



GLOBAL SEED SAVERS

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



# Welcome to our 2022 Annual Report!

Farmers are the leaders of building a regenerative food movement - and we've seen, firsthand, their tremendous ability to withstand all the challenges they face. Small-holder farmers in the Philippines face devastating typhoons, political unrest, and the realities of the ongoing pandemic. But, despite these challenges, we know that our farmers can handle the future that the world is dealing them.

In 2022, our work grew in compelling ways, with new investments in partnerships strengthening our impact on small-holder farmers. We've also deepened our engagement with regenerative agriculture to ensure climate resiliency and ancestral farming practices are the focus.

With new and continued support from our donors and community members, we are expanding our work throughout the Philippines and reaching more communities to build food and seed sovereignty.

This incredible work would not be possible without our supporters. Our supporters help us ensure that our farmers do not just engage in farming that is sustainable, but they engage in farming that is regenerative. During our July Campaign Sikat Saka: The Rise of Farmers and Seeds focused on future-proofing agriculture. Through this campaign, we were able to raise funds to help us initiate, develop, and support our partner farmers in prioritizing an Integrated Diversified Organic Farming System (IDOFS) with a mix of permaculture technique to design their farms.

Now we are working to ensure our work in offering seed schools and seed libraries across the Philippines; providing consulting support to our partner farmers to rebuild their farms from climate disasters and build them in regenerative and lasting ways; and advocating for local policies that protect Indigenous crop varieties and climate resilient seeds,

Over the coming years, we aim to strengthen the field of regenerative agriculture by preserving traditional Filipino farming practices, working with partner farmers to bolster technical training, and establishing community-owned and operated seed libraries.

From all of us at Global Seed Savers thank you for your kindness! We are enthusiastic to see our work continue to grow and positively impact more communities in 2023.



# If I had to use only two words to define Global Seed Savers' focus in 2022, they would be these: Reconnection and Re-grounding

Dear Global Seed Savers Community-

2022 was another exciting year of opportunity, challenge, and reconnection for the Global Seed Savers Team and partners. We were thrilled to once again gather in person as a full team since pre-pandemic and return our field operations to face-to-face programming. Our work is truly best suited for in-person interactions and farm visits with our dedicated partner farmers and communities. It was energizing for the team and for our partners to return to this dynamic after the challenges presented by Covid-19.

As many of you know, the foundation of our work is our dedicated partner farmers and their tireless efforts and we believe inalienable rights to growing, sharing, and exchanging their own farm-produced seeds. Through this, they are building their sovereignty via the simple yet monumental act of saving seeds! The importance of this work and the critical role we play in this global ecosystem was highlighted when we had the tremendous opportunity in September of 2022 to attend and participate in the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 9th Governing Body Session on the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources in Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) in New Delhi, India.

A central contention during the treaty negotiations was the subject of farmers rights. We at GSS know that without the world's farmers we do not have an agriculture system and we certainly would not be able to feed the world and respond to the ever-present challenges we face without them. This became even more apparent as we networked and learned from and with 100s' of farmers and countries represented during the treaty gathering. Attending the ITPGRFA was an opportunity for us to not only share the story of our dedicated partner farmers across the Philippines, but to recognize the role and influence we have at a global scale to shape these dialogues and policies that impact the day-to-day life of our partner farmers. It reconnected us with the truth we already know, farmers have a critical and essential role in feeding the planet and their voices and perspectives are valuable and must be at these tables and forums!

As always it is an honor to speak alongside and with them in our shared work of building food and seed sovereignty together. Thank you for joining and supporting us on this journey!

As we always say, Seed Onward!



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'SM' followed by a stylized flourish.

Sherry Manning,  
Founder and US Executive Director

# Organizational Internal Growth



# Advancing Access and Internal Capacity

## Internal growth and expansion of our team

In April 2022, we launched our new website with more resources and interactive elements! Improving our technology builds awareness, advances our community's access to resources, and expands our outreach in Philippines communities.

