

## Debal Deb, Seed Saver West Bengal



farming land, attracting researchers, students, and farmers, and stands as a testament to Mr. Deb's commitment to agricultural biodiversity and traditional wisdom.

(More <https://rb.gy/yf01kr>)

*info:*

In the early '90s, ecologist Debal Deb made a request to West Bengal's agriculture authorities for support in conserving 152 folk rice varieties but his request was rejected. Undeterred, he left WWF-India, to found Vrihi—a folk rice seed bank. He has since preserved 1,480 heirloom rice landraces, distributing them to over 7,600 farmers. Vrihi, nestled in Odisha's Niyamgiri mountains, spans 1.7 acres of organic, self-sustained