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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Report On Year 3 Fourth Quarter Post Harvest Coordinating Meeting



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THE
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Cover photo: Group picture after business development training (picture credit: Michael Takyi)

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SSG Advisors: <http://ssg-advisors.com/>

ACRONYMS

CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
DAA	Development Action Association
DMFS	Department of Marine Fisheries Sciences
DQF	Daasgift Quality Foundation
FRI	Food Research Institute
GIFA	Ghana Inshore Fishermen's Association
GNCFC	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen's Council
HM	Hen Mpoano
ICFG	Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Governance
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium size Enterprises
NAFPTA	National Fish Processors and Traders Association
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
SNV	Netherlands Development Organisation
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WARFP	West Africa Regional Fisheries Development Program

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the almighty God for giving us the strength to work on this report. We acknowledge the support of the management, Board and staff of CEWEFIA for their technical support. We thank all partners for attending.

BACKGROUND

To work together to achieve greater impact on the Fisheries Value Chain and ensure that Postharvest aspect of the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) is well strengthened and that Partners' activities on postharvest are well coordinated to help achieve the goal of the project. Partners working on post-harvest meet every quarter to share ideas and look at the way forward.

1.1 Objectives

To identify areas that need more work and collaboration to share ideas and experiences that will bring innovations to improve the food value chain.

1.2 Expected outcomes

CEWEFIA attended the last Quarter Meeting on 29th June, 2017 at SNV Conference Room in Accra. The Partners present at the meeting were SFMP, SNV, DAA, CEWEFIA and NAFPTA. The main agenda was on two issues: presentation of Year 3 activities of each implementing partner, challenges faced in implementing the activities; as well as planned activities for Year 4. Activities could be continued and the ones that needed to be dropped to make way for more impacts.

OUTCOMES

NAFPTA's Presentation

The President of the National Fish Processors and Traders Association's (NAFPTA) presentation pointed out that the trainings the Association organized for its members did not start at the time when there was abundant fish; but rather at a time when the fishing industry was at the verge of collapsing. Also that the fish processors and traders who benefited from the trainings were improving on their fish business. Their financial status had improved and now they could calculate their profits and make some savings. They also received training in personal hygiene which had helped them to change their old ways of doing things. They were now practicing hand washing with soap and potable water. Due to the various trainings the members were receiving from the SFMP, their lifestyles were gradually improving and there was now unity among the members.

CEWEFIA's Presentation:

The Project Officers presented the activities implemented in Year 3 on Postharvest Value Chain which were as follows: Micro, Small and Medium size Enterprises (MSME) development management service training, Hygienic fish handling training and campaigns, Demonstrations and campaigns on Ahotor stoves in order to promote the new modern fish smoking technology, Community sensitization programs on postharvest, Gender mainstreaming activities, Weekly radio program on postharvest and gender, Fire prevention and safety training, Awards program for best fish handling; and Processing and maintenance of Cassia siamea woodlot plantation to replace the depletion of mangroves which served as the main source of fuelwood for fish processors at Anlo Beach.

PRESENTATION BY SNV, NETHERLANDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION:

The Project officers in their presentation stated that SNV had given support to DAA, CEWEFIA and DaasGift Foundation in awareness creation and campaigns on promotion of the Ahotor stoves. SNV had built many Ahotor stoves at Winneba, Apam, Moree, Elmina, Anlo Beach, and Sekondi/Ngyeresia for several vulnerable households. Fish smoking demonstration sites have also been established. It was learnt that there was significant improvement in Ahotor stoves and so fish processors could use them to smoke at maximum

impact with ten smoking trays at a time. SNV was also promoting Ahotor stove at Keta and Denu in the Volta Region where awareness creation of Ahotor stoves were on going. SNV was also organizing training programs in Business management development service, in loans, in pricing and Record keeping. It had also developed Record booklets for MSMEs to record daily sales. Certificates of participation were awarded to participants after they had passed through an assessment. Weekly radio programs were instituted in the Volta Region and a multi-stakeholder' meeting was held to discuss fish compliance program. SNV assured the partners that the national awareness campaign on Ahotor stoves would come off in due course and that USAID had interest in promoting healthy fish processing in Ghana. The House learnt that the whole idea of improving efficiency of cook stoves emanated from copious use of fuel wood and therefore the need to reduce environmental degradation of our forest.

