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GLOBAL SEED SAVERS

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**



# 2023

## -A Year of transitions

The theme of 2023 for Global Seed Savers was transitions! Transitions can be both challenging and critical growing curves for organizations and each of our transitions in 2023 provided this type of learning, advancement, and growth.

In April, we welcomed Hal Atienza, our new Philippines Executive Director. Hal joining our work marks an important maturation point. I could not be more thrilled to have attracted such a seasoned, passionate, and focused local leader to guide our Philippines operations and program execution.

With each change and shift in our team, our internal operations, and our partner expansions, we have been maturing and refining how we execute our work to ensure the greatest impact towards our mission of building food and seed sovereignty across the Philippines.

However, as I have been reflecting on this big year of transitions for us, I have been struck with the reality that GSS is a resilient organization! Just like the seeds our dedicated partner farmers sow and save, we have navigated the changes this year brought and are a better, stronger, and a more focused organization, not in spite of these challenges... but because of them!

In 2024, we will be welcoming two new Philippines Team Members, expanding our partner communities to new regions across the Philippines, and deepening our local policy development through launching our Participatory Seed Governance Program to ensure the preservation of important heritage seeds across the Philippines.

Our mission has never been more essential as the impacts of climate realities continue to threaten our partner communities. Seeds are a simple, but powerful tool to build community, preserve culture, and ensure that all communities can feed their families and sustain their livelihoods with regenerative practices. There is so much to look forward to for GSS and we are grateful to have you in our community!

May we all continue to advance our new slogan of, Save Seeds. Grow Food. Celebrate Heritage!

Thank You/Maraming/Daghan Salamat!



Sherry Manning,  
Founder and US Executive Director

# 2023

## -An Opportunity for Growth and Evolution

Embracing change is not merely a challenge; it's an opportunity for growth and evolution. With great enthusiasm, let me share with you the GSS journey of resilience and transformation with our 2023 milestones.

Joining the Global Seed Savers family in April 2023 was pivotal for me. The transition we've witnessed throughout the year has been like germinating a seed – slow, deliberate, and filled with the promise of a new beginning. The challenges were not stumbling blocks but stepping stones that propelled us toward a more mature and impactful organization. Our team, much like the seeds we champion, has grown stronger roots. It's a testament to our collective commitment to fostering seed sovereignty for food security. Each shift in our internal dynamics and expansion into new regions has refined our approach, ensuring that our impact aligns seamlessly with our mission.

We trudge on to 2024 by welcoming three new team members. Expanding our trajectory is a testament to the seeds of progress we've sown in 2023. We have defined our Seed Sovereignty framework and advocacy agenda. Our thrusts on partnership building and participatory seed governance have never been compelling. They speak of our dedication to empowering old and new seed-saving communities (SSCs), executing more community learning and awareness on seed sovereignty (CLASS) sessions, intensifying our Seed Schools, establishing more community-based seed libraries, scaling up our seed production farms, and organizing more community seed exchanges. We institutionalized our governance and management system and the program operations through our monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL) system. The installation of our seed inventory and tracking system (SITS) will ease the recording of seed portfolios of our local seed savers.

In the face of climate challenges, our mission gains even more significance. Seeds, humble as they may be, are the catalysts for community building and resiliency, heritage and cultural preservation, and agricultural sustenance through regenerative practices and agroecology. As we eagerly anticipate the unfolding chapters, let's collectively champion our new mantra: Save Seeds. Grow Food. Celebrate Heritage.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each GSS community member – our local seed savers, the board and staff, our partners from the NGOs, local government units, businesses, and academe. Worth mentioning is the untiring trust and support of our donors and benefactors that propel us forward. Together, we shall continue sowing the seeds of positive change.



Hal Atienza  
Philippines Executive Director





# Our Vision

Resilient and healthy communities accessing naturally-grown farmers-produced seeds and food.



# Our Mission

Organize, educate, and mobilize smallholder and family farmers in creating seed sovereignty and fostering sustainable communities and regenerative ecosystems.





# 5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

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*What* are our goals

*Why* we are doing it

Seed Saving and Seed Library Management	Building strong regenerative communities and sustaining partnership development efforts for seed sovereignty.
Seed Production Innovation Management	Enhancing capacities and developing models to sustain high-quality seed stocks of locally adapted open-pollinated varieties (OPVs).
Advocacy and Global Solidarity	Promoting awareness-raising and solidarity work with the national and global seed communities.
Governance and Knowledge Management	Institutionalizing good governance and participatory management processes for relevance and sustainability.



