

Farmer story | Mawsiatkhnem Umpling Umjathang, Meghalaya

Restoring the Soil, One Bed at a Time

How Bandasuk Nongrum used vermicomposting to rebuild soil health and cut her reliance on chemical fertilizers.



Bandasuk tending her vermicomposting beds

At a glance

Farmer

Bandasuk Nongrum

Village

Mawsiatkhnem Umpling Umjathang

Practice

Vermicomposting

Harvests so far

Nearly four

A turning point

With support from the Small Grants Programme (SGP) project team, Bandasuk set up a vermicomposting bed and began producing high-quality organic manure, a turning point for her farm.

The challenge

Bandasuk struggled to get enough manure and fertilizer. Heavy use of chemical fertilizers, combined with environmental changes, had led to soil degradation, declining fertility and increased soil erosion, making it hard to grow healthy crops and get consistent yields.

The change

Through the SGP project, implemented by the Bosco Integrated Development Society under the guidance of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Bandasuk adopted vermicomposting. Regular use of vermicompost improved her soil structure, added organic matter and reduced her dependence on chemical fertilizers. She has since seen clear improvements in crop growth and soil fertility.

The result

Bandasuk has harvested vermicompost nearly four times, using it on her farm and selling the surplus for extra income, which helps support her household. By turning farm waste into a valuable resource, she has strengthened her livelihood and promoted environmentally sustainable agriculture.