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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Report On A Meeting With Central Region Fisheries Commission



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THE
UNIVERSITY
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Cover photo: Boats in bay (CEWEFIA)

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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
TOT	Training of Trainers
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan
CSLP	Coastal Sustainable Landscape Project

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Fisheries Commission (FC) and Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MOFAD) is the key implementing partner under the USAID/sustainable fisheries management project. CEWEFIA has built and continue to build relationship with the FC/MOFAD in the Central Region in the implementation of the project activities. CEWEFIA initiated a meeting with Fisheries Commission, Central Region at Fisheries Commission Office Cape Coast on Wednesday, 8th August, 2018. The meeting was purposed to share ideas on how best CEWEFIA and Fisheries Commission (FC) can best work together in the years ahead to achieve project goals. In attendance were three CEWEFIA staff and two Fisheries Commission officers; Mr. Yaw Atobrah; Director of Fisheries Commission, and Mr. Kwame Damoah, the Zonal officer. The meeting was opened at 12:00pm. In the opening session Miss Hannah Antwi outlined the purpose and the issues to be deliberated upon. They were; closed-season and the way forward, hygienic fish handling, Ahotor oven and distribution. On closed –season and the way forward, the resolved to intensify engagement with stakeholders and Community Civil societies (CSO). It was revealed that even though the closed season has been postponed to 2019, education on fisheries management measures must be intensified. Also improved oven campaign as well as hygienic fish handling campaigns must be continued with a view to increasing peoples’ awareness level. Mr. Yaw Atobrah at the end of the meeting was tasked to follow up on Ahotor Oven and Insulated container to ensure the Office get one. Also, FC pledged its commitment to their responsibilities and charged CEWEFIA to sustain the collaboration between them to ensure activity implementation. The meeting closed at 2:00pm when all issues were completely discussed.

SECTION 1 BACKGROUND

Increased constituencies that provide the practical and public support needed to rebuild the fish stock is essential. Therefore, effective engagement with relevant stakeholders is one of the sure ways to achieve a successful project result. The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and Fisheries Commission is the key government implementing partner in this Sustainable Fisheries Management Project therefore their involvement cannot be underemphasized, hence the need to build strong collaboration to achieve the project result. CEWEFIA over the years has worked with the MOFAD/FC in implementation of its activities. In line with CEWEFIA's year four work plan, quarterly meetings with Fisheries Commission in Central Region had been planned to deliberate on how best they can work together to achieve the project activities. The engagement will strengthen the relationship between Fisheries Commission and CEWEFIA. Two meetings have been held so far and the outcomes were fruitful.

In this 4th quarter, the meeting was held on Wednesday, 8th August, 2018 at the Fisheries Commission Office at Cape Coast. The attendees of the meeting were CEWEFIA program staff and Fisheries Commission staff including Mr. Yaw Atobra H, Director of Fisheries Commission and Mr. Kwame Damoah, Cape Coast Zonal Officer. Other members of staff were also present.

1.1 Objectives

The main objective of the meeting was to discuss how best CEWEFIA and FC can continue to work together to achieve the intended results as we move towards year.

1.2 Expected Outcomes

Expected outcomes of the event included:

- Implementation plans developed for year five activity implementation.
- Relationship strengthened.

SECTION 2 OUTCOME

2.1 Opening

The meeting was opened at 12:00pm by Miss Hannah Antwi (Communications Officer, CEWEFIA). In her opening message she outlined the meeting agenda to be deliberated upon which included;

- Closed season and the way forward.
- Hygienic fish handling campaign.
- Ahotor Oven campaign and distribution.
- Other matters.

The outcome of the deliberations was surmised below;

2.2 Closed Season and the Way Forward

Following the postponement of closed season in 2018, Miss Hannah asked the house the way forward with regards to fisheries management intervention since the Closed-Season had been postponed. Mr. Kwame Damoah, responded by saying that even though the implementation of closed-season had been postponed to 2019, other management measures such as capping of fishing vessels can be implemented to regulate illegal fishing practices. He further said that the other sensitization programs such as hygienic fish handling campaign, Ahotor oven campaign and trainings, and fisheries related education can be continued with.

The discussion resulted in an action plan that outlined additional intervention required to fill some gaps identified to ensure successful implementation. They are;

- Intensive awareness creation on closed season to prepare the mind of the fisher folks and to solicit their strong support for the action. During the meeting, the head of Ghana Canoe Fishermen Council (GCFC) Nana Jojo Solomon was present and he gave assurance that he is going to ensure all chief fishermen comply with the fisheries law. He again indicated that there should be strong collaboration with canoe council members and other relevant stakeholders including chiefs.
- There should be biological sampling of all fish species at all landing sites. Currently biological sampling has been done in three landing beaches out of five.
- Quarterly meeting with civil society organizations (CSOs) to form constituencies.
- More engagement should be held with all fisher folks including chief fishermen, fishermen and fish processors to boost their sense of ownership and responsibility.

2.3 New Improved Oven (Ahotor oven)

Following the recent distribution of Ahotor Ovens in the project target area, Hannah Antwi, CEWEFIA Communications Officer, enquired from the Fisheries Officers whether their office is playing any role in the Ahotor Oven distribution. It became clear that they were not involved in the distribution of the oven. This enquiry, according to Hannah Antwi was to avoid duplication of effort on the part of CEWEFIA in the oven distribution. Mr. Yaw Atobrah said, a sample of Ahotor oven should be constructed in all Fisheries Commission premises for demonstration purposes to enable customers who patronize their offices have a glimpse of it to help increase the awareness effort. In view of this he assured participants of his determination to making sure that the office in Cape Coast has the oven.

- Hygienic Fish Handling sensitization.

On the issue of hygienic fish handling, CEWEFIA on its part assured the house that the hygienic fish handling campaigns and sensitization programs will continue. An update was given on the effort of SFMP to improve the kitchens of some selected fish processors to meet basic compliance for healthy fish and as well serve as a model for others to look up to. It was proposed by the FC Officers present that one of the insulated containers be given to FC office to assist them in their demonstrations. Mr. Yaw Atobrah said that he will follow up on the insulated containers.

SECTION 3 MEETING OUTCOME

The meeting ended on the note that the Fisheries Commission is ever ready to respond to the call of SFMP and CEWEFIA. They pledged to commit themselves to the role they are to play in the implementation of subsequent activities and that CEWEFIA on the other hand should do their part to attain the desired results.

SECTION 4 CONCLUSIONS

The meeting was moved for adjournment at 2:00pm when all issues were exhausted