Newsletter

06 Nov 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



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

Photo by : Zevian Paul Syiemleih, 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

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

STATE PROGRAMMES

KEY UPDATES

MEGHALAYA MULTISECTORAL PROJECT FOR ADOLESCENT WELLBEING, EMPOWERMENT AND RESILIENCE







MPOWER CONDUCTS FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON ADOLESCENT WELL-BEING

On October 29, 2026, the Government of Meghalaya, in collaboration with partners such as the Harvard Growth Lab, the Meghalaya Institute of Governance, and the Bharti Institute (ISB), launched an MPOWER initiative focused on expanding youth employment and driving local economic growth. Through a stakeholder workshop held in Tura on that date, the initiative brings together government bodies, entrepreneurs, and community representatives to identify barriers and explore practical solutions in key sectors like tourism, border trade, high-value agriculture, and agro-processing. By utilizing Problem-Driven Iterative Adaptation (PDIA) and Adaptive Leadership methodologies, the program encourages a shift from discussion to actionable, locally driven results.

Led by key figures including Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma and Project Director Shri Sampath Kumar, the initiative emphasizes collaborative problem-solving, local knowledge, and continuous learning to support enterprise growth. Moving forward, the workshop aims to translate these strategic discussions from the October 29 event into practical pilot initiatives and constituency-level projects aligned with the Constituency Development Plan. Ultimately, the MPOWER initiative seeks to establish a strong foundation for inclusive, sustainable development that transforms local potential into lasting livelihood opportunities for the youth of Meghalaya.

KEY UPDATES

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT













IFAD DELEGATION VISITS KEY MLAMP AND PRIME-SUPPORTED FACILITIES IN MEGHALAYA

The delegation also visited the ERIFA PRIME Hub and Organic Spice Processing Plant at Lumdaitkhla, Bhoirymbong, Ri Bhoi District, followed by a high-level meeting with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri Conrad K. Sangma, in Shillong.On the final day, the delegation visited the PRIME Startup Hub in Shillong to learn about the Investments in Agroecology Value Chains Project, under which Meghalaya ranks third among Indian states in terms of IFAD grant support, securing ₹8.19 crore.

The delegation included Ms. Claudia Ten Have, Secretary of IFAD; Mr. Donal Brown, Associate Vice-President, Department for Country Operations; Mr. Indran Naidoo, Director, Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD; Ms. Reehana Raza, Director, Asia and the Pacific Division; Mr. James Marc de Sousa-Shields, IFAD Country Director for India; Ms. S. Divyadharshini, IAS, Director, Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India; and Mr. Jay K. Sharma, Senior Consultant, Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India, among other distinguished members.The visit concluded on a positive note, with the delegation expressing satisfaction with the interventions and progress made under MLAMP.

KEY UPDATES

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT









IENGSKHEM FARMERS MARKET INAUGURATED IN MOOLANG, EAST JAINTIA HILLS

Iengskhem Farmers Market in Moolang, East Jaintia Hills District, was inaugurated on 30 October 2026 by Shri Kyrmen Shylla, Hon'ble MLA, Khliehriat Constituency. The programme was attended by Shri Justine Dkhar, former MLA, Khliehriat Constituency, as Guest of Honour, and Smti F. Wann, MCS, Assistant Commissioner, East Jaintia Hills District, as Special Guest.

Also present were Shri A.S. Suting, DPD, MLAMP, MBMA; officers from line departments; bank officials; Smti Pynhunlang War, DPM; MBMA district staff; and members of the Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS).

KEY UPDATES

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT








JOINT INSPECTIONS FOR CATCHMENT AREA PROTECTION

Joint inspections were conducted at Pomlakrai, Umiew Catchment, on 23 October 2026, and Dura Kalakgre, Ganol Catchment, on 28 October 2026, by officials from the Forest Department, MegARISE SPMU and CMU teams.

The visits focused on assessing and mapping identified areas for protection under the Meghalaya Protection of Catchment Areas Act, 1990. At Dura Kalakgre, the team also inspected the Didagre stream, fish sanctuary and community forest reserve. Discussions were held with the Nokma, Village Project Implementation Committee (VPIC) leaders and community members on proposed conservation measures and follow-up actions.

