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# SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

## Report on Monitoring of Trained Fish Processors on Post –Harvest Activities



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THE  
UNIVERSITY  
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**Cover photo:** Participants in a discussion at bi-monthly meeting at Anlo Beach (Michael Takyi)

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## ACRONYMS

CCM	Centre for Coastal Management
CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
CRC	Coastal Resource Center
CSLP	Coastal Sustainable Landscape Project
DAA	Development Action Association
DFAS	Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Science
DMFS	Department of Marine Fisheries Sciences
DQF	Daasgift Quality Foundation
FtF	Feed the Future
GIFA	Ghana Inshore Fishermen's Association
GIS	Geographic Information System
GNCFC	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen's Council
HM	Hen Mpoano
ICFG	Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Governance
MESTI	Ministry of Environment Science and Technology
MOFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
SSG	SSG Advisors
STWG	Scientific and Technical Working Group
UCC	University of Cape Coast
URI	University of Rhode Island
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WARFP	West Africa Regional Fisheries Development Program

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS .....	iii
LIST OF TABLES .....	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	v
SECTION 1: BACKGROUND .....	1
1.1 Purpose of The Monitoring .....	1
1.2 Methodology .....	1
1.3 Expected Outcome .....	1
SECTION 2: MONITORING FINDINGS .....	1
2.1 Recommendation .....	2
SECTION 3: WAY FORWARD .....	3
SECTION 4: CONCLUSION .....	3

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Number of Respondents .....	1
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## SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

CEWEFIA's role on the USAID / Ghana SFMP is to promote improvements in post-harvest in the fisheries value chain. Consequently, CEWEFIA has been takes to undertake series of interventions aimed at improving household income and livelihoods of fish processors in the Central and Western Region.

The interventions include trainings on Business Development Training, value addition to fish products, hygienic fish handling and the use and maintenance of the Ahotor oven.

Monitoring visits were therefore undertaken to beneficiary communities in Elmina, Moree, Anlo, Sekondi / Ngyiresia, Asanta, Shama and Ankobra

**Table 1. Number of Respondents**

Community	Male	Female	Total
ELMINA	2	38	40
MOREE	0	23	23
ANLO	1	23	24
SECONDI/NGYRISIA	0	52	52
TOTAL	3	136	139

### 1.1 Purpose of The Monitoring

The purpose of the monitoring is to track the use of the knowledge acquired at the trainings document any changes as a result of the trainings and also for program planning.

### 1.2 Methodology

A questionnaire was developed to collect data for a selected fish processor. The data was then collated and analyzed.

### 1.3 Expected Outcome

It is expected that the findings from the monitoring results will be used to improve planning of the project's intervention for improved livelihoods and increased income.

## SECTION 2: MONITORING FINDINGS

139 (3 males, 136 females) fish processors responded to the questionnaire during the monitoring.

70% of the women smoked fish whilst the rest of them fried or dried fish. 90.4% of the women also engaged in petty trading to support their family. All the women interviewed said that they had heard of the Ahotor oven and had participated in the trainings and demonstrations organized by CEWEFIA.

When asked to rank why they liked the oven, "less smoke" and "the oven gives the fish a good look" was ranked first by '60% of the respondents. 30% ranked "low fuel wood consumption" as second and "convenient and hygienic" was ranked third by 20% of the respondents.

When asked what they wanted the project to improve on the use of the oven, all of them said that the price of the oven should be reduced since the price is high. They added that they

would prefer to buy their own materials and lay away and contract an artisan to construct for them when they have the money to pay for the labor cost.

In the communities, it was realized that 70% of the beneficiaries who had acquired the oven were not using it. The 30% that were using the oven said that they used it to smoke fish for funerals and for special occasions. Their main reason for not using the oven was that the ovens constructed for them takes a longer time to cook compared to the demonstration ovens at the CEWEFIA fish processing facility. This is attributed to the fact that the ovens were not built to specification. Several attempts by CEWEFIA to get the contractor to rectify the mistakes have proved futile.

On the average, 100% of the women interviewed had had trainings in business development, hygienic fish handling as well as on the use and maintenance of the Ahotor oven. 80% of the respondents indicated that it had had a positive impact on them to a great extent. They also indicated that the trainings had helped them to improve upon their businesses.

From the data, it was realized that 86% of the processors were very proficient in calculating their profit. This is a clear indication that they are applying the knowledge received at the trainings.

On records keeping, 55% of the respondents are proficient in keeping records. In order to encourage the fish processors to keep good records of the business transactions, CEWEFIA has supplied 500 records keeping books to the trained fish processors. From the interactions, it was revealed that although they had all received training on how to use it, the main challenge is that most of them cannot read and write. In order to address this problem, they were encouraged to solicit the services of their school going children or educated neighbor's kids to help them record their daily transactions in the books.

The data also revealed that 60% are knew where to access loans, how to save and understood the need to treat the customer with care. They are also proficient in making sure that their business grow and are able to close sales.

The respondents also said they can now determine if their business was growing or not, and now have the skills to close sales profitably.

The average monthly expenditure per respondent is 5000 Ghana Cedis and the monthly income is 8000 Ghana Cedis.

In assessing the conditions of their smoking sheds in terms of environmental hygiene, layout of the premises, quality of water used in cleaning fish, operations and control of the processors, storage facility, pest control and waste management, it was realized by observation that 60% of the respondent's kept their shed clean.

On gender, they were of the view that women's voice to a great extent would help to improve the fisheries sector. They also strongly agreed that for improved fisheries every voice count.

## **2.1 Recommendation**

- Regular follow up visits to beneficiaries will prompt them to put the skills acquired into practice.
- The cost of the Ahotor oven should be revised. Interested processors should be encouraged to lay away.
- There should a quality assurance team to check that all ovens constructed are built to specification before handing over to the client.
- CEWEFIA should support the processors in Elmina to improve their smoking shed.
- The contractors need to rectify all the defective ovens so the women can use them.



- There should be training on literacy and numeracy for the women.

### **SECTION 3: WAY FORWARD**

All the trainings organized by CEWEFIA for the fish processors have impacted their business and their households. CEWEFIA will therefore target more processors in their intervention zones and train them especially on the use and maintenance of the Ahotor oven.

### **SECTION 4: CONCLUSION**

The role of women in the fisheries value chain especially in post-harvest cannot be over emphasized. They can however only please these roles effectively if their capacities are built. Women empowered with knowledge is the first step towards ensuring sustainable fisheries management.