

NEWSLETTER

Updates of the Week

5th June 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

Enhancing Community Empowerment through Capacity Building



A five-day orientation and training on bookkeeping for the office bearers of the newly registered IVCS was conducted for the IVCS of EJH, WJH, and EKH Districts (Batch-1) at Lamjingshai Youth Centre, Pohkseh, Shillong from May 27th to May 31st, 2024, with a total of 60 participants. The training was conducted in the presence of DPD, MLAMP, AGM, Consultant RF, and officials from DPMU and SPMU. The objective of the program was to acquaint and enable the IVCS in record-keeping proficiency.



On the 31st May 2024 a workshop on Dry Ration for was conducted for 11 IVCS under the supervision of Senior Manager - Market / Prime hub at SPMU, Nongrim Hills. The programme was attended by the Chairman, Secretary, IVCS Manager, IVCS Incharge from EKH, WJH, WKH, RB and EJH. All IVCS agreed to take up Dry Ration as one of the business activities under the IVCS. In the meantime they have submitted the requirement, and they are ready to pay 50% of the investment cost.



The mobilization programme on membership, savings and loan for IVCS and the financial literacy camp was held at Laitkyrhong village on the 30th May 2024, in the presence of Shri H. Kharmalki BM, MCAB Smit Branch, village committees, MC members of Laitkyrhong IVCS, residents of the village, smt. Didsy Warjri, IVCS Incharge of Mawkynrew EFC. Resource person for the program was Shri Buhkyrpang Nengnong (DPMU) and Shri H.Kharmalki (BM) Smit Branch. A number of 180 plus attended the programme and about 50 members were enrolled for membership and at the same purchased one share each.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

Insights from inspections, field visits, meetings and others



On 29th May, 2024, the HR Team from SPMU conducted site visits to the INRM intervention sites located at Madhupara VEC and Balalgre VEC within the Selsela C&RD Block. Following this, they proceeded to inspect the Agro Food Park and Prime Hub operated by the AGHMPCS (All Garo Hills Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd.) in Babadam, under the Rongram Block, WGH.



On 29th May 2024, the PMU Team visited Kerupara IVCS Ltd., Dondima IVCS Ltd., and Chapahati 1 Prime Hub in the Zikzak C&RD Block, SWGH. The purpose of the visit was for the upgradation of cashew processing, provision of technical assistance, conducting quality reviews, and developing marketing strategies.



On 30th May 2024, a field visit was conducted to Simkalangre IVCS with the President of the Kholapur District Cashew Traders Association from Maharashtra, the CEO of AceWorx Global from Uttar Pradesh, and the SPMU Team. The purpose of the visit was to survey the volume of production and conduct a thorough examination of the machinery. The visitors also evaluated the drying methods, ensuring that cashews are dried at temperatures between 5° to 6° degrees Celsius to prevent mold formation. Additionally, activities such as nut counting were carried out, revealing that 1 kilogram of cashews contains approximately 200 pieces.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

Insights from inspections, field visits, meetings and others



The review with DPMs and Regional Managers of Garo Hills under MLAMP was conducted by HR, SPMU at Prime Hub, Tura on 30th May, 2024. Despite the dreary weather conditions and a prolonged power outage, it did not dampen the spirits of all present, and the review proceeded without any disturbances.



A team from EFC-Betasing (FOCUS), SWGH visited Birghum Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society Ltd, at Joyfar under Betasing C&RD Block on 30th May 2024. They have been registered and listed under the SFURTI project undertaken by the Madhukar Livelihood Foundation. Since their registration on 20th February 2024, a total of 60 members have enrolled themselves and subscribed to one share each. Additionally, savings totaling ₹9,600/- have been mobilized from 24 members.

