

NEWSLETTER

Updates of the Week

29 November 2023



**THE MEGHALAYA COMMUNITY LED LANDSCAPE
MANAGEMENT PROJECT (MCLLMP)**



**THE MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT
THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (MEGLIFE)**



INSTITUTE OF NATURAL RESOURCES (INR)



**THE MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO
MARKETS PROJECT (MEGHA-LAMP)**



**FARMERS' COLLECTIVIZATION FOR UPSCALING OF
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING SYSTEMS (FOCUS)**



**THE MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY
(MBMA)**



**THE MEGHALAYA BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(MBDA)**



Community Led Landscape Management Project (CLLMP)



UPDATES OF THE WEEK

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY



Following the completion of the Traditional Hall construction, a thorough inspection has confirmed that the structure is in excellent order. The Traditional Hall is now fully ready for use by the villagers, marking the successful realization of the construction project.

Nurturing a GREEN Meghalaya Future

In a significant development, CLLMP DPMU EKH organized an orientation program centered around 'GREEN Meghalaya' at the Conference Hall, Mawkynrew C&RD Block, on November 7, 2023. The event witnessed the presence of GFA representatives from Shella and Laitkroh Mawkynrew Block, and was attended by all beneficiaries from Phase 2, Batch 2, and Batch 3 of Mawkynrew C&RD Block.

Kicking off with an informative introduction by both staff and beneficiaries, the program delved into a comprehensive discussion covering guidelines, activities, Utilization Certificates (UC), and the essential rules and benefits of the Working Scheme and Community Reserve Forest.

These aspects are crucial for beneficiaries participating in the PES GREEN Meghalaya initiative, as highlighted by the DPMU staff.

Following this, the program transitioned into an engaging interactive session and concluded with the distribution of FAQ guidelines and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Noteworthy was the expressed interest from some beneficiaries in the Working Scheme and Community Reserve Forest. Facilitated by their respective GFA representatives, they diligently completed the required forms, marking a positive stride in the initiative.



On November 22, the Knowledge Management (KM) team conducted a field visit to Laikyntoit and Marbaniang Umseiniong in Myllem Block. The primary goal was to systematically document and capture extensive images of all successfully completed interventions in the area. The purpose of this visit was to create a detailed visual record, ensuring comprehensive documentation for future reference, analysis, and dissemination of accomplished projects. The team diligently recorded photographs and visuals for each completed intervention, meticulously documenting the impact, progress, and quality of executed initiatives within the region.



DPMU SWKH conducted an inspection and found that the VNRMC had undertaken an additional round of maintenance for the Community Nursery. The Vermi Composting shed also underwent maintenance, utilizing locally available materials such as straws and bamboo for the roof.



In a recent development, the District Project Manager (DPM) of Ri-Bhoi District Project Management Unit (DPMU) conducted a thorough follow-up inspection at the construction sites of the NRM Library in Mawdiangum, Umling Block on November 18th. The inspection confirmed the successful completion of the library construction, marking a milestone in the project's progress.

Grassroot Innovation Initiative Progress in Mawtneng Bhoirybong Block



District Project Manager (DPM) of Ri-Bhoi conducted a comprehensive visit to Mawtneng Bhoirybong Block on November 17th. The primary focus was on inspecting the sites implemented under the Grees Mawtneng village, the Grassroot Innovation initiative.

During the inspection, an encouraging 90% completion rate was noted, signaling significant progress in the initiative. To ensure the timely completion and efficient closure of the project, the DPM tentatively set a deadline, targeting the settlement of Utilization Certificates (UCs) by the end of the month.

Emphasizing the urgency of submitting all necessary reports, this strategic move aims to streamline administrative processes and ensure accountability.

The tour extended to other implementation sites, with particular attention given to the construction of a check dam funded under the catalytic SRES Fund. Notably, both the initiation and completion of the construction were observed, reflecting a proactive approach to diverse projects within the region.



