

Smartfish Trade Event rekindles L. Victoria fish trade potential



Processed *Mukene / Dagaa*
at the Fish trade Event.
Photo: UCSD

Smartfish organised a second edition of its Trade event January 23 – 24, 2014 in Entebbe (Uganda), which attracted close to 100 participants. These were from: Burundi, Kenya, DRC, Madagascar, Mauritius, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. This Trade event brought together producers, traders, retailers, distributors and others and aimed to: Promote the requirement for quality fish and fish products for regional trade; Provide a networking forum for buyers and sellers from the region; Promote the exchange of good practices from one country to another and Encourage value-addition and new product development

The event covered presentations; participants' interactions in both plenary and informally; fish product displays. Presentations included: Participants testimonials from the 1st Trade Event, and how it benefited them to date; Regional Fish Trade – overview of the markets in the region and the potential that there is for fish and fish products in Africa; Fish supplies for the future – ideas about the future prospects for aquaculture and potential in the region with respect to provided fish supplies for the future; Market information on the move – From the Kenya Fish Market Information System and the concept of expanding this system to Uganda and beyond; Packaging – sharing trends and appropriate packaging for the region from some experienced fish traders; Fish without borders – Harmonised border inspection procedures for fish trade were highlighted.

From cooking skills to 'fish waste' as raw material, the fish product display captured many people's imagination. From Lake Victoria, Silverfish (*Omena / Dagaa*) was the most prominent as it has attracted traders to process it (through sun drying and smoking) in some cases as a ready-to-consume snack. From my view, this widens possibilities for fish to be marketed in wider markets in the Eastern and Sub-Saharan Africa and beyond



Packed fish sausages

The fish sausage by Kati Farms that has gained popularity was an exciting product. This is an innovation that is promising for health cautious people would a break from red meat and vegetables as the sole source of snacks.

SmartFish is one of the largest regional Programme for fisheries in Africa covering 20 beneficiary countries in the Eastern, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (ESA-IO) region. Funded by the European Union and implemented by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) jointly with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Programme aims at achieving five main results: Fisheries development and management; Fisheries governance; Monitoring, control and surveillance; Fish trade; and Food security. More: <http://www.smartfish-coi.org/>