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)

THE WORLD BANK











DISTRICT WISE ACTIVITIES





KM team inspected 13 schools in Ri-Bhoi District, focusing on the underutilization of the K-YAN device. They encountered challenges such as power outages, storage issues, and a preference for YouTube. However, dedicated teachers in Ri-Bhoi are committed to delivering quality education, especially in Natural Resource Management (NRM), and are eager to enhance the effective use of the K-YAN device for the benefit of their students. The inspection concluded at Belkhuri UP School.



On November 1, 2023, training specialist, accompanied by a GIS team and a VCF, conducted a tour of Bhoirymbong Block. The main objective of this tour was to assess bamboo resources in the area. The team has successfully completed assessments for five plots within the Block, contributing to a better understanding of the bamboo resources in the region.

DISTRICT WISE ACTIVITIES



EE Accounts conducted a visit to Nongpyrdet village in Bhoirymbong Block to collect utility certifications for FMP and address any excess fundrelated matters. He also updated the village's accounting records to ensure accurate financial tracking and management.





EE-Environment Management and an intern conducted a two-day inspection on November 3rd and 4th in Jirang Block. The visit aimed to assess the status of activities under FMP in villages such as Umsong, Nonglum, Nonsier, Umlakro, and Belahari within the Jirang Block. The visit provided practical training opportunities for interns to gain hands-on experience and a better understanding of the fieldwork involved in the Community-Led Landscape Management Project (CLLMP). Such initiatives are crucial for ensuring the effective and sustainable management of natural resources in these communities.



On November 4, 2023, the DPM conducted a follow-up visit to the Nursery and Vermicompost unit at Umsarang VNRMC. Both units were observed to be well-maintained and functioning effectively. He also visited Nongtraw village, which is a village under the Catalytic Fund initiative, to inspect the agroforestry and bench terracing, with the aim of assessing their progress and quality.

DISTRICT WISE ACTIVITIES



On November 1, DPM inspected activity sites under the Catalytic Fund in Umsaw Nongkharai Village, located in the Umling Block. The sites includes bench terracing, recharge ponds, contour trenches, and check dams. The purpose of this inspection was to assess the progress and quality of these activities in the village funded under Catalytic Fund.



On November 3, 2023, DPM conducted a fallow up on the Vermicompost unit and nurseries in Quinine Nongladew, Narang, and 18th mile in Umling Block. The visit also extended to the construction sites of the NRM (Natural Resource Management) library in Mawdiangum.





Two-day field exercise on Bamboo Resource Assessment was conducted in collaboration with the CoE-SPMU team and nine trained VCF members under WGH. Master Trainers from WGH district led the exercise, assisted by the SPMU team, PA-CoE, and PA-SM.

DISTRICT WISE ACTIVITIES



One-day training for scale VCFs in the Garo Hills Region was held on November 1, 2023, to instruct participants in fieldwork data collection using the NESAC Mobile App for Village-Level Land Use/Land Cover Mapping with high-resolution geospatial data. The training took place at SMELC Tura and had approximately 98 participants, including 6 GIS WGH staff and 2 resource people from NESAC. The session included a comprehensive overview of how to use the NESAC mobile app, followed by a practical session conducted on the campus



On November 1, 2023, the DPMU team of West Garo Hills, including AM-M&E, PA-F&P, and FE, visited Agin Darengre CLLMP Village and Jebalgre and Dosagre Catalytic Villages in Gambegre Block for post-project monitoring. The team provided input and recommendations for improving asset management in Jebalgre Village, while they advised Agin Darenggre Village to maintain the permanent nursery as per DPMU instructions and scheduled a meeting with district staff in the coming days.

DISTRICT WISE ACTIVITIES



An Orientation Programme on PES-Green Meghalaya was organized by CLLMP DPMU WGH in Dadenggre MFC Block on November 1, 2023. The program was attended by 22 participants, including 18 selected beneficiaries from Demdema and Dadenggre Block.

