

# NEWSLETTER

**Updates of the Week**

24th 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

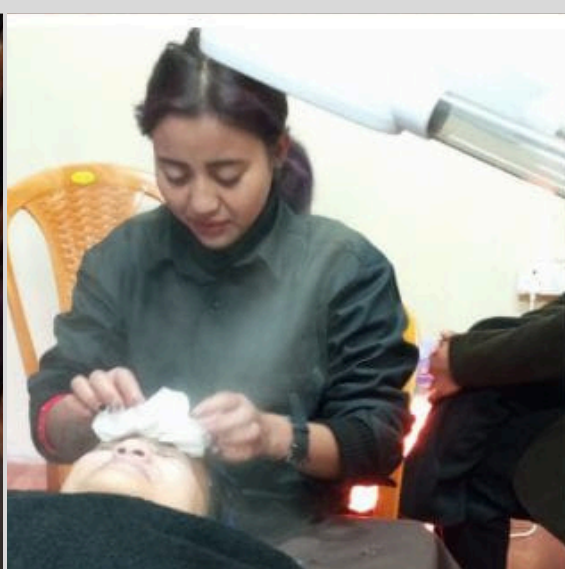
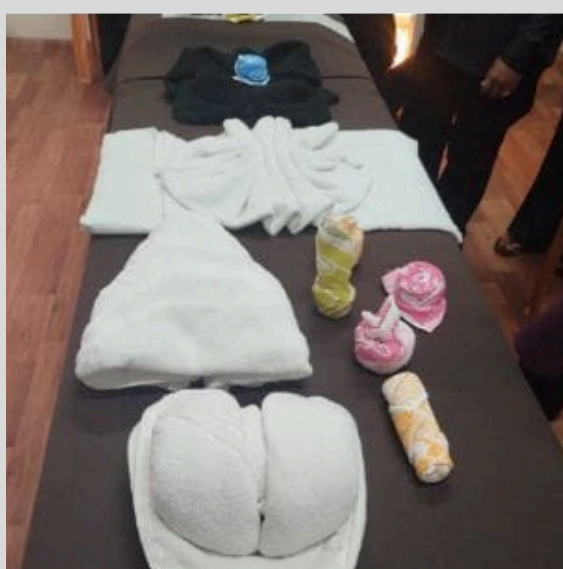
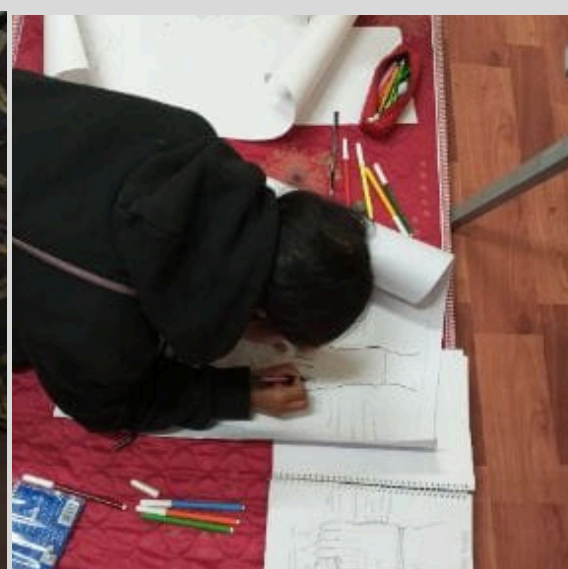
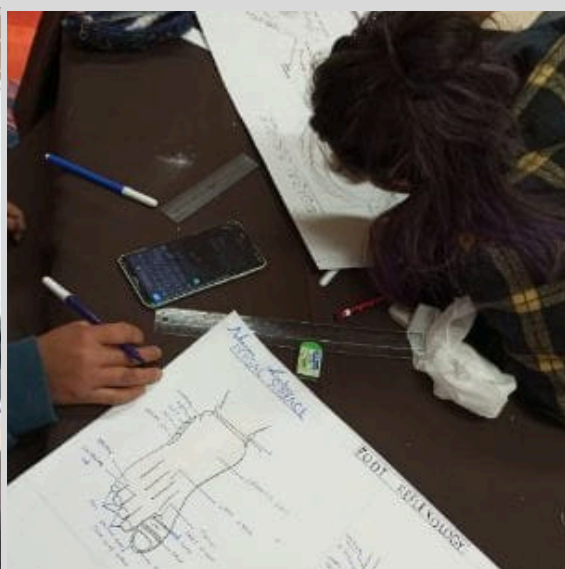
DOCUMENTATION



The Knowledge Management team captures Umwang IVCS members in action, followed by engaging interviews exploring every aspect of IVCS and its activities".

