

Success story

"Small Initiative can Brings Changes to Nature"

Intervention: Watershed Development

Name of the project: IWDP scheme,
Ministry of Rural Development, Government
of India.

Implementing Centre: o/o Divisional Soil
and Water Conservation Officer, Khliehriat

Name of Watershed: Wah Tangnub
Khapiaba Watershed & Upperlytein Watershed

**Villages covered: (Wah Tangnub
Khapiaba Watershed)** Musniang Jondeng,
Musniang Rim, Lumshken, Wahsarang,
Lumphthoi, Moonongtdu, Rangad and
(Upperlytein Watershed) Lelad, Tangnub,
Old- Jongria and Tongseng

Taluk: Khliehriat & Saipung

District: East Jaintia Hills

State: Meghalaya



Background

The Wah Tangnub Khapiaba watershed and Upper Lytein Watershed project was implemented by the office of the Divisional Soil and Water Conservation, Khliehriat division with the aim to make availability of water to agricultural land and improve the yield through various structure constructed in order to harvest and conserve water for the purpose of irrigation and introduce several suitable agronomic practices, alternate land use and mechanical conservation measures under Integrated Watershed Development Programme.

The Problem: Life Before the Project

Water Scarcity: Springs, the main source of water, became dry for many months.

Soil Erosion: Rain washed away the rich topsoil from the fields, making the land less fertile for growing crops. Their crop output and overall productivity were seriously threatened by the lack of a steady supply of water, especially during dry seasons. As a result, a scarcity of water resources reduces cropland and lowers the value of agricultural output.

Few Jobs: With farming being risky, there were very few other ways for people to earn a steady income. Many young people had to leave their villages to find work



The Solution: Our Work

The project started with a clear plan to solve these problems:

1. **Water Conservation:** We built structures to catch and store rainwater.
2. **Soil Protection:** We took steps to stop soil from being washed away.
3. **Livelihood Support:** We helped people start new businesses like animal farming and shops.

What We Did on the Ground

1. Entry Point Activities (Building Trust)

We started with small, useful projects that the community needed right away:

- **Spring Rejuvenation:** We cleaned and protected natural springs, building **Springtap Chambers** to give clean water.
- **Footpaths:** We built new **footpaths** to help people, especially children and the elderly, walk safely between villages.
- **Storage Tanks:** We constructed **RCC Storage Tanks** to store water for daily use.





2. Natural Resource Management (NRM)

This was the main work to improve land and water:

- **CC Canals:** We built cement canals to carry water to the fields.
- **Dams & Walls:** We constructed **RCC Dams** and **Protection Walls** to store water and stop riverbanks from eroding.
- **Farm Ponds:** We dug farm ponds to collect rainwater for irrigation.
- **Bench Terraces:** We created flat steps on hill slopes, called Bench Terraces, to prevent soil erosion and make farming easier.



3. Production System & Livelihoods

We helped families earn more money by supporting new activities:

. **Animal Husbandry:** We provided support for Piggery and Poultry units.

. **Self-Help Groups (SHGs):** We helped women form groups. For example: Pynroilang SHG in Tongseng started broom cultivation.

Iaishanlang SHG in Lelad opened a grocery shop.

Banpynroilang SHG in Moonongtdu started **goatery** (goatfarming).



Training and Capacity Building

We trained people in new skills so they could succeed:

- **Trainings Held:** Beekeeping, Tailoring, Silk Rearing, Livestock Management, and Fast Food making.
- **Exposure Visits:** Farmers were taken to see successful farms in places like Umden to learn new ideas.





- **Better Land:** Soil erosion has reduced. The land is greener and more productive.
- **Happy People:** Families have new sources of income from farming, animals, and small shops. People are more confident about their future.

Conclusion: A Model for the Future

This project shows that when the government and communities work together, great things can happen. By saving water and soil, we have helped create new opportunities for income and growth.

The success in East Jaintia Hills is a model that can be repeated across the region, ensuring a prosperous and sustainable future for all.

The Results: A Visible Change

The difference is clear to see in villages fall under the Upperlytein Watershed and Wahtangnub Khaiaipia watershed:

- **More Water:** Springs now have water for longer periods. Farms have water for irrigation.