

Newsletter

26 June 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

MPOWER

Meghalaya Multisectoral Project For Adolescent Wellbeing, Empowerment And Resilience

SLM

Sustainable Land Management Meghalaya Project

IESALD

Integrated Eco-tourism and Sustainable Agri-based Livelihood Development 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

Horticulture Cluster Development Programme

PMJVM

Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission in Meghalaya

MSBM

Meghalaya State Bamboo Mission

MAM

Meghalaya Aroma Mission

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Decentralised Green Energy Development Project

STATE PROGRAMMES

Works



BREAKING THE SILENCE AROUND MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Nearly 75 percent of suicides worldwide are among men, highlighting the need for more open conversations about men's mental health.

To encourage those conversations, the Meghalaya Basin Management Authority, Meghalaya Basin Development Authority, and MPOWER organised a Men's Mental Health Awareness Programme from 23 to 26 June 2026 at the Wellness Centre, Additional Secretariat, Shillong. The programme brought participants together to discuss emotional wellbeing, stress, help seeking, and the pressures many men face in expressing their emotions. Workshops, group discussions, and practical activities encouraged participants to reflect on their own experiences and learn from one another.

Among the activities was an exercise in which participants carried one another, prompting discussions about support, trust, and the importance of not facing challenges alone. Rather than focusing only on awareness, the programme created space for honest conversations and practical reflection on mental wellbeing in everyday life.

SNIPPETS

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



121 SELF HELP GROUP MEMBERS RECEIVE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT TRAINING

A series of bookkeeping and financial management trainings were conducted across Meghalaya during June 2026 to build the financial management capacity of Self Help Groups. The largest training, held on 23 June 2026 at Williamnagar, brought together 121 Self Help Group members from Dambo Rongjeng, Samanda, and Songsak Blocks. Similar trainings were also held in Resubelpara and Betasing Blocks, with the Betasing programme covering 24 Self Help Groups and four Revolving Fund Village Project Implementation Committees in two batches on 18 and 19 June 2026.

The trainings covered bookkeeping, financial record keeping, savings and loan management, and the use of key registers, helping improve transparency, financial discipline, and effective group management.

MegLIFE Progress Reviewed in Ri Bhoi

Officials from various government departments and project stakeholders met in Ri Bhoi District on 23 June 2026 to review the progress of the MegLIFE Project and discuss the way forward. The meeting looked at work completed so far, explored opportunities for closer coordination between departments, and identified priorities for the next phase. Discussions also focused on improving natural resource management and supporting livelihood activities that benefit communities across the district.



FIELD REVIEW ASSESSES PROGRESS OF POULTRY ENTERPRISE

A field review conducted on 16 June 2026 at Umrang Nongbah in Umling Block, Ri Bhoi District, assessed the progress of a broiler poultry enterprise managed by Kynshewlang Self Help Group and Handloom Weaving Self Help Group. The enterprise is creating additional income opportunities for members while promoting community led entrepreneurship. The review highlighted its contribution to improving household incomes and supporting sustainable rural livelihoods.



PLANTATION ACTIVITIES SUPPORT LAND RESTORATION ACROSS MEGHALAYA

Plantation activities are underway at Tarapara Village Project Implementation Committee Assisted Natural Regeneration site in Zikzak Block, Syrpai Ryngkhlem plot in Demthring under Thadlaskein Block, and Agroforestry Model 13 site in Kharkutta Block. The activities are part of ongoing efforts to improve green cover and support sustainable land management.



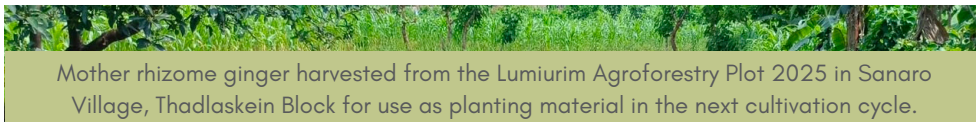
SNIPPETS

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



NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TRAINING HELD ON PHRYNIUM PUBINERVE

The Natural Resource Management Vertical of the State Project Management Unit conducted a training and hands on demonstration on Phrynium pubinerve (Slamet/Sla Lamet) at Kynjoin Umran, Ri Bhoi District, on 25 June 2026. The programme covered propagation techniques, sustainable cultivation, and resource management, while providing field teams with knowledge on the use and management of this non timber forest resource.



Mother rhizome ginger harvested from the Lumiurim Agroforestry Plot 2025 in Sanaro Village, Thadlaskein Block for use as planting material in the next cultivation cycle.



Final Cluster Level Bookkeeping Training Completed in South West Garo Hills

The fourth and final cluster level Self Help Group bookkeeping training was completed in South West Garo Hills on 25 June 2026. The training focused on practical record keeping and the proper maintenance of financial records, helping members improve accuracy, transparency, and day to day management of their groups.



Self Help Groups Attend Agri Post Harvest Capacity Building Programme

Self Help Groups from Mawkyntew and Mawryngkneng Blocks participated in an Awareness cum Capacity Building Programme on Agri Post Harvest held on 26 June 2026 at Laitdiengsai Community Hall, Mawkyntew, East Khasi Hills District. Organised by SELCO Foundation in collaboration with MegLIFE and PRIME Meghalaya, the programme focused on post harvest management, value addition, and market readiness through practical learning sessions.



Black pepper saplings transported from Mawrong and distributed to agroforestry plantation plots in Umtasor Mawdkhar, Umling Block, as part of the 2026 plantation activity.



