



nesfas

Annual Report
2024-2025

Nurturing Evidence

Growing Pathways to Sustainable Food Systems





nesfas

NURTURING EVIDENCE

GROWING PATHWAYS TO
SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

ANNUAL REPORT
2024-2025

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about nesfas

NESFAS is a platform that aims to revive, defend and promote the Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems while maintaining the culture and identity. NESFAS, as an indigenous grassroots organization led by local young people, works closely with indigenous communities of Meghalaya and Nagaland, and highly recognizes the role of women as custodians of biodiversity, land, people, nutrition and more. NESFAS also focuses on empowering young people because they are the beacons of hope and true change agents within their own communities in promoting Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems for enhanced local biodiversity based production, consumption and livelihood for their well being.



Vision

Reconnecting people to Mother Earth for equity, resilience and peace.



Mission

- ✓ Revitalise Indigenous Value Systems
- ✓ Harness unique skills of Indigenous Peoples and blend modern ideas
- ✓ Collective decision making and strengthen the voice of Indigenous Peoples
- ✓ Revive, defend and promote Indigenous Peoples' food systems as gamechangers.



Note from Executive Director

Bah Pius Ranee, Executive Director

If we pause for a moment, we begin to see

what has always been present: the quiet wisdom of nature. In the humble seed, the changing seasons, and the stories passed down from one generation to the next generation, lie answers to many of today's most urgent challenges. But in our pursuit of rapid solutions, we often overlooked the rich knowledge embedded in our own soils, cultures, and communities.

At NESFAS, we believe that the most powerful solutions are often the most rooted. This year, under the theme "Nurturing Evidence: Growing Pathways to Sustainable Food Systems," we have deepened our efforts to honour and elevate Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and leadership. Our work has spanned the revival of traditional food systems, the strengthening of community empowerment, and the expansion of our community-led initiatives.

Globally, there is a growing recognition that food systems are central to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. As UN Secretary-General António Guterres reminds us that food systems must "nourish people, protect the planet, and promote equity." Indigenous Peoples' food systems (IPFS), intrinsically linked with biodiversity stewardship, values of caring and sharing, and a profound respect for the land, show us that this vision is not only possible, but already being practiced.

This year, NESFAS partnered with The Indigenous Partnership (TIP) and The Rockefeller Foundation to contribute to a

global initiative spanning Northern Thailand, Northeast India, Kenya, and Mexico. Through the Agroecology Assessment Of Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, we sought to generate empirical evidence that demonstrates how Indigenous Peoples and landscapes thrive when these food systems are supported, and not disrupted.

Evidence is our bridge. It allows us to speak across sectors, influence policy, and most importantly, to amplify the voices of Indigenous communities who have long been sidelined. Whether through demonstrating improved child nutrition in our school meals programme, or documenting agroecological resilience in ancestral farming landscapes, we are committed to making this evidence count and aim toward systems change.

Across it all, a common truth continues to emerge, "traditional knowledge is not a relic". It is a living, evolving system of care for people, for land, and for future generations.

As we look ahead, we remain grounded in our belief that true sustainability must be community-led, ecologically sound, and culturally respectful. We are also deeply grateful to our new and continuing supporters who have joined hands with us on this journey; IPAF-Tebtebba, LIC, UNDP GEF-SGP India, the Government of Meghalaya's DSEL, TNC, TATA Communications and many others, our mission to uplift indigenous communities and promote sustainable food systems has gained powerful momentum. Thank you for walking this journey with us and for believing, like we do, that the path to the future may begin by listening more closely to the past.

Thank you



Note from Chairperson

Bah Nestar Kharmawphlang, Chairperson

This past year has been a powerful reminder of the strength that lies in community, tradition, and collective action. At NESFAS, we have continued to deepen our work with Indigenous Peoples to protect and promote their food systems anchored in agroecology, biodiversity, and ancestral knowledge.

This year, NESFAS supported the establishment of the Mei-Ramew State Cooperative Society, a federation of 19 community-led cooperatives across Meghalaya. This is a crucial step towards strengthening nature-based rural economies through local value chains, sustainable livelihoods and capacity building.

We have also reaffirmed our commitment to the conservation of the environment and not just as an act of preservation but as a necessity to fight the impact of climate change. This includes continuing restoration efforts and supporting communities as they revive and steward landscapes through traditional ecological knowledge. These activities do not only conserve biodiversity but also ensure that communities remain at the forefront of climate adaptation strategies. One of the initiatives we are especially proud of is our school meals model. What began as a small initiative has now evolved into a replicable approach.

The advancement of our agroecology efforts through the Agroecology Assessment Of Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems was designed to empower rural farmers and strengthen agroecological principles. The findings brought to light the contributions of Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems (IPFS) to global food sustainability and identified rain-fed agriculture as a neglected yet vital area of research. The study highlighted the urgent need to foster collaboration between local knowledge holders, scientists, policy makers and to ensure that frameworks are developed to protect community rights and access to resources.

