



25 Sept 2026

Newsletter

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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

Photo by : Marshall Maslai,
Knowledge Management, MBDA

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

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT MEGHALAYA



MLAMP AND SLM TEAMS PARTICIPATE IN FIFTH NATIONAL SPICE CONFERENCE 2026

MLAMP and SLM teams participated in the Fifth National Spice Conference 2026, organised by the World Spice Organisation (WSO) in Jaipur under the theme “Empowering Farmers, Protecting Consumers.” The conference focused on improving farmer incomes, sustainable production, food safety, certification, value addition, technology and market linkages, and included a Buyer-Seller Meet connecting farmers and FPOs with potential buyers.

Representing Meghalaya, Shri Augustus Suting, DPD, MLAMP, highlighted community-based agriculture, the role of Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCSs) in farmer aggregation and collective marketing, and value addition opportunities in pineapple, Lakadong turmeric and other high-value crops. Shri Joshi Tuisum, Project Coordinator, SLM, presented Meghalaya’s transition towards certified organic production, highlighting Internal Control Systems (ICS), FPOs, traceability and market access. The participation provided MBMA an opportunity to showcase Meghalaya’s community-led approaches, exchange experiences and explore partnerships and market opportunities for farmers and producer organisations.

KEY UPDATES

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



STATE - LEVEL FOCUS+ PROGRAMME

The Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA) organised a State-level FOCUS+ programme on 22 September 2026 at the U Soso Tham Auditorium, Shillong, alongside a simultaneous programme in Tura.

FOCUS+ has reached 1,14,400 farming households across Meghalaya, including 9,070 newly added beneficiaries. Under the scheme, eligible households receive an annual untied grant through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), which can be used for farming and other production-related needs, including seedlings, saplings, manure and fertilisers.

The programme featured beneficiary experience-sharing, distribution of cheques and cultural presentations, providing an opportunity for farming households to share their experiences and highlight how the support is being used to strengthen and expand their livelihoods.

KEY UPDATES

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



FARMERS' MARKETS INAUGURATED IN WEST KHASI HILLS AND SOUTH WEST KHASI HILLS

Two Farmers' Markets were inaugurated in South West Khasi Hills and West Khasi Hills to strengthen local market access for farmers. The Farmers' Market at Pyndenlyngdoh Village, South West Khasi Hills, was inaugurated on 23 September 2026 by Shri Defineties Dkhar, District Project Manager, South West Khasi Hills. The programme was attended by members of Ungmendri Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Limited, Producer Groups and the Hills Farmers Union Central Body.

The Lai Lyngdoh Farmers' Market at Nonglwai Village, West Khasi Hills, was inaugurated on 24 September 2026 by the Chieftain of Hima Nongstoin, Paiem Phylla Sing Syiem. Established under the Megha-LAMP Project, the market has 40 stalls and supporting facilities. Both markets provide farmers with local platforms to sell their produce, improve market access and reduce transportation and marketing costs.

KEY UPDATES

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



STRENGTHENING CATCHMENT PROTECTION UNDER MEGARISE

A programme was held on 22 September 2026 at Matchakolgre, Tura, focusing on the protection of the Ganol and Umiew catchment areas and their role in the long-term water security of Tura and Shillong. Shri Sampath Kumar, IAS, Chief Project Director, MegARISE and Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya, highlighted the collaboration between the Government of Meghalaya and KfW – German Development Bank under MegARISE. The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Conrad K. Sangma, spoke on catchment protection and restoration, sustainable livelihoods and climate resilience.

The programme included the signing of an MoU under the Meghalaya Protection of Catchment Areas Act, 1990, along with the MegARISE Community Awards recognising contributions in VPIC leadership, soil and water conservation, and environmental protection and restoration. AGEY vehicles for SHGs under MSRLS were also flagged off, along with the distribution of FOCUS+ cheques.



SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



MEGARISE RADIO PROGRAMME: RECENT EPISODES

The MegARISE Radio Programme continued its series with Episode 4, "The Umiew Journey - Flowing River from the Source to the City", featuring an interview with Shri Pynshngain S. Rymmai, Catchment Project Manager, aired from 14 to 16 September 2026. Episode 5, "Soil and Water Conservation", featured Shri Wanshan Kharkongor, Divisional Officer, Territorial Division, East Khasi Hills, and was aired from 21 to 23 September 2026. The episodes were aired in English and Khasi, respectively.

The Garo Hills series covered a range of topics related to climate, forests, water and soil conservation. These included "Climate Change and Water Scarcity" with Smt. Marthilina Sangma, Range Forest Officer, on 3 September; "Forest Health and Water Retention" with Shri Maxborn M. Sangma, Divisional Forest Officer, on 10 September; "The Ganol Journey - Flowing River from the Source" with Smt. Anitya G. Momin, Manager, MegARISE, on 17 September; and "Soil and Water Conservation Techniques" with Shri Charseng C. Sangma, Divisional Soil and Water Conservation Officer, on 24 September 2026.

SNIPPETS

MEGHALAYA MULTISECTORAL PROGRAMME FOR ADOLESCENT WELLBEING, EMPOWERMENT AND RESILIENCE



CK-12: SUPPORTING DIGITAL LEARNING IN SCHOOLS

On Wednesday, 23rd September 2026, the MPOWER Communication Team visited two schools in East Khasi Hills District to capture the ongoing CK-12 digital learning classes as part of its ongoing field documentation efforts. The visit focused on documenting how students are engaging with digital content, interactive lessons, and technology-enabled learning as part of the Learning Mission under MPOWER.

During the visit, the team interacted with a teacher to understand the integration of CK-12 tools in classroom teaching, its impact on student participation, learning outcomes, and challenges faced during implementation. In addition, a student was interviewed to capture their experience with digital learning, ease of understanding concepts, and how the platform has helped in making learning more engaging and accessible.

MPOWER COMMUNICATION TEAM VISITS TO MAWLASNAI PLIELAD SECONDARY SCHOOL, RI-BHOI.

On 22 September 2026, the MPOWER Communication Team visited Mawlasnai Plielad Secondary School in Bhoirymbong, Ri-Bhoi District, to document the journeys of students who had previously dropped out and have returned to complete Class 10. The students are preparing for the SSLC examination scheduled for December 2026.

The interaction explored their reasons for returning to school, current preparation and future aspirations, with students sharing the challenges they faced and their determination to complete their education.



HEALTH SENSITISATION PROGRAMME ON ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH WELLBEING

St. Mary's College hosted a Health Sensitisation Programme on 23 September 2026 under the theme "My Body, My Mind, My Future," in collaboration with NHM Meghalaya, Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram, National Mental Health Programme and Meghalaya AIDS Control Society.

The programme covered menstrual hygiene, HIV and AIDS awareness, and mental health and wellbeing. Students also participated in an open Question Box session, allowing them to raise concerns and seek clarification.



SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT

SITE ASSESSMENT FOR PROPOSED CANAL AT KEMRAGRE

On 10 September 2026, the IC Team, Social Team, SPMU and CMU Field Engineers visited Kemragre to assess a site identified by villagers under the VLMAP for a proposed canal. Villagers shared that runoff during the rainy season causes flooding and soil erosion, affecting nearby paddy fields. The proposed canal aims to manage and divert excess water away from the agricultural areas.



COMMUNITY DISCUSSION ON ECOTOURISM AND LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

On 10 September 2026, the team held a community discussion with the EC and VPIC members of Pomlakrai Umiew on the proposed ecotourism and landscape development initiative. The area is significant as it forms part of the source of the Umiew River.



FIELD VISITS TO REVIEW ONGOING AND PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS

On 11-12 September 2026, the IC, Engineering, Social Management, UAV and CMU Field Teams visited Aranggre, Sanchonggre and Jendragre to review completed activities and assess proposed interventions.

