

Newsletter

30 May 2025

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

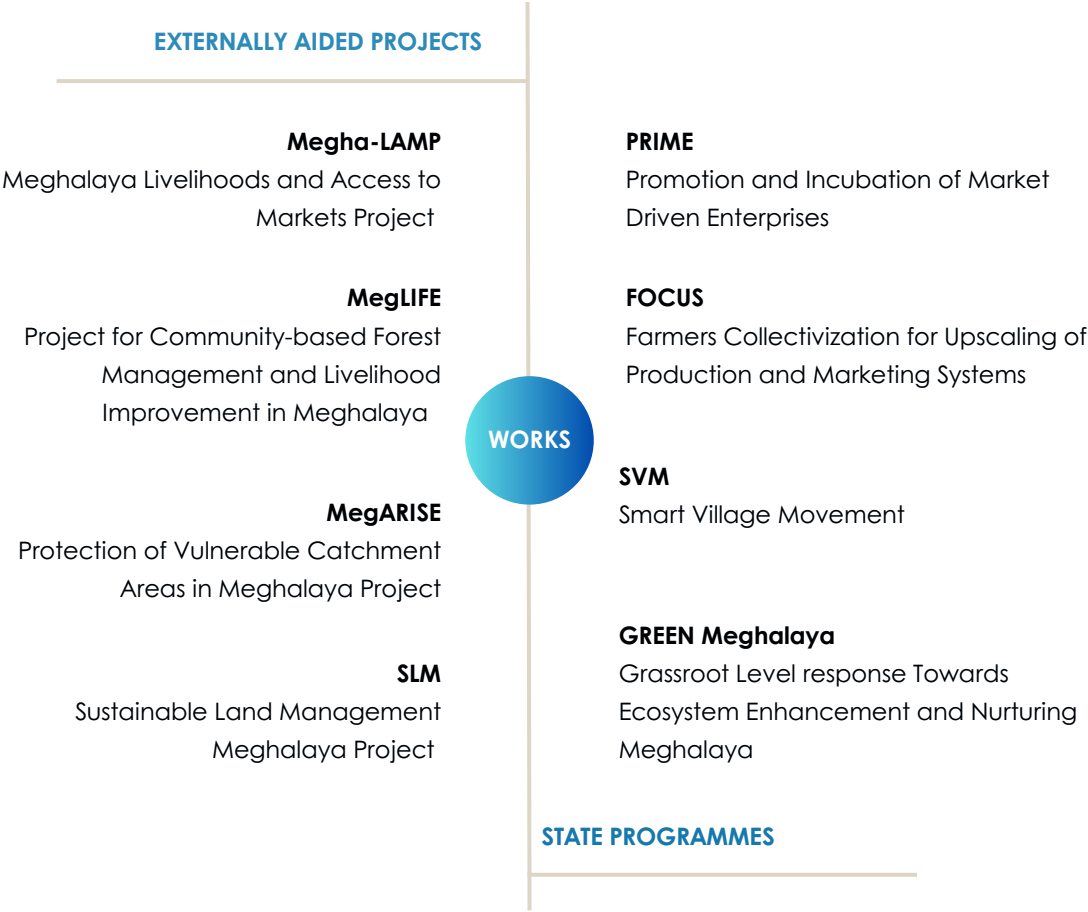


ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

The Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA) and Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA) implement citizen-centric, community-driven projects to improve the quality of life for Meghalaya's citizens, bridge developmental gaps, and promote natural resource management, catchment area protection, forest management, agroecological practices, and market development. Incorporated under the State's Planning, Investment Promotion & Sustainable Development Department, MBMA and MBDA partner with multilateral agencies, banks, non-profits, UN organizations, government departments, and community groups to implement their works.

Coverage spans across Meghalaya through Externally Aided Projects (EAP) such as the IFAD-supported Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project (Megha-LAMP), the JICA-funded Project for Community-based Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement in Meghalaya (MegLIFE), the KfW Development Bank-funded Sustainable Land Management Meghalaya Project (SLM) and the Protection of Vulnerable Catchment Area in Meghalaya (MegARISE) Project, and the recently-concluded World Bank-funded Community Led Landscape Management Project (CLLMP).

