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# SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

## World Rural Women's Day Celebration 2016



**OCTOBER, 2016**

THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND  
GRADUATE SCHOOL  
OF OCEANOGRAPHY



Development  
Action Association

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**Cover photo:** Fish Processors Demonstrating the importance of avoiding “Bad Fish” through a role play. **Credit:** Development Action Association.

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Resonance Global: <https://resonanceglobal.com/>  
SNV: <http://www.snvworld.org/en/countries/ghana>

## **ACRONYMS**

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| CEWEFIA | Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association |
| CRC     | Coastal Resource Center  |
| DAA     | Development Action Association                                 |
| DQF     | Daasgift Quality Foundation                                    |
| FtF     | Feed the Future  |
| HM      | Hen Mpoano   |
| MOFAD   | Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development              |
| NGOs    | Non-Governmental Organizations                                 |
| SFMP    | Sustainable Fisheries Management Project                       |
| SMEs    | Small and Medium Enterprises                                   |
| SNV     | Netherlands Development Organization                           |
| UCC     | University of Cape Coast                                       |
| URI     | University of Rhode Island                                     |
| USAID   | United States Agency for International Development             |
| WIAD    | Women in Agriculture Development                               |

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

Women Farmers account for about 50% of food production and food security worldwide and this figure rises to at least 80% in developing countries. The annual commemoration of World Rural Women's Day (WRWD) was therefore instituted to recognize and support the contribution of rural women to global food security and economic growth. In Ghana, most small scale farmers contribute significantly to the overall agricultural output of the economy cultivating food and cash crops.

Development Action Association has commemorated WRWD in Ghana in the last 11 years as a platform for rural women farmers and fishers to advocate for more investments in the sector and improves living standards.

This has yielded many results including:

- Improve collaboration between farmers and fisher folks and the district assembly in the various communities.
- improved access to agro-chemicals to improve yields.
- improved access to land by women.

## 1.2 Celebration Theme

The theme for the 2016 celebration was ***“Say No to Bad Fish – My Role Food.”***

The objective of the theme was to highlight the importance of adopting safe and sustainable fishing methods and processing techniques.



**Figure 1. Some Invited Dignitaries at the Celebration**

This year's celebration was held in three communities: Apam in the Central Region Bortiano in the Ga South and Konko in the Akuapim South District and attended by 500 people. Activities undertaken to celebrate the day included;

- Advocacy training workshop for 20 participants (4 men and 16 women).
- Radio discussions on the role of stakeholders in ensuring quality and healthy fish and food on the market.



## 2. EVENT CELEBRATION

This year's celebration was held in three communities in Apam in the Central Region Bortianor in the Ga South and Konko in the Akuapim South District Assemblies. Well over 500 people participated in the celebrations.

### 2.1 Bortianor Ga South Celebrations

The event at Bortianor was held at the Bortianor Palace Park and attended by Association members of DAA, policy makers, traditional authorities, fishermen, fish processors, input dealers and the general public.

#### 2.1.1 Key Note Address

The key note address was given by Mr Thomas Insaideo, Director at the Fisheries Commission (FC) on behalf of the Honourable Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture. In his address, he acknowledged that role of women in the fisheries sector as financiers, processors and traders, making women indispensable in the fish post-harvest value chain. He therefore asked for a change in attitudes and irresponsible fishing practices to ensure that our fisheries resources are sustainably managed.

He challenged fish processors and traders to stop:

- Using alum, washing detergent, non-food grade colour on fish during processing
- Exposing fish to sunlight for longer periods at the beach.
- Displaying or drying fish on the ground, to avoid contamination with dust, insects and rodents.
- Processing or marketing fish in a dirty environment, and practice good sanitation and personal hygiene at processing sites.



**Figure 2. Mr. Thomas Insaideo from Fisheries Commission Giving the Key Note Address at the Bortianor Celebration in Ga South Municipal**

#### 2.1.2 SFMP Chief of Part (CoP) Address

The Chief of Party of USAID/SFMP, Dr. Brian Crawford, in his speech advised fisher folks to avoid unwholesome fish caught using unapproved methods. He called on actors in the fisheries value chain unite and help rebuild marine fisheries stocks (small pelagic) –such as herring, mackerel, anchovies and sardinella-which are important to local food security and livelihoods through the adoption of sustainable fishing practices.



