

12th April 2023

# UPDATES OF THE WEEK

## Newsletter

The Meghalaya Community Led Landscape Management Project (MCLLMP)



The Meghalaya Livelihood Improvement through Forest Enhancement Project (MegLIFE)



Institute of Natural Resources (INR)



The Meghalaya Livelihood 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)



MCLMP

DISTRICT WISE ACTIVITIES



East Khasi Hills



The environment management EKHD team organized a meeting with Umkhoi VNRMC core members and also conducted a site inspection of the SADHANA IC activities along with Veveaney Sayo, Sr. Manager, KM, SPMU.



The EKH DPMU team visited Lawshlem Village on April 5th, 2023. During their visit it was observed that most NRM activities are completed except for tree plantation and erosion protection wall.



The community also replaced the inactive VNRMC Chairman and committed to completing all outstanding activities by April end, including the submission of UCs.



Completed CNRM activities under Mawkhar VNRMC under Myllliem Block



MCLLMP

DISTRICT WISE ACTIVITIES



On April 5th, 2023, the EKH Social Manager and Field Engineer Team conducted a site inspection of the completed activities in Marbaniang Umseiniong Village, located in the Myllem Block.



Ri-Bhoi



The 5th batch of teachers received training on the use of community computers (KYAN/ Smart classroom) for schools on April 4th and 5th, 2023. The training was held in the DSEO Conference room, and the Sub-Divisional School Education Officer also attended the session. Additionally, the officer also distributed the devices to the teachers.



**MCLLMP**

**DISTRICT WISE ACTIVITIES**



**South West Khasi Hills**



The Social Management Team and Accounts team visited Nonglynkien VNRMC to review the minute book covering the period from January 31, to April 4, 2023. They also checked the training registered, purchase register and preparing master roll as well as assisted in maintaining cheque issues and payment vouchers.



The SWKH DPMU team visited Mawthawiang Nongtraw VNRMC to follow up on the minute book, assist in maintaining the register, purchase register, and training register. They also collected minutes of the EC&GB meeting and community procurement, as well as followed up on cheque issue, payment voucher, and cash book.



The External Expert, Social Management and Account conducted a field visit to Nongsynrieh and Sohma VNRMC to follow up on the minute register, cheque issue register, payment voucher and contribution register.



**MCLLMP**

**DISTRICT WISE ACTIVITIES**



**South West Garo Hills**



Field Engineer inspected the completed RCC check dam constructed at Anangpara Christian village under Betasing Block



**North Garo Hills**



The VNRMCs in the villages are working on a Forest Management Plan (FMP), which includes activities such as in-situ and ex-situ conservation, enrichment of planting, and prevention of forest fires. The entire community in the village is engaged in this FMP work.

**The Hill Myna Sanctuary**

Click the link below or scan the QR Code to watch the video documentation on Hill Myna Sanctuary.

<https://bit.ly/3ZWEBtr>





## Preserving Culture through Skilled Artistry: Maring's Mini Museum



Meghalaya - a state rich in culture and tradition, a heritage passed down to us by our forefathers that defines our identity. Preserving our culture through tradition is the responsibility of every individual, as it gives us a sense of connection and oneness. It is crucial to safeguard our cultures, histories, and heritage for obvious reasons. However, culture can mean different things to different people. For Mr. Rani Maring, culture is about passing on the traditions inherited from his forefathers.

Rani Maring, known as 'the man of many talents,' is a farmer, skilled artisan in bamboo and wood handicrafts, luthier, percussionist, and carpenter. He is also a husband and a father to eight children, hailing from the small village of Pahambir Them, Nongpoh, Ri-Bhoi District. Maring is a visionary with a passion for preserving his culture, the Bhoi culture, as he foresees the impact of cross-culture influences. He expresses his commitment to cultural preservation through his skillful activities, which are evident in his Mini Museum located at his residence.



Since childhood, Maring has loved observing and helping his elders, and in the process, he has gained expertise in the tradition of making traditional houses out of bamboos and thatch. So far, Maring has constructed many traditional houses within Ri-Bhoi District and a few outside the district. Maring and his family live in a traditional house constructed by himself, as he feels connected to his roots.



