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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Needs Assessment and Screening/ Training



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THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF OCEANOGRAPHY



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Cover photo: Mr. Abraham Asare of DAA conducting the oral needs assessments with Onyame Nstedee Odasanyi Fish Processors Group. (**Credit:** Development Action Association)

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ACRONYMS

CRC	Coastal Resource Center
DAA	Development Action Association
MOFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
ONO	Onyame Nstedee Odasanyi
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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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has committed funds for the implementation of a Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) in Ghana. The objective of the project is to support the Government of Ghana's efforts to replenish dwindling marine fish stocks through the adoption of responsible fishing practices.

Whether fresh, dried or fried, fish forms about 90% of protein in every diet both in cities and rural communities. Being perishable product fish preservation and processing must start immediately after harvesting. The processing of fish – smoking, frying and or sun drying is mainly done by women located in communities along the coast of Ghana and rivers.

For communities in Apam in the Gomoa West District of the Central Region, fisheries sector plays an important role in the local economy of the people, especially for women who are mainly engaged in the processing and trade of fish.

This report is on the result of a needs assessment survey on the installation of fish drying racks in Apam.

1.2 Objective

The objective of this needs assessment is to ensure that;

- The drying racks more targeted to the specific needs of the beneficiaries in the value chain, in terms of type, size, etc.
- To identify knowledge and skill gaps of the processors on the use of the racks

1.3 Target Group

The target beneficiaries for this survey are the salted dry fish (moimoi) processors in Apam in the Gomoa West District Assembly.

1.4 The Problem

Ground contamination and other infestation in the drying fish is Drying fish on the ground can increase the drying time. Animals such as dogs, goats, chicken and many others may eat or trampling on their products.



Figure 1: Animals such as dogs, goats, chicken and many others may eat or trampling on their products.

1.5 Methodology

The methodology used for this needs assessment was a focus group discussion with 50 participants guided by a structure questionnaire (see appendix). The survey was done orally with DAA staff leading the questioning and answering discussion section with the entire group. Participants showed their responses by the show of hands at which the cumulative numbers were taken into consideration. Depending on the nature of the questions, individuals' respondents offered further oral explanation supporting their responses.

The questions used for assessments were categorized into four main headings as:

1.5.1 Who/What?

These questions were used to access the members of the group, what type of materials will they prefer to be used in the construction, what preferred materials should be used as the covering for the platform, foundation, the size of the platform and what will be your main challenge in adopting this new technology?

1.5.2 How?

These set of questions were used to access the means and willingness of the beneficiaries to make financial contribution and kind contribution towards the construction of the raised drying racks. Beneficiaries were also accessed how the intervention will benefit the group more than any other fish processor group.

1.5.3 Why?

These set of questions were used to access the opinions of the proposed new drying technology compared to the current means of drying fish in the community. Beneficiaries were asked to why their fish processors group should benefit from the intervention rather than other fish processors groups.

1.5.4 When/Where?

The assessment questions were used to ascertain the time period that that construction of the drying racks will be feasible for the beneficiaries and where are their preferred locations for the racks to be constructed



Figure 2: Mr. Abraham Asare of DAA (in white and standing) leading the oral needs assessment with the Onyame Nstedee Odasanyi group in Apam in the Gomoa West.



Figure 3: . Madam Lydia Sasu, the executive director of DAA (in cloth and standing) during the needs assessment with the Onyame Nstedee Odasanyi group in Apam in the Gomoa West for the construction of raised drying racks.

SECTION 2: QUESTIONS FOR ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSES

2.1 WHO/WHAT?

2.1.1 What is currently used as a drying platform?

This question was used to access the current drying technology in use at the fish processing site. Nearly 70% of the respondents mentioned drying their processed salted fish on the sandy floor covered with dry straw while 30% of those pulled dry their fish on the bare ground (see figure 1). None of the respondents mentioned the use of any form of raising racks as a means of drying their fish. Figure 4 below summarizes the results from the question.

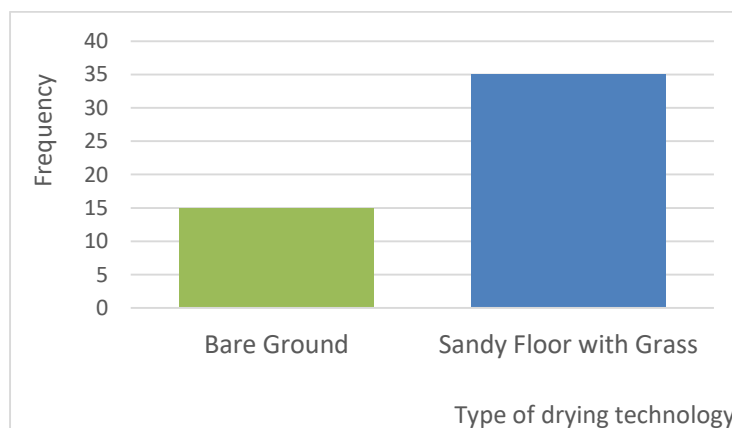


Figure 4: Type of technology used by processors in drying their salted/fermented fish

2.1.2 Who are the members of this group?

This question seeks to access the categories of membership from the Onyame Nstedee Odasanyi group and the various forms of fish processing they were involved in. Nearly all pulled (90%) were engaged in the processing of salted/fermented fish processing with only 10% also engaging in the selling of fresh fish in addition to the processing of fermented/salted dry fish. This confirms that, nearly all the membership of this group are potential beneficiaries of the proposed new fish drying technology.

