



11 July 2025

Newsletter

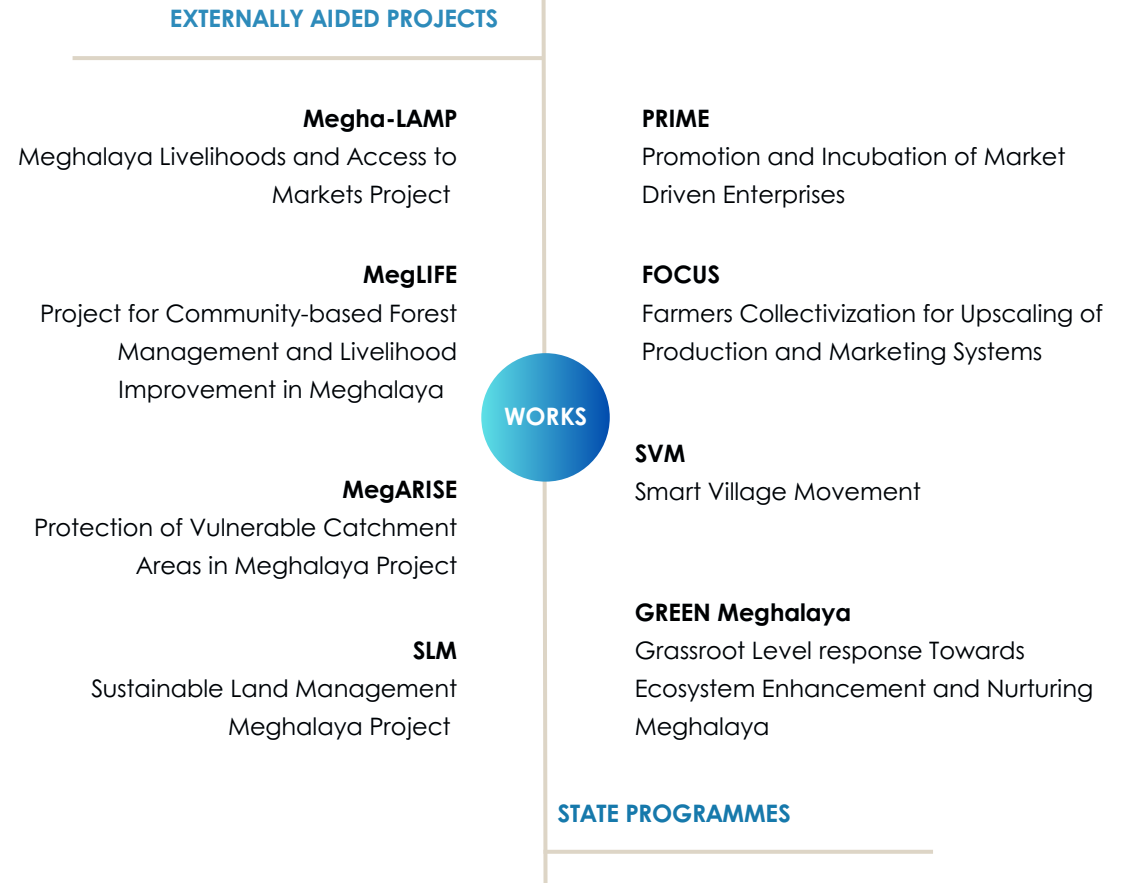
KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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
10 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

11 July 2025

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



3 July 2025 | South West Garo Hills Black pepper finds market in Mumbai

In a boost for farmers of South West Garo Hills, 10 metric tons of organic black pepper were dispatched to Sundardas Ratansey Spice Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai, from the Chapahati PRIME Hub. The shipment was jointly facilitated by Kerupara and Dingampara Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS) under Zikzak Block, with support from the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA) through the Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project (MeghaLAMP).

