



Left: Labels in Gujarati for some of the seed varieties that Satvik attempts to conserve.



Right: The 'kala' cotton variety of Kachchh in Gujarat is by default organic because it is rain-fed and requires no chemical inputs to the soil. The cotton is being marketed by Khamir.

Agro-ecological and cultural contexts are different from region to region. Farmers in Kachchh have increasingly preferred cash crops with national and international markets, such as cotton and castor. Here **Satvik**, an organisation based in Bhuj, has adopted a two-pronged approach, where on the one hand they advocate traditional drought-resistant seed varieties for food crops, and on the other obtain third-party organic certification for cash crops. This helps farmers to access markets and weed out the use of chemicals in agriculture. Through disseminating information and holding training programmes, Satvik has attempted to create a group of 'seed breeder' farmers who preserve seed variety through continual planting and seed circulation.

Among other examples of preserving seed variety through informal exchange and planting are **Maati** (see exhibit 9) and **Beej Bachao Andolan** in Uttarakhand.

'Seeds are no good in the bank, they must pass through hands and grow in the field.'

- Sailesh Vyas, Satvik.



Celebration of forest foods in Bhimashankar, Maharashtra. Wild foods from forests, wetlands and grasslands are a crucial source of nutrition.



Rajma seed variety in Munsiri, Uttarakhand.



Corn diversity in Jardhargaon, Uttarakhand, where Beej Bachao Andolan is active.