

# Newsletter

22 August 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), 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), the Smart Village Movement (SVM), the Grassroot Level response Towards Ecosystem Enhancement and Nurturing (GREEN Meghalaya), the Cluster Development Programme (CDP), the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM) in Meghalaya, and the Meghalaya State Bamboo Mission (MSBM).

## EXTERNALLY AIDED PROJECTS

**Megha-LAMP**  
Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project

**MegLIFE**  
Project for Community-based Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement in Meghalaya

**MegARISE**  
Protection of Vulnerable Catchment Areas in Meghalaya Project

**SLM**  
Sustainable Land Management Meghalaya Project

## WORKS

### PRIME

Promotion and Incubation of Market Driven Enterprises

### FOCUS

Farmers Collectivization for Upscaling of Production and Marketing Systems

### SVM

Smart Village Movement

### GREEN Meghalaya

Grassroot Level response Towards Ecosystem Enhancement and Nurturing Meghalaya

### CDP

Cluster Development Programme

### PMJVM

Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission in Meghalaya

### MSBM

Meghalaya State Bamboo Mission

## STATE PROGRAMMES



**MeghaLAMP**  
Meghalaya Livelihoods Access to Market Project  
14 September 1995-2020



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

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



**PRIME**  
MEGHALAYA







### **MBMA Awarded for Strengthening Cooperatives in Meghalaya**

An exhibition-cum-sale of products was held at the Raj Bhavan on 14th and 15th August 2025 as part of the International Year of Cooperatives 2025 celebrations. During the event, the Hon'ble Governor, Shri C. H. Vijayashankar, felicitated the State Level Cooperatives and the MBMA with an award in recognition of their significant contribution to the cooperative movement in the State. The award was received by Shri Lari Kupar Lyngdoh, AGM Rural Finance on behalf of MBMA. Over twelve IVCS participated in the exhibition, showcasing locally produced, processed, and marketed products entirely managed by the IVCS.



# KEY UPDATES

22 August 2025

## MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



### 2 MT Pineapples Shipped by Jamge IVCS to New Delhi

On 9th August 2025, the Jamge Integrated Village Cooperative Society of East Garo Hills shipped 2 MT of pineapples to Members of Parliament in New Delhi, in collaboration with the Agriculture Development Officer of the Meghalaya State Agricultural Marketing Board, Shillong.



### Garo Hills Meeting Reviews Targets, Funds, and IVCS Progress

Review Meeting for Garo Hills Region was held on 19th August 2025 under the Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project. The meeting reviewed project targets, fund utilization, and progress updates. Key discussions included SP funding decisions, new SPs, UCs, demo plots, CFCs, warehouses, rapid assessment surveys, and IVCS assessments.





### 3 PRA Exercises Across Myllem and Rongram Blocks

On 18th–19th August 2025, PRA exercises were held in Mawnianglah and Lumdewsaw (Myllem Block) and Waribokgre (Rongram Block, West Garo Hills). Communities prioritised key interventions such as spring chambers, irrigation canals, retaining and protection walls, and check dams, while also pledging strong participation in project implementation and resource conservation.



## MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



### 43 Women IVCS Members Trained in Digital Literacy

From 25th July to 16th August 2025, the Gender Unit of MLAMP trained 43 women IVCS members from North, West and South Garo Hills at Jorapara Agriculture Training Centre. The five-day batches covered computer basics, internet use, e-governance, digital payments and cyber safety, along with a field visit to the CSC at Gokol Market. The training has equipped participants with essential digital skills and encouraged them to pursue further courses under MSSDS. A special highlight was the celebration of India's 79th Independence Day on 15th August 2025.

### 6 Key Issues Discussed with IVCS Members in East Garo Hills

On 18th August 2025, an interaction was held with IVCS members of East Garo Hills to address outstanding and overdue loans. The AGM (Rural Finance) and Senior Manager (SPMU) discussed six key points: strengthening of IVCS Managing Committees, loan sanction and repayment processes, discrepancies in data reporting, delays in reporting, assessment of IVCS, and the role of in-charges and nodal persons.



### 40 Farmers Trained under Ginger Mission in East Garo Hills

On 13th August 2025, MBMA, East Garo Hills, in collaboration with CAU-KVK, organised a one-day training programme at Circuit House, Williamnagar. The session covered cultivation practices, preventive disease management, bio-control measures, market prices, and storage management of ginger. A total of 40 farmers from Samanda and Dambo Rongjeng Blocks attended the training.



