

LAST cycle of E-COBSI has begun!

A happy new year to all of you! After E-COBSI discussed challenges, good practices and way forward at the CPU meeting and PDM modifications at the 5th JCC, we have started a last cycle of E-COBSI since January 2023. Following our plan, the FU provinces, Luapula Province, Muchinga Province and Northern Province started preparation of Market Survey Training (MST). Out of them, Muchinga Province and Northern Province completed MST from 25th to 27th January. Besides, Tebakari-Eiyouhou (hand scale to serve food per day) was revised at verification meeting for E-COBSI nutrition materials from 30th to 31st January. The revision was based on comments from farmers, CEOs and Food Nutrition Officers in charge. Enjoy this newsletter!

Preparation of MST in the FU provinces

On 13 January 2023, JICA project team hold a preparatory meeting for MST with the CPU members of the FU provinces. In the meeting, the team shared 1) overall program of MST, 2) necessary preparation for all the modules and 3) composition of the participants.

Regarding the participants, CPUs in the FU provinces requested the team to maximize the number of the CEOs to be trained during the last cycle of E-COBSI. Therefore, we decided to invite minimum two DACO's officers and increased the number of the participant CEOs. Even at each DACO's office, the Project prioritized participation of the district officers who have never participated in the E-COBSI trainings. Thus, we try to maximize E-COBSI training participants as much as possible to continue the activities after E-COBSI is complete.

Upon the change of the participants, the JICA team and the CPUs of the FU provinces agreed the followings.

1) The fuel provision from the Project remains as planned, and never changed depending on the number of the participant CEOs. If more CEOs participants in the E-COBSI trainings than planned, the DACO's office should use their own budget for her/his works and activities.

2) The CEOs participated in this MST must attend all the E-COBSI trainings such as Kickoff Training, Midterm Training and Annual Evaluation Workshops.

Implementation of MST in Muchinga Province and Northern Province

The CPU members together with JICA team implemented MST in Muchinga and Northern Province from 25th to 27th January. As always, the CPU members managed the trainings and worked as trainers of MST. The followings are training modules of MST.

- Module 1: Program Orientation
- Module 2: Overview of E-COBSI
- Module 3: SHEP Approach
- Module 4: Gender and SHEP
- Module 5: Entry Planning
- Module 6: Reporting and Feedback Mechanism
- Module 7: Achievement Test
- Module 8: Program Evaluation and Closing

The followings are the Team's major findings.

Muchinga Province

Fifty-six participants joined the training in Muchinga Province. Most of the preparation was done by CPU members like preparation of handout, program, implementation of Pre-Training Knowledge, Achievement Test and Evaluation, making participants list, etc. Only PowerPoint materials for "Gender and SHEP" was not printed out and given to the participants. Therefore, confusion was seen during the group works like the participants did not classify "access" and "control" properly, and how to allocate circle "○" is wrong. Therefore, together with the facilitator, the JICA expert also taught how to do group work at each group. Except the above point, most of the works was very much organized. Big clap for Muchinga team!



Group Work after Market Survey at the market, Muchinga Province

Regarding SHEP activities, the followings are discussed:

- In many cases, market decides a price of vegetables. But producers should decide them since they produce by checking and comparing the price at several markets.
- Roles of gender depend on seasonality of farming. Men become busier than women in some periods and we should recognize both roles.
- Nowadays, farmers are being equipped with most cultivation techniques. What they need is calculation of the profits.

Northern Province

In Northern Province, the arrangement, and the preparation were well-done thanks to the CPU. In this MST, since there are many CEOs who have never joined E-COBSI training before, some of them wrongly practiced the group works without enough understanding of the lectures. Therefore, district officers and CPU members instructed how to do group works like Entry Planning there. Filed training and support in their districts are necessary for CEOs and district officers should do so. Big clap for Northern team!

Regarding SHEP activities, the followings are discussed:

- Farmers always say that they have enough cultivation experiences. Even if farmers say so, CEOs should find a solution for challenges farmers are facing by letting them know their situation.
- The Sensitization Meeting should be set at a time when women can participate. Since many women have to prepare food for family and cannot attend meetings many times, afternoon is the best for women to participate the SHEP meetings.



Market Survey at the market, Northern Province

NEW Tebakari-Eiyoughou was developed by Food Nutrition Officers

Based on the discussion at Verification Meeting for E-COBSI Nutrition Materials for CPU Nutrition Officers in Lusaka held from 30th to 31st January, Tebakari-Eiyoughou was revised as the below picture shows. Now the biggest concern on Tebakari-Eiyoughou is that even if wives recommend her husbands to take proper amount of food by using Tebakari-Eiyoughou, the husbands sometime reject the idea. This is mainly due to gender issue and the Project should include men to nutrition awareness creation activities e.g., a half of participants should be men.

