

Newsletter

16 July 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Government of Meghalaya
Meghalaya Basin Development Authority | Meghalaya Basin Management Agency

Photo by: ZeVian Paul Syiemlieh,
Knowledge Management, MBMA

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

KEY UPDATES

MBDA/MBMA



Meghalaya Pineapple Festival Showcases State's Premium Produce in New Delhi

The 4th Meghalaya Pineapple Festival was held from 10-12 July 2026 at Dilli Haat, INA, New Delhi, bringing together farmers, buyers, retailers and consumers to promote Meghalaya's premium pineapples. The festival featured fresh pineapples, value-added products, cultural performances and business networking opportunities.

A key highlight was the signing of MoUs with Flipkart and the National E-Market Services Limited (NeML) to strengthen market access for farmers. The three-day festival also recorded its highest-ever sales, with around 30 metric tonnes of pineapples sold, reaffirming Meghalaya's growing reputation as a producer of premium-quality pineapples and expanding market opportunities for its farmers.

KEY UPDATES

MBDA/MBMA



MAWPHROW FARMERS RECEIVE PGS-INDIA ORGANIC CERTIFICATION

Farmers of Ri Lajong Mawphrow Unit-1 in Ri Bhoi received their PGS-India Organic Certification, covering 11 farmers cultivating 5.84 hectares of pineapple. The certification was facilitated by the Bio Resources Development Centre (BRDC) under the Sustainable Land Management Meghalaya (SLM) Project implemented by MBMA.

The certification has already opened new market opportunities, with the first Transaction Certificate issued for the sale of 100 kg of certified organic pineapple to M/S Vista Naturals, Assam. The buyer has also committed to procuring 2,000-5,000 pineapples, marking an important milestone in strengthening market access and improving returns for Meghalaya's organic pineapple growers.

SNIPPETS

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



MAWKYNREW SHGS SELL DIRECT AT SHILLONG MARKET

On July 11, women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs) from the Mawkynrew Block—including the Pynmyntoi, Nangkiewshaphrang, and lohlynti groups—successfully sold local specialties like millets, tea, and bay leaf powder directly to consumers at the Shillong Farmers' Market. Organized by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare's 1917 iTEAMS, the initiative enabled these rural entrepreneurs to bypass intermediaries and retain the full market value of their harvest. This successful event highlights the vital role of direct-to-consumer markets in empowering rural women and strengthening Meghalaya's agricultural economy.

SHG Members Complete Financial Management Training

A two-day intensive training program on detailed bookkeeping and Management Information Systems (MIS) successfully concluded on July 13, 2026, equipping local Self-Help Group (SHG) members with essential financial literacy and digital data management skills. The program combined comprehensive practical exercises with hands-on demonstrations of digital tools designed to streamline Income Generating Activities (IGA) tracking. By mastering these digital and accounting capabilities, participants are now empowered to drive sustainable economic growth, ensure financial transparency, and strengthen grassroots community governance.



BOOKKEEPING MONITORING CONDUCTED IN UMLING BLOCK

Project representatives recently conducted a routine audit of a local Self-Help Group's (SHG) financial registers under the Umpyrdong VPIC in Umling Block, while providing hands-on training to its members. This activity ensures strict financial transparency and directly strengthens the group's capacity to manage community development funds. By securing accurate record-keeping at the grassroots level, the initiative reinforces institutional accountability and supports long-term economic self-reliance within the community.



SNIPPETS

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



FIELD INSPECTION OF AGROFORESTRY IN KALAK DOREK

SAMANDA BLOCK, July 14, 2026 — Officials conducted a field inspection of an ongoing agroforestry plantation project in Kalak Dorek today. The two-hectare initiative, managed by a local beneficiary, focuses on integrating horticultural crops with diverse forest species along the periphery to promote sustainable land use.

Fieldwork Wraps Up at Umrang Nongbah

The Umsning BPMU team wraps up at Umrang Nongbah with final measurements of the new RCC water tank.



