



BEYOND EFFICIENCY:

An intersectional policy analysis of the
Philippine Seaweed Industry Roadmap

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Global Production Volumes for Eucheumatoids 1990-2020

based on 2020 figures provided by FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture (volume in tonnes wet weight)



1930s – early 1960s Natural stock reliance

Dependence on wild harvested *Chondrus crispus* (Irish moss) as the primary source of carrageenan

*Carrageenan has been used for centuries, but its commercial application began in the 1930s



1967 – 1975 Beginnings of cultivation

Intensive surveys and data collection to determine the best cultivation sites for *Kappaphycus* (Eucheuma; cottonii)



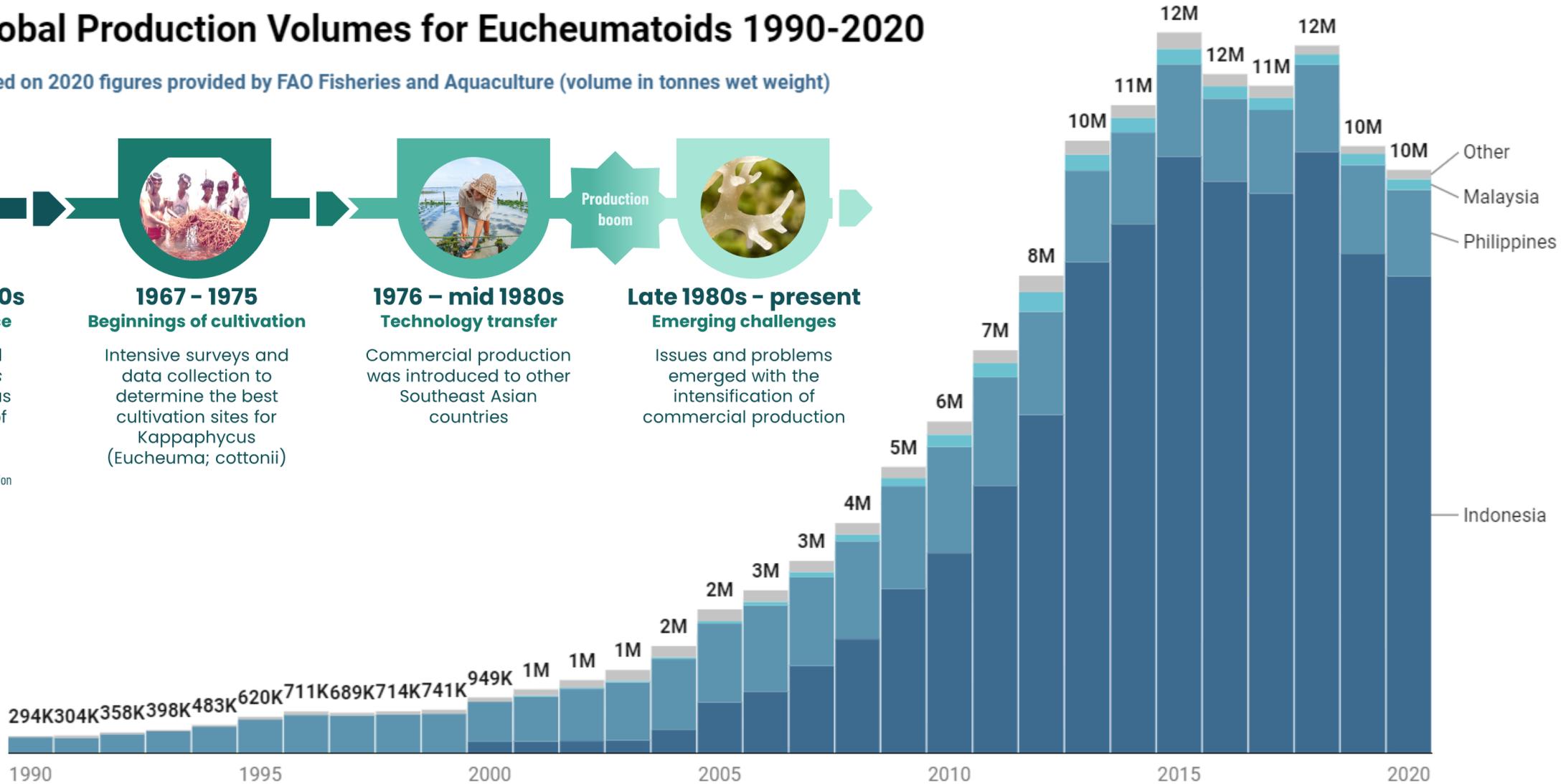
1976 – mid 1980s Technology transfer

Commercial production was introduced to other Southeast Asian countries



Late 1980s – present Emerging challenges

Issues and problems emerged with the intensification of commercial production



The Philippines was the top producer of eucheumatoids for about three decades until Indonesia overtook it in 2008.

VISION

A primary producer of Eucheumatoids and preferred supplier of premium quality RDS and Carrageenan in the world market

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

To develop a detailed strategic plan for the Philippine seaweeds industry that will guide progress towards its goal of regaining its position in the international seaweeds industry.

