

# Newsletter

02 May 2025

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

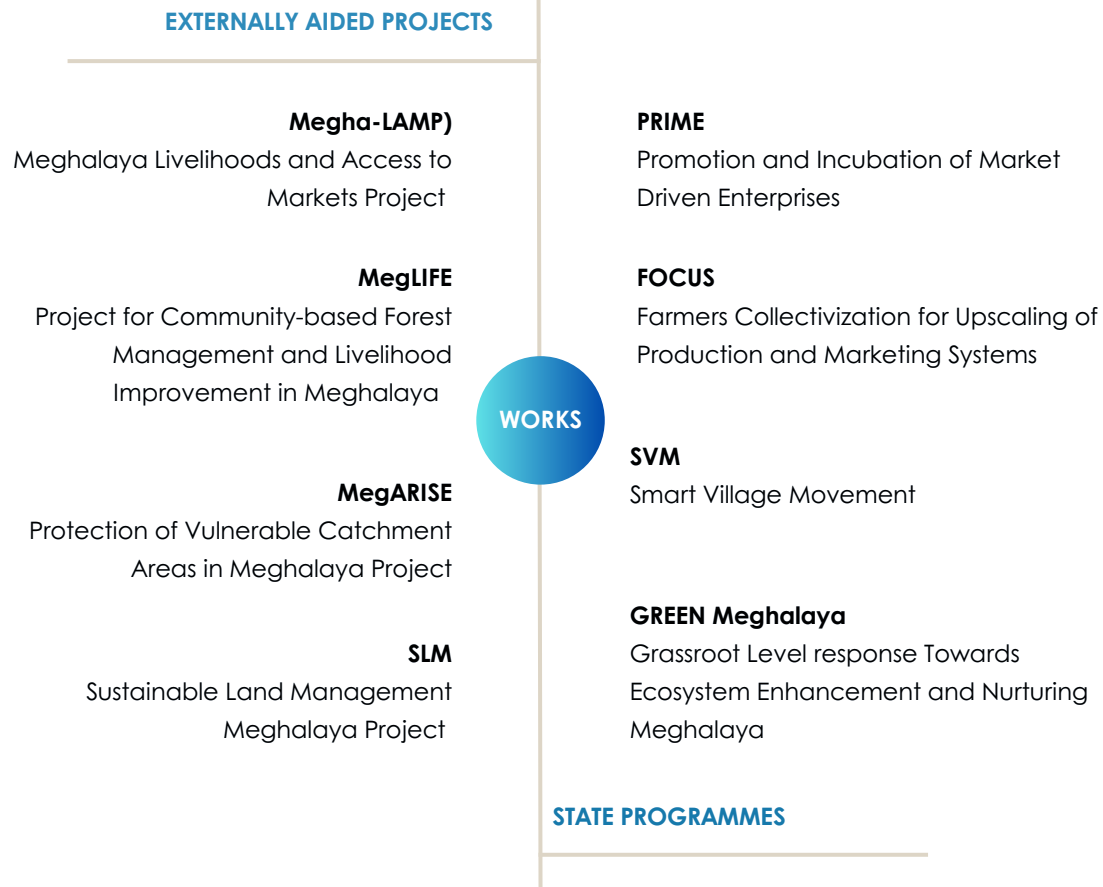


# ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

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), the KfW Development Bank-funded Sustainable Land Management Meghalaya Project (SLM) and the Protection of Vulnerable Catchment Area in Meghalaya (MegARISE) Project, and the recently-concluded World Bank-funded Community Led Landscape Management Project (CLLMP).

State programmes being implemented include the Promotion and Incubation of Market-Driven Enterprises (PRIME), the Farmers Collectivization for Upscaling Production and Marketing Systems (FOCUS), and the Smart Village Movement (SVM).



**MeghaLAMP**  
Meghalaya Livelihoods Access to Market Project



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

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



**PRIME**  
MEGHALAYA



# KEY UPDATES

## PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT

02 May 2025



### Barren Land verification by Umiew Catchment from 22nd April to 24th April 2025, East Hills District

The Umiew Catchment Management held a three-day Barren Land verification from the 22nd April to 24th April 2025. This exercise aimed to assess and confirm the status of areas identified as barren land through GIS mapping in the designated region. This verification was essential for evaluating the potential of these lands for afforestation, sustainable livelihoods, or conservation initiatives.

