

NEWSLETTER

Updates of the Week

8th May 2024



THE MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT (MEGHA-LAMP)



THE MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (MEGLIFE)



PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA



THE MEGHALAYA COMMUNITY LED LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PROJECT (MCLLMP)



SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA



INSTITUTE OF NATURAL RESOURCES (INR)



FARMERS' COLLECTIVIZATION FOR UPSCALING OF PRODUCTION AND MARKETING SYSTEMS (FOCUS)



THE MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY (MBMA)



THE MEGHALAYA BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MBDA)

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT



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*Megha***LAMP**
Meghalaya Livelihoods Access to Market Project
In Partnership With IFAD

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

MEETINGS & AWARENESS PROGRAMMES



A meeting was held between the DHO, HDO, SP, ADO, DPM, officials from the cooperation department, and MLAMP staff on 1st May, 2024, at the office of DHO, East Garo Hills, for the selection and finalization of IVCS for State Organic Mission 2.0.



On 2nd May, 2024, DPMU-EGH conducted a survey for the Asian Development Bank Project at Emangre, SGH.



On 2nd May, 2024, an awareness session on Mission Organic was conducted by the Horticulture Department along with MBMA and the DPMU-SWGH Team at Kentrikona IVCS Ltd.



DPMU-EGH conducted an awareness programme on establishment of Custom Hiring Centre at Upper Bolmoram IVCS Ltd., EGH, on 2nd May, 2024.



On 5th May, 2024, the service provider from Yashomati Bio-Multitech Unit 2, along with horticulture officers and the MBMA Rerapara block team, conducted an awareness and orientation programme on State Mission Organic Phase 2 at Matrongkol IVCS Ltd and Matalagre IVCS Ltd. under SWGH District, Ampati.



The 1st Batch of FLP was conducted at Dambuk Apal IVCS Ltd. under Rongara C&RD Block, South Garo Hills on 2nd May, 2024.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

MEETINGS & AWARENESS PROGRAMMES



On 5th May, 2024, SP Yashowati Bio-Multitech Unit 2, Horticulture Officers, and the MBMA team from Rerapara block jointly visited Grimsan Wega'a IVCS under Rerapara Block to conduct an awareness and orientation programme on Mission Organic Phase 2 under SWGH District.



A meeting was held with Nongsophan IVCS office bearers on the 6th of May, 2024, for discussions regarding their books of account, activities, and future plans. The visit was conducted along with an official from ARCS.



On 6th May, 2024, a meeting was conducted at Prime Hub, Tura, with the SPMU team and the DPMs of Gato Hills Region, which included the IVCs i/c, the Farm Managers, and the CBOs of Garo Hills. The meeting focused on matters relating to the Ginger Mission.



An awareness program was conducted at Mawkasain and Kenbah Malai villages on the 6th of May 2024. The program focused on mobilization for membership, savings, and loans under Mawsynram C&RD Block.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

MEETINGS & AWARENESS PROGRAMMES



The Financial Literacy Programme was conducted on the 7th of May 2024 at Kentra IVCS under North Garo Hills, District.



An awareness programme on mobilization of shares, loans, and saving accounts was conducted at Jatah Nonglyer, organized by EFC Mawkynrew. The event took place on 7th May 2024 in the presence of the Sordar and the members of the IVCS. The resource person for the programme was Shri Ryngkat Blah, Secretary of Dongiewrim IVCS.



Meeting held on Farmer's Market & Primehub under EKH at FKJPA, Barik Shillong on the 7th May, 2024.



On 7th May, 2024, a team from DPMU-EGH visited Rongsak Farmers Market under Samanda C&RD Block, EGH. The findings from the visit are as follows: the construction of stalls is completed and functional, the installation of cold storage is completed, but the battery is not working, and the construction of toilets is yet to be completed.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

MEETINGS & AWARENESS PROGRAMMES



Awareness cum verification program on State Mission Organic 2.0 was conducted at Dabram IVCS Ltd., SGH by the horticulture department SGH. Six IVCS from Baghmara Block and two IVCS from Chokpot block were selected for Meghalaya State Mission Organic 2.0.



A meeting between the Horticulture Department and MBMA was held to discuss the inception of IVCS under State Mission Organic at the Office of the District Horticulture Officer, Ampati, South West Garo Hills.



