



Kingdom of the Netherlands



## How Women Feed The World: A Digital Talk on Women in Agriculture

The Netherlands has risen to the top as one of the giants in agriculture and farming. This small country is the second leading exporter of agricultural goods after the United States, exporting hundreds of billions worth of produce in a single year. In 2017 alone, about \$111 billion worth of agricultural products was exported by the Netherlands despite having a much smaller land mass compared to the United States.<sup>1</sup> What is even more notable is that the Netherlands was able to reach this level using sustainable and efficient farming methods. Innovation was a must for the Dutch considering the expensive land and labor, as well as the competition in the agri/food industry. Dutch innovation and technology endeavors to make farming and agriculture more sustainable across the globe. The Netherlands recognizes that they are means to achieving bigger objectives—sustainable food production, nutrition and responsible business conduct. As the Netherlands continues to explore and develop its practices, these are not tailor-fit only for its use, but rather meant to be shared and linked to stakeholders especially in developing countries such as the Philippines.

Aside from innovative and sustainable agriculture, the Netherlands is also a leader when it comes to the inclusion of women in agriculture. Dutch women farmers, especially new farmers with no background or history in farming, are “at the forefront of a transition toward sustainable agriculture.”<sup>2</sup> More women are entering careers in agriculture and rural development and bridging the gender gap in this sector. The role and vital contribution of women in agriculture are essential, but rarely talked about. True sustainability is achieved only if the rights of both men and women are protected.

The future of farming is not only innovative, but also gender-equal. Contrary to popular belief that farming and the agricultural sector remain to be dominated and driven by men, actually, women play a more central role. According to a gender analysis study of women in Philippine agriculture,<sup>3</sup> women do not merely provide a support or do complementary work. In reality, women go beyond traditional roles. Women farmers are on the rise, and they play a crucial role in decision-making not just in the field but also in addressing gender disparity in a largely male-dominated sector. With a gender lens, this is what the digital talk on Women in Agriculture seeks to highlight: women’s involvement, challenges and opportunities in these fields.

In line with this, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, SPARK! Philippines, the Department of Agriculture, AGREA Philippines, Dalareich Chocolate House, Campus Erasmus Mundus, and EMA Women are organizing a webinar on **Wednesday, November 11, 2020 from 4 PM to 6 PM (PH tie)** entitled **How Women Feed The World: A Digital Talk on Women in Agriculture** that seeks to have a discussion on the importance of bringing women’s rights and accessibility to the forefront of agricultural policies and how they translate to sustainable practices. Invited speakers will share perspectives from both the Netherlands (and Europe) and the Philippines, touching on agricultural sustainability, food security and peace, agricultural economics and accessibility to funds.

The discussion would also like to focus on the best practices of The Netherlands. The Netherlands being a global leader in sustainable agriculture and innovation feeds the world: the country is the second largest exporter of agricultural products. Doing more with less is key to Dutch agriculture: growing more food with fewer resources. Sharing these best practices would be of great help, and learning experience for women in agriculture in the Philippines.

<sup>1</sup> Viviano, Frank (2017). How the Netherlands Feeds the World. National Geographic. Retrieved from <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2017/09/holland-agriculture-sustainable-farming/>

<sup>2</sup> Monllor-Rico, N & Fuller, AM 2016, ‘Newcomers to farming: towards a new rurality in Europe’, *Documents d’Anàlisi Geogràfica*, vol. 62, no. 3, pp. 531-551.

<sup>3</sup> Lu, Jinky Leilanie (2010). Gender Analysis of Women in the Philippine Agriculture and Their Occupational Issues. *Journal of International Women’s Studies*, 11(4), 73-82.

## PROJECT SUMMARY

<b>Name of Project:</b>	How Women Feed The World: A Digital Talk On Women in Agriculture
<b>Date:</b>	November 11, 2020 (Wednesday) 4 PM - 6 PM (Philippine Time)
<b>Partner Organizations</b>	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Philippines Department of Agriculture SPARK! Philippines AGREA Philippines Dalareich Chocolate House Campus Erasmus Mundus EMA Women
<b>Primary Point of Contact:</b>	Mikaela Luisa Teves
<b>Address:</b>	3rd Floor, Cyberpark Tower 1, Gen. Aguinaldo Ave. Araneta City, Brgy. Socorro, Quezon City 1109
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<b>Email Address:</b>	info@sparkphilippines.org
<b>Project Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To bring together women experts in the field of agriculture and development, and share their knowledge and expertise with the webinar attendees and the general public</li> <li>➤ To discuss the current opportunities and investment for women in agriculture on the following key areas: education, sustainable livelihood, peace and security, and health and nutrition. And also to share how and where women can access these opportunities and investments.</li> <li>➤ To serve as an educational experience and knowledge-sharing opportunity for the attendees of the webinar</li> <li>➤ To share and promote good practices and experiences of the Netherlands on the topic to all participants</li> <li>➤ To provide an avenue for collaboration among civil society groups, government agencies, and the private sector in supporting the <i>Magna Carta of Women in Agriculture</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Potential Outcome/ Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Increased awareness and understanding of women's role in food security, sustainable livelihood, peace and security, and health and nutrition.</li> <li>➤ Increased knowledge of the general public on gender inequities in agriculture and rural development</li> <li>➤ Strengthened collaboration and partnership between the organizers, speakers, and participants to advance the involvement of women in agriculture</li> <li>➤ Empowered women in agriculture and related fields to take part in initiatives like these and pioneer their own projects</li> </ul>