Our internal capacity grew in May and we gained a new team member Anjanette Wilson as our Development Coordinator. Anjanette is a Filipino American based in Washington State, who has a deep passion for our mission and has brought her wonderful experience to our growing organization and work!

In June, we expanded our US board with two new board members Susan Mathew and Sean Duncan! Susan has contributed insightful perspectives on community owned and operated agri-food-seed-nutrition systems. Sean has leveraged his background in international development, finance, and strategic planning and helped the team work towards partnering with local farmers. We were and are still excited to welcome Susan and Sean to the team!



# Building Internal Team Connection and Revisiting Our Theory of Change

Team building and goal setting for the upcoming years



Toward the end of 2022, our team held our first in-person staff retreat with all staff members since COVID. During our four-day retreat, we renewed our Theory of Change, focused on our work plans for the upcoming year, and restored our commitment to our big audacious goals and mission! GSS was at a BIG moment of growth and leveling up and this team was ready to take it all on!

We were excited to be expanding our advocacy into local seed policy formation work, deepening our partnerships across the Philippines and world, and continuing to invest in the growth and leadership development of our team. In the coming year, we want to focus on:

- The creation of additional seed production sites
- Ensure indigenous seed preservation policies are instituted at the local level
- Expand our network via launching a Seed Savers Membership model across the Philippines.

Aimee Santos-Lyons, was our phenomenal retreat facilitator who helped design and execute the retreat for the team. Aimee was a skillful facilitator with decades of organizing and team development experience, and incorporated creative movement exercises along with deep dives into theory of change revision processes and internal team accountability discussions.



# By the Numbers

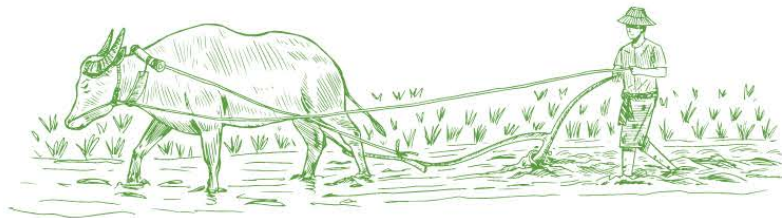
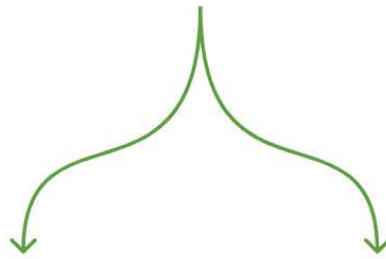
FY 2022 | January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022





# 1200 sqm parcel

was dedicated for seed production  
at our Arapal seed production site



5

new garden plots and beds were  
put in



13

new varieties of seed were  
produced





9

seed schools were conducted across the Philippines



\$900

(49,305 PHP) of seeds were sold to local buyers.

# Partnerships

Partner farmers, collaborations, and community building



# Seed School Teacher Training

Facilitated a 3-day Seed School Teacher Training (SSTT) attended by:

- 3 farmers from Benguet Association of Seed Savers,
- 1 Cebu Seed Saver,
- 3 CAFEi partner NGO staff.



*"During SSTT, I learned to appreciate myself better. I have also learned how I can better appreciate seeds and other people in my daily life. The training made me realize that by being aware of myself, I can deal better with others because like a seed, each one of us is unique."*

## **ELIZABETH MARTIN**

Global Seed Savers' Benguet Field Coordinator who is responsible for conducting field visits, monitoring and evaluating BASS Member seed production in the field, and supporting the development of seed sales.

## **SSTT graduates trained 27 people**

SSTT Graduates conducted a Seed School in a day and applied their learnings as a practicum to various audiences like community members, students, and farmers at Children's Paradise Montessori School in Talamban, Cebu.



