



Japan International
Cooperation Agency



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An Insight into JICA Zimbabwe Activities

JICA Zimbabwe Newsletter



our highlights for this quarter >>>

JICA Zimbabwe welcomed new JOCVs...



JICA Zimbabwe welcomed new Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs), Ms. Ayako Suzuki (pictured right) and Ms. Mayui Kitamoto.

>>> check out their introductions on page 2...

Osaka Expo 2025!

The World Expo, Osaka Expo 2025 is currently underway in Osaka, Kansai, Japan, from April 13 to October 13 2025. Our very own JICA JOCV, Ms. Rina Koda, and Rice Expert, Dr. Tatsushi Tsuboi are participating at the World Expo.

>>> check out the stories on page 5...



❖ Celebrating the Impact of the ZIM-SHEP Project ❖

The Project for Zimbabwe Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (ZIM-SHEP) has made a lasting impact on the agricultural sector. Implemented from March 2019 to June 2025, the project developed both the technical and managerial capacity of over 8,000 farmers to practise Market Oriented farming. The project, through the use of the SHEP approach changed farmer's mind-set from "Grow and Sell" to "Grow to Sell".

Key Achievements

- ❖ Increased horticultural income for target farmers, improving their livelihoods.
- ❖ Strengthened farmer group cohesiveness and improved maintenance of irrigation facilities.
- ❖ Enhanced crop productivity through better irrigation management from improved cash flows.
- ❖ Embedded resilience and sustainability in small-scale farming activities.

A Testament to Collaboration

We commend the dedication of JICA experts and their counterparts from the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development. The project's success was further amplified by partnerships with development partners who adopted the SHEP approach in their agricultural projects.

Looking Ahead

JICA remains committed to supporting the Ministry and development partners in ensuring the sustainability of the project's impact. We are confident that the transformational work of ZIM-SHEP will continue to benefit the farmers.



Farmer training on end line survey

Catching up with the ZIM-SHEP Project!

ZIM-SHEP Project Close Out...

UZ-JICA ZIM-SHEP collaboration workshop...



Mr. Taku Seo presenting on the SHEP Approach

On May 13, 2025, the JICA ZIM-SHEP project team, Mr. Taku Seo, Chief Advisor, and Mrs. Nyamangara, Deputy Director at the Department of Irrigation Development, delivered an outstanding presentation on the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (SHEP) approach at the University of Zimbabwe's Faculty of Agriculture, Environment and Food Systems during a UZ-JICA collaboration workshop.

The aim of the collaboration is to integrate the SHEP approach into their curriculum. This partnership is crucial as UZ can influence agricultural colleges, which are responsible for training future extension officers. The SHEP approach focuses on empowering smallholder farmers through market-oriented agriculture, enhancing their income and livelihoods. We are proud to be part of this initiative, working closely with the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development (MoLAFWRD). This collaboration has the potential to positively impact agricultural development in Zimbabwe, aligning with the Ministry's objectives and JICA's commitment to supporting smallholder farmers.



JICA, UZ and MoLAFWRD officials at the workshop

Time flew by for the ZIM-SHEP project, since its commencement in March 2019, until its close out in June 2025. Notably, the project has had great impact, with six incredible years of growth, lives transformed, and future generations empowered. In May, a final workshop for the project was held, and the project's achievements and future plans for sustainability were showcased.



Participants at the final workshop

👉 Follow the links below to know more about the ZIM-SHEP Project and the SHEP Approach.

📄 ZIM-SHEP Joint Terminal Evaluation

🔗 https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/zimbabwe/information/topics/2024/1553742_53550.html

📄 SHEP Approach

🔗 <https://www.jica.go.jp/english/activities/issues/agricul/shep/index.html>



JICA Zimbabwe Resident Representative, Mr. Shigeki Furuta handing over work-suits to Officers from the targeted Provinces where the project was being rolled out

JOCV Introductions!

In the last quarter, JICA Zimbabwe welcomed new volunteers to the team, Ms. Ayako Suzuki and Ms. Mayui Kitamoto. Following the completion of their orientation, the JOCVs were dispatched to their assignment places in May, where they are thriving. After learning local languages and paying courtesy calls to counterparts, they hit the ground running and are already making a real impact.



Courtesy call for Ms. Mayui Kitamoto to the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development



Courtesy call for Ms. Ayako Suzuki to Ministry of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution, Bulawayo Metropolitan Province

Hello, everyone!

My name is **Ayako Suzuki**.

I arrived in Zimbabwe in April 2025.

I am attached to the Badminton Association of Zimbabwe, instructing badminton to the youth at schools, and club teams in Bulawayo.

I heard that badminton is not a popular sport in Zimbabwe, so I want to support as many people as possible.



Makadii!

My name is **Mayui Kitamoto**.