# SEED SCHOOL LOCATIONS OVER THE YEARS

**2015**

First Seed School in  
Tublay, Benguet

**2020–PRESENT**

Seed School expansions to  
Luzon, Visayas, & Mindanao



# OUR IMPACT

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4

Seed schools

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100

Farmers &  
participants trained  
from

4

regions across the  
Philippines



7



# PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

We facilitated

## 2 strategic planning sessions

with our 2 primary Seed Saver Communities, the Benguet Association of Seed Savers and the Cebu Seed Savers. Helping them define their vision and actions for building seed sovereignty in the coming years and sustainability of their organizations.





# LEARNING EXCHANGES

One of our partner farmers at Benguet Association of Seed Savers (BASS), Manong Macario, was invited to be a guest speaker at the Bukidnon Seed Steward Exchange hosted by our community partners at Salumayag Youth Collective for Foresters.

**24 participants attended this collaborative learning exchange.**

Participants exchanged knowledge and traditional methods in local seed production and seed saving practices.



“

*If we are saving our own seeds we don't need to be dependent. And saving our own seeds tells our culture and our rich history of who we are as Kulamanen.*

**-- Ranil**

Indigenous tribe member of the Salumayag Foresters and a weaver



# PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

In December, our partner farmers at Benguet Association of Seed Savers (BASS) joined Sourcefit's annual year-end project, marking a significant collaboration for Global Seed Savers.

GSS facilitated a **1 million Pesos (\$17,000 plus USD)** contract for the Benguet Association of Seed Savers, to provide **3,000 bags of organic vegetables** to SourceFit a Philippine Outsourcing Company, to distribute to their partner communities in Metro Manila.

This project was made possible by the collective efforts of 24 local farms, involving over 50 farmers and farm workers, and 50 dedicated volunteers. BASS was able to deliver **8 tons of vegetables**.





# POLICY FORUM



Our farmer-leaders from Benguet Association of Seed Savers (BASS) and Cebu Seed Savers (CSS) participated in a **weeklong policy formation workshop** with our partners at Good Food Community and the IBON Foundation.

Our Global Seed Savers Philippines Team and farmer leaders learned the ins and outs of local policy formation, advocacy, and planning. This experience highlighted the significance of engaging in policy discourse to advance our mission.

“

First of all thank you Good Food Community for inviting us during the policy forum. We're so glad that there is Imagine Law group of lawyers that aims to help groups of people bring their concerns to the national level, helping people make their policies in different situations. **We're looking forward to the seed sovereignty policy that will be polished by the Government through the initiatives of GSS through Hal Atienza that would help the farmers in preserving our culture for food safety and security.**

