

NEWSLETTER

Updates of the Week

20th March 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)



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 BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

CM ELEVATE CONCLAVE 2024



The CM Elevate Conclave 2024, held on 12th March at U Soso Tham Auditorium, Shillong and 13th March at the District Auditorium, Tura, marks a significant step towards youth empowerment and entrepreneurship in Meghalaya. Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Shri. Conrad K. Sangma, various schemes and initiatives are being implemented to foster economic growth and development in the state.

Beneficiaries approved under schemes like the Meghalaya Agriculture Warehouse Scheme, Meghalaya Common Facility Center (CFC) Scheme, and newly appointed Village Data Volunteers (VDV) implemented by Meghalaya Basin Management Agency under the Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project (Megha-LAMP), were honoured to receive Sanctioned Letters for Funds and Appointment Letters from the Honorable Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri. Conrad K. Sangma. The sanction letters for funds and appointment letters distributed during the conclave highlight the government's commitment to empowering individuals, collectives, and traditional institutions.

In collaboration with both public and private banks, the Government of Meghalaya facilitates access to credit, thereby encouraging aspiring entrepreneurs to establish new ventures or expand existing ones. To mitigate financial risks associated with entrepreneurship, the government offers capital and operational subsidies, covering 35% to 75% of the project cost. Additionally, entrepreneurs benefit from handholding support such as training and capacity-building programs. Through a user-friendly single-window portal, entrepreneurs can seamlessly apply for various business ventures across sectors, thus fostering economic growth and development in the state.

At the recent program in Tura, 5 people received sanction letters for the Meghalaya Agriculture Warehouse Scheme, 6 were supported for the Meghalaya Common Facility Centre (CFC), and 184 individuals were offered appointment letters as Village Data Volunteers (VDV) by the Honorable Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri. Conrad K Sangma. These beneficiaries were carefully identified and selected as part of the Meghalaya Livelihood Access to Markets Project (Megha-LAMP). This initiative aims to uplift and empower the community by providing essential resources and opportunities for growth.

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FIELD VISITS



From 10th March to 13th March 2024, the IFAD team accompanied by the SPMU and DPMU team had a busy schedule, visiting various IVCS locations in Meghalaya. They started by engaging with members of Tinsiminia IVCS Ltd. in Kharkutta, NGH, followed by a visit to Rengsingpara IVCS Ltd. in West Garo Hills District. Led by Sir N Srinivasan, they interacted with MC members and local shopkeepers, inaugurated a Bakery unit, and visited an Arecanut Processing unit. They also observed activities at the MeghFarm and Prime Hub in Khamari, Tikrikilla.

Continuing their visits, on March 12th, the team went to SWGH and met members of Kentrikona IVCS Ltd. and Dondime IVCS Ltd. Later that day, they visited Dadenggre and interacted with Pringprang IVCS Ltd. and Chenggaldare IVCS Ltd. Then, on March 13th, they traveled to Rongjeng and engaged with Nongshram IVCS Ltd. Throughout these visits, each IVCS provided presentations and updates on their progress.

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FIELD VISITS



On 6th March 2024, there was a field visit along with the ADB team and meeting with Laittyra IVCS Ltd., prior to that, on 7th March 2024, they went for a field visit to Diengkynthong Prime Hub and Diengkynthong Honey Processing Unit.



On 8th March 2024, an examination for the post of Village Data Volunteer (VDV) for Batch II & III was conducted across multiple districts including East Khasi Hills District, East Jaintia Hills District, and Ri Bhoi. In East Khasi Hills District, there were a total of 395 candidates registered, with 212 candidates appearing for the exam and 185 absent. Additionally, a session was held in Khliehriat, where 93 candidates participated.

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FIELD VISITS



Right after their visit to the Garo hills region, the IFAD Mission team members continued with their visit to the Khasi and Jaintia region. On the 15th March 2024, the team visited Umkon IVCS Ltd., and Umshaken IVCS in Ri Bhoi District, interacted and discussed on matters relating to the IVCS, arecanut processing unit, PGs, NRM activities, the activities that can be taken up at the PRIME Hub, Umdihar Ltd. The IFAD Team was accompanied by the DPMU and SPMU team. On 16th March 2024 the team visited Pamtbuh IVCS, Nonglatem farmers market and Wahiajer IVCS Ltd., The team sat with the IVCS members, PG members, SPs, and discussed on matters related to the IVCS, CMC, CHC, PGs and NRM.

