

Newsletter

12 September 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 1998-2020



GREEN
MEGHALAYA
Grassroot Level Response towards Ecosystem Enhancement and Nurturing Meghalaya

Smart Village Movement™
In Alliance With Berkeley Haas



PRIME
MEGHALAYA



MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



4 Batches Trained | East Garo Hills | Rural Finance | 8–11 September 2025

Over 4 batches of IVCS leaders and record keepers took part in a four-day training at DRDA Hall-II, Williamnagar. The sessions focused on verifying and rectifying IVCS records to improve data accuracy, transparency, and accountability in operations.



MeghaLAMP-Supported Expansion | Jirang Organic Agro FPC | Ri-Bhoi

With support from MeghaLAMP, FOCUS, FOCUS+, and CM FARM+, the Pulping Unit and Mandarin Sorting, Grading & Waxing Unit at Jirang Organic Agro FPC, Umlakro, New Jirang, were inaugurated in the presence of Jirang MLA Shri Sosthenes Sohtun and Dr. Ampareen Lyndoh, MLA in charge of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Department as Chief Guest. Revenues have grown from ₹1.5 lakh (2017–21) to ₹1.17 crore in 2025, demonstrating how collective farmer action and visionary leadership are transforming rural livelihoods. These facilities are set to reduce post-harvest losses, improve quality, boost incomes, and create jobs, moving Meghalaya closer to becoming an export-ready horticultural hub.

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

16 Groups Engaged | East Garo Hills | 9 September 2025

A session in Williamnagar brought together 12 IVCS from East Garo Hills, 2 SHGs, and 2 IVCS from South Garo Hills to explore jackfruit as a sustainable and profitable crop. Led by the Project team with a Jackfruiting resource person, discussions covered cultivation, value addition, market linkages, and the crop's nutritional and economic potential.



General Body Meeting Convened | South West Khasi Hills | 9 September 2025

Wahpipa Village Project Implementation Committee gathered the community for a session with the project team, where villagers learned about ongoing projects, clarified doubts, and expressed interest in active participation. The meeting concluded with a review of Phase 4 and 5 progress in the Community Hall construction.

Village Visit | Ri Bhoi | 9 September 2025

The MegLIFE team met SHG members of Myrdon Nongbah to review the Community Nursery, 2024 Assisted Regeneration Plantation, Dug-out Pond, and Phase 3 of the Community Hall. The visit stressed upkeep measures like fencing, fireline management, and weeding, while also exploring fishery options and timely hall completion.



Duabanga and Titachap plants over 7 ft tall continue to grow despite frequent elephant activity.



100% Attendance Through Door-to-Door Mobilization

At Myrdon Nongbah, a storm-induced blackout did not deter IVCS and SHG members from attending a meeting with the team. The VPIC Secretary and VCF went door-to-door to mobilize participants, ensuring full attendance and strengthening members' understanding of IVCS objectives.

Village Engagement | Ri Bhoi | 9 September 2025

SHG members of Maweitnar met the Technical Specialists in an interactive session. The discussion created space for open dialogue and strengthened community participation.

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



2 SHGs Engaged | South Garo Hills | 4 August 2025

Two SHGs from Dengjama IVCS shared their business progress and records with the BPMU and SPMU teams at Dobakol Chenggalgittim. Members' ideas and concerns were heard, followed by farm visits at Darit Asim and the second quarterly monitoring of SWC activities. The team covered 5 km on foot to reach the village, reflecting their commitment to staying connected with communities.



5th September 2025 | Nongdewsaw VPIC | FMP Survey

Landowners committed plots for the 2026 plantation during a General Body meeting hosted by Nongdewsaw VPIC with BPMU Umsning. Project activities were presented, doubts clarified, and members appreciated interactions with the MegLIFE team that offered guidance.



Umtasor Mawdkhar | Community Engagement

The MegLIFE team met with IVCS and SHG members to discuss their goals and business plans. The interaction helped identify opportunities such as fishery, providing members with clearer direction for future initiatives.

Scan the QR code to watch the full episode of 'Stories From The Block – Episode 5' featuring Phyrnaikupar Kharbani.



PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



Water Storage Prioritized | Jendragre VPIC | Ganol | 9 September 2025

The Ganol-CMU team guided Jendragre VPIC in preparing the Village Land Management Action Plan (VLMAP). The community identified water storage as their top priority, proposing interventions such as RCC water tanks, storage tanks, gabion walls, spring chambers, plantations, and irrigation canals.

130 Participants Engaged | FPA Contest-1 | Umiew Catchment | 8–10 September 2025

The first Financial Participatory Approach (FPA) contest engaged 60 participants at Steplakrai Village and 70 participants at Mawjrong Village on 8 September. The contest continued on 9 and 10 September at Sadew and Mawblah Villages, fostering active community involvement in financial planning exercises.



2 Villages Engaged | Umiew & Ganol Catchments | 4 & 9 September 2025

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercises were conducted at Mynsain Village (Khatarshnong Laitkroh C&RD Block) on 4 September and at Urenggre Village (Rongram Block, West Garo Hills) on 9 September, enabling communities to share insights and priorities for local development planning.



The East Khasi Hills Catchment Management Unit, along with the Block Development Office of Laitkroh, held an awareness session to address delays in forming the Village Project Implementation Committee (VPIC). Following the discussion, the community planned to complete the VPIC within a week.

Field visit on 5th September 2025 to Pomkaniew to monitor the ongoing FPA implementation.





8 Crops Reviewed | SLM Project Value Chain Workshop | 8–9 September 2025

On 8th and 9th September, the Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited (CRISIL) organized a workshop to present the findings of value chain studies carried out under the SLM Project. The studies covered various crops including Khasi Mandarin, Black

Pepper, Ginger, Turmeric, Pineapple, Jackfruit, Bay Leaf, and Cashew Nuts. During the sessions, CRISIL shared detailed presentations on the surveys conducted, insights into markets and potential buyers, and the projected budgets for each crop. The workshop aimed to strengthen understanding of market opportunities and guide future interventions for the promotion of these high-value crops.

A recurring theme across the studies was the need for better packaging, branding, and post-harvest infrastructure. For instance, participants emphasized that pineapple clusters would require multiple packaging units across locations, with collective procurement of materials to ensure quality and cost efficiency. Similarly, in crops like Black Pepper and Turmeric, improved processing, drying, curing, and packaging were seen as vital for capturing higher market value and meeting organic certification standards.



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



Multiple Districts Covered | PES Interventions in Meghalaya

Green Field Associates has been conducting Participatory Environmental Surveys (PES) across Meghalaya, focusing on forest and land boundary demarcation and field verification. The initiative spans East Khasi Hills, Ri-Bhoi, West and East Jaintia Hills, West Khasi Hills, and Garo Hills, covering over 30 villages across multiple blocks. These surveys are helping communities strengthen natural resource management, reduce land conflicts, and conserve community forest areas.

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