

TOGETHER



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

April-June 23

From Project Director's Desk

The MegLIFE Project is dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management by involving the community in participatory planning for inclusive growth. The project also aims to provide alternative sources of income for the local communities by promoting Income Generation Activities (IGAs). The ultimate goal of the project is to maximize resource mobilization for the target beneficiaries. To achieve this, Village Project Implementation Committees (VPICs) are encouraged to undertake large-scale afforestation drives to restore the land in the project villages. The project has received overwhelming participation from communities and project stakeholders, which has energized the afforestation drive.

The latest issue of "TOGETHER" highlights the events and activities that took place in the project villages during the first quarter of 2023-24. Apart from the afforestation activities, this issue also focuses on the progress made on other project sub-components such as community mobilization and capacity building. It is expected that the MegLIFE Project will soon achieve its goals, given the positive response and adoption of its initiatives.

Dr. Vijay Kumar D., IAS

In this Issue

- ✓ Restoration of Degraded Lands With Community Participation
- ✓ Visit of JICA Mission to MegLIFE Projects
- ✓ Community-based large-scale Native seed collection for Community Nurseries
- ✓ Capacity Building for Community Procurement
- ✓ Construction of Drinking Water Structures
- ✓ Celebration of World Environment Day at MegLIFE VPICs



Restoration of Degraded Lands with Community Participation

The MegLIFE Project aims to improve degraded forests through sustainable forest management and is implemented with the participation of local communities under Village Project Implementation Committees (VPICs). 175 VPICs of the first batch in 22 blocks have done afforestation this year. The members of these committees have been trained on the importance of forests and the need for their regeneration through massive community mobilization workshops conducted by the project personnel over the past one year. Consequently, all 175 VPICs have come together to take up a massive plantation program of 2845 ha this year in degraded areas using seedlings raised in the central nurseries with the Soil and Water Conservation Department (SWCD) for which funds were provided. The members of the VPICs have taken up related works like pitting, planting, and watch & ward. In total, around 14 lakhs seedlings have been planted in project villages on both community and private forest lands. This change in attitude towards forest regeneration and management was possible due to the rigorous community mobilization efforts of the MegLIFE Project. The villagers are now keen to take care of the seedlings planted and to restore the forests of Meghalaya to their past glory. Communities also came forward to take up community nurseries in the project villages. 423 community nurseries have been established with the aim of raising 10,000 seedlings per nursery for planting in the 2024 MegLIFE plantation whose target is kept at 9500 ha.

Block	2023 Plantation Area in Ha
Baghmara	191.7
Betasing	147.24
Dalu	118.49
Dambo Rongjeng	168.24
Gambegre	71.99
Gasuapara	70.62
Kharkutta	71.75
Mairang	153.52
Mawkynrew	220.04
Mawkyrwat	88.05
Mawryngkneng	101.38
Resubelpara	216.35
Rongara	108.49
Rongram	78.88
Saipung	232.78
Samanda	105.44
Songsak	42.75
Thadlaskein	203.91
Tikrikilla	65.56
Umling	153.21
Umsning	117.44
Zikzak	117.36
Total	2845.19



PROJECT UPDATES



Visit of JICA Review Mission to MegLIFE Project

JICA Review Mission, comprising Mr. Vineet Sarin, Chief Development Specialist, Mr. FUJIWARA Hidenobu, Representative, Ms. Sushma Adarshi, Development Specialist, and Ms. Roopal Srivastava, Project Officer JICA India Office, visited the MegLIFE Project from April 25th to April 28th, 2023. The purpose of the visit was to review the physical and financial progress of the MegLIFE Project, discuss the disbursement projections, and evaluate the adopting of the IVCS approach under the project.

During the visit, the team went to Laitmysang Village of Mawkynew Block, EKH district, to review the project interventions in the village and interact with the participating community. They also visited Umdihar IVCS under the IFAD funded project to get an idea of IVCS operation through interaction with the IVCS office bearers. The team expressed satisfaction with the progress of the implementation of MegLIFE Project.



Community-based large-scale Native seed collection for Community Nurseries



MegLIFE hired retired forest officials to help the Project to establish a Community Nurseries in 423 villages leading to the successful raising of about 40 lakhs seedlings for large scale afforestation target of MegLIFE Project for 2024.

MegLIFE Project officials have conducted an inventory of native plant species of the villages, simultaneously Project Associates (Foresters) have prepared seed calendars village-wise and block-wise which enumerated the native species available in the locality.

Communities were mobilized to collect seeds according to the seasonal availability. To make the community nurseries successful the guiding principle is to ensure that no poly bag in the community nursery is left vacant. The communities were trained on the seed collection process to ensure that only the best seeds were collected in order to preserve the native populations in the respective villages.

Scan the QR code
to access the Seed
Calendar



PROJECT UPDATES



Construction of Drinking Water Structures

The field engineers of BPMUs conducted a preliminary survey to determine the most sustainable sites for productive intervention under Soil & Water Conservation Component. They organized meetings and awareness programs to clarify any doubts and identify community needs based on priorities. After several deliberations, the Field Engineer have prepared a feasibility report. The best suitable sites and estimates for the construction of spring tapped chambers and RCC water storage tanks in the selected Project Villages were identified and construction activities are going on in the villages.



Capacity Building for Community Procurement

Constituting a Local Purchase Committee and Construction Committee in all VPICs comprising of community members and subsequent capacity building workshops were undertaken by MegLIFE to ensure efficient community procurement involving VPICs maintaining utmost transparency.



Celebration of World Environment Day at MegLIFE VPICs

The World Environment Day was celebrated on June 5, 2023 in VPICs under Saipung and Thadlaskein Blocks. The event was attended by VPIC members and school children, as well as BPMU staff from both blocks. The program aimed to encourage people to promote tree plantation and sustainable livelihood activities using natural resources available in the area. Community leaders from VPICs shared their traditional knowledge on soil health, organic fertilizers, and pest control. The program ended with a cultural performance and a mass plantation activity involving school children.



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...