



Newsletter

17 April 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).





Chief Minister Visits Jatah Nonglyer IVCS

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Conrad K. Sangma, visited Jatah Nonglyer IVCS, he interacted with members of the IVCS, listening to the concerns and plans of the community. Jatah Nonglyer IVCS was established in 2019 and adopted under the Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Market Project in 2023. The IVCS focuses on financial services, economic opportunities and essential needs.

The Government of Meghalaya has supported Jatah Nonglyer IVCS with:

- *2.5 Lakhs Corpus Fund
- *53,000 Office Equipment Fund
- *26,750 Viability Gap Funding

The Chief Minister commended the efforts of the corporate society in driving local development.



Visit of High-Level Delegation from Ministry of Cooperation to Umdihar PRIME Hub

On 10th April 2025, the PRIME Hub and Processing Unit at Umdihar IVCS Ltd. hosted a high-level delegation from the Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India. The visit was led by Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani, Secretary, and accompanied by Shri Pankaj Kumar Bansal, Additional Secretary; Shri Anand Kumar Jha, Joint Secretary (Policy); and several senior officials from the Ministry, including Joint Secretaries, Directors, Deputy Directors, Registrars, and Under Secretaries.

Also part of the visiting delegation were the Chief Executive, NFDB; Deputy Director, LBSNAA; Principal Secretaries from the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan; Registrars from Gujarat, Karnataka, Odisha, and Sikkim; and the Managing Director & Nodal Officer, PACS & Computerization, Uttar Pradesh.

The delegation appreciated the Government of Meghalaya's policies in strengthening the IVCS ecosystem and commended Umdihar IVCS Ltd. for its grassroots innovations and contribution to cooperative development.



Banana-Based Enterprise Exposure Visit

Navsari Agricultural University, Gujarat | April 10–12, 2025

25 participants from IVCS in North Garo Hills explored the potential of banana pseudostem as a sustainable resource. They learned fibre extraction, composting, and how to create edible products & handicrafts from banana plants.



Key Highlights from Managing Committee (MC) Meetings & Annual General Meetings (AGM)

In preparation for the AGMs, several Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS) — including Laitkyrhong, Jatah Nonglyer, Mawiong, Laitlyndop, Dongiewrim, Laitnongrim, Wahsohlait, Lumlang, and Tehsongkawei — conducted MC meetings between 25th and 28th March 2025. Discussions focused on audit compliance, business planning for the next three years, profit appropriation, cash handling, credit/debit policies, and finalisation of AGM/SGM dates.

Mawiong IVCS held its AGM on 29th March, resolving key issues in the presence of officials and members, while Nongsteng IVCS conducted its AGM on 28th March, covering audit, loan policy, committee restructuring, and business planning.

