

# Benchmarks for Transformational Partnerships and Women's Economic Empowerment in Agricultural Value Chains

Marie Lisa Dacanay, PhD  
Project Director  
PROSE GRAISEA  
President, ISEA





## Stories of empowered grassroots women



- **Pin (Thailand)** heads the fish processing and slicing group of the **Association of Thai Fisherfolk Federation's Fisherfolk Enterprise**, assisted by **Oxfam** to develop the **Blue Brand** of responsibly-fished, formalin-free seafood that allows fishers to earn up to 100% more. From being a fish vendor skilled in cleaning fish for her customers, Pin now trains women fishers to ensure they produce quality and standardized Blue Brand products marketed through **Fisherfolk Shops** and **Lemon Farm**, a Bangkok-based social enterprise chain of groceries.
- **Ly Thi Dung (Vietnam)** is part of an **Interest Group** that **DRAGON** organized among the H'mong people. Exporting fresh and processed ginger carrying the **Global G.A.P Standard**, **DRAGON** has enabled indigenous women like Dung to diversify their farms to sustainably cultivate ginger, making them earn 5-10 times more compared to their income from corn.
- **Wasti (Indonesia)** is the chairperson of **ISM Sinar Abadi Cooperative**, organized by **Dompot Dhuafa's KMM**, to serve as vehicle for enabling assetless mussel strippers to become owners of bagans, the means of production for mussels, and to engage in processing and trading green mussels. Wasti and the women she leads have been transformed from being receivers of alms or zakat (**mustahik**) to givers of zakat (**muzzaki**).





# Stories of empowered grassroots women



- **Juanita Mamo (Philippines)** → from a voiceless indigenous woman in a male-dominated tribe, Juanita is now the elected chairperson of the Council of Elders of the **Kulaman Manobo Dulangan Organization (KMDO)**, a partner indigenous people's organization of **TRICOM** and **Sultan Kudarat Coffee Ventures Inc (SKCVI)** → engaged in the production, processing and marketing of **Kape Dulangan**, their own brand of coffee to a growing local market, as part of their Ancestral Domain Development Plan. SKCVI is one of more than 50 community-based coffee enterprises comprising the **Philippine Coffee Alliance** led and assisted by **Bote Central** with their **Coffee for Life Program**.



- **Imelda Cervantes (Philippines)** → from an assetless agricultural worker, Imelda is now an entrepreneurial farmer-leader of the **Negros Organic and Fair Trade Association (NOFTA)**, organized by **Alter Trade Foundation Inc** as partners in the organic muscovado sugar value chain and beyond. Imelda has led her **association of agrarian reform beneficiaries** to become a vehicle for crop and income diversification & community development. From sub-human conditions of hunger, Imelda's household has achieved food security and has moved out of poverty, like most of NOFTA's member-households. NOFTA also owns 60% of **NOFTA Fair Trade Haus**, the marketing arm of the social enterprise system.

## **Action Research: 8 Significant Practices of Social Enterprises in Agricultural Value Chains (AVCs) in ASEAN**

- How were these grassroots women empowered?
- How can AVC interventions contribute to building a critical mass of empowered grassroots women like Pin, Dung, Wasti, Juanita and Imelda?

ISEA and its partners (Change Fusion, CSIP, Dompot Dhuafa and Bina Swadaya) undertook action research in the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia and have put together the most important results in a set of aspirational standards:

**BENCHMARKS for TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS  
and WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT in  
AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS**





# **BENCHMARKS FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (WEE) IN AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS (AVCs)**

## **□ Aspirational standards:**

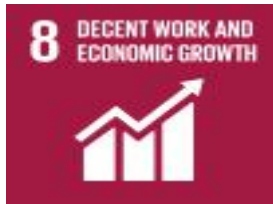
**-> raise the bar on how enterprises and other stakeholders in AVCs could sustainably transform the lives of women and men small scale producers, their households and their communities.**

