

Newsletter

01 May 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

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



YARN BANK INAUGURATED AT UMKON IVCS, RI BHOI

On 30th April 2026, Umkon IVCS Ltd, Umling Block, Ri Bhoi District, inaugurated a Yarn Bank to support local weaving activities. The programme was graced by Shri Mayralborn Syiem, MLA, Nongpoh Constituency, as Chief Guest, along with Shri Augustus Suting, Deputy Project Director, MLAMP, and other officials from MBMA, FOCUS and DPMU.

The IVCS received a support fund of ₹42 lakh from MBMA-FOCUS for the Yarn Bank and ₹7 lakh for infrastructure under the MLAMP project. The initiative is expected to improve access to raw materials for weavers, strengthening livelihoods and promoting traditional weaving practices in the area.

SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



VPIC MEMBERS BUILD LIVELIHOOD SKILLS AT 3-DAY FOOD PROCESSING TRAINING

The 3-day Food Processing Training for 18 Village Project Implementation Committee (VPIC) members, held from 28th to 30th April 2026 at the Fruit Preservation Centre, Shillong, was completed. The training focused on hands-on preparation of value-added products such as pickles, jam, squash, juice, tomato sauce, and tomato purée. Participants actively engaged in all sessions, gaining practical skills that can support improved household nutrition and enhance livelihood opportunities. The programme concluded with the distribution of certificates.



ENGAGING COMMUNITIES THROUGH FPA CONTEST-1

On 27 April 2026, the Ganol team conducted FPA Contest-1 at Jewilgre Village, Rerapara Block, South West Garo Hills, featuring drawing and storytelling competitions with 48 participants; winners and consolation prizes were awarded.



On 29 April 2026, the Ganol-CMU team held FPA Contest-1 at Balalgre Village, Rerapara Block, with 40 participants in similar competitions.

Earlier, on 28 April 2026, FPA Contest-1 was held at Myllem Umsaw, Myllem Block, where 46 children actively participated in the drawing competition.



PRA AT GANOL CATCHMENT VILLAGES

On 21, 22 and 23 April 2026, the Ganol team conducted a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) at Balalgre, Jewilgre and Rongkakgre villages. Findings at Balalgre highlighted its proximity to the Ganol River, presence of three springs and a large community reserve, along with elephant movement in the area.

KEY UPDATES

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT



AWARENESS ON SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT AT BALGITO IVCS CONDUCTED AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS

On 17th April 2026, an awareness and concept seeding meeting on Sustainable Land Management (SLM) was conducted at Rajasimla Chokchimsa IVCS, Rajasimla Songma. The session was facilitated by Mr. Bhargav, Deputy Manager, and Mr. John, Program Associate, with support from SeSTA staff and FOCUS volunteers.

A total of 24 members participated in the meeting, where key aspects of the SLM project—including its objectives, approach, and benefits such as certification, improved market linkages, and technical support—were discussed. Members were also introduced to suitable agricultural activities under the project.

The session witnessed active participation and generated strong interest among members, encouraging them to adopt sustainable land management practices.

On 20th April 2026, an awareness and concept seeding meeting on Sustainable Land Management (SLM) was conducted at Balgito IVCS, Baksalpara, Kharkutta, North Garo Hills. The session was facilitated by the SLM team, including the SLM Coordinator, Centre Manager, Block Accountant and Business Planner.

A total of 16 members participated, and the session covered key aspects of the SLM project, including its objectives, implementation approach, and benefits such as certification, market linkages and technical support. Participants showed keen interest and actively engaged in the discussions.

As some members were absent, a follow-up meeting will be organised to ensure wider participation. Overall, the session helped build awareness and generated interest in sustainable land management practices.

SNIPPETS

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



FIELD DEMONSTRATION ON MANAGING GUMMOSIS IN CASHEW

On 27th March 2026, a third-party team from the Institute for Human Development (IHD) conducted a field assessment of the Rubber Latex Unit at Chidimit, North Garo Hills, under the Megha-LAMP project. The visit focused on evaluating the unit's operational efficiency, income impact on farmers, market linkages, and inclusiveness within the cooperative system.

The team inspected infrastructure and machinery, verified production and payment records, and interacted with managing committee members and rubber growers. Observations indicated improved processing quality, with farmers benefiting from higher returns through value addition, as well as enhanced logistical efficiency due to better aggregation and reduced transport costs.

The assessment also noted strong community ownership of the unit, while recommending continued technical training to further improve processing standards. The findings will contribute to the final impact report, guiding future planning and scaling of similar initiatives under MBMA.



SEEDS CM ELEVATE PROGRAMME AT KHARKUTTA BLOCK

On 23rd April 2026, the PRIME team, in collaboration with DPMU North Garo Hills, organised a programme at Kharkutta Block to promote the SEEDS - CM Elevate scheme. Sanction orders of ₹50,000 each were distributed to 23 beneficiaries, enabling them to access bank loans and start their enterprise activities.



BLACK PEPPER TRAINING CONDUCTED IN NORTH GARO HILLS

On 27th March 2025, the DPMU North Garo Hills organised a training programme on black pepper cultivation to enhance farmers' skills in scientific practices, disease management and sustainable production.

The session covered key aspects such as site selection, planting techniques, organic inputs, pest and disease control, and post-harvest management. Farmers actively participated and received essential inputs including vermicompost, Trichoderma, neem oil and weeders to support field application.