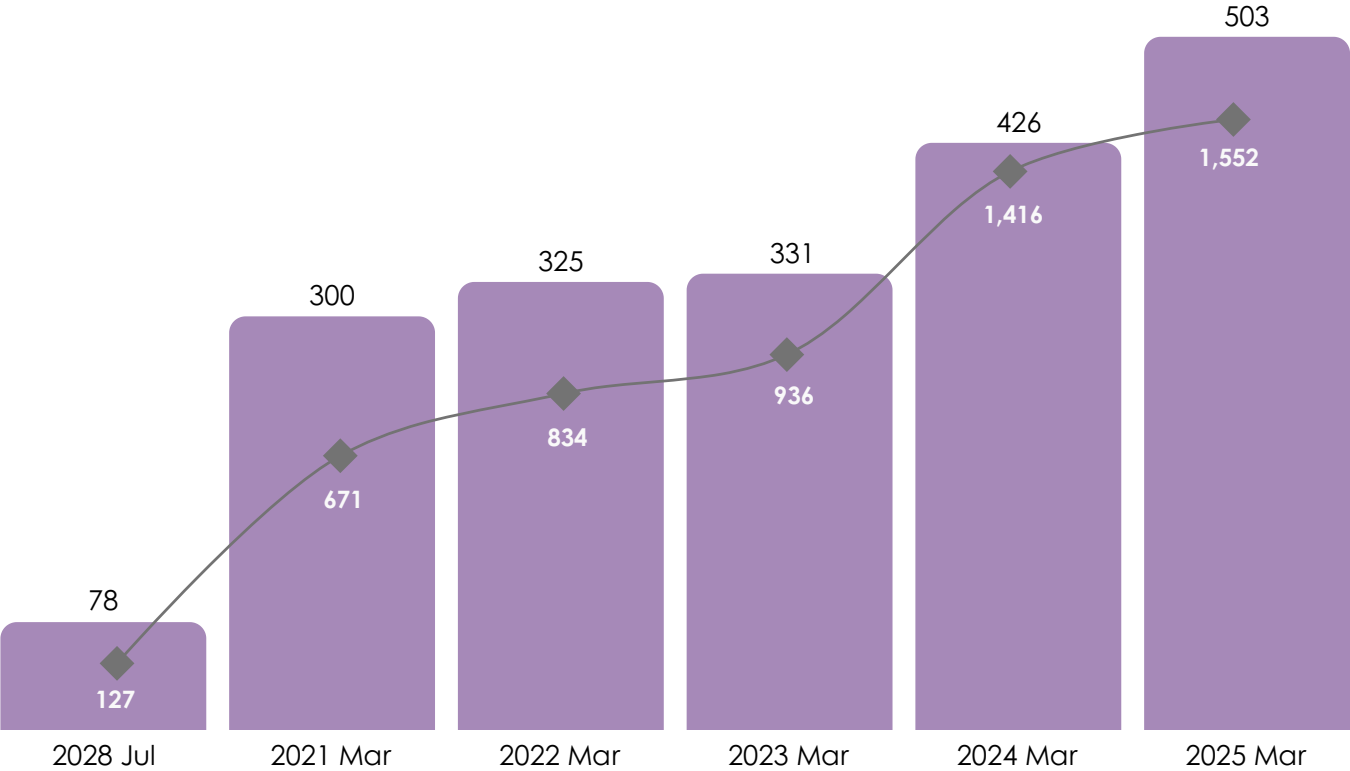
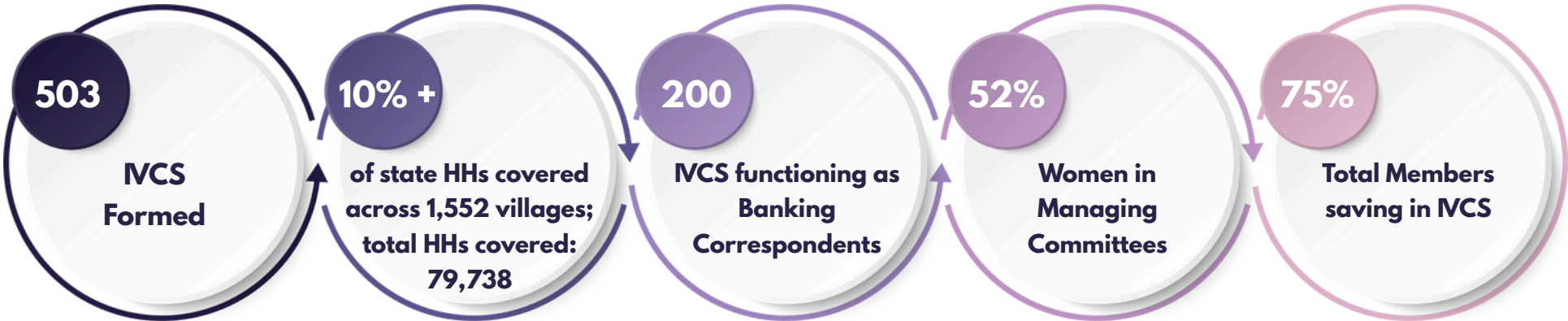
The SPMU team, along with Shri. Gideon Kharmawphlang, IAS (Retd.), Technical Expert, MBDA/MBMA visited Dimiligre Farmers Market, Chapahati Prime Hub & Doramchas Farmers Market.

- Farmers raised concerns on delayed operations.
- Discussions held on plan estimates & land development.
- Follow-up with the contractor to be taken up by SPMU.

