

# NEWSLETTER

**Updates of the Week**

21st November 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



North Garo Hills District celebrated the 71st All India Cooperative Week on 15th November 2024 at Upper Kharkutta Playground, with the theme "Role of Cooperative in Fostering Entrepreneurship, Employment, and Skill Development." The event was attended by representatives from local Cooperative Societies, with Shri Rupert M. Momin, Hon'ble MLA of Kharkutta, as the Chief Guest. The program concluded with discussions on promoting Cooperative Societies as role models for societal upliftment. Similarly, West Garo Hills celebrated the week on 19th November 2024 at SMELC Building in Tura. The event, centered around "Women, Youth, and Weaker Sections," featured speeches from leaders of various Cooperative Societies and a performance of Wangala dance. A success story video on Chenggaldare IVCS Ltd. was also shared, along with positive messages from notable figures such as Shri. Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Railways, and others.

## MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT



#### Inauguration of Diengkynthong Farmers Market:

The Diengkynthong Farmers Market at Elaka Khatarshnong, Laitkroh Block, East Khasi Hills District was inaugurated on the **19th of November 2024**, marking a significant step for the local farming community. **Shri. Gavin M. Myllem, MLA Sohra Constituency**, commended the Elaka Laitkroh community's ownership in acquiring land for the market. He emphasized the need for decentralizing markets closer to people and to transform raw materials into finished products for greater economic benefit. **Shri Augustus S. Suting, Deputy Project Director, Megha LAMP, MBMA/MBDA** commended the collective efforts of the IVCS, Sardar, and Rangbah Shnong in creating a “**Farmers Own and Farmer-Driven Market.**” He highlighted a key success: the price of bay leaf rose from ₹35 to ₹85 per kg through sorting and grading. He also stressed the importance of electronic price fixation.

**Chief Guest Shri Matthew Beyondstar Kurbah, MLA Mawphlang Constituency**, emphasized **bridging the gap between farmers and buyers** while eliminating middlemen. He encouraged the display of local products and pledged to support infrastructure development at the market.

Other dignitaries who spoke during the event were Smti. R. M Kurbah, IAS, Deputy Commissioner & District Programme Coordinator, MBMA, Shri Shanlang Lyngdoh, COO, MSRLS and Shri W. Kharbuli, MCS, BDO, Laitkhroh Block.



## MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

### Highlights of Workshops & Meetings



The **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** of Tangkamgipa IVCS Ltd. was held on **6th November 2024** in the presence of Shri Rahul R. Momin, Junior Cooperative Officer, Kharkutta Circle, North Garo Hills, and the **DPMU, North Garo Hills District** team. Key agendas discussed during the meeting included the selection of a new Chairman, Secretary, and Managing Committee, strategies for loan repayment, expansion of the operational area of IVCS, and local auditing of IVCS accounts.

Currently, Tangkamgipa IVCS Ltd. operates across two villages—Wageasi and Imbanggi—and has made notable progress. Out of a total of 401 households, 282 have been enrolled under IVCS. The IVCS has a total share subscription of 306, amounting to ₹91,700 in share capital, and total savings of 226 members, amounting to ₹4,50,840. The IVCS has disbursed loans to 51 members with a total loan amount of ₹3,95,000, of which ₹1,52,000 has been repaid, leaving an outstanding amount of ₹2,42,000. Business activities primarily include banana plantation, undertaken by both Producer Groups (PGs) and individual members.



A workshop for funded Service Providers (SPs) on various value chain activities was organized at **Ranikor C&RD Block, South West Khasi Hills** on **7th November 2024**. The workshop focused on discussing key topics, including the funding structure for SPs and the release of the Support Fund in installments. Other discussions revolved around loans availed by SPs from IVCS, their contributions towards the initiatives, and the repayment of loans to IVCS. The importance of submitting Utilization Certificates (UCs) to IVCS was also emphasized during the session.

On **7th November 2024**, the DPMU, **East Jaintia Hills District**, organized a monthly meeting for IVCS Managers at the DC Training Hall, Khliehriat. During the meeting, tablets were handed over to the IVCS Managers to enhance their operational efficiency. Key issues discussed included pending IVCS first-hand reports, computerization of IVCS, and addressing loan overdue matters. The meeting also focused on setting targets and business plans for IVCS, ensuring the proper implementation of Custom Hiring Centres, and maintaining accurate records such as minutes and visiting registers. Participants were reminded about the timely submission of IVCS Monthly Reports and CMC Monthly Reports. The use of the APPVERSE app by IVCS Managers was also emphasized to improve work processes and reporting systems.



## MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

### Highlights of Exposure Visits, Inspection and Mobilisation



On **3rd November 2024**, a Managing Committee (MC) meeting of **Kentrikona IVCS Ltd., South West Garo Hills** was held to discuss various key agendas. The meeting focused on strategies for member mobilization, mobilization for credit linkage, and updates on Producer Group (PG) loan repayment. Additionally, the working capital fund and investment plan for the Cluster Management Committee (CMC) were reviewed. Progress on the demo plot initiative was also deliberated. Furthermore, the first installment of the Master Trainer Support Fund was released to SP Paravets, along with updates on the SP Support Fund for Livestock. The discussions aimed at ensuring the smooth execution of planned activities and strengthening the initiatives of the IVCS.



On **6th November 2024**, the IVCS Incharge and the Incharge for Business Plans visited various IVCS under **North Garo Hills District** to facilitate the preparation of Business Plans. Out of the 19 IVCS in the district, business plans have been successfully prepared for 13 IVCS.



On **6th November 2024**, the DPMU, **North Garo Hills District** team visited **Balgito IVCS Ltd.** under Kharkutta Block to monitor the demo plots for Off-Season Vegetables (OSV). During the visit, the IVCS collected 36 kg of ladyfingers, sold at the Bagabatta weekly market. Out of the total, 5 kg of ladyfingers were donated to the landowner. To date, a total of 86 kilogram of ladyfingers has been sold.



# MegLIFE

Meghalaya Livelihood  
Improvement through Forest  
Enhancement Project (MegLIFE)



## MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

### Third Weeding at 2023 Ajasiram and Thapa Dangre Plantations



Third weeding at the 2023 plantations in Ajasiram and Thapa Dangre.

### Construction Progress at Multiple Sites



Construction is progressing at multiple sites, including Mothapara and Lower Rembigre under the Tikrikilla BPMU, where the foundations and plinth beams for the RCC Storage Tank have been completed, and wall reinforcement is underway. At Upper Rembigre, Phase 1 of the Community Hall is in progress with column erection. Additionally, the RCC water storage tank and Community Hall are under construction at Abendagre village and Gambegre Block, with steady progress being made at all locations.



## MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

### FMP Activity in Anogre Village



On November 8th, 2024, the FMP Activity was conducted in Anogre village by the FMP Tikrikilla team, in collaboration with the VCF from the Anogre community.

### Spring Inventory and DTR Preparation in Nayapara Village



The MLSC Team, including experts from ACWADAM and CHIRAG, visited Nayapara village under Tikrikilla block for a Spring Inventory and DTR Preparation on 28-29/10/2024. Their goal was to improve water quality and revive drying springs through spring shed management, mapping, and identifying recharge zones. The team conducted a focus group discussion with the village Gaunbura, Shri Dondeswar Rabha, and villagers to gather valuable insights on water scarcity, including how it affects daily life, especially for pregnant women. The visit also involved collecting key data on the village's establishment, council, households, and population.

### Continuous Refilling at Thapa Darenchi Nursery



The continuous refilling activity at the Community Nursery in Thapa Darenchi VPIC.

## MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT PROJECT



Ongoing project activities include the construction of an RCC water tank in Songmagre, Dalu Block, and the Phase II development of a community hall in Kurung under VPIC.

### PLUP and Microplanning programme in Mothapara Village



A two-day PLUP and Microplanning program took place in Mothapara Village, West Garo Hills, on November 14-15, 2024. The event gathered the Tikrikilla team and local residents to address challenges and create a micro plan. Activities included Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) to develop various maps (Social, Forest, Resource, Land Use, Ownership, and Transect). Participants also used tools like Causation Diagrams, Seasonal Calendars, Venn Diagrams, and Transect Walks to explore livelihood opportunities and tackle issues affecting women in the community.



# Protection of Vulnerable Catchment Areas in Meghalaya (MegARISE)



## PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA

## Highlights of PRA of Umiew Catchment



The Umiew CMU team's PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal) exercise at Mawsawa Myllem VPIC on 14 November 2024 involved PRA tools and activities to understand and address community challenges. The team also had a key observation of **Spring Rejuvenation and River Bank Stabilization** during their transect walk in and around the village as a part of the PRA exercise.

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**PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA**

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**Highlights of field visit of Umiew Catchment**

The Umiew Field Engineers on 15th Nov 2024 visited Pombot Village to review the Environmental & Social Code of Practice (ESCOP) checklists. This review was conducted as a preparatory measure before the implementation of activity related to Contest 2 and Contest 3.



