

CLINTON SANGMA'S JOURNEY WITH IVCS



Rural communities often depend on traditional farming and livelihood practices that provide basic sustenance but rarely allow families to rise above subsistence levels. Limited access to modern techniques, financial services, and structured support keeps many households trapped in cycles of uncertainty. To break this barrier and expand opportunities, rural families require consistent handholding, through financial assistance, training, and cooperative institutions that can help them diversify income sources, adopt improved practices, and build sustainable livelihoods. Financial inclusion is therefore not just about access to money; it is about empowering communities to move away from precarious daily wages toward stable, long-term ventures that uplift entire villages.

Recognizing these challenges, the Government of Meghalaya established 500 Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS) under the provisions of the *Meghalaya Cooperative Societies Act, 2015*. This initiative was launched through the Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project (Megha-LAMP), supported by IFAD and implemented by the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA) under the Planning Department.

The primary objective of IVCS is to bridge the gap in financial services for rural households, especially those in remote and interior villages where formal banking networks cannot reach. By creating localized cooperative institutions, IVCS ensures that even the most marginalized communities gain access to credit, savings, and livelihood support. This model not only strengthens rural economies but also fosters collective growth, resilience, and self-reliance among villagers.

Clinton, from Makbilkol village in North Garo Hills, is today the Chairman of the Upper Kharkutta Four Brother Integrated Village Cooperative Society (IVCS). Before the IVCS was established on December 17, 2019, life was difficult for him. He worked as a local mason and daily wage laborer, earning just enough to cover his family's basic needs. Savings were almost nonexistent, and financial insecurity weighed heavily on him, as it did on many rural workers with limited opportunities for growth.



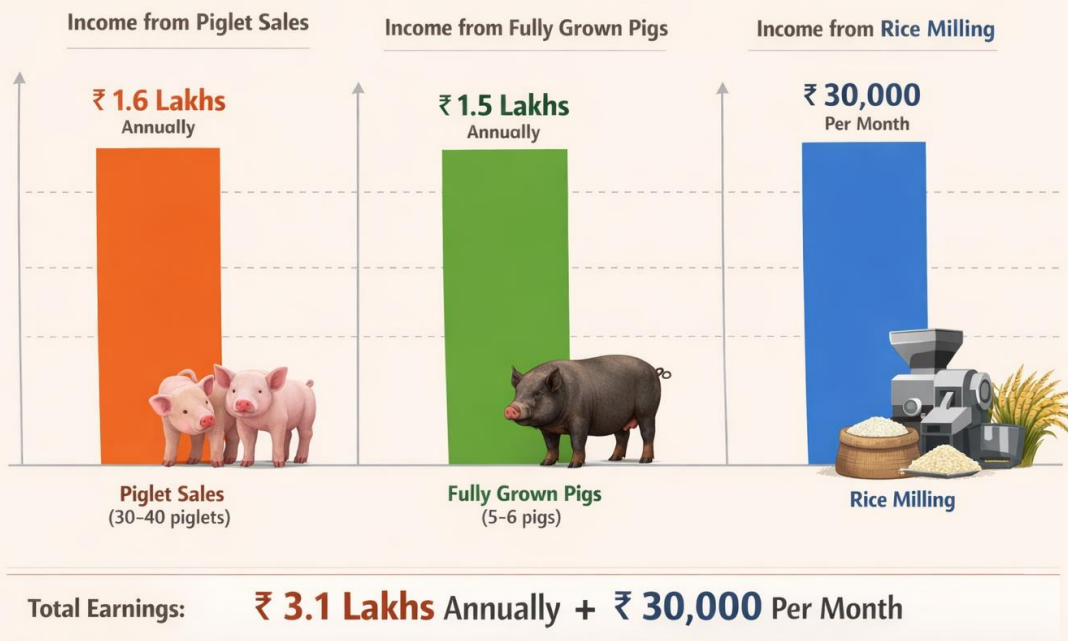
A New Chapter with IVCS

The establishment of the Upper Kharkutta Four Brother IVCS marked a decisive turning point in Clinton's journey. In 2021, he received funding of Rs. 2.35 lakhs from the Piggery Mission through IVCS, which he wisely invested in pig farming. By the following year, his farm was thriving and had become a reliable source of income for his family.