SNIPPETS

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT

VILLAGE COMMUNITY FACILITATORS TRAINED IN GIS, SPRING MONITORING AND PLANTATION TECHNIQUES

Training sessions held on 7, 8 and 12 October at Kynton U Mon, Mawngap Lumparing and Mawnianglah, Mylliem Block Office, covered practical applications of GIS, GPS device handling, spring monitoring and water tracer techniques. Village Community Facilitators were also oriented on community forest demarcation, fruit tree plantation and Miyawaki plantation methods to support catchment protection and rejuvenation efforts under MegARISE.





24 PARTICIPANTS TAKE PART IN FPA-2 AND FPA-3 CONTESTS

FPA-2 and FPA-3 contests were held at Rngi Mylliem, Mylliem Block, on 16 October 2026, with 14 participants in FPA-2 and 10 in FPA-3, bringing the total participation to 24.



TRAINING ON PLANTATION MONITORING AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

On 23 October 2026, MegARISE staff received training on plantation monitoring and sampling techniques, followed by field exercises under the Umiew Catchment. Participants practised measuring seedling height and collar diameter within sample plots to strengthen plantation growth monitoring. The session was led by Shri G.S. Raju (Retd. IFS), Consultant, and Ms Bratiti Purkayastha, AGM, Project Management.



PLANTATION MONITORING TRAINING UNDER MEGARISE

On 23 October 2026, MegARISE staff underwent practical training on plantation monitoring and sampling techniques under the Umiew Catchment. The field exercise covered seedling height and collar diameter measurements within sample plots to assess plantation growth. The session was led by Shri G.S. Raju (Retd. IFS), Consultant, and Ms Bratiti Purkayastha, AGM, Project Management.

SNIPPETS

MEGHALAYA MULTISECTORAL PROJECT FOR ADOLESCENT WELLBEING, EMPOWERMENT AND RESILIENCE





MPOWER WORKSHOP ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

An MPOWER workshop was held on 5 November 2026 at the State Convention Centre, Shillong, building on discussions held in Jirang, Ri-Bhoi. Led by Project Director Shri Sampath Kumar, the workshop brought together stakeholders and partners, including the Harvard Growth Lab, Meghalaya Institute of Governance (MIG) and Indian School of Business (ISB), to identify growth barriers in tourism, high-value agriculture and trade using the PDIA approach. Discussions focused on developing practical pilot initiatives to expand livelihood opportunities across Meghalaya.

ORIENTATION TRAINING FOR CMYC CENTRE COORDINATORS

A four-day orientation training for CMYC Centre Coordinators was held from 3-6 November 2026 to strengthen their understanding of the Meghalaya Programme for Youth Empowerment (MPOWER) and the role of Chief Minister's Youth Centres (CMYCs). Sessions covered adolescent wellbeing, empathetic communication, centre management, monitoring and evaluation, data collection and quarterly activity planning, preparing coordinators to manage centre operations and support learning opportunities for young people across Meghalaya.



SNIPPETS

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

MID-TERM EVALUATION OF MEGLIFE PROJECT ACROSS MEGHALAYA

The Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) team assessed the progress of MegLIFE interventions across multiple locations in October 2026:

- 21 October | North Garo Hills: Kalwe village.
- 22 October | North Garo Hills: Rajasimla Songgital village. The visits were conducted in coordination with the North Garo Hills DPMU and BPMU teams.
- 22 October | West Jaintia Hills: Mowtyrshiah A village under Laskein BPMU.
- 23 October | North Garo Hills: Rongpetchi VPIC, Resubelpara Block.
- 23 October | West Jaintia Hills: Ionglwit VPIC, Thadlaskein Block.
- 21-24 October | South Garo Hills: Chenggalgittim VPIC, Baghmara Block.
- 26 October | South West Garo Hills: Torangpara and Ulubaripara VPICs, Zikzak Block.
- 27 October | South West Garo Hills: Rongsang Abagre and Golmangre villages, Betasing Block.

