

GREAT Women Project



Weaving Dreams for Anahaw Craft Makers

Gender-Responsive Value Chain Analysis
of Anahaw Enterprises in Capoocan, Leyte



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Abstract The case study is on the development of anahaw crafts-making enterprise in Capoocan, Leyte. It also highlights two of its crafts – paypay weaving and sadok making – as well as challenges faced by its producers. Anahaw craft-making is the only existing cottage industry in Brgy. Guinadiong in Capoocan and a major economic opportunity for women in the area.

Beginnings of Anahaw Crafts-Making in Capoocan, Leyte

Capoocan is a 4th class municipality in Leyte. It has a population of 27,593 people in 5,400 households (2000). It has 21 barangays, two of which are urban while the rest are all rural.

One of its coastal barangays, Brgy. Guinadiong, is involved in anahaw craft-making. Anahaw is a round-leaf, fountain palm mainly used for thatching and food wrapping. Its stems and leaves may be used as raw materials for paypay, the native Philippine fan, woven into the shape of a paddle. Sadok, more widely known as salakot, is a broad-brimmed hat also made of anahaw and, sometimes, rattan. Both crafts were income-generating activities for families in the 1970s before it became a community livelihood.



Paypay and sadok-making are activities complementing farming and fishing in the community. Men contribute to sadok-making after coming from work while women and men collaborate during peak season to meet paypay and sadok orders. Paypays are in demand in summer months, while sadoks are purchased before harvest seasons. Today, about 15 families are actively engaged in paypay and sadok making, employing about 35 to 50 workers at different production phases and other support activities. The rest of the community, on the other hand, is involved in the procurement of raw materials, and transporting and marketing of finished products.

Anahaw leaves are mainly sourced from the municipalities of Basud, Biliran, Villaba, Palompon and even the neighboring province of Biliran. Bamboos, used for shaping the headgear, come from nearby localities, while dyes are purchased from Tacloban City. Sourcing of raw materials is mostly done by males as it involves traveling outside town.

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Paypay making first involves the selection of young anahaw leaves appropriate for fan weaving. The selection is done by spreading and separating the leaves from its stems. Women use a locally-made stripping tool to produce uniform sizes in preparation for weaving.

After stripping, leaves are segregated according to size. Uneven-sized leaves are discarded for fan handle making while uniform-sized strips are initially woven to form a paddle-like fan. The uniform-sized strips are air-dried overnight to consider the possibility of shrinking and to prepare for the application of dye.

Once the initially woven leaves are air-dried, it is dyed according to desired color combination and design requested by the buyer. In this process, the leaves are again set to air-dry before they are tightened.

After tightening, the leaves undergo edging. The uneven-sized leaves that were initially discarded are then tied-up to form the fan handle.

At least 60 pieces of fans and at least 100 pieces of fan handles are produced daily by experienced workers for six hours. On the average, ten (10) fans are made per hour of production activity.

Paypays are delivered every Wednesday at an average of 1,000 pieces per week and sold at PhP 8.50, regardless of size. Local residents buy and use paypay on many occasions hence, its market is seemingly regular.

Sadok making begins with the soaking and softening of dried, mature anahaw leaves in water. Using a ring made of bamboo, the leaves are molded to form the headgear. Upon forming the headgear, the extra leaves are trimmed. To make the hat stable and stronger, the inner and outer rings are sewn to the molded headgear. Designs are then painted to the headgear and air-dried before packing off to the market.

Sadok is sold at PhP150 to 180 per dozen, depending on the location of the market.

