



WORLD BAMBOO DAY

REPORT



Date: 19th Sept, 2025

Organised By:

MEGHALAYA STATE BAMBOO MISSION



MESSAGE



On the occasion of **World Bamboo Day**, Meghalaya celebrates its abundant bamboo resources, which are among the most significant crops in the state and the entire Northeast region. This day highlights the critical role bamboo plays in supporting farmers' livelihoods, empowering artisans, and fostering industrial potential.

Bamboo offers numerous opportunities for large-scale industrial applications, as demonstrated in countries like China, where it is used to manufacture bridges and other significant structures. In Meghalaya, the state government envisions leveraging bamboo to generate employment, promote entrepreneurship, and create sustainable livelihoods, while utilizing it as a versatile and eco-friendly construction material.

Currently, there is growing investor interest in establishing bamboo-based industries in Meghalaya. The state aims to harness bamboo as a sustainable resource, integrating conservation with economic development. I urge all stakeholders to protect and value our bamboo resources, support the farmers cultivating them, and actively participate in advancing Meghalaya's position in national and global bamboo value chains through sustainable practices and innovative solutions.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR D, IAS

Project Director, MegLIFE

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INTRODUCTION

World Bamboo Day is celebrated every year on September 18th to raise awareness about the ecological, economic, and cultural significance of bamboo. In 2025, under the MegLIFE Project, the celebration in Meghalaya went beyond commemoration to showcase bamboo as a bridge between tradition and innovation. For communities like the Khasi, Pnar, and Garo, bamboo remains central to daily life—used in farming, fishing, housing, tools, and cultural ceremonies, deeply rooted across generations.

The celebration brought together farmers, artisans, youth, women's groups, and local institutions to explore bamboo's growing potential in sustainable development. Activities included plantation drives, exhibitions, competitions, and skill-building workshops. Participants demonstrated bamboo's wide range of uses—from traditional crafts and household items to modern applications like treated bamboo, vacuum pressure impregnation, strand-woven products, and biochar, which enhances soil fertility and captures carbon. These innovations highlight bamboo's role not only in rural entrepreneurship and green industries but also in climate resilience and carbon credit generation.

As part of its broader vision, the MegLIFE Project has established 24 bamboo nurseries and successfully planted 1,056 hectares of bamboo in 2025 alone. It aims to scale this effort to cover 10,000 hectares over the next five years, strengthening Meghalaya's green economy and supporting ecosystem restoration.

Through this celebration, the MegLIFE Project reaffirmed Meghalaya's leadership in bamboo-based solutions, aligning with its mission of promoting conservation, livelihood diversification, and strengthening local institutions. World Bamboo Day 2025 served as a platform for learning, collaboration, and inspiration linking traditional knowledge with a vision for a greener, more sustainable future.

WORLD BAMBOO DAY REPORT 2025



DISTRICT LEVEL CELEBRATIONS

EAST GARO HILLS DISTRICT

WORLD BAMBOO DAY
CELEBRATED 2025

Williamnagar



East Garo Hills District celebrated World Bamboo Day 2025 at the Circuit House in Williamnagar. The event brought together seventy-eight participants representing schools and community institutions, including Primary School students, Village Community Facilitators (VCFs), VPIC Presidents and Secretaries, and Bamboo Champions. The celebration highlighted the vital role of bamboo as a sustainable resource that supports livelihoods, preserves cultural heritage, and contributes to environmental conservation. The program was graced by **Shri L. M. Momin**, Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF), Social Forestry, Williamnagar Division, as the Chief Guest, and in his address, Shri Momin emphasized the importance of bamboo in sustainable development and encouraged the community to actively participate in bamboo-based initiatives.

Additionally, a Painting Competition on the theme “**Bamboo and I**” was organized for students, with participation from fifteen schools across Samanda, Songsak, and Dambo Rongjeng Blocks. Each school was represented by two students, who displayed their creativity through vibrant artwork that reflected their understanding and appreciation of bamboo.

The winners of the competition were Rongchime B. Momin, Class IV, from Mejolgre Nokat LP School in Dambo Rongjeng Block, who secured the first prize; Angama T. Sangma, Class V, from Gitokgre LP School in Samanda Block, who won the second prize; and Balbira Ch. Momin, Class V, from Danal Apal St. Francis School in Songsak Block, who received the third prize.