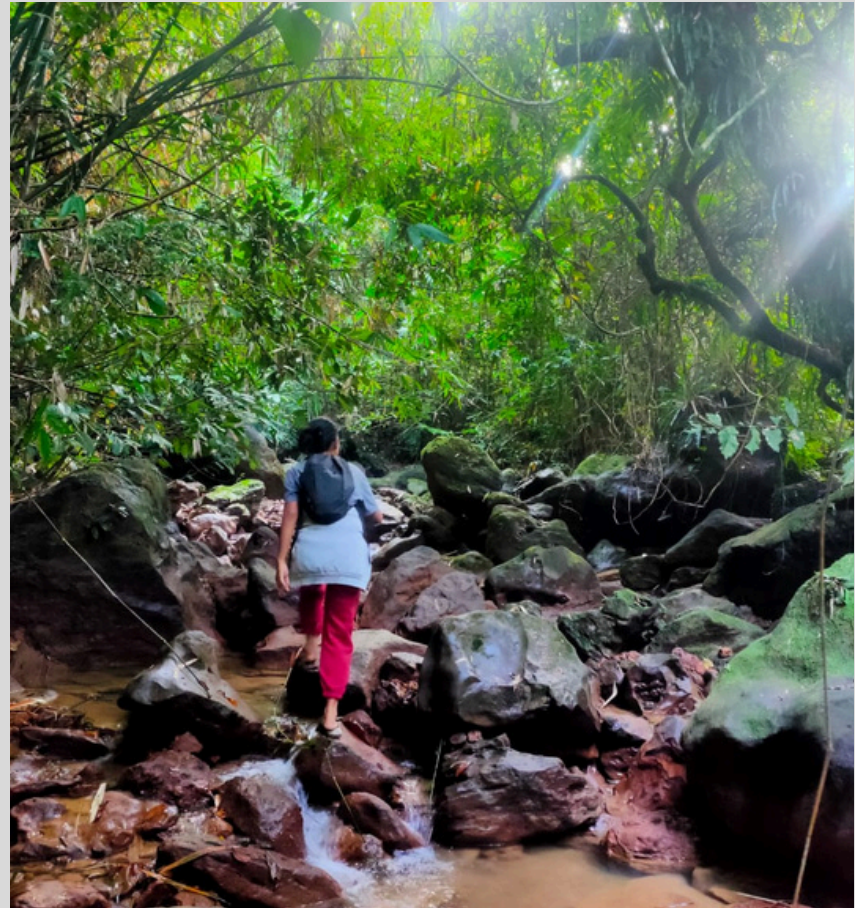
On 15th Nov 2024, Umiew Field Engineers visited Madan Ingsyiem Village under Myllem Block to capture pictures of the nursery as a part of before, during and after intervention of the project.



# Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)



## PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

MRV activities in different Blocks and villages conducted by the GFAs

The MRV (Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification) activity was conducted across multiple villages and forest reserves, including Rem Songgitcham in Dalu Block, Chonggegre in Samanda Block, Nongkhlieng, Rongtra, and Thorikakona Village Forest Reserve, as well as Nokatgre in Dalu Block. Additional activities were undertaken at Songma Sare Awe in Kharkutta Block and Nongriat Village. These efforts aimed to assess and document forest conservation, biodiversity, and sustainable land management practices to enhance ecological health and community-based environmental stewardship.

# SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA (SLM)





## SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA



A meeting was held on **14th November 2024** at the SLM Head Office with ESMF consultant Dr. Samir Rai to **sensitize** PMU and District Staff on the need and importance of the **Environmental, Social, and Management Plan (ESMP)** of the Project. The Plan is a measure to eliminate adverse environmental and social impacts, offset them, or reduce them to acceptable levels. Over 50 persons attended including Shri. Jun JG Momin, Deputy Project Director.



On **16th November 2024**, an exposure visit was made to **Jirang, Ri Bhoi District**, bringing together over 70 participants, including members of IVCS, VOs, LGs, and staff of the SLM Meghalaya project. The programme featured a demonstration of solar pumps and drip irrigation systems by MBMA's field engineers for showcasing sustainable farming solutions.



On **18th November 2024**, a meeting with partner NGOs under the FOCUS programme was held at the State Convention Centre, Shillong. Discussions also covered the role of the NGOs in the SLM Project. Shri. Augustus Suting, Addl. Project Director, addressed the gathering, outlining the **project's objectives, the villages to be covered, and the way forward.**



### Field Visit Highlights: ESMP Compliance Assessment for SLM Project

Dr. Samir Rai, ESMP Consultant for the SLM Project, conducted a field tour of project villages in the Garo and Jaintia Hills regions from November 11 to 13, 2024. Accompanied by Ms. Bronia Marak, ESMP PMU Nodal Person, the visit focused on assessing compliance with the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) at SLM implementation sites.

Key locations visited included Chapahati, South West Garo Hills; Bolonggre, West Garo Hills; Durama IVCS, West Garo Hills and Wahiajer, West Jaintia Hills. Observations and findings were documented and subsequently discussed with team members during a follow-up meeting, ensuring alignment with ESMP standards.

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