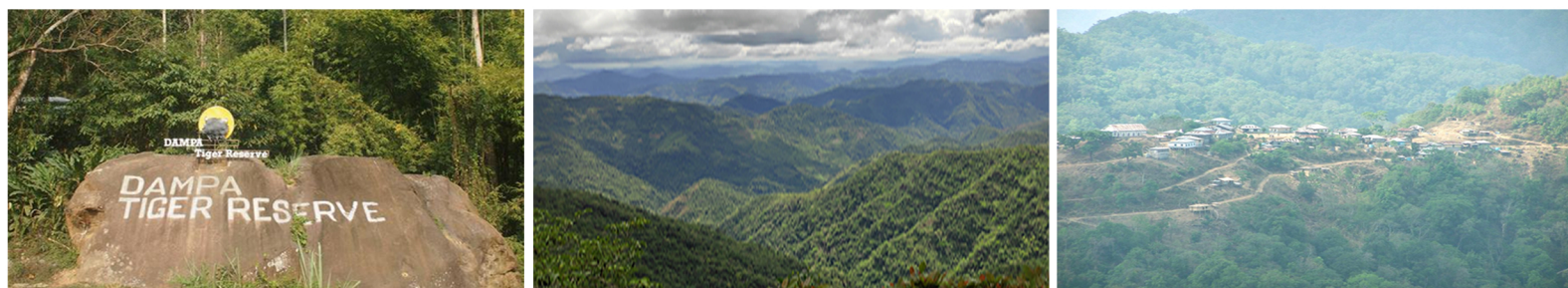


## GREEN-AG : MIZORAM FACTSHEET



<b>Project Title</b>	Green-Ag: Transforming Indian agriculture for global environmental benefits and the conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes
<b>Funding Agency</b>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)
<b>Implementing Agency</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
<b>Executing partners</b>	The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (MoAFW), The Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India (GoI)
<b>State Nodal Agency</b>	Department of Agriculture (Crop Husbandry), Government of Mizoram (GoM)
<b>Budget</b>	US \$ 4,191,887

Agriculture has made immense progress in contributing to the country's food security. India is one of the largest exporters of agricultural produce. Over the years, the contribution of agriculture to the GDP has come down considerably. However, it continues to be the largest source of livelihoods in India. While Indian agriculture adopted intensive agricultural practices to make great strides in production and productivity, and emerged as a net exporter of food grains, universal adoption of these intensive practices have undermined agrobiodiversity. Additionally, critical natural resources like land, soil, and water, particularly groundwater aquifers have been negatively impacted. The agriculture sector in the country is critically poised to address issues of its long-term sustainability.

For this, agriculture sector needs to fully integrate environmental concerns in its policies, plans and programmes to ensure that the sector's negative environmental impacts are mitigated and positive contributions are enhanced. Environmental mainstreaming is important, especially in the context of a changing climate.

The Green-Ag project aims to catalyze sustainable transformation of Indian agriculture, without compromising the country's food security and farmers' income. The project seeks to mainstream biodiversity, climate change, and sustainable land management objectives and practices into Indian agriculture. The project supports harmonization between India's agricultural and environmental sector priorities and investments so that the achievement of national and global environmental benefits can be fully realized without compromising India's ability to strengthen rural livelihoods and meet its food and nutrition security. The project also supports greater coherence between Government of India's policies, investments, and institutions concerned with conservation and agricultural production at landscape level so that they are mutually compatible.

The Green-Ag Project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through its sixth funding cycle. The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation, and Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW) is the National Executing Agency and FAO is the designated GEF Implementing Agency. The Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is the GEF Operational Focal Point and coordinates all GEF projects in the country.

The project adopts a landscape approach and is being implemented in five high-conservation-value landscapes, wherein each landscape includes a mix of conservation and production areas. The project states are : i) Madhya Pradesh, ii) Mizoram, iii) Odisha, iv) Rajasthan and v) Uttarakhand with a total budget of USD 33 558 716. The project duration is from 01 April 2019 to 31 March 2026.

The Project is designed to achieve multiple global environmental benefits in at least 1.8 million ha of land in five landscapes with mixed land use systems. This will include the following key targets:

- Institutionalization of intersectoral mechanisms (agricultural and allied sectors, forestry and natural resources management, and economic development) at the national and five States to facilitate continued mainstreaming of environmental concerns and priorities related to resilience into the agriculture sector beyond project end
- Strengthen at least six key National and State level agricultural programmes (missions) with result based environment indicators integrated into their policy and planning frameworks
- A reduction in the threat index from baseline at critical sites of high biodiversity importance
- Bringing in at least 104 070 ha of farms under sustainable land and water management (including organic farming and agrobiodiversity conservation)
- 49 million tCO<sub>2</sub>eq Greenhouse gas emission sequestered or reduced through sustainable land use and agricultural practices and improved agroecosystems management

The Green-Ag project is highly innovative in its focus on integrated approach to mainstream global environmental concerns into agriculture policies, programmes, capacity building and critical landscape management. This will include creating an improved management regime designed for maintaining ecosystem services at scale. The project will work to achieve multiple environmental benefits in more unified way to deliver greater cumulative impact. This will be a "first" in regard to the strategic convergence within the agricultural sector to achieve Biodiversity (BD), Land Degradation (LD), Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), and Climate Change Mitigation (CCM) benefits while simultaneously improving livelihoods and food security. This will be done through community-based approach designed to address past challenges related to disconnect between "good policy" and "poor implementation"



**MIZORAM** located in the North-East India forms a part of the Indo-Burma global biodiversity hotspot and encompasses rich biodiversity. Several critically endangered fauna like Leopard (*Panthera pardus*); Dhole (*Cuon alpinus*) Clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosus*); Fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*) and the Gaur (*Bos gaurus*) besides a large floral diversity like large variety of phanerophytes, which include varieties of trees and shrubs, parasites, epiphytes and succulent plants very diverse and significant orchid flora and many aromatic and medicinal plants are present in this landscape.