State programmes being implemented include the Promotion and Incubation of Market-Driven Enterprises (PRIME), the Farmers Collectivization for Upscaling Production and Marketing Systems (FOCUS), and the Smart Village Movement (SVM).



KEY UPDATES

30 May 2025

PRIME (PROMOTION AND INCUBATION OF MARKET DRIVEN ENTERPRISES) MEGHALAYA



PRIME at Rising North East Investor's Summit | 23–24 May 2025

PRIME Meghalaya participated in the Rising North East Investor's Summit 2025 held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, accompanying five entrepreneurs from diverse sectors. The event provided a platform for them to connect with investors and explore market linkages across India.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Conrad K. Sangma, attended the inaugural session and interacted with the entrepreneurs. Mr. Larsing Ming D. Sawian, Managing Director of Center Point Group of Enterprises, also addressed the gathering and later engaged with the PRIME entrepreneurs, sharing insights from his journey as a second-generation entrepreneur.

Hanif Syiemlieh, founder of Edify, shared, "I sincerely thank the PRIME team for this invaluable opportunity. It was an enriching experience, and I hope such initiatives continue to empower local entrepreneurs."



Megha-LAMP Project Retreat 2025: Strengthening Collaboration for Greater Impact

From 21st to 24th May 2025, the Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project (Megha-LAMP) team convened at Mystique Mayong Eco Resort, Assam, for a strategic retreat aimed at reinforcing team synergy and advancing project goals.

The retreat featured strategic reviews of key components, including PRIME Hubs, Farmers Markets, CMCs, IVCS, and Rural Finance Presentations on project closure preparedness, log frame indicators, and M&E systems Breakout group discussions for in-depth planning and cross-component alignment Team-building sessions to foster collaboration and strengthen internal coordination

The retreat served as a platform for reflection, planning, and reinforcing a united approach towards sustainable livelihood development.



147 IVCS Oriented on Gender Responsive Budgeting Across Two Districts

A total of 147 IVCS were oriented on Gender Responsive Budgeting across West and East Khasi Hills in May 2025, with a focus on inclusive planning and budgeting within IVCS Business Plans. In West Khasi Hills, 70 participants from 28 IVCS attended the session on 23rd May, where they explored gender equality, gender mainstreaming, and the importance of embedding gender sensitivity within the value chain. In East Khasi Hills, 77 IVCS were covered through trainings held on 12th and 23rd May. The sessions enabled IVCS members to identify gender gaps and apply gender-responsive approaches in their cooperative planning and operations.

21/05/25 | Ginger Cultivation Completed in Chengaldare Demo Plot

Ginger cultivation was completed at the Chengaldare demo plot with the active participation of 15 farmers. Two improved varieties—Mahima and Varada—were planted as part of the demonstration initiative to promote better yield and farmer adoption.

₹25 Lakh Grant Boosts Food Processing at Kerupara IVCS

With a ₹25 Lakh grant from the Horticulture Department in December 2025, Kerupara IVCS expanded from raw produce aggregation to processing and marketing value-added products like cashew, arecanut, chips, and fresh juices. They now sell locally, supply Tura and Shillong, opened an outlet in Ampati market, and started local honey processing, creating new income opportunities.

MCS Officers Visit Asil Dikagre Ginger Processing Unit

On 17th May 2025, newly inducted Meghalaya Civil Service Officers visited the Asil Dikagre Ginger Processing Unit in East Garo Hills. During the visit, the District Project Manager briefed them on MLAMP project activities implemented through the Asil Dikagre IVCS. Key highlights included initiatives under the Commodity Marketing Centre (CMC), Custom Hiring Centre (CHC), cold storage facilities, the Ginger Mission, and trial marketing and processing efforts.

From ₹50,000 to ₹7 Lakhs a Year

Mr. Midros Rngkhlem from Wapung Shnong began his piggery journey after years of working as a daily wage labourer. Starting with 15 pigs in 2021, he faced challenges—eviction, livestock loss, and lack of knowledge. With support from Megha-LAMP and proper training, he slowly rebuilt.

He now manages a farm with 80 pigs, earns around ₹7 lakhs annually, and works as a certified Service Provider, guiding farmers across several villages.

He plans to scale up to 1000 pigs and set up a meat processing unit.