APPROACH AND ORIENTATION



Stakeholder-led



Market-driven



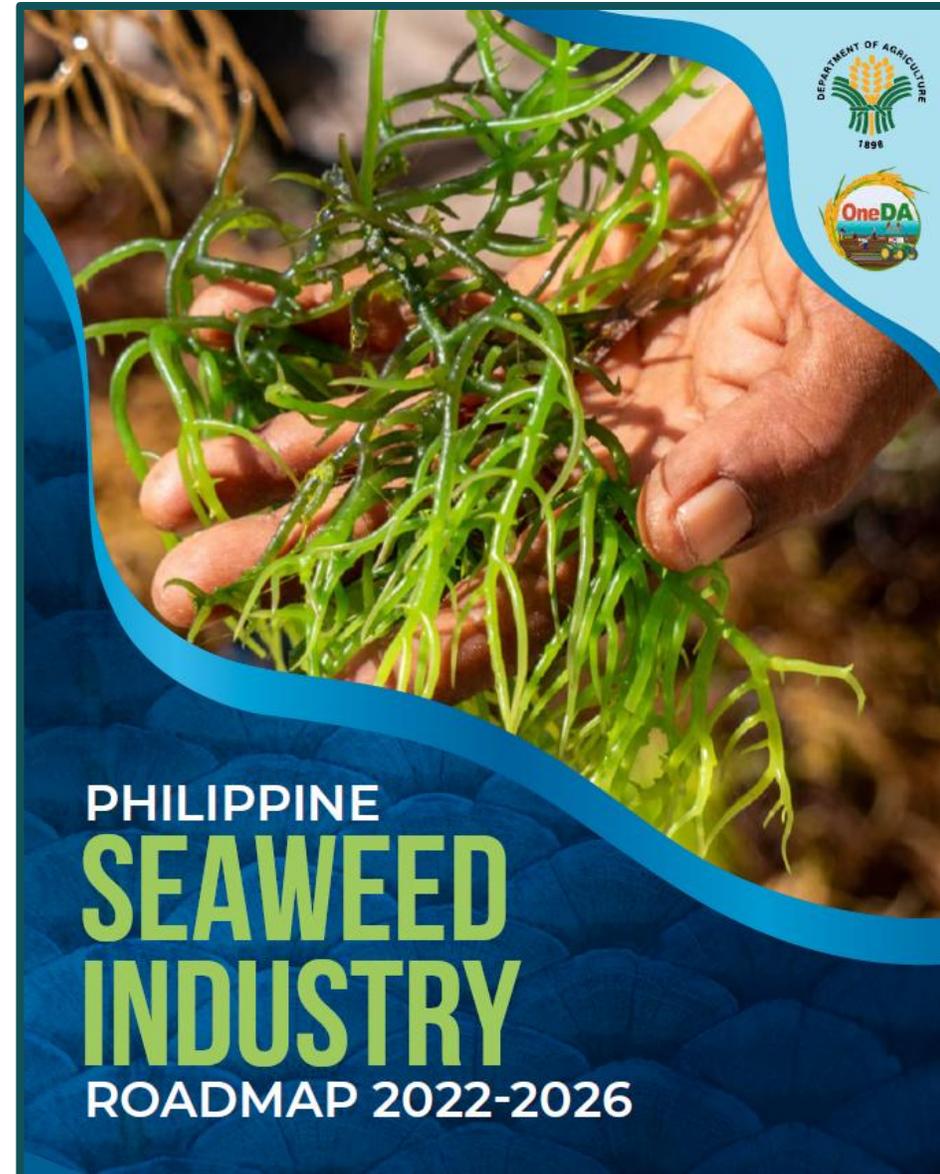
LGU enabled



Inclusive



Value-chain competitive





**NATIONAL
PRIORITIES**



**PLAN
EMPHASIS**



**STRATEGIC
DIRECTIONS**



PLANNING PRINCIPLES

(Assumptions, Inclinations, Framings)

In what ways does the Philippine Seaweed Industry Roadmap (2022–2026) frame the intersecting realities that shape seaweed farmers' positions and experiences in the value chain?



