



Everyone made Mid-term Training successfully!

The highlight of August was MTT. All the participant officers in the six provinces, including COBSI research target sites, acquired the Know-how for cultivation and nutrition improvement through classroom sessions and field visiting. Another remarkable activity was exhibiting E-COBSI booth at Agriculture and Commercial Show in Lusaka. Many visitors, such as farmers, entrepreneurs, other projects stakeholders, got an interest in our activities. In parallel, officers in the province, district, and block/camp worked together on Endline and Nutrition survey tirelessly. Clap your hands for your achievement!

MTT was completed successfully in all the targeted provinces

All the six provinces organized MTT in August. The preparation started after the preparation meeting in July. Everyone contributed to the success of MTT from those three perspectives: 1) everyone made an effort to acquire the Know-how of training content, 2) everyone consolidated and reported the progress after KOT, 3) everyone practiced demonstration in field visiting proactively.

- 1) Everyone made an effort to acquire the Know-how of training content

The participants in both Follow-Up (FU) Provinces and New Target (NT) Provinces learned about nutrition improvement composed of the national guidelines, and *Tebakari-Eiyohou*: How to make it and the tips for using it. The contents were completely new as the participants had never been in previous training. However, all of them understood the contents by raising many questions. New target Provinces also acquired knowledge of cultivation technics. District officers, block extension officers (BEOs), and camp extension officers (CEOs) made the contents more practical by arguing their experiences. At last, all the camp officers (CEOs) acquired skills on Online Reporting, especially how to submit a monthly camp report by using smartphone application “KoboCollect”.

Summary of the MTT agenda

Days	FU Provinces	NT Provinces
1 st	Nutrition Improvement (Classroom)	Cultivation (Classroom)
2 nd	Nutrition Improvement (Field Visit)	Cultivation & Nutrition Improvement (Classroom)
3 rd	Progress of activities and Planning, Online Reporting	Cultivation & Nutrition Improvement (Field Visit)
4 th		Progress of activities and Planning, Online Reporting

- 2) Everyone consolidated and reported the progress of the E-COBSI activities after KOT

All the districts reported the progress after KOT, such as the number of simple weirs, the length of furrows, the irrigable area developed in this year, challenge and good practice. District officers, BEOs, and CEOs consolidated the data before coming to training venues. Provincial officers and Japanese experts mainly asked question to district’s presentations. This encouraged all the participants to share information and solutions.



Mr. Emmanuel Nkweto, Ag. SAO in Manyinga, is explaining how they constructed the weir. (Northwestern Province)

- 3) Everyone practiced demonstration in field visiting proactively

The participants visited one of the district model sites and scaled the necessary amount of ingredients per day by hand following *Tebakari-Eiyohou* with the farmers to acquire what we learned in classroom session. Furthermore, all the participants in FU and Food and Nutrition Officers (FNOs) in NT practiced cooking class to learn how to make a well-balanced diet. Senior FNOs in each province made a list of dishes and prepared the materials beforehand. The participants cooked by cooperating with each other. The way of organization was different: some provinces cooked one by one, and others cooked all the dishes at the same time by making groups.



In MTT for the COBSI research group, the participants cooked by making groups. Female and male officers cooperated each other as shown in the picture (Central Province).

Contribution of NAIS

National Agricultural Information Service (NAIS) played an important role in public relations of E-COBSI by broadcasting video clips and radio programs right after MTT on media, such as ZNBC. The author of this News Letter, Mr. Shohei Okamura, heard a lot of people say they watched the programs!



Mr. Jonas Muselo, NAIS Luapula, broadcasted the video clip on ZNBC. Ms. Lukonga Ngalama was starred on the program. (Luapula Province)

Exhibiting E-COBSI booth at Agriculture and Commercial Show in Lusaka

E-COBSI booth was exhibited at Agriculture and Commercial Show in Lusaka for six days: from 2nd to 7th August. It was successful from those three points of view: 1) project members in HQ and province jointly prepared and organized the booth, 2) it grabbed many visitor's interests, 3) contribution to making relationships with service providers.

- 1) Project members in HQ and province jointly prepared and organized the booth

Mr. Andrew Sipawa Songiso, Principal Irrigation Engineer in MoA HQ, took an initiative for the exhibition of the project booth, such as securing the

area in the exhibition area of MoA. Ms. Cheelo H. Mudenda, SIE in Central Province, Mr. Mwenya Sampule, SIE in Copperbelt Province, Mr. Richwell Kawelele, NAIS in Central Province, Ms. Mweemba Caroline, an assistant of JICA project team, prepared and organized the booth, such as displaying materials on the table, designing a banner board attached to the entrance of the booth, and explaining to the visitors. The panels inside the booth were designed and produced by NAIS HQ within their budget.



Above : The posters were designed and produced by NAIS HQ. Below : Project members from HQ, provinces and JICA project team prepared the booth. (at Agriculture and Commercial Show in Lusaka)

- 2) E-COBSI grabbed many visitor's interests

Many visitors, especially farmers, got interested in COBSI because it utilizes surface water, not groundwater, by constructing weirs with locally available materials. We advised those farmers who are in the targeted area of the project to get technical instruction from the officers in charge of the area.

- 3) Contribution to making relationships with service providers

We exchanged information with service providers, such as a call center service provider that connects farmers who are interested in COBSI to the project. Coordinating with such a private service provider company is one idea to continue and expand the dissemination of COBSI after the project ends.