

## Project 2<sup>nd</sup> phase has been started!!

The second phase of the Expansion of Community-Based Smallholder Irrigation Development Project (E-COBSI) started from March 2021. It was supposed to commence from January 2021 but delayed due to the COVID-19 impact. The 2nd phase will end in January 2022, (11 months duration). Japanese Expert Team arrived in Zambia end of March 2021 and have been implementing E-COBSI activities. This article shares the progress of 2nd phase activities.

### Explanation Meeting with HQ CPU

As an initial meeting of the 2nd phase, Japanese experts had a meeting with HQ CPU members in early April and explained the activities and result of the 1st phase of the project and the plan of activity in the 2nd phase. At the 3rd JCC held in December 2020, the project team outlined the five improvement activities for the 2nd phase, 1) Development of District Model Site, 2) Enhancement of online monitoring and meeting, 3) Enhancement of Publicity activities, 4) Monitoring the SHEP activity to formulate the ZAMBIA-SHEP model, and 5) Monitoring at permanent weir sites. The HQ CPU agreed with the phase 2 plan and accepted the Project Work Plan.



Mr. Ieizumi, team leader of E-COBSI, explained the phase 2 activities to the project director, Mr. Moses Mwale (Director Department of Agriculture), and the project manager, Mr. Mulenga Chisakuta, at MoA HQ.

### KOT Preparatory Meeting for New Target Provinces

As the first training of E-COBSI training series, KOT is planned. It was supposed to be held in February, but it was delayed due to the COVID-19 impact. In order to prepare for the KOT, the preparatory CPU meeting was held in Ndola on 16<sup>th</sup> April. The CPU members in the New Target Provinces, in total 20 people, participated in the meeting. In the meeting, the KOT schedule, venue, participants, program, training modules, procurement and budget were discussed. In 2020, CPUs gained some experience in management of the E-COBSI training with online monitoring by

Japanese experts as a result of restriction for Japanese experts travel to Zambia, implying that CPUs well understand the training contents and management of the training. After the preparatory meeting, CPUs prepare KOT training in a couple of weeks.



SIEs and other CPU members discuss the training modules for KOT in New Target Provinces at Ndola.

Since the enhancement of online meetings is one of the improvement activities under phase 2, the Project team handed over the online meeting system, monitor, web camera, speaker and microphone system, and pocket Wi-Fi to each CPU in New Target Province at the end of the meeting. Project team plans to hold meetings with CPUs regularly to share the progress.



Handing over the online meeting system to the CPUs in New Target Provinces.

## MST&KOT Online Preparatory Meeting for Follow-up Provinces

Following the preparatory meeting in New Target Provinces, the preparatory meeting with Follow-up Provinces was held on 19<sup>th</sup> for Northern and Muchinga Province and 20<sup>th</sup> for Luapula Province. Because of the health regulations guided by JICA, Japanese experts can not travel above 8 hours places from Lusaka, so we could not travel to Follow-up Provinces. Therefore, the preparatory meeting was held online as same as last year.



Preparatory meeting for MST&KOT for Follow-up Provinces was held through an online system. The Japanese experts participated from Lusaka.

In Follow-up Provinces, Market Survey Training (MST) was planned for January in order to avoid the schedule conflict in April from the 2nd project year. However, the 2nd phase of the project was delayed due to COVID-19, so the project team decided to conduct the MST and KOT jointly. As same as the New Target Provinces, the CPUs of Follow-up Provinces prepare for MST & KOT for few weeks after the meeting.

## Procurement of Office Machines

In order to accelerate the transferring the project initiative from the Japanese experts to the CPU, the project has procured the office equipment, 60 Laptop computers (12 for provincial CPU, 45 for districts, and 3 for project office), 6 copy machines (1 for each province) and 45 tablet PC (1 for each district). Following the procurement regulation of JICA Zambia office, the project team carried out the quotation competition to purchase the equipment mentioned above. The project team carried out the preliminary survey to confirm the price of each machine and made a predetermined price and then offer the quotation for the candidate companies. As a result, five companies submitted the quotations, and it was opened on 26<sup>th</sup> April at MoA with the HQ CPU officer's witness. The quotation competition was done successfully, and the machines will be delivered on 14<sup>th</sup> May, and the handover ceremony will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> May.

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Dr. Sagawa, Japanese expert, opened the quotations with HQ CPU member, Mr. Alex Kabwe, at MoA HQ on 26<sup>th</sup> April.

## Monitoring of District Model Site in Copperbelt Province

As one of the improvement points of E-COBSI activities in the phase 2 period, the district model sites will be focused on. District model site was established in the first project year of E-COBSI, but it was not much different than other sites such as Camp Core Site or other COBSI sites. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase, the project team plans to enhance the E-COBSI activities in the district model sites to create a Model case of COBSI approach so that it can enhance the Farmer to Farmer or Officer to Officer extension using the district model site. In addition, the project team will invite NAIS to the district model site for further dissemination of E-COBSI activities.

Japanese experts visited the district model sites and monitored the irrigation facilities and the farming in Copperbelt Province. Moreover, an annual interview for the district model site was also conducted to check the current situation of it. Most of the sites were working well but some of the sites were not. Therefore, CPU and district officers are encouraged to monitor the sites frequently. In addition, the project team requested CPUs and district offices to establish the demonstration farm in each district model site for learning the proper irrigation and irrigation agriculture. The plan of the demonstration sites will be submitted to the project team by the end of May 2021.



Japanese experts visited the district model site to monitor the condition of irrigation facilities and irrigation farming in Copperbelt Province.