**Figure 3. Brian Crawford (Dr.), Chief of Party of SFMP giving his opening address for the celebration in Bortianor**

#### **2.1.3 Municipal Health Director Address**

The Municipal Health Inspector also urged all present to observe personal hygiene at both their home and work places. He urged them to observe to the tenets of their faith, since all religions in Ghana believe in the statement “Holiness is next to Godliness”. According to him, about 75% of population in Ghana consume fish and fish products. and therefore urged all the important players in the fishing industry to come together to help rebuild the depleting fish stock in the marine waters of Ghana and also process hygienic fish and fish products suitable for human consumption.

#### **2.1.4 SNV Ghana Address**

SNV is an international not-for-profit development organization present in over 34 countries across three regions globally: Asia, Africa and Latin America. An implementing partner on the SFMP, SNV supports the activities of DAA. According to the representative from SNV, he is pleased to support the DAA in every way possible to strengthen the capacity of the membership and the Association to improve the economic activities of the rural women in Ghana which is also directly in line with our work in poverty reduction.

#### **2.1.5 Role Play and Exhibition**

Fish processors at the World Rural Women’s Day celebration –Bortianor Palace Park, in a sketch, demonstrated the practical ways to ‘say no to bad fish’ and how to promote responsible fishing and processing practices. The sketch emphasized techniques to detect fish processed under unhygienic environment. They did same on how to identify fish caught by chemicals. The role play also displayed hygienic packaging of processed fish for market.



**Figure 4. A representative from the Ghana Health Service in the Ga South Municipal giving a solidarity message**



**Figure 5. Fish Processors demonstrating how to say no to bad fish in a role play during the celebration**

There was an exhibition to show good fish handling practices at the World Rural Women's Day celebration. The following items were displayed:

- Prototype of Drying Racks.
- Prototype of Chokor smoker with trays.
- Banners depicting bad fishing practices.
- Hygienic package of smoked anchovies.
- Document on Fishery Management Plan.
- Ahotor stoves.
- Concept note leaflet.



**Figure 6. Two fish processors showing a banner depicting some good fish handling practices during the exhibition**



**Figure 7. Participants visiting the exhibition stand during the celebration**

## **2.2 Konko - Akuapim North Celebrations**

The opening began with introduction of community’s women groups which was done by Lydia Asare, DAA National Treasurer Elect and President of Oboyeduru farmers association. Participants were from:

- Sege area.
- Amasaman area.
- Konko area.
- Mamfe area.
- Tutu area.
- Oboyeduru area.
- Afram plains area.



**Figure 8. Some Farmers demonstrating how to practice safe food handling of practices during the celebration at Konko**

Mr. Frank Ganyo the MC for the occasion and a member of the Konko farmers association introduced the invited guests for the event which included chiefs, queen mothers, representatives from FAO, YARA, RMG, District assembly and the Odikuro of Amerhi, Nana Asamoah Ghartey as the Chairman.



**Figure 9. Some Dignitaries at the high table during the celebration in Konko**

### **2.2.1 Welcome Address- Mrs Christian Akuoko**

Mrs. Christian Akuoko a member of the Konko farmers group welcomed all participants and admonished them to pay attention to the program. As the world celebrate the efforts of rural women who have contributed immensely to food security it is also important to note that the food we consume passes through a healthy process devoid of deliberate contamination such as agro chemicals, unhygienic food handling and environment. The effect of these actions on our health directly or indirectly should not be underestimated. She congratulates all farmers and fishers especially the rural woman for being recognised on this day.

### **2.2.2 Why rural women's Day- Sarah Aryee, DAA Vice President Elect**

Madam Sarah Aryee, who is the Vice President elect of DAA, said that the annual celebration of World Rural Women's Day (WRWD) is considered a practical way of recognising the multiple roles that rural women play, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty. She advised the women who work

along the value chain from production to plate to ensure the safety of food is not compromised.



**Figure 10. Madam Sarah Aryee, Vice President of DAA giving the welcoming address during the celebration in Konkó**

According to Madam Sarah, as the world population increases, it has become necessary to apply different types of technology to increase production to meet the food demand. These technologies include the use of simple and highly technological farm machines, use of improved seed, application of agro chemicals in production, harvesting, storage and packaging. Unfortunately some of these technologies are misapplied leading to high loss of food nutrients and contamination of food products. Farmers ignorantly or deliberately adulterate agro chemicals in various forms such as under or over application. What role can each person play to ensure that BAD FOOD is not supplied or consumed?