## **□ A pathway to sustainability:**

**-> meant to provide guideposts among enterprises and other stakeholders in AVCs aspiring to make a meaningful contribution to SDGs**



# SDGs that social enterprises & inclusive businesses adhering to benchmarks could contribute to:



- zero poverty, no hunger, reduced inequality (Goals 1, 2 & 10)
- decent jobs and inclusive growth (Goal 8)
- inclusive and sustainable industrialization and innovation (Goal 9)
- sustainable consumption and production; sustainable communities (Goals 11 & 12)
- **women's economic empowerment** (Goal 5) as cross-cutting



## **6 P's: BENCHMARKS FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS**

- 1 - PROMOTE APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY and COMMUNITY-BASED/ORIENTED INNOVATIONS** that are friendly to women and men small producers, and **CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION and PRODUCTION.**
- 2 - PROGRESSIVELY POSITION** women and men **SMALL PRODUCERS** to **REAP** a **MORE SUBSTANTIVE SHARE** of **VALUE CREATED OVER TIME**, while **BUILDING THEIR RESILIENCE** to natural, social and economic disasters.
- 3 - PAVE THE WAY** for the **EMPOWERMENT** of women and men **SMALL PRODUCERS** to become actors in their own development and that of their community and sector and to **BECOME STEWARDS OF THE NATURAL RESOURCE BASE SUSTAINING THEIR LIVELIHOODS.**
- 4 - PROVIDE** a **COMBINATION** of **TRANSACTIONAL** and **TRANSFORMATIONAL SERVICES** among women and men small scale producers to more effectively participate in value chain and community/ sectoral development that is both equitable and sustainable.
- 5 - PROACTIVELY CHOOSE VALUE CHAINS** and **INVEST IN TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES** that **ENHANCE WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION** and **EMPOWERMENT**
- 6- PRODUCE MEASURABLE OUTCOMES** of **TRANSFORMATION** at the level of women and small producers, households and communities, and value chains and subsectors.





**Benchmark #1: PROMOTE APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY and COMMUNITY-BASED/ORIENTED INNOVATIONS** that are friendly to women and men small producers, and **CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION and PRODUCTION.**

- All cases introduced technologies and innovations oriented at enabling women and men small scale producers to become effective supplier-partners serving new or growing markets linked to promoting healthy food and ethical lifestyles (heart of SDG 11: promoting sustainable consumption and production)
  - considered the health and welfare of both consumers and producers
  - improved productivity and incomes of women and men small scale producers in ways that were ecologically sound and culturally sensitive







# 1. Promote appropriate technology and community-based/ oriented innovations that are friendly to women and men small producers and contribute to sustainable consumption and production.



## DRAGON(Vietnam)

- ❑ Prioritized and organized interest groups of poor HHs as partner suppliers
- ❑ Diversification from corn: ginger and gac required less land with 3-5X more income
- ❑ Bought all their produce
- ❑ Flexible market price with minimum purchase price
- ❑ Introduced bio-composting, non-usage of herbicides →Global GAP
- ❑ Input support, trainings, continuing technical staff support & guidance



1. Promote appropriate technology and community-based/ oriented innovations that are friendly to women and men small producers, and contribute to sustainable consumption and production.



### KSU Jatirogo (Indonesia)

- ❑ introduced & disseminated more efficient wok & healthy furnace technology for cooking organic coconut sap sugar among women 'batok' producers
- ❑ set up CPU as community-based marketing mechanism managed by the women
  - assured the women small producers better terms and prices
  - saved women 3 hours of travel to the open market 2-3 times a week.
  - ensured traceability for organic certification (CUC)



# 1. Promote appropriate technology and community-based/ oriented innovations that are friendly to women and men small producers and contribute to sustainable consumption and production.

