

AMARKANAN RURAL SOCIO-ENVIROMENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY

West Bengal, Bankura District



*Seed Bank Storage Facility
Photo: Anjan Kumar Sinha*

Amarkanan Rural Socio-Environmental Welfare Society (ARSW Society) was officially registered as an organization in 2014 under the West Bengal Society Registration Act.XXVI of 1961. It has a community seed bank of 10 members, of which 4 are female and 6 are male farmers. Each year, 30 to 35 local farmers benefit from the CSB.

The community seed bank of ARSW Society currently conserves mainly traditional varieties of rice (more than 250 varieties). Additionally, traditional varieties of vegetables such as eggplant (2 varieties) and tomatoes (3 to 4 varieties) are conserved together with 2 varieties of chili.

The founder of the seed bank won the Plant Genome Savior Recognition Award in 2014, and the seed bank won the Plant Genome Savior Community Award in 2019.

The seed bank operates without regular external core funding and has used award funds as well as project grants from the state biodiversity board to cover part of its operating costs. This seed bank is managed by its members directly.

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