- **The Farmer:** the farmer who applies chemicals directly to the soil, seedlings or food has the primary responsibility to ensure that right quantity and quality are used and appropriate intervals are given in terms of chemical application days. Farmers need to improve on their knowledge with regards to use of chemical products to aid effective and efficient application.
- **The Agro Input Dealer:** the agro input dealer distributes agro chemicals to farmers for application. They have the primary responsibility to educate farmers on use of each chemical sold out to them. They also need to ensure that chemicals distributed are of good quality.
- **The distributor:** distribution takes the form of transportation, marketing and sales. Women who form majority of this part of the chain undertake various measure and risk to ensure that the food products get to the market or final consumer. Food storage and handling is an important aspect of food safety. The distributor needs to ensure that the environment within which food is stored or distributed is free from contamination and well tidy.
- **The processor:** Processors convert food products into various forms for easy consumption. Processors sometimes add other forms of chemicals in preservation or increasing the shelf life of the final product. Food is sometimes contaminated in this process through over or under usage, inappropriate technology and inappropriate application. Food processors with recent technological development need to improve on

their knowledge and skills to ensure that food is processed in a healthy and hygienic manner to meet human nutritional needs.

### **2.2.3 Role play titled 'Say No to Bad Food: My role'**

The role-play showed to safely apply chemicals on the farm. Farmers in some rural areas fail to apply safety measures in chemical application such as wearing of overalls to cover whole body, head cups, goggles, gloves and safety boots thereby contracting infectious skin diseases such as cancer. Women are at a higher risk as they form the majority of rural women farmers.



**Figure 11. Bad Practice (going to the farm without protective clothing) Good practice (wearing protective clothing)**



**Figure 12. Effect of bad food handling practices in a role play**

### **2.2.4 Solidarity messages**

#### **Nana Manko Asumadu Sakyi Mmabaa Hemea, Dawu.**

Nana Manko Asumadu congratulated rural women for continuing to support food security and continuing to play vital roles in all aspect of family setting.

In her view, a woman goes to the farm with the husband to help on the farm, comes back home with the husband, with the woman carrying heavy loads on the head, at the same time carrying her baby at the back. She prepares food for the family, while the man sits relaxing. She has to ensure everyone eats in the family and then prepare other house chores. This indicate how women continue to work hard to contribute to family growth. It is by no chance that women are being celebrated on this day. She urged women to continue to improve on their knowledge to meet the world's changing environment. As they do that, they are able to compete with their fellow men in searching for opportunities.



**Figure 13. Nana Manko Asumadu congratulated rural women for continuing to support food security and continuing to play vital roles in all aspect of family setting**

**RMG- Francis Teye**

Mr. Francis Teye, congratulated the women for their hard in ensuring that the family survives and the world gets food to eat. He was also very happy with the highlights in the role play acted by the women. Wrong application of agro chemicals continue to be a problem that the industry is fighting against.



**Figure 14. Mr. Francis Teye, congratulated the women for their hard in ensuring that the family survives**

Unfortunately this is affecting some brands in the country. Input dealers sometimes brand fake chemicals with other organisation logos which are not identified by the farmer. Sometimes farmers who purchase these products cannot read but are not willing to ask questions on the usage affecting the full potential of the chemical. Others also do not apply



according to the instructions and either over utilize or underutilise the product. In order to sustain our food security in the country we all have a role to play to ensure that our farm produce are harvested healthier.

#### **YARA Ghana- By Barbara Humphrey Ackumey**

According to Madam Barbara Ackumey, YARA Ghana has a great concern for our food security system in Ghana, and is not concerned about sales and profit but also the well-being of the farmers and so, the organization has recruited representatives at agrochemical sales points who provide education and extension services to the farmers within the area. She admonished the farmers to take advantage of this and contact the reps for explanations on their product, to reduce all forms of chemical adulteration and ensure the food production potential of our country is well recognized.



**Figure 15. Madam Barbara Ackumey, YARA Ghana has a great concern for our food security system in Ghana**

#### **Kick Start Family Life- Simon D. Pwalua**

Mr. Pwalua, also congratulated the women on the special day. He said he was trained by his mother without the support of any man and so has special passion for women in general.



