

# NEWSLETTER

**Updates of the Week**

26th 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 Trainings



In the South West Khasi Hills, several trainings on the Black Pepper Demo Plot Package of Practice (PoP) were conducted recently. A training session was held at Pamdaba IVCS on **20th September 2024**, followed by a session at Nongpdengkebbah Village under Sarin IVCS on **18th September 2024**. Additionally, two training programs took place on **13th September 2024**, one at Mawpait-Nongthymmai IVCS and another at Keniong IVCS, both focusing on the Demo Plot Package of Practice for Black Pepper cultivation.



On **September 25th 2024**, an Awareness and Orientation Programme on the Kisan Credit Card Scheme was held in Tikrikilla Block, West Garo Hills for the IVCS Presidents, Secretaries, SP Credit Linkage, and IVCS Managers. Shri Tonto G. Momin, the Branch Manager of Meghalaya Cooperative Apex Bank, Tikrikilla, served as the resource person, providing a briefing on the Kisan Credit Card Scheme at Nangrime IVCS.



## MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

### Highlights of Trainings



On **25th September 2024**, a one-day awareness programme on the Spring Protection Project and its implementation objectives was conducted at the block level in Dadenggre, West Garo Hills. The programme also briefed the VECs on the specific criteria to be followed for the successful implementation of the project.

### Highlights of Workshops & Meetings



On **16th September 2024**, a meeting was facilitated by EFC under Ranikor Block, South West Khasi Hills, in collaboration with the FOCUS NGO partner, at Lakma Village. The meeting addressed various issues related to the 'United Four IVCS,' including the opening of bank accounts, the formation of a managing committee, and the overall establishment of the IVCS.



A two-day Multi-Stakeholders Platform on Demonstration Plots, CMCs, the Processing Unit, and the Multipurpose Nursery was organized by DPMU, Megha-LAMP, East Jaintia Hills District on the **19th and 20th of September 2024** at Khliehriat West Community Hall. The key issues discussed included the need for proper planning and implementation of various activities sanctioned to different IVCS, ensuring the proper utilization of funds received, and the timely submission of reports and Utilization Certificates.



## MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

### Highlights of Workshops and Meetings



On **16th September 2024**, a review meeting was held at Chandabhui and Thibapara for Thallang IVCS and Kumongrik IVCS in Dalu block, West Garo Hills. The agenda focused on Corpus Fund, Interlending Loans, Bookkeeping, KCC Loans for IVCS Members, and Collective Marketing Centre (CMC), aiming to assess the current status, address challenges, and identify areas for improvement to enhance membership, shares, and savings. Following this, on **19th September 2024**, another meeting took place at Kotchu Adok and Josipara for Mikkasal IVCS and Kucholsan IVCS, where similar topics were discussed, including strategies to boost membership and savings. On **20th September 2024**, a meeting was conducted for Bandra IVCS at Boruapara, primarily addressing the change of IVCS President and Secretary, along with a transition plan, the Corpus Fund, CMC, and bookkeeping. The urgency for new leadership was highlighted due to the current officeholders' lack of engagement, which has affected the cooperative's functioning. On the same day, a review meeting was convened at Rimrangpara for Norang Bogai IVCS, discussing the Corpus Fund, CMC, Interlending Loans, and a review of current bookkeeping practices.



### Highlights of Exposure Visits, Inspection & Mobilization



On **September 6th 2024**, a field visit was conducted to Dadingre Village, West Garo Hills to monitor the ongoing construction of a water tank under the Water Lifting Device project. Once completed, the water tank is expected to benefit 15 households in the Dadenggre Block.



On **16th September 2024**, the collection of Utilization Certificates (UCs), Statements of Expenditure (SOEs), and Completion Certificates for Village Development Fund, Village Training Fund, and the Challenge Fund was carried out at Dadenggre Block, West Garo Hills.





