

Alternative Livelihood Training for Allaheine Kafoo



The Allaheine Kafoo Association is part of the umbrella association of the TRY Women Association of The Gambia. The organization consists of over one hundred and fifty women from the South of Senegal bordering the Southern Gambia. It was formed by the TRY Association due to the fact that the women on both sides of the river shared the same resources but belong to two different countries, Gambia and Senegal.

The Gambia side covers two communities, namely Kartong and Berending in the West Coast Region and the Senegalese side consists of five communities; Abene , Mamuda, Nyfrang , Katak and Kabajo. The formation of the coalition was necessary because of the co-management plan organized and observed by the Gambia, while both parties work on the same Riverine and the oyster and cockle resources.



As both women on both sides harvest oysters and cockles only for four months of the year, it was only right to give them both alternative livelihood skills in order to earn a living during the off season of eight months. A total number of forty

women were trained for six month on Tie-dye, Soap and detergent making. These included twenty young women within the age of twenty to twenty five years, and twenty older women within the age of thirty five to forty years.



The trained women are now able to make soap and detergent which are daily needs in all homes which they sell in the community as well as use for their daily home needs. On the other hand, the dyed material has become part of the fashion among women in the community used both for fancy dresses, bed sheet and curtains in their homes especially during the festive seasons.

One of the marketing strategies for the products adopted by the women is to give out to friends, family members and group members as loans payable on monthly installments. The funds raised from the sales mainly the capital, is mainly reinvested as work continues. The women are happy with the new acquired skills and alternative means of earning a livelihood, as they now feel empowered and have started a saving account where they can save the profit, while work continues. The women will also serve as trainers for the rest of the young girls and women in their communities interested in the new venture they are exposed to.



With the availability of funds, other areas of income generation can be introduced so that the issue of specialization in different marketable skills will be encouraged to avoid everybody doing the same thing at the same time in the long term.

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