## HITEACO (Vietnam)

- established tea processing facilities in far flung rural areas where target farming HHs were located
- worked directly with poor farming HHs and equally engaged women and men in production contracts
- introduced bio-fertilizers and strict adherence against use of chemical fertilizers
- provided an initial incentive package of seedlings and fertilizer, covering 70% of the farming inputs required.
- committed to buy all the tea leaves from tea gardens





1. Promote appropriate technology and community-based/ oriented innovations that are friendly to small producers and women, and contribute to sustainable consumption and production.

## Green Net Cooperative (Thailand)

- ❑ Developed and secured the first third party organic fishery certification for its partner producers in southern Thailand organized into Community Fish Markets (CFMs) & an Organic Fishers Group
- ❑ Members of CFMs guaranteed 20-100% higher than market price
- ❑ Retails to Fair Trade and health-conscious consumers through 7 on-line and 9 events-based physical markets including Bangkok Farmers' Market.





**BENCHMARK #2: PROGRESSIVELY POSITION women and men SMALL PRODUCERS to REAP a MORE SUBSTANTIVE SHARE of VALUE CREATED OVER TIME, while BUILDING THEIR RESILIENCE to natural, social and economic DISASTERS.**

→ **RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS IS ABOUT PREPAREDNESS, RISK MANAGEMENT AND BUILDING THE CAPABILITY OF WOMEN AND MEN SMALL SCALE PRODUCERS TO BOUNCE BACK AFTER DISASTERS (FAMILY/COMMUNITY)**

- CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT**
- SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES**
- DIVERSIFICATION OF CROPS AND INCOME SOURCES**
- INSURANCE**



**BENCHMARK #2: PROGRESSIVELY POSITION women and men SMALL PRODUCERS to REAP a MORE SUBSTANTIVE SHARE of VALUE CREATED OVER TIME, while BUILDING THEIR RESILIENCE to natural, social and economic DISASTERS.**

- **CREATING 'SHARED VALUE' DOES NOT REFLECT WHAT % OF THE VALUE CREATED GOES TO WOMEN AND MEN SMALL PRODUCERS IN THE AVC**
- **TO MEANINGFULLY CONTRIBUTE TO SDG GOALS 1 AND 10 (ZERO POVERTY AND REDUCED INEQUALITY), IMPORTANT TO SUBSTANTIVELY INCREASE THE SHARE OF VALUE ACCRUING TO WOMEN AND MEN SMAALL SCALE PRODUCERS IN AVCs**
  
- **BEYOND GIVING A FAIR/HIGHER PRICE TO PARTNER PRODUCERS, CASES SHOWED HOW WOMEN AND MEN SMALL SCALE PRODUCERS WERE ENABLED**
  - ❑ **TO CUT THE MANY LAYERS OF TRADERS THAT DEPRESS PRICES AT THE FARM GATE/FISH LANDING**
  - ❑ **TO INCREASE THEIR BARGAINING POWER IN PRICE SETTING BY TAKING OVER FUNCTION OF CONSOLIDATON**
  - ❑ **TO REAP MORE BENEFITS FROM OTHER FUNCTIONS IN THE VALUE CHAIN THAT CREATE GREATER VALUE → PROCESSING,MARKETING, RETAILING**



2. Progressively position women and men small producers to reap a more substantive share of value created over time while building their resilience to natural, social and economic disasters.

### **Bote Central's (Philippines) Kape't Buhay with the Philippine Coffee Alliance**

- ☐ capacitates farmers and their communities in the production, processing and retailing of coffee so they may reap a bigger share of value from the value chain.

→ **The Rural Improvement Club (RIC) Federation** in Maramag is one of the community-based coffee enterprises assisted by Bote Central. Composed and managed by women coffee farmers in Bukidnon, the Federation has established its own brand: **Kape Maramag**.

→ The RIC assists its members engage in crop diversification.





## 2. Progressively position women and men small producers to reap a more substantive share of value created over time while building their resilience to natural, social and economic disasters.