SHG Bookkeeping Training

MAWRYNGKNENG (July 15, 2026) – The MegLIFE Project successfully launched Day 1 of its Detailed Book Keeping Training for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) at Mawryngkneng Block to enhance financial transparency, accountability, and long-term sustainability. The comprehensive session equipped enthusiastic local SHG members with vital record-keeping skills, covering the fundamentals of managing minutes books, attendance registers, savings ledgers, individual passbooks, and cash books. Through practical, hands-on demonstrations and interactive discussions led by a technical resource person, participants mastered daily transaction recording and verification, establishing a strong foundation in financial discipline required for smooth group operations and future credit access.



KEY UPDATES

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



COORDINATION WORKSHOP WITH BDO, LAITKROH BLOCK, UMIW CATCHMENT

On 10 July 2026, a coordination workshop was held with the BDO, Laitkroh Block, the Block Technical Team, and the Engineering and GIS Teams of EKH CMU MegARISE to explore convergence opportunities and discuss permissible works and the menu of measures under the MegARISE Project.

The GIS Team presented the project area, catchment characteristics, spatial planning, and the use of GIS in project implementation. The Engineering Team shared updates on project implementation across 27 villages under Laitkroh Block, including the status of FPA 2, FPA 3, and VLMAP.

Key discussions included the convergence of VLMAP and AAP activities, community ownership and sustainability, spring-shed and water resource conservation, eco-tourism, GIS-based planning and monitoring, behavioural change and capacity building, and nature-based greywater treatment systems.

As a way forward, it was agreed that VLMAPs prepared by VPICs and Annual Action Plans (AAPs) prepared by VECs will be converged wherever feasible to optimize resources, avoid duplication, and enhance the impact of development interventions.



REVIEW MEETING ON PLANTATION 2026 AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION WITH RONGRAM BLOCK VPICS

On the 13th July, a discussion was held with the Deputy Commissioner-cum-Chairman and CPM on the progress of Plantation 2026, followed by a meeting with the VPICs of Rongram Block at the MBDA Conference Hall.

Key discussions included the progress of Plantation 2026, preparation of Muster Rolls and supporting documents, procurement procedures, bamboo and live fencing, barbed wire fencing, the 10% O&M component, Household Survey targets, Work and Sanction Orders, and documentation required for FPA-2, FPA-3, and VLMAP activities.

KEY UPDATES

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



MEETING-CUM-DISCUSSION WITH VPICS OF RERAPARA BLOCK GANOL CATCHMENT

A meeting-cum-discussion was held with the Village Project Implementation Committees (VPICs) of the Rerapara Block at the SMELC Building in Dakopgre. The meeting was attended by the Chairpersons of the VPICs, the Local Purchase Committee (LPC) Secretaries, and the Village Community Facilitators (VCFs) from their respective villages. Few discussion points were on the Review of the progress of Plantation 2026 activities, Preparation of Muster Rolls (MRs) and supporting documents for timely submission, Procurement procedures and mandatory documentation requirements, Clarification on issues related to Work Orders and Sanction Orders, and many more. The team also discussed on the Review of pending works to identify the reasons for delays, with clear instructions that all activities must be completed within the timelines specified in the respective work orders.

SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



VCF REFRESHER TRAINING (QUARTER 2, BATCH I) CONDUCTED AT LAITKOR MAWRIE LUMHEH

The VCF Refresher Training (Quarter 2, Batch I) was held on 2 July 2026 at Laitkor Mawrie Lumheh to strengthen VCF members' understanding of their roles and responsibilities. The training covered the Household Survey, Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), VCF roles and responsibilities, VCF honorarium, the importance of the MoA/NOC, and other project updates. A practical session on community engagement, household survey data collection, and MIS data entry was also conducted. A total of 30 participants attended and actively participated in the interactive sessions, seeking clarifications on various project-related topics.



FGD-CUM-PRA ON EXPLORING A PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (PES) MODEL AT LAITKYRHONG

On 15th July 2026, the EKH CMU Team, in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence (CoE) Team, conducted a Focus Group Discussion (FGD)-cum-Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) with the community of Laitkyrhong under Mawrykneng Block.



