



## Launch of the Project

Finally, the project starts after 2 years from T-COBSI implementation. Japanese Experts arrived in Lusaka on 17<sup>th</sup>, January and met COBSI Promotion Unit (CPU) members in each target province. Three important events were implemented, namely Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) in Lusaka and Inception Workshop in Kasama for the Follow-up Provinces (FUPs) and in Ndola for the New Target Provinces (NTPs).

### ● Joint Coordination Committee

On 23<sup>rd</sup>, January, JCC for E-COBSI was implemented. Total 35 participants including Zambian side and Japanese side gathered at Chrismar hotel in Lusaka. PACOs, PAOs, PIEs and SMSs from FUPs (Northern, Muchinga, and Luapula) and NTPs (Copperbelt, Central and North-Western) were invited.

After the opening remarks by acting director, Mr. Daka, Mr. Ieizumi, team leader of E-COBSI, explained outline of the project and emphasized the differences of activities in FUPs and NTPs. In FUPs, SHEP (Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion) approach and nutrition improvement activities are to be developed based on the irrigation schemes developed during COBSI Study and T-COBSI period. In NTPs, starting with simple weir construction will be main activity.

Mr. Hanai, JICA Resident Representative, emphasized importance of market oriented approach in E-COBSI for boosting livelihood situation of the small-scale irrigation farmers up.



JCC in Lusaka The offices attended listened attentively to the presentation of the project contents with great interest. (23<sup>rd</sup>, January)

### ● Inception workshop in Kasama and Ndola

Inception Workshop in Kasama was carried out on 29<sup>th</sup>, January with provincial CPU members and DACOs, SAOs, SMSs from 23 districts from FUPs and JICA Volunteers (JOCVs). After the explanation of framework of the project in FUPs, Dr. Jiro Aikawa, JICA expert who is promoting SHEP approach, presented the concept of SHEP approach, while interweaving experiences in other countries.

Another Inception Workshop in Ndola was held on 5<sup>th</sup>, February with invited CPU members from NTPs. DACOs, SAOs and SMSs were also joined from 21 districts. During the Workshop, Mr. Mofat Goma, PIE of Copperbelt province, eagerly coordinated the meeting and invited the participants in hot discussion.

The number of participants counted about 160 people during 2 workshops above, indicating their high interest. The activities coming next in March and April are TOT (Training of Trainers) and KOT (Kickoff Training).



Dr. Jiro Aikawa, JICA expert of SHEP approach, explained the concept of SHEP in Inception Workshop in Kasama. (29<sup>th</sup>, January)



Inception Workshop in Ndola, Copperbelt province. COBSI approach was introduced and then the officers enthusiastically discussed. (5<sup>th</sup>, February)

# Voice of Director of Department of Agriculture, Mr. Peter Lungu

**COBSI** approach is very beneficial for small-scale farmers. In terms of improvement of food security, income level and generating employment, the approach empowers the farmers and it gradually reduces poverty levels. So, E-COBSI contributes to clearing the concern of the 7<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan.

Concerns on climate issues are serious in Zambia now. Rainy season starts late and finishes earlier; it means that cropping period is shortened. It brings the importance of irrigation which enables cultivating of crops throughout the year.

Regarding the technical transfer of knowledge/ skills/ experiences to officers and farmers, the techniques of COBSI approach and concept is very acceptable. They understand the concept very well. This makes it possible for them to sustain their activities. The concept of COBSI approach can strengthen the farmer's ownership because they can establish the irrigation schemes and maintain them own their own.

Now, the project covers New Target Provinces, such as Copperbelt province, Central province and North-Western province. Since it has been successful in the three provinces in the North, these new target provinces are expected to accept this project. Through our staff in the New Target Provinces, they can transfer the techniques to farmers.



About SHEP approach, I joined training of SHEP in Japan and Kenya in 2015. So, I know the concept and I think it is very useful approach. What I like about SHEP is building capacity of farmers, especially market survey which tells farmers what they need to select for cropping.

Regarding nutrition improvement, we are working under the name of SUN (Scaling Up Nutrition). MOA collaborates with Ministry of Health, National Food and Nutrition Commission and Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare. We are targeting children “the first 1000 days”, pregnant women, mothers lactating and having small children. As MOA, we are trying to extend more iron-rich beans, orange maize and orange sweet potatoes. These concepts are same as E-COBS's approach.

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