Newsletter

27 Nov 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

Works

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

MegSURE
Meghalaya Spring Rejuvenation & Sustainable Agroforestry

STATE PROGRAMMES

KEY UPDATES

MEGHALAYA MULTISECTORAL PROJECT FOR ADOLESCENT WELLBEING, EMPOWERMENT AND RESILIENCE






VILLAGE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (VHDC) IDEATION SESSION

The Village Human Development Committee (VHDC) Ideation Session, held on 27 November 2026 at the State Guest House – Taraghar, brought together government officials, traditional community leaders and key stakeholders to explore a community-led approach to holistic human development in Meghalaya. The discussions focused on institutional convergence, community ownership, decentralised governance, sustainable financing and behavioural change, with an emphasis on health, education, adolescent wellbeing, youth empowerment and livelihood opportunities.

The session underscored the importance of strengthening community-led institutions and fostering collective action towards the vision of a developed Meghalaya.

KEY UPDATES

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT AND SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT







MEGARISE, SLM AND THE RANGBIHBIH COMMUNITY JOIN HANDS TO EXPLORE AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL AND LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES

On 24 November 2026, the Office of the Mylliem Block, under the leadership of the Block Development Officer (BDO), organised a convergence collaboration meeting at Rangbihbih Community Hall , with representatives from the BDO, MegARISE, SLM, and the Rangbihbih community.

The meeting highlighted the importance of convergence between MegARISE and SLM and explained why Rangbihbih was selected based on its agricultural potential. The Catchment Project Manager (CPM) briefed the villagers on the proposed MegARISE interventions, highlighting the village's potential to become a model for convergence initiatives. Nearly 70% of the village land, comprising approximately 130 plots, was identified as having agricultural potential, despite challenges such as landslides and cultivation on sloping terrain. Shri Augustus Suting, APD, SLM, encouraged villagers to adopt organic farming, start small-scale livelihood activities, and strengthen collaboration among village institutions, SHGs, VPICs, and NRLM. During the interactive discussion, villagers raised concerns, including unexplained pig deaths, in response to which Shri Suting emphasised the importance of timely vaccination and proper animal care.

The meeting concluded with discussions on agricultural potential, interdepartmental convergence, and community participation to promote sustainable livelihoods and overall village development.

KEY UPDATES
MEGHALAYA STATE BAMBOO MISSION







CELEBRATING LEARNING AND FIELD RESEARCH: IIFM INTERNS PRESENT THEIR INTERNSHIP PROJECTS

The Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA), in collaboration with its various programmes and departments, organised the Final Internship Project Presentation and Certification Day for eight interns from the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal, on 19th November 2026 at Sylvan House, Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force (PCCF & HoFF), Meghalaya, Shillong.
The programme featured presentations by the interns, showcasing their research findings and project studies undertaken during their internship from September to November 2026. Their projects explored diverse areas, including bamboo markets, carbon assessment, forest conservation, ecosystem services, sustainable livelihoods, sericulture, and agricultural insurance in Meghalaya.

The presentations provided an opportunity to share key findings, exchange perspectives, and highlight the practical insights gained through their engagement with various programmes and initiatives of the Government of Meghalaya. The programme concluded with the distribution of internship completion certificates, recognising the contributions and efforts of all eight interns throughout their internship tenure.

SNIPPETS
MEGHALAYA STATE BAMBOO MISSION







JOINT FIELD VISIT TO BLACK PEPPER PLANTATION SITES IN NORTH GARO HILLS

A joint field visit was conducted on 25th November 2026 at Gairong under Nangrime Integrated Village Cooperative Society (IVCS), North Garo Hills, involving teams from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), State Project Management Unit (SPMU), Project Management and Development Consultant (PMDC) and District Project Management Unit (DPMU), along with Nangrime IVCS.

The visit focused on inspecting ongoing black pepper plantation sites and nurseries preparing planting materials for the coming year. The team assessed field conditions, reviewed nursery management and discussed plantation preparedness and implementation progress with the IVCS. The visit also provided an opportunity for field-level learning and coordination among the teams to support the planned plantation activities.