The assessments involved household surveys, focus group discussions with community members, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Village Project Implementation Committee (VPIC) members, along with field inspections of plantation plots and soil and water conservation structures. The visits focused on assessing sapling survival, reviewing project benefits, understanding community experiences and identifying areas requiring further attention for improved implementation.







SNIPPETS

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



REVIEW OF 2024 PLANTATION PLOTS AT RALIANG VPIC

On 26 October 2026, Shri G.S. Raju and Ms Bratati Purkayastha from SPMU, along with the DPM, BPM, Forester and project staff, visited the 2024 plantation plots at Raliang VPIC under Laskein Block, West Jaintia Hills. The visit reviewed plantation growth and maintenance, with guidance provided to strengthen VPIC functioning and support the continued upkeep of the plantations.



TRAINING ON PLANTATION MONITORING AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

On 23 October 2026, MegARISE staff received training on plantation monitoring and sampling techniques at the MegARISE Conference Hall, led by retired IFS officer Shri G. S. Raju, along with the AGM. The session was followed by field exercises to assess plantation growth, sapling survival and overall plantation performance.

SNIPPETS

INTEGRATED ECO-TOURISM AND SUSTAINABLE AGRI-BASED LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT.





DOCUMENTATION OF BLACK PEPPER PLANTATION IN MAWLONGROH

On 3 November 2026, a field documentation of Black Pepper Plantation process was carried out at Mawlongroh, South West Khasi Hills. The exercise focused on recording the different stages of plantation, cultivation practices and field-level methods to develop reference material for project documentation and knowledge sharing.

SNIPPETS
MBDA/MBMA PROGRAM



ORIENTATION AND MIS TRAINING FOR VILLAGE COMMUNITY FACILITATORS

On 27-28 October 2026, Green Field Associates conducted orientation and Management Information System (MIS) training for Village Community Facilitators (VCFs) across Meghalaya. The sessions covered blocks in East Khasi Hills, Ri Bhoi, Eastern West Khasi Hills, West Jaintia Hills, North Garo Hills and the Garo Hills region, with additional sessions at the DPMU Office in East Jaintia Hills and Ampati, South West Garo Hills. The training focused on clarifying VCF roles and strengthening their capacity in project implementation and digital reporting.



FIELD MONITORING AND COMMUNITY DOCUMENTATION ACROSS MEGHALAYA

Green Field Associates carried out field monitoring and documentation across Meghalaya, visiting Rongru Wategiri village in Chokpot Block, South Garo Hills, with the IEIC team, and Bansinggre village in Samanda Block, East Garo Hills. The team also inspected the 2023 plantation plot at Lum Thangsyiem, Daistong village, to review plantation progress.

MoUs and Assisted Regeneration (AR) records were collected from 11 villages across East and West Jaintia Hills, East and South West Garo Hills, and East Khasi Hills. These activities supported plantation monitoring, beneficiary documentation and community-level coordination under the project.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDG 12

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Supporting eco-friendly processing of local products and promoting a culture of sustainable and organic living.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR MEGHALAYA

Supporting eco-friendly processing of local products, reducing waste in our natural resource value chains, and promoting a culture of sustainable and organic living.



FIVE FOCUS AREAS

01 Eco-friendly processing
Use sustainable and traditional processing methods for local goods.

02 Resource efficiency
Minimize resource inputs and waste through all production cycles.

03 Sustainable tourism
Promote responsible tourism that benefits local communities and nature.

04 Waste management
Establish effective systems for waste reduction, reuse, and recycling.

05 Consumer education
Empower local consumers with knowledge on sustainable lifestyles and choices.

TOWARDS 2030

A future where production is sustainable, and consumption is mindful of our local resources.

A LOCAL PATHWAY

Source responsibly → Reduce waste → Add value → Foster conscious living

The Planning Department coordinates SDG action and monitoring across Meghalaya.

Sources & credits: United Nations (SDG 12); Planning Department, Government of Meghalaya.
sdgs.un.org/goals/goal12 | megplanning.gov.in

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