



Women processing fish as a business

Challenges women face in fish business

Many women try to earn a living, but most find challenges that obstruct them. Women who deal in fish are no exception to this. Most of the time they lack resources to improve their livelihoods. They find it difficult to build working capital. The main way in which women have been able to uplift their economic wellbeing is by organising themselves in groups and working together.

Overcoming challenges

One good example are the women at Kiyindi Landing site in Uganda who organized themselves into Kiyindi Women Fish Processors' Association (KWFPA). The association has 60 community members, most of whom are women. It was officially registered in 2010 after they attended training on good postharvest handling and value addition of fish. They realised that they could not overcome all the challenges they faced individually. These challenges included having very low income, dealing with poor quality fish, poor hygienic processing methods and conditions, lack of appropriate technology to improve fish quality and lack of knowledge on ways to increase fish consumption and shelf life.



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Working together

The women formed an association and elected their leadership democratically. With good leadership, the women have been able to make progress and overcome several challenges. Working as a group makes it easier to attract support from development projects and organizations.

Working together as a group, they dry fish together on food-grade raised racks. The improved quality of fish has led the women to target better markets, while developing and testing new fish products. They fry and pack fish that can be consumed as a snack. The quality of their dry fish is very good because they use improved technologies. This has helped them earn better prices for their fish and increase their income.

Participating in the Village savings and loan association (VSLA)/ Savings Credit and Cooperative Societies (SACCO)

All association members participate in the savings and loan scheme. Benefits of participating in the VSLA include having access to emergency funds and enabling even very low income earners to work with colleagues.



Watch the video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZcjBUC30-Bs>

Scan to watch the video



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