

Newsletter

06 February 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Government of Meghalaya

Meghalaya Basin Development Authority | Meghalaya Basin Management Agency

KEY UPDATES

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



NATURE BASED SOLUTION CONFERENCE HELD FOR TWO DAYS IN SHILLONG

The Meghalaya government hosted a conference titled 'Scaling Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Himalayan Resilience' in Shillong, jointly organised by the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA) and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) on January 30-31, 2026.

The conference brought together policymakers, researchers, development practitioners, community leaders, private sector representatives, youth groups and international partners from across India and the Hindu Kush Himalayan region.

In his keynote address, Meghalaya Chief Secretary Shakil P Ahammed referred to the state's famous living root bridges, emphasising collective responsibility in forest protection, noting that nearly 76 percent of the state's geographical area is under forest cover, with around 90 percent managed by local communities.

The conference featured high-level policy dialogues and roundtable discussions with officials from MBDA and ICIMOD, the Union Ministry of DoNER and representatives from partner organisations, focusing on policy, finance and institutional frameworks for scaling NbS.

Technical sessions highlighted Meghalaya's commitment to natural resource management through inter-departmental convergence and community-led governance models. On the second day, ICIMOD launched an e-course on Springshed Management to support capacity building on NbS and water governance.

During the conference, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between ICIMOD and MBDA to strengthen collaboration on research, capacity building and scaling NbS in Meghalaya and the Himalayan region.

KEY UPDATES

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



26 JANUARY 2026 — NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR UMSHAKEN IVCS LTD.

Umshaken IVCS Ltd under Umling Block, Ri Bhoi District was selected by the Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India, to attend the Republic Day Parade in New Delhi. The invitation was extended to one PACS representative and spouse under the Computerisation of PACS Scheme. The programme was attended by Shri Kitdor Nonglong, Secretary, along with his wife, Smt Clever Makhroh.

National Recognition for Umshaken IVCS Ltd.

KEY UPDATES

MBDA/MBMA PROGRAM



FARM MACHINERY AND ARVS DISTRIBUTED IN WEST JANTIA HILLS

Farmers in West Jaintia Hills received 111 units of farm machinery and seven Agri Response Vehicles (ARVs) on 22 January 2026 under the Horticulture Cluster Development Programme (CDP). The initiative, focused on the West Jaintia Hills Turmeric Cluster, was funded by the National Horticulture Board and the Meghalaya Planning Department. The programme was attended by Shri Comingone Ymbon, MLA Raliang, as Chief Guest, and Shri F. Passah, MCS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, as Guest of Honour. The machinery will be provided to small and marginal farmers through 12 Custom Hiring Centres to promote affordable mechanisation, while ARVs will support efficient transportation of farm produce to markets and processing units.

KEY UPDATES

MBDA/MBMA PROGRAM



3 DAYS | 44 CSAS TRAINED | PLANTATION PLANNING AND AGROFORESTRY PRACTICES STRENGTHENED

From 21-23 January, a three-day training combined classroom sessions with field demonstrations for Community Service Associates (CSAs). The first two days covered the 2026 plantation plan, agroforestry concepts, AR and ANR practices, canopy classes, regeneration methods, and newly introduced agroforestry models with step-wise implementation guidance. Exit tests were conducted at MegARISE plantation sites. Field demonstrations on agroforestry, AR, and ANR were held at Sropgre and Kemragre villages. A total of 44 CSAs participated, including 30 from Catchment Management Unit-Ganol and 14 from Catchment Management Unit-Umiew.

SNIPPETS

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



₹1 LAKH AWARD | COMMUNITY HALL UPGRADED WITH POWER AND DIGITAL ACCESS

Recognised on World Environment Day 2025, the Village Project Implementation Committee (VPIC) of Tlangpui village, Saipung Block, utilised the ₹1 lakh award to strengthen its Community Hall infrastructure. The funds were invested in a generator and a laptop, improving power backup and enabling digital access for village-level meetings, planning, training, and record management. The investment has increased the usability of the facility and supports more consistent community coordination and decision-making.



27 JANUARY 2026 — BLOCK REVIEW AND FIELD VERIFICATION CONDUCTED AT MAWRYNGKNENG BPMU

A block-level review meeting was conducted at the Mawryngkneng BPMU to assess the progress of project activities across the block. The review covered the implementation status of key project components, followed by field visits to selected ongoing and completed works. The visits enabled direct verification of progress and provided on-ground observations to inform follow-up actions and implementation support.