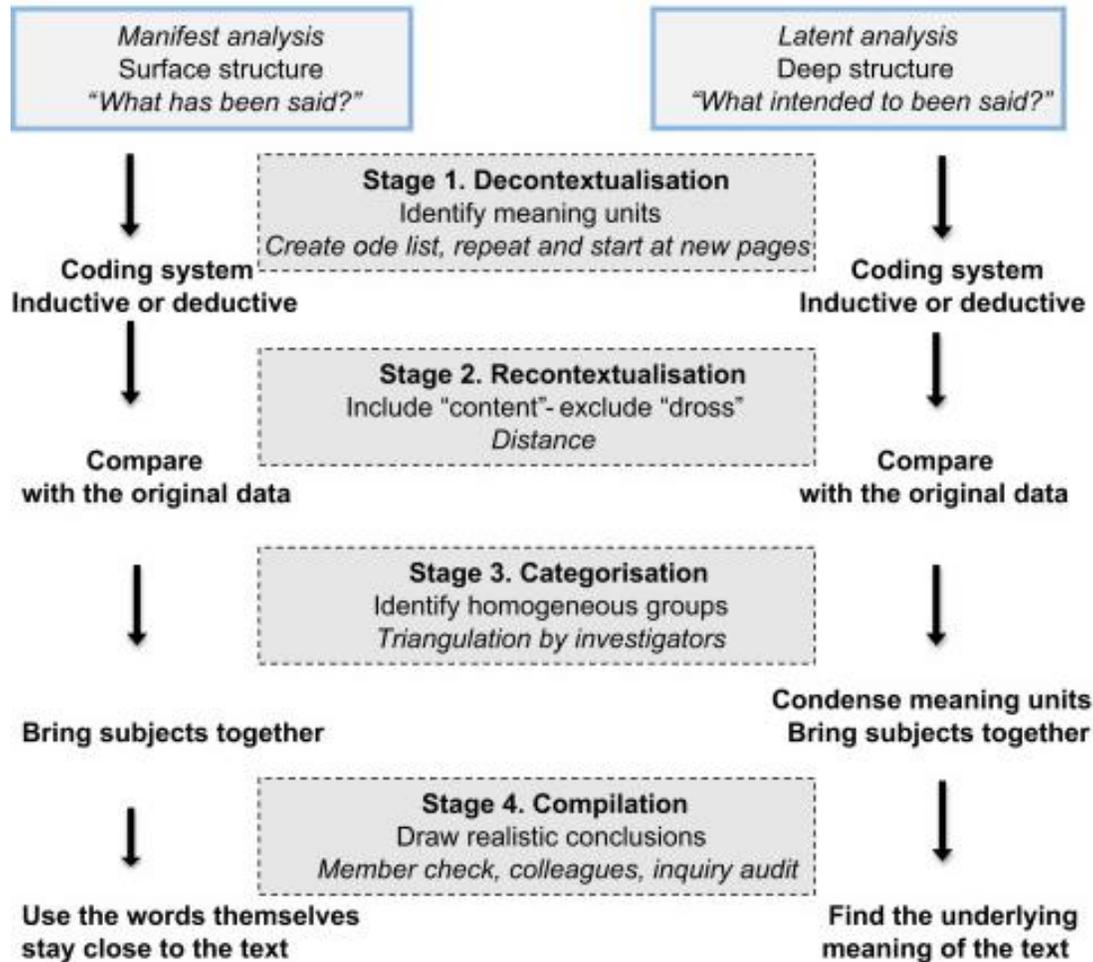
A woman seaweed farmer holding a seaweed line in Tigtabon Is. Zamboanga City, Philippines (Hurtado, A., 25 July 2018)

OBJECTIVES



1. Identify how gender, risk, and social networks (GRS) are framed in the Philippine Seaweed Industry Roadmap (2022–2026);
2. Critically analyse these framings using the IBPA framework to reveal how power, equality, and social justice are represented (or obscured);
3. Discuss the implications of these findings for advancing intersectionality-informed policy orientations in the seaweed sector.

An overview of the process of a qualitative content analysis (Bengtsson, 2016)



- Surface-level
- Descriptive focus
- Static categories
- Prone to researcher bias

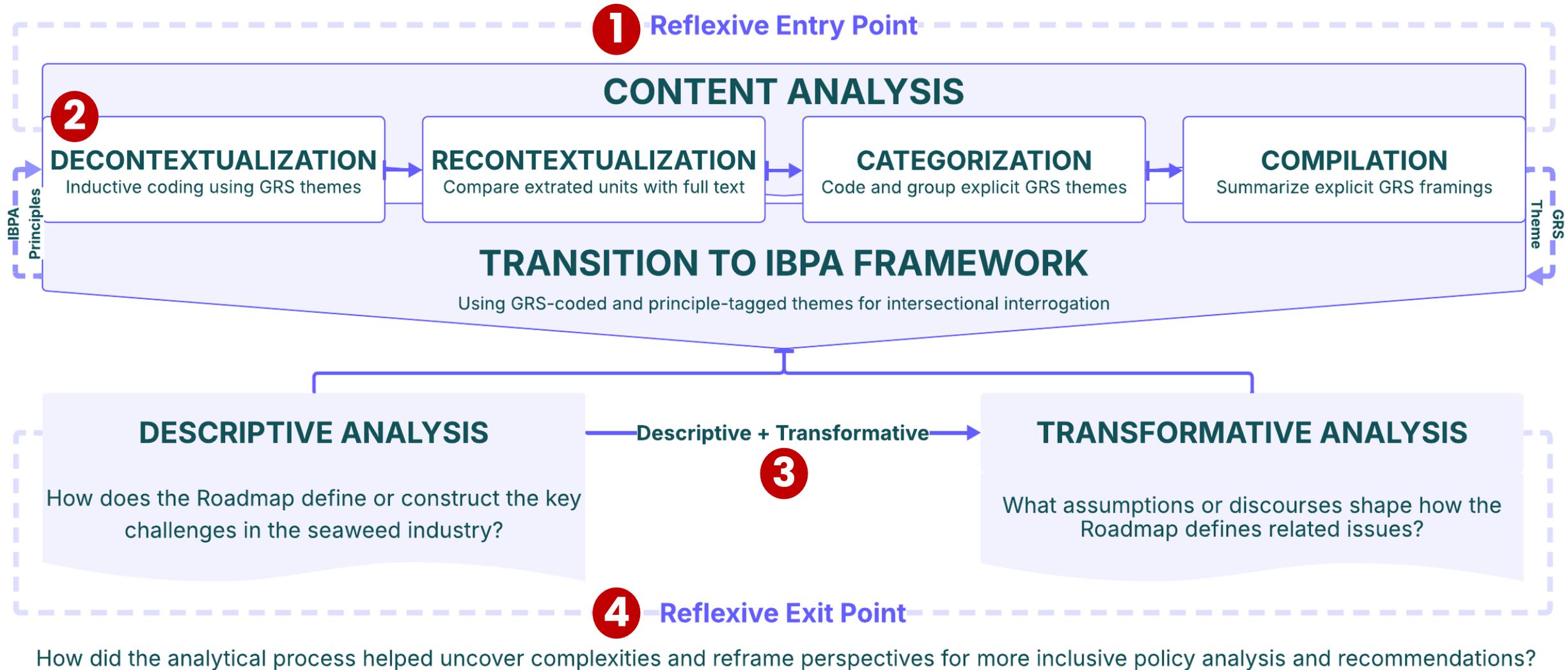
Lens

Intersectionality-Based Policy Analysis (IBPA) Principles (Hankivsky, 2012)



