

Newsletter

02 April 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



MeghaLAMP
Meghalaya Livelihoods Access to Market Project



GREEN
MEGHALAYA
Grassroot Level response Towards Ecosystem Enhancement and Nurturing Meghalaya

Smart Village Movement™
In Alliance With Berkeley Haas



PRIME
MEGHALAYA



KEY UPDATES

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



128 COMMUNITY HALLS INAUGURATED TO STRENGTHEN RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN MEGHALAYA

128 Community Halls under the MegLIFE Project were inaugurated on 28 March 2026 in Shillong by the Honourable Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri Conrad K. Sangma, with a focus on expanding access to basic community infrastructure in rural areas. The event at J N Stadium was attended by community representatives and officials. The facilities are intended to be used for meetings, skill based activities, and livelihood related work at the village level.

These halls are planned to support Self Help Groups and local communities by enabling regular engagement, strengthening coordination, and supporting capacity building efforts across districts.

KEY UPDATES

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



10 MEMBERS TRAINED IN KIWU CULTIVATION IN MAWKYNREW BLOCK

A two day training on kiwi plantation was conducted at Laitkyrhong on 19 and 24 March 2026 under the Umiew catchment, led by the Social and Capacity Building and Livelihood team from the Project Management Unit along with resource person Smt. Medellis Lyngdoh.

Participants from Laitkyrhong and Nongrimsadew Village Project Implementation Committee took part in the sessions. The training focused on practical aspects of kiwi cultivation, including site selection, planting methods, and routine management. Participants also engaged with ways to improve productivity and adopt practices suited to local conditions.

SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



5 DAYS MONITORING AND SITE ASSESSMENT FOR FPA IMPLEMENTATION

From 23 to 27 March 2026, Engineers monitored ongoing activities and assessed site feasibility for Financial Participatory Appraisal (FPA) implementation across multiple locations. The visits covered Lyngkienshie, Madan Football, Kyntonsyrwa, Nongthymmai Lumthangding, Umtyngngar, Mawkyring, Thangnsning, Mawtyllup, Nongrimsadew, Marbisu Pdengshnong, Laitpynter Lummane, Lyngkynshyap, Lumdewsaw, Mawngap Mawsmmai, and Nongthymmai Pdeng. Activities included monitoring of ongoing construction, site assessments, initiation of Village Level Micro Plan activities, and spring monitoring training for Village Community Facilitators.



59 PARTICIPANTS ENGAGED IN FPA SESSIONS IN UMIEW CATCHMENT

9 people participated in the FPA 2 & 3 contests, which were conducted at Laitkor Mawrie Lumheh under Myllem C&RD Block and at Rngi Kseh Nongkrem under Mawryngkneng Block C & RD on 27th March 2026. And 41 children took part in the FPA Contest 1 on 28th March 2026, at Marbisu Mawsmmai under Mawphlang C&RD Block.



PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL IN LAD MAWRENG VILLAGE

Participatory Rural Appraisal was conducted on 31 March 2026 at Lad Mawreng village under Mawphlang Block. The community was briefed on upcoming activities and Financial Participatory Appraisal exercises.

Key interventions identified included spring rejuvenation, construction of protection walls, and plantation and nursery development.

SNIPPETS

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



TRAINING ON SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES CONDUCTED AT UMSHIT VPIC, UMLING BLOCK

A training session was held on 30 March 2026 at the newly inaugurated community hall in Umshit Village Project Implementation Committee, Umling Block, organised by IORA Ecological Solutions under the MegCARE initiative.

The session covered carbon credit, agroforestry, forest fire management, and integrated pest management, with a focus on practical approaches to support sustainable agriculture and strengthen rural livelihoods.

450 KG BLACK PEPPER AGGREGATED UNDER TRIAL MARKETING FUND

Under the Trial Marketing Fund initiative, Wagepara Chadembe Integrated Village Cooperative Society Ltd. has started aggregating black pepper through direct procurement from farmers.

An advance payment of ₹550 per kg has been provided to ensure immediate returns. So far, 450 kg has been aggregated, with plans to sell when market conditions improve, supporting better price realisation and collective marketing.



