

# NEWSLETTER

**Updates of the Week**

28th February 2024



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



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



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



**INSTITUTE OF NATURAL RESOURCES (INR)**



**PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA**



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



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



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

# UPDATES OF THE WEEK

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

## HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK

### Meghalaya Chief Minister Shri. Conrad Sangma Unveils Garo Hills Agro Food Park



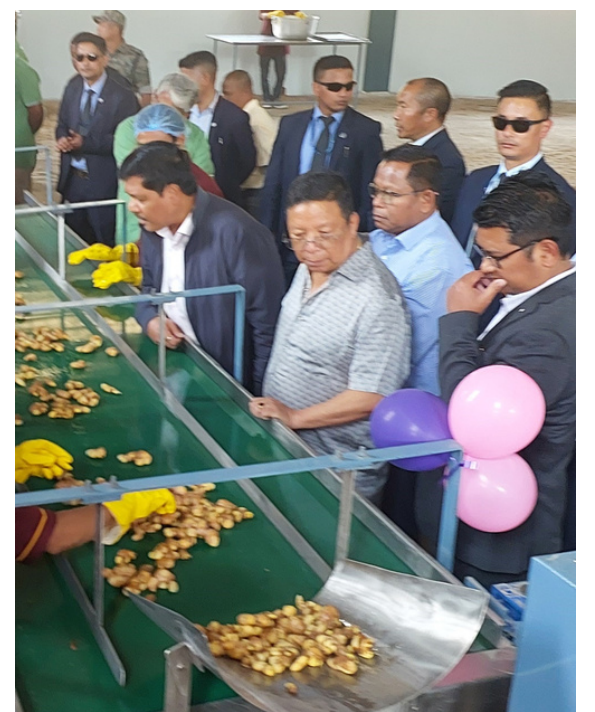
In a momentous event on February 24, 2024, Shri. Conrad Sangma, the esteemed Chief Minister of Meghalaya, officially inaugurated the Garo Hills Agro Food Park in Babadam, West Garo Hills. This groundbreaking initiative, bolstered by the All Garo Hills Multi Purpose Society Ltd., promises to revolutionize rural livelihoods in the region.

Under the leadership of All Garo Hills Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd. (AGHMCS), with steadfast support from MBMA, the project brings together 32 primary cooperative societies and over 4,000 farmers.

Featuring cutting-edge facilities such as Mustard and Ginger Processing Units, a Cashew Processing Unit, a state-of-the-art Hi-Tech Food Lab, a Solar Power Plant, and a fleet of 25 Cold Storage Units, the park represents a substantial investment totaling ₹15.73 crore.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed the esteemed presence of key figures including Shri. Thomas A Sangma, Hon'ble Speaker of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, and Shri Marcuise N Marak, Minister of PHE, alongside other notable dignitaries.

Adding to the excitement, the event also marked the official opening of 25 Cold Storage Units and the unveiling of the foundation stone for the P. A. Sangma Shopping Complex, signaling a significant boost to the economic landscape of the region. Stay tuned for further updates on this transformative development!



# MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT



RF \* INRM \* ISC-ED

*Megha***LAMP**  
Meghalaya Livelihoods Access to Market Project  
In Partnership With IFAD

# MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

## AWARENESS AND WORKSHOP PROGRAMMES ON IVCS

3 Days training on Preparation of Business Plan & Action Plan for IVCS (Garo Hills Region) was conducted at SMELC, Dakopgre, Tura, West Garo Hills from 21st to 23rd February, 2024. It was organized by the Rural Finance, MBMA. The training was conducted by the mater trainers and was attended by 38 nos. of IVCS in charge from 11 Districts of Garo Hills.



On February 24, 2024, a Financial Literacy Programme (FLP) was conducted at Lumpohsiej under the Mookynniang Integrated Village Cooperative Society (IVCS). Concurrently, an MC meeting took place at Sohphoh IVCS. During the MC meeting, discussions centered around the business plan, reviewing the CMC working capital, and determining profit sharing within the IVCS.



