

# Newsletter

19 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  
10 September 1998-2020



**GREEN**  
MEGHALAYA  
Grassroot Level Response towards Ecosystem Enhancement and Nurturing Meghalaya

**Smart Village Movement™**  
In Alliance With Berkeley Haas



**PRIME**  
MEGHALAYA





### **Samunnati Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) Conclave 2025**

From 3rd–4th September 2025, a team from the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency and six Integrated Village Cooperative Societies under the Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project attended the Samunnati Farmer Producer Organisation Conclave in Hyderabad on the theme “Partnerships for Sustainability towards a Future-Ready Farmer Producer Organisation Ecosystem.” The event enabled participants to share experiences and build connections with business houses beyond the North East. Shri Augustus Suting, Deputy Project Director, spoke in the plenary session on “Partnership for Resilient Value Chains.”

An exhibition held alongside featured over 1,000 organisations. Under ‘Meghalaya Collectives’, the Integrated Village Cooperative Societies showcased cashew, black pepper, ginger, aroma oil, handmade soaps, and handloom products, drawing strong interest from visitors.





# KEY UPDATES

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

19 September 2025



## Meghalaya Celebrates World Bamboo Day Across 12 Districts under MegLIFE Project

On 19th September 2025, World Bamboo Day was celebrated across 12 districts of Meghalaya under the MegLIFE project, highlighting bamboo as a symbol of sustainability, innovation, and livelihood. The programmes featured drawing and essay competitions in schools, exhibitions of bamboo products by local entrepreneurs, and interactive sessions with students and innovators.

Dignitaries including Dr. Vijay Kumar (IAS), Mission Director, and members of the State Project Management Unit addressed the gatherings. Skilled artisans were recognised as “Bamboo Champions”, while essential equipment was distributed to village cooperative societies to strengthen bamboo-based enterprises.

The celebration showcased creativity and entrepreneurship, emphasising bamboo's role as a future-ready resource driving green livelihoods and community empowerment in Meghalaya.





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

### Experts Guide Self-Help Group Farmers in Sustainable Piggery and Poultry Practices

From 9th–11th September 2025, Self-Help Group members attended a three-day training on piggery and poultry farming at the Kyrdemkulai Vocational Training Centre. Led by experts Dr. R. Nongrum and Dr. W. Lyngdoh, the sessions focused on simple, scientific, and sustainable methods, addressing traditional gaps and building farmers' confidence. Participants gained practical skills and were motivated to adopt improved practices, fostering better livelihoods and promoting rural entrepreneurship in Ri-Bhoi.



### Health Camp Benefits 666 Participants in Thadlaskein Block

On 12th September 2025, a one-day health camp was held at the VPICs of Pynthorlangtein and Moobygni in Thadlaskein Block, West Jaintia Hills, benefiting 666 participants from 19 VPICs, including members and local residents. The camp offered general health check-ups, free medicines, and awareness sessions to address common ailments and promote preventive healthcare. The strong turnout highlighted the community's growing commitment to health and well-being.



### 2.68 Hectares of Ginger Harvested in Rongbeta

Farmers in Rongbeta, Umling Block, harvested ginger from a 2.68-hectare agroforestry plot, completing the first stage of the production cycle. The produce will be washed, weighed, and prepared for market distribution, contributing to farmer incomes and ongoing community agroforestry activities.



### 30 Self-Help Group Members Trained in Oyster Mushroom Cultivation

On 9th September 2025, 30 members of Self-Help Groups in Umsning Block, Ri Bhoi participated in hands-on oyster mushroom training at Umtasor Nongjymie, led by expert Aiban Nongrum. Participants learned every step from preparation to disease management, gaining practical skills to start cultivation in their communities, with many describing the experience as "a true blessing."



