

NEWSLETTER

Updates of the Week

3rd October 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)

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA (SLM)



SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA



Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma formally inaugurated the Sustainable Land Management Meghalaya Project (SLM) and unveiled the Protection of Vulnerable Catchment Areas in Meghalaya (MegARISE) for the Umiew Catchment at a programme held at the State Convention Centre, Shillong, on 1 October 2024, organized jointly by MBMA and MBDA.

The programme was also attended by Dr. M. Ampareen Lyngdoh, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of Meghalaya, and Dr. Florian Wieneke, Senior Portfolio Manager, KfW Development Bank, Germany,

alongside senior officials from the Government of Meghalaya including Shri. Donald Phillips Wahlang, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya, Shri. Sampath Kumar, IAS, Chief Project Director, MegARISE & Development Commissioner, Government of Meghalaya, Smt. Isawanda Laloo, IAS, Project Director, SLM & Secretary, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of Meghalaya, and Shri. Gunanka DB, IFS, Additional Project Director, MegARISE & Joint Secretary, Planning, Investment Promotion & Sustainable Development Department, Government of Meghalaya. The programme saw the participation of about 400 people including community members, farmers, and farmer groups from several villages as well as representatives from various line departments and agencies of the State.

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA



The Progress Review Mission of the KfW Development Bank-funded Sustainable Land Management Meghalaya Project (SLM) was held at the Head Office, Springside, Jingskieng, on 30th September 2024. The review was conducted by the KfW team and chaired by Smt. Isawanda Laloo, IAS, Project Director, SLM. Attendees included the KfW mission team—Dr. Florian Wieneke and Smt. Sangeeta Agarwal—along with personnel from MBMA, partner agencies such as the Department of Horticulture (DoH), BRDC, MSRLS, and the IMC team. Key discussions focused on the progress of work, financial and procurement updates, and the way forward for the project.

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



Meghalaya Chief Minister Shri. Conrad K. Sangma, **officially launched the GREEN Meghalaya+ (Payment for Ecosystem Services) initiative on 1st October 2024**, aimed at encouraging communities to actively protect and conserve their forests.

A significant highlight of the event was the **financial support** extended to beneficiaries from the **CM Elevate and FOCUS (Second Tranche) programs**. Under the CM Elevate program, a total of ₹60 crore was sanctioned to 2,281 beneficiaries, while 3,777 Producer Groups (PGs) under the FOCUS program received ₹17.59 crore. This initiative reflects the government's strong commitment to empowering communities and promoting sustainable development throughout the state.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

Highlights of Trainings



The DPMU, South Garo Hills, organized a **three-day training on Soap Making** for entrepreneurs from IVCS of Baghmara and Chokpot Block, South Garo Hills. The training took place at Baghmara Baptist Church Hall from the **25th to 27th of September, 2024**, with a total of **30 participants representing 22 different IVCS**—12 from Baghmara and 10 from Chokpot Block. The resource person for the training was Ms. Rocksjeoline R. Momin, an entrepreneur and soap maker from Baghmara.

The training was structured over three days: Day 1 focused on theory, Day 2 on practical soap-making, and Day 3 concluded with a summary, valediction, and certificate distribution. Participants learned to make various types of soaps, including Neem, Turmeric Honey, Lavender, Aloe Vera, and Rice Goat Milk soaps. The participants showed great enthusiasm, eager to learn new skills that could contribute to an additional **income-generating activity (IGA)** for their IVCS or their households. Many expressed their intention to teach fellow IVCS members and use the soaps within their homes. Once they have mastered the soap-making process, they plan to sell the soaps to others and in local markets.

Highlights of Workshops & Meetings



On **23rd September 2024**, the office of the DPMU, **South West Khasi Hills**, organized a meeting for the IVCS selected for the establishment of **Demonstration Plots and Multipurpose Nurseries** at the Multipurpose Hall, DC Office, Mawkyrwat. The objective of the program was to provide **technical guidance to the IVCS** on critical aspects such as site selection and proper planning, taking into consideration various factors that could pose potential long-term challenges. Additionally, the IVCS were briefed and reminded about the utilization of funds received, emphasizing the importance of adhering to timelines for the submission of utilization certificates (UCs) for works and trainings provided to beneficiaries.

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT

Highlights of Exposure Visits, Inspection & Mobilization



From the 25th to 27th of September, 2024, a UC collection drive, credit linkage updates, and the signing of an MoU for OEF between the 3rd phase IVCS of the Garo Hills Region and selected vendors took place at Prime Hub, Tura. The event was attended by SPMU representatives, DPMs and their teams, vendors, and members of the IVCS.



On 30th September 2024, a field visit was conducted to five Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS) in the Selsella Block as part of the ongoing review of interventions implemented under the Natural Resource Management (NRM) Field Demo Plots initiative of MeghaLAMP. The visit aimed to evaluate Purchase Orders, Statements of Expenditure (SOEs), Utilization Certificates (UCs), and other relevant data associated with these interventions.



A Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) complaint/feedback box has been installed at Durabanda Chambugong IVCS in South Garo Hills as part of the GRM exercise, which is a crucial initiative of the project. As an organization working for the community, it is essential to maintain transparency in communication, ensuring that concerns are addressed. This initiative aligns with MeghaLAMP's SECAP plan.



MegLIFE

Meghalaya Livelihood
Improvement through Forest
Enhancement Project (MegLIFE)



MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

"IVCS Bookkeeping Training held on Sept 25, 2024"

On September 25th, 2024, the Zikzak Block team from South West Garo Hills District, along with the Finance Department, organized IVCS training on basic bookkeeping. The training covered the use of the Cash Book, Ledger Book, General Credit Vouchers, and General Debit Vouchers. Participants were taught the basic concepts of bookkeeping and how to properly record financial transactions.



SPMU Team's Plantation and Nursery Visit

On September 30th, 2024, the SPMU team visited plantations and a community nursery in the villages of Umden Ryngkru and Pahamjri, under Umling BPMU.



MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENCHANCEMENT PROJECT

"IVCS Bookkeeping Training Held on Sept 25, 2024"

The microplan for Dana Bollongre Village in the Gambegre Block was implemented on September 30, 2024. A similar initiative was also carried out at Jadigittim VPIC in the Baghmara Block and Arenggre village.



"Exposure Visit to KENTRIKONA IVCS Ltd. on September 30, 2024"

The exposure visit to KENTRIKONA IVCS Ltd. Zikzak Block was taken place on September 30th, 2024 and was conducted by the IVCS president, secretary alongwith BPM & PA-IGA, Zikzak Block -SWG. - this visit was provided a comprehensive framework for participants to learn from the experience IVCS, discussion & learning, knowledge sharing, how to be eligible for getting Corpus fund, members saving, collective marketing centre, customer hiring centre, etc.,



"Preparation of a Community Nursery in Kosichora Village, Resubelpara Block."



MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENCHANCEMENT PROJECT

Field Survey on Water Budgeting

On September 30th, 2024, the team carried out a field survey on water budget exercises in Chore Pahar Village (Resubelpara Block, NGH) and Chandigre Village (Rongram Block, WGH). Experts from IIT Bombay, along with field engineers and GIS specialists, engaged with local communities to discuss water budgeting, including aspects such as crop requirements, water availability, and critical sources and springs.



The BPM, along with the FMP Master Trainer, organized an awareness program on FMP at Bolsal Dobokgre in the Betasing Block of SWGH.



MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENCHANCEMENT PROJECT

Exposure Visit to Dondima IVCS

The IGA nodal person organized a one-day exposure visit to Dondima IVCS for five IVCS from the Betasing Block in SWGH on September 30th, 2024.



"Preparation of a Community Nursery in Kosichora Village, Resubelpara Block."



MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH FOREST ENCHANCEMENT PROJECT

On September 1st, 2024, the team successfully completed a survey focused on water budget exercises in Mawlieh Village within the Mairang Block (EWKH) and in Mawmuthoh Village located in the East Khasi Hills (EKH) District.



On September 1, 2024, the team held a micro-planning session in Dopanangre Village, situated in the Dalu Block.