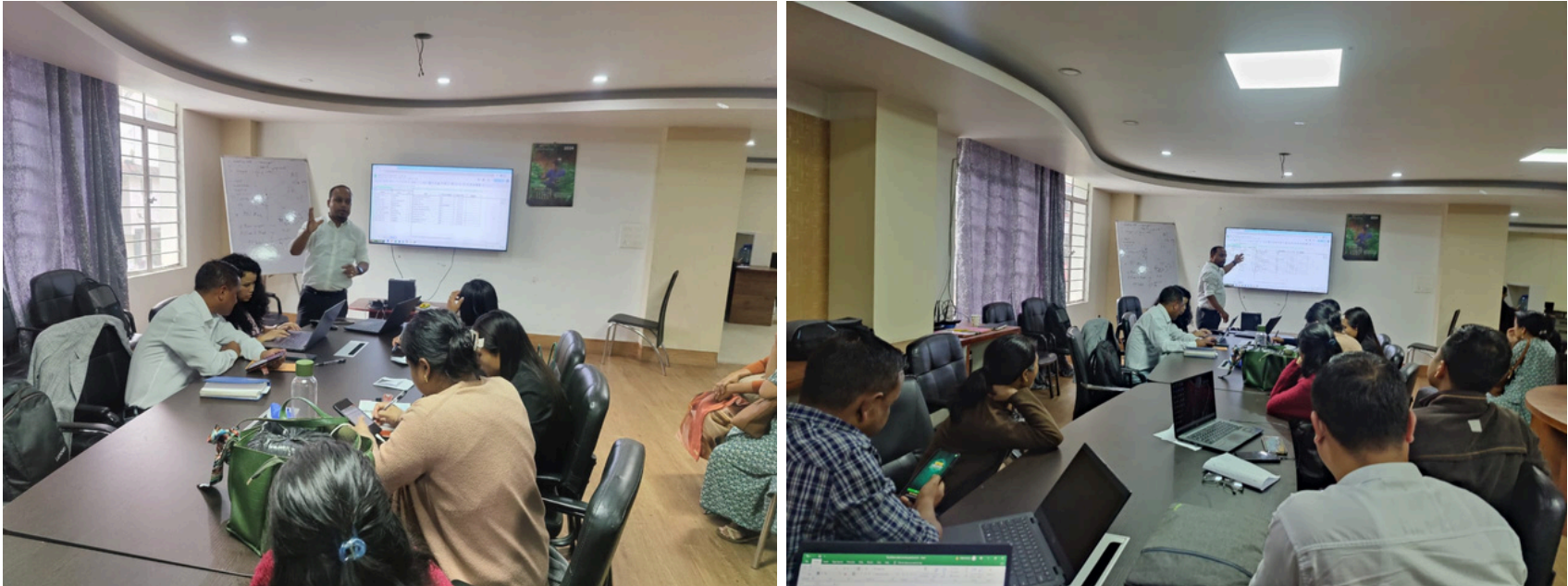


The meeting held at Bolchugre IVCS Ltd, Zikzak Block, SWGH on 4th June 2024, included participants from the IVCS Managing Committee, Finance Committee, Business Committee, Purchase Committee, Service Providers, and IVCS members, where agendas such as discussing roles and responsibilities of various committees and service providers, addressing loan overdue and repayment, reviewing targets and achievements of KCC loans and loans to IVCS members, identifying SP credit linkages, planning training for ginger farmers, and discussing future plans of the IVCS were discussed.



 MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

Insights from inspections, field visits, meetings and others



A workshop to finalize the Dry Ration Data for 11 IVCS was conducted under the supervision of Shri Ivan R Marbaniang, Senior Manager, SPMU, on the 4th June 2024 at MBDA, SPMU, Nongrim Hills. The program was attended by the Chairman, Secretary, IVCS In-charges, IVCS Manager, and Shop Owners belonging to IVCS members from EKHD, RB, EWKH, WKH, WJH, EJH, SWKH, and EKH. Out of the 11 IVCS, 10 have consented to take up Dry Ration as one of the business activities under their respective IVCS; their requirements have been finalized today, and they are ready to pay 50% of the investment cost. One more IVCS under RB is yet to ascertain the data and has been given time until tomorrow afternoon. Overall, the discussion was productive, and the accumulated amount reached almost 30 lakh as the first assignment for the month.





MegLIFE

Meghalaya Livelihood
Improvement through Forest
Enhancement Project (MegLIFE)



MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENCHANCEMENT PROJECT

"Spring Mapping Across Blocks"



On June 4, 2024, teams engaged in spring mapping activities across several blocks in South West Garo Hills (SWG). In Betasing Block, a collective effort involving BPM, FE, PA, GIS, and VCF members was observed. Additionally, mapping initiatives occurred in Renibadimagre, Chokpot Block, South Garo Hills, and Lower Khongrapara under Tikrikilla Block WGH, with BPM, FE, and VCF personnel actively participating.



