

ENABLING PATHWAYS FOR

LASTING GROWTH

ANNUAL REPORT
2025 – 2026



Contents

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Development is about expanding the choices people have to lead lives that they value.

–UNDP, Human Development Report

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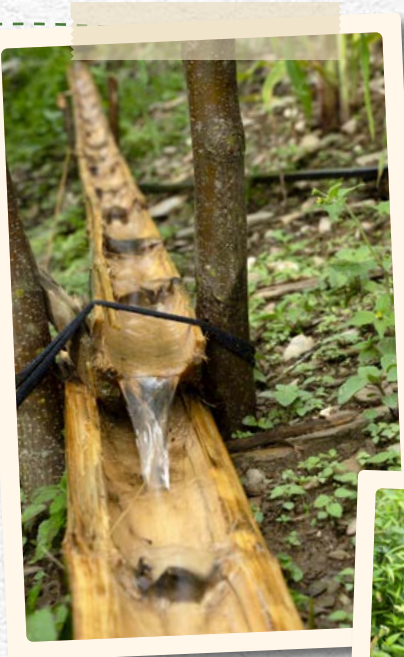
Enabling Pathways for LASTING GROWTH

As the North East Initiative Development Agency (NEIDA) enters its 14th year of working alongside communities across Northeast India, this years' Annual Report offers an opportunity to reflect on a journey shaped by partnership, learning, and lasting impact.

Over the years, NEIDA's work has evolved beyond project implementation to expanding community ownership, strengthening local capacities, and enabling systems that continue to create value long after project interventions have ended. Whether through improving agricultural practices, enhancing livelihoods, ensuring access to safe water in remote villages, or promoting better natural resource management, the common thread has remained the same—placing people and communities at the centre of development.

This commitment is reflected across the diverse initiatives featured in this report. Our grassroots sports development programme, for instance, demonstrates that development is not measured solely by economic outcomes. By encouraging children and young people to pursue sports, build confidence, develop leadership, and inspire their peers, the programme has created opportunities that extend well beyond the playing field.

The theme of this year's report, **"Enabling Pathways for Lasting Growth,"** reflects NEIDA's belief that meaningful development is achieved when communities are empowered to make informed choices, lead local solutions, and build resilience for the future.



Chairperson's Message

As we present NEIDA's Annual Report 2025–26, I am filled with gratitude for the collective efforts that have shaped another year of meaningful progress. Every milestone reflected in these pages is the result of the trust, commitment, and collaboration of communities, partners, government institutions, donors, and our dedicated team, all working towards a shared vision of inclusive development.

This year, our theme, "Enabling Pathways for Lasting Growth," reflects a belief that has guided NEIDA since its inception, that lasting change is achieved not by working for communities, but by working with them. When people are equipped with knowledge, skills, and opportunities, they become the architects of their own development, creating change that extends well beyond the life of any single project.

Across the diverse landscapes of Northeast India, we have witnessed communities embracing new agricultural practices, strengthening livelihoods, improving access to essential services, and investing in the aspirations of their children and youth. The Northeast India is a region of cultural richness, natural wealth, and human potential. As we pursue growth, we must continue to ensure that it remains inclusive, community-led, and respectful of the environment that sustains us. The choices we make today will determine the opportunities available to future generations.

The FY 2025–26 saw NEIDA implement multiple projects across 32 districts in three states, reaching communities through interventions spanning livelihoods, water security, skills development, and grassroots sports. More than 10,000 farming households benefited from livelihood interventions

focused on improved services, better access to markets, and the adoption of biosecurity measures. Beyond agriculture, we supported weaver artisans and homestay owners through training and capacity building aimed at strengthening their skills and creating opportunities for improved incomes. During the year, 302 springs were treated, benefiting more than 7,000 households. These springs continue to serve as an important source of water for communities, supporting both their daily needs and agricultural activities. Our commitment to nurturing young talent also continued through our grassroots sports programme. A total of 1,397 children were enrolled in our grassroots sports centres, where they received opportunities to develop their skills, build confidence, and pursue their sporting potential.

These achievements would not have been possible without the support and partnership of our stakeholders. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Tata Trusts, NABARD, the Governments of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, the National Cooperative Development Corporation, Titan Company Limited, ICICI Foundation, and Axis Bank Foundation for their continued support. I also express my gratitude to our local implementing partners, institutional stakeholders, and, most importantly, the communities who have welcomed us, worked alongside us, and placed their trust in our efforts.

Finally, my sincere appreciation goes to the NEIDA team, whose hard work, commitment, and continued engagement with communities across the region remain at the heart of our work.

Dr. Rajesh Thadani,
Chairperson, NEIDA



NEIDA OVERVIEW

The North East Initiative Development Agency (NEIDA) was established as a non-profit organisation under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, in 2012. Over the past 14 years, NEIDA has worked alongside communities in the remote districts of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, and Nagaland to strengthen livelihoods, improve access to water resources, and create opportunities for lasting community development.

Our work is centred around three key areas: Rural Livelihoods, Natural Resource Management and Water Security, and Grassroots Sports Development. Since its inception, NEIDA has grown from a small organisation into a multi-thematic development agency implementing large-scale programmes in partnership with multiple donors.

Our rural livelihoods programme focuses on improving household incomes by enhancing productivity in agricultural products like vegetables, fruits and spices. piggyery. We also emphasise on market linkage, support

women weavers and farmers, incubate farmer collectives, promote community led eco-tourism model across Nagaland and improve livestock management.

Through our Natural Resource Management and Water Security programme, our springshed rejuvenation initiatives have demonstrated that restoring and protecting spring catchments can improve spring discharge during the lean season, contributing to reliable water availability for rural communities. Our watershed initiatives have further reinforced the importance of managing water resources alongside livelihood development under this programme.

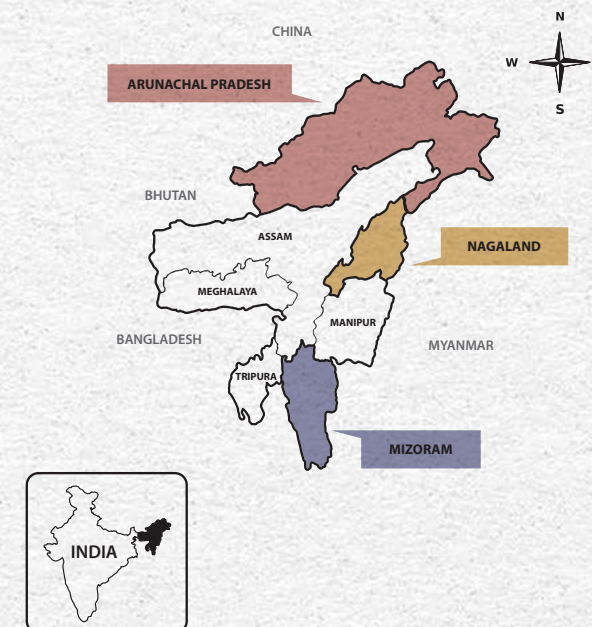
Lastly our grassroots sports programme, we continue to nurture young talent by creating opportunities in sports such as football and badminton, particularly in Mizoram.

OUR VISION

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Towards building an inclusive enabling environment for improving the quality of life in North-eastern region of India.

DEMOGRAPHIC PRESENCE



1,86,841

Households Impacted

2530

Villages

32

Districts

3

States

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

OUR WORK ALIGNS WITH:



MILESTONES OF FY 2025-26

1

NEIDA held the **'Best Farmer Award'** in Tuensang, Kiphire, Tseminyu and Phek districts of Nagaland from July 24-31, 2025. A total of 8 farmers were awarded with a cash prize of Rs 25,000 each for their contributions in innovative and sustainable farming.

2

Under our Springshed Management programme, in partnership with the Titan Company Limited (TCL), a solar-powered submersible pump was installed at Mudobu spring in Lozaphuhu Village, Phek on November 5. The automatic solar pump comprises of 30 solar panels of 545 watts each generating sufficient energy to operate a 5 HP pump; capable of lifting 30,000 litres of water per hour to a storage reservoir located about 300 meters uphill from the spring site, ensuring that over 600 households have access to it.

3

NEIDA won the second prize in the **"Water Initiatives by NGOs"** category by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries Awards 2025.

4

Under NEIDA's supported Kade Cooperative Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO), Phek District, Nagaland in partnership with NABARD, a Rural Mart – a dedicated marketing outlet for local producers and farmer groups, was launched in Pfutsero town on 02 September 2025. Kade FPO also won the Best FPO in Nagaland on November 18, 2025, by the National Cooperative Development Corporation.

5

Under our Crafts initiative, the brand **'NagaLoom'** was launched in the digital platform –Instagram, to improve outreach and engagement in September 2025. Through Nagaloom, we are enabling an ecosystem for Ioin loom women entrepreneurs to grow their business through the production and marketing of quality products.

6

NEIDA forged new partnerships with the Axis Bank Foundation (ABF) and ICICI Foundation for large scale livelihood programme and springshed management programme respectively in the year 2025.

