

Report on Empowering Rural Women In The Shea Nut Industry with additional skill in Shea Soap production

DANIDA Alumni Activity Grant-Ghana



Date: 8th December, 2018

Venue: Gumani Center, Tamale.

Funding: Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and DANIDA Fellowship Center with support from Suhcare Ltd.

Guest Speakers: Mr. Iddi Zacharia- National Coordinator, SheaNetwork Ghana , Mr. Issahaku Zacharia- Shea value chain expert

Project Team Members: Mrs. Rita Quist-Therson, Dr Gervase Kuuwaabong, and Mr. Enoch Yeboah Agyepong



Danida Fellowship Centre
Empowering Development Through Education and Training

Introduction

In September 2018 , three alumni: Mrs. Rita Quist-Therson, Dr Gervase Kuuwaabong, and Mr. Enoch Yeboah Agyepong applied for the Alumni grant call and got selected to implement the activity under the theme-*Empowering Rural Women In The Shea Nut Industry with additional skill in Shea Soap production.*

Background

Shea Butter production in Ghana currently creates jobs for over 900,000 people with 97% of these being women in the three Northern Regions (NR). However research has shown that it is difficult for women who depend on the production and sale of Shea Butter to be able to adequately take care of their families. Rural Women of Northern Ghana involved in the processing of Shea Butter for the local market and export, make very minimal earnings. There is still a largely undeveloped area of economic benefit and empowerment of the local women involved.

This activity (training program) was designed for rural women in Northern Ghana who produce Shea Butter. In order to increase their low incomes, they were trained in the skill of Shea soap production through this program.

Program

The planning and implementation of the program was done by the team(Rita Quist-Therson, Dr. Gervase Kuuwaabong, and Enoch Yeboah Agyepong). The Shea Soap Training was organized on the 8th of December, 2018 in Tamale. It was a whole day training (8am-3pm) with a total of forty-four (44) participants. The training began with an introduction by Rita Quist-Therson (Founder- Suhcare Ltd) who welcomed the participants and shared the purpose of the training while encouraging participants to fully commit to what was taught. This was followed by Mr. Iddi Zacharia, the National Coordinator for SheaNetwork Ghana(SNG) sharing a presentation to the group the many opportunities in the Shea sector and the challenges that needed to be overcome. Mr. Issahaku Zacharia-A Shea value chain expert also engaged the women on how to apply the new skill to improve their livelihood.

Rita Dampson the consultant trainer introduced the women to the theory section of soap making. The ingredients needed, methods for preparation , safety measure, benefits of shea soap and how to market it. The participants took a snack break and continued to the practical section. This was an interactive section where the group guided by the Shea soap consultant. Together the group went through the preparation. The women were divided into three groups and each group was given supplies to prepare their own soap. There were opportunities for questions and answers during the process. At the end participants were given lunch and took group pictures.

All this discussion and presentation was done in the local language Dagbani since most of the women are not literate.

Publicity

Pre Event- Adverts for the training was shared on whatsapp platforms e.g DAN-G to create awareness.(Appendix)

Post Event-Three media houses were present to cover the program; namely Radio Tamale,Business and Financial times, and GBC Radio Savannah. The event was shared as a news item and posted on the website(<http://www.northernwebgh.com/2018/12/12/strong-policy-need-to-make-shea-industry-profitable>) and in the newspaper(scan attached)

On social media highlights of this training were shared on all Suhcare social media platforms(Facebook, Instagram and Twitter), Danida Fellowship Center & DANIDA Alumni platforms(Facebook and LinkedIn). SheaNetworkGhana & The Shea Watch(facebook)

Opportunities

This program achieved its main goal to equip the women with an added skill to help them continue to generate income in the down seasons of shea butter production. In addition the publicity brought into focus the presence and work of the Danida alumni network Ghana and the interventions we have been implementing in our communities.

One woman shared “ ***now we have learnt something new to teach with our children.....thank you***”
Fadila Sulemana-Tiyumtaba Womens Group

Challenges

The Tamale alumni were not able to be part of the program . The few who live in tamale promised to be part but following up the evening before they had work or family emergencies so apologized for their absence. Hence the goal of using this event as a reunion for the DAN-G alumni in the North was not achieved however they were all aware of the event and committed to supporting next time.

Finances

The finances received were used based on the budget submitted. A summary and scan of receipts is attached.

Acknowledgement

The team is grateful to DANIDA Fellowship and Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs for financial support. To DAN-G for support, Guest Speakers, Rita Dampson(Trainer), Tiyumtaba womens group and media for making the event a success.

Submitted by:

Mrs. Rita Quist-Therson, Dr. Gervase Kuuwaabong and Mr. Enoch Gyepong

Appendices

1. Final program

Welcome Address/ Orientation on the purpose of the training	Mrs. Rita Quist-Therson, CEO -Suhcare Ltd
Opportunities & challenges in the Shea sector	Mr. Iddi Zacharia, National Coordinator, SheaNetwork Ghana
Presentation - how to apply the new skill to improve their livelihood	Mr. Issahaku Zacharia- Shea value chain expert.
Training I: Presentation on Soap Preparation Method(Raw materials needed, properties and sources) -Soap expert	Mrs. Rita Dampson (RitaDamps Ventures)
SNACK	
Brief Presentation on DANIDA Alumni Network, Ghana	Rita Quist-Therson (DANIDA Alumni Network)
Training II: Practical demonstration - Soap expert	Mrs. Rita Dampson(RitaDamps Ventures)
Lunch	
Group preparation of samples	Participants
Wrap-up , Photography & SNACK	
Closing and Travel	



in partnership with



Presents

Empowering Rural Women in Shea Nut Industry (Shea Soap Training)

Date: 8th Dec, 2018.

Venue: Dampson Center, Gumani Tamale.

Contact: 0502574909.

Grant support from DANIDA Fellowship Centre.