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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Training Report on Woodlot Plantation for Youth



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THE
UNIVERSITY
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GRADUATE SCHOOL
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Cover photo: A cross-section of participants at the training on cacia plantation at Anlo.
Credit: CEWEFIA.

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INTRODUCTION

Two day woodlot plantation training was organized for the Youth of Anlo, Krobo and Bosomdo on the 23rd – 24th June 2016. A total of 26 women and 27 men were present. This activity is under IR. 4.5.3 Fisheries value chain improvements and livelihoods. The activity is aimed at helping to preserve the mangrove at Anlo and satellite communities which is being harvested as fuelwood by the youth living along the lagoon. It is important that mangrove harvesting is replaced with acacia since it grows faster. Also, tree cutting is the livelihood of some of the youth. It is expected that the acacia trees would be harvested for fuelwood and also in making charcoal to sustain both the farmers and fisherfolk during closed season. Facilitation of this training was by Deputy Director of the Forestry Commission Mr. Ebenezer Mensah

OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING

- To reduce reliance on mangrove as fuelwood
- To enable the youth set up their own plantations
- To provide alternate livelihood to the youth in charcoal burning

OUTCOME

Land Preparation

During land clearing, some trees were left standing to prevent erosion and also provide shade for the seedlings. The land is hilly so the mulch was kept on the land to serve as manure for the seedlings.



Figure 1 The facilitator together with SFMP team inspecting land clearing



Figure 2 CEWEFIA team negotiating with some of the labourers involved in the land clearing
Seedling Preparation

Participants were taken through the right way of preparing seedlings. The facilitator filled a small polythene bag with manure showing how the top of the bag is folded and filled and how it is pierced to allow water out. He demonstrated the positioning of seeds being placed in the manure and how it is watered to help germination.



Figure 3 Seedling arrangement and management



Figure 4 The facilitator demonstrating seedling preparation

Preparation of the Pegging Rope

The pegging rope was prepared by using a measurement of 3” to space it out. Pieces of cloth was used to do the separation and to get the measurements right. The facilitator advised participants to ensure that the right measurement is used. Pegging is done to ensure that trees are planted in a straight line and also allows free movement among the trees. The pegs indicate where the seedlings should be planted and it also helps in identifying dead seedlings.



Figure 5 Facilitator showing the measurement and intervals for pegging on a tape measure



Figure 6 Participants untying the rope for pegging

Actual Pegging

The facilitator showed participants how to prepare the pegs and how to use it to help in the beating process when some seedlings die. This was practically shown on the farm



Figure 7 Participants tying pieces of cloths along the rope to indicate the intervals



Figure 8 Participants Working with Rope

Demonstration on Seedling Planting

Participants were moved to the field for this demonstration exercise. They first started with the pegging then the planting. Participants were taken through how to properly remove the polythene bag from the seedling without losing the earth around it.



Figure 9 Facilitator demonstrating how the seedling is planted

CHALLENGES

As at the time of the planting of the seedlings, it has not rained, which may cause a problem in future.

Delay in weeding due to planting season.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The budget of woodlot plantation should be reviewed to include all logistics to ensure proper monitoring. Land preparation takes a lot of time especially virgin land. The youth are also interested in planting mangrove on depleted areas in the community. They suggested that SFMP help them in acquiring land for this purpose. Since they are settlers on

WAY FORWARD

Planting of seedlings is on-going.