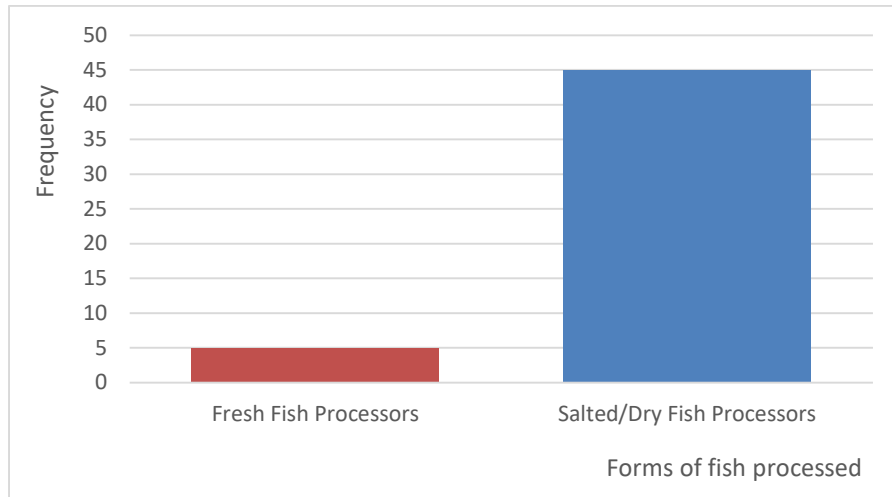


Figure 5: Various forms of fish processing members of Onyame Nstedee Odasnyi are involved in.

2.1.3 What material do you use in the construction of the existing technology?

Potential beneficiaries’ response to the type of construction materials use in the construction of the existing dry technology was accessed through this question. As indicated in *figure 6*, 96% of respondent mentioned the use of refuse dump which has been compacted and covered with sea sand as the main material for the construction of the platform for drying fish on the ground. A minority of 4% mentioned a form of a raised drying platform. However, further discussions revealed that, they were still refereeing the former technology (refuse dump covered with sea sand) with a relatively raised platform compared to what others use.

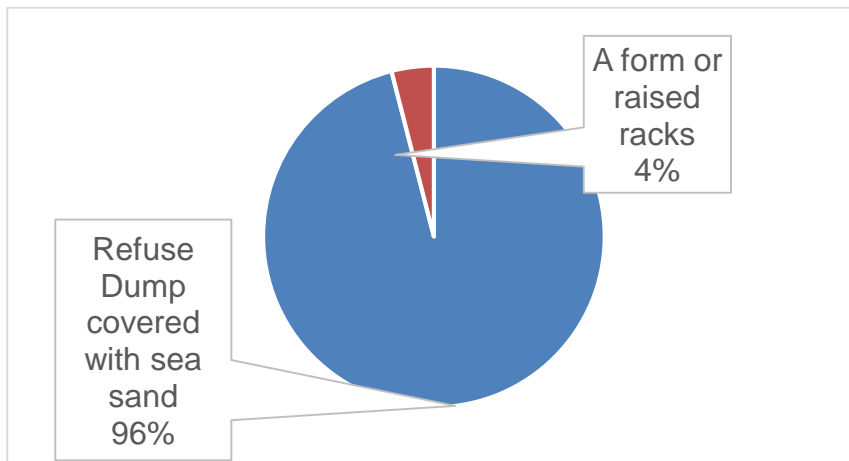


Figure 6: Construction material association members use in the construction of existing drying technology?

2.1.4 What type of materials should be used for the proposed foundation?

As indicated in the figure 7 below, 60% of respondents preferred a wooden material to be used as the footing of the proposed raised racks. They attributed the non-corrosive of wood as the main reason for this preference since the processing area is very close to the sea. 38% of the respondents preferring concrete gave the durability property as the main reason for their choice. A minority of 2% preferred metal to be used in the construction of the footing of the raised racks.

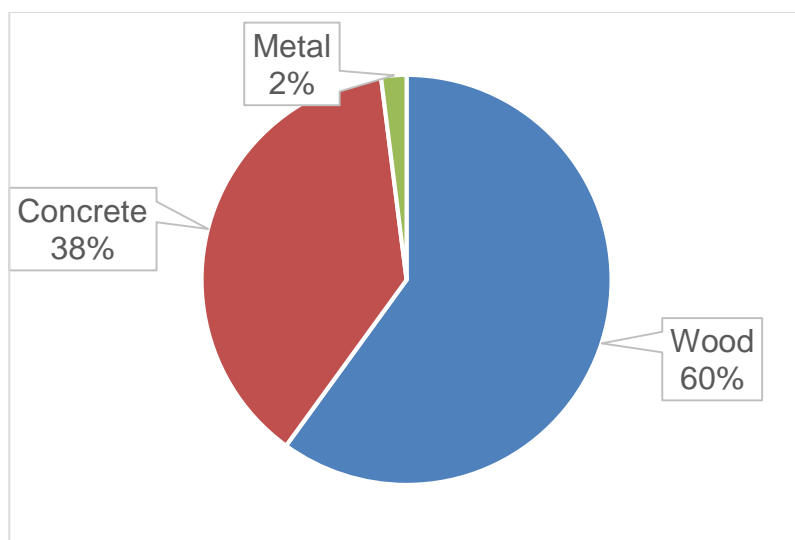


Figure 7: Proposed construction materials to be used for the new drying technology

2.1.5 What is the preferred material should be used for the coverings?

This questions relates to the drying surfaces for the proposed new drying racks technology. It was to use to access potential beneficiary’s preferences to either a metal wire mesh (as used in the fish smoking trays) and that of polythene (tarpaulin) sheets. 96% of respondents preferred the use of polythene sheet to be used as the drying surface for the drying racks. They cited the non-corrosive nature of the material, its resistant to water and also its ability to generate heat to dry the fish faster as some of the reason for their preference. Only 4% mentioned the use of metal wire mesh as their preferred choice.

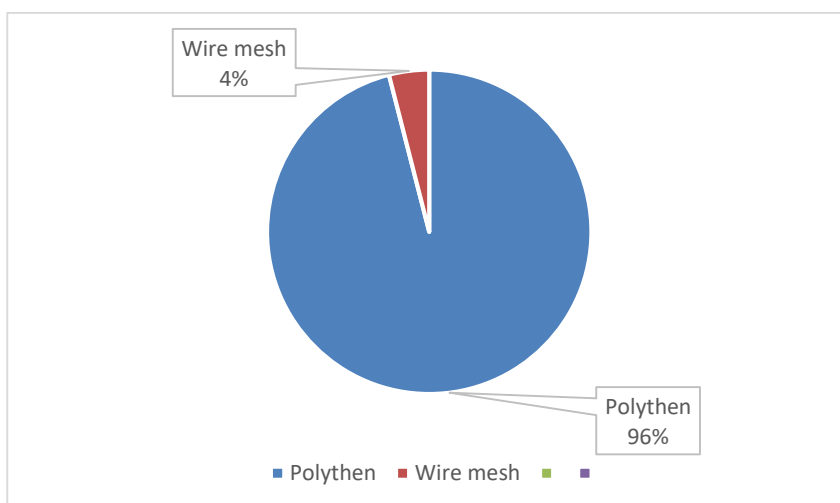


Figure 8: Consumers preference for technology covering to be used in drying.