- Principle-based
- Transformative
- Intersecting themes
- Reflexivity

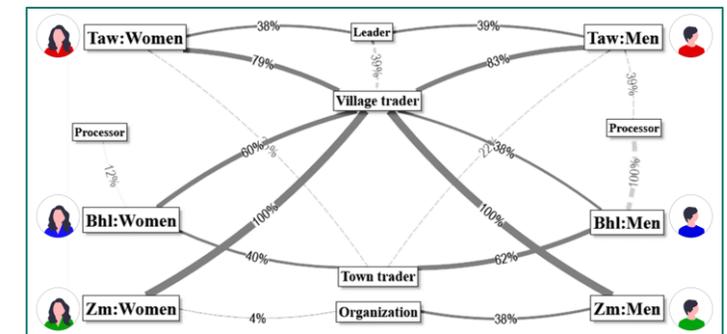
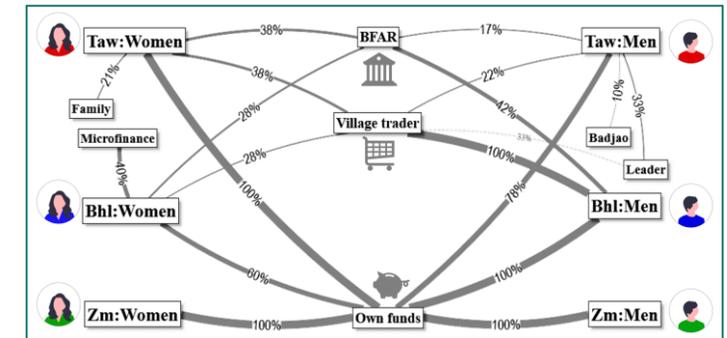
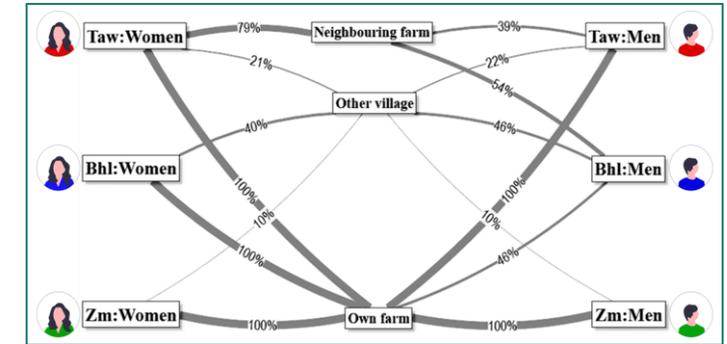
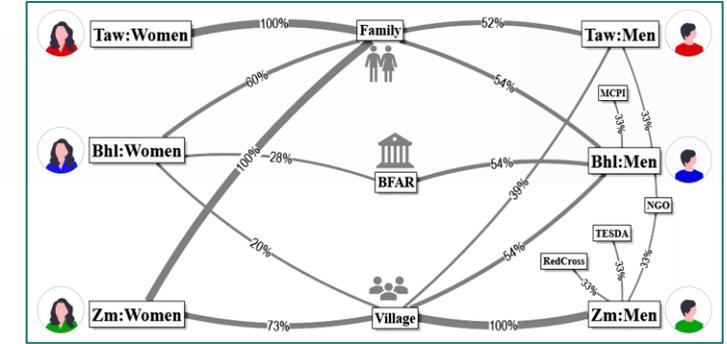
How might your background influence your interpretation of the Roadmap?



A sequential analytical framework combining content analysis (Bengtsson, 2016) with IBPA Framework (Hankivsky, 2012)

