



27 June 2025

Newsletter

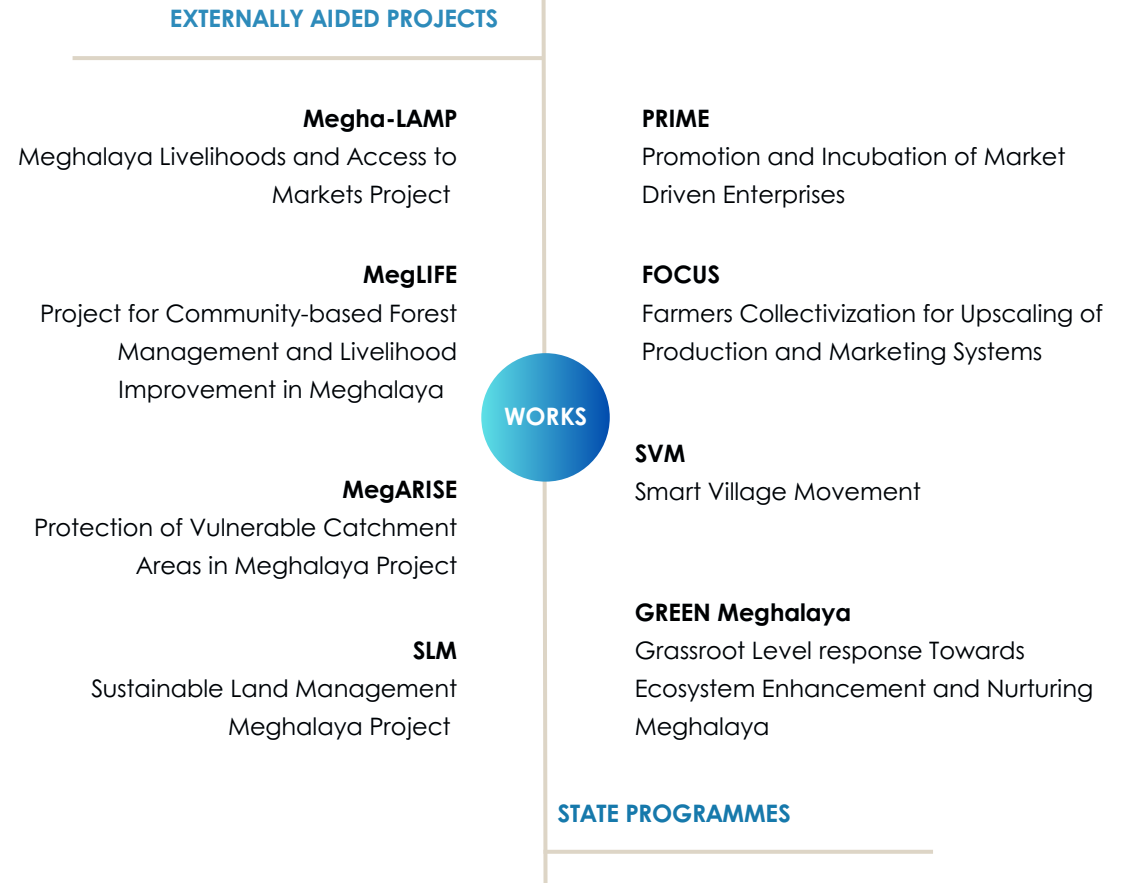
KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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), and the Smart Village Movement (SVM).