2.1.6 Is there any average size they would prefer?

Respondents were asked choice from either 10, 15 and 20 square feet as the preferred size of the proposed new drying technology. 41 respondents selected the 10 square meter size as their preferred size. This they attribute to the low harvesting of fish they have been receiving from fishermen which has intend reduce the volumes of salted/fermented fish they have been processing. They also indicated that, they wanted to reduce the cost of construction since the bigger the size, the higher the cost is likely to be. Only 6 and 2 respondents preferred the sizes 15 and 20 square feet respectively as indicated in *figure 9* below.

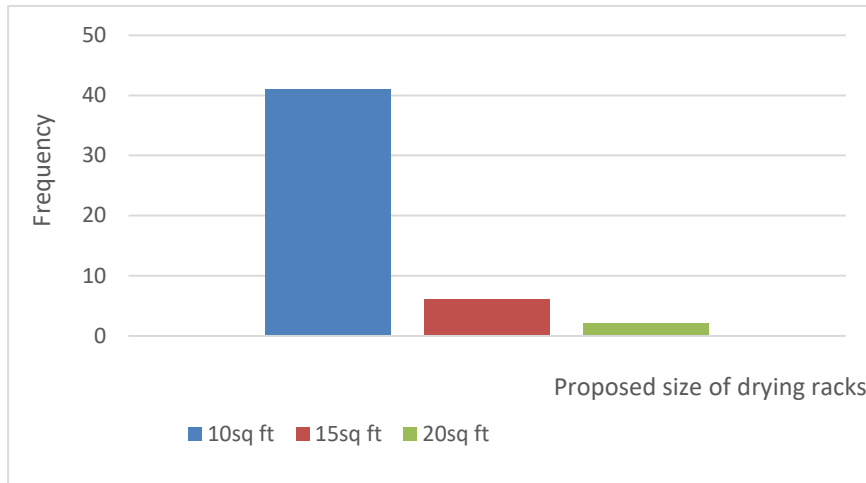


Figure 9: Proposed size of the drying racks for the new technology

2.1.7 What will be your main Motivation in adopting this new technology?

This question accessed the biggest motivation or self-incentive for the fish processors to adopt the proposed new fish drying racks. Expectedly, processors choose the ability of the technology to dry the fish quickly (rate of drying) and how user friendly the technology as the top-most motivation for adopting the new drying technology. Coming in a distant third, 8 of the respondents mentioned the easiness to maintain the technology as an incentive to its adoption as indicated in *figure 10* below.

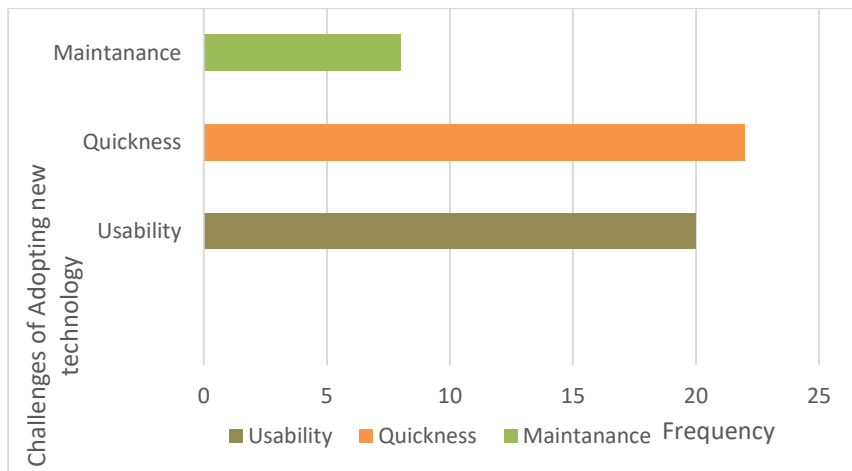


Figure 10: What will be your main challenge in adopting this new technology?

2.1.8 What aspect of the current technology for drying fish do you like most and why?

As shown in the figure 11 below, processors like most the easy design and low level height of the current drying technology. Interesting, very few processors do not find the existing drying technology as user friendly as many of them complain about the long hours of “bending” in order to dry their fish. Only 2 processors of those surveyed liked the usability of the current technology.

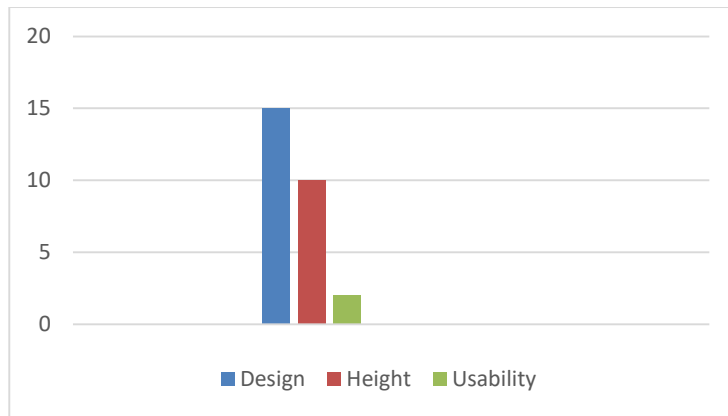


Figure 11: Processors likeness of the existing drying technology?

2.1.9 What aspect of the current technology for drying fish you wish could improve?

With low rating for user friendliness of the existing technology (*see figure 11*), processors expressed their strong dislike of the low lying nature of the current dry technology (80%) and wish that could be changed in any new proposed drying technology for them. Only 20% of those surveyed preferred an increase in the average sizes of the drying surfaces.