7

A Letter of Agreement (LoA) was established between NEIDA and Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE) to strengthen water security in Arunachal Pradesh by restoring and rejuvenating vulnerable springs. The partnership aims to create scalable models and knowledge for long-term ecosystem resilience and community water access, without financial obligations, over a three-year period.

8

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Central Groundwater Board (CGWB) and NEIDA to address spring water insecurity in Arunachal Pradesh through scientific and community-driven approaches. It combines CGWB's technical expertise with NEIDA's grassroots implementation and community mobilisation, creating a strong science-to-field linkage for sustainable water management. Overall, the MoU strengthens NEIDA's positioning within the national technical ecosystem and contributes to building a sustainable and replicable model for spring rejuvenation in the Himalayan region.

Rural Livelihoods

Rural livelihoods in the Northeast continue to be shaped by diversification, with households rarely depending on a single source of income. Agriculture remains the primary livelihood for most rural households, supplemented by livestock rearing, daily wage labour, non-timber forest products (NTFPs), handicrafts, and other income-generating activities. This diversified livelihood system enables households to draw on different sources of food and income throughout the year.

However, changing climate patterns, particularly shifts in rainfall, are increasingly influencing agricultural production and the availability of natural resources on which rural households depend. In response, NEIDA's livelihood interventions have increasingly focused on strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacity of farming communities, while helping households diversify their livelihood options.

Within agriculture, this includes supporting access to irrigation, promoting indigenous and climate-resilient crops and varieties like Colocasia, foxtail millet, pigeon pea and encouraging improved farming practices that can help households manage changing conditions. Livestock interventions focus on strengthening existing enterprises while encouraging households to diversify their livestock choices and improve management practices.

Beyond farm-based livelihoods, NEIDA is also supporting opportunities that enable households to build income from their skills, local resources, and community assets. These include loom weaving, eco-tourism, and rural entrepreneurship, creating pathways for women, young people, and rural communities to participate in alternative and supplementary livelihood activities.

The approach is therefore not simply about increasing income from one activity. It is about helping rural households build a portfolio of livelihood options—strengthening what already works, introducing new opportunities where appropriate, and supporting communities to adapt to changing economic and environmental conditions.

Through this approach, NEIDA continues to work towards rural livelihoods that are more diversified, resilient, and responsive to the realities faced by communities across the Northeast.



AGRICULTURE & HORTICULTURE

Agriculture and horticulture remain the primary source of livelihoods for rural communities across Northeast India, where farming supports household food security, nutrition, and incomes while sustaining local economies. Yet, dependence on rainfed agriculture, fragmented landholdings, limited irrigation, and increasing climate variability continue to constrain productivity and income opportunities. Recognising that these challenges require long-term solutions rather than isolated interventions, NEIDA continues to strengthen farming systems by building community capacities, improving productive assets, and creating institutions that enable farmers to sustainably manage natural resources and participate more effectively in agricultural markets.

During FY 2025–26, we worked with 10,584 households across 164 villages in 9 districts of Nagaland, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh, bringing 1,709.8 hectares under improved cultivation. The programme strengthened the entire farming ecosystem through crop diversification, orchard development, community-based seed production, integrated crop management including integrated pest/disease/nutrient management and farmer capacity building. These investments have improved farmers' access to quality planting materials, technical knowledge, and locally available resources, enabling communities to increase productivity while reducing production risks.

A key feature has been the adoption of an end-to-end, holistic seed-to-market value chain approach that strengthens local agricultural enterprises and reduces dependence on external inputs. Twenty-two polyhouse entrepreneurs now produce quality planting materials that are supplied to neighbouring

farmers, ensuring timely access to healthy seedlings adapted to local conditions. Produce is subsequently aggregated and marketed collectively through Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), improving market access, strengthening collective bargaining, and enabling farmers to capture greater value from their produce.

Reliable water access remained central to improving agricultural resilience. During the reporting period, 188 community-managed irrigation assets, comprising of Diversion Based Irrigation (DBI) structures, Jalkunds (farm pond), and Dug-out ponds, were constructed, providing irrigation covering approximately 161 hectares of farmland. These shared community assets have enabled farmers to cultivate vegetables and horticultural crops throughout the year, particularly during the dry winter season when water scarcity previously limited production. Reliable irrigation has increased cropping intensity, encouraged diversification into higher-value crops, reduced production risks associated with erratic rainfall, and strengthened household food security and incomes.

Beyond creating infrastructure, the programme strengthened community ownership by actively engaging farmers in the planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of irrigation systems while enhancing their technical and institutional capacities. The integration of improved production practices, local enterprise development, community-managed irrigation, and collective marketing is creating self-sustaining agricultural systems that enable communities to manage resources effectively, respond to changing climatic conditions, and build resilient livelihoods for future generations.

OUR OUTREACH

OUTREACH	NAGALAND	MIZORAM	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	TOTAL
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS	6858	3602	124	10584
AREA COVERED UNDER IMPROVED CULTIVATION (IN HECTARES)	902	790	17.8	1709.8
NUMBER OF VILLAGES	96	48	20	164
NUMBER OF DISTRICTS	3	4	2	9
NUMBER OF IRRIGATION ASSETS	46	85	57	188
IRRIGATED AREA (IN HECTARES)	64.13	60.55	36.7	161.38



CULTIVATING CHANGE: From Farmer to Community Resource Person

For over two decades, farming has been central to the life of Khroneite-u Doulo, 51 from Thetsumi village in Phek district. A mother of two, she has transformed her two-acre farm into a thriving integrated farming enterprise, demonstrating how sustained technical support, diversification, and community leadership can create lasting change.

Khroneite-u's journey with NEIDA began in 2015, when she indirectly participated in the programme through NEIDA's implementing partner, Chakhesang Women Welfare Society (CWWS). At the time, her family primarily cultivated paddy. However, recurring water shortages made paddy cultivation increasingly difficult, prompting her to explore more farming options.

Through NEIDA's technical trainings on improved cultivation practices, crop planning, line sowing, and the use of quality inputs, she gradually diversified into high-value vegetable cultivation. Today, her farm produces broccoli, cauliflower, bok choy, green beans, garden peas, and a variety of seasonal vegetables, providing a more reliable source of food and income.

Recognising the importance of long-term sustainability, Khroneite-u established a fruit orchard after the COVID-19 pandemic, planting bananas, avocados, persimmons, plums, and jackfruit. By combining annual vegetable production with perennial fruit crops, she strengthened the resilience of her farming system while creating multiple income streams.

"I have started selling my fruits in the nearby market. I am also part of Sekeze Self Help Group, and they aggregate and sell my products in Pfustero and Phek markets."

In 2017, NEIDA expanded its support by providing her with a mini breeding unit to strengthen her piggery enterprise. Complemented by livestock management trainings and animal health camps, she acquired practical knowledge on improved pig rearing, disease prevention, and animal health. Today, piggery has become an important component of her integrated farming system, and she plans to expand it into a larger commercial enterprise.

As part of NEIDA's climate-resilient agriculture initiatives, a section of her farmland was selected as a demonstration plot in 2025. Soil and water conservation measures were introduced on the plot which have improved moisture retention, reduced land degradation, and strengthened the long-term productivity of her farm.

By integrating vegetables, fruit orchards, and livestock into a single farming system, Khroneite-u has successfully diversified her livelihood and reduced her dependence on a single source of income. During FY 2025-26, she generated an annual income of approximately Rs. 2 lakhs, demonstrating the economic potential of diversified, climate-resilient agriculture.

A decade after first participating in NEIDA-supported activities, Khroneite-u now serves as a Community Resource Person (CRP) for Thetsumi village. In this role, she mobilises farmers, facilitates community meetings, demonstrates improved farming practices, and mentors fellow farmers who are interested in adopting agriculture as a livelihood.

"It is encouraging to see youths in my village come to me and learn because they also want to do what I am doing," she shares.

Today, Khroneite-u is a local leader, mentor, and change agent. Her journey reflects NEIDA's approach of investing not only in livelihoods, but also in people who can champion sustainable agriculture and inspire transformation within their own communities.



Blooming Opportunities through Horticulture

Kara Ama is a farmer and nursery-based entrepreneur from Mani Village in Doimukh block, Papumpare district of Arunachal Pradesh. Like many farming households in the area, her family traditionally depended on agriculture and livestock rearing. However, the seasonal nature of these activities resulted in irregular income, making it difficult to consistently meet household expenses and invest further in farming.

In 2024, Ama received support to start a polyhouse from NEIDA and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh. She also received training and technical guidance on improved agricultural practices, complimented by livestock management and disease prevention.

Initially, she used the polyhouse to raise and sell vegetable seedlings, including King chilli and local vegetables. Over time, she observed a growing demand and better income potential for ornamental plants. Responding to this opportunity, she shifted her focus from vegetable seedlings to raising and selling flower plants.

The shift allowed her to make better use of the polyhouse and develop an enterprise that responds to market demand. "My flower plants attract customers from nearby villages and

towns. At times, customers also travel from Itanagar to purchase directly from me," she shared.

Alongside the nursery enterprise, she cultivates and sells litchi and pineapple. Combining ornamental flower production with fruit cultivation has enabled her to diversify her horticulture activities and create multiple sources of income.