	<p>➤ Encouraged the attendees and members of the community to become gender advocates and promote similar programs</p>
<p><b>DISCUSSANTS</b></p>	<p><b>OPENING REMARKS:</b> H.E. Saskia de Lang, Ambassador, Embassy of the Netherlands in the Philippines</p> <p><b>KEYNOTE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr. William D. Dar, Secretary, Department of Agriculture</li> </ul> <p>Dr. William D. Dar is a champion of the poor especially the small farmers and fisherfolks. Earlier in 1988, he was awarded the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of the Philippines. In 2016, Dr. Dar was awarded The Outstanding Filipino (TOFIL) Award in cognizance of his servant-leadership, which was instrumental in transforming the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) from a struggling institute to one of the top performing centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). In his 15 years of outstanding achievements as Director General of ICRISAT, he championed and institutionalized an overarching strategy called Inclusive Market-Oriented Development (IMOD), in which the farmers become active participants for their own welfare. The same strategy is now being advocated by him in pursuit of inclusive agribusiness in the Philippines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Willemien Koning-Hoeve, Chair of LTO Women and Business, Copa-Cogeca Women’s Committee Board Member</li> </ul> <p>Willemien Koning-Hoeve (The Netherlands) is chair of the Women Farmers in the Netherlands (LTO Women and Business) and board member of Copa-Cogeca’s Women’s Committee. Copa-Cogeca is the umbrella organisation of the farmers organisations and agri-cooperatives in Europe. In 2018 Willemien Koning was the UN Womenrepresentative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. She delivered a speech at the United Nations General Assembly about gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls.</p> <p>Willemien is convinced that Women play a key-role in food production and are the backbone of family farms.</p> <p>Willemien is a dairy farmer herself. She runs the farm together with her husband and son. Besides that she is part of the advisory board of Agriterra and provides female leadership training for Agriterra for female members and board members in agri-cooperatives.</p> <p><b>PARTNER MESSAGE:</b> Cherrie Atilano, Founding Farmer, President and CEO, AGREA Philippines</p> <p>Cherrie is the Founding Farmer, President and CEO of AGREA; an agriculture-focused and for-purpose inclusive enterprise anchored on Ecology of Dignity. AGREA aims to develop a living model of a replicable “one island” economy, founded on sustainable agriculture, livelihood programs, environment, community-based tourism, and quality education of the children of farmers and fishermen. She is also a co-founder of HATIENDA Holdings Inc., an agritourism and agri-processing space to produce Filipino agricultural products for the local and export market.</p>

**MODERATOR:**

Ana Margarita “Ginggay” Hontiveros, GoNegosyo Adviser on Agripreneurship and Bangsamoro Region Programs Head

Ginggay Hontiveros is the Vice President of Aboitiz, Senior Adviser for Agripreneurship and Mindanao Programs of Go Negosyo and Project ARK LGU-Lead.

**SPEAKERS:**

- Felicitas “Joji” Pantoja, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Coffee for Peace

Felicitas “Joji” Pantoja is the Founder and Executive Director of Coffee For Peace, an organization that provides sustainable livelihood to indigent communities, and has also been involved in dialogues and reconciliation among conflicting migrant and indigenous groups in Mindanao.

Coffee for Peace, Inc. (CFP) was established on April 15, 2008 in Davao City. The idea began in 2006 when the founders helped to facilitate an informal conflict mediation, with their whole Mindanao-based peacebuilding network, between certain Migrant and Bangsamoro farming communities. The two groups were involved in an armed conflict for the ownership of several rice fields ready for harvest, regardless of who planted the rice or who really owned the land. Instead of shooting each other, the leaders of the two parties-in-conflict were invited for a dialogue over coffee. Since then, the two communities avoided killing each other. They started inviting other surrounding communities to have coffee together — for peace.

- Dr. Mary Ann Sayoc, Public Affairs Lead, East-West Seed Philippines

Dr. Mary Ann P. Sayoc is the Public Affairs Lead of East-West Seed International. She has 20 years of professional experience in the seed industry. She was former General Manager of East-West Seed Philippines, a Dutch company engaged in research, development, production and distribution of vegetable seeds. East-West Seed is market leader for tropical vegetable seeds in Asia and developing markets in Africa and Latin-America.

