

NEWSLETTER

Updates of the Week

15th May 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

AWARENESS PROGRAMMES, MEETINGS & TRAININGS

On 8th May 2024, an awareness programme was held at Laitiam IVCS, Laitiam, focusing on mobilizing membership, savings, and loans, along with a follow-up session on the Collective Marketing Centre (CMC) with the Managing Committee.



On 8th May an orientation cum awareness program was held on demo plots of potato, accompanied by a visit to a herbs garden cultivating rosemary and lavender. The joint inspection was conducted by the SPMU, CIP TA, and IVCS incharge at Laitnongrim IVCS.



On 8th May 2024, the DPMU & SPMU team conducted an inspection and meeting on the Primehub & Honey Processing Unit located at Diengkynthong IVCS in Khatarshnong Laitkroh Block.

 MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

AWARENESS PROGRAMMES, MEETINGS & TRAININGS

On 9th May 2024, the Managing Committee of Rangbihbih IVCS gathered at the village community halls of Rangbihbih. Smt. L. Khonglam, the IVCS incharge, along with other MC members, attended the meeting which commenced at 9 am. Discussions during the meeting included explanations on the Corpus fund and its accessibility criteria, as well as considerations for the IVCS's future plans and direction.



A two-day Bookkeeping Training session was held for the IVCS of Kharkutta C&RD Block in North Garo Hills on 9th May 2024 and 10th May 2024, at the Dekachang meeting hall in Resubelpara. The training was attended by 46 chairmen and secretaries representing 23 IVCS.



On 10th May 2024, an awareness program was conducted at Jingiatreilang IVCS in Jabar Nongneng village, Sohiong C&RD. The program focused on mobilizing IVCS membership, share capital, savings, loans, and CMC. Shri Nestaroy Kharmuti, Chairman of Jabar Lumtop Jaud IVCS, also participated in the event and engaged with the participants.



On 11th May 2024, a meeting was convened with market managers from five districts of Garo Hills at Prime Hub, Tura. Subsequently, the SPMU team, accompanied by the DPM of WGH, visited the All Garo Hills Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd. cum Prime Hub at Babadam, WGH.

 MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

AWARENESS PROGRAMMES, MEETINGS & TRAININGS

On 13th May 2024, the FLC program was conducted jointly by EFC Sohiong and MCAB Sohiong at Nongur IVCS. The program lasted for 2 1/2 hours, receiving commendation from the Branch Manager for the absence of defaulters in KCC from Nongur village thus far. Smt. Misa Jana was highlighted as an exemplary case for her outstanding loan repayment. The outcome of the program is aimed at empowering IVCS to facilitate and connect farmers with loan opportunities and ensure prompt repayment to the bank.



The two-day training on MIS for the DPMU staffs in Garo Hills, including M&E, DEOs, and IVCS In charges, concluded on 14th May 2024. Conducted by the ISC&ED Team from SPMU, the training equipped the participants with the necessary knowledge and procedural steps pertaining to MIS implementation.



On 14th May 2024, the IVCS mobilization program was conducted in Rangbihbih village. The event saw the participation of village heads, MC members of Rangbihbih IVCS, residents of the village, along with Smt. Laveenea Khonglam, IVCS incharge, and Shri Pynkhlian Shangdiar from NGO Mylliem EFC. Shri Buhkyrpang Nengnong served as the resource person. Notably, five attendees were enrolled on the spot, each purchasing one share capital. Furthermore, staff members present were invited to an upcoming dorbar meeting organized by the village authority in the following week, aiming to further expand IVCS membership.



On 14th May 2024, a one-day training session on dry ration took place at Pynursla C&Rd Block. The attendees included members of IVCS, notable pig rearing cooperative societies benefiting from the piggery mission, and several progressive farmers. Serving as resource persons were Dr. Sheryl Lyngwi, Dr. Manroilang Shylla, and Shri. Mutshwa Thabah, Vice Chairman of EARMACS.

 MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

AWARENESS PROGRAMMES, MEETINGS & TRAININGS

Training, along with the distribution of machines and equipment related to the broomsticks initiatives, took place on 14th May 2024, at the Pynursla Block office. The event was graced by the presence of General Manager MBMA, Shri. Marcel Kharbani, EFC staff, and 10 members of VDVK, including the in-charge from NRLM. The President of the Iatreilang VDVK shared positive feedback about the training, highlighting its significant benefits to the members, particularly the women. They expressed appreciation for the ease of use in completing the final product and extended gratitude for the initiative taken by MBMA.