As we continue our journey, we are more convinced than ever that real change begins with communities. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our founding Chairperson, Bah Phrang Roy, whose vision continues to guide us, and to our dedicated team for their commitment and integrity. I also thank our partners and supporters who believe in the power of indigenous knowledge and stand with us in shaping a future that is just, inclusive and sustainable.

Let us move forward together with renewed hope and deeper purpose.

Thank You

Our Partners & Supporters



Board Members



Nestar Kharmawphlang,
Chairperson, NESFAS, Headmaster of
Laitsohpliah RCLP School & custodian farmer



Rikynti Syiem,
Vice Chairperson, NESFAS, weaver &
custodian farmer from Khweng community



Ivan S Lyngdoh,
Technical Officer, NEHU Data
and Voice Network (NDVN)
Facility, Shillong



Hendri G Momin,
Farmer, Entrepreneur, Proprietor
of Aman A•song Cafe at
Darechikgre Community



Hibi Suting,
Custodian Farmer, School
Teacher, General Secretary
of Women Council & Head
Teacher SSA, Umsawwar



Amba Jamir,
Policy Analyst, Community
Convener & Development
Consultant; Vice President of
Integrated Mountain Initiative



Nirupama James,
Coordinator of Design and
Innovation Centre (S),
St. Mary's College, Shillong



Ability Bynnud,
SSA Cluster Coordinator of
Laitkroh Block & farmer from
Ladmawphlang Community



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Executive Director



Alethea Kordor Lyngdoh,
Deputy Executive Director



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Strategic Partnership



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Research and Policy



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Community Empowerment



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Sr. Associate, Nutrition



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Sr. Associate, Programme



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Associate, Administration



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Lead Associate, Public Health
& Food Services



Chetan Agarwal,
Lead Associate, Finance



Wisbonlita Lawriniang,
Associate, Finance



Ritisha Rapsang,
Consultant, Finance

The Team

The Team



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Associate



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Office Assistant



Lamphrang Diengdoh,
Community Consultant



Wanrila Khongngain,
Community Consultant



Andalin Sawkmie,
Housekeeping



Wankyrshan Warshong,
Gardener



SUPPORT IN PROTECTION OF FORESTS IN MEGHALAYA THROUGH PARTICIPATORY, GENDER-CENTRIC AND EQUITABLE APPROACHES & EQUITABLE CONSERVATION FOR CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY, AND LIVELIHOODS IN NORTHEAST INDIA

Funder: The Nature Conservancy
Duration: May 2023 - December 2026

The Northeast region of India harbours a substantial share of the country’s carbon stocks and forest cover, yet it continues to experience deforestation and biodiversity loss. In response to the Schedule tribe communities in Meghalaya and Nagaland have undertaken voluntary conservation efforts to safeguard ecosystem services and cultural heritage. However, these initiatives are often constrained by limited resources and inadequate funding.

Between 2022 and 2024, NESFAS, in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board (MBB), supported the upgradation of 141

People’s Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) to enhance community-led biodiversity management. Alongside this, 71 People’s Perspective Landscape Management Plans (PPLMPs) were developed to guide conservation and natural resource governance in the villages where PBRs had been strengthened.

Building on earlier collaborations with TNC and MBB, this project scaled up documentation and community-led management of biodiversity to 210 villages. The initiative is strengthening the PBRs and developing the PPLMPs to guide conservation and restoration. Additionally, the project is also piloting the sustainable inclusion of wild edibles in school meals and Mei-Ramew Cafés, strengthening links between biodiversity conservation, nutrition, and livelihoods.



DEMONSTRATING COMMUNITY-BASED INITIATIVES FOR HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Funder: IFAD (IPAF-Tebtebba)
Duration: January 2024 – December 2026

This 36-month project is expanding community-led food system initiatives in five villages across Meghalaya. It focuses on biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, nutrition improvement, and strengthening local livelihoods. By building on successful practices, the project also pilots innovative approaches drawn from indigenous knowledge and global learnings, with special emphasis on women, youth, and children.

Key activities include participatory mapping of nutrient-rich and climate-resilient species, strengthening Agroecology Learning Circles, nutrition enhancement initiatives like WASH campaigns, cooking demonstrations with a focus on local, micronutrient-rich foods and green livelihoods empowerment. These efforts are aimed at enhancing recognition among policymakers of Indigenous Peoples’ Food Systems as nature-based solutions for food security and climate resilience.





TATA COMMUNICATIONS

CLIMATE RESILIENT VILLAGE PROGRAMME

Funder: TATA Communications

Duration: 2022 – 2026

A joint initiative with Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE) and support of TATA Communications, this programme spans 600+ villages in the Garo and Khasi Hills. Through this initiative, NESFAS is working on promoting climate resilience through clean energy access, sustainable cooking solutions, and improved healthcare infrastructure.

By deploying solar electrification, upgrading Primary Health Centres, and introducing clean cooking technologies, the programme is reducing energy poverty, improving health outcomes, and building resilience. Training rural youth as solar engineers also ensures that communities gain the skills needed to sustain these innovations, making it a transformative step towards energy security and sustainable rural development.