Anahaw, being grown in the wild, leaves gatherers to travel as far as Biliran and Palompon to buy leaves at a steep price of PhP1.50 to 2.50 per leaf. During bad weather conditions, paypay weavers and sadok

Paypay Making



Sadok Making



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Challenges in Anahaw Craft-Making



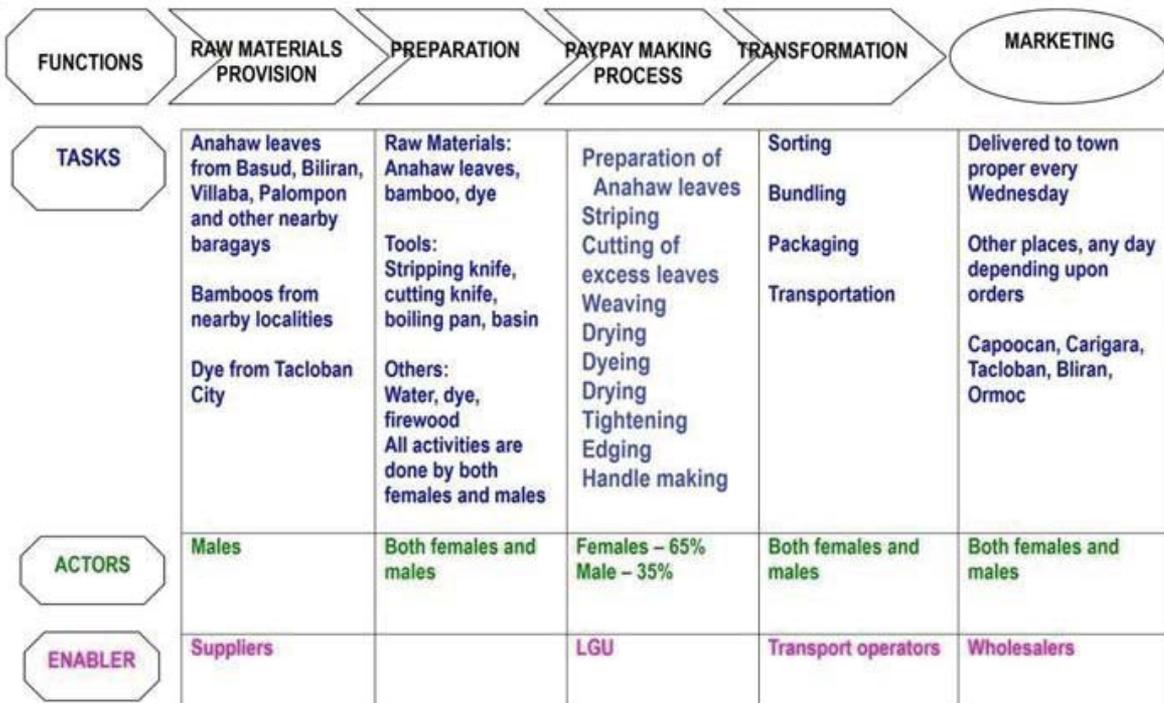
makers find it difficult to transport their finished products to the market and costs are added as boat owners charge higher for transportation.

There is likewise the challenge of overharvesting and depleting source of raw materials. While leaves grow faster after harvest, new leaves tend to be smaller.

Paypay weavers and sadok makers also lack capital and sustained incomes. Most of the weavers are dependent on orders and they are constrained to produce and consign their products to wholesalers at a lower price. They also usually depend on other producers with financial capabilities to support their production. Sales of sadok, in particular, increase during rice planting and harvesting seasons when farmers usually buy them. Sustainability of business is likewise affected by the absence of an organized group of weavers to support each other.

Guinadiong anahaw weavers also share the market with suppliers of paypay and sadok coming from Samar and other towns in Leyte. Ginadiong anahaw paypay and sadok cater to the markets of Carigara, Jaro, Kananga, Ormoc and Tacloban City. Whole-

