

NEWSLETTER

Updates of the Week

4th April 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



THE MEGHALAYA COMMUNITY LED LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PROJECT (MCLLMP)



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)

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKET PROJECT



RF * INRM * ISC-ED

Megha **LAMP**
Meghalaya Livelihoods Access to Market Project
In Partnership With IFAD

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

CM ELEVATE CONCLAVE 2024



The CM Elevate Conclave 2024, held on 12th March at U Soso Tham Auditorium, Shillong and 13th March at the District Auditorium, Tura, marks a significant step towards youth empowerment and entrepreneurship in Meghalaya. Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Shri. Conrad K. Sangma, various schemes and initiatives are being implemented to foster economic growth and development in the state.

Beneficiaries approved under schemes like the Meghalaya Agriculture Warehouse Scheme, Meghalaya Common Facility Center (CFC) Scheme, and newly appointed Village Data Volunteers (VDV) implemented by Meghalaya Basin Management Agency under the Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project (Megha-LAMP), were honoured to receive Sanctioned Letters for Funds and Appointment Letters from the Honorable Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri. Conrad K. Sangma. The sanction letters for funds and appointment letters distributed during the conclave highlight the government's commitment to empowering individuals, collectives, and traditional institutions.

In collaboration with both public and private banks, the Government of Meghalaya facilitates access to credit, thereby encouraging aspiring entrepreneurs to establish new ventures or expand existing ones. To mitigate financial risks associated with entrepreneurship, the government offers capital and operational subsidies, covering 35% to 75% of the project cost. Additionally, entrepreneurs benefit from handholding support such as training and capacity-building programs. Through a user-friendly single-window portal, entrepreneurs can seamlessly apply for various business ventures across sectors, thus fostering economic growth and development in the state.

At the recent program in Tura, 5 people received sanction letters for the Meghalaya Agriculture Warehouse Scheme, 6 were supported for the Meghalaya Common Facility Centre (CFC), and 184 individuals were offered appointment letters as Village Data Volunteers (VDV) by the Honorable Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri. Conrad K Sangma. These beneficiaries were carefully identified and selected as part of the Meghalaya Livelihood Access to Markets Project (Megha-LAMP). This initiative aims to uplift and empower the community by providing essential resources and opportunities for growth.

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FIELD VISITS



From 10th March to 13th March 2024, the IFAD team accompanied by the SPMU and DPMU team had a busy schedule, visiting various IVCS locations in Meghalaya. They started by engaging with members of Timsiminia IVCS Ltd. in Kharkutta, NGH, followed by a visit to Rengsingpara IVCS Ltd. in West Garo Hills District. Led by Sir N Srinivasan, they interacted with MC members and local shopkeepers, inaugurated a Bakery unit, and visited an Arecanut Processing unit. They also observed activities at the MeghFarm and Prime Hub in Khamari, Tikrikilla.

Continuing their visits, on March 12th, the team went to SWGH and met members of Kentrikona IVCS Ltd. and Dondime IVCS Ltd. Later that day, they visited Dadenggre and interacted with Pringprang IVCS Ltd. and Chenggaldare IVCS Ltd. Then, on March 13th, they traveled to Rongjeng and engaged with Nongshram IVCS Ltd. Throughout these visits, each IVCS provided presentations and updates on their progress.

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FIELD VISITS



On 6th March 2024, there was a field visit along with the ADB team and meeting with Laittyra IVCS Ltd., prior to that, on 7th March 2024, they went for a field visit to Diengkynthong Prime Hub and Diengkynthong Honey Processing Unit.



On 8th March 2024, an examination for the post of Village Data Volunteer (VDV) for Batch II & III was conducted across multiple districts including East Khasi Hills District, East Jaintia Hills District, and Ri Bhoi. In East Khasi Hills District, there were a total of 395 candidates registered, with 212 candidates appearing for the exam and 185 absent. Additionally, a session was held in Khliehriat, where 93 candidates participated.