Outstanding performers, including foresters and community leaders, were recognized for their dedication in ensuring that nurseries and plantations were well-managed and maintained throughout the project. Their consistent efforts have been crucial in the successful implementation of bamboo-based activities and in safeguarding the progress of the MegLIFE initiatives. The foresters acknowledged included Devanand P. Marak from Samanda Block, Stephen Momin from Songsak Block, Singbath R. Marak from Dambo Rongjeng Block, and the Rongronggre VPIC from Songsak Block.

In addition, entrepreneurs and community institutions were also recognized for their exemplary contributions. Jedison T. Sangma, an entrepreneur engaged in handicraft activities from Samanda Block, was honored for his innovative work, while Rongrong VPIC was acknowledged for managing a higher plantation area of 29 hectares under Songsak Block and maintaining a well-organized nursery. These recognitions underscore the vital role of both individuals and community groups in promoting bamboo-based livelihoods and sustainable development in East Garo Hills.

The celebration concluded with a call to expand bamboo-based initiatives as a pathway to sustainable development and ecological conservation in East Garo Hills. The event highlighted the creativity of students and strengthened community awareness of bamboo as the “green gold” of Meghalaya, emphasizing its cultural, economic, and environmental significance while fostering a shared commitment to preserving and promoting this vital resource.

WEST GARO HILLS DISTRICT

WORLD BAMBOO DAY
CELEBRATED 2025

 Tura



The World Bamboo Day 2025 celebration in West Garo Hills was organized at the DPMU Office, MegLIFE. The program was graced by **Shri V. Valentine Hembrom**, Assistant General Manager, MLAMP, MBMA, West Garo Hills, as the Chief Guest. Other attendees included **Shri Salnang K. Sangma**, District Project Manager, MegLIFE, along with DPMU staff, school teachers, students, community members from project villages, and Bamboo Champions.

During the program, participants received a message from **Dr. Vijay Kumar D**, IAS, Project Director, MegLIFE, Government of Meghalaya, emphasizing the significance of World Bamboo Day. A promotional video on bamboo was also screened, showcasing its potential for promoting livelihoods and environmental sustainability.

In his address, **Shri V. Valentine Hembrom** underscored the importance of bamboo as a sustainable resource and encouraged the promotion of bamboo-based livelihoods. Additionally, **Shri Salnang K. Sangma**, District Project Manager, MegLIFE highlighted the role of MegLIFE and the Meghalaya State Bamboo Mission in supporting community-driven bamboo initiatives. School teachers emphasized the importance of raising student awareness and fostering creativity in bamboo utilization, while community representatives and Bamboo Champions reaffirmed their commitment to promoting bamboo activities in their respective areas.

The event saw the participation of 100 individuals, including students, teachers, community members, bamboo artisans, and project staff.

A key highlight of the celebration was a Drawing Competition on the theme "Bamboo and I: How I See Bamboo!", which encouraged students to express their understanding and appreciation of bamboo. The winners of the competition were Josua Ch. Marak (1st Prize), Pringanchian M. Marak (2nd Prize), and Prenchi B. Marak (3rd Prize), reflecting both creativity and awareness of bamboo's significance.

As part of the program, four Bamboo Champions were recognized for their exemplary contributions to bamboo craftsmanship and livelihood promotion. Shri Josh G. Momin from Nikwatgre, Tura, was acknowledged for his expertise in crafting baskets, trays, and bamboo huts, as well as participation in training programs sponsored by DCIC, West Garo Hills. Smt Norimchi A. Sangma from Dumindikgre was honored for her skill in crafting bamboo necklaces, earrings, and traditional items, preserving cultural heritage while promoting bamboo-based livelihoods. Shri Saljong B. Marak from Danang Songitcham received recognition for his dedication to bamboo-based livelihood initiatives.



Smt Gretalin T. Sangma from Chandigre was awarded for her proficiency in bamboo craftsmanship and active involvement in bamboo activities since 2019, including participation in district-level workshops and the Rural Entrepreneur of Meghalaya event held on 19th & 20th August 2025. Their recognition served as an inspiration for others to pursue bamboo craftsmanship as a viable livelihood and a means of cultural preservation.

The program concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Shri Zebulun R. Sangma, Retired Forester and Project Associate, who extended heartfelt appreciation to all participants, dignitaries, and community members for their active involvement and contributions, which ensured the successful celebration of World Bamboo Day 2025 in West Garo Hills.



SOUTH WEST KHASI HILLS DISTRICT

WORLD BAMBOO DAY
CELEBRATED 2025

📍 Mawkyrat



Multi-Purpose Hall, Mawkyrat. The event witnessed active participation from approximately 84 attendees, including staff members, officials from various line departments, members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), school representatives, and community members from Ranikor Block.

