

Newsletter

An aerial photograph of a hilly landscape. The hills are covered with dense green forest on the left and right sides, while the central and upper parts show terraced fields, some of which are dry and brown. A dirt road winds through the top of the image. The overall scene suggests a rural or agricultural area in a hilly region.

09 Oct 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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

Photo by : Zevian Syiemlieh,
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



■ IFAD President Álvaro Lario's 9-10 October 2026 visit to Megha-LAMP sites in Ri-Bhoi.

IFAD PRESIDENT ÁLVARO LARIO VISITS MEGHA-LAMP SITES IN RI-BHOI

MEGHA-LAMP

IFAD President Álvaro Lario's visit to Megha-LAMP sites in Ri-Bhoi highlighted how farmer institutions, local processing and market connections can create new opportunities for rural communities. On 9 October, IFAD President Álvaro Lario met members of the Umwang Pylun Integrated Village Cooperative Society in Ri-Bhoi. The visit included the cooperative's Collective Marketing Centre, Custom Hiring Centre and office, where members shared how collective marketing, access to farm machinery and improved infrastructure support their work with crops such as pineapple, ginger and bay leaf. At Bhoirwobong, the delegation visited the Eastern Ri-Bhoi Organic Farmer Producer Company's spice processing facility. Farmers' produce is washed, dried, ground and packaged at the hub, helping produce groups move beyond selling raw commodities. Lario flagged off a consignment of Megha-1 turmeric for Singapore, an important step in connecting Meghalaya's produce with the international market. The facility can process up to 10,000 metric tonnes of spices annually and is designed to benefit 5,500 farmers.

On 10 October, the visit continued in Jirang, where Lario met farmer and producer-company representatives and learned about the community's commercial farming and processing initiatives. The Jirang model has connected hundreds of farmers to markets for Khasi Mandarin, ginger and pineapple. Lario praised the progress made by the community and encouraged continued growth in incomes, livelihoods and value addition.

Across the two days, the visits brought the impact of Megha-LAMP into focus: community institutions are helping farmers organise, add value to local produce and pursue stronger market opportunities. They also showed how the IFAD-Meghalaya partnership can support rural enterprises with the potential to reach markets beyond the state.



SNIPPETS

MEGHALAYA STATE BAMBOO MISSION



BAMBOO DESIGNER-ARTISAN EXCHANGE AT MIT UNIVERSITY FOR THE BAMBOO DESIGN RESIDENCY PROGRAMME

The Bamboo Designer-Artisan Exchange brought together 15 Bamboo Design Residency residents, artisans and mentors at MIT Shillong Campus on 1 October 2026, marking the transition from the first month of cluster immersion to collaborative design and prototyping. Throughout September, the residents engaged with their respective artisan clusters to understand traditional practices, local materials, community contexts, challenges and opportunities. During the exchange, they presented their initial observations and proposed interventions, exploring new bamboo products, product diversification, workspace improvements and design solutions rooted in local skills and cultural knowledge.

Mentors Minha Khan, Sanjeev Karpe, Nachiket Thakur and Mukesh Gulati, along with participating artisans, reviewed the proposals and shared valuable feedback to ensure that the ideas reflected the needs and aspirations of the artisan communities. The exchange marked the beginning of the next phase of the six-month residency, with residents now moving towards collaborative prototyping and intervention development. Over the coming months, they will work closely with artisans to develop, test and refine design solutions that strengthen bamboo-based livelihoods and create new opportunities for local enterprises.

SNIPPETS

MEGHALAYA STATE BAMBOO MISSION



STRENGTHENING THE TEAM FOR MEGHALAYA'S BAMBOO VILLAGE INITIATIVE

The Meghalaya State Bamboo Mission (MSBM) conducted an orientation programme for newly recruited District Programme Associates and District Assistant Managers, bringing together former MSBM Apprentices and staff who transitioned from MLAMP through an Internal Job Posting (IJP) process.

The programme aimed to build a shared understanding of MSBM's objectives, the National Bamboo Mission (NBM), and the various initiatives being implemented to strengthen Meghalaya's bamboo sector. It also provided a platform for team members to connect, align their roles and work collectively towards the Mission's goals.

A key focus of the orientation was the Bamboo Village Initiative, which aims to establish bamboo villages across different districts of Meghalaya. The sessions highlighted the important role of district teams in supporting the initiative, engaging local communities and facilitating its implementation on the ground. The orientation marked an important step towards building a coordinated district-level team, strengthening collaboration and advancing the Mission's vision of developing a vibrant and sustainable bamboo sector in Meghalaya.