SNIPPETS
MEGHALAYA STATE BAMBOO MISSION





MSBM HOLDS Q3 REVIEW MEETING OF FY 2026–27 AT VIVANTA

The Meghalaya State Bamboo Mission (MSBM) convened its Quarterly Review Meeting for Q3 of FY 2026-27 on 16th November 2026 at Vivanta, Shillong, bringing together District Nodal Persons (DNPs) and district teams from across Meghalaya to review progress and strengthen district-level planning for the development of the bamboo sector.

A key highlight of the meeting was the series of district-wise presentations, focusing on four priority areas: identification of potential bamboo plantation areas, including general plantations, land reclamation and mining areas, and trial plantations; mapping of Bamboo Aggregation Centres to strengthen the bamboo supply chain; identification of potential bamboo tourism destinations; and mapping of bamboo entrepreneurs and bamboo-based enterprises across districts.
These presentations provided an opportunity to consolidate district-level information, identify emerging opportunities, and strengthen coordination towards a more structured and integrated approach to bamboo sector development in the state.

The meeting concluded with a briefing on the preparation of the Annual Action Plan (AAP) for FY 2027-28, outlining the way forward for districts to undertake coordinated planning, identify priorities, and ensure focused implementation of activities in the coming financial year.

SNIPPETS
MEGHALAYA STATE BAMBOO MISSION





FIELD VISIT TO MOOKYNDENG UNDER THE BAMBOO DESIGN RESIDENCY PROGRAMME

As part of the ongoing Bamboo Design Residency Programme, a field visit was conducted to Mookyndeng, West Jaintia Hills, engaging with artisans of Laichaphrang Handicrafts and Women's Group and the Handicraft Multipurpose Cooperative Society.

The visit provided an opportunity to interact directly with the artisans and residents (Product designers) working together under the programme. Through discussions with both groups, the team explored the progress of their work so far, the design ideas being developed, and the initial observations emerging from the process of working together.

The interactions also offered insights into how the designers are engaging with the artisans' existing skills, techniques and experience to explore possibilities for developing bamboo products. The artisans shared their perspectives on the ongoing process, making the exchange an important part of understanding the needs and opportunities at the production level.

While the residency is still in its initial phase, the visit reflected encouraging engagement between the artisans and designers, laying the groundwork for further experimentation, product development and refinement in the coming weeks.

SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT





IC & SPMU TEAM FIELD VISIT TO GANOL CATCHMENT (16–20 NOVEMBER 2026)

The IC, SPMU Team, along with Field Engineers from the Ganol Catchment Management Unit (CMU), conducted field visits to various villages under the Ganol Catchment from 16 to 20 November 2026 to monitor the progress, quality, and implementation of ongoing activities under FPA-2 and FPA-3.

The team visited Chisregre, Baghmara, Wadagre, Chismokgre, Ghatgre, Selsela Alotgre, Rongkakgre, Andarkona, Rengsangre, Selbalgre, Selbal Nokat, and Alotgre VPIC. The activities inspected included apiculture, piggery, aquaculture, dugout ponds, gabion walls, stone masonry retaining walls, water harvesting structures, nurseries and plantation activities, including Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR).

During the visits, the IC team reviewed construction progress and workmanship, identified gaps, and provided recommendations for improving implementation. Key suggestions included strengthening Chisregre VPIC as a honey village through proper training, packaging, and branding of honey, and exploring additional income opportunities through beeswax utilisation. The team also emphasised quality compliance in construction works, proper maintenance of piggery units, clear benefit-sharing arrangements among beneficiaries and VPICs, and timely completion of pending works. Recommendations also included extending gabion walls under VLMAP and considering gully plugs to address soil erosion.

The team also interacted with communities to understand their livelihood plans and implementation challenges. On the final day, the CMU, SPMU, and IC teams held a joint review meeting to discuss observations from the field visits, assess the progress of ongoing interventions, and share feedback and recommendations for necessary follow-up actions.

SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



FPA 2 AND FPA 3 PLANNING EXERCISE AT TEBRONGGRE VPIC

A total of 38 participants took part in the FPA 2 and FPA 3 planning exercise at Tebronggre VPIC, providing an opportunity for community members to share their ideas, identify their needs and propose activities based on their interests and priorities. Under FPA 2, most participants expressed interest in piggery activities, while a few proposed poultry farming, with limited interest in other livelihood options. Under FPA 3, the majority of proposals focused on the construction of spring chambers, while others suggested water storage tanks and dug-out ponds to address water-related needs and support community livelihoods.