The programme was chaired by Shri Tanlin Wahlang, Block Project Manager (BPM), and commenced with a Welcome Address delivered by Shri Bansuklang Syiem, District Project Manager (DPM). This was followed by an inspiring message and vision shared by **Dr. Vijay Kumar D, IAS, Project Director, MegLIFE**, through video clips, highlighting the importance of bamboo in building a sustainable future. Shri Bansuklang Syiem also delivered a short address emphasizing the role of bamboo in the district and Meghalaya's vision of a green economy, underscoring its potential in creating livelihood opportunities and promoting environmental sustainability.

A key highlight of the programme was the Felicitation Ceremony of Bamboo Champions, where Shri Bansuklang Syiem felicitated individuals and groups for their outstanding contributions to bamboo-based initiatives. The recipients included Shri Robertson Basan, the Shylla Shipara Self-Help Group (SHG), and the Iasohlang Producer Group (PG). Their recognition served to inspire continued engagement in bamboo-related activities across the district.



The celebration also featured a symbolic bamboo plantation at the Deputy Commissioner's Office compound, led by Shri Bansuklang Syiem with enthusiastic participation from attendees, reinforcing the hands-on commitment to environmental conservation. Additionally, a Drawing Competition on the theme "Bamboo and I: How I See Bamboo" engaged students from seven schools under Mawkyrwat Block, providing a creative platform to express the cultural, ecological, and economic significance of bamboo.

The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Shri Sanphira Dohtdong, Assistant Manager (Finance & Accounts), expressing sincere gratitude to all dignitaries, participants, and stakeholders for their active involvement and contributions.

Overall, the World Bamboo Day 2025 celebration in South West Khasi Hills was marked by enthusiastic participation, meaningful discussions, and impactful activities that reinforced the importance of bamboo in environmental conservation, livelihood promotion, and sustainable development.



NORTH GARO HILLS DISTRICT

WORLD BAMBOO DAY
CELEBRATED 2025

📍 Resubelpara



World Bamboo Day 2025 was celebrated at the Multipurpose Co-operative Society, Mendipathar, North Garo Hills District. The event aimed to promote the sustainable use of bamboo, emphasizing its potential in environmental conservation, livelihood generation, and economic development. Bamboo's versatility in construction, furniture, textiles, handicrafts, and its role in reducing carbon footprint and conserving soil were highlighted during the celebration.

The program witnessed active participation from seventy-six attendees, including staff members, school teachers and students from Chorepahar L.P. School and Darang Rengro U.P. School, eight VPIC members, Village Community Facilitators (VCFs), and two SHG entrepreneurs who displayed and sold bamboo crafts.

The program was graced by **Smt Osma P., MCS, Assistant Commissioner, DC Office Resubelpara**, who served as the Chief Guest. In her address, she highlighted the critical role of bamboo in the district and Meghalaya's vision of a green economy. Other dignitaries, including **Smt Thoibie Momin, Functional Manager, DCIC, Shri Ranggam N. Sangma, Ranger, SWC Kharkutta, Shri Limbirth D. Sangma, Ranger, SWC Mendipathar, and Shri Nitul Das, AGM, MBMA/MBDA**, also addressed the participants, emphasizing the environmental and economic benefits of bamboo, including soil conservation, carbon sequestration, and livelihood opportunities.

A key feature of the celebration was the **Felicitation Ceremony of Bamboo Champions**, recognizing the outstanding contributions of artisans to bamboo-based activities. The awardees included **Shri Michael Sangma (Chipakram, Mendipathar), Shri Benjamin Marak (Nokatgre, Resubelpara), and Shri Angelush Momin (Kharkutta)**, who were acknowledged for their skill, dedication, and efforts to promote bamboo craftsmanship and sustainable livelihoods in the district.



The celebration also featured a Drawing Competition for participating schools under the theme “Bamboo and I: How I See Bamboo”. The competition provided students with a platform to creatively express their understanding of bamboo’s cultural, ecological, and economic significance. The winners were **Tiran K. Sangma (1st Prize, Chorepahar L.P. School, Resubelpara)**, **Junubirth K. Sangma (2nd Prize, Darang Rengro U.P. School, Kharkutta)**, and **Bikamesa K. Sangma (3rd Prize, Chorepahar L.P. School, Resubelpara)**.

Therefore, The celebration reinforced the importance of bamboo as a sustainable resource, inspired community participation, and highlighted its potential for livelihood creation and environmental conservation in the district.

