



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

VISION

We envision hunger-free and healthy communities with access to sustainable, farmer-produced seeds and food.

MISSION

Global Seed Savers is an educational and advocacy international non-profit organization supporting smallholder farmers in creating local food security and fostering a healthy environment through technical training and the establishment of community-owned and operated seed libraries.

VALUES

Farmers --- Collaboration --- Innovative Partnerships --- Community

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I will never forget the first day of my visit at a Peace Corps Volunteers in the Philippines in 2006. As I walked into the main house on the Cosalan Family Compound in the quiet Municipality of Tublay, the smell of freshly brewed coffee filled the air, beautiful family photos lined the pine wood walls of this warm mountain home, and it was clear that some sort of family gathering was happening.

This was the novena celebration, the 9th day after someone's death. I soon learned that Lolo "Grandfather" Enrique Cosalan had passed. I found out later that just prior to his passing, his children had asked for his blessing to re-open their ancestral land, ENCA Farm, to the public to serve as an environmental education space, sustainable eco-tourism destination, and model organic farm. It was at this moment that the seeds of what is now our organization began to germinate, and my life became intertwined with the Cosalan Family and the Philippines.

We have had a big year as an organization: raising more revenue than ever before, opening our first Seed Library with our partner farmers, expanding our Seed School Technical Training Programs, **and most importantly announcing our new name Global Seed Savers during our 7th Annual Nourish Event in October.**

The challenges we face are real and ever present; three major agri-chemical companies own the majority of the world's seeds and input markets, land development and "modernization" continue to threaten farmers' land rights, and the next generation's desire to leave farming and move to the cities for "better" opportunities is the preferred choice at home and abroad. However, we know we are slowly, one farmer and one community at a time, building our own collective future one that is rooted in the land, in the soil, and in the seed!

I am honored to get to work with such talented and passionate partners in the Philippines and domestically. As we move into the next phase of our work as an organization we are more excited than ever to support smallholder farmers in creating local food security and fostering a healthy environment through facilitating technical education programs and establishing community-owned and operated seed libraries.

Thank you for being a catalyst for our continued growth and impact. We could not do it without you!



Sherry Manning
Founder and Executive Director
Global Seed Savers
(Formerly Friends of ENCA Farm)





HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017

- 🌱 Global Seed Savers in cooperation with the Benguet Association of Seed Savers (BASS) opened the first-of-its-kind farmer-led and managed Seed Library.
- 🌱 Conducted a Training of Trainers for farmers to prepare them to lead Seed Schools in different regions in the Philippines.
- 🌱 Conducted TWO seed schools that were co-facilitated by seed savers and farmers from the Benguet Association of Seed Savers.
- 🌱 Founded our in-country counterpart non-profit, Global Seed Savers Philippines.
- 🌱 Global Seed Savers helped the Benguet Association of Seed Savers register as an official Philippine association under the Department of Labor.
- 🌱 Organized a Basic Computer Training for farmers to help equip them with skills they will need in today's world.
- 🌱 Led a seed swap between BASS farmers and Good Food Community indigenous farmers from the Aurora and Rizal regions south of Benguet.

GLOBAL SEED SAVERS MAKES HISTORY WITH THE OPENING OF THE SEED LIBRARY IN TUBLAY, BENGUET

In May, we helped make history when we, joined with our partner farmers from the Benguet Association of Seed Savers (BASS) and the Municipal Agriculture Office in Tublay, Benguet, opened the first-of-its-kind farmer-led Seed Library in the Philippines.

BASS aims to save, replant, and share their own seeds just as their ancestors did, while also adopting new, ecologically sound technologies. We know that seed saving is a form of insurance against food insecurity. It is also a tangible way for farmers to counter the loss of food diversity and the environmental destruction that comes with industrial agriculture.

The opening of this farmer-led and farmer-owned and operated seed library is a direct effort to ensure that the power of food is returned to those that know it best: farmers like the dedicated members of the Benguet Association of Seed Savers.



EXPANDING OUR TRAINING PROGRAMS

SEED SCHOOL IN A DAY

We were thrilled to see the request for our signature training program, Seed School, grow in 2017. In response to this, we led two Seed Schools with new partner communities: one in Cavite with our new partners at Kai Farms and one in Tublay with participants from the Good Food Community.

The Seed School held at Kai Farms was the first opportunity for our our farmers to teach Seed School and design curricula to meet a diverse audience of farmers, academics, and activists. We are thrilled to see our farmers step into this new leadership role.



TRAINING OF TRAINERS

This two-day training included members of the Benguet Association of Seed Savers (BASS) and staff of the Municipal Agriculture Office in the Municipality of Tublay. During the training, participants learned about self-awareness, presentation skills, communication skills, and leadership development.

Peer-to-peer education is a key component to the long-term sustainability of our programs and we are thrilled to see these farmers teach our future seed schools.



FARMER SPOTLIGHT

MEET CONNIE SOTERO

Connie Sotero is an organic farmer and proud mother of four children. She runs a 2,000 square meter farm located in Daclan, Tublay, Benguet with the help of her husband, Engr. Jeffrey Sotero, the current Municipal Agriculturist of the Municipality of Tublay. Together they plant a wide variety of greens, herbs, and vegetables to feed their family and community. Their farm is certified organic and a designated learning site that models biodiversity and organic farming practices. Connie is a founding member of the Benguet Association of Seed Savers (BASS). Through her participation in our programs, she has graduated from our Training of Trainers Program and our Introduction to Permaculture Design Course. She helped co-facilitate Seed School in our new partner communities.

