

## Thank you for all of your hard work, Chisakuta-san!!

At the beginning of the issue of May, Mr. Chisakuta, a Project Manager, retired. Since E-COBSI started, he has supported this project a lot in many aspects. Fortunately, E-COBSI Team members, Ms. Ai Nagino and Mr. Hiroki Mizuno visited his office on his last working day. We all, E-COBSI JICA Experts, really appreciate his support and wish his happy retirement. “ARIGATOU GOZAIMASITA, Chisakuta-san!!!”

### Monitoring of District Model Site was conducted in Northern, Luapula, and Muchinga Province.

Continuing from last month, two E-COBSI Team members, Ms. Ai Nagino and Mr. Hiroki Mizuno conducted monitoring survey of E-COBSI district model sites in 10 districts (Northern:3, Luapula:4, Muchinga:3). This monitoring focused on assessing the performance of crop demonstration plots, impact of nutrition improvement activities, gender issues, levels of farmer organization, water management activities and operation & maintenance of smallholder irrigation facilities.

We found that some farmer groups have difficulties of cooperation among group members, collection of water users’ fees and so on due to the shortage of cooperation in the farmer groups. On the other hand, there was a good practice that the farmer group repaired a furrow broken last year by using revenue from their demonstration plot. We also found that the permanent weir contracted in former COBSI projects (COBSI Study and T-COBSI) are well-maintained and still functional. In addition to the monitoring, a qualitative nutrition survey has been conducted to observe impacts of E-COBSI activities on nutrition. In this survey, two mothers who have children under 5 years old are chosen from each district.



The furrow repaired by using the revenue from a demonstration plot in Kawanbwa district (Luapula province).



The Permanent Weir in Mpika district. Condition of the weir constructed in 2014 is still fine. (Muchinga province)



Monitoring in Senga hill district by E-COBSI JICA Expert Mr. Hiroki Mizuno & TSB officer Mr. Ackson Mbewe (Northern province).

The survey showed that some nutrition improvement such as increase of frequency eating fish and meat thanks to increased revenue from irrigation farming and SHEP activities. However, some respondents answered that they cannot afford to purchase them due to inflation. The revenue from irrigation farming and SHEP activities tends to be used for agricultural investment housing, and daily necessities, and school fees rather than foods like meat or eggs. It may suggest that promoting vegetable cultivation and further intensification of fish farming can improve

farmer's nutrition status more directly since farmers eat what they produce

### **Monitoring of District Model Site has conducted in Copperbelt Province**

Along with the monitoring in the Follow-up provinces, an E-COBSI Team leader, Mr. Tatsuya Iezumi, visited the district model sites in Copperbelt Province.

As a good example in applying the concept of district model site, he found that the district team in Mufulira District conducted "Farmer to Farmer Extension" by taking farmers in the model site to surrounding sites for sharing the knowledge and skills for construction of the simple weir with other farmers groups. Some groups in the districts like Kalulushi District and Mpongwe District are also active. For example, the farmer group in Mpongwe District has extend the distance of existing canal (approximately 200m) in 2021 by resolving the land allocation issue with the farmer downstream. However, the other groups need more support from the district teams because we sometimes found that the farmers there have not understood all the concepts of E-COBSI activities yet. We, E-COBSI team, will soon share the monitoring results in each district model site with the provincials CPU members and suggest how CEOs and Districts can improve the E-COBSI activities.

### **Permanent weir construction**

Three permanent weirs are being constructed in Mufulira district, Kasempa district and Mukusi district. The farmer's group members there have collected stone and sand material since last month. At the end of May, Dr. Sagawa, a JICA Team member, visit the sites with 2 master trainers from Northern province, Mr. Mbewe and Mr. Simkoko who experienced permanent weir construction during T-COBSI.



Master trainer showed how much and how to collect stone materials to the representative of the farmer group in Kasempa district (Northwestern province).

They explained methods to collect stone materials and following works based on experiences of weir supervision under T-COBSI. All the groups will finish the collection of stone materials in a month and start transportation of them and excavation works next month.

### **Trial of Baseline Survey for COBSI research started in Momboshi Camp, Central province.**

On 31<sup>st</sup> May, four COBSI research interviewers conducted a trial interview with five households by using an application of Tablet-type device. After finishing the trials, CV data of the trial was sent to JICA Ogata Research Institute on the following day. The Baseline survey is supposed to be conducted within 2 months.



Trial of Baseline Survey in Central province (Left: Respondent, Right: Interviewees).

### **Collaboration with GIZ**

In Luapula province, SUN TA and GIZ have conducted some projects on nutrition improvement. E-COBSI JICA Experts, Ms. Ai Nagino and Mr. Hiroki Mizuno visited their offices and found that GIZ is working on support of fishponds. Ms. Ai Nagino introduced E-COBSI activities to find the potential to collaborate with GIZ.

#### **Greeting: Nice to meet you!!**

My name is Hiroki Mizuno, new member of E-COBSI Team. I studied soil science and rural development and researched Banana farming in Tanzania when I was student at university. In this project I'm working on Environmental Social Consideration, Training Administration, and Nutrition Improvement. I hope to contribute to E-COBSI and further development of Zambia.

