

AHIRWAR SEED BANK

Madhya Pradesh, Vidisha District



*Conservation of traditional varieties
Photo: Caritas India*

The Ahirwar Self Help Group (SHG) started setting up the Community Seed Bank (CSB) in 2024 with the support of the NGO Caritas India and its local partner Manav Vikas Seva Sangh. It is located in the village of Madani in Vidisha District in Madhya Pradesh, India.

The SHG manages the operation of the CSB and benefits 36 members from the village. This CSB is being established to improve food and nutrition security in the area by supplying and enhancing local varieties of a wide range of crops.

To access some crop varieties for starting the seed bank, members participated in the local village seed festival and obtained seeds from fellow farmers.

The CSB has one agricultural plot (1.5 acres) that is intended to be used for the production of vegetables for sale at the market, as well as to produce seeds for conservation.

The community seed bank Ahirwar has started conserving single varieties of crops such as Rice, Sama, Maize, Kakun, Sorghum, Pigeon Pea, Black Lentil, Moong, Bengal Gram, Green Peas, Tomato, Eggplant, Bottle Gourd, Ladyfinger, Kohda, Cucumber, Ridge Gourd as well as of some fruits and roots.

Manav Vikas Seva Sangh supports the CSB through training in seed production and conservation.

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