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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Report On Training On Use And Maintenance Of The Ahotor Stove



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Cover photo: The project officer of CEWEFIA leading training on Ahotor stove (Photo by CEWEFIA)

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ACRONYMS

CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
CRC	Coastal Resource Center
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
UCC	University of Cape Coast
URI	University of Rhode Island
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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INTRODUCTION

With the introduction of the Ahotor stove, CEWEFIA has been promoting it in the four target communities and beyond. The financing mode of the stove selected has also proved effective since some of them are already saving with banks. MSMEs (109) have registered with Akatakyiman bank for the stove and the need was felt to further train them to enable them own their stoves. Sekondi was however added though the participant list was not ready. They were added with the hope that after gaining enough information, they would make informed choices since the Ahotor stove is a capital item in their fish smoking business. This activity can be located at IR 4.5.9 on organizing demonstrational activities on stove use and safety management.

OBJECTIVE

- To ensure that MSMEs acquire enough knowledge about the use and maintenance of the stove.
- To give information on the Ahotor stove.
- To get feedback from the MSMEs on using the stove.

METHODOLOGY

Lecture and practical demonstration on the stove with discussion and feedback session.

OUTCOME

Attendance was good. Target of 150 participants was exceeded by 13. This was made up of 7 males and 146 females.

The training started with introductions and participant expectations. This helped participants to relax and prepare for the learning process. The training was divided into three parts, lecture, demonstration and discussion.

The SFMP project was introduced to participants after which the history of Ahotor was narrated on the importance of technology improvement to increase productivity in business.

The movable parts of the Ahotor stove were demonstrated to the participants and they were made to feel and examine them. Participants were then taken to the stove to learn the correct way of fitting in the parts.

Discussions centered on the cost of the stove and the type of fish that could be smoked on it. Participants then understood that the savings on fuel wood could help pay for the cost of the stove. This decision was arrived at after some arguments. Participants were made to understand the need to use improved technology to make business better and faster. They were educated on the various traditional smoking stoves that existed before the Ahotor.

In reducing PAH levels the women suggested different kinds of fuelwood that emitted less smoke such as Esa, Mbrie, Begye woba, Danta and Danwoma.

QUESTIONS

- • How do we replace the fat collectors after they get old and out of use?
- • Who is responsible for the stove builder's work?
- • Can the mud Chorkor stove be retrofitted?
- • Can I use my own bank savings to purchase the stove instead of the listed banks?

These questions and a lot more were asked by participants and they were answered by the facilitators.

LESSON LEARNED

Fish processors are always in need of money so they can buy fish at any time. Some of the MSMEs who initially expressed interest in purchasing the stoves with cash have also joined those who registered at the bank so that they can have surplus money to buy fish.

WAY FORWARD

The banks have promised to hold meetings with the MSMEs to ensure that they understood their banking operations and mode of repayment.