Ri-Bhoi DPMU organised PES orientation

In a collaborative effort towards sustainable development, the District Project Manager (DPM) and the Environment team of Ri-Bhoi District Project Management Unit (DPMU) actively supported the Green Field Associates (GFA) of Umsning Block during the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) orientation program under Phase 02 on November 15th and 16th.

The orientation program unfolded in two batches, highlighting its inclusivity and reach. The first batch, consisting of 42 beneficiaries, included 2 individuals and 40 community members. Following this, the second batch comprised a larger group of 73 beneficiaries, with 10 from the community and 63 individuals. This approach reflects the program's commitment to providing essential information and assistance to a diverse array of participants.

Throughout the orientation, the emphasis was on the significance of sustainable development. The program underscored the crucial role each participant plays in preserving and respecting Mother Nature. This educational initiative not only equips individuals with knowledge but also instills a collective responsibility for environmental stewardship in the community.

The active involvement of the Ri-Bhoi DPMU's DPM and Environment team showcases their commitment to fostering holistic and environmentally conscious practices within the Umsning Block. The success of such programs lies not only in information dissemination but in empowering communities to become active contributors to sustainable and ecologically responsible development.



Collaborative assessment and discussion regarding the Community Hall project at Myntriang Madan Ball. Present at the evaluation were the District Project Manager (DPM), Village Education Committee Secretary (VEC), and the Executive Engineer from the KM team.



Engaging in a detailed inspection of the Check Dam project initiated under the CTF-SRES activity in Mynjhad at Myntriang village.

DPMU EKH Collaborates in Knowledge Exchange with Bhutanese Delegation

In a collaborative effort fostering cross-border knowledge sharing, the DPM, KM, and GIS teams embarked on a field trip on November 23, 2023, accompanied by representatives from the "Centre for Bhutan and GNH Studies." This knowledge exchange program was conducted in partnership with Asian Confluence, aiming to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation.



Green Revolution: Meghalaya's Acorn, IORA, and MBDA Partner for Sustainability



The collaboration among Acorn, IORA, and MBDA is dedicated to nurturing a green economy in Meghalaya, offering sustainable livelihood options to local communities and landowners. The joint strategy focuses on incentivizing forest restoration, safeguarding biodiversity, and enhancing ecosystem services. A crucial component of this endeavor is the Acorn Data Collection Tool (DCT), meticulously crafted for comprehensive data gathering in the state's agroforestry plants. Extensive orientation, training,

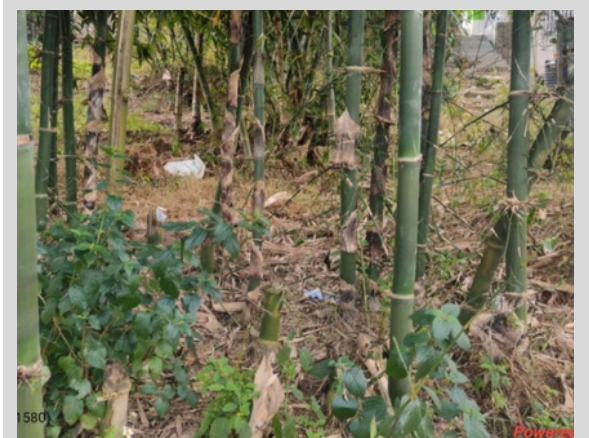
and hands-on sessions were conducted for Data Collectors (VCFs) across all MBMA districts to ensure the tool's effectiveness.

The project's vision is to position Meghalaya as a frontrunner in jurisdictional carbon development, aligning with the broader goal of strengthening ecosystems and empowering communities against the impacts of climate change. Highlighting the infusion of traditional knowledge in forest conservation, the initiative aims to inspire other regions, reinforcing Meghalaya's commitment to a sustainable and resilient future.

SNIPPETS



SWKH DPMU conducted a follow-up on the botanical garden, advising members on future actions needed to enhance the garden for the benefit of the village.



WJH DPMU conducted a site visit to Mukhla, Ummulong, Madur, and Mookyndur for a comprehensive bamboo assessment.



