GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS' WELFARE
****

NOTIFICATION

Dated Shillong, the *24th August*, ***2026***

No.AGRI(G)22/2026/32 – The Draft Meghalaya State Agriculture Policy, comprising 10 (ten) Sections and 2 (two) Annexures in 61 (sixty-one) pages, has been placed in the public domain for review and comments. The Policy is at the draft stage, and the Department invites suggestions from the general public, institutions and interested stakeholders.

Suggestions may be sent to agri-meg@gov.in/ horti-meg@gov.in/ agridept2012@gamil.com. Contributors are requested to indicate the relevant Section and page number while submitting their comments.

Further, the Department will hold a series of stakeholder consultations with different groups, including farmers' groups, cooperatives, entrepreneurs and the scientific community.

This policy will be in the public domain till 30th September, 2026.

(**Dr. Vijay Kumar D., IAS**)
Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya
Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare

Memo No.AGRI(G) 22/2026/32 -A **Dated Shillong, the 24th August, 2026**

Copy forwarded to:

1. The P.S. to the Hon'ble Minister I/c Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare for kind information of the Hon'ble Minister.
2. The P.S. to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Meghalaya for kind information of the Chief Secretary.
3. The P.A. to the Commissioner & Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare for kind information of the Commissioner & Secretary.
4. The P.A. to the Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare for kind information of the Secretary.
5. The Director of Agriculture/Horticulture/Agriculture (R&T)/Food Processing.
6. The Deputy Commissioners of all Districts for favour of kind information and wide circulation.
7. The Chief Executive Officer, MEGNOLIA, Shillong for favour of kind information.
8. The Director of Printing & Stationery, Meghalaya, Shillong for favour of publication in the Meghalaya Gazette.
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By Orders, etc.

Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,
Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare

MEGHALAYA STATE AGRICULTURE POLICY

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA

Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare

24 August, 2026

(DRAFT)

Disclaimer

This document is a working draft prepared for discussion and consultation purposes. It is intended to serve as a basis for further deliberation and should not be considered the final or approved version of the Meghalaya State Agricultural Policy. The provisions, recommendations, priorities, targets and language contained herein are subject to review, revision, addition, deletion and refinement based on stakeholder consultations, technical inputs, emerging evidence, policy priorities and decisions of the Government of Meghalaya. Readers are therefore requested to treat this document as a work in progress and not as a definitive statement of government policy.

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1. Introduction

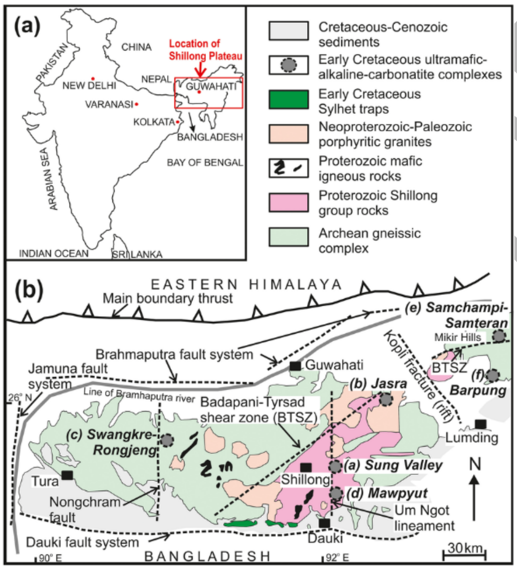
1.1 Context

Agriculture is one of humanity's oldest endeavours, sustaining the livelihoods of an estimated 2.5 billion workers worldwide and accounting for approximately 4% of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Today, the sector is headed towards food systems that are safe, traceable, organically produced and culturally protected. Simultaneously, climate change, biodiversity loss and soil degradation are redrawing the map of where and how food can be grown. Together, these changes signal that the global food system is in transition, and is creating real opportunities for agricultural systems rooted in sustainable practices.

India stands at the centre of this transition, with agriculture contributing approximately 17.8% of national GDP and employing 46.1% of the total workforce. Public investment in the sector has grown in step: the Union agriculture budget rose from Rs. 21,933 crore in 2013-14 to Rs. 1,22,528 crore in 2024-25. National initiatives, including the Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), the Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCD-NER), the Digital Agriculture Mission (Agri Stack) and Geographical Indication (GI) promotion, are creating structural openings for states with distinctive agricultural identities to compete in premium markets, nationally and globally.

In this context of converging global demand and national policy momentum, Meghalaya holds a unique position. It is a biodiversity-rich, indigenously governed hill state whose dominant farming tradition is de facto organic, sustained across generations with limited dependence on chemical inputs. The land, soil, watersheds, forests and sacred groves have been stewarded by indigenous communities for centuries. Today, approximately 80% of the State's population depends on agriculture for its livelihood, and the sector contributes approximately one-fifth of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). Meghalaya's agricultural identity is the living expression of how its people relate to, manage and derive sustenance from their ancestral land.

1.2 The Land, Its People and Its Endowments



Meghalaya, the abode of clouds, covers 22,429 sq. km in India's North East, lying between 25°02' N and 26°07' N latitude and 89°49' E and 92°50' E longitude, bounded by Assam to the north and north-east and Bangladesh to the south and south-west, within the Indo-Burma Biodiversity hotspot, one of 36 hotspots worldwide. From the Brahmaputra plains the land rises to form the Shillong Plateau consisting of three hills, the Garo, Khasi and Jaintia (Pnar) Hills, each with its own ecology, cultural identity and farming tradition. These regions consist of 12 districts, 7 across the Khasi and Jaintia Hills in the east and 5 in the Garo Hills in the west. It is also the wettest state in the country, receiving between 4,000 mm and 11,000 mm of rain a year, with temperatures ranging from roughly 2°C to 36°C across an altitude gradient of 300 to 2,000 metres above mean sea level. The sub-tropical lowland and temperate highland conditions within a single state boundary make multi-crop, year-round production possible.

The soils are predominantly loamy to fine loamy, and over 88% (mapped soils) carry high organic carbon. They are also acidic, with about 96% testing below pH 6.5 and much of the cultivated area in the pH 5.0-6.0 range, and potassium is deficient across much of the State. While the organic matter supports low-input farming, the acidity requires soil health management at State scale.

Meghalaya is fundamentally a tribal state. According to the 2011 Census, approximately 86.15% of its population of 2.97 million belong to Scheduled Tribes, principally the Khasi, Jaintia (Pnar) and Garo communities, peoples who have inhabited the region for millennia and developed close relationships with their land, forests and farming systems. Each of the 12 districts is a distinct agro-ecological and cultural zone with its own crop traditions, governance systems and landscape management practices.

Traditional governance structures form the institutional foundation of this society. In Khasi and Jaintia areas, the *Dorbar Shnong* (village council) and *Dorbar Raid* (clan council) are the authoritative bodies for land use, resource management and community dispute resolution. In Garo areas, the *Nokma*, the hereditary custodian of clan land, governs access to and use of communal territory (*a'king*). These institutions exercise real, daily authority over the farming landscape. The Government of Meghalaya directly manages only 7% of the State's land area; the vast majority is held and governed by communities and individuals under customary systems protected by the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution and administered through the Autonomous District Councils.

A defining feature of Khasi, Jaintia and Garo society, with direct implications for agricultural policy design, is the matrilineal system of descent and inheritance. Land and property pass through the mother's line, with the youngest daughter (*Ka Khatduh* in Khasi tradition) serving as custodian of ancestral property. Women hold customary land rights and are the primary actors in agricultural production, seed keeping, household food management and market participation.

The rich biodiversity of the State is exemplified by the UNESCO-designated Nokrek Biosphere Reserve in the Garo Hills, 1 of 18 biosphere reserves in India, which holds *Citrus indica*, the wild progenitor of the global citrus family, and the National Citrus Gene Sanctuary, the only protected area in the world dedicated to wild citrus. Meghalaya is therefore the evolutionary homeland of the citrus cultivated worldwide. A predominant portion of the State's area is under forest and tree cover. The same spread of agro-climatic zones supports GI-tagged crops: Lakadong turmeric from the Jaintia Hills, which carries curcumin levels of 7-12% against the 2-3% typical of other Indian turmeric and is exported to the United States, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom; the Khasi Mandarin orange, GI-registered in 2014; and Memang Narang, a Garo Hills wild citrus, GI-registered in 2015, both of which have reached Middle East markets. Wild pepper (*Piper peepuloides*), a locally cultivated pepper with robust flavour and medicinal properties, is understood to be a variant of long pepper (*Piper longum*) and is suited to Meghalaya's soil and climate. The Garo Hills' native *Gossypium arboreum*, historically traded as Comilla Cotton, remains a distinct fibre resource whose durability and hand-weaving quality are yet to be matched with formal recognition.

Alongside this biological inheritance sits a body of traditional ecological knowledge refined over centuries with site-specific soil management, indigenous seed selection, intercropping, natural pest management, forest-farm integration and seasonal ecological calendars. Sacred groves and community forest systems are working biodiversity conservation institutions, and community seed systems maintain traditional varieties of rice, millets, yam, taro, citrus and pepper that are absent from formal gene banks. This places a duty on the State to prevent misappropriation and an opportunity to negotiate access and benefit-sharing agreements that return value directly to the communities who hold this knowledge. It also indicates where the State's competitive advantage lies: high value horticulture, organic farming, GI-certified crops, medicinal and aromatic plants, and ecological tourism. This Policy treats indigenous knowledge as a co-equal of scientific knowledge in programme design.

1.3 Agriculture in Meghalaya

Agriculture and allied activities contribute approximately 18% of Meghalaya's GSDP. The gap between agriculture's share of output and its share of the workforce is the sector's defining productivity challenge: it reflects low value addition, subsistence orientation, and market systems that do not return to farmers the value their produce commands.

Of the total geographical area of 22.43 lakh hectares, net sown area is about 3.49 lakh hectares, one of the lowest in India, and a further 2.07-2.13 lakh hectares of fallow land has not been systematically activated. Holdings are small and fragmented, averaging 1.25 hectares, and cropping intensity stands at about 122% against a national average of roughly 142%. Area under irrigation is limited to about 1 lakh hectares, roughly one-third of net sown area and about a quarter of gross cropped area.

Production rests on a dual-crop economy. Subsistence food crops such as rice, maize, millets, pulses, potato and wheat anchor household nutrition. Paddy, the staple, yields approximately 2,734 kg per hectare, with high-yielding varieties covering only about 16,196 hectares. The growing high-value portfolio, led by GI-tagged Lakadong turmeric and Khasi Mandarin alongside arecanut, broom grass, cashew, ginger, pineapple, black pepper, large cardamom, coffee, cacao, strawberry, mushroom, Cymbidium orchids and a range of medicinal and aromatic plants, carries high income potential. Since generations have farmed with limited synthetic fertiliser or chemical pesticide, this portfolio begins from a de facto organic base, and it is on this that the State's premium market positioning depends.

Meghalaya already ranks among India's leading producers of several high-value commodities. It is the country's second-largest producer of ginger, with annual output of approximately 1,00,000 MT and a 19.59% share of national production. It also produces about 14.2 lakh MT of pineapple and the GI tagged Khasi Mandarin output stands at about 50 MT.

Fertiliser use in the State is 17 kg per hectare, among the lowest in India. This is an asset for organic positioning and, at the same time, a marker of the productivity gap. The State discontinued subsidy on chemical fertilisers, plant protection chemicals and other agricultural chemicals with effect from June 2014, and, recognising that an abrupt transition would harm farmers exposed to unregulated retail supply, notified a framework for the regulated sale and use of chemicals in August 2022 permitting regulated use in selected clusters and on selected crops. The State shall continue to move from inorganic to organic and bio-fertiliser practice through capacity building in both the government and private sectors. The Meghalaya State Organic Mission (2024-28), implemented through MEGNOLIA, aims to bring 1,00,000 hectares under NPOP-certified organic cultivation by 2028, converting an inherited farming ethic into a verifiable market credential.

Farming here was traditionally integrated with livestock and fishing, and that integration is steadily eroding, leaving a standing deficit between local demand and domestic supply across meat, dairy and fish. The livestock sector faces veterinary and cost constraints, while fisheries and aquaculture are held back by gaps in seed, feed and technical capacity. The deficit is also the clearest short-term opportunity in the sector: the demand already exists inside the State, and meeting it locally would raise farmer incomes, build economic resilience and reduce reliance on supply from outside.

The State's production systems sit across five agro-climatic zones, which together account for the range of crops that can be grown within a single state boundary.

Table 1.1: Agro-climatic zones of Meghalaya

Zone	Altitude range
Sub-alpine and sub-temperate	Above 1,500 m
Subtropical hill zone	400-1,500 m
Subtropical plain zone (valley area)	400-1,000 m
Mild tropical hill zone	200-800 m
Mild tropical plain zone	Up to 200 m

1.4 Structural Challenges

Meghalaya's agricultural land is under environmental pressure. Coal and stone mining have cut into forest cover, damaged groundwater and degraded cultivable land, and heavy rainfall on cleared slopes has accelerated the conversion of once-fertile ground into acidic, nutrient-depleted soil. Climate projections point to more extreme and unseasonal rainfall, rising temperatures, floods, landslides and shifting pest and disease patterns, against agriculture that remains largely rain-fed. These pressures sit on top of constraints that are embedded features of the State's geography, market architecture and service infrastructure.

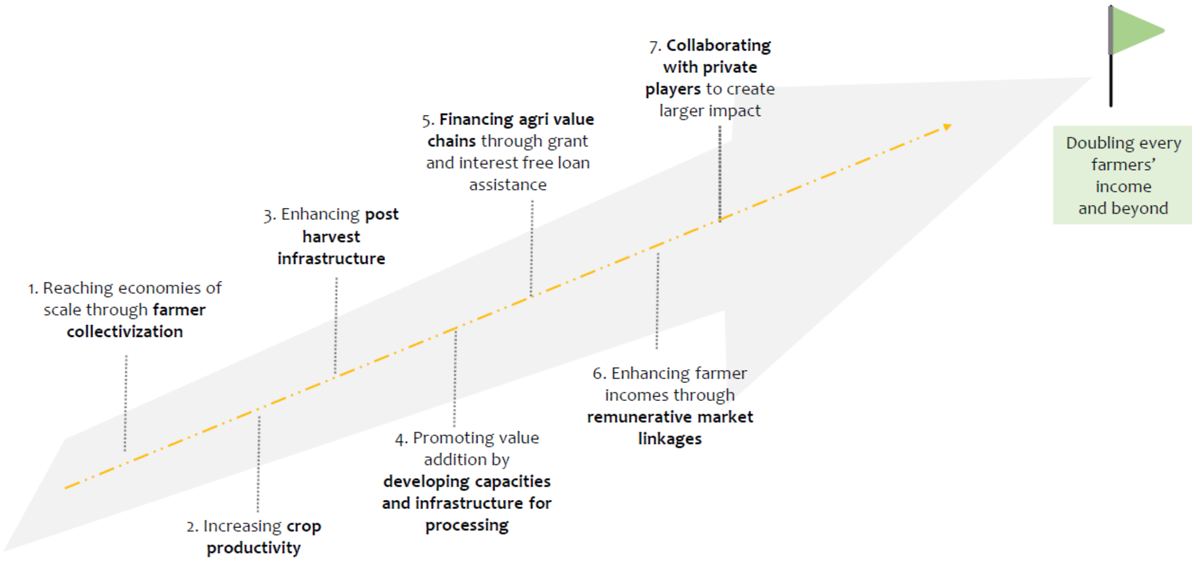
- **Low productivity**- Yields for most agriculture and horticulture crops are well below the national average, reflecting traditional cultivation methods, inadequate nutrient management and weak control of pests and disease. Three clusters of gaps drive this:
  - ***Technological gaps***: unscientific and traditional methods of crop cultivation, poor soil management practice, and poor utilisation of available resources.

- ***Knowledge gaps*:** limited knowledge of pest and disease management, post-harvest handling, processing and value addition, and improved cultivation techniques.
- ***Input and resource gaps*:** inadequate availability of quality seeds and planting material, rain-fed cultivation with water scarcity in winter, high input costs, non-availability of critical inputs at village level, a low seed replacement rate, and marketing through middlemen in the absence of organised markets.

- **Landholding fragmentation**- Average landholding is restricted to about 1.25 hectares per farmer. Farmers lack the volume required for bulk market engagement, mechanisation or sustained investment, which creates dependence on aggregators and middlemen who pre-purchase standing crops below market value.
- **Connectivity constraints**- Production clusters are located far from major markets such as Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi. The absence of last-mile connectivity between production clusters and aggregation points raises logistics costs and lengthens transit times, most damagingly for perishable horticulture.
- **Post-harvest infrastructure**- Cold chain, grading and storage facilities are concentrated around Shillong, and integrated packhouses, large food processing units and logistics hubs are largely absent. Farmers needing cash after harvest sell at prevailing low prices, and seasonal gluts deepen income volatility.
- **Agricultural input ecosystem**- Access to quality-assured planting material and bio-inputs is constrained, exposing farmers to adulteration and mislabelling and holding down crop productivity. The exposure is sharpest for endemic and GI-tagged crops, where varietal integrity dictates the premium.
- **Extension services**- Difficult terrain, poor connectivity and low manpower availability restrict farmer access to agricultural extension. The most remote blocks, the highest-elevation settlements and women-headed farming households are consistently the last to receive advisory services, technology inputs and programme benefits.
- **Unregulated markets**- The State has only 1 APMC market, and weak regulation means there is no pricing transparency and little standardisation or quality control. A chain of middlemen takes a large share of the margin and reduces the return to the producer.
- **Inadequate irrigation**- Despite receiving the highest annual rainfall in the country, a very small area is irrigated, and steep terrain severely constrains water storage and distribution.
- **Vulnerable soil resources**- Acidic soils limit nutrient availability, while heavy rainfall, steep slopes and weathered soils accelerate erosion, with cultivated hill slopes losing significant topsoil each year.
- **Climate vulnerability**- Extreme rainfall, dry spells, landslides, soil erosion and rising temperatures already affect productivity. Farmers with small landholdings, limited financial reserves and no formal insurance are among the most climate-vulnerable in the country.

