

NEWSLETTER

Updates of the Week

17th April 2024



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



THE MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (MEGLIFE)



PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA



THE MEGHALAYA COMMUNITY LED LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PROJECT (MCLLMP)



SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA



INSTITUTE OF NATURAL RESOURCES (INR)



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



THE MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY (MBMA)



THE MEGHALAYA BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MBDA)

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT



RF * INRM * ISC-ED

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

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

TRAININGS & OTHERS



The Department of Horticulture, in collaboration with MBMA, organized a capacity building programme at the training hall of Rongram Horti Hub for Farm Managers and representatives of Cooperative Societies from Garo Hills as part of the Ginger Mission. Thirty-three Cooperative Societies representatives and eight Farm Managers participated in the programme.



Livelihood Business Incubator West Khasi Hills District

The Adventure Travel Guide training program, comprising camping, trekking, and theory classes over 80 days, has successfully concluded.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

SITE INSPECTIONS



Shri. Augustus S Suting, Deputy Project Director, Megha-LAMP, MBMA along with Shri. Shanlang Lyngdoh, Chief Operating Officer, MSRLS visited Bolmoram Adik Chibasal IVCS Ltd., under Songsak C&RD Block and interacted with IVCS members and community leaders. He also visited the ginger processing unit and interacted with ginger farmers as well.



MegLIFE

Meghalaya Livelihood
Improvement through Forest
Enhancement Project (MegLIFE)



MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENCHANCEMENT PROJECT

Ongoing Jungle Clearing Initiatives Across Various Villages



Advance jungle clearance operations have commenced in various villages including Rimrangpara Asim Dalu, Kolkatola, Ajonggre, Nepalgre, Srop Adingre, and Lower Rembigre, with identification of naturally occurring seedlings in Srop Adingre. The work continues in Thapa Dajonggre and Thapa Darenchi Community Reserves in Resubelpara, alongside Mawmuthoh Village. Additionally, jungle clearance activities persist in Nayapara Village and Rimrangpara Asim Dalu, Tikrikilla block.

"Exploring Success: MegARISE Field Visit to West Garo Hills District"



MegARISE Implementation Consultant team, led by Mr. Lennertz Ralph, Mr. Nand Kishore Agarwal, and Mr. Adrian Marbaniang, along with SPMU & CMU, embarked on a 3-day field visit to West Garo Hills District from April 2nd to April 4th, 2024. Here are some highlights from the visit as they explored various success stories under the CLLMP and MegLIFE projects.



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.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Empowering Community Engagement and Collaborative Meetings in Village Governance



The Borogobol VPIC meeting, in collaboration with the Village Community Facilitator (VCF), underscores the increased involvement of women in village affairs compared to men. Building on their past leadership in land demarcation efforts alongside the VCF, it has been decided that women from the village will also spearhead future advance work initiatives. Additionally, BPMs and their team held a session with the VPIC Secretaries from various project village blocks to address issues of overlap in Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES). Furthermore, the IVCS nodal person arranged a meeting with the Self-Help Group (SHG) and Producer Group (PG) of Darengagre village in the Dalu block.



On April 4, 2024, an Awareness Programme was conducted in Rabukong village, West Garo Hills, by the Programme Associate of Tikrkillla Block, focusing on Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS) through MegLIFE. The programme engaged nine Producer Groups and recommended two Self Help Groups (SHGs), while eight additional SHGs participated. Key points included the functions, responsibilities, savings, loans, record-keeping, and loan management of SHGs, alongside introducing IVCS accounts and loan Revolutionary funds. It was emphasized that Producer Groups could also form SHGs. The event showcased existing SHGs' financial independence through thrift and credit, poultry farming, and highlighted the benefits of various activities such as ginger, banana, and turmeric plantation. Producer Groups shared Rs 50,000 among themselves, fostering a revolving fund system, benefiting individual members with Rs 5,000 each and enhancing their livelihoods.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Seedling Sprouting in Mother Bed from Rongpetchi VPIC: Origin and Species Identification



Seedlings are starting to emerge in the main bed from seeds of *Gmelia arborea* collected last year at Rongpetchi VPIC, although the exact species has yet to be identified.

