Reducing inequality in the Seaweed Value Chain

Fundación CODESPA, a Spanish NGO with more than 30 years of experience dedicated to international development, creates opportunities for occupational, economic, and personal growth. CODESPA’s projects emphasise vocational or micro-entrepreneurial capacity building, financial literacy education, and access to credit. It also assists people in selling their goods and services under fair conditions, thereby increasing their income sustainably in order that they may care for themselves and their families.

In the Philippines, CODESPA has worked amongst the country’s poorest and most vulnerable communities for nearly 10 years on sustainable rural development, access to markets, collaboration between public and private sectors, microfinance, and resilience to natural disasters. Since 2016, CODESPA has helped bring the seaweed producers of Surigao del Sur into the broader marketplace and achieve better prices for their harvest through a collaboration with the Spanish seaweed company CEAMSA. The current project will extend this collaboration, generating shared value as the company and local producers exchange knowledge, skills, and resources in order to reduce wealth inequality.

Building Trust and Productivity Amongst Companies and Local Communities

The project implemented by CODESPA and supported by the Julius Baer Foundation will connect 400 seaweed producers, 200 of whom are women, in the Province of Hinatuan, Mindanao, with 15 technical staff and managers from processing companies to enhance the seaweed value chain and ensure that wealth generated in the private sector more equitably benefits local communities. The seaweed industry in the Philippines is robust. Productivity- and revenue growth are expected to continue in coming years, particularly on Mindanao Island. However, income and profits for local producers...
One of the best ways countries can combat poverty is to use development assistance to promote a growing private sector, in which the poor can fully participate.”

John Danilovich, former CEO Millennium Challenge Corporation