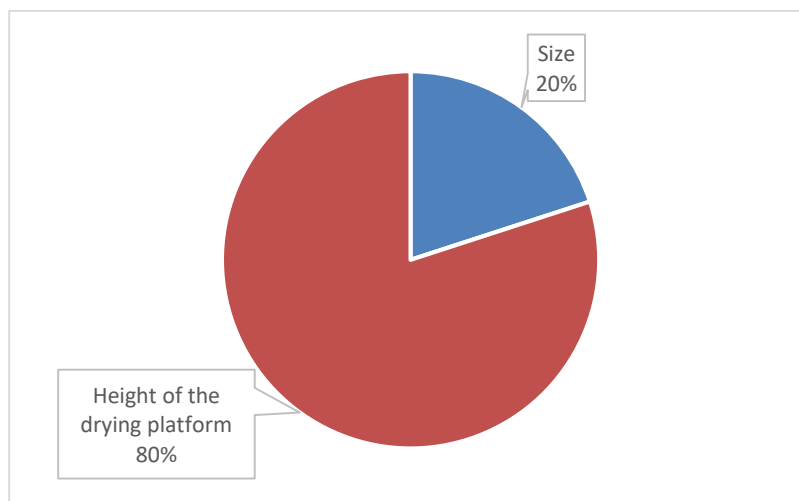


Figure 12. What aspect of the current technology for drying fish you wish could improve?

2.1.10 Are you willing to try another improve way of drying your fish?

As seen in *figure 13* below, the respondents massively see the need to adopt a new improved drying technology in their work. As much as 98% of those pulled reiterated the need for such a technology to help them improve the healthy and hygienic processing and drying technology for their dry fish.

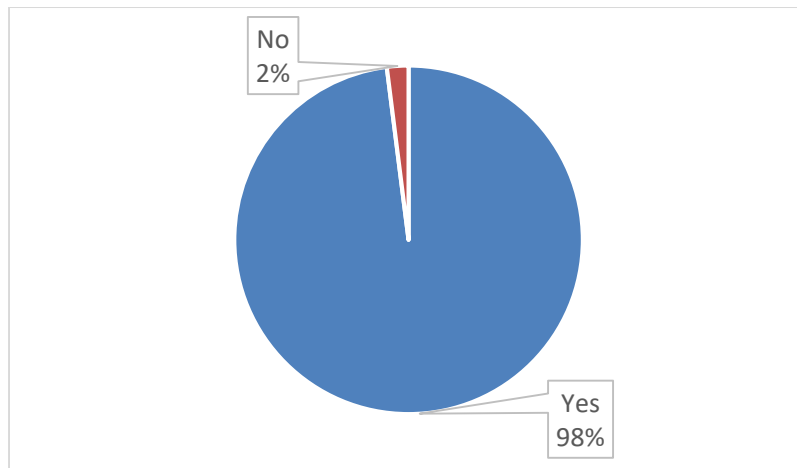


Figure 13: Are you willing to try another improve way of drying your fish?

2.1.11 What particular features of a new drying platform will you be anticipating?

Though potential beneficiaries look forward to a new drying technology, 70% of them anticipated the technology helping to process or dry their fish in a more hygienically. This could be an indication of the success of the various safe and hygienic fish handling training embarked upon by DAA with this group since the inception of the SFMP. Interesting, only 30% of the processors mentioned a reduced cost for procuring the technology as a factor.

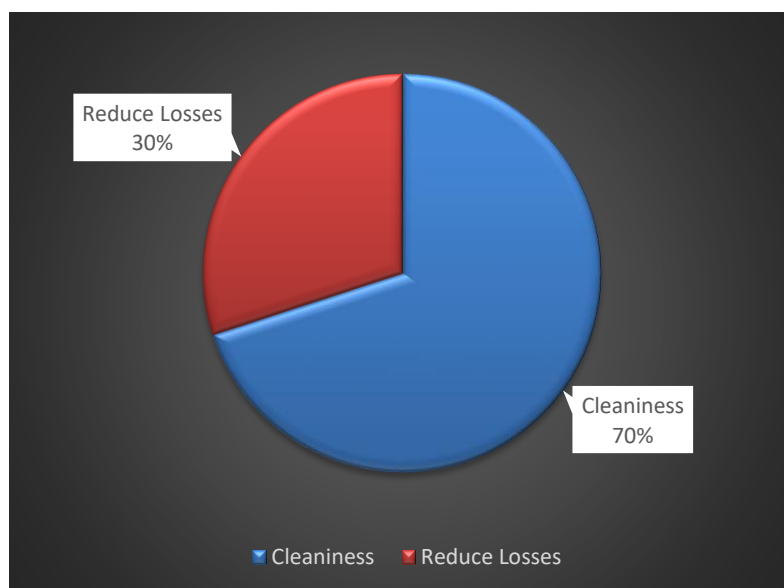


Figure 14: What particular features of a new drying platform will you be anticipating?

2.1.12 Will your association be willing to involve in a revolving fund in order finance/contribute to the new raised platforms?

This question accessed the willingness of the association to start a revolving fund in order to sustain the construction of this new technology by members. 96% of the respondents showed their willingness to start a revolving fund compared to only 2% who are not.