EASTERN WEST KHASI HILLS DISTRICT

WORLD BAMBOO DAY
CELEBRATED 2025

📍 Mairang

The Eastern West Khasi Hills District actively participated in the state-wide celebration of **World Bamboo Day 2025**, organized under the **Meghalaya State Bamboo Mission (MSBM)**. The event aimed to highlight the multifaceted importance of bamboo in the district, emphasizing its role in promoting sustainable livelihoods, environmental conservation, cultural heritage, and economic development.

The programme was graced by **Shri Lastborn Myrthong, MCS-EAC**, as the **Chief Guest**, who delivered an inspiring address emphasizing bamboo's contribution to local employment, ecological conservation, and Meghalaya's vision of a green, bamboo-based economy. His presence set a motivating tone for the celebration and highlighted the significance of bamboo in the district.

A special message from **Dr. Vijay Kumar D, IAS, Project Director, MegLIFE**, was shared with participants via video. In his address, Dr Kumar highlighted bamboo's industrial and artisanal value, emphasizing its capacity to generate employment and entrepreneurial opportunities while serving as an ecological asset. He encouraged communities to safeguard bamboo resources and support farmers cultivating bamboo, reinforcing bamboo's dual role as an economic driver and environmental solution.



The programme commenced with a **welcome address** by **Shri Pyndapkupar Marbaniang, Senior Manager (MSBM)**, who outlined the objectives of the Mission and its role in strengthening rural economies through bamboo-based initiatives. This was followed by an awareness session that included the screening of a documentary film showcasing bamboo's diverse applications in construction, handicrafts, furniture, textiles, and soil and water conservation.

The celebration witnessed the active participation of approximately **77 attendees**, including district and block officials under MegLIFE, school students from MBDA project villages, local artisans, farmers, entrepreneurs, and community leaders actively engaged in the bamboo value chain.



A **school-level competition** was organized to engage young participants, featuring drawing, painting, and elocution contests under the theme **“Bamboo and I: How I See Bamboo.”** The competition encouraged students to creatively express their understanding of bamboo’s cultural, ecological, and economic significance. The winners of the competition were:

- **First Prize:** Shri Ben Hailziza Wahlang, Mairang Presbyterian English Secondary School
- **Second Prize:** Kyrmenkhem L. Mawlong, St. James Secondary School
- **Third Prize:** Manbhashisha Marngar, Mairang Presbyterian English Secondary School
- **Consolation Prizes:** Andy John Diengdoh (St. James Secondary School), Shaniah Banshan Nongrum (Vidhya Jyoti Inclusive Secondary School), Nangpynskhem Malngiang (Vidhya Jyoti Inclusive Secondary School), and Anjeline L. Mawdoh (Mawthung Presbyterian Secondary School)

The programme also featured a **Felicitation Ceremony** to honor exemplary contributors in the district’s bamboo sector. The following individuals and groups were recognized for their outstanding work in promoting bamboo craftsmanship and sustainable livelihoods:

- **Smt Kamsiora Lyngdoh Nonglait**
- **Nangkyrsoi Common Interest Group, Kynrud**
- **Shri Sirendro Nongrang**

To commemorate the occasion, a **symbolic bamboo plantation ceremony** was conducted by the Hon’ble Chief Guest, accompanied by artisans, students, and community leaders. This activity demonstrated the district’s collective commitment to sustainable bamboo-based livelihoods and ecological conservation.

The World Bamboo Day 2025 celebration in Eastern West Khasi Hills highlighted bamboo’s cultural, ecological, and economic significance. The event fostered community participation, reinforced awareness about bamboo’s sustainable applications, and showcased its potential as a driver of livelihood creation, environmental stewardship, and Meghalaya’s green, bamboo-based economy.

EAST JAINTIA HILLS DISTRICT

WORLD BAMBOO DAY
CELEBRATED 2025

📍 Khliehriat

East Jaintia Hills District celebrated World Bamboo Day 2025 at the District Project Management Unit (DPMU), MegLIFE, under the Meghalaya State Bamboo Mission (MSBM). The event highlighted bamboo as a symbol of sustainability, innovation, and livelihood, emphasizing its role in promoting environmental conservation, supporting rural livelihoods, and advancing Meghalaya's vision of a bamboo-based green economy. The celebration featured school-level art and elocution competitions for upper primary students under the theme "Bamboo and I: How I See Bamboo."

