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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Report on Forums on Improved Smoking Technologies

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THE
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ACRONYMS

CEDECOM	Central Region Development Commission
CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
CLaT	Child Labour and Trafficking
DAA	Development Action Association
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
FoN	Friends of Nation
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Program
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFCL	Worst Forms of Child Labour

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INTRODUCTION

As part of the SFMP's activities outlined under IR 4.8 (Fisheries Value chain Improvements and Livelihoods development), three forums were organized on three separate dates at Shama Anlo Beach 14th August 2015, Elmina, 21st August 2015 and Moree 15th September 2015 to sensitize fish processors on the improved smoking technologies and the benefits to be derived from its adoption.

ATTENDANCE

The forums were attended by 98 fish processors in Shama Anlo Beach, 94 fish processors in Elmina and 111 fish processors in Moree. In all, 303 fish processors could be reached, 265 females and 38 males.

OPENING

All the forums were organized in the late afternoons around 3:30pm since that was period a lot of fish processors could be reached. The abled community facilitators helped the CEWEFIA- SFMP Project Team to mobilize the participants for the forums.

The CEWEFIA- SFMP Project made up of the Project Coordinator, Communications Officer, the Project Officers for both Central and Western Regions and Monitoring and Evaluation and Development Officer attended all the three forums. Opening addresses were given by the Project Coordinator who used those opportune times to talk about the SFMP Song Sheet and CEWEFIA's role in USAID/GHANA Sustainable Fisheries Management Project. After welcoming the gathering, the Project Officer for Western Region, Miss Josephine Opare Addo explained the purpose of the forum. The Project Officer for Central Region, M&E and Development Officer and Communications Officer in turns made their presentations on the improved Chokor ovens and encouraged the fish processors for its adoption to save them from inhaling excess smoke which is inimical to their health and also help them to maximize profits.

OUTCOME

The first presenter pointed out the health and safety aspects of fish processing with emphasis on the recently carried out needs assessment exercise in the target communities. She emphasized on some of the health problems that affect fish processors such as heart diseases and eye problems. She also explained the need to have a smoking technology that emits less smoke, use less fuel wood and also use less time and effort in fish processing.

Subsequently, another presentation was made on the new technologies stating the available stoves, their usage and comparative advantages over the ones currently in use. This generated a lot of discussion.

The ovens introduced were:

- FTT Stove
- Awep Stove
- Morrison Stove
- Kosmos Stove

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

The following are some of the questions asked by the women.

- Can women be part of the artisans who would be trained for building the improved smoking technologies?
- Will fishmongers in Anlo be registered as a cooperative production unit?
- Will the fish be sent to shopping malls or be exported?
- Will SFMP provide us with such ovens?
- The chorkor stoves were giving them eye problems, waist pains, headaches, body pains etc. and they would be happy to receive the new technology.

The presenters answered the questions by informing them of what the SFMP project would be implementing with regards to building resilience of households in the target communities. It was explained that, demonstration ovens would be built for the community and also Artisans from the community would be part of the construction and they would in turn build for other individuals who might be interested in using the ovens in the community.

CONCLUSION

The women's show of interest indicated that they were ready to adopt the new technologies