Maring's interest in music led him to become a luthier and a percussionist. His vision included crafting instruments such as ka Duitara (a 4-stringed instrument resembling a guitar), Sitar, ka Ksing (a percussion instrument made of wood, leather, and parchment), ka Bom (a percussion instrument made of softwood and leather), Tangmuri (a tube with seven holes), and Maringod (an indigenous violin). Once people learned about Maring's skills, they started approaching him and placing orders for musical instruments. According to Maring, to date, he has sold 4 ksings, 5 boms, 5 maringods, 3 tangmuris, and countless duitaras.



The same interest and love for music guided him to participate in many cultural programmes organized by the Lyngdoh Raids and many others. Infact, Maring is amongst those who revived the Shad Sajer amongst the Raid Nonglyngdoh of Hima Khad-Ar Lyngdoh amidst intense scrutiny and criticism. The dance, at the time, had not been performed in the region for over two decades, presumably due to a conflict with Christianity. Maring, however, believes it was a fuss over manufactured differences, and vows to revive as much of the old traditions as memory can recollect – the Shad Chut Wait, Shad Rah Kynthei and other dances of the Hima Khad-Ar Lyngdoh and Ri Bhoi.



In addition to making traditional houses and musical instruments, Maring also possesses skills in handicrafts, which he has been involved in for quite some time. His crafted work allows him to generate additional income to support his family, as relying solely on farming has become challenging. Maring's craftwork includes decorative items, cups, baskets, ka pdung (a traditional storage container), ka prah (a winnowing tray), hats, and other items.



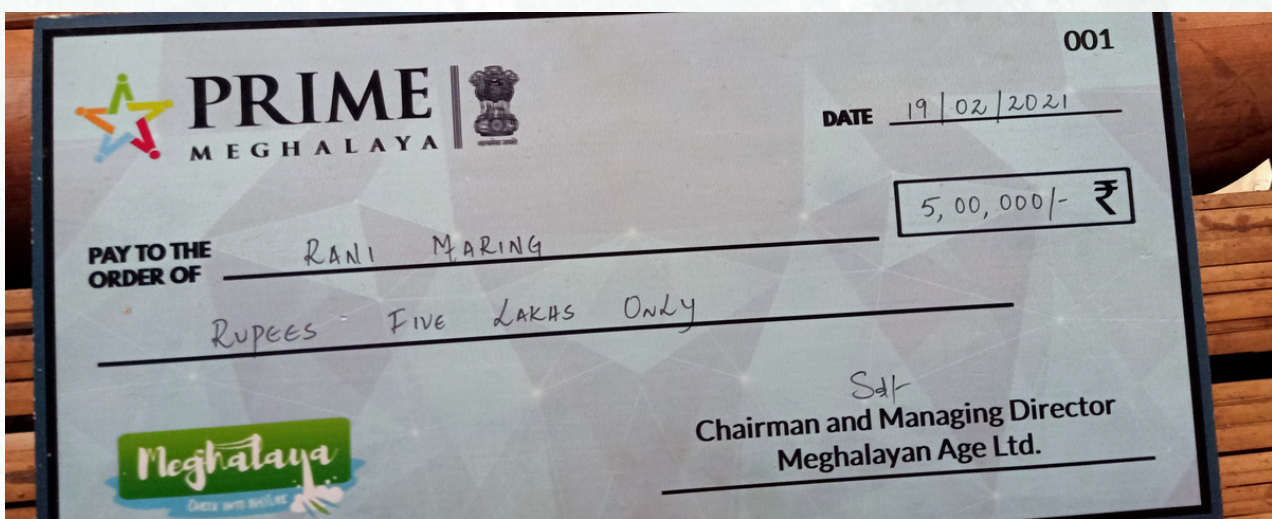
Maring's vision was born 20 years ago when he visited U Soso Tham and the Mawlai Museum. The visit to the museum inspired and motivated him to execute his vision. Maring wholeheartedly carried out his work on his own land, which spans about 6 acres. What makes Maring's work even more interesting is that he incurs minimal expenses on raw materials, as bamboo is readily available on his own land. Maring had already planted bamboo as the first step in accomplishing his vision, making it a sustainable and cost-effective source of material for his work.