During FY 2025–26, the flower sales provided her with a monthly income of approximately Rs. 8,000–Rs. 15,000, depending on seasonal demand. She also earned around Rs. 42,000 from the cultivation and sale of litchi and pineapple, while piggy contributed an additional Rs. 50,000 as a supplementary livelihood.

The diversified income has strengthened the family's financial stability, helped meet household expenses and enabled further investment in the enterprise. Recognised by NEIDA as a nursery-based entrepreneur, her journey demonstrates how productive assets, technical guidance and the ability to respond to market demand can help a rural woman build a successful and resilient livelihood.



LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

In the Northeast, livestock rearing forms an important component of rural household livelihoods, often complementing agriculture and providing households with an additional source of income. Piggery and poultry are particularly relevant to smallholder farming systems, where livestock can be integrated with existing farm activities and managed alongside crop production.

Recognising this role, NEIDA works with piggery and poultry farmers to strengthen livestock-based livelihoods through a combination of productive assets, technical training, and improved management practices. Support includes the provision of relevant livestock assets, along with training on better animal husbandry, feeding, housing, hygiene, and biosecurity practices.

Greater emphasis on biosecurity and disease prevention helps farmers strengthen day-to-day livestock management while improving their knowledge of measures that can reduce health risks within their units. Through trainings and field-level support, farmers are encouraged to adopt improved practices that can contribute to healthier livestock and more sustainable enterprises.

By strengthening both the physical assets and knowledge base of livestock farmers, NEIDA's livestock interventions seek to make piggery and poultry enterprises more productive and resilient, while enabling rural households to further diversify their livelihood and income sources.



• Piggery

During FY 2025–26, NEIDA's piggery interventions across Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh continued to focus on strengthening smallholder piggery as a sustainable source of household income, food security and livelihood resilience. The programme moved beyond the provision of livestock assets by promoting better farm management, disease prevention, biosecurity and access to local technical services.

A key achievement was the strengthening of farm-level preparedness against African Swine Fever (ASF) and other livestock diseases. Biosecurity improvements, village-level awareness activities and practical training helped farmers understand disease risks and adopt preventive measures in their day-to-day farm operations. The establishment of breeding units and provision of productive assets also contributed to improving the availability of pigs and strengthening the production base.

Capacity building remained central to the approach. Training of Livestock Service Providers (LSP's) has created a cadre of community-based service providers capable of providing farmers with timely technical guidance, while animal health camps improved access to preventive and basic veterinary services. Farmer trainings and exposure-based learning further encouraged adoption of improved housing, feeding, breeding and animal-health practices.

Overall, the interventions have strengthened the local livestock support ecosystem, reduced vulnerability to disease-related losses and laid the foundation for more productive, bio-secure and resilient smallholder piggery enterprises.

OUR OUTREACH

OUTREACH	NAGALAND	MIZORAM	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	TOTAL
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS COVERED	4800	2898	54	7752
NUMBER OF VILLAGES COVERED	105	46	40	191
NUMBER OF PIGSTIES CONSTRUCTED/ RENOVATED FOR BIOSECURITY IMPROVEMENT	7	208	–	208
NUMBER OF PIG BREEDING UNITS ESTABLISHED	9	–	–	9
NUMBER OF ANIMAL HEALTH CAMPS CONDUCTED	17	17	–	34
NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK SERVICE PROVIDERS TRAINED	97	97	–	97



• Poultry

NEIDA's backyard poultry interventions in Mizoram and Nagaland aims to diversify household livelihoods while improving access to nutritious animal-source food and creating opportunities for supplementary income. The programme particularly promoted poultry as a low-investment and relatively quick-return enterprise, making it suitable for smallholder households seeking to strengthen their livelihood base.

The interventions combined productive asset support with farmer capacity building and local production infrastructure. In Nagaland, poultry hatchery and breeding units were established representing an important step towards developing a more sustainable local poultry production system, reducing dependence on external supply of chicks and creating potential for expansion of backyard poultry enterprises in the clusters. Provision of poultry sheds has also enabled our project participants to maintain appropriate housing conditions and improve basic flock management.

In Mizoram, project participants were supported through poultry fattening units, accompanied by training on improved poultry management. These interventions sought to improve farmers' understanding of feeding, housing, hygiene, disease prevention and routine flock care, thereby reducing avoidable losses and improving productivity.

Collectively, the interventions have contributed to livelihood diversification, improved household nutrition and enhanced capacity for small-scale poultry production. More importantly, they demonstrate NEIDA's integrated approach of combining productive assets with knowledge and local support systems to create sustainable rural enterprises rather than one-time asset-based interventions.

OUR OUTREACH

OUTREACH	NAGALAND	MIZORAM	TOTAL
NUMBER OF HHS COVERED	423	216	639
NUMBER OF VILLAGES COVERED	30	46	76
NUMBER OF BACKYARD POULTRY SHEDS CONSTRUCTED	423	0	423



Restoring Livelihoods Through Improved Biosecurity Measures

Vanlalzapi, from Khuangleng Village in Mizoram is the sole provider for her three children. Pig farming has long been her family's primary source of income, enabling her to meet household needs and finance her children's education.

In 2019, the outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) and Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) devastated pig farming across the area. Vanlalzapi lost her entire herd, comprising 10 breeding sows, 15 fattening pigs, and 40 piglets. The loss eliminated her primary livelihood and forced her to discontinue commercial pig farming due to the fear of recurring disease outbreaks.

To support the recovery of pig farmers and strengthen disease prevention, NEIDA implemented the ASF Mitigation Project in Khawbung Block in 2025. Based on her previous experience and commitment to pig farming, Vanlalzapi was selected as one of the project participants.

The project provided a comprehensive package of support, including the construction of improved pig housing to enhance hygiene and minimise disease transmission, training on scientific pig husbandry and farm management. Capacity building on strict biosecurity protocols, including controlled farm access, quarantine procedures, and routine sanitation practices were also provided, which was followed by technical guidance and regular follow-up visits to ensure proper adoption of recommended practices.

The intervention produced encouraging results within the first year of implementation. By consistently applying the recommended biosecurity measures, Vanlalzapi successfully

re-established her piggery enterprise without experiencing any disease outbreak. Her three breeding sows farrowed twice during the year, resulting in a significant increase in piglet production and enabling her to gradually rebuild her herd. The restored production generated a regular source of household income, improving her family's financial security and reducing their vulnerability to future shocks.

Beyond the economic recovery, the project strengthened Vanlalzapi's confidence in scientific pig farming. She now serves as an example for other farmers in the community, demonstrating that strict biosecurity measures, improved housing, and sound management practices can effectively reduce the risk of ASF and support sustainable pig production.



COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS

Community institutions remain central to NEIDA's approach to promoting inclusive and sustainable rural livelihoods across Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. By strengthening Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Producer Groups (PGs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), village-level institutions and apex institutions, NEIDA empowers smallholder farmers to collectively address challenges related to fragmented production, limited access to quality inputs, finance, markets and technical services. The programme focuses on building resilient, member-owned institutions that improve livelihoods through collective action, enterprise development and participatory governance.

During FY 2025–26, the programme strengthened community institutions across multiple project locations, supporting over 4,230 shareholder and member households, including 3,661 shareholders in Mizoram, 537 newly enrolled shareholder households in Nagaland, and 32 households enrolled in apex institutions in Arunachal Pradesh. A total of 101 membership drives, 78 Producer Groups were formed and adopted, 67 monthly review meetings, and 6 institutional capacity-building programmes were conducted to improve governance, financial management, record-keeping, business planning and member participation.

NEIDA adopted a participatory and convergence-driven strategy by integrating institutional strengthening with business development, value chain promotion and market-oriented interventions. The programme facilitated collective procurement and marketing, strengthening governance and leadership development, exposure visits, food processing training, and partnerships with institutions such as NABARD, Mizoram Rural Bank, Selco Foundation and Mizoram Food Processing Research & Training Centre (MFPRTC). Simultaneously, it promoted value addition, institutional finance and enterprise management to improve the sustainability and competitiveness of community institutions.

These interventions resulted in significant achievements during the year. Community institutions were able to access Rs. 24 lakhs in institutional credit, mobilised Rs.15.45 lakhs in equity grants, developed 18 value-added products. The two apex FPOs recorded a combined annual business turnover of over Rs. 1.03 crore. Improved governance systems, stronger leadership, enhanced market access and increased participation of farmers—particularly women—have strengthened the capacity of community institutions to function as sustainable rural enterprises. Collectively, these efforts have enhanced farmer resilience, expanded economic opportunities and laid a strong foundation for long-term, community-led rural development across NEIDA's operational areas.

