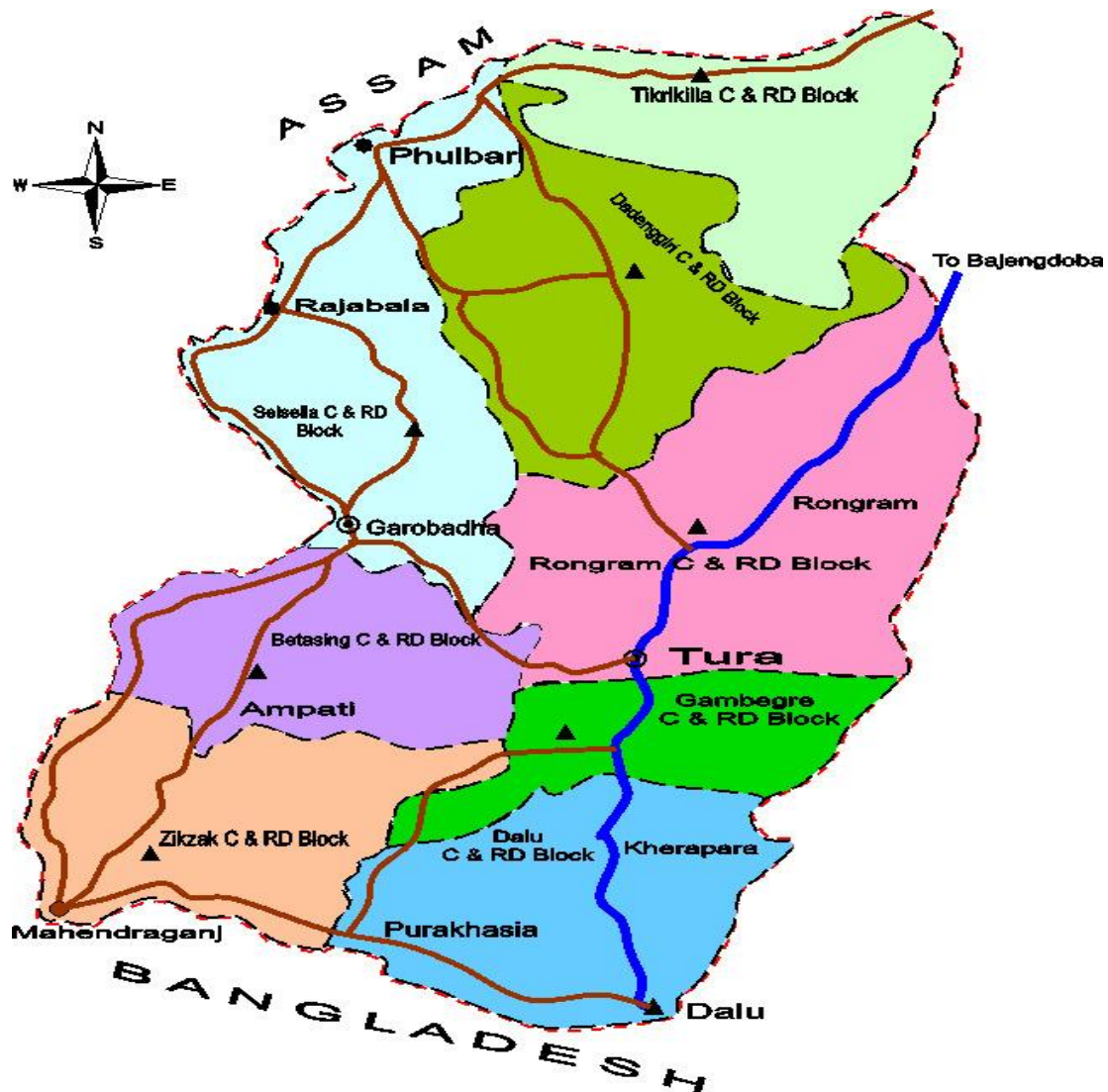


West Garo Hills is one of the largest district of Meghalaya located in the western part of the State. The Garo Hills district was divided into two districts, viz. the West Garo Hills district and the East Garo Hills district in October 1976. The erstwhile West Garo Hills district was further divided into two administrative districts of West and South Garo Hills on June 1992. The district headquarters of West Garo Hills is Tura, which is the second largest town in the State after Shillong. The district is bounded by the East Garo Hills district on the east, the South Garo Hills on the south-east, the Goalpara district of Assam on the north and north-west and Bangladesh on the south. The district is situated approximately between the latitudes $90^{\circ} 30'$ and $89^{\circ} 40'$ E, and the longitudes of 26° and $25^{\circ} 20'$ N. The population is pre-dominantly inhabited by the Garos, a tribe with a matrilineal society belonging to the Bodo family of the Tibeto-Burman race tribes. Other indigenous inhabitants are the Hajong, Rabhas, Koches, Rajbansis, Meches, Kacharis and Dalus. The district is also inhabited by Bengalis, Assamese, Nepalese, Marwaries, Biharis and people from other parts of India.



