

# Comparative Analysis of Women-Led and Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperatives in Davao City Cocoa Value Chain Using a Gender Lens in the Face of Vulnerability

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## Introduction

Food insecurity is inevitably linked to gender inequality. Improvements in agricultural productivity were attributed to closing the gender gap or improving women's access to land, capital, and other resources (ADB, 2013; FAO, 2010; Mukasa, 2016). This study highlighted agricultural communities transitioning from conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic in Southern, Philippines. It has taken a look at two (2) organizations engaged in the cocoa value chain in Davao City, Southern Philippines utilizing gender lens; how these two cooperatives navigate challenges to extend their reach in the value chain through innovation/value-adding efforts in products, process, and services given their salient local context and landscape. By harnessing local expertise, situational nuance, and capitalizing on women's existing, yet often hidden, skills, women's empowerment in disaster risk reduction improves resilience (UNDP), similar to what women in the two organizations have done and continues to do in the cocoa value chain of Davao City.

## Objectives

To compare cooperatives engaged in the cocoa value chain of Davao City, Philippines addressed challenges and leveraged innovative strategies amidst a backdrop of vulnerability using a gender lens

Specific Objectives:

1. To draw insights from a women-led organization in a post-conflict situation compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic;
2. To examine agrarian reform beneficiaries' groups, and leverage their position amidst the vulnerability of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Methodology

Rapid cocoa value chain assessment; Focus Group Discussions (FGD); Key Informant Interviews (KII); Descriptive analysis of local context and validation with stakeholders

## Challenges



**Lack of infrastructures (road networks), post-harvest facilities, and technical skills hinders the inflow and outflow of products and services;**

**Multiple burdens (e.g., caring duties) and persistent gender blindness limit the potential of women**



*During vulnerable times, the innovative and unique roles of men and women especially are often brought to the forefront.*

## Results

To help compare the processes of each organization, the following section outlines their unique practices side by side.

### MIEDECO TREE-TO-BAR



### BARBCO

#### ONLINE AND OFFLINE PRODUCT MARKETING



## Conclusion & Recommendation

Women and its leaders in these cooperatives facing adversity, such as post-conflict or during COVID-19, exhibit remarkable innovation and resilience. However, there needs to be targeted support given the local context and landscape to sustain the gains in GAD, and women empowerment towards gender transformation.

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** This project is under the John Dillon Fellowship (JDF) of the Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) administered by the University of New England (UNE). Photos were taken by Mr. Enrimad Esmer L. Dejeto for the UNE and ACIAR