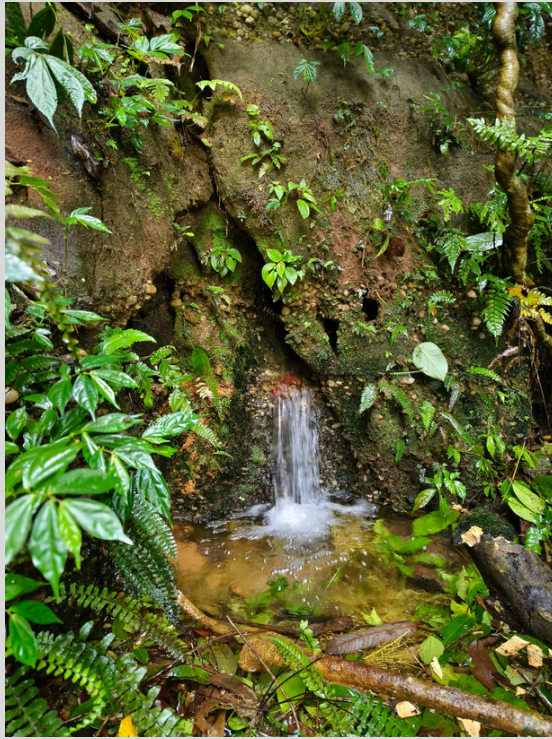
Digging pits underway in Thapa Matronggre village.



SHG gradation for adoption under MegLIFE IVCS was conducted in Thangshalai village, under #Mawryngkneng Block on June 3, 2024. IVCS aims to provide financial services, particularly savings and credit, to its members, serving as a bank for farmers. Additionally, IVCS acts as a service provider for various stakeholders, facilitating better market access for farmers, #ProducerGroups, and #SelfHelpGroups to sell their produce at higher prices and enhancing market linkages.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

"Spring Mapping Expedition Reveals Hidden Cave and Karst Spring"



A two-day spring mapping expedition took place at Rongma Kakijagre in the Chokpot block, South Garo Hills, as part of the MegLIFE JICA MBDA project. The Field Engineer of Chokpot block and the Village Community Facilitator of Rongma Kakijagre trekked to the catchment area for spring mapping. On the second day, local environmental activist Shri Chamujar Ch Sangma joined the team, and they discovered an unexplored cave and a karst spring. The cave is about 10 meters long with a few visible holes. Rongma Kakijagre, a tourist spot near Abong Chigat, is located 3 km from the famous eco-tourism site Wari Chora.

Mass Planting for World Environment Day 2024



In celebration of World Environment Day 2024 and to motivate other VPICs in the MegLIFE project, the Samanda Block BPMU staff visited Kalak Songgitcham VPIC on June 5th for a mass planting activity on a 34.5-hectare ANR plot. Over 400 saplings, including Chambu, Chirori, Aritak, Jamun, Arjun, and Achri species, were transplanted from the Community Nursery.

Women played a vital role, transporting saplings in handmade bamboo baskets and actively participating in the planting process, fostering discussions on the significance of plants and their environmental benefits. Additionally, World Environment Day was celebrated by several other Blocks, including Zikzak Block at Noonmati Village, 12 VPICs under Umling Block, Dambo-Rongjeng BPMU and VPIC, West Jaintia Hills District, Dalu Block West Garo Hills, and Betasing C & RD Block.

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA (SLM)



SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA

Insights from field visit and awareness programme



Varieties of vegetables harvested by farmers of natural farming.



Awareness of Natural Farming at different schools.



Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)



PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

"Site Inspection Visits and Meetings by GFA"



Various site inspection activities were carried out, including a visit to Josipara PES, assisting with UC at Mawblang, mapping CRF boundaries in Samanda block, and inspecting sites of Damalgre Individual PES under Zikzak Block.

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



Forest fire prevention and control measures are underway in Rimtangpara village as part of the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) program. Beneficiaries from Sadolpara village have begun implementing initiatives such as constructing staggered trenches, aiding in the natural regrowth of plants, and erecting boundary pillars. Additionally, fencing has been completed around the Ganipara PES reserve.

