

# A homegrown solution: Communal vegetable production and skills training on support infrastructure maintenance in Sto. Rosario, Bohol



Emergency Employment  
and Sustainable Livelihoods  
after Super Typhoon Haiyan

The 7.2 magnitude earthquake that hit the province of Bohol in October 2013 deprived the farmers of Barangay Sto. Rosario in Antequera, Bohol of their traditional livelihood. Their situation was exacerbated when Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) hit a month later. The International Labour Organization (ILO) responded by partnering with the Sto. Rosario Farmers Association (SRFA) to help the community recover from the quake's devastation.

Landslides, sinkholes, lowered water tables, and damaged irrigation systems destroyed farmlands and ensured that agricultural activities on them would be impracticable. Many farmers left their home to find alternative jobs in Tagbilaran City, breaking up families. Meanwhile, their community was isolated from the outside world by damaged roads and bridges.

Working with the ILO, seventy-nine SRFA members (43 women, 36 men) established and managed a one-hectare communal garden, and planted cash crops with short gestation periods (tomatoes, eggplants, and string beans) to secure their families' food and income sufficiency.

The Municipal Agriculturist Office (MAO) provided technical and material inputs.

Mindful of the importance of support infrastructure to their enterprise, the SRFA workers also rehabilitated the association's multi-purpose hall and the farm-to-market road leading to their community.

All workers were given at least minimum wages,



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*Some members of the Sto. Rosario Farmers Association (SRFA) repair ruts on a farm-to-market road leading to their barangay, ensuring that their cash crops will more easily find their way to buyers.*

one-year accident insurance, three months' contribution to PhilHealth, three months' contribution to SSS, and personal protective equipment (PPE). In the course of the sub-project, they also received training in contour farming and road maintenance, expanding their skill-set for future employment.

The ILO is grateful for the support it has received from the Government of Japan for its Haiyan Response and vision to truly Build Back Better.

## Implementing Partner

- Sto. Rosario Farmers Association (SRFA)

## Stakeholder Organizations

- Municipal Agriculturist Office (MAO) of Antequera, Bohol

## Funding Partner

- Government of Japan



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