#### Key Findings:

Total Area Verified: 231.6 hectares (46% of the total area demarcated by GIS)

Confirmed Barren Land: 59.93 hectares (26% of the verified area)

Misclassified Areas: 171.67 hectares were found to be under seasonal agriculture or undergoing natural regeneration

Soil Characteristics: The majority of confirmed barren land featured low soil fertility, shallow soil depth, rocky terrain, and signs of erosion

Human Activity: Several areas initially classified as barren were found to be used for grazing, seasonal farming, or mining

Other Observations: In some areas marked as barren, plantations had already been established by the Soil or Forest Department (e.g., Swer, Rangbihbih, Kyrdemkhla, Ur Masi u Joh, Warbah, Umiew, Maw u Sam)

Local farmers are effectively utilizing the land for cultivation, showcasing adaptability and resilience. However, the land available for agriculture is limited, and farmers are making the most of the available space despite the rocky and challenging terrain.



### **Farmer Producer Groups in North Garo Hills Reap and Reinvest Gains**

In Jonglapara, North Garo Hills, 10 members of a Farmer Producer Group earned ₹1.98 lakh in profit through collective farming of vegetables like cabbage, cauliflower, potato, tomato, and pumpkin, using ₹40,000 from the FOCUS Corpus Fund and their own contributions. Building on past success, the Rongge Bisik Producer Group—who earned ₹91,000 profit last year from turmeric—has now resumed cultivation with ₹90,000 support, as 20 members from Abakgre and Gajing villages return to the fields with the first rains.

### **Exposure Visit to Eastern Ribhoi FPC**

Five Ginger Processing Units from Mawlumrum, Mawlai Mawtawar, Nonghali, Diengpasoh, and Pingwait in East Khasi Hills participated in an exposure visit to Eastern Ribhoi FPC.

### **Sub-Office Inauguration at Umtyrnga Village**

Pillingkata B IVCS inaugurated a sub-office at Umtyrnga Village, Umling Block, Ri Bhoi District, to enhance local accessibility for its members.

### **Boosting Poultry Farming and Livelihoods**

54 farmers and 8 Producer Groups from Bajengdoba and Resubelpara Block received incubators and hatchery eggs from the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department under FOCUS, SeSTA. They were also given a demonstration on how to operate the incubators.

### **Loan Application Meeting**

40 beneficiaries from North Garo Hills submitted loan applications under CM Elevate for poultry, warehouse, and CFC projects at Mendipathar Multipurpose Cooperative Society Hall, Mendipathar. They also applied for trial marketing loans under MLAMP. A similar program was held in Shillong.