SNIPPETS

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



MEGLIFE SIGNS MOU WITH MEGHALAYA RURAL BANK TO STRENGTHEN CREDIT LINKAGES FOR IVCS

The MegLIFE project, under the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Meghalaya Rural Bank (MRB) on 21st April 2026 at the MegLIFE Office. The MoU formalizes collaboration between the two institutions to strengthen livelihood promotion by improving access to financial services and facilitating credit linkages for IVCS under the MegLIFE project. The MoU was signed by Shri Gavade Sachin Shankar, IFS, Executive Director, MBDA and Additional Project Director, MegLIFE, and Shri Ashish Yadav, Chairman, Meghalaya Rural Bank, in the presence of senior officials from MegLIFE and MRB. This partnership marks a significant step towards enhancing financial inclusion and supporting sustainable income-generating activities across the project areas.

GAMBEGRE STRENGTHENS PLANTATIONS ACROSS 12 VILLAGES

On April 23, 2026, the Gambegre Block distributed *Gmelina arborea* and *Tectona grandis* stumps across 12 villages to support assisted natural regeneration (ANR) and gap filling in plantation areas, strengthening overall site performance. This initiative helps restore underperforming patches, improve vegetation cover, and enhance soil stability and moisture retention. By promoting the growth of resilient species, it contributes to healthier ecosystems, supports biodiversity, and builds long-term sustainability and climate resilience, while encouraging community participation in environmental conservation.



MEGLIFE-MBMA REVIEW MEETING ACCELERATES PROJECT EXECUTION IN SWGH

On 23 April 2026, MegLIFE and MBMA (MLAMP) held a monthly review meeting under the leadership of the Deputy Commissioner of South West Garo Hills to assess progress and plan upcoming activities. The meeting focused on strengthening implementation efficiency and ensuring timely delivery of ongoing initiatives. Key discussions addressed labour-related challenges, with a commitment from the district administration to facilitate practical solutions, including improving access to skilled workforce support where required. This coordinated approach is expected to enhance project execution, maintain momentum on development works, and support overall outcomes for communities in the district.



SNIPPETS

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



STRENGTHENING IVCS IN EAST KHASI HILLS AND GARO HILLS THROUGH FGD INSIGHTS

Focus Group Discussions for Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS) were held on 21st-22nd April 2026 at the MegLIFE SPMU Office in Shillong. The sessions brought together teams to review initial findings, share insights from the field and identify key gaps and opportunities for strengthening community engagement.

This was followed by a similar session on 23rd April 2026 at the MegLIFE Conference Hall in Tura, which focused on the Garo Hills region. The session brought together key stakeholders to build on earlier discussions, strengthen coordination and align on priority actions for more effective and community-driven IVCS implementation.



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR EFFECTIVE PLANTATION IN RENCHAGRE

On 24 April 2026, awareness activities were carried out in Renchagre Cluster, one of the remote areas of Rongram Block, to support upcoming plantation interventions. Field teams provided practical training on plantation layouts and models, while key information on cost norms and mandays was shared to ensure informed community involvement. The initiative is expected to improve coordination, enhance site performance, and drive more sustainable plantation outcomes.



AGROFORESTRY DEMO HELD IN LUMDIENG TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE FARMING

On 24 April 2026, a demonstration of Agroforestry Plot Model 15 was successfully conducted at the Youle Manih plot in Lumdieng, Umling. The session aimed to strengthen community understanding of improved agroforestry practices by providing practical, field-based guidance on model implementation. By showcasing effective land-use techniques, the initiative is expected to enhance productivity, promote sustainable resource management, and support long-term livelihood improvement for participating communities.





COORDINATED FIELD EFFORTS BOOST PES APPLICATION DRIVE STATEWIDE

Green Field Associates conducted PES-related field visits and Application Form (AR) collections across key locations in Meghalaya, including Aruakgre and Kitmadamgre villages in Bajengdoba Block, North Garo Hills; Smit Village in Mawryngkneng Block and Nongthymmai Kyndiar Village in Pynursla Block, East Khasi Hills; Nonglait Village in Mawthadraishan Block, Eastern West Khasi Hills; Mawsyrpat Village in Mawshynrut Block, West Khasi Hills; and Umlaper and Diwon villages in Umsning and Umling Blocks, Ri Bhoi District. Additional coordination and AR collection were carried out at DPMU Laskein (West Jaintia Hills), BPMU Dambo Rongjeng (East Garo Hills), Nongstoin Block (West Khasi Hills), Umling Block (Ri Bhoi), and Pynursla Block (East Khasi Hills). These activities aimed to ensure smooth collection and verification of application forms, strengthen field-level engagement, and maintain accurate documentation for PES implementation. By facilitating timely submissions and close coordination with communities and local offices, the initiative enhances transparency, supports efficient planning, and helps ensure that programme benefits reach intended stakeholders effectively.



Community-Based Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement in Meghalaya

100 Homes One Co-op”

From limited opportunities to a 204-member cooperative building livelihoods and local enterprise

In Lawthymme, a village of 100 households in Laskein Block, West Jaintia Hills District, livelihoods have long depended on agriculture and livestock. While people worked consistently, limited local opportunities meant low returns and many had to seek labour outside the village.

This began to change on 20 October 2024, when the lawthymme Integrated Village Cooperative Society Ltd. was formed. The cooperative brought together 204 members, 110 women and 94 men, along with three Self-Help Groups.

With access to funds, equipment and solar support, members started activities such as Lakadong turmeric cultivation, piggery, poultry and a small shop. The IVCS also invested Rs. 11,000 in a tourism parking initiative, earning Rs. 40,000 and generating around Rs. 2 lakh in 2025-26.

With 100% membership, transparent decision-making and growing local opportunities, Lawthymme is steadily moving from scattered effort to organised, community-led enterprise, creating stronger livelihoods within the village itself.



204
MEMBERS

110 Women | 94 Men



3
SELF-HELP GROUPS

strengthening collective action



₹11,000
INVESTED

In tourism parking initiative



₹40,000
EARNED

From tourism parking



₹2 LAKH
REVENUE GENERATED

In 2025-26

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