

Newsletter

06 March 2026

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 KW 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

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



KEY UPDATES

MBDA/MBMA



“MEGBITES” FOOD KART KEYS DISTRIBUTED UNDER THE PRADHAN MANTRI JANJATIYA VIKAS MISSION TO BENEFICIARIES FROM KHASI HILLS, JAINTIA HILLS, AND RI BHOI

KEY UPDATES

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



FIELD VISIT REVIEWS CATCHMENT INTERVENTIONS UNDER MEGARISE

On 2 March 2026, Shri C. V. Diengdoh, IAS, Additional Project Director of the MegARISE Project, accompanied by the Block Development Officer of Myllichem Block and other block and project officials, conducted a field visit to intervention sites under the Umiew Catchment.

The team inspected key activities in Demthring and Pomkaniew villages, including water conservation and livelihood assets, as well as siltation-control measures along the Umiew River aimed at reducing soil loss and improving catchment management.

The visit concluded at Kyndong Nongkyntir, where winners of Financial Participatory Appraisal 2 and Financial Participatory Appraisal 3 were felicitated. Community members expressed appreciation for the project's support in generating wage employment, reviving water bodies, reducing soil erosion, and strengthening sustainable livelihoods.

KEY UPDATES

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



3-DAY TRAINING STRENGTHENS SURVEY AND MEASUREMENT SKILLS OF GANOL ENGINEERS

A three-day training on the Measurement Book and survey tools was conducted for Catchment Management Unit-Ganol engineers from 3-5 March 2026 at the Conference Hall of the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority, Tura. The training was led by Shri R. K. Singh, Project Associate, State Project Management Unit.

The sessions covered the importance and handling of the Measurement Book, procedures for recording field measurements, and the roles and responsibilities of engineers in maintaining accurate documentation for project works.

As part of the practical component, a field visit to Asimgre Village Programme Implementation Committee was organised, where participants practised survey techniques using a plane table, auto level, and other equipment through the Radial Traversing method.

The training concluded with exercises on data calculation, plotting survey points using AutoCAD, drawing contour lines, and preparing a toposheet based on the surveyed area.

Survey and Measurement Skills of Ganol Engineers

SNIPPETS

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



₹1.00 LAKH EARNED FROM AGROFORESTRY MODEL 6 PLANTATION

₹1,00,464 in income was generated by Mr. Rone Muktieh, a progressive farmer from Pamlatar village under Umsning Block, Ri Bhoi District, through the successful implementation of the Agroforestry AGF Model 6 plantation in 2025.

With systematic planning, timely interventions, and consistent crop management, Mr. Muktieh achieved a total harvest of 1,932 kg. On 2 March 2026, he marketed his produce at ₹52 per kg, demonstrating the strong income potential of improved agroforestry models.

His achievement highlights how structured and scientific farming practices can enhance farm productivity and income, while encouraging other farmers in the region to adopt sustainable and result-oriented agricultural practices.

HANDS-ON TRAINING PROMOTES SCIENTIFIC BAMBOO CULTIVATION

The MegLIFE team conducted a hands-on training and demonstration on bamboo rhizome planting and seedling preparation at Myrdon Nongbah village, Umsning Block, Ri Bhoi District.

The programme strengthened participants' technical skills in scientific and sustainable bamboo cultivation, covering planting methods, practical applications, and key considerations for rhizome plantation. It forms part of MegLIFE's ongoing efforts to build community capacities and support sustainable livelihoods.



FACILITATION PROGRAMME SUPPORTS SEED SCHEME ENROLLMENT

On 2 March 2026, the Block Project Management Unit Mawryngkneng, in collaboration with the Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project team, organised a facilitation programme at Lawei ba Phyrnai Integrated Village Cooperative Society, Mawmuthoh village.

The programme supported Self Help Groups, Integrated Village Cooperative Societies, and individual members in applying for the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Communities, providing guidance to ensure smooth enrollment and access to scheme benefits.