I'm excited to volunteer as a marketing lecturer at the Innovation Hub in the Harare Institute of Technology.

After graduating from university, I worked at an advertising agency in Japan.

I hope to put that experience to good use here in Zimbabwe.

This is my very first time in Africa—of course, also in Zimbabwe—and I'm already falling in love with the people, the culture, the food, and everything in between!

I'm really looking forward to my life here in Zimbabwe, and I hope to become a bridge between Zimbabwe and Japan someday.



Teamwork makes the dream work...



In May, JICA Zimbabwe had an amazing team retreat! We spent the day developing good teamwork, promoting communication, and getting to know each other's values and shared ones. It was an incredible day filled with laughter, joy, and sweet memories. We learned so much about each other that we wouldn't have known otherwise, and it's going to make our work together even more awesome!

Sharing about JICA and the Japanese experience...

In April, JICA Zimbabwe and the Embassy of Japan (EoJ) in Zimbabwe exhibited at the 2025 Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF), which saw 30 countries represented and over 20,000 people participating. JICA and EoJ staff, and our JOCVs had the pleasure to share about Japan's aid, JICA's activities in Zimbabwe and the upcoming TICAD9, network with visitors to the stand, and introduce Japanese games, calligraphy, and apparel to the visitors.



Fruitful workshop for past KCCP participants...

The JICA Zimbabwe Program's Section hosted a workshop for past Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) participants from the agricultural sector, who had completed various KCCP courses focusing on irrigation, dam safety, water management, and rice production. The workshop provided a valuable opportunity for alumni to share progress on their action plans, exchange ideas for project formulation, and forge networks with fellow participants.



Giving honour where honour is due...

In recognition of the outstanding contributions by Mr. Assah Mudhefi, affectionately known as 'Baba SHEP' (Father of SHEP), JICA Zimbabwe honoured Mr. Mudhefi with an appreciation shield at the ZIM-SHEP final workshop held in May. As Project Manager for the Zimbabwe Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (ZIM-SHEP) Project from 2019 to 2024, Mr. Mudhefi's passion, dedication and leadership was instrumental in driving the project's success. Our gratitude goes to Mr. Mudhefi for his tireless efforts and commitment to making a lasting impact. Here's to Assah Mudhefi - a true champion of development!



Selling Zimbabwe to the world at Osaka Expo 2025....

JOCV at EXPO 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan



Ms. Rina Koda sharing about Zimbabwe

Our Marketing volunteer, Ms. Rina Koda, attached to the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority, (ZTA) is currently in Osaka, Kansai, Japan, participating at the World Expo, Osaka Expo 2025. With 158 countries participating, this prestigious event is the place to be, and Ms. Koda is present every day at Zimbabwean booth as a team member that is showcasing Zimbabwe's beauty. We are thrilled that Ms. Koda is 'selling' Zimbabwe to Japan and the world, while contributing to the Expo's unifying theme of "Designing Future Society for Our Lives" and subthemes of "Saving Lives, Empowering Lives, Connecting Lives".

Contact Us >>>

Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking time to read JICA Zimbabwe Newsletter and thank you for your support during the year. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you want to find out more about our activities and / or if you have any queries / suggestions regarding our newsletter. We value your feedback and your support.

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Dr. Tatsushi Tsuboi at Zimbabwe's Pavilion at the Osaka Expo 2025

Dr Tatsushi Tsuboi, played a pivotal role in introducing New Rice for Africa (NERICA) varieties to Zimbabwe, changing rice production in the country.

In 2006/7, Dr Tsuboi conducted a survey on rice production in Zimbabwe introducing three NERICA rice varieties. However, due to economic challenges in the country at that time, the survey was not completed, and Dr. Tsuboi returned to Japan.



Dr. Tatsushi Tsuboi at the Osaka 2025 Zimbabwe Pavilion

After an invitation from the First Lady of Zimbabwe, Dr. Auxilia Mnangagwa through JICA Zimbabwe, Dr. Tsuboi returned in March 2023 to continue rice production. Rice production in Zimbabwe is thriving, and the farmers have warmly welcomed the initiative, embracing the opportunities it brings to their agricultural endeavors.

In May, Dr. Tsuboi was invited to Zimbabwe's pavilion at the Osaka Expo 2025, where he shared his knowledge on rice production with visitors. At the Expo, Dr. Tsuboi planted rice as part of the demonstration, and once the crop is ready for harvesting, he will showcase harvesting practices, sharing his expertise with visitors. His dedication to promoting rice production in Zimbabwe is truly inspiring.

Thanks to Dr. Tsuboi's efforts, rice production in Zimbabwe continues to thrive. We are grateful for his significant contributions to the country's agricultural development.



Dr. Tatsushi Tsuboi with Zimbabwean counterparts at the Osaka 2025 Zimbabwe Pavilion