

GSA Sensitises Traders, Cold Store Operators and Butchers on World Metrology Day



Metrology Officers demonstrating how scales are calibrated

As part of activities lined-up to mark World Metrology Day (WMD), the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA), last Thursday, May 25, 2023, engaged some traders, cold store operators and butchers at the Agboghloshie and Tudu markets in Accra, on the importance of trading with calibrated scales and measuring equipment.

The WMD is an annual celebration held on May 20 to recognise the importance of international collaboration in the field of metrology – the science of measurements.

The objective of the sensitisation programme was to create awareness on the importance

of metrology in the Ghana food system and to create awareness on the metrology services offered by the Authority.

Some of the activities performed during the sensitisation were verification of some cold rooms of cold

store operators; meeting with market leaders; exhibition of the use of scales and other measuring devices; calibration of some scales in the market; and sensitisation of market women.



Mr. John Danquah interacting with a trader

At Tudu, the team visited the butchers and undertook a free calibration exercise for them. Out of the thirty-three (33) scales verified, thirty (30) passed while three (3) failed. The scales that passed the calibration were given the green sticker by the Authority.

Mr. Danquah told those who did not pass the calibration exercise not to worry because they were not going to be sanctioned but would be given guidelines on how to get their scales calibrated.

He commended the butchers for using the scales for trading and encouraged them to calibrate them when the time was due.

Mr. John Opoku Danquah, Head of Scientific Metrology, mentioned during the sensitisation that the Authority has had an extensive collaboration with the formal sector, such as industries and pharmaceuticals, and was progressing well with those sectors.

“Basically, looking at this year’s theme, it actually fits into this exercise, so we decided to come to the traditional markets and have interactions with them,” Mr. Danquah added.

“Basically, the butchers have done well, when you come to the informal sector, they trade using the scales. We are still trying to create and increase awareness so that traders who use scales and

Mr. Danquah, however stated that much had not been done with the informal sector, and in line with the theme for 2023, that is, “Measurements Supporting the Global Food System”.

“We have had extensive collaborations and we have made a lot of progress but when it comes to the informal sector, we have not done much. Per the law, any weights and measures used in trade and commerce must be verified and once it falls outside the tolerable limits, does not make it fit for use or purpose,” he said.



Mr. Striggner Bedu-Addo measuring a food item

other measuring instruments will verify and calibrate their instruments to facilitate fair trade practices,” he noted.

From Tudu, the team visited the Agbogbloshie market to check the disparities between the various “olonka” measuring cans and the moisture contents for grains. Some of the food items measured were yellow corn, white corn, salt, gari, corn dough, ‘kokonte’ and palm nut.

The market women expressed their joy for the enlightenment and the butchers were grateful as well for getting a free calibration of their scales.

Some customers expressed gratitude for the exercise carried out by the Authority.

“When I am buying and I see the green sticker on the measuring scale or instrument, I know I am not getting cheated and purchase confidently,” Miss Empton, a buyer said.





