

# **Women Empowerment through branch firewood commercialization, The Gambia Case**

**Presenters:**

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President Firewood Producers and  
Marketing Association (NFPMA)**

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# Introduction National Firewood Producers and Marketing Association

- **Area of Operation:** Nation-wide (The Gambia)
- **Number of members:** 450 (200 Female & 250 Male)
- **General Objective of The Association:** To ensure access and affordability of Firewood by all, alleviate poverty among Producers, Vendors and stakeholders involved in Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) through sustainable harvesting techniques and methods, thereby increasing incomes as well as social and nutritional status

## Knowledge, Practices and Experiences shared amongst members for sustainable fuel wood production

- Fuelwood and petroleum products are main principal sources of Energy in The Gambia
- Household energy consumption for the four energy types are fuelwood 97% (95% fuelwood and 2% charcoal), petroleum products 1.60% and renewable biomass 0.4%. (Action Plan for clean cooking energy 2015)

# Legislative and Policy Provisions

- **Community Forest Managing villages are granted with gratis permits to utilize the branch wood for commercialization based on Forest Act and Regulations**
- **National Firewood Producers and Marketing Association conducted Awareness raising programmes targeting Women Firewood Producers and Vendors**
- **Access and affordability of firewood, alleviating poverty among stakeholders involved in SFM through sustainable harvesting techniques and methods**

# Typology of Firewood Producers

1. Producers normally base the source on existing deadwood and trees that are felled for legal timber production (Women)



2. Split firewood Producers generally dominated by the men.

# **Internal bylaws governing Production & Collection**

- **NFPMA members ensure that the branches are dried enough to be used, thereby, reducing the fuel content in forests incase of uncontrolled Forest Fires**
- **Use of common tools for production and sharing of transport costs are negotiated among Association members for increased income to sustain livelihoods**

# **Benefits of NFPMA Interventions (Social & Environmental)**

- **Realization of a number of the goals stated in the Forest Policy, Forest Act and Local Government Act, particularly regarding the sustainable utilization of forest resources**
- **Increased attention on Gender issues**
- **Increased economic incentives for local forest users and CFCs**
- **Increased employment opportunities for Women and Youth**

# **Benefits of NFPMA Interventions (Social & Environmental)**

- **Reduction on the occurrence and severity of uncontrolled Forest Fires**
- **Participatory Forest Management Committees seek to extend natural forest management**
- **Reduction on illegal firewood production and marketing**
- **Individual members of NFPMA engaged in Tree Growing (Fast Growing tree species as woodlots)**



# Constraints & Obstacles

- Illegal firewood and charcoal continue to enter the market in large quantities, at the expense of legitimate products
- Limited support from support and service Institutions



- Weak internal Group Governance
- High transportation costs of products to the markets

# Lessons Learned and Future Strategies

- **Department of Forestry (DoF) to seriously clamp down on illegal Firewood production to limit unfair competitions in the Markets**
- **NFPMA Members to embark on establishment of woodlots (fast growing tree species) to sustain production**
- **NFPMA to solicit funding to conduct vigorous and comprehensive training and skills building programs key to organizational and technical success**

# For Thinking of Our Future

## Thank U