As part of their intervention towards sustainable fisheries, the Association of Thai Fisherfolk Federation's **Fisherfolk Enterprise (Thailand)**

- ❑ partnered with **Oxfam** to develop a Blue Brand for responsibly fished, formalin-free fish which they sell through their **Fisherfolk Shops** and **Lemon Farm's 11 grocery outlets in Bangkok**
- ❑ established a community-based central operating center where all the fresh fish products were prepared, processed, and packaged.
- ❑ **Pin**, the head of the fish processing and slicing group of the **Fisherfolk Enterprise** trains women fishers to ensure they produce quality and standardized products based on established protocols.







**BENCHMARK #3 - PAVE THE WAY for the EMPOWERMENT of women and men **SMALL PRODUCERS** to become actors in their own development and that of their community and sector and to become **STEWARDS OF THE NATURAL RESOURCE BASE SUSTAINING THEIR LIVELIHOODS.****

### **3 KEY ELEMENTS OF EMPOWERMENT :**

- 1. ENABLING WOMEN AND MEN SMALL PRODUCERS TO OWN, CONTROL OR HAVE ACCESS TO LAND FISHING WATERS, CAPITAL, TECHNOLOGY AND OTHER PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES;**
- 2. ENABLING THEM TO HAVE POWER OVER DECISION MAKING PROCESSES IN HOUSEHOLDS. COMMUNITIES, VALUE CHAINS, MARKETS, COMMUNITIES AND OTHER RELEVANT ARENAS OR DECISION MAKING**
- 3. BUILDING THEIR CAPABILITY TO SUSTAINABLY USE AND MANAGE SUCH PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES AND DECISION MAKING PROCESSES TO IMPROVE THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE AND THAT OF THEIR COMMUNITY AND LIVING ENVIRONMENTS**

**→ IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING THEIR SELF GOVERNING INSTITUTIONS**



3. Pave the way for the empowerment of small producers to become actors in their own development and that of their community and sector, and to become stewards of the natural resource base sustaining their livelihoods.



The **Green Net Cooperative** in partnership with **Earth Net Foundation (Thailand)** organized and enabled the fisherfolk organizations in the 5 fishing villages in southern Thailand to undertake sustainable coastal resource management and develop an organic fish value chain linked to their advocacy for sustainable fisheries and Fair Trade. The fishers were organized into Community Fish Markets and an Organic Fishers Group.



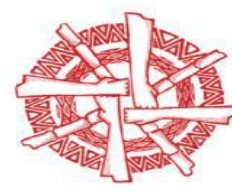


### 3. Pave the way for the empowerment of small producers to become actors in their own development and that of their community and sector, and to become stewards of the natural resource base sustaining their livelihoods.

**Alter Trade Foundation (Philippines)** transformed women and men agrarian reform beneficiaries into entrepreneurial farmer leaders and members of cooperatives and associations that served not only as supplier communities but as vehicles for diversifying their crops and incomes and community development. They were also federated into the **Negros Organic Fair Trade Association (NOFTA)**.

#### **NOFTA has served as vehicle of the small farmers**

- to acquire organic and Fair Trade certification
- to negotiate better terms with the sugar mills
- to become majority owners of **NOFTA Fair Trade Haus**, which serves as the marketing and trading arm of their social enterprise system.
- to undergo training and planning on climate change and disaster risk reduction (CCDRR) mitigation and adaptation.

