

# TOGETHER



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



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## Project Director's Desk

The MegLIFE Project has started implementing activities in Project Villages through Village Project Implementation Committees (VPICs). Micro-planning is underway in the first batch of Project Villages, along with the construction of soil and water conservation structures, community nurseries, and advance plantation work. The first batch interventions have helped refine processes and systems for future batches. The goal is to establish a strong, empowered, and vibrant VPIC structure, turning them into resource centers and institutionalizing Community Based Organizations. Support is being increased through involvement of line departments like Soil and Water Conservation, Forests and Environment, and the Autonomous District Council. Capacity building programs have been conducted for stakeholders to enhance understanding and confidence. Internal capacity building and state-national training have also been conducted for project officials. The MegLIFE Team continues to work together to achieve project goals.

*Dr. Vijay Kumar D., IAS*



# PROJECT UPDATES

## Participatory Land Use Planning and Micro-planning at Project Villages

Micro-planning is an important aspect of the MegLIFE Project. It defines the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders and sets targets for activities at the village level. It helps manage forest areas, soil and water conservation, and planning for income-generating activities. Micro-planning is a 5-year development plan made in collaboration with VPIC members to encompass their expectations. It serves as a roadmap for the implementation of project activities, supporting the management of natural resources and addressing livelihood issues at the community level.

### Approaches for Micro Plan Preparation

The MegLIFE Project aims to balance the conservation of forests, biodiversity protection, and sustainable forest management while also improving the livelihoods of local communities. To achieve this goal, the project focuses on strengthening institutions at the community level and building the capacity of primary stakeholders (VPIC members) in the planning, implementation, and monitoring processes. The project emphasizes the involvement of women VPIC members from the start and adopts a dynamic approach that allows for continuous improvement based on learning, experience, and best practices.



### Key PRA Tools used in Micro Plan Preparation

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Social Map                                    | Resource Map           |
| Seasonal Calendar                             | Matrix Ranking/Scoring |
| Transect Walk                                 | Wealth Ranking         |
| Historical Timeline and Trend change Analysis | Venn Diagram           |
|   | Focus Group Discussion |



## Micro-planning Training Program for Field Officials

SPMU, MegLIFE organized a 3-day "Micro Plan Preparation" orientation program at RRTC, Umran from 14-16 Nov 2022 for BPMs and NGO staff of EKH, WKH, SWKH, and Ri-Bhoi DPMUs. This was followed by a 3-day field exercise in project villages under Ri-Bhoi. Similar exercises were held in Tura and Williamnagar for other BPMs and NGO staff to develop an understanding of the Micro Plan and its preparation.

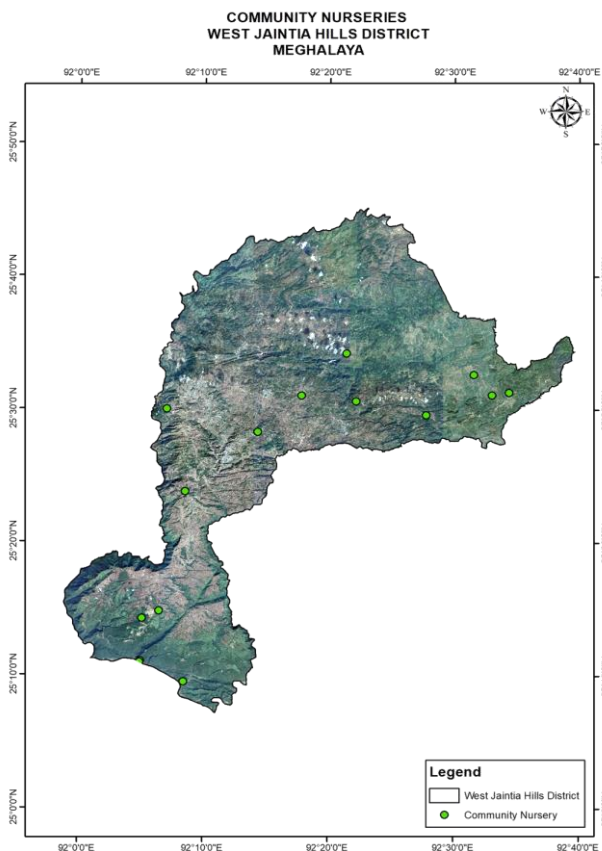




# PROJECT UPDATES

## Preparing for Afforestation of 7500 ha of degraded forest land through community participation

MegLIFE is restoring degraded forest land across 22,500 ha in 450 Group-I Project Villages via various plantation models. 6 permanent nurseries have been established and agreements are in place for 2 more, in collaboration with the Soil & Water Conservation Department and Autonomous District Councils. Hands-on training for 866 VPIC members from 433 project villages was also conducted, resulting in improved mortality rates and confidence to take nurseries as micro-enterprises. Funds have also been given to 433 VPICs for raising community nurseries.



### Plantation as a Demand-driven Approach



For the identification of land for raising the plantation and selection of species, a quick survey was conducted along with VPIC members through a participatory approach. Project has documented the scientific names of the selected species preparing plantation protocols.

### VPIC Formation in Group-II Villages



MegLIFE activities are implemented through the VPICs, and villages already initiating forest conservation activities are identified as models for Group-I villages. Advanced interventions will include agroforestry, NTFP, and supply chain management. As of date, MegLIFE has formed 50 VPICs in Group-II Villages.

SCAN THE QR CODES TO SEE LIST OF VILLAGES OF MEGLIFE



Group 1 Villages



Group 2 Villages



# PROJECT UPDATES

## Socio-Economic and Bio-Physical Baseline Survey

To comprehensively understand the socio-economic and bio-physical conditions in project villages, MegLIFE conducts baseline surveys per its operation and effect indicators. These surveys are designed to capture data that can be reutilized for future assessment of the Project. 10% of project villages constitute the samples for the baseline survey.



## MIS as a tool for MegLIFE Implementation

MegLIFE utilizes MIS-based technology for strong and effective implementation and monitoring. This requires developing MIS data recording formats for different project components in both English and local languages (Khasi, Garo, and Assamese). These formats are filled out by base-level functionaries (Block Project Managers/ NGO Field staff and Village Community Facilitators) and submitted electronically to the SPMU web server for validation and compilation.



Some of the features of the MIS are-

- Unique-ID is maintained for each VPIC
- Formats filled up electronically through mobile APP
- All field-level staff have been provided with tablets for data collection

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**“TOGETHER” we can make a difference...**