Strengthening Knowledge through Training

Clinton understood that financial investment alone was not enough to ensure success in farming. Determined to improve his skills, he embraced training opportunities offered through IVCS. In collaboration with the Veterinary Department of North Garo Hills, he attended specialized programs at the Bolmoram Training Centre in East Garo Hills. These sessions equipped him with modern techniques in pig care and management, resulting in healthier livestock and higher productivity. By combining financial support with technical training, Clinton not only expanded his piggery business but also laid a strong foundation for sustainable growth, in line with IVCS's vision of empowering rural entrepreneurs.

Growing Success in Pig Farming & Rice Milling



Synergy between Farming and Milling

Clinton's decision to invest in a rice mill was highly strategic. Beyond generating income, the milling process produces husk, which serves as nutritious feed for his pigs. This creates a sustainable cycle: farmers bring their paddy for milling, Clinton earns from the service, and the by-product directly supports his piggery business. In this way, his ventures complement each other, maximizing efficiency, profitability, and reducing costs.

Discipline in Operation

Clinton runs his rice mill machine with remarkable consistency. He operates it twice a day, once in the morning and again in the evening, from Monday to Saturday. This routine ensures that farmers in his locality can rely on him regularly, while also allowing him to balance his time between milling and pig farming. His disciplined approach has turned the rice mill into a dependable service for the community and a steady source of income for his household.

Annual Revenue

From pig farming and rice milling combined, Clinton now generates approximately Rs. 7 lakhs annually, reflecting both his entrepreneurial spirit and the transformative impact of IVCS support.

Previous Earnings from Piggery

Earlier, Clinton managed to sell about five piglets and three fully grown pigs. From these sales, he earned nearly Rs. 20,000 from the piglets and Rs. 54,000 from the full-grown pigs, giving him a total annual income of approximately Rs. 74,000 through piggery.

Building Markets at His Doorstep

Clinton no needs to travel to distant marketplaces, as buyers come directly to his home. With piglets in demand for rearing and full-grown pigs sought after for festivals and community events, his household has become a hub of local commerce, saving him time while ensuring steady sales.

Impact of IVCS on His Life and Family

The IVCS transformed Clinton's life from that of a struggling daily wage laborer into a successful entrepreneur and respected community leader. Through ventures like piggery farming and rice milling, he achieved financial stability, consistent income, and the ability to support his children's education. Beyond economics, IVCS empowered him with knowledge, leadership skills, and confidence, enabling his family to enjoy a brighter and more secure future.

Challenges in Piggery Farming

Issues Clinton Faces in Pig Farming

<h4>Piglet Mortality</h4> <p>2~3 Piglets Lost Per Year Due to Health Issues</p>	<h4>Desi vs. Hybrid Pigs</h4> <table border="1"><tr><td><h5>Desi Pig</h5><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low Returns• Slow Growth</td><td><h5>Hybrid Pig</h5><ul style="list-style-type: none">• High Returns• Faster Growth</td></tr></table>	<h5>Desi Pig</h5> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low Returns• Slow Growth	<h5>Hybrid Pig</h5> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• High Returns• Faster Growth
<h5>Desi Pig</h5> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low Returns• Slow Growth	<h5>Hybrid Pig</h5> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• High Returns• Faster Growth		
<p>! Desi Pigs Small in Size • Longer to Mature</p>	<p>₹ Hybrid Pigs Higher Profits • Quicker Maturity</p>		

Need for Better Veterinary Care & Strategic Planning

Future Plans for Expansion

Looking ahead, Clinton plans to diversify his piggery by rearing other breeds such as Hampshire and Duroc. These breeds are known for faster growth, larger size, and better market value, which can significantly improve income levels. By combining the cultural appeal of desi pigs with the commercial advantages of improved breeds, Clinton aims to strike a balance between tradition and modern farming practices. This expansion will not only increase his revenue but also strengthen his role as a progressive farmer who adapts to changing market demands.



Clinton's Reflection on IVCS

"It was truly fortunate that IVCS was established in our village, and I was selected as Chairman. This opportunity not only improved my life financially but also helped me gain valuable knowledge through training and leadership experiences. Leading the community through IVCS has taught me a lot, and even today, I continue to serve others by rearing pigs and running a rice mill. For all of this, I sincerely thank IVCS and the Megha-LAMP initiative." — Clinton Sangma