**Figure 16. Mr. Pwalua, also congratulated the women on the special day.**

Rural women work tirelessly to ensure that the family is fed, healthy and happy. He demonstrated the use of a simple technological irrigation system, water pump invented in Kenya to support famers especially women in their farms.

### **2.2.5 Key Note Address- Hon. Opare-Addo**

The keynote address was delivered on behalf of the DCE of Akuapem North, Hon. Opare Addo, by Madam Victoria Annan. Farmers, especially rural women work tirelessly to ensure food is produced annually taking advantage of lean and bumper seasons. These contributions should not be under estimated. Rural women should be applauded for their hard work. As farmers and food processors continue to grow and produce food for the nation they should also be mindful of the healthy implications of the process applied.

### **2.2.6 Chairman's remarks- Nana Asamoah Ghartey, Amerhi Odikuro**

The chair of the event, Nana Asamoah Ghartey congratulated all rural women on this special day, recognising their hard work and efforts to contribute to the food basket. According to him the drama sketch demonstrated, addresses the need to ensure the proper application of agrochemicals on crops is a good sign that farmers are admitting their role in food safety and need to support them. He charged all the traditional leaders to protect land to ensure food is continuously produced all year.



**Figure 17. Nana Asamoah Ghartey congratulated all rural women on this special day**

### **2.2.7 Closing and Exhibition**

The program ended with exhibition of food and fish products such as fruits and vegetables, smoked packed fish, food crops.



**Figure 18. Exhibited products from some of the rural women during the celebration at Konkro**



Figure 19. More exhibited products from some of the rural women during the celebration at Konkko

### 2.3 Gomoa West Celebrations -Apam

The event at Apam was also attended by policy makers, traditional authorities, fishermen, fish processors input dealers and the general public. Rural community groups ‘who are members of DAA in Apam and Winneba were also at the event. They are:

- Apam fish Processors Association.
- Onyame Ntedea Odaseni Group.
- Adom Nnsa Group.
- Dwamaman Cooperative Association.
- Norvisi fish processors Association.
- Boafo ye Na fish processor group.
- Anomansah Group.
- Osakam Group.
- Osimpam Group.
- Enyidado Group.



**Figure 20. Mr. Emmanuel, Deputy Director at the Gomoa West District Assembly delivering the Keynote address in the Apam Celebration**

The following dignitaries were also present at event:

- The Queen mother of Apam – Nana Essel Botwe III.
- Tutuhene of Winneba –Nana Otubua Siripi II.
- Atobrah Papa Yaw- Regional Director of fisheries Cape Coast.
- Anthony Appiah-Zonal Director of fisheries.
- Chief Fisherman of Apam Caiquo Nana Kobina.
- Dorcas Ahadzi Regional NAFPTA President Greater Accra.
- Honourable Eduah Emmanuel-Director Gomoa West District Assembly.
- Oman Kyeme Kofi Dadzie.
- Amankrah Peter Bright –GES Gomoa West.
- Media men and Women.
- Ghana Police Service-Gomoa West.



Figure 21. Women participants during the celebration in Apam

### 2.3.1 Exhibition



Figure 22. Fish based products and literature on display at the exhibition stands



Figure 23. Participants visit the exhibition stand during the celebration in Apam

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

All the players in the fishing industry are aware of the declining fish stock and acknowledge that it is a result of the use of illegal fishing methods.

It is hope that World Rural Women's Day 2016 will be the year that all stakeholders will commit to reverse the trend and boldly say '**NO**' to **BAD FISH** and **BAD FISHING METHODS** to save marine fish stocks for posterity.



Figure 24. Picture showing fish folk's commitment in saying "yes" in buying fish caught with approved methods

## Business

# 'Adopt safe techniques to save fishing industry'

From Salifu Abudut-Rahaman.

**F**ISHERFOLKS have been urged to adopt safe, best fishing methods and techniques to save the marine fish stock for posterity and for sustainable development of the sector.

The advice was given by speakers at a durbar and exhibitor of fish preservation methods held here at Apam, a fishing com-

munity in the Central Region, to mark Rural Women's Day which is celebrated on October 15, to highlight the contribution of women to agriculture production.