An awareness programme on IVCS mobilization regarding membership, savings, and loans was conducted on 14th May 2024, at Pynai IVCS Ltd under the Pynursla block. The program took place at Pynai community hall with the presence of the village headman, Shri. K. Khongtim. Participants actively engaged in coordinating and raising questions. One of the members, Smti. Lucina Mawkon, questioned the interest rates of savings and emphasized transparency in the IVCS and its functions.



A three-day training on Credit Linkage operations for IVCS in charge was conducted for all the staff in charge from across the DPMUs in two batches as follows:

Batch-1 took place at KJP Assembly Conference Centre, Lachumiere, Shillong from 9th May to 11th May 2024, with 52 participants.

Batch-2 was held at Lamjingshai Youth Centre, Pohkse, Shillong from 13th May to 15th May 2024, with 50 participants from the district. The training was conducted in the presence of DPD, MLAMP, Consultant RF, RPMs, AGM, SM, and officials from SPMU.

The purpose of the program was to streamline and enable the IVCS staff in charge to achieve the target of Credit Linkages and of the project as a whole.

 MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

FIELD VISITS & INSPECTIONS

On 11th May 2024, Dr. Vijay Kumar, D, IAS, Commissioner Secy. Planning Dept & Project Director (Megha-LAMP) conducted a visit to the orange waxing unit and broomgrass aggregation unit of Gabil Rongmil Prime Hub in East Garo Hills.



On 11th May 2024, officials from APEDA visited farmers of Diengkynthong, Mawlyndiar, and Nohkalikai for a video shoot showcasing the processing of bayleaf, cinnamon, and honey. The shoot was conducted in the presence of staff members from SPMU, DPMU, and MegLife of MBMA/MBDA.



On 13th May 2024, Dr. Vijay Kumar, D, IAS, Commissioner Secy. Planning Dept & Project Director (Megha-LAMP), undertook a visit to several locations in West Garo Hills. These included MeghFARM & Prime Hub, Passion Fruit Farm at Tikrikilla, Chudoang IVCS Ltd., ginger farm at Sadolpara in Dadenggre Block, and the Agro Food Park of AGHMPCS cum Prime Hub at Babadam, Rongram Block.

During this field visit, Dr. Vijay Kumar engaged with stakeholders from various interventions. He provided valuable insights and recommendations aimed at enhancing performance, while stressing the importance of monitoring and follow-up by the project team.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

FIELD VISITS & INSPECTIONS



On 14th May 2024, a field visit was conducted to Kantrikona IVCS and Balughat IVCS to inspect the demo plot land for OPS. During the visit, there was an interaction with SPs to finalize the selection of vegetable seeds.



On 15th May 2024, a joint visit was conducted with the Divisional Officer from S&WCD, along with a meeting held with the headman and landowner regarding the construction of the new Prime Hub at Chokpot Warima village.



MegLIFE

Meghalaya Livelihood
Improvement through Forest
Enhancement Project (MegLIFE)



MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENCHANCEMENT PROJECT

Jungle clearance activities



Various jungle clearance activities are underway across different blocks and villages, including demonstrations on plantation layout preparation in Gambegre Block, ongoing jungle clearance in Santogre Village, Jarimpara, and Renchagre, staking activities in Wakolnanggre and Abendagre villages, and sticking naturally occurring seedlings like *Grewia microcos*. Advanced work is being carried out in Ionglang Community, Laskein C&RD Block, West Jaintia Hills, Mowkaiaw, and other areas, including demonstrations for bamboo terrace and spacing for ANR plantation. Fencing work is in progress at Umtangtiang VPIC. A recent visit to Dangkong Tasilgre and Dangkong Chitogre under Songsak Block involved demonstrations for ANR plantation. Jungle clearing continues in Rongkaigre and Noonmati under Zikzak, while staking activities persist at Thapa Dangre Community Reserve.

