

EASTERN HIMALAYA REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON “RESOURCES, DEVELOPMENT, AND LIVELIHOODS”

LESSONS FROM AND PROSPECTS FOR EXTERNALLY- AIDED NRM-BASED PROJECTS

17-19 November 2022, Shillong

Jointly Organized by



Centre for Sustainable
Development Studies (CSDS) &
IQAC,
Martin Luther Christian University
(MLCU), Shillong

MBMA (CLLMP - World
Bank), MBDA
Govt of Meghalaya, Shillong



In association with

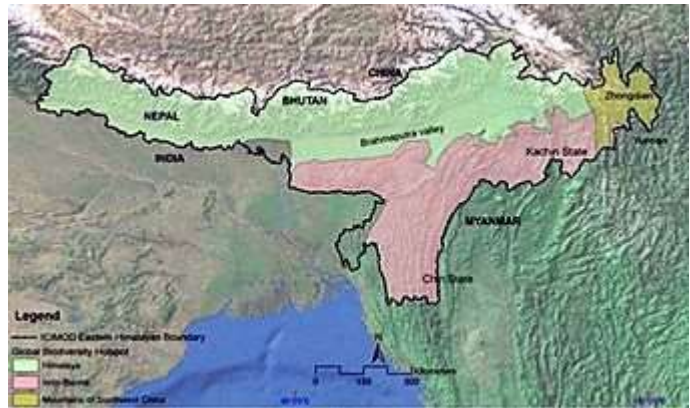
Department of Tourism & Travel Management and
School of Economics, Commerce and Management, MLCU, Shillong &



Meghalaya Integrated Mountain Development Initiative (MIMDI), Shillong

Overview and Background

The Eastern Himalayas extend from the eastern Nepal across Northeast India including the Darjeeling - Kalimpong hills of West Bengal, Bhutan, the Tibet Autonomous Region to Yunnan in China and northern Myanmar. Broadly, the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh may also be included as extended region of the Eastern Himalayas. The climate of this region is influenced by the monsoon of South Asia with high rainfall from June to September. Due to the altitudinal landscapes, diverse climatic zones are found in the region including the arctic, subarctic, temperate, subtropical, and mild and warm tropical climate. Moist, lush, evergreen, semi-evergreen, or temperate woods are found. The region receives a lot of rain and is generally humid in the lower altitudes. It is a biodiversity hotspot, with significant anthropological and biocultural diversity.



The region is rich in biodiversity but vulnerable to anthropogenic pressures. The region is also host to growing number of rural poor who are dependent on forest and ecosystem services for their livelihood. Local and global efforts to integrate poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation in the Eastern Himalayas remain challenging but with promising opportunities as well as pockets of emerging localised success stories. The key impediments in achieving sustainable development in the Himalayas are multi-faceted, ranging from sheer geophysical landscapes to the inadequate human, technical and financial resources. On the positive side, there are development and research organizations working in the region seeking to integrate biodiversity concerns with livelihood security. Despite the efforts, Eastern Himalayan region illustrate how development organizations are challenged to simultaneously address poverty and environmental issues.

Despite the ample natural resources of the region in the forms of forest, water, land, biodiversity including agrobiodiversity and traditional knowledge, the region is home to an increasing number of rural poor exacerbated by growing impacts of climate change leading to unavoidable environmental and economic migrations and displacement. The well-intended government-led local and global initiatives to address poverty reduction with biodiversity protection have so far

proven challenging and inadequate. On the positive side, the Eastern Himalayan Region has been attracting increasing number of externally aided projects being implemented by the UN and multi-lateral, and bi-lateral agencies or support of the overseas development agencies (ODA) led by the local and/or national governments. The prominent externally-aided NRM-based programmes or projects in the region, either in the immediate past and at present, include those funded by multi-lateral agencies such as the World Bank, IFAD, FAO, UNDP, etc. and the bi-lateral projects such as those funded by CIDA (Canada), JICA (Japan), and KfW & GIZ (Germany).