SNIPPETS

MEGHALAYA MULTISECTORAL PROGRAMME FOR ADOLESCENT WELLBEING, EMPOWERMENT AND RESILIENCE



NO LEARNER LEFT BEHIND: A BRAILLE INITIATIVE UNDER SECOND CHANCE LEARNING

At 38 years of age, Repji Marak is preparing to appear for the SSLC examination through Meghalaya's Second Chance Learning Initiative, demonstrating that the pursuit of education has no age limit. A visually impaired learner from West Garo Hills, Repji is determined to continue her education and take the SSLC examination.

On 5 October 2026, she received free Class 10 Braille books to support her preparation, making learning resources more accessible and enabling her to prepare independently. The books were provided through a collaborative effort between MPOWER and Bethany Society, with the materials printed with the support of the Directorate of Printing and Stationery, Government of Meghalaya. This partnership reflects the collective effort to ensure that learners, including those who face barriers to accessing education, are not left behind.

Repji's journey is a reminder that learning can begin again at any stage of life, and every learner deserves a second chance.



SNIPPETS

MEGHALAYA MULTISECTORAL PROGRAMME FOR ADOLESCENT WELLBEING, EMPOWERMENT AND RESILIENCE



HELPING EVERY LEARNER CATCH UP: MTTA'S REMEDIAL LEARNING PROGRAMME

Under MPOWER, the Meghalaya Teacher Training Academy (MTTA) is rolling out a Remedial Learning Programme to close learning gaps in Mathematics and English, addressing key findings from NAS/PARAKH 2024 for Grades 6 and 9 and aligning with NEP 2020.

Through a two-day district capacity-building workshop, teachers learn to trace foundational concepts, design diagnostic tools, and deliver hands-on remedial lessons, while advanced learners receive extension tasks. Continuous support will follow through school-based Professional Learning Communities led by Critical Friends, contributing to teachers' annual professional development hours.

SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



Shri Winchester Nongbet



Smt. Baniarilin Wahlang, VCF



Shri Bikku S. Sangma, VCF

MEGARISE RADIO PROGRAMME SERIES CONCLUDES WITH “MEET THE CATCHMENT PROTECTOR: STORY FROM THE FIELD”

The MegARISE Radio Programme Series concluded with its 7th and final episode, titled “Meet the Catchment Protector: Story from the Field,” featuring first-hand experiences and stories from individuals actively involved in protecting and managing the catchments.

For the Khasi region, the final episode featured interviews with Shri Winchester Nongbet in English and Smt. Baniarilin Wahlang in Khasi. Their stories highlighted their field experiences and perspectives, and the importance of community participation in catchment protection.

For the Garo Hills region, the final episode featured an interview with Shri Bikku S. Sangma, VCF of Nokatgre, who shared his field experiences and insights.

The final episode marked the successful conclusion of the MegARISE Radio Programme Series, which aimed to create awareness, share knowledge, and bring the voices and experiences of communities and project stakeholders closer to the wider public. The series received positive feedback from listeners, reflecting the programme’s reach and effectiveness in engaging the community. This feedback and responses from listeners are presented in the left-hand column.

VOICES FROM THE RADIO PROGRAMME LISTENERS

A listener described the radio programme as “*informative and appreciated the knowledge shared*” through the discussions.

Another listener found the episode on “Meet the Catchment Protector: Story from the Field” *productive, noting that the presentation was effective and communicated the message clearly.*

Uwei na ki nongpynsngap u la ai khublei ia ka FM Jong Phi bad ka MBDA kiba la wanrah ia kane ka prokram. U la pynpaw ba ka prokram ka ai jinghikai ia ki paidbah halor ka jingdonkam ban pynneh pynsah ia ki lum, ki wah bad ki khlaw, bad ban kiar na ka jingpyndonkam palat ia ki mar poh khyndew. U la ban jur ruh ia ka jingdonkam ban shim ia ka jingkitkhlieh shimet ha ka jingsumar ia ka mariang na ka bynta ki pateng ban wan, khnang ban ioh ia ka um kaba khuid bad ka lyer kaba khuid.

Uwei pat u nongsngap u la pynpaw ba donkam ban shimkhia bad ban pyntreikam ia ki kyndon kiba pyrkhing pyrsah ia ki kam kiba pynjot ia ka mariang, khamtam ka jingbret pathar ia ki niut ki nier sha ki wah bad ki khlaw. U la ai khublei ruh ia ka prokram kaba la pynsngewthuh ia ki paidbah halor kine ki mat.

As the MegARISE Radio Programme Series concluded, a listener expressed gratitude to the team and participating experts for sharing valuable information and insights throughout the series.

SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT

TRAINING FOR VCFS ON SPRINGSHED MANAGEMENT

Ganol CMU conducted a two-day batchwise training for VCFs on 29th and 30th September 2026. Batch 1, comprising VCFs from Rerapara Block, was held at Mukdangra VPIC, while Batch 2 for Rongram Block was conducted at the CMU Office, with practical sessions at Sonanpara VPIC.

