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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Campaign And Durbar On Improved Fish Smoking Technology And Best Hygienic Fish Handling And Advocacy Practices Awards



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Cover photo: The chief fisherman of Moree presenting an award to Anlo beach community in Elmina. (Photo by CEWEFIA)

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SSG Advisors:	http://ssg-advisors.com/
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ACRONYMS

CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
CRC	Coastal Resource Center
CSLP	Coastal Sustainable Landscape Project
CLaT	Child Labor and Trafficking
DAA	Development Action Association
IUU	Illegal Unreported Unregulated
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
URI	University of Rhode Island
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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INTRODUCTION

As part of the project Communications strategy to promote hygienic fish handling, CEWEFIA organized a One - Day Campaign and Durbar on healthy fish handling and improved Fish Smoking Technology (Ahotor stove) in Moree and Sekondi. It was climaxed in Elmina with Best Hygienic Fish Handling and Advocacy Practices Award on Wednesday, 13th September 2017 at Mbofra Akyinim, Elmina.

Theme:

The theme for the durbar was, Rewarding Outstanding Voluntary Initiative.

Objective:

The principal objective of the durbar was to reward resource users for most Exemplary Fish Handling, Cleanest Landing Beach and Anti Child Labor and Trafficking Advocacy Practices along Ghana's coastal zone and for the adoption of Improved Fish Handling and Advocacy Practices. This also was to ensure behavioral change among end users.

Attendance:

Three hundred and forty-four (344) people participated in the program comprising 91 males and 253 females from the three target communities (Moree, Elmina, Anlo-Beach and Sekondi). They comprised of representatives from Food and Drugs Authority, Fisheries Commission, Chiefs and Traditional Authorities from Moree, Elmina and Anlo-Beach, Chief Fishermen, Market Queens, Fish processors and community members, all from the Central region.

Categories of the awards presented:

1. Most Exemplary Fish Handling, Processing and Packaging Practice
2. Most Influential Hygienic Fish Handling Practitioner.
3. Most Outstanding Anti- Child Labor and Trafficking Advocate.
4. Most Outstanding Community Child Protection Committee Member
5. Most Exemplary Initiative for Combating Child Labour and Trafficking (CLaT)
6. Most Exemplary Survivor of CLaT
7. Most Clean Landing Beach.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY

The durbar started at 10:00 AM with a placard walk amidst brass-band music through the principal streets of Elmina. The procession started in the morning at 8: 00 am from The Paramount Chief's Palace to the durbar grounds at Bantuma- Mbofra Akyenim and the same was done in Sekondi on 22nd May 2017. At the grounds, an opening prayer was said by an Association member. The program was chaired by Nana Kweigyia (IV), the Chief of Bantuma, Elmina (representing the paramount chief of Elmina traditional area (Nana Kojo Kondua V1). The Executive Director of CEWEFIA gave a welcome address. In her address she noted some of the challenges the Association had been through till date. She was however grateful for how far the Association had reached as she acknowledged the funding donors such as USAID for their financial and other support. She concluded by encouraging the Association members especially the women to do their very best to move the Association forward.

Mr. Smith gave a brief overview of the project, the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) and CEWEFIA, and the description of the New Improved Smoking Technology (locally known as Ahotor stove).

After that a Key note address was given by Mr. Damoah Kwame, a representative from Fisheries Commission in the Central region. In his address he commended CEWEFIA for the good activities towards rebuilding our fisheries. He also commended CEWEFIA for the community school they had put up at Ayisa and the Processing Site which was currently under refurbishment. He quoted from Fisheries Act (Act 625) clause 55 that, “An artisanal fishing vessel shall be registered by the District Assembly of area where the vessel is to be operated, A District Assembly registering an artisanal vessel shall allocate to the vessel such letters and numbers of identification as the District Assembly shall determine and a person shall not fish with an artisanal vessel which does not bear the identification assigned to the vessel. Women, private individual should cooperate with government, and Fisheries Commission for the development of fisheries sector’ which CEWEFIA has already complied within his conclusion he pinpointed some of the project interventions that the Fisheries Commission, under the sponsorship of USAID was undertaking to regulate and manage the fishing activities along Ghana’s coastal zone. These interventions would help improve our fisheries sector to benefit all the fisher folks and the country as a whole. Among those interventions, some were being undertaken whilst others were yet to be done. Below are some of the interventions.

- Fisheries Commission has started stocking 100 dams with catfish and tilapia to increase the fish stocks in the entire country. This is to regulate the fish at the market and also ensure maximum profit.
- Registration and endorsement of canoes in Ghana by 31st October, 2017. This is to keep accurate record of all canoes to help regulate fishing activity.
- Formation of landing enforcement committee to monitor all illegal fishing activities at sea and landing beaches.
- Fisheries Commission collaborate with USAID/SFMP to roll out a canoe manager ID for fishermen and lastly, Fisheries Commission will conduct its periodic research on vessels in Ghana in October, with Reverend Dr. Fridjof Hanson.

He ended his speech by appealing to the Chiefs and Traditional Authorities to ensure clean beaches in their respective jurisdiction, and each and every one should do their part to help rebuild our fishing industry.