The program also includes a comprehensive discussion led by Social Management Assistant Manager, Shri Chakrang Sangma, covering topics such as the PES working scheme, PES Guidelines, community reserve management, registration policies for individuals and communities, and the additional benefit of Rs 5000 under the working scheme. The team also had an interactive session on Utilization Certificate (UC) and the importance of timely UC submission.





DPMU organized an orientation program on PES for Phase 2 beneficiaries of Amlarem and Thadlaskein blocks at the DPMU office.

GFAs conducted orientation programs for Batch 2 and 3 beneficiaries from various Blocks, focusing on PES Phase 2



Bajengdoba Block and Resubelpara Block



Mawshynrut Block



Dambo Rongjeng Block



khliehriat Block



Shella Block



Umling Block



Dambo Rongjeng Block





Bhoirymbong Block



Blocks of Mawryngkneng, Sohiong, Khatarshnong-Laitkroh and Mawphlang



Chokpot Block.





Chokpot Block



Amlarem Block.





Pynursla Block





Nongstoin Block



Ranikor Block



Gasuapara Block



Thadlaskien Block





Mawkynrew Block



Baghmara Block

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).







Rongram Block



Bhoirymbong Block.



Pynursla Block



Khliehriat Block

PLANTATION

West Garo Hills

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.



On October 1, 2023, BPM Ivan Arengh, accompanied by Sir Gautam and a PA from Gambegre, conducted a visit to Rangdapara and Darengagre villages to oversee the development of plantation sites. During the visit, Sir Gautam provided valuable suggestions to the VCFs and secretaries to improve the maintenance of these sites.



Second weeding cleaning in Anogre Rongram village.



Clearing weeds and creating a firebreak in Silsekgre village.



Second weeding clearing in Derikgre village.



Second weeding clearing in Silsekgre village.

On November 6, 2023, a meeting took place at BPMU following the completion of the second weeding. The purpose of this meeting was to initiate the third weeding, establish firebreaks and inspection routes, and hire guards for the dry season in the initial batch of villages with plantations located in the Rongram block.





On November 1, 2023, the DPM and their team visited the villages of Jyntru, Erpakon, and Nongrim Jyrmie to discuss the 2024 plantation and Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) project. The village representatives from VPIC expressed concerns about the lack of sufficient land for plantation due to the small size of the villages. Consequently, they informed the delegation that the villages have decided to withdraw from the project and will submit a withdrawal letter soon.

COMMUNITY NURSERY

433 Villages under MegLIFE Project have elected to set up community nurseries.











Chorepahar village.





Thapa Ragolgre village.



Ajasiram village.





Thapa Darenchi village.



A few of the seedlings at Rongpetchi Community Nursery have begun to bloom.





Ajasiram village.





Thapa Dangre village.



Nanil Apal village.



Bangsi Dogru VCF collected neem seeds for vacancy filling





On October 1, 2023, BPM Ivan Arengh, accompanied by Sir Gautam and a PA from Gambegre, visited Rangdapara and Darengagre villages to oversee the community nursery's development. Sir Gautam provided valuable suggestions to the VCFs and secretaries for improved maintenance of these community nurseries.



On November 1, 2023, Malika R. Marak conducted a visit to Ading Nokat village for the purpose of inspecting their newly established community nursery.



Anogre village.





Mejolgre Nokat village.





VPIC members are tidying up and removing weeds from the Community Nursery.





DPM Shembhalang Khongjee conducted a visit to the intervention sites of Laity, Mawsir, Mawdulop, and Mynsang VPICs on November 4, 2023. During the visit, an interactive meeting was held with the members of the Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

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.





Abundant Himalayan Indigo plants, well-suited for higher altitudes, have been spotted in their natural habitat in Nongthyllep village. The plants currently have tender seed pods, which will be ripe for harvesting around December or January. Similar plants are also found in Mawkyi village.





