



KOT 2023

E-COBSI team kicked off the final year of the project!!



★: Venues for KOT 2023
 ★: Venue for KOT (COBSI Research)



Presentation of SHEP Concept (Northwestern Province)



Practice of nursery-bed making (Northern Province)



SHEP Training in Masaiti Market (Copperbelt Province)



Practice of a simple weir construction (Central Province)

In March 2023, the E-COBSI Project Team conducted Kick-off Training (KOT) in Copperbelt, Northwestern, Central, and Northern Provinces. The training was held from 20th to 24th March in Copperbelt and from 27th to 31st March in Northwestern and Central Provinces. On the other hand, this training was the second for Northern Province since the Follow-up Provinces implemented Market Survey Training (MST). Therefore, we focused on the COBSI scheme and cultivation technics in the Follow-up Provinces, while the training in the New Target Provinces focused on the COBSI scheme and SHEP approach as well as last year.

The CPU members have been managing all the training programs until last year. However, in this KOT 2023, we newly involved district officers as trainers in the training. Although the arrangements slightly differed depending on the provinces, CPU members and SAOs explained the general parts of E-COBSI, and TSB officers, DMDOs, and CHOs lectured on their specialized parts such as Irrigation engineering, SHEP approach, and Cultivation Technics. This is because the project aimed to increase the number of officers who can explain and disseminate the skills and knowledge of E-COBSI to their fellows and farmers. Another purpose of this was to minimize the costs of dissemination activities for sustainability. If the district officers train their fellows at the district office, they can save costs of transport to visit the provincial office. Many of the district officers who gave lectures in KOT understood E-COBSI activities and explained them to the participants very well.

In addition, the project team and CPU members added some modules to the KOT. Firstly, the team added a module for the modified hand scale method for nutrition improvement called “*Tebakari-Eiyouhou*” to explain how we revised the method based on the discussion at the meeting for CPU nutrition officers in Lusaka. Then at the end of the training, the project distributed the laminated materials to use for further dissemination. Secondly, the module on wheat cultivation technics was added due to the soaring price of wheat at the request of MoA HQ. MoA already got good results in demonstration plots in Western Province, so they would expand the production to the other provinces. Thirdly, in the Follow-up provinces, the project introduced an agribusiness company, “Grevenco,” aiming to create a further link between farmers and market stakeholders. They are encouraging to grow Chili, and their contracted farmers can receive free training and scheduled extension service for the member fee.

KOT for COBSI Research and Impact Evaluation activities in Kapiri Mposhi, Central Province.

From 20th to 24th March, E-COBSI Project Team and CPU members in Central Province held the KOT for COBSI Research and Impact Evaluation activities in Kapiri Mposhi. Our team leader, Mr. Ieizumi, also attended the training and explained the concept of these activities.

In the activities, the project team classified ninety-three sites into three groups, as shown in the following table, to evaluate the impact of E-COBSI activities. Group A will be implemented only for irrigation related COBSI activities (simple weir construction, canal alignment, farmers' organization, water management, and O&M). Group B will be implemented all the E-COBSI approaches, namely irrigation-related COBSI activities, SHEP approach, and Nutrition Improvement.

Group	COBSI activities	SHEP approach	Nutrition
A	●	-	-
B	●	●	●
C (Control)	-	-	-

● : Implementation of the activities

Monitoring of District Model Sites in Northern and Copperbelt Provinces.

Mr. Mizuno, a team member of E-COBSI, and Ms. Vivian, Senior Food Nutrition Officer, attended the third fish culture training at the district model site in Lupososhi District. Last December, the farmer group stocked fingerlings with Mr. Moyo, a district fisheries officer. The training aimed to make locally available feeds for sustainable management of fishponds by the farmer group. At first, Ms. Vivian reminded the farmers about the importance of nutrition and eating fish. In the

following session, Mr. Moyo and Mr. Cleopacy, an assistant fisheries officer, lectured on formulating fish feeds using local materials. After the lectures, participants practiced making fish feed and actual feeding with the fisheries officers. The farmers learned how to make a feeding tray with local materials too. This local fish feed has cheaper and more available.

Mr. Ieizumi conducted monitoring of the district model site in Kalulushi District. Mr. Kabuyani, a fisheries officer in the district, implemented sampling the fish in the pond to see their growth in the monitoring. The fish are growing well, and they can be harvested in June. In the interview, the farmer group appreciated that they could secure some food and revenue from the fishpond even if they failed to get enough harvests from the farms due to unexpected reasons like pests and diseases.

Permanent Weir Construction in Copperbelt, Central, and Northwestern Province

Mr. Ieizumi traveled to three construction sites in Copperbelt, Central, and Northwestern Provinces to confirm the progress of the permanent weir constructions. The farmer group in Mufulira, Copperbelt Province, almost completed the weir and the slope protection. They will resume construction in early April, and first, they need to collect more rocks. In Mukusi, Central Province, the left side of the slope protection was completed, but the right side still needs to be done. The farmers agreed to involve more beneficiaries in the works through meetings with the chief and the headman. The farmers in Kasempa, Northwestern province, resumed the canal excavation work this January. Construction of the weir will be restarted in the middle of April. After the long rainy season, the construction work restarted in all three sites for completing the weir construction!

Column: How to make the locally available feeds

(1) Mix maize bran (16,0 kg), sunflower cake or soybeans (9.1 kg), and Cassava (binder).

(2) Formulate the mixed ingredients by a mincer.

(3) Cut the formulated feeds and dry them under the sun for a day.

(4) Put the dried feeds on the feeding tray through a pipe.