# The Role of Business in Society: Creating Shared Value

Professor Michael E. Porter Harvard Business School

Chevron / ICIC California Partnerships Event San Francisco, CA November 20, 2012

The ideas drawn from "Creating Shared Value" (*Harvard Business Review*, Jan 2011) and "Competing by Saving Lives" (FSG, 2012). No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without the permission of Michael E. Porter. For further materials, see the website of the Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness, <a href="https://www.isc.hbs.edu">www.isc.hbs.edu</a>, and FSG website, <a href="https://www.isc.hbs.edu">www.isc.hbs.edu</a>, <a href="https://www.isc.hbs.edu">www.isc.h

### The Role of Business in Society

- Only business can create prosperity
- Healthy businesses need a healthy community
- There is an ever growing awareness of major societal challenges
- Government and NGO's alone lack sufficient resources and capabilities to fully meet these challenges

#### **BUT**

- More of the public perceives business as prospering at the expense of the society
- Despite growing corporate citizenship activities, the legitimacy of business has fallen



We need a new model

## The Role of Business in Society Evolving Approaches

**Philanthropy** 

- Donations to worthy social causes
- Volunteering

## The Role of Business in Society <u>Evolving Approaches</u>

**Philanthropy** 



Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

- Donations to worthy social causes
- Volunteering

- Compliance with community standards
- Good corporate citizenship
- "Sustainability"

## The Role of Business in Society Evolving Approaches

Philanthropy

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Creating Shared Value (CSV)

- Donations to worthy social causes
- Volunteering

- Compliance with community standards
- Good corporate citizenship
- "Sustainability"

- Integrating societal improvement into economic value creation itself
  - Driving social improvement with a business model

## Moving to Shared Value Fair Trade





#### CSV

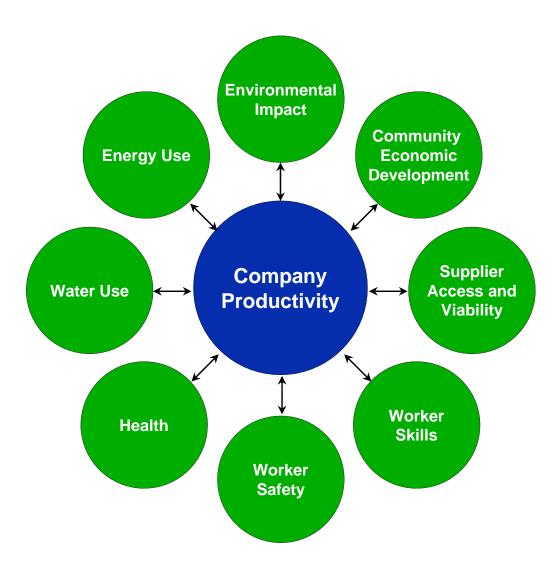
#### **Fair Trade**

- Paying a higher price to farmers for the same products
- Certification as a fair trade company

#### **Transforming Procurement**

- Collaborate with farmers to improve quality and yield
- Supporting investments in technology and inputs
- Higher prices for better quality
- Higher yield increases quantity produced

#### **Societal Needs and Economic Value Creation**



- Social deficits create economic cost
- "Externalities" shape internal company productivity
- Social needs represent the largest market opportunities

#### **Levels of Shared Value**

#### I: Reconceiving needs, products, and customers

- Meeting societal needs through products
- Addressing unserved or underserved customers in the industry

#### II: Redefining productivity in the value chain

 Changing practices in the value chain to drive productivity through better utilizing resources, employees, and business partners

#### III: Enabling local cluster development

 Improving the available skills, suppliers base, and supporting institutions in the communities in which a company operates to boost productivity, innovation, and growth

## Creating Shared Value in Products <u>Dow Chemical Insect Control</u>

The Spinetoram<sup>™</sup> Family of insect control products are derived from a **biological organism** that provides control of a broad spectrum of insect pests in a variety of crops

- Natural degradation through UV light and soil microbes
- Low solubility in water
- Favorable toxological profile
- Carries lowest human hazard label



- Applied in lower quantities than conventional insecticides
- Low impact on beneficial insects
- Double-digit revenue growth since launch in 2010