The durbar held to highlight best fishing practices, forms part of the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project-a USAID five-

year sponsored food security project that focuses on assisting the country achieve the fisheries sector development objectives of

poverty reduction and hunger.

Observed on the theme "Key No to Bad Fish-My Role," the event which was organised by the Development Action Association (DAA) in collaboration with Farmers Organisation Network, was attended by various women groups in fishing and fish processing, policymakers, traditional authorities, and other non-governmental organisations.

The Central Regional Director

of Fisheries Commission, Yaw Atoaba, in his remark commended the women fisher folks for their role in food security in the country and entreated them to avoid unorthodox fishing and fish processing in order to protect public health and to preserve the fish stock.

Addressing the gathering, the Executive Director of DAA, Madam Lydia Sasu called for concerted efforts of all resource users in the fisheries value chain to put hands on deck and say "No to bad fish and bad fishing methods" to save the marine fish stocks for posterity.

Noting that fishing was a major economic activity of communities along the coastal line, Madam Sasu expressed concern that the "industry in Ghana has over the years not seen much development due to inadequate investment in the sector's stakeholders especially women who play vital role along the fish industry value chain."

She said women were key agents for achieving the transformational economic, environ-

mental and social changes required for sustainable development, but "limited access to credit, health care and education are among the many challenges they face which are aggravated by the global food and economic crisis and climate change."

"Ensuring their empowerment is key not only to the well-being of individuals, families and rural communities, but also to overall economic productivity, given women's large presence in the agricultural workforce worldwide," she added.

Nana Esset Hottwe, the Queen-mother of Apam urged the district assembly to form a task force to enforce the laws governing responsible fishing and fish processing to avoid the consumption of bad fish and protect public health.

The Gomoa West District Chief Executive, Theophilus Mearah, in a speech read for him emphasised the commitment of the government to improve the livelihood of the fishing communities.



Madam Sasu addressing the gathering



## \$100m invested in fisheries

By Saife Abdul-Rahaman

**T**HE government has invested more than 100 million dollars in the fisheries sector, to improve the livelihood of fisher folks, Deputy Director in charge of projects at the Fisheries Commission, Thomas Insaidoo has disclosed.

He urged the fishing commu-

nity to adopt good fishing practices to protect the industry.

Mr. Insaidoo was addressing women fish processors at Bortianor in the Ga South Municipalty to mark Rural Women's Day, which fell on Saturday.

It was organised by the Development Action Association (DAA) in partnership with farmers' organisation network, to

highlight on responsible fishing on the theme "Say no to Bad Fish."

It forms part of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) sponsored Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMF) being implemented to sustain the industry by preventing depletion

of fish stock that occur through bad fishing practices.

Mr. Insaidoo said the Fisheries Commission was pursuing programmes to educate the fishing community on irresponsible fishing practices as well as enforcing the fisheries regulation.

Mr. Insaidoo said a national policy for the management of the marine fisheries was in place to among others ensure the fisher-

ies legislation was enforced to protect the nation's fish resource.

He said the policy was being translated into various Ghanaian languages to be friendlier for the local fishing communities.

The DAA, in a statement said illegal methods including the use of 'light, under-sized mesh, and chemical fishing in turn resulted in the "harvest of unwholesome fish," which was dangerous to the health of consumers.

It said "no to unapproved methods" and the adoption of sustainable practices would help rebuild the marine fisheries stock.

According to the statement small pelagic fishery, which was the mainstay of majority of fishers "is near collapse," adding that canoe fishery's annual sardine catch reduced to about 17,000 tonnes in 2012 from a record high of 120,000 tonnes over a decade ago.

Fish consumption is the preferred protein sources for Ghanaians with annual consumption per person per year averaging 23 kilograms.



Officials inspecting fish processing methods and products on exhibition

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C.M. K



**DAA**

## Business

# Farmers urged to apply inputs properly

From Saifu, Abdul-Kabamatu, Kofie

**F**ARMERS have been advised to adhere to best farm practices, especially in the application of agricultural inputs to ensure safe food production.

This followed observations by agriculturalists that some farming communities are not using application of agricultural inputs in crop production, thereby posing health risks to consumers.