It is a fact that the externally-aided NRM-based development projects have triggered in the development of interesting and innovative development models. Some of the broad milestones achieved in respective project sites have been in the areas of enhanced forest/ tree cover with positive hydrological and biodiversity impacts, strengthening of community participation in natural resource management, augmentation of institutional capacities, gender empowerment and financial inclusion, creation of diverse community assets, generation of diversified gainful income sources, community-based biodiversity conservation, promotion of equitable sharing of benefits from natural resources including forest produce and NTFPs, enabling payments for ecosystem services (PES), climate change action, demonstration of replicable sustainable livelihoods, inter-sectoral convergence, and promotion of technologies in management such as GIS and MIS, generating awareness through inclusion of climate change in school curriculum etc. It is important that these innovative milestones achieved should be technically documented and shared among key stakeholders to derive benefits from each other, as well as replicate and scale-up good practices in the Eastern Himalayan Region, contributing to integrated livelihood generating activities with sustainable and equitable development agenda particularly restoring and improving the natural resource base of the communities. Following ongoing externally aided projects (Table 1) will be participating in the conference from the region.

Table 1. On-going externally aided projects in NE India & Bhutan

Sl. No.	State	Project Name	Donor/ Funder
1	Meghalaya	North East Regional Community Resources Management Project (NERCORMP)	DONER
2	Manipur	Community Forestry and Water Conservation Society Manipur (COSFOM)	KFW
3	Meghalaya	Community Led Landscape Management Project	World Bank
4	Meghalaya	Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project	IFAD
5	Meghalaya	Sustainable Community Forest Management	JICA
6	Meghalaya	Climate Change Adaptation Programme in the Himalaya	KFW

7	Mizoram	Fostering Climate Resilient Upland Farming Systems in the North East (FOCUS)	IFAD
8	Mizoram	Biodiversity Conservation and Forest Enrichment Project	JICA
9	Nagaland	Fostering Climate Resilient Upland Farming Systems in the North East (FOCUS)	IFAD
10	Nagaland	Forest and Biodiversity Management Project (FBMP)	KfW
11	Nagaland	Nagaland Forest Management Project (NFMP)	JICA
12	Tripura	Project for Sustainable Catchment Forest Management in Tripura (SCATFORM)	JICA
13	Tripura	Climate Resilience of Forest Ecosystems, Biodiversity & Adaptive Capacities of Forest Dependent Communities in Tripura	KfW
14	Bhutan	Commercial Agriculture and Resilient Livelihoods Enhancement Programme (CARLEP)	IFAD

Efforts would also be made to link with the following recently (mostly in the last 10 years) completed externally-aided projects in NE India and Bhutan (Table 2).

Table 2. Some of the recently completed (over the last 10 years) externally-aided projects in NE India & Bhutan

States / Country	Name of the Projects	Funding Agency
INDIA		
Assam	Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project	World Bank
Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim & Tripura	North East Rural Livelihood Project	World Bank
Mizoram	Capacity Enhancement for Sustainable Agriculture and Irrigation Development in Mizoram	JICA
Sikkim	Sikkim Biodiversity and Forest Management Project	JICA
Assam, Manipur & Meghalaya	North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project (NERCORMP I & NERCORMP II)	IFAD
Meghalaya	Meghalaya Livelihoods Improvement Project for the Himalayas	IFAD
Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim & Tripura	North East Rural Livelihood Project	World Bank
Nagaland	Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management in Nagaland	UNDP
Tripura	Tripura Forest Environmental Improvement and Poverty Alleviation Project	JICA
Tripura	Participatory Natural Resources Management Project Tripura	KfW
BHUTAN		
Eastern Bhutan	Market Access and Growth Intensification Project	IFAD

Broad Objectives of the Conference

The conference aims to initiate:

- (a) A collective dialogue among key externally aided projects to discuss the lessons and prospects in the region to address the challenges on rural and community development ensuring natural resource management and sustainable livelihoods.

- (b) Identify the replicable good practice development models and investment practices from the past and present externally aided projects and attempt in adopting, adapting, replicating and scaling up as per respective local situations.
- (c) Exploring emerging trends such as payment for ecosystem services and integrating climate action plan with the existing project interventions.
- (d) Lessons learned contributing to designing more robust investment program or projects in the region on natural resources, community development and sustainable livelihoods.