# MegLIFE

Meghalaya Livelihood  
Improvement through Forest  
Enhancement Project (MegLIFE)





## MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

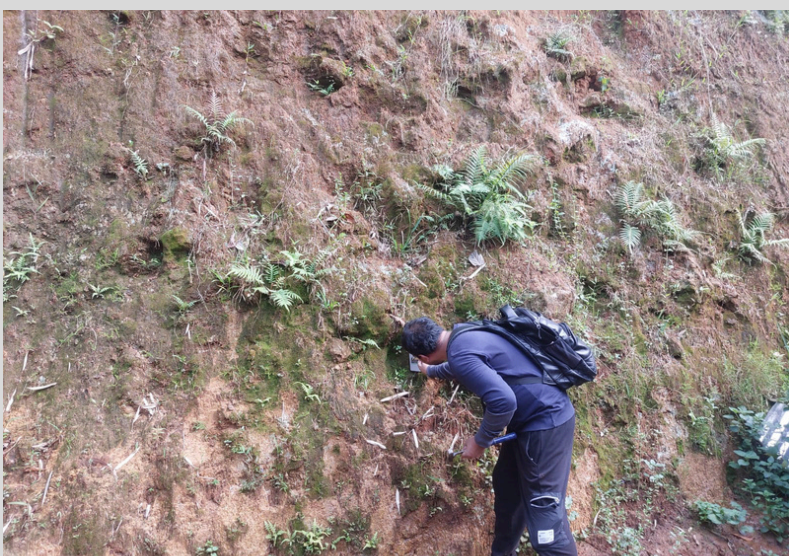
### Springshed Management Activities 1

On the 12th and 13th of September 2024, a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and hydrogeological survey were conducted in Mawkyi, Mairang Block, as part of the Springshed Management Plan's (Detailed Technical Report (DTR)). The same exercise was repeated in Laitdombah on the 19th and 20th of September of the respective Block. Both villages engaged in identifying critical springs and water usage patterns. Spring inventories, water discharge, quality, and recharge data were collected to map recharge areas and support sustainable water resource management in the region.



### Springshed Management Activities 2

On the 23rd and 24th of September 2024, the SPMU GIS team, along with GIS and field engineer personnel from Umling Block, visited Lumdieng village under Umling Block, Ri-Bhoi District. The visit was part of the ongoing Springshed Management Plan. Key activities carried out during the visit included the PRA exercise, identification of critical springs, interaction with landowners, spring inventory, and a transact walk. Possible interventions were identified to ensure the timely completion of the project's targets.





## MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT PROJECT



On the 24th of September 2024, the DPM of East Khasi Hills, accompanied by Shri G.S. Yadav, PMC SWC Expert, conducted an inspection tour to Mawkynrew Block in East Khasi Hills District. The visit focused on assessing the progress of post-plantation activities in the villages of Laitmysang, Pashang, Mynsang, and Siangkhnai. Additionally, the team visited the Soil and Water Conservation (SWC) sites in these villages to follow up on the ongoing activities.

### SWC ACTIVITIES



On the 20th & 21st ,September,2024 a site visit was carried out at the Lower Rembigre and Belguri VPICs in Trikilla Block, West Garo Hills district, to assess the progress of important infrastructure projects. The inspection highlighted the ongoing construction of water tanks and community halls at both VPICs. It was observed that the work is still underway, and materials have been supplied to ensure the timely completion of the community halls.



## MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENCHANCEMENT PROJECT

### SALT Farm Activity



SALT (Sloping Agricultural Land Technology) beneficiaries under the MegLIFE Project from Dokasaram and Nokatgre villages, Resubelpara Block, North Garo Hills, shared pictures of their respective farms, showcasing the positive progress of plantations initiated in 2023. The images highlight the successful implementation and ongoing growth of the project.

### PLANTATION



Bangsi Minol Plantation, Resubelpara Block, NGH





# Protection of Vulnerable Catchment Areas in Meghalaya (MegARISE)





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 PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA
 

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


The 1st FPA Contest, held on September 21st 2024 in Asimgre village, SWGH district, was a vibrant event showcasing diverse interests across age groups. With 121 participants, the drawing competition was especially popular, attracting 20 entries in the under-13 category and 16 in the 13-16 age group.

The story narration competition was equally engaging, featuring 7 participants, including elderly men and women. The older participants shared fascinating stories from 1958 to 1968, providing valuable insights into the region's wildlife, ecosystem, and how life has evolved over time.

The contest concluded on a positive note, with the community informed about the upcoming 2nd FPA Contest, which will take place within the next two weeks.



On September 23rd, the 3rd FPA Contest was held in Selbal Nokat, West Garo Hills District, under the theme "Community Infrastructure for Soil and Water Conservation." A total of 43 community members participated, with 10 individuals competing in the event.

