

Exposure Visit Report

Micro-enterprise Promotion

March 15-18, 2016



Submitted to

Meghalaya Institute of Entrepreneurship (MIE)
Integrated Basin Development
and
Livelihoods Promotion Program (IBDLP)
Shillong, Meghalaya, India

Submitted by



Institute of Livelihood
Research and Training

Shillong, India

Exposure Visit Report On Micro-enterprise Promotion

Organised for

Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA) Personnel

(Sponsored by Meghalaya Institute of Entrepreneurship (MIE),
Government of Meghalaya)

March 15-18, 2016

Grameen Sahara, Assam

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**Meghalaya Institute of Entrepreneurship (MIE)
Integrated Basin Development**

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Institute of Livelihood Research and Training (ILRT), Shillong, India

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Micro-enterprise Promotion at Grameen Sahara: An Exposure Visit

Report prepared by: Mayanka Singh Nongpiur

Under the Integrated Basin Development and Livelihoods Promotion Programme (IBDLP), the Meghalaya Institute of Entrepreneurship (MIE) has been set up to facilitate rapid economic transformation, by imparting entrepreneurship education and promoting micro and small enterprises involving the youth, women and other critical target groups in the State. The Institute aims to be among the very best in the world in the area of entrepreneurship development and model entrepreneurial services, through creativity and innovation, application of skills and technological inputs for harnessing rich potential of sub sectors, with focus on agriculture, horticulture, floriculture, pisciculture, aromatic and medicinal plantations, animal husbandry and other locally viable, remunerative, and income generation activities.

Background

Approximately half of Meghalaya's population lives below the poverty line according to the Meghalaya State Planning Board (MSPB), 2009. To improve the basic services and welfare of the people residing in rural villages, it is imperative to adopt a forward looking approach for making optimum and productive utilisation of the State's natural resources, viz., 'Water', 'Land' and 'Biotic Resources'. The Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA) was set up in March, 2013 and is headed by the Chief Secretary of the Government of Meghalaya. It has identified that natural resources and river basins provide ideal opportunities for providing multi-livelihoods to people in the rural areas. While the MBDA is deeply concerned about poverty alleviation, it aims to ensure that it will achieve its targets without environment degradation.

Available opportunities must be taken to promote enterprises along the value chain. This not only enhances the economics of the village community as a whole but also protects the minor farmers from grave exploitation. This two pronged effects is clearly what the MBDA is trying to implement through the various programmes that fall under it, specifically the IBDLP. It is of the notion that each member of the village community must be a stakeholder irrespective of his or her wealth, or position in the hierarchy. The MBDA is thus responsible for the strategies and directing the overall implementation of the IBDLP programme.

In line with the perspective of promoting inclusive growth with a focus on poverty alleviation, employment generation and livelihood promotion as highlighted by the Planning Commission in its Approach Paper to 12th Five-Year Plan, the Government of Meghalaya decided to launch the IBDLP. The programme will result in local economic development and improvement in the quality of public services, with focus on the poor and the marginalised. Improving local capacities in understanding the challenges relating to development and identifying strategies and programmes to meet those challenges will be addressed. Achieving convergence across sectors and resources will be the key approach of the IBDLP.

As an approach to engage agencies to support MIE in the pursuit of promoting entrepreneurship among the rural population, Institute of Livelihood Research and Training (ILRT) was approached to organise the exposure visit. ILRT, formerly known as The Livelihood School, is a research and training institution promoted by BASIX Social Enterprise Group (Basix SEG). The mandate of ILRT is to build up scientific knowledge on livelihood promotion and disseminate the same to various Livelihood

Promoting Organisations. ILRT, after conducting relevant studies of the area (including Livelihood Mapping and Sub-sector studies), developed different modules to support the Entrepreneurship Facilitation Centres (EFC) to identify and train the rural entrepreneurs through a tool called Focused Behavioural Event Interview (FBEI). In pursuit of providing opportunities to the partners (the rural entrepreneurs identified by MIE through EFC using the FBEI tool), ILRT facilitated the search of relevant resource organisations and places through its extended teams.