Kerupara IVCS contributed 6,600 kg at ₹640/kg, while Dingampara IVCS supplied 3,400 kg at ₹610/kg, with prices determined by quality assessments. This marks the district's second shipment, following an 11-tonne dispatch by Dimiligre IVCS in 2023.

Backed by MBMA's MeghaLAMP initiative, IVCSs and farmer collectives are gradually expanding access to markets beyond the state. Mobilisation support came from the Ambeng Farmers Producer Association, while MBMA's Marketing Executive facilitated direct buyer linkage. The produce, procured by reputed Everest brand, reflects growing demand for Meghalaya's organic spices and a step forward in connecting local farmers to wider market opportunities.

KEY UPDATES

11 July 2025

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



Podcast Launch | Stories from the Block Goes Live

The MegLIFE Project has launched its official podcast- '**Stories from the Block**', a platform to share real stories of resilience and community impact from the grassroots.

The first episode features Mrs. Markynti Mawlong from Umsning Block, Ri Bhoi, who turned a small community nursery into a sustainable livelihood, inspiring others in her village.



Scan the QR code to visit
our Instagram page for the
podcast



RCN Collection Reaches 60 MT in South West Garo Hills

IVCSs under the South West Garo Hills (SWGHI) network have successfully collected 60 MT of Raw Cashew Nut (RCN), now stored at the Chapahati PRIME Hub. The photo captures RCN stock at Kentrikona IVCS. Stocks have also been mobilised from Baksapara, Matrongkol, and Matalagre Chiripram IVCS.

This year's collection was made possible through the efforts of the Ambeng Farmers Producer Association, formed by all 32 IVCSs in SWGH. The group played a key role in coordinating RCN collection across the Garo Hills.



Special General Meeting held to address concerns over Secretary's performance at Goramara IVCS; Management Committee agrees to reshuffle post for smoother operations.



DPMU, West Garo Hills assessed 24 IVCSs across Tikrikilla, Selsela, Dalu, and Demdema Blocks, focusing on operations, management, record-keeping, and business activities.



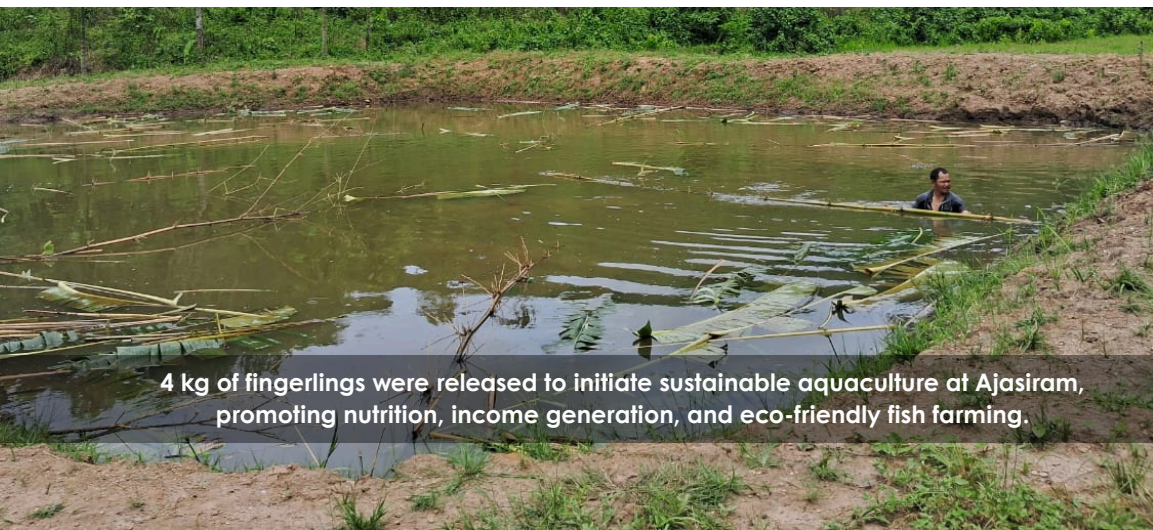
Newly formed IVCSs from South West Garo Hills visited Chenggaldare IVCS Ltd., Dadenggre Block, to learn about its management, schemes, and demo plot activities—an exposure facilitated by DPMU-SWGH.

