

WE LIVE FOOD MULTISTAKEHOLDER PLATFORM: ADVANCING TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS IN ASEAN

The importance of inclusive agricultural development founded on the empowerment and resilience of women and men farmers, fishers and other small-scale producers was brought to the fore when the COVID-19 pandemic threatened food security and exposed the dependence of nations and communities to global agri-food systems. The **WE LIVE FOOD (Women's Empowerment, Livelihoods and Food)** Multi-stakeholder Platform seeks to recognize and empower women and men small scale producers as stakeholders in agricultural value chains (AVCs) towards addressing poverty and inequality and achieving food security and sustainable development. WE LIVE FOOD pursues this by promoting a set of **Benchmarks and Guidelines for Transformational Partnerships and Women's Economic Empowerment in Agricultural Value Chains**.

In 2015, the **Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA)** studied eight best practices among social enterprises and inclusive businesses in agricultural value chains in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. They were considered best practices as they had significantly improved the lives, livelihoods, and position of small-scale producers, including women in their respective supply chains. The factors of success from these best practices were synthesized into a set of **"Benchmarks for Transformational Partnerships and Women's Economic Empowerment in Agricultural Value Chains"**. These may be considered as aspirational standards for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), corporate agribusinesses as well as AVC program holders and supporters aspiring to contribute to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The eight key elements of the Benchmarks are shown below:



1 APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY and
COMMUNITY-BASED/ORIENTED
INNOVATIONS



5 STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE
CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



2 MORE SUBSTANTIVE SHARE
of VALUE CREATED



6 TRANSACTIONAL AND
TRANSFORMATIONAL SERVICES



3 FOOD SECURITY
AND RESILIENCE



7 WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION
AND EMPOWERMENT



4 EMPOWERMENT OF
SMALL PRODUCERS



8 MEASURABLE OUTCOMES
OF TRANSFORMATION

To enable and support the practice of the Benchmarks in the ASEAN, a set of “Guidelines for Transformational Partnerships and Women’s Economic Empowerment in Agricultural Value Chains” was developed, as shown below:



1
INNOVATIONS
toward food
security, resilience
and empowerment
of small-scale
producer
communities



2
**WOMEN'S
ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT**
across all functions
of value chains



3
**SUSTAINABLE
CONSUMPTION
and PRODUCTION**
towards a climate-
resilient and green
economy



4
Recognition and
support for **SOCIAL
ENTERPRISES** and
**INCLUSIVE
BUSINESSES** as
innovators and key
enabling partners



5
Cross-sectoral and
multi-stakeholder
PLATFORMS
toward
ACCELERATING
the SDGs

The Guidelines contain a set of policies and incentives proposed for adoption by the ASEAN and its member states. They aim to supplement existing ASEAN policies towards becoming more responsive to the needs of women and men small-scale producers, to assist the process of inclusive recovery and to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

JOIN US

- Sponsor a forum on the Benchmarks and Guidelines
- Become part of the Community of Practice
- Lobby to make the Guidelines a part of ASEAN policy

For more information, contact secretariat@isea-group.net