"Agroforestry Based Carbon Credit Scheme Awareness Program Conducted in Betasing Block"



On April 5, 2024, an awareness program titled "Agroforestry Based Carbon Credit Scheme" was conducted by the IORA team in collaboration with MBMA/MBDA (#MegLIFE and CLLMP, SWGH-Ampati) at the Block Multi Facility Hall in Betasing Block, South West Garo Hills-Ampati. A total of 127 farmers from Betasing Block participated in the program. They engaged in an interactive session, addressing queries to the IORA team. Some farmers expressed interest in the program and provided consent, while others had already registered their farmland under this scheme.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENCHANCEMENT PROJECT

"Seed Collection and Distribution Initiative"



Shri Grower S. Momin, a MegLIFE Project Associate in Resubelpara Block, has gathered seeds from six distinct tree varieties. These seeds are earmarked for the establishment of a Community Nursery in 2024. Furthermore, efforts are underway to distribute these seeds to nurseries facing shortages.

VPIC Meeting on Agroforestry Mobilization



A meeting took place with the VPIC in Jajilgittim to discuss progress on preliminary work, focusing on mobilization efforts at the Simseng Rongal cluster. On April 10, 2024, details regarding the Agroforestry model and cost norms for both ANR and Agroforestry were provided. Plans were made to commence mobilization for advancing Agroforestry and ANR plantation work with the VPIC and Program Associates under Kharkutta Block at Kalwe Village.



villages Meeting

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

"Field Engineer Site Assessment for SWC Compliance"



On April 10, 2024, the Field Engineer of Betasing Block SWGH visited Malchapara village to assess the site for Plastic Tank placement, RCC check dam construction, and Road development as part of SWC activities and EPA compliance verification.

"Empowering Villages: IVCS Awareness Program"



On April 10, 2024, a comprehensive Awareness Program on Integrated Village Cooperative Society (IVCS) was conducted across cluster villages in East Garo Hills to promote sustainable development and economic empowerment. The initiative aimed to educate and empower local communities about the benefits and mechanisms of establishing an IVCS, fostering cooperation and self-reliance. A highlight of the program was the involvement of a community member from a neighbouring village where an IVCS had been successfully established who shared valuable insights and experiences, enriching the program with practical knowledge.



Neem seeds, commonly recognized as *Azadirachta indica*, were collected by VCF Belguri in the Tikrikilla block.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENCHANCEMENT PROJECT

"Jungle Clearing Sparks Progress"



Efforts to clear the jungle in several villages and Blocks have initiated progress.

"Initiating Halfmoon Terracing at Mejlgre Nokat Plantation"



The FE, GIS, and Project Associate began and exhibited halfmoon terracing at the Mejlgre Nokat plantation site.



On April 16, 2024, the Project Associate revisited and met with the VPIC of Ullubaripara to provide further explanation on cost standards, assigned man-days for various preliminary tasks, and the initiation of advance work.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST
ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
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.



SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA (SLM)



SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA

TRAININGS CONDUCTED



MSRLS conducted a Five-Day Training for Krishi Sakhi on Natural Farming at BMMU Wapung, EJHD

During the training, participants engaged in both theoretical and practical sessions covering key aspects of natural farming. The sessions included an introduction to natural farming principles and their importance, soil health management covering soil types, nutrients, and the significance of Soil Health Cards.

Participants learned to prepare bio-stimulants like Jeevamrit, Beejamrith, and Ghana Jeevamrit Drava, and explored pest and disease management techniques using remedies such as Brahmastra, Nemastra, and Agni Namastra.

The training continued with practical demonstrations on water management techniques like rainwater harvesting and mulching, insights into integrated farming systems, discussions on health and nutrition in Nutri-Kitchen Gardens, seed selection, planting methods, and cropping patterns for natural farming. Additionally, participants received information on extension methods like Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and were briefed on agriculture finance tools including the Kisan Credit Card (KCC), PMFBY (Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana), Pig Insurance, and the certification and marketing of natural produce (PE-Farm).

