



***After super typhoon Hyan and drought that followed, Nestor discovered better livelihoods instead of depending on traditional rice planting. He doubled his earnings by planting squash and papaya. According to Nestor, he harvested around 3 tons of squash and made approximately \$600.***

## A “BRIDGE” to a Better Future

Nestor dela Cruz is a 61-year-old rice farmer from Malocloc Sur. He is a father of four and earns an average of \$23 per month. His family’s main source of income and food is from his farming. The BRIDGE program advocated the use of alternative crops and promoted drought-resistant crops and vegetables. He was the only farmer in his area who decided to not only to plant rice, and instead made the educated gamble to plant squash as his alternative crop.



Nestor proudly showing his new crop of squash.



***Like Nestor, Ricardo also learned to better utilize the uncultivated land under his coconut trees by planting multi-story crops.***

## A “BRIDGE” to a Better Future

Ricardo Obrigue, father of six, is a 62-year-old vegetable farmer from Mianay. Through the project, he was provided planting materials and tools to nearly double his vegetable farm. Ricardo planted different vegetables, such as bitter melon (Ampalaya), tomatoes, eggplant, and other high-value crops and fruit trees. With these new crops he now earns an average of \$400 dollars per month. To further diversify his livelihood sources, he was given a pair of goats and a buck. He was able to rent his buck to other farmers for breeding, as well as sell any goat kids that may be born.



Ricardo says, “bitter melon is no more bitter.”



***“Imagine carrying a bicycle on your shoulders instead of riding it during the floods. It was terrible during the time of floods. I am happy about the project,”*** says Zechariah Lokiru, 63 years old, a resident of Kokorio village.

## From Carrying a Bicycle to Riding On It

During times of flooding, Kokorio Village, in North-eastern Uganda, was completely cut off from surrounding communities. Many of these problems could be mitigated by making the village more flood-resilient and improving the quality of the village’s main road. With support from IIRR’s cash for work initiative, community members took on the challenge to fix the impassable 1 km road and better their lives. The road now links three sub counties, and the 22,800 residents of Kokorio can move easily from their village to neighboring communities and the Matany Trading Centre.



Kokorio village people’s bridge.