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FIELD VISITS



Right after their visit to the Garo hills region, the IFAD Mission team members continued with their visit to the Khasi and Jaintia region. On the 15th March 2024, the team visited Umkon IVCS Ltd., and Umshaken IVCS in Ri Bhoi District, interacted and discussed on matters relating to the IVCS, arecanut processing unit, PGs, NRM activities, the activities that can be taken up at the PRIME Hub, Umdihar Ltd. The IFAD Team was accompanied by the DPMU and SPMU team. On 16th March 2024 the team visited Pamtbuh IVCS, Nonglatem farmers market and Wahiajer IVCS Ltd., The team sat with the IVCS members, PG members, SPs, and discussed on matters related to the IVCS, CMC, CHC, PGs and NRM.

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Aventure Travel Guide Training organised by LBI Nongstoin, MBMA.

TRAININGS & OTHERS



The ISC&ED, MBMA organized a 5 days training programme focusing on banana cultivation, production, value addition, and marketing for Master Trainers (SP). Starting from 18th March to 22nd March, 2024, this session aims to equip Master Trainers with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively train others in these areas.



Aventure Travel Guide Training organised by LBI Nongstoin, MBMA.

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TRAININGS & OTHERS



A review and refresher training session for IVCS Managers in the K&J region took place on 2nd April 2024, at Lumjingshai Youth Centre in Pohkseh, Shillong.



A consultative meeting regarding the Ginger Mission was convened on 26th April 2024, at Bakdil Training Centre in Walbakgre, West Garo Hills District, Tura. The event saw participation from IVCS representatives, farm managers, and staff from various District Project Management Units (DPMUs) including EGH, WGH, NGH, and SGH.



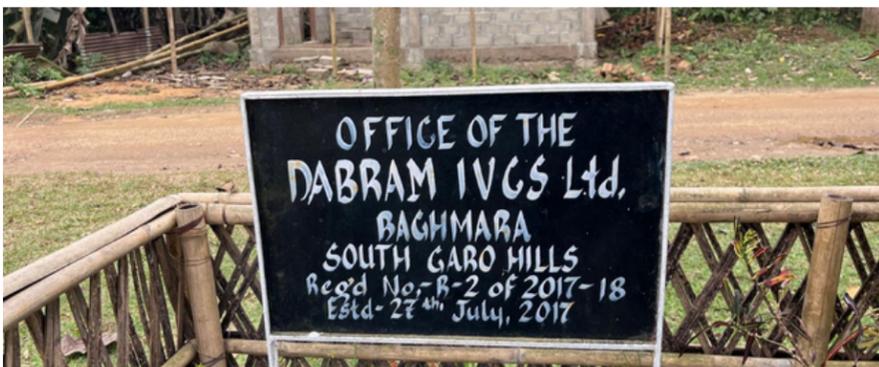
MegLIFE

Meghalaya Livelihood
Improvement through Forest
Enhancement Project (MegLIFE)



MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Block Project Manager (BPM) Visits Dabram IVCS: Observations and Future Initiatives