Orientation on village survey and data collection for ADB Project was conducted for the FOCUS Volunteers at Kharkutta and Bajengdoba Blocks, North Garo Hills.



VDV review meeting at DPMU North Garo Hills was held to discuss the roles and responsibilities of the VDV's, emphasizing GRM, awareness on various government schemes and programs, and informing the community's grievances to the Government.



A meeting between the Horticulture Department and MBMA, NGH was held at the Office of District Horticulture Department, Resubelpara, North Garo Hills to discuss about the Mission Organic 0.2.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

MEETINGS & AWARENESS PROGRAMMES



Interaction with MC of Pilingkatta B IVCS was conducted along with the Gender Specialist from SPMU. This IVCS has enabled its members to access schemes that were previously unavailable to them due to their location near the state border.



Interaction with the Managing Committee (MC) of Santipur IVCS and the PGs group at Santipur took place. The objective of this interaction was to gain an understanding of the participation of women in IVCS and their decision-making within the IVCS. Through this interaction, it was found that women in Santipur save more than men because they believe it will help them in times of emergency.



The DPMU-EKH. District Monthly Review Meeting was held at the district to discuss on the matters related to the project.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

TRAININGS AND OTHERS



On 2nd May, 2024, the DPMU-SWGH Team visited the cashew processing unit and Prime Hub at Chapahati 1 IVCS Ltd., Zikzak Dev. Block. The purpose of the visit was to conduct a case study on gender.



Farmers market & Primehub inspection from DPMU & EFC Mawphlang to Lwai was conducted on the 2nd May 2024.



Site inspections cum sensitisation programme for the SPs/Sec /Chairman IVCS of Mawthlong Mynsain and Nongur on demonstration plots of potato were conducted on 3rd May 2024 by the SPMU team accompanied by CIP team and IVCS incharges.



AGM of Umwang Pyllun IVCS and Election of Board Members of IVCS for the next 5 years took place at Umwang Nongbah on the 4th of May, 2024.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

TRAININGS AND OTHERS



One-day 'Dry Ration Training' for IVCS (Puriang IVCS & Mawiong IVCS, located on Diengpasoh road under Mawryngkneng Block) organized by DPMU, EKH, and EARMACS, facilitated by EFC, Mawryngkneng Block, was held on the 6th of May, 2024, at Puriang dorbar hall. Present at the event were the Sardar, Secretary, and members of IVCS (office bearers, progressive farmers in agriculture, horticulture, and piggery), numbering to 27. The training was conducted by Shri Marbit Wahlang, Chairman of EARMACS.



Mobilization of IVCS was held on the 6th of May, 2024, at Wahkdait IVCS, organized by the EFC Pynursla. The event was graced by the presence of Shri. Banrap Warjri (Programme Associate), the Headman of the village, the Secretary of Wahkdait IVCS, members of IVCS and non-members, and the Secretary of Mawlyndiar IVCS, along with a team serving as resource persons.



On 7th May, 2024, a team from SPMU visited Gabil Rongmil IVCS Ltd.- Prime Hub, EGH, and provided hands-on training and demonstrations for handling tools for broomstick value addition in the broomstick processing unit. The unit received 6 hand tools in phase 1. Additionally, a team from DPMU-EGH also visited Gabil Rongmil IVCS Ltd. on the same day to check bills and vouchers, assess the utilization of funds sanctioned, and ensure the submission of UCs for trial marketing fund and orange waxing unit.



Hands on training on broomstick knitting in Porshieh Prime Hub 7th May 2024.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

TRAININGS AND OTHERS



Three Days training on Bookkeeping and Preparation of Final Accounts of IVCS was conducted by DPMU-EGH at Model Farm Training Centre, Terrace Gittim, Williamnagar, to the IVCS from Songsak and Dambo Rongjeng Block. Shri. S. K. Sangma, SCO, Cooperation Department, EGH, attended the training as Resource Person.



The Director and officials of Department of Food Processing Industries visited Rongara Food and Beverage Processing Units and interacted with the Board of Directors. The General Meeting was also conducted on the same day with stakeholders to initiate training and processing.



