

Kickoff Training in Copperbelt Province and KOT preparation CPU meeting in the Follow-up province

Following the Kick-off Training (KOT) for Northwestern and Central provinces, the project held the KOT for the officers in Copperbelt province. After that, we went to Kasama and launched KOT preparation CPU meeting and invited all the CPU members of the FU provinces. This article will share how the training and meeting were conducted. In addition, JICA project team conveys a message from Japan.

Implementation of the 2020 Kick-off Training (KOT) in Copperbelt Province

The Provincial CPUs together with JICA project team conducted a 5-days KOT for Copperbelt Province at Masaiti Farm Institute from March 2nd to 6th of which contents and timetables are the same as the prior KOT done for Northwestern and Central provinces. A total of 74 participants; 12 CPU members, 29 District (SMS) officers, 30 CEOs, two master trainers from Northern province and an officer from MOA HQ, were invited.



PACO, Copperbelt province, remarked findings from field practice, importance of community-based smallholder irrigation development and correlation of each component of COBSI Package.

DAY 1. Overview of E-COBSI and SHEP

After the explanation of the overall training by the facilitator, the participants understood the objectives and activities of E-COBSI. Following that, a SHEP trainer lectured on the concept and four essential steps of SHEP approach and particularly emphasized that the approach could be used for motivating farmers to develop irrigation facilities using simple weirs.

DAY 2. SHEP

For the morning session of the second day, the participants went to Ibenga market and conducted a market survey to practice on how to collect market information. Back to the venue, the participants summarized and analyzed the market information obtained and in respective groups practiced on crop selection and crop calendar making based on the market information.

DAY 3. Gender Mainstreaming on SHEP and COBSI approach

Firstly, the participants were meant to understand why gender mainstreaming is necessary on the SHEP approach in terms of business and farm management and how to promote it. The next session covered the concept of COBSI theory and practice; how to construct a simple weir and furrow/canal alignment.

DAY 4. Field practice of COBSI

On the fourth day, the participants went to a site with stream and constructed a simple weir and furrow which they learnt at the venue. While the CPU members and the master trainers team instructed how to construct them, they completed the construction of a 5-meter inclined simple weir capable to raise 20 centimeters water level up and a 20-meters furrow in just four hours. Farmers around the sites also joined a collection of necessary materials such as grasses, wooden poles, peat soil, etc. and observed how to construct the weir and the furrow.



Participants practiced how to construct a simple weir, an entry point of small-scale irrigation development in the field. A picture shows construction of the inclined type. Female participants actively joined the construction as the picture shows.

DAY 5. Entry Planning

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

facilitators shared lesson learnt, and challenges clarified at the last Annual Evaluation WS of 2019 and gave them tips on countermeasures for possible challenges.

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!

CPU meeting for the FU provinces (KOT Preparation Workshop)

The new target province held CPU meeting for KOT preparation in February, the FU province had the meeting from 13th to 14th of March 2020. Since the second JCC agreed that initiatives of E-COBSI activities gradually transfers from JICA project team to the CPU members, this kind of CPU meeting has been arranged for training operation since January 2020.

In Kasama, a total of 27 participants attended a 2-days CPU meeting (KOT preparation workshop); 10 from Northern province, 10 from Luapula province and 7 from Muchinga province. The respective PACOs and PAOs also joined the meeting and the project team reminded the participants of the roles of COBSI Promotion Unit (CPU) and its purpose.



Participants discussed modules of KOT program in FU provinces. KOT is planned for 3 days and they argued necessarily of each module and the KOT overall schedule. The contents of the KOT was finalized during this WS.

Main contents of the workshop included; 1) reviewing E-COBSI activities in 2019 in the FU target provinces, 2) sharing E-COBSI activity plan for 2020 in the FU 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.

In session 3, the participants assigned officers as trainer of each KOT module. In addition, the CPU members formulated the budget and completed the procurement of necessary materials for the KOT implementation.

Unfortunately, as we explain later, the actual KOT in the FU provinces is now suspended (due to corona virus pandemic) and should be resumed after usual E-COBSI operation starts.

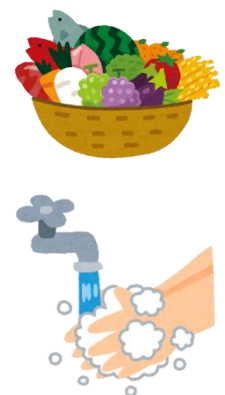
Since we still have time to start the actual KOT, the JICA project team expects the assigned trainers will keep revising the KOT materials so as to improve and make them more practical one for participant CEOs and District officers of the KOT.



CPU members reviewed KOT Training Materials drafted by the JICA project team. They revised the information and finalized the materials.

Message from E-COBSI Project Team in JAPAN

Due to the coronavirus epidemic over the world, our JICA project team members have since returned to Japan. But here in Tokyo, we have experienced a rapid increase of the disease and still tolerated anxiety. We hope all of us overcome the epidemic and resume our E-COBSI activities soon. As we always say in the context of Nutrition Improvement, “WASH” is a very fundamental activity to protect ourselves from any diseases. In addition, a balanced diet also increases your immune system. Let us start what we can try with minimum effort.



Even during our absence in Zambia, we are still receiving aggregated Monthly Reports from some provincial CPUs. We are very happy since E-COBSI activities are on-going, even in such a difficult time. We always appreciate your efforts in the implementation and management of the project activities.

E-COBSI Project Team expects to see you again in Zambia, soon. Keep in touch.

CONTACT: ecobsi.zambia@gmail.com
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