Dr. Sayoc is active in the local and international seed sector. She is currently the President of the Philippine Seed Industry Association. She is past president of the Asia & Pacific Seed Alliance (APSA). She is a member of the Board of the International Seed Federation (ISF) and Chair of PPSA Working Group on Vegetables. She was a member of the Executive Board of the Global Crop Diversity Trust for six years, an international organization working to safeguard crop diversity, forever.

Dr. Sayoc is a member of the National Seed Industry Council and the Plant Variety Protection Board.

Prior to her stint in the private sector, Mary Ann had a long career in government. She held key positions in the Department of Agriculture as Regional Director and Executive Director of the Agricultural Training Institute.

- Jocelyn Alma R. Badiola, Executive Director, Agricultural Credit Policy Council

An Economics graduate (Cum Laude) from Ateneo de Naga University and has a degree in M.A. Economics from UP Diliman. She rose from the ranks; one of the pioneers of Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) since it was created in 1986. She started as staff researcher and was appointed Executive Director of ACPC in 2016. She was briefly seconded at the Senate of the Philippines as Executive Director of the Congressional Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries (COCAF) from 2010-2013. She has more than 30 years of experience in rural development work particularly on rural finance for small farmers and fisherfolk focusing on policy research and program development. She has written several research papers and has served as resource person in local as well as international conferences. She was recently appointed as one of the newest members of the Consultative Committee of the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) based in Amsterdam, Netherlands. The CFC is an autonomous intergovernmental financial institution established within the framework of the United Nations. She is very passionate about her work and cares deeply for her staff. Finally, she is a proud mother of a young doctor and happy wife to her hubby for the past 32 years.

- Sandra Montano, Chairperson, Philippine Commission on Women

Sandra S. Montano is a registered Nurse by profession. She is currently the President and CEO of Community Health Education Emergency Rescue Services (CHEERS) Corporation which provides trainings on emergency medical services conforming to the International Standards on Health and Safety.

Her awards and contributions are highly-regarded both in the local and international arena. She is a former program coordinator of the Commission on Higher Education's (CHED) National Service Training Program and also sat as a member of the Curriculum Development Expert Panel on Disaster Preparedness of the Department of Education.

She earned her Diploma in Food Safety Management focused on Food Technology and Processing from the University of the Philippines.

**CLOSING REMARKS:**

Imelda Nicolas, President, SPARK! Philippines

Recognized by the Filipina Women's Network as one of the "100 Most Influential Filipina Women in the World," Secretary Nicolas has been active in the migration and development field.

Prior to her appointment as SPARK President, she was former chairperson of the Commission on Filipino Overseas (CFO) from 2010 to 2016 a former Secretary of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) in 2005, former Chairperson of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) from 1992 to 1998, and Presidential Assistant helping cabinet secretaries in monitoring implementation of major government-funded infrastructures (from 1986 to 1992)

	<p>She was also chair of the Women’s Business Council of the Philippines (WBCP) and a member of the NGOs represented at the Millennium Challenge Account – Philippines (MCA-P) Board. She is a member of the Board of Tanghalan Pilipino, the resident theater company of the Cultural Center of the Philippines and The Lewis College, a family-owned educational institution in Sorsogon City. Before rejoining government in 2004, she was Vice-President for Development of TLC Beatrice International Holdings, Inc., a New York-based multinational company, and Managing Director of TLC Beatrice China. She was also the first Filipina representative in the APEC Business Advisory Council (or ABAC) for the Philippines, 2002-2004.</p> <p>She graduated magna cum laude at St. Theresa’s College, Manila and took M.A. units in Arts History at Columbia University, New York.</p> <p>She has been a lifetime advocate for women’s rights and good governance. She was the head of the Philippine delegation during the 10th anniversary of the Beijing UN Conference on Women held in 1995.</p>
<b>GUIDE QUESTIONS</b>	<p>Key Discussion Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Gender Lens on Agriculture (background and current status)</li> <li>● What are the current and available opportunities and investment for women in agriculture on the following key areas: education, sustainable livelihood, peace and security, and health and nutrition?</li> <li>● How and where women can access these opportunities and investments?</li> <li>● How can the <i>Magna Carta of Women in Agriculture</i> be more strengthened and supported into policy and action?</li> </ul>

#### PROVISIONAL PROGRAM FLOW

TIME	ACTIVITY	IN CHARGE
4:00 - 4:05	Preliminaries and Welcoming	Moderator
4:05 - 4:15	Opening Remarks	HE Ambassador Saskia de Lang Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
4:15 - 4:35	Keynote Speeches	Dr. William Dar Department of Agriculture  Willemien Koning-Hoeve LTO Women and Business
4:35 - 4:45	Introduction of Resource Speakers	Moderator
4:45 - 5:40	Roundtable Discussion	Resource Speakers and Moderator
5:40 - 5:50	Question and Answer from Online Audience	Resource Speakers and Moderator
5:50 - 6:00	Closing Remarks	Imelda Nicolas President, SPARK! Philippines