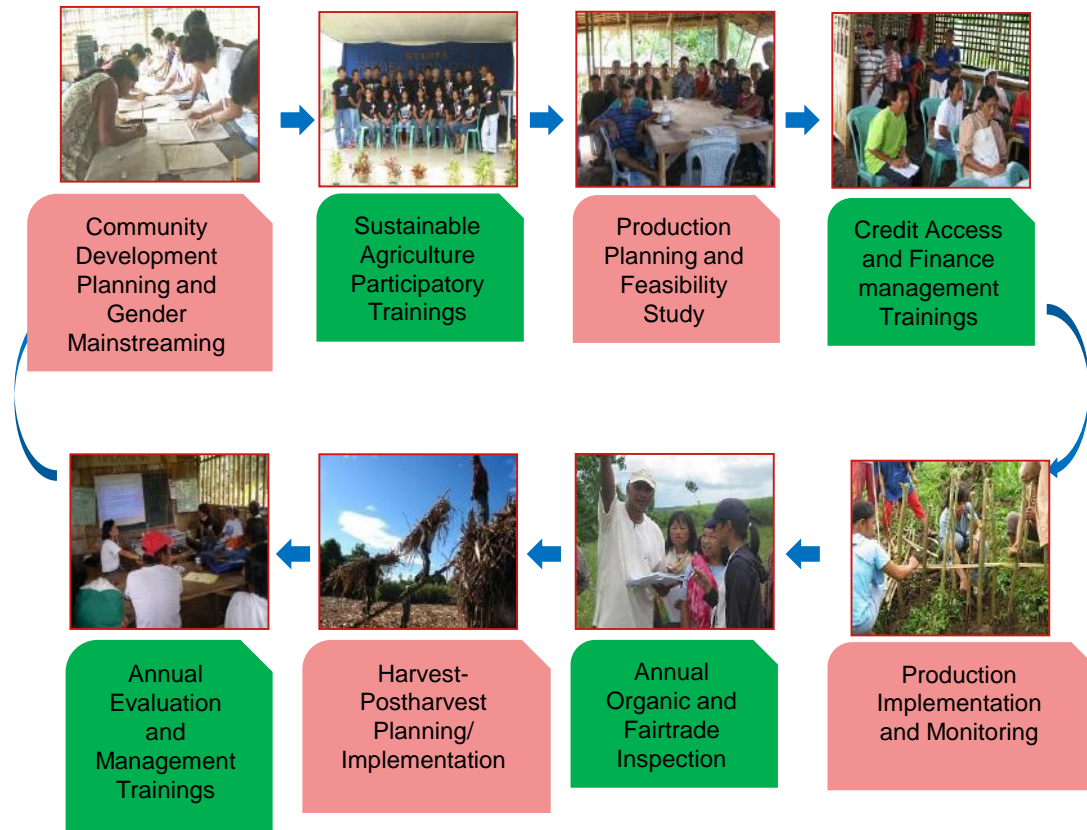


NOFTA





**Benchmark #4: Provide a combination of transactional and transformational services among women and men small producers to more effectively participate in value chain and community/sectoral development that is both equitable and sustainable.**



### **Alter Trade Foundation (Philippines)**

organized its partners into empowered producers organizations → federated into the Negros Organic and Fair Trade Association (NOFTA).

- capacitated to become effective suppliers in the organic muscovado sugar value chain
- capacitated as vehicles of community development visioning, planning and management in pursuit of
  - diversification of crops and income sources
  - improvement of water systems and health services
  - climate change and disaster risk reduction/adaptation
  - organizing women’s committees that support investments for women’s economic initiatives.