One-day training on Dry ration was held today at Mawlai C&Rd block, attended by members of IVCS and some progressive farmers. The resource persons were Dr. Cheryl Lyngwe and Shri. Marbit Wahlang, Chairman of EARMACS.



Site Inspection at Mawmaram IVCS for Agricab construction was conducted along with officials from the Block office in convergence with MGNREGA.



MegLIFE

Meghalaya Livelihood
Improvement through Forest
Enhancement Project (MegLIFE)



MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Jungle clearance activities



Multiple jungle clearance activities are ongoing at various locations such as Bangsi Minol, Kopogre village, Tochapara village, and others, along with advance work like lining and staking at sites including Adugre Rongram and Tosekgre Rongram. PA visits for monitoring are conducted at places like Rongribo Watregre VPIC. Ongoing efforts also include jungle clearance at Imsambal Village, Demthring village, and Dombagre, alongside continuation of advance work and jungle clearance at multiple blocks and villages such as Tosekgre, Balupara, and Thapa Dangre Community Reserve. Additionally, activities like line and staking at ANR Plantation sites and demonstrations in Songsak Block are in progress.



On May 1st, 2024, the BPM, Sir Sitaram, Coordinator for MegLIFE and MegARISE in Garo Hills Region, and Sir Ivan Areng, DPM in WGH, visited Damjongre Group 2 village to monitor progress on the upcoming plantation project and inspect an existing water borehole drilled by the Central Water Board, potentially for a planned RCC water tank project.

"SHG Awareness & Development Events: Highlights"



Several events aimed at enhancing Self Help Group (SHG) awareness and development occurred across various Blocks and villages. Notable activities included SHG gradation visits to Rompa, Karabalapara, Emandurabanda, Rajasimla Songgital, Mittegittim, and Jajilgittim clusters, as well as meetings on Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS) and SHG awareness. In addition, discussions on record maintenance took place, focusing on Challang, Chibasal, Tekra, and Minrong SHGs of Rongreng Nokat under Songsak Block, culminating in the decision to form two new SHGs due to some groups' reluctance to convert to SHGs. Staff involvement included Programme Associates, an Assistant Manager, and a Forester.



Community nurseries have been set up in different Blocks across various villages, managed by VPICs, to grow plants for the upcoming year 2024 in specified plantation areas.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENCHANCEMENT PROJECT

"Springshed Survey and Management Activities"



The MSLC team conducted Springshed survey activities in various blocks and villages, including Gitokgre VPIC under Samanda Block and Bawegre VPIC under Tikrikilla Block. Community interactions and field visits were carried out with Master trainers, FE, GIS personnel, and BPM I/c, focusing on identifying critical springs and learning opportunities. Additional visits involved Springshed management activities with SPMU and MegArise teams, aiming at collaborative efforts for effective management. Positive responses from villagers indicated a willingness to adopt necessary precautions for Springshed management.

Halfmoon terracing activities



Half moon terrace initiatives are underway in various blocks and villages. In Malchapara, Betasing Block, SWGH, they were demonstrated by FE and PA Forester. Dorakgre VPIC is currently engaged in ongoing half moon terracing activities. Furthermore, on May 2nd, 2024, a feasibility assessment for SWC was conducted, alongside a demonstration of half moon terracing at Khaldang Tunaturam village in Resubelpara Block

Dugout pond activity on SWC



Dug out pond/Conservation Pond at Nepalgre village under Betasing Block SWGH

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

"MegLIFE Rongram Village Evaluation Visit: Progress and Assessments"



On May 2nd, 2024, the Rongram Block's BPM, accompanied by the DPM and the MegARISE team, conducted a visit to Ading Nokat & Tosekgre Rongram to evaluate the progress of the MegLIFE Rongram villages. During the visit, the team inspected the advancement of the Community Hall and Community Nurseries in both villages, along with five sites designated for the Ading Nokat Plantation. They also interacted with VPIC members and assessed the status of ongoing work. As of now, two plots have been fully cleared and staked, while jungle clearing and staking are in progress for three other plots.