MSRLS conducts Training for Krishi Sakhis Certification on Natural farming.

MSRLS conducted a certification training on Natural Farming for Krishi Sakhis at two clusters (Nangbah & Wahiajer) covering four villages (Myrjai, Mupliang, Nartiang & Phlongingkhaw) under Thadlaskein, West Jaintia Hills District. The training aimed to equip Krishi Sakhis with essential knowledge and practical skills in natural farming techniques to enhance sustainability and productivity in agricultural practices within the targeted villages.

During the training, participants were introduced to the concept of Ecosystem Services and the principles of Natural Farming. They learned about livestock integration techniques, pest & disease management strategies, and the preparation and application of biostimulants & bioextracts through theoretical and practical sessions. The training also covered essential aspects of water management in agriculture, emphasizing efficient use and conservation practices tailored to local conditions and needs.

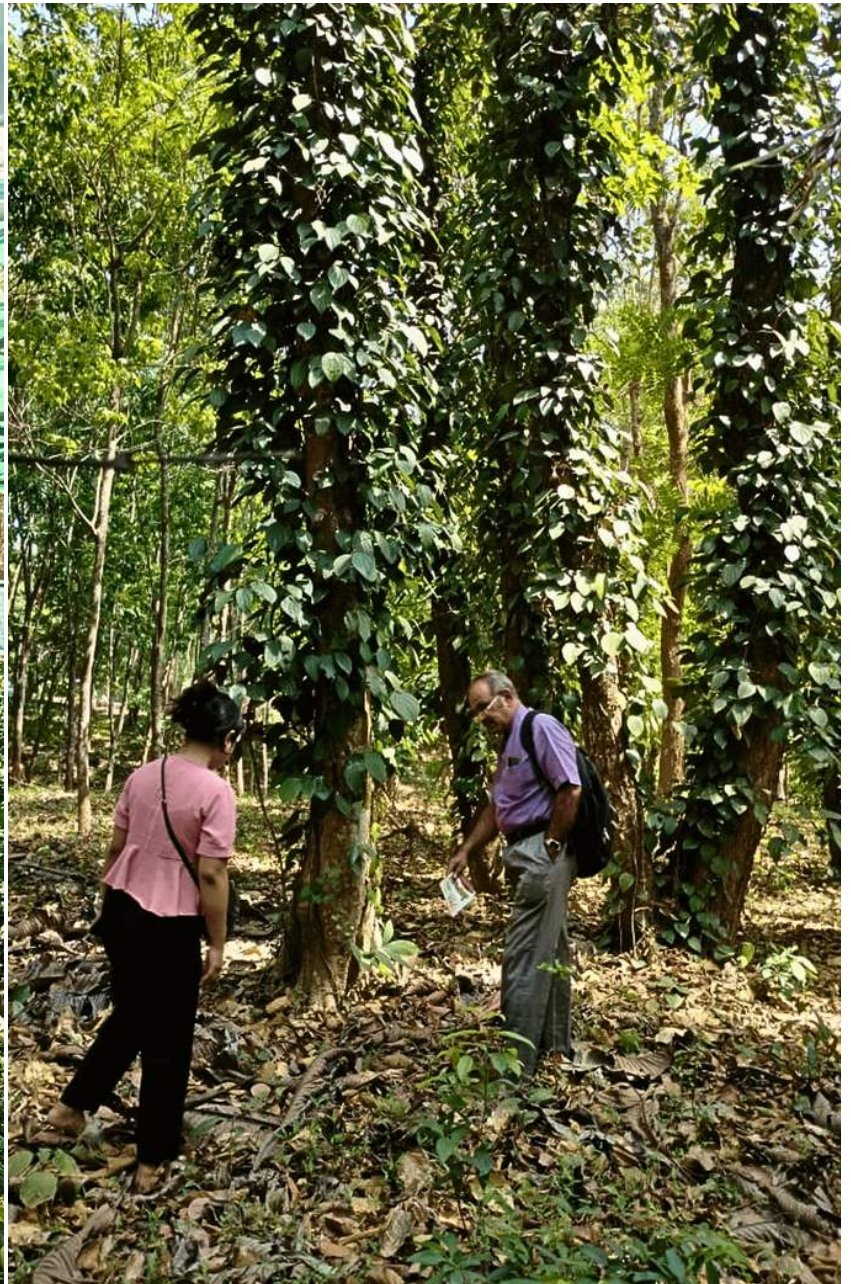


MBMA conducts Orientation Workshop for districts.

