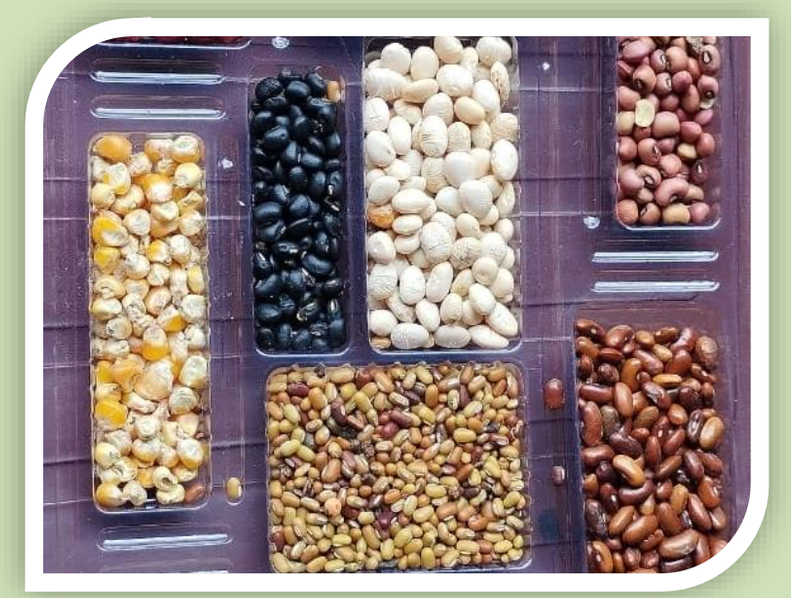
MAHILA CHASI UTPADAKADALA TEMA

Odisha, Koraput district



Seed varieties
Photo: WORD

Mahila Community Seed Bank (CSB) was established by the NGO Women's Organization for Rural Development (WORD) with the support of SMDC Trust in 2022. The CSB is located in Tema village in the Koraput district of Odisha, India. Currently, WORD is providing ongoing support to the CSB with capacity building.

The CSB is managed by a women's Self-Help Group and benefits around 30 households from the village.

SMDC Trust initially supported the establishment of the seed bank by providing seeds, technical training on regeneration, and seed storage materials such as containers.

The main objectives of the CSB are to conserve crop genetic diversity, make it available to farmers, and improve food and nutrition security. The CSB focuses especially on indigenous crops.

Mahila CSB currently conserves around 26 varieties including paddy (4), ragi (2), suan (1), maize (2), brinjal (3), chili (4), tomato (2), beans (3), pumpkin (3), cucumber (2) and black gram (2).

Support for the CSB has also come in the form of seeds from ICAR in Sunabeda, Koraput, as well as from the Horticulture Department in Semiliguda and the Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM).

Additionally, the CSB has received training on nursery management and seed preservation from SBIRSETI in Koraput, along with training on organic vegetable farming and seed preservation from ATMA in Koraput.

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