



# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



## MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Supporters and Friends,

Seeds are the foundation of our food system and up until 30-40 years ago, we had a great abundance of diversity and varieties. Farmers in all pockets of the world planted and observed and saved the best of their crop in seeds from season to season. This practice ensured that seeds can do what they are meant to do... adapt and become more vigorous over time. Seeds are the most beautiful self-replicating system we have. When farmers can select and save seeds after each planting amazing adaptation occurs like resistance to pests, diseases, better taste, etc. In essence, they are carrying the best from one growing season to the next.

As the industrialization and corporate ownership of our food system has expanded and three major companies now own our food in the form of seed and fertilizers, it is essential that we return to the collective practice of saving seeds! This is the movement we are honored to be building year after year in the Philippines and 2018 marks another year of exciting program growth and expansion.

For me, the Philippines is personal... 12 years ago I boarded an airplane and left for the adventure of a lifetime as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines. During my two-plus years there, I lived and worked side by side with Filipino farming communities listening and learning from them. These relationships and community are what inspired the creation of Global Seed Savers. What started with one family farm and my Peace Corps experience has now grown into a nationwide movement of Filipino Farmers actively restoring sovereignty over their food system.

The Philippines also matters on a world scale and here's why...

The Philippines was recently listed as one of the most climate-vulnerable nations in the world and Southeast Asia's largest producer of GMO crops. Seventy percent of the country is dedicated to agricultural land. Because of this, we believe the work and models being developed in the Philippines are of the utmost importance. The ability to impact the agricultural system, regain smallholder farmers' independence from large bio-chemical agricultural companies and help farmers to prevent further catastrophic damage from our changing climate is paramount.

At Global Seed Savers, we are honored to work with countless dedicated Filipino Farmers, who against all the odds and challenges facing them are actively building community and returning to their roots by saving and sharing seeds. This is an audacious act in the face of our current industrial food system. So today and always, we celebrate and honor these dedicated farmers who each day with each seed they plant, sow, and share are building a more sovereign and just world for themselves, their families, and indeed the world!

Thank you for investing in being part of their continued success!

**Sherry Manning**  
Founder and Executive Director

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

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

## OUR MISSION



## OUR VISION

## WHY THE PHILIPPINES?

An aerial photograph showing a large-scale landslide in a rural area. A massive wall of reddish-brown earth has slid down a hillside, completely burying several small, simple buildings. Debris, including corrugated metal roofs and wooden planks, is scattered across the slope. A large group of people, many wearing hard hats and safety vests, are gathered on the remaining ground, some appearing to be engaged in rescue or recovery efforts. The surrounding area is lush with green trees and vegetation, contrasting sharply with the exposed earth of the landslide.

The Philippines is the fourth most climate-vulnerable nation and Southeast Asia's largest producer of GMO crops with 70% of the country dedicated to agricultural land. Because of this, we believe the work and models being developed in the Philippines are of the utmost importance. The ability to impact the agricultural system and regain smallholder farmers' independence from large bio-chemical agricultural companies and help farmers to prevent further catastrophic damage from our changing climate is paramount. Climatic realities like Typhoon Mangkhut that hit the Northern Philippines in September, demonstrate the need to change and implement more sustainable farming practices.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



- Expanded membership of the Benguet Association of Seed Savers (BASS) to 25 active participants.
- BASS Farmers had instant access to quality locally produced seeds in our Seed Library post Typhoon Mangkhut.
- Four BASS Farmers attended and graduated from the Philippines Permaculture Association Basic and Advanced Design Courses.





## SEED LIBRARY CEBU

Launched our 2nd seed library in Cebu with our partners from the Cebu Farmers Market



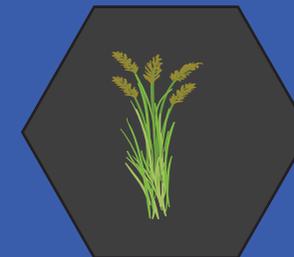
Held **5** seeds schools training over **500** farmers throughout the Philippines



## SEED SCHOOL



Celebrated the 1st anniversary of our founding seed library in Tublay, Benguet



## SEED LIBRARY

# OUR REACH IN 2018

Seed School **Mountain Province**

Seed Library **Benguet**

Permaculture **Nueva Ecija**

Conference **Laguna**

Seed Schools and Library **Cebu**

Seeds for Displaced Families  
**Marawi**





## OUR COLLABORATIONS: CEBU

2018 brought exciting program expansion to Global Seed Savers. Thanks to our dynamic collaborations with the Cebu Farmers Market (CFM) and their newly established NGO Communities for Alternative Food Ecosystems Initiative (CAFE-i). After conducting two seed schools in Cebu training over a hundred individuals in seed saving we are excited to be launching a southern hub for our programs in Cebu.

Cebu is located in the Central Visayas Region of the Philippines (see map) and a regional hub for all activity in the south. Our partners at the Cebu Farmers Market have already opened a small seed library and we are formalizing our continued collaborations in the coming months. This will likely include hiring a Cebu based Global Seed Savers Team Member in 2019 to replicate our successful model from Benguet Province with partner farmers in Cebu and to manage the seed library development and expansion there.



