

NEWSLETTER

Updates of the Week

12th September 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



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



INRM * RF * ISC&ED

*Megha***LAMP**
Meghalaya Livelihoods Access to Market Project
In Partnership With IFAD

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

Highlights of Exposure Visits, Inspection & Mobilization



On 6th September 2024, an exposure visit organized by Eastern West Khasi Hills was conducted to Nongkdait-Nongtawah IVCS in South West Khasi Hills. The visit aimed to provide guidance to newly formed IVCS under Eastern West Khasi Hills on the establishment and operation of their organizations. Nongkdait-Nongtawah IVCS, recognized for its outstanding performance, served as an exemplary model, offering practical insights and effective practices to inspire the new IVCS.

On 6th September 2024, 15 representatives from Eringgre IVCS Ltd. and Simkallanggre IVCS Ltd. in South Garo Hills visited Dondima IVCS Ltd. in Zikzak C&RD Block, South West Garo Hills. Dondima IVCS Ltd. operates cashew and arecanut processing units. The visit aimed to learn about the operations, quality management, and pricing strategies of Dondima’s units. The exchange also covered business strategies, profit management, and manpower issues, providing valuable insights and ideas for both IVCS groups.



On 6th September 2024, DPMU, North Garo Hills, in collaboration with SESTA, the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department, and MSRLS, initiated mobilization efforts for pig insurance under the Piggery Mission and CM Elevate programs. This effort was carried out in Boro Gokol and Thorikakona Rabha villages within the Bajengdoba and Kharkutta Blocks. To date, 15 pigs in Bajengdoba Block and 8 pigs in Kharkutta Block have been insured.



On 3rd September 2024, a site inspection was conducted for the repair of the Multipurpose Community-Based Nursery at New West East Rangasora and Lower Rajapara IVCS, South West Jaintia Hills.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

Highlights of Trainings



The first training session on village mapping of INRM interventions was conducted by the INRM team, MLAMP, at DPMU, South West Garo Hills, on 4th September 2024. The session, held at the Additional Deputy Commissioner’s Office in Ampati, South West Garo Hills, brought together Village Facilitators and Watershed Volunteers from 23 MLAMP villages under Zikzak C&RD Block.

A two-day workshop on procurement for Purchase Committees and IVCS Managers was held on 3rd and 4th September 2024, organized by the District Project Management Unit, East Jaintia Hills District, Khliehriat, at Wika Conference Hall. The workshop saw the participation of 103 individuals, focusing on essential topics such as the principles of procurement, important aspects of community procurement, and the steps involved in the procurement process. The roles and responsibilities of Purchase Committees and Managers were also discussed, along with detailed steps for the Request for Quotation (RFQ) process.



On 4th September 2024, a one-day training and demonstration on disease management for ginger crops was conducted by the MLAMP, DPMU, West Garo Hills Team, in collaboration with the Farm Manager, at Jangrapara IVCS Ltd., Tikrikilla C&RD Block, West Garo Hills. The event was organized for ginger farmers from Chibasal IVCS Ltd., Jangrapara IVCS Ltd., and Krimkro IVCS Ltd. During the demonstration, farmers received medicines to control pests and diseases affecting ginger. The Farm Manager also explained the proper application of these medicines, detailing how and when to use them effectively.

On 4th September 2024, the DPMU South West Khasi Hills organized a Farmer Field School training on livestock management using the Bokashi method at Chibak Village under Khonjoy IVCS. The training was facilitated by Shri Yostarwell Khasrdewsaw, a member of Keniong IVCS, who had previously received training on the Bokashi method from SCALE, an NGO specializing in this technique.



MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

Highlights of Workshops & Meetings



On 4th and 5th September 2024, a Training Workshop on Bokashi Piggery and Poultry for IVCS-Service Providers under MeghaLAMP for Khasi Hills was held at Bethany Society, Shillong. The workshop aimed to clarify designs for Bokashi piggery and poultry sheds, outline roles and responsibilities for follow-up activities, and boost motivation through exposure to existing units. Participants also worked on an action plan for setting up these units. Resource persons included Dr. M. Tyngkan, District Veterinary Officer, East Khasi Hills; Shri. Tennisstar Syiemiong, Civil Engineer; and Shri. W. K. Lynrah, Entrepreneur.



On 4th September 2024, a meeting with members of IVCS-CMC was held to facilitate the pending data collection for the establishment of newly proposed CMCs at Mawlangwir IVCS, Marshillong IVCS, Helping Mind IVCS, Warsanlyngdoh IVCS, Rangblang IVCS, Nongbrei-Nongdom IVCS, Iamonlang IVCS, Raibah IVCS, and Lower Rajapara IVCS.