PROJECT FOR COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT AND LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT IN MEGHALAYA



FMP activity initiated in Pyndensohlang to support sustainable forest use

A Forest Management Plan (FMP) activity was recently undertaken in Pyndensohlang, South West Khasi Hills, with the aim of conserving natural resources and promoting sustainable forest use. Ongoing interventions include nursery development, soil and water conservation, and fire management—designed to improve biodiversity and support local livelihoods over time.

1,732 Soil & Water Conservation works completed across Meghalaya

From trenches to sustainable forest management, these interventions are helping restore natural resources, boost soil moisture, and improve livelihoods—while strengthening local institutions and safeguarding the environment.



13 AGF models demoed, weeding begins, and groundwork set across 4 sites

Advance plantation activities are actively underway to support both ecology and livelihoods. Tikrikilla Block in West Garo Hills has launched 13 agroforestry demo plots. Second-year weeding is underway at Thapa Darenchi Community Reserve. Pit digging is done at Umtasor Mawdkhar, Umsning, Ri Bhoi, and both pit digging and staking are completed at the Andreas Rynshon ANR plot in Umling, Ri Bhoi.



PROGRESS OVERVIEW

30 May 2025

PROJECT FOR COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT AND LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT IN MEGHALAYA



PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT



Nursery monitoring in East Khasi Hills flags high sapling mortality and maintenance gaps

The Umiew Catchment team conducted nursery follow-ups in six villages of East Khasi Hills—Marbisu Pdengshnong, Madan lingsyiem, Demthring, Pombot, Umtngew, and Iewpomtiah. Most nurseries, managed by Self Help Groups and Village Organizations, reported critical sapling mortality (85–92%) due to winter frost and low availability of viable saplings. While shading and fencing were adequate in most sites, Madan lingsyiem requires improvements. Urgent polybag refilling was noted, and Utilization Certificates for preliminary and first-year planting have been submitted.

30 May 2025

Advance plantation groundwork underway at Umiew Catchment across 4 villages in East Khasi Hills

Between 16–20 May 2025, the Umiew CMU team conducted advance plantation work in Mawreng Mihngi (Mawphlang Block), Pomlakrai Rngi (Mylliem Block), Kyrdemkhla (Mawkynrew Block), and Mawkhanpasir (Mylliem Block) in East Khasi Hills. Demonstrations focused on site preparation, spacing, and logistics to ensure smooth plantation activities this monsoon. At Kyrdemkhla's Kasturba Centre alone, 2.3 ha was prepared. Field teams, foresters, and community members jointly assessed each site's readiness.



Advance plantation preparation at Rengsanggre VPIC, West Garo Hills

On 26 May 2025, the Ganol CMU team conducted preparatory work at Rengsanggre Village Public Information Centre under Rongram Block, engaging the community in upcoming plantation efforts for environmental sustainability.



Nine landowners in Nokatgre, South West Garo Hills, joined the Ganol Catchment Management Unit team on 20 May for advance work planning on Agroforestry, Assisted Regeneration (AR), and Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) plantations under Rerapara Block.