On 22nd February 2024, inspections were carried out, including visits to tourism (Homestay) construction sites at Mawmluh and Laitmawsiang, a Farmer's Market inspection at Diengkynthong, and examinations of three tourism project sites managed by the respective Cooperative Societies under Mawsynram Block.



# Community Led Landscape Management Project (CLLMP)



## MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY



On February 26th, 2024, an orientation session on AgroForestry-based Carbon Credit was held at Science Hall in Nongpoh, Ri-Bhoi District. Organized by the IORA team, the session was led by Shri officials. Ambuj Shukla and Smt. Megha Shruti. Their presentation aimed to highlight the various benefits of carbon credits, with the goal of raising awareness among the attendees. The event saw a turnout of 56 participants, and the IORA team received assistance from the CLLMP Ri-Bhoi DPMU staff.

Overall, the orientation session was successful in promoting understanding and appreciation for AgroForestry-based Carbon Credit initiatives, encouraging participants to highlight the importance of cooperation between financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, and local communities in achieving shared goals related to sustainability and carbon reduction.



Ri-Bhoi AM-KM visited Mawkyrdep village under Bhoirymbong block & Mawdiangum Village under Umling block. The Knowledge Management team of Ri-Bhoi focused on providing comprehensive guidance and support to the videographers tasked with documenting the implemented sites for the upcoming Natural Resource Management (NRM) Library.

This visit held profound significance as it coincided with a critical phase of the project, with the NRM Library nearing completion. Thus, ensuring a thorough documentation was paramount to accurately capturing the essence of the implemented initiatives.

This collaborative approach facilitated open communication between the team, videographers, and local community members, enabling the capture of unique perspectives and experiences.



# Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)



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 MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY
 

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## "Empowering Communities Through MRV Trainings and Surveys: A Journey of Learning"



On February 23, 2024, MRV (Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification) tasks were undertaken in the Lotnagar reserve located in Baghmara. These tasks likely involved monitoring, reporting, and verifying environmental or conservation efforts within the reserve.

Subsequently, on February 25, 2024, MRV activities were conducted in the PES MRV Pollendro Kharkutta Block. Similarly, these activities would have been centered on monitoring, reporting, and verifying environmental or conservation initiatives within this specific block.

Taken together, these MRV activities reflect a coordinated effort to evaluate and manage environmental resources and conservation endeavors across different regions.

### SNIPPETS



Green Field Associates (GFAs) are presently in the process of collecting application forms and utilization certificates, demonstrating their active involvement in gathering comprehensive information from applicants.



Meetings are underway with beneficiaries of the payment for ecosystem services scheme. The sessions encompass guidance on effective fund utilization and timely submission of Utilization Certificates (UC).



## MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY



### Meeting Update (23/02/2024)

Sir Rupankar Marak (DFO), MFS, led the discussion in our recent gathering! Here are the highlights:

Selecting two applicants/block with a strong commitment to CRF norms is a top priority.

The selection process involves input from Nokmas, executive members, and villagers, leading to the election of village officials and a joint account setup.

Approval from Nokma and clan members, alongside boundary verification and socio-economic surveys, is crucial.

Applicants must sign a Non-Judicial form upon acceptance, with legal notices issued as needed.

Careful beneficiary selection is emphasized to prevent conflicts.

GFAs are tasked with coordinating with Range Officers.

A follow-up meeting with Range Officer Nongpoh in Ribhoi district is scheduled for February 25, 2024, involving community reserve beneficiaries from Umling, Umsning, Jirang, and Bhoirymbong blocks.