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



Chaitaowe: Natural Mosquito Repellent Launched by SHG in Agrengittim

The Agrengittim Village Project Implementation Committee, under Baghmara Block, has launched Chaitaowe—a natural mosquito repellent and floor cleaner developed by SHG members using citronella and lemongrass oils. With 50 out of 107 bottles sold on launch day, the initiative reflects strong consumer demand for eco-friendly, chemical-free household products and showcases the innovation potential of self-help groups.



4 kg of fingerlings were released to initiate sustainable aquaculture at Ajasiram, promoting nutrition, income generation, and eco-friendly fish farming.

Progress in Bamboo Nurseries at Umden, Nongsangu

Mother bed preparation for bamboo nursery started at Umden Nongtluh nursery in Umling Block, alongside ongoing work at Nongsangu Bamboo Nursery. The initiative boosts bamboo seedling production, supports sustainable livelihoods, and strengthens community forestry and ecological restoration.



Cocoa Saplings Delivered | Transport Challenges in Chokpot Block

As cocoa saplings were brought in for planting under the 2025 MegLIFE Agroforestry model, communities prepared to begin plantation activities. In Asakgre village, South Garo Hills, poor road conditions made it difficult to transport 10,000 saplings. However, with the determination of the villagers and field staff, the saplings were successfully delivered by 1am.



Agroforestry in Action | Cocoa & Native Species for Land Restoration

Plantation drives are underway to rehabilitate degraded land through sustainable agroforestry. Efforts include sites at Nongmawlong Presbyterian Church, Nurim Bishnet School, Umsning, Thadlaskein and Kharkutta Blocks (Agroforestry Models 2, 13, 16), with a completed cocoa plantation in Nanil Apal (Resubelpara).

Iawthymme IVCS Sets Up Office-Cum-Retail Outlet

The Iawthymme Integrated Village Cooperative Society Ltd. in Laskein Block, West Jaintia Hills, has established a member-led office-cum-retail outlet. The outlet aims to support local farmers, promote village products, and boost rural entrepreneurship.



4 July 2025 | 19,078 Saplings Transported in Ganol Catchment for Plantation Drive

As part of this year's plantation drive, the Ganol Catchment team transported a total of 19,078 seedlings across various Village Project Implementation Committees to support ongoing restoration efforts.

7-8 July 2025 | Seedlings Delivered to Eight VPICs in Umiew Catchment

Building on the ongoing plantation drive, the Umiew Catchment team transported seedlings to eight Village Project Implementation Committees bringing the total closer to this year's restoration targets.



8 July 2025 | Heap Composting Demonstration Held at Banshen Tdohumsiang

The Clover team conducted a hands-on demonstration on heap composting at Banshen Tdohumsiang village under Sohpool FPC, Umsning. The session introduced farmers to a simple composting method using easily available materials such as green leaves, twigs, cow dung, and banana leaves. Farmers were guided through each step and encouraged to construct a shed over the heap to protect it from rain. The activity supports ongoing efforts to promote sustainable farming practices in the region.



ICS Awareness Programme Held at Laskein

Clover Organic, in collaboration with MBMA, conducted an awareness session on Internal Control System (ICS) formation for organic certification under NPOP at Lifespice, Laskein. Attended by MBMA staff, NGOs, SHG members, and the local Farmers' Union, the session introduced the basics of ICS and its role in enabling smallholder farmers to pursue certification. The programme concluded with a heap composting demonstration using local materials.