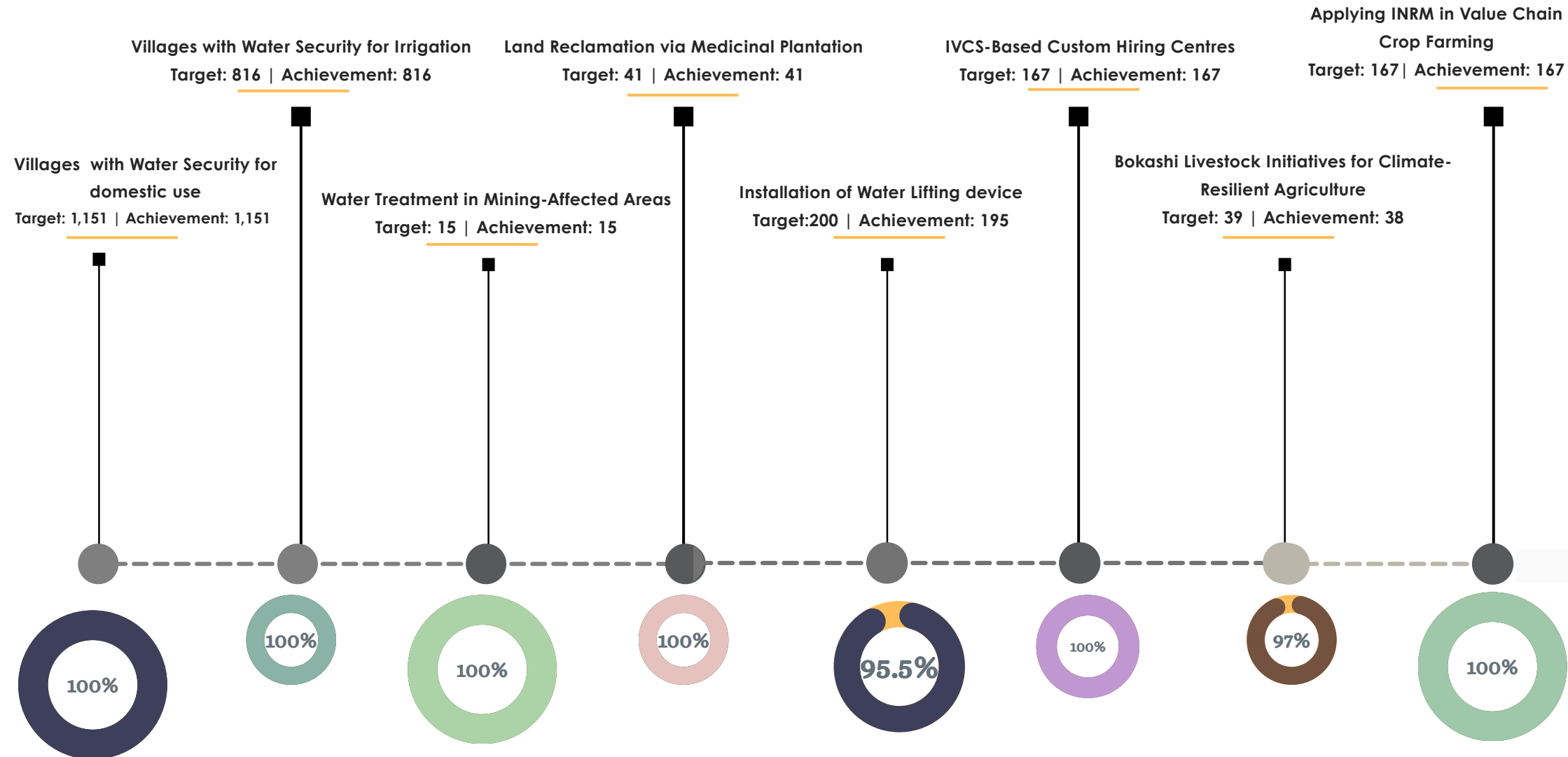
### **Distribution of Handlooms to Weavers**

65 weavers in North Garo Hills received handlooms from the Deputy Commissioner after completing 45 days of training at Colks and Bolmoram.

### **Inaugural General Meeting (IGM) at Rongdon IVCS Ltd.**

On 23rd April 2025, Rongdon IVCS held its IGM with Smt. Rakhi, Senior Corporation Officer, for seven villages to discuss member mobilization, credit linkages, and local business opportunities.

## INRM PROGRESS SNAPSHOT





**Exposure Visit to Dabram IVCS – A Day of Learning and Inspiration**

On April 24th, 2025, nine IVCS from South Garo Hills, accompanied by the MegLIFE district team, embarked on a dynamic exposure visit to Dabram IVCS. The day was packed with eye-opening experiences as participants delved into best practices in record-keeping, effective member mobilization, and the day-to-day workings of a successful IVCS. They explored Dabram's diverse initiatives—from sanitary napkin production and chips making to Bokashi-based piggery and poultry farming, nursery maintenance, and an impressive drip irrigation system in their demo plot. A visit to the Jackfruit Processing Centre in Rongara Block further sparked discussions on future collaborations. The visit left participants motivated, equipped with fresh ideas, and committed to driving sustainable innovation in their own communities.

### **MegLIFE Hall: A Growing Hub for Community and collaboration**

The MegLIFE Community Hall in Rongribo Amalgre Village, East Garo Hills, continues to serve as a hub for community engagement and development. Its recent use by another department for a training programme highlights its growing recognition and cross-sectoral relevance.

### **Milestone Achievement in Soil and Water Conservation**

A total of 1,223 Soil and Water Conservation measures have been undertaken, contributing significantly to the integrated development of natural resources and livelihood improvement in Meghalaya.

### **Advance Plantation Work Underway**

Ongoing advance work for plantation is actively underway across multiple blocks in Meghalaya, including Kut (Mawryngkneng), Laskein, Ajongre (Betasing), Rongara, Umling, Umsning, Thadlaskein, Malchapara (SW Garo Hills), and Mawkyrwat. Activities such as jungle clearance, alignment, and staking are being carried out to prepare the land for upcoming plantation and agroforestry efforts.