# MegLIFE

Meghalaya Livelihood  
Improvement through Forest  
Enhancement Project (MegLIFE)



## MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

" "MegLIFE Garo Hills' VPIC Leaders' Exposure Trip to Kolkata "



The MegLIFE team from Garo Hills organized a four-day exposure trip to Kolkata for 23 VPIC leaders representing each of the VPICs from the Blocks of Samanda, Rongara, Baghmara, and Betasing. The trip took place from February 21st to 24th, 2024. A notable aspect was the exploration of a 15-hectare plantation project in Rakshitpur village managed by the Malandighi Beat and Durgapur Range, in collaboration with the Joint Forest Management Committee of Rakshitpur village. This project has successfully transformed previously barren land by strategically planting Sal trees and associated flora. The layout includes four lines of Sal trees alternated with four lines of Sal associates, aiming to increase greenery and foster biodiversity. VPIC leaders were accompanied by key officials such as the Forest Ranger of Durgapur, Shri Sudeep, and the Beat Officer of Malandighi, who shared insights into the plantation's establishment. The project, initiated in 2018 as part of the WBFBC project funded by JICA, has gained recognition as one of the region's finest, showcasing its effectiveness and influence.



On February 21, 2024, an audit was carried out within the SWGH District.



Community nurseries have been set up in different Blocks across various villages, managed by VPICs, to grow plants for the upcoming year 2024 in specified plantation areas.

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 MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY
 

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# "Initiation and Progress of MegLIFE Springshed Management Training in Meghalaya"



On February 20, 2024, the MegLIFE project commenced its Orientation and Training sessions on Springshed Management in Meghalaya, held simultaneously in the Garo and Khasi/Jaintia/Ri Bhoi regions. The objective was to impart knowledge to participants about Springshed Management and Development within villages involved in the MegLIFE project. On Day 2, which took place on February 22, the Advanced Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (ACWADAM) team collaborated with Gambegre Block staff at Sisogre village to identify a crucial spring for comprehensive spring water rejuvenation efforts.



Activities included engaging in focus group discussions with the community, identifying springs, measuring discharge rates, and collecting data on salinity, TDS, temperature, and iron content. Furthermore, water samples were gathered to assess bacterial contamination using sulphide ion strip testing. Updates were also provided on Springshed Management in Chandigre VPIC Rongram block, with a particular focus on Sisogre and Gambegre. A two-day field survey for springshed management was successfully conducted at Mawtharap village under Mairang Block.



Progressing with the fireline cleaning activities at Ajasiram Community Reserve, under Resubelpara Block .

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# MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

## 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



# Institute of Natural Resources

(INR)



# MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

## INSTITUTE OF NATURAL RESOURCES



On February 28th, 2024, the staff of the Institute of Natural Resources, Meghalaya, actively took part in the National Science Day 2024 exhibition, organized by SCSTE at the State Convention Centre. The teams showcased their projects, including the Megh Aroma Mission, Decentralized Green Energy Development Project, and activities of the Centre for Water Resources. Numerous students and delegates showed keen interest in the projects undertaken by INR.



# Protection of Vulnerable Catchment Areas in Meghalaya (MegARISE)





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## MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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EKH-CMU team recently paid a visit to Umtynngar village for a comprehensive discussion on the project's goals and upcoming events slated for the village. In a fruitful meeting, various topics were deliberated upon, shedding light on the challenges and issues confronting the village.

The gathering provided a platform for an in-depth examination of the village's pressing concerns, fostering constructive dialogue aimed at addressing these challenges effectively. Among the attendees were representatives from the village, including the Headman and members of the Self-Help Group (SHG).

Through collaborative efforts and open communication, the EKH-CMU team and village stakeholders are working towards sustainable solutions that will positively impact Umtynngar's community and propel its development trajectory forward.

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The EKH Catchment Management Unit (CMU), under the guidance of the Department Manager of Social Management, recently embarked on a ground-truthing visit to Mawnarian village. Accompanied by members of the Environment and Knowledge Management team, the visit aimed to foster meaningful dialogue and exchange between the CMU and the village community.

During the visit, the team had the opportunity to engage in extensive discussions with the village headman, delving into various aspects of village affairs and raising awareness about ongoing projects. The discussions were comprehensive, touching upon a wide array of topics crucial to the village's development and well-being.

Through this collaborative effort, the EKH CMU seeks to strengthen its relationship with Mawnarian village and ensure that community voices are heard and incorporated into project planning and implementation. This ground-truthing visit underscores the commitment of the CMU to fostering inclusive and participatory approaches towards sustainable development in the region.

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