Maring mentioned that he did not receive any formal training for his artwork. Instead, he learned through observation, teachings from his forefathers, his love for his roots and identity, and above all, believing in himself. However, just a few months ago, he attended a training program organized by The Dakti Craft, an art organization from Shillong, to further



polish his skills. Currently, Maring is collaborating with The Dakti organization to outsource his artwork, indicating his commitment to continuously improving and expanding his craft through collaborations and opportunities for further learning.

Mr. Rani Maring received financial support from Prime Meghalaya, an institute of entrepreneurs that focuses on market access, skills development, technology, and credit linkages. He was issued a cheque for Rs 5,00,000/- on 19th March, 2021. With the financial assistance from Prime Meghalaya, Mr. Maring was able to start the construction work of his Mini Museum and began displaying his artwork. This support has enabled him to further pursue his passion and showcase his art to a wider audience, highlighting the positive impact of entrepreneurship and financial assistance in promoting and preserving traditional art forms.





Maring's passion, dedication and contribution in preserving culture is looked upon by many but followed by few. Understanding the importance of preserving culture through tradition, Maring and the elders formed a society of 20 members naming it as 'kyntiewlang Raid Nonglyngdoh. The society under Maring Leadership is formed with a purpose of preserving culture by imparting practical training based on all art work displayed at Maring's Mini Museum. As per Maring vision, the trainings are to be conducted at his residence where a separate traditional house is constructed only for the purposes of trainings and workshops. Though, Kyntiewlang Raid Nonglyndoh society, is merely at its birth stage but what matter is their long-term goal in imparting traditional teaching to the youth from different Raid's and to those who are interested.

Therefore, Maring in his 60's is a living example for the younger generation as they are can inculcate the teaching gain from him and many others who contribute in their own unique style for the preservation of culture and tradition.





# PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

## AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

05.04.2023

Village: Umlur

Block: Jirang

Remark: 2 Community Forest and  
3 Individuals interested



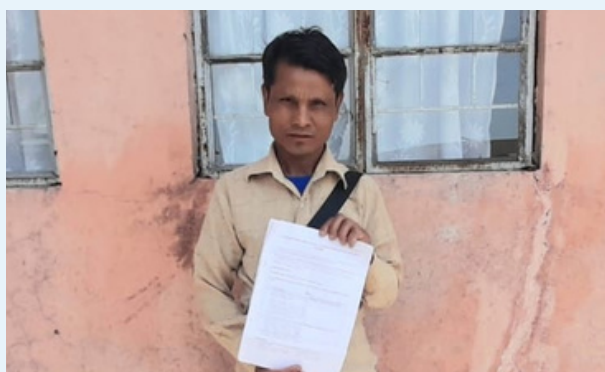
Rangkhiat Village (Ranikor block)



Forest owner from Sohryngkham.



Awareness programme at Kharang



On 11th April, 2023, a meeting was held with the headman of Sohbar village at the block office in Shella block, during which the application form for a community reserve forest of Sohbar was collected by GFA, Stevenson Roy Wahlang.