Elephants observed in the 2024 ANR plantation spanning 5.77 hectares at Borogobal VPIC, Tikrikilla Block, West Garo Hills



## PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT

### Village Level Micro Action Plan Prepared in Rongramgre and Ronggekgre

On 10th September 2025, the Ganol Catchment Management Unit conducted a Village Level Micro Action Plan preparation exercise at Rongramgre in Rongram Block, West Garo Hills and Ronggekgre in Rerapara Block, South West Garo Hills. The participatory session ensured community priorities were discussed and documented.



### Participatory Rural Appraisal Conducted in Mawwan, Lyngkien, and Chismokgre Villages

On 11th and 12th September 2025, the Catchment Management Unit conducted a Participatory Rural Appraisal in Mawwan and Lyngkien villages under Myllem Block, East Khasi Hills, identifying priority areas such as irrigation canals and water harvesting structures.

On 16th September 2025, a similar exercise was carried out at Chismokgre Village, South West Garo Hills under Ganol Catchment.

### Financial Participatory Appraisal Conducted in Lower Damalgre Village

On 12th September 2025, the Ganol Catchment Management Unit conducted the second and third Financial Participatory Approach contests at Lower Damalgre Village, Rerapara Block, South West Garo Hills.



On 12th September 2025, a field visit was conducted to assess site feasibility for the Village Level Micro Action Plan at Nokatgre and New Dengasi.



### Training for Executive Committee Members in Umiew Catchments

On 8th September 2025, training was conducted for Executive Committee members from five villages at Kyrdemkhla, Umiew Catchments.



Ganol Catchment team visits the newly established community nursery in Chismokgre Village on 16th September 2025.





*Photographer*

### Orientation Programme for Newly Recruited ICS Staff

On 11th and 12th September 2025, Clover organized a two-day orientation programme for newly recruited Integrated Cooperative Society staff at the village level under Chichang and Rongtenabak Integrated Village Cooperative Societies in West Garo Hills.



### Capacity Building and Recruitment Activities | 17 September 2025

On 17th September 2025, interviews were conducted for the recruitment of Integrated Cooperative Society staff under Mawlyndiar Integrated Village Cooperative Society. In addition, a training programme was held for farmers from Sohkynduh village, focusing on organic production practices and awareness of National Programme for Organic Production certification.



## MBDA/MBMA PROGRAMMES



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



#### **Multiple Districts Covered: PES Interventions in Meghalaya**

Green Field Associates implemented a wide-reaching initiative under its Payment for Ecosystem Services programme in Meghalaya, focusing on forest protection through boundary demarcation, land verification, and deforestation site assessments. The interventions covered Ri Bhoi, Khasi Hills, Jaintia Hills, and Garo Hills, reaching dozens of villages and community forests, including Umshiaiw, Mawker, Rikyrshang, Rumnong, Leskha, Mawiwet, Darechikgre, and Megua Abagre.

Monitoring was carried out at deforestation-prone areas such as Amkhang, Umsiang Maiong, Smowkokki, Patharlyndan, Umrit, Nonglum, and Nongpyrdet, while community-led boundary demarcation was completed in key locations including Belahari. These efforts contribute to mapping and conserving Meghalaya's forest landscapes and supporting local participation in sustainable forest governance.



