

DIVERSIFARM-India: STATE OF KNOWLEDGE OF CSBs

Community seed banks in times of change

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Photo: Nuaguda CSB, MSSRF, Odisha

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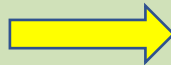
Methodology

Downloaded articles



186 articles- journals, book chapters, reports, working papers

Selection of studies



Selected 27 relevant studies after screening
Excluded the studies focusing only on high-yielding varieties

**CSBs in traditional seed
conservation**



15 studies focused on CSBs' role in conserving traditional seeds
6 studies provided broader CSB context

CSBs in Food Security



14 studies discussed CSBs' effects related to food security

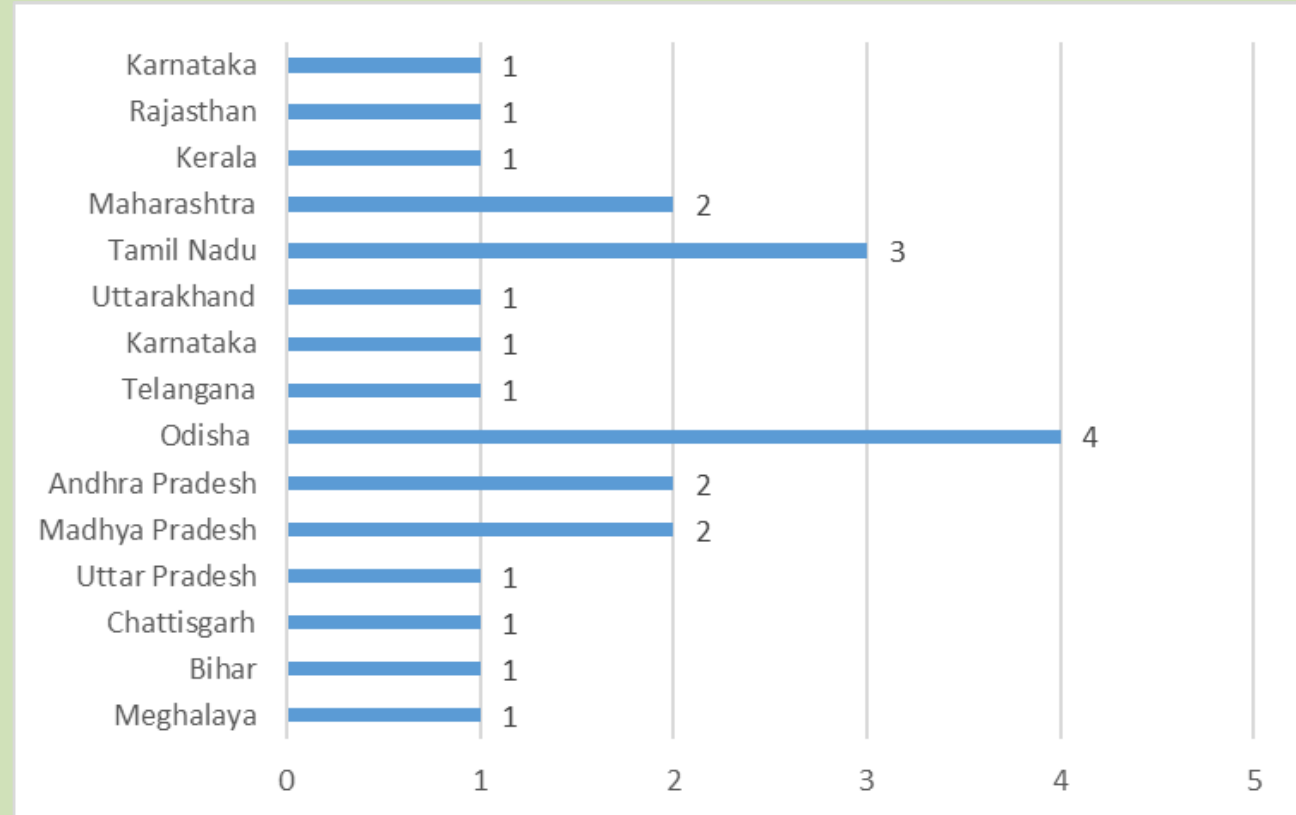
**Policy & Legal Analysis
On CSBs**



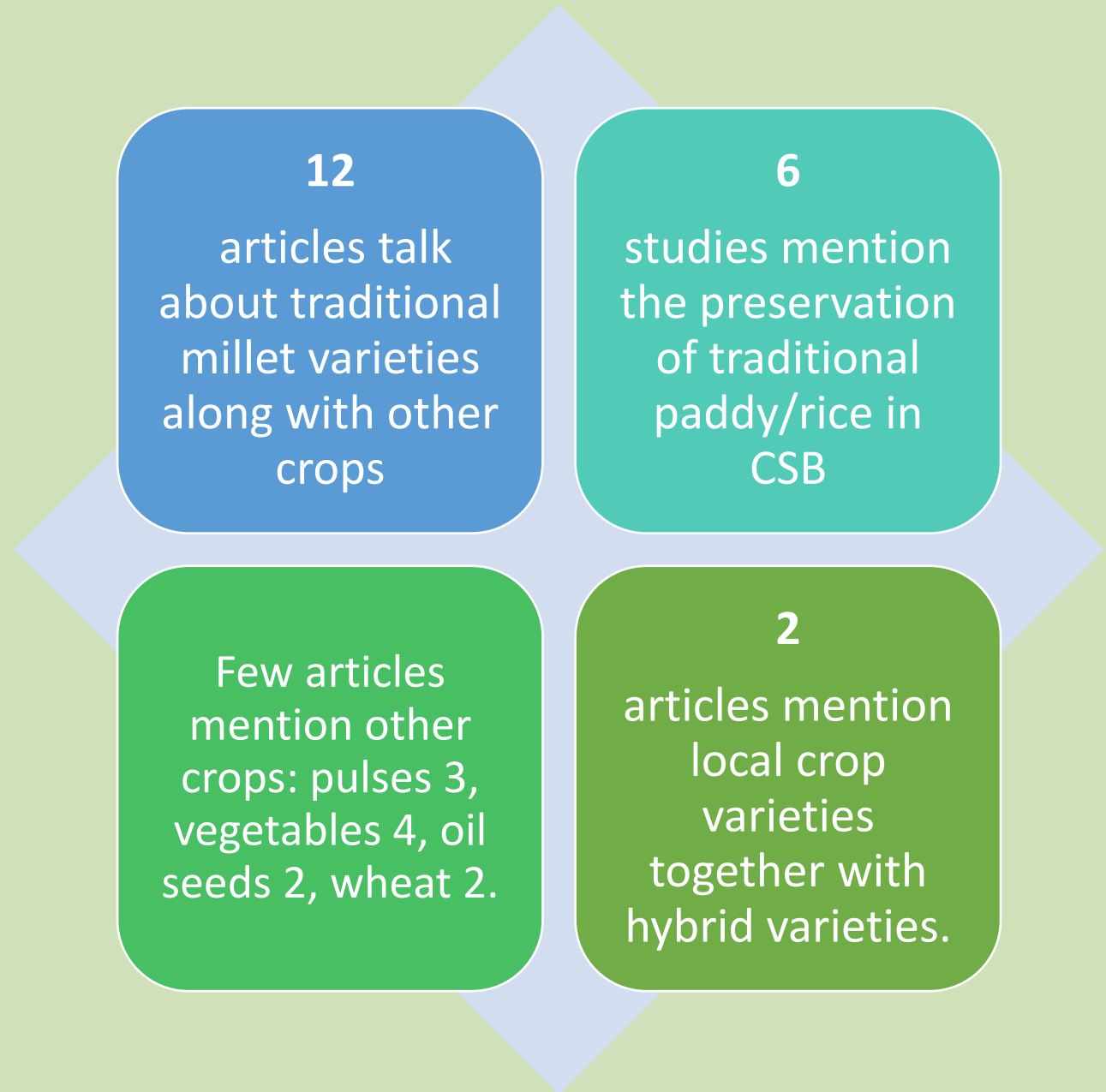
11 articles have been reviewed. In addition, relevant legislation and policies have been collected for later analysis.