It was understood that Grameen Sahara, an organisation involved in sustainable livelihood promotion can be one of the places which can be considered for an exposure visit as its primary focus is to promote community-level institutions such as women Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Producers Groups (PGs) and Village Level Federations (VOs). Among its successful projects is the Golden Weavers' Project (GWP) which supports eri silk artisans in various capacities. Grameen Sahara has also established a piggery farm which produces quality piglets for farmers who practice pig farming, as well as a project called Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP), which aims to empower women farmers by helping them organise into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Village Level Organisations (VOs). Another interesting project by Grameen Sahara is Diversion Based Irrigation (DBI) which diverts a portion of water from natural sources like a mountainous stream, in order to irrigate land. The interesting projects conducted by Grameen Sahara thus encouraged the MIE to plan for an exposure visit to Assam for its staff to get a detailed orientation on these various initiatives and sub-sectors.

In line with this, the programme "Exposure Visit on Micro-enterprise Promotion at Grameen Sahara: For the personnel of the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA)" was organised at Grameen Sahara in Assam by MIE in collaboration with ILRT.



Broad Objective of the Programme

To understand the opportunities and scope of enterprise promotion and familiarise the approaches, best practices of micro-enterprises supported by Grameen Sahara.

Specific Objectives of the programme are to:

1. appreciate the experiences of Grameen Sahara in setting up successful micro-enterprises;
2. gain insights into the operational aspects and the importance of aggregation of producers, for sustainability and better returns;
3. comprehend the approaches, roles and initiatives taken by the community in grooming the community based producers' institution; and
4. consolidate the learning to formulate a framework for an action plan.

About Grameen Sahara

Grameen Sahara (www.grameensahara.org) is a development facilitating organisation founded in 2002 with the aim of supporting sustainable livelihoods. Since its establishment, it aims towards bringing significant changes in the livelihoods of the poor and the underprivileged, through its different livelihood programmes and micro-finance services.

The organisation's mandate is to:-

- Improve the quality of life of the poor and disadvantaged people in rural, semi-urban and urban areas through development and livelihood promotion actions and support.
- Promote a large number of sustainable livelihoods for the poor in rural, semi-urban and urban areas through the provision of financial services, technical assistance and other required development support services, in an integrated manner.

Grameen Sahara is a collective of different programmes and projects conceptualised and facilitated based upon the local aspirations, skills and resources. All these projects and programmes have their shared purposes, core values and capital (social, financial, physical) that contribute to the realisation of the overall mission of the organisation.

Assam and Grameen Sahara in context of Weaving, Piggery, SHGs and Diversion Based Irrigation (DBI)

Weaving

This Golden Weavers' Project is Grameen Sahara's Flagship programme initiated in Assam's Kamrup District. The aim of the project is to support eri silk artisans through providing managerial inputs, financial intermediations, technology transfer and market linkages. This project which was initiated in 2006 is supported by the Tata and Allied Trusts, Mumbai. The project also aims to promote producers' organisations through the promotion of primary producers' groups at the village levels to create a value chain around the Eri-subsector. To date, the project has transformed into a self reliant producers' company known as Grameen Silk Producers' Company Limited (GSPCL) which consists of 600 producers who are shareholders and supports around 5000 artisans in the form of input supply, technology transfer and market linkages.



Piggery

Under the project titled "Peoples' Institution for Livelihood Security in Assam" Grameen Sahara, in collaboration with Innovation Change Collaborative (ICCo) India, have established a piggery farm to produce quality piglets for farmers who practice pig farming. The project has formed into a community owned institution called "Grameen Pig Farmers' Federation (GPIFF)" consisting of 125 women stakeholders. The project aims to also provide technical assistance, health care support and proper medical attention to the pigs.



