

MARIYAM SEED BANK

Rajasthan, Banswara District



*A local variety of maize
Photo: Caritas India*

The Self-Help Group (SHG) Mariyam established the Community Seed Bank (CSB) in 2022 with the support of Caritas India. It is located in the village of Pali Badi in Banswara District in Rajasthan, India.

The SHG manages the CSB and serves 12 members from the village.

The SHG initiated the CSB to conserve and enhance local varieties that were endangered or scarce, aiming to boost food and nutrition security in the area. Women are the primary target group of the CSB, as they normally face more challenges in accessing high-quality seeds.

Seeds are stored in one of the members' homes and traditional methods of seed selection and conservation are used. Currently, the CSB conserves local varieties of different crops such as maize, sorghum, pigeon pea, eggplant, tomato, chili, ladyfinger, and bitter gourd.

Caritas India supports the CSB through capacity-building programs. Members of the CSB cover the CSB operational costs with their resources.

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