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

"Community Reserve Orientation and Engagement in Meghalaya"

Latitude: 25.946678



Various orientation activities and reorientations on Community Reserve (CR) were conducted across different regions in Meghalaya. Programs included motivational speeches by officials like Sir Ganesan, IFS, and DFOs, as well as detailed explanations of CRF by officers like Smt Nazia D Marak. Attendance varied, with some beneficiaries expressing willingness to continue with CRF for environmental betterment, while others cited personal reasons or land distribution concerns. Despite challenges like rain affecting attendance, efforts were made to ensure comprehensive coverage and address beneficiary queries.

PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Fencing work activities



Fencing activities have been carried out at the Abeagre PES reserve, and a boundary fence has been erected around the reserve forest of Nilwa A'dinggre. Additionally, boundary poles have been established around the Eringgre Community reserve forest, and trench-making efforts have been undertaken at the Damdiloka PES.

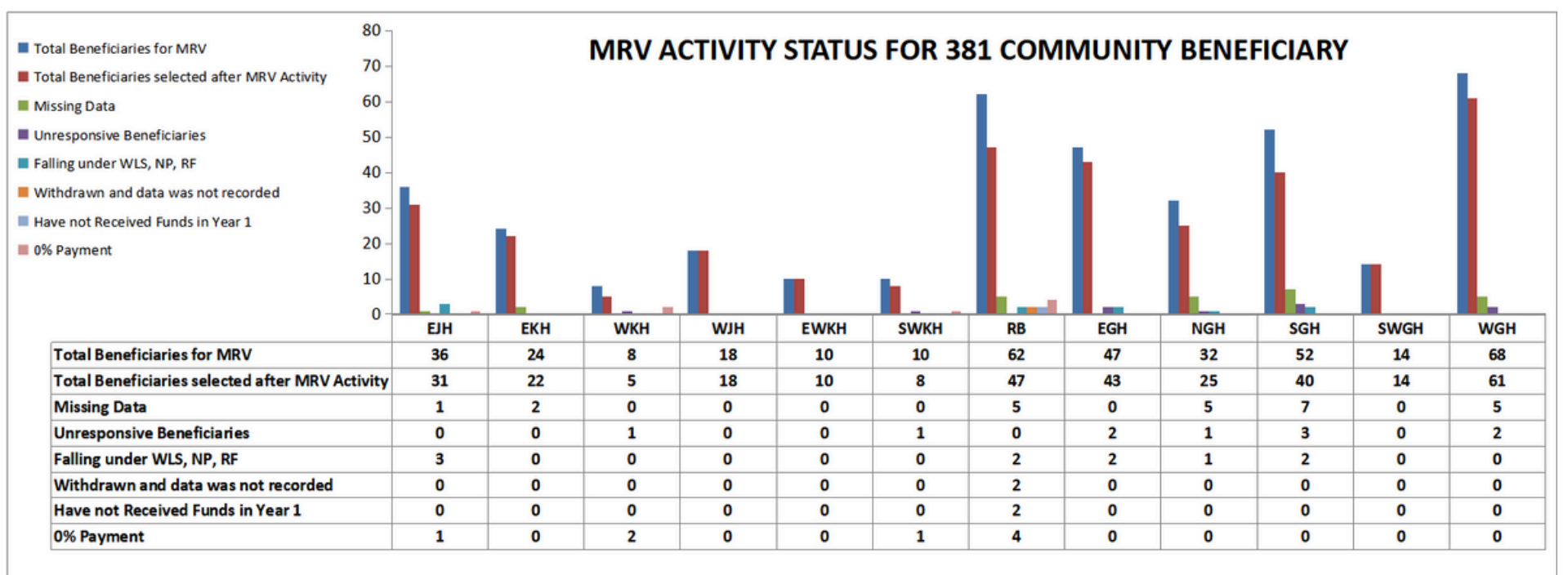


In their second year, Nilwa A'dinggre village has initiated a small plant nursery as part of their PES activity.

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
BIO-RESOURCES TEAM



At Rikhen village in the Mairang Block of East West Khasi Hills (EWKH), the operation of a Field Distillation Unit (FDU) for extracting essential oils has showcased a remarkable leap in local agricultural practices. This mobile distillation unit allows farmers to process aromatic plants directly in the field, ensuring the freshness and quality of the essential oils extracted. The FDU operates by heating the plant material in a distillation chamber, where steam passes through the biomass, capturing the essential oils. The steam-oil mixture then condenses back into a liquid, where the oil is separated from the water. This efficient process not only adds value to the local crops but also empowers farmers by enhancing their production capabilities and promoting sustainable agricultural practices in the region.

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