



PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
(Research Unit)
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India



NERCORMP

North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project

(Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region)

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“India can move forward if all the regions develop including the North East region.”

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi¹

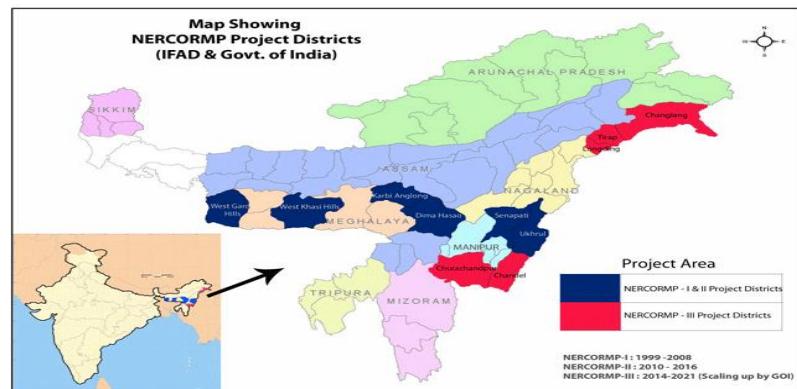
Introduction²

North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project³ (NERCORMP) is a livelihood and rural development project aimed to transform the lives of the poor and marginalized tribal families in North East India. It is a joint developmental initiative of the North Eastern Council (through the North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Society⁴), Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Government of India and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Society (NERCRMS) is a registered society under the aegis of the North Eastern Council, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region. The society, since 1999, has formed 8,403 SHGs (Self Help Groups) and 2,889 NaRMGs (Natural Resource Management Groups) in 2,532 villages benefiting 1,18,843 households through its project - NERCORMP.⁵

Objectives of NERCORMP

NERCOMP attempts to improve the livelihoods of vulnerable groups in a sustainable manner through improved management



¹ <https://www.narendramodi.in/pm-modi-at-inauguration-of-65th-plenary-session-of-north-east-council-483603>

² <https://www.necorps.org/>

³ https://mdoner.gov.in/contentimages/files/NERCORMP_project_details.pdf

⁴ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1761797>

⁵ Ibid

of their resource base in a way that contributes to the preservation and restoration of the environment. The project adopts a holistic approach to development with two broad focus areas:

- Social mobilization, organization and capacity building to tap and realize the great latent potential of the communities by employing time tested their traditional value systems and culture.
- Intervene with the economic and social activities and infrastructure with a predominant thrust on income-generating activities to achieve economic transformation.

Areas of Operation⁶

NERCORMP is operational in Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.

- **Assam** - Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills
- **Manipur** - Senapati and Ukhrul
- **Meghalaya** - West Khasi Hills and West Garo Hills
- **Arunachal Pradesh**- Tirap, Changlang, Longding
- **Manipur**- Chandel and Churachandpur

Organization and Implementation Process

NERCOMP has been implemented at the regional and district levels through registered societies established specifically for the project. At the regional level, a Programme Support Unit has been established, to provide direction and support to the Development Support Teams (DST), which is established in every district. establishment of autonomous district level society helped in promoting the identity of the project, and provided needed operational flexibility and efficiency.

All interventions of the project are carried out through the communities and partner NGOs responsible for community mobilization and community institution building. Development Support Teams (DST) at the district level with constant support and guidance from the Programme Support Unit (PSU) facilitates the process. At the community level, the two key institutions, which forms the pillars and channels for institutions building are the NaRMGs and SHGs. Higher level of institutions had also been developed and promoted, such as federations and cluster associations, etc.

⁶ https://mdoner.gov.in/contentimages/files/NERCORMP_project_details.pdf

Projects Completed Under NERCORMP⁷

NERCORMP completed its first phase in 2008 and the second phase i.e. NERCORMP II started its operations in July 2010. **The third phase or NERCORMP III was launched in January 2014.**⁸

Phase	Project Villages	Households	NaRMGs	SHGs
NERCORMP - I	860	39161	1012	3168
NERCORMP - II	460	20826	494	1589
NERCORMP - III	1212	58856	1383	3646
Total	2532	118843	2889	8403

NERCOMP Beneficiaries⁹:

Though the schemes of MDoNER are generally gender-neutral and the schemes are gap-filling measures related to the development of infrastructure in North Eastern Region, under NERCORMP, females have been benefitted more.

The project strategy of forming NaRMGs, (Natural Resource Management Groups) with equal representation of men and women, and promotion of women SHGs has strengthened women's empowerment and agency of women in decision-making processes alongside the men on matters of household and community wellbeing. Social sector project interventions in particular are aimed at reducing drudgery of women through access to safe drinking water and low-cost latrines enhancing in improved hygiene and social dignity of women. Sanitary toilets, Sanitary Napkins and drinking water supply in the village greatly benefit women and girl children as the chore of fetching water falls on them and they endure great deal of inconvenience and personal indignities in the absence of covered toilets near the homestead.

The beneficiary details of North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project (NERCORMP) are as under:

Phase	Beneficiary households	Total beneficiaries	Female beneficiaries
NERCORMP-I	39,161	2,34,966	1,11,141
NERCORMP-II	20,826	1,24,956	61,478
NERCORMP-III	58,799	3,52,794	1,72,870
Total	1,18,786	7,12,716	3,45,489

⁷ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1772554>

⁸ <https://www.necorps.org/nercormp-iii-starts-operation/>

⁹ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1605312>

Waves of Transformation in the North Eastern Regions of India through NERCOMP¹⁰

The following strategies have been carried out over the years to bring huge waves of transformation in the North Eastern regions of India.

