

**A REPORT ON SENSITIZATION OF FOOD VENDORS,
SCHOOL FEEDING CONTRACTORS AND MEDICAL
SCREENING FOR FOOD HANDLERS AND AQUA CULTURE
FARMS HELD ON 10TH & 18TH FEBRUARY, 2022 AT
ASUOGYAMAN DISTRICT ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE
ROOM AND ANUM COMMUNITY CENTRE
RESPECTIVELY**



DORIS AMA ACQUAH

(DEHO)

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The forum which was organized by the District Assembly brought together leaders of the various trades in the district. This include food vendors, school feeding contractors, aqua culture managers and hoteliers, pure water operators, staff from an NGO (Aidmed Diagnostic-Atimpoku) and staff from the Environmental Health Unit. The special guest of the occasion was the DCE who was represented by the District Finance Officer.

In his opening address, Mr. Godson Asiamah welcomed all participants and thanked them for accepting the invitation to be part of the program. He assured the participants, the assembly in its capacity will do anything to ensure businesses in the district grow and yield more for the Assembly to also generate income and also to promote healthy and wholesome food provision to all.

Among some of the topics discussed were;

1. The importance of medical screening of all food vendors and food handlers
2. Basic hygiene practices at food premises
3. Hygiene of cooking environment
4. The importance of protective gear (clothing) in prevention of food contamination
5. Personal hygiene of food vendors
6. Selection of wholesome food stuff
7. Proper food storage practices/ handling of left over foods
8. The importance of balance diet for the growth of school children
9. Types of food poisoning, signs and symptoms and its prevention

Mr. Aidoo, Manager of Aidmed Diagnostic Centre, took participants through the trend of diseases from 2019-2021. According to him, the trend of cases such as typhoid keeps on rising due to the fact that people who are referred to the various health centers, takes the drug but never complete the dosage. Bringing his presentation to an end, he urged all participants to sensitize their co-traders and workers to avail themselves when the screening team reaches their catchment areas.

Ms Sarah Amba Dadzie took turn to take participants through personal hygiene focusing much on the basic hygiene practices such as handwashing particularly before and after certain activities since it's one of the best ways to remove germs, avoid getting sick, and prevent the spread of germs to others. She stressed on cleansing of the food preparation environment as well as cooking areas to avoid dirt that could contaminate both uncooked and ready to eat

foods. Also sources of foods stuff should be carefully selected since some farmers use chemicals unknowingly on their farms. She added that the agric department could be contacted to know farms that observe good farming practices for supply of food stuffs. The topics were well discussed and all participants contributed.

Also, discussed was the various food stuffs and their nutrition values by the district nutrition officer including provision of balanced diet for all categories of people from children to adults as well as pregnant and breast feeding mothers.

Madam Doris Acquah, the Asuogyaman District Environmental Health Officer, led the questions and contributions segment of the medical screening program. The floor was open for members to bring out questions bothering them, suggestions and any idea which can be implemented to make the program progress steadily in the coming years. Numerous questions and concerns were raised ranging from the cost of screening and people who refuse to undergo the screening. It was made clear to all that it is mandatory for all food vendors and food handlers to be screened else they will be sanctioned.

Mr. Solomon Kyei giving the vote of thanks commended all participants for making time to attend the program. He solicited for their support to make the 2016 medical screening program a success.

In conclusion, 80 participants took part in the forum and were refreshed at the end.

APPENDIX A: PICTURES TAKEN DURING THE PROGRAM



Ms. Sarah Amba Dadzie taking participants through personal hygiene



Mad Doris Acquah explaining some of the issues raised by the participants at the forum

APPENDIX B: PICTURES TAKEN DURING THE PROGRAM



Master of the ceremony giving the vote of thanks at the end of the program