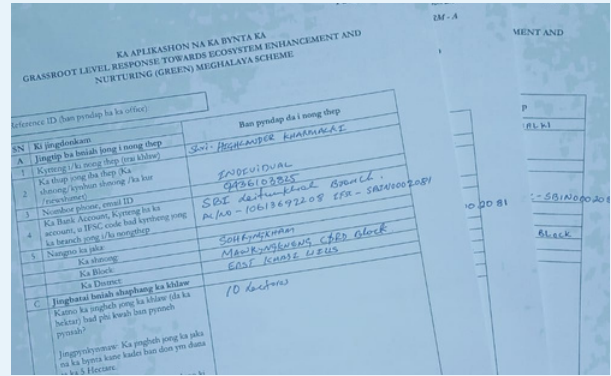


# PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

## COLLECTION OF FORMS

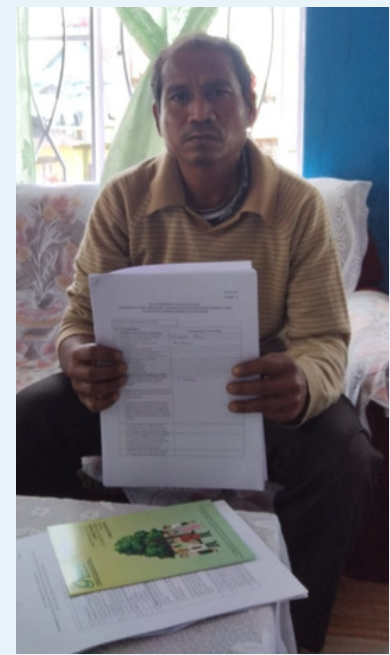
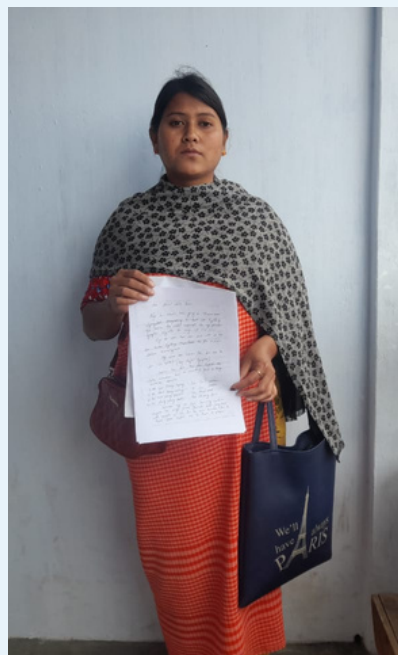


A meeting was conducted with the owner of the forests in Phlangtyngor village, Pynursla block, during which three application forms were collected.



4 application forms collected from Bhoirymbong Block.

4 application forms collected from Sohryngkham Village.



Collected 1 form from Iongsnieh Takhñiang, Thadlaskein Block

Collected 1 forms from Kunongrim village, Shella block

Collected 3 forms from Mawpen Village, Mawsynram Block



# PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

## FOREST VERIFICATION

VCFs Matsiewdor Budonkhingstid, Riboklang Lyngdoh and Ribokstar Myllemngap along with GFA, Augustar Budon completed forest verifications of 4 applicants from Pynursla block.



Sohkynphur (Mawthawiang Nongtraw)



Tynngaw(Nongnam)