Women Self Help Groups - Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)

This project by Grameen Sahara is a sub-component of the National Rural Livelihood Mission, also titled "Empowering Women in Agriculture in Selected Districts of Assam." The aim of the project is to ensure food security by enhancing the productivity of crops. It also aims to enhance incomes through the introduction of horticulture, vegetable farming and multi-cropping techniques. It also seeks to build basic infrastructure for water, to gain quality saplings



through interventions of community nursery, to reduce drudgery of women through low cost technologies and to diversify the income sources through livestock and fishery. It also aims to demonstrate low cost models that can be replicated, as well as ensure changes through awareness, training, skill and capacity building initiatives, particularly for women farmers, specifically the Community Resource Persons and the Community Leaders.

Diversion Based Irrigation (DBI)



Being a hilly and high-slope area, the Assam-Meghalaya Border has great potential for harnessing natural water resources from improving livelihoods. Grameen Sahara has thus identified small streams in the hilly areas by the Assam-Meghalaya Border. Grameen Sahara thus aims to tap these resources through Diversion Based Irrigation (DBI) which is an age-old practice, but by providing innovative inputs on water management and institutional development practices at the farmers' level.

Planning and Designing of the Exposure Visit

As the exposure visit plan was confirmed by the MIE, Ms. Wanda Lamare, Assistant Manager at ILRT Shillong reached out to the host organisation, Grameen Sahara. After close consultation with the MIE as well as the staff at Grameen Sahara, ILRT Shillong developed a programme based on the interest and need of the participants who are MBDA employees based in different parts of Meghalaya. The boarding and lodging of the participants were determined after close consultation with the Grameen Sahara staff. Ultimately, SVD House, an institution with good boarding and lodging facilities, was selected. Apart from the field visits, the programme schedule also included a recreational component i.e. a visit to Guwahati's Fancy Bazaar. Since the participants and ILRT staff were a group of 20, a 26 seater bus was arranged for the duration of the group's stay in Assam.

Team ILRT – Shillong and Hyderabad

The ILRT Shillong team was involved in coordinating on the field visits, venue, boarding, lodging, as well as the travel arrangements. The Hyderabad team was crucial in providing overall guidance on the implementation of the trip as well as helping manage the financial aspect. The participants of the exposure trip were accompanied by Ms. Mayanka Nongpiur, Assistant Manager at ILRT Shillong, Ms.

Habina Pyngrope, Field Executive at ILRT Shillong, and Mr. Pynshngain Rymmai, Programme Associate, MBDA-ILRT.

Team MIE

The team was composed of 17 participants who were MBDA employees from different parts of Meghalaya (See Annexure 2 for details).

Methodology

Orientation about the programme: To commence the programme, the participants were briefed about the objectives of the exposure visit by Ms. Nongpiur from ILRT Shillong. The programme schedule detailing the upcoming field visits was distributed to each participant. The Grameen Sahara staff also provided an overview of the field visits planned for each day.

Field visits: The field visits were organised to enable the participants to witness the projects and interact with the communities Grameen Sahara is supporting. The schedule included visits to Weaving Units, Piggery Units, a SHG and a Diversion Based Irrigation (DBI) project.



Tools

Three tools were utilised in the programme. They are the *Daily Journal Learning Tool*, the *Participant's Feedback Evaluation Tool* and the *One-line Feedback*. The purpose of these tools were explained to the participants on the very first day of the programme. The participants were encouraged to complete the Daily Journal- Learning Tool at the end of each day as the aim as to help them 'think aloud'. It consisted of simple questions to prompt the thought process and help the person to systematically note down their understanding in an organised manner, in order to make the most out of the learning process. The Participant's Feedback Evaluation Tool was used to evaluate the entire programme and assess whether the programme objectives were achieved. The One Line Feedback was used to capture the impression of the participants in a very concise manner. (Participants' Feedback Detailed in Annexure 3,4)

Programme Schedule

The four-day programme schedule provided information on the visits each day and other activities. (A detailed programme schedule can be found in Annexure 1).

