

TOGETHER



Project for Community Based Forest Management & Livelihoods Improvement in Meghalaya (MegLIFE) | Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA)



In this Volume

- ✓ Land for Plantation - Solving the Challenge
- ✓ Induction Training of Village Community Facilitators (VCFs)
- ✓ Training of Trainers on VPIC Management
- ✓ Training on Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP)
- ✓ VPIC Management Trainings for Office Bearers of VPIC, EC
- ✓ 13th Meeting of Project Directors of JICA funded NRM Projects

Project Director's Desk

The MegLIFE Project is entering its implementation phase after completing preparatory works such as forming 480 Group-I and Group-II Villages, mobilizing communities, and employing NGO partners. The project also conducted various training programs for DPMs, BPMs, and NGO partners on different aspects. The next few months will focus on preparing village-level micro plans, carrying out preparatory work for 7,500 hectares of plantations, constructing community halls, setting up community nurseries, and building soil and water conservation structures in project villages. The Management Information System is under active preparation, and bottlenecks in reimbursement procedures have been addressed for efficient financial management. It is expected that the MegLIFE project will achieve its many objectives and meet the socio-economic aspirations of the village communities of Meghalaya.

Dr. Vijay Kumar D., IAS



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

482
VPICs formed

482
Villages demarcated

500
VCFs trained and engaged



PROJECT UPDATES

Land for Plantation Solving the Challenge

One of the essential components of MegLIFE is to raise 22,500 hectares of forestry plantations using six plantation models, including agroforestry. The most critical aspect is to ensure the availability of land for raising these plantations across the project villages, given that about 90% of forest lands already belong to either individuals, communities, or clans. Since the microplanning process has not started, it was decided that quick surveys be conducted to study the availability of forest lands and their density/degradation status, the willingness of the communities to allow project activities, the maintenance of these forests as community forests by the VPIC, the extent of available land, and the readiness of communities to earmark suitable land for community nurseries. To this end, Quick Surveys have since been conducted across 175 project villages in line with the targets under the Annual Plan Operations (APO). The results are as follows:



District	Possible Land Availability (in Ha.)
EKH	924.77
EWKH	518.62
SWKH	246.76
Ri-Bhoi	2579.10
EJH	5673
WJH	4393.7
NGH	577
EGH	824.63
SGH	2,831.12
WGH	2,093.34
SWGH	675.86

Induction Training to Village Community Facilitators (VCF)

According to the Minutes of Discussion (MoD), the project must engage local educated individuals, known as VCFs, as members of the Executive Committees (EC) of the Village Project Implementation Committees (VPIC). Their roles include acting as a bridge between the village community and the Project at the BPMU level, maintaining records of the VPIC, facilitating meetings, and serving as a link between the VPIC and the Bank. They are entitled to an honorarium, as fixed by the Project Director. Prior to their formal engagement, the State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) conducted two days of induction training for a total of 500 VCFs in 16 batches at the Nongsder campus and the SIRD Extension Centre at Tura. On 15 July 2022, SPMU officials also assisted with an orientation for the SIRD faculty.

PROJECT UPDATES

Training of Trainers (TOT) on VPIC Management

Since MegLIFE aims to implement its activities through the VPICs, it is essential to train the office bearers of the ECs on various topics, such as project objectives, VPIC formation and bylaws, office bearers' duties and responsibilities, social inclusion, accounting processes, record maintenance, and General Body and Executive Committee meetings. Initially, the BPMs and NGO partners posted in the BPMUs were planned to conduct training for the VPIC office bearers at the cluster/village level as trainers. To train these trainers, the consultants and officials posted in SPMU and PMC acted as master trainers and conducted four training sessions in TOT mode. In total, a group of trainers was developed who were expected to conduct village-level training.



Training on Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP)

PLUP is a critical aspect of microplanning at the village level, and in the MegLIFE project, it was planned to conduct PLUP in every village as a prelude to the microplanning process. To ensure that the microplanning teams could conduct PLUP seamlessly, the BPMs and NGO partners were trained in four batches of five days each by the Project Management Consultants (PMC).

The training program covered the following topics, and practical demonstrations were conducted during visits for the preparation of maps.

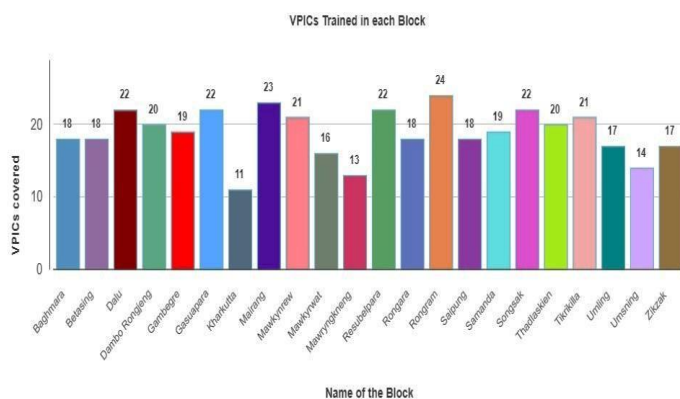
Introduction to PLUP | Objectives of PLUP | Broad concept of PLUP and Micro Planning | Type of Maps (Map Reading and interpreting) | Broad Steps of PLUP in a participatory mode with the community | Process | Decision Tree for reference purpose | How to prepare Zoning maps



EVENTS

Training on VPIC Management for Office Bearers of VPIC Executive Committee

Following the TOT conducted for the BPMs and NGO partners, MegLIFE launched the cluster/village-level training for the office-bearers of the EC of the 500 VPICs on 'VPIC Management'. Elaborate preparations in terms of logistics and mobilization of trainers were made. An innovative idea of flipcharts was also prepared and translated into Khasi, Garo, Assamese, and other local languages for a seamless learning experience. Further, portable projectors were purchased and supplied for the trainers to use. Training were conducted in the project villages covering VPICs of 450 Group-1.



13th Meeting of Project Directors of JICA-funded NRM Projects

JICA India convened the 13th meeting of the JICA-funded NRM project on 19 Sept 2022. Besides a review of progress, these meetings provided an opportunity for the Project Directors and other officials to exchange knowledge and learn about success stories and best practices. MegLIFE was represented by Shri Gunanka DB, Additional Project Director.

Published By: SPMU, MegLIFE, MBDA

Further Details Please Contact:

O/o Project Director, Project for Community Based Forest Management and Livelihoods Improvement in Meghalaya (MegLIFE), Shalom Building, 2nd Floor, Block-3, Lower Lachumiere, Shillong-793001

Ph-0364-3510190 | Email-meglifembda@gmail.com



“TOGETHER” we can make a difference...