Corporate Social Responsibility

LIC HFL SPECIAL PROJECT IN EAST KHASI HILLS AND RI-BHOI, MEGHALAYA

Funder: LIC HFL CSR

Duration: March 2025 – February 2026

This one-year project is working across 15 villages, benefitting 2,000 community members, especially youth, women, and smallholder farmers, through training, resource access, and sustainable market linkages. It is identifying and scaling nature-based livelihood opportunities, aligning with global SDGs on agriculture,

livelihoods, biodiversity, and equity.

Key activities include establishing 100 household nurseries, training 150 beekeepers and 150 pig farmers, co-designing business plans with SHGs and cooperatives, and promoting agro-ecotourism through tour guide training. The project aims to empower communities to build resilient, inclusive, and sustainable local economies.





DEMONSTRATE SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY-LED MANAGEMENT PLAN OF DEGRADED LANDS TO CONSERVE AND MANAGE WILD BIODIVERSITY AND AGROBIODIVERSITY FOR LOCAL LIVELIHOODS SECURITY

Funder: GEF-SGP (TERI/UNDP)

Duration: October 2024 – September 2026

Building on earlier *Indigenous Peoples' biocentric restoration efforts with FAO*, this initiative is engaging communities in rehabilitating degraded land through traditional ecological knowledge and agroecological practices. This project focuses on restoring 200 hectares of degraded land and implementing improved practices on 50 hectares.

Activities include tree plantation campaigns, nursery development, soil testing in collaboration with technical institutions, and training on sustainable land management.

The project is also promoting crop diversification through mapping of homestead gardens and farms, improving food security while supporting nutrition-based community initiatives like biodiversity-rich school meals and Mei-Ramew Cafés.



LINKING SCHOOLS TO AGROBIODIVERSITY FOR IMPROVED DIETS, NUTRITION, AND LIVELIHOODS

Partners: TIP, TNC, IFAD (IPAF-Tebtebba), Directorate of School Education & Literacy, Meghalaya, LIC HFL CSR

Despite Meghalaya's biodiversity, malnutrition remains a critical concern, with high rates of stunting and underweight children. NESFAS responded by piloting a community-led school meals programme in 2022, which has since expanded to 26 schools reaching 1,500+ students.

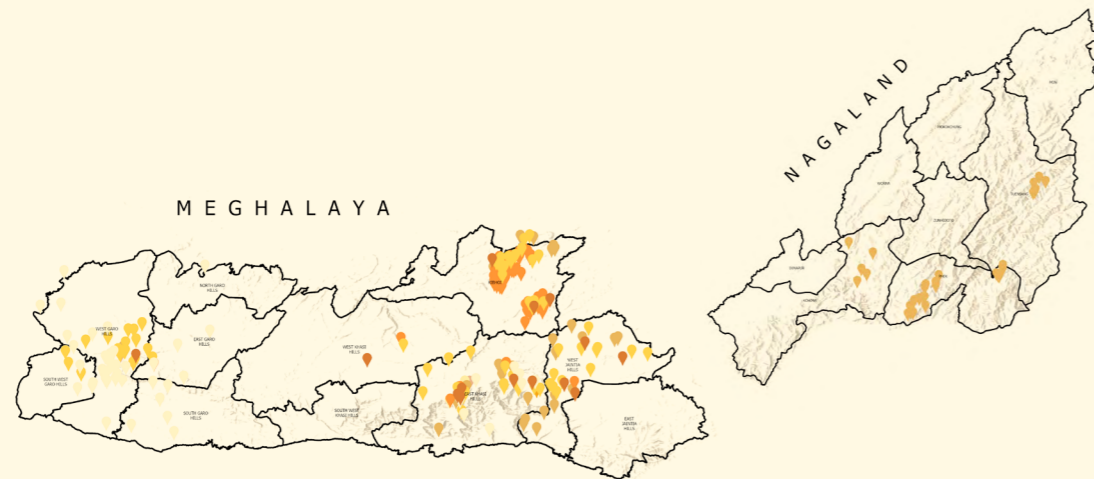
Meals now integrate five of FAO's ten food groups, featuring local produce and wild edibles. Farmers from Agroecology Learning

Circles (ALC) supply fresh produce, while local cooks, parents, and teachers co-create diverse menus. In 2024, NESFAS also partnered with the state education department to train 7,159 cooks in nutrition and local sourcing.

This initiative is building local economies, improving children's diets, and reviving indigenous food traditions. By linking biodiversity to school meals, NESFAS demonstrates how community ownership and indigenous knowledge can address malnutrition, sustain livelihoods, and strengthen cultural identity.



