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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

DAA FISHERIES TRAINING CENTER LAUNCH



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THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF OCEANOGRAPHY



Development
Action Association

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For more information on the Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project, contact:

USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project

Coastal Resources Center

Graduate School of Oceanography

University of Rhode Island

220 South Ferry Rd.

Narragansett, RI 02882 USA

Tel: 401-874-6224 Fax: 401-874-6920 Email: info@crc.uri.edu

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Cover photo: Some DAA Members Dance with the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD) Hon Aforley Quaye (Credit: Development Action Association)

Detailed Partner Contact Information:

USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP)
10 Obodai St., Mempeasem, East Legon, Accra, Ghana

Telephone: +233 0302 542497 Fax: +233 0302 542498

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Maurice Knight | Chief of Party maurice@crc.uri.edu |
| Kofi Agbogah | Senior Fisheries Advisor kagbogah@henmpoano.org |
| Nii Odenkey Abbey | Communications Officer nii.sfmp@crcuri.org |
| Bakari Nyari | Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist hardinyari.sfmp@crcuri.org |
| Brian Crawford | Project Manager, CRC brian@crc.uri.edu |
| Ellis Ekekpi | USAID AOR (acting) eekekpi@usaid.gov |

Kofi Agbogah
kagbogah@henmpoano.org
Stephen Kankam
skankam@henmpoano.org
Hen Mpoano
38 J. Cross Cole St. Windy Ridge
Takoradi, Ghana
233 312 020 701

Resonance Global
(formerly SSG Advisors)
182 Main Street
Burlington, VT 05401
+1 (802) 735-1162
Thomas Buck
tom@ssg-advisors.com

Andre de Jager
adejager@snvworld.org
SNV Netherlands Development Organisation
#161, 10 Maseru Road,
E. Legon, Accra, Ghana
233 30 701 2440

Victoria C. Koomson
cewefia@gmail.com
CEWEFIA
B342 Bronyibima Estate
Elmina, Ghana
233 024 427 8377

Donkris Mevuta
Kyei Yamoah
info@fonghana.org
Friends of the Nation
Parks and Gardens
Adiembra-Sekondi, Ghana
233 312 046 180

Lydia Sasu
daawomen@daawomen.org
DAA
Darkuman Junction, Kaneshie Odokor
Highway
Accra, Ghana
233 302 315894

For additional information on partner activities:

CRC/URI: <http://www.crc.uri.edu>
CEWEFIA: <http://cewefia.weebly.com/>
DAA: <http://womenthrive.org/development-action-association-daa>
Friends of the Nation: <http://www.fonghana.org>
Hen Mpoano: <http://www.henmpoano.org>
Resonance Global: <https://resonanceglobal.com/>
SNV: <http://www.snvworld.org/en/countries/ghana>

ACRONYMS

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| DAA | Development Action Association |
| DFTC | DAA Fisheries Training Center |
| MOFAD | Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development |
| SFMP | Sustainable Fisheries Management Project |
| SNV | Netherlands Development Organization |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The DAA Fisheries Training Center (DFTC) located at Kokrobite in the Ga South Municipality Assembly of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana was launched on the 19th of June 2018.

The DFTC was built with funding from USAID under the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP). The objective of the training Centre is to reduce the inefficiencies in the fish value chain through the training of fish processors on the production and trade of quality fish in Ghana.

The launch was attended by dignitaries from USAID/ Ghana, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MOFAD), Local Authority, Traditional Authorities, SFMP Partners and Fish Processors;

- MoFAD/FC- Minister, Mrs Elizabeth Naa Afoley Quaye and Heads of Department.
- USAID, - Mr. James Lykos and Dr. J. P. Walsh
- CRC of University of Rhode Island – Dr. Brian Crawford and Maurice Knight. (CoP of SFMP)
- Traditional authorities - Nii Abbey Ansah the II, (Chief of Kokrobite) and Naa Ayeley Asongor, (Queen Mother of Kokrobite).
- The President of North American Women’s Association in Ghana (NAWA)- Laurie Rotameter
- Ghana Standards Authority - Mrs. Jessica Nkansah
- Ga South Municipal Chief Executive - Mr. Joseph Nyarni Stephen & Mr. Dela Sasu (Planning Officer of the Ga South Municipal assembly)
- SNV - Mrs. Sarah Naa Dedei Abbey.
- Development Action Association members from Greater Accra, Eastern, Volta and Central Regions.