ACTIVE SHARED SPACE FOR LOCAL ENGAGEMENT

The Nongrim Umksih Community Hall under the MegLIFE Project is already bringing people together as a shared space for connection and community life. Warmly embraced by local residents, the hall reflects strong community ownership and trust in the initiative. Its use highlights how the space is strengthening social bonds and creating meaningful impact at the grassroots level.



3 DAYS | VPIC CONSULTATIONS REVIEWED PROGRESS AND RESET PRIORITIES | UMSNING BPMU

From 21-23 January 2026, Umsning BPMU conducted consultations with Village Project Implementation Committees to review village-level interventions. Ongoing works were status-checked, financial limitations were documented, and implementation priorities were adjusted based on available funds. The exercise enabled evidence-based planning and clearer sequencing of next-phase activities.

SNIPPETS

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



CAPACITY BUILT FOR FARMER AND SHG CREDIT FACILITATION

A training programme on e-KCC (Electronic Kisan Credit Card) and financial literacy was conducted on the 3rd of February 2026 at the KJP Assembly Conference Centre, Shillong, in coordination with Meghalaya Rural Bank. District and Block Project Managers, along with Income Generating Activities personnel, participated in the session. The training strengthened operational understanding of the e-KCC system and formal financial services to support field-level guidance, improve access to institutional credit for farmers and SHGs, and enable informed financial outreach across project areas.



VILLAGE-LEVEL ISSUES RESOLVED AND APPROVAL PROCESS INSTITUTED

A conflict-resolution meeting was convened at Rongribo Amalgre VPIC under Samanda Block, East Garo Hills to address village-level implementation issues. The meeting was held in coordination with the Block Development Officer and resulted in agreed resolutions following structured deliberations. As a follow-up measure, the Deputy Commissioner and Block Development Officer directed that all future project activities in the village will proceed only with prior approval and coordinated oversight from their offices.

SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



STRATEGIC COORDINATION MEETING WITH VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

A coordination meeting was held by the Umiew team at the DC's Conference Room with participation from the Regional Director, CGWB; Director, IMD; CNO; officials from Soil & Water Conservation, Water Resources, Forest, and Animal Husbandry Departments; and concerned Block Officers. Key highlights of the MegARISE Project were presented, with discussions emphasising inter-departmental convergence and coordinated action to address siltation concerns affecting Mawphlang Dam.

9 AWARENESS SESSIONS | PLANTATION OUTREACH CONDUCTED ACROSS 8 VILLAGES | GARO HILLS

Plantation awareness programmes were conducted across multiple locations between 16 January and 2 February 2026 by Ganol Foresters and Community Support Associates. Sessions covered Jendragre (Rongram Block); Waram Asim, New Harigaon, Rongramgre, Soragre, and Rengsangre villages; as well as Anchenggre (Rongram Block, West Garo Hills) and Dopatchigre (Rerapara Block, South West Garo Hills). The outreach focused on plantation planning, community participation, and field-level awareness on upcoming activities.



3 FIELD VISITS | MULTI-VILLAGE COVERAGE | FPA & VLMPA SITES ASSESSED AND WORKS INSPECTED

Between 16–20 January 2026, engineering teams conducted field visits across multiple villages to assess and verify Financial Participatory Approach (FPA) and Village-Level Micro-Action Plans (VLMPA) activities. Site feasibility of winning ideas under FPA-2 and FPA-3 was assessed at Asanang and Bokda Apal, and FPA-2 implementation was initiated at Rengsangre. Follow-up visits covered Selbal Nokat, Matchurigre-B, Rongramgre, and Jendragre for inspection of ongoing works and site measurements. A joint visit by Ganol Engineers and the Executive Director (Technical), MBDA, reviewed the proposed RCC Check Dam at Eda Stream, Selbalgre, and inspected ongoing FPA-3 works at Jendragre, Matchurigre-B, Aranggre, Babadamgre, and Jongdikgre.



SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT

10+ PRA EXERCISES | MULTI-VILLAGE COVERAGE | COMMUNITY INPUTS AND AGROFORESTRY POTENTIAL IDENTIFIED

Between 16 January and 4 February 2026, the Ganol team conducted Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercises across multiple villages under Rerapara and Rongram Blocks. PRA sessions were held at Rongonagre and Wakantagre; multiple rounds at New Harigaon; and additional villages, including Old Harigaon, Anderkona (99 and 64 households respectively, predominantly Koch community), Akkakigre, Badagonggre, Edenbari, Noonmati, and Koraitola. Participation included village headmen, VEC, and Village Project Implementation Committee (VPIC) members, Village Community Facilitator, Self Help Group, Village Organisations, and other community members. The exercises generated village-level inputs for planning, with several locations identified as suitable for agroforestry interventions.