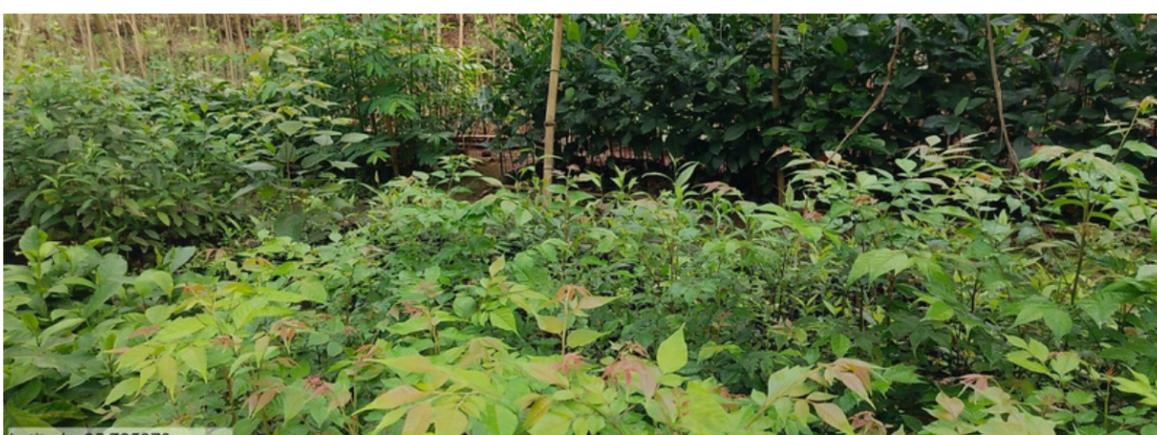


Block Project Manager (BPM) from Baghmara visited Dabram IVCS, the second-highest ranked #IVCS within #MLAMP. The visit aimed to observe operational procedures, comprehend Income Generation Activities, assess record-keeping methods, and understand the roles of key personnel.

Valuable insights into IVCS operations were gained, with recognition of outstanding performance and a comprehensive briefing on activities since its establishment. Credit was given to the proactive secretary for securing funding from NBARD and MLAMP. Various Income Generation Activities such as nurseries, kitchen gardens, and piggery were observed, with plans underway to manufacture sanitary pads. Armed with this knowledge, the BPM is now prepared to raise awareness, involve Self-Help Groups, and encourage similar initiatives.



Conducting a thorough site inspection at Gitokgre VPIC to verify and confirm the model's accuracy.



Community nurseries have been set up in different Blocks across various villages, managed by VPICs, to grow plants for the upcoming year 2024 in specified plantation areas.

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Block Project Manager (BPM) Visits Dabram IVCS: Observations and Future Initiatives



On March 21, 2024, the MegLIFE team conducted a demonstration on the construction of Halfmoon Terracing and its intended purpose in Kut village, located under the Mawryngkneng Block, East Khasi Hills District.



The team from the Block expressed gratitude for the visit, acknowledging that hands-on learning in the field is highly beneficial. They appreciated the opportunity to work with the skilled and supportive MegLIFE team, recognizing that it would enhance their understanding and expertise in the field of construction.



Between March 18th and March 26th, 2024, a series of meetings and awareness programs were held concerning plantation management, community involvement, and the establishment of Self Help Groups (SHGs) for Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS). Notable events included discussions with Dokongsi VPICs on plantation



and community nursery matters, deliberations on roles such as Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) and Carbon credit on March 18th; meetings with Memilam and Remagittim VPICs on IVCS formation on March 19th; advanced work discussions at Thapa Darenchi and Mothapara, Tikrikilla on March 21st; awareness programs at various locations on March 22nd, emphasizing IVCS formation and site inspections; and finally, an IVCS awareness program at Pomlahier Village on March 26th, with updates logged in an online Google sheet. These efforts aimed to foster effective management and community engagement in plantation initiatives through stakeholder involvement.

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Block Project Manager (BPM) Visits Dabram IVCS: Observations and Future Initiatives



On March 22, 2024, the Block Project Manager (BPM), Project Associate, and Programme Associate conducted various activities in Adugre village. These activities included raising awareness about plantation cost norms, signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU),

compiling a labor list, and providing training on plantation procedures from jungle clearing to the appointment of fire watchers. Given the village's division into three hamlets, six sub-committee members will be appointed to closely monitor the plantation activities and regularly report to the Village Plantation Implementation Committee (VPIC) and the BPM.

Exploring Land Use and Conservation Initiatives in Rongdikgre Village



A visit was made to Rongdikgre, a neighboring village of Goeragre, along with the Nokma and VPIC Secretary to discuss the possibility of utilizing their land for plantation purposes. The responses from the community were mixed, with the suggestion of holding a general meeting first. It was highlighted that dedicating 30 to 35 hectares of their catchment area adjacent to Adugre forest reserve at Rangira Peak for plantation could contribute to protecting the area, particularly considering the canopy cover is currently less than 70%.