## GSS Seed School Teacher Training Goes To Lobo, Batangas, Finds New Partner in MABISA

Last July 20-21, our team went to Lobo, Batangas to hold a seed school with a group called MABISA. Efren, our Philippines Program Manager, Elizabeth, our Benguet Field Coordinator, and Karen, our Philippines Executive Director facilitated the workshop. The workshop was attended by 20+ participants from the Mabilog na Bundok at Sawang Organic Producers Association (MABISA-OPA), and students and teachers from the Batangas State University.

Our vision as an organization is to create “hunger-free and healthy communities with access to sustainable, farmer-produced seeds and food”. We also hope to establish community seed libraries in as many areas in the Philippines as possible.

Finding new partners who recognize the importance of saving native seeds and growing food in a sustainable way helps us grow our impact in the Philippines. Every new partner we find brings our communities a step closer towards food sovereignty.

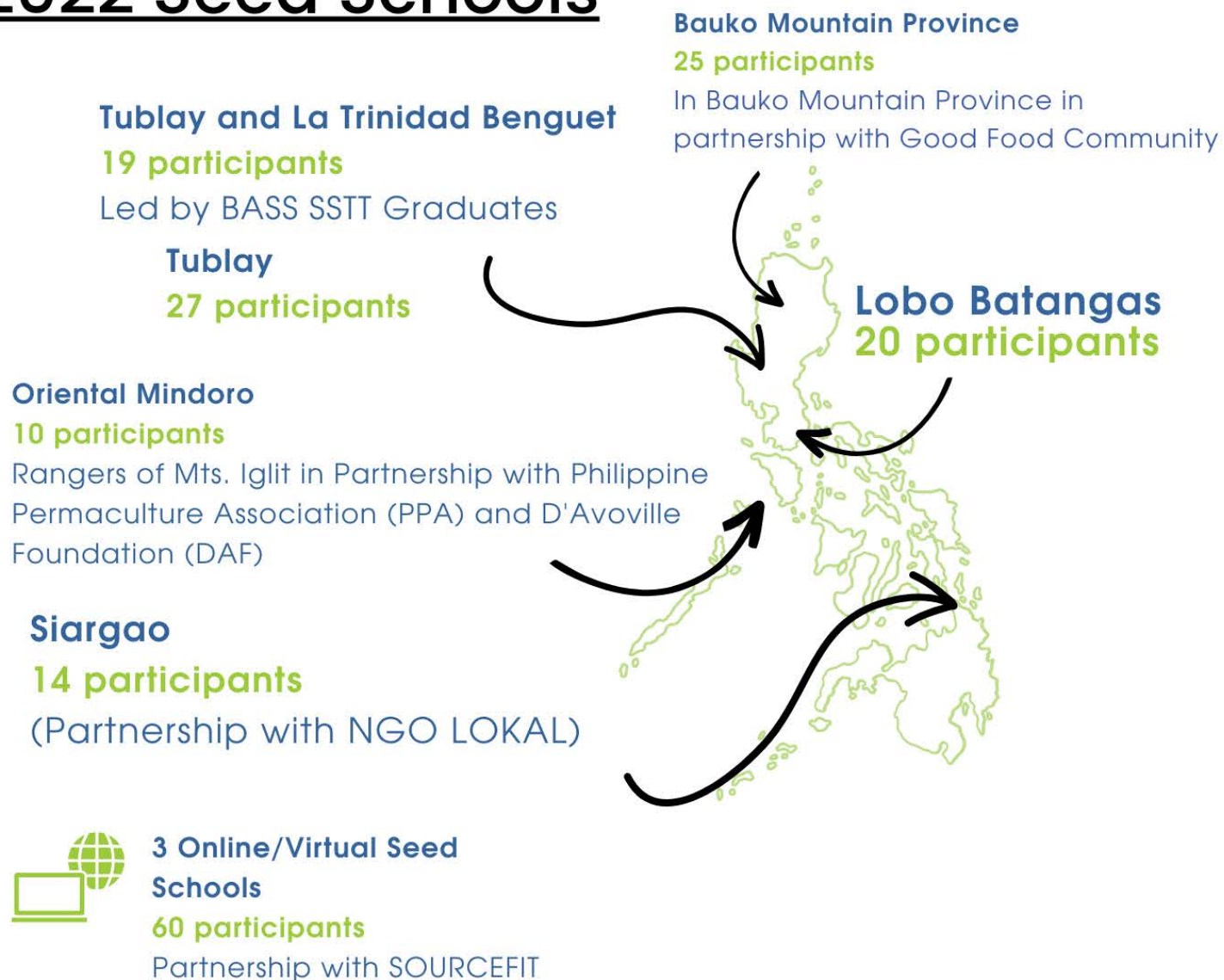
Lobo is a good place to start spreading our advocacy in the CALABARZON region. The ABS-CBN Foundation has already done the legwork in organizing and empowering MABISA to become stewards of their land. Through our seed school, we hope to complement and enhance agricultural practices.