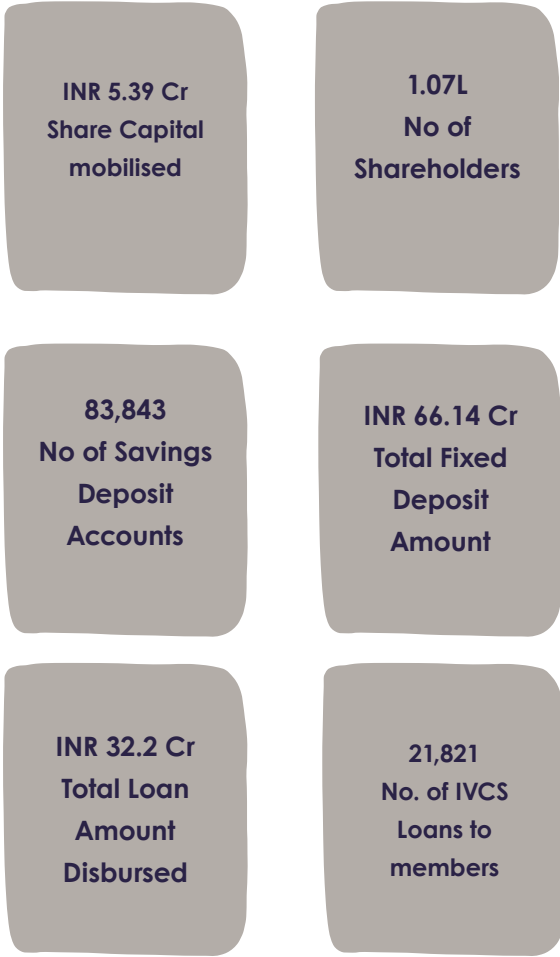
PROGRESS OVERVIEW

MEGHALAYA LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO MARKETS PROJECT

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IVCS formed Villages covered



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



Celebrating National Science Day 2025 in Tura!

Our State UAV/GIS Team brought science to life during the 2-day event and Digital Planetarium launch on March 28–29. With fun demos and hands-on sessions, young minds got a taste of tech and innovation like never before!

69 SHG members trained in Piggery Breeding and Fattening!

On April 14, 2025, BPMU–Betasing held a 2-day training at Ampati, equipping 69 SHG members with skills in piggery breeding and fattening.

Led by experts from Animal Husbandry & Veterinary, the sessions included live demos and a visit to the Jacob Piggery Breeding Unit.



Empowering Rural Livelihoods through Sustainable Practices

From March 16–18, 2025, Self Help Group members visited Baksa, Assam and the SELCO Foundation in Bengaluru to learn about sustainable livelihood models. They observed solar-powered grain processing, organic farming, and food processing units