At Aranggre, the team inspected the completed fish pond and the proposed site for a water tank, while discussions with VPIC members covered progress and implementation challenges. FPA-2 and FPA-3 were confirmed as completed.

At Sanchonggre and Jendragre, the team conducted site inspections and UAV mapping of proposed VLMAP check dam locations. The visits provided field-level information for planning and designing the proposed interventions.

SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT

PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAMME AT POMLAKRAI UMIEW

As a follow-up to the FPIC process, a public awareness programme was held on 14 September 2026 at Pomlakrai Umiew. The programme provided information on the proposed catchment protection measures, ecosystem restoration activities and Living Museum planned for the area.

The interaction helped strengthen community understanding of the proposed activities and the role of collective participation in protecting the Umiew catchment and its source area.



FOLLOW-UP MEETING AT MAWNGAP MAWSMAI

On 15 September 2026, a follow-up meeting was held with the VCF of Mawngap Mawsmmai to review the progress of ongoing activities and discuss issues contributing to delays in implementation.



ESMP TRAINING FOR CMU-GANOL STAFF

On 15 September 2026, a concluding meeting was held with Shri Pradip, IC, marking the completion of the eight-day training on the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for CMU-Ganol staff, conducted from 7 to 15 September 2026.

The training covered catchment treatment and community participation, including site selection, watershed and springshed layout preparation, ESMP form filling, VLMAP preparation, environmental safeguards, social mobilisation and benefit sharing.



Site inspection of the proposed VLMAP RCC check dam at Matchurigri B Village under the Ganol Catchment on 14 September 2026.

SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



VCF MEETINGS ACROSS UMIEW CMU CLUSTERS

A series of meetings with VCFs of Umiew CMU was conducted across Laitkroh, Mawphlang and Mawryngkneng Blocks on 10, 11 and 14 October 2026, respectively. The meetings focused on implementation and reporting requirements, including updating registers, MoA signing, the revised VCF Agreement and Guidelines, Grievance Redressal Mechanism, Household Surveys and other monthly activities.



BLOCK CONVERGENCE MEETING AT MYLLIEM

On 11 September 2026, a Block Convergence Meeting was held at the BDO Myllem Office with BDO Myllem, Shri T. Marwein, the APO, Block Technical Team and CMU Umiew Team. The meeting discussed upcoming nature-based activities at Pomlakrai Umiew and proposed conservation measures for protecting the source area of the Umiew River.



SMP training and site assessment conducted by the Umiew CMU and SPMU teams across Pomlakrai Mawbynna, Rngi Kseh Nongkrem and Myllem Mawiong VPICs on 17 and 21 September 2026.



Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercise conducted by the Umiew CMU at Umrakam Thangkhit, Myllem Block, on 16 September 2026.

SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



90% construction of the RCC check dam at
Selbal Nokat VPIC



75% construction of the RCC check
dam at Selbalgre VPIC

SNIPPETS

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



SHG FOLLOW-UP MEETING AT POMLAHIER

On 24 September 2026, a follow-up meeting was held with Self-Help Groups under Pomlahier Village Planning and Implementation Committee to review their Books of Accounts and Business Plans. The session focused on financial record-keeping and progress of planned activities in preparation for the upcoming Mid-Term Review.

MID-TERM EVALUATION BRIEFING AT RONGBETA AND UMDEN NONGTLUH

On 24 September 2026, the Block Project Management Unit Umling team and District Project Manager met with Village Planning and Implementation Committee members at Rongbeta and Umden Nongtluh to brief them on the upcoming Mid-Term Evaluation, including the evaluation process and required records and information.



Mawkynew Block Project Management Unit team briefing Laitmysang Village Planning and Implementation Committee members on the upcoming Mid-Term Evaluation on 24 September 2026.

COCOA PLANT MAINTENANCE TRAINING FOR MEGLIFE FIELD STAFF

The MegLIFE Project, Meghalaya Basin Management Agency, conducted hands-on training for Garo region field staff on 24 September 2026 on maintaining cocoa plants under the Agroforestry Model 16. The session was held at Kharkutta Baptist Church, followed by a field demonstration at Karamajipara Village.