Summary of the Exposure Visit

March 15, 2016

Arrival in Chayygaon, Assam and Introduction to Grameen Sahara

After a long journey from Meghalaya, the participants arrived at Grameen Sahara's office in Chayygaon, Assam in the afternoon. The participants were provided an introduction to Grameen Sahara by Mr. Sarat Chandra Das, Secretary of Grameen Sahara. Mr. Das gave an overview of Grameen Sahara's mandate and its various projects on livelihood promotion. After the introduction, Mr. Hargobinda Boro, Project Lead at Grameen Sahara and main coordinator for the exposure visit, and project in-charge Mr. K. Das, provided an overview of the scheduled activities and field visits on day two and day three. After the introduction at Grameen Sahara, the participants were then taken to the accommodation, the SVD House.



March 16, 2016

Field Visit 1: Grameen Sahara's Golden Weavers' Project

Before beginning the first field visit of the day, Mr. K. Das, the project-in charge of the Golden Weaver's Project (GWP) provided an overview of the scheduled activities. He began with an introduction on how the Producers' Groups are organised as well as provided some technical information on the yarn making process and how it is graded according to quality. After the introduction, Mr. K. Das led the participants to a unit at Grameen Sahara which contains different grades of yarn as well as the machines used to make the yarn. The participants also witnessed the finished silk products such as scarves and tunics. After the participants familiarised themselves with the yarn, they were then led to the Weaving Unit where they witnessed the weaving of the traditional Assamese mekhala chadars and gamochas. The participants asked several questions on the weaving process as they were keen to understand the similarities and differences in eri silk weaving between Meghalaya and Assam. Since most of the raw materials are being supplied by Meghalaya to Assam, the participants would like to see Meghalaya's eri silk weaving flourish. They believe that eri silk weaving in Meghalaya is lacking in the design aspect. The participants were then led to the community store which is a Grameen Sahara Employee's Trust. Apart from being a community grocery store which also sources local products, the store also stocks the products from the Golden Weavers' Project (GWP). A number of participants bought gamochas to take back with them to Meghalaya. The participants then visited the Producers' Group with an existing SHG in Jarpara village, where they got an overview of how the cocoons are distributed for yarn making as well as information on the group's record keeping activities. The participants were impressed with the systematic functioning of the SHG and believe it to be a sustainable model.



Field Visit 2: Piggery Breeding Unit



After the lunch break, the participants then visited a Piggery Breeding Unit in Rihabari Village in the Kamrup District of Assam. This piggery project has helped shape the Grameen Pig Farmers' Federation (GPFF) which has 125 women stakeholders and is comprised of 9 SHGs. It is run by "Rengoni Gramya Sangathana." After the participants had a chance to walk around the unit and have a look at the facilities, Mr. Hargobinda Boro, Project Lead at Grameen Sahara then provided an overview on why the project was conceptualised and the partners involved in

initiating it, such as the Innovation Change Collaborative (ICCo) India and the National Research Centre on Pig (NCRP), Guwahati, Assam. Mr. Boro then went on to explain to the participants that the piggery sub-sector has a huge potential in the North-eastern region of India, and if managed correctly in terms of the feed, vaccination and other necessary medication, the mortality rates of the piglets can be drastically reduced. Since some of the participants were particularly interested in the technical aspects of pig rearing, Mr. Manabendra Pathak, Program Manager at Grameen Sahara provided details on the important vaccines, medication and feed. He also recommended that those participants who are very interested in pig rearing or promoting it, should look up the Handbook on Pig Production, published by the Vietnam Government. Since Mr. Pathak is also an entrepreneur involved in the production of Areca Nut plates, the participants were also very keen in hearing about his experience as an entrepreneur. Day one of the exposure visit concluded with a trip to Guwahati's Fancy Bazaar, for recreational purposes.