DPM Shembhalang Khongjee inspected Laitdiengsai and Laitmynsang Aromatic farms on November 4, 2023, and noticed significant growth of grasses compared to NFP. Given the village's 1500m elevation, citronella gap filling is recommended in certain areas to enhance soil and water conservation (SWC) efforts.





Malcolm Carter Jones Nongpluh visits the SALT farm in Lumtrep and Ionglwit Village.





On October 1, 2023, BPM Ivan Arengh, accompanied by Sir Gautam and a PA from Gambegre, conducted a visit to Rangdapara and Darengagre villages to oversee the development of the SALT farm.





SALT farming of Pendas Momin.





On November 7, 2023, Sir David Gandhi visted the remote village of Rongamai Aruwak. It was observed that 25 farmers were practicing SALT, and he was impressed. However, due to some deficiencies in their orientation and training, they had not fully followed the guidelines. Despite this, the NFP Tephrosia was flourishing. Discussions were held with the farmers regarding necessary corrections, and they agreed to collect their own seeds and implement new hedgerows in the following year.





SALT Farm at Maweitnar village.





SALT Farming at Gitokgre village.



SALT Farming at Simseng Balkol village.



SALT Farming at Thaugittim village.



SALT farm of Shri Hebithson Sangma from Nokatgre village.



SALT farm of Helping Momin from Mejolgre Nokat village.

ENTRY POINT ACTIVITY - COMMUNITY HALL

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





Resubelpara Block.





Nokatgre village.





Rongmatcha village



Rongpetchi village.



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Bangsi Aga village.



Bangsi Minol village.



South West Khasi Hills

On November 3, 2023, DPM Bansuklang Syiem, along with Shri. Isagahah Lawrynniang, BDO of Mawkyrwat C & RD Block, made a visit to the Domtynrong Community Hall.





On October 1, 2023, BPM Ivan Arengh, accompanied by Sir Gautam and a PA from Gambegre, conducted a visit to Rangdapara and Darengagre village to oversee the development of a community hall construction project.





On November 1, 2023, Malika R Marak visited Ading Nokat to inspect the ongoing construction of the community hall.





Iangkar and Lumtrep village







Niangdai village.



Nongdewsaw village.



Umtasor Mawdkhar village.





On November 4, 2023, an intervention site visit was conducted by DPM Shembhalang Khongjee at Mawlali VPIC.

PLUP And Microplanning Exercises

Completed & On going PLUP and Microplaning exercise in group 2 villages: On November 1, 2023, BPM Malcolm Carter Jones Nongpluh held a meeting with members of VPIC from Thangrain Village Group II. The discussion revolved around topics such as PLUP and MP, CM ELEVATE, the establishment of an LPC, the Agro forestry model, and a site visit to assess the feasibility of CH (Community Hall).





Soil & Water Conservation Activities



Asil Chiringgre village.



On November 1, 2023, Tueshva Ch Marak assessed potential check dam sites in Asil Chiringgre village for irrigation purposes and in Dangkong Doragre Village for domestic use. The streams in both areas have a consistent flow, but the water discharge is limited.



RCC water tank in Umtasor Nongjyrmie village.



RCC water tank in Nongrim Umksih village,

On November 6, 2023, Tarime M Marak visited to Nokatgre village with the purpose of evaluating and choosing eight specific sites for the installation of spring tap chambers. These chambers were intended to supply water for irrigation to 10 households and to facilitate the creation of dugout ponds for agricultural use. In addition, the visit had the objective of assessing the potential for constructing an RCC check dam with a 3.6-meter span to preserve water resources. This check dam would serve the domestic needs of 9 households. Furthermore, the visit included an inspection of the construction of a retaining wall along Nokatgre road, aimed at controlling soil erosion. Tarime M Marak also traveled to Chorepahar village to assess the feasibility of implementing Soil and Water Conservation (SWC) structures, and a total of 5 such structures were confirmed during the visit.



Chosen site for spring tap chamber.



Chosen site for dugout pond for irrigation purpose.