# Stronger Partnerships

Working with our partner farmers in the Philippines promotes farmer leadership and community values. This past year, we've expanded our seed school outreach and strengthened our partnerships.

Our Seed Schools are designed to offer a comprehensive yet accessible overview of the history, science, business, and craft of saving seeds. We have educated more than 5,000 smallholder farmers since the first seed school in 2015 and continue to expand our seed school outreach.

## GSS 2022 Seed Schools



# Climate Smart Agriculture Training Program

Consultancy and Farm Visits by Jon Sarmiento with the Cebu Seed Savers

During our Climate Smart Agriculture Workshop, John Sarmiento provided farm plan advice and design guidance to farmers. There were 28 participants: including the Cebu Seed Savers, CAFEi Staff and Farmer Association members.



We conducted online consultations with 15 Integrated Diversified Organic Farming System (IDOFs) participants. IDOF's participants, specifically the Cebu Seed Savers started to implement the 7 Sustainable Agriculture Indicators preparing them for the Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) inspection.

Participating farmers are those impacted by Typhoon Odette in 2021. Through these programs their farms have been rebuilt and are better prepared for future typhoons.

**18**

People trained in person at Arapal Nature Farms

**25**

Farmers attended the Online Consultation

**28**

Farmers attended farm visits and synthesis

# Partner Farmer Relationship Building and Community Connection

In September, 10 BASS Members attended an organizational retreat in Aringay, La Union which provided an opportunity for the members to reaffirm their commitment to seed saving and strengthen their relationships as an association. One of our many values at Global Seed Savers is community connection, and this retreat was a space for our partner farmers to build more of a community with each other. We value unity and thus always strive to maintain good camaraderie and respect for the people whose lives are directly and indirectly affected by the work that we do. We believe that there is strength in numbers and that community is key to ensuring success in our endeavors. Farmers at this retreat shared lived experiences, learned more about each other's personalities, and shared future commitments to seed saving. Making space for community strengthening is critical to our work and helps build a sense of belonging to a community rather than feeling like they are alone.

*"The thing that struck me most about the retreat, is the group discussions where we talked about things to improve on in the future. Being a member of the BASS, I realized that **being committed to saving seeds must be sustained**. I was really thinking about how to encourage younger farmers to go on farming and do seed saving for the future. "*

## ~ ANITA SINAKAY

BASS member and affiliated with several farmer's organizations like the Tublay Organic Farming Practitioners Agriculture-Cooperative (TOFPA-COOP), the Association of Farmers on Organic for the Rural Development of Daclan (AFFORD), the Daclan Kafamilja Rural Improvement Club (DKRIC).



# Partnership Expansion

## SOURCE Fit

The SOURCE Fit project was a component of our partnership agreement with SOURCEFit, a BPO company that provided online Home Gardening and Seed School. The ultimate goal of this partnership was to decrease the company's carbon footprint by introducing seed saving and sustainable agriculture (i.e. home gardening). This also generated new livelihood and markets for the participating farmers through the sale of their produce.

