



Completion of Joint KOT&MTT 2020 in the FU provinces!

As we reported in the previous newsletter regarding the preparation of the Joint KOT&MTT in the FU provinces, the CPUs (COBSI Promotion Unit) have conducted the trainings in July with the support of JICA Zambia office in Zambia and the JICA project team from Japan. The KOT was supposed to be conducted in March and April, but due to the epidemic of COVID-19, it was postponed until this time. With suggestions from the CPU members, we decided to combine KOT and MTT in the FU province in 2020. Without the presence of the Japanese team in the venue, the CPU successfully conducted the trainings to district officers and CEOs who in turn are expected to transfer the technics they acquired at the Joint KOT & MTT to their target farmers, final beneficiaries of this training. The JICA team was very glad to see that since the CPU members were equipped with skills for the facilitation of COBSI approach after finishing 1st year of E-COBSI. Enjoy this issue of Newsletter!

Implementation of the Joint KOT & MTT 2020 in Luapula, Muchinga and Northern Province

The following table shows actual training schedule and the number of the participants. Due to the increase number of the COVID-19 cases, Muchinga province split the participant districts into two batches and carried the same training twice.

Province	Date	Participants
Muchinga (1)	14 to 17 July, 2020	23 (M: 15, F:8)
Muchinga (2)	18 to 21 July, 2020	19 (M: 16, F: 3)
Northern	20 to 23 July, 2020	44 (M: 35, F: 9)
Luapula	20 to 23 July, 2020	39 (M: 25, F: 14)



Participants wearing surgical mask in Mansa Farm Institute.

Main topics of the training were; 1) Cultivation techniques & Farm management, 2) Water Management, Farmers' Organization and Gender, 3) Nutrition Improvement and 4) COVID-19 Impact Analysis. The JICA project team also observed the training by Video from Japan. Although the video was sometimes not clear and the internet was lagging, the team remotely monitored the training from Japan.

Major Comments from CPU members

Cultivation Techniques & Farm Management

- Lessons were quite interactive and interesting. All the target crops were covered as per program (Luapula)

- Good and adequately detailed materials were presented and trainers explained. Trainees asked if possible, to include market players i.e. Seed Co, ETG, etc. to partner with the sites being implemented. On cultivation technics need to include more pests and disease management. Appreciated the BOKASHI making process making process and the fact that it matures early than ordinary compost (Northern)

- District model site needs continuous support from district staff to ensure farmers grasp the concept of COBSI practices. Need for each Model site to have a demonstration field every season. Improve the record keeping presentations and incorporate in COBSI activities/ site (Northern)

- Trainees: the contents were well presented and understood. There was no ready-made bokashi seed and the trainers had to make the seed on site at FTC. In the future need to make bokashi seed upfront. Due to limitation of allowed contact time, the team visited the core site at Chalwe and not the District Model Site which is 50km away (Muchinga).



Officer and farmers conduct practice of nursery bed making in Muchinga province

Water Management, Farmers Organization & Gender

- Need to intensify water management training especially for TSB staff. Found some farmers still practicing scoping methods to irrigate (Northern)

- The trainees interacted with some farmers at Mulundu ECOBSI core site. On farm water management was demonstrated by a farmer called Ireen. Operation and maintenance of the irrigation facility was discussed by the participants with the local Mulundu farmers (Luapula)



Field observation of Furrow Irrigation in Luapula Province.

Nutrition Improvement

- The contents were well presented and understood (Muchinag)

-Need for food demos for COBSI sites. Incorporate other stakeholders and projects (e.g. SUN project) in nutrition improvement. Nutrition improvement material bulk need to allocate more time (Northern).

· Nutrition Improvement needed more time than allocated, the module couldn't be completed on the same day as such it was deferred to the next day. The activities were very interactive especially the Nutrition Improvement part, however, trainees requested that practical activities such as cooking demonstrations of nutritious foods, preservation. Simple activities on Nutrition be incorporated on the entry planning for camp and district. Nutrition training be moved and to follow after SHEP training as the two complement each other in on-farm irrigation. That aspects of nutrition should be considered during cropping calendar alongside marketing (Luapula)

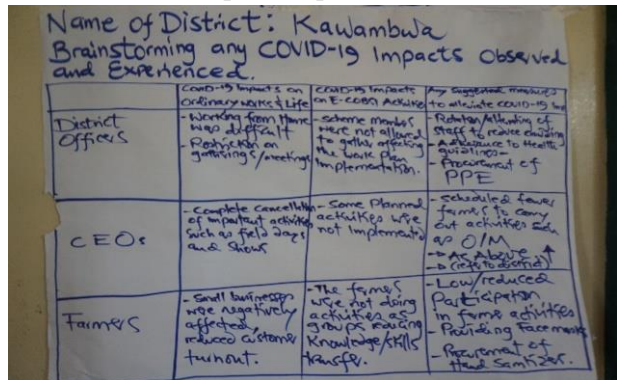


Group work on Nutrition improvement in Northern Province

Other Modules

- Impacts of the COVID-19 seem to be well understood by participants and they gave recommendations (Muchinga)

- Despite the COVID-19 farmers have continued to implement COBSI activities. Fuel allocation should continue as farming/irrigation activities have continued. Districts site asking for inputs to establish DEMO sites in all Core and District model sites to show case appropriate COBSI farming technologies. Need to provide inputs to the model sites to establish demos. Districts should improve report submission (Northern)



COVID-19 Impact Analysis in Luapula Province.

In addition, from this Joint KOT&MTT, the JICA team officially invited NAIS (National Agriculture Information Services) officers from each PACO's office and request them to shoot a video and take pictures of the trainings. After finishing the training, they should report it using mass media such as TV programs, newsletter articles, websites articles, etc. In fact, they successfully showed what they observed at the E-COBSI training using the mass media. Particularly, NAIS in Luapula province did great job and we are appreciated their works such as broadcasting the TV and the radio news and posting the articles to newspaper and MoA websites. Please share whatever NAIS posts and broadcasts with the JICA project team from now on!



Left: Articles posted on the TIMES OF ZAMBIA. This kind of PR activities expand ideas of COBSI approach such as Community Based Smallholder Irrigation and SHEP to Zambian farmers.

Right: Article about Muchinga Province's Joint KOT&MTT posted on the MoA Web page