

SARSVTI SEED BANK

Rajasthan, Banswara District



*Nutritional gardens
Photo: Caritas India*

The Self-Help Group (SHG) established the Community Seed Bank (CSB) in 2023 with the technical support of Caritas India. The CSB is located in the village of Lohariya Chota in Banswara District in Rajasthan, India.

The CSB is managed by the SHG and consists of 20 members from the village.

The CSB aims to conserve crop diversity and to ensure that this diversity is accessible to farmers, thereby enhancing agricultural resilience. By preserving a wide range of crop varieties, the CSB supports farmers, especially women, in adapting to changing environmental conditions and promotes food security, while also fostering local farming traditions and practices.

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

The CSB conserves a total of 15 varieties of crops such as sorghum (2 varieties), rice (3 varieties), maize (1 variety), pigeon pea (1 variety), eggplant (1 variety), tomatoes (2 varieties), lady finger (1 variety), bitter gourd (1 variety), bottle guard (1 variety), gram (1 variety) and chili (1 variety).

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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