

# Newsletter

13 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

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



### 101 COMMUNITY HALLS INAUGURATED ACROSS GARO HILLS TO STRENGTHEN VILLAGE GOVERNANCE

101 community halls across the Garo Hills region were virtually inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Conrad K. Sangma, during the celebration marking eight years of the Meghalaya Democratic Alliance Government at the P. A. Sangma Sports Complex in Tura.

The infrastructure was developed under the Community based Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement in Meghalaya Project (MegLIFE) with support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency. Government officials, stakeholders, and community members from multiple villages joined the inauguration virtually.

Funded jointly through the MegLIFE Project and the Chief Minister's Special Development Fund, the newly established community halls are expected to serve as key spaces for village meetings, community activities, and local development discussions, strengthening grassroots governance and community participation across the Garo Hills region.

# KEY UPDATES

MBDA/MBMA



## FOOD KARTS OPERATIONALISED IN GARO HILLS TO EXPAND TRADITIONAL CUISINE ENTERPRISES

5 “Meg Bites: Flavour of the Hills” Food Karts, one for each district of the Garo Hills, were distributed by Hon’ble Chief Minister Shri Conrad K. Sangma as part of a key enterprise readiness milestone under the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission.

Developed in collaboration with the Institute of Hotel Management, Shillong, these fully equipped mobile food units enable Van Dhan Vikas Kendras to provide traditional cuisine based catering at organised platforms such as government functions, tourism circuits, district level engagements, and urban food clusters.

Beyond district deployment, the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras are also being supported to participate in major catering and promotional events outside their districts and across the State, expanding market exposure and strengthening enterprise opportunities.

Food Karts Operationalised in Garo Hills

# KEY UPDATES

## PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



### 3 DAY TRAINING STRENGTHENS SURVEY AND MEASUREMENT SKILLS OF ENGINEERS

A three day training programme for engineers from the Catchment Management Unit and State Project Management Unit was conducted from 9 to 11 March 2026 under the guidance of Shri. Ravikant Singh, Project Associate, MegARISE.

The programme began with a field surveying exercise at Mawsawa Myllem Village Project Implementation Committee on 9 March, where participants practiced using instruments such as the plane table and levelling equipment. Sessions on Measurement Book handling, plotting, and survey mapping followed, with encouragement shared by Shri. James Kharkongor, Deputy Project Director, MegARISE Project and Gideon Kharmawphlang, Rtd. IAS, Executive Director, MBDA & MBMA,

# KEY UPDATES

MBDA/MBMA



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2026 CELEBRATION

A weeklong Message Campaign and organisation-wide participation marked the International Women's Day celebration hosted by women employees of the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority and Meghalaya Basin Management Agency on 9 March 2026 at the MBDA and MBMA Office, Jiengkieng, Shillong. Aligned with this year's theme, "Give to Gain," the weeklong campaign encouraged colleagues across the organisation to share written messages appreciating the contributions of women in the workplace.

The celebration featured musical performances, an interactive activity, and concluded with a Women's Day cake cutting by representatives from different projects and units within the organisation, reflecting the strength, resilience, and collective spirit of women.

# SNIPPETS

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



### BAMBOO CHIPS INITIATIVE PROPOSED AT KUT INTEGRATED VILLAGE COOPERATIVE SOCIETY

On 9 March 2026, officials from the Japan International Cooperation Agency India Office visited Kut Integrated Village Cooperative Society in Mawryngkneng Block to explore a bamboo chips initiative for the sustainable use of locally available bamboo.

Discussions with community members reviewed ongoing natural resource management and highlighted the potential of bamboo chips for soil improvement, mulching, and composting. The team also assessed bamboo availability and discussed harvesting, processing, and distribution, with plans to pilot the initiative at the Integrated Village Cooperative Society level with continued technical support.

### PRE ASSESSMENT CONDUCTED TO IDENTIFY LIVELIHOOD NEEDS UNDER MEGLIFE

On 5 to 6 March 2026, the Seven Sisters Development Assistance and MegLIFE officials conducted a pre assessment with Integrated Village Cooperative Societies and Self Help Groups in Mawkyrwat Block, South West Khasi Hills, and Mawryngkneng Block, East Khasi Hills.

Members of Sawchnong IVCS and Laweibaphyrnai IVCS participated. The findings will guide capacity building under the MegLIFE Project.



### ₹1 LAKH REVOLVING FUND SUPPORTS PIGGERY ENTERPRISE FOR SELF HELP GROUP IN TIKRIKILLA

The Hasong Self Help Group from Mothapara village under Tikrikilla Block started a piggery enterprise with ₹1 lakh revolving fund support through Chaknari Integrated Village Cooperative Society (IVCS) under the MegLIFE Project.

