

NEWSLETTER

Updates of the Week

21st February 2024



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



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



INSTITUTE OF NATURAL RESOURCES (INR)



**THE MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS 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)**

UPDATES OF THE WEEK

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK

CM Conrad K Sangma Launches MegARISE Project and Distributes PES Cheques



On 16th February, 2024, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri Conrad K Sangma, officially launched MegARISE, a project supported by KFW, with the aim of protecting catchment areas in Umiew and Ganol. The launch took place at NEHU Shillong and saw a significant turnout, where CM Conrad Sangma distributed cheques for Payment for Ecosystem Services to 1118 beneficiaries from the Khasi and Jaintia regions. Notably, Shri Meuwun G Marak received the highest amount of Rs 32,92,520 for protecting 1446 hectares of land. Additionally, CM Conrad Sangma inaugurated CM Connect and the Meghalaya Organic Mission, and remotely inaugurated processing units during the event.

Continuing the momentum on 17th February, 2024, a historic moment unfolded in Garo Hills as Shri. Conrad K Sangma, the Honorable Chief Minister of Meghalaya, laid the foundation for the Tura Bulk Water Supply project and virtually inaugurated 13 processing units. Concurrently, CM Connect was launched to facilitate citizen engagement, allowing people to raise issues, grievances, and suggestions to the Government via the Helpline 1971.

The event, held at Ballonggre Playground, at outskirts of Tura, was attended by members of various societies, CBOs, and communities from across Garo Hills, along with dignitaries and government officials. A total of 82 beneficiaries from FOCUS, PES (Pilot Project – Ganol Catchment), and Green Meghalaya PES received cheques amounting to approximately ₹1,76,48,575. Joining the Honorable Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri. Conrad K Sangma, were Madam Agatha K Sangma, Honorable Member of Parliament, Shri. Thomas Sangma, Honorable Speaker of Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, Shri. Marcuis N Marak, Minister of Public Health & Engineering Department, and Shri. Subir Marak, Chairman of Village & Khadi Board.





Community Led Landscape Management Project (CLLMP)



MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY



In a concerted effort to bolster the skills and capabilities of entrepreneurial talent hailing from Meghalaya, a comprehensive four-day advanced skill development program recently unfolded at CSIR-CIMAP Lucknow. Designed to cover a spectrum of vital technologies pertinent to medicinal and aromatic plants, the program, spearheaded by the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants and generously sponsored by the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME), Government of India, New Delhi, convened from February 12th to 16th, 2024.

Among the eager participants were Mr. Rameki Salahe representing East Khasi and Mr. Dapkupar Tariang from East Jaintia. Assisting them through the intricacies of the program was Mr. V.S. Buhphang, AGM-DPM of MBMA-CLLMP Ri-Bhoi DPMU, ensuring a smooth and enriching learning experience for all involved.

Throughout the intensive training regimen, local entrepreneurs were immersed in various facets of the trade, from refining cultivation practices of mint and basil to pioneering techniques for processing aromatic plants, all aimed at augmenting the production of essential oils. Delving further into the realm of production technologies, attendees explored the intricacies of java-citronella, rose, and chamomile cultivation, alongside the production of organic raw materials for high-value herbal products. The curriculum also delved into the therapeutic applications of natural essential oils, shedding light on their efficacy in aromatherapy. Notably, participants also gained insights into the formulation of MOS-ex, a natural mosquito repellent, and engaged in scientific discourse surrounding the creation of Flomop, a natural floor mopping liquid.

What set this training program apart was its dynamic approach, seamlessly integrating practical demonstrations with lively discussions, ensuring an engaging and interactive learning environment for all involved. Moreover, the program extended beyond the confines of the classroom, offering exposure visits to related industries. These excursions provided participants with invaluable firsthand experiences, fostering meaningful dialogues with herbal product manufacturers and enriching their learning journey.

As the program drew to a close, organizers ceremoniously presented certificates to all attendees, symbolizing not only the successful culmination of the training but also a formal acknowledgment of the knowledge and skills acquired throughout the duration of the program. Undoubtedly, this initiative stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment towards nurturing entrepreneurial talent and fostering innovation within the realm of medicinal and aromatic plants, promising a brighter future for the entrepreneurial landscape of Meghalaya.



Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)



MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

"Improving Fire Safety in Zikzak Block, Dangsapara Community Forest"



Fire line control measures have been implemented in Dawa Chipit village, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Samanda block. These measures aim to effectively manage and prevent wildfires by establishing barriers and clearing vegetation to halt the spread of fires, thus safeguarding the village and its environs from potential damage.

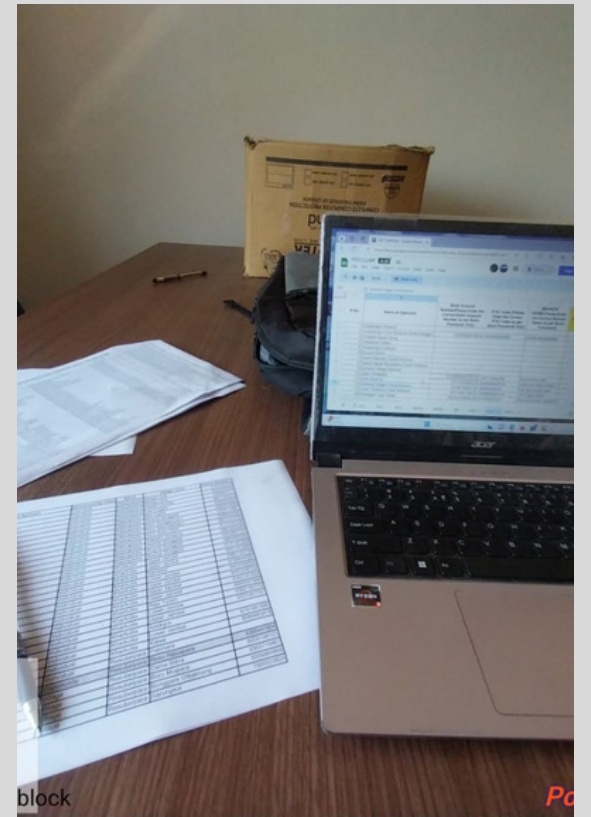
"Empowering Communities Through MRV Trainings and Surveys: A Journey of Learning"



Our Green Field Associates (GFAs) and Village Community Facilitators (VCFs) have been actively engaged in Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) activities across various villages and Blocks. They've covered locations like Pamlatar Village, Melagre Reserve, Lelad Community Forest, Ruga Songmong Village, and beyond. MRV efforts encompass a range of activities, including surveys, verifications, and

assessments, targeting village reserves, community forests, and specific spots like Rengsangre Village and Rimrangpara Village. Completed MRV activities have been documented in Gasuapara Block, Mawbsein Dorbar Shnong, Halwa Ambeng Village, and Milawe Village, showcasing a commitment to environmental monitoring and conservation across diverse regions and communities.

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).



MegLIFE

Meghalaya Livelihood
Improvement through Forest
Enhancement Project (MegLIFE)



MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

"Significant Agricultural Updates: Sesame Harvest in Mengotchigre Village and Scenic Hedgerows in Simseng Balkol and S.Rongal Villages."



farmers from Laitdiengsai village in Mawkynrew Block, Batiplang Warbah and Nicholas Sordar, have started SALT farms featuring Citronella Barriers. In Tynring village, East Khasi Hills, another farmer has achieved significant earnings, surpassing Rs. 1 lakh, from tomato cultivation using the SALT system.

Internal Audit Conducted by SPMU Team for Ri-Bhoi District and Others



An internal audit was recently conducted by the SPMU team for the Ri-Bhoi district along with other Districts and, covering physical registers from Umling and Umsning C&RD Blocks, including 19 villages in Umling and 16 villages in Umsning block. The audit reviewed various registers such as fixed assets, current assets, minutes, community contribution, muster roll procurement, cash book, outside membership register, voucher, membership register, cheque issue register, measurement book, and ledger. The audit team provided valuable observations and suggestions for improvements to prepare the team for external audits.



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 BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY



Nayapara seeds collection

: "Mass Awareness Campaign on Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS) in Mowtyrshiah-A, Laskein C&RD Block"



Mass awareness on Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS) has been conducted in Mowtyrshiah-A, Laskein C&RD Block. This initiative likely aimed to educate and inform the local community about the benefits and functioning of IVCS, which could contribute to economic development and empowerment at the village level.