Expected Outputs and Outcomes

- 1) To enable a platform of opportunity for an interface between and among diverse externally-aided development projects working in the Eastern Himalayas, more so in different states of North East India, enabling for exchange and sharing of experiences and learning, as well as cross-fertilization of ideas around good practices and challenges.
- 2) To foster in building networks among professionals of diverse projects for continued exchange of ideas, thoughts, experiences and learning beyond the conference, and in the post-conference environment.
- 3) To provide an enabling interface between the academia and development agencies with strong narrative of importance of timely documentation and dissemination of field experiences and lessons learned for wider communication for regional, national and international learning in integrated environmental, social and community development focusing on indigenous and tribal people.
- 4) To bring out a collection of referral publication from the presentations that would be useful for development planners and implementers based on the technical and semi-technical papers to be presented and written by the projects, which would also be useful for academic researchers linking with development projects.
- 5) A follow-up exploration in promoting a network of development professionals which may be styled as “Eastern Hindu-Kush Himalayan Ecosystem Services Network” to be hosted by a volunteer University or agency in the region for online exchange of ideas, practices and experiences, contributing to practical development of integrated natural resource management and sustainable livelihoods aligned with, and contributing to state-specific to national development goals including the SDGs.

Tracks and Threads of the Conference Themes

a. **Track 1: Resources**

- i. *Thread 1a: Natural Resources* that include land, forest, water, biodiversity, agriculture, horticulture, livestock, fisheries, apiculture, sericulture, etc.
- ii. *Thread 1b: Human Resources* that includes indigenous community, youth, women, differently abled, etc.
- iii. *Thread 1c: Technical Resources* that include skills, capacities, technology, methods, etc.
- iv. *Thread 1d: Financial Resources* that include access to finance as credit and/or revolving fund, direct benefit transfer, subsidy, insurance, etc.

b. **Track 2: Development**

- i. *Thread 2a: Development Models* that include project conceptualization, design, modelling, etc.
- ii. *Thread 2b: Project Planning & Implementation Model*
- iii. *Thread 2c: Technical Support and Supervision Models* that include Joint Reviews, Management Information System (MIS), Geographical Information System (GIS), Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) System, Learning System, Theory of Change, Project Logical Framework, Measuring Results, Result-based Management, etc.
- iv. *Thread 2d: Monitoring, Evaluation, Documentation & Knowledge Management* including result-based M&E or RBM&E.

c. **Track 3: Livelihoods**

- i. *Thread 3a: Land-based on-farm livelihoods* include farm-based (agriculture, livestock, fishery, apiculture, sericulture), forest-based (NTFPs), common-based (pasture), nature-based solutions for augmenting income and livelihood such as nature/eco-tourism, etc.
- ii. *Thread 3b: Off farm-based livelihoods* that include forest-based ecosystem services viz. water for irrigation; agri-business (such as sale of agri-horti-livestock products at farmers or other markets), etc.
- iii. *Thread 3c: Non-Farm-based livelihood* that includes skill-based employment, enterprise promotion, start-up, FPO, FPC, women and youth led enterprises, etc.
- iv. *Thread 3d: Nature based solutions and payment for ecosystem services* enabling the communities to harness income through conservation models.

Conference Dates

Dates	Key events	Remarks
17 & 18 Nov 2022 (Thursday & Friday)	Conference Technical Sessions	Presentations, etc.
19 Nov 2022 (Saturday)	Field visit (Optional)	Sponsored by the Organizers (see Annexure).

Who can Participate in the Conference?

- All project staff, on deputation and/or recruited professionals, in the project Hq / PMU / PMA and the districts/block level project management offices.
- All partner NGOs of the projects.
- Project Management Consultants / Project Consultants.
- Funding agencies.
- Universities/R&D institutions working with the externally aided projects or similarly funded programmes including by government agencies but working in the same state/areas of externally-aided projects, having complementarity.

Conference Timelines

Conference Milestones	Timeline
Last date for Abstract/proposal submission	20th Sept 2022
Confirmation on the selection of papers / acceptance of abstracts	20th Oct 2022
Last date for Online Registration for presenting a paper (Selected participants)	25th Oct 2022
Last date for submission of full papers	10th Nov 2022
Last date for Online Registration (All participants)	30th Oct 2022

Guidelines for Submissions for Abstract/ Paper Presentation

- Submit abstracts for presentation of individual / joint papers by 15th Sept, 2022 via Email (see the section on Abstract / Paper submission).
- **Abstracts should be between 800 to 1200 words and to be submitted in MS Word format, Times New Roman, Font size 14 for Headline/Title; 12 for Text & 11 for Tables. Abstracts less than 800 words may not be reviewed.**
- Abstract selection for presentation is on the basis of a double-blind peer-review process. Criteria are
 - a. Relevance to conference thematic tracks but based on respective project designs.