# SERVICES PROVIDED BY SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

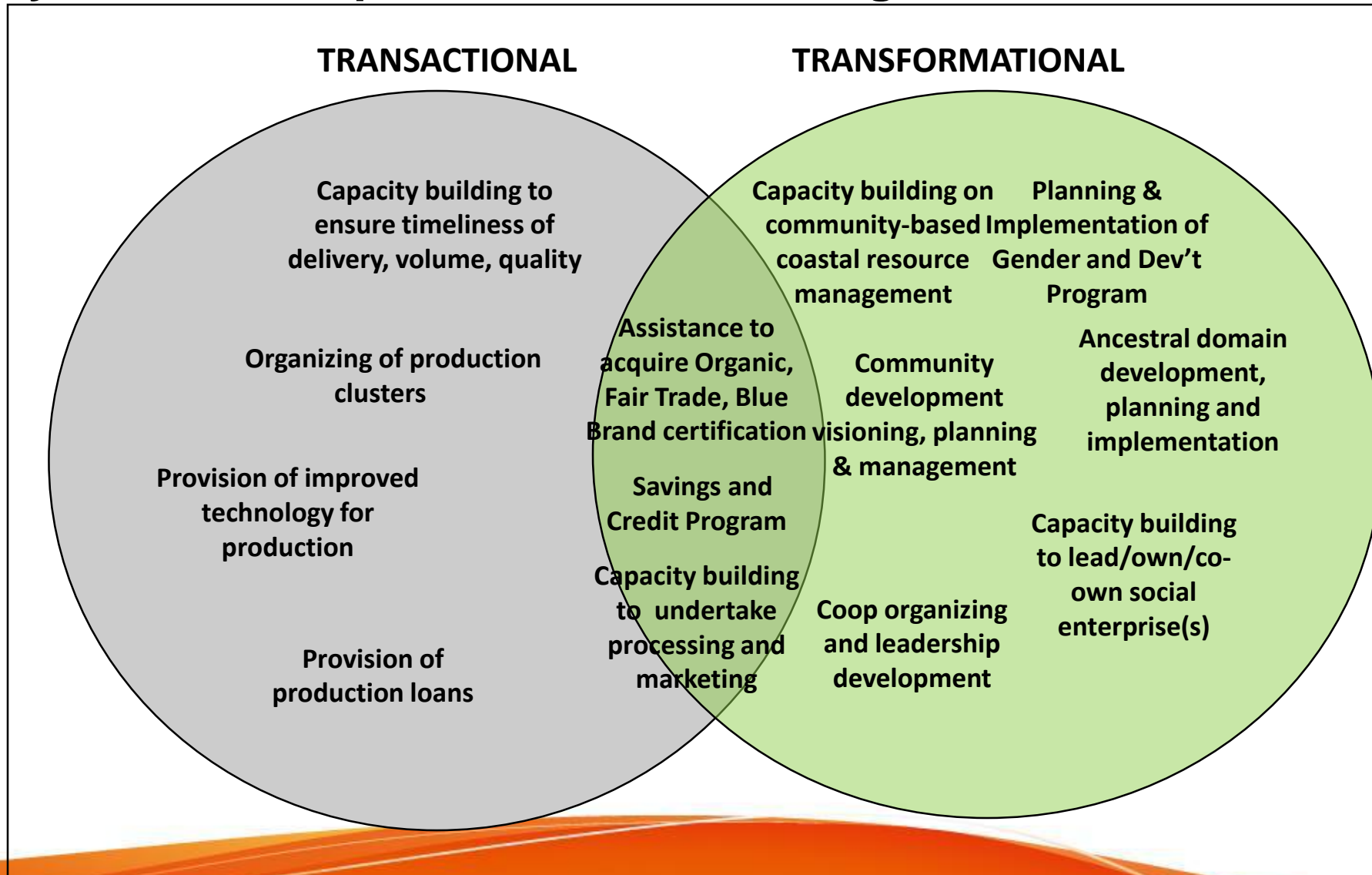
## Transactional Services

- Assist small producers to become better workers, suppliers, clients (roles involving exchange of goods or services for money)
- market-driven

## Transformational Services

- Enable small producers to become conscious agents of change to improve their quality of life and that of their community, sector and society as a whole
- Primary-stakeholder-driven

# TRANSACTIONAL & TRANSFORMATIONAL Services Provided by Social Enterprises & Partners in Agricultural Value Chains





## **BENCHMARK #5: PROACTIVELY CHOOSE VALUE CHAINS and INVEST IN VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES that ENHANCE WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION and EMPOWERMENT**

**Key Insights from the Cases → Engaging women as leaders and members of mixed groups, in women only organizations and through households.**

