

# SITA MATA AND MAHIMA SEED BANK

*Rajasthan, Banswara District*



*Nutritional gardens  
Photo: Caritas India*

Two Self –Self-help groups (SHG), Sita Mata and Mahima, established a Community Seed Bank (CSB) in 2023 with the technical support of Caritas India. The CSB is located in the village of Pali Badi in Banswara District in Rajasthan, India.

The management of the CSB is done by members from the two SHGs and it serves 20 more farmers.

The main objectives of the CSB are to conserve and enhance local varieties to provide farmers with this diversity and thus improve their food and nutritional security. Women are the main target group of the CSB, as they typically face more challenges in accessing quality seeds.

Seeds are stored in one of the members' homes and traditional methods of seed selection, enhancement, and conservation are used.

The CSB conserves single varieties of sorghum and a wide range of vegetables such as eggplant, tomato, ladyfinger, and pumpkin. Two varieties of chili are also conserved at the CSB.

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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