Methodology: Theme Generation

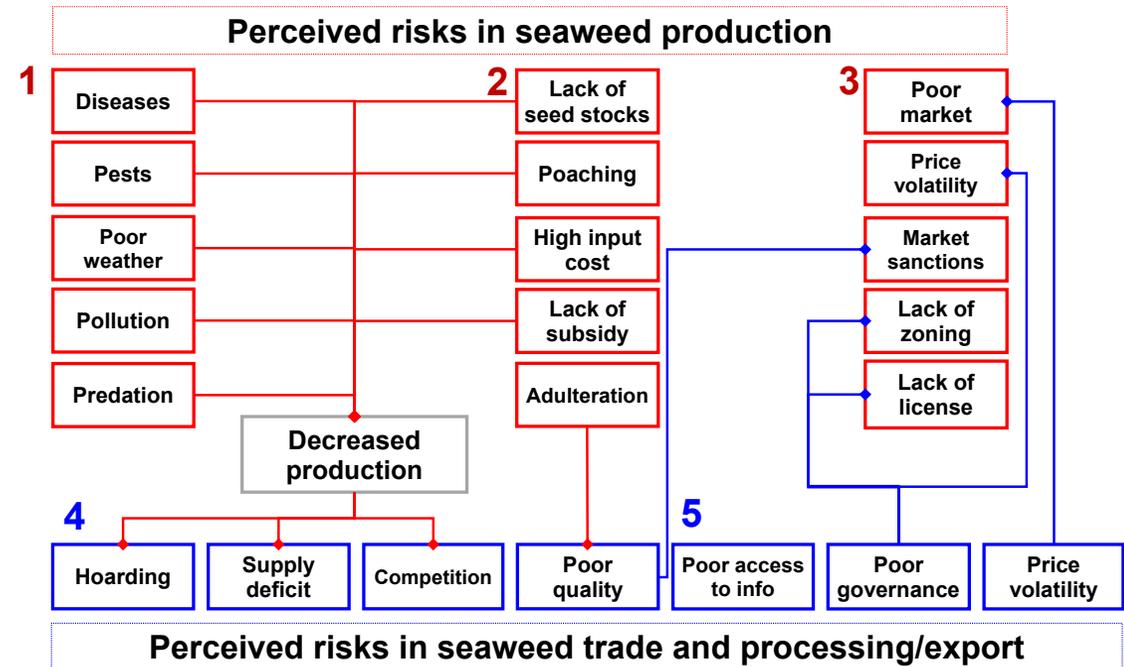
Social networks influence who gets access to critical resources, services, and opportunities in the seaweed value chain.



Suyo, J. G. B., Le Masson, V., Shaxson, L., Luhan, M. R. J., & Hurtado, A. Q. (2020). A social network analysis of the Philippine seaweed farming industry: Unravelling the web. *Marine Policy*, 118, 104007. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2020.104007>.

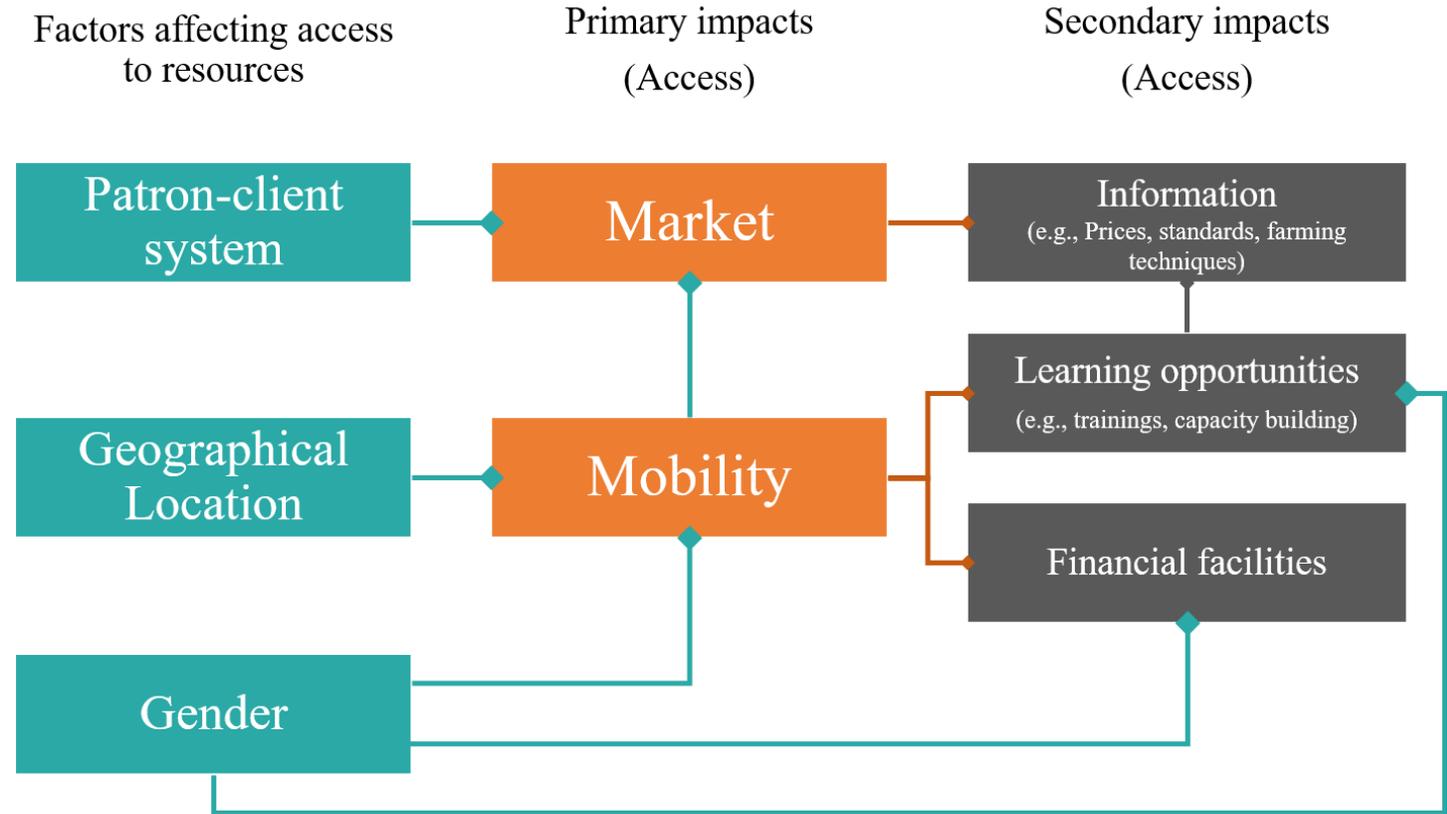
METHODOLOGY: Theme Generation

Risks in the seaweed value chain are diverse, interconnected, and unevenly experienced by actors.