1.5 Ongoing Investments

The Government of Meghalaya has responded with targeted interventions across the agri value chain, with emphasis on inclusivity and ecological preservation. The logic running through them is sequential: collectivise farmers to reach economies of scale, raise crop productivity, build post-harvest infrastructure, add value through processing, finance the value chain, link producers to remunerative markets, and bring in private capital.



The full set of centrally sponsored schemes, State schemes and externally aided projects currently being implemented in agriculture and allied sectors, together with what each does, the implementing agency and the number of beneficiaries reached in the year 2025-26, is set out in **Annexure 2**. Taken together, these programmes have built infrastructure, established functioning institutions, opened market linkages previously unavailable to smallholders and improved incomes in farming communities. They are the foundation on which this Policy builds, and the baseline against which its additionality should be judged.

On climate, the State has moved ahead of most. Meghalaya has published a Climate Action Budget since 2023-24, one of the first Indian states to adopt green budgeting, with climate-aligned allocation rising from Rs. 3,411.93 crore in 2023-24 to Rs. 4,501.04 crore in 2024-25, 16.6% of the State Budget, and to approximately 19% of the total State Budget (excluding debt repayment) by FY 2026-27. This Policy proceeds on the understanding that farm economy and the ecology are the same asset, environmental stewardship and agricultural development are a single agenda.

2. Policy Rationale

Meghalaya's agriculture sector has been seeing significant changes across the value chains ranging from increased area under high value horticulture, better post-harvest infrastructure and improved market access. It is in such context that Dept of Agriculture is launching the state's First Agriculture Policy. Following are the three rationales explaining why a formal policy is necessary.

2.1 Unified Policy Framework

In the past 8 years state, various state specific interventions have been launched to complement the Government of India (GoI) scheme to support farmers. Schemes range from CM FARM+ to mission mode schemes such Lakadong Mission, Mushroom Mission etc. Further GoI schemes such Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCD-NER), have been channelised to achieve farmer welfare. Each has delivered results, but the time has come for a Policy to drive it in a coherent manner inorder to sustain the momentum and to achieve universal scale across all the farming households of the state. This Policy provides the unifying framework that shall bring together the individual schemes, and multiple stakeholders to bring in concerted efforts towards institutionalising agricultural transformation.

2.2 Undervalued Endemic Assets

Meghalaya holds assets of global standing that do not yet earn commensurate returns for the communities that maintain them. Lakadong Turmeric from the Jaintia Hills commands a 40-80% market premium for its exceptional curcumin content. The global organic food market and Meghalaya's de facto organic tradition places it directly in the path of this demand. Yet without certification, documentation and market linkage, little of this value reaches farmers. Organic certification alone adds a minimum of 25% to product value and a GI tag adds a further 10-15%. For a smallholder farmer, that difference is transformative. The rationale is not only to create value where none exists, but also to ensure the value already inherent in Meghalaya's agriculture is captured by the people who produce it.

2.3 Climate Imperative

Farmers are facing erratic rainfall, prolonged dry periods, landslides, soil erosion and degrading springsheds. These have resulted in crop losses, increased disease prevalence and lower crop yields leading to lower farm incomes. Without savings or insurance, each climate event threatens livelihood collapse. The Policy builds resilience into its foundations through soil restoration, diversified cropping, water conservation and organic practices that improve soil carbon and moisture retention.

Together, these rationales make the case for a comprehensive agriculture policy, one that builds on investments already made, removes the structural constraints that have limited farmer incomes, and ensures the State's exceptional endowments translate into lasting prosperity. The vision and mission that follow give this case its direction.

3. Vision & Mission

3.1 Vision

A prosperous, and climate-resilient Meghalaya in which agriculture, rooted in indigenous knowledge, organic integrity and the stewardship of its matrilineal farming communities, delivers dignified livelihoods and shared prosperity, and positions the State among the world's foremost certified organic farming regions.

3.2 Mission

To transform Meghalaya's agriculture from subsistence orientation to sustainable prosperity under unified public programmes by bringing premium value from its organic and GI heritage, through lucrative markets and an inclusive, climate resilient economy led by farmer collectives, women and youth- so that the value created by Meghalaya's land and knowledge is captured by the people who farm it.

4. Guiding Principles

This Policy is governed by 3 principles. They are not operational directives but commitments that explain why the State acts, and the standards against which every programme, scheme, and decisions taken under this Policy should be measured. They are grounded in Meghalaya's specific context: land tenure system, indigenous communities, ecological endowments, and livelihoods of its population who depend on agriculture.

❖ **Principle I — Farmer at the Centre**

Farmers are the primary actors in Meghalaya's agricultural system. Furthermore, farmer collectives, self-help groups, *Dorbars,* and *Nokmas* are not implementation instruments, but they are the institutions who are custodians of the rich natural capital of the State. This Policy is designed to strengthen their agency, not to manipulate. The Policy aim to reach those farmers who need support the most, including those in remote, underserved and less connected communities.

❖ **Principle II — Ecological Stewardship**

Natural resource base is not a mere production input to be maximised for immediate returns. It is one that was held in trust across generations, inseparable from the identity and cultural continuity of Meghalaya's indigenous communities. Agricultural decisions under this Policy are therefore evaluated not only for their productivity outcomes but also for their effects on soil health, water systems, biodiversity, and forest cover. Farming systems supported under this Policy are expected to restore as much as they extract- so that the land passed to the next generation is more productive, not less, than the land inherited.

❖ **Principle III — Holistic Value Chain**

A value chain is the full sequence of activities and actors, from input supply and cultivation through aggregation, processing, storage, branding and sale, by which a crop gains value on its way to the consumer, together with the finance, extension, standards and logistics that hold that sequence together. This Policy treats the chain, rather than the individual activity, as its unit of decision. Every intervention is made at one point but registers along the whole length, altering the cost of production, the quality and consistency of the produce, the price it commands and the returns that flow back to the farm. No measure is therefore appraised on its technical or monetary merit alone. It is appraised on what it does to the chain in which it sits, and on whether farmers and the collectives they own capture a rising share of the value that chain creates.

5. Current Governance Landscape

Meghalaya's agricultural system is governed through two distinct layers: formal state departments and agencies, and community governance institutions. Effective delivery of any agricultural programme depends on understanding how these layers interact, and on designing interventions that work with the indigenous governance structures that hold primary authority over land and natural resources across the State.

The map that follows sorts every institution this Policy touches into 5 tiers. The ordering principle is not size or seniority but relationship to the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

5.1 The Governance Map

Tier	Departments/Agencies	Relationship to the Department
TIER 1 **Core**	**Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare** Directorate of Agriculture Directorate of Horticulture Directorate of Food Processing Directorate of Research, Training and Technology Induction	Direct line acting as the primary lead on the Policy
TIER 2 **Statutory bodies and SPVs**	Meghalaya State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB) Meghalaya Natural & Organic Farming Society for Livelihood & Innovation in Agriculture (MEGNOLIA) Meghalaya Farmers' Empowerment Commission Meghalaya Farmers' Empowerment Commission LIFE CO-OP (formerly LIFCOM)	Not in the Directorate hierarchy with separate structures performing specific roles.
TIER 3 **Supporting departments**	Planning, Investment Promotion & Sustainable Development Department, Meghalaya Basin Development Agency, Meghalaya Basin Management Agency, Soil and Water Conservation, Water Resources, Department of Cooperation, Fisheries, and Animal Husbandry and Veterinary	These departments support the core department performing functions the Policy depends on.
TIER 4 **Field delivery**	District agriculture offices Krishi Vigyan Kendras ATMA- 170+ block staff Farm Managers - 71 Village Data Volunteers- 1,300+, across 1,100+ clusters PRIME Hubs - 55 planned, 8 operational Agriculture Response Vehicles- 382 Custom Hiring Centres- 110+, with 780+ power tillers	Set up at the district and block level directly under various state schemes/ departments

TIER 5 **Indigenous and community governance**	*Dorbar Shnong / Dorbar Raid*, headed by the *Rangbah Shnong* - land use, water rights, common resources *Nokma* - allocation and management of clan *a'king* land 500+ Cooperative Self Help Groups - women's credit and livelihoods Village councils - scheme-specific village bodies	Described by what they hold authority over, not by a mandate the State confers. Recognised under the Sixth Schedule.

5.2 Core: the Department, its Directorates and its Agencies

These bodies sit in the Department's direct line of command. They hold the primary responsibility for delivering this Policy.

Institution	Role	Mandate
Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare	Principal Department	Policy direction, budget, and overall accountability for the sector.
Directorate of Agriculture; District Agriculture Offices	Agriculture lead	Field crops, extension and technology transfer, soil testing, watershed management, credit assessment and crop insurance, and regulatory quality control of inputs.
Directorate of Horticulture; District Horticulture Offices	Horticulture lead	Fruits, vegetables, spices, floriculture and plantation crops.
Directorate of Food Processing	Food processing nodal	Value addition, capacity building and technology transfer in food processing.
Directorate of Research, Training and Technology Induction	Extension and research	Applied research, farmer and staff training, and induction of new technology.
Meghalaya Natural and Organic Society for Livelihood and Innovation in Agriculture (MEGNOLIA)	Organic mission apex body	NPOP certification, input supply, capacity building and marketing under the State Organic Mission.

5.3 Statutory Bodies and Special Purpose Vehicles

These bodies are created by statute or incorporated as separate structures. They are not Directorates and do not sit inside the Directorate hierarchy, which is why programme design has to name them explicitly rather than assume they follow departmental instruction.

Body	Basis	Role
Meghalaya State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB)	Statutory, under the Meghalaya State Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020	Regulated wholesale markets, market infrastructure development, and agreements with external market players.
Meghalaya Natural & Organic Farming Society for Livelihood & Innovation in Agriculture (MEGNOLIA)	Organic mission apex body under the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of Meghalaya	Facilitate Meghalaya's transition to organic and natural farming by building farmer capacity, enhancing access to finance and certification, and promoting sustainable, climate-resilient agricultural practices
Meghalaya Farmers' Empowerment Commission	Statutory advisory body	Advice to Government on farmer welfare, and a farmer-facing grievance channel.
Meghalaya Livelihoods and Investment Financing Co-operative Society Ltd (LIFE CO-OP), *earlier Livelihood Finance Company of Meghalaya (LIFCOM)*	Registered cooperative society, earlier a company	Interest-free and subsidised loans, and collateral-free working capital, to farmer collectives and individuals.

5.4 Supporting Departments

Each of these departments runs its own vertical, with its own Secretary, budget and reporting line. None of them takes instruction from the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. They are named here because the Policy depends on functions that sit with them, and because a commitment that requires their action has to be negotiated rather than issued.

Department	Vertical	Function the Policy depends on
Planning, Investment Promotion and Sustainable Development	Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA) and Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA)	Integrated livelihoods, collective enterprise development, community mobilisation, and implementation of agriculture-related externally aided projects.
Soil and Water Conservation	Own directorate and field establishment	Watershed management, slope stabilisation, conservation of agricultural catchments, and nodal responsibility for cocoa and coffee.
Water Resources	Own directorate and field establishment	Minor irrigation, water storage and lift schemes, and lean-season water availability.
Cooperation	Registrar of Cooperative Societies	Registration, audit, capitalisation and supervision of primary agricultural credit, marketing and processing cooperatives.
Fisheries	Own directorate and field establishment	Aquaculture expansion, fish seed and feed supply, and the State Aquaculture Mission.

Animal Husbandry and Veterinary	Own directorate and field establishment	Livestock and poultry breeding, veterinary services and disease control, and the Piggery and Milk Missions.

5.5 Field Delivery

Agricultural services reach farmers through a decentralised network operating at district, block, cluster and village level. This is the point at which policy commitments become practical reality: where seed is distributed, knowledge is transferred, produce is aggregated and data is collected.

Field unit	Level	Number (2025-26)	Function
District Agriculture Offices	District	12	District-level programme administration, input supply and scheme delivery.
District Horticulture Offices	District	12	District-level delivery for fruits, vegetables, spices and plantation crops.
Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)	District	7	Vocational farmer training, on-farm trials, front-line demonstrations, and location-specific technology packages.
Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA)	Block, all districts	170+ block-level staff	Block-level extension coordination, Farmer Field Schools, technology dissemination and Block Action Plans.
Farm Managers	Cluster	71	Agronomic support to farmers and field-level execution of schemes.
Village Data Volunteers (VDVs)	Village	1,300+, across 1,100+ clusters	Last-mile data collection and scheme outreach in local languages.
PRIME Hubs	Block	55 under development, 8 operational	Processing, aggregation and incubation infrastructure for smallholders.
Agriculture Response Vehicles (ARVs)	Cluster	382	Mobile delivery of inputs, advisory services and demonstrations.
Custom Hiring Centres	Village and cluster	110+, with 780+ power tillers	Machinery hiring for farmers who cannot own equipment individually.

5.6 Indigenous and Community Governance

The legal framework governing land and natural resources in Meghalaya is distinct. The Autonomous District Councils established under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India formally recognise the customary jurisdiction of indigenous institutions over land allocation, natural resource management and community governance. This is the operational reality of agricultural governance across the State, and any programme requiring community land access, water management or collective action must engage with it directly. The bodies below are therefore described by what they hold authority over.

Governing body	Community / region	Authority over
Dorbar Shnong / Dorbar Raid	Khasi and Jaintia Hills	Village and clan council governing land use, water rights and natural resource management.
Nokma	Garo Hills	Custodian of clan land, with authority over allocation and management of community agricultural territory (*a'king*) under customary law, held through the female line.
Cooperative societies	All districts	Collective enterprise: Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies (MPCS) and Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS).
Women's Self Help Groups	Village level, all districts	Smaller than cooperatives; the vehicle for livelihood and credit support to women.
Village-level councils, including Village Employment Councils	Village level, all districts	Specific areas of village life, or the implementation of particular schemes.

This Policy commits to the formal recognition of these bodies as active partners in agricultural planning, monitoring and delivery. Their jurisdiction over land, water and natural resource management means that agricultural transformation in Meghalaya is achievable only through their participation.

Effective implementation requires these institutions to operate in coordination, with a clear lead and named supporting bodies for each thrust area, common data systems, and structured mechanisms for joint planning. The landscape has the depth and coverage required to deliver agricultural transformation at scale. What it has lacked is a unifying framework to direct that capacity coherently, which this Policy provides. The tiering above is the first step: it makes explicit which commitments the Department can execute on its own authority, which require agreement with another department, and which depend on community institutions agreeing to act.

Section 6: Strategic Priorities: 15 Thrust Areas

This Policy organises the State's agricultural agenda into 15 thrust areas. They are structured to acknowledge what the State is already doing, to build on what is working, and to identify what must be strengthened or transformed. Each thrust area sets out its rationale, the investments and progress already made, and the strategy to be pursued, through which delivery shall be achieved.

Thrust Area 1 — Soil Health

Rationale

Soil resources constitute a critical natural asset for Meghalaya's agricultural sector, underpinning crop productivity, nutrient cycling, biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration and livelihood resilience. The State's agro-ecological setting also makes those soils among the most vulnerable to degradation in the country. Heavy rainfall, steep cultivated hill slopes and highly weathered red soils accelerate erosion, causing nutrient leaching and decline of soil quality, even where organic carbon is high. With only about 12% of the geographical area under cultivation, production pressure falls on a narrow land base. Potassium and micronutrient deficiencies are emerging in several parts of the State, particularly at higher altitudes where intense leaching carries nutrients out of the root zone, and soil acidity is limiting nutrient absorption and fertiliser efficiency.

Meghalaya's soil problem is therefore different in kind from the one most Indian states face. In other states, deteriorating soil health is due to intensive input use, but here it is due to the landscape itself. Over half of the State's geographical area is affected by water-induced erosion, nearly one-third is classified as a high-priority erosion-risk zone, and cultivated hill slopes are losing an estimated 25–35 tonnes of soil per hectare each year. Further, the shortening of the traditional *jhum* fallow cycle, from 10–15 years to as 3–5 years in several areas, has removed much of the natural regeneration that once absorbed this loss. With the average operational holding at 1.25 hectares, the unit of land owned by farmers is reducing while the processes driving degradation operate across whole hill slopes.

Acidity sets the ceiling on what every other input can achieve, since the response to fertiliser, bio-input remains suppressed until pH is corrected. Soil correction is therefore the precondition for the yields the rest of this Policy assumes, and it cannot be delivered plot by plot when the processes driving degradation run across entire hill slopes.