NESFAS PROJECT VILLAGES (590 villages reached as of March 2025)



	State Boundary	
No. of villages covered under Projects		
	CRVP (TATA COMMS)	356
	PBR/NRM (TNC/MBB)	210
	NSBLB (REC)	130
	MBMA (ALC)	100
	SM (TIP)	19
	LIC (HFL)	15
	IPBR (FAO)	5
	SM (GIZ)	5
	DSBIFS (IPAF / TEB)	5
	DSCLMP (UNDP)	5
	TAPE (RF)	4

590
Partner
Communities

25000+
Community
Members Reached

Biodiversity: Nurturing and Nourishing People and Nature-IP Management Approaches

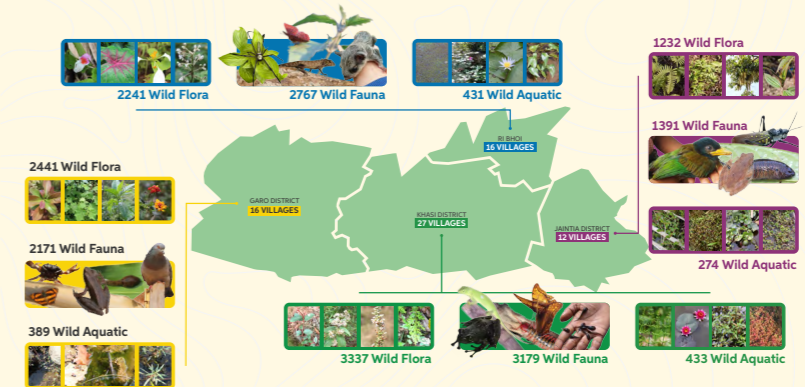
210
Landscapes' People's
Biodiversity Registers
(PBRs) upgraded

100
Agroecology
Learning Circles
(ALCs) established

119
People's Perspective
Landscape
Management Plans
(PPLMPs) prepared

3
Community Seed
Banks set up

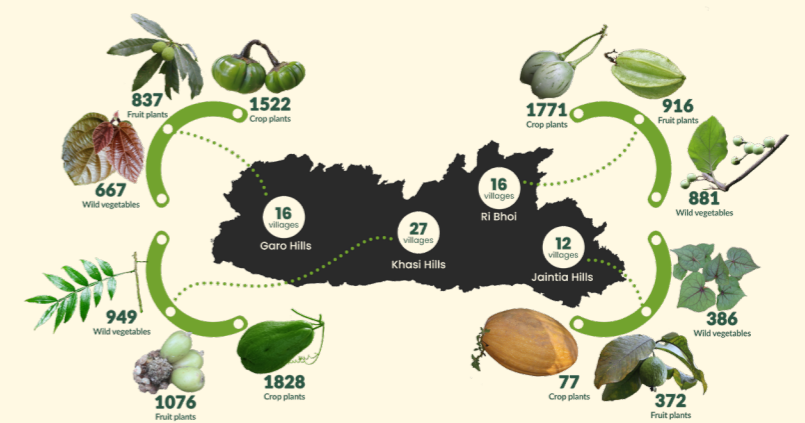
1800
Agrobiodiversity
Documented



Wild biodiversity in Meghalaya documented
(Based on the data collected from 71 Villages)



Agrobiodiversity Composition
(Based on the data collected from 71 Villages)



Agrobiodiversity In Meghalaya documented
(Based on the data collected from 71 Villages)

Nutrition: Improved nutritional status, good health and reduced malnutrition



26 Community-led School Meals	1570 Children Benefitted
26 School Gardens established	7159 School Cooks Trained

Climate Change: Adaptation To Climate Change, Risk Mitigation And Emission Reduction



35 Agroecology Learning Circles (ALC) solutions documented	607 Solar-Powered Households	13 PHCs Upgraded With Solar Setup And Medical Care Equipment
16480 Clean Cookstoves Deployed	25 Electric Pressure Cookers Deployed	2 Vertical Transportations

Green Livelihood: Improve nature-based green livelihood opportunities

19 Cooperative Societies formed with 313 members
111 Household Nurseries supported
150 Households trained and supported in piggery management
4 Mei-Ramew (Mother Earth) Cafés



Youth: Empower Youths for IPFS Advocacy and Action



27 Rural Youth Fellows trained	30 Participatory Video Fellows trained
50 Young Rural Solar Engineers trained	100 Community Facilitators engaged



Strengthening Evidence Through Agroecology Assessment of Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems

As the world hurtles toward ecological collapse driven by industrial agriculture, Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems (IPFS), as a powerful and under-recognised solution, is quietly thriving in the margins.

With support from The Rockefeller Foundation, the Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty (TIP) undertook a groundbreaking project from September 2022 to December 2024 across 16 landscapes in Kenya, Northern Thailand, Northeast India, and Mexico. Using the FAO's Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation (TAPE) and community

storytelling, the study assessed IPFS across 500 households. Led by trained Indigenous youth, including coordination by Gratia Dkhar, Sr. Associate at NESFAS, the research revealed that IPFS excel not only in ecological performance but also in social dimensions like gender equity, knowledge sharing, and reciprocity. Supported by FAO experts and academics, the study adapted global methodologies to capture the richness of systems practiced by the Khasi, Garo, Karbi, Karen, Ogiek, and Yucatec Mayan Peoples. The findings present IPFS as a vital blueprint for transforming global food systems. *(Read More)*

VOICES IN FOCUS

“ TAPE has allowed us to think on how best to move forward in the process of co-creation of knowledge, opening safe spaces for different ways of science and indigenous knowledge to work together. ”