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Aventure Travel Guide Training organised by LBI Nongstoin, MBMA.

TRAININGS & OTHERS



The ISC&ED, MBMA organized a 5 days training programme focusing on banana cultivation, production, value addition, and marketing for Master Trainers (SP). Starting from 18th March to 22nd March, 2024, this session aims to equip Master Trainers with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively train others in these areas.



Aventure Travel Guide Training organised by LBI Nongstoin, MBMA.



MegLIFE

Meghalaya Livelihood
Improvement through Forest
Enhancement Project (MegLIFE)



MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Updates from the IVCS Meeting at Nanil Apal Cluster



On March 6, 2024, a meeting took place at Nanil Apal Cluster, during which 50 promoters and 18 committee members were chosen, marking the completion of phase 3 for the Nanil Apal Community Nursery. Furthermore, on March 9, 2024, another meeting convened at Arengdo village, Kharkutta Block, with a focus on establishing an IVCS for Arengdo and Rangsa villages. Attendees discussed cluster plans and aimed to finalize resolutions and documents, including the details of 50 promoters, by the following week. The meeting also involved a site inspection for a proposed Community Hall construction in Arengdo village.

"MegLIFE Project Advances: Engaging with Communities and Securing Land for Planting"



The recent advancements of the MegLIFE project are highlighted by successful gatherings held on March 6, 2024, in Nolbari, Patijora, and Hulubaripara villages, engaging with the Hajong Community. These meetings were made possible by the enthusiastic collaboration of the A'king Nokmas. Their gracious approval for land access for planting purposes has been secured, with the Nolbari VPIC allocating

74.3 hectares. Additionally, conversations in Gilajuri village on March 6 centered around plantation areas for the year 2024 within the Zikzak Block. Offering land for planting activities, resulting in positive outcomes. Productive discussions also took place in Bolbokgre, Bolchugre, and Dambuk Atong, focusing on plantation areas within the Rongara Block.

A visit to Rongkinggre VPIC on March 5 addressed concerns regarding future activities. Villages like Goramara, Bollongre, and Mangrugri are actively participating in the project, with VPICs offering land for planting activities, resulting in positive outcomes.



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

Land Demarcation and Dispute Resolution in Rongram and Nayapara Villages



In Rongram Block, Renchagre VCF has demarcated 5 plots totaling 49.26 hectares, contributing to the total area demarcated by the VCF thus far, which stands at 93.84 hectares, with plans for further demarcation. Meanwhile, Rongram PAs are in the process of verifying 2024 plots in Anogre and Teksragre. In Nayapara Village, Tikrikilla Block, a meeting convened on March 6, 2024, addressed a land dispute concerning a 20-hectare area required for a project, attended by key stakeholders including Nokma representatives, DPM, BPM, and divisional officers. Despite previous disagreements, the Nayapara VPIC successfully identified a 20.03-hectare replacement area in March 2024. During a recent meeting, villagers expressed a willingness to reconsider the original disputed land, leading to further internal discussions. Presently, 20.03 hectares of land have been designated for plantation, with the Aking Nokma also agreeing to provide additional land for this purpose.

"Empowering Comilla Cotton Cultivation: Training Program in West Garo Hills"



On March 7th, 2024, a significant training program on "Enhanced Cultivation Techniques and Participatory Plant Breeding Methods for Comilla Cotton" was held in Chibokgre village, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya. Organized by the Multi-Technology Testing Centre and Vocational Training Centre at the College of Community Science (CAU--Imphal), Tura, Meghalaya,

in collaboration with ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur, Maharashtra, the event attracted esteemed guests including Mrs. Malika R. Marak, Block Project Manager of Rongram, MegLIFE JICA West Garo Hills Meghalaya, Netjen Sangma, the village head, and Winath Sangma, Village Secretary. 49 farmers actively participated, sharing insights and experiences on Comilla cotton cultivation. Dr. H.G. Kencharaddi presented on "An Overview of the Project and Approaches to Enhance Comilla Cotton through Participatory Breeding in Jhum Cultivation," stressing crop diversification and germplasm preservation. Dr. Rikey Thokchom discussed "Establishing Market Linkages between Comilla Cotton and the Surgical Industry." The event facilitated interactions between scientists and farmers, fostering valuable exchange of cultivation techniques. Essential resources including stainless steel buckets, Comilla cotton seeds, and vegetable garden kits were distributed to support farmers' practices as part of the project objectives

