

# TOGETHER



Project for Community Based Forest Management & Livelihoods  
Improvement in Meghalaya (MegLIFE) | Meghalaya Basin Development  
Authority (MBDA)

## In this Issue

- ✓ Orientation of newly recruited Field Engineers and Project Associates
- ✓ Construction of Community Halls as Entry Point Activity in MegLIFE Villages
- ✓ SALT -in convergence with World Bank Supported CLLMP
- ✓ Spring Mapping -An Initiative to rejuvenate critical springs in MegLIFE Villages
- ✓ Review of PLUP & Microplanning Exercise for Batch-I villages
- ✓ Training of Trainer on Afforestation under MegLIFE Villages
- ✓ Visit of Project Officials to MegLIFE Villages



## Project Director's Desk

I am pleased to share the March 2023 issue of the newsletter for the MegLIFE Project, titled "TOGETHER." The main objective of this newsletter is to inform readers about the project and periodically update them on the progress and accomplishments achieved thus far. This March 2023 newsletter focuses on the activities implemented during the last quarter of 2022-23, i.e., for the period January to March 2023.

With the commencement of the implementation phase, it is now time to establish targets and concentrate on their time-bound completion. Building upon the established foundation, realizing the envisioned goals and objectives will require considerable patience and understanding. The effective implementation of the project depends on a comprehensive comprehension of the Annual Plan of Operation, enabling the setting of block-wise targets. This approach ensures that set targets can be completed within the designated timeframe.

The achievement of quarterly targets relies on the efficient functioning and cooperation among all the units and sections involved in the MegLIFE project. We eagerly anticipate success in meeting future targets as we work together towards our shared objectives.