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

TRAININGS & OTHERS



A 60-day SPA Therapist training program is completed under LBI, West Khasi Hills District.



# MegLIFE

Meghalaya Livelihood  
Improvement through Forest  
Enhancement Project (MegLIFE)



## MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

### Recent Demonstrations of Half-Moon Terracing Techniques



Various demonstrations of half-moon terracing techniques were conducted across different villages recently. These demonstrations included the use of boulders in Borogobol village, bamboo in Anogre Rongram village, and another session in Abendagre Village. These activities aimed to showcase effective terracing methods to members of various (VPIC) and were facilitated by field experts.



Preparations are in progress in Golmangre, Betasing Block, as part of the SWGH initiative. Field engineers have recently assessed the spring tapping chamber in Nepalgre village, Betasing Block, SWGH. On April 22, 2024, the field engineers, alongside the GIS team and the spring shed management team, carried out Spring Mapping in Imsambal village, Kharkutta Block.



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

### "MLSC Team Leads Successful Springshed Management Training in Block-Thadlaskein"



On April 22, 2024, the MLSC team conducted a training session in Block-Thadlaskein focused on springshed management, attended by 14 participants from Shiabnai VPIC. Villagers were taught hands-on techniques for evaluating crucial springs, leading to their successful restoration of one such spring. Additionally, they gained insight into water quality assessment through the team's physical tests, expressing satisfaction with their newfound knowledge.

### "Educational Initiative on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in Kharkutta Block"



An awareness program on the popularization of medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) was conducted for the MegLIFE project villages in Kharkutta Block. Ms. Easterlina M Sangma from Aroma Mission (INR) led the session, emphasizing the significance of aromatic plants, particularly Patchouli and lemongrass, which are well-suited for the Kharkutta region. Participants were informed that they could cultivate these plants in their plantation sites established through the MegLIFE project or in their individual plots, potentially earning a livelihood by processing essential oils. The session included discussions on the flexible demand and pricing of these plants, with lemongrass priced at Rs. 1200/- per kg/litre and patchouli ranging from Rs. 3000/- to Rs. 3500/- per kg. Attendees expressed interest and engaged in an interactive session.

### "Collaborative Meeting at Pringprang IVCS"



On April 23, 2024, a meeting was held at Pringprang IVCS, Romgre, West Garo Hills, bringing together members of IVCS and officials from MLAMP. This gathering was part of the continuing exposure trip for IGA staff to IVCS facilitated by MLAMP.



# Protection of Vulnerable Catchment Areas in Meghalaya (MegARISE)





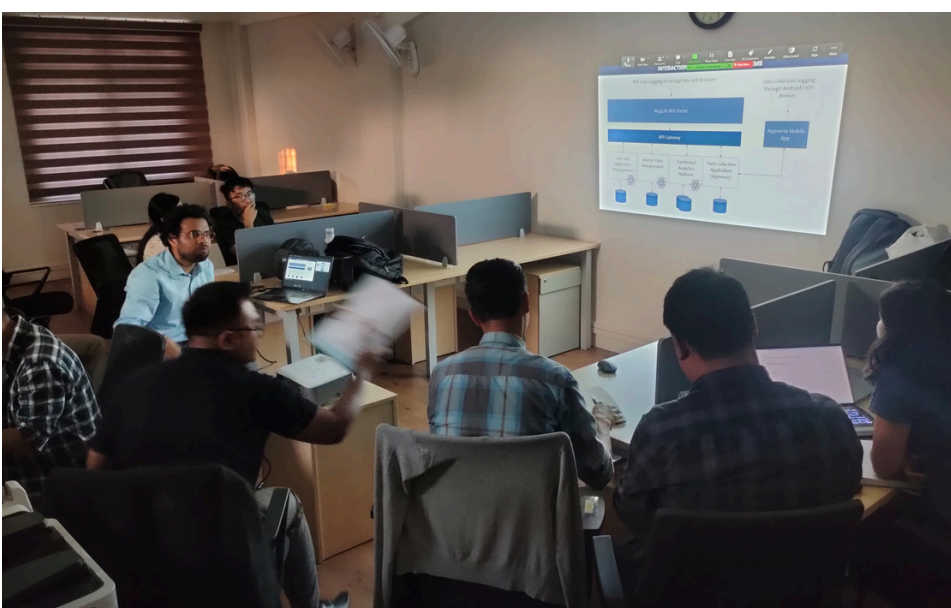
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 PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA
 

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On April 16<sup>th</sup> 2024, MegARISE Staff of Ganol and Umiew Catchment, along with SPMU team, received comprehensive Training on Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) and Financial Participatory Approach (FPA) Guidelines at MegARISE Conference Hall, SPMU, Shillong. Mr Steffen Schuelein & Mr Nand Kishore Agrawal- Implementation Consultant ( IC ) DFS collectively took the session covering the objectives of FPIC , checklist, series of FPIC approaches, objectives of FPA , stakeholder views of FPA , the 8 principles of FPA , FPA Process, Contest 1,2 & 3 etc . Meanwhile a very short presentation of Nagaland exposure visits were shared by both SPMU and CMU team



At the MegARISE Office on Springside Road, Nongthymmai, a comprehensive Management Information Systems (MIS) training session was conducted for the staff. The primary objective of this training was to bolster the team's grasp and proficiency in leveraging information systems to streamline operational processes.