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Block Project Manager (BPM) Visits Dabram IVCS: Observations and Future Initiatives



On March 23, 2024, the Field Coordinator of Chokpot Block conducted an inspection of the plantation site in Daji Adugre village. During the visit, it was observed that the 15-hectare plot originally intended for shifting cultivation had undergone a change in plans. Following their participation in an awareness program on Agroforestry, the villagers opted to transition to Agroforestry for this plot instead of continuing with shifting cultivation.

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

MegLIFE communities are hard at work to achieve the project's goal of covering 22,500 hectares of plantation. plantation of saplings is currently underway.



Efforts are underway to enhance habitat management and protect biodiversity in the Thapa Darenchi Community Reserve through vegetation clearing. In Thapa Dajonggre village, jungle clearing has commenced to prepare for the 2024 plantation season. Plantation boundaries have been established in Nayapra village, covering an area of 11 hectares. Similarly, Thapa Dangre has initiated jungle clearance activities, continuing the preservation efforts in the Resubelpara Block. Additionally, jungle clearance has commenced in Lower Rembigre. Furthermore, agroforestry activities are being pursued through jungle clearance in Mooshrot (Group 2 village), West Jaintia Hills District, aiming to promote sustainable land use practices.

"APD's Field Visit to Garo Region: Overcoming Project Hurdles and Strengthening Community Support"



During a five-day field visit to the Garo Region from March 26 to March 30, 2024, the Additional Project Director (APD) of MegLIFE convened a meeting with the Nokma council and the Garo Hills MegLIFE DPMs and BPMs in Tura to address project hurdles. Following fruitful discussions, the Nokma Council pledged support to tackle challenges. APD's visit to Dalu Block and Mandadrop Village garnered appreciation from local communities and project teams, boosting confidence and commitment to project objectives. Emphasizing the significance of village-level staff involvement and community engagement, APD also highlighted improvements in record-keeping and stressed the pivotal role of local leadership in project success. Gratitude was extended to the teams in West Garo Hills (WGH) Dalu Block and North Garo Hills (NGH) Kharkutta Block for their dedication to project implementation.

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY



On March 27, 2024, the Block Project Manager (BPM) of Resubelpara Block conducted a meeting at Nanil Apal with VPIC members, discussing labor planning, revised wage rates, and visiting the Community Reserve where bamboo was prevalent. They also explored an Agroforestry plot, with the owner expressing willingness to allocate more land in the future. Additionally, a meeting for Daljagre VPIC on 2024 plantation and wage rates was held. On March 28, 2024, a meeting at Kurung Village under Tikrikilla block discussed the 2024 plantations, advance work procedures, species selection, and labor utilization from the village. Another meeting addressed Intersecting PES with village representatives and leaders.



Sanjeev Rabha's Contribution to MegLIFE's Plantation Initiatives



On April 1, 2024, Sanjeev Rabha, a VCF of Tikrikilla Block, responsibly collected Sinaru (*Cassia Fistula*) seeds. This task aimed to support the 2024 plantation initiatives aligned with the objectives of the MegLIFE project. Sanjeev's conscientious efforts signify a significant contribution to promoting sustainability practices in the region, demonstrating his commitment to environmental stewardship and community well-being.

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

ENTRY POINT ACTIVITY - COMMUNITY HALL

The construction of 370 community halls has been sanctioned under EPA of MegLIFE. Initial phases of site preparation is underway.



SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, MEGHALAYA (SLM)



MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Review meeting



A meeting took place on the 3rd April, 2024 at the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Sustainable Land Management, Meghalaya Project (SLM) to evaluate the progress and requirements of partner organizations - the Bio-Resources Development Centre (BRDC) and the Directorate of Horticulture (DoH) under the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, GoM - in preparation for initiating on-ground activities. Smt. Isawanda Laloo (IAS), Executive Director of MBMA & Project Director, SLM, chaired the meeting, joined by Shri. D. Rudra, CFO, MBMA, Shri. A Suting, APD, SLM, and representatives from DoH and BRDC.

