

ADARSH WOMEN FARMER GROUP

Maharashtra, Nagpur District



*Seed festival in India
Photo: Rakhi Ghosh from Vikalp Sangam*

Adarsh Women Farmer Group which is also known as a Self-Help Group established a community seed bank in 2023 with the support of Caritas India and Nagpur Multipurpose Social Service Society (NMSSS). The CSB is located in the village of Shirpur, Nagpur district, Maharashtra, India.

The SHG manages the operations of the CSB, benefiting around 59 households across two villages. This seed bank not only provides farmers with access to a diverse range of seeds but also offers micro-credits and supports income-generating activities.

The primary aim of the CSB is to enhance food and nutritional security for farmers by providing access to a diverse range of crops, with a particular emphasis on vegetables.

As of 2024, over 20 varieties of vegetables including tomato, eggplant, lady's finger, guar, fenugreek, and spinach, are managed by the CSB, alongside with some few varieties of chili.

Under the NMSSS JEEVAN-WLEA program, annual Local Seed Festivals are organized post-harvest to promote local seed preservation and sustainable agricultural practices. These festivals focus on facilitating seed exchanges, enhancing biodiversity, and building community networks.

NMSSS offers training programs for farmers in seed production and conservation techniques, enhancing their knowledge and skills in sustainable agricultural practices

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