To correct these soil deficiencies the State has supported interventions through contour bunding, bench terracing, vegetative barriers, Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT), Soil Health Cards, balanced nutrient use and the State Organic Mission. 1,33,651 Soil Health Cards have been issued to date, and district Soil Testing Laboratories at Shillong, Tura and Jowai provide the analytical base, supported by district-level soil fertility mapping including detailed spatial analysis in Ri-Bhoi. Externally aided programmes, in particular the JICA-supported Megha-LIFE project, have strengthened the State's approach through GIS-based land capability assessment, participatory landscape planning, agroforestry and assisted natural regeneration of degraded areas. Yet, gaps remain with interventions fragmented across schemes and departments, incomplete monitoring without change in soil condition and soil health card without reliable support or affordable lime and corrective nutrient inputs.

Strategies

The State's approach shall be to move from conserving soil to regenerating it under one integrated framework in place of fragmented schemes, shifting from scattered plot-level works to a single landscape-scale framework where every intervention is planned by land capability and judged by the condition of the soil itself. Cluster-level Soil Health Management Plans shall identify erosion hotspots, acid soil zones, degraded cultivated land and shortened-fallow areas, and shall prescribe interventions by land capability, slope, soil depth and soil characteristics.

- **Soil conservation**– To prevent top soil loss and to stabilise slopes while undertaking commercial cultivation, efforts such as SALT, terracing, trenches and other customised solutions shall be prioritised.

Further efforts to increase soil organic matter and to reduce soil acidity through usage of bio inputs, minimisation of tillage, crop rotation and similar measures shall be explored.

- **Soil acidity** – Natural means to reduce soil acidity shall be explored including application of natural liming materials like agricultural limestone, wood ash, or bone meal. Systematic liming of acid soils, organic amendments, composting, biomass recycling and green manuring shall be adopted as standard practice across all crop missions rather than offered as a scheme option.
- **Soil testing infrastructure** – Testing infrastructure shall be expanded from the current 3 laboratories to all 12 districts, with a current Soil Health Card for every farming household, and Cards upgraded from diagnostic reports into decision-support tools linked to extension services and to the supply of the specific input each Card prescribes.
- **Satellite mapping** – Satellite mapping activities shall be conducted to detect erosion-prone and high-potential areas, and the resulting maps shall guide annual investment and budgets rather than sit as a separate data product.
- **Outcome-based monitoring** – Activities under soil management shall shift from counting works to measuring results in soil organic carbon, pH, nutrient balance, biological activity, erosion rates and land restored.

Thrust Area 2 — Water Resource Management and Irrigation

Rationale

Water security determines both crop productivity and the ability of farmers to diversify into higher-value horticulture. In theory, Meghalaya should face no such constraints as it ranks among the wettest places on Earth, averaging approximately 4,085 mm a year, and holds abundant water resources with 3,300 km of rivers, approximately 8,400 hectares of reservoirs, 3,734 hectares of tanks and ponds, around 390 hectares of swamps and an annual extractable groundwater potential of 1.54 billion cubic metres. Yet, despite this abundance, agriculture across most of the State remains dependent on direct rainfall. The Agriculture Census 2021-22 records that of 436,270 hectares of gross cropped area, only about 107,593 hectares is irrigated, and cropping intensity remains below the national average. This paradox is explained by the region's undulated topography. Steep terrain, shallow soils and concentrated monsoons means that most rainfall rushes away as surface runoff rather than soaking into the ground. As a result, water is plentiful during the rainy months but scarce in the dry season, which is precisely when agricultural demand is greatest. The real bottleneck, therefore, is therefore, not the total volume of water available, but the ability to store it for later use. Furthermore, the conventional canal-and-command approach, which successfully expanded irrigation across much of the rest of India, is ill-suited to Meghalaya as these are gravity-fed systems which rely on broad, gentle slopes and stable river basins, which are largely absent in this hill terrain.

The degradation of natural water systems compounds the problem. Around 78% of village communities depend on springs for domestic and agricultural use, yet over 54% of springs have dried up or show reduced discharge. Climate change is expected to intensify each of these pressures. Meghalaya also holds a living heritage of indigenous water management, in bamboo drip irrigation, community ponds and terraced field systems, which remains functional but undervalued in formal planning.

The State has invested substantially in watershed development, rainwater harvesting, spring rejuvenation, *jalkunds,* minor irrigation, contour-based soil and water conservation and decentralised storage, through State programmes, centrally sponsored schemes and externally aided projects. The ADB-funded Climate-Adaptive Community-Based Water Harvesting Project marks the shift towards integrated, landscape-based management where it has provided for 532 climate-resilient water harvesting systems across all districts, together with village water security planning, digital water mapping, automatic weather stations and stronger Water User Associations. The next phase in the State's water management shall move beyond creating assets to improving their productive use, and plan irrigation jointly with cropping systems and value chains rather than independently of them.

Strategies

The State's water agenda shall move from capturing rain to commanding it across the year, through planning irrigation with the cropping systems and markets it must serve and vesting its stewardship in the communities and indigenous institutions that have managed Meghalaya's waters for generations. Water management shall follow a watershed and springshed approach consistent with the Meghalaya State Water Policy, 2019 with assessments of availability, irrigation demand, recharge potential and climate risk incorporated into village water security planning.

- **Decentralised Water Harvesting** – Expand decentralised water harvesting and storage in rainfed production clusters through farm ponds, jalkunds, community reservoirs, check dams and gravity-fed systems, integrating catchment protection and command area development with maintenance, desiltation and community management of existing assets. These efforts shall go together with the watershed management efforts of the State.
- **Irrigation Alignment with Production Systems**– Irrigation development shall be prioritised where improved water access can unlock commercially viable clusters and support diversification into horticulture, spices, vegetables, floriculture, seed production and integrated farming systems.
- **Efficient Use of Water Resources**– Promote efficient water use through protective irrigation at critical crop stages, drip and sprinkler systems converging with national schemes, gravity-fed micro-irrigation, climate-informed scheduling and soil moisture conservation, with the objective of raising irrigated coverage area, while conserving and modernising indigenous systems such as bamboo drip irrigation.
- **Spring shed management**– Percolation pits, staggered trenches and small check dams on hill slopes, which force rainwater to infiltrate instead of running off, shall be prioritised in convergence with the relevant departments. Community-led governance shall be central to the success of these initiatives.
- **Evidence-based Governance**– Strengthen irrigation practice through hydrological assessment, GIS-based water asset inventories, remote sensing, automatic weather stations and digital decision support (DDS), and deepen community stewardship through Water User Associations, Watershed Management Committees and traditional institutions in partnership with *Dorbars* and *Nokmas*, with emphasis on women and youth.

Thrust Area 3 — Scaling Certified Organic Agriculture

Rationale

Meghalaya's rich biodiversity, agro-climatic conditions, traditional farming practices and historically low use of synthetic agrochemicals give it a natural advantage in certified organic agriculture. Certification is the mechanism that converts that inherited practice into price. The global organic food market was estimated at USD 230–250 billion in 2024 and is projected to reach approximately USD 660 billion by 2034, and it pays for verified provenance rather than for good practice that cannot be proved. An uncertified organic farmer therefore sells into the conventional price band.

To leverage this organic advantage, the Government of Meghalaya has adopted an ecosystem approach through the Meghalaya State Organic & Natural Farming Policy, 2023 and the Meghalaya State Organic Mission (2024-28), the latter backed by an allocation of ₹250 crore. The Mission aims to bring 1,00,000 hectares under NPOP-certified organic cultivation by 2028, benefiting nearly 96,500 farmers and 500 cooperatives. Building upon the existing 73,000 hectares under intervention, including over 27,000 hectares under live certification, the State seeks to position Meghalaya as India's leading hub for certified organic and regenerative agriculture.

The operative constraint is not field practice but proof of it. Certification cost, audit lead time and the absence of accredited residue testing within the State mean that a farmer who has never applied a synthetic input still cannot demonstrate the fact to a buyer. Regulated fertiliser supply confined to notified clusters has so far kept notified organic areas free of chemical inputs, and holding that boundary through formally notified buffer zones is what protects the claim as regulated clusters expand.

Strategies

The State shall convert its de facto organic character into certified, traceable and premium market value, moving farmers from being organic by default to organic by design, with certification as the bridge between traditional practice and global demand. Organic standards shall be built into all crop missions as the default rather than offered as an option, with NPOP-compliant Internal Control Systems and Packages of Practices for every focus crop.

- **Certified Organic Area** – Expand certified organic area through cluster-based certification, prioritising high-value crops such as Lakadong Turmeric, Ginger, Khasi Mandarin, Pineapple, Black Pepper and other niche high-value crops, and convert and sustain the area targeted under the State Organic Mission by 2028.
- **Organic Certification Systems** – Strengthen certification and traceability through the Meghalaya State Organic Certification Body (MSOCB), Internal Control Systems, digital farmer registration and geo-referenced farm mapping in accordance with National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) standards, with a digital traceability system covering every stage from field declaration to export consignment.
- **Regenerative Production Systems** – Promote regenerative production through locally produced bio-inputs, composting and biochar to improve soil health, enhance carbon sequestration and strengthen climate resilience, supported by village-level organic input units so that certification is matched by affordable local input supply.
- **Residue testing facilities** – Economical and accessible testing services shall be developed, including accredited laboratories within the State, to reduce testing lead times and cost.
- **Institutional and Farmer Capacity-** Build institutional and farmer capacity through training, extension, research and digital technologies for productivity, quality assurance and compliance with international organic standards.
- **Green Financing and Innovation**- Promote carbon finance, ecosystem service payments, climate- smart agriculture and research partnerships for sustainable growth of the organic sector.

Thrust Area 4 — Farmer Collectives Development

Rationale

With small landholdings, individual farmers in Meghalaya cannot achieve the scale required for viable market participation, input efficiency or effective negotiation with buyers. Farmer collectives are therefore the primary mechanism for aggregating dispersed production into market-relevant volumes. Aggregation is also the only route by which certification, traceability and buyer contracts, each of which carries a fixed cost, become affordable for an individual producer.

The State's deep tradition of community organisation, from the *Dorbar* system to the Village Employment Councils, provides a foundation for building them. Collectives also fill a structural gap left by limited private sector presence, in input supply, aggregation and processing. Where market linkage remains thin, farmer-owned social enterprises are well placed to perform these functions, not as substitutes for enterprise but as enterprises owned by farmers themselves, governed by fair sharing of resources, returns and decision-making. They must therefore be run to a commercial standard rather than a scheme standard.

The State has delineated 1,245 production clusters spanning more than 6,800 villages on agro-climatic, production, infrastructure and value chain parameters, each to be anchored by a cooperative. Approximately 1,100 of the required cooperatives already exist and 200 and more are yet to be constituted for unserved clusters. This is the institutional skeleton on which the thrust area builds. Producer groups have separately proved themselves as a delivery channel with 22,594 producer groups carried through Farmers' Collectivisation for Upscaling Production (FOCUS) support to farming households between 2021 and 2026-.

Strategies

The State shall grow its cooperative network into a movement of community-owned farmer institutions, rooted in traditions of collective organisation, that give farmers ownership of their value chains and a share in the returns. Cooperatives shall be positioned as enduring social enterprises in which farmers participate as members and investors, draw benefits through quality inputs, advisory services and assured forward linkages, and share in dividends generated from collective enterprise.

- **Cluster-based Cooperatives** – Expand coverage of the production cluster network towards all 1,245 clusters, ensuring every cluster is anchored by a functional, farmer-owned cooperative, with the 200 and more unserved clusters prioritised for new registration.
- **Governance capabilities** – Strengthen the leaders of collectives in governance, financial management and business operations through structured partnerships with management and cooperative institutions, and engage private sector entities to transfer technological know-how, quality systems and market intelligence.
- **End-to-End Value Chain Development** – Anchor cooperatives shall lead interventions for the principal horticulture crops of their clusters across the full value chain, from pre-production (nurseries, planting material, bio-inputs, aggregated input supply), through production (sustainable practices, integrated pest management, quality protocols), to post-production (collective harvesting, primary processing, storage, value addition and aggregated marketing).
- **Performance grading** – A grading system shall be instituted, together with a stated approach to reviving or winding up non-performing and dormant societies, so that the network's published strength reflects functioning institutions.
- **Women's Leadership and Inclusion** – Strengthen women's participation in collective governance through minimum standards on board representation, rising from 33% to 50%, together with leadership pipelines and participation in general body decisions.
- **Institutional linkage** – Every collective shall be linked to its nearest PRIME Hub, market facility and institutional finance window, with the Meghalaya One platform providing the management information system for scheme delivery, member services, transaction records and performance tracking.

Thrust Area 5 — Farmers' Welfare and Well-being

Rationale

This Policy places the farmer at the centre as its first guiding principle. The protection instruments presently available in Meghalaya do not extend that principle to the farmer *as a person.* The National Scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) compensates the loss of a crop but no State instrument currently responds when the cultivator dies, is injured at work, or is permanently disabled. This thrust area is directed at closing that gap.

The crop insurance record establishes both the reach of the existing machinery and the limit of its cover. PMFBY has been implemented in Meghalaya since Kharif 2016 and has been voluntary since Kharif 2020. Farmers contribute 2% of the sum insured for Kharif crops, 1.5% for Rabi crops, 5% for horticultural crops, and the balance is shared between the Government of India and the State in the ratio of 90:10 following the revamp of the scheme in Kharif 2020. In 2023-24 the State bore the farmer's share in full for both seasons, committing ₹4.4 crore of premium support for all farmers growing notified crops in notified areas up to one acre per crop per farmer, against an enrolment target of 27,000 farmers for Kharif and 10,000 for Rabi. Enrolment stood at 70,605 farmers in Kharif 2025. The delivery route for yield risk is therefore established and tested.

Farming in Meghalaya is physically hazardous work. Cultivation is carried out on steep slopes, power tillers, brush cutters and reapers are operated on terrain they were not designed for, and most plant protection material is handled without protective equipment. A farmer injured at work loses the season's income and the household's labour at the same time and holds no cover against either loss.

Distress among farming households is predominantly price and debt driven. This begins with a price collapse in a perishable crop for which no local storage exists, and is completed by borrowing from informal lenders at rates the harvest cannot service. A yield-indexed insurance product has limited reach for a loss of this kind. The State has begun to address the price element through the CM Assure scheme, under which the State marketing board procures non-perishable produce, including broomsticks and arecanut, at fair prices for resale, supported by a corpus of ₹100 crore with an initial allocation of ₹20 crore.

Old age income security for farming households rests on the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan-dhan Yojana (PMKMY), a voluntary and contributory pension scheme open to small and marginal farmers holding cultivable land up to 2 hectares between the ages of 18 and 40. A subscriber receives an assured pension of ₹3,000 per month on attaining 60 years, and on the subscriber's death the spouse receives 50% of that pension as family pension.

Farmer unions in the State have raised farmer insurance and ex gratia compensation repeatedly, and this thrust area answers this standing demand. The institutional instruments required are largely in place with PRIME Hubs providing counselling services (without a formal mandate). Further, the Meghalaya Farmers' (Empowerment) Commission, a statutory body constituted as a bridge between farmers and the Government, to identify the issues farmers face and to recommend remedial measures. Its mandate extends to overseeing the implementation of crop and animal insurance, recommending measures to alleviate distress arising out of debt burden, maintaining a channel of communication with farmers' associations and unions, and improving the delivery of services to farmers under the Meghalaya Community Participation and Public Services Social Audit Act, 2017.

Strategies

The State commits to standing behind the farmer as a person and not only behind the crop. The Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare shall be the accountable body for farmer welfare, with a defined entitlement, a named delivery route through institutions to which farmers already belong, and reporting on welfare outcomes in the annual sector performance review. The instruments set out below shall be routed through farmer producer organisations and cooperatives so that each has an institutional home, and shall not require a new delivery arm to be built.

- **Farmer life group insurance** – A farmer life insurance and group insurance cover shall be instituted, with enrolment routed through farmer collectives and cooperatives and premium support borne on the same principle as the State's crop insurance contribution. Cover shall extend to members of farming households recorded on the Meghalaya One registry rather than to titleholders alone, in recognition of customary and matrilineal land holding.
- **Occupational safety cover** – Accident and disability cover shall be provided for injury sustained in the course of agricultural work. An occupational safety programme shall accompany the cover, extending to the safe operation of farm machinery, the safe handling of plant protection material and the supply of protective equipment through Custom Hiring Centres and input retailers. Safety training shall be a condition of Custom Hiring Centre operation, and the reporting of agricultural workplace injuries shall be instituted so that the cover is designed and priced accordingly.
- **Ex gratia and compensation** – A defined ex gratia entitlement shall be instituted in the event of a farmer's death, including death by distress. Eligibility, quantum, the sanctioning authority and the sanctioning timeline shall be stated in the scheme instrument.
- **Crop insurance** – Premium support under the PMFBY shall be sustained and enrolment raised beyond the 70,605 farmers covered in Kharif 2025, with the 1 acre per crop per farmer ceiling reviewed against actual operated holdings. Enrolment shall be driven jointly by the Department, the implementing insurance agency and the cluster cooperatives, and the notified crop list shall be reviewed each season so that the crops farmers grow are insurable in the areas they grow them.