- b. Evidence-based and methodological appropriateness
 - c. Innovative and new in ideas, processes, presentation of results, etc.
 - d. Significance of findings for policy or research agenda
 - e. Clarity of contents and sequences of presentation.
- More than one abstract can be submitted for presentation / publication; however, due to space limitation only one accepted abstract can be presented by a participant under each thread or track. The abstract which are not included for presentation in the conference may be considered for poster presentation during the conference. However, decision on this regard will be taken during the assessment of the abstracts.
 - Kindly note that inclusion of an accepted presentation in final conference program is conditional on timely conference registration and submission of full paper.
 - Full paper writing and submission will follow the APA style and submission of full papers only in Microsoft word file.

Submission of Abstracts

All abstracts and papers are to be submitted to the following:

Shri Pravanjan Mohapatra

Organizing Secretary, EHRC-RDL 2022

Phone: +91 9040289814/ 9437189814

Email: ehrcconference@mlcuniv.in; pravanjan.rsa2021@mlcuniv.in

Email cc: sairabell@mlcuniv.in; iadonlangtynsong@mlcuniv.in

Registration Methods, Fee & Banking Instructions

Registration Methods:

The mode of registration is online and all the participants, paper presenter, attendees are to register using the following link. Abstract submission without registration will not be accepted.

<https://forms.gle/vEbZy5XmwUoFz5os5>

Payment Mode for Registration Fees:

There is no Registration Fee for participating in the conference.

Advisory Committee

1. Dr Glenn C. Kharkongor, Chancellor, MLCU, Shillong.
2. Dr Samuel Meshack, Pro-Chancellor, MLCU, Shillong.
3. Prof. T.K. Bamon, Vice-Chancellor, MLCU, Shillong.
4. Dr Iwamon Laloo, Registrar, MLCU, Shillong
5. Shri Iboyaima Meitei, Advisor, NEC & MD, NERCORMP, Shillong.
6. Shri Sampath Kumar IAS, PD, CLLMP (World Bank), Meghalaya, Shillong.
7. Shri D. Vijay Kumar, IAS, PD, M-LAMP (IFAD), CFM (JICA), PCCA (KfW) & FMP (KfW), Meghalaya, Shillong.
8. Shri Jagdish Chelani, IAS, APD, M-LAMP (IFAD) & CFM (JICA), Meghalaya, Shillong.
9. Shri Gunanka D.B., IFS, APD, CLLMP (World Bank), PCCA (KfW) & FMP (KfW), Meghalaya, Shillong.
10. Dr S. Ashutosh IFS (Retd), CEO, Centre of Excellence in NRM, MBDA, Meghalaya, Shillong.
11. Dr A.K. Joshi, IFS, PCCF & HoFF, and PD, COSFOM, KfW Project, Manipur, Imphal.
12. Shri. R.K Nithanga, PD, IFAD Project, Mizoram, Aizawl.
13. PD, JICA Project, Mizoram, Aizawl.
14. Shri S Tainiu, PD, IFAD Project, Nagaland, Kohima.
15. Shri Supongnukshi, IFS, PD, KfW Project, Nagaland, Kohima.
16. Shri Dharmendra Prakash, IFS, PCCF, and CPD, JICA Project, Nagaland, Kohima.
17. Dr. Avinash M. Kanfode, IFS, PCCF and CEO&PD, JICA Project, Tripura, Agartala.
18. Shri B.M. Mishra, IFS, PCCF and CEO&PD, KfW Project, Tripura, Agartala.
19. Shri C.L. Das, IFS, Addl CEO & APD, KfW Project, Tripura, Agartala.
20. Shri Prasada Rao Vaddarapu, IFS, Director (Livelihoods), Tripura SCATFORM Project (JICA)
21. Shri Dorji Wangchuk, PD, CARLEP, IFAD Project, Bhutan, Bumthang.

