

POST-EVENT REPORT



Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains Roundtable Discussion

February 28, 2019 | Makati City, Philippines



With funding by
the European Union



THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION



The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Philippines Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture (PPSA) co-hosted a roundtable on Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains in Manila in February 2019. The event was organized to introduce the OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains (OECD-FAO Guidance) to the agribusinesses, food companies and other industry players in the Philippines and promote international expectations in risk-based due diligence.

The OECD-FAO Guidance helps companies, including investors, input suppliers, producers, traders, food and beverage manufacturers, distributors and retailers, along the entire agricultural value chain to observe international standards of responsible business conduct and implement risk-based due diligence through an agreed to international framework.

The roundtable is part of the work of the OECD and ILO under their joint Programme on Responsible Supply Chains in Asia, in particular activities with agribusinesses in 2019 and 2020. The event highlighted PPSA's learning event in the promotion of the international guidelines to its members and partners to adopt good and responsible business conduct.

The agenda for the roundtable discussion included:

- The ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Business Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry, presented by Ishwinder Kaur, Grow Asia.
- Responsible Business Conduct and international expectations toward agribusiness companies, presented by Stephanie Venuti, OECD.
- Standards on Corporate Social Responsibility and Responsible Business Conduct, and the ILO MNE Declaration, presented by Ruby Banez, ILO.
- The OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains and supply chain due diligence, presented by Shivani Kannabhiran, OECD.

The presentations were followed by a facilitated dialogue where the majority of participants shared their experience in relation to implementing responsible business conduct and due diligence, as well as key focus areas where support could be provided.

PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS

ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Business Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry

Ishwinder Kaur, Grow Asia

The ASEAN Guidelines ensures that the investments in agriculture meet global standards, thus promoting a responsible and sustainable investment. The Guidelines primarily addressed the ASEAN member states, as well as those that are outside the government, including large-scale private sectors. One of the milestones in the implementation of the Guidelines was its adoption as one of the agenda in the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry in 2018.

The Guidelines is still a living document as it considers challenges based on food security, land rights, jobs and livelihoods, climate change and environment, government capacity, and project failure and investor-state contracts.

Recent policy developments and global expectations toward agribusiness companies

Stephanie Venuti, OECD

Companies are expected to conduct business in a way that contributes to sustainable development and avoids causing or contributing to negative impacts on people, the environment and society. Consumer pressure, evolving legislation, shareholder and investor pressures and increasing trends in litigation are driving companies to meet internationally agreed responsible business conduct expectations. This requires companies to put in place systems to best manage risks associated with their operations, including along their supply chains.

Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) refers to conduct that enables businesses to work towards this objective by integrating environmental, human rights and social issues into core business and risk management processes; thereby maximizing the benefits companies can bring to society and minimizing the negative harms.

More information on the guidelines can be found here: <http://mneguidelines.oecd.org/>

Introduction on international CSR/RBC standards

Ruby Banez, ILO

The International Labour Organization (ILO) implements the Responsible Supply Chains in Asia that aimed at increasing the understanding and knowledge of investors, businesses and CSOs on CSR/RBC, and creating policy environment conducive to the promotion of socially responsible practices among businesses. The project has targeted multinational and national companies, governments, labor unions, chambers and academic institutions in six countries in Asia as main partners of the project.

The project is guided by the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains: The Due Diligence Framework

Shivani Kannabhiran, OECD

The OECD and FAO developed the OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chain (OECD-FAO Guidance) in 2016 through a two-year multi-stakeholder process. The OECD-FAO Guidance builds on existing standards to help businesses along the full agricultural value chain observe them and meet international expectations on Responsible Business Conduct (RBC). It recommends a practical five-step framework of risk-based due diligence enterprises in the agricultural value chain to prevent and address adverse impacts. By implementing due diligence, businesses can proactively identify and address risks beyond their own operations to business relations across the full value chain. Due diligence can help businesses ensure their actions are not undermining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and help meet the goals.

To promote the understanding of the OECD-FAO Guidance and support agribusinesses' contribution to achieving the SDGs, the OECD plans to launch a pilot project on responsible agricultural supply chains in Southeast Asia. Philippine agri-food enterprises, together with agribusinesses in Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam can benefit from peer learning, multi-stakeholder meetings, survey analysis and recognition in reports and relevant communications as part of the pilot. Please contact: rena.hinoshita@oecd.org or shivani.kannabhiran@oecd.org for more information.

ILO Helpdesk for Business

Ruby Banez

The ILO established the Helpdesk for Business that aims to promote awareness of the MNE Declaration as a tool for companies and governments. The MNE Declaration serves as a guide for businesses in observing responsible and decent work.