**1000**

packs of assorted  
vegetables delivered  
to Manila

**30**

new participants  
were trained in SEED  
Saving and Organic  
Farming

**20**

agribusiness worker  
livelihoods were supported  
(10 farmers and 10  
vegetable laborers)





# GSS on the Global Stage



# International Connections

## Navdanya Biodiversity Farm

In September, Sherry (GSS US ED), Karen (PH ED), and Bill McDorman (GSS Special Advisor) had the honor of meeting and speaking with Dr. Vandana Shiva at Navdanya Bio-Diversity Farm located in Northern India. She started this farm 35 years ago, and we were able to stay at the farm for three days making connections with other seed savers and learning more about Navdanya's seed saving practices. We also had the honor of visiting Navdanya's sacred seed bank!

Dr. Shiva said to Karen and Sherry, "we need more connections between India and the Philippines." We do and we will!

We hope to build on this relationship in 2023 and have an emergent farmer training exchange program where our partner farmers will visit the Navdanya farm and farmers from Navdanya will visit our partner farmers' farms in the Philippines. This program aims to exchange and amplify current farming practices and techniques as we work towards building a resilient agriculture system.

Navdanya is an inspiring place teaching and reconnecting many to save seeds and live in harmony with the earth we all share! We are inspired to finally see their famous seed bank and be on the land we have seen only in pictures till now! And meeting and sharing space with Dr. Vandana Shiva has topped off this entire time!



*We need more connections  
between India and the  
Philippines.* ”

*Dr. Shiva said to Karen and Sherry*



## International Advocacy and Learning

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) 9th Governing Body (GB9) Session

GSS participated as an NGO observer at the GB9 Session of the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. With over 400 participants at this event, NGO leaders and country delegates came from around the world and advocated for Farmers' Rights via the treaty mechanisms. The treaty governs 64 of the world's most popular seeds, with 149 signatory countries, industry partners, and more!

In addition to attending the conference, Executive Directors Sherry Manning and Karen LEE Hizola presented our work during a side event! This was an opportunity for GSS to share real stories and experiences of our farmers and their struggles and incredible hard work building back local farmer-based seed saving programs.

Lastly, Karen Hizola had the honor of reading the collective statement on Farmers Rights on behalf of all the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) here at the GB9! So amazing to have Karen's clear, strong, and passionate voice share this important message that farmers rights are the foundational piece of this all and without truly recognizing and supporting these rights our genetic diversity in plants would not exist!

*"We were thrilled to have participated in the inspiring FAO gathering and learn, contribute, and ensure that the voices of the true heroes in agriculture were represented, our dedicated partner farmers. At this critical moment in history, there has never been a more important time to advocate for the restoration of local food and seed systems."*