MID-TERM EVALUATION BRIEFING AT NONGRIM UMKSIH

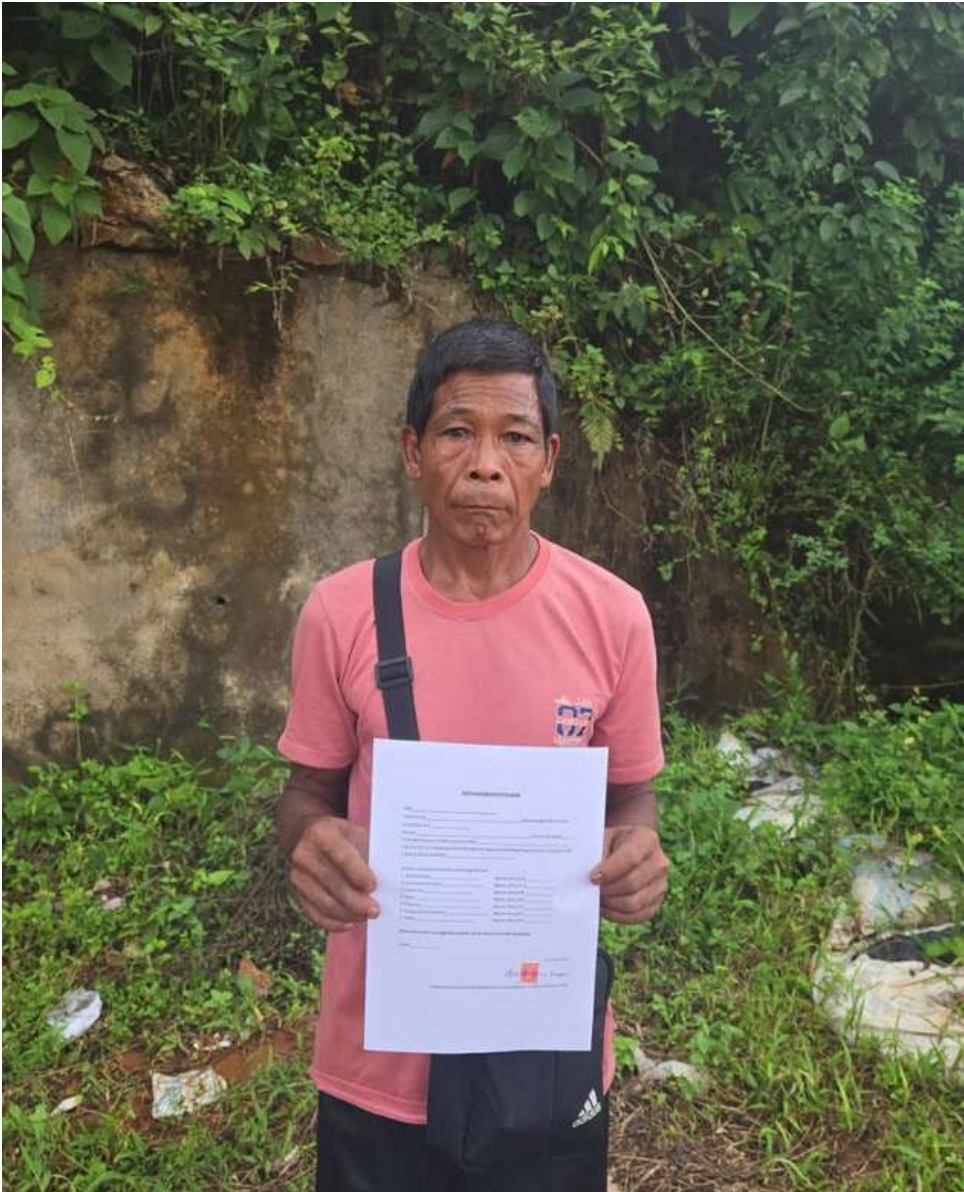
On 25 September 2026, the Block Project Management Unit Umsning team and District Project Manager briefed the Village Planning and Implementation Committee at Nongrim Umksih on the upcoming Mid-Term Evaluation, including the evaluation process, field inspection and benefits of MegLIFE interventions.



