



**Monitoring of the E-COBSI activities in the district model sites**

JICA Project Team has been conducting monitoring of every District model site and supporting the field activities since September, 2019 with COBSI Promotion Unit (CPU), District TSB, SMS and CEOs. Main purpose of the monitoring is to confirm progress of the E-COBSI activities and conduct Baseline Survey for preparation of site profiles. So far, we completed the monitoring in the new target provinces and proceeded to the follow-up province from October, 2019. This Newsletter highlights some of the major findings.

**Findings from the field monitoring**

**★ Operation and maintenance (O&M) of irrigation system**

In the target District model sites, we observed that many farmer groups distribute irrigation water and conduct O&M by their own rules. For example, some groups practice rotational irrigation to supply the irrigation water equally to beneficiaries during low water level periods. However, only a few groups have written rules or regulations. As a next step, we expect CEOs and District officers to support the farmers in compiling a member list of the groups. Bylaws of water user groups is essential after irrigation facilities are constructed.



De-silting of furrow is one activity of O&M (Nsama district in Northern Province)

**★Marketing activities**

*1) Farmers' positive attitude toward marketing*

We observed that farmers' agricultural practices are based on market information in many District model sites. Some farmers sell the produce based on market trend individually, the other farmers obtain market information through "Lima Links" which E-COBSI introduced during the Kickoff or the Mid-Term training.

The farmers also went through steps of the SHEP activities in the field. In some sites, farmers changed target crops after market survey. On the other hand, some farmers did not cultivate market-oriented crops,

but still cultivated conventional crops or crops for self-consumption. Very few newly introduced crops were grown (e.g. Okura, chili, etc.) and this shows farmers' conservative attitude toward selection of crops.

*2) Importance of record keeping*

Recording of agricultural practice is important for farmers to recognize their "net profit". Farmers should record cultivation information, price and amount of used inputs, selling price, quantity, etc. Though the importance of record keeping was explained during Mid-Term Training held in July 2019 most of farmers still depend on their own memory or experience and do not keep a record. Consequently, some farmers still practice inappropriate cultivation (e.g. applying excessive amount of fertilizer, inappropriate plant space, etc.), and their business may end in a deficit.



Inappropriate weed management was seen in Maze field. Cultivation technique should be improved. (Mushindamo district in North-Western Province)



Farmers and government officers are discussing cultivation techniques together (Kasempa district in North-Western Province)

## Progress of monitoring activities

So far, we have conducted monitoring and baseline survey in 29 districts out of 45 districts (21 districts in the new target provinces and 24 districts in follow-up provinces). Site profiles of the District model sites are prepared based on Baseline survey results. In addition, individual farmers were interviewed to collect basic information such as agricultural practices, socio and economic condition of household, marketing situation, accessibility to social infrastructure, gender balance and so on. After collecting all the information, the result will be analyzed and shared with each district.



Site monitoring and baseline survey were conducted with the cooperation of farmers and government officers (Lufwanayama district in Copper Belt Province)

### Date and place of monitoring activities in October

Date	District
1/10/2019	Ndola district, Copperbelt
3/10/2019	Masaiti district, Copperbelt
4/10/2019	Lufwanayama district, Copperbelt
7/10/2019	Ikerenge district, North Western
8/10/2019	Mwinilunga district, North Western
9/10/2019	Manyinga district, North Western
10/10/2019	Mufumbwe district, North Western
11/10/2019	Kasempa district, North Western
14/10/2019	Kalumbila district, North Western
15/10/2019	Mushindamo district, North Western
16/10/2019	Solwezi district, North Western
17/10/2019	Kitwe district, Copper Belt
21/10/2019	Serenje district, Central
22/10/2019	Chitambo district, Central
23/10/2019	Mkushi district, Central
28/10/2019	Senga Hill district, Northern
29/10/2019	Mporokoso district, Northern
30/10/2019	Nsama district, Northern
31/10/2019	Munguwi district, Northern

## Plan of Annual Evaluation Workshop in November 2019

Annual evaluation workshops will be held as below. The main objective of this workshop is to share the progress made, challenges faced, and lessons learnt during the implementation of the E-COBSI project in 2019. SAO from each target district will present the progress so far and action plan for next year. Besides CEOs will discuss and present field lessons, findings, challenging, proudness and success story regarding SHEP, Water Management, Operation & Maintenance, Nutrition Improvement and Farmer's Organization, etc.

At the end of the workshop, the participants will take an achievement test prepared by E-COBSI about E-COBSI activities. We hope everyone passes the test and the workshop will be fruitful for you and our beneficial farmers.

### Schedule of Annual Evaluation Workshop

Date	Province	Venue
18,19/11/2019	Luapula	Mansa Farm Institute
18,19/11/2019	Northern	Kasama Farm Institute
21,22/11/2019	Muchinga	MAFF site in Mpika
25,26/11/2019	Copperbelt	Masaiti Farm Institute
28,29/11/2019	North Western	Chafukuma Farm Institute
2/12/2019	Central	Serenje Farmer Training Centre



Typical simple weir constructed in large river (Mkushi district in Central Province)

CONTACT: [ecobsi.zambia@gmail.com](mailto:ecobsi.zambia@gmail.com)  
 BACKNUMBER: <https://www.jica.go.jp/project/zambia/020/newsletter/index.html> (JAPANESE SITE)