

An Online Platform for Community Seed Banks in India

<https://www.communityseedbanks.in/>

Community seed banks in times of change
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Broader Objectives of the Online Platform

- Bring together all the CSBs working across the states of India in one platform and understand the strength and collective efforts
- Create a space to networks and linkages – cross learning, exchange of seeds and knowledge
- Collective effort in Developing a system – to influence policies and schemes



Features - Categorization of Community Seed Banks with pop of window for each of the CSBs

1. Agro-ecological zone
2. Agro-climatic zone
3. Administration boundaries – States and Districts
4. Types of CSBs – eight sub categories including FPOs, SHGs, village committee etc
5. Priority crops: Paddy, Millets, Legumes etc
6. Crop species : individual crop details
7. Main promoting organizations: Names of the key promoting organizations

Need to Add: Agrobiodiversity Hotspots, Rainfed areas, Tribal dominated districts etc

Pop up Window of the Individual CSBs

- 1.Name of the CSB
- 2.Type of CSB
- 3.State
- 4.District
- 5.Year of establishment
- 6.Number of members (in categories)
- 7.Number of households served
- 8.Priority crop
- 9.Total number of crop species
- 10.Primary objective
- 11.Facilitating/supporting organization
- 12.Link to a presentation of the CSB as an image**

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Needs expressed from the Promoting organizations and CSBs for the online platform

I. CAPACITY BUILDING AND NETWORKS

- A. Knowledge Exchange Among CSBs:** Encourage and facilitate the exchange of best practices, knowledge, and expertise between CSBs, fostering a collaborative environment for continuous improvement and innovation.
- B. Development of a Comprehensive CSB Network:** Foster the creation of a broader, more interconnected network of CSBs around India, facilitating collaboration, resource sharing, and mutual support.
- C. Capacity Building and Training Opportunities:** Offer a dedicated space for the dissemination of educational materials and announcements regarding training sessions, workshops, and capacity-building programs organized by government bodies/departments or other relevant institutions such as NGOs, or other CSBs or networks.



II. MARKET LINKAGES

Establishment of a Virtual Marketplace for CSB Products: In the online platform facilitates the exhibition and sale of produce from CSBs, including seeds, grains, and value-added products.

Facilitation of Buyer-CSB Interaction: Add a section to the online platform for direct connections between buyers and CSBs to improve market access and product sales. Posting a list of buyers, their needs (volumes – prices), location, and price could be beneficial.

Implementation of a Seed Loan Scheme among CSBs: Establish a seed exchange mechanism (like the existing seed loan system between CSBs and their members) to enable seed exchanges between different CSBs.

Publication of a CSB Seed Catalog: Provide a space in the platform where the CSBs can display and update their seed catalog, making it easier for members, buyers and other stakeholders to access information on available crop varieties



III. LEARNING RESOURCES

- 1. Information on Sustainable Agricultural Practices:** Provide comprehensive resources on cultivation practices for local varieties, organic farming techniques, seed treatment methods, and the conservation of indigenous crops, thus promoting sustainable agricultural practices.
- 2. Guidelines and Manuals for Quality Seed Production:** Publish detailed guidelines and manuals focused on quality seed production standards, providing essential information to CSBs for maintaining high-quality seed.
- 3. Support for the Registration of Farmer Varieties:** Provide support through the platform for the registration of farmers' varieties by offering comprehensive guidelines on the registration process, along with contact information for individuals who can provide further assistance.
- 4. Guidelines for Establishing New CSBs:** Provide comprehensive guidelines and step-by-step instructions on how to establish new CSBs, offering critical insights and best practices for prospective organizations looking to create or expand their own seed banks.



IV. DISSIMINATION

- 1. Showcasing Literature and Success Stories:** Offer a space in the platform to highlight literature on the importance of CSBs, including success stories, case studies, and examples of successful CSBs around India that can inspire other CSBs and stakeholders.
- 2. Inclusion of CSB Social Media Profiles:** Create a space where CSBs can show their social media platforms to enhance visibility, communication, and engagement with a broader audience.



IV. OTHERS

- 1. Integration with Government and Organizational Programs:** Give detailed information about government programs as well as those offered by other organizations that CSB members could potentially participate in.
- 2. Promotion of Traditional and Indigenous Crop Conservation:** Use the platform as a space for the promotion and conservation of indigenous and traditional crop varieties across India.
- 3. Expansion of CSB Membership and Increased Production:** Provide detailed information about CSBs to enhance awareness among farmers regarding their locations and the membership requirements. By doing so, CSBs can expand their membership base, promote the cultivation and consumption of local varieties, and contribute to the preservation of biodiversity.



Need your inputs to fine tune this

Thank you