



# SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP) Report on Monitoring of MSMEs in Axim, Asanta, Ankobra and Shama.



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**Cover photo:** A group picture of participants at Bi-monthly meeting with trained fish processors at Apewosika- Axim (Josephine Opare Addo)

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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                          |
| CSIR    | Center for Scientific and Industrial Research                  |
| DAA     | Development Action Association                                 |
| DFAS    | Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Science                    |
| DMFS    | Department of Marine Fisheries Sciences                        |
| DQF     | Daasgift Quality Foundation                                    |
| FC      | Fisheries Commission   |
| FDA     | Food and Drug Authority  |
| 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                    |
| IUU     | Illegal, Unregulated, Unreported                               |
| MESTI   | Ministry of Environment Science and Technology                 |
| MOFAD   | Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development              |
| NDPC    | National Development Planning Commission                       |
| NGOs    | Non-Governmental Organizations                                 |
| PAH     | Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon                                |
| 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

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <u>ACRONYMS</u> .....                       | iii |
| <u>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</u> .....               | v   |
| <u>SECTION 1: Background</u> .....          | 1   |
| <u>1.1 Purpose of The Monitoring</u> .....  | 1   |
| <u>1.2 Methodology</u> .....                | 1   |
| <u>1.3 Expected Outcome</u> .....           | 1   |
| <u>SECTION 2: MONITORING FINDINGS</u> ..... | 1   |
| <u>2.1 Recommendation</u> .....             | 2   |
| <u>SECTION 3: WAY FORWARD</u> .....         | 2   |
| <u>SECTION 4: CONCLUSION</u> .....          | 2   |

## LIST OF TABLES

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <u>Table 1. Number of Respondents</u> ..... | 1 |
|---|---|

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## SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

The main role of CEWEFIA under the USAID / Ghana SFMP is to promote post-harvest improvements in the livelihoods of processors in the fisheries value chain.

CEWEFIA has therefore designed a series of capacity building interventions aimed at improving household income and livelihoods of fish processors.

Some of the interventions carried out are trainings on; Business Development, value addition to fish products, hygienic fish handling on the use and maintenance of Ahotor oven.

Monitoring visits were therefore carried out in Axim, Asanta, Shama and Ankobra.

**Table 1. Number of Respondents**

| <b>Community</b> | <b>MALE</b> | <b>FEMALE</b> | <b>TOTAL</b> |
|------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>AXIM</b>      | 0           | 31            | 31           |
| <b>ASANTA</b>    | 0           | 30            | 30           |
| <b>SHAMA</b>     | 1           | 19            | 20           |
| <b>ANKOBRA</b>   | 0           | 30            | 30           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>1</b>    | <b>110</b>    | <b>111</b>   |

### 1.1 Purpose of The Monitoring

The monitoring was aimed at tracking the progress made by beneficiaries after the trainings and document any changes that CEWEFIA's interventions has had on the beneficiaries.

### 1.2 Methodology

A questionnaire was developed and administered on selected beneficiaries. The data gathered was then analyzed and summarized into this report.

### 1.3 Expected Outcome

It is expected that the finding will be used to improve planning of the project's interventions for maximize impact.

## SECTION 2: MONITORING FINDINGS

111 (1 male, 100 females) beneficiaries were visited during the monitoring. 82% of the women interviewed smoked fish whilst the rest of them fried or dried fish. 82.4% of the women were 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. This indicates that CEWEFIA has really created awareness of the Ahotor Oven.

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 10% ranked "convenient and hygienic" as third.

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 the oven for them when they have saved enough money for the labour costs.

In all the communities visited, it was realized that all the beneficiaries used the oven to smoke fish but not on regular basis; they mainly use it on special occasion such as funerals. For the past two years about 50% of the respondent has used it for about twenty times.

On the average, 70% of the women interviewed had received training on business development, hygienic fish handling, use and maintenance of the Ahotor and non- formal education. 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. Hence the women could now sign their signatures and write numbers that helps them to keep records of their business transactions.

From the data, it was realized that 76% of the processors were very proficient in calculating their profit. This is a clear indication that they are applying the knowledge acquired at the training.

51% of the respondents keep regular records of their business while 51% are now able to access loans, save and reinvest in their businesses. They are also knowing how to treat customers well to ensure repetitive custom.

The average monthly expenditure of the respondent's is GHS2000 and a monthly income of GHS 3000. In assessing the conditions of their smoking sheds in terms of it environmental hygiene, layout of premises, water quality, operations and control of the processors, storage, pest control and waste management, it was realized by observation that 60% of the respondent's smoking sheds were in good condition. That is, their premises were well covered and neatly kept.

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 reviewed downwards and interested processors should be encouraged to lay by.

There should be quality checks on all ovens constructed before payment is made and handed over to the client.

## **SECTION 3: WAY FORWARD**

More fish processors involved in the post-harvest fisheries value chain will be trained on the use and maintenance of the oven to ensure healthy quality smoked fish on the Ghanaian market.

## **SECTION 4: CONCLUSION**

When women the capacities of women in fisheries are built, their livelihoods and incomes are protected and the management of the fisheries sector can be sustained.