



Women join forces to smoke fish

Working together to bring development

The adage 'we are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided' may be an old one but it is still potent for the Yehowa Enye Kplorlanye Fish Processing Group, in Dzemeni, in the Volta Region of Ghana. Previously they had worked as individuals, but now they work as a group and have joined forces.



©FAO/Yaa Danso

How to make the group work

The group has a leadership that has spearheaded their activities over the past 17 years. The group is formally registered by the Local Assembly and the Registrar General's Department, which is responsible for the registration of community groups. The group meets every two weeks to plan, discuss challenges and agree on solutions.

To ensure discipline and growth, the members, together with the leadership have put together a code of conduct with key goals to ensure mutual respect, trust, resolve differences and prioritise customer satisfaction. By meeting, they share information, check on quality issues and discuss new market opportunities.

Improved fish processing

By working together, the group has been able to overcome many hurdles that are difficult to overcome individually, for example processing fish quickly and hygienically. The group has arrangements with fishers to ensure that they received high-quality fish for processing. This is done by providing ice blocks to the fishers to keep the fish fresh until it is brought to the processing centre. Once the fish is landed, it is quickly transported on ice to the processing centre. At the processing centre, the fish is degutted and washed three times with water. The excess water is drained off and the fish is left to dry a little. Smoking of the fish is done on clean metal grills over charcoal in an improved smoking kiln. This produces attractive light brown coloured products. When ready, the fish is left to cool and then packaged in plastic bags to maintain the product quality and labelled with the group's brand. This is a form of simple value addition.

The advantages of working together

By joining forces the women are producing better quality products and sharing the profits. The women have jointly been able to attain what they couldn't achieve individually.

Watch the video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_Ebh0e1CFo



Scan to watch the video



Some rights reserved. This work is available under a CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO licence