SPMU team visited the Ganol Catchment Management Unit from 16th to 21st November 2026 to provide support to the Ganol team in completing three Village Level Micro Action Plan (VLMAP) reports under the 3B1A8e1d Micro Watershed, covering Aguragre, Asanang and Jendragre villages.



PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL (PRA) AND FPA CONTEST-1 AT CHIBASALGRE VILLAGE

On **20th November 2026**, the Ganol team conducted a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) at **Chibasalgre Village under Rongram Block**, using tools such as Social Mapping, Resource Mapping, Transect Walk, Seasonal Calendar, Problem Ranking, Historical Timeline and SWOT Analysis. Villagers actively participated in the exercise, enabling the successful collection of village-level data. The village comprises **52 households, six springs, a forest reserve, extensive barren land and arecanut plantations**, with streams flowing into the Ganol River through Mrigre and Asanang villages. The team also organised **FPA Contest-1**, featuring a Storytelling Competition in which children and adults enthusiastically shared stories highlighting environmental conservation and the importance of protecting forests and springs. Prizes were distributed to the winners by the Village Headman.

SNIPPETS

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



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH SOCIAL AUDIT COMMITTEE FORMATION

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen transparency and community participation, Social Audit Committee (SAC) members were formed on 26 November 2026 in Kynjoiñ Umran, Maweitnar, Mawkorblang and Niangdai villages under Umsning Block, Ri Bhoi District. The formation of these committees is an important preparatory step towards the upcoming Meghalaya Society for Social Audit & Transparency. The initiative aims to promote community oversight, ensure transparency in the implementation of development programmes, strengthen accountability and provide villagers with a platform to participate in reviewing programme activities and outcomes.



MBDA AND AARANYAK JOIN HANDS TO STRENGTHEN ELEPHANT CORRIDOR CONSERVATION IN MEGHALAYA

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA) and Aaranyak was signed on 24 November 2026 at the MegLIFE Conference Hall, SPMU, Shillong. The programme was attended by representatives from Aaranyak and the SPMU team, including the Additional Project Director (APD).
The MoU aims to strengthen efforts towards the protection and management of elephant corridors in Meghalaya, with a focus on conserving elephant habitats, ensuring safe movement across forest landscapes and promoting human-elephant coexistence.