A Review Meeting for IVCS was held on the 27th August 2024 at Mendipathar Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd. Training Hall, North Garo Hills. The meeting addressed IVCS operations, CMC activities, loan overdue issues, PG fund status, Piggery Mission updates, UC collection, audit reports, and discussions on new IVCS applications and manager appointments.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

Highlights of Workshops & Meetings



On 5th and 6th September 2024, DPMU South West Garo Hills organized a two-day interaction program for CM Elevate applicants at the Deputy Commissioner’s Office Multi Facility Centre in Ampati, South West Garo Hills. The event, attended by 145 beneficiaries from the Piggery and Poultry sectors, featured presentations by Branch Managers, Meghalaya Rural Bank & State Bank of India, and the Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department, who provided details on loan procedures, terms, and repayment. Additionally, a meeting with CM Elevate beneficiaries was held in Nongstoin, West Khasi Hills, on 5th September 2024.



On 6th September 2024, the District Project Management Unit, East Jaintia Hills, organized a Multi-Stakeholder Platform at the cluster level for Ginger and Piggery Service Providers at Khliehriat West Community Hall. The program aimed to collect production data, review loan repayments, and assess the effectiveness of training provided by Service Providers to farmers at the village level.

On 9th September 2024, MBMA and the Taminer Project held a workshop at Chapahati 1 IVCS on cashewnut production and management. Experts from CAU Tura and the Palladium Team led sessions, with entrepreneur Mr. Rejaul Marak sharing insights on processing and marketing.



Awareness and Mobilization Programs for the Corpus Fund were conducted by DPMU, North Garo Hills at various IVCS locations in September 2024. On 5th September, sessions were held at Jibon IVCS Ltd. and Pangchakram IVCS Ltd. under Bajengdoba Block, where members expressed commitment to achieving their targets. A similar program took place on 9th September at Korepara IVCS Ltd., also under Bajengdoba Block.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

Highlights of Workshops & Meetings



Throughout August and September 2024, a series of awareness programs on the Grievance Redress Mechanism were held across various Megha LAMP blocks in Eastern and Western Meghalaya. These sessions aimed to address project risks, report unmet deliverables, and encourage community feedback, fostering transparency and accountability between the project and the communities while building trust. Key events took place at the Agriculture Training Hall in Chokpot Block, Krma III Conference Hall in Baghmara Block of South Garo Hills, at Prime Hub and the SMELC Building in Tura, West Garo Hills (for Phase I & II and Phase III IVCS). Additional sessions were held at the Mendipathar Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd. Hall in North Garo Hills, the Additional Deputy Commissioner’s Office Building in Ampati, South West Garo Hills, Don Bosco Technical Institute Hall in Laithumkhrah, East Khasi Hills and Umdihar Prime Hub for Ri Bhoi District IVCS. A similar program was also conducted at Wika Guest House in East Jaintia Hills.



Final Day Wrap-Up: Samunnati FPO Conclave 2024

The final day of the FPO Conclave 2024 saw insightful discussions on innovation, sustainability, and empowering FPOs. Key sessions addressed challenges in agriculture, while the stalls showcased solutions tailored for farmers, sparking valuable collaboration among the agri ecosystem. As the event concluded, the focus remained on driving sustainability through new practices, adoption of technology and partnerships.



MegLIFE

Meghalaya Livelihood
Improvement through Forest
Enhancement Project (MegLIFE)



MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST
ENCHANCEMENT PROJECT

IVCS Cluster Meetings, Elections, and Awareness Program



Chachat Abri IVCS IGM.



On September 12th, 2024, a meeting was held with the VPIC/VCF of Laskein BPMU at the Laskein C&RD block, in the presence of the DPM and BPMU staff. The purpose of the meeting was to foster confidence and trust to ensure the smooth implementation of all project activities moving forward.



On September 11th, 2024, a spring in Balupara Village, used by 86 households for daily needs, was monitored by the Field Engineer of Ronram Block.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST
ENCHANCEMENT PROJECT

FMP activity



A field activity for the Forest Management Plan (FMP) was carried out in Anogre Village.



The first day of the PLUP and Microplan exercise for Batch II at Myrdon Mawtari Village, VPIC, took place on September 12th, 2024.



Protection of Vulnerable Catchment Areas in Meghalaya (MegARISE)



PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA

Highlights of Financial Participatory Approach (FPA) Contest under Ganol Catchment



The first contest of the Financial Participatory Approach (FPA) was successfully conducted on September 4, 2024 at Dura kalakgre Village, with enthusiastic participation from both children and elders. The children from L.P. and U.P. sections showcased their creativity through a drawing competition, while 9 elders captivated the audience with their storytelling skills.

Adding to the cultural richness of the event, the village Pastor delivered a heartfelt song presentation, followed by a captivating Garo folklore performed by Mr. Killath Momin. He shared that the song had been cherished by the women of the village for generations. Storytelling Contest Winners:

- 1.Mr. Killath Momin - Awarded first place for his story on “Wachidare,” a sacred waterfall where the village Kamals (priests) performed ancient rituals to summon rain.
- 2.Mr. Polen Momin - Secured second place for his tale of “Rongkusi,” a mysterious stone known for its untouchable nature.
- 3.Mr. Mingman T Sangma - Took third place for his eyewitness account of the development and evolution of Dura Kalakgre village from 1963 to 2024.

