



CLEANTECH INNOVATION CAPACITY BUILDING FRAMEWORK REPORT 2025



This report presents the second Cleantech Innovation Capacity Building Framework by UNIDO's GCIP, in partnership with Cleantech Group and supported by the GEF. It assesses cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems across 11 partner countries, structured assessment framework based on three pillars: Innovation Policy and Ecosystem Support, Cleantech Innovation Cluster Development and Existence and Engagement of Ecosystem Actors. The report also reviews global trends, highlights leading case studies, and offers recommendations to boost women and youth participation in cleantech entrepreneurship.

Published by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, 2026

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COCONUT INDUSTRY

VALUE CHAIN ANALYSIS OF COCONUT SUGAR AND FARMERS MARKET INCLUSION IN MISAMIS ORIENTAL



An analysis of the coconut sugar production in Misamis Oriental highlights a persistent gap between the sector's market potential and the value captured by smallholder farmers. This Policy Note finds that farmers remain largely confined to labor-intensive upstream activities, while cooperatives dominate processing and marketing, constraining farmers' income potential and pricing power. The Note also identifies structural barriers—including climate risks, aging farmers, limited equipment, and rigid payment systems—that limit deeper participation in the value chain. To address these challenges, the authors recommend reforming the recovery-rate payment scheme, strengthening cooperative governance, and investing in shared processing facilities, technological upgrades, and expanded market channels to promote more inclusive and resilient growth.

Published by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, March 19, 2026

COFFEE INDUSTRY

STRENGTHENING THE COFFEE VALUE CHAIN IN NORTHERN MINDANAO



This Policy Note examines how persistent productivity and market challenges—stemming from aging trees, limited access to quality seedlings, weak postharvest practices, trader dominance, and underdeveloped cooperatives—constrain income growth for smallholder farmers in Northern Mindanao. It underscores the region's strong potential for sustainable expansion and highlights the need for investments in value addition, climate-smart technologies, cooperative development, and improved market linkages to enhance competitiveness and support long-term resilience in Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental, and other coffee-producing communities in Region X.

Published by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, March 5, 2026

ECONOMICS

GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT: ASIAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY REPORT 2026



Global value chains have driven growth, job creation, and poverty reduction in developing Asia and the Pacific by accelerating industrialization and integrating economies into global markets. Yet, simply participating in these chains no longer guarantees continued success; growth now relies on how well firms and workers can move into higher-value, more resilient roles. This report suggests policy priorities for economies at different stages of participation in global value chains. It explores how targeted and well-coordinated policies alongside strong regional cooperation can help economies harness integration to boost inclusive and sustainable growth.

Published by the Asian Development Bank, May 2026

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

FOSTERING HIGH-IMPACT ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN REGIONAL CLUSTERS



This policy brief examines the hypothesis that the geographic concentration of entrepreneurial activity in regional hotspots is positively correlated with the quality of that activity. It argues that while start-up formation is widespread, the conditions necessary for scaling—deep knowledge networks, sophisticated investors, specialized human capital, and supportive institutions—coalesce in only a limited number of places. Therefore, sustained competitiveness depends not on increasing start-up counts, but on building ecosystem depth that enables start-ups to scale.

Published by the Asian Development Bank, March 2026

GENDER DEVELOPMENT

ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY IN INDUSTRY



Women make up about 41 per cent of the industrial workforce but remain concentrated in low-wage, lower-skill jobs and are underrepresented in technical and leadership roles. These gaps are particularly pronounced in developing countries, where gender pay gaps and poor working conditions persist. For sustainable industrial development, integrating women into higher-quality industrial jobs is essential. This policy brief examines gender differences in manufacturing, identifies subsectors where women are most underrepresented, and highlights emerging employment opportunities that can benefit both women and industry. It concludes with practical recommendations to promote women's effective integration into the industrial workforce.

