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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP) ANNUAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS WITH MMDA'S



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Cover photo: Meeting with Gomoa West District Assembly

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ACRONYMS

CCM	Centre for Coastal Management
CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
CRC	Coastal Resource Center
CSLP	Coastal Sustainable Landscape Project
DAA	Development Action Association
DFAS	Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Science
DMFS	Department of Marine Fisheries Sciences
DQF	Daasgift Quality Foundation
FtF	Feed the Future
GIFA	Ghana Inshore Fishermen's Association
GIS	Geographic Information System
GNCFC	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen's Council
HM	Hen Mpoano
ICFG	Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Governance
MESTI	Ministry of Environment Science and Technology
MOFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
SSG	SSG Advisors
STWG	Scientific and Technical Working Group
UCC	University of Cape Coast
URI	University of Rhode Island
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WARFP	West Africa Regional Fisheries Development Program

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

To create collaboration and support of Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) activities with the Municipal Assembly towards project goal, Development Action Association (DAA), an implementing partner of SFMP had an annual stakeholder engagement with MMDAs at Apam in the Central Region of Ghana. The meeting took off on the 28th Day of September 2017 at the conference hall of Gomoa West District Assembly at 9:30 am.

In attendance were forty-seven (47) participants of which thirty-eight (38) representing 81 per cent were males while the remaining 9 representing 19 per cent were females. Specific objectives of the meeting were to create collaboration, understand and support the project goals in rebuilding the marine fisheries stock in the Central Region of Ghana. The expected outcomes of the meeting were that the District Assembly understand and get ready to collaborate and support the implementing partner (DAA) in achieving the project goals.

2.0 PROCEEDINGS OF ANNUAL DIALOGUE WITH MMDAS AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

The annual engagement meeting commenced with introduction of participants, preceded with overview of and progress of the SFMP project so far. Participants were briefed on some of year three activities as: capacity building which has been conducted for fish processors such as Business skills training, Anti-child labor and trafficking; and also asked of the impact the beneficiaries gained. Agnes Shebura said that after receiving the training, she can now record expenses of transactions on the fish she smokes which she formerly did not know how to do. Ibrahim Nassam also added to some progress the Anti-child labor and trafficking advocacy in Apam and Mumford in year three. The social welfare representative advised that DAA should collaborate with other NGO's to support the fight on child labor. Madam Lydia Sasu responded that DAA is already working with some NGOs who are partners of the SFMP project, such as

FON which has presented analysis suggesting that the root cause of child labor is poverty and so, the NGOs should support vulnerable households. It was added that, several training and collaborations have been done with other NGOs and Anti-CLaT Advocates such as the Trip to Ankobra and a visit to Challenging Heights rehabilitation center which has advocated to secure and prevent possible CLaT and some fish processors to improve their work which has enabled some to receive awards. Mr. Peter Edzie said that the knowledge he acquired from the training he was given by DAA enabled him secure the award.

Mrs. Agnes Quansah said that the recent intervention of DAA to improve hygienic fish by helping to stop drying anchovies on bare ground but on raised racks has helped her very much. She said that there is vast difference in the hygienic status of fish dried on the ground and that on raised racks, and so the authorities must enforce the By-laws to enable all fish processors adopt hygienic methods in processing. She also appealed for stakeholders to help them secure available markets for their end products.



Figure 1. Mrs. Agnes Quansah sharing her success on using Raised Drying Racks for Anchovies at the annual stakeholders engagement with Gomoa West District Assembly at Apam in the Central Region of Ghana

Mr. Amakye the District Environmental engineer added that the genesis of imposing the new drying technology was not easy but they were optimistic that when DAA proposed the new drying method it will solve the challenges in drying fish on bare ground, especially the offensive smell residents staying around and other people face when entering the town. He said that the new technology is undoubtedly good so enforcement will be provided for all fish processors to use it. He said that the regional minister visited the assembly last week and also cautioned about sanitation issues, especially the drying of the fish on bare ground.

The chief fisherman added that the raised racks are good but the only challenge is the cost involved so the authorities should help support the women.



Figure 2. Gomoa West District Engineer (Mr. Amakye) outlining procedures the District will adopt to solve sanitation issues and bring to book all processors drying fish on the bare ground in the Gomoa West District



Figure 3. Gomoa West District Environmental Officer sensitizing the participants on the need of proper sanitation at their processing sites



Figure 4. A fish processor (Madam Rebecca Arthur) appealing for land from the District for Anchovies processors



Figure 5. Apam chief fisherman (Nana Kaico) promising to sensitize fishermen to stop light-fishing at Apam landing beach



Figure 6. Gomoa West Assistant District Director (Mr. Emmanuel Eduah) read the by-laws against light-fishing and said that the District will help to combat light-fishing at Apam

3.0 WAY FORWARD

Mr. Amakye enquired about contribution of the new technology in this SFMP year 4 and was told that the year four work plan has an activity on that. The honorable assembly man asked about the water drained from the fresh fish and asked if the racks can be built in sandy areas. Abraham Asare agreed, so Nana and the honorable member proposed some part of the Landing beach for building more raised racks.

Mr. Amakye also proposed the formation of association for the fermented fish processors (amoni) so that the group can be sensitized against open defecation. The planning officer added that there is an environmental housing policy that the government will not build any public toilet but individuals who want to build one will be supported by the assembly through subsidizing the project cost.

Mad Agnes Quansah added that there should be toilet facilities and bathrooms where the fish are dried and that it can also generate revenue to the Assembly.

Emmanuel Eduah gave the closing remarks and said that since the Assembly is part of this initiative, he pledged its continuous development support for the new technology.