*Dr. Vijay Kumar D., IAS*



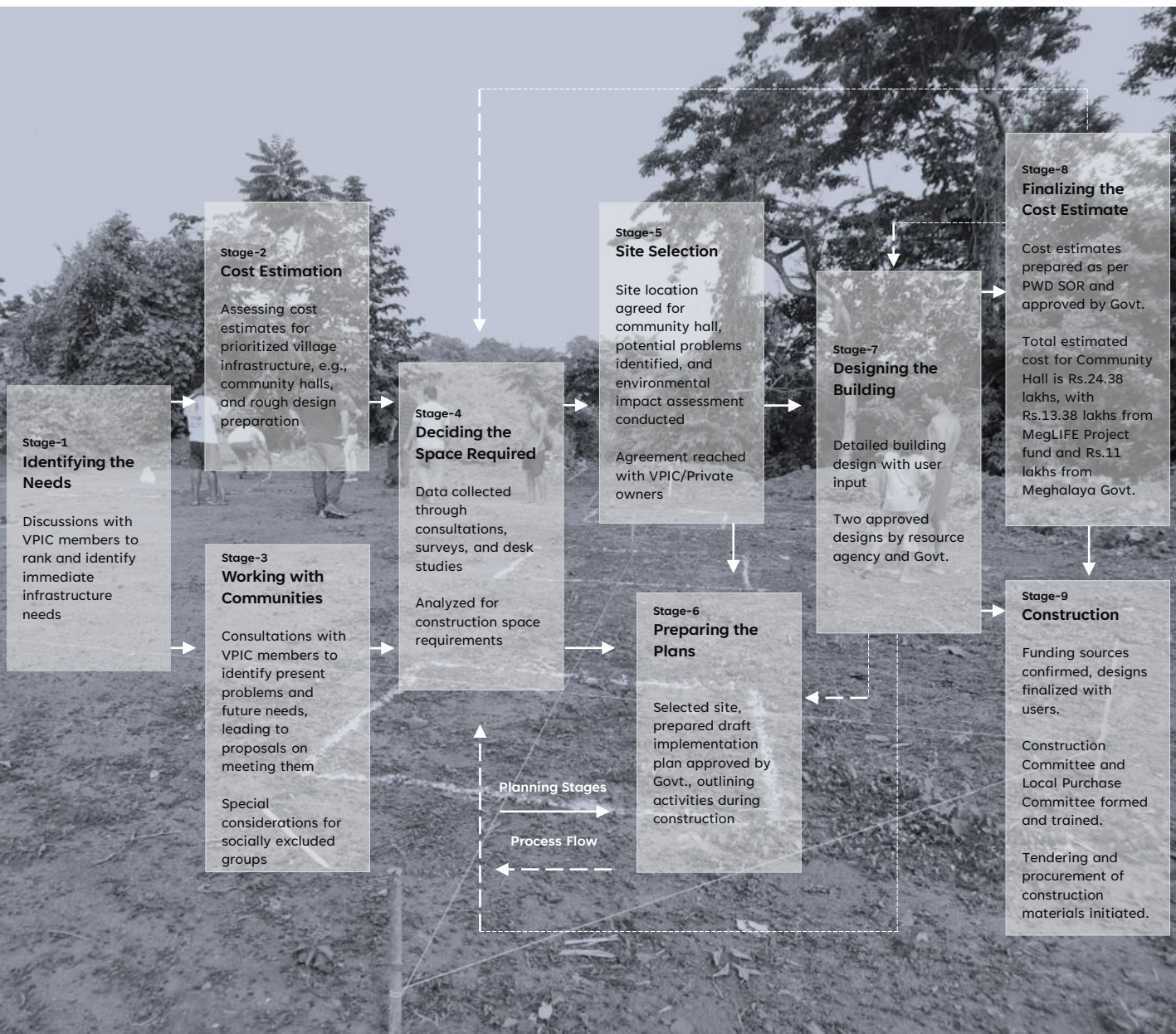
# PROJECT UPDATES

## Orientation training of newly recruited Field Engineers and Project Associates

MegLIFE has recruited 39 Field Engineers and 27 Project Associates to assist the Block Project Managers and VPICs in implementing the project works, including the construction of soil and water conservation structures, community halls, and the establishment of plantations and nurseries in the Project Villages, respectively.

Orientation training was organized for the Field Engineers from 14th to 17th March 2023. Similarly, training was conducted for Project Associates from 20th to 29th March 2023 at the SPMU, Shillong, and at DPMU, WGH in Tura. The training focused on various aspects, such as general rules applied to all MBDA employees, an overview of the Project, details of the expected tasks, duties and responsibilities, as well as record maintenance.