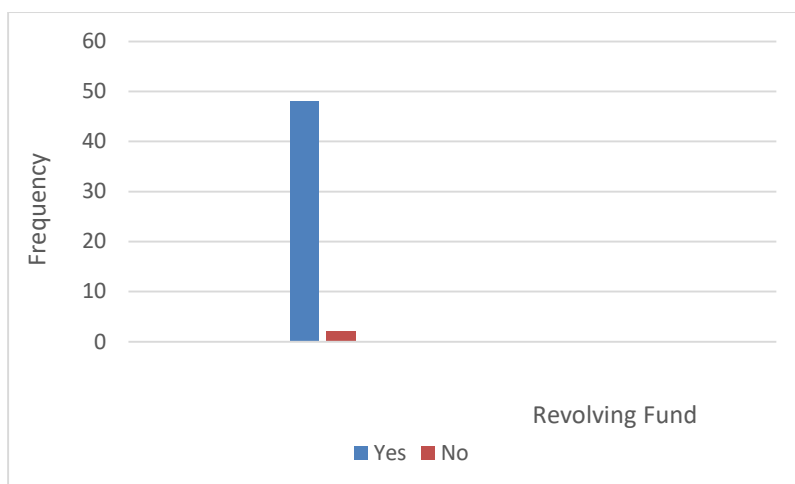


Figure 15: Association member’s willingness to start a revolving fund as part of the sustainability plan towards the construction of the new technology

2.2 HOW?

2.2.1 If you were to adopt a new technology for drying the fish, how would you like to finance such an intervention?

Respondents were given the opportunity to choose how they intend to pay for the adoption and owning of the proposed new technology. 90% indicated their reliance on a financial support in order to procure the new technology. Such support they indicated might come from the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) with sponsorship from USAID, of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD), the Fisheries Commission of Ghana (FC), the government of Ghana through the District Assembly or even the member of parliament of the area. Interestingly, 6% and 4% of the respondents indicated their willingness to finance the acquisition of the new drying technology through a loan or self-payment respectively as indicated in *figure 16* below.

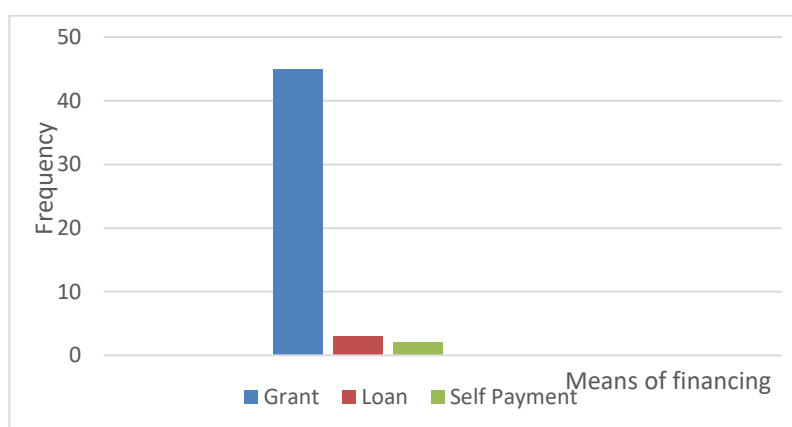


Figure 16: If you were to adopt a new technology for drying the fish, how would you like to finance such an intervention?

2.2.2 How much of your personal money would like to contribute to the construction of this intervention?

This was a follow-up question to assess the willingness of those who would like to finance the drying racks through a grant cash contribution towards the total cost of construction of the new technology. Only 7% of the respondents are willing to contribute up to fifty percent of the cost while 93% are not willing to contribute anything to support any grant received.

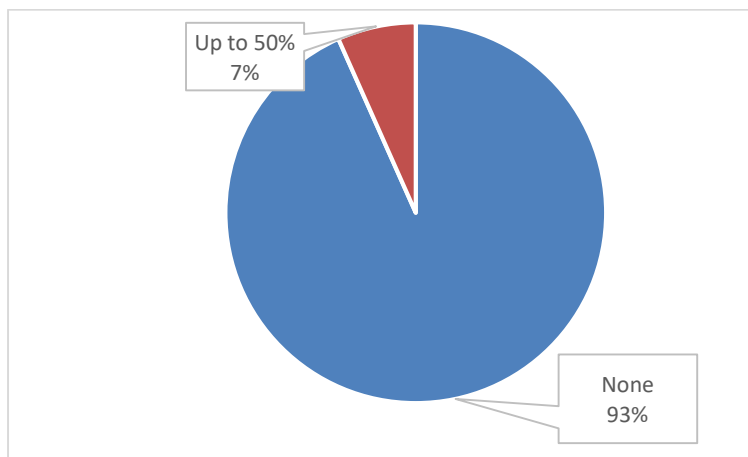


Figure 17: Grant seeking respondents who would like to make cash contribute towards the construction of this intervention through a grant facility?

2.2.3 What other way would you like to contribute to the cost of construction this intervention?

This question was directed towards respondents who would like to access the new drying technology through a grant facility as discussed above. Though 93% (see figure 17) are unwilling to make any form of cash contribution towards the construction of the new technology, 89% however would commit their labor resources such as their time, effort of fetching water and construction materials as a means of contribution towards the construction of the racks. 11% indicated their willingness to support in kind by donating any of the construction materials such as the wood, nails, sand, cement, etc if they already have in their possession.

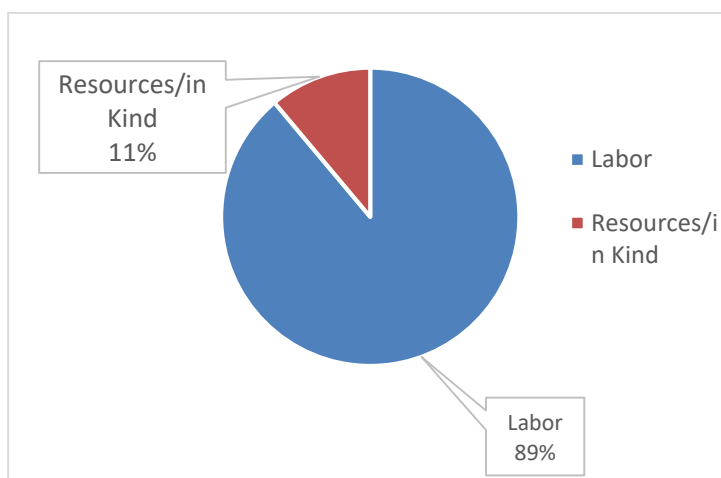


Figure 18: Other ways of making non cash contribution towards the construction of the new technology drying racks.

2.2.4 How will this intervention benefit your group more than any other fish processor group?

Respondents mentioned some of the benefits to be derived for selecting their group as a beneficiary group compared to other fish processors group. Among some of the benefits they mentioned included hygienic processing (56%), quicker drying time (24%) and reduced ground contamination (20%).