MegLIFE

Meghalaya Livelihood
Improvement through Forest
Enhancement Project (MegLIFE)



MEGLIFE COMMUNITIES ARE HARD AT WORK TO ACHIEVE THE PROJECT'S GOAL OF COVERING 22,500 HECTARES OF PLANTATION. PLANTATION OF SAPLINGS ARE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY.

West & North Garo Hills Communities Proactively Protect Forests



Communities in the West Garo Hills and North Garo Hills Districts are actively engaged in continuous efforts to establish firelines. This proactive measure is aimed at safeguarding the forests from potential fires, contributing to effective protection.

In response to the ongoing threat of wildfires, Village Project Implementation Committees (VPICs) are working diligently to create firelines,

servicing as a crucial preventive measure. These efforts align with the communities' commitment to preserving and protecting the local forest ecosystems. The establishment of firelines is a practical step to mitigate the risk of fires and enhance overall forest safety.

By taking these proactive measures, the communities are demonstrating a shared responsibility for environmental conservation and a commitment to ensuring the long-term health and resilience of their forests.



Tarime M Marak recently conducted a comprehensive inspection of Soil and Water Conservation (SWC) structures in Imsambal and Kalwe villages, both integral parts of the Kharkutta block. The verification process confirmed the presence of 4 spring-tapped chambers, 3 dug-out ponds, and 2 plastic tanks, underlining the positive strides in sustainable water resource management in the region.

Collaborative Seed Collection Boosts Garo Hills Community Nurseries



Village Community Facilitators (VCFs) from West Garo Hills District and Programme Associate (PA) from East Garo Hills District are joining forces to collect seeds for replenishing vacant polybags in community nurseries.

This collaborative initiative underscores the dedication of local communities to sustainable practices and the nurturing of community nurseries. By actively collecting seeds, VCFs and PA members aim to contribute to the growth and vitality of these nurseries, promoting biodiversity and environmental conservation.

This hands-on approach showcases a shared commitment to environmental stewardship, fostering resilience in community nurseries for the benefit of present and future generations in the Garo Hills Districts.



On November 22, 2023, BPM Peacefulda Ryntathiang conducted a thorough inspection of the Community Nursery and monitored the ongoing progress in constructing the Community Hall at the Niangdai VPIC site. This on-site visit reflects a proactive approach to ensure the successful development of community-centric projects in the region.



Tueshva Marak visited Resagre village on Nov 27, 2023, to identify sites for Soil and Water Conservation structures like Minor Irrigation CD, Vented CD, RCC Storage Tank, and Conservation Pond. This proactive effort aims to improve water resource management in the region.



Community nurseries have been set up in different Blocks across various villages, managed by VPICs, to grow plants for the upcoming year in specified plantation areas.

SALT - SLOPING AGRICULTURE LAND TECHNOLOGY

SALT training is being imparted to farmers of the MegLIFE Project wherever feasible to improve land productivity and fertility. The technique is enthusiastically being adopted by the trainees.



In West/South Garo Hills Districts, individual farmers are making a remarkable impact through SALT farming. This innovative agricultural approach not only enhances soil fertility on their lands but also brings about positive transformations in the overall well-being of the community. By embracing sustainable practices and fostering collaboration, SALT farming becomes a catalyst for a more promising and prosperous future in the region.

ENTRY POINT ACTIVITY - COMMUNITY HALL

The construction of 370 community halls has been sanctioned under EPA of MegLIFE. Initial phases of site preparation is underway.



Ongoing construction of community halls in Various District.

Institute of Natural Resources

(INR)



CENTRE FOR BIO-RESOURCES



Monitoring of Geranium Nursery by Resource person Dr. Bansal, Ex Principal Scientist of CSIR-CIMAP at Nongkasen village, Mawthadraishan Block, EWKH and Khliehmawlieh village, Nongstoin Block, WKH.

Awareness Programme On Medicinal and Aromatic Plnats



Monitoring of Geranium Nursery by Resource person Dr. Bansal, Ex Principal Scientist of CSIR-CIMAP at Nongkasen village, Mawthadraishan Block, EWKH and Khliehmawlieh village, Nongstoin Block, WKH.

