

# NOORLAKUPPE BEEJA BANK

*Karnataka, Bangalore Mysuru District*



*Seed storage at the CSB  
Photo: Sahaja Samruhda*

The Community Seed Bank (CSB) was established in 2022 with the support of SWISSAID under the CROPS4HD project. It is located in the village of Nooralakuppe in Mysuru District in Karnataka, India.

The CSB was created to restore and enhance the region's agricultural diversity while improving farmers' access to a wider range of crop varieties. It operates under the management of a group of women and serves 150 members and 100 non-members. In total, households from 7 villages benefit from the CSB.

The CSB has engaged around 15 seed producers to guarantee the availability of high-quality seeds. The CSB has mostly conserved landraces and the members help to maintain genetic diversity in their fields.

The CSB has a 0.5-hectare diversity block where members evaluate the best-performing seed varieties for the region. CSB members demonstrate agricultural diversity to fellow farmers and also research the distinctive characteristics of each variety.

The CSB maintains a diversity of cereals including 2 varieties of rice, 6 varieties of ragi, and one variety of millet. In addition, 30 varieties of vegetables, 30 varieties of amaranth, 8 varieties of beans, 15 varieties of roots such as sweet potatoes and yam, 4 varieties of sesame, 2 varieties of groundnuts, and 3 varieties of coriander and mint are conserved.

To support part of its operation, the CSB sells seeds to farmers out of the cluster. CSB members obtain the seeds free of cost but collect double the quantity back during harvest. Quality seeds are also being sold to Desi Farmer Producer Seed Company.

Capacity-building programs are undertaken on seed production in collaboration with the Dept. of Agriculture. Sahaja Samruhda provides technical support to the CSB.

**Contact:**

Mahesh

Phone number: +91 89701 23545

*Presentation by Viviana Meixner Vásquez, FNI.*