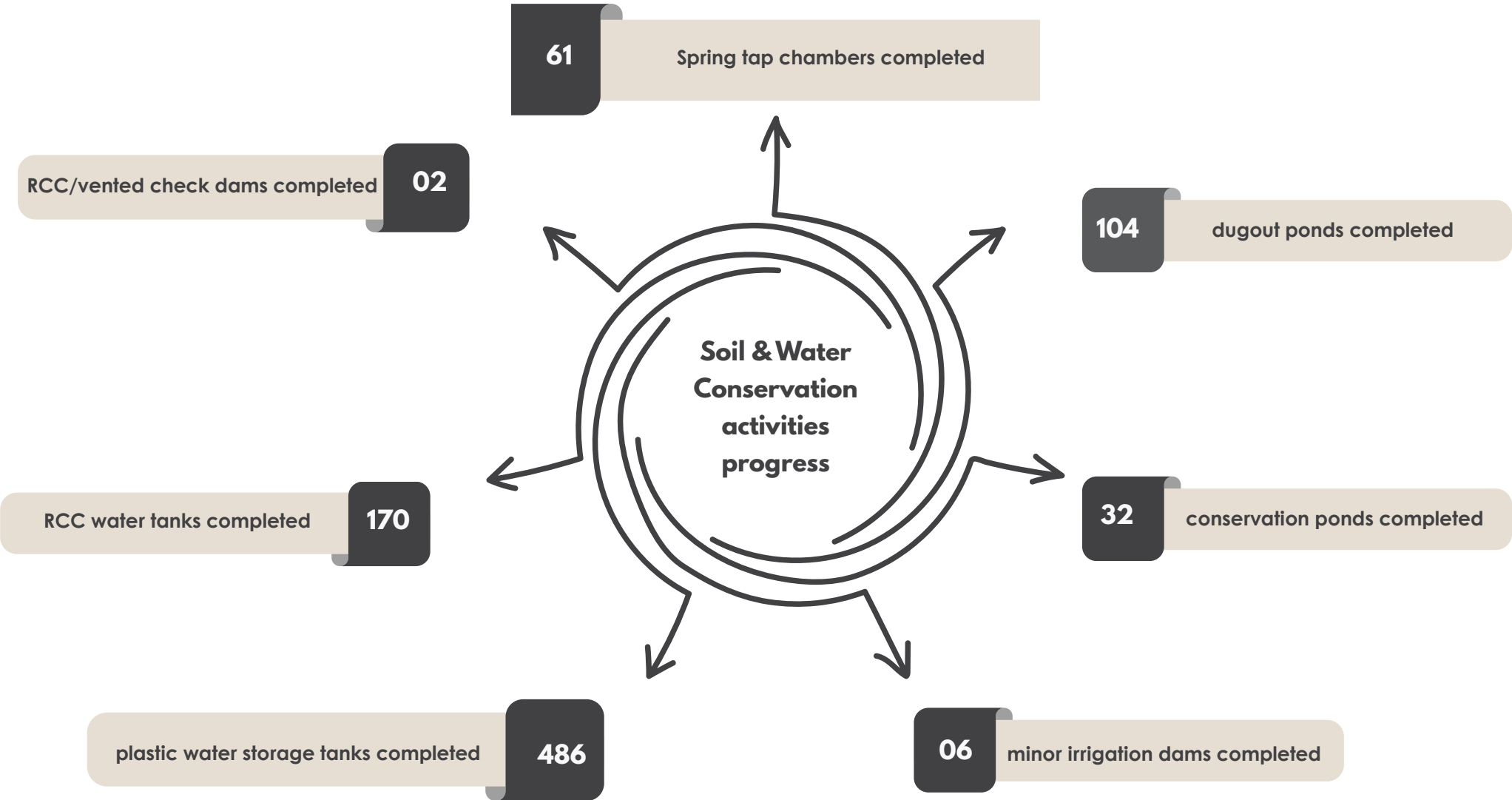
Building skills

On April 16, 2025, Village Community Facilitators from Thadlaskein, Laskein, and Khasi Hills participated in a Basic Photography Training conducted by the Knowledge Management team, SPMU. The hands-on session covered camera handling, framing, lighting, and composition.



PROGRESS OVERVIEW

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



SNIPPETS FROM THE FIELD

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CATCHMENT AREAS IN MEGHALAYA PROJECT

17 April 2025

PROCUREMENT (MEGHALAYA)

Procurement Training for State Project Management Unit (SPMU) and Catchment Management Unit (CMU) Staff

A one-day Procurement Training was conducted on 4th April 2025 in Shillong for staff from the SPMU and the CMUs of Ganol and Umiew. Facilitated by the Procurement Team, the session covered procurement procedures, roles and responsibilities of the Local Purchase Committee, and case-based discussions on common challenges.

The interactive session, attended by 35 staff, focused on strengthening capacity and promoting transparent, policy-compliant procurement practices across all levels.

Capacity Building for VPIC, VCF, and LPC Members under Umiew Catchment

Consecutive training sessions were conducted on 9th and 10th April 2025 for Village Project Implementation Committees (VPIC), Village Community Facilitators (VCF), Local Purchase Committees (LPC), and Bookkeepers from 10 villages under the Umiew Catchment. The first session focused on community procurement, Monitoring & Evaluation, and the use of MIS/Appverse. The following day, participants were trained on financial management, including register maintenance and accurate data entry. Community members also shared challenges in managing large household clusters spread across vast areas.



Spring Mapping in Ganol and Umiew Catchments

As part of the ongoing spring mapping exercise, springs in 98 villages across both catchments have been mapped. The team, along with Village Community Facilitators, also conducted spring monitoring at Selbal Nokat and Matchurigre B Songticham under Rongram Block, West Garo Hills.



