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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Radio Sensitization and Education Program on Fisheries Management Plan in Apam & Winneba.



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THE
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Development
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Cover photo: Community Anti-CLaT Advocates (**Credit:** Development Action Association)

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ACRONYMS

SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
FC	Fisheries Commission
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
IUU	Illegal Unreported Unregulated
GDP	Gross Domestic products

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SECTION 1: INRODUCTION

Fishermen in most coastal communities in Ghana continue to use unapproved means and methods to fish. This has contributed to the depletion and over exploitation of fish stock in the marine waters of Ghana. The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD) has launched a five year Fisheries Management Plan as a National Policy to guide the management of the fisheries sector.

To raise awareness on the contents of the plan and the strategy for its implementation, the Development Action Association under the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project, were hosted on a radio program.

1.1 Objectives of Radio Discussion

- To sensitize fisher folks on the state of fishing in Ghana
- To raise awareness on the negative effects of illegal fishing in Ghana
- To strengthen participatory decision making in fisheries management

1.2 Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of this radio program are that

- To educated the public on the various illegal methods employed by fishermen
- To educated fishers on the impact of illegal methods on fish stocks
- Engaged with fishers to support the efforts of MoFAD/FC to rebuild the marine fish stocks and safeguard livelihoods.

SECTION 2: SYNOPSIS FOR RADIO DICUSSION

The format of the radio discussion was that the host will ask the questions and the staff of DAA and the Chief Fisherman of Bortianor in the Greater Accra Region provided answers to them.

2.1 Questions

Question 1: What is IUU?

Answer: "IUU" stands for illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. IUU fishing includes all fishing that breaks fisheries laws or occurs outside the reach of fisheries laws and regulations.

Blast fishing or dynamite fishing is the practice of using explosives to stun or kill schools of fish for easy collection. This often-illegal practice can be extremely destructive to the surrounding ecosystem, as the explosion often destroys the underlying habitat (such as coral reefs) that supports the fish.

Question 2: How Does Overfishing Affect the Environment?

If caught, they are eventually discarded either at the sea or shore. Overfishing can have an adverse effect on marine biodiversity. ... Overfishing can wreak havoc and destroy the environment and marine ecology and completely disrupt the food chain.

Question 3: Why overfishing is happening?

Answer: Overfishing occurs because fish are captured at a faster rate than they can reproduce. Advanced fishing technology and an increased demand for fish have led to overfishing, causing several marine species to become extinct or endangered

Question 4: Is All IUU Fishing a Crime?

Answer: No. While many IUU fishing activities are crimes – for example, fishing without a license or in a prohibited area – others are not (such as the unregulated high-seas fishing discussed above). But other criminal activities are often associated with unregulated activity. These include the forging of catch or import/export documents and ships' logs so that catch can be sold in key markets, and particularly in Europe and North America.

Question: What Are the Impacts of Illegal Fishing?

Answer: Illegal fishing adversely impacts legitimate commercial fishers as well as fish populations. Illegal fishers avoid overhead costs, such as licenses.

Also, because illegal fishers do not report catch, their fishing activities affect the accuracy of official fish catch and stock estimates.

Question: Why should anyone Care about Illegal Fishing?

Answer: You should care about illegal fishing because it threatens the health and therefore the availability of wild-caught fish, a basic source of protein for almost 3 billion people around the world.

Question: What Are the Causes of Illegal Fishing?

Answer: Illegal fishing is an economic crime driven by a growing world demand for fish and other seafood, and the globalization of the market. Some fishers skirt the law in pursuit of higher catch, taking advantage of patchy regulation of the commercial fishing industry and poor enforcement regimes at sea.

Question: What is the relationship with post-harvest improvements and unsustainable fishery practices (IUU)?

- How are you working with Fishery Commission (FC) to improve the post-harvest sector in Ghana?
- What are the main challenges, treats and opportunities in the post-harvest value chain in Ghana fishery sector?
- In your opinion, how can post harvest value chain improvements contribute to Ghana sustainable fishery?

SECTION 3: PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND PHONE-INS



Figure 1 : Nii Tetteh Adama, Chief Fisherman of Bortianor Landing Beach, Madam Emelia Nortey and Radio Presenter at Obonu FM Team in panel sensitizing public on the fisheries management plan



Figure 2: Madam Mercy Frimpong at Radio Windy Bay-Winneba, discussing the negative effecting of IUU fishing

3.1 Recommendation

It was recommended that more radio discussion on the Fisheries Management Plan should be done on weekly bases across the country as well as on television and community information Centers, so that the people of Ghana will be informed on the state of fish stocks and the plans being implemented by MoFAD to sustain the industry.

3.2 Conclusion

A rethink on issues of IUU, has become important as all organizations and agencies working in the fisheries sector need to come on board to tackle the menace. This is because if fishermen bring unwholesome fish, it affects the health of all as well as the livelihoods of those employed by the sector.