SELF-HELP GROUP FOLLOW-UP AT POMLAHIER

On 24 September 2026, a follow-up meeting was held with Self-Help Groups under Pomlahier Village Planning and Implementation Committee to review their Books of Accounts and Business Plans. The session covered financial record-keeping and progress of planned activities in preparation for the upcoming Mid-Term Review.





FIELD ACTIVITIES ACROSS MEGHALAYA

Field activities were carried out across Meghalaya, including the collection of Annual Reports, bank statements and Memoranda of Understanding, along with field visits to project villages. The activities covered villages across Jaintia Hills, Khasi Hills and Garo Hills, including Lamin, Bangong Bingbanggre, Chima Gradekgittim, Chiringgro, Rongribo Watregre, Phlangmawsyrpat, Mawrapad, Danal Megapgre, Gairong, Nongkabur, Lumputhoi, Rngad, Gaobari, Halwa Ambeng, Phase 2 beneficiary villages in Shella, Lynshing, Mawjam, Bongbare Olbaknang, Gabil Ading and Rongsakgre.

THE FARMER OTHERS TURN TO

NESTROYSING KHARMUTI

JABAR LUMTAP JAUD VILLAGE | EAST
KHASI HILLS DISTRICT

When potato farmers need advice, many of them call Nestroysing Kharmuti. A resident of Jabar Lumtap Jaud village in East Khasi Hills District, his practical knowledge and consistent results have made him one of the area's most trusted farmers.

Supporting a family of nine, farming has always been Nestroysing's primary livelihood. Potatoes remain his main crop, supplemented by piggy and poultry to provide year round income.

The establishment of the Integrated Village Cooperative Society (IVCS) under the Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project (Megha-LAMP) opened new opportunities for farmers in the village. Through its Custom Hiring Centre, Nestroysing gained access to farm machinery that enabled him to expand potato cultivation from 60 kilograms to 180 kilograms of seed potatoes, increasing his cultivated area from 10,000 square feet to nearly one acre.

Technical training from the Agriculture Department, Mawphlang Community and Rural Development Block and BRDC, combined with improved potato seed facilitated through the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency, strengthened his farming practices. An interest free loan of ₹50,000 from the Cooperative Society further helped him invest in expanding his farm.

The results were significant. His potato income increased from ₹27,000 to ₹58,500, while piggy, poultry, a village agricultural input outlet and assignments as a Resource Person increased his annual earnings to more than ₹5.2 lakh.

Recognising his experience, Nestroysing now serves as a Resource Person on scientific potato cultivation, conducting training programmes in more than 20 villages. He also manages the village agricultural input outlet, ensuring farmers have easier access to seeds, fertilisers and other essential farm inputs close to home.

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Progress Snapshot

Expansion of potato farming

Potato cultivation from
60 kg to 180 kg

Financial growth

Annual earnings increased
to more than ₹5.2 lakh

Significant land expansion

Increased from **10,000 sq ft**
to nearly **one acre**

Knowledge sharing

Serves as a Resource Person on
scientific potato cultivation

Ensuring farmer access

Manages village agricultural
input outlet





Government of Meghalaya
Planning Department



UNITED NATIONS
INDIA



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



CLEAN WATER BRIGHTER TOMORROWS

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Safe Water.
Healthy People.
Stronger Communities.



SAFE & AFFORDABLE
DRINKING WATER
FOR ALL



ADEQUATE &
EQUITABLE
SANITATION



IMPROVED
WATER QUALITY



SUSTAINABLE
WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT



HEALTHIER
PEOPLE & MORE
RESILIENT
COMMUNITIES

Water today
for healthier,
stronger Meghalaya
tomorrow.



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