We also spent the year deepening our collaborations with the Philippine Permaculture Association (PPA). Starting off with hosting a three day Perma-Hub in Baguio City/Benguet Province in February. During this weekend we convened leaders in sustainable agriculture in the region to discuss forming a permaculture hub. Permaculture is a systems thinking and conscious designing of landscapes that mimics and follows patterns found in nature. It is often integrated with organic farming practices around the globe.

## OUR COLLABORATIONS: PHILIPPINE PERMACULTURE ASSOCIATION

Thanks to our on-going collaborations with the PPA in 2018 alone we helped graduate 4 BASS Farmers in their week-long Introduction to Permaculture and Advanced Permaculture Design Course. In addition, PPA asked us to teach and include the first seed school and seed saving curriculum into their Advanced Design Course.

Later in the year, we were invited to facilitate a workshop and give a kucha pecha style presentation at the Philippine Permaculture Convergence.





**SEEDS OF CLIMATE RESILIENCE**

## **FARMER SPOTLIGHT: ELIZABETH MARTIN**

### **A Story of Resilience**

When Typhoon Mangkhut the strongest storm of 2018 made landfall in the Northern Philippines in September 2018, all of our founding farmers at the Benguet Association of Seed Savers (BASS) were impacted by the storm. One BASS Farmer, Elizabeth Martin lost everything in the typhoon. Elizabeth and her extended family lived in three small houses on the roadside in Ucab, Itogon, Benguet, a place that had been in her family for many generations. Typhoon Mangkhut ravaged the region and her home and land were literally washed away with everything they owned.

Elizabeth shared, "I remember clearly how I felt after typhoon Mangkhut. I remember how my friends from BASS and GSS were the first to ask how I was. I remember feeling like I was important and that I was part of a family—even after I lost everything. It really was a big help that I knew there were people who cared for me."

Thanks to our founding seed library, just days after the storm she and our other farmers were all able to access seeds and begin replanting right away. She has demonstrated the true spirit of resilience and has since rebuilt her life and is a proud member of the Benguet Association of Seed Savers.

Elizabeth said, " When I first joined BASS, I wasn't expecting to be welcomed like I was. I made new friends, I learned to save seeds. From the very beginning, I felt a sense of belonging. I felt like I was appreciated and was part of a group who really understood the value of seed saving. I realized how integral seed saving is in organic agriculture. Because I was so used to buying from farm supplies, I didn't think about whether the seeds I was using were chemically treated or not. Now, I understand that the first step in practicing organic farming is really having safe, non-chemically treated, organically grown seeds."

## 8th ANNUAL NOURISH EVENT: Honoring the Past, the Present and the Future

On Saturday, October 20th, 2018 the Posner Center was packed to the brim with over 140 guests to enjoy our 8th Annual Nourish Event. All who attended celebrated a powerful day that honored seeds, our growing community, and most importantly, the hard work and dedication of our small-holder farmer partners as we work together to increase food and climate security.

Karen Lee Hizola, our dynamic Philippine Country Manager, shared a heartfelt keynote that painted a vivid picture of the Filipino struggle and why seed saving is at the core of ensuring families stay together. Her passion for our work rang through and she received a well-deserved standing ovation after her keynote address. Thank you Karen for making the long journey to be with us and for sharing your story and passion for your country and for making our world a better place!

Bill McDorman, the Founder and Executive Director of the Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance also shared wonderful insights. We are humbled to be partners in this critical work and are so grateful for our continued collaborations and his ongoing mentorship. Meta Sarimiento brought down the house with his hip-hop and spoken word poetry describing his journey as a Filipino growing up in Guam. Thank you for sharing your talents and passion with us all!

As always, guests enjoyed delicious Filipino Cuisine by the Orange Crunch Food Truck and Catering, Filipino Coffee from our friends at Venture Coffee Company and an exciting silent auction. This years Nourish was our most successful to date grossing over \$22,000 to support our growing impact. Thanks to everyone that helped make this event such a success!!



## GLOBAL SEED SAVERS 2018 FINANCIALS

### 2018 Revenue

Individual Contributions	\$31,186.70
Special Events	\$25,732.79
<b>Total Revenue 2018</b>	<b>\$56,919.49</b>

### 2018 Expenses

Philippines Program Services	\$37,175.05
Fundraising and Marketing	\$16,599.21
Administration	\$10,602.63
<b>Total Expenses 2018</b>	<b>\$64,376.89</b>

**Funds Balance Start of Year**                      **\$19,111.00**

**Funds Balance End of Year**                      **\$11,655.00**

## COLLABORATORS

Cabiokid Permaculture Farm  
Cebu Farmers Market  
Communities for Alternative Food  
Ecosystems Initiative  
Green ReLeaf Initiative  
Kai Farms  
Layog Country Farm  
Mt. Province Provincial Agriculture Office  
Municipal Agriculture Office of Tublay  
Municipality of Tublay  
Orange Crunch Food Truck and Catering  
Philippine Permaculture Association  
Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance  
Seeds Trust  
Venture Coffee Company

## KEY SUPPORTERS

Clinko  
CPVTD Family Foundation  
Fil-Am Property Connections at Keller Williams  
LUSH Cosmetics  
Majeure Foundation  
The Posner Center for International  
Development

## **STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Sherry Manning, Founder and ED  
Karen Lee Hizola, Country Manager-PH

Koe Gonzales, Data and Research Intern  
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Catherine Wiserman, DevOps Intern

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