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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Report On Launching Of CEWEFIA New Fish Processing Facility



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THE
UNIVERSITY
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Cover photo: Participants at the commissioning of the facility (CEWEFIA)

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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

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A very sincere appreciation goes to the USAID/SFMP Chief of Party, Mr. Maurice Knight. Once again, much appreciation goes to all the officials invited, especially SFMP Officers from Accra for making the program graceful.

Many thanks also go to all the community members for their participation,

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On Tuesday 29th May 2018, CEWEFIA launched its new fish processing facility. The launch was held at the CEWEFIA Integrated Project Site, Ayisa-Elmina. The facility was initially a fish processing shed which has now been renovated through the support of USAID/Ghana/SFMP to meet basic compliance for fish processing. The purpose of the launch was to officially open the facility to the public for its intended use. It also aimed at officially handing over the facility from SFMP to CEWEFIA for its management and use. The launch was attended by high level dignitaries including, USAID/SFMP Chief of Party, USAID Energy Advisor, Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MOFAD), Paramount Chief of Elmina Traditional Council, Chiefs, Elders and Queen Mothers from the project target communities, representatives from Ghana Health Service, Food and Drugs Authority, Municipal Chief Executive, Planning Officer from Komenda Edina Eguafo Abrem (KEEA) Municipal Assembly, fish processors and community members. In all, 200 people partook in the program. The chairman for the launch was Nana Kodwo Condua (VI), the paramount chief of Elmina Traditional Council. There were remarks by the officials present after the chairman's opening remarks. In the remarks, it was indicated that Ghana's fishing industry is noted for its dwindling state as a result of overfishing and overcapacity, coupled with illegal fishing. The sustainability of the fishing industry can be achieved if all the fisher folk together with the citizens willingly comply with fisheries management rules and regulations. This calls for concerted effort to revamp the dwindling fish stock. Stakeholders were urged to find solutions to the challenges facing Ghana fisheries industry without any political interference. The purpose of the processing facility, effort of USAID/Ghana/SFMP toward sustaining Ghana's marine fish stock, Products from illegal transshipment (known as Saiko fishing), fisheries regulations including one month closed season and licensing of boats, and issue of sanitation were all highlighted.

Hon. Francis Ato Cudjoe (Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, MOFAD) officially commissioned the facility. The launch was climaxed with facility tour and food bazaar. There was also a photo exhibition on project activities. It was envisaged that the facility will be used and maintained to serve the purpose of which it was constructed.

SECTION 1 BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION

Central and Western Fishmongers Improvement Association (CEWEFIA) is a woman oriented organization which is committed to improving the socio-economic status of rural fishmongers and women farmers, as well as the wellbeing of their children and community as a whole. CEWEFIA is an implementing partner of USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (USAID/Ghana/SFMP), a project which seeks to replenish Ghana's marine fish stock through adoption of responsible fishing practices. Another component of the project is to improve the post-harvest value chain of smoked fish from catch through to consumption. To achieve this objective, there is the need for the adoption of best fish handling and hygiene practices and improvement of fish processing facility as well.

Elmina, where CEWEFIA is based is a community which has vast fish landing site that accommodates its indigenous fishers and migrants. Therefore, there is the need to introduce best fish handling practices to serve wholesome fish for the community and other communities who patronize fish.

CEWEFIA through the support of other donors such as the French Embassy, as part of its commitment built a shed for fish smoking for fish processors especially the migrants. Under the USAID/Ghana SFMP, the CEWEFIA shed has now been renovated into a basic compliance facility for fish processing to provide hygienic fish to the local market. The

facility has two main chambers; a wet chamber and a dry chamber. The wet chamber includes the receiving room, changing room and washing room while the dry chamber refers to the smoking, cooling, packaging and storage rooms. The wet chamber is separated from the dry chamber to avoid cross contamination.

CEWEFIA, on Tuesday 29th May 2018, launched its new fish processing facility to officially open it for its intended use. The launch was held at CEWEFIA integrated project site, Ayisa-Elmina. The facility will further serve as a training and demonstration site where courses on hygienic fish handling, packaging and value addition to fish products would be taught.

Attendance

The attendees were the paramount chief of Elmina Traditional Council (Nana Kodwo Condua VI), chiefs and elders of Elmina Traditional Council, chief fishermen from Elmina, chief of Anlo-Beach, USAID/SFMP Chief of Party and his wife, USAID Energy Advisor, representatives of Ghana Health Service and Food and Drugs Authority, Deputy Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, representatives from the KEEA Municipal Assembly, Executive Director of CEWEFIA, representatives from project partners (DAA, SNV, SFMP), fish processors from all CEWEFIA project communities, community members, media persons, and CEWEFIA Board members. A total of 200 people partook in the launch.