A website that can be accessed through this link: <https://www.ilo.org/empent/areas/business-helpdesk/lang--en/index.htm> is available to explore and download materials on MNE Declaration. It also has FAQs that could help companies on pressing questions surrounding labor.

SHARING SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



During the roundtable discussion, participants shared their experience in implementing responsible business conduct in their companies. Key discussion points on challenges and best practices are highlighted below:

Best Practices

Jollibee Food Corporation

The company ensures that its farmer-suppliers follow standards and good agricultural practices, especially on food safety and handling.

East-West Seed

East-West Seed, through its foundation and Knowledge Transfer Unit, ensures that its farmers are well-trained and knowledgeable of good farming practices.

Challenges

INAVET Nutrition Technologies, Inc.

INAVET promotes the use of organic fertilizer in farming as chemical agriculture is not sustainable and has a long-term effect, especially on the soil.

Benguet Farmers' Marketing Cooperative

Benguet Farmers' Cooperative is a large organization of farmers in the north which has farming practices that some are even applied through time. For their farmers who are shaped by culture, child labor is not a labor rights issue because they consider it as training.

For health and safety, they have difficulty in encouraging farmers to do organic farming because of the lack of support in the value chain, primarily in market aspect.

For technology and innovation, Benguet farmers still use age-old farming practices. Mechanization remains as problem due to governance and support issues.

Due to these challenges, their farmers cannot compete in the international market.

ZDMC Grains, Inc.

ZGI disclosed that its farmers are not knowledgeable on the environmental implication of eroded lands, thus they do not know when they will stop planting.

AgriCOOPh

AgriCOOPh is the largest cooperative of family farmers in different sectors of agriculture in the country. The goal of the organization is to encourage family farmers to join Agricooph for them to have the opportunity to access formal financial institutions, market and knowledge, among others.

Harbest Agribusiness Corporation

Harbest helps farmers access technological innovations, especially equipment that would make their farming convenient and climate-resilient. However, they cannot penetrate the market due to its position as a company in between large and small enterprises.

Grameen Foundation

Grameen Foundation sees lack of financing as a major issue of farmers. Their documentations found out that farmers lack government IDs and collaterals which are crucial requirements before applying for loans. The one solution they had is farmer profiling.

Max's Group, Inc.

Max's Food Group considers climate change as hindrance to farmer's success. Access to crop insurance whenever they are hit of any effects of climate change is a problem. They cannot qualify with the recovery benefits.

Max's Food Group currently needs farmer contacts and farmer cooperatives for them to get sustainable suppliers of vegetables which are center to the food they serve to their customers. They already partnered with two cooperatives in Benguet and realized that, "it makes good business sense to partner with farmers".

PARTICIPANTS' PROFILE



The roundtable resulted in insightful participation from the audience representing all sectors within the agricultural value chain. A total of **43 participants** participated in the session to learn about the OECD-FAO Guidance. Below is the list of the companies and organizations that participated in the event.

Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and the Pacific (ANSA)
AgriCOOPh
Bali Oil
Benguet Farmers' Marketing Cooperatives
Best Alternatives
Cargill Philippines, Inc.
East-West Seed
Foodlink Advocacy Cooperatives
Foundation for Sustainable Society, Inc.
Grameen Foundation
Harbest Agribusiness Corporation
INAVET Nutrition Technologies, Inc.
Infarmco Group of Companies

Japan International Cooperation Agency
Jollibee Foods Corporation
Jollibee Group Foundation
Max's Group, Inc.
Philippine Business for Social Progress
PinoyME Foundation
Robert Bosch, Inc.
Sinochem Crop Protection Philippines
WWF Philippines
ZDMC Grains, Inc.
Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries
Rooted Seeds Stories, Inc.