OUR OUTREACH

OUTREACH	NAGALAND	MIZORAM	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	TOTAL
SHAREHOLDERS/ MEMBER HOUSEHOLDS REACHED	537	3661	32	4230
HOUSEHOLDS ACCESSING FPO SERVICES	1556	1249	–	2805
MEMBERSHIP DRIVES CONDUCTED	101	56	–	157
PRODUCER GROUPS FORMED	78	–	–	78
MONTHLY REVIEW MEETINGS	67	8	–	75
CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES	28	22	6	56
INSTITUTIONAL CREDIT / LOANS FACILITATED	Rs. 13 Lakhs	Rs. 11 Lakhs	–	Rs. 24 Lakhs
EQUITY GRANTS MOBILISED	–	Rs. 15.45 lakh	–	Rs. 15.45 Lakhs
BUSINESS TURNOVER	Rs. 81.30 lakh	Rs. 22.14 lakh	–	Rs. 103.44 Lakhs



Support from FPO Helps Kenile Seb Turn her Poultry Farming into a Long-term Livelihood

Kenile Seb, a 48-year-old farmer from Phenwhenyu village in Tseminyu district of Nagaland, has depended on agriculture, livestock, and fish farming to provide for her family of five. For many years, poultry was a simple household activity, rearing chickens for self-consumption, with little expectation of earning an income.



In 2024, she joined Nzon Nyegi Farmer Producer Organisation, a block level Cooperative promoted by NEIDA.

Before becoming a member, Kenile managed only 20–30 poultry birds per batch using traditional practices. Limited technical knowledge, frequent disease outbreaks, delayed feed supply, and the absence of reliable markets prevented her from expanding beyond subsistence farming. Poultry contributed almost nothing to the family's income despite the time and effort invested.

Through the support of the FPO, Kenile received scientific poultry management training, improved chicks, veterinary services, better poultry housing, feed support, business guidance, and assured market linkage. These interventions gave her the confidence to scale up production and manage poultry farming as a business rather than a household activity.

"The training, improved housing, and assured market completely changed the way I manage my poultry farm. I can now produce with confidence because I know there is a reliable buyer for my birds," she shared.

Today, Kenile rears around 70 birds per batch, completing four production cycles every year and producing nearly 670 birds annually. Poultry has become one of her family's primary income sources, generating approximately Rs. 60,000 each year while increasing her total household income to nearly Rs. 2.8 lakhs annually and an annual household saving of Rs. 30,000. The additional earnings have enabled the family to improve food security, support the children's education, strengthen household savings, and enhance their overall quality of life.

According to her, "Joining the Cooperative has transformed poultry farming into my main source of income. It has improved my family's

livelihood and given me the confidence to encourage other women to believe in themselves and start their own poultry enterprises."

Beyond financial gains, the programme has transformed Kenile into a confident community leader. She now coordinates the village's demand for chicks and feed, assists fellow poultry farmers in placing orders, and actively encourages women from neighbouring villages to take up poultry farming as a livelihood. Her experience has made her a trusted source of advice within her community.

Although disease outbreaks remain a challenge, Kenile is determined to continue growing. Her ambition is to expand production to 1,500–2,000 birds annually, diversify into vegetable cultivation for additional daily income, and eventually create employment opportunities for other rural youth and women.

“

Joining the Cooperative has transformed poultry farming into my main source of income. It has improved my family's livelihood and given me the confidence to encourage other women to believe in themselves and start their own poultry enterprises.”



Bridging the Input Gap through Farmer Collectives

Farmers in the remote villages of Mizoram often face persistent challenges in accessing timely and quality agricultural inputs. Long distances from district headquarters make it difficult to procure certified seeds, fertilizers, and farm equipment at affordable prices. Limited access to technical training and advisory services further constrains farmers' ability to improve productivity and increase their incomes.

To address these challenges, the Tuipuiral Apple Growers Cooperatives Society Limited was established in 2023 and supported by NEIDA under its Community Institutions programme. Over the years, the FPO has evolved into an important service provider for its member farmers, helping bridge critical gaps in access to agricultural inputs, technical knowledge, and market infrastructure.

As a licensed seed dealer, the FPO procures certified seeds and other agricultural inputs directly from suppliers at wholesale rates. These inputs are subsequently made available to members at subsidised costs, helping farmers reduce their input expenses while improving access to quality planting material. The FPO also ensures that seeds and other inputs reach farmers in time for the sowing season, reducing delays that can affect crop production.

The FPO's role extends beyond the provision of inputs. Recognising the need for practical and locally relevant knowledge, it facilitates field-based training by bringing agricultural experts directly to the farming community. Farmers can also raise their production-related concerns with the FPO, which coordinates with relevant experts and institutions to identify appropriate solutions. Initiatives such as vermicomposting have further contributed to strengthening farmers' knowledge of improved and sustainable agricultural practices.

Institutional convergence has been another important component of the FPO's work. The Tuipuiral Apple Growers Cooperatives Society Ltd. has developed a strong working relationship with the Cooperatives Department, Government of Mizoram, enabling its members to access additional opportunities and services through government programmes and institutional support.

The benefits of this collective approach are increasingly visible among member farmers. Subsidised access to certified seeds and fertilizers has helped reduce input costs, while timely availability of inputs before the sowing season has helped minimise crop losses associated with delayed planting. Practical training and vermicomposting initiatives have strengthened farmers' technical knowledge

and encouraged improved farm practices. At the same time, market infrastructure, including the establishment of a Rural Haat, has created opportunities for collective marketing and greater visibility of farmers' produce.

For farmers living in remote areas, the FPO serves as a platform through which farmers can access inputs, technical knowledge, institutional linkages, and market opportunities closer to their communities. Its engagement with the Cooperatives Department has also strengthened convergence and opened avenues for members to benefit from government support.

The experience of Tuipuiral Apple Growers Cooperatives Society Ltd. demonstrates the potential of farmer collectives to address service gaps in remote rural areas. By leveraging its seed dealership, facilitating affordable and timely input supply, organising practical training, promoting sustainable practices, developing market infrastructure, and building institutional convergence, the FPO is strengthening the support ecosystem available to farmers and contributing to more sustainable agricultural livelihoods in Mizoram.

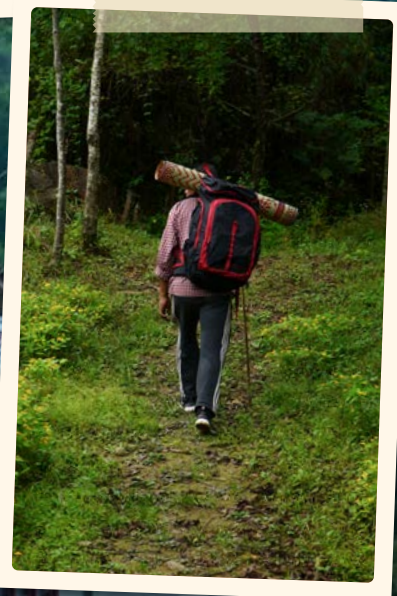


OFF FARM LIVELIHOODS

NEIDA continues to support farming households in diversifying their income sources beyond agriculture through women-led entrepreneurship and forest-based livelihoods. In Nagaland, NEIDA promotes entrepreneurship among women weavers, while community-led eco-tourism initiatives create opportunities for rural communities to build livelihoods around their local natural and cultural resources.

During FY 2025–26, NEIDA's off-farm livelihood initiatives gained renewed momentum following a brief hiatus. New project locations were explored, new partnerships and connections were established, and communities were brought into the fold of livelihood development initiatives.

From supporting women to build enterprises around their weaving skills to enabling communities to explore eco-tourism as a collective livelihood opportunity, NEIDA continues to work towards a more diversified rural economy where households can draw on multiple sources of income and local communities can build on the resources and skills they already possess.



• Crafts Based Livelihood

Under NEIDA's Crafts based Livelihood, we focus on building a sustainable ecosystem that empowers women weavers in Nagaland to become successful entrepreneurs. By strengthening entrepreneurship, improving production systems including skill upgradation of weavers, fostering design innovation and expanding market access, the crafts programme is transforming traditional weaving into a viable and sustainable livelihood while preserving the region's rich textile heritage.

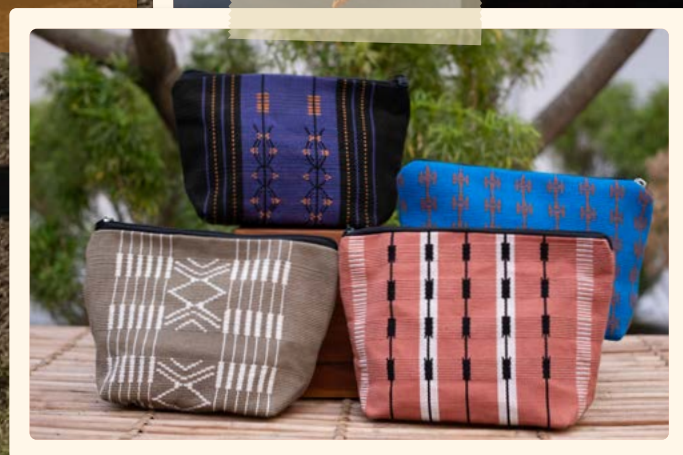
The programme follows an integrated strategy that combines capacity building, entrepreneurship development, design innovation, production support, market linkages and cluster strengthening. During FY 2025-26, 43 Artisan Entrepreneurs received training in business management, including design development, costing, accounting, bookkeeping and production planning. To strengthen enterprise growth, 24 entrepreneurs received seed funding, while five promising entrepreneurs participated in a structured mentorship programme led by experienced business mentors, helping them improve enterprise management, business planning and market readiness.

