



PCAF Express

Providing streamlined and updated account on PCAF and its Advisory Special Bodies' resolutions and policy studies



THE WOMEN OF PCAF ASBs: *Women in the Changing World of Work*

The world of work is changing rapidly, through modernization. It needs to change faster to empower women in bringing out positive changes in the society.

This year's Women's Month theme "We Make Change Work for Women" highlights the call for gender-balance in the workplace, and the women as a potent partner for development.

In the agriculture and fishery sector, women have a significant contribution to the industry to achieve its goal - a sustainable and competitive sector.

Women comprise 43 percent of the agricultural labor force in the developing countries.

The United Nations (UN) Womenwatch Organization stressed in one of their articles that rural women play a key role in supporting their

households and communities in achieving food and nutrition security, generating income, and improving rural livelihoods and overall well-being.

Further, according to the UN, "if these women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20 to 30 percent, raising total agricultural output in developing countries by 2.5 to 4 percent, in turn reducing the number of hungry people in the world by 12 to 17 percent."

Thus, "real change" can be only attained when women and men work closely to support an organization that is empowering both sexes.

Even before the issuances of the Women's Month Celebration, the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) has already

placed high regard to the contribution of the women members of its Advisory Special Bodies (ASBs), the National Sectoral and Strategic Concerns Committee (NSSCCs) and Agricultural and Fishery Council (AFCS), in the development of agriculture and fishery sector.

In fact, PCAF annually celebrate women's month by appointing female members both in the NSSCCs and AFCs, to lead and be the presiding officer of their respective committee's meetings and consultations for the whole month of March.

This is PCAF's way of encouraging equality as well as recognizing the invaluable contribution of its women leaders from its ASBs.

In line with this year's theme, the views of five women from PCAF ASBs were surfaced and these are:

HAZEL TANCHULING

Vice Chairperson
Committee on Climate Change

As a woman, social activist, and volunteer-partner of PCAF, I actively participate in policy discussions in order to help reform national and local policies and programs to better serve our marginalized sectors, most especially rural women. Many of our agriculture policies and programs, up to this age, tend to cater to the male farmers. Thus, if we want to see change and see more women benefitting from government programs and services, we need more women actively engaging government, private sector and even the general public on how we want our food to be produced and on how we think agriculture and fisheries should be governed in this country.

LOUISA CARBONEL

2017 Outstanding Municipal AFC Secretariat-Coordinator
Bakun, Benguet

Way back, woman's function is in the home to rear and care for her family. But as time changes, women have a vital role, not only in the family but in the society where she lives. As an agent of change, I usually challenge the women to be active and involve themselves in the programs, projects and activities of the agriculture and fishery sector. Skills trainings/seminars are prepared for them that could help them improve their living conditions. I will also encourage women to participate in the planning and monitoring. Through this, women can insinuate their ideas and suggest recommendations that could attain the change that the society wants.

DR. RUFINA SALAS

Chairperson
Committee on Poultry, Livestock, and Feed Crops

No matter how meager the years I've been a volunteer-partner in agriculture and fishery, I am thankful that I am making contributions to the industry. Through the policy of the Department of Agriculture to involve the private sector, I bring up to the higher levels of the department the concerns and issues from the grassroots for their awareness and appreciation. With this, the positive changes can be seen and these changes are a "good start" to achieve a competitive and sustainable agri-fishery sector.

DR. AURORA PERALTA

Chairperson
Fiber Crops Sub-Committee

In the Philippine setting, women in the agriculture and fishery sector is a small voice - if ever they do speak out. The leadership and, therefore, the responsibility of development is left to men. By speaking out and seeing to it that I am heard, eases the burden carried by men and thus I become a partner in finding solutions to the problems of the sector.

WOMEN IN THE CHANGING
WORLD OF 2022

Any society that fails to harness the **energy** and **creativity** of its women is at a **huge disadvantage** in the modern world.

Tian Wei, CCTV News

MERGEDITA QUIAMCO

2017 Outstanding Provincial AFC Coordinator
Mati, Davao Oriental

As a woman, I am an advocate for women empowerment with GOD-centered vision and ideals through pushing and encouraging them to become more productive and self-reliant. I will make myself available and be of service to those in need. I ought to provide linkages and access farmers and fisherfolk to right information and market of their produce.

As an agent of change, I am a catalyst, a good example and an instrument of peace and development. The technologies and experiences I have will be shared to women to engage themselves in agriculture and fishery, to remind them that there is source of income in farming and fishing. The development of agriculture and fishery sector can be achieved with close collaboration with the government, empowered women and other stakeholders who have the determination, love, passion and dedication.

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