



Community-based Micro and Small Enterprises: Pathways Out of Poverty

September 14-18, 2026 (Face-to-Face)

Background Information

The International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) has been organizing experiential training programs and study courses for more than 60 years by now, drawing insights from its extensive field experiences across Asia, Africa and Latin America. These programs address critical development challenges, including poverty reduction, limited income opportunities for rural households, and the increasing vulnerability of livelihoods due to climate change.

In response to these challenges, IIRR launched its Economic Empowerment Program, focusing on strengthening the economic resilience of farmers, rural women, and youth. Many rural communities struggle with income insecurity and limited access to livelihood diversification. By supporting farmer groups; including rural women and youth, who are interested in community-based enterprise development, IIRR is paving pathways for sustainable income generation while enhancing local economies.

This 5-day experiential learning event on Community-based Micro and Small Enterprises: Pathways Out of Poverty, will take participants from civil society organizations including NGOs (CSOs/NGOs) in the Philippines to IIRR's learning communities in Cavite, Laguna and Batangas. In Cavite, the participants will explore the coffee value chain and its sustainable farming practices.

Learning Objectives



Participants would have a clear understanding of resilient livelihoods, key models for assessing resources and risks, and strategies for fostering local economic development resilience;



Familiarized with resource assessment tools for enterprise development, strategies to strengthen farmers' groups, and their impact on local economic development;



Explored IIRR's role in developing sustainable, community-based enterprises and supporting livelihoods amid climate change challenges; and



Formulated an action plan based on course insights, aligned with national/community monitoring systems and organizational enterprise and livelihood priorities.

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Course Contents

Module 1

Understanding Resilient Livelihoods and Community-based Enterprises

This module will set the stage for understanding resilient livelihoods and its contribution to local economic development. Discussion on different models that assess resources, risks and strategies for resilience will be facilitated as well as important factors that contribute to resilience.

It will explore how households and communities sustain their livelihoods despite facing many challenges brought about by climate change. The case of the municipality of Guinayangan as a Climate-Smart Village (CSV) will be highlighted through video presentation and sharing from farmers who are adapters of climate smart agriculture practices. Community-based enterprises will also be discussed and explored and how these enterprises steer local economic development.

Module 3

Community Project Site Visits: Learning from Community-based Enterprises

This module involves project site visits taking the participants in one of IIRR's learning communities, where they will engage with farmer practitioners to explore climate-resilient farming techniques. This includes a visit to agroforestry-based coffee farms to understand how these sustainable practices enhance both livelihoods and community enterprises. Additionally, the participants will have an opportunity to visit an academic institution assisting coffee farmers in Cavite highlighting its role in enhancing coffee production in the province and later to an organic vegetable farm at Majayjay in Laguna.

These visits aim to showcase diverse practices that support resilience and highlight the significant contributions of Local Government Units (LGUs) in strengthening community enterprises.

Module 2

Strategies for Transforming Resilient Livelihoods to Community Enterprises

This module will explore how IIRR's efforts in building resilient livelihoods have evolved into the development of sustainable, community-based enterprises. It will introduce key tools for assessing resources for enterprise development and highlight strategies for strengthening farmer groups' capacity in enterprise management.

Module 4

Consolidation of Learning Experiences and Action Planning

The participants will analyze their own organization's program or project frameworks and activities in line with micro and small enterprises and reflect on areas for improvement or strengthening by applying the insights and key lessons they have learned from the course. They are expected to develop a doable plan that they will implement upon their return to their respective organizations, programs or projects. Their draft action plans will be presented in plenary to a Panel of Reactors (including fellow participants) for comments, further suggestions and recommendations before the action plans are finalized.



Venue

JJ Hall, Yen Center, IIRR's Headquarters at km. 39 Aguinaldo Highway, Biga 2, Silang, Cavite, Philippines.



Course Fee

US\$ 900 per person inclusive of board, lodging, airport transfers and training materials and supplies only.