1. Capacity building of communities and participating agencies: Institutional strengthening of community-based organisations (CBOs) and strengthening the capacity of participating agencies viz. NGOs, line departments, etc. on participatory planning, organisational and financial management, technical training on farm and non-farm activities, monitoring, etc.



Training and Skill Development in Meghalaya



PRA Exercise at West Garo Hills, Meghalaya

2. Economic and livelihood activities: Promoting viable income generation activities (IGAs) for poor households through the production of field crops, horticulture, forestry, livestock, fisheries, and non-farm activities using sustainable and environmentally friendly practices. Efforts also include supporting communities with the introduction of new technologies, credit/revolving funds to CBOs for internal lending etc.

¹⁰ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1772554>



NKAT Fest 2019 at Shillong Meghalaya for showcasing and promoting community products



Water hyacinth craft products developed by SHGs in West Garo Hills, Meghalaya



Poultry unit in Churachandpur, Manipur



Mushroom cultivation in Chandel, Manipur



Large cardamon fibre craft (Initiative to convert waste into wealth) at Tirap, Arunachal Pradesh



Vegetable cultivation in Tirap, Arunachal Pradesh

3. Social sector development: The specific objective of this component was to provide communities access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation. This is to be achieved by constructing drinking water storage tanks, piped supply of water from a nearby spring or stream and construction of low-cost toilets (LCL) with community participation.



Drinking water supply at Ukhrul, Manipur Drinking water supply at West Khasi Hills, Meghalaya

4. Rural Roads and Rural Electrification: With the objective of enhancing communities' access to markets, health services, education facilities and energy, the component seeks to construct Common Facility Centres (CFCs), inter-village roads, culverts and suspension bridges and provide home solar lighting systems.



Seipei Komg bridge at Ukhrul, Manipur



CFC in Riha Village, Ukhrul, Manipur



Home solar unit, Dima Hasao, Assam



Market & collection shed, Dima Hasao, Assam



5. Community-based Bio-diversity Conservation & Communication: The specific objective is to protect and preserve the unique natural resources and rich bio-diversity of the region. The sub-components to achieve this objective were: (i) bio-diversity conservation & research aimed at promoting community conserved areas (CCAs) as sacred groves, protected catchment areas and sanctuaries, (ii) forestry development to promote and demonstrate

environmentally sustainable non-timber forest products (NTFP) & forestry production systems, and (iii) communication and knowledge management to facilitate information and knowledge sharing on good practices & production systems between communities.

(In Image: Community Conserve Area (CCA) of Thingkem NaRM-G in Churachandpur, Manipur)

Success Stories of NERCORMP

1. Promotion of Low Chilling Apple Plantation in NER of India (2020 – 21)¹¹

Supyu hamlet is located in the Lower Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh, where most people are engaged in agriculture and labour work at farms. Due to seasonal nature of their occupation, the farmers rely on livestock as their primary source of income.

Since the low chilling varieties of apple have great potential in NER due to suitable agro-climatic conditions, the North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Society (NERCRMS), Shillong took the initiative to introduce them in the region; under the North Eastern Council (NEC), Ministry of DoNER, GoI funded project title “Promotion of Low Chilling Apple Plantation in NER of India (2020 – 21)”.

19 beneficiaries were identified from various Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and were trained in the pruning method of low-chilling apples as well as on how to protect plants from pests and diseases that affects the crop. They were further capacitated on how to give food supplements and medicines to increase the number of fruits.



2. Ellang NaRMG promoted under the NERCORMP III project¹²

Ms. Lhingkhohoi, 43 years old, from D. Vaison village, is an active member of Ellang NaRMG promoted under NERCORMP Phase-III. She belongs to one of the poorest households in the

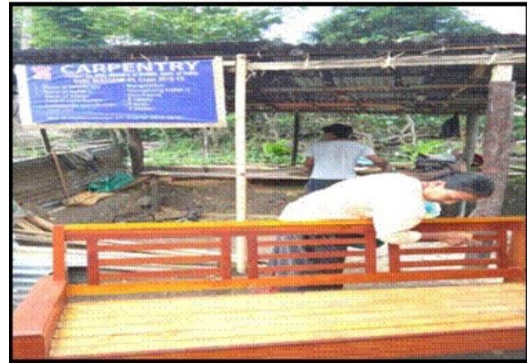
¹¹ <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1796567>

¹² <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1788287>

village. When NERCORMP was started in her village in 2014, she was chosen as the beneficiary of handloom because of her skills and past experience in weaving. The project supported her with Rs. 15,000/- through NaRMG to restart her loom business. With the money she received, she bought a new loom and accessories. She can now run her own business and manage her family better.

3. Carpentry –way towards self – reliance¹³

Mr. Mangminlun Singsit, a resident of Khochijang Village in Churachandpur District, used to work at a large carpentry workshop in town, earning a meagre amount of Rs. 300/- per day. This was not sufficient to take care of his family's basic needs. He was chosen as a carpentry beneficiary in the year 2018-19 and received a financial support of Rs. 18000/- under NERCORMP Phase-III. He was able to purchase the necessary equipment for his carpentry activities. With the support of NaRMG, he now owns a modest carpentry shop and has become a successful entrepreneur.



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- <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1791872>
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Further Reading:

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¹³ <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1791872>