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



PES Mapping | Field Visit in Remote Areas of South Garo Hills

As part of the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) forest mapping exercise, Green Field Associates Sanjut Shira and Amachi M. Sangma, along with Village Community Facilitator Riprang Momin, visited remote locations in South Garo Hills. With the Chibe River running chest-deep and no bridge available, the team crossed on foot, carrying basic equipment to reach forest-dependent communities. The visit highlights the physical challenges involved in fieldwork and the continued efforts to support community-based conservation.

PES Activities Carried Out Across 8 Blocks in 5 Districts

Green Field Associates led ground-level activities under the PES framework, covering 12 villages across 8 blocks in 5 districts. Tasks included boundary demarcation in Sandagre and Dolla Mandagre (West Garo Hills), Nongkrem (Eastern West Khasi Hills), Marngor, Marngor Phyllut, and Mawsyrpat (West Khasi Hills), and Moobakhon (West Jaintia Hills). Boundary verification was also conducted in Chibegre (South Garo Hills), and Nongthymmai and Sonidan (Ri Bhoi). These efforts support accurate land identification for sustainable ecosystem management.

STORY OF THE WEEK

MEGHALAMP



"Initially, we didn't have anyone trained to provide these services. Although the Veterinary Department helped when they could, having Sunjiash has made a big difference. He is always ready to support us."

– Baldap Sangma, resident of Tinsmina

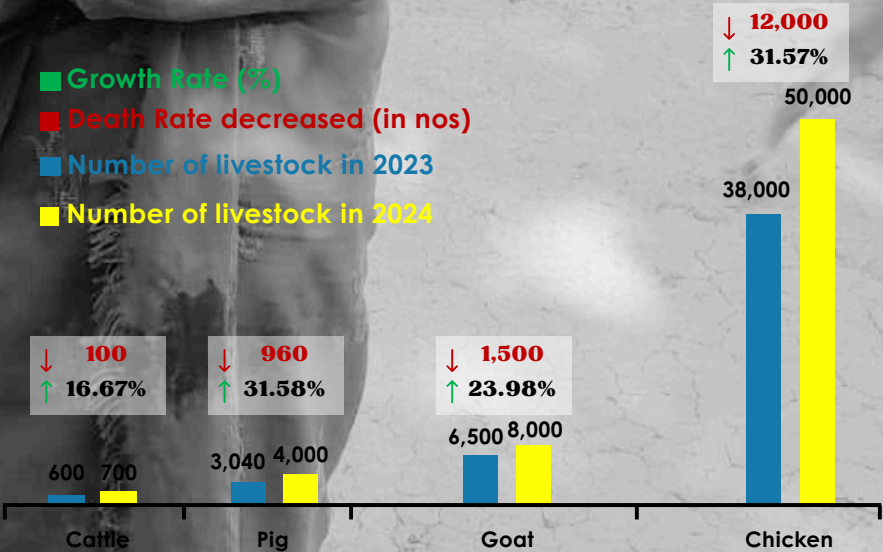
Bridging the Livestock Service Gap: Sunjiash Sangma's Story Dilma Adap Village, North Garo Hills

Over ₹1.9 lakh earned annually, 19 villages served, and livestock health on the rise—meet Sunjiash Sangma, a Livestock Service Provider trained under Meghalaya Livelihood and Access to Markets Project. A member of the Tinsimina IVCS, Sunjiash turned a local gap into a livelihood by offering essential animal care services where government outreach couldn't reach.

After a 45-day MBMA training in 2021, Sunjiash began providing vaccinations, castration, and treatment for conditions like paraplegia and embryotomy in pigs, goats, cattle, chickens, and even dogs. Starting with a ₹50,000 MBMA loan to buy tools and medicine, he now travels to places as far as Guwahati to source supplies and serves not just nearby villages but even bordering areas of Assam.

Despite challenges—poor roads, long-distance procurement, and delayed payments—his services have improved survival rates and boosted livestock populations across the region. Incomes too have grown as healthier animals translate to better sales.

"We now have someone who responds immediately. Our animals are healthier, and mortality has reduced,"* says Parbin Momin of Dilma Adap village.



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