

## **Training and Capacity Building Programme on Value Addition of Aromatic Crop Essential Oils**

The one-day training programme, conducted from 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026, organised by the Institute of Natural Resources (INR), Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA), was arranged in different batches for the Khasi, Jaintia, and Garo regions. Altogether, sixty progressive farmers participated in the workshop, including members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCSs), aromatic crop growers, Farmers Protection Groups, and Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, to promote a sustainable livelihood approach.





The main objective of the training programme was to support livelihood enhancement and income generation for farmers through value addition and the extraction of essential oils. The team from INR, MBDA took the initiative to demonstrate the blending and utilisation of various essential oils, including lemongrass oil and citronella oil, along with non-timber forest produce such as bay leaf and Lakadong turmeric.



The training programme included both theoretical and practical sessions to provide participants with comprehensive knowledge and hands-on experience in preparing various value-added products. These products included soap, mosquito repellent, floor cleaner, and agarbatti (incense sticks). The practical demonstrations and interactive sessions helped strengthen the participants' understanding and skills through direct engagement with trainers and stakeholders.



The programme concluded with sessions on business planning and entrepreneurship development, followed by the distribution of certificates to all participants. The training successfully boosted beneficiaries' confidence and encouraged them to pursue future enterprise development initiatives in aromatic and value-added products.