1.1 Objectives

- To officially open the new facility for its intended use.
- To hand over the facility officially from USAID/SFMP to CEWEFIA for full management and operation.
- To introduce the facility to the public to encourage them to patronize it.

1.2 Expected Outcomes

- Plans made to patronize the facility.
- The facility officially handed over to CEWEFIA from its sponsors.

SECTION 2 OPENING

The launch commenced at 9:00 am. The launch composed of four sections, namely a durbar, photo exhibition, facility launch and food bazaar.

At the durbar, there was introduction of dignitaries and participants; and remarks from the dignitaries present. Madam Emelia Abekah-Edu, Queen mother of Simiw a suburb of Elmina Traditional Council led the introduction of the participants.

2.1 Remarks from the Dignitaries present

The Paramount Chief of Edina Traditional Council, Nana Kodwo Condua VI who was the chairman for the event gave the opening remarks. In his remarks, he highlighted the poor sanitation, poor handling of fish and patronage of bad fish. He urged the fishermen to observe good fishing practices, and advised women to stop patronizing bad fish from the fishermen. He urged women to gather enough courage to say “No” to bad fish. He concluded by advising the people gathered to maintain sanity in all their endeavors. This was followed by a welcome address by the representative of the Municipal Chief Executive of KEEA. He stressed on the effects of poor sanitation on fish and the fisheries sector including aquaculture.

The Executive Director of CEWEFIA, Mrs. Victoria C. Koomson in her remarks acknowledged the effort of USAID/SFMP in rebuilding Ghana’s fish stock with much

emphasis on the new processing facility. She further highlighted the purpose of the facility which includes serving as the training center for association members, and a fish processing center for the fish processors especially the migrants. She ended by appealing to all the stakeholders to support in the realization of the project goal.

Remarks were also made by the USAID/SFMP Chief of Party (Mr. Maurice Knight), USAID Energy Advisor (Mr. Mark Newton) and the Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MOFAD). The Chief of Party reiterated that the facility is CEWEFIA's vision and acknowledged CEWEFIA for making it possible for this vision to come true. He further charged the government and stakeholders to come together to deliberate on the challenges facing Ghana fisheries sector to find solution to sustain the sector. He also urged the fishermen to comply with the closed season regulations which are being implemented by Fisheries Commission.

The USAID Energy Advisor in his remarks stated that it takes effective partnership to make change possible. He stated that Ghana's fisheries sector is facing a lot of crises such as over fishing and that the USAID/SFMP has implemented strategies to sustain the fisheries stock by training fish processors, partnering with Ghana Government and developing new improved stove. He indicated that the USAID government appreciates Ghana government's vision which says "Ghana beyond aid" which was launched during the independence celebration on March 6, 2018 where he advised all citizens to work together in order to achieve this vision.

The Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development revealed that measures such as regulations on Saiko fishing business, implementation of one month closed season in 2018, licensing of boats quarterly, and other regulations have been put in place to ensure responsible fishing. He encouraged the fisher folks and citizens to abide by the regulations yet to be initiated, since there will be no pardon for culprits.

2.2 Pictures of the Event



Figure 1. The Chairman (Nana Kodwo Condua VI, Paramount Chief of Elmina) giving his opening remarks.



Figure 2. USAID/SFMP Chief of Party (Mr. Maurice Knight) delivering a message at the launch.



Figure 3. USAID Energy Advisor giving a statement at the launch



Figure 4. Deputy Minister of MOFAD delivering his speech during the launch

2.3 Photo Exhibition/Tour of CEWEFIA Fish Processing Facility

Pictures of project activities and construction of the facility were displayed on notice board for observation. The pictures depicted the old processing facility, the construction process and the completed facility. The explanation was done by Miss Hannah Antwi, the communications officer of CEWEFIA.



Figure 5. Photo Exhibition

2.4 Commissioning of the facility/unveiling of plaque

Hon. Francis Ato Cudjoe officially commissioned the facility. He stressed that the facility should be well maintained to serve the purpose for which it was established. This was followed by a tour of the facility.



Figure 6. Participants observing the plaque at the commissioning of the facility



Figure 7. Officials touring the facility with the Paramount Chief (arrowed)

SECTION 3 FOOD BAZAAR

Fish was smoked on the new improved oven; value-added fish products were also displayed at the facility to be tasted by participants. The aim was to introduce the new stove to the participants.

3.1 Closing remarks

The chairman in his closing remarks urged all and sundry to eschew politics in their businesses, especially in the fisheries sector. He also emphasized that the well-being of the fisheries sector depended greatly on fisher folks and consumers.



Figure 8. Food Bazaar

CONCLUSIONS

The officials and participants were happy about the facility and congratulated USAID/SFMP and CEWFIA for such facility. Women fish processors were encouraged to patronize the facility to ensure production of healthy fish. Others were also urged to patronize it.