

# The Inspiring Journey of Mr. Midros Rngkhlem



Mr. Midros Rngkhlem is a hardworking man from Wapung Shnong village in East Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya. His story is one of struggle, hope, and success. Today, he is a well-known Service Provider (SP) and a piggery farmer. Before becoming a Service Provider, Mr. Rngkhlem worked as a daily wage labourer. From 2013 to 2021, he worked as a head mystri, constructing quite a number of houses. But over time, he felt that this job would not help him grow personally or financially.

Deep within, he carried a memory that would change the course of his life. He remembered what his parents always said that he had a special gift when it comes to raising pigs. They used to say, “even weak pigs grow big and strong under his care.”

Encouraged by this memory and after watching success stories of pig farmers on YouTube, he decided to give pig farming a try. On 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021, with just Rs. 50,000, he bought 15 pigs, built small sheds, and started his farm on a rented land. His wife was worried about the cost and whether they could afford to feed the pigs, but he promised to make it work.

His journey, however, was far from smooth. At first, things went well, he even took pigs from friends who couldn't fatten them and raised them successfully. However, as his farm began to show steady profits, the landowner started to find faults and eventually forced him to leave the farm. With a heavy heart, he moved out with his pigs the next morning. It was a hard time, but a close friend, Mr. Khanalang Sumer, offered him land, and he restarted his farm.

Sadly, his pigs started dying one after another due to a disease. Mr. Rngkhlem faced setbacks that could have ended his dream. But his determination never wavered. He realized the core issue wasn't just bad luck, it was lack of proper knowledge and training.

### **A Turning Point: Megha-LAMP and the Path to Empowerment**

Everything changed when he met the village headman of Wapung Shnong, who introduced him to the Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project (Megha-LAMP). The headman encouraged him to join a Producer Group (PG), where he would gain access to formal training, support services, and a strong community network. With additional guidance from the Group Facilitator, Mr. Rngkhlem joined the Tia Chaphrang Producer Group and enrolled in a 45 days pig farming training organized by the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA) in collaboration with the Veterinary Department, GoM.

Despite having no money at the time, not even enough for a taxi fare he didn't tell anyone, not even his wife. With quiet determination and a deep faith in God, he relied on his friend for a taxi fare to attend the training that began on 4th April, 2023.

While at the training centre, his thoughts constantly returned to his wife and three children. Back home, his wife kept the household afloat by selling the few remaining pigs. By the time the training ended, the farm was empty, and they were left with no pigs and no capital to restart. But knowledge, they say, is power and he now has that power.



### **Rebuilding with Resilience and Support**

Mr. Rngkhlem didn't let this stop him. With unwavering resolve and help from supportive friends and family, he opened a small meat shop selling pork and chicken. After saving for a few months, he was able to purchase two pigs at low cost from his two friends. These two pigs marked the beginning of a new chapter.

Megha-LAMP has provided him a financial assistance of Rs. 1,25,000 as a Support Fund. It has also offered other services through the Wapung Shnong IVCS Ltd., such as loans. So far, all his support has come through Megha-LAMP and no other departments, and he is very thankful to the project.

With growing knowledge and renewed confidence, Mr. Rngkhlem revived his piggery farm. Today, Mr. Rngkhlem has 80 pigs including piglets and mature pigs. He raises Yorkshire, Hampshire, Landrace, Duroc and local breeds. He feeds them twice a day and spends about Rs. 1 lakh per month only on feeds.

### **His Impact as a Certified Service Provider**

Becoming a Service Provider (SP) transformed Mr. Rngkhlem's role from a farmer to a community leader and



knowledge resource.

As an SP, Mr. Rngkhlem realized that many farmers, like his past self, were practicing outdated or ineffective methods. Through his own experience and the training received, he began advising others on better shed design, feeding practices, disease prevention, and efficient farm management. His farm became a model of change, and his story, a source of inspiration.

He now earns from multiple sources. He earns from pig farming, his meat shop, and his services as a Service Provider. He sells around 50 piglets and 20 grown pigs in a year, earning about Rs. 6–7 lakhs in yearly profit. The starting price for piglets is Rs. 6,000 each for those that are two months old, and Rs. 6,500 for three-month-old piglets, with the price increasing as they grow older. For mature pigs, the price is based on their weight. So far, he has sold full-grown pigs for prices ranging from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 45,000 each.

In his current role, he has conducted trainings and offers a range of services:

- Piglet delivery
- Raising mother pigs, piglets, and pigs specifically meant for butchering
- Shed Construction
- Vaccination Techniques
- Other key piggery

Villages where he has offered his services:

- Pamrapaithlu
- Pamrakmai
- Pynthorsale
- Lumshirmit
- Lad Rymbai
- Mukhaialong
- Tuber
- Mookhep



## Looking Ahead

While challenges still persist like high feed prices, disease management, and weighing inconsistencies during sales, Mr. Rngkhlem now tackles them with knowledge, confidence, and a strong support system behind him. He continues to share what he has learned, uplifting others in his village and beyond.

*Despite all the challenges, he remains hopeful and focused. He says:*

*“I’m happy because I’ve completed an important step in my journey. Megha-LAMP has helped me grow, and now I want to take my piggery to the next level. I currently have 80 pigs and plans to grow to 1000. My goal is to sell pigs and piglets daily, not just seasonally like most pig farmers. Beyond live sales and raw meat, I aim to set up a meat processing unit to produce a range of processed pork products and expand into local and international markets.”*

*My message to other farmers is this:  
Don’t give up. Start small. Attend trainings, learn from others and grow step by step. I made the mistake of starting big and losing everything. Starting small helped me rebuild.*