

24 October 2025

Newsletter

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 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
14 September 2016-2020



GREEN
MEGHALAYA
Grassroot Level Response towards
Ecosystem Enhancement and
Nurturing Meghalaya

Smart Village Movement™
In Alliance With Berkeley Haas



PRIME
MEGHALAYA



KEY UPDATES

24 October 2025

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



As part of the IFAD Technical Support Mission under the Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project (Megha-LAMP), Mr. Nirajan Khadka, Environment and Climate Officer-Safeguards Specialist, and Mr. Mahendra Chhetri, Infrastructure Specialist, visited several project locations across East Khasi Hills, West Jaintia Hills, East Jaintia Hills, West Khasi Hills, and Ri Bhoi districts from 13-17 October 2025.

The mission team reviewed the progress of ongoing infrastructure works including PRIME Hubs, Collective Marketing Centres (CMCs), Farmers' Markets, and Warehouses, assessing adherence to quality standards, SECAP (Social, Environmental, and Climate Assessment Procedures) safeguards, and operational readiness. They also interacted with community members, field engineers and district teams to provide guidance on timely completion and sustainability measures.

In addition to infrastructure sites, the team visited Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) interventions such as check dams, Plastic Cell Treatment (PCT) road and Open Lime Treatment Channels (OLTCS) to evaluate their functionality and long-term resilience. The experts appreciated the visible progress and community participation while emphasizing the importance of integrating climate adaptation, drainage, and maintenance plans to ensure lasting impact.

The mission concluded with a debriefing at MBMA Conference Hall, Shillong, where actionable recommendations were shared with the project team to strengthen safeguards compliance, finalize operational checklists, and prepare for the forthcoming IFAD Supervision Mission.

KEY UPDATES

24 October 2025

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



From 6th to 10th October and on 15th October 2025, the MeghARISE Ganol team organised Executive Training sessions across Rongram and Selsella in West Garo Hills and Rerapara Block in South West Garo Hills. A total of 199 Executive Members representing 26 Village Project Implementation Committees (VPICs) participated. The sessions covered key areas such as Project Objectives, Committee Roles and Responsibilities, By-laws, Expression of Interest (EOI), Village Grant Agreement (VGA), Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), and Memorandum of Agreement (MoA), along with focused discussions on the project's three core areas: Plantation, Livelihood, and Soil and Water Conservation.

KEY UPDATES

MBDA/MBMA PROGRAMMES

24 October 2025



131 MBDA/MBMA Staff Trained in Leadership Capacity-Building Programme



From 13th to 16th October 2025, the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority/Meghalaya Basin Management Agency, in collaboration with the Symbiosis Centre for Management and Human Resource Development, conducted a Leadership Capacity-Building Programme at the State Convention Centre, Shillong. Organised by the Human Resource Team, the programme trained 131 staff across four batches, focusing on improving leadership and teamwork skills to support inclusive and resilient development in Meghalaya.

The programme concluded with a feedback session where participants shared their experiences, highlighted key learnings, with many expressing their intent to apply these insights in their roles and contribute more effectively to the organization's developmental goals..

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



Field Visit by Additional Project Director, MegLIFE

On 15th October 2025, Shri. Sachin Shankar Gavade, IFS, Executive Director, MBDA & Additional Project Director, MegLIFE, visited Assisted Natural Regeneration Plantation, Agroforestry, and Bamboo Plantation sites at Jongmegre and Bansinggre villages under Samanda Block, East Garo Hills. The visit aimed to review ongoing initiatives promoting sustainable development and community-driven growth. Shri Gavade also interacted with local residents at the Community Hall, sharing insights and encouraging stronger community participation for collective progress.



25 Self-Help Groups Trained in Bookkeeping

On 9th and 10th October 2025, MegLIFE trained 25 Self-Help Groups from Saipung Block, East Jaintia Hills, in bookkeeping. Sessions on minutes registers, cash books, and ledgers strengthened participants' financial management and record-keeping skills.



2 IVCSs Trained on Pressure Pump Washer Technology

On 15th October 2025, members of Umtasor Mawdkhar and Nangroi Nongbah Myrdon IVCSs received hands-on training on a 2HP Pressure Pump Washer, learning operation and maintenance to enhance hygiene in piggery operations.