AWARENESS ON PLANTATION AND PRA UNDER UMIEW CATCHMENT

On 3rd, 4th, and 8th April 2025, the team conducted awareness programmes on plantation and Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) in Mawtyllup, Nongkynitir, Laitkor Mawri, and Rangbihbih under the Umiew Catchment.



76 plots marked for plantation

From April 1–4, 2025, the Ganol Team mobilised communities across Rongram Block and South West Garo Hills, marking plots on both private and community lands.





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.



SLM PROJECT SETS STAGE FOR MAJOR EXPANSION IN MEGHALAYA

The Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Project is moving into its next phase, one that promises deeper, broader, and more comprehensive support to the farming communities across Meghalaya!

The next phase, scheduled to begin in mid-2026, will focus on promoting agro-ecological practices, strengthening post-harvest systems, and improving farmers' access to reliable markets.

As the project is gearing up to expand its reach to ten times the number of households currently covered, a series of orientation programmes were held across all districts.

These sessions, organised at the offices of the respective Deputy Commissioners and the respective Block Development Officers, brought together key government officials, project teams, and community representatives. The aim was to build a shared understanding of priorities and clarify the role each partner will play as the project scales up.

During these meetings, important inputs and suggestions emerged, from identifying suitable villages and progressive farmers, to proposing value chains for specific crops and locations. Line departments, cooperatives, NGOs, and other stakeholders have actively participated, offering recommendations on land availability, farmer selection criteria, and potential sites for activities like apiculture and vegetable cultivation.

Plans for block-level workshops and inter-departmental coordination meetings have also been set in motion to take forward the implementation process in a consultative, district-led manner.



Training on organic farming for Khrang IVCS bay leaf farmers, featuring demos on Organic Growth Promoter, Vermicompost, Fish Meal Extract, and more



Commencement of ginger sowing at project villages supported by BRDC, including Khliehrangnah and Mawlingai



Field inspection for Turmeric and Ginger cultivation at Barato, WJH, along with soil sample collection for field trials



STORY OF THE WEEK

17 April 2025

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



Pashang's Path Forward: A Success Story of Hope, Resilience, and Regrowth

Located in the tranquil hills of East Khasi Hills, around 20 km from Mawkynrew Block and 60 km from Shillong, the village of Pashang—home to 62 households and approximately 300 people—has become a remarkable example of community-driven transformation.

Founded by Henry Mynsong from Jatah Lakadong, the village built its livelihood around broomstick farming and seasonal crops such as potatoes, yams, and cucumbers, along with small-scale piggery. However, environmental degradation soon posed serious challenges—drying springs, declining soil fertility, and increasing agricultural instability.

Determined to reverse the decline, the community took a bold step on 19th October 2022 by forming a 10-member Village Project Implementation Committee (VPIC) under the leadership of Chairman Shri Koberius Mynsong and joining the MegLIFE Project, a JICA-supported initiative focused on ecological restoration and community empowerment.

One of the first achievements was the establishment of a Community Nursery. With training and support from MegLIFE, 10,000 seedlings were raised in 2024 and planted across 52.26 hectares. In 2025, five new seedbeds nurtured 5,000 more seedlings. Additionally, 52 hectares were restored under the Green Meghalaya initiative, reinforcing environmental resilience.



To address critical water shortages, the village implemented a series of solutions: an 18,000-litre rainwater harvesting tank, a 1,800-litre RCC tank, and two 2,000-litre plastic tanks installed in public institutions. Two spring chambers now serve 70 households, and a dug-out pond is being integrated with minor irrigation systems to enhance long-term water security. These efforts are supported by a scientific, community-led Springshed Management approach guided by Detailed Technical Reports. Empowerment also took root through the formation of seven Self-Help Groups, two of which have achieved Grade A status and initiated piggery-based livelihood proposals. Though the village does not yet meet the criteria for an Integrated Village Cooperative Society, efforts are underway to bridge that gap.

A significant milestone came when four women SHG members visited the SELCO Foundation in Bangalore, gaining exposure to sustainable energy practices and returning with renewed inspiration to lead change locally.

Today, Pashang is a testament to what collective vision, leadership, and community participation can achieve. With ongoing support from MegLIFE, the village continues to build resilience, enhance livelihoods, and move confidently toward a sustainable future.

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