The project landscape covers an area of 145 670 ha, spawning across 35 villages and falls in two districts namely Lunglei, and Mamit and includes two protected areas: Dampa Tiger Reserve, and Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary. The Dampa Tiger Reserve lies at the tri-junction of Bangladesh and the two Indian states of Mizoram and Tripura. It is the largest protected area in Mizoram occupying 4.68% of its geographical area.

The traditional Jhum cultivation or shifting cultivation is a century-old practice, a major source of livelihood and a way of life of the indigenous communities in Mizoram. Due to increase in population and competing land use practices, the recent trends reveal shortened fallow periods that has adversely affected the land resources of the state causing widespread concern about declines in soil fertility, crop yields, and food security.

**ISSUES AND THREATS IN THE TARGET LANDSCAPE:**

- Unsustainable Jhum cultivation through shortened fallow cycles, caused by anthropogenic pressures has led to the conversion of forest-land to degraded agricultural fallows of poor ecological values.
- Uncontrolled forest fires causing large scale destruction of forest resources and biodiversity.
- Significantly high deforestation rates due to Jhum cultivation and other anthropogenic pressures.
- Land degradation due to increased vegetative destruction, water erosion, and settlement.
- Loss of agrobiodiversity due to monoculture plantations like oil palm.
- Traditional Hunting and cross border illegal poaching of wild life/ wild plants due to porous international borders with increased access to previously remote areas, with new roads. Illegal trade of wild orchids and overharvesting of medicinal plants is also of concern in some parts of the landscape.

**GREEN-AG PROJECT ACT AS A CATALYST** : The Green-Ag project will use agriculture as the primary entry point to promote a multi-sectoral approach to ensure agriculture’s policies, plans, and investments can enhance positive environmental services while mitigating negative environmental impacts. The Government of Mizoram has mandated the Department of Agriculture (Crop Husbandry) to be the nodal agency for implementation and management of the project.

**PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNITS**

The Department has established project implementation units in the State:

**I. State Project Management Unit (SPMU)** at the State Level - Works in close coordination with the National Project Management Unit (NPMU) for effective implementation of project components and coordinates all monitoring and reporting tasks at state-level.

**II. Green Landscape Implementation Unit (GLIU)** at the Landscape Level - Responsible for the day-to-day project implementation in the landscape. GLIU works in close coordination with the SPMU for effective implementation of project components and coordinates all monitoring and reporting tasks at state-level. The implementation units in the State will be guided by National Project Management Unit (NPMU), which will provide technical assistance, ensures effective implementation of project components, and coordinates all monitoring and reporting tasks at national-level.

**PROJECT POLICY GUIDANCE AND COORDINATION COMMITTEES**

The State Government has also constituted multi-sectoral committees at various levels in the State for policy guidance and coordination.

**I. State Steering Committee (SSC)** at State level headed by Chief Secretary - Provides overall guidance to the State Project Management Unit (SPMU) in project implementation; and facilitates mainstreaming of relevant project findings and recommendations into state policy.

**II. Technical Support Group (TSG)** at District level, headed by Ddeputy Commissioner – Responsible for monitoring project implementation at the field-level and providing general oversight in the project execution. Provides strategic leadership towards management of the project landscapes within the district.

**III. Gram Panchayat /Village Council Support Unit (GP-VCSU)** - Plays a critical role in project implementation. Facilitates synergy between GP development plans and project activities.

At the national level, the National Project Steering Committee (NPSC) provides overall guidance and strategic leadership to create synergies for a multi-sectoral coordination in project implementation; and facilitates ‘mainstreaming’ of relevant project findings and recommendations in National policy. The National Project Monitoring Committee (NPMC) monitors the project implementation and is responsible for providing general oversight in the project execution.

**PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS IN THE PROJECT**

The project activities will be rolled out on the following broad themes:

**Sustainable Agriculture**

- Identifying indigenous agriculture produce for sustainable value chains
- Incentivize farmers to grow local land-races
- Support community seed banks for identified agriculture produce
- Promote agroecological practices, including sustainable soil and water management
- Strengthen/ establish green value chains
- Facilitate linkages for local procurement by social safety net programmes

**Improved Livestock Management**

- Identifying indigenous breeds for sustainable value chains
- Enhanced Nutrition and Disease management
- Deworming and vaccination
- Improve quality of indigenous livestock
- Support community fodder banks/ Feed supplies
- Improved market access and value chains

**Community-based Natural Resource Management**

- Participatory assessment of existing natural resources in the landscape and drivers of degradation
- Design and implement participatory land-use plans for sustainable Jhum, forest, and other land and water management
- Protection of habitats important for globally important biodiversity
- Address Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC), illegal hunting and poaching

**Incentivize Communities to adopt agroecological practices**

- Scale up Mizoram Sloping Agriculture Land Technology (MiSALT)
- Promote indigenous medicinal and aromatic plants
- Participatory management of natural resources and usufruct sharing
- Promote Community-based Ecotourism
- Support documentation and use of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge

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