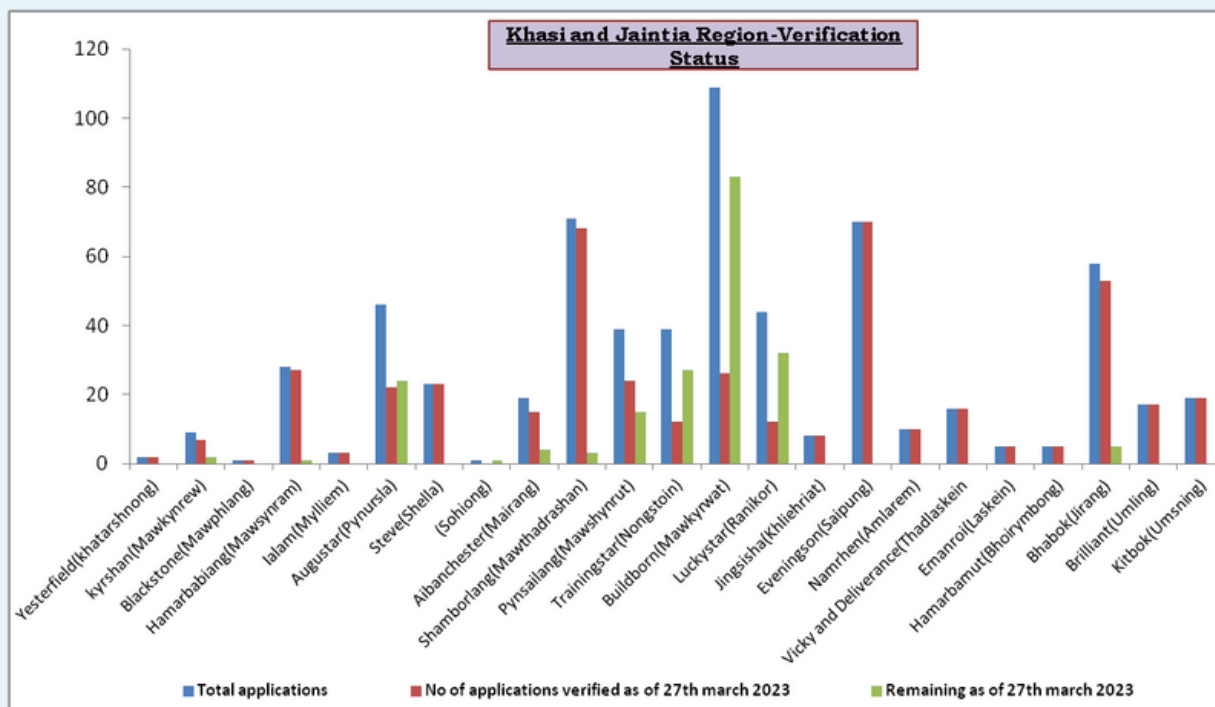
Nangblai



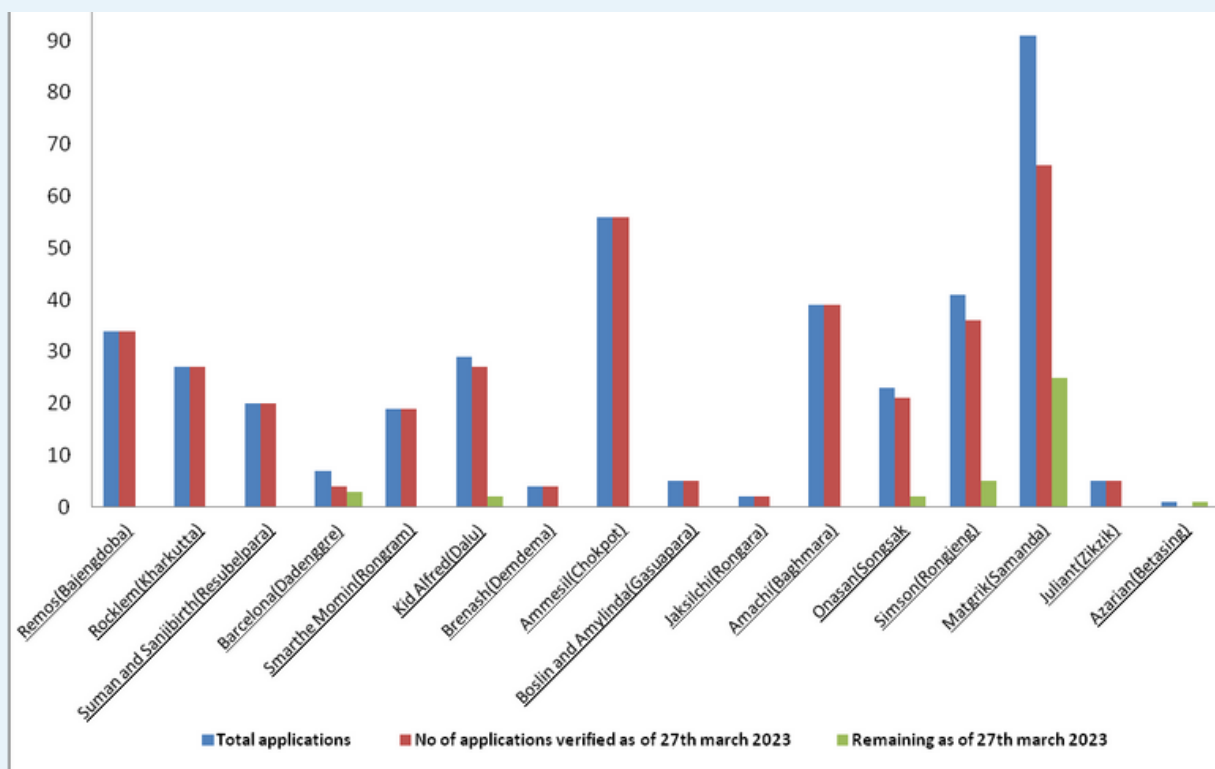
Mawlasnai village



# PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES



For the Khasi-Jaintia Region the number of application received in Phase 2 (batch 1) is 656, of which total verification/boundary mapping completed by VCF's/GFA's is 479 and the remaining to be verified is 177 (as of 12th April 2023).