Paypay Value Chain



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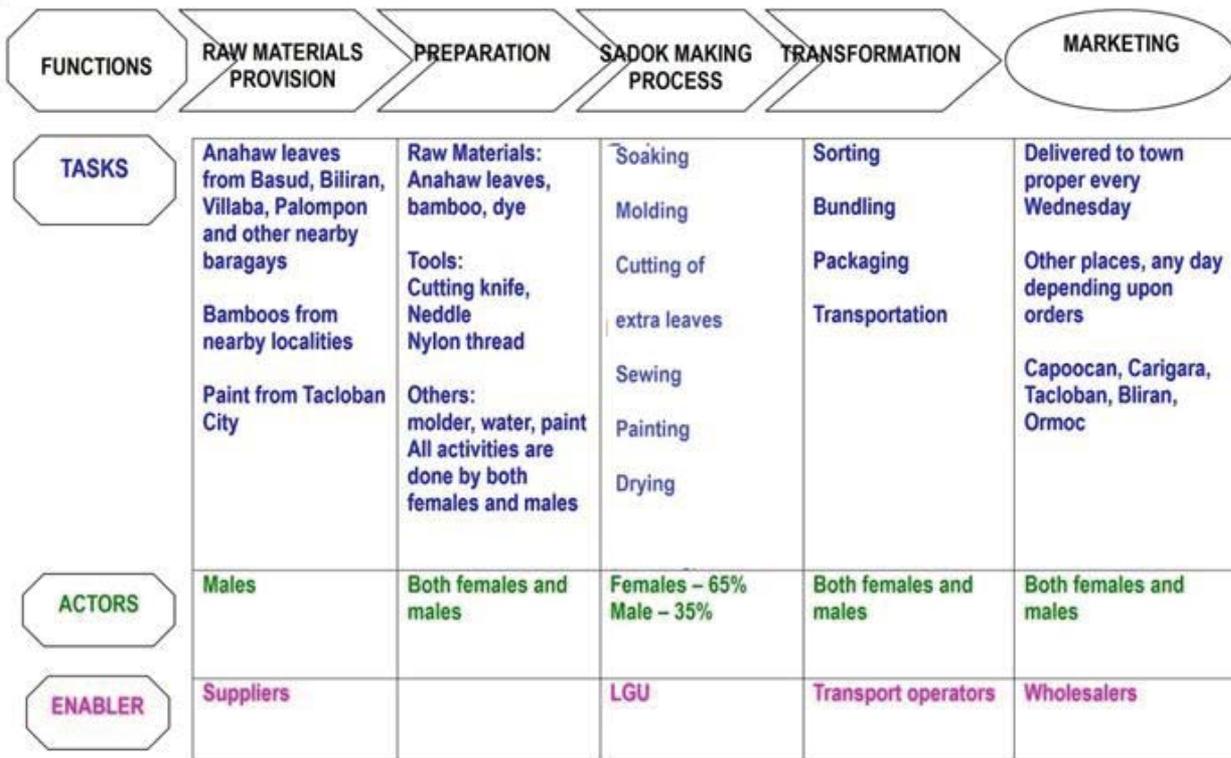
salers and retailers from these areas usually make un-scheduled orders, leaving women unable to observe a particular production schedule.

Forward-Looking Strategies To Support Anahaw Crafts-Making

In a gender analysis of the anahaw value-chain, it was recommended that local governments assist in the development of anahaw crafts-making. Amongst the municipalities in Leyte, the municipality of Barugo focused its interventions on anahaw crafts-making while Capoocan and other LGUs involved in the same type of enterprise may embark on similar initiatives.

Assistance will be provided by the local government and other agencies in the form of financing, production facility and equipment, capacity building, and enterprise development. Linkage with agricultural research centers (e.g. Visayas State University) was also recommended for propagating the anahaw plant to augment raw material needs.

Sadok Value Chain



About The Project

The Gender Responsive Economic Actions for the Transformation of Women (GREAT Women) Project is a governance and capacity development project that aims to promote and support a gender-responsive enabling environment for women's economic empowerment, particularly those in microenterprises.

The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), the national machinery for the advancement of women in the Philippines, is the lead executing agency for the Project.

The Commission forged partnership with key national government agencies involved in micro-, small- and medium-scale enterprise (MSME) development and select local government units to create a gender-responsive enabling environment for women's economic empowerment. This project receives technical and financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

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