USAID | GHANA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Local Forum on Improved Smoking Stoves

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND GRADUATE SCHOOL OF OCEANOGRAPHY | CRC COASTAL RESOURCES CENTER

Hɛn Mpoano

DO THE RIGHT THING Friends of the Nation

SNV SMART DEVELOPMENT WORKS

SSG ADVISORS Catalyzing Development Through Partnership

HELPING WOMEN DAASGIFT QUALITY FOUNDATION HERE THEMSELVES Daasgift

CEWEFIA UNITY & PROGRESS

DAA

SpS SPATIAL SOLUTIONS

This publication is available electronically on the Coastal Resources Center's website at

http://www.crc.uri.edu

For more information on the Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project, contact:

USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
Coastal Resources Center
Graduate School of Oceanography
University of Rhode Island
220 South Ferry Rd.
Narragansett, RI 02882 USA
Tel: 401-874-6224 Fax: 401-874-6920 Email: info@crc.uri.edu

Citation: Kankam, M. (2015). Local Forum On Improved Smoking Stoves. The USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP). Narragansett, RI: Coastal Resources Center, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island and Daasgift Quality Foundation. GH2014_ACT002_DQF. 15 pp.

Authority/Disclaimer:

Prepared for USAID/Ghana under Cooperative Agreement (AID-641-A-15-00001) awarded on October 22, 2014 to the University of Rhode Island and entitled; the USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP).

This document is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The views expressed and opinions contained in this report are those of the SFMP team and are not intended as statements of policy of either USAID or the cooperating organizations. As such, the contents of this report are the sole responsibility of the SFMP Project team and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

Detailed Partner Contact Information:
USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP)
10 Obodai St., Mempeasem, East Legon, Accra, Ghana

Brian Crawford	Chief of Party	brian@crc.uri.edu
Najih Lazar	Senior Fisheries Advisor	nlazar@crc.uri.edu
Patricia Mensah	Communications Officer	patricia.sfmp@crcuri.org
Bakari Nyari	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist	hardinyari.sfmp@crcuri.org
Don Robadue, Jr.	Program Manager, CRC	don@crc.uri.edu
Justice Odoi	USAID Administrative Officer Representative	jodoi@usaid.gov

Kofi.Agbogah
kagbogah@henmpoano.org
StephenKankam
skankam@henmpoano.org
Hen Mpoano
38 J. Cross Cole St. Windy Ridge
Takoradi, Ghana
233 312 020 701

Andre de Jager
adejager@snvworld.org
SNV Netherlands Development Oganization
#161, 10 Maseru Road,
E. Legon, Accra, Ghana
233 30 701 2440

Donkris Mevuta
Kyei Yamoah
info@fonghana.org
Friends of the Nation
Parks and Gardens
Adiembra-Sekondi, Ghana
233 312 046 180

Peter Owusu Donkor
Spatial Solutions
powusu-donkor@spatialdimension.net
#3 Third Nautical Close,
Nungua, Accra, Ghana
233 020 463 4488

Thomas Buck
tom@ssg-advisors.com
SSG Advisors
182 Main Street
Burlington, VT 05401
(802) 735-1162

Victoria C. Koomson
cewefia@gmail.com
CEWEFIA
B342 Bronyibima Estate
Elmina, Ghana
233 024 427 8377

Lydia Sasu
daawomen@daawomen.org
DAA
Darkuman Junction, Kaneshie Odokor Highway
Accra, Ghana
233 302 315894

Gifty Asmah
giftyasmah@Daasgift.org
Daasgift Quality Foundation
Headmaster residence, Sekondi College
Sekondi, Western Region, Ghana
233 243 326 178

For additional information on partner activities:

CRC/URI:	http://www.crc.uri.edu
CEWEFIA:	http://cewefia.weebly.com/
DAA:	http://womenthrive.org/development-action-association-daa
Daasgift:	https://www.facebook.com/pages/Daasgift-Quality-Foundation-FNGO/135372649846101
Friends of the Nation:	http://www.fonghana.org
Hen Mpoano:	http://www.henmpoano.org
SNV:	http://www.snvworld.org/en/countries/ghana
SSG Advisors:	http://ssg-advisors.com/
Spatial Solutions:	http://www.spatialsolutions.co/id1.html

ACRONYMS

CEDECOM	Central Region Development Commission
CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
CLaT	Child Labour and Trafficking
DAA	Development Action Association
DCE	District Chief Executive
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
NCCE	National Commission for Civic Education
NFED	Non-Formal Education Division, Ministry of Education
FoN	Friends of Nation
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Program
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms iii
Table of Contents iv
Table of Figures iv
1. Introduction 1
2. Objective 1
3. Methodology 1
Phase One Town Hall Meeting 1
Non Formal Educational Division 3
District Chief Executive 3
Phase Two: Town Hall Meeting 5
Presentation on consensus building workshop organized by SNV- Project Coordinator, Daasgift. 6
Messages from Heads of Departments 7
Fishermen 8
4. Conclusion Remarks 10
5. Recommendations 10

TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Group discussions on various topics at Shama Town hall meeting (phase one) 2
Figure 2: Group discussion on the various topics at Axim (phase one) 2
Figure 3: Hon. DCE for Ellembelle delivering a message at phase one Town-hall meeting with a section of participants listening attentively. 3
Figure 4: Municipal Fire Officer-Axim delivering a message at Axim. (Right)NFED Officer delivering a message at Shama 4
Figure 5: Justice Blay, Project Coordinator of Daasgift briefing participants on the previous meeting 5
Figure 6: Madam Theresa Freeman briefing participants 6
Figure 7: Justice making a presentation on identified improved technologies (stoves) 6
Figure 8: Representative from Health and Sanitation Department 7
Figure 9: Representative of Nzema East Municipal fire service delivering a message 8
Figure 10: Nana Kofi (standing right) addressing issues on illegal fishing at the various landing site 8
Figure 11: A section of participants at Axim second town—hall meeting listening to Mr. Dokoe (Facing Camera from afar) 9
Figure 12: A section of participants at Shama second town-hall meeting 9
Figure 13: Mrs Asmah giving the concluding remarks 10

1. INTRODUCTION

In line with activities led by Daasgift in value chain improvements in the Western, two phases of town hall meetings were organized in Shama and Axim.

Phase one which were organised on 17th and 28th July, 2015 in Shama and Axim respectively, solicited for opinions on sanitation and healthy fish handling at landing sites and as well considered the pros and cons of old and new smoking technologies.

Phase two was also organized on 28th August and 18th September, 2015 in Shama and Axim respectively to give participants feedback on consensus building workshop previously organized by SNV on 5th August, 2015, on selected improved fish smoking stoves for promotion under the SFMP project.

The activity brought together fish processors and representatives of various stakeholder Organizations such as Gender Desk Department, Department of Social Welfare/Community Development, Non Formal Educational Division, National Commission for Civic Education(N.C.C.E), National Disaster Management Organization, Planning Department, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Axim, Fire Service, Environmental Health and Sanitation Department, and other stakeholders such as Western Region Coastal Foundation, Supply Chain Management, and B-BOVID.

2. OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the town hall meeting was to identify and improve fish smoking technologies and how this could improve income levels of fishmongers at Shama and Axim.

3. METHODOLOGY

Phase One Town Hall Meeting

The workshop employed a participatory-based approach to implore views and experiences of participants. Participants were sub-divided into three groups, with each group deliberating on the issues in turns, with the help of facilitators. The issues were:

- Sanitation and healthy fish handling at landing sites.
- Output of old smoking technology and its effects.
- Output of new smoking technology and its effects.

Figure 1: Group discussions on various topics at Shama Town hall meeting (phase one)

Figure 2: Group discussion on the various topics at Axim (phase one)

The programme offered a platform for heads of department present to interact with the processors on how to improve their businesses and put in place preventive measures needed for effective and efficient business operation.

Non Formal Educational Division

The representative from NFED expressed his profound gratitude and stated that Daasgift happens to be among the few organizations that have recognized the role and efforts of his outfit, in helping improve the literacy level of women in general. He revealed his outfit's readiness to partner any organization to help raise the literacy level of the fish processors so as to enable them gain an upward mobility in life.

District Chief Executive

The DCE of Ellembelle said that the SFMP is a laudable project which must be given the needed attention. He encouraged the fish processors to take the activities of the project very serious, since the project's existence is for the enhancement of the fishing business and their livelihoods. He also advised the fish processors to be careful not to be carried away by the refreshment packages given to them by the organizers of the meeting, but rather contribute in sharing of important information which would help improve their businesses.

Figure 3: Hon. DCE for Ellembelle delivering a message at phase one Town-hall meeting with a section of participants listening attentively.

The groups deliberated on each topic, identified challenges and came up with solutions.

<u>Sanitation and healthy fish handling at landing sites</u>

Problems/Challenges identified

- Refuse dumping at the landing sites.
- Drainage systems have their outlets at the beaches.
- Indiscriminate open defecation at the landing sites.
- Cutting of fish open on the bare sand/floor at the landing sites.

Figure 4: Municipal Fire Officer-Axim delivering a message at Axim. (Right)NFED Officer delivering a message at Shama

Solutions Offered to identified challenges

- Creation of gutters at the landing sites.
- Education of women on proper disposal of fish waste products.
- Fish should be cut on either wood or table.
- Sanitation officers should be available at the landing beaches to inspect proper handling of fish.
- Fish should not be left on the bare ground.
- Provision of refuse containers at the landing sites.
- Fish should be washed thoroughly before cutting.
- Clean brown papers should be used for wrapping fresh fish.
- Regular oiling of smoking wire nets to avoid corrosion.