A key focus of the programme has been product innovation. During the year, 11 market-led design collections and 232 contemporary product samples were developed across home furnishings, accessories, and apparel, successfully blending traditional loom craftsmanship with modern consumer preferences. Recognising the importance of artisan well-being, the programme also organised a medical camp that provided health services to 143 weavers.

Market development remained a major driver of growth. The programme organised six exhibitions and participated in seven regional and national marketing platforms, enabling artisans to collectively generate sales of approximately Rs 18 lakh while expanding their customer base and brand visibility. The launch of the NagaLoom Instagram page further enhanced digital outreach creating new opportunities to showcase products connect with buyers and strengthen the NagaLoom brand – which has been launched under the programme.

To improve the production value chain, three local tailors were trained in post-loom finishing services such as stitching and product finishing. Their presence within the clusters has significantly reduced turnaround time and provided accessible finishing services to the entrepreneurs and weavers.

Collectively, the programme enabled entrepreneurs to produce products worth Rs 1.53 crore and generate Rs 97 lakh in revenue during the year. These achievements demonstrate the programme's growing impact in strengthening women-led enterprises creating sustainable livelihoods preserving traditional weaving knowledge and building a supportive ecosystem for weavers across Nagaland.



OUR OUTREACH

OUTREACH	COVERAGE
NUMBER OF DISTRICTS	7
NUMBER OF VILLAGES	80
NUMBER OF ARTISANS TRAINED	473
NUMBER OF MASTER LOOM TRAINERS IDENTIFIED	14
NUMBER OF PRODUCT SAMPLES DEVELOPED	232
NUMBER OF MARKET LED DESIGNS DEVELOPED	11
TOTAL REVENUE GENERATED	Rs. 97 Lakhs



Empowering Traditional Weaving for Financial Independence



At just 27 years old, Sezholu Theluo from Thipuzu village from Phek district has transformed her passion for traditional weaving into a thriving enterprise. Having learned the art of loin loom weaving from her mother at an early age she combined her inherited skills with creativity and determination to build a sustainable livelihood rooted in her cultural heritage.

Her entrepreneurial journey took a significant leap forward with the introduction of the NEIDA's Craft Project in 2019. Through the project, Sezholu gained valuable exposure to market trends, design innovation, product diversification and business development. Equipped with these new skills, she expanded beyond traditional textiles to create products that appeal to both heritage and contemporary markets.

Today, Sezholu produces a diverse range of handcrafted products, including traditional wraparounds woven from Eri silk and linen alongside modern home décor items such as table runners and wall art. Her ability to blend traditional craftsmanship with contemporary aesthetics has enabled her to reach a wider customer base while preserving the authenticity of Naga weaving.

She actively experiments with natural dyes derived from onion peels, tree bark and other locally available materials, creating eco-friendly products that reflect both environmental consciousness and indigenous knowledge. She markets her creations through her Instagram page, Vivi Weaves, while also catering to local customers successfully balancing digital and community-based sales channels.

Although her journey was marked by financial constraints and transportation challenges, Sezholu remained resilient. Today, she has built

a stable business that not only supports her family but also creates livelihood opportunities for others. She currently works with five associate weavers generating employment and contributing to the economic growth of her village. During FY 25-26 she generated a revenue of Rs. 3 lakhs.

Looking ahead, Sezholu envisions establishing a dedicated weaving centre in Thipuzu village. Her goal is to mentor and train the next generation of weavers preserving traditional weaving techniques while creating sustainable income opportunities for women. Her journey demonstrates how the right combination of traditional knowledge, entrepreneurial support and market access can empower artisans to build successful enterprises, strengthen rural livelihoods and keep cultural heritage alive for future generations.



OUR OUTREACH

OUTREACH	COVERAGE
NUMBER OF HOMESTAYS SUPPORTED	14
NUMBER OF TRAININGS PROVIDED	18
NUMBER OF TRAININGS PROVIDED	6
NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS BENEFITTED	71



• Community Based Eco-tourism

NEIDA renewed its focus on community-led eco-tourism in Nagaland during FY 2025–26, building on its earlier experience in Dzuleke village, where it had supported the development of community-based eco-tourism. Drawing from the experience and learning from Dzuleke, NEIDA expanded the initiative with the aim of developing a network of five eco-villages.

During the year, Longkhum and Zhavame were selected as two additional eco-villages, bringing the number of villages under the renewed initiative to three, including Dzuleke. The approach focused on strengthening existing tourism infrastructure in Dzuleke while encouraging communities in the new locations to gradually develop their own tourism-based enterprises.

In Dzuleke, existing homestays were further enhanced to improve the experience and facilities available to visitors. In Longkhum and Zhavame, communities were encouraged to take up homestay development, with NEIDA

supporting them through the provision of essential household equipment. Existing homestays in these villages were also identified and supported for improvement, helping build on the infrastructure already available within the communities. Landscape beautification, such as wooden benches and signages were further carried out in various tourist hotspots.

Recognising that the quality of a visitor's experience extends beyond accommodation, NEIDA also invested in capacity building. Tour guides and tourism operators from all three villages received training to strengthen their skills in guiding and managing visitors, while homestay owners were trained in hospitality and guest management.

Additionally, as a first step towards strengthening the marketability of the eco-villages, NEIDA began developing tour packages and tourism products in consultation with the communities. The process seeks to identify and package the unique natural, cultural, and community-based experiences available in each village, while ensuring that local communities remain central to the development and delivery of these experiences.

Expanding Opportunities & Enhancing Income



Sotuno Meyase, 50, mother of 3, runs a homestay called 'Sotuno Homestay' in Dzuleke along with her husband Letso. She started her homestay in the year 2014 after joining NEIDA's Community based Eco-tourism initiative as a project participant.

She and her husband were involved in subsistence farming, so they decided to adopt homestay as an alternate source of livelihood. With two bedrooms, one western and one Indian bathroom, along with a spacious outdoor, the homestay is a cosy space for all those who are looking for an escape from the hustle and bustle of the cities.

A soft-spoken lady, Sotuno shares, "I did not have any knowledge on how to run a homestay and was also hesitant but with encouragement and support from NEIDA, I was able to attend trainings which were instrumental in not only developing my homestay but also instilled a sense of confidence in me."

She recalls how she along with the other homestay owners were trained at the Orchid Lodge in Kohima on multiple aspects like housekeeping, hygiene, vegetarian and non-vegetarian cuisines, hospitality, etc.

Over ten years later, the lessons and skills she learned through the training are sustaining

her homestay. With the income from the homestay, she not only looked after the household expenses, but was also able to provide for her children's education, who are now all working in Kohima. She also shares that the project was able to meet her expectations.

She further states, "Communication with the tourists and guests is a problem for me but fortunately, my husband can speak both English and Hindi, although not fluently, but it helps. On some days, when we cannot articulate well, we communicate through actions."

According to her, "Initially, the people in my village were involved only in agriculture. But after the eco-tourism initiative, people are now diversifying their incomes through homestays, tour guide operators, and further involving in sanitation committees, catering groups and information centres, where they can earn a livelihood and contribute toward the development of the village."

With the homestay bringing in a good income and an opportunity to network with people from different parts of the world, she wants to continue this venture and is hopeful to extend to one more room in the coming days. She also looks forward to bringing in facilities like inverter and an extra geyser.





Natural Resource Management & Water Security

Water security remains one of the most pressing development challenges across the Himalayan landscapes of Northeast India, where rural communities depend largely on springs for drinking water, domestic use, and livelihoods. However, increasing climate variability, land-use changes, and degradation of recharge areas have led to declining spring discharge and growing water insecurity. Recognising that sustainable water security requires restoring the ecological systems that sustain springs rather than addressing water scarcity through short-term infrastructure alone, NEIDA has adopted a springshed management approach that combines hydrogeological science, community participation, and nature-based solutions to revive spring sources and strengthen local water governance.

During FY 2025–26, the programme followed a systematic process of spring inventorisation, hydrogeological assessment, participatory planning, and implementation of recharge interventions tailored to local geological and hydrological conditions. A total of 243 springs were inventorised to generate scientific evidence for planning, while recharge measures including contour trenches, staggered trenches, recharge pits, check dams, vegetative measures, and other watershed treatments were implemented to enhance groundwater recharge and improve the sustainability of spring discharge.

A key feature of the programme has been the strengthening of community institutions to ensure long-term sustainability of restored water sources. During FY 2025–26, 866 capacity-building programmes were organised, reaching 128 Water User Groups (WUGs) and WATSAN Committees, while 125 Para Hydrogeologists and community resource persons were engaged and trained to support hydrogeological assessments, community mobilisation, implementation oversight,

and post-project monitoring. These locally available technical resources have enhanced community ownership while building long-term capacities for managing and protecting spring recharge areas.