Arecanut Crop Transformation: Chokpot Emandurabanda Case



Chokpot Emandurabanda vpic, the area previously dedicated to arecanut plantation has been transformed into Agroforestry due to the entire arecanut crop being dead

"Community Engagement: MegLIFE Team's Visit to Bandigre VPIC"



On May 1st, 2024, the MegLIFE Samanda Block BPMU team visited Bandigre VPIC to address several important topics. These included explaining the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system for wages, suggesting payment through designated VPIC members due to banking limitations, raising awareness about the Integrated Village Cooperative Society (IVCS), and encouraging the formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs), which attracted the interest of 20 households. Additionally, plans were discussed for distributing saplings for planting activities, with villagers ready to install bamboo fencing to protect the saplings overnight.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST
ENCHANCEMENT PROJECT

ENTRY POINT ACTIVITY - COMMUNITY HALL

The construction of 370 community halls has been sanctioned under EPA of MegLIFE. Initial phases of site preparation is underway.





Protection of Vulnerable Catchment Areas in Meghalaya (MegARISE)



PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA



On 6th May 2024, MegARISE Umiew Catchment team visited 6 villages (Pombot , Demthring , Madan ingsyiem , Mawkhanpasir) for verification the feasibility of the land for setting up new nursery under MegARISE Project . And on the same day , Smt A. Raajshree, IAS, BDO , Myllichem Block with line departments had a join inspection to Lumdewsaw and Mawsawa village situated within the Umiew Catchment area. These villages were chosen for inspection, indicating a focus on areas crucial for environmental conservation and community development and to look around for an effective convergence going forward.

And on 7th May 2024, the team visit to Mawnarian under Myllichem C&RD Block, Iewpomtiah and Umiew Maw U Sam under Mawryngkneng C&RD Block and Umtyngngar under Khadarshnong C&RD Block.



On 7th May 2024, MegARISE Ganol Catchment team visited 7 villages namely Mandal Nokat under Samanda block, East Garo Hills and Selbal Nokat, Selbalgre, Rengsangre, Mrigre, Chibasalgre, and Allagre villages under West Garo Hills District for site verification and feasibility of the land for setting up nursery under MegARISE Project .

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA (SLM)



SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA



The 3rd Regular Meeting of the Sustainable Land Management Meghalaya Project (SLM) was held on 06 May 2024 at SLM headquarters to discuss update on works carried out by the Project Management Unit (PMU), the IMC availability for the upcoming months, the status of the Operational Manual (OM), procurement-related updates, and other business matters. Participants included Smt. Isawanda Laloo (IAS), Project Director (PD), SLM, Shri. Jun J Momin, Deputy Project Director (DPD), SLM, Dr. Florian Wieneke, Portfolio Manager NRM, KfW, the PMU team, and the IMC team.



Village Organization Implements Innovative Farming Practices in Umkrem Village, Eastern West Khasi Hills

In a village organization meeting focused on enhancing farming techniques, the following activities took place: an ATM Model was established at LF Balakytiew's field with diverse crops sown including carrot, radish, peas, turnip, cucumber, coriander, beans, long beans, and broad beans. Natural farming practices were implemented, including seedling treatment with Beejamruth and soil enrichment using Ghana Jeevamrutham mixed with FYM. Border crops such as cucumber, peas, and beans were sowed around maize fields for space optimization. Attendees visited a buckwheat field in its flowering stage and recommended Egg Amino Acid spray for plant health during pollination. During the meeting, topics discussed included Pre-Monsoon Dry Sowing (PMDS), relay sowing in ATM Models, managing pest infestations naturally, readiness of lands for paddy sowing, and ensuring availability of Ghana Jeevamrutham. The session was attended by ICRPs.

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA



Activities of the Rongbok Abri Village SHG, EGH

The Rongbok Abri Village Self-Help Group, led by farmer Cribilla Momin, conducted agricultural activities in Mejpgrewancho Village, Dombo Rongjeng Block, East Garo Hills. They prepared beds and applied 15 kg of Ganajeevamritham biofertilizer to enhance soil fertility. They also treated seeds of 12 types of vegetables and greens with Bijamritham before planting them. The group is focused on mass-producing agricultural inputs to support local farmers while aiming to ensure timely availability, reducing costs, and facilitating resource mobilization within the community.