Francisco J. Rosado May, Agroecology and Intercultural Knowledge Specialist, Mexico

“ Scientific knowledge is experimental but if we look at indigenous knowledge, it is experiential and empirical. As such, there is an element of eliminating knowledge or practice that does not work. There is an urgent need, therefore, for the two (indigenous and scientific) to come together and work on equal terms for co-creation of knowledge and solutions. ”

Dhrupad Choudhury, TIP Advisor

“ We are all aware that food systems are in a breaking point, they are already not sustainable, not resilient. I do believe that IPFS are very much grounded from the traditional knowledge that aligns with protecting people but also the planet and aligns to the rhythm of nature and the needs of nature. ”

From Global Leader - Alvaro Lario, President, IFAD



Strengthening Nature-Based Livelihoods: The launch of the Mei Ramew State Agroecology Co-operative Society

On August 9, 2024, coinciding with the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, NESFAS marked an important milestone with the launch of the Mei Ramew State Agroecology Co-operative Society, comprising 19 village cooperatives to promote sustainable livelihoods and ecological farming. The event also featured capacity-building collaborations, a farmers' market, and cultural performances. The Society aims to empower indigenous communities, preserve traditional

knowledge, enhance local economies, and address global challenges through agroecology and cooperation. *Read more*

On July 30, 2024, an Indigenous Cafe was launched in Ladmawphlang by the local Agroecology Cooperative and NESFAS, promoting indigenous food traditions and community collaboration, with plans to soon upgrade into a full-fledged Mei-Ramew Cafe. *Read more*

VOICES IN FOCUS

“ The Mei Ramew State Agroecology Co-operative Society aims to bring sustainable change by supporting and empowering indigenous peoples. Mei Ramew literally translates to Mother Earth and this is a testament of NESFAS' commitment towards respecting and protecting our planet. ”

Bah Nestar Kharmawphlang, Chairperson, NESFAS

“ If we want to start a conversation about us as Indigenous People, we must begin by talking about food, our tradition, and we hold it in the highest regard. I thank NESFAS for working together with our rural communities. This is the only way forward to promote and defend our local food. ”

*From State Leader, former KHADC CEM
Bah Titosstarwell Chyne, MDC Sohra*





Community-led School meals with Wild edibles at the Forefront

Community-led School Meals Initiative Celebrated at Mini School Meals Festival, Mark Bittmann Applauds Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems

NESFAS' Community-Led School Meals Initiative gained powerful momentum, shining as a model for how Indigenous Peoples' food systems (IPFS) can shape healthier and more sustainable futures. On April 2, 2024, NESFAS hosted the second Mini School Meals Festival in Laitsohpliah, East Khasi Hills, which showcased a vibrant celebration of food, culture, and community. Six schools participated, presenting diverse, nutrient-rich meal platters rooted in indigenous traditions, with Khliehumstem Presbyterian LP & UP School emerging as the winner.

The festival and the initiative itself was more than a competition, it was a movement. It showcased the power of local farming, biodiversity-based diets, and school gardens in tackling malnutrition

while preserving cultural food heritage. Educators, community leaders, journalists, and international guests, including renowned food writer Mark Bittman, applauded the initiative for spotlighting IPFS and their vital role in ensuring food security.

By linking children's nutrition with sustainable agriculture, the initiative demonstrates that when communities take the lead, solutions are both impactful and lasting. With its success as a pilot in 11 schools, NESFAS has outscaled the initiative to 26 more schools. [\(Read More\)](#)

Former Director of DSEL, Swapnil Tembe, along with SDO and SDSEO of Sohra, visited Laitsohpliah LP/UP School on November 19, 2024 to observe the community-led school meal initiatives. [Read More](#)

VOICES IN FOCUS

“ This collaborative approach is essential for the long-term success of the programme. I believe that by expanding these initiatives and incorporating meals, we can further enhance the nutritional well-being of our students and address critical health issues like malnutrition and anemia. Let us continue to prioritise local, seasonal foods and empower the next generation to become responsible food consumers and producers. ”

From State Policy Maker - Swapnil Tembe, IAS, Secretary, Finance Department (Former Director of School Education & Literacy)



“ ...we've been here 4 to 5 days and I've had nothing but amazing food...Communities and organisation like NESFAS can pave the way but ultimately it has to be a national effort that focus on local food, local farming and we need Government support to be able to make this effect. So if national policy and state policy preserves indigenous and traditional ways of farming and encourages traditional foodways then we will eat that way. Communities can say look this is what we are doing and how we like to do it but ultimately it's up to the Government to support traditional foodways. We can't be healthy adults until we raise healthy children. ”



From Renowned Global Journalist - Mark Bittmann, Former columnist of The New York Times

“ Our knowledge about our rich biodiversity is our way out and so we need to protect our biodiversity to sustain ourselves. I would like to thank all the cooks who have done their best to provide the most nutritious food to our school children. ”