Ms. Sotero says she never thought she could find the courage and the confidence to teach and co-facilitate trainings and that she is grateful to have experienced being part of the trainers' team.



MEET CESAR A. GALVEY

Cesar Galvey is the current President of LaTOP: La Trinidad Organic Farming Practitioners Association the region's largest organic farming cooperative. Mr. Galvey served 15 years as a Barangay Official in La Trinidad, Benguet.

His advocacy and desire to become an organic farmer began when he saw the adverse health effects that the chemical-laced cut flower industry had on himself, his family, and his neighbors. He has been practicing organic farming since 2005 on his 1,000 sq meter, certified organic, ATI accredited learning site farm. He is a founding member of the Benguet Association of Seed Savers (BASS) and serves as the Board Vice-President for Global Seed Savers Philippines.

"Through my involvement as a farmer with Global Seed Savers and BASS, I have learned the deep importance of seed saving to my organic farming practice. I am honored to be a part of this organization and share this knowledge with my children, this work has changed my life." says Mr. Galvey.



Conducted over **500** hours of technical training with partner farmers.

Conducted a two-day Basic Computer Training program for **12** farmers to help build farmer computer literacy.



Trained over **100** farmers in seeds saving and sustainable agriculture practices.

Helped expand BASS membership to **20** active farmer members

Our partnerships and work has spread to **4** other provinces in the Philippines.

Opened the first-of-its-kind farmer led and operated seed library with over **30** seed varieties in Tublay, Benguet.

Helped farmers save **10%** of their annual income by saving seeds.

2017 BY THE NUMBERS



CREATING LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY

We believe that true sustainable international development is driven, led, and eventually operated by our local partner communities. In 2017, we were thrilled to see our programs and local capacity of partners begin to take on this ownership. One critical step in this direction was the creation of a counterpart in the Philippines. What started in 2016 with initial board recruitment and planning sessions is now Global Seed Savers Philippines, a non-profit, duly registered under the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Global Seed Savers Philippines Board Members have spent hours facilitating vision creation and planning sessions. We are excited to see them continue to guide and advise local partner development, and generate in-country revenue support as we continue to grow our impact and expand our programming throughout the Philippines.



THE 7TH ANNUAL NOURISH EVENT

Nourish has become a well known event that many supporters look forward to attending each year, and this year was no exception. Over 100 guests gathered for a delicious Filipino Brunch prepared by our friends at the Orange Crutch Catering and enjoyed an exciting silent auction featuring a wide variety of local and Philippine products and more. The highlight of the event was having our Philippines Counterpart NGO Board President, Padmapani Perez join us from the Philippines and deliver the keynote address during the event.

Padma delivered a compelling and passionate keynote about the reality of food security in the Philippines. While there is a growing demand for healthy and organically produced food, this is still only accessible to a small upper class minority in the Philippines. Our vision is that all people have access to healthy and sustainably produced food and seeds.



L-R: Carrie Evans, GSS Vice-president with Padma Perez, GSSP Board President

This is a big task but like Wes Jackson the Founder of the Land Institute says and Padma shared during her compelling talk "If your life's work can be accomplished in your lifetime, you're not thinking big enough."

2017 REVENUE TABLE

Individual Contributions \$ 23,499.91	Others \$ 1,250.00
Grants and Foundations \$ 23,236.00	Special Events \$ 25,752.45

TOTAL REVENUE: \$ 75,738.36

F I N A N C I A L S

2017 EXPENSE TABLE

Philippine Program Services \$ 38,650.00	End of Year Balance \$ 8,491.36
	US Office Rent \$ 2,575.00
	U.S Staff Salaries and Contractor Services \$ 10,000.00
	Fundraising and Marketing \$ 16,049.36

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$ 67,247.00

2017 KEY SUPPORTERS

Burners Without Borders

Crowdrise: Earthday Climate Challenge

LUSH Cosmetics

Returned Peace Corps
Volunteers of Colorado

The National Peace Corps
Association

The Posner Center for
International Development

OUR PARTNERS

Cabiokid Permaculture Farm

DeLaney Community Farm

Good Food Community

Kai Farms

Municipality of Tublay

Municipal Agriculture Office of
Tublay

Philippine Permaculture Association

Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance

Seeds Trust

US BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charles Nicholas, President

Carrie Evans, Vice-President

Jon Rodrigues, Treasurer

Jerin Damo, Secretary

Roger Michael Pimental, Member

Ryan Plourde, Board Member
(Resigned October 2017)

Alisha Williams, Board Member
(Joined Board December 2017)

PH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Padmapani Perez, President

Cesar Galvey, Vice President

Nastasia Mikhaela Tysmans, Secretary

Efrenlito Cabbigat, Treasurer

Rambie Katrina Lim, Member



Graham Sonderman
Events and Marketing Intern

BOARD AND STAFF

Sherry Manning
Founder and Executive Director

Karen Lee Hizola
Philippine Program Manager



Grace Warner
Development Intern