

Community Seed Bank

Title of the project: Enhancing on Farm conservation of agro bio diversity through community seed bank in Raisen District Madhya Pradesh

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Year : 2019-2020

The community seed bank is not just a store where seed is kept for distribution or marketing, or a sophisticated storage facility which has temperature and humidity control. It is a system in the process of community agriculture which includes village level facilities a garden or field where traditional varieties are safeguarded. Through this system, farmers have played a key role in the creation, maintenance and promotion of crop genetic diversity. With the help of traditional skill which they have developed over centuries, they have been selecting crop varieties to meet their specific needs such as quality, resistance to pests and pathogens, adaptation to soils, water and climate etc. Under this system local farmers have established their own seed networks to facilitate seed supply to their families and local markets.

Community seed bank therefore is a system composed of all of the above. It is among the major strategies for maintaining genetic diversity in crop/plant species

Under this project farmer's awareness about genetic seed is important Silwani block of Raisen district is focus area, establishment of community seed bank at KVK Raisen where seeds collected from farmer's will be kept and conserved supported by the MP state Biodiversity Board Bhopal for the improvement of infrastructure facilities and expansion of its functions.

Objectives of the project:

- To conserve indigenous and inter species variation suited to the ecological niche.
- To integrate on-farm conservation through participation of the farming community.
- Collection, selection and production of indigenous crop diversity
- To ensure quality seed and planting material production.
- To minimize the farmer dependency on the public and private seed supply system and strengthening farmer to farmer exchange system
- To provide infrastructure for storage facilities and developing a resource and training centre for the community.

Expected Impact

The ultimate aim is to sustain and to maintain the seed banks while encouraging the farmers to grow the local crop varieties which are the staple food of the area.