State-wise distribution of included articles

- CSB interventions covered across 15 Indian states
- Only one article exclusively focuses on CSBs in Odisha. Three additional articles discuss Odisha along with other states.
- Limited formal publications in journals or book chapters.
- Most of the CSBs mentioned in the studies were promoted by NGOs
- 13 States and 8 Union Territories are not covered by any of these articles.



Distribution of articles according to crops



Key themes from the included articles

Seed management

- Followed Participatory Varietal Selection
- Quality seeds also procured by CSBs from selected seed producer farmers
- Conserve seeds using both in-situ and ex-situ techniques, including traditional storage methods such as Thombai structures, ash-mixed baskets, and eco-friendly pest control
- Seed distribution: seed loans, seed exchanges, and fixed-price sales



Knowledge Transfer Approaches in CSBs

- Community-Driven Seed Networks
- Seed Fairs and Festivals (food and biodiversity)
- Traditional Knowledge Transfer
- Modern Tools (ICT) and Exchange Visits



Key themes from the included articles

Strengthening Farmer Capacity, Empowerment, and Agency

- Training for Quality Seed Production (quality seed production, pest and disease management, post-harvest processing, and record-keeping) (15 studies).
- Reducing Drudgery in Seed Processing (3 studies)
- Post-Harvest Processing and Branding (8 studies)- value-added products in millets, and establishing market linkages to generate income

Government's Role in Supporting CSBs

- Financial schemes to incentivize farmers involved in conserving traditional rice varieties by local self-governance institutions- Wayanad, Kerala (Bhatt et al., 2023)
- Incorporated millets into the Public Distribution System (PDS) in regions where these crops are culturally and nutritionally significant (Padulosi et al., 2015)
- Technical and operational assistance to CSBs by government agencies



Photos: Taptapani CSB, SACAL and Nuaguda CSB, MSSRF,

Key themes from the included articles

Achievements of Community Seed Banks (CSBs)

- Conservation of Indigenous crop varieties
- Reduced drudgery in millet processing
- Promotion of value-added millet products
- Improved seed production and storage
- Challenged caste hierarchies and empowered dalit women
- Adaptation to climate change
- Development of a seed savers' network
- Increased certified seed sales and support for organic certification and marketing

Opportunities to Strengthen CSBs and Improve FMSS in India

- Linking CSBs with government gene banks (Das & Mallick, 2024 and Rengalakshmi et al., 2024)
- Promoting millet market integration and encouraging private sector investment (Patnaik et al., 2017; Padulosi et al., 2015)
- Adding value to traditional rice varieties (Bhatt et al., 2023)
- Providing technical and financial assistance to enhance CSB capacity (Vernooy et al., 2022)
- Integration into Seed Policies (King et al., 2021, Rengalakshmi et al., 2024)

CSBs and food security dimensions

Community Seed Banks

Availability

Access to seeds through loans and exchanges at seed fairs.

Access to diverse crops and crop varieties
Adaptation to climate change

Access

Storage facility
(Harvest and seeds)

Food for consumption
Seeds on time for planting season

Stability

Provision of seeds
(COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters)

Maintenance of agricultural activities

Utilization

Access to a diverse range of crops

Access to balanced diets

Agency

Sales/ Farmers select based on their needs / Farmers recognition

Economic opportunities
Food sovereignty
Increased pride and self steem

Sustainability

Conservation of a range of crop varieties

Availability of crop varieties for future generations

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR ATTENTION**