

Co-Design Approach to Developing Gender Responsive Intervention Models for Cacao Value Chains in Davao City, Philippines

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Abstract

This study developed a co-design approach to creating solutions that will improve gender relations in agri-food value chains. Co-design is highly participatory. It is an approach in which solutions are designed with (not just for) the people with lived experiences of the issue. The approach underscores the importance of understanding the barriers and opportunities related to gender and using such insights in creating government intervention that aim to improve efficiency in the value chain and at the same time achieve equitable distribution of gains. The co-design protocol was developed and tested with men and women cacao farmers in Davao City, Philippines, in collaboration with their cooperatives, local government offices, and industry groups. Results of the pilot came in a suite of policy measures and other government interventions for improving gender equality such as: creating a culturally sensitive ecosystem, providing incentives for gender responsive and inclusive businesses, prioritizing research and development (R&D) projects that are gender-sensitive, giving premium to social labelling or certification (i.e., socially inclusive, women producer groups, etc.), and giving massive promotional opportunities for products that are produced by groups of women.