Organizing Committee

1. Dr Vincent Darlong, Director, CSDS & Former VC, MLCU, Shillong	Chairperson
2. Shri TTC Marak IFS (Retd), Former PCCF & HoFF, and Chairman, MSEIAA & President, MIMDI, Shillong.	Co-Chairperson
3. Shri Pravanjan Mohapatra, Technical Advisor, JICA Project Nagaland & RS, MLCU, Shillong.	Organizing Secretary
4. Shri Mihin Dollo, Director (NRM), NERCORMP & Vice President, MIMDI, Shillong	Jt. Organizing Secretary (Logistics & Hospitality)
5. Dr Subhasish Das Gupta, Secretary, MIMDI, Shillong	Jt. Organizing Secretary (Admin & Support)
6. Dr Sairabell Kurbah, Co-ordinator, IQAC, MLCU, Shillong	Jt. Organizing Secretary (Technical)
7. Shri Iadonlang Tynsong, HoD, TTMD, MLCU, Shillong	Jt. Organizing Secretary (Field visits)
8. Ms Aliscacia M. Swett, Dy Registrar, MLCU, Shillong	Member
9. Ms Sonia Alma Lyngdoh Tron, Finance Officer, MLCU, Shillong	Member
10. Dr Jennifer War, Dean Academic, MLCU, Shillong.	Member
11. Dr Larilin Kharपुरi, Dean Research, MLCU, Shillong.	Member
12. Dr Julian Dhar, Director, Marketing & Development, MLCU, Shillong	Member
13. Dr Sanda N. Lyngwa, Director, Publication, MLCU, Shillong.	Member

14. Dr Lenin Thingbaijam, Director, Systems, MLCU, Shillong	Member
15. Shri James Kharkongor, DPD (NRM), CLLMP, World Bank Project, Meghalaya, Shillong.	Member
16. Shri Jude Xalxo, DPD (PM), CLLMP, World Bank Project, Meghalaya, Shillong	Member
17. Shri H.K. Singh, CTA, KfW Project, Manipur, Imphal	Member
18. Dr Reema Saha, PIO, KfW Project, Tripura, Agartala	Member
19. Anurag Gupta, Team Leader, PMC, JICA Tripura, Agartala	Member
20. Shri Pikato V. Jimo, NEPED, Nagaland, Kohima	Member

Very Important Information

1. All participants from externally funded projects will be self-financed by respective project. The participants will fund their own travel, boarding & lodging cost.
2. The Organizers will provide (a) working lunch during the conference and tea & snacks; and (b) transport from hotel to conference venue & back.
3. November being tourist season, booking of accommodation should be done well in advance. The Organizing Committee will provide all necessary support.

Conference Secretariat / Whom to Contact for any assistance

Secretariat Address:

Martin Luther Christian University
(EHRC – RDL 2022)
Dongktieh, Block-1, Nongrah,
Shillong 793006, Meghalaya

Conference Email ID:

ehrcconference@mlcuniv.in

Whom to contact:

Subject Matters	Contact Persons
Abstracts / Full papers / Technical / Sponsorship matters	(a) Shri Pravanjan Mohapatra , Organizing Secretary, Email: pravanjan.rsa2021@mlcuniv.in Mobile: 9437189814 / 9818903261
	(b) Dr Sairabell Kurbah , Jt. Organizing Secretary (Technical) Email: sairabell@mlcuniv.in Mobile: 6009461695
Hotel Booking & related matters	Shri Mihin Dollo , Jt. Organizing Secretary (Logistics) Email: mihindollo@gmail.com Mobile: 8787478328 / 9436223597
	Dr. Subhasish Das Gupta , Jt. Organizing Secretary (Admin) Email: subhasishdasgupta2@gmail.com Mobile: 9436117205 / 8586886942
Field visits	Shri Iadonlang Tynsong , Jt. Organizing Secretary (Field visits) Email: iadonlangtynsong@mlcuniv.in Mobile: 7085719252

Field visit Registration

Please send an email directly to **Shri Iadonlang Tynsong, Jt. Organizing Secretary** (Field visits) to register for field visit, indicating the preferred Circuit (see Annexure) at Email: iadonlangtynsong@mlcuniv.in; Mobile: 7085719252.

