

Emergency Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods after Super Typhoon Haiyan



Armed with hope to start anew, **Fedelino Montecino** joined the International Labour Organization's (ILO) training on contour farming, in an effort to recover from the devastation of Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda).

Before Haiyan struck, Fedelino was a fish vendor in San Isidro, Leyte. He earned PHP500 a day, which he said was enough to buy food for his wife and seven children.

Strong winds and rains, however, destroyed his fish vending stall. His house in Barangay Basud was also damaged. And the money that he saved from hard work was literally washed away.

"The day after [the typhoon], I did not know which one to rebuild first – my house or my livelihood," said Fedelino. He wanted to go back right away to fish vending but did not have enough capital to restore the small-scale business that had taken him decades to build. "We had to start from scratch."

He joined the ILO training on Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT) or contour farming. SALT is a low-cost but effective way of farming hilly lands without losing top soil to erosion.

Trainees received allowances equivalent to the then-current minimum wage of PHP260 per day, three months' enrolment in social security, three months' health insurance, and one year of accident insurance, as well as protective gear and equipment.



"I didn't know how to move forward when Yolanda damaged everything I had. Through the ILO, I acquired new skills and earned money for my family," he added.

Fedelino soon harvested high value crops and sold them in the market, giving him and his family an alternative source of income. More importantly, his new source of livelihood was more climate resilient, giving people like him better chances of withstanding future natural calamities.

Benefitting from
climate-resilient
responses
to disaster



Contact information:

ILO Country Office
for the Philippines
19th Floor, Yuchengco Tower,
RCBC Plaza 6819 Ayala Avenue,
Makati City, Metro Manila
Philippines

Tel. +632 580 9900
Fax. +632 856 7597
Email: MANILA@ilo.org
www.ilo.org/yolanda