For the Garo Region the number of application received in Phase 2 (batch 1) is 403, of which total verification/boundary mapping completed by VCF's/GFA's is 365 and the remaining to be verified is 38 (as of 12th April 2023).



MEGHALAYA  
LIVELIHOOD  
IMPROVEMENT  
THROUGH  
FOREST  
ENHANCEMENT  
(MegLIFE)



**MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT (MegLIFE)**

**COMMUNITY NURSERY**

A total number of 433 villages under MegLIFE project have elected to set up Community Nurseries. Preparatory works are underway.



**SAMANDA BLOCK, EGH**

Preparation of community Nursery at Kalak Dorek



Community Nursery at Rongchek Manda



**MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT (MegLIFE)**

**Preparation for Community Nursery at Rongpetchi village, Resubelpara, NGH**





MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT (MegLIFE)



Visit to Anogre, Chinapgre and Gindopara for site verification for the construction of Community Hall and for Plantation by Block Project Manager, Field Engineers and PA Rongram under West Garo Hills.



MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT (MegLIFE)

Sloping Agriculture Land Technology (SALT)



Marking and burning of contour lines; Miktongjeng, Dambo Rongjeng, EGH.





MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT (MegLIFE)



Making of contour lines; Rangmai Chigitchak, Gasuapara, SGH.