Patricia Mukhim, Editor of the Shillong Times

“ Our primary goal is to demonstrate that communities possess the capability to provide nutritious food to their children. We are prepared to offer assistance, but it is crucial for the community to understand and take pride in our traditional food systems, and remain steadfast against the influence of external markets. ”



From our Founding Chairperson - Bah Phrang Roy

“ Our focus is on procuring ingredients for the school meals locally by utilising our rich biodiversity. The school garden initiative has helped children get closer to nature and get a better understanding of the food they eat. I'm grateful to NESFAS for motivating our communities to take up this initiative. ”

Bah Nestar Kharmawphlang, Chairperson, NESFAS and school headmaster

“ I'll convey a message to the higher authorities that the school meals model by NESFAS is a huge success and that we should replicate this model across schools in all parts of the state. We will surely try to work out an agreement with NESFAS to expand this initiative. ”

Mr. Alfred lawphniaw, SDSEO Sohra



Partnerships for Impact

At NESFAS, partnerships are vital to scaling community-led change. Over the past year, we forged impactful collaborations across diverse sectors to strengthen IPFS, deepening cultural exchange, and amplifying our shared vision for sustainable development.

We were honoured to welcome Dr. Krishna Rao from RYSS, who visited our partner communities and explored nature-based approaches to strengthen food systems in Meghalaya. In another enriching partnership, students from the Indian Institute of Art and Design (IIAD), Delhi, immersed themselves in the region's textile traditions, from Eri silk to Khneng embroidery, culminating in a dialogue for future collaboration.

Together with BRDC, we organised a three-day seed-saving workshop, bringing 20 communities

together to exchange knowledge on natural farming techniques. A special dialogue with bun cultivators, enriched by insights from Central Agricultural University (CAU) Prof. Dwipendra Thakuria, promoted cross-learning on sustainable land and soil management.

Culinary collaborations also took centre stage. From the "My Indigenous Flavour" competition with Tri Hills Ensemble to immersive experiences with JrnyOn, celebrating Khasi cuisine and craft. Globally, NESFAS partnered with Chef Thomas Zacharias of the Locavore at the Rome Gathering to present indigenous ingredients on an international platform.

These diverse partnerships reflect a shared commitment to honour tradition, spark innovation, and work collectively for resilient food systems and community well being.



From Field to Forum: Participation in Key Dialogues

NESFAS actively contributed to diverse platforms, regional, national, and global, amplifying Indigenous knowledge and advancing agroecological transformation. At the Regional Partner Convening in Guwahati, NESFAS shared key findings from the TAPE study, showcasing the value of Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems (IPFS) for people, nature, and climate.

At the 2nd National Conference by SECM, NESFAS demonstrated how research led to real-world impact through the Mei-Ramew Café initiative. Meanwhile, our partnership with Kong Dial Muktieh brought Khasi cuisine to the fore at the 7th Act East Business Show.

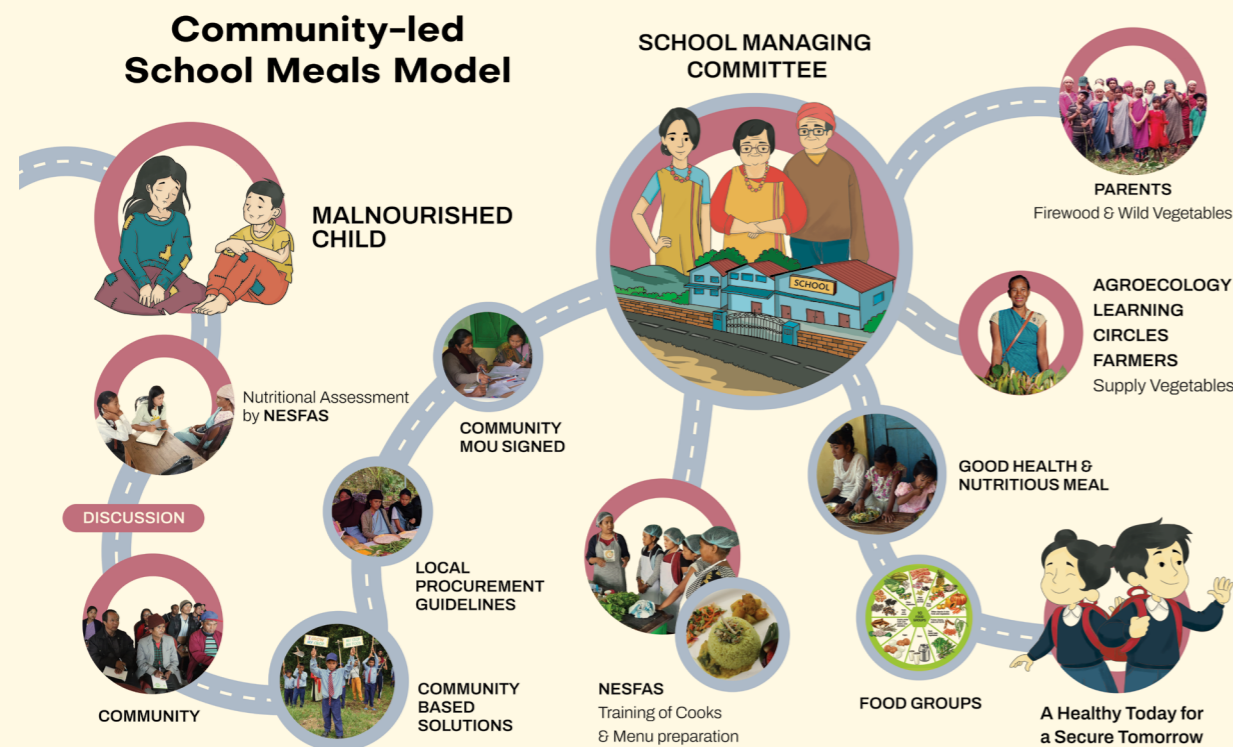
Internationally, Founding Chairperson Bah Phrang Roy addressed the Food Systems Stocktaking Dialogues, emphasizing the need for intercultural knowledge creation and the potential of Indigenous youth to champion sustainable food systems.