- the critical importance of **implementing a conscious gender-transformative program from the start in agricultural value chain interventions where the target participants are mixed groups of women and men**, for women's economic empowerment to be realized. This was positively manifested by the Alter Trade and TRICOM/KMDO/SKCVI interventions.
- the enhancing power of a **conscious gender-transformative program to fully realize women's economic empowerment in value chain interventions where the sole participants are women**. This was positively manifested by the case of RIC Maramag
- the significance of **recognizing women as legitimate or as equally important representatives of households, and ensuring mechanisms for their participation**. This was positively manifested by the cases of KMM, HITEACO, DRAGON.
- the **opportunity loss of not effectively recognizing and engaging women in value chain interventions**. The opportunity loss and corresponding gain when they were recognized and engaged was clearly manifested in the KMM intervention that shifted from organizing the men to organizing the women in the ISM Sinar Abadi Cooperative.
- the **problematic nature of value chain interventions that formally engage households, but only recognize men as household representatives**, as they exacerbate the double burden of women specially when the interventions increase the role of women in productive work. This was manifested by the case of KSU Jatirogo.





## 5. PROACTIVELY CHOOSE VALUE CHAINS and INVEST IN TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES that ENHANCE WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION and EMPOWERMENT

**AlterTrade and NOFTA (Philippines)** have pursued a conscious gender-transformative agenda in engaging small producers in Negros Occidental. At the onset, they introduced an “**equal pay for equal work**” policy and provided equal opportunities for women to participate in capacity building and all other activities under their **Sustainable Agriculture for Sustainable Community Program**.







## 5. PROACTIVELY CHOOSE VALUE CHAINS and INVEST IN TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES that ENHANCE WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION and EMPOWERMENT

- **KMM's Mustahik Move to Muzzaki (M3) (Indonesia)** assisted assetless women mussel strippers to become owners of 'bagans' and leaders & members of **ISM Sinar Abadi Cooperative**
- The Cooperative provides the women financial, health and other services and opportunities for capacity building and networking. The cooperative is in the process of building a standard/hygienic strip house with a playground for children.
- **Wasti**, who had only finished elementary school, rose above her difficulties and was enabled to become the Chair of the Cooperative: "Now I have the confidence to write and more courage to speak in front of the members."





## 5. PROACTIVELY CHOOSE VALUE CHAINS and INVEST IN TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES that ENHANCE WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION and EMPOWERMENT

- In the context of Manobo Dulangan tribal norms where women were not allowed to speak and participate in community gatherings, **TRICOM (Philippines)** introduced a gender transformative program in organizing the **Kulaman Manobo Dulangan Organization (KMDO)**.
- Juanita Mamo who was capacitated by **TRICOM** as gender and development trainer and leader in the community, is today the elected chair of the Council of Elders of KMDO.
- The **KMDO** and **TRICOM** have set up a social enterprise system engaged in the production, processing and marketing of **Kape Dulangan**, their own community coffee brand with **Bote Central** assisting them with a community-based coffee processing technology.



## BENCHMARK #6- PRODUCE SIGNIFICANT, MEASURABLE OUTCOMES of TRANSFORMATION at the level of women and small producers, households and communities, and value chains and subsectors.

### KMM MUSTAHI MOVE TO MUZAKKI (M3) (Indonesia)

- developed an all women-led ISM Sinar Abadi Cooperative as local partner in the governance of their mussel value chain intervention, with assets reaching Rp919.8M.
- resulted to 30 women owning productive assets of 3-5 bagans each with an overall increase in HH incomes from Rp600-900T/mo (before M3) to Rp2.9-5.8M, above the provincial minimum wage of Rp2.3M
- demonstrating an empowerment model in Banten province, declared by government as the center of mussels cultivation in Indonesia.
- Have started use of SLIA and SROI as measures





## 6- PRODUCE SIGNIFICANT, MEASURABLE OUTCOMES of TRANSFORMATION at the level of women and small producers, households and communities, and value chains and subsectors.