The program commenced with a welcome address by the District Project Manager, MegLIFE EJH, followed by a brief overview of the Meghalaya State Bamboo Mission presented by Shri Nangteibor Shabong, Assistant General Manager, MBDA/MBMA/MSBM. A short film titled "Reimagining Bamboo in Meghalaya" was screened to sensitize participants about the ecological, economic, and cultural benefits of bamboo. This was followed by an inspiring video message from **Dr. Vijay Kumar D, IAS**, Project Director, MegLIFE, highlighting bamboo's potential in livelihood generation, industrial applications, and sustainable development.



The Chief Guest, Shri Manish Kumar (IAS), Sub-Divisional Officer, East Jaintia Hills, delivered an address emphasizing bamboo's contribution to local employment, environmental conservation, and Meghalaya's broader vision of a bamboo-driven green economy. He encouraged participants to actively promote, protect, and preserve bamboo resources and to engage in bamboo-based livelihood and climate-friendly initiatives.

As part of the celebration, outstanding bamboo artisans were felicitated as "Bamboo Champions" to recognize their skill, dedication, and contribution to bamboo enterprises. Awardees included Tlangpui VPIC from Tlangpui Village, Iohluti Village Organization from Sohkympkor Village, and Byrwai Handicrafts Producer Group from Byrwai Village. Their recognition aimed to inspire other entrepreneurs and community members to pursue bamboo-based livelihoods.



The school-level competitions provided students a creative platform to express their understanding of bamboo. Winners of the Drawing Competition were Pynshngainmeki Shadap and Wibapynhun Shangpung, while Samuel Pdang was awarded first prize in the Elocution Competition.

The program also included a symbolic plantation of bamboo saplings and rhizomes at the DC Office compound, led by the Chief Guest alongside artisans, students, and community leaders, demonstrating practical engagement in bamboo conservation. Shri G. Pala, Functional Manager, DCIC, shared insights on opportunities available to bamboo entrepreneurs and guidelines for participation in livelihood programs.

The celebration highlighted the importance of bamboo in environmental conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and community development, pointing toward Meghalaya's vision of a green, bamboo-based economy.

SOUTH WEST GARO HILLS DISTRICT

WORLD BAMBOO DAY
CELEBRATED 2025

📍 Ampati



South West Garo Hills District celebrated World Bamboo Day 2025 at BADO Hall, Ampati, under the Meghalaya State Bamboo Mission (MSBM). The celebration highlighted bamboo as an ecological, cultural, and economic resource, emphasizing its importance in environmental conservation, livelihood promotion, and Meghalaya's vision of a bamboo-based green economy.

The program was graced by Smt Hema Nayak, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Ampati, as the Chief Guest, along with Shri Sitaram Prasad Sah, Assistant General Manager, MegARISE, MBDA, as the Guest of Honour. In her address, the Deputy Commissioner expressed her delight and gratitude for being part of the celebration despite her busy schedule, and commended the MegLIFE team of South West Garo Hills for organizing the event. She emphasized that bamboo is not only a vital natural resource but also a cultural symbol and an integral part of the local identity. Recalling her first impression of how every household in villages across the district used bamboo fencing, she highlighted its cultural significance and culinary uses in Garo Hills and the wider Northeast. She encouraged farmers to cultivate bamboo, underscoring its dual potential as an environmentally sustainable crop and a livelihood option capable of generating long-term social and economic benefits for the community.





As part of the celebration, outstanding individuals were felicitated as “Bamboo Champions” for their contributions in the field of bamboo cultivation and craftsmanship. The awardees included Tinendro T. Sangma as Best Bamboo Grower, and Lapendro M. Marak and Barnabas M. Sangma for their excellence as Bamboo Craftsmen. Their recognition served as an inspiration to encourage wider participation in bamboo-based livelihoods.

The program also hosted a school-level drawing competition, which provided a creative space for students to express their appreciation of bamboo. Winners included Rabuga M. Marak (1st position), Sengan Cherik Sangma (2nd position), and Meora B. Marak (3rd position). Additionally, an awareness session on bamboo cultivation and its benefits was conducted by the District Project Manager of the MegLIFE Office, Ampati, to sensitize participants about the resource’s ecological and economic importance.

The event concluded with a symbolic bamboo rhizome plantation at the venue, led by the Chief Guest along with artisans, students, and community members. This act highlighted the importance of conserving and sustainably using bamboo. The celebration underscored bamboo’s role as an environmental resource, a cultural emblem, and a source of livelihood, reflecting Meghalaya’s ongoing efforts toward a green, bamboo-based economy.