Published by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, 2026

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

TOWARDS A CLEARER ECOSYSTEM FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISES IN THE PHILIPPINES: IDENTITY, CERTIFICATION, AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS



This paper probes the evolving landscape of social enterprises (SEs) in the Philippines by examining how practitioners define identity, legitimacy, resilience, and ecosystem support needs. Findings revealed that while SEs share a strong social mission and community focus, the lack of a harmonized definition and inclusive certification system hinders trust-building and policy integration. Respondents emphasized the need for flexible legal recognition, context-sensitive standards, and government support beyond regulation, including access to finance and storytelling. By situating practitioner voices within global SE typologies and aligning them with national innovation policy frameworks, actionable insights for creating an enabling environment that fosters authenticity, inclusion, resilience, and impact are provided.

Published by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, March 17, 2026

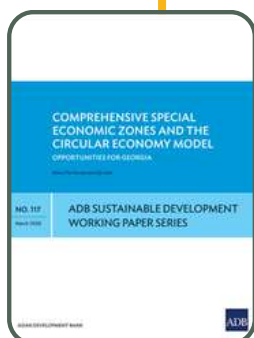
CIRCULAR ECONOMY PATHWAYS FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES



As the Philippines confronts growing waste management challenges, this Policy Note examines how circular economy (CE) pathways can help reshape current practices and strengthen environmental governance at both the national and local levels. The authors find that although existing laws, such as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act and the Extended Producer Responsibility Act, provide a solid CE foundation, implementation remains fragmented and constrained by weak enforcement, unclear mandates, and limited upstream measures. Stakeholders remain cautiously optimistic about CE adoption and recognize positive policy developments, but they also identify persistent gaps in governance, the need to integrate the informal waste sector, and the importance of tailoring CE strategies to local contexts. Thus, the authors recommend embedding environmental justice, enhancing community participation, focusing on waste reduction, and promoting whole-of-government and whole-of-society engagement to achieve a truly inclusive CE transition in the Philippines.

Published by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, March 16, 2026

COMPREHENSIVE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY MODEL: OPPORTUNITIES FOR GEORGIA



Georgia occupies an increasingly important position in regional connectivity networks, but its future competitiveness depends on shifting from commodity exports to high-value, green industries. This paper shows how transforming Georgia's aging free industrial zones into large, integrated, comprehensive special economic zones incorporating circular economy principles can accelerate industrial upgrading, job creation, and alignment with European Union environmental standards. Drawing on proven global models, the authors outline how closed-loop systems, green infrastructure, and unified legislation can position Georgia as a regional hub for sustainable trade and innovation.

Published by the Asian Development Bank, March 2026

PUSHING FOR A PHILIPPINE-APPROPRIATE CIRCULAR ECONOMY FRAMEWORK AND DEFINITION



This Policy Note underscores the urgency of adopting a Philippine-appropriate circular economy (CE) framework as the country faces rising waste generation and persistent gaps in waste management systems. The authors observe that while international CE models and definitions provide useful conceptual anchors, they often fall short of capturing the socioeconomic, cultural, and institutional contexts of developing countries like the Philippines. They highlight the need to localize CE by framing it within the production-consumption-waste management continuum of Philippine commodity systems and value chains. They recommend adopting a localized CE definition as the foundation for a coherent national CE policy, supported by sectoral and industry-level action plans and strengthened enforcement of existing laws. To sustain the transition, the authors also call for long-term public and private investments in technologies, infrastructure, and capacity-building initiatives that enable CE.

Published by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, March 16, 2026

MORE PUBLICATIONS

Fisheries

- Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) annual report 2023 / PFDA Public Information Division, [2024].
- PFDA Review, vol. 3, issue no. 1, January - March 2022.
- PFDA Review, vol. 4, issue no. 3, July - September 2023.

Rice industry

- Clustering and managing: rice-based communities / Aurora M. Corales, Jayca S. Flores, Joel V. Pascual, Rowena A. Pineda, Aileen C. Litonjua, Alice B. Mataia, Dona P. Dela Cruz. -- Quezon City : DA-Philippine Rice Research Institute, 2022.
- PhilRice Magazine, vol 38, no. 4, Oct - Dec 2025.
- PhilRice Magazine, vol 39, no. 1, Enero-Marso 2026.