



»» NEWSLETTER ««

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TOGETHER

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

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FROM PROJECT DIRECTOR'S DESK

The MegLIFE Project is in its 2nd year of Implementation. The Project is supporting 500 Villages across 12 districts of Meghalaya for the execution of Natural Resource Development and Community Development activities through participatory mode. Our field functionaries are working hard to achieve plantation targets of 3000 ha for the year 2023.

Enhancing the capacity of communities is one of the main focuses of the Project. The Project is organizing various community-level trainings to equip them with desired knowledge/skills in technical, institutional and financial aspects for sustaining the Village Project Implementation Committees (VPICs) as empowered institutions for village-based natural resource governance.

I am sure that with the active involvement of all stakeholders, the MegLIFE Project will achieve its objectives and the learnings thereof can be used to replicate wider application on a sustainable basis.

-Dr. Vijay Kumar D., IAS

JICA Mission Visit to MegLIFE



JICA Mission, consisting of Ms. Sushma Sen Adarshi, Development Specialist and Ms. INAGAKI Yukari, Project Formulation Advisor, visited the MegLIFE Project from November 20th to 23rd, 2023.



During their visit, they held meetings at the SPMU, MegLIFE to review the progress of the project components. They also visited plantations and community nurseries in Umniangriang and Sylleibah Villages, as well as the Spring Tapped Chamber and Community Hall in Mawlumkhri Village under Mairang Block. The team had a detailed interaction with the community in Sylleibah village.

On November 23rd, 2023, the team held a wrap-up meeting at the SPMU, MegLIFE, and also met with the PD, MegLIFE to brief them on the findings of their visit.

Review meeting by APD, MegLIFE

A review meeting chaired by APD, MegLIFE held on 25th Nov, 2023 at Taj Viavanta with all DPMU and BPMU staff to review the progress of Project implementation in the MegLIFE Villages.

After the review, BPM, Mairang and Project Associate, Mairang have been awarded for their outstanding performance in raising 26.8 ha of Artificial Regeneration plantations under Sylleibah VPIC.



Protecting Plants from Frost Damage at Community Nursery



As the winter frost approaches, delicate plants in the nurseries are in danger of being harmed. To safeguard the plants grown in the community nursery, members of the VPIC of Mawrap village, under the Mawkyrwat BPMU, have reconstructed the nursery's shade with a protective covering.

This work was accomplished through community contributions.

Promotion of Aroma Plantation for Soil & Water conservation with supplementary livelihood

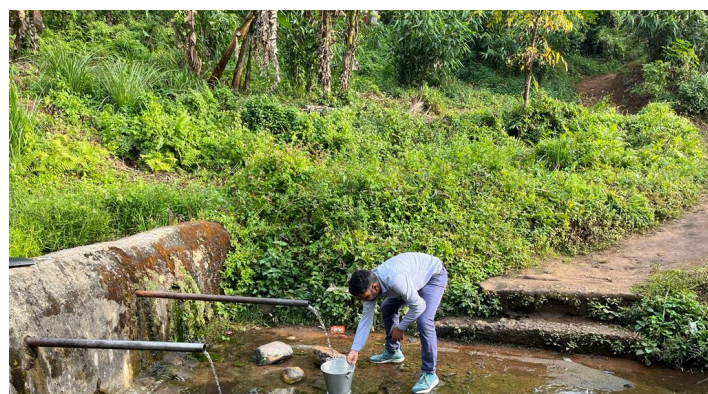
A one-day training programme on cultivation of Patchouli plantation took place at Silsotchigre village, Rongram Block, West Garo Hills district. Organized by the Bio-Resource team of INR in partnership with MegLIFE, the training focused on the promotion of Aromatic grasses cultivation for soil and water conservation. Sixty interested farmers from Silsotchigre, Donsimagre, Chiwatgre, Rombadinggre, Chokagre and Timbogra village attended the training programme along with BPM, (Megh-Life) of Rongram Block, West Garo Hills and Technical assistant of Bio-Resource. The training provided practical guidance and plantation methods on Patchouli, which is known to improve soil structure, retains soil moisture, reduces runoff, and promotes biodiversity. This initiative plays a vital role in preserving soil quality and safeguarding water resources, promoting sustainable agriculture. The session fostered interaction among farmers, allowing them to share concerns and engage in fruitful and insightful discussions.



Springshed Management for rejuvenation of critical springs

In Meghalaya, villages are mostly dependent on springs for drinking water & other purposes but discharge of these springs are proving to be insufficient to cater to the demand due to the loss of their inherent capacity to discharge more water. Moreover, most of the springs become seasonal and thus during dry season people are facing severe water scarcity which adds to their drudgery of collecting water from far-off places. Consequently, this situation is also critically threatening their livelihoods as well.

Under MegLIFE Project initiative has been undertaken to rejuvenate the springs by treating the source of Springs i.e. Springshed. 500 treatment plans covering all MegLIFE villages will be prepared in partnership with 'MegLIFE Spring Consortium' (MLSC) in which 4 NGOs viz. Central Himalayan Rural Action Group (CHIRAG), Uttarakhand; Advanced Center for Water Resources Development and Management (ACWADAM), Maharashtra; People's Science Institute (PSI), Uttarakhand & Rajarhat PRASARI, West Bengal are participating.



Ensuring a Safe Workplace: Preventing Sexual Harassment



On November 6, 2023, our HR department held an important awareness program focusing on "Ensuring a Safe Workplace: Preventing Sexual Harassment." As an organization dedicated to fostering a respectful environment for all, it's crucial to raise awareness and educate on this critical issue. Our sensitization program aimed to give participants a deep understanding of sexual harassment, its impact, and effective prevention measures. Advocate Miss. Deiti Majaw's presentation was truly enlightening and enriched our staff's understanding of this matter.

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“Together” we can make a difference...

