

NEWSLETTER

Project Update: June 2022 to November 2022

Issue 07

INTRODUCTION

The Power to the Fishers (PTF) project aims to enhance the socio-economic livelihood of fishing communities within selected districts of the coastal savannah zone of Ghana. Welcome to the June 2022–November 2022 newsletter which presents updates on the progress of the project and upcoming activities.

For further information about the PTF project, visit: www.powertothefishers.com

GREEN GHANA DAY 2022.



Commencement of Green Ghana Day in Winneba by the Paramount Chief of Effutu Traditional Area

The PTF team, on 10 June, joined the Forestry Commission in Winneba to commemorate the second edition of the Green Ghana Day (GGD). GGD is part of national efforts directed at mitigating the effects of climate change through a nationwide afforestation campaign.

The effort with the Forestry Commission was targeted at rehabilitating coastal vegetation through the planting of mangroves and coconut tree seedlings. The activity saw some 5,000 tree seedlings planted within the Muni Pomadze Ramsar Site (MPRS).

GGD ties in strongly with one of the PTF project's expected outcomes — enhancing coastal resilience to climate change



Planting of mangrove seedlings at MPRS

FORMATION OF NEW VSLAs AND MONITORING ACTIVITIES

During the reporting period, the project team carried out a number of activities targeted at VSLA formation, monitoring, and data capture of the formed groups.

The team has been able to facilitate the formation of 14 additional VSLAs, bringing the total count to 30, across the project communities. After a round of community entry sessions (on the VSL model), interested individuals were trained on the concept and assisted to constitute VSLAs.



VSLA formation activities at Ekumpono.

Additionally, the team continued its monitoring activities of both existing and newly-formed groups. This was to ensure the VSL tenets are being observed and records keeping is done right. As part of the visits, the project team periodically (every 90 days) captured data on the groups to assess their financial strength.



Monitoring of 'Onso Nyame Ye' VSLA at Fomaye

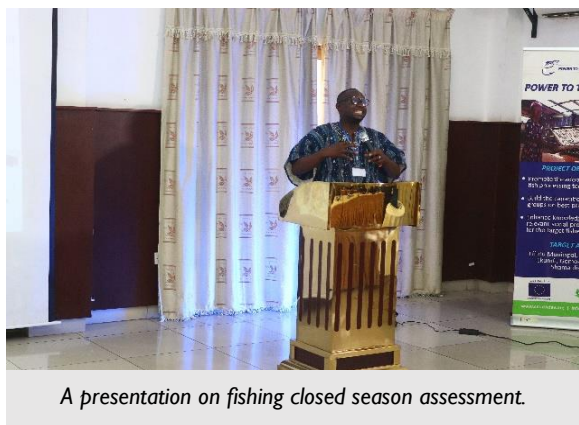
FISHERIES STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP



Group picture of workshop participants

The project team organized a fisheries stakeholder workshop in June at the Mensvick Hotel, Accra. The event was to provide key stakeholders an opportunity to deliberate on topical issues impacting the fisheries sector.

Participating in the workshop were the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD), Fisheries Commission (FC), National Premix Fuel Secretariat (NPFS), civil society organisations (CSO), and fisher associations, among others.



A presentation on fishing closed season assessment.

Issues up for deliberation, which were occasioned with presentations, centered on (i) the Village Savings and Loans (VSL) model

as a pathway to financial inclusion, (ii) status of small pelagic fish stocks & Ghana Fisheries Recovery Activity's (GFRA) efforts at rebuilding, (iii) assessment of Ghana's closed fishing season implementation, and (iv) premix fuel administration & access.



Panel discussion on premix fuel administration

As part of the event, a panel discussion was held on the theme "Demystifying Premix Fuel Access: Finding 21st Century Solutions to Premix Fuel Delivery". Key recommendations made were documented in a communique, which was shared with key stakeholders. The communique can be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/3AWkDp3>.

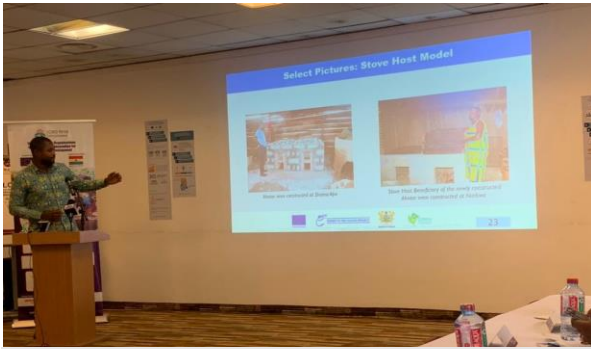
CSO-RISE MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

In July 2022, the project team participated in a media engagement organised by the Technical Assistant Team (TAT). The event was targeted at creating further visibility for the CSO-RISE programme, the funding agency (EU), and the grantee projects.



Cross section of participants at the event

The session, which was to inform the media houses' reportage on the grantee projects, afforded the respective project teams the opportunity to share project objectives, milestones attained, and next steps.



The PTF project manager making a presentation on the progress of the project

Media houses present included GBC, Daily Guide, and UTV.

OPERATIONALISATION OF SMOKING CENTERS – PHASE II

The month of August kickstarted the second phase of the operationalisation of the communal smoking centers.

The first phase saw the operationalisation of three smoking centres in Senya Bereku, Winneba, and Kesewokan. The lessons gained from the first phase have been incorporated into the running of the other centres. The centres under the second phase are located in the Mankwadze, Dago, and Otuam communities.



A processor preparing her fish for smoking in the Mankwadze FPC

Patronage of the communal centres comes with a facility user fee, which caters for maintenance and repair works at the centres. Additionally, there is a management regime that dictates the use and management of the facilities

HEADHUNTING FOR ARTISANS AND VILLAGE AGENTS

To facilitate the sustainability of impacts beyond the project phase, the project team headhunted for competent individuals to be trained as artisans (for the construction of

the Ahotor oven) and as village agents (VA) (to supervise the VSLA groups).

Skilled youth masons were identified for the training on the Ahotor oven, whereas literate community mobilisers were identified for training as VAs. These individuals were all sourced from the project communities, with the clear intent of building local capacity to consolidate project gains.

The training sessions are scheduled for December 2022.

EU VERIFICATION MISSION



Interaction between EU and VSLA groups at Ekumpoano

November saw the EU pay a second verification visit to the PTF project sites. The week-long visit, among others, was to gain firsthand accounts of project impacts and interrogate the project's sustainability measures as the project grinds to a close.

The visit had the EU make stops at several project communities to interact with some project-facilitated VSLAs, learning groups, and stove host beneficiaries. Additionally, some collaborating institutions supporting the project delivery were engaged.



EU interaction with a stove host beneficiary at Abuesi

The visit drew to a close with a debriefing on observations made. The EU shared with the team recommendations geared at enhancing project impacts and sustainability measures.



EU engagement with the Abotare VSLA at Mumford



EU engagement with the learning group at Mankwadze

CERATH Development Organization is implementing the **Power to the Fishers** project with financial support from the **European Union**. The Power to the Fishers project is a four-year project to enhance the socio-economic livelihoods of fishing communities within selected districts of the coastal savannah zones of Ghana.

Project Co-Funded by:



European Union



GOVERNMENT OF GHANA

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