GALLERY



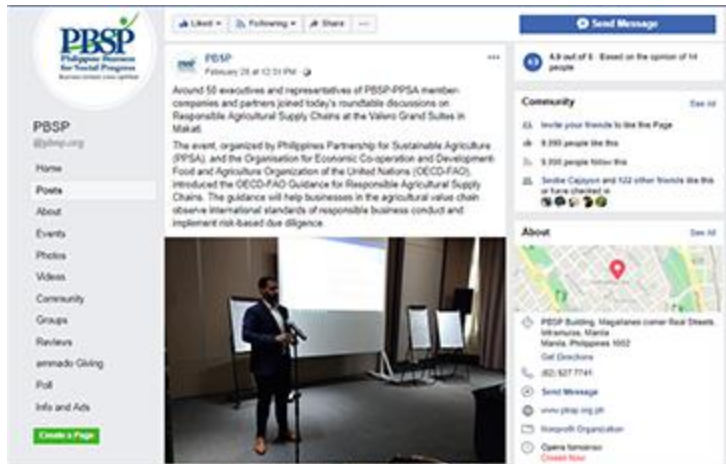
(Topmost) Participants of the roundtable were oriented with the OECD-FAO Guidance. (2nd from top) Shivani Kannabhiran gave a comprehensive introduction on the Guidance. (3rd photo) Ishwinder Kaur presented the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry. (Right) Stephanie Venuti presented the recent developments and global expectations toward agribusiness companies. (Bottom from left to right) Elvin Uy, PBSP Director for Operations, cited different efforts of PBSP in promoting inclusive and responsible business among its member companies. Ruby Banez discussed the ILO MNE Declaration; and Agot Balanoy of Benguet Farmers' Marketing Cooperatives shared that child labor is considered as part of early training in their culture.

EVENT PROMOTION

PPSA prepared the following posts on website and social media channel to promote and inform the public about the event.



Pre-event promotion. An event invitation was posted on PPSA website (www.ppsa-ph.org)



Event-day post. A story was posted on PBSP Facebook page. The page has more than 9,000 likes. Following the post, the story produced the following insights:

People reached: 1,068

Engagements:

- 102 engagements
- 33 reactions, comments and shares
 - o 28 likes from post
 - o 1 love from post
 - o 1 like from share
 - o 3 post shares
- 69 post clicks



Post-event post

A post-event post featuring the group photo was posted on PPSA website

PRE-EVENT MATERIALS

A **Save the Date** poster was sent out to the invitees weeks before the event.

SAVE THE DATE
FEBRUARY 28, 2019
9AM-1PM | Valero Grand Suites, Makati City

Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains: Roundtable Discussion

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) works with governments, business and civil society on international standards on responsible business conduct (RBC). In the agricultural sector, the OECD, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), developed guidance to help enterprises carry out due diligence to address risks and negative impacts on workers, the community and the environment in global supply chains. The OECD and Philippines Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture (PPSA) invite agri-food enterprises in the Philippines to learn more about the work and the upcoming pilot project with agribusiness in Southeast Asia on February 28, 2019 at Valero Grand Suites, Makati City.

Logos: European Union, OECD, GrowAsia, PPSA

This is the **Official Programme** that was disseminated along with the Save the Date poster.

RESPONSIBLE AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY CHAINS
 Roundtable Discussion

February 28, 2019 | 9AM-1PM
 Valero Grand Suites, Makati City

9:00-9:05	Opening Address	Elvin Uy Director for Operations, PBSP
9:05-9:35	ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry	Ishwinder Kaur Manager for Partnerships and Government Engagement, Grow Asia
9:35-10:05	International expectations and relevance of CSR/RBC Recent policy developments and global expectations toward agribusiness companies Introduction of International CSR/RBC standards	Stephanie Venuti Policy Advisor, Responsible Business Conduct, OECD Ruby Baner National Project Coordinator, ILO Country Office in the Philippines
10:05-11:05	Meeting international expectations: The available tools OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains: From Zero Due Diligence - What does a risk-based approach entail? The ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy. The ILO Heijmans for Business	Shivani Karmabhiran Policy Advisor, Responsible Business Conduct, OECD Ruby Baner National Project Coordinator, ILO Country Office in the Philippines
11:05-11:15	Break	
11:15-12:30	Responsible Business Conduct: the experience of companies: Lessons learned, good practices and remaining challenges (Sharing session)	Moderators: Ishwinder Kaur Priyank Sethuputra Grow Asia Anton Palo Foodlink Advocacy Coop
12:30-12:45	Closing Remarks	
12:45	Networking Lunch	

Logos: European Union, OECD, GrowAsia, PPSA, PBSP

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POST-EVENT MATERIALS

A **Thank you E-card** was sent to the participants right after the event.



Thank you!

A **Photo Story** was also released and sent out to the.



PHOTO RELEASE March 15, 2019

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Creating an enabling environment for responsible agricultural supply chains in the Philippines - at the heart of the roundtable event co-organised by the Philippines Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture (PPSA) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which welcomed around 50 participants from Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) and PPSA member-companies and partners in Makati City.

The OECD works with governments, business and civil society on international standards on responsible business conduct (RBC). In the agricultural sector, the OECD, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), developed the [OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains](#) (the Guidance) to help enterprises carry out due diligence to address risks and negatives impacts on workers, the community and the environment.