Activities by MSRLS



1. Master trainers conducted demonstrations and hands-on training sessions on natural farming techniques for farmers.
2. Preparation of 1.60 liters of Dravajeevamrutham at the Nutri-garden of Emilia Nongrum.
3. Planting of sweet potatoes at the field of Shimtilang Nongbri (livelihood cadres). These activities were attended by farmers and livelihood cadres from Jongksha village, East Khasi Hills district, Mawkynew block.



Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)



MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

"Empowering Communities Through MRV Trainings and Surveys: A Journey of Learning"

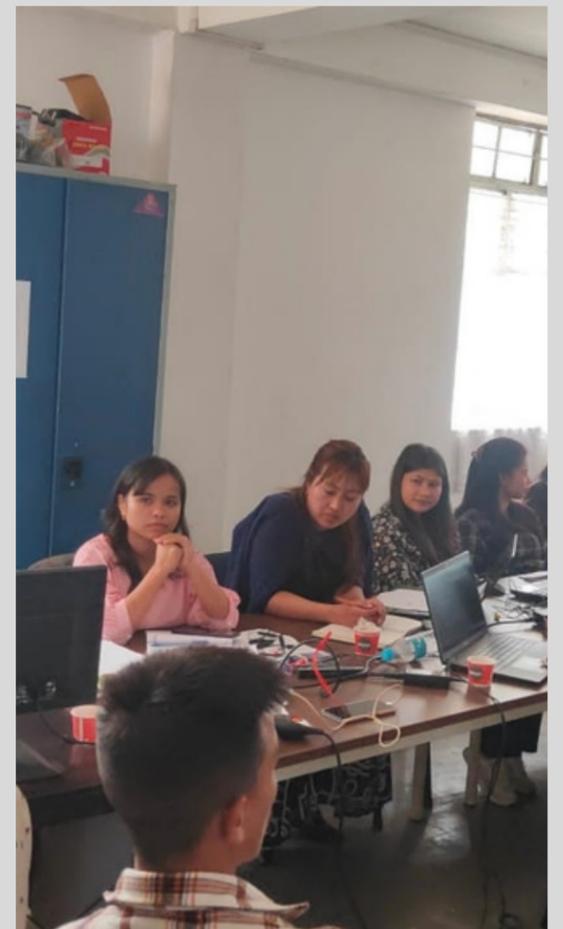


Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) is a process of PES_GREEN Meghalaya conducted to assess the performance of the beneficiaries' activities as outlined in the scheme, through this process the quantum of next installment under the PES Scheme can be determined. MRV has been carried out for 381 communities only, that received funding for Year 1 in December 2022. Out of these, 324 communities have been selected to receive funds for the Second Year. The MRV activity for 381 communities commenced on February 5, 2024, led by GREEN Field Associates at Block Level in collaboration with Village Community Facilitators (VCF), and completed on February 17, 2024. Note: Beneficiaries with missing data, falling under WLS, NP, RF, Not received funds in year 1 and 0% Payment are under Review.

SNIPPETS



Green Field Associates (GFAs) are presently in the process of collecting application forms and utilization certificates, demonstrating their active involvement in gathering comprehensive information from applicants.