Beyond ecological restoration, the programme has strengthened local governance systems for sustainable water resource management. 209 community institutions have adopted operation and maintenance protocols for spring systems, ensuring regular monitoring, maintenance of recharge structures, and collective management of water resources. As per the monitoring data available, restored springs recorded an average of 29–46% increase in spring discharge during the rainfall lean months, demonstrating the effectiveness of scientific springshed interventions in improving water availability. By integrating hydrogeological science with community stewardship, institutional strengthening, and ecosystem restoration, the programme is enabling rural communities to build resilient water systems capable of supporting household water security, livelihoods, and climate adaptation over the long term.

OUR OUTREACH

OUTREACH	NAGALAND	MIZORAM	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	TOTAL
NUMBER OF DISTRICTS	5	4	3	12
NUMBER OF DISTRICTS	41	43	3	87
NUMBER OF SPRINGS TREATED	88	168	46	302
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS BENEFITTED	2367	4452	887	7706



Jampa's Women Leading the Way to Water Security

In the remote hills of Papum Pare district of Arunachal Pradesh, the village of Jampa depends on a single spring for its daily water needs. Although the spring has piped water supply connection to the households through the Jal Jeevan Mission, its discharge reduced significantly during the lean season, disrupting water supply for the entire village. As water became scarce, it was the women who would walk to the steep catchment to repair broken pipelines, clearing blockages, and ensuring that water continued to reach every household.

"The men in the village don't pay much attention to water issues. It is the women who climb the hills to repair pipelines and maintain the water supply whenever something goes wrong," recalled one of the community members.

For years, the women had quietly carried this responsibility, knowing that without their efforts, the village would be left without water. Yet they also realised that repairing pipelines alone could not solve the growing problem. Unless the spring itself was revived, the village would continue to struggle every dry season.

Determined to find a lasting solution, the women approached NEIDA for support in restoring their spring through scientific springshed management under the Tata Water Mission. The intervention began with hydrogeological investigations to understand the spring's recharge area, followed by community meetings and training on groundwater recharge, catchment protection, and sustainable water management. As they learnt how land use, forests, and soil directly influenced the spring's discharge, the women became convinced that restoring the catchment was the only way to secure water for the future.

The women then took the lead in sharing this knowledge with the rest of the community. They persuaded fellow villagers and the village head to support the initiative, demonstrating

how collective action could revive the village's only water source. Their commitment united the community behind a common goal of protecting the spring that sustained them all.

Together, the villagers constructed staggered contour trenches and recharge pits across the catchment while planting native tree species to restore vegetation and improve infiltration. These interventions were complemented by regular maintenance of the water supply system, ensuring that both the spring and its distribution network were protected.

Today, Jampa's spring is better prepared to withstand the lean season, and the village has laid the foundation for long-term water security. More importantly, the women who had always safeguarded the community's water have become informed stewards of their natural resources, combining years of practical experience with scientific knowledge.

“

The men in the village don't pay much attention to water issues. It is the women who climb the hills to repair pipelines and maintain the water supply whenever something goes wrong.”



Collective Installation of Infrastructures Improves Rural Water Access

Rualalung Village, located in Lungsen RD Block of Lunglei District in Mizoram, relies primarily on spring water for its domestic water supply. For many years, the village depended on an existing 3,000-litre water storage tank, which had become inadequate to meet the daily water demand of the community. During the dry season, the limited storage capacity resulted in frequent water shortages, irregular water distribution, and reduced access to safe drinking water. The small tank could no longer support the growing needs of the village, making it necessary to upgrade the water storage infrastructure.

To address this challenge, a 15,000-litre Bio-Flux water storage tank was installed in 2025 under the Springshed Management Programme to provide a more reliable and sustainable water supply for the community. The project aimed to improve access to safe and reliable drinking water by installing the Bio-Flux water storage tank to increase water storage capacity and strengthen the village water supply system. The new storage system was integrated into the existing gravity-fed water supply network to ensure efficient storage and distribution of spring water.

Community participation was at the heart of the intervention. The Village Council (VC) and WATSAN Committee mobilised community members to actively participate in every stage of the project. Villagers voluntarily

contributed labour for site preparation, excavation, foundation works, transportation of construction materials, backfilling, and installation of the Bio-Flux tank.

The community worked closely with technical personnel throughout the installation process, ensuring that local people understood the operation and maintenance requirements of the new water storage system. Their active involvement not only reduced implementation costs but also strengthened community ownership and responsibility for the infrastructure.

Further, the intervention was successfully implemented through the collaboration of multiple stakeholders. NEIDA provided the 15,000-litre Bio-Flux tank materials and provided technical guidance during installation. NEIDA's WASH team provided technical expertise to ensure proper assembly and installation of the tank according to recommended standards.

The Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) supported the initiative by providing the pipeline required to connect the spring source to the newly installed Bio-Flux water storage tank. This connection enables water to flow efficiently from the spring source into the storage tank before being distributed to households.

The partnership among NEIDA, PHED, the Village Council, WATSAN Committee, and the community was instrumental in the successful completion of the project.

Community members carried out excavation, foundation preparation, and installation works under the technical supervision of NEIDA and AGRICO Innovation. PHED installed the pipeline connecting the spring source directly to the Bio-Flux tank, ensuring a continuous and efficient supply of water into the storage system.

The Rualalung experience demonstrates that sustainable rural water supply improvements require both appropriate infrastructure and strong community participation. The installation of a 15,000-litre Bio-Flux water storage tank, alongside the existing 3,000-litre tank, has significantly increased the village's water storage capacity and improved water security.



"Our Youths Can Earn Now Instead of Staying Idle, While Reviving Our Springs"

In Terogvunyu village of Tseminyu district, Nagaland, residents once faced severe water scarcity. Situated atop a mountain, the village had no easy access to water. People had to walk down to the springs to fetch water, and there were times when they returned empty-handed because villages below the mountain also depended on the same four spring sources. Over time, these springs began to dry up. There was also no piped water supply, forcing many households to buy water, making life increasingly difficult.

In 2022, NEIDA intervened through its WASH project and initiated efforts to rejuvenate the village's springs. The process began with a spring survey to assess the condition of the springs and understand their surrounding catchment areas. NEIDA then consulted the village council and secured its support and permission to carry out the work. Since spring rejuvenation is community-based, the villagers themselves play a central role in implementing and sustaining the initiative.

Atilo Tep, 38, Chairman of the Village Watershed Committee, shares, "Before the work began, we formed a Watershed Committee, like the WATSAN Committee. With ten members on board, we worked closely with the NEIDA team to construct various recharge structures around the spring areas."

These recharge structures include dug-out ponds, staggered contour trenches, continuous contour trenches, palisades, brushwood check dams, and other measures designed to slow surface runoff. By allowing rainwater to seep into the ground, these structures help recharge underground aquifers, which in turn feed the springs.

According to Atilo, "While working on these structures, we call upon our youths, mostly between 18 and 25 years old, and ask them to help. Many of them remain unemployed and depend on their parents. We provide them with a small daily wage for their labour. Our youths

can earn now instead of staying idle, while reviving our springs. This initiative has been very beneficial for the village."

The paddy fields located below one of the four springs, *Chun Dzulu* Spring, have seen a significant improvement in water availability following the intervention. Earlier, farmers had to wait for the onset of the monsoon rains before transplanting paddy. With the increase in spring discharge, water now flows naturally from the spring to the paddy fields, allowing farmers to begin transplanting even before the monsoon.

The improvement is reflected in the recorded discharge levels. In January 2024, the spring recorded a discharge of 5.45 litres per minute (LPM) with monthly rainfall of 13.6 mm. By January 2025, discharge had increased to 15.25 LPM, despite 0 mm of rainfall during the month. This indicates the continued availability of spring water during the dry period and its potential to extend the period of water availability for paddy cultivation.

As of 2026, two new spring sources have been identified, and the original four springs have shown an increase in discharge. Atilo remarks, "We will continue cleaning and maintaining the structures so that the spring discharge keeps increasing."

Through the springshed management initiative, the village has also planted more than 2,000 trees over the past four years, including native species, cherry, neem, and others. These trees have been planted around the recharge structures to help prevent soil erosion and strengthen the health of the watershed.

Today, the people of Terongonyu are witnessing gradual but meaningful improvements in their water sources. By combining community participation, ecological restoration, and youth engagement, the village is securing its water future and creating opportunities for its younger generation.





Grassroots Sports Development

For generations, badminton has been at the heart of Mizoram's culture. However, the bridge connecting the state's local talent to larger, professional opportunities was often missing. To fix this, NEIDA launched the "Strengthening Badminton Ecosystem in Mizoram" project under its Grassroots Sports Development Programme, a community-first initiative designed to give every child a chance to play, learn, and succeed.

We believe that geographical barriers shouldn't hold back talent, which is why we established a clear, three-step pathway:

- Establishing Grassroot Centres (GRCs) across districts to maximize community outreach and participation.
- Operating Regional Competitive Training Centres (RCTCs) in district headquarters to spot, nurture, and elevate promising local talent.
- Providing elite, high-performance exposure by sending top RCTC players to intensive workshops at the Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy (PGBA).

By setting up 27 active grassroots centres in 9 districts, badminton has become accessible to a lot of people, with 69% of our project participants living just a short walk away from their training courts. Since 2023, 82% of the current players in Mizoram have joined the program, bringing new life and energy to courts. Beyond building physical fitness, this initiative has actively shifted how families view the sport. Badminton is now recognized as a genuine professional pathway, and NEIDA along with its partners continues to provide the structure that empowers the local players to step onto the professional stage.