Review of Plantation Sites and Soil and Water Conservation Structures by MegLIFE Team

On 11th October 2025, Shri. Sachin Shankar Gavade, IFS, Executive Director, MBDA & Additional Project Director, MegLIFE, along with the State Project Management Unit team, visited Mawlali Village in Mawkyntew Block, East Khasi Hills. The visit focused on reviewing plantation sites, community facilities, and identifying potential areas for new Soil and Water Conservation activities. The team provided technical guidance to strengthen Soil and Water Conservation structures and improve plantation survival, supporting ongoing efforts toward sustainable land management.

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



3-Day Refresher Training for SPMU and CMU-Umiew Staff

From 15th to 17th October 2025, the MegARISE Project conducted a 3-day refresher training for staff from SPMU and Umiew Catchment, preparing for the 2026 plantation season. Facilitated by Shri. Samuel Raju Geddum, Retd. IFS Officer & Bratiti Purkayastha Technical Specialist, Project Management, the training included classroom sessions and field practicals at Laitkyrhong Village for community nursery management and plantation, and at Laitdiengsai Village for hands-on plantation demonstrations.



PRA Conducted at Umiew Catchment

On 8th October 2025, the Catchment Management Unit, Umiew team conducted a Participatory Rural Appraisal(PRA) in Kyntonsyrwa Village, Khatarshnong Laitkroh Block. The community actively participated, identifying key interventions including a Check Dam, Retaining Wall, and Spring Chamber.



PRA Conducted at Ganol Catchment

On 9th October 2025, the Ganol team conducted a PRA exercise in Mrigre, Rongram, West Garo Hills, carrying out a transect walk with community members. The assessment identified strong potential for planting water-retaining species. With most villagers depending on horticultural crops like areca nut, these plantation initiatives are expected to improve water retention and support local livelihoods.



34 Participants Take Part in Financial Participatory Appraisal Contests

On 10th and 17th October 2025, 34 participants joined the Financial Participatory Appraisal Contests at Mawkathein, Mawrengkneng Block (24 participants), and Pomlakrai Mawbyinna Village, Myllem Block (10 participants). Winning ideas included mushroom cultivation, water filtration, water harvesting structures, floriculture, polyhouse for vegetable and tree nursery, piggery, and more.



On 23rd October 2025, 40 Green Field Associates and 30 Surveyors were trained on the new protocols of GREEN Meghalaya+. The session began with a welcome address by Shri James Kharkongor, Deputy Project Director, MegARISE, MBDA. Resource persons from the Inclusive Economics Indian Centre guided participants, while the Centre for Digital Financial Inclusion and Humanitics Dimension Software teams briefed them on Appverse and CM Connect.





His processing unit, Sharak Rit, now employs two local women daily. Farmers who once left ripened jackfruit in the fields now sell them to Armstrong for chips. King Chilli Paste, produced in 400 to 500 bottles annually, is popular across Meghalaya and has reached cities such as Delhi, recently showcased at the Pineapple Festival. Government departments regularly invite Armstrong to lead training sessions. He shares practical knowledge and encourages farmers to see training as a path to a better future. Armstrong's work has not only built a business but also created opportunities for the entire community.

ARMSTRONG SHYLLA

Uniting a Community Through Food and Purpose

Mawbidong Village, about 16 kilometres from Mawkyrwat in the South West Khasi Hills, faces many challenges including poor roads, limited healthcare, substandard schools, and gaps in basic services. Yet one individual has turned these challenges into opportunity.

Armstrong's journey into food processing began during the COVID-19 lockdown. Like many farmers in the village, he saw his crops go unsold as markets closed. Instead of giving up, he turned to a local crop he valued most, the king chilli, and experimented with ways to preserve it. He created a paste that saved the chilli harvest and provided a new source of income for the village.

Starting with simple equipment, Armstrong ground chillies from his fields, bottled the paste, and shared samples with family and friends. The response was enthusiastic, and soon people from nearby villages began requesting more. As demand grew, Armstrong bought chillies from other farmers, giving them an additional source of income.

In 2021, Armstrong attended food processing training at the Institute of Hotel Management, supported by the Directorate of Horticulture. He learned new techniques and expanded his products to include blackberry and pineapple squashes, bamboo shoot pickles, bay leaves, black pepper, and his signature King Chilli Paste.

Armstrong also encouraged Self-Help Groups and Producer Groups in neighbouring villages to pursue similar training. He referred 30 women, who later started producing jams, pickles, and squashes under the PG brand 'Na Diengkhong ki Nongrep'. Armstrong markets their products and takes only a small share of profits, focusing on helping these women earn a steady income.

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