Consequently, the Development Action Association (DAA) network of rural women farmer groups, organised a farmers' rally here at Kofie, near Tinkong, in the Akwapim North District of the Eastern Region on Friday to educate the farmers on safe agricultural practices to ensure sustainable food production. The event, which took the form of speeches, exhibition, and role play on both the safe and bad input applications, was attended by rural farmer groups spread across the Greater Accra and Eastern regions.

It was organised on the theme "Say No to bad food: My role, as a woman". The rally, which was part of activities marking this year's World Rural Women's Day, an international day set aside to recognise the role of women in the agricultural value chain observed worldwide on October 15.

It formed part of the USAID-sponsored project to ensure sustainable fisheries and food produc-



A farmer applying fertilizer on maize

tion in Ghana.

toward sustainable food production in Ghana.

In a speech read for him recognised the role of women in both the formal and informal sectors of the economy, stressing that the government was committed to empowering them to contribute to the economic development.

Nana Asamoah Chertey,

Anerhi Odikro, who chaired the function commended women for ensuring food security and urged them to adhere to best practices for continuous safe food production.

The Executive Director of DAA, Madam Lydia, underscored the role of DAA in mobilising and assisting rural women farmer groups in agricultural value chain

to help in national development. For her part, Mrs Obbelia Oku told the farmers that people depended on them for their source of food and urged them to protect public health by adopting safe methods in food production and processing.

Madam Sara Aryee, the DAA Vice President -elect in charge of Crops said the association would continue to dialogue with policymakers to highlight the issues affecting the agricultural sector and find solutions to help alleviate the plight of rural farmers.

The District Chief Executive for Akwapim North, Opene Addo,

## APPENDIX 2: MEDIA, ONLINE PUBLICATIONS ON WORLD RURAL WOMEN'S DAY

<https://www.modernghana.com/news/729203/women-call-on-ghanaians-to-insist-on-quality-fish.html>

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/Women-call-on-Ghanaians-to-insist-on-quality-fish-479714>

<https://www.newsghana.com.gh/ghanaians-urged-to-insist-on-quality-fish/>

<http://spynewsagency.com/women-call-on-ghanaians-to-insist-on-quality-fish/>

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/Women-call-on-Ghanaians-to-insist-on-quality-fish-479714>

### **Women Call On Ghanaians to Insist On Quality Fish**

Regional News of Saturday, 22 October 2016

**Source:** Samuel Hinnah

2016-10-22

By Samuel Hinnah

The consumers of fish and fish processors have been urged to demand for quality fish during purchasing at various markets and landing sites respectively across the country to ensure sustainable fishing practices.

Madam Lydia Sasu, the Executive Director of Development Action (DAA), a farmer based organisation stressed the importance of adopting safe and sustainable fishing methods and processing techniques, during the 2016 World Rural Women's Day (WRWD) held in Apam, organised by the DAA, an implementing partner of the USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP).

"It is in this light that the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) - a 5-year food security project that focuses on assisting the Government of Ghana to achieve her fisheries sector development objectives of poverty reduction and hunger has seen the need to observe this day to draw attention to the needs of avoiding unwholesome fish caught through unapproved methods and processing," she explains.

Fishing activities along the coastal belt have become a great concern to the government, policy makers as well as development practitioners due to usage of chemicals such as detergent, dynamite, DDT by fishermen to in their duties.

Madam Sasu called on fish processors and consumers to consistently demand for quality fishes devoid of chemical contamination to promote effective wellbeing, at event on the theme, 'Say No to Bad Fish – My Role'.

The event held every 15th day of the month of October annually, is a practical way of recognising the multiple roles that rural women play, including indigenous women who are

mostly farmers, fish processors and small-scale entrepreneurs in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty.

Rural women are key agents for achieving the transformational economic, environmental and social changes required for sustainable development, Madam Sasu states. "But limited access to credit, health care and education are among the many challenges they face, which are further aggravated by the global food and economic crises and climate change," she adds. Madam Sasu emphasises that ensuring women empowerment is key not only to the well-being of individuals, families and rural communities, but also to overall economic productivity, given women's large presence in the agricultural workforce worldwide. "The DAA is concerned that the rural woman's inaccessibility to land may offset the gains being made by the SFMP relative to improvements in post-harvest processing and livelihoods of women," Madam Sasu emphasises.

According to her fishing is a major economic activity in Ghana, especially among communities that live along the coastal line.