SNIPPETS

MBDA/MBMA PROGRAM



NITI AAYOG TEAM VISITS GREEN MEGHALAYA+ PROJECT SITE

A joint team from the State Project Management Unit and NITI Aayog visited a GREEN Meghalaya+ project site on 17 June 2026 to document community led initiatives and assess progress under the Sustainable Development Goal 17 framework. Supported by GIS mapping, the visit provided insights into local participation and the implementation of convergence based development activities at the village level.

PES FIELD ACTIVITIES CONTINUE ACROSS EIGHT DISTRICTS

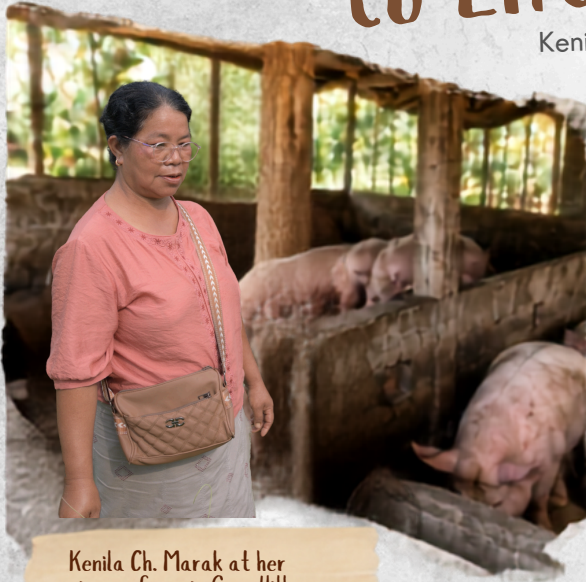
PES field activities were carried out across Ri Bhoi, East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills, East Jaintia Hills, West Garo Hills, South Garo Hills, North Garo Hills, and Eastern West Khasi Hills. The activities included collection and verification of Annual Reports and beneficiary bank statements, MRV field verification, coordination with village authorities, and completion of programme documentation. Certificates were also distributed in selected villages, while Village Community Facilitators received raincoats to support their field work.



STORY OF THE WEEK

From Homemaker to Entrepreneur

Kenila Ch. Marak's journey of turning small steps into lasting change



Kenila Ch. Marak at her piggyery farm in Garo Hills.

For many women in rural Garo Hills, earning an independent income remains a challenge. Household responsibilities often leave little time to explore other opportunities, making financial dependence on the family's norm.

Kenila Ch. Marak knows this reality well. For years, she devoted herself to looking after her home and family, with little chance to earn on her own. Things began to change when she joined the IVCS and later received support under the Piggery Mission. Although she qualified for a loan of 2,02.02 lakh, she chose to borrow ₹90000, an amount she felt comfortable managing and invested in expanding her piggery.

BUILDING HER PIGGERY, BUILDING HER INCOME

Before the loan, Kenila reared just 1-2 pigs a year. With the new investment, she began rearing 5-6 pigs annually. Each mature pig sells for ₹23,000 to ₹30,000, bringing in about 1.5 lakh every year. She also sells around 10 piglets annually at ₹3,500 each, adding another ₹35,000 to her income.

In total, her piggery brings in nearly 1.85 lakh a year.



MARKETING PIGLETS

She sells pigs locally, ₹3000 each and in Williamnagar market ₹3500 each, where demand is higher.



MARKETING MATURE PIGS

Pigs are raised at least a year before sale. Prices depend on weight, health and market conditions.



SHARING AND GROWING TOGETHER

She has entrusted other pigs to three local farmers. Once sold, the income will be shared equally.



LEARNING TO DO BETTER

A 10-day training at Bolnaran Training Centre has helped her improve her skills in pig rearing, marketing and farm management.

BEYOND PIGS: DIVERSIFYING LIVELIHOODS

As an Off-Season Vegetable (OSV) Service Provider under MLAMP, Kenila received training in Nov 2023 and a support grant of ₹50,000 in 2024 to start vegetable cultivation.

VEGETABLES SHE GROWS

- Ladies's finger (okra) Ginger Brinjal
- Chilli Pumpkin Potato Turmeric Snake beans

ANNUAL INCOME FROM VEGETABLES (APPROX.)

Turmeric	₹15,000	Brinjal	₹2,000
Potato	₹25,000	Pumpkin	₹20,000
Chilies	₹20,000	Ginger	₹20,000
Ladies's finger	₹6,000	Total (Approx.)	₹1.5 lakh



BANANA CULTIVATION

With support from the East Garo Hills Horticulture Department, she planted ₹50,000 worth of banana saplings and earns around ₹25,000 annually.



FISHING DEVELOPMENT

In 2021, the Fishery Department helped her build a fish pond. She now earns more than ₹20,000 per season from fish sales.

CHALLENGES SHE FACES

High cost and limited availability of pig fed

Water shortage in winter makes it hard to keep pigs clean

In vegetables: quality vermicompost, pest management, irregular rainfall and limited market access

Vegetables are sold mostly in nearby villages and Dobu market (5 km away), limiting better prices.

LOOKING AHEAD

Kenila plans to attend a 45-day livestock management training, expand her vegetable cultivation and develop better organic pesticides. These steps will help her improve productivity and strengthen her farming business.

"Before, I was just a housewife and completely dependent on my husband for financial support. Now, through IVICS, which I am able to earn on my own. Even line departments have come forward to support me because of IVCS, which has completely transformed my lifestyle. I would like to encourage other members, especially women, to step forward, work through IVICS, and experience the benefits."

- Kenila Ch. Marak

SIMPLE CHOICES, GREENER TOMORROW

Easy Habits for a Better Planet



use a reusable
water bottle



Stop using
single-use
plastic straws



Conserve
water



Bring your
own bag when
shopping



Stop littering



Store foods
in glass
container



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