- **Pension security** – Enrolment of eligible farmers in the 18 to 40 age group under PMKMY shall be driven through collectives towards saturation of the eligible group, with enrolment and pension disbursement tracked on Meghalaya One and family pension entitlements communicated to subscribing households.
- **Distress counselling** – The counselling services already provided at PRIME Hubs shall be given a formal mandate, shall be staffed, and shall be linked to the distress episodes that generate demand for them, which are predominantly price and debt related. Referral pathways shall connect Village Data Volunteers, Farm Managers and collective office bearers to the State's mental health services, and counselling shall be treated as a standing service rather than a response mounted after an incident.
- **Price distress** – The welfare instruments shall be operated in conjunction with the price stabilisation and credit instruments of this Policy. CM Assure procurement shall be extended to the commodities in which price collapse most often precipitates household distress, and institutional credit windows shall be brought within reach of borrowers who presently depend on informal lenders. Distress indicators shall be reviewed alongside the welfare instruments so that the causes of distress are addressed and not only its consequences.

Thrust Area 6 — Agricultural Inputs, Seed Systems and Plant Protection

Rationale

Agricultural productivity begins with what enters the field through the seed sown, the planting material set out, the nutrition applied and the protection given to the crop. Meghalaya's input challenge stems from the intersection of steep, fragmented terrain that makes delivery logistically demanding, small landholdings that deny farmers both the purchasing power to buy quality inputs and the scale to attract formal retailers, and farming communities that have remained largely outside a regulated, quality-assured supply chain. The State's de facto organic tradition adds a defining constraint, in that the indiscriminate introduction of synthetic inputs would compromise its most competitive asset. This Policy therefore proceeds from the premise that productivity and ecological integrity are one objective, and that a well-designed input ecosystem can serve both.

Meghalaya recently approved a State Seed Certification Agency responsible for ensuring that farmers receive high-potential, genetically pure and disease-free seed at fair prices. Until it is functioning, farmers depended on informal sources, with the attendant risks of varietal impurity, poor germination and disease. A State Seed Cooperative, the second of the two institutions through which comparable states assure seed availability as distinct from seed quality, has still to be constituted. Strengthening both is central to protecting farmer welfare, and the State's own seed production programme, which supplies cereals, pulses, oilseeds and horticultural planting material at subsidised rates, gives the certification system something to certify. Varietal integrity is what the premium is paid for through GI-tagged and endemic crops.

For the State's perennial, plantation and vegetatively propagated crops, quality planting material depends on tissue culture capacity that is at present thin and dispersed. Facilities exist at the Biotechnology Resource and Development Centre (BRDC), the Botanical Survey of India and the Department of Agriculture's own unit, but they operate as isolated laboratories rather than as a production system. They lack the virus-indexing and diagnostic capability that the national Clean Plant Programme requires, and they lack the hardening and distribution network through which a plantlet becomes an established field plant. Demand for disease-free, genuine planting material is rising as area under focus crops expands, and it is currently met in substantial part from outside the State, with the attendant risk of introducing disease into clean production systems.

Meghalaya holds endemic varieties of fruits, spices and vegetables including Sohiong (*Prunus nepalensis*), Sohsang (*Elaeagnus latifolia*), Sohphoh Khasi (*Docynia indica* var. *khasiana*), Lakadong Turmeric, Long Pepper (*Piper longum*) and Chayote Squash (*Sechium edule*), each selected and kept alive by farming communities over generations, alongside the wild citrus relatives conserved by Garo communities in and around the Nokrek Biosphere Reserve. This indigenous seed diversity currently has no protection under the existing legal framework and remains vulnerable to genetic erosion and to appropriation without benefit-sharing.

For fertiliser the State has made a deliberate choice of regulation over open sale. Meghalaya State Cooperative Marketing and Consumers' Federation Ltd. (MECOFED) is the sole agency authorised to lift the State's quota from IFFCO and to distribute it at statutorily fixed prices, through a network of licensed retailers equipped with point-of-sale machines that record every transaction. District Agriculture Officers are notified as Fertilizer Inspectors and a State Level Monitoring Committee oversees purchase, distribution and use. Supply is confined to notified clusters, so that notified organic areas remain free of chemical inputs. The result is availability at fair prices without uncontrolled spread, and a working template for how other agro-chemicals can be governed.

Plant protection is the part of the input system where the State's regulatory presence is thinnest and the stakes are highest. Pesticide licensing, quality testing, residue monitoring and enforcement determine both what reaches the farmer's field and whether the organic claim can be defended to a buyer. Residue monitoring carries particular weight, because a single detected residue in a consignment marketed as organic damages the price of every other consignment from the State. The State runs a Plant Protection and Integrated Pest Management scheme covering surveillance, farmer advisory and supply of bio-control agents, and this is the machinery to be strengthened rather than replaced.

Strategies

The State shall build one assured input system, in which every input that reaches a farmer, from seed and planting material to soil nutrition and plant protection material, is certified, traceable and consistent with Meghalaya's de facto organic character. The State shall regulate pesticides in a more systematic manner through strengthening and revamping existing mechanisms rather than through the creation of new institutions.

- **Input Materials** – The State Seed Certification Agency shall be strengthened to deliver quality seed and planting material procurement, certification, variety testing, registration and quality assurance across crops, progressively ending dependence on uncertified sources, and a State Seed Cooperative shall be constituted to secure availability alongside quality. State-run and community-run nurseries shall be promoted for production of quality planting material within the State.
- **Tissue culture and clean planting material** – The State shall enhance its tissue culture infrastructure through a multi-pronged approach. Existing facilities at BRDC, the Botanical Survey of India and the Department shall be upgraded with advanced virus-indexing and diagnostics aligned with the national Clean Plant Programme. A decentralised hub-and-spoke model shall be established, with satellite production and hardening units set up across districts in partnership with KVKs and FPOs, so that access is state-wide and the logistical barrier for farmers is reduced. Public-private partnership shall be promoted through convergence with existing schemes, with capital subsidy and land offered to entrepreneurs establishing commercial-scale laboratories. Dedicated capacity-building programmes shall train skilled technicians and orient farmers on the handling and benefits of tissue-cultured plants, so that the chain from mother plant maintenance to field establishment operates as a single system and quality planting material is available through the year.
- **Community Seed Systems**– Increase investment in Seed Village Programmes as a complement to the institutional seed mechanism, train community seed producers as a decentralised last-mile supply network, and formally integrate Community Seed Banks with documented protocols for conservation, multiplication and exchange of indigenous varieties.
- **Varietal Protection** – Prioritise registration and protection of Meghalaya-specific endemic agricultural varieties under the applicable legal frameworks, so that the communities that stewarded this diversity receive formal recognition and benefit-sharing entitlements.
- **Bio-input Production** – Promote individual and collective enterprises in vermicomposting, organic manure and bio-fertiliser production to ensure assured supply of bio-inputs across the State at affordable rates, building on the existing bio-fertiliser units established by the State and community organisations and on the Organic Manure Scheme.

- **Fertiliser quality regulation** – The regulatory machinery under the Fertiliser (Control) Order shall be strengthened through a defined inspection calendar for notified Fertilizer Inspectors, sampling and quality testing of consignments, and published action on adulteration and misbranding, so that the regulated supply model is enforced and not merely notified.
- **Pesticide regulation**– The State shall regulate synthetic pesticides in a systematic manner by strengthening and revamping existing mechanisms through the licensing of dealers and premises, quality testing of formulations, restriction of sale to notified clusters and crops in line with the fertiliser model, and enforcement action against unlicensed sale. The list of permitted and restricted molecules shall be reviewed against the requirements of NPOP certification, so that the State's regulatory position and its organic positioning state the same thing.
- **Surveillance and forecasting** – Pest and disease surveillance shall be systematised at cluster level and linked to the IT-based early warning system for crops so that advisory reaches farmers ahead of an outbreak rather than after it.
- **Plant protection for endemic varieties** – Crop-specific plant protection and integrated pest management packages shall be developed with research institutions for Meghalaya's endemic varieties 9, supported by bio-control laboratories and village bio-input units, so that the crops the State is commercialising have a defensible protection protocol that does not compromise organic certification.

Thrust Area 7 — Farm Mechanisation and Agri-Logistics

Rationale

Farm power is the input Meghalaya has least of as availability stands at approximately 0.7 kW per hectare against a national average of 2.0 kW (one of the lowest levels in the country) and roughly a third of what the average Indian farm commands. The consequence shows up as timeliness with land preparation, transplanting and harvesting all happening slowly and within narrow weather windows, making late operations lose yield.

Mechanisation and production infrastructure in the state build on the Vegetable Development Scheme which supplies improved seed and horticultural tools at a 50% subsidy. Over 3,456 power tillers have been distributed alongside power reapers, pump sets, rice hullers, paddy threshers and brush cutters, and machinery is hired out at a 60% subsidised rate through a Custom Hiring Centre network. The network is concentrated to a single machine type suited to a narrow range of operations, and equipment designed for flat, consolidated fields which performs poorly on terraces and contour plots. The standard equipment market does not solve this problem in Meghalaya, which means the State has to specify, test and procure for its own terrain.

Mechanisation only pays if the output can be transported. Last-mile gaps between production clusters and aggregation points translate directly into high logistics costs, extended transit times and post-harvest losses. In a hill state, road, power and connectivity investment along the production geography is agricultural investment, and this Policy treats it as such rather than leaving it to be negotiated scheme by scheme.

Strategies

The State shall close the farm power gap with equipment built for its own terrain, and shall plan the roads, power and cold chain that carry the output as part of the same decision. Mechanisation and logistics shall be planned against production geography rather than against administrative boundaries.

- **Custom Hiring Centres** – Expand and diversify the Custom Hiring Centre network beyond power tillers towards equipment built for contour cultivation, terrace management and hillside harvesting, with the machine mix for each centre specified against the cropping system of its cluster.
- **Farm power gap** – The gap between the State's 0.7 kW per hectare and the national average of 2.0 kW shall be treated as a defined infrastructure deficit to be progressively closed, with an annual target and reported progress rather than an open-ended subsidy programme.
- **Hill-appropriate equipment development** – Equipment suited to Meghalaya's slopes shall be identified, tested and adapted in partnership with research institutions, alongside field validation through Custom

Hiring Centres before scale procurement, so that machinery is selected on demonstrated performance on terraces rather than on catalogue specification.

- **Cluster-to-market connectivity** – Connectivity between production clusters and aggregation points shall be prioritised in annual road development plans through convergence with the Public Works (Roads and Bridges) Department, so that road investment follows agricultural production geography.
- **Agri-logistics and cold chain** – Agri-logistics hubs shall be developed at strategic points on the cluster-to-market route, with refrigerated transport and solar-powered cold chain serving off-grid areas, and rural electrification directed specifically to agri-processing and cold chain zones. These assets shall form the tertiary tier of the integrated cold chain, rather than a parallel network.
- **Connectivity as agricultural infrastructure** – Mobile and broadband connectivity in farming areas shall be treated as agricultural infrastructure and pursued accordingly, since digital advisory, traceability and market intelligence all depend on it.

Thrust Area 8 — Agricultural Research, Extension and Advisory Services

Rationale

Extension is the mechanism through which agricultural knowledge, whether scientific, indigenous or field-derived, reaches the farmer and translates into practice. In a State where most of the population farms across dispersed hill communities, every objective of this Policy, from productivity and organic certification to collective marketing and climate adaptation, depends at its point of application on the farmer receiving credible guidance in a form and language they can act upon. Certification protocols, integrated pest management, climate-resilient practice and collective marketing are all instructions that need to be delivered in regional languages to farming households.

The State's existing architecture is substantial, and its field strength is set out through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) are the primary extension support at the district level, bridging research and farm practice through local training, testing of new crop varieties and demonstration of modern technologies; their work includes development of the cold-tolerant Megha I, II and III paddy varieties for Meghalaya's altitude and temperature conditions. The Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) is the principal extension institution delivering farmer field schools and block-level coordination. The Meghalaya Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (MAMETI) serves as the training backbone, Village Data Volunteers (VDVs) carry advisory and data collection to village level, and Farm Managers bridge production and organised markets. Training of Rural Education Youth for Self-Employment in Farm-Based Activities (TREYSEFA), an initiative of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, has provided vocational training to rural youth with seed funding for its top graduates.

Strategies

The State shall develop extension into a professional, two-way knowledge service, carrying science, scheme and market intelligence outward to the most remote farming household, and carrying farmer knowledge back into research, in the languages farmers speak and through the institutions they trust.

- **Revitalise ATMA** – Reorient staffing and competencies towards Meghalaya's conditions and crops, building specialist expertise in soil science, organic farming, crop protection, climate-resilient cultivation, value chains and post-harvest technology. Extension officers shall be positioned as domain professionals and knowledge partners to collectives, supported by institutionalised capacity-building partnerships with KVKs, ICAR, NEHU and other technical institutions.
- **Village Data Volunteer** – Village Data Volunteers shall operate as a two-way conduit, carrying advisories, crop calendars, weather-linked guidance and scheme information outward, and carrying farmer observation, varietal experience and community feedback back into extension planning, supported by structured curricula, defined roles, reliable remuneration and career pathways, with formal operational integration into ATMA block teams, PRIME Hubs and collectives.

- **Traditional Ecological Knowledge** – Recognise, document and scientifically validate Traditional Ecological Knowledge in partnership with indigenous governance institutions and research institutions and build it into all research, extension and training content.
- **Farmer-anchored research** – Research priorities for institutions shall be set through a structured participatory process involving ATMA, farmer collectives and indigenous governance institutions, covering varietal improvement for focus and indigenous crops, slope-appropriate mechanisation, climate resilience, post-harvest technology and the characterisation of indigenous varieties, with the KVK network as the field-level research-to-extension interface.
- **Last-mile Reach** – Deliver crop advisory content in Khasi, Garo and local languages through voice, video and applications, treating mobile connectivity in farming areas as advisory infrastructure.
- **Targeted Outreach** – Increase reach to women farmers, marginalised communities and the most remote blocks through a defined, monitored performance obligation, with disaggregated data reported in the annual sector performance review.

Thrust Area 9 — Strategic Crops

Rationale

The State's strategic crops is identified against two stated criteria: the area a crop already occupies in the cropping pattern of the State, and the value that crop can carry to a market that shall pay for it. Area establishes what the policy is obliged to address, because a crop occupying a large share of the cultivated area shapes farm incomes whether or not the State promotes it. Potential establishes where additional public investment changes the return. A crop qualifying on either count is a strategic crop, and the two criteria together are what make the selection defensible rather than arbitrary.

The list in this thrust area is accordingly the current output of the criteria, and Section 9b sets out the standing process by which crops enter and leave it.

Meghalaya holds a distinct comparative advantage in high-value, low-volume commodities, rooted in its agro-climatic conditions, biodiversity, traditional farming systems and naturally low use of agrochemicals, with fertiliser consumption at 17 kg per hectare. High-value and low-volume is the only portfolio that survives the State's distance from major markets, because freight cost per kilogram is the same for a commodity crop and a premium one while the price each can carry is not. The State envisions a shift from a production-driven system to a market-led, value chain-driven economy, in which farmers participate across the entire chain, from production and aggregation through processing, branding and marketing.

Value capture remains constrained by fragmented production systems, limited aggregation, inadequate post-harvest infrastructure, low processing levels, limited access to organised markets and limited private investment. The commercial case is proven for individual consignments. GI registration has been secured for Lakadong Turmeric, Khasi Mandarin and Memang Narang, and GI-tagged Khasi Mandarin has reached premium retail in Dubai. What has not been proved is the ability to hold quality and volume across a season. A mission designed as an area-expansion programme raises volume without securing a buyer, and additional volume in a perishable crop without storage or a contracted market produces the price collapse. This thrust area is therefore organised in two parts: value chain development, which starts at the market and works back to the farm gate, and strategic crop planning, which states the State's position on each major crop.

The second part exists because a crop policy must respond to the cropping pattern that is actually there. Rice is the staple and the largest crop by area, and its production has fallen over the last five years. Arecanut is the second largest crop by area and has expanded steadily without any State programme promoting it. Broom grass has spread across degraded and marginal land, partly on the strength of livelihood support the State itself provided. None of these are crops the State is promoting, and a policy silent on the crops occupying the largest shares of its cultivated area is not a crop policy. Stating a position on a crop the State does not intend to expand is as much a policy decision as stating one on a crop it does.

9a. Strategies: Value Chain Development

Value chain development begins at the market and works back to the farm gate. For each strategic crop the State shall first establish who the buyer is, at what specification, at what price and in what volume, and shall then determine the processing, storage, logistics, aggregation and production required to serve that buyer. Investment shall follow the market plan and area shall not be expanded ahead of it. The State shall pursue this in mission mode, bringing government, farming communities, technical institutions and private enterprise together in a time-bound framework, with each strategic crop developed end to end.