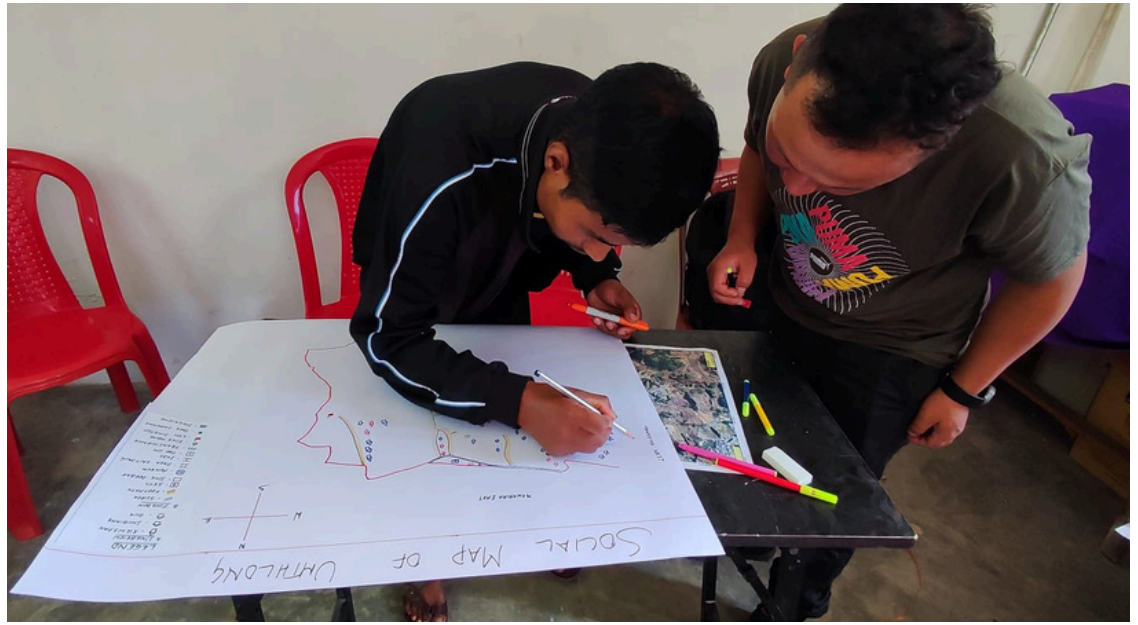


Protection of Vulnerable Catchment Areas in Meghalaya (MegARISE)



 PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA

Highlights of PRA under Umiew Catchment



On the 24th of September 2024, the Umiew Team had an engaging PRA session with the Umthlong VPICs, Under Mawphlang block, East Khasi Hills district. The richness of tools indicates an in-depth understanding of the community's needs and problems. It was learned that water deficiency is the most common during winter which is one of the serious problems that can cut across all the sectors in the village. Involve tools such as seasonal calendar, and problem analysis which will assist the team in identifying the reasons behind the problem and how to solve it effectively. The willingness of the community to take advantage of this development and move towards improvement is appealing.

Highlights of Project Awareness under Umiew Catchment



Project awareness (VPIC formation, PRA, FPA contests) at Umiew Pomlakrai under Myllem Block held on the 26th September 2024.

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA

Highlights of PRA under Ganol Catchment



The PRA exercise conducted by the Ganol team in Dopatchigre village under Rerapara Block was quite fruitful, with 94 active participants over two long days on the 23rd and 24th Sep 2024, which is an indication of the community's interest in seeking to undertake activities for better livelihood opportunities.

The combination of unavailable schools and health facilities, inadequate transport, and water scarcity during the dry season complicate issues more. There is hope that the community recognizes the need to protect the Ganol River catchment area given its potential for supporting agricultural initiatives like SALT Sloping Agricultural Land Technology. This method can enhance soil conservation and improve water retention on sloped land, thereby working towards solving some of their challenges.

With all these tools- maps social, resource, and the overall picture of the needs and potential of the village could be shown.



 PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA

Highlights of Financial Participatory Approach (FPA) under Ganol Catchment


The 1st FPA contest was held at Dopatchigre Village under Rerapara Block, SWGH district on September 25, 2024. With 36 participants in drawing and 6 in storytelling, it was a fantastic and creative work spread across all age groups, totaling 95 participants.

The rich cultural content comes through storytelling, especially because the event involves a local folk teller; the uniqueness of the origin of the name given to the village-it's being ascribed to birds building nests and streams changing colors-wonderfully mirrors the connection of its people to their surroundings.



The FPA 3 contest held at Rengsangre on September 30, 2024, showcased innovative ideas from 10 participants, focusing on community improvement projects.

Winners and Their Proposals:

1st Place: Cement Concrete Road

-Issue: The existing road condition worsens during the rainy season, making it difficult for residents, especially two-wheeler users, to access the main road.

-Benefit: A new cement concrete road will enhance accessibility for all residents, ensuring safer and more reliable transportation.

2nd Place: Check Dam

-Issue: The community faces severe water shortages during the dry season.

-Benefit: The proposed check dam will store water that can be piped for drinking and domestic use, alleviating water scarcity in the community.

3rd Place: Retaining Wall

-Issue: Soil erosion and landslides pose significant risks to the area.

-Benefit: The retaining wall will help control erosion and stabilize the land, protecting infrastructure and residents.

These projects highlight the participants' commitment to addressing pressing community needs, aiming for sustainable solutions that will improve daily life for residents.

 PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA

Highlights of KfW Field Visit to Umiew Catchment



On October 1, 2024, the KfW Development Bank Team visited Laitkyrhong Village, starting with a tour of the nursery established by the Iaid Shaphrang Self-Help Group (SHG). Here, a variety of native species were being cultivated, including *Schima wallichii*, *Exbucklandia populnea*, *Diengsoh iong*, and *Dieng bti* etc. The team engaged in meaningful discussions about the ecological significance of these species and the community's ongoing efforts in environmental restoration and preservation.

Next, the team moved to the heart of Laitkyrhong Village, where they were greeted with a traditional dance, reflecting the village's rich cultural heritage. The official program began with a welcome speech from the village headman, who expressed gratitude for the support and partnership with KfW. The visit also featured FPA Contest No. 2, focused on "Sustainable Livelihoods." The contest's top prize was awarded to Shri Iolestar Rynjah for his innovative proposal to introduce Kiwi plantations, which aims to diversify livelihoods and enhance agricultural sustainability in the region.

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