### Women IVCS Members Explore Opportunities at Dabram IVCS

A Gender Cross Learning cum Exposure Visit was organised to Dabram IVCS in Baghmara C&RD Block, one of the oldest IVCSs in the region, led by Secretary Smt. Lolinda Ch. Sangma. Women IVCS members from Dalu C&RD Block took part in the visit, gaining exposure to Dabram IVCS's enterprises, which include sanitary pad production under the brand Re'king, dragon fruit cultivation, and lemongrass oil extraction.



## MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



### Training on Sustainable Feed Technology and Bokashi Management

From 29th July to 2nd August 2025 at Bethany Society, Tebronggre, West Garo Hills, and from 4th to 8th August 2025 at Bethany Society, Laitumkhrah, East Khasi Hills, training on Sustainable Feed Technology and Management of Bokashi Piggery and Poultry Units was conducted for IVCS Service Providers. The sessions covered natural farming methods using the Japanese 'Bokashi' system, key inputs to reduce odour and disease, and techniques for silage and feed making.

### "In Conversation" Interactive Session for MLAMP & CBFM Teams

On 7th August 2025, the HR Division, SP MU, held an interactive session at Polo Orchid, Tura, for West Garo Hills teams of MLAMP and CBFM. Led by Ms. Suciela Myllemngap, GM (HR), MBMA, participants shared their motivations and plans, followed by a communication session by Ms. Monica Kramsapi, Asst. Manager (HR).



### 123 IVCS representatives from NGH trained on Gender Responsive Budgeting

On 11th, 12th, and 18th August 2025, DPMU-NGH conducted Gender Responsive Budgeting training in three batches at MMCS Hall and Kharkutta Block Office. The sessions covered gender sensitization, gender needs, mainstreaming, and budgeting. Participants actively shared their roles in families and IVCS, discussed how they plan activities, and committed to bringing these learnings back to their members to develop actionable plans.



### FGD with Women Members of Lower Rengsinpara IVCS

On 8th August 2025, DPMU West Garo Hills held a Focus Group Discussion with women members of Lower Rengsinpara IVCS Ltd., Tikrikilla Block. The discussion assessed the project's impact on economic, governance, and social aspects as per the IFAD Gender Policy. Participants actively shared their experiences and insights from the project phase.



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



### Field Monitoring Visits in Songsak During Monsoon

Despite heavy rains and difficult road conditions, monitoring visits were conducted to villages in Songsak. The team reviewed springs, inspected plantations, and assessed forest management plans, ensuring progress continued during the monsoon season.

### Plantations Strengthen in Kharkutta and Zikzak Blocks

Visits to Kharkutta and Zikzak Blocks showed the MegLIFE agroforestry model gaining ground. Cocoa and black pepper in Arengdo and Imsambal are growing well, with scale-up planned for 2026. In Dengnagre and Boldorenggiri, black pepper plantations are advancing with community-built fencing and road solutions, reflecting strong ownership and commitment.



### Filming Completed for Knowledge Management Team's Short Film in Mawmuthoh

From 4th–10th August 2025, the Knowledge Management team completed filming a fictional short in Mawmuthoh, Smit. Community members, staff, and collaborators participated in the production, which was shot across village locations and draws inspiration from the landscapes and community life of Mawmuthoh.

### Strengthening Livelihoods and Empowering Women in East Garo Hills

The Chiring Self Help Group, formed by 10 women in Rapdikgre Village, Samanda Block, East Garo Hills, is driving rural entrepreneurship through piggery. The group has increased household incomes, supported food security, and promoted women's empowerment, reflecting the impact of strong institutional support and capacity building across the district.

### Forest Management Plan Implementation in South Garo Hills

Newly trained Village Community Facilitators in Gasuapara and Chokpot have initiated the implementation of Forest Management Plans. The activities focus on biodiversity protection, sustainable livelihood promotion, and community-led forest restoration.



## PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



### Field Visit to Ganol Catchment by SPMU and Implementation Consultant

On 7th–8th August 2025, the Environmental, Social, Health and Safety team from the Implementation Consultant and the State Project Management Unit visited the Ganol Catchment, covering Sropgre, Selbalgre, and Rengsanggre in West Garo Hills and Mandal Nokat in East Garo Hills. The visit reviewed the implementation of Financial Participatory Appraisal winning ideas, promoted ESHS measures, and discussed experiences with the FPA contest and the Free, Prior and Informed Consent process. During interactions, community members described the FPA as a unique initiative that encourages participation across all age groups and raises awareness about the project in the wider community.

### FPA Contest 1 held at Ganol Catchment Villages

As part of the Financial Participatory Appraisal (FPA) Contest 1, a drawing competition for children was organized on August 8, 2025, at Ranggira Bolsalgre Village and on August 11, 2025, at Lower Damalgre Village. Both villages are located under Rerapara Block, South West Garo Hills District.