## Construction of Community Halls under EPA under MegLIFE



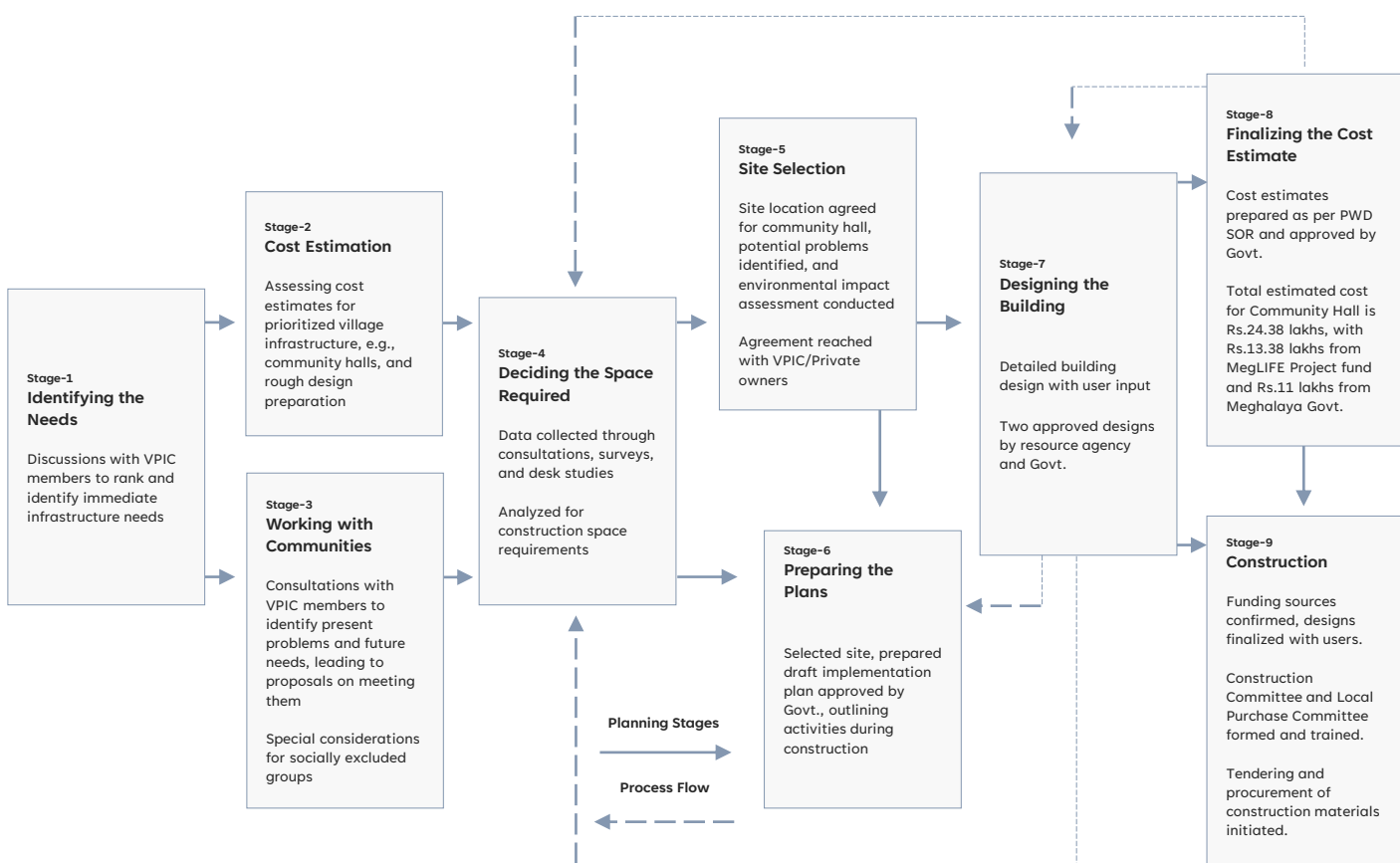
# PROJECT UPDATES

## Orientation training of newly recruited Field Engineers and Project Associates

MegLIFE has recruited 39 Field Engineers and 27 Project Associates to assist the Block Project Managers and VPICs in implementing the project works, including the construction of soil and water conservation structures, community halls, and the establishment of plantations and nurseries in the Project Villages, respectively.

Orientation training was organized for the Field Engineers from 14th to 17th March 2023. Similarly, training was conducted for Project Associates from 20th to 29th March 2023 at the SPMU, Shillong, and at DPMU, WGH in Tura. The training focused on various aspects, such as general rules applied to all MBDA employees, an overview of the Project, details of the expected tasks, duties and responsibilities, as well as record maintenance.

## Construction of Community Halls under EPA under MegLIFE





## SALT Farm Training for Willing Farmers of MegLIFE Villages



Orientation training program was conducted by the Block Project Managers on Sloping Agriculture Land Technology (SALT). The program was attended by Village Community Facilitators (VCFs) and willing farmers from project villages. A total of 1,400 farmers in 22 Project Blocks were trained in convergence with the World Bank-funded CLLMP Project of MBMA. Interactive and participatory training methods, including discussions, were applied during the orientation training. The training took place in classrooms and through field demonstrations. Interactive and feedback sessions involving the participants were arranged at the beginning and end of the training. The training focused on the introduction SALT, the demonstration of different SALT models, and planning and preparation for the establishment of SALT Farms. Field demonstrations in existing SALT farms included the demonstration and hands-on practice of aligning contour lines using an A-frame, as well as showcasing different SALT farm models.

### Training of VCFs on Hydrological Spring Mapping

A one-day orientation training program was conducted in February 2023 on hydrological spring mapping, survey using GPS devices, and conducting household surveys using an app in convergence with the Water Team of the Institute of Natural Resources, Meghalaya (INR). Participants were trained to collect relevant data on a regular basis, including spring discharge, water quality, and rainfall measurements, as well as perform hydrological mapping. After thorough training, the VCFs were given charge to conduct mapping, while the Green Project Associates (GPAs) of INR will assist them. The aim of this exercise is to map the critical springs which require immediate attention for rejuvenation and demarcation of recharge zones of those critical springs.