SOUTH GARO HILLS DISTRICT

WORLD BAMBOO DAY
CELEBRATED 2025

📍 Baghmara

South Garo Hills District celebrated World Bamboo Day 2025 at the Prime Hub Office, DC Complex, Baghmara, under the Meghalaya State Bamboo Mission (MSBM). The event was organized by the District Project Management Unit, MegLIFE, and brought together 112 participants, including students, MegLIFE staff, community representatives, and officials from various departments. The celebration highlighted bamboo's role in Meghalaya's culture, economy, and environment while promoting the vision of a sustainable, bamboo-based green economy.

The event was graced by the Shri. Sahsyorlang Shadap, General Manager, DCIC, who attended as the Chief Guest, accompanied by representatives from the Range Forest Office, Baghmara Range, JRDO, the BDO Office, the SWC Department, and the District Project Manager of LAMP.

The program commenced with school-level art and drawing competitions on the theme "*Bamboo and I: How I See Bamboo*", which encouraged students to creatively express their ideas. A total of 27 students from five schools participated. Winners included Tysamewedora D. Shira (1st position), Noah W. Momin (2nd position), and Amasa Bidime R. Marak (3rd position), all from Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Baghmara.



The formal session featured an awareness talk by the District Project Manager, followed by the screening of the short film "Reimagining Bamboo in Meghalaya." An inspiring video message from **Dr. Vijay Kumar D, IAS, Project Director, MegLIFE**, was also presented, emphasizing bamboo's ecological, cultural, and livelihood potential.

As part of the felicitation ceremony, the Chief Guest recognized outstanding bamboo artisans as "Bamboo Champions." A cultural highlight of the event was a special performance by Shri Blastin Sangma from Sempara, Shri Britning C. Marak from Gongjagre, and Shri Jumising Ch. Marak from Bugakolgre, who showcased music played on self-crafted bamboo instruments, underscoring bamboo's versatility and cultural significance.



In his address, the Chief Guest emphasized bamboo's role in shaping a sustainable economy for Meghalaya. He also announced the launch of the Meghalaya State Bamboo Mission (MSBM) website as an online resource for stakeholders in the bamboo sector and spoke about the ambitious target of 10,000 hectares of bamboo-based agroforestry plantations to be achieved over the next five years through community participation.

The event also featured the distribution of computers and printers to three IVCSs – Rongkandi Dengjama IVCS, Darangboldak IVCS, and Darit Asim IVCS – as part of institutional strengthening efforts. This was followed by a symbolic bamboo planting ceremony led by the Chief Guest, together with artisans, students, and community leaders, reinforcing the district's commitment to sustainable bamboo conservation.

The event blended awareness, recognition, and practical demonstrations to highlight bamboo's ecological, cultural, and economic importance while strengthening Meghalaya's vision of a green, bamboo-based economy.

EAST KHASI HILLS DISTRICT

WORLD BAMBOO DAY
CELEBRATED 2025

📍 Shillong



World Bamboo Day 2025 was celebrated at KJP Hall, Lachumiere, Shillong, organised by the Meghalaya State Bamboo Mission (MSBM). The event brought together Self-Help Group (SHG) members, Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS), teachers, students, handicraft entrepreneurs, community representatives, and government officials. With the theme “Bamboo and I: How I See Bamboo,” the celebration highlighted bamboo’s cultural, ecological, and economic importance while advancing the state’s vision of a bamboo-based green economy.

The program was chaired by Ms. Balentina Lamare and began with a welcome address and awareness session by Smt. Salome Suchiang, District Project Manager of the MegLIFE Project. The Chief Guest, Shri Gavade Sachin Shankar, Mission Director, was joined by Shri S. Warjri, Additional Deputy Commissioner of East Khasi Hills; Shri Ricky Renthlei, Director of Roilang Livelihood (Bethany Society); Shri Madrass Dkhar, AGM, NABARD; Shri Larikupar Lyngdoh, AGM, MLAMP; and Dr. Lucy B. Nongbri, Technical Researcher, MBDA.

In his address, Shri Gavade Sachin Shankar emphasized that while coal has been a well-known resource in Meghalaya, it is unsustainable, and bamboo offers a renewable and sustainable livelihood option. He encouraged communities to take up bamboo plantation, assuring support from the MegLIFE Project in supplying saplings and technical guidance.