March 17, 2016

Field Visit 3: Women Self Help Groups (SHG) - Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)

To begin the day, the participants were given a briefing on what they were going to witness at the SHG in Patgaon Village located in Assam's Kamrup district. The participants were then taken to the Patgaon SHG and were given a very warm welcome by the women SHG who were mainly from the Rabha Tribe of Assam. They also provided the participants with tea, snacks and beetle nut, much to their excitement. Mr. Hargobinda Boro, Project Lead at Grameen Sahara and Mr. Abhijit Dey, Rural Facilitator at Grameen Sahara served as the translators for any questions directed towards the members of the SHG. The SHG explained that the group was established in 2014, has 11 members and meets every week. Each member of the group contributes Rs. 20 every week and they have an account at the Allahabad Bank in Chayygoan. The SHG has also provided loans to other women in the group, mostly for education purposes. The participants were keen to understand why the women decided to form the group and they mentioned that the main reason was to help each other and they believe that being in a group allows everyone to benefit from the



projects. The SHG members also showed their book keeping practices and Mr. Boro highlighted that helping the SHG with their book keeping involved several trainings.

Mr. Boro also mentioned after two years since the formation of the SHG, through community effort



and collaborations, the members have developed a lot of ownership over their activities and the overall running of the group. After the visit to the SHG, the participants then got a chance to meet with the core members of the Village Organisation (VO). At the location of the VO meeting, the participants were given an introduction on the structure and activities of the VO by Mr. Boro. Mr. Boro explained that the VO decides on the activities that will be conducted by the SHGs. The activities they are mainly involved in are

livestock, vermi-composting and setting up water-lifting devices, and the participants were able to witness these activities, along with the farming of capsicum and strawberry. Since Meghalaya is heavily involved in strawberry farming, some of the participants from the MBDA have offered to connect Grameen Sahara with relevant contacts in Meghalaya, to help increase the potential of strawberry farming in Assam.

Field Visit 4: Diversion Based Irrigation (DBI)

After the participants had lunch, they were taken to the last field visit i.e. to witness Diversion Based Irrigation (DBI). Although the aim was to visit another DBI site, after careful consideration over the accessibility of the transportation, Grameen Sahara recommended a visit to another site which involve a short hike up a hill. Unfortunately, the pipe of the irrigation project was destroyed by a wild elephant a few days earlier, therefore the participants were unable to witness the DBI in process. Mr. Debottam Chakraborty of Grameen Sahara accompanied the participants and explained to them the purpose of the project. He explained that the diversion of the



water from a hilly stream was for agricultural purposes and to reduce drudgery for the villagers. He further elaborated that the project was a collaborative effort between Grameen Sahara and the villagers, and around 30 households benefit from this project. Grameen Sahara was mainly involved in providing the infrastructure for the project such as the pipes and taps, whereas the villagers were mainly involved in the construction of the DBI structure. Mr. Chakraborty also highlighted that climate change has played a hand in changing the course of the water. He then took the participants for a short walk around the village to witness the pipes that have been installed. The participants believe that the DBI project has great potential in Meghalaya due to its hilly terrain.

March 18, 2016

Consolidation of Learnings

The last day of the exposure visit was reserved for the consolidation of learnings and another opportunity to interact with Mr. Sarat Chandra Das, Secretary of Grameen Sahara, Mr. Hargobinda Boro, Project Lead at Grameen Sahara and Mr. K. Das, Project Lead, Golden Weavers' Project at Grameen Sahara. Ms. Mayanka Nongpiur from ILRT Shillong facilitated the Q&A and enabled the participants to provide their insights and any questions they had on each field visit. On the Golden Weavers' Project (GWP), the participants were particularly impressed to learn about the great value addition achieved right from the cocoon to the finished product. On the Piggery Unit, the participants commended the level of care and cleanliness adopted at the unit and viewed it as a good and viable model to replicate in Meghalaya. On the visit to the SHG and VO, the participants were impressed by the systematic approach and the women's level of ownership. On the DBI project, many of the participants believe that it is a sort of project that can be replicated in Meghalaya due to its hilly terrain.