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Dedication to Community Nursery Expansion: Stephenson G Momin's Remarkable Contributions



Stephenson G Momin, a 69-year-old retired forester currently working as a Project Associate for MegLIFE under Songsak C&RD Block, is actively involved in seed collection for community nurseries in various villages. He has gathered seeds according to the seed calendar from several locations including Nengkra, Samgong, Akelgre villages, and Rongrenggiri Forest reserve. Species like Chandan, Terminalia chebula, Melia azadirach, Lagerstroemia speciosa, Cassia fistula, Tamarind, Gmelina arborea, Terminalia arjuna, among others, have been collected to improve and expand existing community nurseries. Stephenson goes above and beyond by personally contributing extra seeds for the enhancement of these nurseries, showcasing his dedication and hard work towards the project

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

"Events Leading to IVCS Formation"



Events in IVCS formation:

1. March 13, 2024: Group-2 members visited Chidekgre and Srop Adingre VPIC, discussing agro-forestry benefits and establishing Self Help Groups.
2. March 15, 2024: Mass awareness program in Puriang village for IVCS formation.
3. March 19, 2024: Awareness programs held in Chiringpara and Jelbongpara Clusters. Discussions with Nokma on PES scheme. IVCS aims to provide financial services and market access for farmers and producers.



Germination of Pamelo seeds in Bangsi Minol Community Nursery, Resubelpara



"Monthly MegLIFE Review Meeting at DERT, Malki: Monitoring Progress and Planning for Success. Led by Shri Gunanka DB, IFS, APD, the meeting focused on tracking plantation work across 500 villages. Discussions addressed challenges and achievements in procuring 45 lakhs seedlings. Strategic plans were devised, reaffirming commitment to project success. Meanwhile, DPMs, BPMs, and foresters completed a two-day training, enhancing theoretical knowledge and practical skills for effective implementation."

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

"Community Efforts: Cleaning the Fireline in Resubelpara's Chorepahar"



Resubelpara Community in Chorepahar is currently engaged in the cleaning of the Fireline.



The team from South Garo Hills District convened a meeting for discussion, planning, and briefing, initiating the advanced stages of the 2024 plantation work.



A session held with the Executive Committee members of VPICs at Chokpot BPMU, providing an overview of the plantation process and specific tasks within the model for Group 2 in Chokpot.



Community Led Landscape Management Project (CLLMP)



MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Brewing Success: A Tale of Empowerment in Tyrsad Umkseh



a pivotal workshop titled "Geo-Spatial Applications for Natural Resource Management (NRM) and Land Use Land Cover (LULC) Change Analysis in Meghalaya" was held at the Don Bosco Youth Centre in Shillong. The event saw the participation of esteemed Chief Guest Dr. S.P. Agarwal from the North Eastern Space Applications Centre, Government of India, Umiam, along with other notable dignitaries.

Throughout the day, participants engaged in in-depth discussions on various critical topics, ranging from analyzing spatial and temporal changes in surface water area to linking geo-spatial data for urban sustainability. Land use/land cover mapping and GIS applications in bamboo resource assessment were also key focal points. Moreover, insights into UAV applications for State Projects & Departments under the Government of Meghalaya were shared and explored.

The workshop provided a platform for experts and stakeholders to exchange ideas and strategies concerning the optimal utilization of geo-spatial technology for effective natural resource management in Meghalaya. It served as a forum for understanding the challenges and opportunities presented by evolving land use patterns and environmental changes in the region.



The day culminated in a stimulating panel discussion, where participants deliberated on the insights gained throughout the workshop and explored potential pathways for integrating geo-spatial applications into sustainable development initiatives in Meghalaya.

