



The 2020 Project Implementation Plan was discussed in Lusaka

The JICA Project Team held the 1st National CPU (COBSI Promotion Unit) meeting on 16th December and 2nd JCC (Joint Coordinating Committee) meeting on 17th December in Lusaka. In the CPU meeting, all Headquarter and Provincial (Six target Provinces) CPUs, were invited, and shared the progress for the 1st year implementation. The project implementation plan for the following year (2020) was also discussed. The plan was discussed in the 2nd JCC meeting with MoA HQ, JICA and representatives of CPUs and finalized. This article features these meetings.

1st National CPU Meeting

The annual evaluation workshops were conducted in all target provinces by the beginning of December, in addition, a series of E-COBSI trainings have been completed in the 1st project year. In order to share the progress of activities in 2019 and discuss the implementation plan for year 2020, 1st national CPU meeting was held on 16th December 2019 in Lusaka.

HQs CPU members, Project Coordinator and Principal Irrigation Engineer from TSB office, and Provincial CPU members, PACO, PAO, PAP, SIE, SMDO and SFNO, participated in the meeting. The total number of attendees were 41 except for Japanese expert and staff of the project team.

The program deliberated 4 parts; 1) Progress report of E-COBSI project, 2) Annual report from each provincial CPU, 3) E-COBSI implementation plan for year 2020, and 4) Explanation of Monitoring Sheet ver.2.

1) Progress report of E-COBSI project

As the first program, Mr. Sifaya Mufalali, Senior Irrigation Engineer (SIE) Northern Province, gave a presentation on the summary of the project activities, progress of each Output of PDM, report on trainings (e.g. content, number of participants, and the results of achievement test, etc.), and the result of surveys. After the presentation, participants gave their comments, especially regarding survey results. In the first project year, some baseline surveys have been done and the result will be shared in the next progress report.



Progress report on E-COBSI activities of 1st project year was given by Mr. Sifaya who is SIE in northern province.

2) Annual report from each provincial CPU

Annual report of each province was presented by representatives of provincial CPU. Presentations highlighted: total irrigable area and length of the canals in the target camps, number of beneficiary farmers, number of farmers who participated in training at sites, submission status of the monthly report from districts, success stories and challenges were reported.



Representatives of each provincial CPU presented the progress of the province. (The speaker in the picture is Ms. Mudenda Senkwe Cheelo, SIE of Central Province)

3) Implementation plan for year 2020

Based on the findings from the 1st year's implementation and the suggestions from the JICA Zambia office, the project team proposed the implementation plan for the next year.

In the first project year, the project team established E-COBSI training program and gave training to many governmental officers. More than 200 officers participated in the series of E-COBSI training, so far. In order to make sure the sustainability of the project activities, the intervention of Japanese experts will be decreased gradually from 2020.

In the first project year, all target districts in the follow-up provinces, 24 districts, were invited the E-COBSI training and monitored the E-COBSI activities by the district office, provincial CPU and Japanese experts. In 2020, the project team proposed to make two categories of target district, **direct support district** and **indirect**

support district. In the direct support district, the project team will work as same as the 1st project year. In the indirect support districts, provincial CPU members will be the main implementer of E-COBSI activity and conduct monitoring and follow-up activities with the respective district offices.

In the new target provinces, Master Trainer Team which is composed of experienced officers in follow-up provinces, conducted monitoring and follow-up activities especially simple weir and canal construction two times, in May and August, in 2019 instead of Japanese experts. This dispatch will be increased from two times to five times in 2020. Moreover, preparation work on E-COBSI training also will be transferred to the CPU for the sustainable implementation.

Regarding SHEP approach, which is one of the key components of E-COBSI, should be modified for Zambian situation because it was established in Kenya where the farmer's situation is quite different from Zambia, especially the population density and the distance from the village to the market. Project team will monitor the district model site which was established 1st project year and applied SHEP approach and make a draft plan for further implementation of SHEP approach in Zambia.

4) Explanation of Monitoring Sheet ver.2

Monitoring sheet will be prepared every 6 months to monitor the progress and share it with stakeholders of the project. The contents of Monitoring sheet ver. 2 was presented by the project team and discussed with the attendees. After all comments from the participants, it was finalized and submitted to the JICA Zambia office.



The content of monitoring sheet ver.2 was checked and discussed with attendees through line by line.

2nd JCC Meeting

The following day of 1st National CPU meeting, 2nd JCC meeting was held in Lusaka. In the meeting, Project Director, Project Manager, Project Coordinator, both CPU HQs and Provincial CPU members, officers

from JICA Zambia office and JICA senior Agriculture Adviser participated.

In the meeting, a summary of E-COBSI activities in 2019, the implementation plan for 2020 and modification of PDM indicators were explained by the project team and discussed with the participants. Based on the discussion, the project team prepared the minutes of the JCC and submitted to JICA office.



Dr. Adachi, co-team leader of E-COBSI, explained the suggestions from JICA Zambia office on the project implementation, findings from the 1st year implementation and the training plan for 2020. (2nd JCC meeting in Lusaka)

Other News and future Plan

All the baseline surveys planned have been completed

By the middle of December, the baseline survey on the social economic condition and smallholder irrigation site have been completed in Muchinga province. All the baseline surveys planned in E-COBSI have been completed. The data will be put in the computer by the project team and the results will be analyzed and shared with the project stakeholders. Also, the result will be utilized for the implementation plan for future activities.

Market Survey training will be carried out in Follow-up provinces in January

As the project team discussed in the National CPU meeting and JCC meeting, the market survey training will be carried out in January. Based on the observation of the first year's implementation, the farmers will decide the cultivation crop by March as the irrigation agriculture starts from April. In addition, Extension officers will be busy in April due to governmental activities such as camp level Agri-shows. To meet the situation of Zambia, the project team will have a market survey training in January, and then based on the result of the market survey, the project team will conduct a cultivation technic training in KOT in March.

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