

# Newsletter

10 October 2025

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Government of Meghalaya  
Meghalaya Basin Development Authority | Meghalaya Basin Management Agency

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 2016-2020



**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



### Financial Literacy Camp Held in Gambegre Block

On 25th September 2025, a Financial Literacy Camp was conducted at Saka Boldamgre, Dimchrang IVCs, and Dolamandagre Village, Songsni IVCs, Gambegre Block. The program was organised by MCAB Tura Branch in collaboration with MBMA Tura, with officials from NABARD, North East Small Finance Bank, and the Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Societies, West Garo Hills, in attendance.

The camp promoted financial awareness, encouraged savings and responsible borrowing, and covered cooperative societies, government schemes like PMJJBY and PMSBY, credit scores, Kisan Credit Cards, digital payments, and the CM Elevate scheme.



# KEY UPDATES

10 October 2025

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



### **Bamboo Village Model Readiness Workshop Strengthens Community-Led Enterprises**

On 9th October 2025, the Bamboo Village Model (BVM) Readiness Workshop was held at Prime Hub, Umdihar, Ri Bhoi District. Key stakeholders including Mr. Arief Rabik (Bamboo Village Trust, Indonesia), Vrutti (Common Ground), MBDA, MegLIFE, Meghalaya State Bamboo Mission, and the Living Root Bridge team participated, along with community leaders, bamboo artisans, and IVCS members. Using the Seven Enabling Conditions framework, participants assessed the readiness of Bamboo Village sites, identifying challenges and opportunities for sustainable bamboo-based livelihoods. The workshop laid a foundation for implementing the MegREAP Project and advancing community-led, eco-friendly rural development in Ri Bhoi.



# KEY UPDATES

10 October 2025

## PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



### Over 350 Participants Engage in Financial Participatory Approach (FPA) Contests Across Umiew Catchment

From 23rd September to 7th October 2025, a series of FPA contests were conducted across villages under Umiew Catchment. The events took place in Pomlakrai Mawthararia and Maweitnai in Myllem Block; Laitmawlong Wahpein, Lyngkynshieh, Tiewlieh, Mawjrang, Laitkynsew, and Madan Lyngdoh in Khatarshnong Laitkroh Block; and Mawmysiang, Dongiewrim, and Madan Ingsyiem in Mawphlang Block. The contests featured storytelling and drawing competitions, with more than 350 participants, mostly students and youth, showcasing creativity and ideas on themes of nature, community, and environmental conservation.



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



### Stories From The Block – Episode 7

Nikyrmien-I Suchiang from Mooshrot village, a teacher and active community member, continues to inspire others through her involvement in various village initiatives. From organising cleanliness drives and tree planting to encouraging youth participation in community activities, her efforts reflect how consistent local leadership can drive positive change at the grassroots level.

### 12 women from Nongdewsaw's Narympei SHG begin business plan activities

On September 26, 2025, the Narympei Self Help Group from Nongdewsaw village, with support from the Block Project Management Unit Umsning, started implementing its Business Plan activities. The initiative aims to help members strengthen their income sources and improve livelihood opportunities in the village.



### Bamboo saplings transplanted at Myrdon Nongbah VPIC, Umsning Block

Bamboo saplings were successfully transplanted into polybags at Myrdon Nongbah Village Project Implementation Committee in Umsning Block, Ri-Bhoi District. The activity supports bamboo propagation, sustainable resource management, and community-based livelihood opportunities.



### 2 day training and review programme for Income Generating Activities staff

MegLIFE held a two day Re-orientation and Review Programme on October 6–7, 2025, focusing on Self Help Group business reviews, IVCS Trial Marketing Fund, and Revolving Fund. Staff discussed case studies, IVCS-MCAB linkages, and action plans, followed by a field visit to Umsning Block on October 8 for practical learning.



## PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



### 4-Day Training Strengthens Capacity of CMU-Ganol Staff

A 4-day training on Soil and Water Conservation was conducted from 22nd–25th September 2025 at the MBDA Conference Hall, Tura. Facilitated by the State Project Management Unit and Catchment Management Unit-Ganol teams, with the Implementation Consultant as the resource person, the session covered erosion control, soil fertility, water management, watershed development, and social safeguards. The training enhanced the technical capacity of CMU-Ganol staff for effective implementation of MegARISE project activities.

### 74 Village Community Facilitators Attend Refresher Course

A two-day refresher course for Village Community Facilitators (VCFs) was conducted by the Ganol team on 24th–25th September 2025 at the Akonggre MegARISE Office, Tura. The session aimed to strengthen the facilitators' understanding of project implementation processes and community engagement under the MegARISE project.



### Field Visit to Mushroom Unit at Myllem Marbaniang

On 26th September 2025, officials from the SPMU and CMU-Umiew Catchment conducted a field visit to the mushroom units at Myllem Marbaniang. The team was accompanied by the Assistant Director of Horticulture, in charge of the Mushroom Development Centre, Shillong, to observe and learn about mushroom cultivation practices and management.



### Monthly Follow-up Training Held for 50 VPICs

A follow-up training for VCFs was conducted across three clusters representing 50 VPICs on the 25th, 29th, and 30th of September 2025. The sessions were organised at different locations under Mawphlang, Khatarshnong, and Mawryngkneng Blocks to strengthen the facilitators' understanding of project implementation and coordination at the village level.



## PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



### 22 Executive Committee Members Trained at Ganol Catchment

On 3rd and 6th October 2025, the Ganol Catchment Management Unit conducted Executive Committee Training at Lower Damalgre Community Hall, South West Garo Hills and Rongram Horti-hubs, West Garo Hills. Twenty-two members from eight Village Project Implementation Committees participated. The training provided an overview of project objectives and covered the roles of Local Purchase Committees and Village Community Facilitators, Environmental, Social, Health & Safety standards, Gender & Social Inclusion, and the Grievance Redressal Mechanism.

### 62 Participants Attend Executive Committee Training at Ganol Catchment

On 26th–27th September 2025, Executive Committee training was conducted at A'konggre, MegARISE Office, Tura, West Garo Hills. A total of 62 participants attended, strengthening their understanding of project objectives and committee roles.



### 94 Members Trained in Purchase Committee and Executive Committee Roles at Umiew Catchment

A two-day training on 24th–25th September 2025 saw 68 Executive Members from 10 VPICs attend sessions at Umiew Catchment. On 26th September, a separate training for the Purchase Committee was held, with 26 members from the same VPICs participating. The sessions strengthened understanding of committee roles and project implementation responsibilities.



### Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Conducted at Umiew Catchment

On 30th September 2025, the Umiew team conducted a Participatory Rural Appraisal at Mawngap Lumparing in Mawphlang Block. Another PRA was held on 8th October 2025 at Kyntonsyrwa Village in Khatarshnong-Laitkroh Block to engage communities and assess local needs.



## SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT



### Orange Demonstration Plot Successfully Located at Durama MPCs

A field visit was conducted under Durama Multi Purpose Cooperative Society (MPCS) to locate the Orange demonstration plot. The team trekked through challenging terrain and collected a soil sample for analysis by Clover, ensuring the site is ready for future cultivation activities.



### ICS Staff Trained on NPOP Certification and Data Collection

A training session was conducted for newly appointed Internal Control System (ICS) staff on National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) certification and guidelines, along with farmer data collection and geofencing procedures, strengthening their capacity to support compliance and accurate field reporting.



## MBDA/MBMA PROGRAMMES



### 13 VDVK Members Undergo Meghalaya Cuisine Training at IHM Shillong

A 10-day training program on Meghalaya cuisine and service skills is being conducted at IHM Shillong under the PMJVM, with support from the Meghalaya Basin Development Agency. Thirteen participants from Chokchim VDVK, Selsella Block, are taking part along with members from other districts of Khasi and Jaintia. This is the first batch from West Garo Hills to receive such specialized training.

The program covers both theoretical and practical aspects of culinary arts under professional chefs and trainers. Participants learn traditional Meghalaya cuisine, food presentation, service techniques, hygiene, customer service, and sustainable use of local ingredients.

The initiative aims to empower tribal women and youth by equipping them with skills for income generation and self reliance.



**GREEN Meghalaya**



### Green Field Associates Advances PES Initiatives Across Meghalaya

Green Field Associates has been actively implementing Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) initiatives across Meghalaya. The team conducted boundary demarcations in 13 villages across East Jaintia Hills, Ri-Bhoi, East Khasi Hills, and South Garo Hills, and carried out deforestation monitoring and ground truthing in five additional villages. These activities strengthen sustainable forest management, ecological conservation, and community engagement across the state.



# For My Children's Children

## Ma Teibor's Legacy in the Hills

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“ The first time you meet him, you notice the walking stick. It steadies his steps as he climbs the steep slopes of South West Khasi Hills. In his other hand, he almost always carries a bundle of seedlings. This is how the people of Wahsiej know him, “Ma Teibor,” the man who never let retirement slow him down.

Born on 12 December 1961, Teiborline Marwein spent decades in the Forest Department, a career that gave him purpose and respect. When he retired, he could have chosen rest. But Ma Teibor saw it differently: retirement was simply another season, an opportunity to continue living for the forest.

In June 2023, at sixty four, he joined the MegLIFE Project as a Project Associate, Forester. His work takes him across rugged terrain to plantation sites hours from the main roads, some requiring treks of three or four hours. Villagers recall him arriving with walking stick in one hand and seedlings in the other, ready to guide them.

Ma Teibor offers more than technical advice; he shares a philosophy. When he presses soil between his fingers, he teaches people to look for signs of life. When he plants a sapling, he shows them how to dig deep for strong roots. “Plant not just for today,” he says. “Plant for your children's children.”

At home in Wahsiej, his passion is equally evident. Across three nursery plots covering 2,466 square feet, he maintains 18 beds with eight species of indigenous trees. To him, these are classrooms teaching patience, laboratories for nature's resilience, and temples instilling respect for the earth.

Children follow him through plantations, eager to carry seedlings. Villagers admire his patience; younger staff see him as a mentor. Colleagues say his presence changes the energy of a site. People work harder, laugh easier, and believe more strongly in what they are doing. Time leaves its mark: his bones creak, his pace slows. Yet his determination remains. He plants knowing he may not see the forests in full glory, and that is his way of living, and of teaching others to live.

The people of Wahsiej often say his spirit is evergreen. Watching him walk into a village with seedlings, children trailing behind and villagers waiting with quiet respect, you understand why. For Ma Teiborline Marwein, the forest is not work or duty, it is life itself.

Retirement is only a word. The forest is forever. ”





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