*~ Sherry Manning, Founder and US Executive Director  
Global Seed Savers*

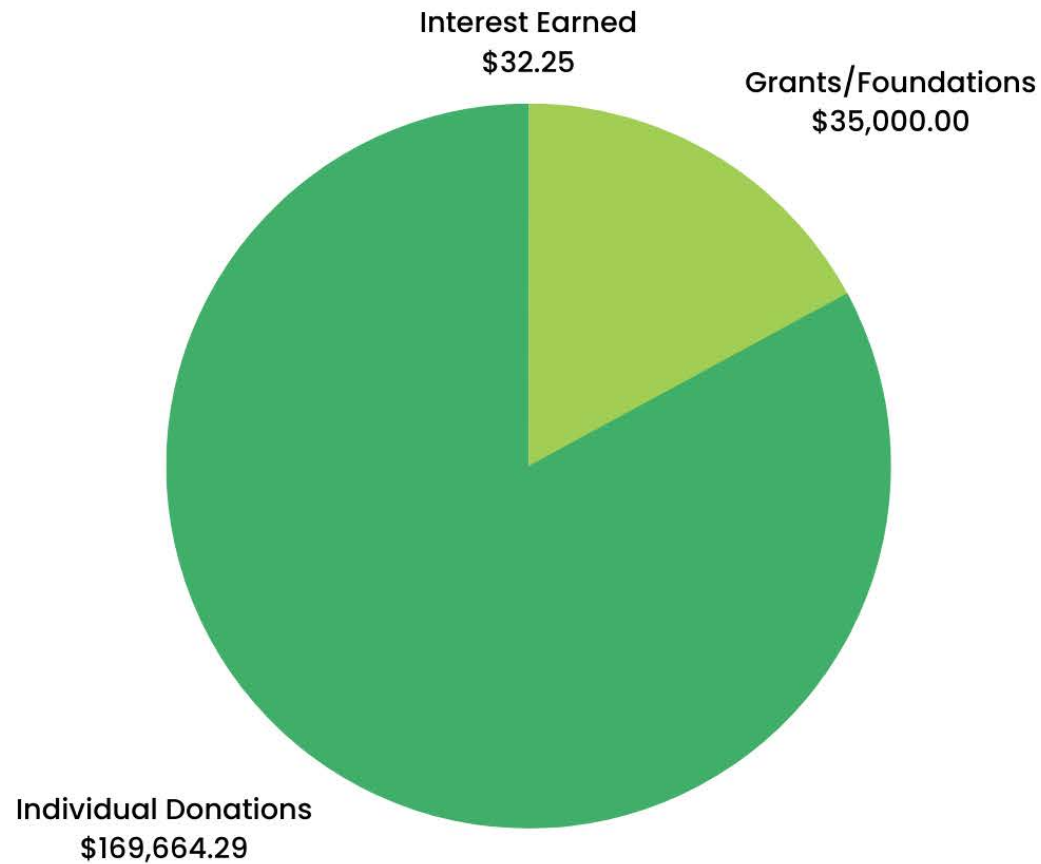
# Financials

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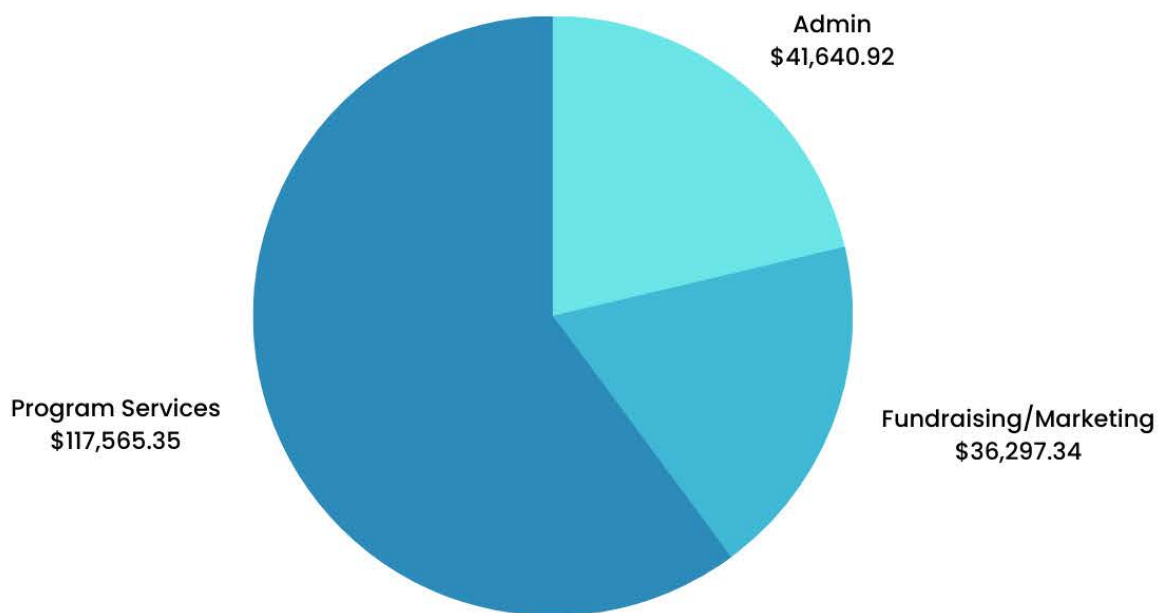
## Total Revenue