MeghaLAMP
Meghalaya Livelihoods Access to Market Project
14 September 1998-2020



GREEN
MEGHALAYA
Grassroot Level Response towards Ecosystem Enhancement and Nurturing Meghalaya

Smart Village Movement™
In Alliance With Berkeley Haas



PRIME
MEGHALAYA



KEY UPDATES

27 June 2025

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



125 Community Halls Inaugurated under the MegLIFE-JICA Project

In a milestone event at Dobakol Awemong, South Garo Hills, Meghalaya Chief Minister, Shri. Conrad K. Sangma, inaugurated a Community Hall and virtually launched 124 more across Garo Hills under the MegLIFE-JICA Project. Built as part of Entry Point Activities, these halls address immediate village needs and support long-term goals in natural resource management and rural development. Attended by MLAs, MDCs, officials, Village Project Implementation Committees, and locals, the event also celebrated community ownership in development. The CM noted 452 halls have now been built across Meghalaya—304 in Garo Hills—and concluded the ceremony with the planting of indigenous saplings, emphasizing sustainability and community-led progress.



KEY UPDATES

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT

27 June 2025



PRIME Hub Inaugurated at Baghmara – South Garo Hills

On 18 June 2025, Hon'ble Chief Minister. Shri. Conrad K. Sangma, inaugurated the PRIME Hub at Baghmara Block, South Garo Hills, in the presence of government dignitaries, departmental representatives, the MBMA team, and over 200 IVCS members.

Constructed under the Megha-LAMP project, the Hub has been handed over to Dabram IVCS Ltd., which will oversee daily operations in partnership with ACEWORX. As centres for entrepreneurial growth, PRIME Hubs are strengthening the economic activities of SHGs, farmers, and local businesses.



Awang Chips Launched, FOCUS Cheques Distributed – Rongara PRIME Hub, 19 June 2025

At Rongara PRIME Hub, Awang Chips—a jackfruit chips product from South Garo Hills—was launched, and Nokma Ice Cream was promoted in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri. Conrad K. Sangma. Cheques were distributed to SHGs and FOCUS PGs, alongside the rollout of M-EIP and CM Fellowship initiatives. Over 10,000 people attended the programme at Pa Togan Nengminja Athletic Stadium.



District-Level Review on IVCS Mobilization Drive – EKH, 19 June 2025

A district-level meeting on the Mobilization Drive was held on 19 June 2025 at the Deputy Commissioner's office, East Khasi Hills, chaired by Smti. R.M. Kurbah, Deputy Commissioner. Present at the meeting were Smti. Aity Mary Khongjee (DPM), Smti. E. Marbaniang (ARCS, EKH), Smti. B. Pathaw (SRCS, Sohra Sub-Division), and officials from MCAB, NABARD, and DPMU.

Training on Gender Responsive Budgeting Held Across 3 Blocks – West Garo Hills

On 3rd, 5th & 6th June 2025, under the Gender and Social Inclusion initiative, training and focus group discussions on Gender Responsive Budgeting were conducted at Tikrikilla, Dadenggre, and Selsella C&RD Blocks. The sessions focused on integrating a gender lens into the budget process, especially in IVCS business planning.

Training on Black Pepper Cultivation – Kalchengpara & Chokchim IVCS, Selsella Block

On 13 June 2025, training programmes on Package of Practices (POPs) for black pepper cultivation were conducted at Kalchengpara and Chokchim IVCS under Selsella Block, West Garo Hills. The sessions covered both ICAR-recommended and traditional methods, highlighting techniques and benefits to improve black pepper production.

IVCS Mobilization Workshops Held – 23 & 24 June 2025

Workshops were held in Sohiong, Mawphlang, and Pynursla Blocks to strengthen IVCS mobilisation. Sessions saw participation from village heads, IVCS leaders, EFC staff, and officials, with resource inputs from officials from Rural Finance.

Construction of Farmers Markets and CMCs Set to Begin

MBMA is set to begin construction of Farmers Markets and Collective Marketing Centres (CMCs) across Meghalaya under the Megha-LAMP project. In a coordination meeting with contractors and engineers, MBMA stressed strict adherence to timelines—6 months for Markets and 3 months for CMCs—and reiterated that quality standards must not be compromised.



