value-added products including banana and jackfruit chips, bhujia, kurkure, and fruit wines. Her enterprise *records an annual turnover of ₹10.35 lakh with a net profit of approximately ₹5.35 lakh*. She produces up to 100 packets per day and participates regularly in block, district, and state-level exhibitions.



₹5,000 LOAN TO ₹5.35 LAKH ANNUAL PROFIT

Loritha Momin's Journey Through IVCS

Beyond income generation, her enterprise supports local agriculture. She sources raw materials annually from 50 banana farmers and 20 pineapple farmers, procuring around 400 banana bunches, 200 jackfruits, and 100 pineapple pairs, thereby strengthening local value chains.

Trained in FSSAI-compliant hygiene and food safety practices, Loritha follows climate-smart production methods by using locally available fruits, minimizing external inputs, and adopting zero-waste practices through composting and livestock feed.

Loritha's journey demonstrates how small, timely financial support combined with technical training and market access can transform rural women into sustainable entrepreneurs, generating income, employment, and resilience at the community level.



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