

TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR RAFEP ON PREPARATION OF TRADITIONAL SURIMI

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OVERVIEW- THE GAMBIA AND ITS FISHERIES SECTOR

Country profile

- ❑ Population: 2.8 MILLION (2024 ESTIMATE)
- ❑ Coastline: 80kmm Atlantic coast
- ❑ River: Gambia River: 1,120km
- ❑ GDP: equal to 5-7%
- ❑ Employment in Fisheries: = 200,000 people
- ❑ EEZ = 15,900

WHY FISHERIES MATTER

- ❑ Fisheries are The Gambia's largest export earner, accounting for over 50% of merchandise export revenue in peak years
- ❑ The sector sustains livelihoods across the entire value chain: capture, processing, trade and distribution
- ❑ Over 80% of animal protein consumed nationally comes from fish, making food security inseparable from fisheries health
- ❑ Women dominate fish processing and marketing, representing 70%-80% of post-harvest workers

STATE OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY- KEY STATISTICS/DATA

- IUU Fishing on the rise
- Annual landings (Artisanal & Industrial) Equal to 82,000 tons

- Registered fishing Craft equal to more than 5,000
- Estimated annual sector Revenue is Equal to more than 4 billion Gambia dalasi

PROCESSING AND MARKETING

Smoking/Drying

- Dominant methods traditional ovens (Choker) at major fish landing sites such as Gunjur. Tanji, Bakau mainly Bonga, Sardinella and Catfish



Fresh/Chilled

- ❑ Refrigerated trucks serves Banjul, Inland markets and export to Senegal. Cold chain infrastructure remains limited
- ❑ **Industrial Fishmeal:** Three Fishmeal Plants Exist in The Gambia and are located in Gunjur, Sanyang and Kartong: The majority in these communities are Contesting their impacts on fish supply

MARKETING & VALUE CHAIN

- ❑ Women traders control 70-80% of processed fish trade
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- ❑ Tanji fish landing site is the largest, with daily landing of 30-80 tons

MARKET FACILITIES CHALLENGES

- Inadequate Ice Plants

- Roads

- Cold Storage

CHALLENGES, GOVERNANCE & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Challenges

- Overfishing and stock depletion of pelagic fish

- IUU fishing by foreign vessels in Gambian EEZ

- Climate change: sea-level rise, habitat shifts

- Weak MCS

- Fishmeal industry competing with food security

GOVERNANCE

- Fisheries Act 2007, Fisheries Regulation 2008 and National Fisheries Policy 2018 – 2027

- Gambia-Senegal Bilateral fisheries agreement
- Gender mainstreaming in department of fisheries mandate

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Strengthen VMS & MCS capacity for EEZ enforcement

- Scale-cold chain investment at key fish landing sites
- Support women's processing cooperatives

THANK YOU ALL
MERCI A TOUS