NESFAS also joined key international engagements in Indonesia and Thailand, including the Regional Community Seed Bank Forum, Rotate Festival, and Immersive Gathering on IPFS. These events deepened learning on seed sovereignty, rotational farming, and Indigenous community enterprises, ensuring that field-based wisdom continues to inform and shape the global discourse on food, biodiversity, and climate resilience.



Local Voices, Global Audiences

COMMUNICATION PRODUCTION



Local Voices, Global Audiences



This video offers a glimpse into the lives and journey of the people of Plasha village in Ri Bhoi district, where many earn their livelihood as weavers and tailors.

Ki samla kim lah ban shongkurim lada kim pat nang thain jain
ha kane ka shnong



This video highlights the Community-led School Meals Initiative celebration at Laitsohpliah's Mini School meals Festival.

Ba duna ai bai bam ka sorkar, wanrah ki paidbah da ki jhurkhlaw
ban bam ki khynnah ha skul

Local Voices, Global Audiences



Celebrating the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, NESFAS launched the Mei Ramew State Agroecology Co-operative Society on August 9, 2024, bringing in 19 village cooperatives to strengthen community capacity and sustainable growth. The launch event also featured a vibrant Mei-Ramew Farmers market that celebrated indigenous food, culture and collaboration.

Na Ri Khasi, pur ka rukom rep tynrai shaduh Mexico, Thailand bad kiwei kiwei



This video showcases NESFAS' celebration of International Youth Day through a capacity-building programme on 'Influencers Outreach for Youth'. The initiative empowered young community members to become cultural ambassadors and advocates of change. Guided by Bah Ferdinand Rani, participants learned to use storytelling and social media to promote their communities rich food, culture and traditions.

Ym tang ki kam viral hynrei lem bad ka rep lyngba ka social media

Local Voices, Global Audiences

INSIGHTS ON AUDIENCE REACH

NO. OF VISITORS



Website

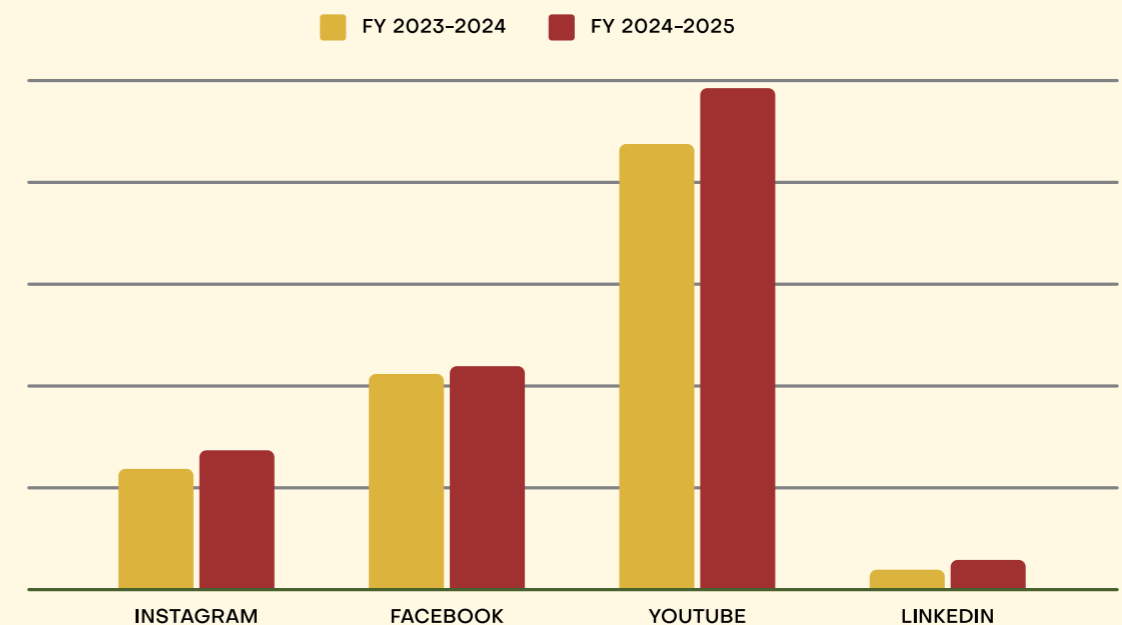
- > Per Day: 50.74
- > Per week: 355.22
- > Per Month: 1545.45



