

NEWSLETTER

Updates of the Week

19th 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



On the **11th of September 2024** an interactive session and certificate distribution ceremony were held for Service Providers who completed 45 days of Livestock (Piggery) training at Bolmoram Training Centre, East Garo Hills.



A training session on the Package of Practices (PoP) for Chilli (OSV) was conducted on the **5th of September 2024** at the Demo Plot in Khrang. The session was led by Ms. Euphema, Farm Manager, and attended by Service Providers (SPs) and IVCS members.



A review meeting of the INRM team for the western region was held on the **10th of September 2024** at Circuit House, Williamnagar, East Garo Hills. The meeting was led by Smt. Banilin Pathaw, Senior Manager, focusing on key updates and progress.



On **10th September 2024**, an Awareness Cum Mobilisation programme for the Corpus Fund (CF) was conducted at Korepara IVCS under Bajengdoba Block, North Garo Hills, across two locations under the same IVCS.



On **12th September 2024**, an Awareness Programme and Mobilisation for the Corpus Fund were conducted at two IVCS—Dokua and Balkolgre—under Bajengdoba Block, North Garo Hills. The programme focused on key strategies, including mobilising membership, ensuring eligibility for the Corpus Fund, raising awareness on the Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM), initiating activities by the IVCS, and maintaining regular upkeep of books and accounts.



On **12th September 2024**, a briefing on mobilisation for the Corpus Fund and FLP was held for the Secretaries of Phase III IVCS of West Garo Hills. The session took place at Prime Hub, Tura, and was conducted by the Deputy Project Manager, DPMU-West Garo Hills, along with the staff in charge of the concerned blocks.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

Highlights of Trainings



On **13th September 2024**, the District Project Management Unit, East Garo Hills conducted an Awareness Programme on the Grievance Redress Mechanism at the DRDA Hall, Williamnagar, for the IVCS of East Garo Hills. The Chairmen, Secretaries, and Managing Committee Members actively participated in the interactive session, agreeing to utilize the platform as needed. Similar sessions were held for the IVCS' under North Garo Hills on the **11th and 12th of September 2024**, and on the **14th September 2024** for IVCS' from West Garo Hills.



From **9th to 14th September 2024**, a Six-Day Business Plan and Bookkeeping Training was conducted by MLAMP, SPMU, and the DPMUs of Garo Hills for the IVCS Managers of the Garo Hills Region. The training took place at two venues in Tura: the SMELC Building for the East Garo Hills, South Garo Hills, and North Garo Hills teams, and at the ETC building for the West Garo Hills and South West Garo Hills teams. Following the training, IVCS Managers are expected to develop business plans for their respective IVCS, assist in updating books of registers, and maintain accurate records.



Training for demonstration plots on the Package of Practice (POP) for Chili (OVS) was conducted at various locations in September 2024. Mookyndur IVCS organized a session on **10th September 2024**, followed by Shkenpyrsit IVCS and Pamtbuh IVCS on **12th September 2024**. Madur IVCS conducted its sessions on the **13th September 2024**, while Moodymmai IVCS and Saitsama IVCS conducted their training on **16th September 2024**.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

Highlights of Trainings



Dated **16th-18th September 2024**: A three-day Credit Linkage Training for IVCS Presidents, Secretaries, IVCS Managers, and SP Credit Linkage staff was held at DPMU, SWGH, Ampati. The training covered several key areas, including: understanding credit linkage and its importance; adoption of Credit and Deposit Policy; roles and responsibilities of sub-committees under IVCS and SP Credit Linkage; criteria and process for loan disbursement; strategies for recovering overdue IVCS loans; achieving targets for KCC loans and IVCS loans to members; and criteria for honorarium payment for SP Credit Linkage.

Highlights of Workshops & Meetings



On **31st August 2024**, a Financial Literacy Campaign was held at Krang Nonglum IVCS in collaboration with Meghalaya Cooperative Apex Bank Krang.



On **4th September 2024**, a one-day interactive meeting was held at PRIME Hub with partners of EFC Mawryngkneng, including IVCS, PGs, individual entrepreneurs, and progressive farmers. The meeting, led by Kong Streamlet Sohtun, Sector Head and Business Facilitator, was attended by the PRIME Hub and CM-Elevate teams.



On **9th September 2024**, an interactive session was held with 71 CM-ELEVATE beneficiaries of Piggery, Poultry, Warehouse, Agri Response Vehicle, and Community Facility Centre schemes, for whom funds had been disbursed. The session was conducted in collaboration with the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department, Agriculture Department, Meghalaya Cooperative Apex Bank, Meghalaya Rural Bank, and State Bank India.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

Highlights of Workshops & Meetings

On **11th September 2024**, a Review Meeting was held for the 3rd Phase IVCS under North Garo Hills. Kentra IVCS shared short success stories to inspire those who are still lagging in membership, shares, savings, and accessing all the Corpus Funds from the project.