DISCUSSION ON FINALIZATION OF PROPOSED MIYAWAKI PLANTATION AT POMKANIEW

On the 3rd July, a productive discussion was held with representatives of Pomkaniew village, including the Headman, Secretary, VCF members, VPIC representatives, and Madam Bratati, AGM, SPMU, to confirm and finalize the proposed Miyawaki Plantation.



RESURVEY AND FIELD INSPECTION OF PLANTATION SITES

A resurvey and field inspection of plantation sites was conducted on 15 July 2026 in Madan lingsyiem, Mawblah, Lyngkien, Mawngianglah and Banuin to assess plantation progress and sapling survival.

The overall condition of the sites was found to be good, with encouraging survival rates. **Exbucklandia populnea, Alder, Cherry, Plum and Pear** were observed to be performing well.

SNIPPETS

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT



REVIEW MEETING TO STRENGTHEN SLM IMPLEMENTATION IN EAST AND WEST JAINTIA HILLS

A review and coordination meeting under the Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Meghalaya Project was held on 14th July 2026 at the District Project Management Unit (DPMU) Office, Jowai, to review the progress of field implementation, address operational challenges, clarify project implementation procedures, and strengthen coordination for the SLM Project in East and West Jaintia Hills.

Discussions focused on improving communication among implementing agencies, strengthening the revolving fund mechanism through IVCSs, promoting farmer membership in cooperatives, accelerating geofencing and beneficiary identification, and ensuring convergence with other government programmes. The meeting also emphasized regular monitoring, timely reporting, and enhanced collaboration to achieve project targets efficiently.



SNIPPETS

MBDA/MBMA PROGRAM



TRAINING ON MINOR FOREST PRODUCE PROCESSING CONDUCTED AT CHOKCHIM VDVK

On 15th July 2026, a one-day training programme on Minor Forest Produce (MFP) was conducted at Chokchim VDVK, Selsella Block, West Garo Hills, for members of Bakrime VDVK, Chokchim VDVK, and Nangrimesa VDVK. The programme was jointly organised by the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA) and the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII).

The training focused on value addition through the preparation of pineapple juice, jackfruit squash, jackfruit jam, and ginger candy, equipping participants with practical skills to enhance income generation through processing of locally available produce.



GREEN FIELD ASSOCIATES CONDUCTS PES FIELD INSPECTIONS

Green Field Associates has completed a series of field operations across Meghalaya to advance its Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) initiatives. The team gathered essential financial documents, including bank statements and receipts, from Umrit (Jirang, Ri Bhoi), Raij Rangad (Wapung, East Jaintia Hills), Sutnga (Khliehriat, East Jaintia Hills), Khapmaw (Mawkynrew, East Khasi Hills), Pyndensohsaw (Mawsynram, East Khasi Hills), Dubagre (Baghmara, South Garo Hills), Illagittim, and Kalwe (Kharkutta, North Garo Hills). To ensure project progress and transparency, officials also conducted a site inspection at Darenggre (Chokpot, South Garo Hills), held direct community meetings in Thangbnai (Mawkynrew), Umkrem (Pynursla), and Nongpriang (Shella), and coordinated beneficiary refunds with branch officials.

GOOD PRACTICES

Save Water



1 Use a bucket when washing vehicles

Switch from a continuously flowing water hose to a water-filled bucket when washing your car or bike



2 Turn off taps when not in use

In your daily routine, always turn off taps when not in use, such as when brushing your teeth or washing dishes



3 Use toilets wisely

When using the toilet, use partial flush for urination or light use and full flush only for heavier use.



4 Collect rainwater

Establish the habit of collecting rainwater by placing containers outside your house, and use this water for drip plants around your home.



5 Shorten shower time

Shorter showers or one bucket bath help conserve natural resources while lowering household utility costs



6 Water plants during cooler hours

Water plants early in the morning or late in the evening to reduce evaporation and ensure more water reaches the roots.

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