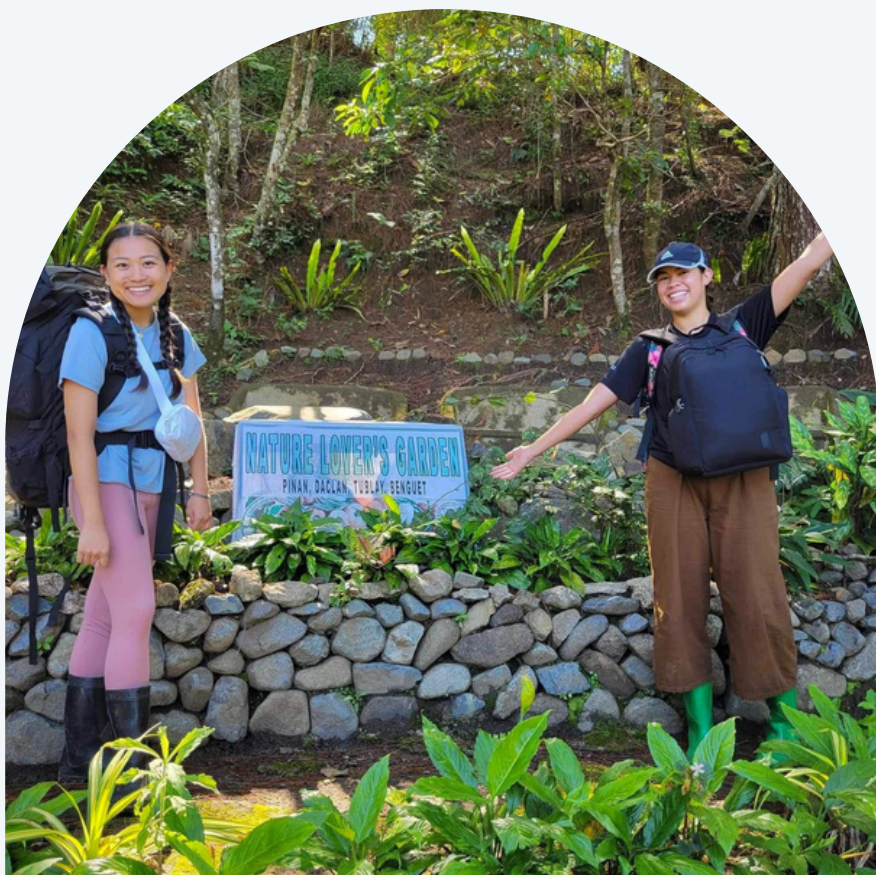
– Annette, BASS Farmer





# GROWING TEAM

We are thrilled to highlight the addition of **two new fellows**, **Mandy Qua** and **Marissa Mejia** to our growing team. As recipients of the inaugural Princeton ReachOut Herbert C. Paschen, Jr. '56 Fellowship, **they are collaborating with Global Seed Savers to direct, film, and edit a documentary film.** This documentary follows seed savers from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao as they work alongside GSS to overcome systemic barriers, preserve Filipino heritage, and cultivate hope for the future of agriculture in the Philippines.



**Mandy Qua**

“

A major highlight for me as a GSS Fellow thus far has been getting to know the farmers in Benguet and Cebu who are a part of the seed saving communities that GSS supports. I love listening to people's stories, and through our interviews with the farmers, **it has been eye opening to learn about how deeply seed saving is interconnected to other aspects of our lives: from our cultural identity, to environmentalism, to health, policy, and more!** I am very grateful to be a GSS Fellow as it has provided me with the opportunity to gain new experiences and perspectives on the country that I grew up in!



**Marissa Mejia**

“

Throughout the past six months of Mandy's and my fellowship with Global Seed Savers, I have had the incredible opportunity to immerse myself in the culture of my roots as a biracial Filipina American, gain a new perspective on how environmentalism can be addressed and performed outside of the Western context I grew up in, and convert filmmaking, a longtime hobby of mine, into my day-to-day work.

Through connecting with GSS's partner farmers and seed saving communities in Benguet and Cebu and learning about various topics revolving around the state of seed saving in the Philippines—including but not limited to Indigenous land rights, climate change, chemical agricultural inputs and their impacts on ecosystems and marginalized communities, corporate intellectual property rights relating to seeds, and other intersections of environmental and socio-cultural crises—I **have gained a greater appreciation for Global Seed Savers' efforts to promote food security, cultural preservation, and climate resilience through seed sovereignty.**



# JULY CAMPAIGN

With **70 donors** we  
raised over

**\$32,367**

With supporters like you, **we surpassed our initial campaign goal of \$25,000!**

The support we received from our world community will enable us to reach our new comprehensive 5-year strategic goals which include:

- **Expanding our network of Seed Saving Communities (SSC):** Local farmer led seed saving associations committed to building local seed libraries.
- **Local Seed Production Growth:** Expanding and building new local seed production sites to ensure that increased access to open-pollinated and indigenous seeds are widely available.
- **Participatory Seed Governance (PSG):** Working with strong local government partners to ensure open-pollinated and indigenous seeds are protected via strong local policy formation.





# NOURISH CELEBRATION

Thanks to 65 supporters, our 13th Annual Nourish Celebration raised over \$19,000!

Our world community gathered and celebrated in their unique special ways!

- In Cebu our partner farmers held a **seed swap**,
- In Benguet there was **traditional dancing and festive games**,
- In Denver there was a local AAPI artist art show showcasing Jini Kim Veenker's beautiful art prints, festive tunes with DJ CYN, and our enthusiastic crowd made for a memorable and special evening!