### Reorientation Programme for MegARISE Staff

On 11th August 2025, the SPMU Social & Capacity Building Management team organized a Reorientation Training on CEPF and ESMF at the MegARISE Conference Hall. The session was facilitated by IC experts—Mr. Steffen Schüle (K-3 Social & Environmental Safeguards Expert, International) and Dr. B.K. Tiwari (K-4 Social & Environmental Safeguards Expert, National & IC Deputy Team Leader).



### Block Review Meeting held in Umiew Catchment

On 12th August 2025, the East Khasi Hills Catchment Management Unit team met with Myliem Community and Rural Development Block officials to address the non-formation of Village Project Implementation Committees in some villages. Mawiong Myliem, Lumdewsaw, Nongbet, and Laitkor Nongdaneng agreed to proceed with formation, with a re-orientation and awareness programme scheduled for 19th August 2025 at Mawiong Myliem and Lumdewsaw.





## PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



### Review Meeting for EKH CMU Staff

The East Khasi Hills Catchment Management Unit, along with the DPD and SPMU, held a review meeting to assess project progress and address challenges. The CPM shared updates on VPIC formation, FPA contests, VLMAP activities, plantations, spring mapping, staff KRAs, and the upcoming five-month tour plan. The DPD recommended closer review of costing structures and fund utilization, stronger monitoring of spring rejuvenation and plantation mobilization, better nursery management and species selection, improved field and community engagement, and greater transparency in procurement and documentation.

### VLMAP Exercise at Chisregre Village, Rerapara Block

On 19th August 2025, the Ganol CMU conducted a Village Level Micro Action Plan (VLMAP) exercise at Chisregre, Rerapara Block, South West Garo Hills, with active participation from VPIC members, the Nokma, village leaders, and the community. The exercise identified priority interventions in water conservation, soil protection through retaining and gabion walls, and livelihood improvement.



### 2 FPA Contests Held at Digranggre VPIC

The Ganol CMU team conducted two Financial Participatory Appraisal (FPA) contests at Digranggre VPIC. Contest 2 featured an SHG proposal for a piggery farm to enhance livelihoods, while Contest 3 put forward the construction of a spring chamber to benefit over 10 households. The landowner of the proposed site has also initiated tree plantation.







### Financial Management Workshop

The Sustainable Land Management Meghalaya Project (SLM) Finance Team conducted a workshop on financial management, covering Utilization Certificate procedures and the importance of timely submissions. Sessions also introduced participants to the Matching Grants Application, Fund Flow, and Utilization Guidelines, which detail application processes, documentation requirements, and compliance measures to ensure transparency and accountability. More than 50 officials attended, representing SLM partner agencies such as the Directorate of Horticulture (DoH), Meghalaya State Rural Livelihoods Society (MSRLS), Bio Resources Development Centre (BRDC), SLM district teams, and MBMA staff.

### Awareness Program on ICS formation

An awareness program was held to guide farmers and stakeholders on forming an Internal Control System (ICS) for National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) certification. The session covered the benefits of ICS, the process for hiring ICS staff, distribution of farmer detail application forms, provision of farmer-ICS contracts, and collection of legal documents for ICS registration.



### Hands-on Demonstration on Application of Neem Oil, Trichoderma, NPK in Ginger

Dhiraj Patil, SME, and Wens Basaiawmoit, Area Coordinator from Clovers Organic, conducted a hands-on demonstration at the farm of Mr. Cleverson Maliieh in Bansken Village, Umsning Block, Ri Bhoi, on 20th August 2025. The session focused on how and when to apply Neem Oil, Trichoderma, Azospirillum, and NPK in ginger plantation, along with their benefits for pest control, disease prevention, nitrogen fixation, and improved crop yield.







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



### **12 Boundary Activities Across 11 Villages in 9 Blocks**

A total of 12 boundary-related activities were carried out across 11 villages in 9 blocks of Meghalaya. These included demarcations at Diengkynthong and Lumdawkong in Khadarshnong-Laitkroh Block, and Mustoh and Lumsophie in Shella Block, East Khasi Hills; two demarcations at Mawbidong in Mawkyrwat Block, South West Khasi Hills; verification and mapping at Pynthor and Umtlieh in Umsning Block, Ri Bhoi; demarcation at Diskiang Pusior in Nongstoin Block, West Khasi Hills; Mawngap in Amlarem Block, West Jaintia Hills; Chikal Dawa in Dambo Rongjeng Block, East Garo Hills; Duriapara in Dalu Block and Kama Dumindikgre in Rongram Block, West Garo Hills; and mapping of Kitmadamgre Forest Reserve in Bajengdoba Block, North Garo Hills.



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