On **12th September 2024**, a stakeholders meeting with IVCS Chairmen and Secretaries was held at Chapahati 1 Prime Hub. The discussion covered various topics, including KCC loans, credit linkage, CMC activities, working capital UCs for the processing unit, IVCS member mobilization, FLP, loan repayment to IVCS, and the MOU signing between AcesWorx, Agribusiness Networks Pvt Ltd., and Chapahati 1 IVCS. The MOU focuses on marketing and warehousing for the cashew processing unit under South West Garo Hills, with AcesWorx providing training, technical support, quality checking, and marketing assistance for cashew from the district.



On **12th September 2024**, the District Project Management Unit, Khliehriat, organized a Multi-Stakeholder Platform at the cluster level for Producer Groups from Jalyiah and Iongkaluh villages. The event was held at Khliehriat West Community Hall. The objective of the platform was to follow up on production data, support fund repayment status, and training.

On **13th September 2024**, a Community Engagement Program was organized by the Meghalaya State Agricultural Marketing Board in collaboration with MBMA at the Garobadha Warehouse under Rerapara Block, South West Garo Hills. The program involved 31 IVCS Chairmen and Secretaries, as well as the Am.beng Cashew Association Apex Body. The objective was to establish the warehouse as a storage center for products such as cashew, black pepper, and other raw materials from the district.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

Highlights of Workshops & Meetings



On **14th September 2024**, a District Review Meeting for IVCS Chairmen, Secretaries, and Service Provider (Credit Linkages) of West Garo Hills was held at the SMELC Building, Tura. A notable highlight was the signing of an MOU between Aceworx Synergistic Company Ltd., Dabram IVCS Ltd. (from Chokpot C&RD Block), and Budugre IVCS Ltd. (from Baghmara C&RD Block) to operate the Prime Hub. The MOU was signed in the presence of the DPMs of South Garo Hills and West Garo Hills, their teams, the SPMU representative, and the Chairmen and Secretaries of IVCS along with the SP (Credit Linkages) of West Garo Hills.



On **16th September 2024**, a Multi-Stakeholder Platform Programme was conducted at Thadlaskein Block, organized by the DPMU, West Jaintia Hills. The event featured Dr. H. Niang, Block Development Officer, Dr. E. M. Pdah, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Officer, and Shri M. Thabah, Secretary of EARMACs, who shared their services and activities for the benefit of other IVCS participants. Concerns raised by those rearing pigs about growth challenges and market linkage issues were addressed. Additionally, Sir Lamar, Advisor, Cluster Development Program, and Sir B. Nongrum, Senior Project Manager, Cluster Development Program, provided insights into the Cluster Development Program project in Thadlaskein Block and outlined the requirements for participation.



On **17th September 2024**, a one-day workshop for the Finance Committee, IVCS Managers, SP Credit Linkage, Chairmen, and Secretaries of IVCS was held at Wika Conference Hall, Khliehriat. Organized by the District Project Management Unit, East Jaintia Hills, Khliehriat, the workshop focused on several key discussion points: the roles and responsibilities of the Finance Committee, criteria for loan disbursement, addressing loan overdue issues, strategies for loan recovery, support funds and loans for the Service Provider value chain, and honorarium payments to Service Provider (Credit Linkage) for their efforts in the loan recovery drive for overdue loans.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

Highlights of Exposure Visits, Inspection & Mobilization



On **5th September 2024**, MO Supervisor cum Data Analyst Bibek Barman and Field Supervisor Lelanki from NEdFi visited the Collective Marketing Centre and Customer Hiring Centre at Kyiem IVCS. The visit aimed to understand the functions of the Customer Hiring Centre and Collective Marketing Centre and assess the benefits that farmers have received from these initiatives.



On **10th September 2024**, land development for the PRIME Hub commenced at Mawksing, Pynursla Block..

On **6th September 2024**, a team consisting of members from District Project Management Unit, EFC, and IVCS, along with Sardar and Secretary Shnong, inspected the land for Prime Hub at Puriang under Mawryngkneng Block.



MegLIFE

Meghalaya Livelihood
Improvement through Forest
Enhancement Project (MegLIFE)



MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

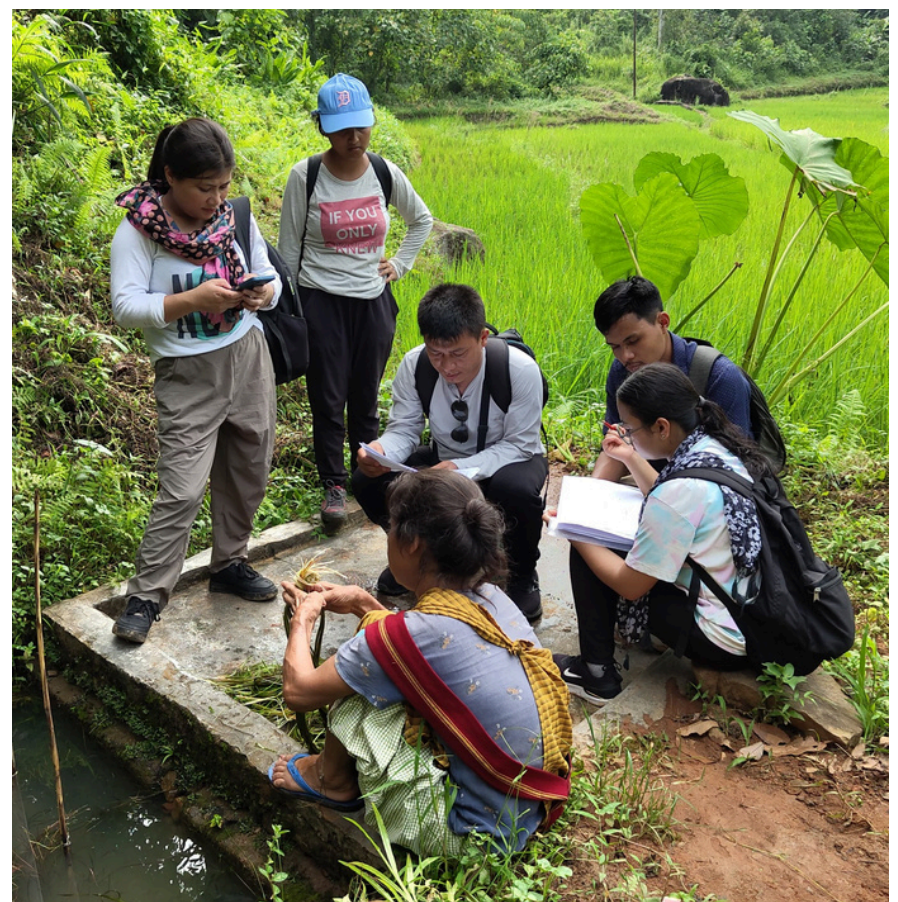
Activities in Selsella Block: FGD, PRA, and Mapping



Activities conducted in Selsella Block: FGD and PRA

1. Historical Analysis
2. Seasonal Calendar
3. Social Mapping and Trend Analysis

Umpyrdong Springshed Survey and PRA



On September 16th and 17th, 2024, a PRA exercise and hydrogeological field survey were conducted in Umpyrdong Village, Umling Block, to prepare the Detailed Technical Report (DTR) for the Springshed Management Plan. The DTR focuses on assessing local water resources, spring revival, and sustainability, with the team including Block GIS specialists and field engineers (FE).

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENCHANCEMENT PROJECT

VPIC Group 2 Community Nursery Training Held on September 17, 2024



The Community Nursery training for VPIC (Group 2 villages) under Laskein Block was successfully conducted on September 17, 2024, at the Central Nursery in Jowai. The training was highly practical, led by the PA, Forester, and the caretaker of the Central Nursery. It began with a demonstration on bed preparation, followed by sessions on soil mixing, filling poly bags, sowing, and weeding. VPIC members actively participated throughout the training.

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA (SLM)



SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA



On **13th September 2024**, a meeting was held at the Office of the Sustainable Land Management Meghalaya Project (SLM) in Jingkieng, Shillong, to review the progress of partner agencies – DoH, MSRLS, and BRDC – focusing on procurement, financial matters, and preparations for the upcoming KfW mission later this month. The discussion centered around aligning critical timelines to ensure initiatives are completed within the agreed deadlines. The meeting was chaired by Smt. Isawanda Laloo (IAS), Project Director of SLM, and attended by Shri Augustus Suting, Additional Project Director of SLM, Shri Debashish Rudra, CFO of MBMA, Shri Jun J.G. Momin, Deputy Project Director of SLM, nodal officers from the partner agencies, as well as the IMC and MBMA teams.

A meeting was held on the **16th of September 2024** in Dambo Rongjeng Block, East Garo Hills District, with Lead Farmers and farmers to discuss key Better Farming (BF) practices and introduce innovative farming models. The focus was on agricultural extension models and the significance of relay sowing to optimize cropping cycles. Farmers were encouraged to adopt relay sowing in all existing Natural Farming (NF) models to improve efficiency and productivity. New innovative practices aimed at enhancing sustainability and resilience in farming were also introduced. Additionally, farmers were encouraged to provide feedback on their willingness to adopt these practices, with a detailed implementation plan to be discussed in upcoming meetings.



On **20 September 2024**, a workshop on infrastructure and irrigation was conducted for the district nodal staff of the Sustainable Land Management Meghalaya Project (SLM). Discussions covered key areas such as working capital for producers and the Collective Marketing Centres. The session also focused on infrastructure and irrigation facilities provided under the project. Additionally, the participants were taken through the detailed Community Procurement process for ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the procedures involved.

17 September 2024: A one-day workshop for Local farmer Groups under BRDC and IVCS was held at PRIME Hub, Umdihar, Ri Bhoi. Organized by the PMU-Eastern Region, the workshop aimed to mobilize farmer groups and IVCS on project initiatives and develop a clear road map for upcoming activities.



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