

Project title: Meghalaya Spring Rejuvenation and Sustainable Agro-forestry (MegSURE)

Reviving Himalayan Springs through Dhara Vikas, a climate change initiative

MGNREGA division, Rural Development Dept., Govt. of Sikkim

www.sikkim-springs.gov.in

A four-day visit of MegSURE team (Meghalaya Basin Development Authority, Meghalaya & IORA Ecological Solutions, Delhi) to spring sites and intervention areas including catchment and discharge zones in South Sikkim under Dhara Vikas Initiative, State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj & RDD, Govt. Of Sikkim. This visit was in fulfilment of exposure trip for further understanding of Springshed Management of Himalayan springs that can be implemented in MegSURE project funded by National Mission on Himalayan Studies, NMHS.

Day 1: The team attended an orientation program hosted by the State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Namchi, South Sikkim and technical session presented by Dr. Subash Dhakal, Deputy Director, Land Revenue and Disaster Management Dept., DAC, Pakyong District, Govt. Of Sikkim who demonstrated the objectives and implementation strategies of the initiative.



Figure 1: Welcoming session by Dy. Director, RDD & SIRD, Govt. of Sikkim



Figure 2: Presentation by Dr. Subash Dhakal, Dy. Director Land Revenue & Disaster Management Dept., Govt. of Sikkim



A photograph showing three people standing near a large concrete structure, possibly a tomb or monument, in a lush, green, hilly area. One person is holding a long wooden staff or pole. The scene is outdoors with dense vegetation in the background.

Figure 5: Demonstration of automatic water discharge reading device



Figure 6: Group photo of MegSURE with field experts



Figure 7: Barometer for meteorological reading of the recharge area, Mangalbarey



Figure 8: At recharge area with field experts



Figure 9: Catchment dug pit for water percolation at recharge zone

Day 3: A field visit to the Dhara Vikas spring site in the Alley area, South Sikkim, whereby the spring had been revived using dug trenches and percolation pits along the mountain slope to enhance groundwater recharge and reduce runoff, as plantation activities were restricted due to the site being within a reserved forest. This spring distributes potable water to four nearby villages in the area.



Figure 10: Dhara Vikas field expert detailing insights about the spring



Figure 11: Dug trenches along the dip and escarpment slope of the hill



Figure 12: At spring site, Alley reserve forest



Figure 13: Intervention zone at Alley Area with field experts

Day 4: Closing session and Certificates of participation was distributed by State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Sikkim to all participants of MegSURE team members.