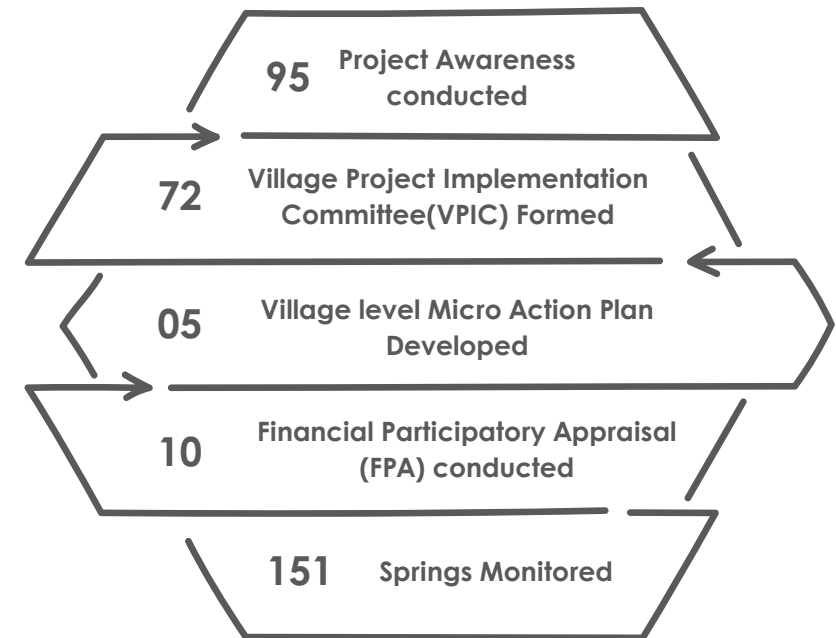
PROGRESS OVERVIEW

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT

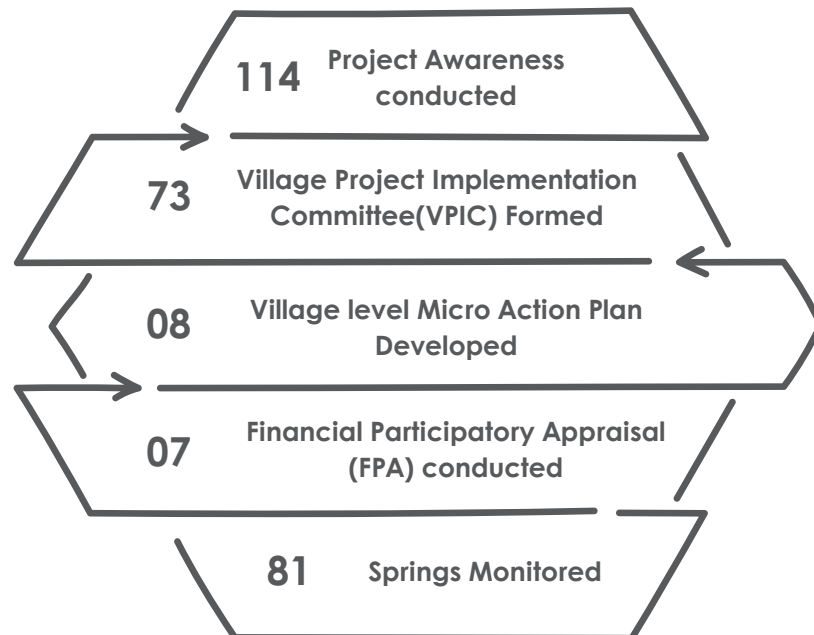
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CATCHMENT-WISE PROGRESS UPDATE – 29 MAY 2025 UMIEW CATCHMENT



GANOL CATCHMENT





Clover team conducted field visit

On May 22, 2025, the Clover team conducted a field visit to pineapple orchards under Jamge IVCS and interacted with local farmers.

During the visit, the team observed that one of the orchards has been in cultivation for nearly 20 years, highlighting long-term traditional practices. The team also visited a newly established orchard in Nongpoh, managed by a trained farmer, the orchard features intercropping of pineapple with Citronella, reflecting an innovative approach to diversify production and enhance land use efficiency.

Training on Package of Practices

Clover conducted a hands-on training session on the Package of Practices (PoP) for the demonstration of Off-Season Vegetable (OSV) cultivation on 22 May at Rongtenabak IVCS in Dadenggre Block. The training focused on introducing farmers to three distinct cultivation methods: Traditional, ICAR, and the Kyiem Method.

Field visit to Rongtebak and Chenggaldare IVCS

On May 27, 2025, Clover team and representatives from SPMU visited Rongtenabak IVCS and Chenggaldare IVCS in Dadenggre Block. The purpose of the visit was to engage with IVCS members to identify suitable land for establishing a Cashewnut Demonstration Plot. The discussion also focused on the requirements for setting up an Internal Control System (ICS) and the formation of grower groups for future organic certification.

Following the meeting, the team conducted a field visit to an existing cashew orchard under Rongtenabak IVCS. The site was assessed for its current cultivation practices, soil health, and conversion potential to organic farming as part of the SLM Project's certification objectives.

Field visit to Sohpool FPC

A field visit was conducted to Sohpool FPC villages—Raitong, Thad, Sohpdok, and Mawdiengngan—to inspect vermi composting units and assess ginger fields for Package of Practices (PoP) studies under the SLM Project.