NEIDA's long-term strategy focuses on sustainability by systematically shifting the program's ownership to the Mizoram Badminton Association (MBA) and local Centre Management Committees (CMCs).

During FY 2025-2026, the project successfully expanded its footprint across all nine districts in the state, successfully operating 27 active GRCs with 1,397 enrolled children. Additionally, 57 children were supported across two RCTCs and 46 children across three Elite Centres. There was consistent engagement with over 1,100 grassroots trainees each quarter, including a strong and encouraging cohort of over 430 young girls.

A defining milestone of the year was the selection of five RCTC trainees and one local grassroots coach for advanced training at the PGBA.

OUR OUTREACH

OUTREACH

NUMBER OF GRASSROOTS TRAININGS CONDUCTED

COVERAGE

4629

NUMBER OF RCTC TRAINING SESSIONS

990

NUMBER OF CHILDREN FROM GRASSROOTS PROGRAMS ADVANCING TO STATE LEVEL

97

% OF FEMALE ENROLMENT

36.22%

ESTABLISHMENT OF OPERATIONAL CAPACITY HOSTELS AND COURTS

25



Breaking Global Barriers



In Kolasib district of Mizoram, 13-year-old Tirza Lalremruati discovered her love for badminton at the tender age of six. She joined the Kolasib district's Grassroots Centre in 2019, one of the eight centres established across Mizoram to increase outreach and participation in the sport. Coming from a family of seven, she initially played badminton as a hobby, with her family encouraging her to pursue it for recreation.

"I had to stop training in 2020 due to the pandemic. I resumed training in 2022. After the pandemic, I began training more seriously at the grassroots centre," Tirza recalls. However, with only an hour of training provided at the grassroots level, she often wished for more time to master her skills.

Tirza was then selected to train at the Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy (PGBA) in Hyderabad, when the PGBA authorities came to attend the Mizoram Badminton Tournament, which she had participated in.

"After joining PGBA, there have been a lot of changes, such as improvements in my skills, body movement, and overall fitness.

Not only that, but my confidence level has also increased significantly. My knowledge about the game has grown, including rules, regulations, proper diet, and more, compared to when I was training at the Grassroot Centre," she shared. She also fondly recalls how the programme gave her the courage to travel by flight for the very first time.

The initiative also emphasizes on mental training sessions, which, according to Tirza, were transformative. "They supported my mental well-being and boosted my confidence and self-development. It helped me not just in the game, but also in my daily life."

In 2023, she became the state-level champion in the Under-13 category. When asked about her ultimate dream, Tirza smiled brightly and said, "Firstly, my goal is to become a National Champion. From there, I want to keep progressing and aim to become a World Champion, and eventually, an Olympic Champion."

Tirza remains grateful to the project for providing her the opportunity to train at one of the best academies in India.



GRANTS SUMMARY

Ongoing Projects
FY 2025–26

GRANTS SUMMARY: Ongoing Projects FY 2025–26

DONOR NAME	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DURATION		GRANT SIZE (IN LAKHS)
		FROM	TO	
TATA EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST (TEDT)	Phase 2 of Integrated Livelihood Project in Arunachal Pradesh: Climate Smart Agriculture and Livestock (CSAL) in North East India	7/1/2022	12/31/2025	268.36
TATA EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST (TEDT)	Phase 2 of Integrated Livelihood Project in Mizoram: Climate Smart Agriculture and Livestock (CSAL) in North East India	7/1/2022	12/31/2025	639.8
TATA EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST (TEDT)	Phase 2 of Integrated Livelihood Project in Nagaland: Climate Smart Agriculture and Livestock (CSAL) in North East India	7/1/2022	31/12/2025	714.96
TATA EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST (TEDT)	Community-managed water security through Springscape Management Interventions in Indian Himalayan Region (IHR)- Nagaland	7/1/2025	6/30/2028	570.32
TATA EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST (TEDT)	Water Security Programme: Tata Water Mission 2022-27 Nagaland	10/1/2022	12/31/2025	547.65
TATA EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST (TEDT)	Water Security Programme: Tata Water Mission 2022-27 Arunachal Pradesh	10/1/2022	12/31/2025	274
TATA EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST (TEDT)	Water Security Programme: Tata Water Mission 2022-27 Mizoram	10/1/2022	12/31/2025	347.86
SIR RATAN TATA TRUST (SRTT)	Strengthening Badminton eco-system in Mizoram	9/1/2023	9/30/2026	192.97
SIR RATAN TATA TRUST (SRTT)	Antaran Initiative - Phase 2	1/1/2025	9/30/2028	364.49
SIR DORABJI TATA TRUST (SDTT)	Reviving and Protecting Piggery Farmers' Livelihoods in North-East India (NEIDA-Nagaland Chapter)	1/1/2025	6/30/2028	331.59
SIR DORABJI TATA TRUST (SDTT)	Reviving and Protecting Piggery Farmers' Livelihoods in North-East India (NEIDA-Mizoram Chapter)	1/1/2025	6/30/2028	447.09
SIR DORABJI TATA TRUST (SDTT)	Reviving and Protecting Piggery Farmers' Livelihoods in North-East India (NEIDA-Arunachal Chapter)	1/1/2025	6/30/2028	223.08
NABARD	WDF- Sanction of Financial assistance by way of Grant for the implementation of Vanahne Springshed Base Watershed, Lunglei District Mizoram (PIP)	10/24/2019	3/23/2025	47.7
NABARD	PODF-ID-Sanction of Grant assistance for promotion of 03 Farmer Producer Organisation (FPOs)	1/1/2020	1/31/2025	34.32
NABARD	Central Scheme for formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organistaion (FPOs)- Empanelment of your agency as a CBBO	12/8/2021	12/7/2026	50

GRANTS SUMMARY: Ongoing Projects FY 2025–26

DONOR NAME	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DURATION		GRANT SIZE (IN LAKHS)
		FROM	TO	
NABARD	Integrated Tribal Development Proramme in Serchhip RD Block & District, Mizoram	2/13/2019	2/12/2025	162.26
NABARD	Intergrated Tribal Development Programme under Tseminyu block, Kohima district, Nagaland	1/31/2020	31/03/2026	129.56
NABARD	Integrated Tribal Development Programme for Khawbung R.D Block, Champhai District, Mizoram State	6/5/2020	6/4/2026	129.99
NABARD	Project Implementation Phase (PIIP & PIP) Project under the Springshed based Watershed Development Programme-Khuangleng, Champhai District	4/1/2024	3/31/2027	56.45
NABARD	Central Sector Scheme (CSS) for Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organization (FPOs)- Empanelment of Cluster-Based Business Organization (CBBO) in Nagaland state (Botsa Block, Kohima District & Chizami Block, Phek District)	12/28/2021	1/1/2028	50
NABARD	Promotion of Potato seed village with storage Facility at Penkim village, Kiphire district, Nagaland	11/5/2024	11/4/2026	16.6
NABARD	Central Sector Scheme (CSS) for Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organization (FPOs)- Empanelment of Cluster-Based Business Organization (CBBO) in Nagaland state (Phek (Pfutsero Block) and Kohima (Tseminyu Block)	12/8/2021	19/11/2026	50
NABARD	Springshed based Watershed Development Project: Project Implementation Phase (PIP)- Sakraba & Porba Village, Chizami & Pfutsero Block, Phek District	11/29/2021	30/06/2026	59.26
NABARD	Springshed based Watershed Development Project: Project Implementation Phase (PIP)- Terogvunyu & New Terogvunyu Village, Tseminyu district	11/29/2021	3/31/2026	59.26
NABARD	Farm Sector Promotion Fund to NEIDA for project proposal on "Improvement of productivity and income of vegetables clusters by introducing Improved Hybrid Variety and Farm Management"	10/31/2022	10/30/2024	9.33
NABARD	Farm Sector Promotion Fund to NEIDA for project proposal on "Smart Eco Friendly livestock feed production initiaitive in Serchhip District"	3/20/2023	3/19/2025	10
NABARD	Farm Sector Promotion Fund-Serchhip to NEIDA for project proposal on "Introduction of Sloping Agriculture Land Technology in 3 Clusters of Serchhip districts by using Nitrogen fixingtress i.e Tephrosia Candida"	3/20/2023	3/19/2025	9.45
NABARD	Integrated Tribal Development Programme in Kikruma and Pfutsero Block of Phek District, Nagaland	11/10/2023	10/11/2029	143.97