Social media

- > 26k views p/m
- > 4k reach p/m

AUDIENCE GROWTH AT A GLANCE



**SUBSCRIBE TO
OUR NEWSLETTER**

Echoes From Mother Earth
Local Voices for Global Audience



EMPOWERING RURAL YOUTH THROUGH PARTICIPATORY VIDEO

55 Participatory Videos produced

Since 2014, NESFAS has been empowering rural youth through its Participatory Video (PV) programme and so far, around 30 rural youth have been trained. The PV programme addresses several critical issues and this initiative aims to document local stories, promote sustainable food systems, and raise awareness about climate change. By training young community members in basic scripting, videography, and editing, NESFAS promotes grassroots journalism and preserves indigenous knowledge through this initiative.

The videos produced showcase farming practices embedded in biodiversity, food festivals

celebrating heritage, and community responses to climate change and all narrated by the people who live them. This is grassroots journalism at its most authentic. It is a shift from "being studied" to "being heard."

Through its ongoing project supported by IPAF-Tebtebba, *NESFAS facilitated a one-week training for 10 rural youth through the PV training.* This programme not only equipped them with technical skills but also ignited a sense of purpose and belonging, fostering a community of storytellers dedicated to preserving indigenous knowledge and culture.

VOICES IN FOCUS

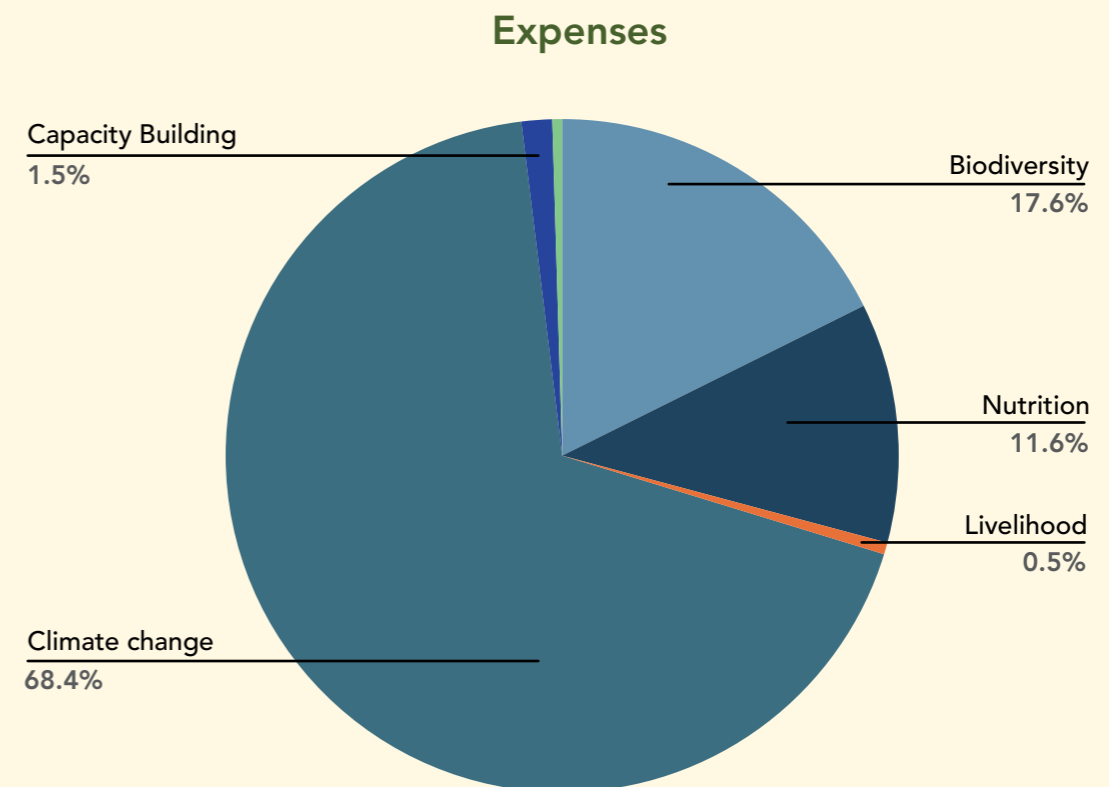
We have gained a great deal of knowledge from the seniors during our training at NESFAS. I'm proud of the week I spent learning how to operate a camera, edit, and—most importantly—how to protect the environment and uphold our customs and culture. 🗨️

Daiolin Jyrwa, youth from Mawbri, East Khasi Hills, reflected on the transformative experience

I felt very excited when I attended the NESFAS PV program. I benefited greatly from learning about preserving the trees, nurturing Mother Nature, and also from photography, editing videos, and how to shoot a video. 🗨️

Belarius Bey, youth from Umwang Nongbah, Ri Bhoi

[Watch Participatory Videos here](#)





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