On 12 April 2024, the SLM SPMU team conducted an orientation workshop at SLM Head Office for MBMA staff posted in the districts assigned to SLM work. The orientation provided a brief introduction to the rationale behind SLM, its components, the different farming conversion systems involved, and the tentative targets set for the grant phase. Shri. Augustus Suting, Addl Project Director of SLM, was also present during the workshop. The district participants were requested to confirm the feasibility of interventions set by the project in their respective areas, including cluster logistics, and support the geo-fencing work to be done by the GIS team of MBDA/MBMA.

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA

SITE INSPECTIONS & DOCUMENTATIONS



A visit to Jangrapara IVCS Ltd., (CMC) for black pepper cultivation as part of MBMA and BRDC's initiative under SLM to strengthen traditional practices for codifying to Meghalaya Organics.



Documentation of Traditional Agri Practices at Jangrapara and Napakgre in West Garo Hills by BRDC.

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA

Review meeting



A meeting took place on the 3rd April, 2024 at the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Sustainable Land Management, Meghalaya Project (SLM) to evaluate the progress and requirements of partner organizations - the Bio-Resources Development Centre (BRDC) and the Directorate of Horticulture (DoH) under the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, GoM - in preparation for initiating on-ground activities. Smt. Isawanda Laloo (IAS), Executive Director of MBMA & Project Director, SLM, chaired the meeting, joined by Shri. D. Rudra, CFO, MBMA, Shri. A Suting, APD, SLM, and representatives from DoH and BRDC.

Activities by MSRLS



1. Master trainers conducted demonstrations and hands-on training sessions on natural farming techniques for farmers.
2. Preparation of 1.60 liters of Dravajeevamrutham at the Nutri-garden of Emilia Nongrum.
3. Planting of sweet potatoes at the field of Shimtilang Nongbri (livelihood cadres). These activities were attended by farmers and livelihood cadres from Jongksha village, East Khasi Hills district, Mawkynew block.