3 FPA CONTESTS | MULTI-VILLAGE PARTICIPATION | LOCAL SOLUTION IDEAS GENERATED | SOUTH WEST GARO HILLS

Financial Participatory Approach (FPA) contests were held across villages in the Rerapara Block between 21 January and 2 February 2026. Financial Participatory Approach (FPA) Contest-1 was organised at Ghatgre VPIC, followed by FPA Contests-2 and 3 at Chismokgre village. A subsequent FPA Contest-1 was held at Dalupara village, with participation from 36 community members. Local contests generated solutions and activity ideas to inform Financial Participatory Approach (FPA) planning and implementation.



2 VLMAP EXERCISES | 64HH VPIC | SWC AND LIVELIHOOD INTERVENTIONS PROPOSED — WEST GARO HILLS

On 16 and 28 January 2026, the Ganol team conducted Village Livelihood Micro Action Plan (VLMAP) exercises at Bokda Apal under Rongram Block, where VPIC members proposed Soil and Water Conservation interventions, including a spring chamber, water storage tank, and RCC check dam, along with income-generating livelihood activities. A separate VLMAP exercise was also conducted on 28 January at Sropgre VPIC, which comprises 64 households, with 47 household heads participating in the planning meeting, indicating broad community involvement in the micro-planning process.



3 MONITORING VISITS | FPA-2, FPA-3 AND VLMAP SITES INSPECTED | SOUTH WEST GARO HILLS

Engineering and M&E teams conducted multiple field inspections under the Rerapara Block, South West Garo Hills, to review the Financial Participatory Approach (FPA)-3 and Village Livelihood Micro Action Plan (VLMAP) implementation. Site monitoring visits covered ongoing activities across project villages. On 28 January 2026, site feasibility assessments for FPA-2 and FPA-3 were completed at Chisimokgre VPIC to verify technical suitability and implementation readiness. Additional visits to Sropgre, Sanchongre, Cherangre, and Rangwalkamgre reviewed progress of ongoing FPA-2 and FPA-3 works.



SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



3 VISIT DAYS | MULTI-VILLAGE COVERAGE | FPA & VLMAP WORKS VERIFIED AND INITIATED | MAWPHLANG AREA

Between 16-21 January 2026, CPM and engineering teams conducted field visits across multiple villages to assess, initiate, and monitor Financial Participatory Approach (FPA) and Village-level Micro Action Plan(VLMAP)activities. Site feasibility for FPA-2 and FPA-3 winning ideas was assessed at Pomlakrai Liewlong, while FPA-2 implementation was initiated at Mylliem Mawsawa, and Financial Participatory Approach (FPA) -3 spring chamber works were monitored at Lyngkienshieh. Follow-up verification of a completed FPA-3 check dam at Umkhlaw, Mawkohmon village, was carried out, alongside monitoring of ongoing Financial Participatory Approach (FPA) and Village-level Micro Action Plan works at Laitpynter Lummane, including polyhouse/mushroom cultivation, spring chamber, and retaining wall structures. A subsequent joint visit was also conducted at Madan Ingssyiem for site review and technical follow-up.

2 FIELD DAYS | MULTI-SITE CHECKS | FPA-2, FPA-3 AND VLMAP WORKS INSPECTED AND ASSESSED

On 19-20 January 2026, engineering teams conducted field inspections across multiple Village Project Implementation Committees(VPIC) to review progress and site readiness of approved works. Visits to Mawkathein covered the ongoing Financial Participatory Approach (FPA)-2 piggery construction. Inspections at Laitkynsew and Nongthymmai Pden reviewed FPA-2 mushroom units, FPA-3 spring chamber and protection wall works, along with Village Livelihood Micro Action Plan (VLMAP) activities. Site feasibility for Village Livelihood Micro Action Plan (VLMAP) bench terracing was assessed at Rangsuiñ VPIC, while checks at Laitpynter Lumpata covered VLMAP retaining wall and chain-link fencing works and ongoing FPA-2 polyhouse implementation.



5 FPA CONTESTS | 90 PARTICIPANTS | DRAWING AND STORYTELLING EVENTS CONDUCTED | MAWPHLANG BLOCK



Between 16 January and 2 February 2026, the Umiew team conducted Financial Participatory Approach (FPA) Contests 1, 2, and 3 across villages under Mawphlang C&RD Block. Contest-1 at Lumsohriew recorded 36 child participants (24 in Group 1 and 12 in Group 2) and 5 entries in the storytelling category. Additional contests were held at Laitkor Mawriew Lumheh (18 contestants) and Umthlong village. Financial Participatory Approach (FPA) Contests-2 and 3 were later conducted at Mawngap Mawkharshiing (16 contestants) and Lumsohriew (15 contestants). The events enabled structured youth participation and local idea generation through competitive formats.

SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



2 PLANTATION SITES | SURVIVAL SAMPLED | 50% AND 20% SURVIVAL RECORDED | UMIEW CATCHMENT

On 15 January 2026, plantation maintenance and survival assessment were carried out at two sites under the Umiew Catchment — Pomialkrai Rngishillong and Pomialkrai Liewlong. Sample checks covering over 3,000 saplings at Pomialkrai Rngishillong recorded an approximate survival rate of 50%, while sampling of more than 1,500 saplings at Pomialkrai Liewlong indicated about 20% survival. The exercise provides field-based survival estimates to guide follow-up maintenance planning.

1 JOINT REVIEW VISIT | 80% FPA-3 PROGRESS AND 80% SAPLING SURVIVAL RECORDED | LAITKYRHONG VPIC

M&E and KM teams from SPMU, along with the district team, conducted a field review at the Laitkyrhong Village Project Implementation Committee to assess ongoing activities. The kiwi plantation has been completed, while the Financial Participatory Approach (FPA)-3 spring chamber works have reached about 80% progress. Under the Village-level Micro Action Plan(VLMAP) , major works — including RCC water storage tank, retaining wall, and spring chambers — are largely completed, with CIB installation and minor finishing pending. Field observations recorded anti-frost protection measures in place and an estimated sapling survival rate of around 80%. The VPIC indicated that remaining activities and UC submission will be completed by end-January 2026, except for the kiwi plantation follow-up.

3 PRA EXERCISES | MULTI-BLOCK COVERAGE | FPA AWARENESS AND COMMUNITY SCHEDULING INITIATED

On 15-21 January 2026, the Umiew CMU team conducted Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercises across villages in Mawryngkneng, Mylliem, and Mawkynew areas of East Khasi Hills. PRA and Financial Participatory Approach (FPA) awareness sessions were held at Kharbuli Nongkrem, where the community agreed to schedule the Financial Participatory Approach (FPA) -1 contest on 21 January. Additional PRA exercises were conducted at Mawpynthih village under Mylliem Block and Thangsning village under Mawkynew Subdivision to support village-level planning and programme rollout.



FPA CONTESTS 1-3 | 92 PARTICIPANTS | MULTI-VILLAGE EVENTS CONDUCTED | UMIEW TEAM

FPA Contests 1, 2, and 3 were conducted at Diengkynthong village under 12 Shnong Laitkroh Block by the Umiew team, with a total of 75 contestants participating across categories. Financial Participatory Approach (FPA) Contest-1 was later held on 27 January at Madan Lyngkhi Nonglum village with 17 participants. Additional FPA Contest-1 events were conducted on 3 February 2026 at Mawlynnei Nongkrem and Lumdewsaw under Mylliem Block, extending outreach and participation across villages.



SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



2 PRA EXERCISES | COMMUNITY PLANNING INPUTS COLLECTED | KHATARSHNONG LAITKROH & MAWRYNGKNENG BLOCKS

On 23 January 2026, the Umiew team conducted a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) at Lummawkong village under Khatarshnong Laitkroh Block, with broad-based community participation. A subsequent PRA exercise was conducted on 5 February at Urmasi U Joh village under Mawryngkneng Block, generating additional village-level planning inputs for programme implementation.

SITE INSPECTION | RCC RETAINING WALL WORK REVIEWED FOR SILT AND EROSION CONTROL | POMKANIEW

On 4 February 2026, the Catchment Project Manager (CPM) and project staff, along with Village Project Implementation Committee members, visited Pomkaniew to inspect the ongoing construction of an RCC retaining wall along the Wah Umtyngar riverbank. The structure is intended to reduce silt inflow from a nearby sand quarry and to mitigate riverbank erosion. The visit focused on verifying construction progress and the functional purpose of the intervention.