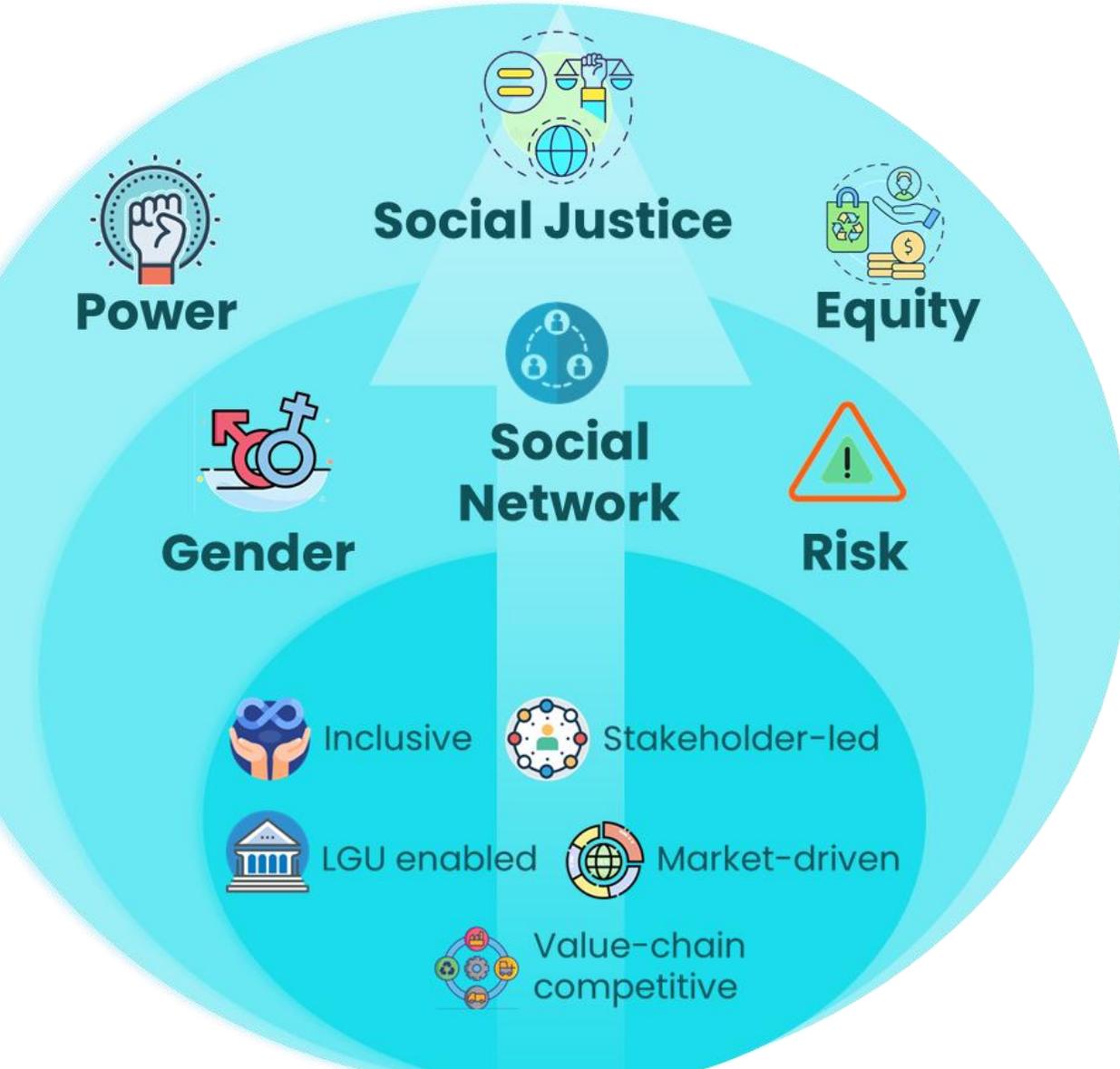


METHODOLOGY: Theme Generation

Gender plays a critical role in determining farmers' positions and access within the seaweed value chain.