"However, the fishing industry in Ghana has over the years not seen much development due to inadequate investment in the sector's stakeholders especially women who play vital role along the fish industry value chain," she says.

"We want to emphasize the point that one person cannot reverse the problems in the fisheries sector. We need the concerted effort of all resource users in the fisheries' value change to put hands on deck and say 'No' To Bad Fish and Bad Fishing Methods to save marine fish stocks for posterity," she notes.

A project officer at Central and Western Fishmongers Improvement Association (CEWEFIA), Mr Nicholas Smith, says fishermen are reluctant to change their unapproved means of fishing practices even though fish processors are leading the drive for change. "A lot of them do not participate in programs aimed at promoting sustainable fishing practices. Some are still using dynamite, detergents in fishing and once someone confronts them they usually say laws do not work in Ghana," he stresses.

The Konkohemaa of Apam in the central region, Nana Efua Kwenstiwaa also says, "whenever we call on fishermen to help in the fight against unapproved fishing practices they don't turn up and still engage in the practices of using unapproved means."

In the year 2004, the DAA initiated the yearly celebration of World Rural Women's Day in the rural communities in Ghana. Since 2006, DAA in collaboration with other farmer / fisher folk groups such as the Farmers Organisation Network in Ghana (FONG) have been organising the World Rural Women's Day celebration.

The 2016 event was supported by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), YARA and World Food Programme (WFP).



**Figure 25. Madam Lydia Sasu, the Executive Director of Development Action (DAA), a farmer based organisation stressed the importance of adopting safe and sustainable fishing methods**

*Lydia Sasu-Executive Director of DAA*

## APPENDIX 3: SAMPLE CELEBRATION PROGRAMME OUTLINE

| <b>WORLD RURAL WOMEN’S DAY -WRWD</b><br><b>OCTOBER 2016</b><br><b>Theme: Say No to Bad Fish: My Role!</b><br><b>Date: 14th October, 2016</b> <b>Venue: Apam Main Roundabout, Apam</b> |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Time</b>   | <b>Content</b>  | <b>Responsibility</b>  |
|   | <b>MC</b>   | Emelia Nortey / Nii Okaija Adamafio  |
| 07:30am   | Arrival / Registration / Health Screening   |  |
| 08:45am   | Opening Prayer  | <i>Capt. Kwabena Quansah</i> – Head pastor Salvation Army Church, Apam             |
| 08:50am   | Introduction of women’s groups  | <i>Grace Bondzie</i> - Apam Fish Processors Association, District NAFPTA president |
| 09:00am   | Introduction of Dignitaries   | MC   |
| 09:10am   | Introduction of Chairperson   | <i>Rebecca Arthur</i> – Apam - Fish Processor, Apam                                |
| 09:20am   | Chair persons response  | <i>Nana Essel Botwe</i> – Queen mother of Apam                                     |
| 09:25am   | Welcome Address   | <i>Gertrude Imprim</i> – Fish Processor, Winneba                                   |
| 09:40am   | Why Rural Women’s Day?  | <i>Lydia Sasu</i> - Executive Director - DAA                                       |
| 10:00am   | Musical Interlude   |  |
| 10:05am   | Role Play and Advocacy Messages   | Drama Group (Apam & Winneba)   |
| 10:30am   | Keynote Address- “Say No to Bad Fish: My role?”   | <i>Hon. Theophilus Mensah</i> - Gomoa West District Executive                      |
| 10:35am   | Musical Interlude   |  |
| 10:40am   | Solidarity messages<br>Traditional Authorities<br>SFMP & Partners<br>Efutu Municipal, Winneba<br>Chief Fishermen, Apam & Winneba<br>Fisheries Commission<br>NAFPTA<br>GES<br>Ghana Police |  |
| 11:30am   | Musical Interlude   | MC   |
| 11:35am   | Chairpersons Closing Remarks  | <i>Nana Essel Botwe</i> – Queen Mother of Apam                                     |
| 11:40am   | Vote of Thanks  | <i>Judith Aryitey</i> - District President NAFPTA                                  |
| 11:45am   | Closing Prayer  | <i>Nana Efua Kwenstiwaa</i> – Konkohemaa, Apam                                     |
| 11:50am   | Exhibition and Refreshment/ Health Screening  | AB/ Irene/ Regina  |
|   | ***   |  |