



New target provinces commenced a new season of E-COBSI in 2020

Following the follow-up provinces, the new target provinces also started a new season of their E-COBSI activities in 2020. The JICA project team organized a CPU meeting for the new target provinces in February in order to share a plan of E-COBSI activities in 2020 and prepare for scheduled KOT with the provincial CPU members. After the meeting, the CPU members went back to their provinces and launched actual preparation of the KOT. Then, they have commenced the actual KOT in Ndola since the last week of February 2020. This issue will share how the CPU members in the New target provinces have progressed preparation and implementation of the KOT.

CPU meeting for the New target provinces (KOT preparation workshop)

As we agreed at the second JCC meeting held in December 2019, instead of the JICA project team, the provincial CPUs in the new target provinces take an initiative to prepare and implement a series of E-COBSI trainings in 2020. Thus, the JICA project team organized the “KOT preparation Workshop” in Ndola from February 12th to 14th prior to the KOT to discuss how to prepare and implement it step by step.

Since the project will arrange same kind of preparatory meeting before the mid-term training, this preparation workshop focused on the KOT management in the new target provinces. Participants included 2 officers from the HQ CPU, 11 officers from the Copperbelt CPU, 7 officers from the Northwestern CPU and 8 officers from the Central CPU in this workshop. Besides, seven officers from the master of trainers’ team from follow-up provinces also supported the implementation of the WS.



Provincial CPU members in the New target provinces checked and finalized the KOT slides and materials one by one during the KOT preparation WS.

Main contents of the workshop included; 1) reviewing E-COBSI activities in 2019 in the new target provinces, 2) sharing E-COBSI activity plan for 2020 in the new target provinces, 3) explanation of the KOT modules,

4) explanation of the KOT preparation, 5) Compilation of necessary materials and making a budget for the KOT, 6) procurement of the materials based on the prepared budget and 7) finalization of the KOT materials.

During the workshop, all the participants understood how they progress preparation and implementation of the KOT and assigned the respective duties and the modules to the officers. Thus, the workshop was successfully done and the KOT management was taken over from the JICA project team to the CPU members.

Implementation of the Kick-off Training 2020 in Northwestern and Central Provinces

The provincial CPU members in Northwestern and Central provinces conducted the KOT from February 24th to 28th, 2020 under the supervision of the JICA project team and the master of trainers’ team. It was a 5-days training at Masaiti Farm Institute of which main focus was the introduction of SHEP and COBSI approach in addition to setting goals and formulating a plan for this season. There was a total of 84 participants; 56 officers from Northwestern province and 24 officers from Central province with 4 officers from the master trainers’ team.



The participants experienced “Market survey” on SHEP approach. The SHEP approach can motivate farmers to start community-based smallholder irrigation.

DAY 1. Overview of E-COBSI and SHEP

After the explanation of the outline of overall training by the facilitator, the participants understood the objectives and activities of E-COBSI. In addition to a video captured during T-COBSI, the participants also watched a video that was broadcasted last year showing SHEP activities at Kasama District Model site in Northern Province and acknowledged field activities and impacts of the SHEP approach. After that, a SHEP trainer explained concept and four essential steps of the SHEP approach and particularly emphasized that the approach could be used for motivating farmers to develop irrigation facilities using simple weirs.

DAY 2. SHEP

In the morning of the second day, the participants went to a vegetable market and conducted market survey to learn how to collect market information. After coming back to the venue, the participants analyzed the market information obtained and did group works of crop selection and crop calendar making based on the market information.

DAY 3. Gender Mainstreaming on SHEP and COBSI approach

First, the participants learned why gender mainstreaming is necessary on the SHEP approach in terms of business management and how to promote it. After that, a trainer taught a class and practice on concept of COBSI, how to construct a simple weir and select routes of furrows to the participants.

DAY 4. Field practice of COBSI

In the fourth day, the participants went to a site with stream and constructed a simple weir and furrow which they learnt at the venue. Before the KOT, the CPU members selected the best site for practice of irrigation development and visited the same site. While the CPU members and the master trainers team instructed how to construct them, they completed the construction of a 14-meter double-line simple weir capable to raise 50 centimeters water level up and a 30-meters furrow. Some participants said that "Seeing is Believing" and all of them gained a further understanding of COBSI approach to be extended to farmers groups.



It took about 4.5 hours to complete the construction and all the participants joined the practice.

DAY 5. Entry Planning

On the last day of the morning session, the participants learnt a theoretical class on farmers' organization & gender, environmental & social consideration, water management and O&M. After that they formulated the entry planning in 2020.

As aforementioned, this KOT was a first attempt that the CPU members took an initiative of the training management. Although the management can be further improved, they successfully completed the KOT!

Experiences from the 6th International Workshop on SHEP in SA by Mr. Andrew Songiso

With the sponsorship of JICA, five members of staff in the Ministry of Agriculture were able to attend the 6th international workshop on SHEP in Johannesburg South Africa. The delegation included Ms. Kezia M. Katyamba (Director Marketing), Mr. Andrew S. Songiso (Principal Irrigation Engineer- Hydrology), Mr. Alex L. Kabwe (Principal Irrigation Engineer - Hydraulic structures), Dr. Nkumbu Nalwimba (Department of Marketing) and Ms. Kisha Namufungwe (Senior Crop Husbandry Officer Northern Province).

At the workshop four countries (Tanzania, Ethiopia, Malawi and South Africa) shared their experiences in implementing SHEP. Target districts and farmer groups have been identified, baseline surveys and market surveys done in all the countries that presented. Farmers are now applying the concept of farming as a business with Ethiopian farmers making an average profit of 37%.

Ethiopia has 5,658 participating farmers in SHEP activities, while Malawi has 2800 farmers. In South Africa 743 farmers are now able to produce and sell with minimum challenges.

The workshop ended with the participants being encouraged to customize, individualize, institutionalize and normalize SHEP activities in their home countries.



Mr. Sipawa Songiso (left) and Dr. Obvious Kabinda (right) at the KOT preparation WS on 14th February 2020