ADVANCED AGROFORESTRY PLANTATION WORK REVIEWED IN RONGRAM BLOCK

On 31 March 2026, the Block Project Management Unit team visited Chibokgre village in Rongram Block to review progress of advanced agroforestry plantation work.

Preparatory activities such as jungle clearance, site layout, pit digging, and staking were found to be in place. The visit focused on tracking field progress and supporting timely implementation.



SNIPPETS

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



2 DAYS CAPACITY BUILDING IN DALU BLOCK, WEST GARO HILLS

A two day handholding programme for Integrated Village Cooperative Society members was conducted in Dalu Block on 18 and 19 March 2026, led by a resource person from Rural Finance. Day one focused on discussions and review of books and registers to support computerisation, while day two covered cooperative principles, roles and responsibilities, financial management, and key areas such as decision making, communication, and planning. The programme aimed to strengthen record keeping and improve the overall functioning of the societies.



3 DAYS ASSESSMENT OF IVCS

An assessment of Integrated Village Cooperative Societies in Dalu Block, West Garo Hills was conducted from 24 to 26 February 2026 to review performance through verification of registers and records at the society offices. The process was carried out in the presence of the Secretary, President, and Managing Committee, with grading assigned across A, B, C, and D categories based on record maintenance. Discussions also focused on gaps in documentation and the need for more consistent and timely updates moving forward.



EMPOWERING RURAL LIVELIHOODS
“The Upper Kharkutta Four Brothers IVCS Journey”

16 members in 2019 have grown into a network of 367 members today, with 70 percent women, across four villages in Kharkutta Block, North Garo Hills. The Upper Kharkutta Four Brothers Integrated Village Cooperative Society has built a working model around aggregation, processing, and collective marketing of local produce.

₹1.26 Lakh Profit from Ginger Processing

In 2025, the cooperative processed 5 tons of ginger using a unit supported under the Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project. With a conversion ratio of 5.5 kg raw to 1 kg dried, the group generated ₹3.31 lakh in revenue against ₹2.05 lakh in expenditure, resulting in a net profit of ₹1.26 lakh. Value addition through slicing and powder processing significantly improved returns.

40 Women Employed Seasonally

Around 40 women are engaged in seasonal processing work for three months each year, earning ₹300 per day. The work provides steady income during peak processing periods and supports household earnings.

₹5 Lakh Revenue from Market Operations ₹8 Lakh Projected

The cooperative secured and retained the Kharkutta Market contract, generating ₹5 lakh in revenue in 2024. With an increased bid of ₹3.5 lakh in 2025, revenue is projected to reach ₹8 lakh, keeping economic activity within the community.

₹40,000 Profit from Black Pepper ₹45,000 from Turmeric

Black pepper and turmeric processing added to the income base. From 300 kg of raw black pepper, the cooperative generated ₹40,000 in net profit. Turmeric processing of 1 ton yielded ₹45,000 in profit. These activities have strengthened local value chains and reduced dependence on external buyers.

₹35 to ₹65 More Per Kilogram for Farmers

Through direct procurement, farmers receive better prices compared to local markets. Ginger is purchased at ₹35 per kg, black pepper at ₹100 per kg, and turmeric at ₹25 per kg, benefiting over 600 farmers across crops. This has improved income stability and reduced reliance on middlemen.

₹2.5 Lakh Annual Revenue from Agri Response Vehicle

An Agri Response Vehicle supports transport needs at lower local rates, generating ₹2.5 lakh annually with a profit of ₹1.2 lakh, while improving access for farmers.

Additional Income Streams Strengthening Stability.

A bakery unit produces 30 packets of biscuits daily, generating a monthly revenue of ₹30,000. A commercial unit within the market provides ₹48,000 in annual rental income. These smaller streams add to overall financial stability. At Upper Kharkutta, the Four Brothers IVCS is changing how people make a living. Farmers are earning more, women are finding seasonal work, and production is becoming more sustainable. It's a simple but powerful example of a community coming together to improve both their economy and their everyday lives.



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