



Fish Farming Training started in Northern Province

E-COBSI Project Team started a fish farming training for a farmers' group at E-COBSI's district model site in Lupospshi District (Northern Province). The project is aiming to improve the nutrition status of the people by introducing aquaculture and fishponds construction. The farmers' group in the training will construct and maintain a fishpond as a group work by using surplus water resources from the COBSI weir.



Construction of the fishpond in the district model site in Lupospshi District (Northern Province)

This training program is planned by the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, and Fisheries Officers in Lupospshi District supervise technical matters of fishponds from site selection to marketing. Therefore, the farmers will learn not only an appropriate construction method but also fishpond management, feeding techniques, harvesting, post harvesting and etc. On 20th September, the Fishery Officers visited the site and selected a pond location with the group members. Mr. Hiroki Mizuno, an E-COBSI Team member, and Mr. Mufalali Sifaya, a Senior Irrigation Engineer in Northern Province, joined the fishpond construction in the beginning and emphasized the importance of operation and maintenance of the fishpond as a group on 22nd September. The Fisheries Officers and the farmers are going to construct two fishponds, and the construction will be finished in October.

Monitoring of District Model Site in Northern and Luapula Province

E-COBSI Team members have been conducting a monitoring survey for the activity of 2022 for E-COBSI district model sites in the Target Provinces (Northern, Luapula, Muchinga, Copperbelt, Central and Northwestern Province) since March 2022. Based on the observations from the survey, the team established road maps in 2022 for each district model site. These results and road maps of the first monitoring survey were shared with DACO's offices through CPU members in each province.

Mr. Mizuno started the second monitoring survey in September. The second monitoring assessed the performance of crop demonstration plots, impact of nutrition improvement activities, how much farmers organizations are actively working, water management activities and operation & maintenance of smallholder irrigation facilities with referring the results and the road maps in 2022.

We found that many farmers' groups in Northern Province were already registered as irrigation water users' groups and prepared By-laws for them. For example, the farmers' group in Lupospshi District is preparing some printed documents of their By-laws and



Mr. Mutale, a Crop Husbandry Officer, tells farmers appropriate methods to grow crops in a districts model site (Northern Province).

applying for a form for registration. On the other hand, some farmers' groups have not received all budgets or materials for demonstration plots yet.

During the monitoring survey in Northern Province, Mr. Mutale and Mr. Sakala, Crop Husbandry officers, and Ms. Elizabeth, a Nutrition Officer in Northern Province accompanied us. Mr. Mutale and Mr. Sakala observed some farmers' groups had challenges with pest control and management during the monitoring surveys.

Therefore, they gave technical advice to the farmers for farming not only the demonstration plots but also their own farms.

Ms. Elizabeth, the district Nutrition Officer, and CEOs in Mbala and Senga Hill districts carried out the training for nutrition improvements to the target farmers. In the training, the nutrition officers demonstrated the new handy scale methods for nutrition, called “*Tebakari Eiyouhou*”, which was introduced in the MTT 2022. This method has the advantage to allow farmers to easily understand the necessary amounts of food per day. After the demonstration, the farmers practiced the method by themselves and cooked the foods which the officers brought for the program.



Ms. Elizabeth and the district team demonstrated the new handy scale method “*Tebakari Eiyouhou*” in Senga Hill District (Northern Province).

In Luapula Province, Mr. Peter Mbao, a new provincial officer, conducted the monitoring with Mr. Mizuno. Mr. Peter is a former TSB officer in Kalulushi District, Copperbelt Province. The project team found some good practices in district model sites.

For example, in Mwansabombwe District, a farmers’ group and a CEO are trying simple weir-making from bamboo because woods rot faster than bamboo. Farmers in the Chipili district site are growing unique



Mr. Peter (left) gives practical advises in the district model sites (Luapula Province).

Picture: a bamboo weir in Mwansabombwe

crops such as wheat and garlic in their demonstration plots. The district team and the farmers held a Field Day and introduced their new trials to visitors including a DACO in Chipili. The project is looking forward to seeing their success to expand their marketing opportunity through the cultivation of wheat and garlic.

Monitoring of District Model Site in Copperbelt, Central and Northwestern Province

Our team leader, Mr. Tatsuya Ieizumi conducted the second monitoring survey in Copperbelt, Central Province. During the monitoring, he recognized that the number of group members in some district model sites decreased from the year of site construction. This problem happened due to farmers’ misunderstandings among the farmers’ group. For example, some farmers believed that they would get benefits like agricultural input from E-COBSI although the project is technical cooperation that supports farmers’ self-reliant development. The project team asked the district teams to explain the concept of E-COBSI to avoid this kind of misunderstanding.

On the other hand, some good practices are reported from the monitoring. In Mukusi District (Central Province), when group activities were not done actively, a CEO worked on the issue with farmers and reorganized their leadership, schedules, and work plans. In Solwezi District (Northwestern Province), a farmers’ group who watched TV news of KOT and asked the district office to support them to start E-COBSI activities on their site. In fact, NAIS (National Agricultural Information Service) has often reported our training and other activities. This practice shows that NAIS’s work helps further extension of the E-COBSI activities in all over the country.

Permanent Weir Construction in Copperbelt, Central and Northwestern Province

Master trainers who experienced permanent weir construction in the Follow-up Provinces have been supporting constructions in New Target Provinces since August. Although the progress in each province was a little bit behind the original schedules, district teams were proceeding the constructions well. This is because the district teams visited and learned about existing permanent weirs in the Follow-up provinces last month. Especially, in Mukusi District (Copperbelt Province), Dr. Sagawa, an irrigation engineer of E-COBSI, observed that the district teams were sincerely worked on the construction and organized farmers to catch up on the original schedule.