PRESENTATION BY DAA:

The following activities were implemented by DAA in Year 3:

- Sanitation Campaign at Apam. Clean-up exercise conducted every Tuesday at the landing sites.
- Group sensitization meetings organized for fish processing groups on fish handling
- Training in Business skills development for 6 groups in Winneba and 4 groups in Apam, including book keeping, customer relationship, direct and indirect cost.
- Trained fish processing groups and some fishermen in hygienic fish and oyster handling
- Women empowered through education in fisheries laws to make their voices heard in the course of fighting against IUU fishing.
- Organized Awards Day for women processors
- Organized Ahotor stove campaign at Winneba, Apam and Mumford. Many fish processors developed interest in acquiring the stoves.
- A training centre was constructed at Tsokomey in the Greater Accra Region.
- A Committee made up of Forestry Commission, Fisheries Commission and traditional authorities was formed to develop a management plan on oyster biology and ecology
- Various fish processing groups replanted mangroves and constructed nurseries for mangroves.

YEAR FOUR (4) ACTIVITIES ON POSTHARVEST VALUE CHAIN

The partners discussed Year 4 activities in detail, and reached the following decisions:

- That there would be trainings in hygienic fish handling, business development service, IUU, quality fish, fisheries laws, sanitation, use and maintenance of Ahotor stoves, awareness creation and campaigns on Ahotor stoves
- Organization of dialogues with the District Assemblies and fishers; between fishermen and fish processors; as well as traditional authorities and fishers
- Pilot healthy fish handling (Class One Standard). Ten (10) women will be linked up with the Class One Certification and be given financial support. This initiative will be between Food Research Institute (FRI) and the implementing partners.

The checklist for the Class One (1) kitchen was also discussed. The presentation was done by a representative from the Food Research Institute. The meeting was attended by SFMP fish postharvest specialist, partners, Fisheries Commission and some members of NAFPTA.

- The project's direct beneficiaries to have access to Family Planning services. As such a training program on Family Planning will be organized for them.

- A training workshop in Leadership Skills and Conflict Management (HOWNAM Dialogue) to be organized.
- Insurance policy for asset owners and fishers to be developed.

CHALLENGES

NAFPTA's only challenge was how its members could be bold to say "no" to bad fish.

CEWEFIA's challenge was how to acquire money to train more fish processors to enhance their businesses.

ACHIEVEMENT

SNV has been able to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with banks including Microfin, Akatakyiman Rural Bank and another rural bank in the Volta Region so as to help the fish processors secure small soft loans for their fish processing businesses.

In the Volta region, the NAFPTA regional executives have quarterly meetings to discuss important matters.

After the demonstrations and campaigns on Ahotor stoves, 98 fish processors showed interest in acquiring the stoves.

NAFPTA members nationwide have pledged to reject bad fish. At Azania in Ada of the Greater Accra Region, no illegal fishing is practiced.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Awareness campaigns on healthy fish should be organized on community, district, municipal, metropolitan, regional, and national levels.

Training in hygienic fish handling should be organized for various fish processing groups.

There should be a network for the fish processors who have been trained on hygienic fish handling and also to link them up to supermarkets, restaurants and others.

CONCLUSIONS

The postharvest partners coordinating meetings have been observed to be useful, so must be encouraged to continue as it provides the requisite platform for every partner to deliberate dispassionately and coherently on postharvest value chain issues. Sharing of ideas and experiences was beneficial to the progress of all partners for equal opportunities to make their submissions. New ideas helped to implement postharvest activities differently. At the last quarterly meeting, all partners were educated on what each partner did in Year 3 and what would be done in Year 4.