The training covered springshed management, spring mapping and monitoring, water tracer use, spring discharge measurement, GIS mapping of community forests and sacred groves, and the use of GPS devices and the GPS Waypoint App. Practical sessions provided hands-on field experience to strengthen the VCFs' capacity in catchment management.



A Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) was conducted at Myllem Mawkhar on 6 October 2026, with 32 participants, including 19 women and 13 men.



BATCH-I PIGGERY TRAINING

A two-day Piggery Training for Batch-I was conducted on 29-30 September 2026 at VTC, Rongkon, Tura, facilitated by Dr. Pamela R. Marak, Veterinary Doctor. The training covered piggery management, feeding, breeding, animal health, disease prevention, hygiene, and farm management. Participants also received certificates and provided feedback on the training.



A training on GIS, GPS devices, water tracers, and spring monitoring was conducted on 5 October 2026 at the Laitkroh Block office hall for Cluster-I VCFs, where 18 VCFs attended the training along with the CPM and the Environment Manager, SPMU was also present.

SNIPPETS

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



MTE PREPARATION VISIT – SIMSENG BALKOL VPIC

On 2 October 2026, the Dambo Rongjeng BPMU Team visited Simseng Balkol VPIC in preparation for the upcoming Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE). The team reviewed the progress of the VPIC and key MegLIFE interventions, including ANR and AGF plantations, EPA and SWC activities, and visited the sites to understand their implementation and benefits to the community. The visit also included interaction with community members on their participation and experiences with the intervention.

MID-TERM EVALUATION VISIT – POMLAHIER VILLAGE

On 3 October 2026, a Third-Party Evaluation Team visited Pomlahier village, Mawryngkneng Block, East Khasi Hills District, as part of the Mid-Term Evaluation of MegLIFE to assess the progress of project interventions, community institutions and their implementation at the field level. The team conducted Focus Group Discussions with VPIC, SHG and household members and visited plantation sites and Soil & Water Conservation (SWC) and EPA interventions to observe their implementation and progress. The visit covered Lawadong, Lwang and Lumsohlait ANR plantations, along with community infrastructure and water conservation assets. The Pomlahier VPIC demonstrated active community participation and ownership of the interventions.



SPMU CONDUCTS FIELD VISITS FOR MTE AND MTR PREPARATIONS

On 6 October 2026, the Third-Party Evaluation Team conducted a Mid-Term Evaluation at Rongbeta VPIC, Umling Block, Ri-Bhoi District, to review the progress of MegLIFE interventions, assess how the activities are functioning on the ground, and understand their benefits to the community. The team held discussions with SHG, Executive Committee and household members and visited two plantation plots and key SWC structures, including water tanks, a dugout pond and spring tap chamber, to observe their condition, maintenance and community use.

MID-TERM EVALUATION – UMDEN NONGTLUH VPIC

On 7 October 2026, the Third-Party Evaluation Team conducted a Mid-Term Evaluation at Umden Nongtluh VPIC, Umling Block, Ri-Bhoi District, to review the progress of MegLIFE interventions, their implementation at the field level, and the benefits to the community. The team interacted with SHG, Executive Committee and representatives from 15 households and visited two ANR plantation plots, SWC structures and a bamboo nursery to assess their progress, maintenance, community participation and use.

SNIPPETS

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



A HELPING HAND ON THE FIELD

During a field visit to Simseng Minol village, Dambo Rongjeng Block, heavy rainfall left the team's vehicle stuck in muddy terrain. Local villagers and the VCF team came forward to assist and helped the team continue its journey safely. Their timely support reflected the strong sense of cooperation and community spirit during the visit.

STATUTORY AUDIT – WEST JAINTIA HILLS

On 6 October 2026, the Statutory Audit was conducted in West Jaintia Hills District, with representatives from various Village Project Implementation Committees (VPICs) participating in the audit process. The participation provided an opportunity to review project-related records and strengthen transparency and accountability at the community level.



STATUTORY AUDIT CONDUCTED AT EAST JAINTIA HILLS DPMU

The Statutory Audit for the Financial Year 2025-2026 was conducted on 6 October 2026 at the East Jaintia Hills DPMU Office. The audit reviewed financial, procurement and other relevant records maintained at the VPIC and DPMU levels, with a focus on proper documentation, transparency and accountability in project implementation. The process was supported by the cooperation of concerned representatives and officials, reinforcing sound financial management and accountable implementation.