World Bank Mission at Byrwa



With the World Bank Mission team in Meghalaya, a two- day field visit was conducted to assess the interventions implemented under the Community-Led Landscape Management Project. Among these visits, Ms. Mridula Singh, Co-TTL of the World Bank, explored Byrwa village to observe the Megh Aroma Mission. Ms. Merula expressed a keen interest in understanding both the plantation and distillation processes of essential oils, as well as their market linkages.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT



IVCS * INRM * ISC-ED

Megha **LAMP**

Meghalaya Livelihoods Access to Market Project

In Partnership With IFAD



A training session on off-season vegetable cultivation for Producer Groups took place at Munaisora village, Ranikor Block, **South West Khasi Hills** from November 14th to November 15th, 2023.

On November 25, 2023, Shri. A. S. Suting, Deputy Project Director, MLAMP, MBMA, along with the District Project Management team, **East Khasi Hills**, conducted a site inspection and follow-up of construction works under Khatarshnong Laitkroh Block at Sohrarim and Laitumiong villages.



Sensitization Program on Ginger

Agregation

On November 21, 2023, a one-day sensitization program on ginger aggregation for Producer Groups (PGs) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) was organized by the Enterprise Facilitation Centre (EFC), Mawryngkneng Block, **East Khasi Hills**. Held at the Ginger Processing Unit managed by Lamjingshai Village Organisation, Nonghali, the event included participants such as Shri. Andrew Mawlong, Block Project Manager of NRLM, EFC staff, and others. During the program, a Panch Pran Pledge was collectively taken by all attendees, led by Shri Zend Kharmalki, Center Manager of EFC.



Meeting on Farmer's Market with the Block Development Officer and the Diengkynthong Farmer's Market Committee took place at Khatarshnong Laitkroh Block, **East Khasi Hills** on November 22, 2023.



Inspections were conducted on November 22, 2023, for both community nursery land development and land development for the Collective Marketing Centre (Prefab) in Khrang, Khatarshnong Laitkroh Block, **East Khasi Hills**.



A two-day training on pepper cultivation for Producer Groups (PGs) took place at Umpung village, under Umpung cluster, Ranikor C & RD Block. The program, conducted by the ISC & ED Component, Mawkyrwat, **South West Khasi Hills**, was held on November 23rd and 24th, 2023.



B. Kharmynthon, Shri. P. Shangpliang, Circle Officers from the Department of Corporation, village leaders, and members of Producer Groups and Self-Help Groups, these programs aimed to foster community understanding and engagement in IVCS initiatives.



Ongoing Campaign for Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS)

Throughout November 2023, impactful awareness programs on Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS) unfolded in various districts of Meghalaya. In Mawwan village, Liewlong village, and Nongkohlew village of **East Khasi Hills**, the FOCUS Team facilitated sessions. Dommawiong Village in **South West Khasi Hills** witnessed an awareness program on

IVCS on November 17, 2023. Mawksiar Village in South West Khasi Hills and Synnei and Phlangmawysrpat village under Mawsynram C&RD Block, **East Khasi Hills**, were covered on November 24, 2023. In Laitkor village, East Khasi Hills, an awareness program was held on November 24, 2023. Jakrem village in Mawkyrwat C&RD, **South West Khasi Hills**, saw an IVCS awareness program on November 27, 2023. Attended by key figures such as Smt.



An awareness program on the Land Evaluation of Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS) was conducted by the District Project Management team, **East Khasi Hills**, in collaboration with the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council. This event took place at Khatarshnong Laitkroh Block on November 21st, 2023.

Elevating Entrepreneurship: One-Day Registration Camps for CM ELEVATE Program in Meghalaya



On November 14, 2023, a one-day camp on registration for the CM ELEVATE Program was conducted in both Mawkyrwat Block's Hall and Ranikor Block's Hall, **South West Khasi Hills**. FOCUS staff, along with FOCUS volunteers, provided assistance with the registration and application process for entrepreneurs, both unregistered and registered entities. A similar program was also conducted on the 27th November 2023 at Amlarem Block, **West Jaintia Hills**.

Knowledge Management
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