# STORY OF THE WEEK

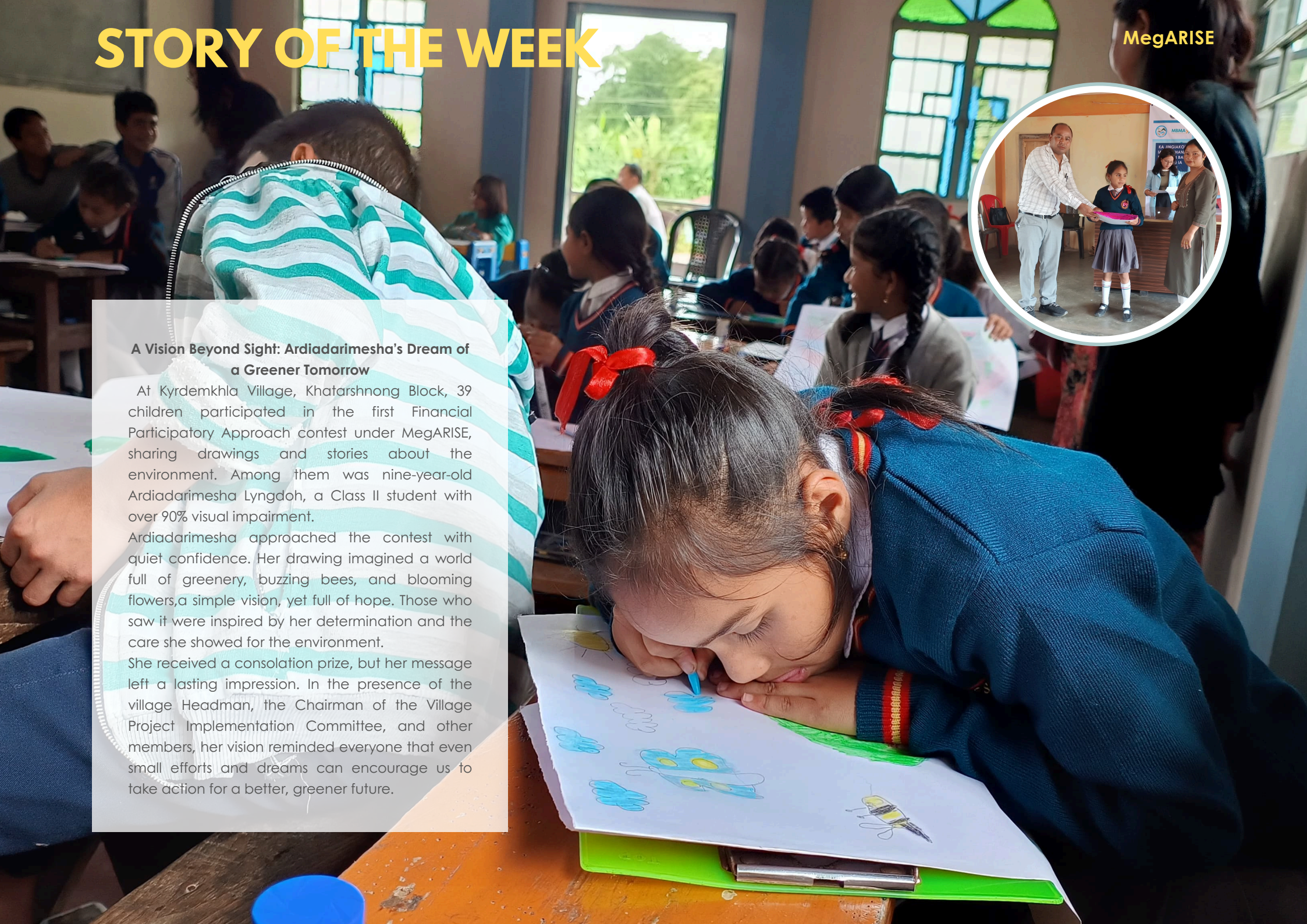
MegARISE

## A Vision Beyond Sight: Ardiadarimesha's Dream of a Greener Tomorrow

At Kyrdemkhla Village, Khatarshnong Block, 39 children participated in the first Financial Participatory Approach contest under MegARISE, sharing drawings and stories about the environment. Among them was nine-year-old Ardiadarimesha Lyngdoh, a Class II student with over 90% visual impairment.

Ardiadarimesha approached the contest with quiet confidence. Her drawing imagined a world full of greenery, buzzing bees, and blooming flowers, a simple vision, yet full of hope. Those who saw it were inspired by her determination and the care she showed for the environment.

She received a consolation prize, but her message left a lasting impression. In the presence of the village Headman, the Chairman of the Village Project Implementation Committee, and other members, her vision reminded everyone that even small efforts and dreams can encourage us to take action for a better, greener future.





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[Meghalaya Basin Development Authority MBDA](https://www.youtube.com/Meghalaya%20Basin%20Development%20Authority%20MBDA)



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