

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Local Stakeholder Engagement



NONGTRAI WEAVING PROJECT



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In an era where every individual or company is looking for self sustainance with priority based objectives and goals; Lafarge Umiam Mining Pvt.Ltd works with principles based on social commitment to help improve social values and expectations. The company works with the vision that Business is a priority but social welfare is a responsibility; the reason why the company has always undertaken community development programmes in right earnest to help bring about socio-economic uplift in the lives of the ethnic communities in Nongtraï and Shella village.

Lafarge Umiam Mining Pvt. Ltd. mines limestone from Nongtraï village and transports the same to neighbouring Bangladesh. Through this operation, the company brings in financial benefits to the State exchequer in terms of royalty and payment of mineral cess. The company has in place a wide-angled Corporate Social Responsibility programme which is directly benefiting the local communities. The company works in close consultations with the local Durbars and has established several developmental projects in the vicinity of its operation. These include several activities in the field of education, health, infrastructure development and social development.

The Director of LUMPL, Mike Cowell encouraged his team to show that **“Lafarge Umiam is committed to be a good neighbour and impart the villagers of Shella and Nongtraï with training for skills development”** in keeping with Lafarge endeavour for sustainable development **“without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”**. He also suggested that the skills training or development project **“should complement the special indigenous quality of the people of the Nongtraï Village”**.

After an extensive study, awareness programmes at the two villages and motivational discussions by LUMPL and the Village Dorbars, a weaving centre and sericulture program is initiated at Nongtraï Village, as means of alternative livelihood, by

the CSR team at LUMPL. Within a span of time, the Sericulture and Weaving Department of the Government of Meghalaya and LUMPL and Village Durbar of Nongtraï have join hands in the program.

The Nongtraï weaving centre project has been selected as part of the Chief Minister’s Achievement after a 100 days in office as the Directorate of Sericulture and Weaving, Govt. of Meghalaya is proud that **“For the first time in Meghalaya, a Public-Private Partnership modality was initiated in the Sericulture and Weaving sector to launch a Weaving-cum-Training Centre for handlooms at Nongtraï Village in the East Khasi Hills District. The project forms a part of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of M/S Lafarge and has developed collaboratively by the Directorate of Sericulture and Weaving along with this private party.”** Excerpt from Meghalaya Chief Minister’s 100 days in office achievement report.

The centre trains 12 ladies who have dropped out of secondary school and higher secondary. These ladies are proud pioneers of Nongtraï Village as they are now practising a skill that will equip them for their future. Presently the artisan course that is being taught to them by a trainer and a master weaver from the weaving involves in their learning how to weave using cotton yarn. The ladies after they have understood their own aptitude and motivation are now determined that they will learn silk weaving and to capture a portion of the silk market in Meghalaya.

The next step of the project is to finalise the setting up of Self Help Groups and handover the project to the concerned authorities of Nongtraï Village t continue with the training for future weavers of the village.

With all these activities on the run, LUMPL feels happy to be part of the endeavour by the local people to bring about sustainable development in their communities. It is indeed a value added to their lives.

Lafarge Umiam Mining Pvt. Ltd.

A company of **LAFARGE** and **CEMENTOS MOLINS**