NF farming activities in Cham Cham, EJH

In East Jaintia Hills' Wapung Block, Natural Farming Farmers in Cham Cham Village established kitchen gardens and models, visited a buckwheat field, and planted tomato, ladyfinger, beans, peas, and cucumber. The vegetable seeds were treated with Bijamruth and Ghana Jivamrutham was applied after planting to enhance growth and soil fertility. Farmers also collaborated on planning Pre-Monsoon Dry Sowing (PMDS). The activities were attended by farmers and lead farmers.



Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)



PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

"Site Inspection Visits and Meetings by GFA"



Green Field Associates (GFA) conducted site inspection visits and meetings across various blocks and villages, including Nongtalang, Chibrage, Sohmyting, Katuligre, Bollonggre, Khatarshnong Laitkroh Block, Shella Bholaganj Block, Magupara, Umru village in Bhoirymbong Block, and Nongsangu village under Umsning block. During these visits, observations were made regarding forest boundary clearing, participation of communities, and progress of Phase 2 batch projects. Meetings were held to discuss community reserves and project beneficiaries.

"Forest Protection Efforts: Fireline Setup & Boundary Work in various Block"



Beneficiaries from diverse Blocks and villages are actively involved in several tasks, including boundary demarcation and forest protection. Notably, Damalgre PES has commenced boundary demarcation activities, while Bollonggre Batch 1 is dedicated to forest protection efforts.

SNIPPETS



Green Field Associates (GFAs) are presently in the process of collecting application forms and utilization certificates, demonstrating their active involvement in gathering comprehensive information from applicants.



Meetings are underway with beneficiaries of the payment for ecosystem services scheme. The sessions encompass guidance on effective fund utilization and timely submission of Utilization Certificates (UC).

PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

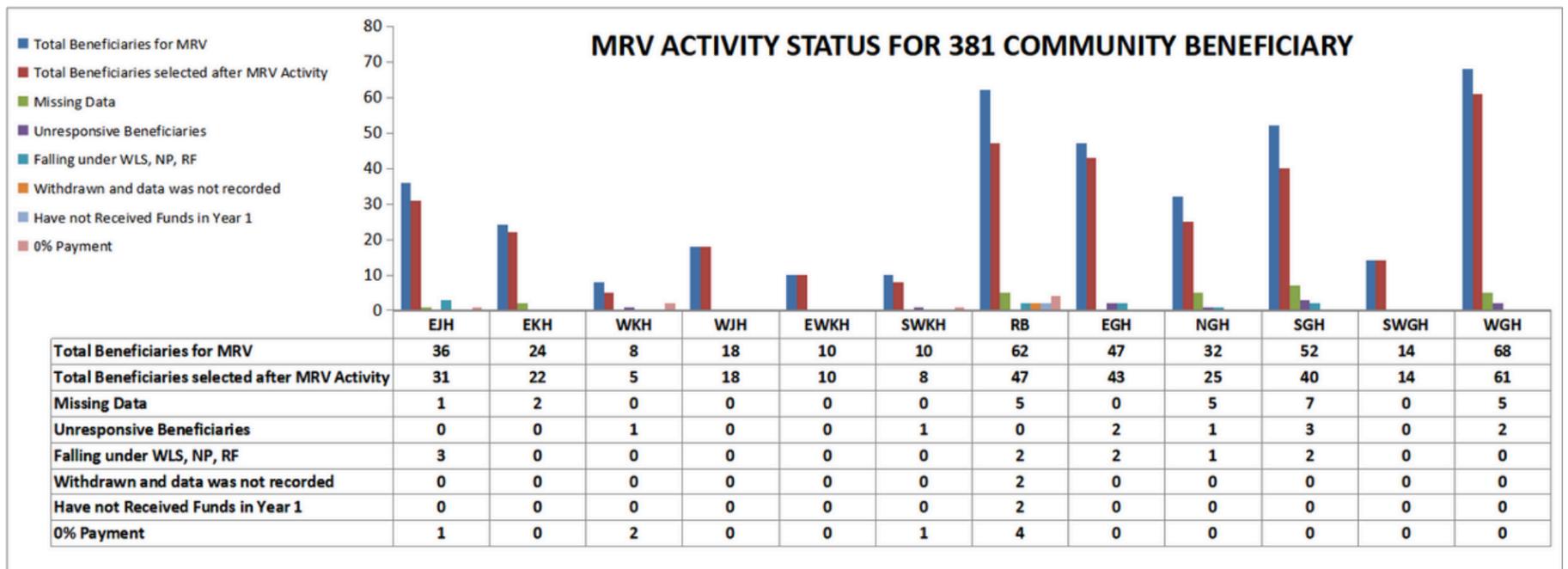


0Across various blocks and villages, GFAs conducted a series of meetings engaging beneficiaries in discussions concerning Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) activities and utilization certificates (UCs). Commencing on May 2, 2024, a meeting convened at Khliehmawlieh Village, addressing these pertinent topics. Follow-up sessions on May 3, 2024, entailed aiding beneficiaries in completing Labour sheets within Pynursla Block, East Khasi Hills, while also discussing PES Activities and UCs. Lastly, on May 4, 2024, another meeting was convened at Umkrem village to deliberate on activities and UCs with the beneficiaries.

PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

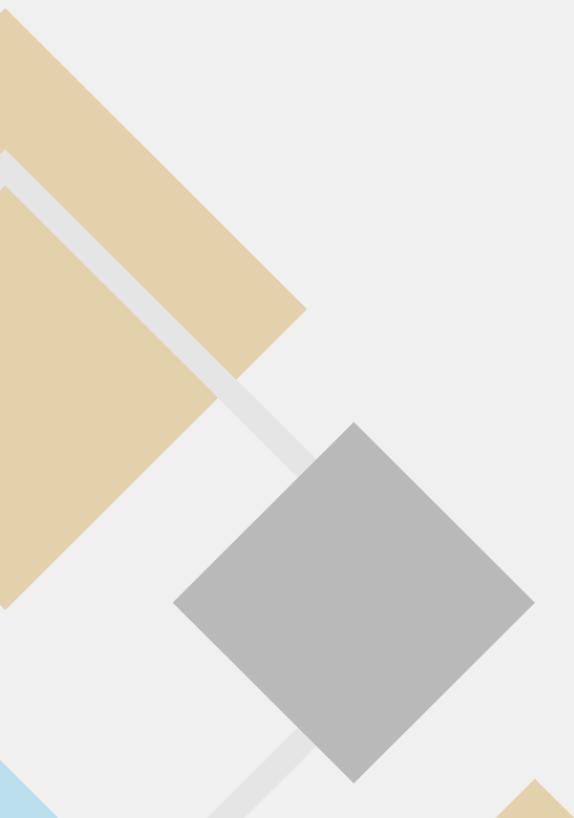
MRV ACTIVITY FOR TOTAL 381 COMMUNITY BENEFICIARIES

District	Total Beneficiaries for MRV	Total Beneficiaries selected after MRV Activity	Missing Data	Unresponsive Beneficiaries	Falling under WLS, NP, RF	Withdrawn and data was not recorded	Have not Received Funds in Year 1	0% Payment
EJH	36	31	1	0	3	0	0	1
EKH	24	22	2	0	0	0	0	0
WKH	8	5	0	1	0	0	0	2
WJH	18	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
EWKH	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
SWKH	10	8	0	1	0	0	0	1
RB	62	47	5	0	2	2	2	4
EGH	47	43	0	2	2	0	0	0
NGH	32	25	5	1	1	0	0	0
SGH	52	40	7	3	2	0	0	0
SWG	14	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
WGH	68	61	5	2	0	0	0	0
STATE TOTAL	381	324	25	10	10	2	2	8



Institute of Natural Resources

(INR)



INSTITUTE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

AWARENESS PROGRAMME



PGS certification, which stands for Participatory Guarantee System, plays a crucial role in ensuring the organic integrity of agricultural products. Collaborations between organizations like the Bio Resource Development Centre (BRDC) and societies such as the Institute of Natural Resources, Meghalaya are essential for spreading awareness and facilitating the certification process. Conducting programs at the grassroots level, as in Byrwa and Umdohbyrthih in Ri Bhoi district, will greatly benefit local farmers and communities by providing them with the knowledge and resources necessary to obtain PGS certification for their produce. It's commendable to see efforts being made to promote sustainable and organic agricultural practices in Meghalaya.

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