The initiative has begun generating income, with livestock increasing through breeding.



### INSPECTION STRENGTHENS FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF COOPERATIVES IN RI BHOI

On 10 March 2026, teams from the MeghaLAM Project and the MegLIFE Project conducted a joint inspection at Nangroi Nongbah Myrdon IVCS and Umtasor Mawdkhar IVCS in Ri Bhoi District, reviewing records and interacting with representatives.



# SNIPPETS

## PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



### 177 PARTICIPANTS TAKE PART IN FINANCIAL PARTICIPATORY APPROACH CONTESTS ACROSS BLOCKS

On 6, 9, and 10 March 2026, Financial Participatory Approach Contest 1 was conducted at Nongthymmai Lumthangding in Khatarshnong Laitkroh Block (23 participants), Andarkona village in Rerapara Block (26 participants), Pomlakrai in Myllem Community and Rural Development Block (66 participants), and Kynton U Mon in Mawryngkneng Block (22 participants).

On 7 March 2026, Financial Participatory Approach Contests 1, 2, and 3 were also held at Umtyingnar village under Khatarshnong Laitkroh Block, with around 40 participants.

### FIELD VISIT CONDUCTED IN RONGRAM BLOCK AHEAD OF KFW MISSION

A one day field visit was conducted on 2 March 2026 in Sropgre, Sanchonggre, and Babadam villages under Rongram Block by teams from the Catchment Management Unit, State Project Management Unit, and the IC Consulting Group.

The visit focused on preparations for the upcoming KfW Mission in April 2026, including discussions with field staff on experiences, lessons learned, and key priorities for environmental and social safeguard implementation.



### 34 PARTICIPANTS TAKE PART IN FINANCIAL PARTICIPATORY APPROACH CONTESTS 2 AND 3

Between 6 and 9 March 2026, Financial Participatory Approach Contests 2 and 3 were held at Nongkyndong Nongkrem Village Project Implementation Committee under Mawryngkneng Block and Mawngap Mawsmai Village Project Implementation Committee under Mawphlang Community and Rural Development Block, with 24 and 10 participants respectively.



### VILLAGE LAND MANAGEMENT AND ACTION PLAN MEETING HELD AT SORAGRE

On 5 March 2026, the Ganol team conducted a Village Land Management and Action Plan preparation meeting at Soragre with the Village Project Implementation Committee. Members proposed interventions including retaining walls, water storage tanks, spring chambers, dug out ponds, and check dams to improve water conservation and land management.



### 30 RESIDENTS PARTICIPATE IN PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL IN MAWRYNGKNENG

On 6 March 2026, the Umiew Catchment Unit conducted a Participatory Rural Appraisal at Rngikseh Nongkrem village under Mawryngkneng Block, with 30 residents participating using tools such as mapping, seasonal calendar, and group discussions.





## GREEN MEGHALAYA PROGRAMME BENEFICIARIES HIGHLIGHT COMMUNITY IMPACT

On 6 March 2026, beneficiaries of the Green Meghalaya Programme shared their experiences during a state programme held at the P. A. Sangma Sports Complex in Tura, attended by Conrad K. Sangma, Chief Minister of Meghalaya, along with government officials, stakeholders, and community members who joined virtually from villages across the state. The event also included cheque distribution to beneficiaries from East Garo Hills at Williamnagar, highlighting the programme's role in community participation, environmental conservation, and sustainable livelihood development across Meghalaya.

# 4.22 HECTARES REVIVED

Kong Rida Turns Barren Fields into  
Thriving Land

By 2024, Kong Ridahun Kyntla, Project Village Community Facilitator of Myrdon Nongbah Village Project Implementation Committee, had transformed 4.22 hectares of previously barren paddy fields into productive land under the Community-based Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement in Meghalaya Project.

Through a dug-out pond intervention, water returned to the fields, enabling winter vegetable cultivation and supporting the nearby community nursery, where saplings are now thriving. The Assisted Natural Regeneration plantation achieved an impressive 95–97% survival rate, reflecting Kong Rida's dedication, careful management, and commitment to restoration.

Once dry and unproductive, the land now supports both livelihoods and local ecosystem restoration, serving as a model for the community. The BPMU Umsning team anticipates that her initiative will inspire others in Myrdon Nongbah to take similar action.

Kong Rida's story shows that with courage and commitment, even barren land can bloom again.

**Story Contribution by:**

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



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