This workshop underscores the growing significance of leveraging advanced technologies such as geo-spatial analysis in addressing the complex challenges of natural resource management and land use planning, particularly in ecologically diverse regions like Meghalaya.

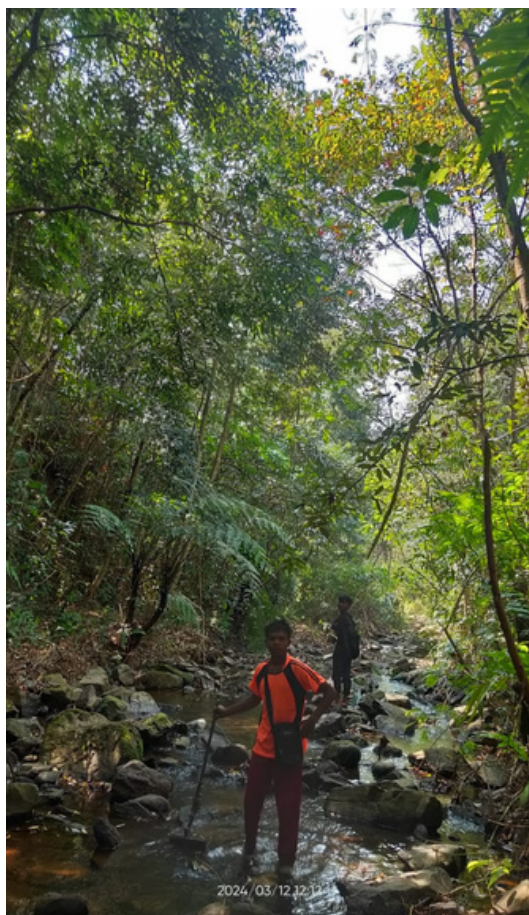


Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)



MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

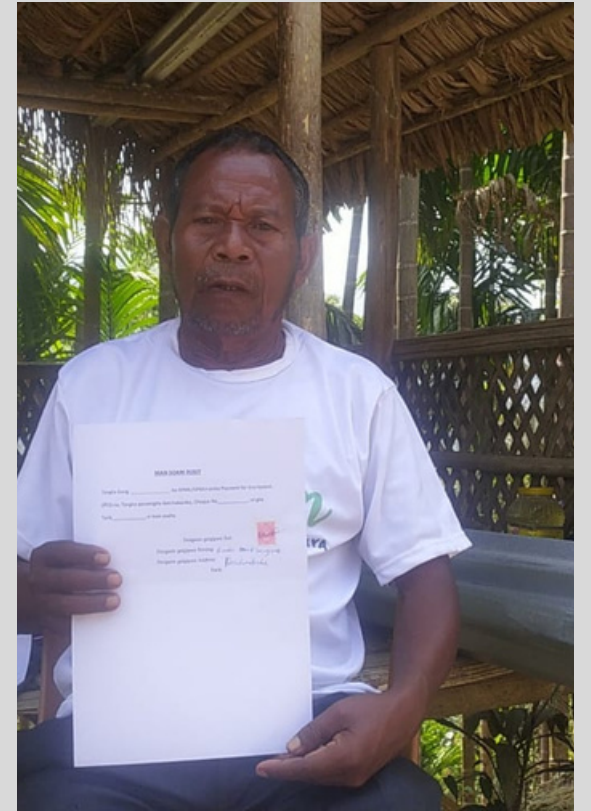
"Empowering Communities Through MRV Trainings and Surveys: A Journey of Learning"



MRV activities were conducted across various Blocks and villages, including Tongseng Village in VCF Lekibha Malang, Rongrikingre Village in Chokpot Block, Umniangriang Village focusing on individual forests, Umwai Village, Aminda Rangsa Village under Gambegre Block, Nongkyndah Village, and Mawlongbah Village. These activities likely involved Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification processes related to forestry and environmental conservation efforts, aiming to assess and document the status and progress of forest resources and conservation initiatives in these areas.

Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) is a process of PES_GREEN Meghalaya conducted to assess the performance of the beneficiaries' activities as outlined in the scheme, through this process the quantum of next installment under the PES Scheme can be determined. MRV has been carried out for 381 communities only, that received funding for Year 1 in December 2022. Out of these, 324 communities have been selected to receive funds for the Second Year. The MRV activity for 381 communities commenced on February 5, 2024, led by GREEN Field Associates at Block Level in collaboration with Village Community Facilitators (VCF), and completed on February 17, 2024. Note: Beneficiaries with missing data, falling under WLS, NP, RF, Not received funds in year 1 and 0% Payment are under Review.

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.

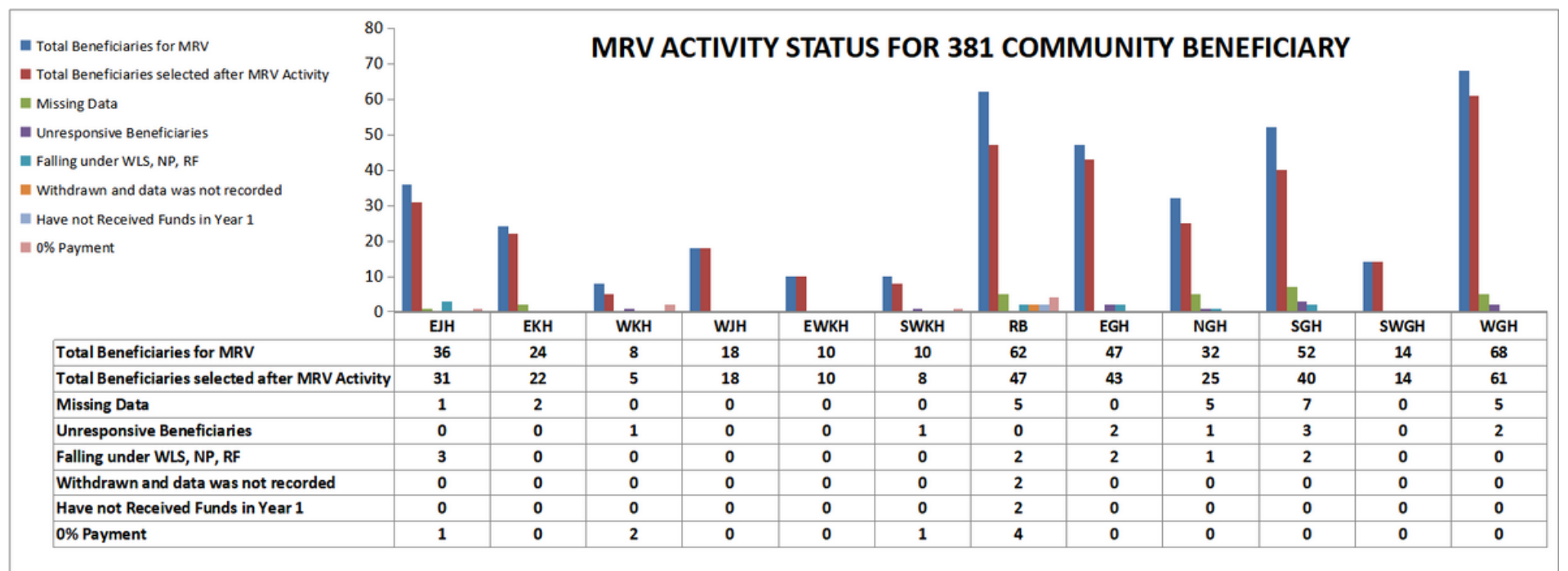


Meetings are underway with beneficiaries of the payment for ecosystem services scheme. The sessions encompass guidance on effective fund utilization and timely submission of Utilization Certificates (UC).