METHODOLOGY: Coding and analysis

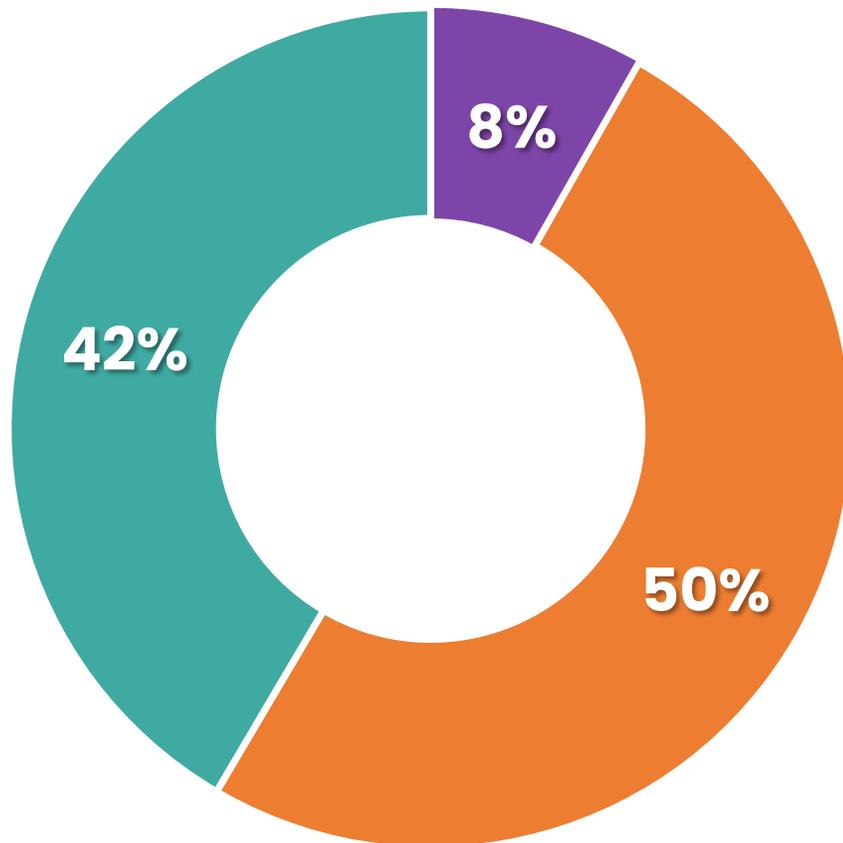


- The Roadmap's framing shapes which themes are visible or hidden
- (In)visibility of themes signify attention to underlying structures
- Power, equity, and justice analysis enables transformative planning

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION



Distribution of Codes Across GRS Themes (N = 195)



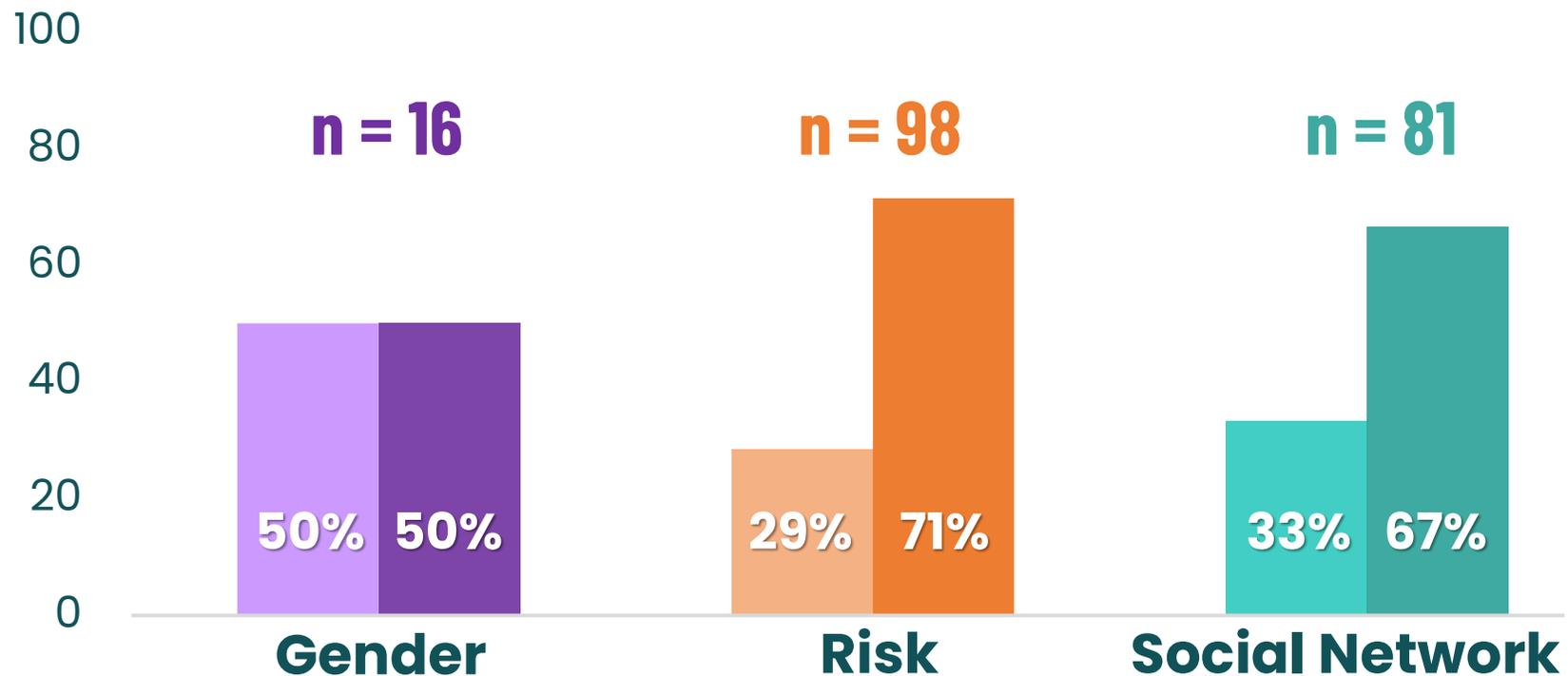
■ GENDER ■ RISK ■ SOCIAL NETWORKS

Gender (G) – Gender-differentiated roles and gender representations in the seaweed value chain

Risk (R) – Challenges and vulnerabilities affecting the different value chain segments

Social Networks (Sn) – Interactions, relationships among the seaweed value chain actors