- **Market-back planning** – Every strategic crop shall be developed against a market development plan that identifies target markets and buyers, product specification and quality standards, price benchmarks, and the volume and delivery calendar the buyer requires, before the production, aggregation and infrastructure plan is drawn to meet it. Missions shall be appraised against contracted or committed offtake rather than against area covered.
- **Private sector participation** – The State shall bring private enterprise into strategic crop value chains as investor, processor, technology provider and buyer, through the Community-Public-Private Partnership (CPPP) model, buy-back and contract arrangements, empanelment of service providers for end-to-end services, and dedicated investment facilitation for agro-enterprise. Private participation is stated here as an instrument of the policy in its own right, not as a residual left to follow from other interventions, and is the route by which technology, working capital and market access enter the chain at a scale public investment alone will not reach.
- **High-end processing** – The State shall promote high-end processing units alongside primary processing, so that the margin retained within the State rises with each unit of produce handled. This includes extraction of oleoresins, curcumin and essential oils, freeze drying and cold-pressing, specialty grading and packing, and nutraceutical and ingredient-grade production. The Bio-Curcumin extraction unit established under Mission Lakadong, producing oleoresin, curcumin and curcumin capsules, is the working precedent for what a high-end unit does to the realisable price of a crop, and comparable units shall be pursued for other strategic chains. Assistance shall be extended to individual entrepreneurs, farmer collectives and private investors alike, with solar-powered installations encouraged to contain operating cost.
- **Post-harvest and logistics** – Cold chain, pre-cooling, controlled-atmosphere and reefer capacity, sorting and grading centres at farm level, warehouses and collection centres shall be planned against the delivery calendar of each market plan rather than distributed evenly, and a phytosanitary laboratory shall be established to enable certification for export.
- **Aggregation and traceability** – Strategic crop production shall be organised through the cluster, collective and PRIME Hub architecture, so that mission investment converts into aggregated, quality-assured and traceable supply rather than into dispersed area under crop.

9b. Strategies: Strategic Crop Planning and Diversification

This section states the position of the State on each major crop by area, including crops the State does not intend to promote, and sets out how crops enter and leave the strategic list. A crop occupying a large share of the cultivated area requires a stated position whether or not it is a crop the State would choose to expand, and declining to expand a crop is itself a position that farmers, district administrations and investors are entitled to read in the policy.

- **Rice** – Rice is the staple and the largest crop by area in the State, with 79,358 ha under Sali paddy and 15,939 ha under Boro paddy, together 37.62% of the net sown area, at an average yield of 2,388 kg/ha against a national average of 2,607 kg/ha. Production has declined over the last five years. Seed multiplied and supplied to farmers, including through the Autonomous District Councils, is predominantly white rice, and the movement of farmers away from red, brown and sticky landraces they previously grew appears to follow the seed that reaches them. The State shall make a stronger and deliberate effort to encourage cultivation of local rice varieties, including sticky, red and brown rice, which are more resilient to local growing conditions and carry higher market and export potential than the white varieties displacing them, and shall commit a defined share of the area under rice, and of the seed multiplied through State farms, seed villages and the District Councils, to local varieties.

- **Areca nut** – Areca nut is the second largest crop by area in the State and has expanded steadily over the last decade in the absence of any State programme promoting it, driven by high returns and by its place in the social and cultural traditions of the people of the State. The State shall protect the interests of existing growers, through disease management for bud rot, quality planting material, processing support and market linkage, but shall not encourage or incentivise expansion of areca nut into new areas.
- **Broom grass** – Broom grass occupies approximately 26,000 hectares per the latest Agriculture Census. The State shall protect the interests of existing growers, through drying, grading and bundling units at cluster level, branding under Meghalaya NTFP and organic labels, aggregation and direct market linkage through FPOs and SHGs, and continued exemption from tax duties, royalties and levies, but shall not encourage or incentivise expansion of broom grass into new areas. Where the State has supported broom grass under livelihood schemes, this was stopgap livelihood support extended on degraded, steep and marginal land and on jhum fallow, and does not constitute an area expansion strategy. The safeguards already adopted continue to apply, namely that cultivation is permitted only on degraded, steep, marginal or jhum fallow land and not on natural forest or prime agricultural land, that broom is integrated with nitrogen-fixing shrubs and light-canopy trees with 10-20% native vegetation retained within plantations, that field burning is discouraged through no-burn guidelines, and that broom areas are digitally mapped to monitor expansion and compliance.
- **Cashew** – Cashew occupies 10,616 hectares (Statistics Report 2022-23), concentrated in West and South Garo Hills.
- **Introduction of new high value crops** – The State shall maintain a standing process for evaluating and adopting new high value crops, rather than relying on a fixed list. A crop proposed for adoption shall be assessed on agro-climatic suitability and trial performance across the relevant zones, assessed market demand and realisable price, availability and cost of planting material, processing and post-harvest requirement, and returns per unit area against the crop it would displace. Crops clearing the assessment shall be taken up for value chain development under Section 9a and shall enter the strategic list; crops that do not clear it shall not be promoted through State programmes, and crops already on the list whose market position no longer holds shall leave it. Evaluation shall draw on ICAR-NEH, the State Agricultural University and market research commissioned for the purpose.
- **Existing crop missions** – Crop missions already operating are referenced here as delivery vehicles rather than presented as the State's list of focus crops. These include Mission Lakadong for Lakadong turmeric, launched in 2018, with 15 Collective Marketing Centres and a bio-curcumin extraction unit established; the Ginger Mission and Spice Mission, launched in 2022-23; the Mushroom Mission, launched on 30 May 2019 with a target of 5,000 MT annually, supported by the Mushroom Development Centre at Upper Shillong and the Shiitake Mushroom Production and Training Centre inaugurated on 5 March 2024; Floriculture Mission 1.0, launched in March 2024 with an investment of ₹240 crore over three years; and continuing interventions in apiculture and in Khasi Mandarin, including orchard rejuvenation and replacement of senile orchards. Each mission shall be reviewed against the market-back test set out in Section 9a, and mission design shall be revised where a mission is operating as an area-expansion programme without a corresponding market plan.
- **Diversification of the cropping pattern** – Beyond the position taken on individual crops, the State shall pursue diversification as a distinct objective, principally by bringing rice fallows into a second crop of oilseeds, pulses or winter vegetables where irrigation permits, by supporting intercropping and mixed cropping in plantation and agroforestry systems in place of expanding monocrop area, and by strengthening the seed and planting material base for local and climate-resilient crops, including millets, tuber crops and local vegetable varieties, through seed villages, community seed banks and State gene

banks. Diversification reduces exposure to the price and disease risk that a narrowing cropping pattern concentrates, and is measured at the level of area diversified rather than by targets for individual crops.

Thrust Area 10 — Post-Harvest Infrastructure and Cold Chain

Rationale

Post-harvest losses are among the most significant drains on farmer incomes in Meghalaya. National estimates place post-harvest losses in fruits and vegetables at 15–30%, with hill economies typically at the upper end of the band owing to fragmented production, long evacuation distances and limited cold-chain penetration. In the absence of organised aggregation, grading, storage and processing between farm gate and market, a substantial share of the State's perishable produce is either lost in transit or sold at distress prices. For the farmer these are the same event: produce that cannot be held is produce that has to be sold at whatever the buyer offers on the day. Post-harvest infrastructure is therefore simultaneously a loss-reduction measure and a price-bargaining measure.

Total cold storage capacity in the State stands at 8,200 metric tonnes, together with a limited number of refrigerated vans. These assets remain underutilised and inefficient because they are not integrated into a comprehensive cold chain. Produce that is not pre-cooled at the farm gate arrives at storage already deteriorating, and storage without refrigerated evacuation only defers the loss to the next stage. The problem is therefore one of continuity rather than of capacity alone, and it is addressed by connecting the points rather than by adding isolated ones.

The deeper consequence is the absence of value capture within the State. With limited local value addition, farmers participate in commodity markets only at the lowest end of the value chain, ceding the bulk of the margin to intermediaries and out-of-State processors, and the margin lost to out-of-State processing is larger than the margin lost to spoilage. A tiered post-harvest and processing network would correct this imbalance, strengthen producer bargaining power and translate into measurable gains in farm-gate realisation.

The PRIME Hub network is the State's principal instrument here. Of the total 55 hubs, 8 are operational and have processed over 1,000 MT to date. That is enough to establish that the model works and not enough to conclude that it scales, and the difference between the two turns on whether the remaining hubs are commissioned as operating businesses with an operator, working capital and a customer, or as completed assets.

Strategies

The State shall build a tiered, hub-and-spoke post-harvest network, community-owned at its base and professionally run throughout, so that produce is graded, cooled, stored and processed as close to the farm as possible and every stage of value addition, from shelf-life extension to high-order extraction, is captured within Meghalaya.

- **PRIME Hubs as Block-level Anchors** – Each hub shall be strengthened to cater to approximately 20 production clusters, housing large-scale processing configured to the principal produce of the block, whether bio-curcumin extraction from Lakadong Turmeric, freeze-dried fruit products from pineapple and banana, or super-critical fluid extraction of spices, while functioning as a service platform for capacity building, credit access and agripreneur development. The network shall be completed across all blocks as functional, revenue-generating units rather than asset-creation exercises.
- **Integrated cold chain** – A decentralised hub-and-spoke cold chain shall be established to create seamless linkages from farm gate to market, in place of the fragmented storage points that exist today. Primary collection and aggregation centres with pre-cooling facilities shall be set up at village and cluster level. These shall feed secondary hubs with larger cold storage units at strategic district locations. Tertiary facilities, including refrigerated vans and pack houses, shall complete the chain for transportation to wholesale markets and processing centres. The chain shall cover the full value chain for perishable horticultural produce including fruits, vegetables and flowers, and shall be implemented in partnership with FPOs, cooperatives and private entrepreneurs, leveraging central schemes such as

the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.

- **Village and Cluster-level Spokes** – Develop and strengthen micro-processing units, cold storages, collection and grading facilities, shade nets, crates, warehouses and farmers' markets that enable farmers to access fresh produce markets while feeding graded and partially processed material into the hub network for higher-order value addition.
- **Community Public-Private Partnership (CPPP)** – Institutionalise farmer collectives in a CPPP model in which farmers retain ownership of infrastructure and private partners contribute technology, processing know-how, quality systems and market access, combining community legitimacy with private-sector operational discipline.
- **Collective Capability** – Farmer collectives shall be progressively built up to own and manage post-harvest infrastructure at the spoke level, with structured handholding on operations, maintenance, working capital and revenue management. Solar-powered cold chain shall serve off-grid areas, in convergence with the rural electrification and cold chain provisions of Thrust Area 7.
- **Scientific storage and handling capacity** – Capacity building of farmers, collective office bearers and supply chain operators in scientific storage, pre-cooling, grading and handling practice shall be an integral component of every cold chain investment, so that the asset is operated to the standard its design assumes.
- **Commissioning standard** – No hub or spoke shall be treated as complete on construction. Each shall be commissioned against a named operator, an approved business plan, secured working capital and an identified buyer, with utilisation reported annually.

Thrust Area 11 — Market Development, Branding and Export Promotion

Rationale

Meghalaya's production base in high-value horticulture, organic crops and GI-tagged commodities is not matched by its trading systems. Most crops are traded through informal *baghan* booking arrangements, in which external traders procure standing crop directly from farms or village clusters, so that a large share of the State's produce is sold before it is harvested and carried out of the State by the buyer. These arrangements provide immediate liquidity, and they also limit transparent price discovery, weaken producer bargaining power and allow a significant share of value to be captured outside the State. The constraint is felt most acutely in organic and niche produce, where the premium depends on traceability, certification, branding and direct buyer access, each of which farm-gate procurement by an intermediary removes.

With a single regulated market in the State, there is no published reference price for most crops, and a farmer negotiating with a trader is negotiating without information. Price discovery, rather than selling capacity, is the missing infrastructure. The regulated market at Mawiong demonstrates what a market yard does that an informal transaction cannot: it brings buyers and sellers to a common place at a common time, records the transaction, and produces a price that other farmers can see. Its trade is narrow, running primarily in bay leaf and broomgrass, but the institutional form is sound, and replicating and expanding it is the basis of the State's market infrastructure strategy.

The statutory basis already exists. Under the Meghalaya State Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, the Meghalaya State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB) is empowered to establish markets within a market area and provide facilities for the purchase, sale, storage, weighment and processing of agricultural produce; to exercise superintendence, direction and control over the marketing of agricultural produce in the market area; and to take such measures as bring complete transparency to the pricing system and to transactions within it. What has been missing is the yard network through which those powers reach farmers, and the licensed trader base to transact in it. Trader participation has been held back by the absence of a simple, portable licence and by the perception that volumes are too small and too scattered to justify entry.

Market-oriented interventions have demonstrated clear potential. The Meghalaya Collectives brand serves as a facilitating identity for community institutions, giving cooperatives that lack brands of their own a shared, fairtrade-style aggregator identity in the marketplace. Commodity platforms including the Meghalaya Pineapple Festival, Zest Fest for Khasi Mandarin and the Strawberry Festival have built visibility and enabled direct producer-buyer engagement. Buyer-Seller Meets conducted with APEDA and IFOAM have linked farmer collectives to domestic and international buyers, and initial export consignments have been dispatched to the Middle East, South-East Asia, Europe and North America. The Marketing Board has served as a channel for government support to farmers facing distress sales, with CM ASSURE providing a guaranteed price for selected non-perishable commodities. These initiatives establish that demand exists at premium prices; what remains untested is whether supply can be held to standard across a season. The task now is the transition from episodic market access to sustained, scalable value realisation.

Strategies

The State shall move its produce from informal farm-gate transactions to organised, branded and traceable trade, building the market infrastructure, the brand "Meghalaya" and the buyer relationships through which the premium on Meghalaya's produce is earned by its farmers rather than captured beyond its borders.

- **Regulated market yard network** – The Mawiong model shall be replicated and expanded through 3 to 5 main market yards sited on production geography across Ri Bhoi, East Khasi Hills, the Garo Hills and the Jaintia Hills, each supported by sub-yards providing storage, weighment, grading and loading at cluster level. Yards shall be equipped with auction platforms, cold storage drawn from the network with grading and packaging lines, logistics support, displayed price boards and facilities for electronic trading, so that bulk selling and onward transportation are handled at a single point.
- **Market governance** – Each market shall be governed by a Market Committee constituted under MSAMB, comprising MSAMB officials, representatives of farmer producer organisations, licensed traders and local agriculture and horticulture officers, so that producers hold a formal seat in the governance of the market they sell in. Each market shall be administered by a Secretary cum Executive Officer supported by establishment, accounts, market supervision and auction recording functions, with staffing sanctioned before the yard is commissioned.
- **Farmer-centric Market Infrastructure** – Alongside the regulated yards, farmer-owned and collective-governed market infrastructure shall be developed across key production clusters, integrated with aggregation centres and PRIME Hubs, with structured trading systems including digital platforms and auction mechanisms for transparent price discovery.
- **Brand Meghalaya** – Carry the State's high-value, low-volume products into domestic and international markets under a unified brand identity, anchored in the Meghalayan Age and Meghalaya Collectives platforms and sustained through trade events, retail presence and digital marketing, with standardised packaging, quality assurance and traceability protocols across all participating institutions, extended to value-added and processed products.
- **Institutionalised Market Promotion** – Formalise commodity festivals into an annual state-wide market engagement calendar integrated with buyer outreach, export promotion and retail partnerships, with farmers, FPCs and IVCSs as primary stakeholders.
- **Domestic and Export Market Linkages** – Deepen partnerships with APEDA and export promotion agencies, prioritise high-value markets and pursue cluster-based export development towards sustained trade flows. Equip FPCs, IVCSs and cooperatives to serve these markets through international standards training, certification systems, quality testing, documentation, and access to finance and logistics. In parallel, facilitate structured linkages with organised retail, modern trade, wholesalers and institutional buyers, supported by assistance for trial consignments, packaging, logistics and compliance, with risk-sharing during early market engagement.

- **Institutional procurement** – Government hospitals, schools, hostels and canteens shall progressively source certified local produce, creating an assured demand floor for collectives that is not dependent on external buyers.
- **Market Intervention Schemes** – Protecting farm incomes during a price drop shall be a priority for the Department. CM ASSURE is an example of such an intervention for non-perishable crops. These schemes are activated only during distress seasons and target small and marginal farmers. Their trigger, coverage and quantum shall be stated in advance, and shall be supported where necessary by buffer stocking at the market yards, since a price crash is also the precipitating event for the household distress.
- **Digital and Direct-to-Consumer Channels** – Enable access to e-commerce, quick commerce and digital retail, and develop the state-supported digital marketplace under the Meghalaya Collectives brand for direct farmer-to-buyer transactions. A State agricultural market portal and mobile application shall carry farmer and trader registration, daily price updates, online bidding, real-time visibility of arrivals and stock, and a farmer grievance channel, operating on the data architecture established.

Thrust Area 12 — Agri-Enterprise and Youth Engagement

Rationale

The long-term sustainability and competitiveness of Meghalaya's agricultural sector depends on the participation of youth. A significant proportion of rural youth are disengaging from agriculture, driven by perceptions of low profitability, high risk and limited opportunity for skill-based advancement, and the trend carries structural risks of declining labour availability, reduced innovation and weakening local food systems. Those perceptions are a reasonable reading of the returns as they stand: a sub-hectare holding without aggregation, storage or a contracted buyer does not support a career. Production at scale through the cluster approach therefore matters here because it addresses the returns and the risk that drive young people away, rather than the perception alone.

