

61	Baseline Survey for Cluster Development and future Intervention at Mawlynnong Area of East Khasi Hills District.	Prof. S. Umdor, NEHU, Shillong	2009
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Executive Summary

The Baseline Survey for cluster development and future intervention of Mawlynnong and adjoining nine villages, located in Pynursla block of in East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya, has been commissioned by NEDFi. The primary objective of this study is to report on the social and economic situation in the target area. The survey collected quantitative and qualitative socio-economic data of the target area and information related to livelihoods and resource base of the households in these villages.

Village and household data were collected beginning from mid November 2008 to first week of December 2008 and again from first week of January 2009 to end of February 2009. This break in between was necessitated due to the Christmas and New Year events. Prior to data collection, meetings were held with the village councils to familiarize them with the purpose of the study. This was followed by collection of village level data, preparation of household sample frame and selection of sample households, training of enumerators and the preparation and testing of household schedule. Inputs received from expert on the Inception report (submitted in August 2008), Midterm report (January 2009) and the Draft report (April of 2009) have been incorporated in designing the field survey and also in the present final report.

While village information was collected from all the ten villages, household data were collected from 20 per cent of the households from each of village. The sample size of households included in the survey is 250.

This report details the results of a baseline study. It is organized into 4 chapters. The first chapter presents the background of the survey while the ensuing chapter provides a brief profile of the state of Meghalaya and Pynursla block. Chapter 3 discusses the findings of the survey. These are

presented in two sections. Section I discusses the findings relating to the ten villages while section II reports on the findings based on household-level information. Chapter 4 highlights the main recommendations that emerge from the study.

In recent years, Mawlynnong has started attracting a lot of tourists, both domestic and foreign, and this has created new livelihood opportunities for the people. However, the benefits of this tourist flow are confined to few households of the surveyed villages. Majority of people in these villages are farmers and agriculture is the main source of livelihood for the people. The main cash crops grown by people are areca nut, betel leaf, bay leaf and orange. Broom grass cultivation is an important economic activity of the people in the surveyed villages and also in adjoining villages. Cultivation of broomstick has become very popular and is being extensively cultivated because of the good price it fetches and the low amount of labour and investment needed to cultivate it.

In addition to agriculture, rearing of livestock provides a subsidiary occupation to the people. Rearing of poultry and piggery by households is a common income generating activities.

Forests play an important role in the lives of the community in the study area. Besides commercial timber, different types of non timber forest products (NTFPs) are collected by the people which are used as food, fodder, fuel, construction materials, materials for making households items, packaging materials and other uses.