Shri Larikupar Lyngdoh underscored the opportunities for value addition, urging SHGs and IVCSs to make full use of the mission’s initiatives. Shri Ricky Renthlei shared insights on bamboo’s diverse benefits, including its use as natural pesticides, medicines, vinegar, and bamboo charcoal. Shri Madrass Dkhar highlighted the potential of bamboo in producing bioethanol and encouraged community members to adopt bamboo planting as a reliable source of income. Dr. Lucy B. Nongbri stressed the role of bamboo in livelihood generation, while Shri S. Warjri reflected on the history and heritage behind every plantation, the rapid growth of bamboo species, and the need to equip communities with proper knowledge on plantation and marketing.



The event also featured a Drawing and Essay Competition on the theme “Bamboo and I” for students from Classes V to VIII of Mawryngkneng and Mawkyntew C&RD Blocks. Winners of the drawing competition were Shri Anderson Lawai (1st prize), Smt. Diya Pyngrope (2nd prize), and Shri Dashanlang Suting (3rd prize). Essay competition winners included Smt. Elgini Khongsngi (1st prize), Smt. Emilisha Myrboh (2nd prize), and Shri Lammiki Sohtun (3rd prize). In addition, group and individual awards were presented to SHG Handicraft, Cane & Bamboo, Umwai Village, Sohra; Roilang Livelihood Academy, Shillong; and Shri Liehshai Kynter of Kynmysaw Village, Mawsynram, for their contributions to bamboo crafts and innovation.

Participants expressed appreciation for the platform, which not only raised awareness but also motivated them to initiate bamboo-based activities in their communities. The event successfully blended awareness, recognition, and cultural insights, reinforcing Meghalaya’s commitment to building a sustainable bamboo economy.

RI-BHOI DISTRICT

WORLD BAMBOO DAY CELEBRATED 2025

 Nongpoh



World Bamboo Day 2025 was celebrated in Ri-Bhoi District under the Meghalaya State Bamboo Mission with the theme “Bamboo and I.” The event was graced by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Smt Ayushi Pradhan; Senior Manager, MSBM-SPMU, Shri Ankur Mahanta; Assistant General Manager, SPMU, Shri Vanshan Buhphang; and Headman of Myrdon Nongbah and Bamboo Entrepreneur, Shri Bipul Thangkhiew, along with Umsning and Umling BPMU staff, teachers, and students from various schools. The celebration brought together leaders, project teams, and young learners to highlight bamboo not only as a versatile plant but also as a pathway to livelihood opportunities, cultural identity, and ecological balance.

In her address, the Additional Deputy Commissioner highlighted the multifaceted importance of bamboo in shaping a sustainable future. She described bamboo as “Green Gold,” emphasizing its role in providing livelihoods, restoring degraded environments, and maintaining ecological balance, while encouraging participants to explore innovative uses for social and economic empowerment. Senior Manager Shri Ankur Mahanta conducted an interactive session with students, inviting them to share their knowledge of bamboo and explaining its potential in handicrafts, entrepreneurship, and skill development.

Bamboo entrepreneur Shri Bipul Thangkhiew shared his personal journey, describing how he transformed his initial lack of awareness into successful bamboo-based ventures, inspiring others to consider bamboo as a pathway for empowerment and income generation.

The programme saw the participation of approximately 69 people, including students, community members, and local stakeholders, reflecting the growing awareness of bamboo’s role in sustainable development. To engage the youth, a drawing competition was organised for Upper Primary students from project villages. The winners were: 1st Prize – Ms. Phibawansuk Pyngrope (Umtasor Mawdkhar Secondary School), 2nd Prize – Mr. Lajjam Shadap (D.T. Nongsangu School), and 3rd Prize – Mr. Batista Nongrum (Kynjoin Umran Presbyterian Secondary School).



On this occasion, four “Bamboo Champions” of Ri-Bhoi District were recognized for their outstanding contributions in promoting bamboo through handicrafts and bamboo-based initiatives: Mr. Seiborlang Nongphlang (Myrdon Mawtari), Mrs. Phidalis Tado and Mr. Anthony Mallai (Umden Khasi), and Ms. Balakyntiew Umbah (RAWA Umsning).

The event concluded with a symbolic plantation of bamboo rhizomes by the dignitaries and participants, signifying a collective commitment to sustainable bamboo cultivation and conservation. The celebration reinforced the message that bamboo is not only a renewable resource but also a symbol of resilience, livelihood, and cultural pride for the people of Meghalaya.