Chosen site for soil erosion control retaining wall



Chosen site for Conservation pond



Feasible to construct a 3.6-meter span RCC check dam for the purpose of irrigation.



Chosen Site for RCC check dam



Chosen Site for SWC structure feasibility check in Chorepahar village .



The selected site for the RCC storage tank that will benefit 7 households.



The chosen site for feasible to construct spring tap chamber that will benefit 5 households area.



Chosen site for Dugout pond for irrigation use.



Chosen site for RCC check dam that will benefit 6 households.

Tengbath Marak visited Kolkatola village on November 7, 2023 to check out the spring tapped chamber and Jongchetpara nokat to evaluate the viability of the spring tapped chamber.



Kolkatola village



Jongchetpara nokat village



feasibility to construct Rcc check dam .

F & A Activities



On November 1, 2023, the VPIC registers were checked and the data on APPVERSE for three VPIC in the Mawkynrew Block of East Khasi Hills was completed.



Checking and rectification of VPIC registers in the South West Khasi Hills from October 16 to November 1, 2023.



Checking of registers, cashbook, vouchers for Nepalgre VPIC under Betasing Block, South West Garo Hills, Ampati.
MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT (MegLIFE)



Cheking of register by F&A for 4 VPICs under Rongjeng Block.

Institute of Natural Resources (INR)

CENTRE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, ADAPTATION & MITIGATION (GREEN ENERGY)





A recent site inspection, overseen by the District Development Manager (DDM) from NABARD, was carried out on 07th November 2023, for the Decentralized Green Energy Development Project. This project, funded by NABARD and executed by the Institute of Natural Resources in Meghalaya, was examined at Nonglum village within the Bhoirymbong block. The inspection involved the participation of the Green Energy team and the Village Energy Committee (VEC) of Nonglum village. The primary objectives of this inspection were two-fold: first, to evaluate the project's progress and completion, and second, to ensure the strict adherence to the highest safety and compliance standards. The inspection was focused on identifying potential hazards. confirming regulatory compliance, and providing recommendations for potential improvements. This thorough inspection underscores our unwavering dedication to maintaining a secure, compliant, and quality-driven environment for all stakeholders involved.

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CENTRE FOR BIO-RESOURCES



In November 2023, the Bio Resource team carried out numerous field visits to facilitate the distribution of 5000 Tagetes minuta plants provided by CSIR-CIMAP Lucknow. These plants were distributed among various Self-Help Groups (SHGs), which included Step by Step SHG, Larem SHG Nongpyndeng (Meghalaya Public Co-operative Society), and the Rikhen Aromatic Crops Producer Group located under South West Khasi Hills and Eastern West Khasi Hills district.

Study of Biomass through UAV application in East Jaintia hills.



CENTRE FOR BIO-RESOURCES



On November 7, 2023, a collaborative effort involving the Bio-Resource team, the UAV team, and local community stakeholders took place to carry out a Biomass Study using UAV technology in Tluh and Narwan villages within the Saipung Block of the East Jaintia Hills district. These villages were selected for the study due to their history of being affected by mining activities, making them ideal candidates for the application of UAV technology in carbon sequestration research.

Meghalaya Livelihoods And Access To Markets Project (MeghaLAMP)

ISC & ED



A three day Training Program on Water and Soil Testing for Service Providers Nursery of Lower Rajapara IVCS, Phlangdiloin IVCS, Koraigora IVCS, and Nongkdait-Nongtwah IVCS took place at the Multi-purpose Hall, Deputy Commissioner's Office, Mawkyrwat, **South West Khasi Hills** from October 31st to November 2nd, 2023. The program was organized by DPMU, South West Khasi Hills, and featured Miss Ibanyllashisha Kharnaior, Project Associate & Technical Associate from Agro Fereshteh Consulting Team, Kolkata, as the Resource Person.



On October 31, 2023, a field visit and inspection of active Producer Groups were conducted, led by the District Project Manager and his team, in collaboration with the NGO. The visit covered Pungkung and Mawrynkang Villages under Mawsynram Block, **East Khasi Hills**.

