



THE SAVANNAH FRUITS COMPANY

FAIR TRADE DEVELOPMENT FUND REPORT

MAY 2021 // PREPARED BY SAFIAN ABU ALHASSAN



THE
SAVANNAH
FRUITS
COMPANY



FAIR TRADE DEVELOPMENT FUND PROJECTS

The Fair-Trade Development fund is a fund that is paid by the Savannah Fruits Company's clients specifically allocated towards the development and benefit of the communities that produce their clients' shea butter orders. The disbursement and allocation of this fund is agreed upon by the shea butter processor cooperatives and their groups' executive members. The Premium Management Committee (PMC) carries the responsibility of overseeing the use of the fund. Meetings are held with individual community representatives to create a needs assessment on how funds will be distributed. Suggestions are made by cooperative members and a final decision is made by the PMC as to what ideas come to fruition. The figures below indicate the total funds received, funds used and the remaining balance yet to be used as of April 2021.

**Total Funds received for Shea Butter
Production as of 1st July 2020**
GHC 299,711.95

Total Fund used as of 30th April 2021
GHC 77,391.00

Remaining Balance Available
GHC 222,320.95



Where we are
TODAY

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste management has been a major challenge faced by the majority of SFC processing groups. In the past, these shea butter processing groups have been openly disposing the shea butter processing byproduct waste into the environment due to a lack of any waste management system. This is a direct threat to the local environment and wildlife as some of the remnants of the wastewater will find its way into nearby water bodies. The Fair Trade Development fund has been helpful in addressing these challenges through the construction of newly improvised waste management systems. This system allows liquid waste created from the shea butter production process to solidify and dry in a dedicated waste pit area. It is then used as an additional fuel source to replace the wood burned used to heat the roasting and boiling process. This has significantly reduced the use of firewood in shea butter processing. Anecdotally, the use of this shea waste has reduced the use of firewood by as much as 40%.



SFC is working to increase the use of these shea cakes as a greener and cleaner alternative to other unsustainable biomass fuel sources such as firewood or charcoal in hopes to decrease firewood use limiting its need to only 20%.

We are also working with the processing centers on source reduction, collective strategies of design and fabrication of products or services that minimize the amount of generated waste at the source.

The use of the Fair Trade Development fund has made it possible to create these waste management systems in two processing centres: Wechiau & Yumzaa in 2020. This past year a total of **GHC 29,978.00** has been allocated for the construction of these remaining two waste pits. Construction is currently underway as seen in photos:



PIT LATRINES

Hygiene and sanitation are essential to maintaining smooth SFC operations. All processing cooperatives are well aware of the importance of maintaining thorough sanitation and hygiene and are working towards this goal of creating access to safe, hygienic, and secure sanitation options in their respective communities. As compared to previous practices of the use of unsafe and unsustainable public toilets or open air defecation, processors have now decided to build pit latrines in their homes and production centres. This year, processors have allocated **GHC14,830.00** towards building pit latrines at the shea butter processing centres for processors to use. See photos of this year's newly constructed pit latrines. These new latrines maintain privacy of the processors while in use, create a well ventilated and safe space which is convenient to access. It also saves time and energy for the women processors from traveling to the bush when needing to relieve themselves and avoiding any risk in traveling to a remote and vulnerable area.



Example of Pit Latrine Constructed at Shea Butter Processing Center

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Health and safety are key to all SFC staff and processing partners. SFC collaborated with the Sofi Tucker Foundation in 2021 to purchase and distribute an extensive package of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) worth a total of **USD60,000**. This PPE distribution campaign benefited over **2,924 shea butter processors** in over communities throughout Northern Ghana. Despite this effort, not all **14 shea butter processing members** were able to receive PPE gear through this initiative. However, inspired by the initiative **three communities** came to a mutual agreement and decided to use part of their Fair Trade Development Fund of **GH7,973.00** to purchase the remaining PPE for themselves. This decision was made after a thorough risk assessment was conducted that indicated the need for immediate intervention. See photos of the distribution of PPE to shea butter processing center members:

PPE BEING DISTRIBUTED BY STAFF TO YUMZAA COOPERATIVE GROUP MEMBERS



SHEA BUTTER PROCESSORS TRYING ON PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT





STORAGE & WAREHOUSING

Warehousing and proper storage has been a common challenge for most communities supplying shea nuts. This has forced most of these communities to store nuts in their homes. This practice risks shea nuts being contaminated. It also is highly inconvenient and cumbersome as shea nuts collectors then are forced to sleep in the same room with their bags of shea nuts. **Four** collection communities have decided to use their Fair Trade Development fund to build areas dedicated to shea nut storage. For this reason, a total of **GHC24,610.00** has been spent on building a mini warehouse at Dompie in the Wa West district. The collection cooperatives are planning on building similar warehouses in the remaining communities over time. See below for photos of the Dompie warehouse built by the Fair Trade Development Fund in Nov 2020.



CONCLUSION

SFC fair trade partners have been proactive in the payment of the Fair Trade Development fund which enables our members in **162 collection and processing communities** and to carry out initiatives that focus on the improvement of their centers while addressing their specific needs. To date, **14 groups** have earmarked water and sanitation as one key area they would like to focus on in the future. Access to potable drinking water in rural communities has been a challenge for the Ghanaian government to provide its citizens as a basic utility over the past several decades. This creates a need for external non-government and private organizations to address this issue. Though expensive, we are optimistic and enthusiastic about designing creative systems to provide access to potable water to our communities through the FTD Fund. In the upcoming years, we are dedicated to ensuring all SFC member communities are well equipped with proper storage facilities to further prevent contamination and other quality related maintenance.