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

MRV ACTIVITY FOR TOTAL 381 COMMUNITY BENEFICIARIES

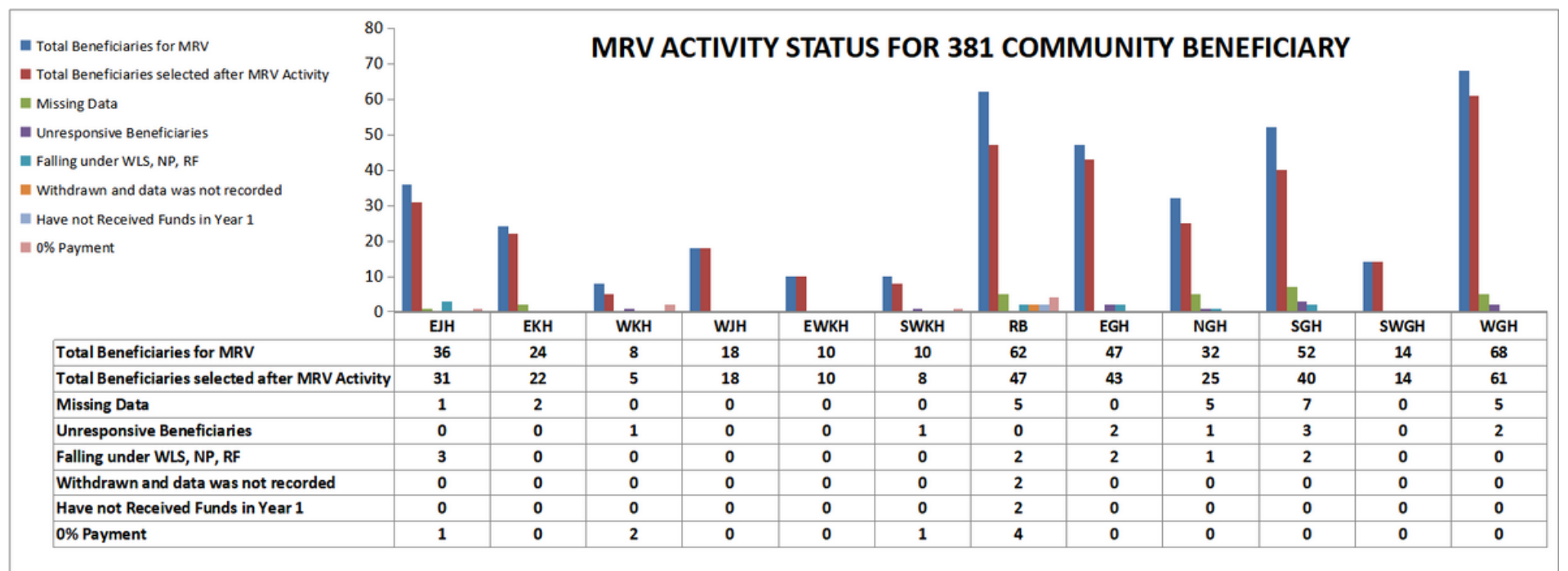
District	Total Beneficiaries for MRV	Total Beneficiaries selected after MRV Activity	Missing Data	Unresponsive Beneficiaries	Falling under WLS, NP, RF	Withdrawn and data was not recorded	Have not Received Funds in Year 1	0% Payment
EJH	36	31	1	0	3	0	0	1
EKH	24	22	2	0	0	0	0	0
WKH	8	5	0	1	0	0	0	2
WJH	18	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 H	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



MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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 H	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



MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY



GFA Hamarbamut Lyngdoh, along with a team from the Forest Department, conducted a site inspection on March 8, 2024, at Liarsluid and Khweng villages in the Bhoiryabong Block. The purpose was to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a community reserve. Additionally, another site inspection was carried out in Ummat village for the same purpose, involving another Forest Department team.

Institute of Natural Resources

(INR)



MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

INSTITUTE OF NATURAL RESOURCES



The Bio-resources team undertook numerous site visits for Mapping and Site Feasibility as part of the Megh Aroma Mission to explore expansion opportunities for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs). These visits encompassed various districts across the state. With increased team capacity, the expansion of MAP cultivation areas can be accomplished more efficiently and swiftly.



The Bio-resources team on 16th March 2024 provided geranium saplings and demonstrated the cultivation of Geranium at Lyngkien village, EKH. This initiative is aimed to promote the cultivation of Geranium and educate farmers on its cultivation techniques and potential benefits. Geranium is often grown for its aromatic leaves and flowers, which are used in various industries including perfumery and herbal medicine. The initiative taken by Megh Aroma Mission to contribute to promoting sustainable agriculture and enhancing the local economy by diversifying crops.

Knowledge Management
knowledge.mbda@gmail.com

FOLLOW US ON