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



Cocoa Saplings Delivered for Plantation

Cocoa saplings have been successfully delivered to Resubelpara BPMU, Kharkutta Block, and Saipung Block, where they have been unloaded and are now prepared for planting as part of the ongoing plantation drive. This initiative is designed to support the expansion of cocoa cultivation, optimize the use of underutilized land, and enable farmers to adopt higher-value, sustainable cropping practices. By strengthening rural livelihoods and restoring degraded areas, it aims to foster long-term economic resilience and environmental benefits for local communities.

17,148 Saplings Lifted from Marngar Nursery – Umling Block

Village Project Implementation Committees lifted 17,148 saplings from Marngar Soil & Water Conservation Nursery, Umling Block, Ri Bhoi. The effort supports community-led plantations to enhance green cover and promote sustainable land use.



Community-Led Bamboo Nursery & Plantation Drive – Multiple Locations

Bamboo nursery development and plantation are underway across Meghalaya to promote green livelihoods and ecosystem restoration. Bed preparation has started in Pamlatar Village, Umsning, Myrdon Nongbah, Ri Bhoi, and Dokongsi C Village, Kharkutta Block, while plantation activities have begun in Kalak Songgitcham, Samanda Block. These efforts aim to build climate resilience through community participation.



Bangsi Aga, Bangsi Minol, Nanil Apal (Resubelpara Block) start planting cocoa



Nursery Visits for Sapling Procurement Under Umiew Catchment

To prepare for the upcoming plantation drive, the Umiew Catchment team conducted a series of nursery visits. At B. Sakra Nursery in Jemania, saplings were already reserved, while at B. Kharshnadi Nursery in Kyiem, all stocks had been sold except for around 3,000 *Exbucklandia populnea* saplings priced at ₹20 each. Further options are being explored through visits to Raf Man Nursery, Umling, Ri Bhoi and Bah Synshar's Nursery, Laitkyrhong, East Khasi Hills.

VLMAP Finalised for Mandal Nokat – 12–13 June 2025

The Ganol CMU, SPMU, and Implementation Consultant conducted a two-day field visit to Mandal Nokat, East Garo Hills, to finalise the Village Level Micro Action Plan (VLMAP). The team worked with the VPIC and community to align priorities, streamline components, and ensure budget clarity.



Plantation Site Verification Conducted – 3–6 June 2025

The Ganol Catchment team carried out plantation site verifications across West and South West Garo Hills from 3 to 6 June 2025. Visits covered villages under Rongram, Rerapara, and Selsella Blocks, including Digranggre, Cheranggre, Jendagre, Wadagre, Chibagre, New Dengasi, Mukdangra, Baghmara, and Dabakgre.



Advance Plantation Work & Demonstration – 12 June 2025

The Ganol Catchment team visited Sonanpara, Penny Valley, and Aguragre villages under Rongram Block, West Garo Hills, to conduct advance plantation work and provide on-site demonstrations to support local implementation teams.



Strengthening Sustainable Agriculture Through Field-Based Learning: Exposure Visit to Tripura

