



Annual training cycle was wrapped up by Annual Evaluation Workshop

E-COBSI carried out the project activities, starting with Market Survey Training (MST) in January in follow-up provinces, and Kick-off training (KOT) in March in new target provinces. Annual Evaluation Workshop (AEW) is a wrap up training for those annual activities. The main content is for provincial and district officers to report on their activities over the past months, and for all the participants to share challenges, lessons learned, countermeasures, and good practices. Furthermore, this year, taking the post-E-COBSI into account, we discussed factors behind the increase/decrease in the “irrigated area of simple weirs”, which is an indicator of the three-year action plan. In addition, the status of an application for water permit and payment of water usage fees by farmer groups was discussed. This month's newsletter features November's main event, AEW.

Purpose and Program of AEW

AEW's main purpose is to review the annual E-COBSI activities done, specifically:

- 1) confirming achievement of plans set at the beginning of the year,
- 2) sharing challenges, lessons learned, countermeasures, good practices of each activity,
- 3) recognizing the current situation of particularly important themes, and holding discussions to solve the problems. All the themes are related to the recommendations of the Terminal Evaluation Team.

To achieve those purposes, program for this year's AEW was formulated as follows. As for the program for COBSI research districts, a module for report collection was additionally implemented.

Program of the AEW 2023

No.	Module	Purpose	Recommendation by Terminal Evaluation Team
	Name		
1	Program Orientation	-	-
2	Overview of AEW	-	-
3	Annual Report of Year 2023, Action Plan of Year 2024 by district	1), 2)	-
4	Annual Report of Year 2023, Action Plan of Year 2024 by province	1), 2)	-
5	Discussion about Organic Pesticides*	3)	○ (Achievement of Output 4)
6	Discussion about water permit	3)	○ (Water use permit)
7	Discussion about the factor of increase/decrease of COBSI simple weir irrigation sites/ area	3)	○ (Three-year Action Plan)
8	Group discussion by District	2)	-

Preparation of AEW

On 10th November, an online preparatory meeting for AEW was held with attendance of CPU members in the six provinces and Japanese experts. The purpose of the meeting was to share the purpose and the contents of each module among CPU members by Japanese experts' explanation. Provincial and district officers as well as CEOs have started preparation of the documents for module 3, 4, 6 after this meeting. Stationaries, venues, etc. were prepared by the initiative of CPU members in each province.

Implementation of AEW

All the six target provinces and COBSI research districts carried out AEW in the week of 20th November. The workshop period is for one day in Central province while for two days in the other provinces. The following figures show the scenery of the workshop.

Program orientation



Everyone prays for success of the workshop. (Copperbelt province)

Annual report by district



Mr. Teddy, TSB Mbala, gives a presentation. (Northern province)

Discussion of particular themes



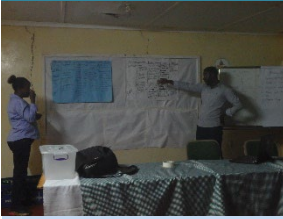
Participants shared the current situation of the three topics and discussed how to deal with the problems. (Muchinga province)

Annual report by province



Eng. Cheelo, SIE Central province, gives a presentation. (Central province)

Group discussion by district



Each district shared challenges, lessons learned, countermeasures, good practices of each activity until late night...(Central province)

Closing remarks



Ms. Ai Nagino gave warm comments at the end of AEW. (Muchinga province)

➤ **Annual report by district**

Each district reported the number of COBSI sites this year, the number of participated farmers, irrigated area by COBSI, etc. Moreover, for the post-E-COBSI activities, plans for new sites, such as training of new CEOs were included in the presentation. Activities in model sites and demonstration farm plots were also reported. Achievement of irrigated area is currently being aggregated as means of verification of the project purpose indicator “Irrigation area is expanded by 500 ha in the new target provinces”.

➤ **Annual report by province**

Provincial officers reported challenges, lessons learned, countermeasures, good practices of main COBSI activities, such as weir construction, SHEP, cultivation, water management and O&M, nutrition improvement, farmers’ group. They also reported provincial agriculture shows because all the provinces displayed the project booth this year. The summary of provincial and district reports will be reported in a national CPU meeting by CPU members in January 2024.

➤ **Discussion about water permit**

The purpose of this topic is to understand the current situation of application for water permit by farmers’ group. In addition, the fees that farmers are able to pay were discussed. The participants also confirmed the conditions requiring application/ registration for water permit, the calculation method of application fee and water usage fee. The result will be reflected by discussion among Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA) for further COBSI promotion.

➤ **Discussion about factors of increase/decrease of COBSI simple weir irrigation sites/ area**

The participants discussed increasing/decreasing factors of COBSI simple weir irrigation sites/ area, and action plans based on the factors. Some of the increasing factors were public relation activities such

as field day, TV, and radio. Another factor was accessibility to markets. On the other hand, as decrease factors, instability of stream water level, and insufficient cultivation techniques were raised. The data will be instrumental in realizing the objectives outlined in our three-year action plan.

Joint COBSI site visit with WARMA

Most of the group members in the COBSI sites are small-scale farmers. Therefore, it is difficult for some of them to pay the application fee for the water permit and the water usage fee. From this background, the project team discussed with WARMA on 31st August and 9th October. This month, Mr. Songiso and Mr. Sampa from MoA, Dr. Sagawa, Mr. Julius from WARMA, Mr. Njekwa, TSB Kapiri Mposhi district, visited five COBSI sites on 29th and 30th November. Officers from MoA and WARMA insisted importance of water permit for the sustainable water use. On the other hand, Mr. Njekwa said time and opportunity to disseminate water permit is necessary because farmers don’t understand water permit well.



We visited COBSI sites in Kapiri Mposhi district with Mr. Julius from WARMA (on the right end) so that WARMA understands the scale of COBSI sites and the situation. (Kapiri Mposhi district, Central Province)

Other Activities

Toward completion of E-COBSI, we are preparing for last national CPU meeting, Joint Coordination Committee (JCC), and completion seminar. In addition, we are making project documentary videos, finalizing project guideline and manuals, etc. We will feature some of those activities in the next month’s newsletter. Please look forward to it!

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