Mr. Nikhil Kumar, CDFI, led the training session, providing an overview of MIS and its relevance within the MegLIFE framework, as well as its impending application within MegARISE.

The session covered fundamental aspects such as the functionality of MIS, its integration with MegLIFE, and its adaptation to suit the needs of MegARISE. Additionally, highlights included insights into the various forms utilized within the system and their integration to generate comprehensive reports pertaining to project activities.

The training aimed to equip the MegARISE staff with the necessary tools and knowledge to effectively utilize MIS, thereby optimizing project management and reporting procedures.

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 PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA
 

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On April 17, 2024, the MegARISE SPMU staff had a meeting with Chief Project Director – MegARISE, Shri Sampath Kumar, IAS, at Additional Secretariat, Shillong. The purpose of the meeting was to provide updates on the progress of the MegARISE project.

Representatives from various verticals, including GIS, KM, NRM, Social and Capacity Building, as well as Finance, were present. Notable attendees included Shri Gunanka D.B., Additionally Project Director for MegLIFE/MCLLMP/MegARISE, and Shri James Kharkongor, DPD-MegARISE.

The meeting served as a platform to discuss the current status of the project and to ensure alignment across different departments and initiatives under MegARISE.



Implementation Consultant and SPMU MegARISE staff had its meeting with APD on the 18th April 2024 at MegLife Conference Hall, Shillong. The meeting was discussed related to defining the roles and responsibilities of staffs, Integrating State project with KfW, FPIC Guidelines on No Regret Measures, SPMU Procurement, GWPB and more

# SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA (SLM)



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.

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 SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA
 

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## 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.

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## SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA

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### Trainings conducted



MSRLS conducts 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, Neemastra, 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.

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# Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)



## PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES



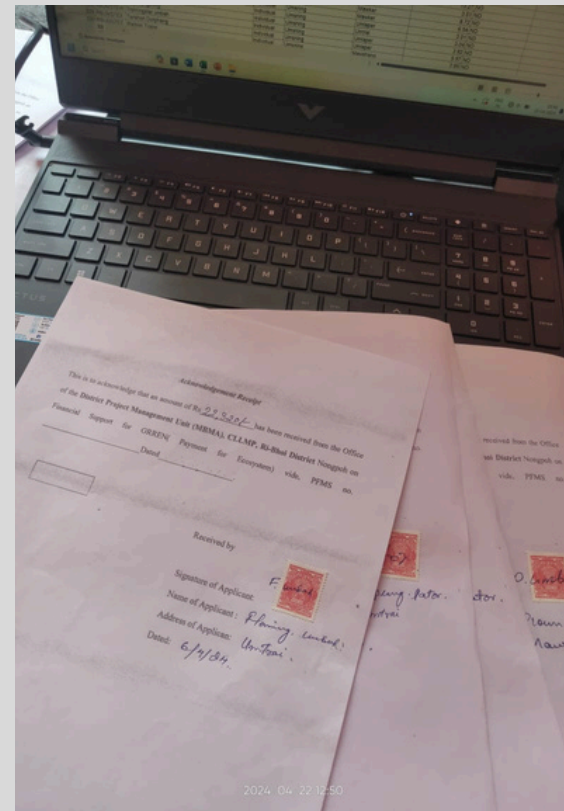
Field visits carried out by the GFAs included a visit to the Umtasor Mawkhar village during PES activities, as well as a visit to the Mongalgre Agitok Mahari association to assess ongoing endeavors.

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



Rakmanpara-B has commenced activities, specifically the demarcation of forest boundaries, subsequent to receiving the work order. On Day 1, the demarcation of forest boundaries was completed at the Magupara community forest reserve. Furthermore, Sengnatchi Tangme, hailing from Baghmara block, has initiated forest protection activities within the reserved forest area.