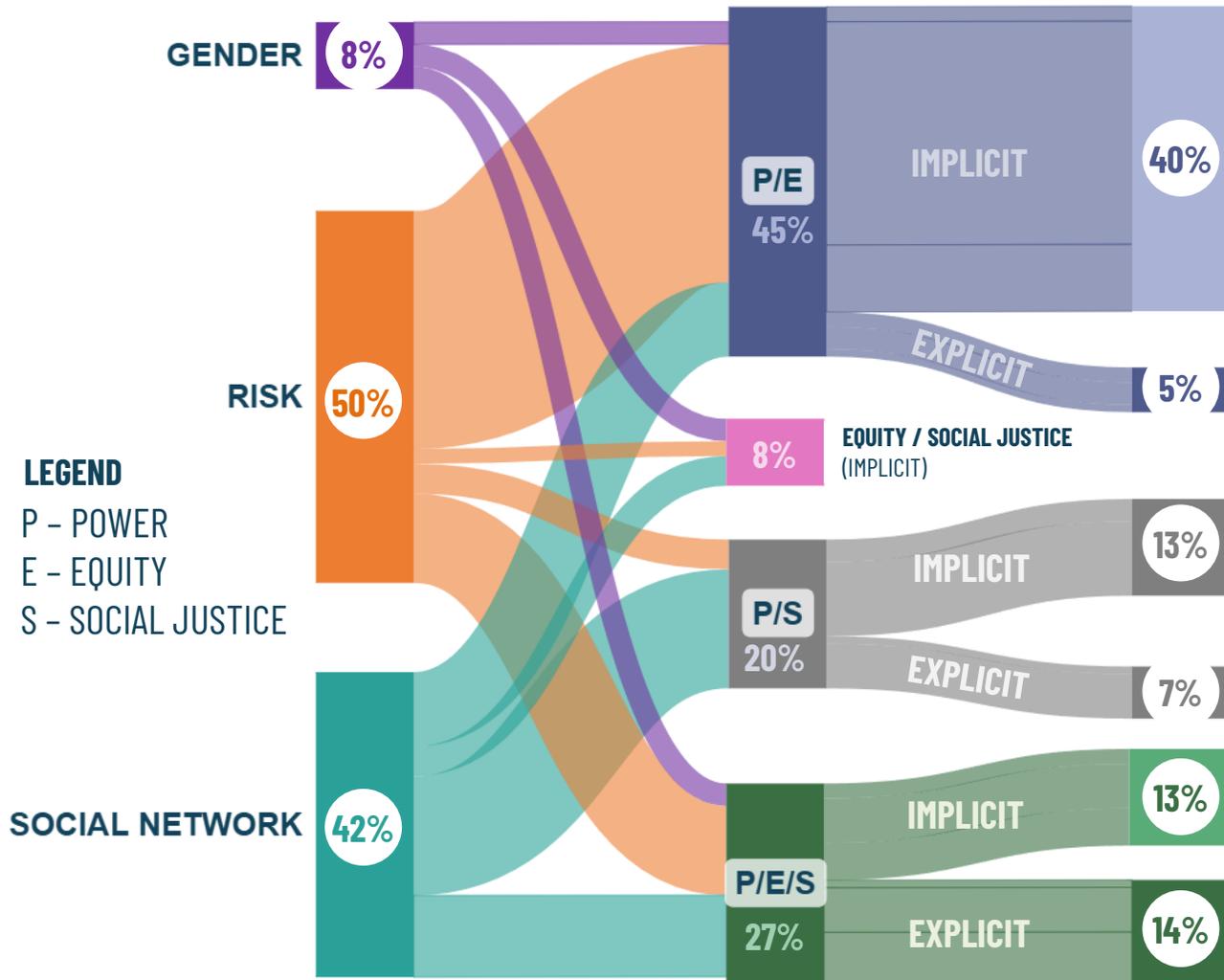
Representation of GRS themes in the Roadmap (N = 195)



Categories	Explicit Framing	Implicit Framing
Gender (G)	<i>"Wives frequently assist their husbands in scouting for places where they can buy seedlings." (p. 13)</i>	<i>"Filipino farmers clean, sort, and remove dirt and other foreign materials from seaweeds before the seaweeds are sun-dried." (p. 82)</i>
Risk (R)	<i>"Farming of seaweeds essentially suffered from climate change-related events such as weather disruptions and typhoons, ice-ice disease, and sea surface temperature rise" (p. 26)</i>	<i>"only 60,000 hectares along coastlines or equivalently 30 percent of farmable coastlines (8% of the total farmable area) are being planted" (p. 28)</i>
Social Network (S)	<i>"..farmers obtain their propagules from BFAR and established nurseries.." (pp. 13-14)</i>	<i>"RFS is the most basic form of seaweeds. These seaweeds are brought immediately to wet markets upon harvest." (p 8)</i>

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Connection between GRS and IBPA Principles (N = 195)



- Most codes relate to power and equity, often implicitly, while fewer reflect equity and social justice or power and social justice
- Only 27% integrate all three (fair distribution, shifting power, and promoting inclusion)

SUMMARY AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS



Summary

The Roadmap highlights gender, risk, and social networks, but often implicitly, which shapes how challenges in the seaweed industry are constructed.

Policy implications

- Interrogate silences and implicitness
- Challenge dominant discourses
- Reframe inclusively
- Apply a transformative lens

Thank you

Got questions or feedback? Feel free to reach out at jbsuyo@up.edu.ph



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