

# Literature Review: Gender Participation in the Production of Calamay in Candon City, Ilocos Sur

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**Abstract:** This study investigates gender participation in the production of calamay, a traditional Filipino delicacy and cultural symbol of Candon City, Ilocos Sur. Using a descriptive-comparative design, the research analyzes demographic profiles, labor input, time allocation, and decision-making roles of men and women in small-scale calamay production. Findings are expected to highlight both complementary contributions and persistent inequalities, offering recommendations for gender-responsive interventions to sustain cultural heritage and local economic development.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Calamay, a sticky rice-based delicacy made from glutinous rice, coconut milk, and sugar, is deeply embedded in Filipino culture and history. In Candon City, Calamay became a survival food during World War II and has since evolved into the city's One Town, One Product (OTOP) (Ilocosboy, 2017; Cooperative Development Authority, 2020).

While Calamay production is a community-driven activity, gender roles shape participation. Women often dominate food preparation, while men are more visible in physically demanding tasks. Globally, gender inequality persists in culinary and tourism industries, with women concentrated in household-level cooking but underrepresented in professional kitchens (Elsevier, 2012). This study situates Calamay production within broader gender participation discourse, aiming to identify disparities and propose equitable strategies.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### ➤ *Calamay and Filipino Culinary Heritage*

Calamay differs from other kakanin due to its finely ground rice, giving it a paste-like texture (Sumayao, 2024). Traditionally, women played central roles in preparation, while men contributed to tasks requiring strength, reflecting agricultural labor divisions in Northern Philippines (Meldo, Gayao, & Backian, n.d.).

### ➤ *Gender Roles in Culinary and Tourism Industries*

Globally, women dominate household cooking but men are more prevalent in professional kitchens due to long working hours and perceived physical demands (Elsevier,

2012). In Turkey, 91.2% of women reported doing household cooking compared to only 8.8% of men (Elsevier, 2012).

In tourism, women are more likely to own businesses compared to other industries, yet face challenges such as limited access to markets, technology, and financing (United Nations World Tourism Organization, 2019; Veckalne & Tambovceva, 2023).

### ➤ *Gender Inequality and Perceptions*

Research shows women perceive and experience gender inequality more than men, particularly in culinary and agricultural contexts (Turkmenoglu & Karaman, 2024). Women's contributions are often undervalued or invisible in production systems (Eleazar et al., 2024). Achieving equity requires dismantling entrenched structures and fostering inclusive participation (Du, 2024; Roseboom, 2020).

### ➤ *Implications for Calamay Production*

In Candon City, gender roles in Calamay production reflect cultural traditions and economic necessity. Women's involvement in cooking and preparation continues, while men's participation aligns with agricultural norms. However, equitable participation in decision-making and resource access remains limited, underscoring the need for gender-responsive interventions.

## III. METHODOLOGY

The study employs a descriptive-comparative design using mixed methods. Data will be gathered through surveys, interviews, and observations among small-scale calamay producers in Candon City. Statistical tools such as descriptive statistics, comparative analysis, and thematic coding will be used to analyze gender participation patterns.

#### IV. FINDINGS/RESULTS

##### ➤ *The Study Anticipates Identifying:*

- Demographic profiles of calamay producers (age, sex, education, civil status, years of involvement).
- Differences in labor input, time allocation, and decision-making between men and women.
- Challenges such as limited access to resources, seasonal constraints, and reliance on self-reported data.

#### V. DISCUSSION

Findings are expected to highlight both the complementary roles of men and women and the inequalities that persist in Calamay production. Women's contributions, though central, may be undervalued compared to men's visible roles. Addressing these disparities requires interventions that promote equitable participation, resource access, and recognition of women's labor.

#### VI. CONCLUSION

Gender participation in Calamay production reflects broader patterns of inequality in food and agricultural industries. While both men and women contribute significantly, their roles differ in visibility and recognition. Promoting gender equity in Calamay production is essential not only for fairness but also for sustaining cultural heritage and local economic development in Candon City.

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