### 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.



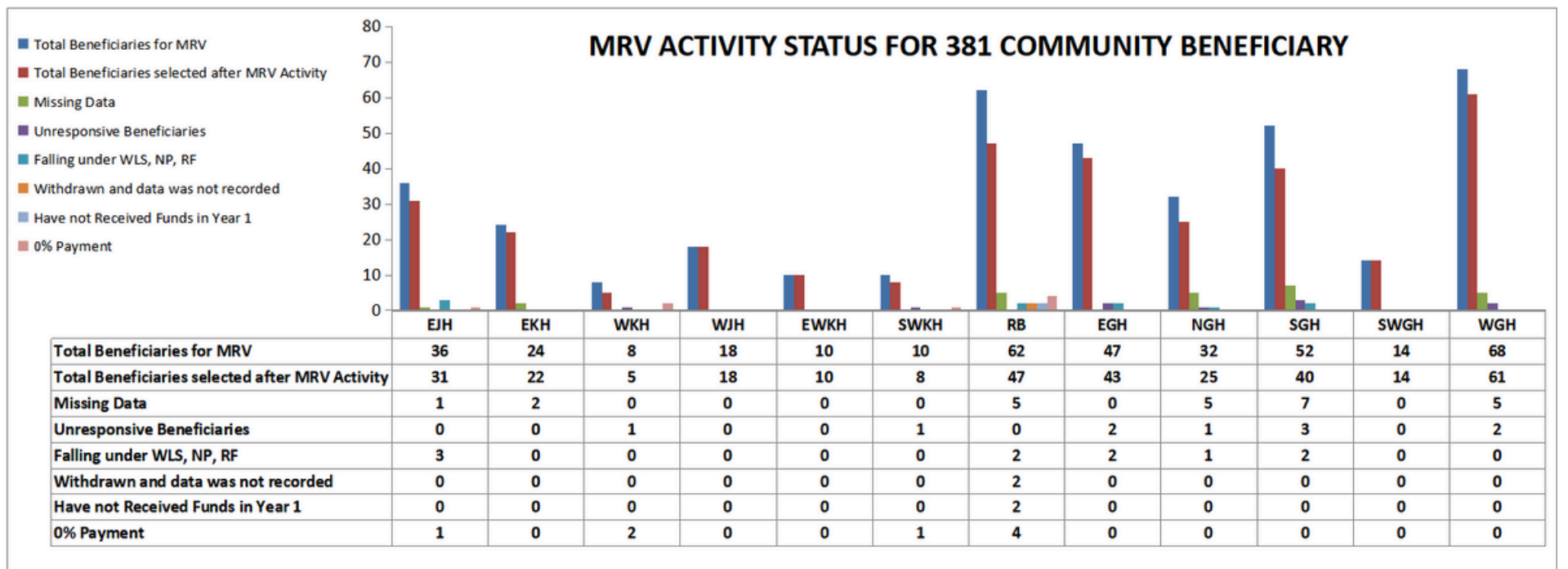
Meetings are underway with beneficiaries of the payment for ecosystem services scheme. The sessions encompass guidance on effective fund utilization and timely submission of Utilization Certificates (UC).



PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

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  
**CENTRE FOR BIO-RESOURCES**



The inaugural trial of the Field Distillation Unit, conducted in collaboration with the technicians and women of Kyllumlang Village Organization at Umdohbyrthih Village, Bhoirymbong Block, Ri-Bhoi District, marks a significant milestone. Extracting 1.4 kilograms of Citronella oil from 250 kilograms of herbage demonstrates the potential of this innovative approach. Beyond its quantitative success, this endeavor symbolizes the fusion of technology and local expertise to harness natural resources sustainably. Such endeavors not only hold promise for economic empowerment but also underline the importance of community engagement in fostering environmental stewardship and socio-economic progress.



Another inaugural trial of the Field Distillation Unit (500 kgs) was conducted in collaboration with the District Project Manager (DPM) of Ri-Bhoi District, Swaraj technicians, and the women of Persara Self-Help Group (SHG) at Umtham Village, Umsning Block, Ri-Bhoi District. During this trial, an output of 1.2 kgs of Citronella oil was successfully distilled from 200 kgs of herbage.

This achievement highlights the potential of this technology to extract valuable essential oils efficiently and underscores the importance of partnership between stakeholders to promote sustainable development and economic empowerment within the community.

## INSTITUTE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## CENTRE FOR BIO-RESOURCES



The MegLIFE team initiated a series of awareness programs on April 23, 2024, in Tikrikilla Block, Kharkutta Block, and Gasuapara Block within the #West Garo Hills district. This initiative, organised by the Bio-Resource Team of INR, focused on promoting the use of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants. The program achieved success, attracting participation from neighboring villages and culminating in a Q&A session among attendees. Furthermore, farmers showed enthusiasm for getting involved in the cultivation of Aromatic plants.

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