



Annual Evaluation Workshop 2020 held in 6 provinces

The CPUs (COBSI Promotion Unit) conducted the Annual Evaluation Workshop (AEW) between November 24th to December 1st with the support of JICA Zambia office and the JICA project team from Japan. Prior to the implementation of AEW, the preparatory meeting was held with each provincial CPU and Japanese experts through an online meeting system and explained the AEW program and materials. In addition to the last year's program, new content such as the impacts of COVID-19 towards SHEP activities, monitoring results by CPUs and next year's activities, and so on was included. During the AEW, each target district shared their progress, challenges, lessons learnt and good practice in the implementation of E-COBSI 2020 target activities.

Implementation of AEW 2020

The table below shows the schedule and the number of participants of AEW in each target provinces. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the participants for 5 provinces except Central province split into 2 groups.

Provinces	Date	Participants
Follow-up Provinces (FU)		
Northern (1)	24, Nov	To be checked
Northern (2)	25, Nov	To be checked
Luapula (1)	30, Nov	23(M:17, F:6)
Luapula (2)	1, Dec	25(M:19, F:6)
Muchinga (1)	28, Nov	23 (M:18, F:5)
Muchinga (2)	29, Nov	22 (M:18, F:4)
New Target Provinces (NT)		
Copperbelt (1)	24, Nov	36 (M:21, F:15)
Copperbelt (2)	27, Nov	34 (M:22, F:12)
North Western (1)	25, Nov	32 (M:23, F:9)
North Western (2)	30, Nov	29 (M:23, F:6)
Central	26, Nov	25 (M:17, F:8)



Participants wearing surgical mask in MAFF Site Mpika (Muchinga Province (1st Batch))

The JICA project team participated in the AEW from Japan. The online system was sometimes not clear and the internet was quite slow just as during the MTT. However, the presentation data and the photos of the flip chart which they prepared were sent to the Japanese experts through e-mail before each presentation, so the experts could contribute through questions and comments to the presenter while looking at the data.

Main topics of the AEW were 1) Annual Report of Year 2020, Action Plan of Year 2021 for all the target sites and District Model Sites, 2) Annual Report of Year 2020, Action Plan of Year 2021 including cost estimation and budget resources to be presented by CPU and 3) Group discussion by District office.

Discussion Topics were (1) Challenging, Countermeasures taken, Lessons learnt and Good Practice regarding COBSI, SHEP, Water Management, Operation & Maintenance, Nutrition Improvement and Farmer's Organization and Others, and Discussion Topic (2) Discussion on COVID-19 impacts of Horticultural Marketing and SHEP.

1. Project Achievement in 2020

The E-COBSI activities implemented in difficult situations of the pandemic of COVID-19 and the achievement in 2020 are shown below. The number of development sites in New Target Provinces was 125 this year and 238 last year, so it is about 50% of the last year's achievement. It is considered that the project activities were suspended from April to May due to the influence of COVID-19, and the activities were restricted even after July.

Province	Target sites	No. of HH	No. of members
FU	142	2,594	4,450 (M:2,299, F:2,151)
NT	125	1,420	2,601 (M:1,513, F:1,088)
Province	Canal length (km)	Irrigated area (Lima)	
FU	276.5	1,073.6	
NT	114.0	460.9	



Mr. Sampule (SIE of Copperbelt province) explains the results of monitoring and activities of CPUs. (1st Batch)

2. Community-based Smallholder Irrigation

The target district officers shared the following experiences.

(1) It is difficult to find a suitable site for irrigation development which is accompanied by the introduction of simple weirs and canals to be constructed by farmers themselves.

(2) The canal runs beside/ near the farmers' plots, but farmers are still practicing bucket irrigation. This is due to wrong or improper land preparation such as making too dip a furrow in the plot, inadequate cultivation knowledge, and so on.

(3) The construction works of simple weirs and canals have been carried out by the community group, but irrigation farming is practiced as an individual.

(4) There are many potential sites in terms of the water availability and the irrigable area, but actual irrigated areas are still small in many irrigation sites.

(5) Farmers closed leakages along farrows using clay soil mostly from anthills, this is a good maintenance practice

There are some cases in which the technology and knowledge of COBSI have not been disseminated adequately to farmers and CEOs. The project will feature the District Model Sites next year for good dissemination of the COBSI advantages to the wider area and community farmers.



Participants take notes in the feedback session from the CPU. (Central province)



The NAIS officer also participate at AEW and shoot the presentations and discussions. (Luapula province (1st Batch))



Participants from Mushindamo district write the results and lessons learned of E-COBSI activities on the Philip Chart. (Northwestern Province (1st Batch))

3. SHEP Approach

The findings and good practice regarding SHEP approach are shown below;

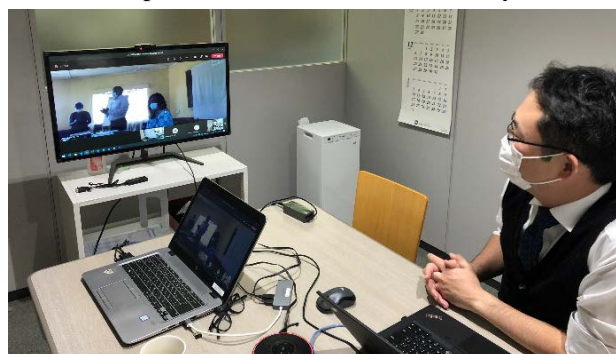
(1) In Chingola district of Copperbelt province, the market restricted the flow of farmers and traders to the market due to the COVID-19. So, the markets made schedules for the farmers to go to the market weekly to sell the product. To meet the situation, the farmers shifted the cultivation crops from the perishable (e.g. tomato, lettuce, and pumpkin leaves) to the long shelf-life crops (e.g. onion, cabbage, and carrot).

(2) Moreover, in order to continue selling products in the weeks they were not allowed to visit the markets, farmers opted to change the markets. So, they decided to explore other markets like the Northwestern province.

(3) Some farmers were using their home-made compost, which can serve as an entry point for BOKASHI lessons.

(4) There was a disappointment in the outcome of onion and Tomato production, the prices reduced drastically. The period farmers determined for the peak demand might be shifted.

The 2nd National CPU Meeting and 3rd JCC Meeting will be held on 7th and 8th December respectively to share the experience of the E-COBSI activity 2020.



The JICA project team monitor by online at each AEW and ask questions and comments timely to presenters.