

# RAISAR COMMUNITY SEED BANK

*Odisha, Nayagarh*



*Monthly meeting of the community seed bank  
Photo: Nirman*

Raisar CSB was established by Nirman with the support of SWISSAID in 2019. The CSB is located in Raisar village in the Nayagarh district of Odisha, India. Currently, Nirman is providing ongoing support to the CSB with capacity building. To become self-sufficient, the CSB has begun promoting and marketing local varieties of seeds.

The management committee of the CSB comprises 29 women, each of whom is from one of the beneficiary villages of the CSB. Approximately 1000 farmers directly benefit from the CSB, while 1500 benefit indirectly.

The CSB was established to conserve and recover local varieties of seeds as many of them were scarce in the area or at risk of extinction. The CSB focuses especially on neglected and underutilized crops. In addition, it aims to secure access to, and availability of, diverse, locally adapted crops and varieties.

Raisar community seed bank currently conserves a wide range of traditional varieties, including 66 types of rice, 11 types of millet, 14 types of vegetables, 22 types of pulses, 7 types of tubers, and 6 types of oil crops.

The CSB received Prof. Radhamohan and Pandit Bijaylaxmi Sanman award in 2023 for its work on conserving local varieties and promoting resilient agriculture.

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