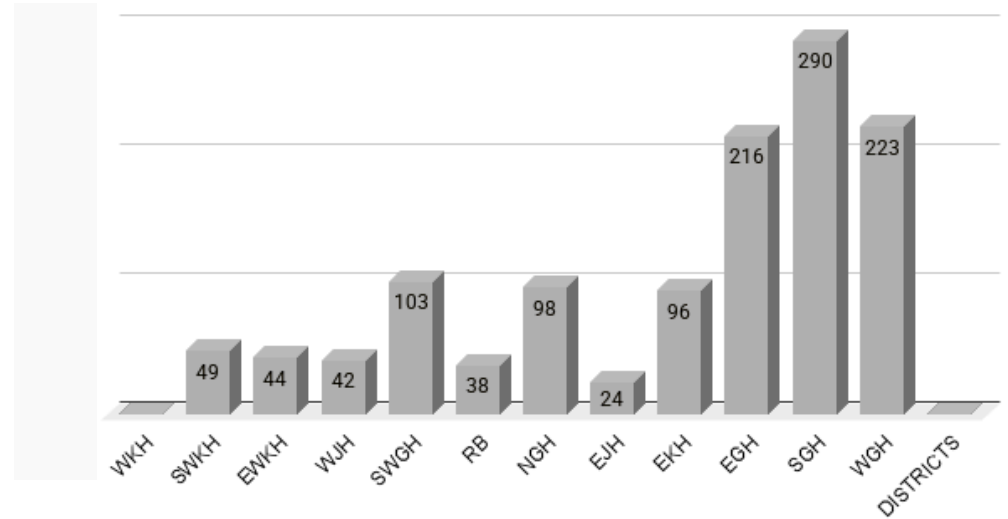
### **Building Bridges: IVCS Peer Learning Visit**

As part of the Income Generation Activities (IGA) under the MegLIFE program, the SPMU and DPMU teams facilitated an exposure visit on April 19th, 2025, to Jalyiah IVCS Ltd and Cham Cham IVCS Ltd to foster peer learning among Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS). This interactive session brought together emerging IVCS like Saipung and Bri Lait Sumer from East Jaintia Hills with their more experienced counterparts from West Jaintia Hills, supported under the MLAMP program. The visit aimed to build capacity, share real-world insights, and boost confidence through direct exchanges of practical experiences, challenges, and success stories. The organic and heartfelt interaction highlighted the strength of community-driven learning and the shared commitment to sustainable grassroots livelihoods.

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



A total of 1,223 achievements in Soil and Water Conservation



**1,223**  
achievements in Soil and Water Conservation

**64**  
number of IVCS formed

**658**  
number of Business Plans created

**53**  
number of SHG Exposure visit

**807**  
number of SHGs onboarded

**149**  
number of training on SHG



**Meeting and site verification for plantation, Ganol Catchment** 2025.04.29 13

The Ganol CMU team conducted a meeting and verified the plantation model at Waram Asim VPIC under Rongram Block, West Garo Hills. The team encouraged the community to also plant Bolchim, Bolkasin, and pineapple along with the existing varieties. Additionally, they noticed a significant number of snake plants near the houses and recommended developing a nursery for these as well.

### **Community Nursery Inspection at Dalmagre Village, Rongram Block, West Garo Hills District**

The Ganol-CMU team visited Dalmagre village for a community nursery inspection under the Rongram Block. As an outcome, the Village Organization (VO) members had recently replanted saplings in polybags, as the earlier planted ones did not survive. During the inspection, the team observed various plants such as guava, tamarind, orange, Megong plant, Chambu, and Bolbok. The team encouraged the community to also plant Bolchim, Bolkasin, and pineapple along with the existing varieties. They noticed a significant number of snake plants near the houses and recommended developing a nursery for these as well.

### **Village Project Implementation Committee (VPIC) Meeting, Rongram Block, West Garo Hills District**

A VPIC meeting was held at the Ganol Catchment to discuss the change of chairman of Wadagre VPIC due to various concerns and issues on the 25th April 2025. With the support of the Nokmas, the Catchment Management team was able to resolve the matter positively. The meeting concluded with the successful appointment of a new chairman for the village.

### **Meeting for plantation and site verification , Ganol Catchment**

The Ganol Team conducted plantation model mobilization and site verification at Bangdagre under Rongram Block, West Garo Hills . Two beneficiaries were selected Following are the name along with the model name selected.