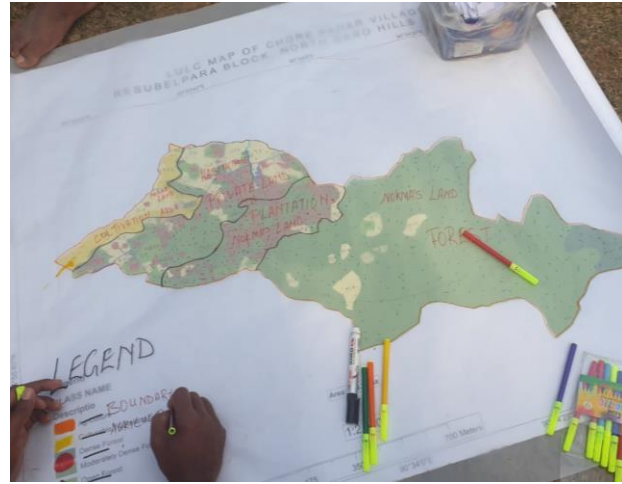
### 3-Day Training of Trainers (TOT) Program on Raising Plantation in MegLIFE Project Villages

Since the project has a huge afforestation target of 22,500 ha, it was necessary to train the BPMU staff on afforestation. It was a ToT (Training of Trainers) session, and the trainers were Shri G.S. Raju, IFS (Retd.), Consultant, PM, SPMU, MegLIFE, Shri R.P. Agarwalla, IFS (Retd.), Forestry & Bio-Diversity Expert, PMC, MegLIFE, and Smti Bratati Purkayastha, TS, PM, SPMU, MegLIFE. The training was conducted in two batches, with one held for the Khasi & Jaintia Hills Region in Shillong and another for the Garo Hills Region in Tura. The training sessions were highly successful, as the participants without a forestry background were able to learn about forestry, which is expected to help them in afforestation activities, including nursery management.

# PROJECT UPDATES

## Review of Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP) and Microplanning Exercise of Batch-1 Villages at SPMU, MegLIFE

A one-day workshop was held on January 20th, 2023, at the MegLIFE head office to conduct a review of the ongoing Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP) and micro-planning exercise. The purpose was to assess the progress made and identify challenges faced by the field staff. All Block Project Managers (BPMs) attended the workshop and were encouraged to provide suggestions for overcoming constraints. Agreed actions include: 1. Conduct the micro planning process during the villagers' lean or free periods; 2. Ensure maps are printed before starting the PLUP and micro planning process; 3. Provide thorough training to VCFs on using the HH survey App; 4. Use the local language for the HH survey format; and 5. Collect only the necessary information as per the Micro Plan formats.



## Additional Project Director, MegLIFE make Field Visits to Project Villages

From January 26th to January 31st, 2023, MegLIFE APD Shri. Gunanka DB (IFS) visited various MegLIFE villages to review status of PLUP and microplanning. The visited blocks were Gasuapara, Rongara, and Bagmara in South Garo Hills, Samanda and Songsak in East Garo Hills, and Mawkynew in East Khasi Hills. The following villages were visited during the review:

- Tebisokgre Village in Gasuapara, South Garo Hills, for PLUP and Microplanning exercises.
- Darang Boldak Village in Bagmara, South Garo Hills, for PLUP and Microplanning exercises, along with visits to Community Forest Reserve, Community Bamboo Reserve, Proposed Site for Checkdam, Broom Grass Collection Centre, and Shri Hopping Marak's SALT Farm.
- Dorakgre Village in Samanda, East Garo Hills, for PLUP and Microplanning exercises, including visits to Community Reserve Forest and Proposed intervention sites.
- Dangkorg Chitoregre Village in Songsak Block, East Garo Hills, for PLUP and Microplanning exercises.
- Mawdulop Village in Mawkynew, East Khasi Hills, for PLUP and Microplanning exercises.

During the visit to Dorakgre Village in Samanda, the District Forest Officer (DFO) of East Garo Hills accompanied Shri. Gunanka DB. The visit was highly beneficial in building confidence among the local community and the project staff. Several meetings were also conducted with the project staff.



Published By: SPMU, MegLIFE, MBDA

### Further Details Please Contact:

O/o Project Director, Project for Community Based Forest Management and Livelihoods Improvement in Meghalaya (MegLIFE), Shalom Building, 2nd Floor, Block-3, Lower Lachumiere, Shillong-793001

Ph-0364-3510190 | [Email-meglifembda@gmail.com](mailto:Email-meglifembda@gmail.com)



**“TOGETHER”**  
we can make a  
difference...