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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Monitoring Report On MSMEs Activities In Elmina, Moree, and Anlo

2015



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ACRONYMS

CEDECOM	Central Region Development Commission
CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
CLaT	Child Labour and Trafficking
DAA	Development Action Association
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
FoN	Friends of Nation
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Program
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFCL	Worst Forms of Child Labour

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In order to ascertain the impact of the MSMEs' training in Business Management on the Businesses of the trainees, CEWEFIA embarked on monitoring in the three beneficiary communities. The exercise was also to observe how these MSMEs were applying the knowledge gained in their daily activities.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

Evidence based monitoring; MSMEs were visited at their work places to inspect their activities to ensure that they are using the right methods in smoking their fish and also if they had stopped the negative practices such as using empty cement papers to pack their fish for the market.

3.0 SCOPE

The areas selected for monitoring were:

- Healthy fish handling.
- Savings.
- Records Keeping.
- Profit Calculation.
- Environmental sanitation, Health and Safety.
- Pricing and Selling.
- Product Packaging.

3.1 Healthy Fish Handling

Most of the women now understand the need to wash their fish before processing. At Moree, Nana Ama, a Fish Processor now washes her fish well and also cleans the smoking trays before smoking.

A Fish Processor at Elmina also commented:

"I now wash my fish well and it looks better than before" (Mena Mansa, Ayisa, Elmina)

3.2 Savings

The majority of the women visited were not saving. This is due to the fact that since fish is in season, they prefer to add their profit to the main capital to help them buy more fish.

3.3 Records Keeping and Profit Calculation

Some of the women had started keeping records of their businesses. They were therefore able to properly calculate their profits. The Project Officers inspected their records books as evidence. Some of them revealed that their children assist them in their records keeping since they are not literates. For instance, Madam Ekuia Akyere of Moree indicated that her child records her transactions for her and that she is now able to sell all her fish at the market.

3.4 Environmental Sanitation

The sheds and working areas of the trainees were clean but in Moree and some parts of Elmina, general environmental sanitation was poor because they lacked proper drainage

systems. Madam Getrude Baidoo of Moree revealed that she now sweeps her portion of the market before sitting down to sell her fish.

3.5 Product Packaging

Some of the women were still using cement paper for packaging their fish. Conversations with the women revealed that, they had the desire to adopt the use of brown paper but it was costly as compared to the cement paper. However, a few of them had started using brown paper. Madam Ama Kotuwa and Madam Getrude Baidoo of Moree and Madam Forgive Fianyenu of Elmina were some of the few women visited who were using brown paper in spite of the cost. They asked the Project Officers to help them get access to cheaper packaging paper to reduce cost.

3.6 Pricing and Selling

Some of the women stated that they were now able to properly price their fish and sell more fish since they had started applying the knowledge gained in the MSMEs training. A woman commented:

“I now price my fish well after the training” (Awleshie Kotoka, Anlo Beach)

Madam Yesuto Agor of Anlo Beach also commented:

“Previously I smoked less fish because I had losses but now after the training in Business management I have realized that my profits have increased so I smoke more fish now”.

WAY FORWARD

More regular monitoring visits will be paid to the MSMEs to observe their activities and to encourage them to make use of the knowledge gained at the MSMEs training.