GRANTS SUMMARY: Ongoing Projects FY 2025–26

DONOR NAME	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DURATION		GRANT SIZE (IN LAKHS)
		FROM	TO	
NABARD	Integrated Tribal Development Programme to NEIDA for Khawzawl R.D Block in Khawzawl District, Mizoram	11/9/2023	11/8/2029	136.59
NABARD	Integrated Tribal Development Programme in Longmatra Block Kiphire district, Nagaland to support 200 tribal families for development of Orchard & Poultry (NABARD TDF IV - Longmatra)	11/29/2024	11/29/1930	186.13
NABARD	Sanction for promotion of FPO in Kikruma Block of Phek District	3/12/2024	3/11/2027	11.44
GOVERNMENT ARUNACHAL PRADESH	Livelihood Promotion in AP	10/1/2022	6/30/2025	75.84
GOVT. OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY	Catalyzing Complementary Olericulture in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland for Livelihood Security by providing quality Seed and seeding of Indigenous and commercial vegetables generated through Hi Tech Mini Plug Nursery and Conventional Means and Promotion of Bio-Enterprise	10/1/2021	9/30/2025	98.99
NATIONAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NCDC)	Central Sector Scheme (CSS) for Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organization (FPOs)- Empanelment of Cluster-Based Business Organization (CBBO) in Nagaland state: Kiphire District (Blocks- Pungro, Khongsa, Sitimi and Longmatra)	4/1/2021	15/09/2026	100
NATIONAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NCDC)	Central Sector Scheme (CSS) for Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organization (FPOs)- Empanelment of Cluster-Based Business Organization (CBBO) in Nagaland state (Kohima District, Nagaland (Blocks- Kohima, Chiephobozou, Jakhama and Sechu-Zubza)	6/18/2021	8/2/2027	100
AXIS BANK FOUNDATION	Rural Livelihoods Project in Mizoram and Nagaland	1/1/2025	12/31/2029	3,092
TITAN COMPANY LIMITED (TCL)	Crafting Traditions: Loin-loom-based Micro-enterprise Promotion of Women Weavers in Nagaland	7/1/2025	6/30/2028	70
TITAN COMPANY LIMITED (TCL)	Integrated Village Development Programme (IVDP) Y2	4/1/2025	3/31/2026	110
ICICI FOUNDATION	Spring Revival Initiative: Participatory Springshed Management to Restore Water Wealth in villages of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram	9/1/2025	8/31/2028	581.79

OUR FUNDERS FOR FY 2024–25

- Axis Bank Foundation
- Axis Bank Limited
- ICICI Foundation
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
- National Cooperative Development Corporation
- Sir Dorabji Tata Trust
- Sir Ratan Tata Trust
- Tata Education and Development Trust
- Titan Company Limited

OUR IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

- Eleutheros Christian Society (ECS)
- Mizoram Badminton Association (MBA)

OUR GOVERNING BODY

- Dr. Rajesh Thadani**
Chairperson
- Mr. Divyang Waghela**
Treasurer
- Ms. Mridula Tangirala**
Member
- Mr. S. T. S. Lepcha**
Member
- Ms. Sentimongla Temsu**
Secretary Ex-Officio

OUR BANKERS

- HDFC Kezieke, Kohima Branch, Nagaland,
- SBI Main Branch, Kohima, Nagaland
- ICICI D Block, Kohima Branch, Kohima, Nagaland
- ICICI Kohima– NH 29 Branch, Kohima, Nagaland
- AXIS GHS Road, Kohima Branch, Nagaland
- SBI Pungro Branch, Kiphire, Nagaland
- Canara Pfutsero, Phek, Nagaland
- Mizoram Rual Bank (MRB), Mamit, Mizoram
- Mizoram Cooperative Apex Bank (MCAB), Lunglei Branch, Mizoram
- Mizoram Cooperative Apex Bank (MCAB), Serchhip Branch, Mizoram
- HDFC Aizawl Branch, Aizawl, Mizoram
- ICICI Bawngkawm Branch, Aizawl, Mizoram
- ICICI Naharlagun Branch, Naharlagun, Arunachal Pradesh
- HDFC Naharlagun Branch, Naharlagun, Arunachal Pradesh
- SBI Bank, Champhai, Mizoram
- SBI Bank, New Delhi

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

NORTH EAST INITIATIVE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

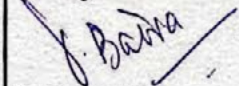
Registration No.: HOME/SRC - 6463

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH, 2026

Amount in Rs ('000)

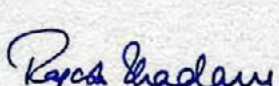
	Particulars	Note No.	As at 31 March, 2026	As at 31 March, 2025
I	FUNDS AND LIABILITIES			
1	Member's Fund			
(a)	Reserves and Surplus	3	1,740.68	1,529.39
			1,740.68	1,529.39
2	Non-current Liabilities			
(a)	Long Term Provisions	6	1,710.72	412.28
(b)	Other Long-Term Liabilities	4	13,729.89	8,952.15
			15,440.61	9,364.43
3	Current Liabilities			
(a)	Short Term Provisions	7	3,306.61	1,492.39
(b)	Other Current Liabilities	5	58,859.39	1,19,817.01
			62,166.00	1,21,309.40
	Total Funds and Liabilities		79,347.29	1,32,203.22
II	ASSETS			
1	Non-current Assets			
(a)	Property, Plant and Equipment	8	13,786.67	9,015.26
(b)	Long Term Loans and Advances	9	75.87	112.63
			13,862.54	9,127.89
2	Current Assets			
(a)	Short Term Loans and Advances	10	1,024.86	52.20
(b)	Cash and Bank Balances	11	64,459.89	1,23,023.13
			65,484.75	1,23,075.33
	Total Assets		79,347.29	1,32,203.22
	Brief about the Entity	1		
	Summary of significant accounting policies	2		
	The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements	1-22		

In terms of our report attached
For B S R and Co.
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No. 12810W


CA Sandeep Batra
Partner
Membership No. 093320

Place: Gurugram
Date: September 15, 2026

For and on behalf of the
NORTH EAST INITIATIVE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY


Rajesh Thadani
Chairman

Place: New Delhi
Date: September 15, 2026


Sentimongla Temsu
Executive Director

Place: New Delhi
Date: September 15, 2026



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

NORTH EAST INITIATIVE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

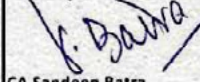
Registration No.: HOME/SRC - 6463

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2026

Amount in Rs ('000)

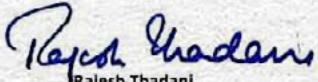
	Particulars	Note No.	Year ended 31 March, 2026	Year ended 31 March, 2025
I	INCOME			
(a)	Grants and Donations	12	2,24,835.50	1,50,712.26
(b)	Other Income	13	240.63	416.72
	Total Income		2,25,076.13	1,51,128.98
II	EXPENSES			
(a)	Grant Payments		6,365.46	16,825.84
(b)	Project Expense	14	1,82,162.72	1,06,037.52
(c)	Establishment Expense	15	12,623.06	10,833.84
(d)	Employee Benefit Expense	16	15,192.40	14,556.02
(e)	Depreciation Expense	17	3,290.63	2,486.54
	Total Expenses		2,19,634.27	1,50,739.76
III	Excess of Income over Expenditure before exceptional items		5,441.86	389.22
IV	Exceptional items - Refer Note 20(c)		5,230.57	
V	Excess of Income over Expenditure after exceptional items		211.29	389.22
	The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements	1-22		

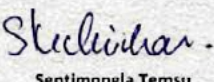
In terms of our report attached
For B S R and Co.
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No. 12810W


CA Sandeep Batra
Partner
Membership No. 093320

Place: Gurugram
Date: September 15, 2026

For and on behalf of the
NORTH EAST INITIATIVE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY


Rajesh Thadani
Chairman


Sentimongla Temsu
Executive Director

Place: New Delhi
Date: September 15, 2026

Place: New Delhi
Date: September 15, 2026





HEAD OFFICE

NAGALAND

NBCC Building, First Floor (Road Level)
Lower Bayavu, Kohima 797001, Nagaland, India

REGIONAL OFFICES

MIZORAM

BS Building, 3rd Floor,
Near Presbyterian Church,
Zarkawt, Aizawl-796001, Mizoram, India

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Angu Apartment, 2nd Floor,
Near Arunodaya Govt. Hr. Sec. School,
Type-5 Colony, Vivek Vihar, PO: R.K. Mission,
PS: Itanagar, District: Papum pare 791113
Arunachal Pradesh, India

FIELD OFFICES

NAGALAND

KIPHIRE

GB's Building- Forest Ward,
Pungro Town, 798611
Kiphire, Nagaland

PHEK

Sub-electrical Power Station,
Near PTBC, Forest Colony
Pfitsero Town 797107
Phek, Nagaland

MIZORAM

MAMIT

House No.223, Field Veng,
Mamit, Mizoram – 796441

SERCHHIP

H.No 31/A1, V.Laldinliana Building
Ground Floor, AOC Veng,
Near Serchhip Kaenpui Church
Serchhip – 796181
Mizoram

CHAMPHAI

Champhai Venghlang, IB Veng JH
Vanhela Building, 1st Floor
Champhai 796321
Mizoram

LUNGLEI

2nd Floor, Block 1, LZ Traders Building
Chanmari-III, Opposite Jio Office,
Lunglei – 796701
Mizoram

OUR DIGITAL PRESENCE



www.neida.org.in



[north-east-initiative-development-agency](https://www.linkedin.com/company/north-east-initiative-development-agency)



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