At the same time, Meghalaya can position agriculture as a knowledge-driven, enterprise-oriented sector, working from high-value and niche crops with premium market potential, strong community institutions capable of collective enterprise, and expanding digital platforms. Opportunities in processing, branding, logistics, agri-services and agro-tourism extend the scope for youth to engage beyond primary production. Custom hiring, nursery and bio-input production, aggregation, cold chain, traceability and advisory are all businesses that the rest of this Policy creates demand for, and each is a route into the sector that does not require the young entrant to own land. This Policy recognises youth as entrepreneurs, service providers and value chain leaders as well as future farmers.

PRIME Meghalaya offers a suite of funding instruments supporting entrepreneurs at different stages of their business journey, and the Farm Manager programme, has placed trained young professionals at cluster level as field-level catalysts linking farmers, institutions and markets. Together these form a pipeline from training to capital, and its weakest link is the transition from trained graduate to financed operating business, since incubation support cannot substitute for a viable underlying enterprise.

Strategies

The State commits to establishing agriculture as a first-choice enterprise for young people in Meghalaya, so that a young entrant with a workable idea can find the incubation support, capital, skills and market connection needed to build and run an agri-enterprise.

1. **PRIME Hubs as Gateways to Rural Entrepreneurship** – Strengthen PRIME Hubs as the primary institutional mechanism for youth engagement, providing business incubation, support for enterprise planning, registration and compliance, facilitation of market linkages and branding, and advisory services on value addition, functioning as convergence points for technical agencies, financial institutions and market actors.

2. **PRIME Funds** – Strengthen and expand the coverage of PRIME funding for investment in youth-led agri-enterprises, providing co-investment, equity support and catalytic capital for early-stage ventures, prioritising first-generation and women-led entrepreneurs, with risk-sharing mechanisms that lower the entry barrier.
3. **Farm Manager Programme** – Scale and strengthen the Farm Manager programme as a core component of the agri-entrepreneurship ecosystem, expanding coverage across clusters, providing vocational pathways in agriculture, agribusiness and value chain management, and establishing demonstration farms and enterprise models.
4. **Agro-Tourism** – Develop complementary livelihoods comprising farm stays and community-based tourism enterprises, produce-based circuits including plantation visits and indigenous produce harvest experiences, integrated with the State's tourism infrastructure and supported with capacity building and market linkage for commercial viability.
5. **Skill Development** – Strengthen skill development for modern and climate-smart practices, processing and packaging, enterprise management, financial literacy and digital skills, and certification systems covering organic, GI and export standards, delivered through KVKs, ATMA, MAMETI, TREYSEFA and other specialised training agencies, aligned with market opportunities.
6. **Youth Participation** – Strengthen existing agri-related schemes and support prioritising youth participation in agriculture-linked service enterprises such as custom hiring centres, input supply and nurseries, tissue culture and hardening units, aggregation, logistics and cold chain, and advisory services, with active integration into e-commerce, direct-to-consumer platforms and the Meghalaya Collectives digital marketplace.

Thrust Area 13 — Rural Financial Inclusion

Rationale

Affordable credit and reliable insurance are foundational to agricultural investment, yet Meghalaya's farmers operate at the margins of the formal financial system. Banking penetration remains among the lowest in the country, and customary, community-based land ownership has historically prevented farmers from offering collateral acceptable to commercial lenders. Collateral, rather than creditworthiness, is what excludes them: community-held land under customary tenure cannot be mortgaged, so lending here depends on guarantee and institutional design. In the absence of formal credit, working capital and post-harvest financing are met through informal lenders at exploitative rates, at which a single failed season converts into long-term debt. A parallel deficit exists in risk transfer, where limited experience with formal insurance and low claim awareness have produced deep-seated mistrust.

The State's interventions have begun rebuilding this relationship through several routes. Direct income transfers under PM-KISAN now reach farmers whose customary land records are accepted for enrolment, a change secured through sustained engagement by the State, with beneficiaries at 1,96,748 and cumulative disbursement of ₹39.23 crore. Under the State's FOCUS scheme, ₹139.36 crore has been disbursed to 2,20,487 beneficiaries through producer groups between 2021-22 and 2025-26, which have become the working channel for public resources.

On the credit side, the State operates a 4% Prompt Repayment Incentive on the Kisan Credit Card over and above the Government of India's 3% interest subvention, making the Card effectively concessional for farmers who repay on time. The behavioural response is measurable: prompt repayers rose to 21,252 in 2025, and incentive disbursement increased from ₹4.1 crore in 2018 to ₹7.09 crore in 2025. Life Cooperative (formerly LIFCOM), extends working capital to farmer collectives that commercial banks would not otherwise lend to, disbursing ₹59 crore to 392 collectives between 2021 and 2026.

Risk transfer is addressed through Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), where the State bears close to half the total premium and has met 100% of the farmers' share for holdings up to one acre since 2023-24, paying

₹2,690 per farmer for Ginger, ₹341 for Sali Paddy and ₹270 for Boro Paddy. Enrolment has risen from 693 farmers in 2018 to 47,749 in Kharif 2024 and 70,605 in Kharif 2025, and claim disbursement of ₹9.56 crore to 18,952 farmers during Kharif 2024 showed farmers the value of insurance at scale for the first time.

Strategies

The State commits to ensuring that every farmer and farmer collective in Meghalaya can access credit for production and post-harvest operations and can transfer risk through affordable insurance. The State's role is to enable rather than to lend on its own and it shall underwrite the cost of insurance, absorb part of the cost of credit, and build the institutional and guarantee structures that make banks willing to lend to farmers whose land cannot serve as collateral.

- **Direct Benefit Transfers** – Increase DBT-based income support under PM-KISAN and FOCUS, with producer groups consolidated as the reliable channel for last-mile transfer of public resources.
- **Kisan Credit Card** – The Prompt Repayment Incentive shall be sustained and strengthened, with KCC coverage expanded to all members of farmer collectives including horticulture and allied activities, progressively linked to membership rolls on the Meghalaya One platform.
- **Meghalaya Livelihoods and Investment Financing Co-operative Society Ltd (LIFE CO-OP)**– This institution shall be repositioned and strengthened as the principal financing institution for farmer collectives, with professional management, robust appraisal and structured linkages to commercial banks and refinance windows, so that working capital reaches collectives through the banking system rather than through the State alone.
- **Crop Insurance**– Support under PMFBY shall be expanded as a deliberate measure to overcome scepticism, with insurance progressively linked to all farm loans and outreach channelled through collectives. Insurance of the farmer, as distinct from insurance of the crop, and shall be enrolled through the same collective channel.
- **Complementary Instruments** – Credit guarantee facilities shall be developed for FPOs and women-led enterprises lacking conventional collateral, and Negotiable Warehouse Receipt lending against produce stored in PRIME Hubs and spokes shall be built to prevent distress sales at harvest.
- **Credit Counselling** – Credit Counselling Centres shall be established across districts to provide neutral, farmer-facing advisory on credit products, insurance and digital financial services, so that the decision to borrow is an informed one.

Thrust Area 14 — Technology in Agriculture

Rationale

Technology, including digital data, remote sensing and precision inputs, carries transformative potential for farmers, but only when translated into outputs that are accessible, affordable and actionable at farm level. Meghalaya sits at a productive but underutilised intersection, with agro-ecological diversity and a growing national infrastructure of digital agricultural tools on one side, and a farming population on sub-acre holdings across steep, remote, low-connectivity terrain on the other. Precision outputs do not survive the last mile on their own: satellite and sensor data has to be turned into a spoken instruction in Khasi or Garo by someone the household knows, or it does not change what happens in the field. This Policy commits to mediating that intersection, so that data systems serve farm-level decisions rather than departmental reporting alone, and research priorities are anchored in Meghalaya's specific agro-ecological needs.

The Central Government's Digital Agriculture Mission, approved in September 2024 with a national outlay of ₹2,817 crore, is building the national AgriStack comprising a farmers' registry, geo-referenced village maps and a crop sown registry, and Meghalaya is participating actively. The Krishi Decision Support System integrates satellite, weather, soil, crop signature and groundwater data into a unified geospatial platform. Real-time market price data is disseminated through the Marketing Board's digital platform from market nodes across the State, which shows the delivery pathway working for one data type. A verified digital identity for each farming household is the connection point to credit, insurance and input support, which makes the registry the delivery route for the entitlements under various schemes and missions, rather than a reporting system.

Strategies

The State commits to using technology as an enabler rather than an end in itself, building systems that make scheme delivery transparent and accountable, and that put usable, timely information in the hands of every farmer, including those in the State's most remote blocks.

- **Unified State Agri Data Stack** – A single, interoperable platform combining the farmer registry, soil health database, crop maps, weather data and real-time market prices shall be a priority initiative of the Department. It shall serve as the operational foundation for planning, scheme delivery and monitoring, with the goal that every farming household holds a verified digital identity connecting it to credit, insurance and input support. The Meghalaya One platform shall carry this registry, aligned with the Government of India's Digital Agriculture Mission, and shall provide the underlying data architecture for the State agricultural market portal.
- **Precision Agriculture** – Strengthen satellite-based crop monitoring, drone-assisted pest and disease surveillance and IoT-enabled soil and weather sensors, progressively deployed across focus crop clusters and translated into simple, actionable advisories through Village Data Volunteers rather than delivered as raw data.
- **Early Warning** – Develop an IT-based pest and disease forecasting system for principal focus crops, providing timely community-level alerts for targeted, evidence-based intervention, drawing on the cluster-level surveillance established under Thrust Area 6.
- **Protected Cultivation** – Polyhouses, shade nets and climate-controlled structures suited to Meghalaya's terrain and rainfall shall be scaled beyond pilot sites through collectives and PRIME Hubs, enabling year-round production of high-value vegetables and floriculture and reducing out-of-season imports**.**

Thrust Area 15 — Climate-Smart and Resilient Agriculture

Rationale

Agriculture in Meghalaya is tied to a fragile mountain ecosystem and is increasingly exposed to erratic rainfall, prolonged dry spells, extreme weather, soil erosion, pest and disease outbreaks and declining soil health. These pressures fall disproportionately on the State's predominantly rainfed smallholder farming systems, where climate risk is absorbed at household level and a single failed season becomes debt. At the same time, Meghalaya's forest cover, biodiversity, traditional farming knowledge and naturally low-input systems allow it to position itself as a leader in climate-smart and regenerative agriculture.

The State now has a spatially explicit evidence base for directing adaptation investment. The 2025 district-level climate vulnerability assessment identifies West Khasi Hills and East Garo Hills as the most vulnerable districts. The fiscal and institutional platform is also in place, through the Climate Action Budget and the GREEN Meghalaya programme, the first state-wide Payment for Ecosystem Services programme in India and the largest of its kind in Asia, under which over 54,000 hectares of natural forest have been conserved.

Evidence from the National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) project in the State shows what a working response looks like at household level. In NICRA villages, KVK-led interventions combining small water harvesting structures such as jalkunds for supplemental irrigation during dry spells, low-cost naturally ventilated polyhouses for off-season vegetable cultivation, and integrated farming systems combining crops with duck and fish rearing have raised system productivity and more than doubled net returns compared with conventional practice, while holding up better in years of climatic stress. Resilience is built through a package of practices adapted to a household's farming system typology rather than through single technologies applied uniformly, since vulnerability varies by altitude, slope and district and a practice that works in a Garo Hills valley does not transfer to a high-altitude Khasi Hills slope.

Strategies

The State commits to making every farming household in Meghalaya better able to withstand a low output season, by adopting proven climate-resilient farming system models across agro-ecological zones, and by ensuring that climate risk is planned for in advance rather than responded to after the loss. The State shall adopt a Climate-Smart and Resilient Agriculture approach integrating sustainable land and water management, climate-resilient crop planning, regenerative practices, ecosystem restoration, digital climate advisory and risk management into agricultural development planning.

- **Climate-resilient Farming Systems** – Diversification towards climate-resilient crops, integrated farming systems, agroforestry, mixed cropping and regenerative practices that raise productivity while reducing climate risk, with the NICRA package adapted to each farming system typology rather than applied uniformly.
- **Climate-resilient varieties** – Flood-tolerant, drought-resistant and altitude-adapted varieties shall become the default in all crop missions, developed and multiplied through the seed and planting material system.
- **Vulnerability-led targeting** – District-level climate vulnerability assessments for agriculture shall be institutionalised as crop-specific, community-level risk profiles, updated periodically and used to direct adaptation resources to the most exposed districts and blocks.
- **Climate Information Services** – Develop real-time weather-based agro-advisory, early warning for extreme weather, pest and disease surveillance and digital decision-support tools for farmers, integrated with the early warning system under Thrust Area 14.
- **Resilient Landscapes** – Strengthen existing climate-resilient practices such as agroforestry, bamboo-based farming systems, slope stabilisation, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem-based adaptation to minimise erosion and strengthen ecological resilience, with agroforestry and watershed management as standard components of all cluster development plans.
- **Climate finance for farmers** – Carbon credit and ecosystem service payment mechanisms shall be developed for organic and agroforestry farmers, extending the GREEN Meghalaya logic to agricultural land use so that Meghalaya's farmers can access emerging climate finance.
- **Research, Innovation and Capacity** – Expand and strengthen partnerships with research institutions, universities and development partners to advance climate-resilient technologies, indigenous knowledge systems and farmer capacity for adaptation.

7. Women in Agriculture

7.1 Overview

Meghalaya occupies a position that no other Indian state holds. Its 3 principal indigenous communities, the **Khasi, Jaintia and Garo**, are all matrilineal: descent is traced through the mother, ancestral property passes to the daughter, and the youngest daughter, the *Ka Khadduh*, inherits and holds the family land. Women decide what is grown, what is saved and what is sold. They keep the seed diversity on which the State's organic advantage rests, carry the greater share of farm labour, and manage the collection, processing and trade of non-timber forest produce. Nationally, over **84%** of rural women depend on farming for their livelihood, of whom about **47%** work as agricultural labourers and **33%** as cultivators. In the Khasi Hills, an estimated **55%** of rural women are engaged in forest-based livelihood activities, and village studies record women spending up to **80%** of their working day meeting the subsistence needs of the household.

This centrality is now institutional, not only customary. Under the IFAD-supported MEGHA-LAMP project (**2014–2026**, total cost **USD 205 million**, reaching **1,350 villages** and **85,176 households**), women moved from labour contribution to institutional leadership. **72,287** women are Producer Group members (**53.91%** of all members), **55,720** women hold shares in Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS), and every IVCS is required to have **at least 50% women** in its leadership.

Women in Meghalaya's agriculture: at a glance

72,287 women **Producer Group members — 53.91% of total membership (MEGHA-LAMP)**	**55,720 women** **IVCS shareholders; ≥50% women mandated in every IVCS leadership**	**42,978 / 10,651** **Women savings account holders / women loan account holders**	**2,27,907 women** **Beneficiaries reached under drudgery-reduction interventions**

Indigenous tradition frames every part of this picture. The Khasi ideology *'Long jait na ka kynthei'* ('from the woman sprang the clan') places the woman at the centre of family, property and religion. Women's indigenous ecological knowledge of edible and medicinal plants, water conservation and sacred groves has made them the State's de facto resource managers. Their working reality is also physical, with vegetable cultivation being largely manual, using tools designed for men, and produce being carried to market in the *kokcheng* bamboo basket.

7.2 Gaps in Existing Structures

While the customary practices regards women at the highest, they do not translate automatically into institutional access. Ownership of land passes through women, but control invariably lies with men. Authority over property is vested in the mother's brother, and women are traditionally excluded from the village dorbar (*dorbar shnong*), which does not admit them as members or hear their views directly. Women shoulder the field work but sit outside the forums where land, forests and village development are decided. Four structural gaps follow from this.

These gaps are compounded by drudgery from unsuitable tools and head-load transport, shrinking forest cover that lengthens collection journeys, the gradual conversion of community land (*Ri-raid*) to private ownership (*Ri-Kynti*), and severe gender-disaggregated data gaps. Women who farm often do not appear in official data at all, so decades of public investment in agriculture have bypassed a large share of the people who actually farm.

7.3 The Approach

Custom in Meghalaya honours women, and the State's producer institutions already seat them in the majority. What remains is narrower than empowerment in the usual sense, and harder. It is to convert customary standing into institutional access, so that the woman who farms is also the farmer of record, the borrower of record and the member whose voice is heard where land, forests and village development are decided. The instrument the State has for this is the Gender Budget.

Women form about 47% of Meghalaya's population, and hold the highest share of managerial positions among the North-Eastern states. Gender budgeting was introduced so that this participation is matched by public expenditure that is planned, tracked and answerable. The Gender Budget is drawn from 18 departments across 250 schemes and programmes for women and girls. Its purpose is convergence wherein it obliges departments that would otherwise plan separately to plan together, and it ties the State's gender commitments to its wider goals of reaching the top ten states in per capita income and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. This Policy places agriculture and allied sectors squarely within that framework. Every thrust area of this policy identifies women beneficiaries at the design stage rather than at the reporting stage and such gender related departmental allocations shall be reflected in the State's gender budget commitments.

7.4 Policy Strategies

The gaps above are the result of institutional design, and they can be corrected by design. This Policy commits to the following strategies, which apply across every thrust area.