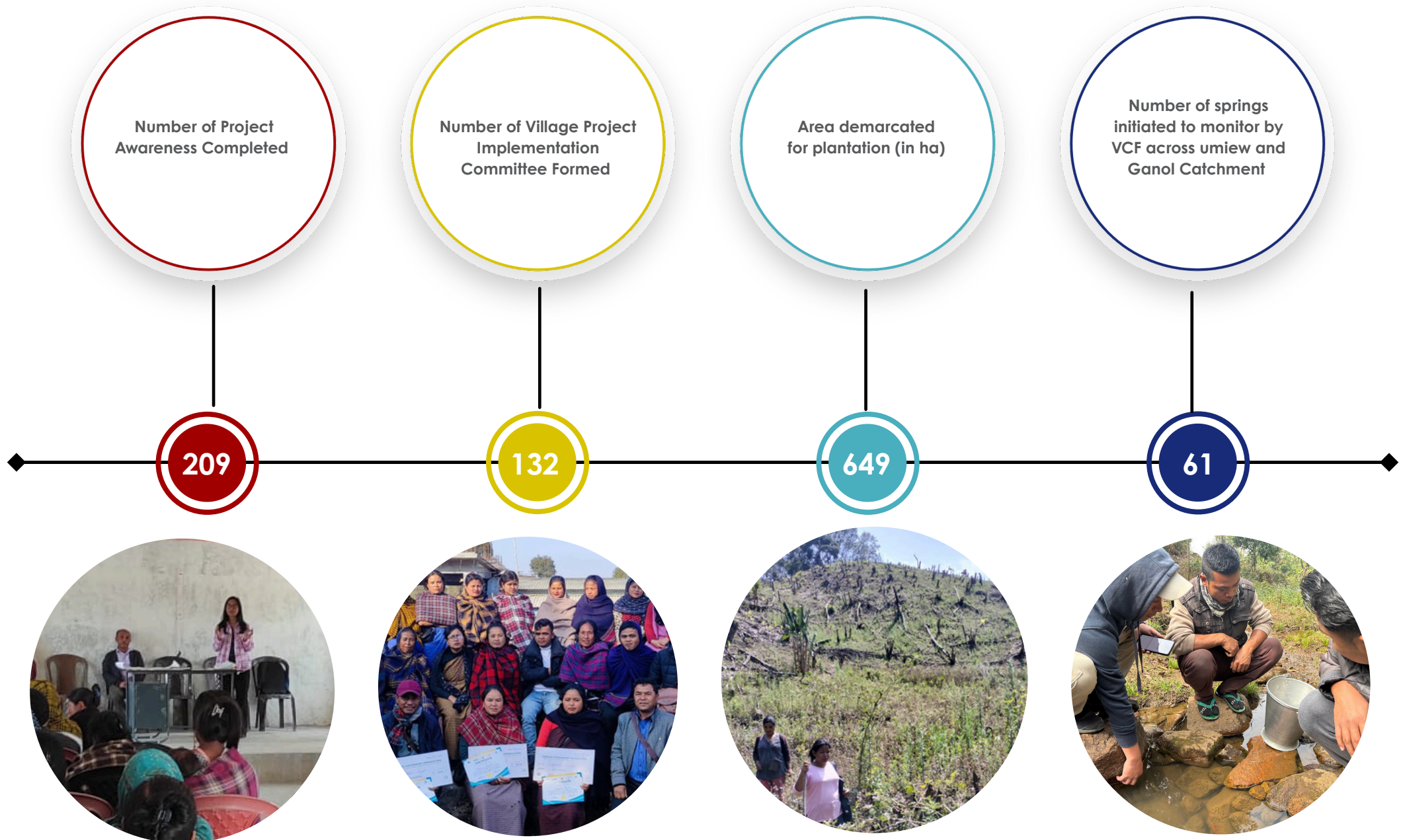
Shri Harilson R. Marak – Model No. 15

Smt Enjen A. Sangma – Model No. 14



# PROGRESS OVERVIEW

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT





### GREEN MEGHALAYA AWARENESS DRIVE

Green Field Associates conducted awareness programs across blocks, to promote reforestation, biodiversity conservation community-led afforestation. The initiative also focused on green belts, sustainable farming & urban green spaces.

