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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Training On Gender Fisheries Policy Report



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THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF OCEANOGRAPHY



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Cover photo: Fish processors after BDS training (Credit: CEWEFIA)

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

ACRONYMS

| | |
|---------|--|
| CEWEFIA | Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association |
| IUU | Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| WARFP | West Africa Regional Fisheries Development Program |

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BACKGROUND

Women and men work together in the fishery value chain to ensure coherent supply of fish all year round. In carrying out their gender roles these actors either positively or negatively impact each other's work. This training therefore sought to clarify the various gender roles played by men and women in the fisheries value chain. Also the training was carried out to create understanding about the roles and how the negative impacts can be dealt with. Gender trainings are held to help fisher folk discuss pertinent issues hampering their progress as men and women working together to develop the fishery sector; and preserve other activities in the value chain as well as find ways to ensure that everyone benefits from the current state of dwindling fish stocks in order to maintain their livelihoods. Women can do more things given the right resources and it is hoped that their participation would enable them engage in decision making and also advocate for change in illegal, unregulated and reported fishing practices. The training was held from 17th to 18th May 2017 in the four target communities respectively.

Open discussions and plenary sessions with presentations were carried out.

1.1 Objectives

- To be able to define the gender concept.
- To explain gender dimension of fisheries issues.
- Identify driving and restraining forces to gender equity in the fishery sector.

1.2 Expected outcomes

OUTCOMES

A total of 122 participants were trained.

Table 1 Detailed Partner Contact Information:

| COMMUNITY | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|------------|------|--------|-------|
| Moree | 10 | 20 | 30 |
| Elmina | 8 | 22 | 30 |
| Anlo Beach | 8 | 22 | 30 |
| Sekondi | 6 | 26 | 32 |

Participation was good. The participants were grouped into four and given numbers. The facilitator took participants through the various concepts of gender, the gender dimension in the fisheries issues and also driving and restraining forces to gender equity in the fishery sector.

The men who attended were very vocal. The chief fisherman of Sekondi promised to take some of the women who were willing on fishing expeditions to show them what actually transpires at sea.

The issue of fishermen fishing illegally and selling unwholesome fish was discussed. The women claimed it was the main contributory factor why some of them have lost their capital and are now resorting to taking bank loans.

The fishermen accepted their faults and acknowledged the fact that engaging in Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU) is a major setback to actors in the fishery value chain, and result in loss of incomes that in turn propagate a lot of vices in their communities. Children who used to get free fish and sell cheaply to women for money or send home to their mothers are now not getting it because the fishermen have stopped giving out such fish.

Some fishermen are not making profits as they used to. The needy and physically challenged are also suffering due to lack of free fish in the communities.

2.1 Lessons Learnt

Fishermen are aware of the impact of their activities to the fisheries sector. If the fisheries laws are enforced, all the other fishermen who are claiming ignorance would adhere to the rules.

In coastal communities, the lack of fish affects nutrition, and livelihoods of almost all inhabitants i.e., men, women, children, physically challenged and old people.

WAY FORWARD

The next training would focus on the number of women who have been able to be part of decision making in their various fisheries groups. They would be made to share their experiences. The number of fishermen who have been able to stop IUU on their own, and not waiting for the fisheries laws would also share their experiences