FIELD ACTIVITIES ACROSS MEGHALAYA

Green Field Associates carried out PES field activities across Meghalaya, including AR, MoU and bank statement collection, beneficiary interactions and field visits. Activities covered Myllat Nongblai, Mawlam and Mynrieng villages in Pynursla Block, East Khasi Hills; Suchen Rim in Khliehriat Block, East Jaintia Hills; Samanda Doktilgre, Mandal Nokat and Rukalgre in Samanda Block, East Garo Hills; Nongwah Mawlein in Jirang Block, Ri-Bhoi; Dobu, Jamge Watregittim and Sokadam Rongkabok in Songsak Block, East Garo Hills; Dongkiiingding in Mairang Block, Eastern West Khasi Hills; Mynriah and Mawblang in Mawkynrew Block, East Khasi Hills; Kenbah Malai and Synnei in Mawsynram Block, East Khasi Hills; Mawhati in Umsning Block, Ri-Bhoi; Rangdkhew in Mawkyrwat Block, South West Khasi Hills; Kremmysiang in Saipung Block, East Jaintia Hills; Undienlieng in Laskein Block, West Jaintia Hills; Smit in Mawryngkneng Block, East Khasi Hills; and Laitkynsew and Mawshamok in Shella Block, East Khasi Hills.

PRESERVING GARO HERITAGE THROUGH BAMBOO AND NATURE

DHARMEN G. MARAK

SASATGRE VILLAGE, WEST GARO HILLS

Nestled in Sasatgre village, West Garo Hills, Dopatchi Homestays, established in 2019 by Dharmen G. Marak, is more than a place to stay. It is his effort to preserve Garo culture, traditional architecture and indigenous food practices while promoting sustainable tourism in Meghalaya.

Dharmen envisions Dopatchi as a peaceful destination where visitors can experience the richness of Garo traditions through local cuisine, architecture and everyday cultural practices. The homestay blends traditional bamboo construction with modern techniques, using bamboo for its walls, flooring, railings and portions of the roofing.

Dopatchi is part of the ongoing Bamboo Design Residency Programme, led by the Meghalaya State Bamboo Mission in collaboration with PRIME and SELCO Foundation. The programme provides an opportunity to explore design interventions that build on local bamboo skills, strengthen the enterprise and support sustainable development.

Where Culture Meets Conservation

The name Dopatchi comes from the house swift, a bird considered sacred in the Garo community. Reflecting this cultural connection, the homestay incorporates dense thatched roofing to provide nesting spaces for the bird. Dharmen also aspires to conserve the Abrek bird and protect its natural habitat, demonstrating his commitment to living in harmony with nature.

Beyond hospitality, Dharmen preserves traditional food practices through honey processing and the preparation of Karitchi, a traditional Garo cooking ingredient made from banana stems. His honey, with its natural flavours derived from the nectar of fruit trees, and his Karitchi reflect his interest in promoting traditional knowledge and natural food products.

Building a Sustainable Future

Dharmen works with local villagers, carpenters and other daily-wage workers in developing the homestay, creating opportunities for community participation. Looking ahead, he hopes to introduce handcrafted bamboo souvenirs, furniture and kitchenware, construct more durable bamboo huts, and use natural and biodegradable materials throughout the homestay.

One of his key challenges is the durability of untreated bamboo, which can require structures to be dismantled and rebuilt every two to three years. Improving bamboo treatment and construction techniques is therefore essential to sustaining the enterprise.

Through Dopatchi, Dharmen G. Marak is bringing together bamboo, cultural heritage, traditional food and biodiversity conservation. His vision is to create a destination where visitors can experience Garo culture while supporting local livelihoods and appreciating the value of sustainable living.



Story of the week



8

DECENT WORK & GROWTH

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOAL

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 8

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Creating opportunity, dignity and prosperity for all.



WHAT DOES SDG 8 MEAN?

SDG 8 is about creating productive livelihoods, decent and safe work, and inclusive, sustainable economic growth—so people can earn with dignity while communities prosper.

KEY FOCUS AREAS



PRODUCTIVE LIVELIHOODS

Support work that raises productivity and incomes.



DECENT & SAFE WORK

Protect labour rights and promote safe workplaces.



YOUTH SKILLS & EMPLOYMENT

Build pathways from learning to meaningful work.



ENTERPRISE, INNOVATION & FINANCE

Grow MSMEs and improve access to financial services.



SUSTAINABLE LOCAL ECONOMIES

Promote tourism, culture and local products that create jobs.

HOW SDG 8 CONNECTS WITH MEGHALAYA

- ✓ **Livelihoods & enterprise**
Agriculture, processing, handicrafts, services and small businesses can create local value.
- ✓ **Skills & entrepreneurship**
Strengthen the capabilities of youth, women and rural producers to pursue opportunities.
- ✓ **Planning & monitoring**
Use the State SDG Monitoring Framework, district action plans and SDG-linked schemes.

A PATHWAY TO INCLUSIVE GROWTH



SKILLS



ENTERPRISE



MARKETS



DECENT WORK

Economic growth is strongest when it is productive, inclusive and sustainable—and when every worker can participate, earn fairly and work safely.

**BY 2030: FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL,
WITH SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH.**

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