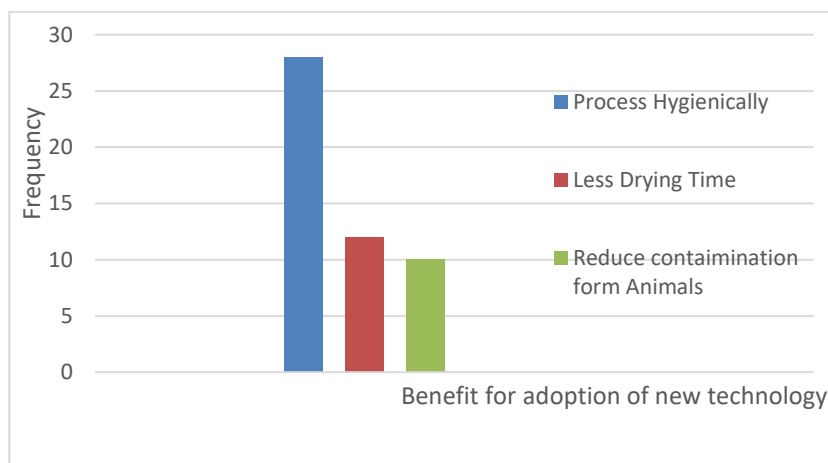


Figure 19. How will this intervention benefit your group more than any other fish processor group?

2.2.5 How do they intend to solve the dumping of refuse near their processing site?

90% of respondents saw the need to maintain a clean and safe working environment through regular group cleaning exercise. A minority group of 5% mentioned even the need to hire the services of a cleaning company such as the ZoomLion cleaning services to assist them in this regards.

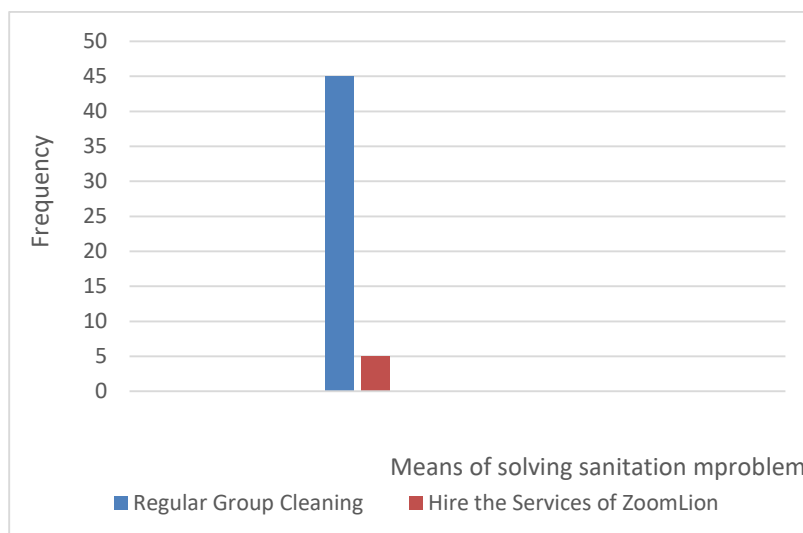


Figure 20: How do they intend to solve the dumping of refuse near their processing site?

2.2.6 How would you select the initial members who will benefit for this intervention?

Since the Onyame Nstedee Odasnyi group has a membership of over 70 fish processors, this question was used to access any selection criteria for the few beneficiaries of the new dry racks technology should the SFMP decide to provide some under a grant. Among the many

suggestions given by respondents, 70% of respondents said, a major criterion that should be considered is the potential beneficiary's participation at the group meetings and activities since the inception of the SFMP activities. To this end, they leadership promised to use the group meeting attendance book as part of the evidence of selection. However, 30% of those polled were of the view that, the group leadership should also have a greater say in deciding who should be among the first beneficiaries of the new intervention.

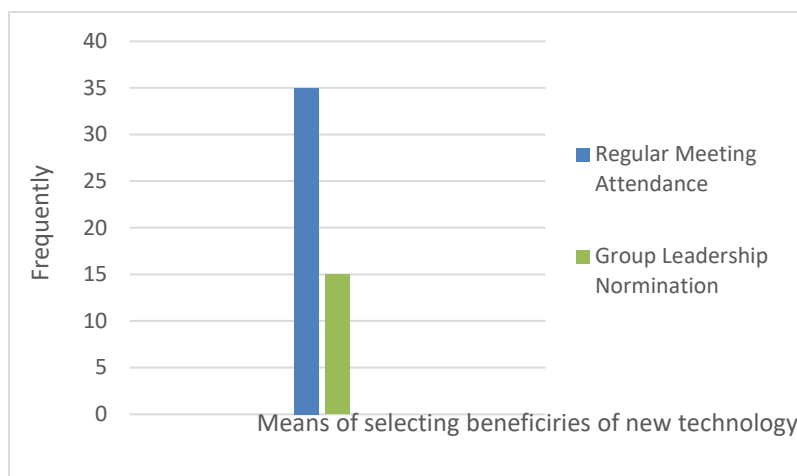


Figure 21: How would you select the initial members who will benefit for this intervention?

2.2.7 How would others in the group be supported to benefit from the intervention?

Respondents were in agreement that, members of the group including initial beneficiaries should support other members to also benefit from the intervention. As indicated in figure 22, 74% of respondents believed that such group support should come through the membership dues payment while 26% support a revolving fund payment to support it.

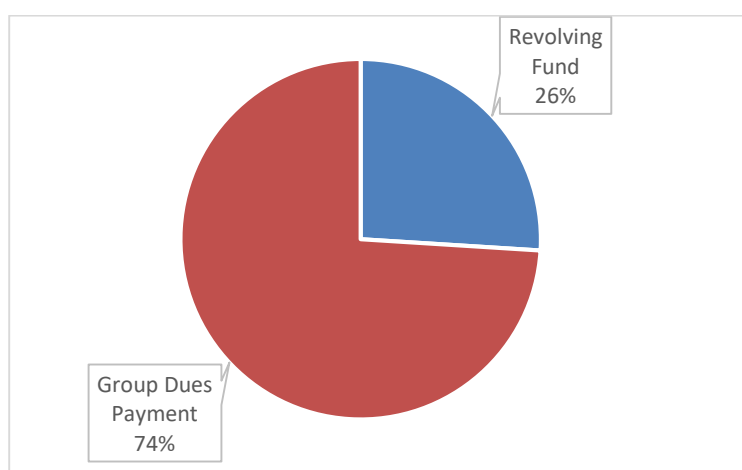


Figure 22: How would others in the group be supported to benefit from the intervention?