- **Alter Trade Foundation Inc (Philippines) have empowered partner producers federated into NOFTA to effectively end 'Tiempo Muerto'**
- About 50% of NOFTA members are women enjoying equal opportunities and benefits relative to men
- Partner producers now own 60% of **NOFTA Fair Trade Haus, their trading and marketing arm.**
- In addition to **SROI** and measuring the movement out of poverty of their household partners (by 2015, 100% were food sufficient & 80% were out of poverty), **Alter Trade** introduced a **Development Index** to measure the level of empowerment of their partner producers' organizations.

### Elements of **Development Index** of **Alter Trade's Partner People's Organizations**

- \*Organizational cohesion and development
- \*Capacity to engage the market
- \*Practice of sustainable agriculture
- \*Income diversification among members
- \*Contribution to community and sectoral development.
- \*Financial growth and sustainability





## **6 P's: BENCHMARKS FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS**

- 1 - PROMOTE APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY and COMMUNITY-BASED/ORIENTED INNOVATIONS** that are friendly to women and men small producers, and **CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION and PRODUCTION.**
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- 6- PRODUCE MEASURABLE OUTCOMES** of **TRANSFORMATION** at the level of women and small producers, households and communities, and value chains and subsectors.





# 10 KEY QUESTIONS FOR ENTERPRISES IN AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN INTERVENTIONS THAT ASPIRE TO BECOME TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERS OF WOMEN AND MEN SMALL SCALE PRODUCERS IN AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS AND CONTRIBUTE TO WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT : TO WHAT EXTENT DOES YOUR ENTERPRISE .....

- 1 – **PROMOTE APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY and COMMUNITY-BASED/ORIENTED INNOVATIONS** that are friendly to women and men small producers?
- 2 - **PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION and PRODUCTION?**
- 3 - **PROGRESSIVELY POSITION** women and men **SMALL PRODUCERS** to **REAP a MORE SUBSTANTIVE SHARE of VALUE CREATED OVER TIME?**
- 4- **PROACTIVELY BUILD** the **RESILIENCE** of women and men small scale producers to natural, social and economic disasters?
- 5 - **PAVE THE WAY** for the **EMPOWERMENT of SMALL PRODUCERS** to become actors in their own development and that of their community and sector?
- 6 – **PAVE THE WAY** for the small producers to **BECOME STEWARDS OF THE NATURAL RESOURCE BASE SUSTAINING THEIR LIVELIHOODS and your ENTERPRISE?**
- 7 - **PROVIDE a COMBINATION of TRANSACTIONAL and TRANSFORMATIONAL SERVICES** among women and men small scale producers to more effectively participate in value chain development?
- 8 – **PROVIDE A COMBINATION OF TRANSACTIONAL AND TRANSFORMATIONAL SERVICES** among women and men small scale producers to more effectively participate in equitable and sustainable community/ sectoral development?
- 9 – **PROACTIVELY CHOOSE VALUE CHAINS AND INVEST IN** transparent and accountable **VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES** that **ENHANCE WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION and EMPOWERMENT?**
- 10- **PRODUCE MEASURABLE OUTCOMES of TRANSFORMATION** at the level of women and small producers, households and communities, and value chains and subsectors?





# Concluding Remarks

- ❑ These benchmarks are aspirational standards that show the way towards making agricultural value chain interventions significantly contribute to building a critical mass of empowered grassroots women like Pin, Dung, Wasti, Juanita and Imelda
- ❑ The WEE SERVE ASIA CONFERENCE in April 2017 endorsed the setting up of a multistakeholder platform to promote these benchmarks towards making a significant contribution to the SDGs specially in addressing inequality and achieving women's economic empowerment.



**Thank you!**

For more information, contact **ISEA**  
at **Idacanay@isea-group.net**