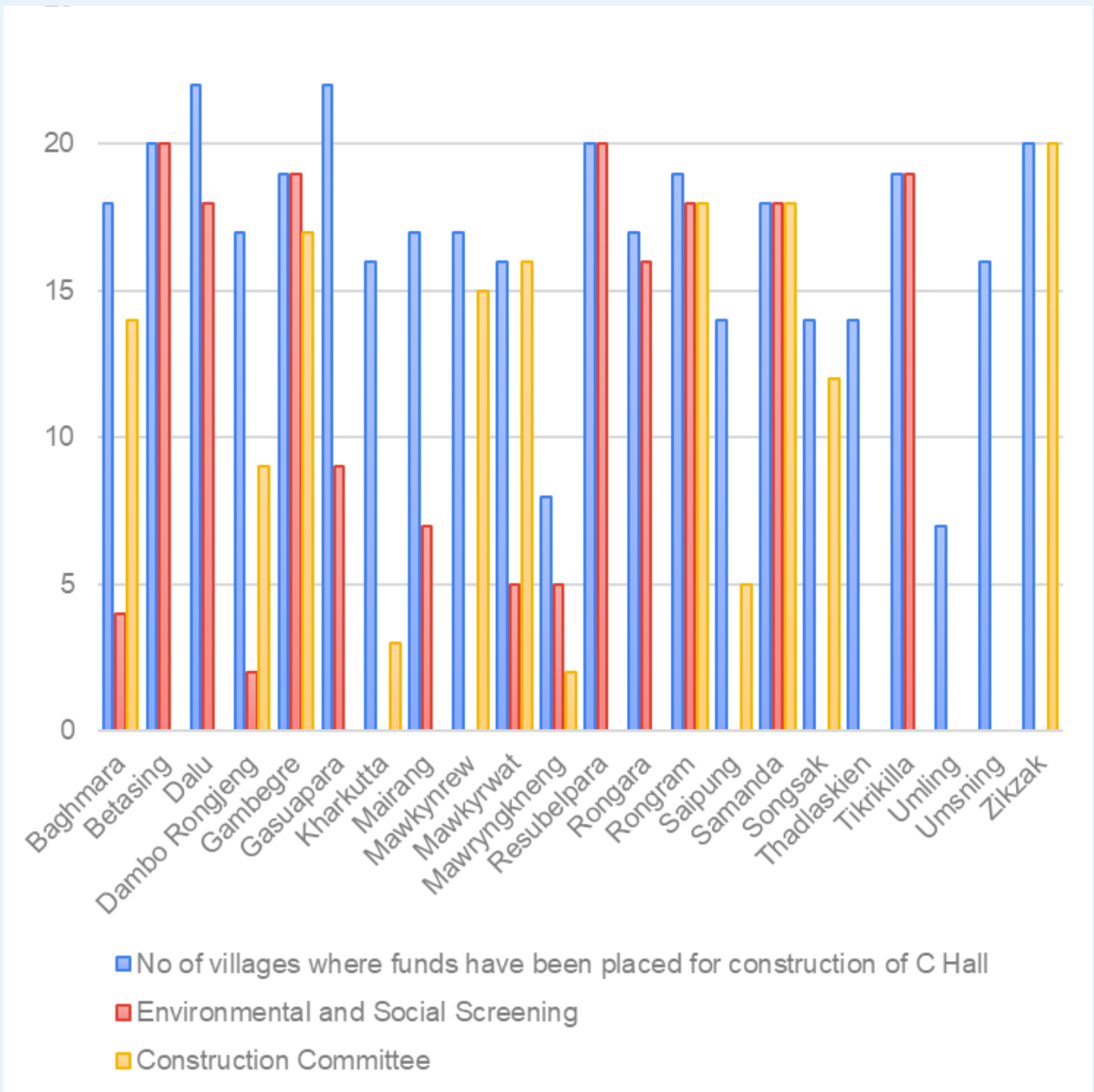




**MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT (MegLIFE)**

**Entry Point Activity - Community Hall Construction**

The construction of 370 community halls has been sanctioned under EPA of MegLIFE. Initial phases of site identification, environmental and social screening, formation of Local Procurement Committee, shortlisting of vendors, and creation of construction committee is underway.







Institute of  
Natural Resources  
(INR)



**CENTRE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION & MITIGATION**  
**(GREEN ENERGY)**  
**NAME OF THE PROJECT: DECENTRALIZED GREEN ENERGY**  
**DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

**Installation at South Garo Hills**

On April 5th and 6th, 2023, the Green Energy team embarked on a journey from Tura to Rongcheng village, which is the remotest village in the South Garo Hills district, to install a hydroger. After travelling for 4 and a half hours by vehicle, the team trekked for 5 hours to reach the village, where they stayed overnight before returning to Tura the next day.



Rongcheng, being one of the remote villages in the region, lacks proper road connectivity and mobile network coverage. Moreover, the village currently has no access to electricity. However, the installation of the hydroger by the Green Energy team will bring electricity for household lighting to all 46 households in the village.



Follow up on work progress at Laitlum village  
 Mawkynrew Block, East Khasi Hills District.





Inspection for electrical connection and transmission was conducted at Mawpdang Village in Mawryngkneng Block, located in the East Khasi Hills District.



Installation of Hydroger, transmission and practical training to the Operator at Umsaw village, Mawtharaishan block, West Khasi Hills District.



## CENTRE FOR BIO RESOURCES (MEGH AROMA MISSION)



The Megh Aroma Mission of INR is an organization that is dedicated to promoting the use and cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants in the state. The Medicinal and Aromatic plants have numerous health benefits and can be used in various industries such as pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and food.



To achieve their goal of promoting these plants, the Megh Aroma Mission conducted an awareness program in Umtong village, which is located in the Mawkyntew block of the East Jaintia Hills district. The program aimed to educate the local community about the various types of medicinal and aromatic plants that can be found in the region, as well as their uses and benefits.

During the program, Project scientist Dr. Hygina Siangbood from the Megh Aroma Mission provided detailed information on the cultivation, harvesting, and processing of these plants. They also discussed the potential economic benefits that can be derived from their use and emphasized the importance of sustainable harvesting practices.

The awareness program was well-attended, and participants showed a keen interest in learning about these plants. They actively asked questions and engaged in discussions about the various ways in which they could incorporate medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) into their daily lives.

Overall, the Megh Aroma Mission's awareness program was a resounding success, as it effectively raised awareness about the importance of MAPs in the region. It is hoped that similar programs will continue to be conducted in the future, with the goal of reaching more people and making them aware of the numerous benefits of MAPs.



## Orientation Programme



The INR Bioresource team recently conducted an orientation program for six newly recruited field assistants. The objective of the program was to provide these recruits with a comprehensive understanding of the organization's mission, goals, and objectives, as well as their specific roles and responsibilities within the team.

During the program, the field assistants were introduced to the different departments and teams within the organization. They received an overview of the ongoing research projects and activities. Additionally, they were provided with information about the tools, technologies, and methodologies used in the field, and were trained on how to effectively utilize them.