SNIPPETS
CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



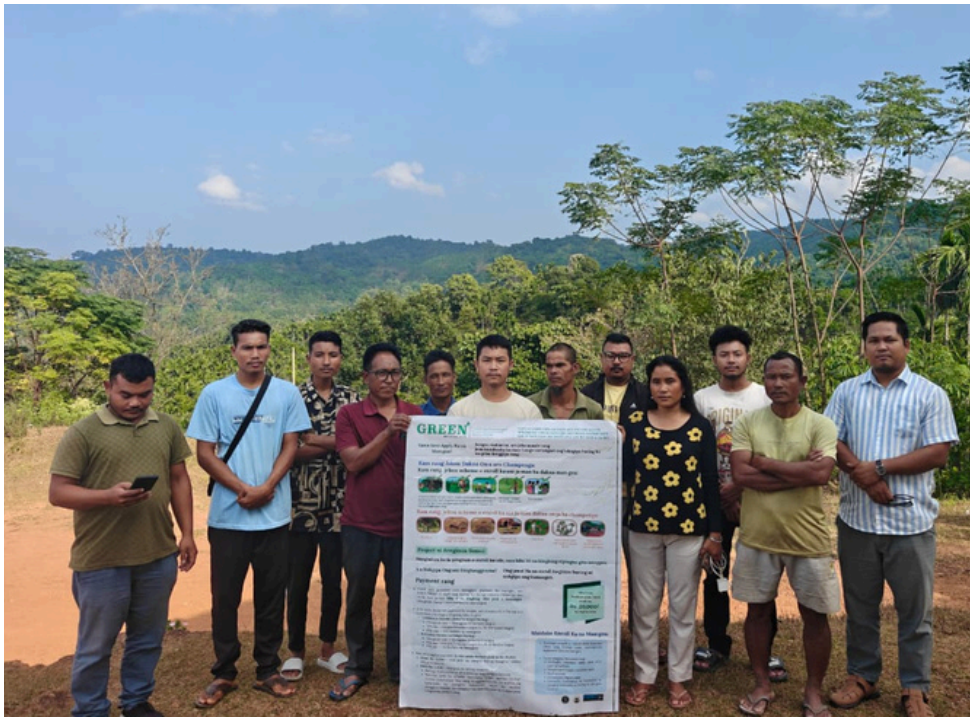




JOINT INSPECTION OF TISSUE CULTURE LAKADONG TURMERIC MOTHER BLOCK

The Cluster Development Programme (CDP) team of MBMA organised a consultative meeting and joint inspection on 20 November 2026 at Iongkyndar Turmeric Hub, Kyrwen, West Jaintia Hills, to assess the Tissue Culture Lakadong Turmeric Mother Block established under the Small Nursery initiative. Representatives from ICAR, Directorate of Horticulture, MSAMB, BRDC, Agri PMU, Research Offices in Shillong and Jowai, and the Lakadong Farmer Union participated in the assessment. Discussions focused on the progress of tissue culture Lakadong turmeric, exploring DNA sequencing to establish its genetic identity and examining its relationship with traditionally cultivated Lakadong turmeric. The meeting also facilitated technical discussions and collaboration towards further research, validation and promotion of tissue culture Lakadong turmeric.

SNIPPETS
MBDA/MBMA PROGRAM





GREEN MEGHALAYA AWARENESS PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED ACROSS THE STATE

From 20 to 26 November 2026, Green Field Associates conducted awareness programmes on the Green Meghalaya initiative across several villages in the Khasi, Jaintia, Ri Bhoi and Garo Regions. The outreach covered villages such as Mawranglang, Mawnohsynrum, Mawthylliang, Umdein, Kremmyrsiang, Samasi, Ladmawphlang, Suchen Mulieh, Upper Bolmedang, Golde Nangrak, Mengotchigre, Rongkhon Marenggre, Mawblang, Waibagre and Matchagipok, among others, across blocks including Mawkyrwat, Bhoirymbong, Mawshynrut, Saipung, Wapung, Kharkutta, Tikrikilla, Songsak and Rongara. The programmes familiarised communities with the initiative and its role in forest conservation and sustainable natural resource management. Several villagers responded positively and expressed their willingness to participate in the initiative.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THROUGH GREEN MEGHALAYA FIELD ACTIVITIES

Green Field Associates continued to advance field engagement under the Green Meghalaya initiative through community consultations, field visits and documentation across different blocks of the state. The activities included a meeting with VCFs and the Headman of Phlangtyngor Village at EFC, Pynursla Block, East Khasi Hills, along with a field visit to Pingwait Village under Mawkynrew Block. Application Records (ARs) were collected from Mawbeh, Gongrang, Ramdait and Mawsahew villages, while both ARs and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were collected from Lelad and Latyrke villages under Saipung Block, East Jaintia Hills. An MoU was also collected from Laitpynter Village under Mawphlang Block. These engagements supported ongoing community coordination and documentation for the implementation of the Green Meghalaya initiative