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA

Trainings conducted



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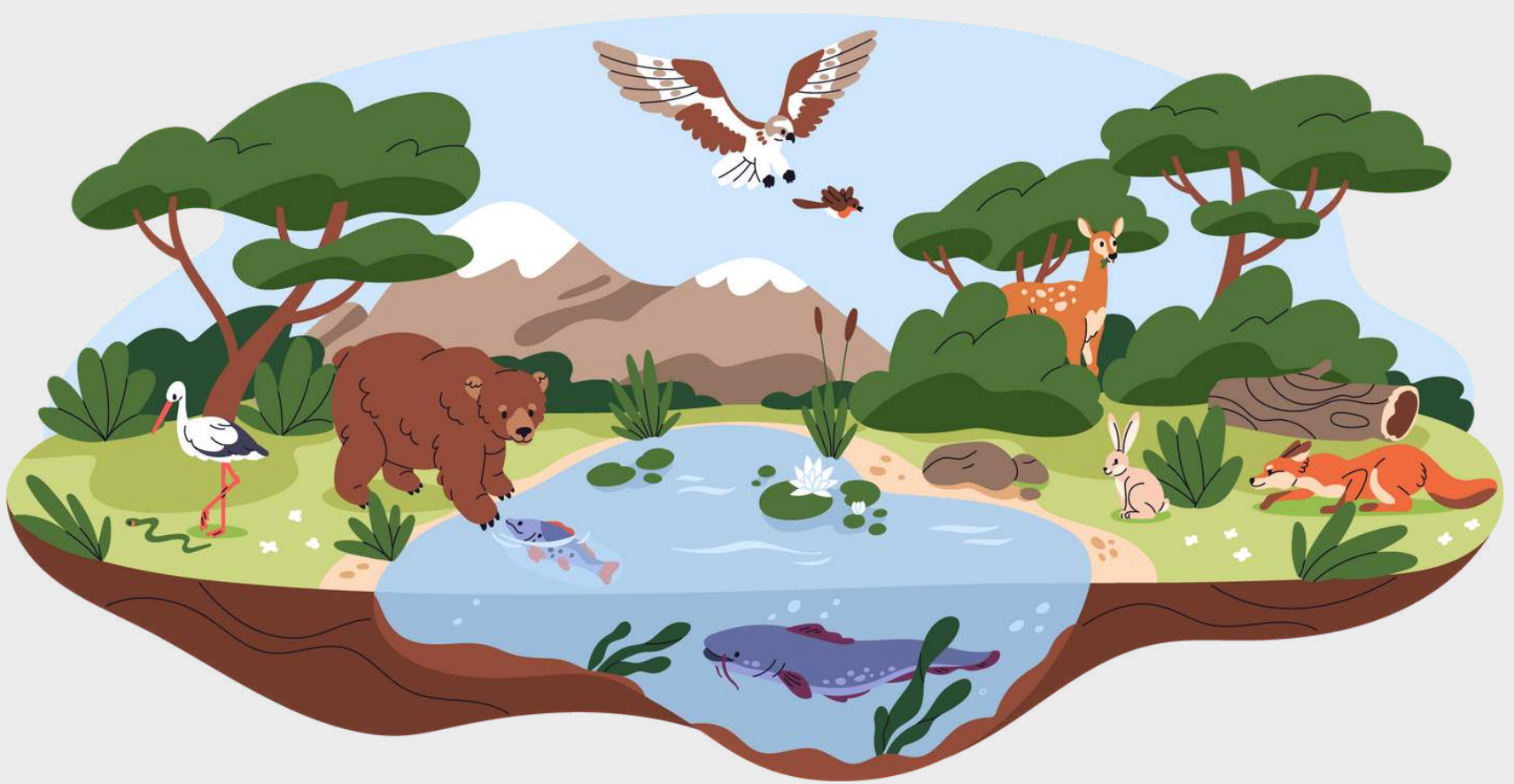
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Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)



PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

"Thaugittim Village Decides on MegLIFE Project After PES Convergence Meeting"



On April 4, 2024, a meeting was convened in Thaugittim village to address the convergence of PES and MegLIFE. After careful consideration, the community made the decision to proceed with the MegLIFE project.

"Forest Protection Efforts: Fireline Setup & Boundary Work in Rongram Block"



Fireline establishment, delineation, and forest protection endeavors within the Rongram Block.

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).

PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES



Our team embarked on an enlightening exposure visit to the Foundation for Ecological Security in Bhubaneswar, Odisha from April 9th to 13th. Comprising 37 green field associates and 5 staff members from IT, our aim was to deeply explore the crucial work of ecological restoration and conservation alongside community members and traditional institutions.