On February 20, 2024, the MegLIFE project organized Day 1 of Orientation cum Training sessions on Springshed Management in Meghalaya. Two sessions were conducted simultaneously in different regions: one for the Garo Region and another for the Khasi/Jaintia/Ri Bhoi region. The Garo Region session was held at

the Working Women's Hostel annexe, Mission Compound, Tura, while the Khasi/Jaintia/Ri Bhoi region session took place at the MBDA Conference Hall in Nongrim Hills. These sessions aimed to provide training and orientation on Springshed Management and Development within the MegLIFE project villages.

Institute of Natural Resources

(INR)



MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

CENTRE FOR BIO-RESOURCES



On February 19, 2024, the Bioresource team organized an event designed to exhibit and offer practical demonstrations on cultivating Geranium (particularly the Cim-Bharat Variety) and Damask Rose. This strategically planned event took place in two separate villages: Mawphanlur village in the West Khasi Hills District and Pyndenglitha village in the East Khasi Hills District.

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

RECENT AWARENESS AND DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS IN EAST KHASI HILLS DISTRICT



Two awareness cum demonstration programs were recently conducted in the **East Khasi Hills district**. The first program, organized by the District Project Management Unit under Khatarshnong Laitkroh Block, was held on February 14, 2024, at Diengkynthong Primehub. Shri. Gavin M. Mylliem, MLA of Sohra constituency, attended as the Chief Guest.



The second program, facilitated by EFC Pynursla C&RD Block and also organized by the District Project Management Unit, focused on the broomgrass initiative for IVCS/CBOs in the production of broomsticks. It took place on February 16, 2024, and was attended by Shri. D. Lamar, Advisor MBMA, Shri. M. Kharbani, General Manager MBMA, the President, secretary, and members of the Iatreilang VDVK, VOs, SHGs members from various villages, and staff from the National Rural Livelihood Mission Project.



On February 16, 2024, a one-day workshop program on Financial Literacy and loan opportunities for all the IVCS members, including Chairmen, Secretaries, and Service Providers, was conducted at KJPA Hall, Shillong. The workshop focused on Credit Linkage under **East Khasi Hills**, aiming to enhance the financial understanding and access to loans for the participants.



A workshop on Credit Linkage was held on February 20, 2024, at Maharam Government Higher Secondary School, Mawkyrwat, **South West Khasi Hills**. The workshop was attended by Secretaries and Business Facilitators of IVCS.



Assets for phase 1 computerization schemes under NABARD were distributed in the presence of the Block Development Officer, Senior Registrar Cooperative Society Department, and officials from banks such as Branch Manager of Meghalaya Cooperative Apex Bank, State Bank of India and NABARD.

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

SPICE WORKSHOP BOOSTS FARMING KNOW-HOW IN WEST GARO HILLS



A One Day Consultative Workshop on Spices was organized by DPMU-West Garo Hills and ISC&ED SPMU Team at the Multi Facility Centre, Dadenggre C&RD Block, West Garo Hills on February 19, 2024. The workshop was attended by 63 farmers from 15 IVCS, PGs, SPs, and lead farmers of Dadenggre Block. Shri. Suresh from Terova Foods Pvt. Ltd. gave a presentation, followed by an interactive session. The farmers also engaged with Shri. Ram Kumar Mennon, Member of Spices World Organization and Spice Consultant of MBMA, on topics related

to ginger and black pepper. Fr. Binoy from All Garo Hills Multi Purpose Cooperative Society shared ideas on value addition, particularly on food processing. Additionally, the team of consultants and MBMA visited Romgre to see the Arecanut Processing Unit of Pringprang IVCS Ltd., and inspected newly collected black peppers from one of the IVCS members.



An assessment of Service Providers of Product Value Chains under MeghaLAMP (**Garo Hills Region**) was conducted at SMELC, Tura, on February 20, 2024. A total of 184 Service Providers from 9 MLAMP Blocks of Garo Hills participated in the assessment, which focused primarily on evaluating their performance.

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