SNIPPETS

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



ONLINE EXAMINATION FOR VILLAGE DATA VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

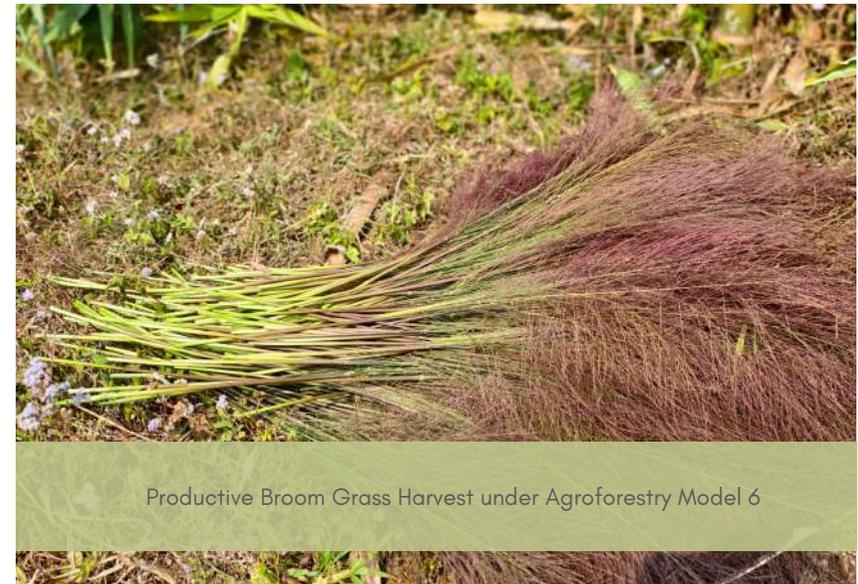
On 2 March 2026, the MegLIFE team conducted an online examination for Village Data Volunteer Coordinators at the District Rural Development Agency Hall, Williamnagar, East Garo Hills.

The examination was organised to assess the coordinators' understanding of their roles and responsibilities in supporting village-level data collection and programme implementation. It also served as a platform to strengthen their readiness to assist in monitoring and reporting activities at the grassroots level.

This initiative is a continued commitment to building the capacity of local volunteers and strengthening coordination for effective programme implementation in rural communities.

DLIMC REVIEWS AND RECOMMENDS IVCS FOR PACS COMPUTERIZATION

On 27 February 2026, the District Level Implementation and Monitoring Committee, chaired by the Deputy Commissioner, recommended nine Integrated Village Cooperative Societies under the MegLIFE programme for computerization under the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies initiative, following a review of earlier approvals.



Productive Broom Grass Harvest under Agroforestry Model 6

SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



140+ PARTICIPANTS JOIN FINANCIAL PARTICIPATORY APPROACH CONTESTS ACROSS BLOCKS

Between 26 February and 5 March 2026, Financial Participatory Approach Contests 1, 2, and 3 were conducted across villages under Rongram, Myllem, Laitkroh, Mawphlang, Rerapara, and Selsella Blocks.

The contests recorded participation from 39 participants in Masumatagre and Dachimagre, 21 in Myllem Mawiong, 18 in Jalynteng, 10 in Mawpynthih, 21 in Snarugre–Matchurigre Songgitcham A–Rategre, 21 in Nongrimsadew, and 12 in Nongbet.

Additional contests were held at Galwanggre village (3 March) and Dabakgre village under Selsella Block (5 March), promoting community awareness and participation in financial planning.

3 FIELD VISITS CONDUCTED TO ASSESS AND MONITOR FPA ACTIVITIES

On 25–27 February and 5 March 2026, Catchment Engineers and the Water Resources Department team conducted site inspections and monitoring across several villages.

