



&gt;&gt;&gt; NEWSLETTER &lt;&lt;&lt;

# TOGETHER

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

## From Project Director's Desk

GREETINGS TO EVERYONE READING THE NEWSLETTER!

As we are at the end of the second year of the MegLIFE Project, I am filled with immense pride and optimism. Our journey thus far has been both challenging and rewarding, marked by a significant achievement in 2023—planting over 2,787 hectares. This accomplishment is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our team, our partners, and the community members who have stood by us.

Looking ahead, we are setting our sights on an ambitious target for 2024: expanding our plantation efforts to cover 8,000 hectares. This goal is not just a number but a commitment to rejuvenating our degraded forest lands and fostering a sustainable environment for future generations. We have already identified the areas for these new plantations, and we are gearing up to commence advanced preparatory work starting from March 2024.

The success of the MegLIFE Project hinges on the collective efforts of all involved. To our dedicated staff and invaluable implementing partners, particularly the community members of MegLIFE VPICs, I extend my heartfelt gratitude. Your perseverance, expertise, and unwavering commitment are the cornerstones of our progress.

As we move forward, let us continue to work with the same enthusiasm and determination that have brought us this far. Together, we can overcome any challenges and achieve our shared vision of a greener, more resilient environment. Here's to a successful year ahead and to the positive impact we will create together.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication.



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## REVIEW MEETINGS



Shri Gunanka DB, IFS, APD MegLIFE carried out a site inspection and review meeting from January 20th to 22nd, 2024 at West Garo Hills Region. During the first day, APD visited various locations, including plantations, community nurseries, and SWCs interventions and engaging in community interactions in villages under Betasing and Zizak Block.

On the second day, a comprehensive review meeting was held for all DPMs, BPMs, FEs, FAs, PAs, and other vertical heads involved in the project. The meeting focused on assessing the status of activities block-wise, discussing statistics for each activity, and planning for upcoming activities as well as strategies to achieve targets set for the year ahead.

On March 26, 2024, at the DPMU in Tura, a meeting was held with the Nokma Council, Garo Hills MegLIFE DPMs, and BPMs, chaired by Shri Gunanka DB, IFS, APD, MegLIFE.



The discussion focused on various challenges hindering project progress in the Garo Hills region, with the Nokma Council members agreeing to intervene and support the MegLIFE team in overcoming difficulties in implementing project activities.



On March 22, 2024, at the MegLIFE Conference Hall, a meeting was held with apprentices from various fields including UAV, GIS, IT-GIS, and IT, chaired by Shri Gunanka DB, IFS, APD, MegLIFE.

The primary objective was to introduce the apprentices to the organization's projects and their roles, with APD MegLIFE providing an overview and highlighting the significance of the three-month apprenticeship. The apprentices also introduced themselves, sharing their insights and expectations for the program.

## 2024 EVENTS

### TRAININGS

The DPMs, BPMs, and foresters of the MegLIFE Project completed a two-day training program from 15th to 16th March, 2024 led by Shri. Samuel Raju Geddarn and Shri. G.S. Yadav. The first Day training concentrated on theoretical aspects, providing in-depth insights into technical details of plantation methods. Sessions covered topics such as different plantation models, Half moon terracing, and discussions on various challenges faced. Day two included a field visit to Umniangriang and Sylleibah villages, where participants gained hands-on experience at ANR & AR plantation sites and nurseries. The aim was to refresh knowledge and equip participants with skills for project success. The program concluded with an interactive session involving members of the Village Project Implementation Committees (VPIC), fostering knowledge exchange. Overall, participants expressed satisfaction with the valuable learning.



An orientation training was conducted on February 19, 2024, at the Conference Hall, SPMU MegLIFE, for newly onboarded staff from the CLLMP (Community Led Landscape Management Project) joining the MegLIFE project. The training session aimed to introduce the staff to the diverse activities of the project. This orientation proved to be instrumental in facilitating significant learning and deepening the staff's comprehension of the project.



## Exposure Visit



The MegLIFE team from Garo Hills organized a four-day exposure trip to Kolkata for 23 VPIC leaders representing each of the VPICs from the Blocks of Samanda, Rongara, Baghmara, and Betasing. The trip took place from February 21st to 24th, 2024.

A notable aspect was the exploration of a 15-hectare plantation project in Rakshitpur village managed by the Malandighi Beat and Durgapur Range, in collaboration with the Joint Forest Management Committee of Rakshitpur village. The project, initiated in 2018 as part of the WBFBD project funded by JICA, has gained recognition as one of the region's finest, showcasing its effectiveness and influence.

## Workshop on Agroforestry-based Carbon Credit Scheme



Two-day program on the Agroforestry-based Carbon Credit Scheme for Communities was held in East Garo Hills, Meghalaya on 15th and 16th January, 2024. On the first day, around 45 attendees, including 20 Village Carbon Fund (VCF) members were noticed at the DRDA Hall in Williamnagar. Dr. S. Ashutosh, Co-Chairman & Director of COE for NRM & SL, MBDA delivered a comprehensive overview of the agroforestry-based Carbon Credit Scheme, offering detailed information on its implementation and potential benefits for the communities in Meghalaya.

The representatives of IORA from Delhi, including four members and an additional participant from the Netherlands, shared the international perspective on carbon credits, adding depth and diversity to the discussions, while showcasing the global relevance of the initiative. Following this, a field visit to the agroforestry plantation site at Gitokgre village, under East Garo Hills, Samanda C&RD Block was carried out on 16th January 2024. This robust engagement underscored the importance of community involvement in ensuring the success of initiatives such as the Agroforestry-based Carbon Credit Scheme in the state.

## Celebrating the Inspiring Journey of Smt. Raisabao Momin on International Women's Day!



On this International Women's Day, MegLIFE celebrates the remarkable journey of Smt. Raisabao Momin, a beacon of empowerment and resilience. Her story resonates deeply, embodying the spirit of determination and the transformative power of unwavering commitment.



## Internal Audit

Internal audits conducted by the SPMU team for the all DPMUs, covering physical registers from BPMUs and VPICs. The audit reviewed various registers such as fixed assets, current assets, minutes, community contribution, muster roll procurement, cash book, outside membership register, voucher, membership register, cheque issue register, measurement book, and ledger.



# Glimpse of Activities Carried out for Plantation Advance Work

Thapa Dajonggre, Resubelpara- Discussion on advance work for Plantation on the removal of unwanted weeds and spacing of Plantation.



Gitokgre VPIC, Samanda-meeting on Advance work for plantation, Labour Planning, Plantation Model confirmation and site inspection for plantation 2024.



Village Elders demarcated 10 plots at Rengregre VPIC. With diligent and constant approach with Nokma, Nokma and individual farmers agreed and provided plots for demarcation.



Rongrong Songgitcham under Songsak Block, EGH. The Nokma and chras have given two plots for plantation and have submitted NOC for the activity. He has also assured to give other plots under his Aking for plantation.



Renchagre VCF under Rongram block demarcated 5 plots which is 49.26 hectares.



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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...**