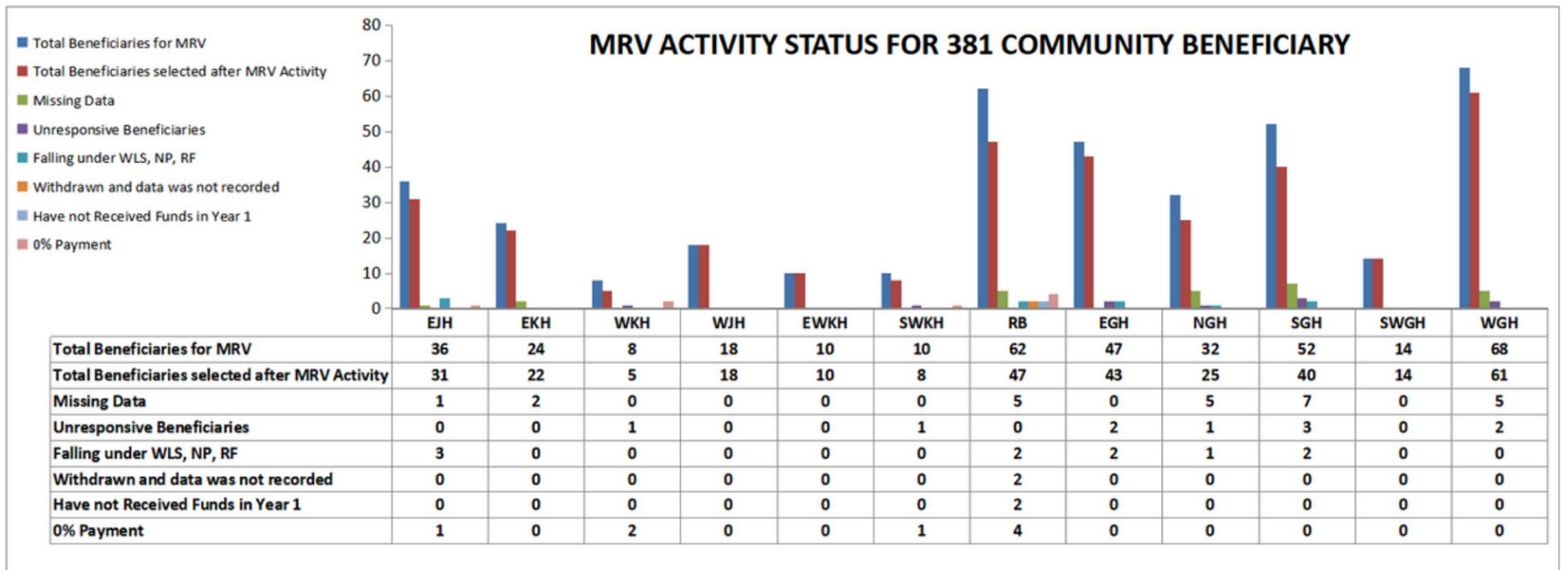


Meetings are underway with beneficiaries of the payment for ecosystem services scheme. The sessions encompass guidance on effective fund utilization and timely submission of Utilization Certificates (UC).

MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

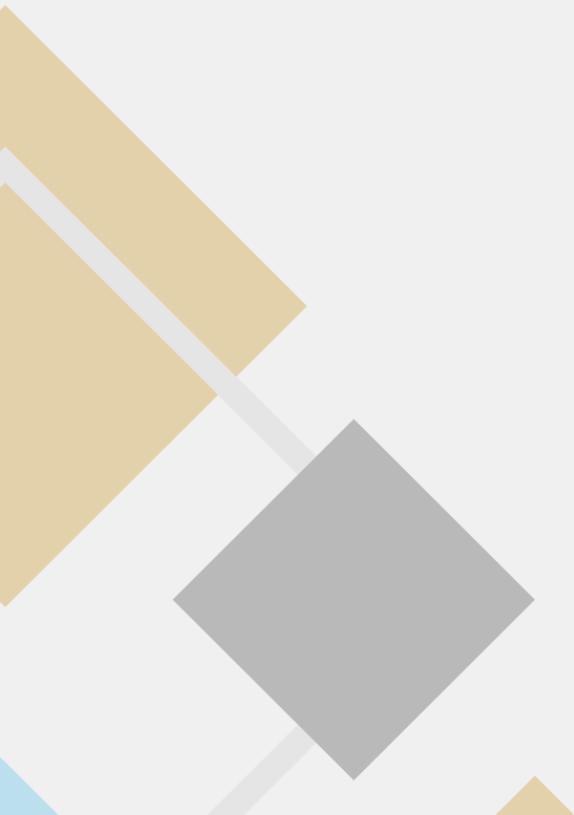
MRV ACTIVITY FOR TOTAL 381 COMMUNITY BENEFICIARIES