ISC & ED



On November 3, 2023, a joint site inspection was carried out by the ISC&ED team and Field Engineer of INRM in Mawmaram, Jabar, Nonglum, Mawthlong Mynsain, and Mawthwan IVCS under Sohiong C&RD Block, **East Khasi Hills**, to assess the construction of an Agricab storage house.



On November 3, 2023, a comprehensive training on Mushroom Cultivation, including theory and practical aspects, was held at Pynursla C&RD Block Office in **East Khasi Hills.** The event was organized by EFC Pynursla and Consortium of Resource Person (CORP) in collaboration with Madhukar Livelihood Foundation (MLF). The training featured resource persons, Shri K. Kharpran, Assistant Director of Horticulture Department, and Shri Ryntathiang from the Mushroom Division of Horticulture Department, Upper Shillong.

RURAL FINANCE



On October 31, 2023, a meeting was convened at the Deputy Commissioner's Conference Hall in **North Garo Hills**, specifically to discuss the management and allotment of rooms to IVCS within the Layby Market complex situated at Sarangma Horticultural Hub. The meeting was organized by the District Administration, led by Ms. Mitali Chandra, IAS, Deputy Commissioner. In attendance were officials from the Horticulture Department, Agriculture Department, Water Resource Department, and IVCS representatives from Kharkutta C&RD Block.



A District Review Meeting was held on November 3, 2023 for all Managing Committee members of IVCS in **Ri Bhoi District**. The meeting also included an awareness session on CM Elevate and Common Service Centre at Umdihar Prime Hub.

RURAL FINANCE









On November 3, 2023, a field visit to Laitiam IVCS in East Khasi Hills was conducted. A meeting was also held with the Managing Committee members and Group Facilitators to follow up on the Producer Groups, Service Providers, and site inspection installation of CMC for infrastructure. Furthermore, an awareness session on CM Elevate schemes was provided during the visit.

On October 4, 2023, Kum. Mitali Chandra, IAS, Deputy Commissioner of North Garo Hills, visited the Prime Hub situated at Arai Apal Village under Kharkutta C&RD Block. During the visit, she interacted with IVCS members from Nangrime IVCS Ltd and Upper Kharkutta IVCS Ltd., to learn about the activities they were undertaking. Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner explored potential tourism sites, including the Blisa view point located at Nishangram Babupara in Resubelpara C&RD Block. North Garo Hills District.

INRM





Training on thematic areas in convergence with the Soil and Water Conservation Department was conducted at two locations in **East Khasi Hills.** The first

training was held on October 26th, 2023, in Laitryngew, and the second training took place on October 27th, 2023, at Sohrarim, both in the Khatarshnong Laitkroh Block.

On November 1st, 2023, a meeting and follow-up session regarding the submission of Utilization Certificates were conducted with the Village Employment Councils of INRM villages under Ranikor Block, **South West Khasi Hills.**



On October 31, 2023, follow-up activities for INRM interventions and INRM committee engagement were carried out in Diengsiar and Sohlap village, respectively, both located in Shella Bholaganj Block, **East Khasi Hills.**



GENDER



A two day Gender & Leadership Training was held on October 31st and November 1st, 2023, at Mawroh Dorbar Hall in **Ri Bhoi District**. The training was attended by Service Providers, Group Facilitators, Managing Committee members of the Custom Hiring Centres and Collectives Marketing Centres.

OTHERS



In November 2023, multiple CM-ELEVATE awareness programs were held in **East Khasi Hills**. The programs in Mawryngkneng Block and Sohiong C&RD Block were organized in collaboration with various government departments and organizations. These events featured Shri. Nathaniel Kharkongor from PRIME Meghalaya as a Resource Person, drawing diverse audiences including local leaders, farmers, and entrepreneurs.

Knowledge Management knowledge.mbda@gmail.com

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