## Creating Shared Value in Products <a href="Intuit SnapTax">Intuit SnapTax</a>

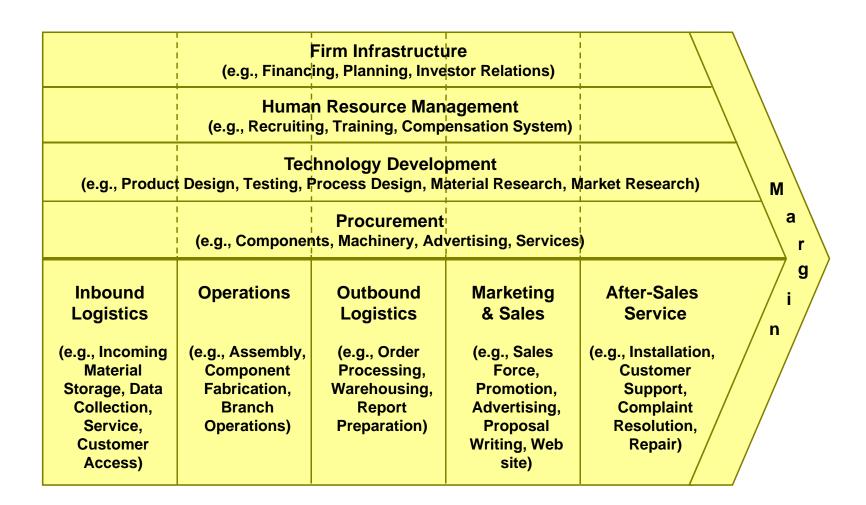
**SnapTax** provides low-income consumers with access to tax preparation services over the phone and enables rapid refunds

- 15 minutes for \$15, electronic filing included
- Data extracted from mobile phone photos of W-2s via optical character recognition
- Debit card option for direct deposit of refunds for unbanked households
- Simple IRA option to enable use of refund for retirement savings

### **Creating Shared Value in Products and Markets**

- Redefine the business around unsolved customer problems or concerns, not traditional product definitions
- Identify customer groups that have been poorly served or overlooked by the industry's products
- Think in terms of improving lives, not just meeting customer needs
- Start with **no preconceived constraints** about product attributes, channel configuration, or the economic model of the business (e.g., small loans are unprofitable)
- Opens up new opportunities for customer segmentation, marketing, innovation, and growth
- Businesses have the potential to be more effective than governments and NGOs in creating and marketing solutions to community problems

### **Redefining Productivity in the Value Chain**



- Shared value purchasing
- Energy and resource efficiency
- Minimizing logistical content

- Strengthening local distribution channels
- Improving employee health and safety
- Enhancing the productivity of lower income employees and improving their wages

## Improving the Business Environment in the Company's Major Locations

- Companies, working individually and collaboratively, can catalyze major improvements in the local business environment
- Building a strong local cluster improves company productivity and growth
  - E.g., Supporting institutions and infrastructure
  - Related businesses



 Local cluster development strengthens the link between a company's success and community success

## Strengthening the Local Business Environment Roles of Business

#### **Improving skills**

- Create or expand an apprentice program
- Create or expand a training program
- Partner with a community college, technical school, or university

#### **Upgrading supporting industries**

- Identify and increase sourcing from capable local suppliers
- Mentor local suppliers to upgrade their capabilities

#### Supporting innovation and entrepreneurship

- Participate in research collaboratives in company's field
- Invest in or incubate promising startups related to company's business

## Collaborating on regional business environment improvement

 Participate in a regional competitiveness initiative in your region

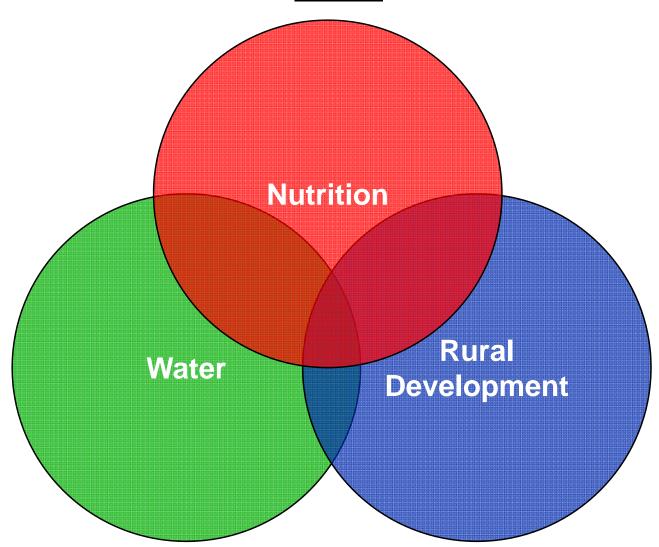
#### **Bolstering regional cluster development**