District	Total Beneficiaries for MRV	Total Beneficiaries selected after MRV Activity	Missing Data	Unresponsive Beneficiaries	Falling under WLS, NP, RF	Withdrawn and data was not recorded	Have not Received Funds in Year 1	0% Payment
EJH	36	31	1	0	3	0	0	1
EKH	24	22	2	0	0	0	0	0
WKH	8	5	0	1	0	0	0	2
WJH	18	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
EWKH	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
SWKH	10	8	0	1	0	0	0	1
RB	62	47	5	0	2	2	2	4
EGH	47	43	0	2	2	0	0	0
NGH	32	25	5	1	1	0	0	0
SGH	52	40	7	3	2	0	0	0
SWG H	14	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
WGH	68	61	5	2	0	0	0	0
STATE TOTAL	381	324	25	10	10	2	2	8



Institute of Natural Resources

(INR)

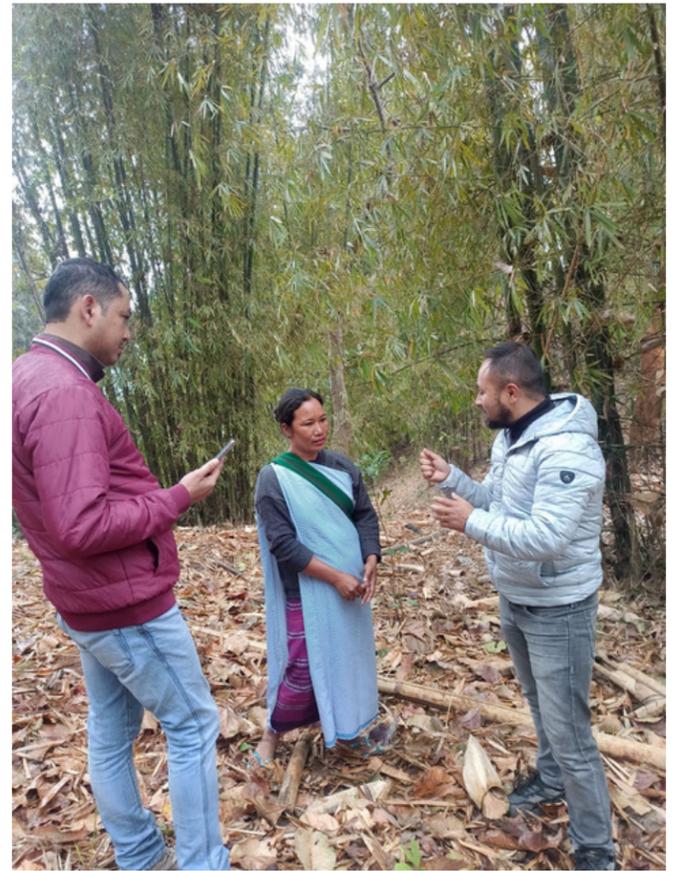


MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

INSTITUTE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Bio-Resources Team

1. Visit to MegLife Community forest at Umshit village, Umling Block, Ri Bhoi District with RiBhoi DPM and BPM Umling Block.
2. Conducted awareness for the importance of Medicinal and Aromatic plants for upliftment of livelihood with the VCF of Umshit Village.
3. Visit to the Nursery of MegLife Umshit Village.



MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY

INSTITUTE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Another milestone for the Aroma Mission Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Umtham Village! They have just received a Field Distillation Unit of 500kgs along with expert technicians from Swaraj, all the way from Lucknow! This incredible development marks a significant step forward in empowering our local communities and promoting sustainable practices. With the new distillation unit, our SHGs will be able to enhance their production capacity and ensure the highest quality of aromatic products.



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