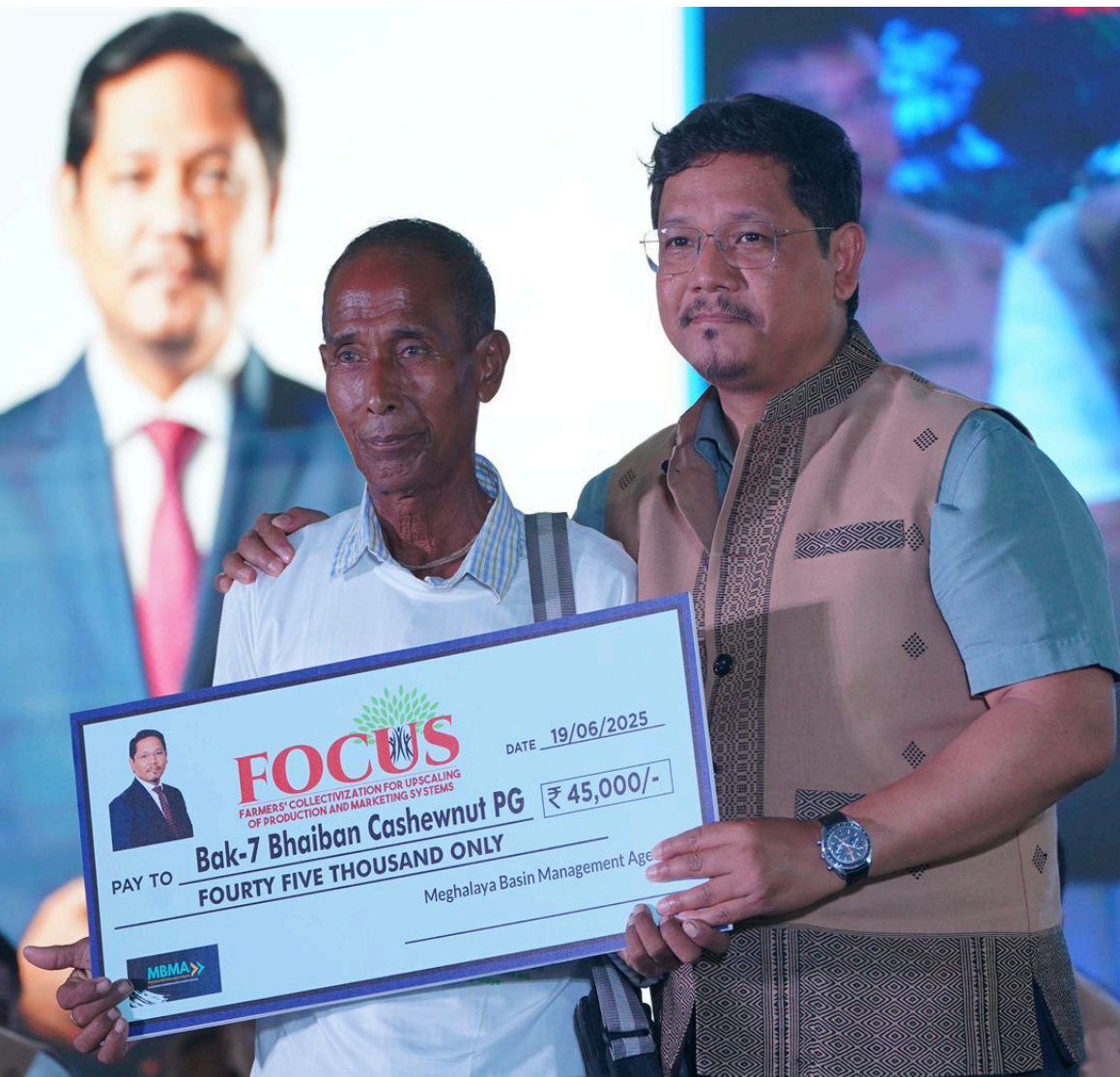
From 16 to 20 June 2025, a delegation comprising personnel from the Sustainable Land Management Meghalaya Project (SLM), along with representatives from Integrated Village Cooperative Societies Ltd. (IVCS), Village Organizations, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), local groups, and partner NGOs, undertook an exposure visit to KfW-supported intervention sites in Tripura.

Objective: to interact with Tripura's progressive farmers practicing natural and sustainable farming methods, gain practical insights through field-level demonstrations, and encourage cross-learning

A total of 20 participants actively took part in the visit.



The Clover team conducted a practical demonstration at the Clover turmeric trial plot in Barato, focusing on weeding, liming, earthing up, application of farmyard manure (FYM), and spraying of plant growth-promoting bacteria.



FOCUS Cheque Distribution – 19 June 2025, Tura

At the state programme in Tura, 123 Producer Groups from five Garo Hills districts received ₹6.15 lakh under the FOCUS scheme—part of a ₹7.93 crore fund for 4,610 PGs. The event also marked the launch of M-EIP and CM Fellow initiatives, and the foundation laying for the Additional Secretariat Complex by Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Conrad K. Sangma.