### Boundary Mapping activity for various villages and Blocks conducted by the Green Field Associates

Green Field Associates, in collaboration with Village Community Facilitators (VCFs), carried out boundary mapping and verification activities across several locations as part of the Green Meghalaya initiative. These efforts included field visits to Jamge Ronggura , under Songsak Block; Marshan Nongrim village under Nongstoin Block; Sohriewblei and Mawkyrdep villages under Bhoirymbong Block; Silki Achakchiring village under Chokpot Block; and looksi village under Thadlaskein Block. Additionally, mapping was conducted in Dallangre village, West Garo Hills.

### 2,617 Applications Collected to Promote Long-Term Forest Conservation

Green Field Associates collected 2617 applications from villages for the month of April 2025, to encourage continued conservation of natural forest owned by communities, clans and private individuals and incentivize their commitment to continue conservation for at least 30 years.

### CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS ON SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT (SLM)

As part of the ongoing initiatives under the Sustainable Land Management (SLM), a series of capacity-building workshops were conducted at District and Block level. These workshops aimed to enhance inter-departmental coordination and build awareness around sustainable land management practices.

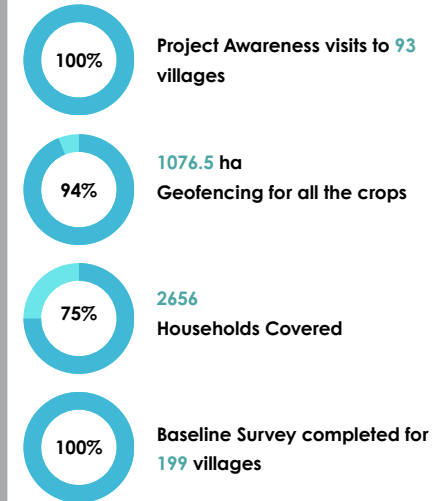
These workshops served as vital platforms for knowledge sharing and building synergy among stakeholders involved in the implementation of sustainable land management interventions. The initiative continues to strengthen institutional capacities at the grassroots level, ensuring the long-term success of soil and land restoration efforts across the region.



**12** Trainings  
Conducted at  
District Level

**14** Trainings  
Conducted at  
Block Level

### Key Achievements



### TRAINING ON TURMERIC CULTIVATION FOR BARATO FARMERS

As part of the ongoing efforts to promote agroecological farming under the SLM project, a two-day hands-on training session was organized from 28th to 29th April 2025 for farmers from Barato village in East Jaintia Hills. The session was led by Dr. Debjyoti, consultant, CLOVER Organics Ltd., in collaboration with local NGOs and the SLM team.

The training focused on organic farming practices, with a particular emphasis on the use of Farm Yard Manure (FYM) and pre-plantation seed treatment techniques tailored for turmeric cultivation—a key crop in the region.

#### Key Highlights of the Training

- Hands-on demonstration of turmeric seed treatment methods
- Expert insights on organic soil health management
- Collaborative effort between CLOVER, local NGOs, and the SLM MBMA team to foster eco-friendly agriculture

#### Outcome

The interactive sessions empowered farmers with practical skills and scientific knowledge to improve crop productivity, enhance soil fertility, and embrace environmentally sustainable farming methods. This initiative marks a significant step toward building climate-resilient agricultural practices in Barato and surrounding areas.



# STORY OF THE WEEK

02 May 2025

## PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



### Achivements as of April 2025

11,153  
Saplings  
Planted

9,712  
Survival Rate

6,853  
No. seeds  
planted

2,470  
Undergrown

7,242  
Plantable

4,300  
Cuttings

### A Garden of Change: The Asimgre Nursery Initiative

In South West Garo Hills, Meghalaya, the village of Asimgre under Rerapara Block has achieved something remarkable, growing a community nursery into a successful model of environmental protection and livelihood support. With the help of MegARISE project -Ganol Catchment Management Unit, the villagers, led by Asimgre Women's Village Organization (VO) with 56 members, created a nursery on 1 bigha of land with 10 nursery beds (including 1 Mother Bed) protected with bamboo fencing. What began in September 2024 has now blossomed into a thriving green initiative! Today, it holds over 9712 saplings of native and fruit trees like Duabanga, Syzygium, Agarwood, Orange, and Ashoka.

#### Business Impact

With no external support from other agencies. The flower business is a direct outcome of the project, strengthening the local economy. Earned Rs 6,000 by selling flowers a group effort initiated by VPIC and VO members after MegARISE support.

#### Care and Daily Maintenance

Daily care by local women volunteers, regular watering, strategic fencing and continuous support from the team, forester and training provided by the project has helped them understand nursery management better ensure sapling survival.

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