15 LIFE ON LAND

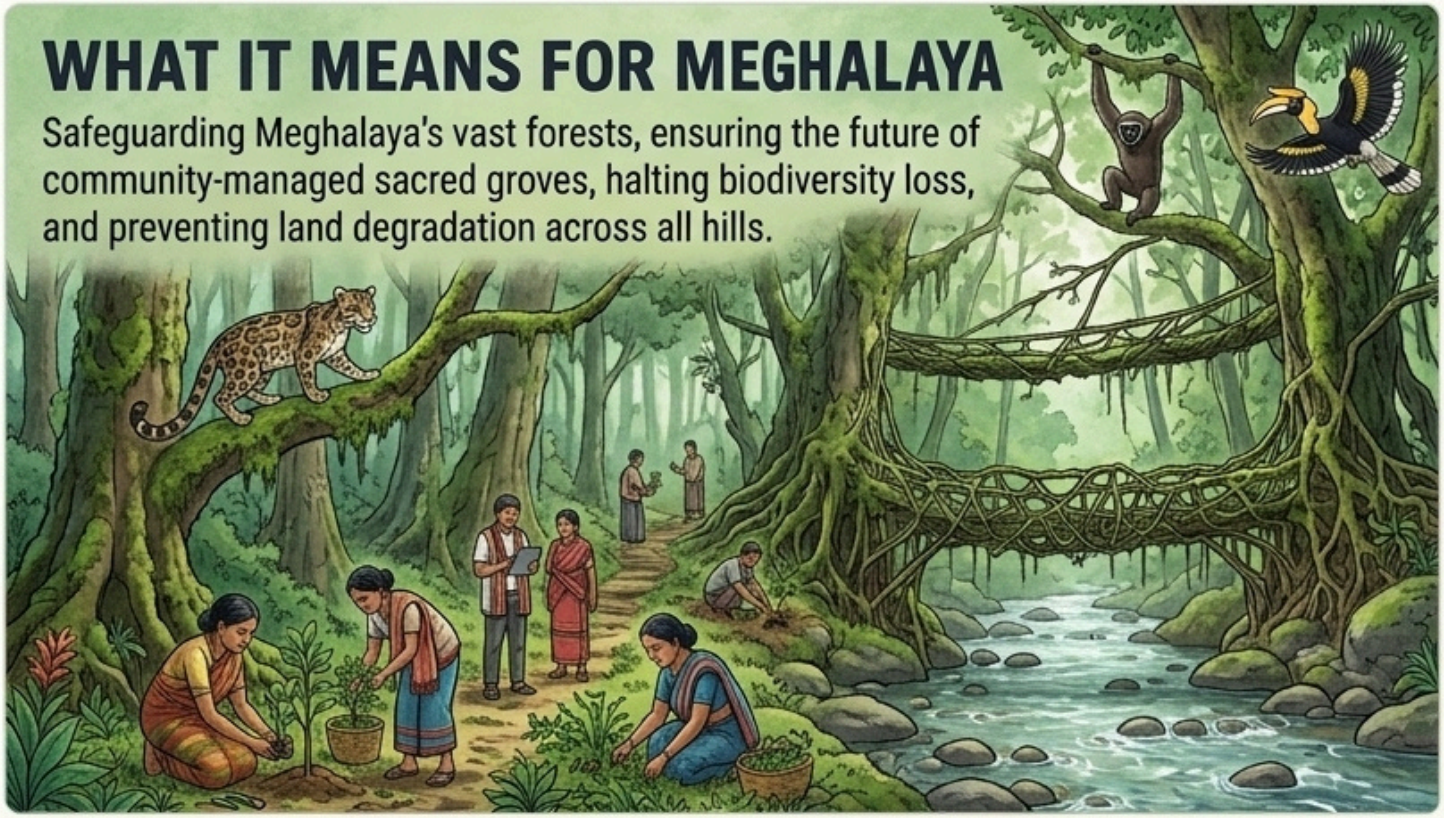
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDG 15
LIFE ON LAND

Protecting Meghalaya's rich forest ecosystems, biodiversity, sacred groves, and sustainable land management.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR MEGHALAYA

Safeguarding Meghalaya's vast forests, ensuring the future of community-managed sacred groves, halting biodiversity loss, and preventing land degradation across all hills.



FIVE FOCUS AREAS

01 Forest conservation
Use eco-friendly management of natural resources and prevent fires.

02 Sacred groves & biodiversity
Preserve traditional ecological knowledge and rare endemic species.

03 Sustainable land management
Minimize land degradation and improve soil health through best practices.

04 Combating deforestation
Establish effective systems to prevent forest loss and illegal logging.

05 Community stewardship
Empower local communities to co-manage forest resources and benefit sustainably.

TOWARDS 2030

A green, biodiverse Meghalaya where forests and communities flourish together.

A LOCAL PATHWAY

Protect forests → Restore land → Conserve biodiversity → Empower communities

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