 Participate in a cluster competitiveness initiative in your field

#### Locating in the U.S.

 Move activities back to the U.S. that can be productive here

## Creating Shared Value: Deciding Where to Concentrate <u>Nestlé</u>



 Opportunities to create shared value are inevitably tied closely to a company's particular businesses

### **Creating Shared Value in Professional Sports**

#### I: Reconceiving customer needs, products, and markets

- Catalyzing wider participation in the sport
- Fitness, health, wellness, and personal development

#### II: Redefining productivity in the value chain

- Recruiting and workforce development
  - By the teams, stadiums, and vendors
- Value-added local procurement
- Energy efficiency and waste reduction

#### III: Enabling local cluster development

- Spur economic development in the areas surrounding stadiums and other team facilities
- Create a local supplier base for concessions, souvenirs, services, etc.
- Anchor other entertainment and real estate developments

### **Creating Shared Value in Banking**

- I: Reconceiving customer needs, products, and markets
  - Serve unbanked and under-banked consumers
  - SME lending and business services
  - Real estate lending with community multiplier effects
  - Financing affordable housing
  - Financial instruments that advance environmental and social progress (e.g., loans repaid with energy savings)

#### II: Redefining productivity in the value chain

- Local / value-added procurement
- Hiring and training
- Energy and resource efficiency

#### III: Enabling local cluster development

- Financial literacy education
- Leveraging facility locations as anchors
- Skills development programs for employees and prospective employees with universities and community colleges
- Leadership in regional competitiveness improvement

### **New Stakeholder Roles and Relationships**

• Shared value thinking is driving **new relationships** between companies, philanthropists, NGOs, and government in addressing social issues

	Traditional Roles	New Roles
Philanthropists	s • Donate to charitable causes	<ul> <li>Partner with companies and NGOs to catalyze shared value initiatives</li> </ul>
NGOs	Receive grants to provide social services	<ul> <li>Enable implementation of new shared value business models</li> </ul>
Governments	<ul> <li>Tax business and regulate business practices; operate social programs</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Partner with companies and NGOs to make platform investments and support shared value strategies</li> </ul>
Companies	Donate to charitable causes or operate ESG programs	<ul> <li>Partner with NGOs and government to initiate and scale shared value strategies</li> </ul>

## Shared Value and Strategy Whole Foods Markets

#### **Value Proposition**

- Natural, fresh, organic, and prepared foods and health items with excellent service at premium prices
- Cater to specialized nutritional requirements (gluten allergies, vegan, etc.)
- Educated, middle class, and affluent customers who are passionate about food and a healthy lifestyle

#### **Distinctive Activities**

- Well-lit, inviting supermarket store formats with appealing displays and extensive prepared foods sections
- Produce section as "theater"
- Café-style seating areas with wireless internet for meals and meetings
- Each store carries local produce and has the authority to contract with the local farmers. Company provides low-interest loans if needed
- Nutrition information and education provided to shoppers along with products
- High touch in-store customer service via knowledgeable, flexible, and highly motivated personnel
- Flat compensation structure
- Own seafood procurement and processing facilities to control quality, sustainability and price from the boat to the counter
- Heavy emphasis on environmental sustainability in all activities
- Emphasis on supporting community development



Successful strategies in the future will embody a significant shared value dimension

### **Purpose Based Strategic Positioning**

	Traditional Positioning	New Positioning
Nestlé	• Food	• Nutrition
Nike	• Shoes	Health and Wellness
Thermo Fisher	Leader in Serving     Science	<ul> <li>Making the World Healthier, Cleaner, and Safer</li> </ul>

 A broader sense of purpose not only opens up new opportunities for growth and profitability, but also motivates and attracts employees, consumers, business partners, shareholders, and the public

### The Purpose of Business

- Our purpose in business is to create shared value for society, not economic value for its own sake
- Businesses acting as businesses, not as charitable givers, are arguably the most powerful force for addressing many of the pressing issues facing our society
- Shared value will give rise to far broader opportunities for economic value creation
- Shared value thinking will drive the next wave of innovation, productivity, and economic growth
- A transformation of business practice around shared value will give purpose to the corporation and represents our best chance to legitimize business again