

Monitoring and Baseline Survey to the District Model Sites in Copperbelt Prov.

E-COBSI baseline survey and monitoring activities were conducted in September and October in each model site in New target province. This baseline survey is documenting the farmers current situations in farming, marketing and income. The results of this survey are supposed to be used to measure the project's impact by comparing with the situation in coming years.

This article shares the result of this activities, especially from 23rd to 27th September, in Copperbelt Province.

1) Kalulushi District

It was an improvement site and simple single weir had already been repaired by the irrigation scheme members. The amount of water is enough to cover the site (about 6ha wide). The farmer group was well organized with active communication regardless of gender. But it can further be improved with the skills on recording their activities and the leadership of the leader.



Provincial officer (right) is explaining the objective of this survey to the scheme members.

2) Chililabombwe District

This village was also an improvement site but the simple inclined weir was reconstructed almost new. The water supply from the river was the same level as the other years, and enough to irrigate their farm area.

3) Luansha District

It was a new site, and the simple inclined weir had already been constructed. But the irrigation system has not been started because the canal is on constructing now. The seedling bed is prepared around the downstream of the weir and irrigation system

is supposed to start using as soon as the weir is completed.

There was a huge *dambo* area around the site which has a potential to expand farming area.

4) Ndola District

A district officer showed us around the site but it was too much improved to be designated as a model site for this project. We think this area would be a good sample to share their experience with other schemes. We asked the district officer to find another site that is more appropriate as a model site.



A woman is scattering fertilizer on the field.

5) Mpongwe District

This site was a new site, and a simple inclined weir has already constructed. The canal is on construction now.

Until last year, irrigation had been conducted by carrying water with buckets. With the completion of the new weir, gravity irrigation is supposed to be possible in most areas. The amount of water is enough and the village members have started preparation for seedling beds.



The nursery bed was made up by scheme members.

In most villages we visited, village members were communicating well to each other, irrigation systems were constructed almost completely, and most farmers were deciding which crops to produce according to their market survey. These are very good outcomes of this project.

On the other hand, they still have the potential for improvement. In organizing farmers' group, they can make constitution by paper, not only by verbal, to make it clear how to control the use of water supply. In improving marketing, they can sell their crops by group, not by individual, to make much impact on their income.

The project members are expected to monitor the activities in each scheme regularly and support them to improve their skills and motivation in both farming and marketing.



Because of small precipitation of previous season, some sites are struggling with the shortage of irrigation water. Therefore, some farmers who practice the mulching using hay to protect tomatoes from excessive evaporation.

(About the author;)

This article is written by Ms. Aya Iwatsuji, a JICA officer. I've been in Zambia as 3 months job training and learning how JICA works in each sector like agriculture, education, medical and etc. in Zambia.

From 23rd to 27th September, I had an opportunity to monitor E-COBSI project by accompanying the project team. When I was interviewing in a village, a member of the irrigation scheme told me "I haven't recorded marketing data so far. But through this project, I learnt how to make a record of my marketing activity. It is very useful for feedback and improving my marketing activity." I was very happy to know such a small change is making his life better. Monitoring each district model site "with long drive" may be hard, but I learnt it is very important to tell knowledge one by one. And I believe small knowledge will be made up to a big improvement of farmers.



To Ms. Iwatsuji san from E-COBSI;
Welcome to Zambia and thank you very much for writing the newsletter through the monitoring activity this time. We appreciate your visit to our E-COBSI District Model Sites and understanding the current situation of irrigated agriculture and marketing environment which farmers have been facing with in Zambia. We look forward to having these opportunities again.

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