The winners of the contest were:

- 1st Place: Shri Jitherson Marak proposed constructing a bridge across the Dinadrang River to connect the villages of Oragitok and Selbal Nokat. This bridge would improve livelihood opportunities, access to the river during dry seasons, and facilitate travel to Tura town for school children, teachers, and daily commuters.
- 2nd Place: Shri Kallen Sangma suggested building a retaining wall to prevent soil erosion.
- 3rd Place: Shri Sipson Sangma presented a plan to preserve perennial spring water by creating "Spring Chambers" at three different locations.

The contest showcased innovative ideas for improving community infrastructure and addressing pressing environmental challenges related to soil and water conservation.

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 PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA
 

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**Highlights of Financial Participatory Approach (FPA) under Umiew Catchment**


The 1st FPA Contest, held on September 20th in Mawkohmon, Mawphlang Block, showcased the creativity and historical knowledge of the local community. The drawing competition attracted a total of 34 participants, with 26 in Group 1 and 8 in Group 2. Fedrick A. Thabah and Dasanbha Shabong were awarded the 1st prize in their respective categories.

In the storytelling competition, 6 participants shared their insights about the village's history and surroundings. Smt Monica Mawdkhap emerged as the 1st place winner, followed by Smt Miramon Kharshiing in 2nd and Smt Pherlinda Sohlang in 3rd.

The FPA Contest was a successful event that celebrated the rich cultural heritage and talent of the Mawkohmon community.

**Highlights of PRA Exercise under Umiew Catchment**


On September 24th, 2024, the Umiew CMU team conducted a comprehensive Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercise in Umthlong VPIC. This collaborative approach involved the community in identifying their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT analysis).

The PRA utilized various tools, including:

- Mapping: Chapati chart, Forest Condition map, Ownership map, Resource map, Social map, and Transect walk map.
- Analysis: Historical timeline, Problem analysis, Seasonal calendar, and SWOT analysis.
- Visualization: Trend change map and Venn Diagram.

The PRA revealed that water scarcity is the primary challenge faced by the village during winter seasons. The community expressed their hope that the project will bring about much-needed development and rejuvenation efforts to address this issue.

This successful PRA exercise demonstrates the project's commitment to working directly with the community to create sustainable solutions for Umthlong VPIC.

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## PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA

### Highlights of PRA under Ganol Catchment



Asimgre village in the Rerapara Block of South West Garo Hills District marked a significant milestone with its first-ever Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercise. This collaborative effort, which saw active participation from 51 community members, including youth, women, and VPIC representatives, aimed to empower the village in planning its future development.



The PRA employed a range of participatory tools, such as social maps, resource maps, Venn diagrams, chapati clocks, trend change maps, and seasonal calendars. These tools helped the community gain a deeper understanding of their village profile, fostering a sense of ownership and paving the way for informed future planning.



The two-day exercise, held on September 19th and 20th, 2024, focused on various aspects. Day 1 saw the creation of essential maps and diagrams, while Day 2 delved into identifying local problems, developing an Ownership Map, conducting a SWOT analysis, and constructing a Historical timeline.

The culminating presentation by VPIC EC members, youth, village elders, and SHG members highlighted the collective effort and ownership instilled through the PRA process. This successful exercise sets a strong foundation for Asimgre's future development initiatives, ensuring a community-driven approach to progress.

### Highlights of Baseline Survey under Umiew & Ganol Catchments



The GFA has entered the fourth week of a comprehensive baseline survey in both the Umiew and Ganol catchments. This critical exercise aims to gather detailed socio-economic and bio-physical data from villages within these areas, establishing a benchmark for future impact assessments.

The baseline survey is essential for ensuring effective project implementation and evaluation. By comprehensively documenting the current conditions, the GFA will be able to track changes and measure the project's impact over time.

Currently, surveyors are actively engaged in conducting village and household surveys across the Ganol and Umiew catchments. This valuable data will provide a solid foundation for understanding the existing conditions and informing project planning and decision-making.



Latitude: 25.558729  
Longitude: 90.156218  
Elevation: 304.64±11 m  
Accuracy: 8.1 m  
Time: 24-09-2024 14:56  
Note: Songkonggre

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