*Thank you to our supporters and dedicated volunteers, passionate speakers, caterers at Sun Valley Kitchen in Denver, event attendees, and sponsors for making our 13th Annual Nourish Celebration impactful!*





# SEED GRANT

The Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) and Seeding The Future Foundation proudly announced the Seed Grant winners as well as finalists for Growth Grants and Grand Prizes for the third annual Seeding The Future Global Food System Challenge.

Global Seed Savers was awarded

# \$25,000

**Seed Grants are awarded to 8 organizations, out of 900 submissions,** that create innovative ideas to transform food systems and have developed a prototype or initial proof of concept demonstrating that their idea is feasible and highly impactful when scaled.

***This funding opportunity will propel us towards expanding our impact in remarkable ways in 2024!***



[Feeding Tomorrow Fund](#) | [About IFT](#) | [Concierge Service](#) | [Global Food Traceability Center](#)

[Topics](#) | [News & Publications](#) | [Community](#) | [Membership](#) | [Events](#) | [Career Dev](#)

[IFT](#) > [Press Room](#) > [Press Releases](#) > Seed Grant Winners and Finalists for Growth Grants and Grand Prizes

PRESS RELEASE

## Seed Grant Winners and Finalists for Growth Grants and Grand Prizes Announced for Seeding The Future Global Food System Challenge

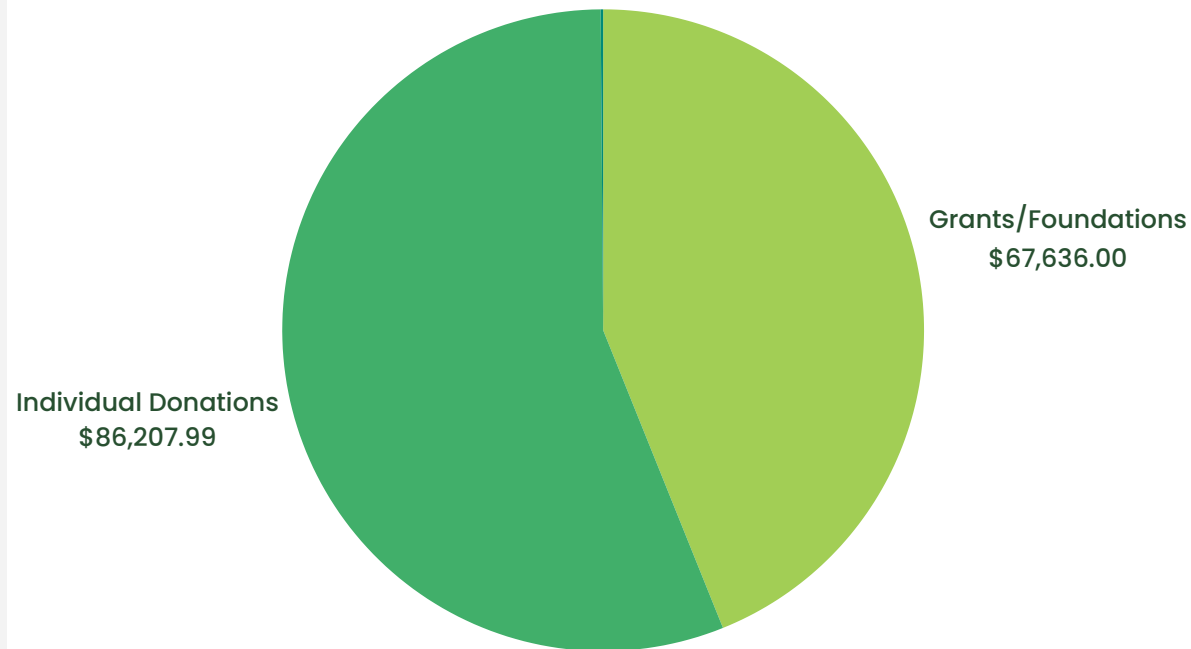
The USD \$1 million Challenge, which received more than 900 submissions from 78 countries this year, is focused on high-impact innovations that lead to significant food system advances.

