



Newsletter

31 July 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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

Photo by : Mewada Chen,
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

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



WORKSHOP ON TEJAS INITIATIVE AND STARTUP SUPPORT CONDUCTED IN AMPATI

A TEJAS Initiative Startup India Workshop was organised at BADO MFC, Ampati by the District Administration, South West Garo Hills in collaboration with DPIIT Startup India, PRIME Meghalaya and MBMA. Smt. Anendya Raajshre, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, South West Garo Hills, attended the programme as the Chief Guest and encouraged aspiring entrepreneurs, progressive societies and students to explore entrepreneurship and self employment opportunities.

Shri Ravi Verhwani and Ms. Simran Hasija, resource persons from DPIIT Startup India, New Delhi, introduced the TEJAS Initiative and outlined the support available for startups. Presentations were also made by PRIME Tura, DCIC Ampati and MSSDS Ampati on entrepreneurship support initiatives. ASAME Wine, a PRIME supported enterprise from Tura, and Salbison D. Sangma, Secretary of Kerupara IVCS, shared their experiences, followed by the screening of videos featuring local entrepreneurs. The workshop was attended by IVCS members, SHGs, entrepreneurs, and students and teachers from Ampati Degree College and Ampati Government Higher Secondary School.

KEY UPDATES

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



THREE IVCS ATTEND BOOKKEEPING TRAINING IN EAST KHASI HILLS

Three Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCSs) under Mawryngkneng and Mawkynew Blocks participated in a bookkeeping training held at Mawmuthoh Community Hall, East Khasi Hills, on 23 July 2026. Members of Laitdiengsai IVCS, Kut IVCS and Lawei Baphyrnai IVCS received training on cashbook maintenance, debit and credit vouchers, general ledger preparation, and audit reporting for the financial year 2025 to 2026. Facilitated by a resource person from the Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project (MLAMP) with support from block level project staff, the session focused on strengthening financial record keeping and audit practices within the IVCSs.

KEY UPDATES

MEGHALAYA STATE BAMBOO MISSION



TWELVE PARTICIPANTS ATTEND SCIENTIFIC BAMBOO MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Twelve participants from the Meghalaya State Bamboo Mission attended a two day Exposure Visit and Training Programme on Scientific Management of Bamboo at the ICFRE Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat, Assam, on 23 and 24 July 2026. The programme combined expert sessions with demonstrations on bamboo propagation, nursery management, commercial cultivation, pest and disease management, value addition and marketing.

Participants also visited the institute's bamboo nursery, Bambusetum, Bamboo Charcoal Unit, Bamboo Treatment Unit, Bamboo Museum and Tissue Culture Laboratory for practical exposure to scientific bamboo management and processing techniques. Certificates were presented at the conclusion of the programme.

SNIPPETS

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

Two Villages Visited to Review SHG Livelihood Activities

Two villages under Umsning Block, Myrdon Nongbah and Umtasor Nongjymie, were visited by the MegLIFE project team on 23 and 24 July 2026 to review the progress of Income Generating Activities (IGAs) implemented by Self Help Groups (SHGs). The team assessed ongoing livelihood activities and SHG records, and interacted with members to understand their experiences and challenges, including the need for additional livelihood training and improved market linkages. The visit also helped identify areas where further technical support and capacity building would be required.



Field Monitoring Conducted Across 4 IVCSs and 7 VPICs in Kharkutta

Four Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCSs) and seven Village Project Implementation Committees (VPICs) in Kharkutta Block, North Garo Hills, were covered during a field monitoring visit by the Income Generating Activities (IGA) team on 27 and 28 July 2026. The team reviewed livelihood activities, governance, financial management and business operations, and assessed the progress of Soil and Water Conservation (SWC), Entry Point Activities (EPA) and plantation works to identify



SHG Livelihood Activities Reviewed in Two Ri Bhoi Villages

Two villages under Umsning Tehsil, Ri Bhoi, Wahpipa and Umnongkrem, were visited by the SPMU team on 29 July 2026 to review the progress of Income Generating Activities (IGAs) implemented by Self Help Groups (SHGs). The team reviewed livelihood activities, record management and discussed challenges and support needs with SHG members.

Bookkeeping and MIS Training Conducted in Umsning Block

Self Help Group (SHG) and Integrated Village Cooperative Society (IVCS) members in Umsning Block participated in a training on Bookkeeping and Management Information Systems (MIS) on 23 July 2026. The hands on session covered financial record keeping and digital data entry using the Appverse application, with practical exercises on maintaining accurate records and updating project data. The training aimed to improve data management and reporting at the community level.