Halfmoon Terraces Activities



Various activities related to half-moon terracing have been conducted across different Blocks and villages, showing progress in Chorepahar Community Reserve, Manggakgre 2023 Plantation, Nokatgre Community Reserve, Thaugittim, and Shiabnai VPIC. A demonstration of half-moon trenches took place at Kasibil plantation site on May 9th, 2024, involving BPM and FE staff under Betasing Block SWGH. Additionally, ongoing preparations and work continue at Chorepahar Community Reserve and village, as well as Songmagre.



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

"SHG Awareness & Development Events: Highlights"



BPMs (Block Project Managers) and assistant managers organized multiple awareness programs for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) throughout May 2024 in various villages such as Mandadrop, Simseng Aringga, Bawagre VPIC, Dildigre VPIC, and Mengotchigre VPIC, despite encountering challenges like heavy rainfall and poor road conditions. Meetings focused on SHG gradation and awareness were convened on specific dates: May 9th in Mandadrop and Simseng Aringga, May 10th in Mandalang Akoksi, and May 13th in Nokatgre and Bolsaldamgre. These sessions included record maintenance checks and were attended by staff members.



A meeting took place at Thadlaskein, where VPIC Members, BPMU Staff, DPM, and Block Development Officer (BDO) engaged in discussions regarding MegLIFE Project, specifically highlighting plantation as its central activity. Concerns were raised about VPIC performance, prompting calls for improvement from the DPM and BDO. Plans were formulated for monthly review meetings, and VPICs received reminders about procurement and payment procedures. Emphasis was placed on the importance of proper payment documentation, with arrangements made to initiate the creation of advice lists and utilization certificates from the following month onwards.

"VPIC Gatherings Assess IVCS and SHGs Across Villages"



VPIC gatherings convened across various blocks and villages, featuring deliberations spearheaded by the AM with VPIC members and SHGs concerning Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS) and the evaluation of three SHGs in Rongronggre on May 9, 2024. During another session in Teksrage, a plantation endeavor encountered hurdles as labor costs exceeded the budget due to extensive work, notably in plots heavily overrun by weeds. Despite having surplus funds, the cultivable area diminished following physical assessment on May 9, 2024. Moreover, the AM persisted in discussions regarding IVCS and SHG assessment at Dangkong Chitoregre and Dangkong Tasilgre on the same day.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

"Field visits conducted by the FE."



On May 8th, 2024, BPM, AM, and FE visited Kolkatola village in the Betasing Block, SWGH. Their objective was to assess the ongoing development of the Dug Out Pond and staking at the Plantation site. Furthermore, they initiated the construction of a water tank at Dagal Nokat village.



Belguri VPIC is engaged in the process of filling empty polybags with seeds of *Assia fistula*, Sinaru, Gabare, and *Gmelina Arborea*.



Protection of Vulnerable Catchment Areas in Meghalaya (MegARISE)



 PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA



On 14th May 2024, MegARISE Ganol Catchment Management team held its first Training Programme for 17 Village Organization / SHGs on Nursery Management. The Training was held at Meghalaya Forest Training School (MFTS), Baiza, (Willamnagar) in East Garo Hills District.

Smt Jejebell D Areng, Ranger and Instructor of MFTS were the Resources person wherein various topics were covered on Nursery management, maintenance of nursery, seedling and store registers. Also Mr.L. M. Momin, MFS, ACF and Principal of MFTS took a session on different types of nursery techniques. There were 32 participants attended for the said training.

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA (SLM)



SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA



Dr. Vijay Kumar D. (IAS), Commissioner Secy. Planning Dept. and CEO MBMA visited Umkrem village in East Khasi Hills to interact with natural farming farmers of MSRLS.



A Review Meeting of the PMU was held on 9th May 2024 at SLM HQ. Progress was reviewed by Smt. Isawanda Laloo (IAS), PD SLM. Also present were Shri A. Suting, APD SLM, IMC, and the core team of MBMA



A meeting was held with the Chairman and Secretary of Nongkhrah IVCS Ltd. in East Khasi Hills District along with DPMU staff and the PMU team regarding farmers' mobilization under KfW-SLM. The IVCS will submit the list of pineapple farmers and areas committed for KfW-SLM to the PMU by 13th May 2024.