November 28, 2023



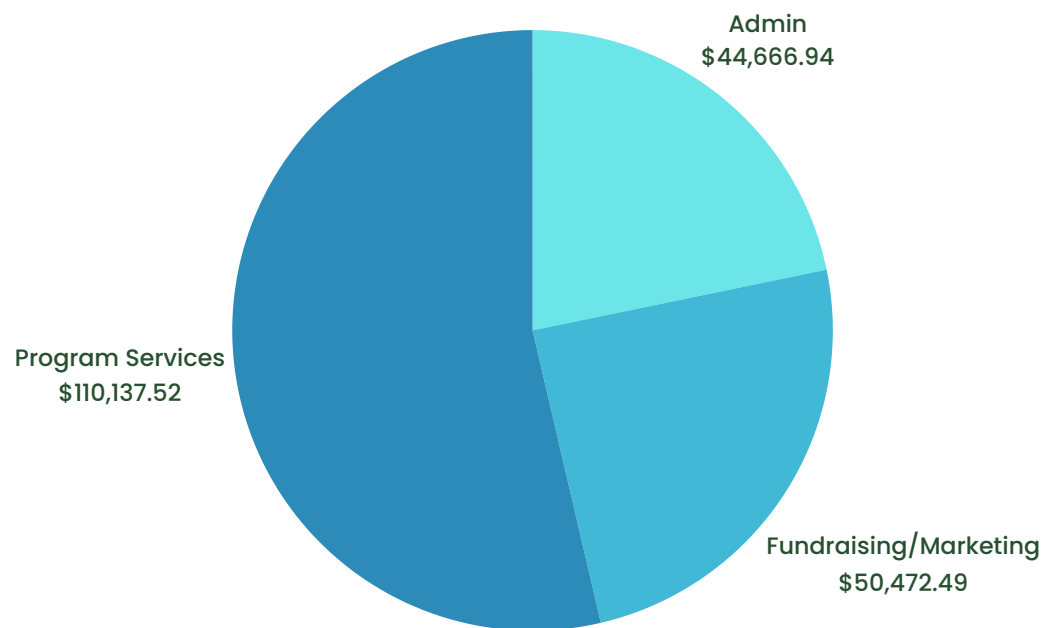
## Total Revenue

**\$153,843.99**



## Total Expenses

**\$210,913.33**



## Balance Sheet

Total Assets- \$197,470.64

Total Liabilities (Payroll)- \$945.49

## Equity

Retained Earning- \$253,653.54

Net Income 2023- \$56,878.39



# 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  
Municipal Agriculture Office of Tublay Benguet  
Municipality of Tublay Benguet  
Salumayag Youth Collective for Forests (Bukidnon Seed Stewards)  
Seeds in Common  
SOURCE Fit  
Sun Valley Kitchen  
The Posner Center for International Development

## FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE PARTNERS

Conservation Food and Health Foundation  
CPVTD Family Foundation  
CRNG Accounting and Advisory  
Elevated Global Solutions- Aruiela  
Grinstead  
Institute for Food Technologies-IFT  
Jon Mottern- Compass Basecamp Homes  
MihTrust-Jennifer Quinn  
MoGo LLC Attorneys at Law  
Perfection of Man Foundation  
Point b(e) Strategies  
Rocky Mountain Innovation Lab  
Rotary Club of Mead, Colorado  
Sea View Ranch Charities  
Seeding the Future Foundation  
Trent Family Fund  
Venture Coffee Company



# Team and Board of Directors

## GLOBAL TEAM

**Sherry Manning**

*Founder and CEO*

**Hal Atienza**

*Philippines Executive Director*

**Efren Cabbigat**

*Program Manager*

**Sarah Mae Sabado**

*Marketing, Communications &  
Development Manager*

**Anjanette Wilson**

*US Development Coordinator*

**Harry Paulino Jr.**

*Cebu Seed Production Coordinator*

**Elizabeth Martin**

*BASS Field Coordinator*

## PHILIPPINES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Atty. Leilene Marie Carantes-Gallardo**

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**Rambie Lim**

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**Robert Mansalo-on Cahapon**

*Board Member*

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**Beki Tenefrancia**

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*Treasurer*

**Stacy Armbruster**

*Board Member*

**Jessica Mohr**

*Board Member*

**Renee Fourie**

*Board Member*

**Susan Mathew**

*Board Member*

## Paschen Pair Post-Graduate Fellows from Princeton University

**Mandy Qua**

**Marissa Mejia**





# Thank you for supporting Global Seed Savers!

**View this report online at**  
[globalseedsavers.org/annual-reports/](http://globalseedsavers.org/annual-reports/)

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