1.2 The Launch

Dr. Brian Crawford welcomed all the dignitaries to the launch. Mrs. Sarah Naa Dedei Abbey of SNV also gave her the opening remarks. The launch was chaired by Nii Abbey Ansah the II.

In his speech, Mr. James Lykos, the Acting Director for Economic Growth for USAID Ghana said the DFTC was funded by USAID’s Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) which is a global hunger and food security initiative by the US government. In his view, the establishment of the DFTC will go a long way to improve the operations of the estimated 35,000 small scale fish processors in Ghana who will receive training at the center.

He also indicated that the DFTC has already trained over 150 fisher folks, government staff and other stakeholders working with small scale fisheries processors since January 2018. 150 oyster pickers have also been trained on oyster, biology and mangrove nursery establishment.

Mr. James Lykos, urged the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development to implement the close season and let the sea replenish itself.



Figure 1: Dr. Brian Crawford welcoming participants to the durbar.



Figure 2: Dr. J. P. Walsh of CRC giving his remarks.



Figure 3: Sarah Naa Dedei Abbey giving her remarks.



Figure 4: James Lykos delivering his remarks.

2.1 Unveiling of Plaque

Mr. James Lykos, and Nii Abbey Ansah II cut the tape to unveil the plaque to signify the official opening of the DAA Fisheries Training Center. This was witnessed by dignitaries from CRC, MOFAD/FC, NAWA, SFMP's implementing partners and the Municipal Assembly.



Figure 5: . Mr. James Lykos and Nii Abbey Ansah II cutting the tape and unveiling of Plaque

1.3 TOUR OF PREMISES

Mr. Abraham Asare, led the dignitaries on a tour of the DFTC. Dignitaries toured the offices, conference room and dormitory. Mrs. Emelia Nortey the manager of the DFTC then showed the dignitaries round the processing unit of the training center. The processing unit comprises of a receiving and cleaning room, a smoking room, cooling room and the packaging and storage room. Dignitaries witnessed a few women in the receiving room threading oysters to be grilled as kebabs. The smoking room had two types of ovens, the Ahotor and FTT ovens. Mrs. Nortey showed the dignitaries how the ovens are operated.



Figure 6: Mrs Emelia Nortey continuing the tour



Figure 7: Mrs. Emelia Nortey explaining how the oven works.



Figure 8: Women processors threading oyster kebab

SECTION 2: REMARKS BY MINISTER OF FISHERIES

The minister was welcomed to the durbar grounds by the DAA women with an Agbadza dance. In her address, she indicated that that the center will be awarded a Class One Recognition Certification and will train about 300 fish processors annually.

She pledged her support for the Fisher's Future Plan a micro savings and insurance plan initiated by SFMP and MiLife for fishers, adoption of the 'Ahotor' oven and the roll out of the Class 1 Certification Scheme developed by the Fisheries Commission for fish processors. In her view, the 'Ahotor' oven will help reduce cancer risks among fish processors who use the Chorkor smokers'. This is because the 'Ahotor' oven use 30 percent less fuelwood, reducing the pressure on coastal mangroves and save income. It also emits less smoke and more comfortable to use by the women.



Figure 9: Minister being welcomed with a dance.



Figure 10: The Minister giving her remarks

2.1 APPRECIATION

Mrs. Lydia Sasu, the executive director of DAA was joined by the Board members of DAA to express their appreciation to USAID, SFMP for listening to the voice of the rural women. They expressed this appreciation in English, Ga, Twi and Ewe languages.



Figure 11: Mrs. Lydia Sasu with DAA board members showing their appreciation to USAID for listening to rural women

2.2 CLOSING PRAYER

Closing prayer was given by Ms. Aku Saah.



Figure 12: Ms. Aku Saah gave the closing prayer.

3.0 GALLERY



Figure 13: Minister of fisheries Mrs. Naa Afoley Quaye being interviewed by media.



Figure 14: Dr Brian Crawford being interviewed by the media.



Figure 15: DFTC products



Figure 16: Some of the DFTC products



Figure 17: Cultural dancers



Figure 18: Cultural dancers



Figure 19 Cultural dancers



Figure 20: DAA women at the event



Figure 21: DAA women at the event



Figure 22: Dr. J. P. Walsh of CRC, James Lykos of USAID and Jessica Nkansah of Ghana Standards Authority in a chat.