

RENT – TO – OWN FISHERIES PROJECT



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

spark

What is the Project About?

- The Sudd Swamps in which Bor is a part of, host about 100 species of fish most of which are of economical importance. These swamps have the potential of a fish harvest of about 75,000 tonnes per year – and possibly 140,000 tonnes, if you include the additional wet land during the rainy season. However the current fishing landings are estimated at between 30,000 to 40,000 tonnes per year. Out of the estimated 35,000 fishing folks, only about 10,000 of them are fulltime fishers.
- SAADO's Rent-to-own project is a pilot project that was designed to improve production by providing fishing nets to about 80 fishing folks in Bor through a loaning system that allows them to pay for the nets through their VSLA groups on a very flexible instalment plan.

Project Main Goals

- To boost fish production by providing the already existing fishing groups/VSLA groups with affordable inputs and training
- To build a sense of ownership by advancing/loaning nets to fisher-folks and allowing them to pay on a flexible instalment plan
- Strengthen the VSLA groups through provision of a steady income which will in turn increase their group/individual savings

Project Achievements

- The two groups opened a bank account to manage the revolving fund
- Each member was issued 2 nets after successfully paying the initial 10% of the total value of the nets (7,000 SSP).
- 12 monitoring sessions were conducted to ensure the revolving fund is active. This is to ensure the group pays the remaining 90% after the grace period is over.
- All the 80 member of the 2 groups were trained on simple financial management skill, preservation

Challenges Experienced

- Distribution if for free concept'. The belief that everything Humanitarian actors give is always free despite training from Spark and SAADO that this is a rent-to- own scheme Project.
- There is also inadequate mean of fishing transport and people are still using rudimentary fishing vessels.
- Fluctuation of the Market Price. This one is connected with fish preferences as tilapia is most preferred than clarias (cat fish), therefore price vary.
- Spoilage of fish due to the lack of preservation facilities.
- At the beginning, all of the income generated was spent on household expenses and there was little or no savings

Mitigating Measures

- SAADO started managing and maintaining the accounts to ensure regular deposits are made by the two VSLA groups/fisher groups

- Weekly monitoring sessions were conducted by SAADO
- SAADO has also been facilitating weekly group meetings
- Refresher training was conducted on simple financial management skills and record-keeping of their group savings
- Continuous awareness of the fact the project was a Rent to own scheme

Key Issues Affecting the fisheries Sector as observed during implementation

- Very little or no support is given to the State Ministry of Livestock, animal Resource and fisheries
- Limited or no training material/guidelines provided by the ministry
- Mobility – the ministry doesn't have transport means to monitor fisheries activities at the state or conduct trainings
- Price-regulation- The ministry does not have power to regulate price, hence the traders buy fish from the fishing folks at very unreasonably low prices
- There is no regular and reliable data on fish harvested as the State ministry mostly depends on figures provided by traders.
- The ministry lacks 'fresh brains' as most graduates of fisheries are employed by the private sector

Lessons Learnt

- Regular Monitoring and refresher trainings should be conducted in order for the beneficiaries to grasp the concept of modern fishing
- Even if you provide fishing gear without providing proper fishing vessels, the increase in fish harvest is not significant
- Without Preservation/cool chains facilities, the rate of fish spoilage is still high.

Key Recommendations

- Establishment of a Fisheries training facility at state level

- Repair the existing cool chain and establish additional ones.
- Design training materials that can be understood by both illiterate and semi-literate
- Support the government to come up with working regulations to govern the fishing trade

Pictorial





- Feedback?