Agro-Climatic Zone

Agro-climatic Zone of the district

Sl No.	Agro-climatic Zone	Altitude	Rainfall	Temperature		Soil type	Crops grown
1	Subtropical hill zone	100-1500 m	1600 mm	300C	120C	Loamy silt, low to medium in organic carbon, low in P & K	Shifting cultivation, Rice, Maize, Mustard, Wheat, Castor, Pea, Ginger, Turmeric, Tapioca, Cotton
2	Subtropical valley zone	400-1000 m	>2000 mm	270C	100C	Alluvial soil	Irrigated Rice, Maize, Mustard, Wheat, Castor, Pea, Ginger, Turmeric, Tapioca, Cotton
3	Mild tropical hill zone	200-800 m	1400 mm	300C	120C	Loamy silt, low in organic matter & P	Upland rice, maize, pulses, cotton, wheat, tapioca etc.
4	Mild tropical plain zone	0-200 m	2000 mm	330C	170C	Lateritic & alluvial soil	Irrigated & rainfed rice, oilseeds, mustard, sugarcane, jute & other fibre crops, sweet potato, potato etc.

Major Farming Systems

Major Farming Systems existing in the District				
Sl no	Farming system	Soils	Principal crops/breeds	Important features
1	Agri-horti-pisci-livestock	Red silty loam	Paddy, summer & winter vegetables, oilseeds, pulses, Indian major & minor carps, poultry birds, milch cattle, goat, pig duck etc.	Pond dyke utilization Rainfed hill farming
2	Horti-agri-livestock	Sandy loam	Paddy, summer & winter vegetables, oilseeds, pulses, poultry birds,	Rainfed, market availability
3	Agriculture	Sandy loam	Paddy, vegetables, Paddy-paddy system	Monocrop, rainfed, partly irrigated
4	Livestock	Sandy loam and sandy clay loam	Poultry birds and pig	Hillock, market availability, well drainage facility

Major Farming Systems existing in the District				
Sl no	Farming system	Soils	Principal crops/breeds	Important features
5	Horti-pisci-agriculture	Clay loam	Paddy, summer & winter vegetables, Indian major & minor carps	Presence of natural water bodies, Good road transportations
6	Livestock-agri-horticulture	Sandy clay loam	Pig, goat, poultry birds, paddy, mustard, maize, colocasia, banana, pine apple	Market availability, tribal dominated area, foothills
7	Agri-horti-silvi-pastoral-livestock	Sandy clay loam	Rubber, pineapple, banana, teak, karoi, bamboo, citrus	Jhum cultivation, tribal dominated hills.
8	Plantation (Rubber)	Sandy clay loam	Rubber and tea	Tribal dominated hills
9	Plantation-pisci-livestock	Sandy clay loam	Rubber, pig, poultry bird.	Tribal dominated hills & presence of bunds in the hills.
10	Horticulture	Sandy clay loam	Summer and winter vegetables	Market availability, presence of water overflow, well drainage facility

Priority Thrust Area

Priority Thrust Area identified

Rank	Thrust Area
I	Enhancing productivity of horticultural crops through crop diversification
II	Introduction and popularizing of HYVs of cereals, oilseeds, pulses and vegetables
III	Introduction of Integrated Farming system
IV	Scientific Livestock Management with appropriate feeding, breeding and health management practices
V	INM, IWM, IPM and IDM in cereals, oilseeds, pulses, vegetables and fruit crops
VI	Improvement of soil health through popularization of Organic inputs like Vermicompost, Biofertilizers etc.
VII	Quality seed production
VIII	Capacity building of Rural Youth and women through vocational training for taking up of income generating activity through SHG
IX	Empowerment of farm women and rural youth through value addition of Mushroom, bamboo shoot, lemon, jack fruit, orange, pineapple etc.