

Project Findings and Lessons

“EMPOWERING SMALL-MEDIUM FOREST ENTERPRISES (SMFES) THROUGH TRAINING AND SUPERVISION FOR THEIR EFFECTIVE COMPLIANCE AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN VPA/FLEGT IMPLEMENTATION IN GHANA”

Close-out Workshop at Crystal Rose Ambassador Hotel, Kumasi

29th November, 2017

Gustav Adu-Project Co-ordinator

Introduction

Results and lessons were drawn from:

1. Conducting Training of Trainers workshop with the aim of creating the necessary awareness in the companies on basic skills of an auditor (attributes, principles of auditing, audit procedures, etc.) contributing to providing information and capacity building needs of companies and associations in relation to GhLAS auditing and legality verification.
2. Assessing the data capturing systems of 54 SMFEs to have a first hand information on how SMFEs generally capture data along the supply and value chains



3. Training, coaching and monitoring 35 SMFEs on the application of the developed data capturing forms and operational procedures to enable them adapt their operations to prove legality compliant
4. Trial end-to end assessment of 10 SMFEs for their legality compliance for FLEGT Licensing



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Sweden
Sverige



UK aid
from the British people



Methodology:

▪ **Classroom Type of Training**

Conducted a 3-day training workshop using a mixture of the English and local Akan languages.

▪ **Desk study**

Reviewed and inspected relevant documents: 1) at the FSD district offices responsible for the administration of companies' sourcing for their logs.

2) Company data capturing procedures along the timber supply and value chains

- **Field visits** : Field demonstration of log diameter measurements; observation of data capturing procedures, training of key relevant staff through on-the-job coaching and monitoring on the application of developed data forms and company procedures.



Methodology

▪ **Field Visits:**

Conducted end-to-end assessment for 10 SMFEs to measure their level of legality compliant as a check on their preparedness for FLEGT licensing. Covered forest administration, forest operations, transport and processing and trade. Training and audits were carried out by the project team including Experts from TVD and TIDD. In some cases CARs on legality deficiencies were raised covering forest administration, field operations, transportation and processing and trade for the 10 SMFEs to correct .

Results & Lessons Learned

- Only 2 out of the 10 SMFEs (20%) had their own TUCs, the rest were in 3rd party agreements with some of the bigger companies for raw materials supply
- 9 out of the 10 SMFEs had no operational and logging plans as required by the Logging Manual
- SMFEs not employing qualified foresters
- SMFEs generally not employing skilled personnel
- Trees felled around river buffer zones because of inclusion in allocated yield
- Felling of under sized trees because of their inclusion in allocated yield.

Results & Lessons Learned

- Some deformed trees allocated by forestry officials in yields issued to loggers. The trees are identified only after felling. Companies complained about stumpage payments for such trees
- Occurrences of variations in diameter measurements of same logs on their TIF and LIF
- Some forest operational areas have no close LMCC issuing points; loggers have to transport logs with LIFs over long distances or wait long periods to be issued with LMCCs
- SMFEs not complying with health and safety requirements for their workers
- Initial assessment of 54 SMFEs revealed that only 3 (6%) were capturing useful data on their operations. The remaining 51 (94%) were barely capturing any data. These need training.



Results & Lessons Learned

- Only 2 companies out of 10 SMFEs had Factory Inspectorate certificates. Other 8 have no knowledge of the requirement
- Significant variations do occur between LMCC recorded volume of a log and the total volume of bolts derived from the same log. Train SMFEs to optimise log and bolt production and their volume measurements.
- Haphazard storage of operational documents and records by SMFEs. Need to organize and improve efficiency in their record storage



Results & Lessons Learned



- Input-output records by SMFEs can be inaccurate. SMFEs do not appreciate that lumber outputs vary by size and grade of input log. Volumes of lumber consignments supplied to the domestic market are commonly derived by simply applying a known conversion factor on the LMCC volume of the input log rather than the actual volume of lumber milled from each log.
- SMFEs report lumber consignments supplied to the domestic markets by unit quantities (pieces) instead of their volumes
- SMFEs conversant with the imperial measurements and not the metric measurements
- SMFEs have difficulties in reconciling input and output volumes in secondary and tertiary processing
- SMFEs operating from TUC areas that have not entered a proper SRA fail to honour their obligations

Recommendations

- FC Agents and CBOs must actively promote the use of the developed data capturing systems and operational procedures among SMFEs through **skills development** e.g. on-the-job coaching and monitoring
- SMFEs must improve their **record keeping to facilitate supply chain inspection, monitoring and** legality validation towards issuance of licenses and certificates
- FC Agents and CBOs to increase training and coaching of SMFEs on the requirements of the logging manual and support them to develop: 1) 5-year management plans; 2) annual logging plans; 3) use of the compartment maps, etc.
- Upscale the project to cover more of the SMFEs



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Sweden
Sverige



Thank you for your attention