A Food and Drugs Authority representative gave a brief talk on healthy food. According to him fisher folks especially women should observe hygiene in handling their fish and fishing business. He said fish was food and we should handle it as such. He concluded by encouraging the women fish processors to patronize the new improved stove for healthy fish.

Mr. Michael Takyi (Monitoring and Evaluation Officer of CEWEFIA) and one of the fish processors performed a short sketch on the benefits of handling fish in a hygienic way. There was discussion on environmental hygiene, personal hygiene and fish storage and packaging.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

The presentation of the awards was facilitated by Mr. Takyi Michael. Some of the items presented were; wheelbarrows, spades, bundles of wire mesh, trays, plastic chairs, hand washing buckets with valves, mobile phones etc. In all, 27 participants were awarded. The competition fell on three categories of people which were Fish processors, Anti Child Labor and Trafficking Advocates, and Community Child Protection Committee members comprising of 12 males and 15 females- (Moree - 13, Elmina - 7, Anlo Beach - 7).

Fish was processed with the new improved stove, and almost all the participants tasted it after the program.

OUTCOMES

Awards were presented to 13 members from Moree made up of 8 males and 5 females. In Elmina 7 members comprising of 3 males and 4 females were presented with awards. Seven (7) members consisting of 1 male and 6 females from Anlo-Beach in the Western Region received awards.

Lessons Learned

- Some fish processors outside Elmina who participated in the event expressed interest and suggested to the organizers of CEWEFIA to organize such programs in their communities as well, since they were also fish processors.
- Some fish processors were encouraged by the awards presented to their colleagues, and therefore decided to change the old ways of handling fish in order to win award the next time around.
- The Chief of Bantuma who represented the Paramount Chief of Edina Traditional Area and also the Chairman for the occasion was overwhelmed and pledged to discuss with the Paramount Chief to sensitize the Fish processors in his area of jurisdiction to involve them in all the activities that CEWEFIA was organizing under the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project, in order to win awards for the Council and also provide consumers with healthy fish.
- Some members who were not fish processors but were committed to disseminating information on issues related to Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, Post-Harvest Value Chain, and Child Labor and Trafficking should be identified and honored next time round.

Challenges:

- Late start of the program due to rainfall.
- Many fish processors could not attend the program due to abundant fish catch on that day.

Recommendations

- Community members who are not direct beneficiaries of the project but show their commitment by participating in all activities that are organized in their communities should be identified and honored.
- Community members who are not fish processors but are committed to disseminating information on issues related to IUU Fishing, Post-Harvest Value Chain, and Child Labor and Trafficking should be identified and honored next time round.

CONCLUSION

The program was very successful despite the challenges encountered. The awardees were very happy with the items they received and hope such programs would be done often to motivate others. The Chief of Bantuma, Elmina promised to collaborate with the Paramount Chief of Elmina to increase their support for CEWEFIA for their actions. The program was brought to a close at 2:00 pm.

LIST OF AWARD WINNERS

Community: Moree

Table 1 MOST OUTSTANDING ANTI CLAT ADVOCATE – MOREE

Name	Position
Michael Abbiw Supihyia	1 st
Richard Sam	2 nd
Isaac Lamptey	3 rd

Table 2 MOST OUTSTANDING CCPC MEMBER - MOREE

Name	Position
Lawrence K. Appram	1 st
Dina Otuteye	2 nd
Nana Kwesi Abakah	3 rd

Table 3 MOST EXEMPLARY INITIATIVE FOR COMBATTING CLAT – MOREE

Name	Position
Dina Otuteye	1 st

Table 4 MOST CLEAN LANDING BEACH - MOREE

Name	Position
Kobina Otu	1 st

Table 5 MOST EXEMPLARY FISH HANDLING, PROCESSING AND PACKAGING PRACTICES - MOREE

Name	Position
Margret Afful	1 st
Esi Nyame	2 nd
Ekua Otua	3 rd

Community: Anlo Beach

Table 6 MOST INFLUENTIAL HYGIENIC FISH HANDLING PRACTITIONER – ANLO BEACH

Name	Position
Beauty Agbenye Gah	1 st
Elizabeth Koomson	2 nd
Evelyn Tetteh	3 rd

Table 7 MOST CLEAN LANDING BEACH – ANLO BEACH

Name	Position
Torgbui Tekple Garikor I	1 st
Yeaboah K. Jonathan	2 nd

Table 8 MOST EXEMPLARY FISH HANDLING, PROCESSING AND PACKAGING PRACTICES – ANLO BEACH

Name	Position
Kusorgbor Ernestina	1 st
Geyevu Alberta	2 nd
Bertha Kporvi	3 rd

Community: Elmina

Table 9 MOST EXEMPLARY INITIATIVE FOR COMBATting CLAT – ELMINA

Name	Position
Stephen B. Eshun	1 st
John Nichie	2 nd
Samuel E. Oduro	3 rd

**Table 10 MOST EXEMPLARY FISH HANDLING, PROCESSING AND PACKAGING PRACTICES –
ELMINA**

Name	Position
Peace A. Gavor	1 st