A meeting was held at Diengkyltong PRIME Hub with Mawlyndiar, Raid Mawshuit, and Khrang IVCSs Ltd. along with DPMU staff and the PMU team regarding bay leaf farmers' mobilization under KfW-SLM. During the meeting, the PMU team briefed the IVCS and DPMU staff on the project. All IVCSs agreed to submit the list of farmers and areas of intervention by 17th May 2024.

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA



A joint meeting between members of the CDP and SLM was held on 14th May 2024 at SLM's PMU Office. The agenda of the meeting was to ensure clarity of interventions by different projects and missions in Laskein, West Jaintia Hills with an aim to address gaps and drawbacks while establishing a successful convergence model. The meeting also facilitated the finalization of the SLM project villages and CMCs for supporting the growth of the turmeric value chain.



On 15th May 2024, Shri. Saurabh Bose, Assistant Project Coordinator, SLM chaired a meeting for the new KFW (SLM) project with Jamge IVCS, Gabil Rongmil IVCS, and Gabil Daningka IVCS, along with the DPM and staff of East Garo Hills. The IVCS involved in the KFW (SLM) project are tasked with organizing MC meetings with pineapple growers from their respective IVCS areas to select 5 hectares of contiguous land for Gabil Daningka IVCS and Gabil Rongmil IVCS, and 20 hectares for Jamge IVCS as part of the project. This selection will be followed by geo-tagging and mapping of the pineapple growing areas for the SLM project.



The Farm Manager for MSRLS visited various villages in East Jaintia Hills and South West Khasi Hills districts for collecting data about farmers of VOs and for conducting surveys of their farm lands including geofencing. Data collected include crops grown, farm coordinates and size, and market details.



Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)



PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

"Site Inspection Visits and Meetings by GFA"



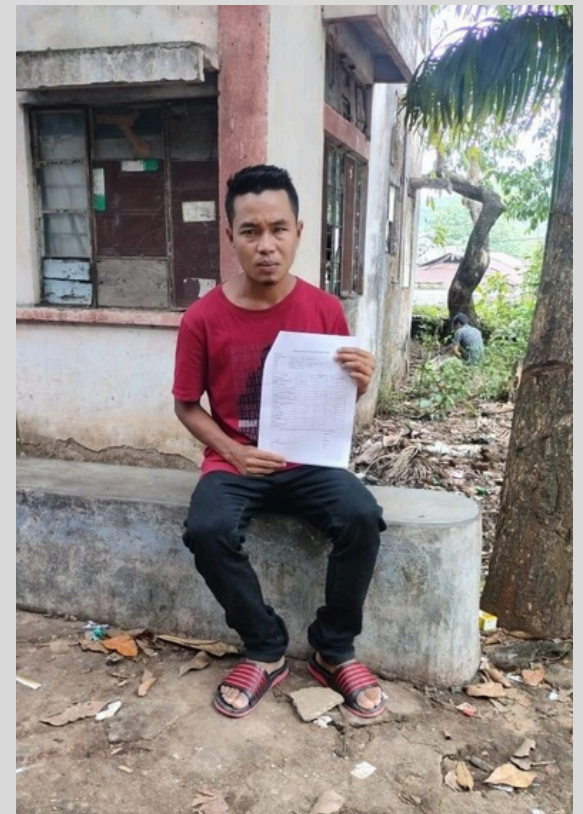
The GFAs conducted field visits encompassing various activities such as demarcating forest boundaries at Dengnakpara Noagre village in SWGH, collaborating with the IORA team at Mawlangwir and Nonglang villages, describing boundaries at EGH Rongjeng Silchang Village, meeting beneficiaries at Mawlangwir village, conducting field surveys at Langlew Village with the IORA team, visiting Mawtneng law along Bhoirymbong Block, conducting site visits at Samandalgre village in SWGH, and visiting Sosotpara with the IORA team.

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



The Rongkugre Community Reserve in Chokpot, SGH, conducts activities focused on boundary demarcation and fire prevention and control.

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.