7+ VILLAGES | MULTI-DAY FIELD CHECKS → FPA & VLMAP SITES MEASURED, ASSESSED, AND MONITORED — UMIEW CMU

Between 23 January and 5 February 2026, CMU Umiew engineers conducted field visits across multiple villages for site measurement, feasibility assessment, and monitoring of Financial Participatory Approach (FPA) and Village-level Micro Action Plan (VLMAP) activities. Site measurements for FPA-2 (mushroom) were completed at Pomlakrai Mawbynna and Mawmyrsiang, while feasibility assessments covered FPA-2 and FPA-3 winning ideas at Kyrdemkhla and Mawngap Mawkharsihing (poultry and dug-out pond). Monitoring visits reviewed ongoing FPA and VLMAP works at Lumkytung, Laitpynter Lumpata, Laitpynter Lummane, and Marbisu Pdengshnong. Additional visits to Mawkhanpasir, Mawñianglah, Mawblah, and Mawsawa Mylliem VPICs supported monitoring and initiation of approved FPA and VLMAP activities.





TWO-DAY TRAINING ON ORGANIC FARMING AND CERTIFICATION UNDER KFW-SLM PROJECT

A two-day training programme on Organic Farming and Certification was conducted on 3rd and 4th February 2026 for Nodal Persons and Internal Control System (ICS) staff of the KfW-SLM Project from the Khasi, Jaintia, and Garo Hills districts. The programme was jointly organised by the CLOVER team and SLM State Project Management Unit (SPMU), with resource persons from the Department of Horticulture (DoH), Bio Resource Development Centre (BRDC), and the Meghalaya State Organic Certification Body (MSOCB).

The training covered key aspects of organic farming and certification systems, including PGS, Meghalaya Naturals, and NPOP, highlighting certification processes, importance, and challenges. The sessions were hosted by the Manager (Agronomist), KfW-SLM, and facilitated by Clover Organics experts through interactive discussions, skits, and group activities, with valuable inputs from the Additional Project Director, SLM, the Deputy Director of Horticulture, and technical officials from BRDC and MSOCB, fostering strong inter-departmental coordination and learning.



LAKADONG TURMERIC CROP CUTTING EXPERIMENT UNDER AREA EXPANSION COMPONENT

A crop cutting experiment was conducted across selected clusters of West Jaintia Hills District. From the total cultivated area of 10 acres/ CBO, a representative plot of $5\text{ m} \times 5\text{ m}$ was demarcated for detailed observation and data collection. Within this plot, various crop growth and yield parameters were recorded, including plant height, pseudostem girth, number of tillers, number of leaves, petiole length, leaf length, and leaf width.

In addition, detailed rhizome characteristics were assessed, such as the number, weight, length, and girth of mother rhizomes, primary rhizomes, and secondary rhizomes per plant, along with the weight of clump per plant.

The primary objective of this experiment is to estimate the productivity of Lakadongturmeric rhizome on a per-hectare basis. The experiment is currently ongoing, as a total of 30 model plots have been established under the CDP programme, and data collection is being carried out accordingly.



9 BLOCKS | MULTI-DISTRICT OUTREACH | PES AWARENESS EXPANDED ACROSS MEGHALAYA

Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) awareness activities were conducted across multiple districts of Meghalaya, covering South Garo Hills, East Garo Hills, West Khasi Hills, East Khasi Hills, Ri Bhoi, and Eastern West Khasi Hills. Village-level programmes were held across nine blocks — Chokpot, Samanda, Nongstoin, Mawshynrut, Umsning, Umling, Mylliem, Mawryngkneng, and Mairang. The sessions focused on improving community understanding of PES objectives, benefits, and participatory processes, supporting informed local involvement in ecosystem conservation and sustainable resource management initiatives.



STATEWIDE MRV COVERAGE | MULTI-DISTRICT VILLAGES | PES MONITORING AND VERIFICATION CONDUCTED

PES activities under the Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) process were carried out across multiple districts of Meghalaya, including East and West Jaintia Hills, East Khasi Hills, South West Khasi Hills, Ri Bhoi, and the Garo Hills region. Field verification covered villages such as Chyrmang Nein and Rashai; Ramkheng and Diengsong; Dirang and Nonglang; Jyntru and Umpowin; and several Garo Hills locations including Sokadam Agalgre, Melagre, Moamari, and Nelwa. The visits supported field-level verification, progress tracking, and documentation of PES implementation.



MRV VISIT | FUND UTILISATION VERIFIED FOR FIRELINE AND COMMUNITY ASSETS | PYNURSLA BLOCK

Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) for GREEN Meghalaya+ was conducted at Umkor village under Pynursla Block in collaboration with Village Community Facilitator (VCF) Lakyrmenlang, led by Green Field Associate (GFA) Augstar Budon. Field verification confirmed that Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) funds were utilised for fireline control measures and renovation of the community hall. Village representatives acknowledged the support provided under the programme for strengthening forest protection and conservation efforts in and around the village.

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