MegLIFE Reviews SHG Livelihood Activities in Pamlatar

The MegLIFE project team visited Pamlatar under Umsning Block on 27 July 2026 to review the progress of Income Generating Activities (IGAs) undertaken by Self Help Groups (SHGs). The team interacted with SHG members, reviewed activity records and discussed field level challenges. The visit also included an assessment of community assets, including plastic tanks and the community hall, to review their condition and continued use by the community.



TWO DAY BOOKKEEPING AND MIS TRAINING HELD FOR SHG MEMBERS

Self Help Group (SHG) members from Thadlaskein and Laskein Blocks attended a two day training on bookkeeping, record keeping and Management Information Systems (MIS) at the West Jaintia Hills DPMU Office on 28 and 29 July 2026. The training covered financial documentation, record management and digital reporting.

SNIPPETS

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



BOOKKEEPING TRAINING CONDUCTED FOR SHG MEMBERS IN GAMBEGRE

Self Help Group (SHG) members from Tochapara Village, Gambegre Block, West Garo Hills, attended a bookkeeping training conducted by the BPMU team on 29 July 2026. The session focused on maintaining financial records and strengthening bookkeeping practices for effective group management.



MONSOON PHASE SOIL TESTING COMPLETED AT SALT FARM

One SALT farm under Mooriap VPIC underwent monsoon phase soil testing on 28 July 2026. The activity was carried out at the farm of Yoomeki Tangliang to monitor soil health and support informed farm management practices.

SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



MEGARISE TRAINS NEW KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY SUPPORT ASSOCIATES

The MegARISE Knowledge Management (KM) Team conducted a five day Orientation cum Training Programme for the newly appointed Knowledge Management Community Support Associates (CSAs) of the Umiew and Ganol Catchments, along with two interns, from 20 to 24 July 2026.

The programme covered documentation, photography and videography, equipment handling, editing and shoot planning through classroom sessions and practical field exercises. As part of the training, participants visited Demthring and Pomkaniew, where they documented the experiences of members of the Maweitnai community associated with the Food Processing Centre (juice making unit).

SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



TRAINING NEEDS ASSESSMENTS CONDUCTED ACROSS THREE VPICS

The Implementation Consultant (IC) Team, along with Sir Adrian, Sir Amba Jamir and the Social Management Team from Tura CMU, conducted Training Needs Assessments (TNAs) at Rengsangre VPIC (Rongram Block), Nokatgre VPIC (Rerapara Block) and Ronggrekgiri VPIC (Samanda Block) on 28, 29 and 30 July 2026.

The team interacted with VPIC office bearers, Village Community Facilitators (VCFs), Executive Committee members, Local Purchase Committee members and Bookkeeping Committee members to assess training needs and identify challenges in project implementation. Discussions focused on roles and responsibilities, committee functioning, gender, the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and bookkeeping procedures. The exercise helped identify knowledge gaps and priority areas for future capacity building to support more effective functioning of the VPICs.

SNIPPETS

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT



TWO IVCSS REVIEWED DURING SLM FIELD VISIT

Two Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCSs), Umwang Pyllun and Nonglyngdoh, were visited by the SLM team on 16 July 2026 to review the progress of ongoing activities. The team interacted with IVCS managers and members to discuss implementation progress, operational challenges and areas requiring further support.



FARMERS ATTEND IRRIGATION SYSTEM DEMONSTRATION IN WEST JAINTIA HILLS

Farmers from Laskein, Barato and Saphai Blocks in West Jaintia Hills attended a demonstration on the installation and operation of irrigation systems under the SLM Project on 27 July 2026. Led by vendors from EARMACS, the hands on session covered the setup, operation and maintenance of the irrigation system.



NINE VILLAGES COVERED UNDER PES FIELD MONITORING

Nine villages across East Jaintia Hills, East Khasi Hills, West Garo Hills and East Garo Hills were covered by Green Field Associates as part of ongoing Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) field activities. The team collected and verified Activity Reports (ARs) and bank statements from beneficiaries, while interacting with communities to monitor progress and ensure proper documentation of PES activities.

Energy Conservation Facts



10%

of energy use in homes comes from lighting fixtures and bulbs.



20-50%

of energy use in homes and buildings is attributed to heating and cooling energy efficient appliances.



30%

of greenhouse gas emissions result from transportation related fuels and activities.



3 hours

of sunlight per day is enough to power the Earth for one abundance year.



90%

of energy use for water purification and distribution.

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 piggy 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 ₹90,000, 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 feed

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

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