1. **Recognition and registration**- Institute farmer-registration process that is local, cheap, rapid, transparent and accessible to women regardless of marital status; register women cultivators as farmers in their own name so they receive benefit transfers, credit and insurance directly. Publish gender-disaggregated data from across the value chain spectrum, annually.
2. **Finance**- Expand microfinance and microcredit to women farmers through the IVCS network (building on **89,025** deposit accounts and **₹49.2 crore** in loans already disbursed), develop lending products that accept customary tenure, and retain the **≥50% women** leadership norm in all cooperative institutions.
3. **Extension and Technology**- Recruit and deploy women extension workers, schedule training around women's domestic work, localise agronomic, pest and weather advisories, and supply tools, machinery and inputs adapted to women's needs and farm sizes through Custom Hiring Centres, scaling up drudgery-reduction interventions that have already reached **2,27,907 women**.
4. **Value Chains**- Guarantee women producers priority access to the hub-and-spoke infrastructure of **10 PRIME Hubs**, **297 Collective Marketing Centres**, **46 cold storages** and **50 farmers' markets**. Increase the number of women in marketing cooperatives and FPOs and provide entrepreneurship training and remote access to market price information so women sell directly and retain the income.
5. **Governance**- Work with traditional institutions to open village-level planning, forest management and *dorbar* processes to women's direct participation, so that governance on the resources women manage are no longer voiced only through male relatives.

Women in agriculture in Meghalaya stand at a very unique point. They own land, maintain seeds, make cropping decisions and hold the majority of shares in the State's producer institutions. The task of this Policy is therefore narrower, and harder, than empowerment in the usual sense. It is to convert customary standing into institutional access, so that the woman who farms is also the farmer of record, the borrower of record and the member whose voice is heard where land and forests are governed. Progress will be measured, not asserted, through the number of women registered as farmers in their own name, the share of credit and extension contacts reaching women, and women's movement up the value chain from cultivation into processing and marketing. This will be tracked through gender-disaggregated data published annually from the first year of implementation. A State whose clans spring from the mother should be the first in India where the systems of agriculture recognise her as fully as its traditions do.

8. Implementation Architecture

The ambitions of this Policy shall stand on the machinery that delivers them. This section sets out that machinery through a chain of accountability in 4 tiers, running from the Chief Secretary down to the village volunteer who faces the farmer, and every tier in it has a named chair, a fixed meeting frequency and a defined mandate.

The tier that does the working is the second. A State Policy Steering Committee under the Chief Secretary shall review the Policy once a year and correct its course. It shall be run quarterly under the Agriculture Production Commissioner.

The architecture follows four principles.

- **Convergence Over Duplication**- Existing institutions, missions and externally aided projects are brought within one framework rather than replicated.
- **Nodal Point of Accountability**- Every thrust area has one nodal department that answers for delivery, however many agencies contribute to it.
- **Accountability at Every Tier**- Each level of the structure has a named chair, a defined mandate and a reporting obligation to the tier above it.

Tier	Body	Chair	Frequency	Core mandate
One	State Policy Steering Committee	Chief Secretary	Annual	Annual review of the Policy as a whole; convergence issues referred upward; resource allocation across thrust areas; course correction.
Two	State Agriculture Convergence Committee	Agriculture Production Commissioner	Quarterly	The outcome indicator framework; convergence across supporting departments; each department held to its thrust area allocation.
Three	District Agriculture Policy Implementation Committee	Deputy Commissioner	Quarterly	The indicator framework disaggregated to the district, monitored through the annual district convergence plan.
Four	Block and cluster implementation, through ATMA, PRIME Hubs and KVKs	Project Director, ATMA	Quarterly return	Extension, aggregation and market access; field data collection; last-mile outreach.

8.1 Tier One: State Policy Steering Committee

Apex oversight of this Policy shall vest in a **State Policy Steering Committee**, chaired by the **Chief Secretary**. The Committee shall comprise the Commissioner and Secretary or Principal Secretaries of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Horticulture, Finance, Planning (Investment Promotion and Sustainable Development), Soil and Water Conservation, Water Resources, Cooperation, Fisheries, and Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, and the Forests and Environment Department. The Agriculture Production Commissioner shall be a member and shall place the record of the preceding four quarterly reviews before the Committee.

The Committee shall meet **once a year** and mandate is the annual review of policy performance against the outcome indicator framework, the resolution of convergence issues that the tier below it has been unable to settle, strategic decisions on resource allocation across the 15 thrust areas, and course correction.

8.2 Tier Two: State Agriculture Convergence Committee

The working tier of this Policy shall be a **State Agriculture Convergence Committee**, chaired by the **Agriculture Production Commissioner**. Its members shall be the supporting departments identified at Section 5.4 of this Policy, namely Planning (Investment Promotion and Sustainable Development), Soil and Water Conservation, Water Resources, Cooperation, Fisheries, and Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, together with the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and the Department of Horticulture as lead departments. The Commissioner and Secretary, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, shall be Member Secretary.

The Committee shall meet **once a quarter** and its mandate is threefold. It shall review the outcome indicator framework and the movement of each indicator against its baseline. It shall drive convergence across departments, which means settling in the room the questions of sequence, site and sharing of cost that would otherwise travel up as files. And it shall hold each department to the allocation it has accepted under each thrust area, department by department, quarter by quarter.

8.3 Tier Three: District Agriculture Policy Implementation Committee

Each district shall constitute a **District Agriculture Policy Implementation Committee**, chaired by the **Deputy Commissioner**, meeting **once a quarter**. Its mandate is to monitor the outcome indicator framework disaggregated to the district: the same indicators the State tracks, broken down so that a district can see its own position against the State target, and against the other 12 districts.

The Committee shall comprise the District Agriculture Officer, the District Horticulture Officer, the district officers of Soil and Water Conservation, Water Resources, Cooperation, Fisheries, and Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, the head of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, the Project Director of ATMA, the district representative of MBMA, and representatives of farmer producer companies and cooperative institutions operating in the district

The instrument through which the Committee works is the **annual district convergence plan**. This is a single document, prepared by the District Agriculture Officer under the direction of the Deputy Commissioner, which sets against each district-level indicator target for the year: the departmental schemes, mission funds and externally aided project resources available in the district; the agency answerable for each; and the physical target each is expected to deliver. It is placed before the Committee at its first meeting of the financial year, approved by the Deputy Commissioner, and reviewed at each subsequent quarterly meeting against what has actually been spent and delivered. The plan is what converts a State indicator into a district obligation with a name attached to it.

This tier is an addition of this Policy. At present agricultural outcomes are not discussed at district level in these terms at all: schemes are reported scheme-wise and department-wise, and no forum in the district holds the sector as a whole. The district committee is where the indicator framework acquires a geography, and where a shortfall becomes somebody's to explain.

8.4 Tier Four: Block, Cluster and Village

Delivery to the farmer runs through the field network described at Section 5.5. At block level the anchor is the **Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA)**, with 170+ block-level staff across the districts, working alongside 55 PRIME Hubs under development, of which 8 are operational, the Krishi Vigyan Kendras [number to be filled], 71 cluster Farm Managers, 382 Agriculture Response Vehicles, 110+ Custom Hiring Centres and 1,300+ Village Data Volunteers operating across 1,100+ clusters.

The mandate of this tier is the coordination of extension, aggregation, primary processing and market access at block and cluster level, and the collection of the field data on which every tier above it depends. Its reporting line is fixed as follows. Village Data Volunteers record field data monthly. The ATMA block office consolidates that record, together with the physical progress of the schemes running in the block, into a **quarterly block return**, which the Project Director submits to the District Agriculture Officer. The block returns of a district are the source of the district dashboard, and the District Agriculture Policy Implementation Committee shall take up the returns at each quarterly meeting. A block whose return is not filed shall be recorded as such in the minutes.

Each block shall prepare a **Block Action Plan** against the district convergence plan, using the same indicators, so that the line from a State target to a block activity can be read in one direction and reported back in the other. [Number of blocks in the State]

8.5 Indigenous Governance Integration

Meghalaya's traditional institutions are not an obstacle to implementation; they are part of the architecture. ***Dorbars, Nokmas* and traditional councils** shall be formally recognised and supported in local agricultural governance, and the Policy shall work through them rather than around them. Indigenous knowledge documentation and validation protocols shall be embedded in the extension and research systems, so that the knowledge held in villages enters the formal evidence base on equal terms. Farmer collectives shall be represented in planning and monitoring at cluster and block levels, and accessible grievance redressal mechanisms shall operate at village level, so that a farmer with a complaint does not need to travel beyond her village to lodge it.

These institutions support implementation at both the district and the block tier. Where a commitment under this Policy requires access to community land, water or forest, the district convergence plan shall record the traditional institution whose agreement is required and the stage at which it is to be obtained.

8.6 Nodal Accountability and Sequencing

The Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare is the overall nodal department for this Policy and leads implementation across all 15 thrust areas. Each thrust area shall in addition have one nodal department that answers for its delivery. All other departments and agencies act in support, grouped below by the function they contribute.

Land, Water & Climate	Production & Allied Sectors	Research, Extension & Skills
Soil & Water Conservation · Water Resources · Forests & Environment · Revenue & Disaster Management · State Disaster Management Authority · State Climate Change Cell · IMD, Shillong	Horticulture · Agriculture · Animal Husbandry & Veterinary · Fisheries · MEGNOLIA · Meghalaya State Organic Certification Body · MECOFED	ICAR–NEH, Umiam · Krishi Vigyan Kendras · ATMA · MAMETI · TREYSEFA
Collectives & Rural Institutions	**Markets, Processing & Enterprise**	**Finance, Infrastructure & Technology**
Cooperation Dept. & Registrar of Cooperative Societies · Community & Rural Development (MGNREGA, MSRLS) · FPCs & Integrated Village Cooperative Societies · Village Employment Councils	MBMA & PRIME Meghalaya · Meghalaya State Agricultural Marketing Board · Industries & Commerce, incl. Food Processing · Meghalayan Age Ltd. · APEDA · Tourism · Directorate of Food Processing (DoFP)	Finance Dept. · NABARD · Meghalaya Cooperative Apex Bank & Meghalaya Rural Bank · Public Works · Power Dept. & MeECL · IT & Communication, NIC & NESAC · North Eastern Council (NEC)

Within **one year** of the notification of this Policy, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare shall complete three things: finalise the baseline value of every outcome indicator in the framework; disaggregate each of those indicators district-wise across the 12 districts; and prepare the State action plan and the district convergence plans against the same set of indicators, so that all three documents can be read against one another. This commitment is written into the Policy because it is what makes the indicator framework operative rather than declaratory. Until the baselines exist, no tier of this architecture has anything to review.

8.7 Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

Implementation shall be tracked through a standing set of instruments, each with a fixed frequency and a named owner.

Instrument	Frequency	Responsibility
Performance review against KPIs	Annual	State Policy Steering Committee
Review of the outcome indicator framework	Quarterly	State Agriculture Convergence Committee, chaired by the Agriculture Production Commissioner
District dashboards	Quarterly	District Agriculture Policy Implementation Committee, drawing on ATMA block returns, Village Data Volunteer, MEGNOLIA and MBMA reporting systems
Annual Agriculture Sector Report	Annual, published	State Government; a public accountability document

Instrument	Frequency	Responsibility
Independent third-party evaluation	Mid-term and end-term	[Commissioning authority and evaluating agency to be specified.]

Together these instruments close the loop between plan, delivery and revision. What the Village Data Volunteer records in the field reaches the district dashboard within the quarter, the Agriculture Production Commissioner's review in the same quarter, the Steering Committee within the year, and the public in the Annual Agriculture Sector Report. A policy that publishes its own performance has given every citizen of Meghalaya the standing to hold it to account.

8.8 Duration and Review

This Policy shall remain in force for a period of five years, from **2026 to 2031**, and shall be subject to a **mandatory review** at the end of that period. The review shall be placed before the State Policy Steering Committee, and shall determine whether the Policy is continued, revised or replaced. It shall draw on the end-term third-party evaluation, the district dashboards and the Annual Agriculture Sector Reports of the 5 years.

9. Key Performance Indicator Framework

One results chain, read from the ground up: what the State commits becomes what it does, what it delivers, what changes, and what endures. Each level carries a single umbrella indicator — one number, readable at a glance, that cannot move unless the work beneath it is real.

9.1 KPI Framework at a Glance

LEVEL	INDICATOR	DATA TRACKED
IMPACT	**Farmer Household Income**	*A prosperous, and climate-resilient Meghalaya in which agriculture, rooted in indigenous knowledge, organic integrity and the stewardship of its matrilineal farming communities, delivers dignified livelihoods and shared prosperity, and positions the State among the world's foremost certified organic farming regions.*
OUTCOMES	**Farm Sales**	*Farming pays when prices strengthen and stabilise, collectives stand on their own finances, young people stay on the land, and the State's organic identity commands premium markets without negative ecological cost.*
OUTPUTS	**Farms Equipped**	*The visible assets of transformation through a certified organic land base on healthy, watered soils, an expanded high-value production base, working PRIME Hubs and cold chain, dependable seed and input systems, credit-linked and insured households, and a State Agri-Data architecture in daily use.*
ACTIVITIES	**Physical and Financial Progress by Thrust Areas**	*All programmes across the thrust areas*
INPUTS	**Money Mobilised**	*Public investment converged across State and Central schemes, externally aided project resources and private partnership*

9.2. Indicators

Five levels with one indicator each. Read from the bottom up — money mobilised funds the work, the work equips farms, equipped farms sell well, and selling well raises farmer income.

Impact		
KPI	INDICATOR	DATA TRACKED
1	**Farmer Income**	**Average annual household income from agriculture** - Crops, livestock, allied enterprises and agri-entrepreneurship by farm category and district - Farming households reached by each of the income levers: PRIME Hubs, high-value area expansion and facilitated market linkage

Outcomes		
KPI	INDICATOR	DATA TRACKED
2	**Farmer institutions**	**Number of IVCSs and cooperatives against identified production clusters** - Clusters anchored by a functioning collective - Financial self-sufficiency of collectives measured by revenue, surplus and own working capital - Membership as a share of farming households - Women and young farmers holding governance positions
3	**Market access**	**Volume of produce marketed through organised and government facilitated channels** - Number of farming households selling the majority of their produce outside the local trader chain - Farm-gate price realised against the district market benchmark.
4	**GI and export value**	**Value of GI-tagged and certified organic produce moving through premium and export channels** - Number of new export consignments and institutional buyer contracts - Number of the State's produce brands in premium retail.
5	**Youth and agri-entrepreneurship**	**Youth-owned agri-enterprises established** - Number of registered agri-entrepreneurs and Farm Managers; - Number of youth farmers in collectives, PRIME Hub management and enterprise ownership.
6	**Climate-smart coverage**	**Production clusters with a formal climate adaptation plan** - Area under agroforestry and contour farming - Uptake of climate-resilient varieties in target districts.

Outputs		
KPI	INDICATOR AREA	DATA TRACKED

7	**Organic certification coverage**	**Area under live NPOP certification and area under conversion, by crop, district and collective** - Farmer households enrolled under MSOM - Certification retained from one cycle to the next
8	**High-value production base**	**Area under focus crops and other niche produce- by district and cluster** - Area expansion within cluster-based production models - Number of farming households covered by area expansion
9	**Soil health**	**Number of villages with soil testing facilities under the State fertility mapping programme** - Number of functional soil testing laboratories per district - Number of farmers holding a current Soil Health Card - Area under soil amendment - Measurable pH and potassium improvement in target clusters
10	**Irrigation and water security**	**Area brought under formal irrigation** - Number of operational water harvesting and storage structures by cluster - Area with assured water at season-critical stages
11	**Post-harvest loss reduction**	**Operational cold storage, warehouse and primary processing units per district** - Percentage post-harvest loss of crops - Volume of produce handled through the network
12	**PRIME Hub network**	**Number of operational PRIME Hubs by type and district** - Volume of produce aggregated and capacity utilisation - Number of farming households served per hub - Number of hubs discharging all four functions- aggregation, processing, training and market linkage
13	**Seeds and input quality**	**Seed replacement rate for principal food crops** - Seed villages established and functioning - Farmers with certified quality input access within a defined distance
14	**Financial inclusion and insurance**	**Working capital and term credit disbursed to collectives and agri-entrepreneurs under State schemes** - Credit disbursement reaching women-led and youth-led enterprises - Number of farming households enrolled in PMFBY - Number of Kisan Credit Cards issued - Operational PACS per district

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Activities
Programmes and schemes across the thrust areas: soil health and organic farming, food crop productivity, farmer collectivisation, post-harvest and market infrastructure, technology, extension and research, and climate adaptation planning.
MEASURED BY Physical and financial progress by thrust area, each reported against the indicator areas to which it contributes.

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Inputs
Public investment converged across State and Central schemes, externally aided project resources and private partnership, joined to what no budget can buy: community knowledge, tribal land stewardship and Meghalaya's ecological endowment.
MEASURED BY Resource mobilisation and convergence

10. Conclusion

This Policy stems from a deep understanding of Meghalaya's agriculture. The land is capable, the knowledge is intact, and the people who farm are short of neither skill nor effort. What has been missing is the connective machinery between a farmer on a terraced slope and a buyer willing to pay for what that slope produces. Certification, aggregation, storage, transport, credit and information are each a link in that machinery, and a break at any point returns the farmer to the commodity price. The purpose of this Policy is to complete the chain.