PRIME (PROMOTION AND INCUBATION OF MARKET DRIVEN ENTERPRISES) MEGHALAYA



PRIME Startup Hub Inaugurated in Nongpoh | 23 May 2025

The PRIME Startup Hub was inaugurated on 23 May 2025 at Nongpoh, Ri Bhoi District by Shri Jonathan Shylla, Additional Deputy Commissioner, in the presence of Shri Pranjal Konwar, COO of IIMCIP, the PRIME team, officials, and local entrepreneurs. The event featured a product showcase and networking session, giving entrepreneurs a platform to share experiences and connect with the ecosystem.

In his address, Shri Shylla urged the public to make the most of the opportunities PRIME offers—training, mentorship, funding, and incubation—and assured that the District Administration would continue to support the initiative. The new hub aims to be a one-stop centre for entrepreneurs in the region.

PRIME Roadshow draws interest in Nongpoh & Bhoirymbong | 13 May 2025

To build awareness ahead of the Nongpoh PRIME Hub launch on 23 May, a roadshow was held at Nongpoh and Bhoirymbong markets in collaboration with Red FM. The team shared information on the various forms of support provided by PRIME—funding, training, mentorship, and incubation. Engaging activities like quizzes and giveaways drew strong public interest, with many expressing keen interest in visiting the upcoming Hub.



ViennaUP Startup Festival | 8–16 May 2025

Eight startups from India participated in ViennaUP 2025, a startup festival held across Vienna from 8–16 May. The event featured sessions in co-working spaces, innovation hubs, and other venues across the city.

The delegation engaged in pitching workshops, networking events, and discussions with peers and stakeholders, gaining exposure to Austria's startup ecosystem and building international connections.



GREEN MEGHALAYA (GRASSROOT LEVEL RESPONSE TOWARDS ECOSYSTEM ENHANCEMENT AND NURTURING MEGHALAYA)



GREEN MEGHALAYA AWARENESS DRIVE

Green Field Associates conducted awareness programs across blocks, to promote reforestation, biodiversity conservation community-led afforestation. The initiative also focused on green belts, sustainable farming & urban green spaces.



2845 Applications Collected to Promote Long-Term Forest Conservation

Green Field Associates collected 2845 applications from villages for the month of May 2025, to encourage continued conservation of natural forest owned by communities, clans and private individuals and incentivize their commitment to continue conservation for at least 30 years.

STORY OF THE WEEK

TURNING PLASTIC WASTE INTO BUILDING BLOCKS

PRIME MEGHALAYA

Reuel Kharbudnah, a 19-year-old from Lummawbah, Upper Shillong, is not a typical college student. While studying for his bachelor's degree in Science at Synod College, he also runs a small but steadily growing startup that is finding new ways to deal with an old problem — plastic waste.

His venture, Innovative Research and Mobilization, was born out of an idea he had during his first semester in college. It was not a fully formed plan at the time but he thought: what if plastic waste could be used to make something useful? The idea stayed with him, and he eventually shared it with his teachers. Their support encouraged him to take his passion seriously. With guidance from the Entrepreneurship Cell at Synod College, Reuel was able to connect with PRIME Meghalaya to know about the services it offers after which he applied for funding assistance. He was selected under the Kick Start Grant and received ₹9 lakhs —enough to buy the machinery he needed to get started. On 10th May 2025, he inaugurated his production unit in Laitkroh village, East Khasi Hills.

The unit now makes hand tiles, pavers, cemented bricks, and local blocks — all using recycled plastic. On a good day, they produce about 600 pavers and tiles and 300 bricks and blocks. Getting to where he is today was not smooth sailing. But with time, and support from family and friends, things started to move and become more structured. The funding from PRIME helped him improve production, and slowly, his products began to find space in the local market.

Currently, Reuel employs five people from his village and hopes to bring more on board, especially women, in the coming months. For him, this is not just a mere business. It is a way to reduce plastic waste and create job opportunities in his community. "I'm still learning as I go," he says. "There are challenges, and not everything always goes as planned. But I'm trying to build something that's useful, that helps in some way."

To other young people who have ideas but do not know where to start, Reuel's advice is simple: "Just begin. Ask for help. PRIME helped me when I didn't know where to start — they will be able to help you too."



"I thank the Government of Meghalaya that through PRIME I was able to get this support and turn my ideas into reality."
— Reuel Kharbudnah, Founder of Innovative Research and Mobilization

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