2.3 WHY/WHEN?

2.3.1 Why do you think this intervention is a good idea?

Nearly 80% believed that, the main benefit of adopting this new drying technology lies within the health benefit while 20% believed that, the biggest advantage will be derived from reducing losses in the post-harvest value chain of their product as seen in the figure 23 below.

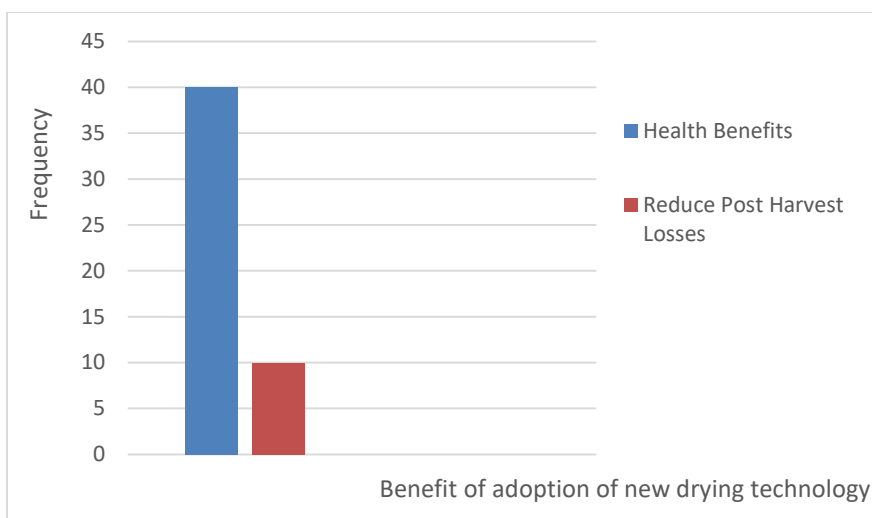


Figure 23: Why do you think this intervention is a good idea?

2.3.2 Why should your group members receive this intervention over the other fish processor groups?

Respondents mentioned the good organizational structure (28%) and largest membership (72%) as some of the reasons why any intervention for fish drying improvements should target their group compared to other fish processor groups especially those in the Gomoa West District Assembly in the Central Region of Ghana.

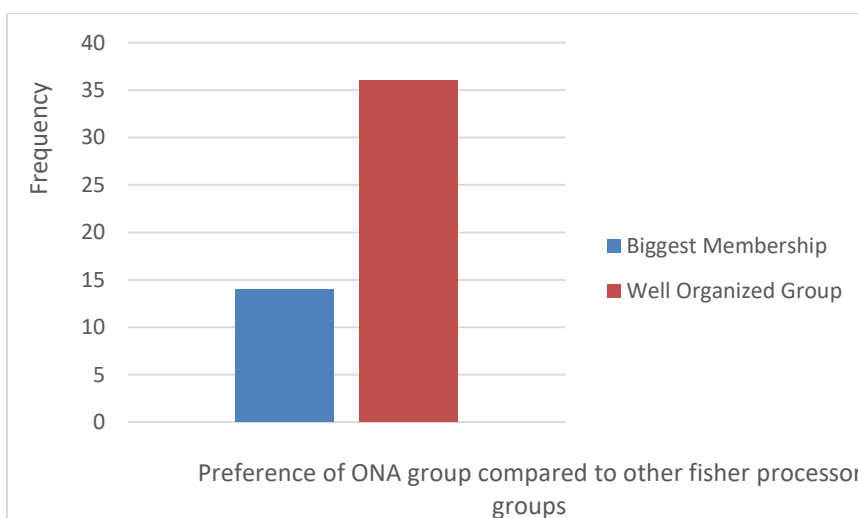


Figure 24: Onyame Nstedee Odasanyi as a preferred beneficiary group compared to other fisher processor groups.

2.3.3 Are you satisfied with the performance of your current drying platforms?

Eighty-four percent (84%) of respondent polled expressed their overall dissatisfaction of the current technology in use for the drying of salted/fermented fish in their community compared to only 16% who expressed one form of satisfaction as seen in the figure 25 below.

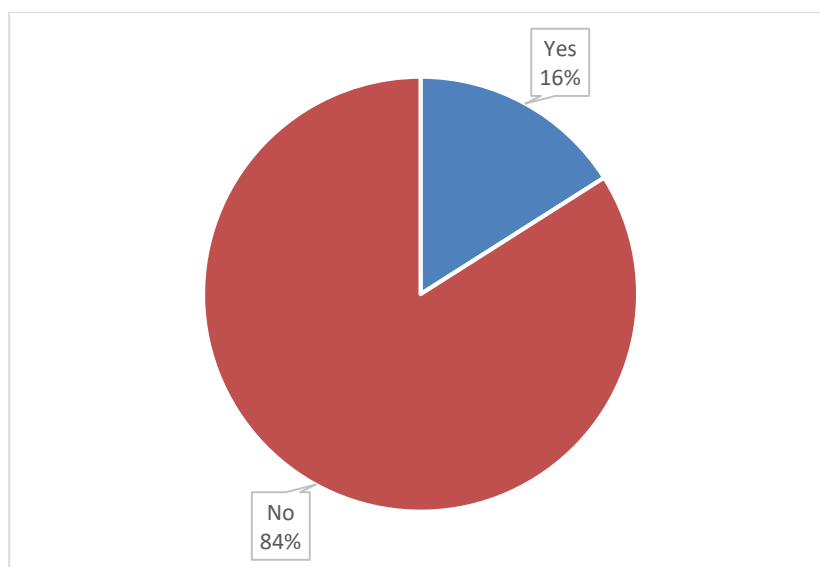


Figure 25: . Participants level of satisfaction of the current technology in use for drying salted/fermented fish.