Learnings: The thorough evaluation of the visit revealed the following:

- The participants believe that the efforts of Grameen Sahara in livelihood promotion are sustainable models which can possibly be adopted in Meghalaya.
- The programme was generally successful and the participants were particularly content with the visit to the Golden Weavers' Project, the Women SHG and VO, and the piggery unit.
- Although the participants agreed that the piggery unit was very well maintained, some believed that since it is a relatively new project, it would be more appropriate to visit it at a later stage in order to properly understand its success as a micro-enterprise.
- Grameen Sahara is keen in helping participants with information with regard to setting up the micro-enterprises. Some participants have noted down the contacts of Grameen Sahara staff they are keen in reaching out to for advice, or possible collaboration on certain projects.
- Several participants showed keen interest in the Golden Weavers' Project (GWP) and the visit to the Women SHG, due to their systematic approach and the amount of ownership held by the members.
- Since Meghalaya is blessed with the raw materials for eri silk weaving which it also provides to Assam, it is imperative to actively promote such sub-sectors as they can enhance the livelihoods of those involved in these activities.
- It is important to select participants whose area of work are directly related to the field visits being arranged. This will thus optimise their learning.
- It is important for the accommodation and lunch venue to not be situated too far from the planned activities, as this will prevent time from being wasted.
- An exposure visit to another state in India involves various logistical arrangements such as deciding on the ideal field visits, the format of the programme, local travel arrangements and accommodation. Therefore the group of 17 participants was an ideal number which allowed the entire programme to run relatively smoothly. Moreover, it would be interesting

to examine at a later stage how the participants are carrying forward their learnings through proper follow-ups with each of them.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. B.K Sohliya, OSD, MIE; Mr. Jun Momin, OSD, (EFC and Livelihood Promotion) MBDA/MBMA, and the MIE team for their support and guidance in the implementation of the exposure visit. Also, I would like to especially thank Dr. Tabrez SS Nasar, Vice Dean, ILRT for his overall guidance, and ILRT Shillong team members Ms. Wanda Lamare, Assistant Manager; Ms. Habina Pyngrope, Field Executive and Mr. Pynshngain Rymmai, Programme Associate, MBDA-ILRT, for their efforts and dedication in implementing this exposure visit.

Annexure 1: Program Schedule

17 MBDA Personnel + 3 ILRT Staff

Focus Area/s	Time	Description/Broad Areas
Day 1 - 15th March, 2016		
		Reach Guwahati around 12:00 noon
Lunch	13.00	
Briefing about the organisation and field visit	14:30 - 17.30	Mr. Sarat Chandra Das, Secretary GS will brief about the organisation, its broader objectives/ goals and its various projects and programmes Introduction to all the project in-charges who will take the delegates to various project sites on Day 2 and Day 3 Each project in-charge would brief about the project and scheduled activities for Day 2 and Day 3
Day 2 16th March, 2016		
Field visit 1: Golden Weavers' Project (GWP) and development of GWP into a Producer Company	10.00– 12.30	Visit to producers' group, distribution and collection of yarn, understanding group dynamics, importance of aggregation of produces for sustainability and better returns.
Field visit 2: Grooming of Community Based Producers' institution around the Piggery Subsector	14.00 - 17.30	Interaction with the stakeholders of the piggery breeding unit, a visit to the piggery farm, understanding the role and initiatives taken by the community in bringing up the farm, and future propositions.
Recreational Activity:	17:30 onwards Visit to Fancy Bazaar in Guwahati	
Day 3: 17th March, 2016		
Field visit 3: Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojna (MKSP)	10.00 - 12.30	Understanding the role of SHGs and village level federations as financial intermediaries for the promotion of livelihood activities. The visit will include an interaction with SHG/VO-leaders and understanding activities undertaken by women folks under the project.
Field visit 4: Diversion Based Irrigation Project	14.00 - 17.30	A visit to the field site to understand how water from natural resources can be harnessed for household consumption and cultivation. Understanding its advantages, challenges and management.
Day 4: 18th March, 2016		
Feedback and consolidation of learnings	9.30 – 12.00	
13.00 Moving Back to Shillong.		
<p>a) Paltan bazaar to Alekjari, Kulshi Road, Chhaygoan Kamrup Assam(Organisation office) 60-65 kms</p> <p>b) Organisation office to field :10-15 km</p>		