**\$204,664.29**



## Total Expenses

**\$195,503.61**



## Balance Sheet

Total Assets- \$255,342.91  
Total Liabilities (Payroll)- \$1,701.37

## Equity

Retained Earning- \$244,460.61  
Net Income 2022- \$9,192.93

We surpassed our revenue goal for the year raising

**\$204,664**

in revenue to support our growing work.



Thanks to 61 donors we raised over

**\$22,700**

and unlocked a dollar for dollar match for our July Campaign Sikat Saka: The Rise of Farmers and Seeds!

We raised

**\$20,380**

from 67 Donors at our first hybrid Nourish Celebration! Our global community gathered for hybrid Nourish including watch parties in Denver and in Baguio and Cebu City, Philippines.



We received our largest grant in our history;

**\$35,000**

from the Conversation Food and Health Foundation



# Our Supporters

FY 2022 | January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022



This incredible work would not be possible without our supporters. From all of us at Global Seed Savers thank you to our donors and partners who made contributions in Fiscal Year 2022 (January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022)

# Our Partners and Key Supporters

## PROGRAM AND ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS

Benguet Association of Seed Savers  
Cebu Farmers Market  
Cebu Seed Savers  
Communities for Alternative Food EcoSystems Initiatives (CAFEi)  
Cornville Seeds  
Farmer Jon Sarmiento-IDOFS Consultant  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Good Food Community  
IFOAM-International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
Kai Farms  
Lokal Lab Siargao  
Mabilog na Bundok at Sawang Organic Producers Association (MABISA-OPA)  
Municipal Agriculture Office of Tublay Benguet  
Municipality of Tublay Benguet  
Philippines Permaculture Association  
Seeds in Common  
Seeds Trust  
SOURCE Fit  
Sun Valley Kitchen  
The Posner Center for International Development

## FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE PARTNERS

Amihan Artisans  
Aurelia GHomes  
Conservation Food and Health Foundation  
CPVTD Family Foundation  
CRNG Accounting and Advisory  
Jon Mottern- Compass Basecamp Homes  
Majeure Foundation  
MihTrust-Jennifer Quinn  
MoGo LLC Attorneys at Law  
Perfection of Man Foundation  
Point b(e) Strategies  
Rotary Club of Mead, Colorado  
Sea View Ranch Charities  
Venture Coffee Company



# Team and Board of Directors



## GLOBAL TEAM

**Sherry Manning**

Founder and US Executive Director

**Karen Lee Hizola**

Philippines Executive Director

**Harry Paulino Jr.**

Cebu Program Coordinator

**Efren Cabbigat**

Philippines Program Manager

**Sarah Mae Sabado**

Communications & Marketing Manager

**Elizabeth Martin**

BASS Field Coordinator

**Ronel Umpad**

Cebu Seed Production Farm Assistant

**Anjanette Wilson**

Development Coordinator

## PHILIPPINES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President

**Padmapani L. Perez**  
At Large Director  
(Recent Past  
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**Jeffrey Sotero**  
Vice-President

**Atty. Leilene Marie  
Carantes-Gallardo**  
Secretary

**Rambie Lim**  
Board Member

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**Sean Duncan**  
Treasurer

**Meta Sarmiento**  
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**Renee Fourie**  
Board Member

**Burke Fishburn**  
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**Lisa Reyes Mason**  
Past Treasurer

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**Stacy Armbruster**  
Board Member

**Susan Mathew**  
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# Thank you for supporting Global Seed Savers!

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