ANNEXURE: INFORMATION FOR FIELD VISITS (OPTIONAL)

Circuit No 1: Eri Silk Tour, Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya

The Eri silk Village at Umden is a small Village located in Ri bhoi District with lush greenery and chirping birds. The Village is also home to indigenous communities, typically known as Bhoi communities, who are part of the larger Khasi communities. Other communities of Ri Bhoi district are Garos, Karbis, Tiwas, etc. The Umden Diwon village boast of a sacred grove with a hundred kind of trees, various shrubs and hurbs, and Monoliths. The Community also organises local traditional cultural show to entertain visitors with a meal on request. Umden-Diwon village is famous for manufacturing of the well-known Eri silk and conventional hand looms like *ryndia*, highly valued by the Khasi communities. The method of weaving is open to everyone, Individual can take a look at the extraordinary steps of sericulture and the various styles utilized in weaving and get professional steering in weaving. With hands-on experience on the age antique weaving and sense the experience of belonging with the local community of the village. A visitor can learn here not only about the A-Z processing of silk to finished products, but also the local host plant.

Host Plants of Eri Silkworm



Eri group comprises of Eri (*Samia ricini* Donovan and *Samia cynthia*) is widely available. Besides this wild silkworms like *Attacus atlas* and *Cricula* species are distributed in this region. Castor (*Ricinus communis* Linn.) is primary food plants of Eri silkworm and commonly distributed in this region. However, Kesseru (*Heteropanax fragrans* Roxb.) is also considered as another primary perennial food plants. Besides these two, eri silkworm being polyphagous feeds on several alternative food plants viz. Borkesseru (*Ailanthus excels* Roxb.), Barpat (*Ailanthus grandis*), Topioca (*Manihot esculanta* Crantz), Gulancha (*Plumeria acutifolia*),

Gamari (*Gmelina arborea*), Payam (*Evodia flaxinifolia*), are endemic to this region, particularly in Meghalaya and Assam.

In the past, the IFAD-funded Meghalaya Livelihoods Improvement Project supported this village on their traditional livelihoods, in collaboration with the Sericulture Department of the Govt of Meghalaya

Distance from Shillong: 73.8 km

Circuit No 2: Larnai and Nartiang Village, West Jaintia Hills District.

Larnai is a small village in Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya. This village would have remained unobtrusive without the black pottery. It drew attention to and posted in the map of the country's indigenous pottery. The



inhabitants of this village have perfected their crafts through centuries of tradition. The clay they use is rich



in minerals and is uniquely sourced from the famous 26 sq km *Sung Valley* (pronounced Sung) to create a unique and beautiful smoky black final product. Some of the pottery made here are *Khiew Ranei'* (Khasi) or *Kchu Lyrnai'*, black terracotta pottery is the two traditional rice crackers popular with the Khasi and Jaintia, '*pumalo'*'. This black pottery is also traditionally used

for religious purposes.

Nartiang Village houses the largest cluster of monoliths gathered in one place in Meghalaya. History shows that Nartiang was the summer capital of King of Jaintia in Sutnga in the 17th century. The monoliths found here are believed to have been erected during 1500AD and 1835AD by the Jaintia Kings to commemorate legendary Kings and women, battle victories and other glorious events in the Jaintia kingdom. "Menhirs" (upright stone) is locally known as "Moo (stone) Shynrang (men)" and "dolmen" (flat / horizontal stone) is known as "Moo Kynthai (women)".

Distance form Shillong to Larnai Village : 54 km

Distance from Larnai to Nartiang : 10 kms

Circuit No 3: Lakadong Tumeric Village

Lakadong is hard to trace on the map. The tiny, nondescript village at the foothills of the West Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya, is the heartland of a silent revolution. This is where the world's finest variety of turmeric grows, and is most favoured for its high Curcumin content of more than 7%, as against 2 to 3% found in regular varieties available in the market.



Places to interest include:

1. The Thadlaskein Hub: where they will show-case the machine which they use for processing the Tumeric and also the Packaging.
2. The Lakadong Turmeric Farm, Tyrshiang Falls and Kupli/Kopili River

In the past this village was supported by IFAD-funded Meghalaya Livelihoods Project, which also brought in convergence fund from the DBT, Govt of India implemented by NEHU.

Distance from Shillong: 95 Km

Circuit No 4: Sohra (Cherrapunjee) and adjoining places of tourist interest.

This is the traditional tourist circuit that will include visit to Nohkalikai Fall, Mawsmai Fall and Mawsmai Cave, besides the eco-tourism park, etc.



Panoramic view of Mawsmai Falls, Sohra (Cherrapunjee) during rainy season