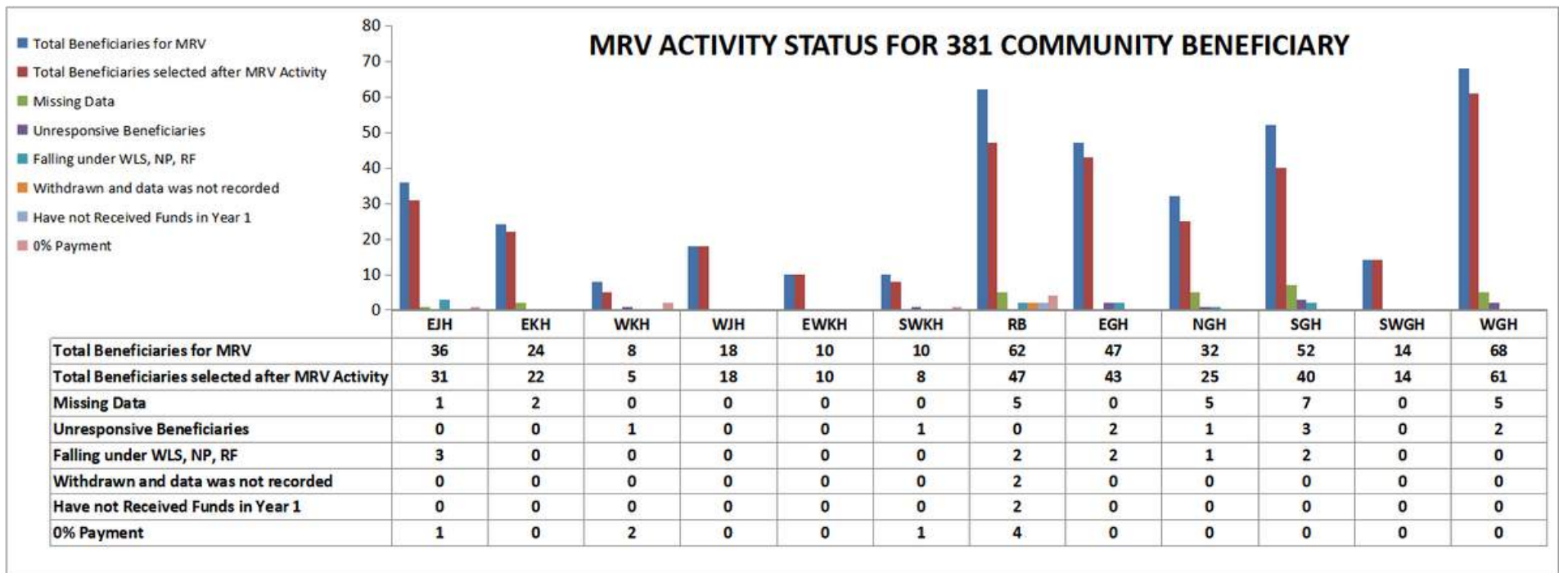
With 42 enthusiastic participants, we immersed ourselves in the essence of ecosystem preservation. Engaging in hands-on learning with community members, we witnessed their dedication and commitment to preserving and conserving the environment. 💡 From planting trees to understanding the delicate balance of ecosystems, each moment was a revelation. Working alongside local communities, our understanding of the power of collective action grew.

A huge thank you to the Foundation for Ecological Security for welcoming us with open arms.

PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

MRV ACTIVITY FOR TOTAL 381 COMMUNITY BENEFICIARIES

District	Total Beneficiaries for MRV	Total Beneficiaries selected after MRV Activity	Missing Data	Unresponsive Beneficiaries	Falling under WLS, NP, RF	Withdrawn and data was not recorded	Have not Received Funds in Year 1	0% Payment
EJH	36	31	1	0	3	0	0	1
EKH	24	22	2	0	0	0	0	0
WKH	8	5	0	1	0	0	0	2
WJH	18	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
EWKH	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
SWKH	10	8	0	1	0	0	0	1
RB	62	47	5	0	2	2	2	4
EGH	47	43	0	2	2	0	0	0
NGH	32	25	5	1	1	0	0	0
SGH	52	40	7	3	2	0	0	0
SWG	14	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
WGH	68	61	5	2	0	0	0	0
STATE TOTAL	381	324	25	10	10	2	2	8



Institute of Natural Resources

(INR)



INSTITUTE OF NATURAL RESOURCES**Bio-Resources Team**

1. Visit to MegLife Community forest at Umshit village, Umling Block, Ri Bhoi District with RiBhoi DPM and BPM Umling Block.
2. Conducted awareness for the importance of Medicinal and Aromatic plants for upliftment of livelihood with the VCF of Umshit Village.
3. Visit to the Nursery of MegLife Umshit Village.



INSTITUTE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

INSTITUTE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Another milestone for the Aroma Mission Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Umtham Village! They have just received a Field Distillation Unit of 500kgs along with expert technicians from Swaraj, all the way from Lucknow!

This incredible development marks a significant step forward in empowering our local communities and promoting sustainable practices. With the new distillation unit, our SHGs will be able to enhance their production capacity and ensure the highest quality of aromatic products.



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