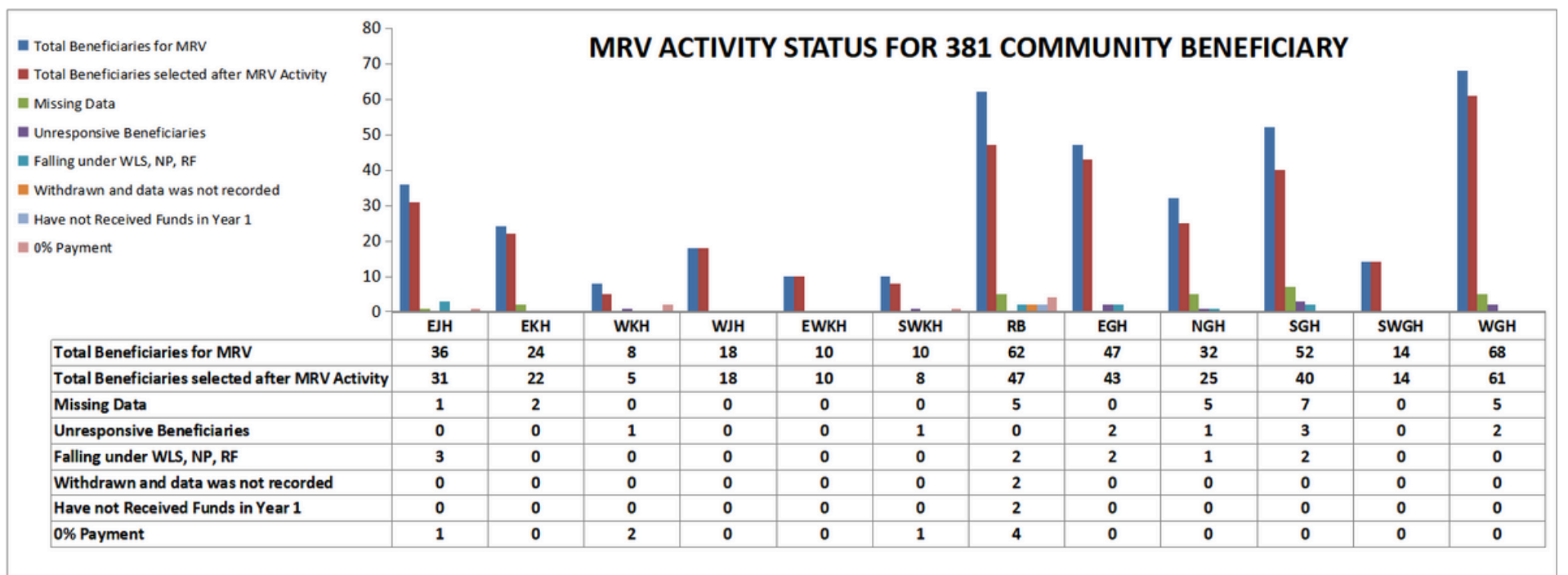


Meetings are underway with beneficiaries of the payment for ecosystem services scheme. The sessions encompass guidance on effective fund utilization and timely submission of Utilization Certificates (UC).

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

AWARENESS PROGRAMME



Another Awareness Programmes was conducted on PGS certification, which stands for Participatory Guarantee System, plays a crucial role in ensuring the organic integrity of agricultural products. Collaborations between organizations like the Bio Resource Development Centre (BRDC) and societies such as the Institute of Natural Resources, Meghalaya are essential for spreading awareness and facilitating the certification process. The programme was conducted to farmers of Wahkaliar, Umwai and Marai Kaphonat, Umdap Dummu, Umling block Ri Bhoi district.

 INSTITUTE OF NATURAL RESOURCES



The inaugural test of the 500kgs Field Distillation Unit took place in collaboration with the Swaraj technicians and the members of Tyllilang SHG at Pamlaban Village, Umsning Block, Ri-Bhoi District. The Bio-Resources team provided valuable assistance during the process. From 200 kgs of Lemongrass herbage, the trial yielded 1.4 kgs of Lemongrass oil.

Monitoring of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants



The Bio Resource staff conducted monitoring and sample collection on the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants supplied by the Aroma Mission. This was to assess their survival rates at various locations: Lemongrass at Chongpotgre, SWGH, the Geranium plantation at Khliehmawlieh, Nongstoin Block, WKH, and the Geranium Nursery at Nongkasen, Mawthadrishan Block, and Rikhen, Mairang Block EWKH.

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