Annexure 2: Participants List

Exposure Visit on Micro-enterprise Promotion at Grameen Sahara: For the personnel of the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA)

S. No	Posting	Name	Gender	Designation
1.	Mawkyrwat EFC	Definetes Dkhar	Male	Programme Associate
2.	Umsning EFC	Mebari Nongrum	Female	Programme Associate
3.	Nongstoin EFC	Westerly D. Syiemlieh	Male	Programme Associate
4.	Ranikor EFC	Opal Roy Lyngdoh	Male	Programme Associate
5.	Songsak EFC	Jinku R Marak	Male	Programme Associate
6.	Songsak EFC	Rikrak R. Sangma	Male	Programme Associate
7.	Laskein EFC	Wansah Pyrbot	Female	Programme Associate
8.	BDU, South West Garo Hills	Rikje Ch . Marak	Female	Programme Associate
9.	Baghmara EFC	Jacky M. Momin	Male	ERP
10.	Betasing EFC	Esther Ch Marak	Female	Programme Associate
11.	Mawsynram EFC	Buhkyrpang Nongneng	Male	Programme Associate
12.	Mawkynew EFC	Manbha Rapmai	Male	Programme Associate
13.	BDU, North Garo Hills	Venicia Sangma	Female	Programme Associate
14.	Thadlaskein EFC	Pynhunlang War	Female	Programme Associate
15.	BDU, West Khasi Hills	Banilin Pathaw	Female	DPM
16.	BDU- West Jaintia Hills	Lambormi Suchen	Male	Programme Associate
17.	Knowledge Management	Damanbha Kharkongor	Female	Programme Associate

Annexure 3: Course Evaluation - Participants' Feedback

A. Course Objectives

A1. The broad objective of the visit is to gain first-hand knowledge of Grameen Sahara's best practices in livelihood promotion which can possibly be adopted in Meghalaya.

To what extent did the course achieve its broad objectives?

Broad Objective	Completely Successful	Generally Successful	Limited Success	No Answer
Comments	[6%]	[94%]	[-]	[-]

- It is generally successful because we can implement these kind of projects in Meghalaya.
- Grameen Sahara is doing an incredible job in promoting micro enterprise in Assam. This exposure has help me to understand the approaches of Grameen Sahara in promoting micro entrepreneurs that can be adopted and applied in MBDA programme.
- Micro Finance set up for SHGs to producers group could be implemented or replicate in our state.
- From the four livelihood activities that I saw, I personally feel that Grameen Sahara had been able to do a commendable job in supporting the people in enhancing the livelihood especially for the women folk.
- While the practices adopted by Grameen Sahara are similar to what we have been doing, there are certain aspect that are different and we may adopt some of the measures.
- We have been able to see and learn about some of the projects undertaken by Grameen Sahara which can be adopted in our region in order to promote the livelihood of our partners.

A2. The specific objectives are:

1. Appreciate the experiences of Grameen Sahara in setting up successful micro-enterprises;
2. Gain insights into the operational aspects and the importance of aggregation of producers, for sustainability and better returns;
3. Comprehend the approaches, roles and initiatives taken by the community in grooming the community based producers' institution and;
4. Consolidate the learning to formulate a framework for an action plan.