The visits covered site assessment in Laitkynsew and Mawngap Mawkharshiing, monitoring of ongoing Financial Participatory Appraisal 2 and Financial Participatory Appraisal 3 works in Mawkatheih, Mawwan, Mawblah, Mawsawa, and Mawñianglah, and feasibility assessments in Madan Lyngkhi Nonglum, Lummawkong, and Wahtyngai Ummluh.



111+ PLANTATION PLOTS DEMARCATED THROUGH AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

On 26–27 February 2026, Foresters and the Community Support Associates team conducted plantation awareness programmes in Anderkona, Jewilgre, and Akakigre villages under Rerapara Block.

The initiative led to the demarcation of 18 plots in Anderkona (covering approximately 2 hectares), 37 plots in Jewilgre, and more than 56 plots in Akakigre for the MegARISE plantation initiative.



On 25–26 February 2026, the Ganol engineering team, along with the Executive Director and State Project Management Unit engineer, conducted field assessments of ongoing works under Village–Level Micro–Action Plans across multiple sites in Rongram and Rerapara Blocks.

SNIPPETS

MBDA/MBMA



90 FARMERS STRENGTHEN LAKADONG TURMERIC MARKETING THROUGH COLLECTIVE ACTION

Established in 2020 with 90 members, the Farmer Union of Shangpung has been supported under the Cluster Development Programme of the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency to strengthen collective marketing of Lakadong turmeric through value addition and improved market access.

Earlier, farmers mainly sold unwashed turmeric with limited quality standards. The Union now markets processed products such as sliced turmeric and turmeric powder, enabling better price realization. Through Government Buyer Seller Meets facilitated under the programme, the Union connected with buyers including Nakajiwa Agro Farm Private Limited, which became a regular buyer in 2025.

The Union currently sells sliced turmeric at ₹250 per kg and turmeric powder at ₹300 per kg, generating profits of ₹30 and ₹90 per kg respectively. About 10 tons are exported, while around 7 tons are sold in local markets.

Support under the programme has included Lakadong seed distribution, training on cultivation practices, fertilizers, bio inputs, machinery, sprays, storage infrastructure, market linkage support, and assistance for land expansion. Recently, the Union dispatched turmeric powder consignments of 540 kg each to Uttar Pradesh, Patna, and Lucknow, while continuing to focus on powder marketing.

Key challenges identified include transport and logistics constraints, weather risks, maintaining invoices and bills, limited quality packaging, and limited awareness of policy processes. Going forward, the Union plans to develop its own brand, expand cultivation by an additional hectare, strengthen Business to Consumer sales channels, and prepare land, compost, and manure for the next plantation cycle while maintaining partnerships with reliable buyers.



₹75 CRORE IN SAVINGS SUPPORTING YOUTH ENTERPRISE THROUGH VILLAGE COOPERATIVES

₹75 crore in savings and ₹39.58 crore in loans have been mobilised across 503 Integrated Village Cooperative Societies under the Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project. These societies provide village level savings and credit services that support members, including youth, in starting and expanding small livelihood activities. Youth participation is significant. About 37 percent of members are youth, and around one in four serves on a Managing Committee. The societies have also recorded about 70 percent repayment of loans, indicating continued use of cooperative credit for livelihood needs.

For many rural youth, the Integrated Village Cooperative Society is the first formal financial institution they engage with. Through regular savings and small loans, members build financial discipline while gaining access to locally available financial services that reduce the need to travel to distant bank branches.

Individual experiences also reflect livelihood changes. One youth member reported that she earlier earned around ₹200 per day through wage labour. After receiving a cooperative loan, she started a small business and now reports more stable income and reduced dependence on daily wage work.



In one cluster, 179 loans amounting to about ₹1.8 crore have been mobilised to support small businesses and livelihood activities. Within communities, the Integrated Village Cooperative Society functions as a village level financial institution, circulating savings and credit locally while supporting enterprise development among members.

**Access to local finance strengthening
Youth Enterprise in rural Meghalaya.**

Story Contribution by:
MeghaLAMP
Meghalaya Livelihoods Access to Market Project

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