

Citation of Kenbah-Kenmynsaw Handicraft Multipurpose Cooperative Society Meghalaya-  
Entrepreneurship Recognition Award (MEG-ERA) Awardee

The Kenbah-Kenmynsaw Handicraft Multipurpose Cooperative Society is a society with members from the 2 (two) adjacent villages of Kenbah and Kenmynsaw in Mawsynram C&RD Block of East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya. The society deals in the manufacturing and production of Cane and Bamboo Handicraft products. The society was started in the year 2007 with 22 registered members and has been growing ever since.

The objective of the society was to create opportunity and a sustainable income generating enterprise for the villages by making use of the locally available resources (which is bamboo) to develop the economy of the villages. Currently, there are 200 villagers employed as artisans under the cooperative society. These artisans manufacture handicraft products for the cooperative and also for themselves which they market on their own or sell them to the society.

The society started with an investment of just Rs. 50,000/- (Fifty Thousand rupees only) which has now grown to Rs. 3,53,640 /- annually with each employee of the society earning a minimum income of Rs. 4,000/- (Four Thousand rupees only) monthly.

The members of the society have participated at IITF New Delhi in the year 2016 and undergone many trainings and exposure visits to enhance their skills and abilities. These trainings and trips were within the state as well as other states of the country. The society has also received trainings and collaborated with IIT, Guwahati in terms of enhancing their designs and their efficiency through better tools and equipment. A few of the members of the Society have also received individual awards for their works on handicrafts. One such individual is Kong Srul Kynter of Kenmynsaw village. She has received a few districts and state level awards and she is also a master trainer of this livelihood activity who often gives trainings on handicraft within the village and even other villages within the state.

The individual share capital of the society is Rs. 73,370 with Rs. 5,05,000/- received as a share capital from the Government from the year 2017 to 2013. The society has also received a Central Development Centre scheme and also availed a Integrated Cooperative Development Project (ICDP) subsidy loan of Rs. 65,500/- which has been repaid. However, the society still requires assistance, if available, to expand its enterprise in terms of storage infrastructure and expanding the **cultivation of bamboo**.

The Basin Development Unit, East Khasi Hills District, Shillong and the EFC, Mawsynram through the Meghalaya Institute of Entrepreneurship have provided trainings, exposure trips and opportunity to participate and showcase their products in exhibitions and fairs for the society. The products of the society are also being marketed by the BDU at their **Farmers Outlet** in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills District, Shillong and other outlets. These products are also being presented as gifts and souvenirs for Guests of many events organized by the BDU. Recently the society was approached by Shoppers' Stop through IIT Guwahati to supply laundry and roti baskets to the mall but negotiations are still going on.