It does so without starting afresh. Meghalaya has invested substantially over the past decade in farmer collectives, PRIME Hubs and processing capacity, watershed, soil works, organic certification, climate action, and digital systems that shall carry all of it. Much of this is working. The thrust areas set out in this Policy bring these efforts within one framework, extend them to the districts, blocks and communities they have not yet reached, and hold each of them to a stated result rather than to a count of activities.

The direction of travel across every thrust area is the same: from organic by default to organic by certification, from raw produce to graded and processed goods, from farm-gate transactions to branded and traceable trade, from conserving the land to regenerating it, and from a household exposed to a single poor season to one able to absorb it. The value released along the way is intended for a specific set of hands. It belongs to the farmers, collectives, cooperatives, and community institutions that produce and steward, and in Meghalaya that means it belongs in large measure to the women who stand at the centre of the farm by custom and now by policy, and to the young people who will decide whether agriculture in this State remains a livelihood of last resort or becomes an enterprise of choice.

The people of Meghalaya have been farming these hills, on their own terms and by their own knowledge, for generations. This Policy is offered in that continuity, as the State's undertaking that the land, and the labour of its people shall be met, at last, by returns worthy of them.

Annexure 1: Meghalaya Agriculture in Numbers

The tables below consolidate the technical baseline for the sector. Figures drawn from the sources cited in this Section are highlighted. Cells shaded and left blank are to be filled by the Department from departmental and Agriculture Census records before the Policy is finalised.

A. Land, people and agro-ecology

Table A1: Headline indicators

#	Indicator	Value
1	Total geographical area	22,429 sq. km / 22.43 lakh ha
2	Number of districts	12 (7 Khasi & Jaintia Hills, 5 Garo Hills)
3	Total population	2.97 million
4	Scheduled Tribe share of population	86.15%
5	Population dependent on agriculture	Approx. 80%
6	Land directly managed by the State Government	7%
7	Forest and tree cover	Approx. 76% of geographical area
8	Annual rainfall range	4,000-11,000 mm
9	Temperature range	2°C to 36°C
10	Altitude range	300-2,000 m above MSL
11	Number of agro-climatic zones	5

Annexure 2: Schemes and Programmes Being Implemented

The table records every centrally sponsored scheme, central sector scheme, State scheme and externally aided project currently being implemented in agriculture and allied sectors in Meghalaya, what each does, the agency responsible for implementing it, and the number of beneficiaries reached in the benchmark year 2025-26.

A. Centrally sponsored and central sector schemes

Table B1: Central schemes

#	Scheme / programme	Type	What it does	Implementing agency
1	Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)	Central sector	Direct income support of Rs. 6,000 per year, in three instalments, to eligible landholding farmer families. Paid through direct benefit transfer against the Farmer Registry.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
2	Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)	Centrally sponsored	Crop insurance against yield loss from natural calamity, pest and disease for notified crops. Farmer premium is capped and the balance is shared between the Centre and the State.[i]	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
3	PM Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY)	Centrally sponsored	Umbrella scheme for sustainable agriculture, giving the State flexibility to fund infrastructure, value chains and innovation. Subsumes RKVY-RAFTAAR, Soil Health Management, Rainfed Area Development, Agroforestry, Per Drop More Crop and Crop Diversification.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
4	Krishonnati Yojana (KY)	Centrally sponsored	Umbrella scheme for food security and self-sufficiency. Subsumes the National Food Security Mission, MIDH, agricultural extension and technology, marketing, cooperation, and the Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Census and Statistics.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
5	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)	Centrally sponsored	Raises production and productivity of rice, pulses, coarse cereals and nutri-cereals through improved seed, cluster demonstrations, and integrated nutrient and pest management.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

#	Scheme / programme	Type	What it does	Implementing agency
6	Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)	Centrally sponsored	Supports area expansion, planting material, protected cultivation, post-harvest management and market infrastructure across fruits, vegetables, spices, plantation crops and flowers.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (Horticulture)
7	Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCD-NER)	Centrally sponsored	Develops certified organic value chains in the North East through farmer cluster formation, third-party NPOP certification, input support, collection and processing infrastructure, and brand and market linkage.	MEGNOLIA / Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
8	Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)	Centrally sponsored	Cluster-based promotion of organic farming with participatory guarantee system certification and support for on-farm input production.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
9	National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)	Centrally sponsored	Promotes chemical-free farming based on on-farm biomass and livestock-based inputs, with cluster demonstration, Bharatiya Prakritik Kheti Bio-input Resource Centres and farmer training.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
10	Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)	Centrally sponsored	Expands assured irrigation. Per Drop More Crop funds micro-irrigation and on-farm water management; the Watershed Development Component treats rainfed and degraded land.	Soil and Water Conservation Department; Department of Agriculture
11	Watershed Development Component of PMKSY (WDC-PMKSY 2.0)	Centrally sponsored	Treats micro-watersheds on arable and non-arable land and drainage lines through soil conservation, water harvesting, afforestation and horticulture development.	Soil and Water Conservation Department
12	Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM)	Centrally sponsored	Subsidises farm machinery for individual farmers and supports Custom Hiring Centres and farm machinery banks, with a focus on hill-appropriate small machinery.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

#	Scheme / programme	Type	What it does	Implementing agency
13	Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP)	Centrally sponsored	Strengthens the seed chain from breeder to certified seed, supports seed villages, seed testing infrastructure and improvement of the seed replacement rate.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
14	Soil Health Card Scheme / Soil Health and Fertility	Centrally sponsored	Tests farm soil and issues cards carrying nutrient status and crop-wise fertiliser recommendations, and supports soil testing laboratories.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
15	National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) - ATMA	Centrally sponsored	Funds the Agricultural Technology Management Agency at district and block level for farmer training, demonstrations, exposure visits and farmer-scientist interaction.	ATMA / MAMETI
16	Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY)	Centrally sponsored	Vocational skill training in agriculture and allied trades for rural youth aged 18 and above, to create rural employment and service providers.	MAMETI
17	Farmers' Capacity Assessment and Certification (FCAC)	Centrally sponsored	Assesses and formally certifies the existing skills of practising farmers across agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries trades.	MAMETI
18	Formation and Promotion of 10,000 FPOs	Central sector	Forms and incubates Farmer Producer Organisations with equity grant, management cost support and a credit guarantee facility, through designated implementing agencies.	SFAC / NABARD / NCDC and State implementing agencies
19	Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)	Central sector	Interest subvention and credit guarantee on medium and long-term debt for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
20	Digital Agriculture Mission / Agri Stack	Central sector	Builds the Farmer Registry, geo-referenced village maps and the crop-sown registry, and enables digital delivery of scheme benefits and advisory services.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

#	Scheme / programme	Type	What it does	Implementing agency
21	National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGP-A)	Centrally sponsored	Funds ICT infrastructure and digital service delivery in the State agriculture departments.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
22	Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM) / e-NAM	Central sector	Supports market infrastructure, grading and standardisation and integrates regulated markets into the electronic National Agriculture Market platform.	Meghalaya State Agricultural Marketing Board
23	Modified Interest Subvention Scheme / Kisan Credit Card (KCC)	Central sector	Short-term crop and allied-activity credit at subvented interest, with prompt repayment incentive, extended to animal husbandry and fisheries.	NABARD and lending institutions
24	Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana	Central sector	Voluntary contributory pension of Rs. 3,000 per month on attaining 60 years for small and marginal farmers, with a matching contribution by the Government of India.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
25	National Mission on Edible Oils - Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds)	Centrally sponsored	Raises domestic oilseed production through quality seed, cluster demonstration and value chain support.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
26	Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses	Centrally sponsored	Expands pulses area and productivity through seed hubs, assured procurement and cluster-based production.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
27	National Bamboo Mission (NBM)	Centrally sponsored	Supports bamboo plantation on non-forest land, nurseries, primary processing and market linkage for bamboo-based enterprise.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
28	National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM)	Central sector	Promotes scientific beekeeping, honey testing infrastructure, and beekeeping as a source of supplementary income and pollination service.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
29	Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME)	Centrally sponsored	Credit-linked capital subsidy, seed capital for SHG members, branding and marketing support for micro food processing units under the One District One Product approach.	Directorate of Food Processing

#	Scheme / programme	Type	What it does	Implementing agency
30	Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)	Central sector	Margin money subsidy for setting up micro-enterprises, including agro and food processing units, in rural and urban areas.	KVIC / District Industries Centres
31	Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)	Centrally sponsored	Mobilises rural households into Self Help Groups and federations, provides revolving fund and community investment support, and promotes farm and non-farm livelihoods.	Meghalaya State Rural Livelihoods Society
32	Rashtriya Gokul Mission	Centrally sponsored	Conserves and develops indigenous bovine breeds and strengthens artificial insemination delivery and breeding infrastructure.	Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department
33	National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD)	Centrally sponsored	Strengthens milk procurement, chilling, testing and processing infrastructure and dairy cooperative institutions.	Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department
34	National Livestock Mission (NLM)	Centrally sponsored	Entrepreneurship development in poultry, sheep, goat and piggery, feed and fodder development, and breed improvement with capital subsidy.	Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department
35	Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LH&DC), including NADCP and ASCAD	Centrally sponsored	Vaccination against foot and mouth disease, brucellosis and other notified diseases, disease surveillance, and strengthening of veterinary services.	Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department
36	Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)	Central sector	Interest subvention on loans for dairy, meat and animal feed processing infrastructure and breed multiplication farms.	Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department
37	Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)	Centrally sponsored	Expands fish production and productivity through pond construction and renovation, seed and feed infrastructure, post-harvest facilities and fisher welfare.	Department of Fisheries
38	Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)	Central sector	Concessional finance for fisheries infrastructure including hatcheries, feed mills, cold chain and fish markets.	Department of Fisheries

#	Scheme / programme	Type	What it does	Implementing agency
39	Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Census and Statistics	Central sector	Conducts the Agriculture Census, input survey and crop estimation surveys, and improves agricultural statistics at district level.	Directorate of Economics and Statistics
40	North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme / MDoNER schemes	Central sector	Funds physical and social infrastructure gaps in the North East, including agriculture marketing and processing infrastructure.	Planning Department / line departments

B. State schemes, missions and programmes

Table B2: State schemes

#	Scheme / programme	Type	What it does	Implementing agency
41	Meghalaya State Organic Mission (MSOM) 2024-28	State mission	Converts and sustains organic cultivation towards a target of 1,00,000 hectares under NPOP certification by 2028, with input support, certification cost, aggregation infrastructure and market development.	MEGNOLIA
42	FOCUS - Farmers' Collectivisation for Upscaling Production and Marketing System	State scheme	Organises farmers into collectives and provides direct annual financial support per farming household for on-farm investment, with convergence of extension and market linkage.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
43	FOCUS+	State scheme	Successor and expansion of FOCUS, raising the annual support per household and widening coverage across farming households in the State.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
44	CM FARM+	State scheme	Supports area expansion under selected high-value crops with quality planting material and training in good agricultural practices.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
45	CM ASSURE	State scheme	Provides a guaranteed price to farmers of selected commodities, initially broom and arecanut, through assured procurement.	Meghalaya State Agricultural Marketing Board
46	CM ELEVATE	State scheme	Credit-linked capital subsidy for individual entrepreneurs and enterprises in agriculture, allied sectors and post-harvest infrastructure, including warehousing.	Meghalaya Basin Management Agency

#	Scheme / programme	Type	What it does	Implementing agency
47	PRIME Hubs (Promotion and Incubation of Market-driven Enterprises)	State programme	Block-level processing, aggregation and incubation centres giving smallholders access to grading, primary processing and market-facing infrastructure.	PRIME Meghalaya / Meghalaya Basin Management Agency
48	Meghalaya Floriculture Mission	State mission	Develops commercial floriculture, including Cymbidium orchids and cut flowers, with planting material, protected cultivation and market linkage support.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (Horticulture)
49	Mission Golden Spice (Lakadong turmeric value chain)	State mission	Builds an end-to-end value chain for Lakadong turmeric covering planting material, curing and processing infrastructure, quality certification and export market development.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
50	Meghalaya State Aquaculture Mission (3.0)	State mission	Expands fish production through new and renovated ponds, quality seed and feed supply, and technical support to fish farmers.	Department of Fisheries / Meghalaya Basin Development Authority
51	Meghalaya State Piggery Mission	State mission	Develops the pork value chain through breeding farms, cooperative-led production units, interest-free loans and credit-linked subsidy for individual farmers.	Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department / MBMA
52	Meghalaya Milk Mission	State mission	Increases milk production and organises dairy farmers into cooperatives, with breed improvement, feed support and chilling and processing infrastructure.	Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department / Meghalaya Milk Mission
53	Livelihood Improvement Finance Company of Meghalaya (LIFCOM)	State institution	Disburses collateral-free working capital to community organisations and individuals engaged in agriculture and allied enterprise.	LIFCOM / Meghalaya Basin Management Agency
54	Village Data Volunteers (VDV)	State programme	Community-level knowledge and data agents who collect farm data, deliver advisory messages and connect households to schemes.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
55	Meghalaya Agriculture Response Vehicles (MARVS)	State scheme	Mobile units delivering inputs, advisory services and demonstrations to villages that field extension staff cannot reach regularly.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
56	Custom Hiring Centres and farm mechanisation support	State scheme	Village and cluster-level machinery hiring points, including power tillers and small hill machinery, run by community institutions.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

#	Scheme / programme	Type	What it does	Implementing agency
57	Integrated Agriculture Training Centre (AITC)	State scheme	Consolidated training for departmental officers, field functionaries, farmers and rural youth in modern agricultural technique and agri-entrepreneurship.	MAMETI
58	State Seed Farms and seed production programme	State scheme	Produces quality seed of cereals, pulses and oilseeds and horticultural planting material of orange, coconut and arecanut for distribution to cultivators at subsidised rates.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
59	Organic Manures scheme	State scheme	Supports on-farm and community production and distribution of compost, vermicompost and other organic manures.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
60	Plant Protection including Integrated Pest Management	State scheme	Surveillance, farmer advisory and supply of bio-control agents and safe plant protection material for pest and disease management.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
61	Paddy cum fish culture	State scheme	Integrates fish rearing into wet paddy fields to raise household protein availability and supplementary income from the same land.	Department of Fisheries / Department of Agriculture
62	Ramie crop development	State scheme	Promotes ramie fibre cultivation and primary processing as an alternative fibre crop.	Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
63	Soil and Water Conservation in General Areas	State scheme	Terracing, erosion control, afforestation, horticulture development and water harvesting for individuals and farmer groups outside other scheme coverage.	Soil and Water Conservation Department
64	State Watershed Management Programme	State scheme	Integrated treatment of micro-watersheds covering arable land, non-arable land and drainage lines.	Soil and Water Conservation Department
65	Rejuvenation and Climate Proofing of Springsheds	State programme	Maps and rejuvenates springs and their recharge areas to secure lean-season water for drinking and irrigation.	Meghalaya Basin Development Authority / Soil and Water Conservation Department
66	Cherrapunjee Ecological Project	State programme	Land restoration and vegetative cover programme for the degraded high-rainfall landscape around Sohra.	Soil and Water Conservation Department
67	Meghalaya Climate Action Budget	State instrument	Tags and tracks climate-aligned allocations across departments, including agriculture, irrigation, soil conservation and forestry.	Finance Department
68	Meghalaya Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (food processing)	State policy	Fiscal and non-fiscal incentives to attract private investment into food processing and agro-industry.	Commerce and Industries Department

#	Scheme / programme	Type	What it does	Implementing agency
69	Pla Tangka Cooperative Society	State institution	Apex federation providing credit to Self Help Groups and their federations.	Community and Rural Development Department / MSRLS
70	Cooperative sector development programmes	State scheme	Registration, capitalisation, audit and capacity building of primary agricultural credit, marketing and processing cooperatives.	Registrar of Cooperative Societies
71	Livestock and poultry breeding farms and feed infrastructure	State scheme	State-run cattle, pig, poultry, duck, sheep, goat and fodder farms and feed milling plants supplying improved stock, fodder seed and compounded feed to farmers.	Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department

C. Externally aided projects

Table B3: Externally aided projects

#	Scheme / programme	Type	What it does	Implementing agency
72	Megha-LAMP - Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project	IFAD	Strengthens farmer collectives, value chains and market access for smallholder producers, with a focus on natural resource management and women's participation.	Meghalaya Basin Management Agency
73	M-LEAP - successor to Megha-LAMP	IFAD	Scales the Megha-LAMP approach into enterprise development, value chain finance and market linkage for farmer institutions.	Meghalaya Basin Management Agency
74	Climate-Adaptive Community-Based Water Harvesting Project	ADB	Constructs climate-resilient water harvesting systems across districts and builds community capacity to operate and maintain them for lean-season irrigation.	Meghalaya Basin Development Authority / Soil and Water Conservation Department
75	Megha-LIFE - Meghalaya Integrated Forest Landscape Management Project	JICA	Restores and manages forest landscapes with community institutions, and supports forest-linked livelihoods including agroforestry and non-timber forest produce.	Forest and Environment Department
76	Community-Led Landscape Management Project (CLLMP)	World Bank	Community-prepared natural resource management plans covering springs, catchments, degraded land and community forests, implemented by village institutions.	Meghalaya Basin Management Agency

#	Scheme / programme	Type	What it does	Implementing agency
77	Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) assistance	NABARD	Loan assistance for rural infrastructure including minor irrigation, soil conservation works and market infrastructure.	Line departments