FOCUS - Farmers Collectivization For Upscaling Production and Marketing System

₹1.5 Cr Cashew Unit Revamp Underway in Gasuapara

Once defunct, the Cashew Processing Unit in Gasuapara Block, South Garo Hills is being revived with support from MBMA-FOCUS and DPMU-SGH. Led by Wachira Eco Tourism Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd. and five other cooperatives, the unit—originally set up in 2012 under the IFAD-funded LIPH project—had stalled due to skill gaps and lack of market linkages.

Following a joint visit by Palladium (TAMINER) and MBMA on 6 February 2025, a DPR was submitted, securing a project cost of ₹1.5 crore. The first instalment of ₹1 crore has been released for infrastructure revamp and operations restart.

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

Demographic Survey for PES Conducted Across 6 Blocks

Green Field Associates conducted demographic surveys for the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) initiative across 10 villages in 6 blocks. The survey covered locations in West Khasi Hills, East Khasi Hills, Eastern West Khasi Hills, South Garo Hills, and West Jaintia Hills.

116 Attend Awareness Programme in Kakwa Duragre – 26 June 2025

An awareness session on reforestation and biodiversity conservation was held at Kakwa Duragre, Samanda Block, East Garo Hills, with 116 participants. The village collectively manages over 5,000 hectares of land from the Durama Range. The programme focused on community-led afforestation, green belts, sustainable farming, and climate resilience.

Community Reserve Orientation Held at SMELC – 25 June 2025

A reorientation session for Community Reserve beneficiaries was held at SMELC on 25 June 2025, led by senior Forest & Environment officials and three Range Forest Officers. The session covered documentation requirements and government scheme benefits. All 15 participants committed to registering with the Forest Department, with an action plan set for completion by July 2025.

STORY OF THE WEEK

SLM

CREATING LIVELIHOOD THROUGH SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

Once heavily dependent on coal mining, Khliehrangnah, a small village in West Jaintia Hills, saw a major shift in livelihood patterns after the National Green Tribunal (NGT) banned coal extraction. With limited rainfall, barren land, and poor irrigation infrastructure, farming was once seen as an unviable option. But today, the community is writing a new chapter—through Natural and Organic Farming.

In 2020, land regeneration efforts under the Community-Led Landscape Management Project (CLLMP) laid the foundation for agricultural revival. Among the early adopters was Hamewot Sungoh, a Class 12 graduate from Kiang Nangbah Government College and the chairperson of Organic Group II. Inspired by awareness sessions on medicinal and aromatic plants, he began cultivating lemongrass and citronella on degraded plots, supported by the Bio-Resources Development Centre (BRDC).

In early 2025, the Sustainable Land Management Meghalaya (SLM) Project began engaging with Khliehrangnah farmers through training and sensitization programmes focused on organic and agroecological practices. Unlike other areas in the region, the village had no history of jhum cultivation; however, years of unregulated mining had left its soil impoverished.



The SLM project focuses on:

Blending traditional knowledge with organic practices

Restoring soil health through natural inputs

Introducing sustainable alternatives to chemical farming

Farmers were introduced to the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) and National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) to help them access premium organic markets. Emphasis was also placed on clean, niche food products with low environmental impact and high market value.

A key highlight of the intervention has been the active participation of women. Through local farmer groups like Hamewot's, women are stepping into leadership roles and financial groups, ensuring that organic farming becomes a path to inclusive economic empowerment. Recent village meetings saw substantial engagement from women, whose voices are shaping decisions and driving change.

Khliehrangnah's journey reflects the power of regeneration—of land, livelihoods, and leadership. With support from state-led initiatives and the commitment of its people, the village is transforming degraded land into productive, organic farms that promise a sustainable and inclusive future.



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