2.3.4 Where do you get construction materials for your current platforms?

Respondents articulated their desire to source the construction materials to be used in the drying racks construction to be sources locally to reduce the cost and also the time duration for the construction. 94% of respondents prefers local sourcing of materials or from a nearby community while 6% will be okay if the vendor is sourced from outside the community.

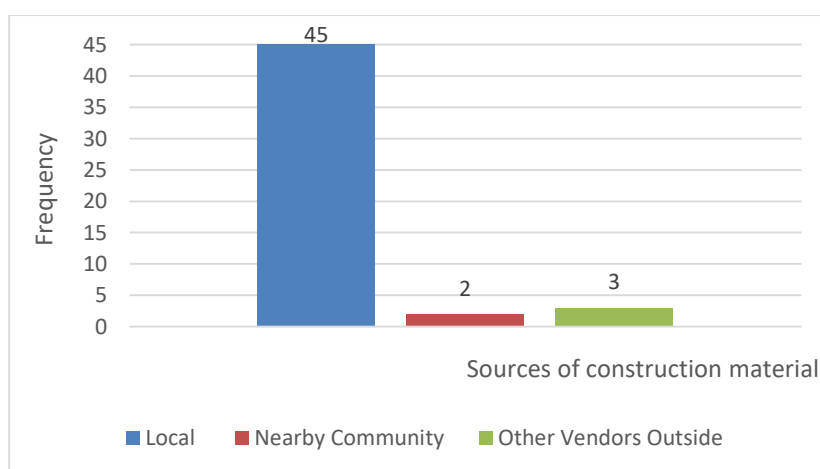


Figure 26: Sourcing of materials and vendors in the construction of the drying racks

2.3.5 When will it be appropriate to start constructing a new raised platform?

Respondents indicated varied starting period for the proposed new drying racks technology. 22 processors representing 44% of those polled mentioned dry season as the most ideal period for the start of constructions works on the new technology citing inaccessibility of the processing area during the rainy season. 34% of respondents representing 17 processors polled mentioned the “off fishing” season as the most preferred period. These respondents indicated that, the off fishing season will allow them to offer their time and labor to support the construction activities. 22% of respondents preferred construction during the lean fishing season as indicated in figure 27 below.

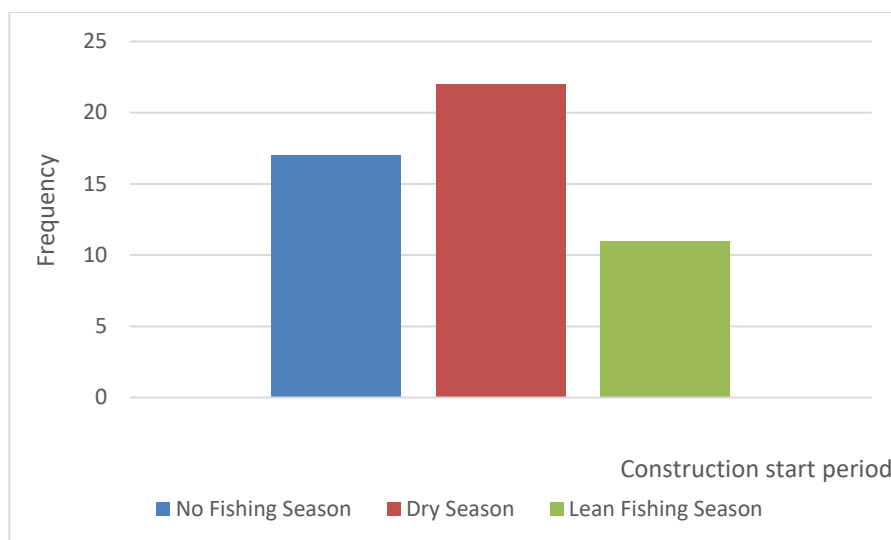


Figure 27: Respondent preferences in starting times for the construction of the drying racks.

SECTION 3: CONCLUSION

The above statistics clearly indicate the need for an improved fish drying technique for the fish processors in Apam in the Gomoa West District Assembly of the Central Region of Ghana. The responses from the group clearly indicate their readiness and willingness to adopt this new improved drying technology to improve on the quality of the fish they produce.

DAA will continue to support these fish processors under the sustainable fisheries management project (SFMP) to process fish hygienically for consumption.

APPENDIX

Project Intervention Needs Assessment for Raised Platforms

Questions for Assessment

Format: Oral Assessment

Name of Group: Onyame Nstede Odasanyi

Community: Apam, Gomoa West

A. WHO/WHAT?

- What is currently used as a drying platform?
- Who are the members of this group?
- What material do you use in the construction of the existing technology?
- What type of materials should be used for the proposed foundation?
- What is the preferred material should be used for the coverings?
- Is there any average size they would prefer?
- What will be your main Motivation in adopting this new technology?
- What aspect of the current technology for drying fish do you like most and why?
- What aspect of the current technology for drying fish you wish could improve?
- Are you willing to try another improve way of drying your fish?
- What particular features of a new drying platform will you be anticipating?
- Will your association be willing to involve in a revolving fund in order finance/contribute to the new raised platforms?
-

B. HOW?

- If you were to adopt a new technology for drying the fish, how would you like to finance such an intervention?
- How much of your personal money would like to contribute to the construction of this intervention?
- What others way would you like to contribute to the cost of construction this intervention?
- How will this intervention benefit your group more than any other fish processor group?
- How do they intend to solve the dumping of refuse near their processing site?
- How would you select the initial members who will benefit for this intervention?
- How would others in the group be supported to benefit from the intervention?

C. WHY?

- Why do you think this intervention is a good idea?
- Why should your group members receive this intervention over the other fish processor groups?
- Are you satisfied with the performance of your current drying platforms?
- Where do you get construction materials for your current platforms?
- When will it be appropriate to start constructing a new raised platform?

D. WHEN/WHEN?

- Where will be getting the construction material from if they were to contribute to it?