The event was a celebration of community, culture, and creativity, leaving participants and spectators with lasting memories.



TThe Ganol CMU conducted the FPA contest at Nokatgre village, with vibrant participation from all age groups in both drawing and storytelling competitions. The enthusiasm of the contestants shone through in every artwork and story, each reflecting a unique perspective. Storytelling Contest Winner: The first prize was awarded for a captivating story about the origin of Nokatgre village, once known as "Agipeng." The village was renamed after Teseng and Dingse settled there, and the Garo tradition of moving for jhum cultivation, calling such places "Nokat," added historical depth to the village’s rich cultural heritage.

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA

Highlights of Financial Participatory Approach (FPA) under Umiew Catchment



The Umiew CMU held its first FPA Contest today at Pomkaniew under Myllem Block, with a lively turnout. The drawing competition saw 18 participants in Group 1 and 36 in Group 2, with Restarwell Kharkongor (age 11) and Iaraplang Kharkongor (age 13) winning first prizes. In the storytelling competition, Smt. Idalinsha Marbaniang took the top spot, followed by Smt. Martina Kharkongor in second and Smt. Riaplang Kharkongor in third place. The event fostered a joyful atmosphere, especially since such opportunities are rare in the village. Participants also shared stories about local cultural traditions, notably the 'Shad Suk Mynsiem' festival, followed by the evening 'Shad Tiatar,' which fosters a sense of unity in the community.

Highlights of PRA Exercise under Umiew Catchment



The Umiew CMU successfully conducted a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercise at Rangsyuin Village under Myllem Block on September 10, 2024. The exercise engaged community members in discussions aimed at identifying local challenges and opportunities, contributing valuable insights for future development initiatives in the area.

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA

Highlights of PRA under Ganol Catchment



The Ganol CMU team conducted a PRA exercise at Dura Kalakgre Village, Rongram Block, with active participation from the elders. The exercise revealed key challenges, including persistent water shortages, despite the village being in the head region of the Ganol River. Valuable insights were also gathered on the Phase-IV connection of PHE water to Tura. Using PRA tools such as the Resource Map, Forest Condition Map, Trend Change Map, Ownership Map, SWOT & Problem Analysis, and a Transect Walk, critical data was collected to inform future planning under the VLMAP.

Highlights of Project Awareness under Umiew & Ganol Catchments



An awareness program was held at Laitpynter Lum Mane, Mawphlang Block, on September 7, 2024, with 50 enthusiastic participants engaging in discussions on the project's impact



Another program took place at Baladingre with 27 participants, including SHG members, the VEC president, secretary, Nokma, and community elders. Discussions centered on the PRA exercise, FPA contest, and VLMAP, with the community responding positively and encouraging participation, as Baladingre serves as a key catchment area of the Ganol River.

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA

Highlights of Baseline Survey under Umiew & Ganol Catchments



The Centre of Excellence (CoE) under MBDA has initiated a baseline survey as part of the MegARISE Project to assess socio-economic, livelihood, and environmental conditions in villages within the Umiew and Ganol Catchments. This survey aims to gather essential data for planning future activities in the project areas. This in-depth assessment focused on land use, water resources, forest cover, biodiversity, and local livelihoods. Trained surveyors, deployed by the CoE, began their second week of survey , and will continue across various villages under the 2 Catchments throughout September and October.

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA (SLM)



SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA



Visit was made on the 5th September 2024 to the ginger cultivation site of the Shiruplang Mynska Group III in Mynska Village under Laskein Block, West Jaintia Hills District by BRDC & MBMA for farmer detail collection and progress inspection. The ginger plantation is thriving in a unique citronella intercropping system. Notably, the semi-shade provided by the citronella is ideal for the ginger's growth, and no pests or diseases were observed affecting the crop



On 6th September 2024, a briefing workshop was held at Toil, Mawlai Mawroh, East Khasi Hills, with block staff and master trainers of MSRLS involved in Natural Farming.



On 6th September 2024, a meeting was held with the Managing Committee members of IVCS in 16 turmeric villages as part of the Traditional to National Program for Organic Production conversion initiative under Sustainable Land Management convergence activities in Laskein Block, West Jaintia Hills. The meeting, attended by the BDO of Laskein C&RD Block and personnel from the District Agriculture and Cooperation departments, covered the Sustainable Land Management project overview, the importance of social agreements, and the work plan for SLM activities.

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA



On 7th September 2024, 22 farmers in Mutong, East Jaintia Hills, cultivated seven seed varieties—cubcecum, mustard, radish, cucumber, carrot, broccoli, and cauliflower—on the Farmer Field School field. They utilized traditional organic inputs, including Beejamruth and Ghana Jeevamruth, for the cultivation process.

Knowledge Management
knowledge.mbda@gmail.com

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