Specific Objective	Completely Successful	Generally Successful	Limited Success	No Answer
1	35%	65%	-	-
2	24%	70%	6%	-
3	29%	59%	12%	-
4	6%	70%	12%	12%

Comments:

- This exposure trip was successful in achieving its specific objectives especially (1), (2) and (4). It helps to gain insights into successful setting of enterprises, formation of peer group of

interested people in a particular sub- sector. This experience helps to reflect the situation in Meghalaya and formulate an action plan to replicate the same in Meghalaya.

- Yes, to some extent the various objectives activities that Grameen Sahara implement can also be applied and tested in our state.
- It been a good learning and also it can be setup the approach of what the Grameen Sahara achieved into our own programme or Areas of working.
- The project undertaken by Grameen Sahara is quite commendable and the institutions which have existed because of it is really impressive.

B. Program Content

What are the most important experiences/learnings that you have gained from this visit and why are these important to you? Please state reasons for each experience/learning that you list.

Most important experiences/ learning gained	Reasons why important
Learning about the structure and functioning of the GWP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its systematic functioning and great ability to enhance revenue and improve livelihoods.
Greater understanding the SHGs and VOs of Patgaon, Assam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its systematic planning will help the SHG sustain itself even at the end of the project.
Viability of Piggery Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding that pig rearing is a task that is viable in Meghalaya and possible to handle with limited staff if the feeding, vaccinations and medication are provided in a timely and proper manner.
Power of Group Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The field visits particularly to the GWP and the SHG helped show that the formation of groups can benefit everyone.

C. Please rate the field visit experienced using the following rating:

Field Visits (FV)	How did you like the visit? (Scale of 1 to 10)									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
FV 1: Golden Weavers' Project (GWP)	6%	-	-	-	6%	-	38%	31%	6%	-
FV 2: Piggery Breeding Unit/Piggery Farm	-	6%	12.5%	6%	12%	6%	18%	38%	-	-
FV 3: Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojna (MKSP)	-	6%	-	6%	-	12.5%	12.5%	38%	25%	-
FV 4: Diversion Based Irrigation	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%	18.75%	12.5%	18.75%	-	-	-

D. Facilities

Please rate the following:

Facilities	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Moderate	Poor
Place of stay	23%	18%	47%	6%	6%
Food	17%	18%	47%	12%	6%
Travel/Transport	12%	17%	59%	6%	6%
Facilitator	12%	29%	53%	6%	-
Transportation Service	12%	23%	47%	18%	-

E. Additional over-all comments (This feedback will help us make future course offerings better)

- *Accommodation was clean but too strict: The participants felt that although the accommodation had good and clean facilities, it was a bit too disciplined with the timings of the food, entry and exit.*
- *Facilitator was friendly: Many of the participants agreed that the facilitators of the programme were friendly.*
- *Bus driver drove too fast at times: Many of the participants felt that the bus driver drove too fast on numerous occasions.*

Annexure 4: Consolidation of one line feedback

What is your experience with the "Exposure Visit on Micro-enterprise Promotion at Grameen Sahara for the personnel of the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA)" and how would you like it to recommend it to others?

"This exposure visit has provided good firsthand experience and learnings about the ground situation in Assam. These learnings can be replicated in MBDA Programmes".

Jinku R Marak, Programme Associate,
MBDA

"My future plan is to encourage and show the experience of this SHG in our respective places and to apply proper tools and guidelines learnt from this exposure trip."

Wansah Pyrbot, Programme Associate,
Laskein EFC, MBDA

"Am able to learn the ideas Grameen Sahara had carried out so well, along with the management and dedication by the CRPs in the field."

Buhkyrpang Nengnong, Programme Associate,
MBDA

"An exposure trip like this is beneficial as we can exchange ideas and enrich our knowledge."

D. Kharkongor, Programme Associate,
Knowledge Management, MBDA

"Grameen Sahara is a dedicated organisation bringing change in the lives of the poor. The way they are working through Income Generation Activities (IGAs) is quite remarkable."

Venecia N Sangma, Assistant Manager
(ED & EFC Coordinator),
MBDA