

PRESS RELEASE

BRLF unveils roadmap to transform rural livelihoods in Mizoram, targeting 40,000 households

Aizawl, June 11, 2026 — The Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF) has presented the findings of its statewide livelihood scoping study to the Government of Mizoram, alongside a phased action plan that aims to secure livelihood resilience for 40,000 vulnerable rural households by the end of the decade.

The dissemination programme, held at the Secretariat Building in Aizawl on Wednesday, marks the first major milestone under the Memorandum of Understanding signed between BRLF — an organisation promoted by the Government of India under the Ministry of Rural Development — and the Government of Mizoram in March 2025.

The study, conducted across the state's rural and tribal areas, identified significant untapped potential in key value chains including ginger, agro-horticultural production, market linkages, and irrigation development. Its findings will form the basis of a livelihood promotion project to be implemented in partnership with experienced civil society organisations, in close coordination with the Government of Mizoram, the State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM), and community-based institutions promoted under various government programmes.

A phased plan rooted in Mizo traditions

Under the proposed action plan, the project will begin in Champhai and Reiek blocks, reaching 1,000 households in its first year before expanding to five blocks and 10,000 households, and eventually deepening its work to cover 40,000 households. Champhai was selected for its strong production base in ginger, chilli, turmeric, and spices. At the same time, Reiek has been identified as a key cluster for integrated farming systems that combine rice, fish, vegetables, and horticulture.

The plan targets a 30 per cent increase in household incomes and a 30 per cent expansion in irrigation potential, with implementation anchored in Mizo traditional knowledge of cropping patterns and land management, participatory village-level planning, and the active engagement of self-help groups, village organisations and local entrepreneurs. Technology will play a central role, with GIS-based planning and real-time progress monitoring through dedicated digital platforms.

Welcoming participants, **Pu R. Zarzosanga, Commissioner and Secretary, Rural Development & Administration Department, Government of Mizoram**, said: "This partnership reflects the Government of Mizoram's commitment to working with credible

institutions and civil society to bring lasting change to our villages. The study presented today gives us a clear, evidence-based picture of where our opportunities lie.”

Presenting the study findings, **Dr Aruna Pandey, Head – Research and MEL, BRLF**, said: “What emerges from this study is a state with extraordinary natural and social capital. Mizoram’s farmers already grow some of the country’s finest ginger and turmeric; the task now is to build the value chains, irrigation systems and market linkages that allow them to capture the full worth of what they produce.” She added that “The strength of Mizoram’s community institutions, its village councils, churches and traditional systems of collective work, is an asset few states possess. Our recommendations are designed to build on these foundations rather than replace them.”

Government signals strong backing.

Delivering the keynote address, **Prof. Lalnilawma, Honourable Minister of State, Rural Development and Administration Department, Government of Mizoram**, said: “The Government of Mizoram sees this collaboration as an opportunity to bring together the resources of flagship schemes, the energy of our communities and the expertise of civil society. We are keen to see such projects attract greater investment from philanthropic and CSR partners, so that the benefits reach every deserving household.”

In his special address, **Dr KC Lalmalsawmzauva, Adviser to the Chief Minister (Implementation of the Hand-holding Policy), Government of Mizoram**, said: “Mizoram stands at a moment of real opportunity. The Government is keenly interested in holistic projects of this kind, which strengthen livelihoods not in fragments but as complete systems, land, water, markets and people together.”

Speaking on the occasion, **Mr Kuldip Singh, Chief Executive Officer, BRLF**, said project investments would be strategically leveraged with flagship government schemes to create future-ready community assets and livelihood systems that are resilient to climate change and capable of supporting sustainable rural development. “Our approach is simple: today’s labour must become tomorrow’s livelihoods. Every rupee invested will be designed to converge with government programmes and multiply its impact on the ground,” he said.

Outlining the proposed action plan, **Mr Himangshu Das, Programme Officer, BRLF**, said: “BRLF will begin where the potential is strongest, in Champhai and Reiek, demonstrating livelihood models that work, before scaling them across the state. The plan is built on community-led planning, with the most vulnerable households and common resources prioritised first.”

The programme concluded with a roundtable discussion on the action plan, facilitated by **Mr Brajesh Dubey, Head – Programme, BRLF**, who said: “The conversations today have given us practical direction on finalising village development committees, establishing joint review systems and identifying the right civil society partners. The real work begins now, and it begins together.”

The dissemination programme was attended by senior government officials, development practitioners, civil society representatives, and other stakeholders committed to improving rural livelihoods in Mizoram.

About BRLF

The Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF) is an independent society established by the Government of India, under the Ministry of Rural Development, to scale up civil society action in collaboration with the government. BRLF works across central Indian states to strengthen rural livelihoods, with a focus on tribal and vulnerable communities, through partnerships with state governments, civil society organisations and community institutions.

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