WEST JAINTIA HILLS DISTRICT

WORLD BAMBOO DAY
CELEBRATED 2025

 Jowai



World Bamboo Day 2025 was commemorated at Marian Hall, Jowai, West Jaintia Hills District. The programme commenced with a drawing competition on the theme “How I See Bamboo,” featuring 15 students from Upper Primary School Thangrain, Demthring Upper Primary School, Upper Primary School SSA Pynthorlangtein, and Govt. LP School Pynthorlangtein. The event was attended by approximately 70 participants, including students, teachers, community members, project staff, and dignitaries.

The event was graced by Smt Lisana Belsime R. Marak, MCS, Assistant Commissioner, West Jaintia Hills District, Jowai, along with Dr. Hygina Siangbood, Project Scientist, Aroma Mission (SPMU), and Dr. Gurav Singh, Assistant General Manager – GIS (SPMU). The program began with a welcome address by Shri Willhelmos Shylla, District Project Manager, MegLIFE (DPMU, WJH), followed by a keynote address from Dr. H. Siangbood, Project Scientist, Aroma Mission.

A video presentation showcasing promotional films on bamboo was screened, followed by a recorded message from **Dr. Vijay Kumar D, IAS, Project Director, MegLIFE**, who emphasized bamboo’s role in creating sustainable livelihoods through bamboo-based enterprises and its potential to scale up bamboo products into larger industries.



The programme recognized and awarded Bamboo Champions and the winners of the drawing competition. The Bamboo Champions of West Jaintia Hills were Smt. Iowbit War (Lapangap), Shri Hanly Sariang (Thangrain), and Domiwell Syngkon (Mooshrot village) for their exemplary work in utilizing and commercializing handcrafted bamboo products. The winners of the drawing competition were Mr. Daechwami Dkhar (Demthring Presbyterian Upper Primary School, 1st prize), Ms. Ampleness Suting (Demthring Presbyterian Upper Primary School, 2nd prize), and Ms. Sambharoiphi Myrchiang (Upper Primary School Thangrain, 3rd prize).

Following the celebrations at Marian Hall, the Chief Guest and officials from SPMU Shillong and DPMU West Jaintia Hills visited Demthring VPIC for a symbolic bamboo plantation, reaffirming the district’s commitment to promoting bamboo cultivation and sustainable livelihoods through bamboo-based initiatives.

WAY FORWARD

The World Bamboo Day 2025 celebrations across Meghalaya offered a unique platform to reflect on the multifaceted significance of bamboo in the state's environmental, cultural, and economic landscape. The events, held across multiple districts, brought together a diverse group of participants, including government officials, project teams, educators, students, artisans, and local community members, creating an atmosphere of shared learning, dialogue, and engagement. Throughout the celebrations, bamboo emerged not merely as a plant, but as a symbol of sustainable development, cultural heritage, and socio-economic opportunity. The active participation of young learners, teachers, and community members underscored a growing awareness and enthusiasm for bamboo-based initiatives, demonstrating that communities across Meghalaya are keen to embrace sustainable practices that integrate ecological stewardship with livelihood enhancement.

Interactive sessions, skill demonstrations, and inspirational stories shared by bamboo entrepreneurs highlighted the tangible economic potential of bamboo. From its role in handicrafts and furniture making to its applications in environmental restoration and sustainable construction, bamboo has proven to be a versatile resource capable of delivering both ecological and economic benefits. Moreover, these celebrations emphasized bamboo's cultural rootedness, showcasing how it continues to shape the identity, traditions, and daily practices of communities in Meghalaya. The sharing of knowledge between government officials, scientists, project managers, and local stakeholders further reinforced the importance of institutional support and cross-sector collaboration in scaling up bamboo cultivation, sustainable utilization, and entrepreneurial ventures.

Looking forward, there is significant potential to harness bamboo as a catalyst for inclusive growth and community empowerment. Encouraging households and villages to cultivate bamboo sustainably, while simultaneously promoting skill development programs for youth and women, can create new avenues for income generation and self-reliance. The development of bamboo-based enterprises, including handicrafts, furniture, and other value-added products, holds promise for strengthening local economies while preserving cultural heritage. Continuous awareness campaigns and educational initiatives will be critical to ensure that the environmental, social, and economic benefits of bamboo are widely understood and embraced. Partnerships between government agencies, project teams, and local communities will remain pivotal in fostering sustainable practices, promoting entrepreneurship, and ensuring that bamboo contributes meaningfully to Meghalaya's vision of a green, bamboo-based economy.

SNIPPETS FROM THE PROGRAMME





WORLD BAMBOO DAY REPORT



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