The orientation program was designed to be interactive, encouraging the field assistants to ask questions and provide feedback. This created a positive and engaging learning environment, helping the recruits feel more confident and prepared for their roles within the organization.



Provision of Geranium Saplings and Monitoring on cultivation of Geranium at Khliehmawlieh, Nongstoin Block, West Khasi Hills District.



## Monitoring of Citronella Plantation at East Jaintia Hills



Chamcham Village, Wapung Block



Diengshynrum village, Wapung Block

## CENTRE FOR WATER RESOURCES



Site Inspection and Follow up of the ongoing construction work on OLC under MLAMP at Laitmawsiang, Laitkroh Block, East Khasi Hills District.



Follow up on construction work at Laitryngew village, Shella Bholaganj Block, East Khasi Hills District.



# Meghalaya Livelihoods And Access To Markets Project



## MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



The Megha – LAMP Retreat was successfully conducted from the 3rd to 5th April 2023 in Dooars, West Bengal, with the aim of strengthening and informing the staff to meet daily targets by eliminating the outdated approach of working solely as separate components. The first day consisted of an internal meeting attended by the Deputy Project Director (DPD), Senior Managers (SM), and District Managers (DPM), who provided a detailed briefing on the Annual Work Plan Budget (AWPB) for Financial Year 2023-2024. On the second day, each district team developed their training budgets based on the value chain and presented on the third day. It is worth mentioning that Megha- LAMP, an IFAD funded project, has received a two-year extension till December 2024.



On April 5th, Seed Secure Meghalaya's CPRS program provided farmers in Pyndenglitha village with ARCs of potato and a hands-on training session on inputs distribution.



## MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



Field Visit to Bakrime CMC in Selsella Block for monitoring the construction of a Ginger Processing Unit.



A visit was made to Nangrime IVCS Ltd and Rengsinpara IVCS Ltd in Tikrikilla Block to collect Actual Receipt forms and to see the foundation of the ginger machine shed. Interactions were also held with Shri Dipin V Panicker, marketing lead under IVCS and CMC level, to discuss the business plan and the repayment of the CMC working capital to the IVCS.



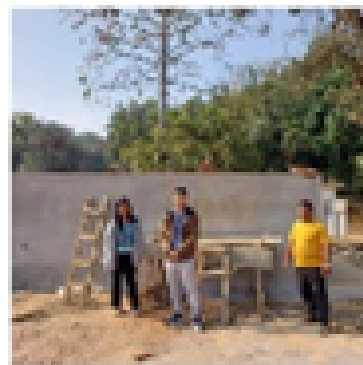
Visit to Megasal IVCS Ltd. in Watregre village in Tikrikilla Block to inspect the installation of a Solar Dryer for Black pepper.



## MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



The 3rd Batch of Business Correspondents Training for IVCS was successfully held at IIBM in Guwahati from April 3rd to 5th, 2023. The participants comprised of IVCS from West Garo Hills, South Garo Hills, and West Jaintia Hills Districts.



The DPMU, West Garo Hills team conducted field visits to monitor ongoing constructions under Challenge Fund. These include an irrigation canal in Chibongapal, benefiting 30 households for paddy cultivation, a water reservoir check dam with a retaining wall in Balalgre, benefiting the entire village, a water tank cum mini check dam in Mangdugre, benefiting 35 households, and an intervention in Sadolpara that will benefit 30 households and in Wangala.



A Food Processing Training program focused on locally available fruits and vegetables was conducted at Singimari Village in Selsella Block, as part of the VTF (NRM) initiative. The program was delivered to entrepreneurs identified by the project, with Mrs. Senioritha Sangma serving as the project's master trainer.



## MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT



SPMU and DPMU West Garo Hills District organized a meeting at Bakdil in Tura to discuss ginger and cashew production, and Farmers' Markets in the Western Region. Participants from ISC&ED staff and market committees of Garo Hills shared feedback and estimated budgets for market layouts.



Staff meeting with FOCUS & ISC-ED team at SMELC Building, Dakopgre-Tura to discuss the micro cluster identification and value chain development in all blocks of West Garo Hills.



A staff meeting was held at the SMELC Building in Tura with the ISC & ED team and RF team to review the progress and activities of the project.

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