<u>Knowledge on old and smoking technologies</u>

Pros

- Convenience in handling.
- High affinity for old smoking technology.
- Self-ownership.
- The fish is well smoked.
- Sufficient time is created for other things.
- Takes a lot of fishes at a time.
- It has a lot of space around it, which allows for helping hands.

Cons

- Breathing and eye problems.

- Health complications such as chest pains and headache.
- Running nose as a result of frequent and constant inhaling of smoke.
- Cost of firewood is high when using the old technology.
- Poisonous trees are used as firewood, which affect our health.

Knowledge on new smoking technology

Pros

- Smoking pipe is directional to the atmosphere.
- It has packaging facility and makes the output clean.
- It is highly aesthetic.
- Less smoke.
- 50% savings on firewood and it is hygienic.

Cons

- High cost of repairs and maintenance.
- Proximity factor.
- Not accessible to individuals, but for groups.
- Limited space.
- Not suitable for smoking big fishes.
- Can cause explosion.

Phase Two: Town Hall Meeting

The phase two (2) town hall meetings were organized in Shama and Axim on 25th August and 18th September, 2015 respectively.

Presenting the results of the consensus building workshop organized by SNV, the Project Coordinator gave an overview of the previous town-hall meeting and tasked Madam Theresa Freeman, a Queen Mother and President of Fish Processors in Axim who participated in the Consensus building workshop, to brief participants on lessons learnt.

Figure 5: Justice Blay, Project Coordinator of Daasgift briefing participants on the previous meeting

Figure 6: Madam Theresa Freeman briefing participants

In a brief presentation, she explained the steps and processes in fish smoking starting from the landing sites till the fish is ready for market. A description of the improved smoking technology was given and called on her fellow fish processors to adopt the technology.

Presentation on consensus building workshop organized by SNV- Project Coordinator, Daasgift.

In presenting the outcome of the consensus building workshop, the project coordinator explained to participants, the features and prices of the various smoking stoves that were identified by SNV as well as their output. Comparisons were made in terms of the number of hours and the amount of fire wood that would be used to smoke the fish. Answers were given on questions relating to ownership and distribution of the demonstration smoking stoves in the three towns, namely, Shama, Axim and Ankobra.

Figure 7: Justice making a presentation on identified improved technologies (stoves)

Messages from Heads of Departments

A representative from the municipal health and sanitation department advised fish processors and micro small and medium enterprises to be mindful of their activities at the landing sites, reminding them of the existence of laws to check unhealthy activities at the landing sites. Mr. John Tetteh Doku mentioned that his outfit will not relent on their efforts in dealing with offenders of sanitation by-laws of Nzema East Municipal Assembly.

Figure 8: Representative from Health and Sanitation Department

A representative from the municipal fire service advised the fish processors to adhere to basic fire precautions in their smoking activities. He added, his outfit is ready to engage fire users in educational campaigns which would help in eliminating fire related injuries. He therefore promised to hold interactions with the fish processors as soon as possible and called for collaboration between Daasgift to realise the bigger dream.

Figure 9: Representative of Nzema East Municipal fire service delivering a message

Fishermen

One of the chief fishermen Nana Kofi, touched on illegal fishing activities and advised fishermen to desist from such irresponsible behaviour. He added, this is detrimental to the livelihoods and survival of the fishing activities in the communities. He therefore charged the assemblies to strictly enforce their by-laws to avert the situation.

Figure 10: Nana Kofi (standing right) addressing issues on illegal fishing at the various landing site

A representative of the chief fisherman of lower Axim, Michael Dokoe appealed to the district assembly to keep reminding the public, especially the fisher folks on sanitation days, because they are normally taken by surprise due to their tight schedules

Figure 11: A section of participants at Axim second town—hall meeting listening to Mr. Dokoe (Facing Camera from afar)

Figure 12: A section of participants at Shama second town-hall meeting

4. CONCLUSION REMARKS

In concluding remarks, The Executive Director of Daasgift, Mrs. Asmah touched on the ownership of the demonstration stoves and advised the fish processors to attach much seriousness to the activities of the project. She also encouraged those who registered their names to be trained on the construction of demonstration stoves to be present when the construction kick-starts within their localities.

Figure 13: Mrs Asmah giving the concluding remarks

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

It was recommended by participants to continue with such engagement to address various issues that militate against the progress of their activities; especially departmental heads should make their presence felt in order to bring together fish processors to discuss fishery-based issues.

Participants called for constant engagement with Daasgift and to maintain the relationship.