



Permanent Weir Training in 2023 was implemented at Masaiti Farm Institute

On 1st December, 15 engineers in the New-Target Provinces completed the Permanent Weir Training at Masaiti Farm Institute (MFI). This training program was implemented in response to the recommendation from the terminal evaluation mission in September 2023. It was the second time training, following the first one in 2021. The training contents were similar to the first one, but this time, it aimed for the participants to learn knowledge and skills on permanent weir construction, considering the construction under ZAMGRO or the other donors. Before the training at MFI, Mr. Chiba, an irrigation engineer of E-COBSI, and the participants conducted the field survey to collect information on the candidate sites for the permanent weirs in November 2023. Based on the field survey, the participants worked on drawing the permanent weir, construction schedules, and cost estimations at MFI from 27th November to 1st December. SIEs in the New-Target Provinces (Mr. Bwalya, Ms. Cheelo, and Mr. Sampule) led the sessions, and Mr. Chiba gave them some technical advice and supplemental explanations. According to Mr. Chiba, SIEs understood basic ideas about permanent weir constructions and managed the training very well on their own.



The participants of the permanent weir training in 2023 at MFI.

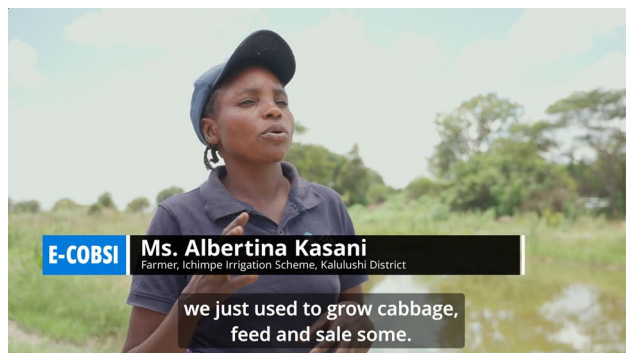


Engineers for Permanent Weirs...



Making promotional videos for E-COBSI Project and COBSI Approach

To expand the COBSI approach within and beyond Zambia, promotional videos for E-COBSI have been created. In early December, Ms. Kanno, a project team member, along with staff from a video company in Lusaka, traveled to Kalulushi (Copperbelt Province) and Kasempa (Northwestern Province) for the video shoot. Two version of videos, "Short Version" and "Long Version," were completed by the end of January.



E-COBSI Ms. Albertina Kasani
Farmer, Ichimpe Irrigation Scheme, Kalulushi District
we just used to grow cabbage, feed and sale some.

An interview scene of the farmer in Ichimpe Camp (Kalulushi District).

Field survey for the economic analysis on the existing permanent weirs.

E-COBSI project team, Dr. Adachi and Mr. Mizuno conducted a field survey for the economic analysis on the existing permanent weirs from 6th to 9th December. Three target sites were chosen from the existing sites where the permanent weirs were constructed by T-COBSI, the former JICA’s project, (Table 1). In this field survey, the project team collected the information about crop yields and production costs in the sites. This information will be used to estimate profits from the permanent weirs, and it will be compared to the construction costs.

Table: Target sites for the economic analysis

Province	District	Site Name	Year of construction
Northern	Kasama	Musanda	2016
Northern	Lupososhi	Chabukila	2014
Luapula	Nchelenge	Munsa	2014

5th National CPU meeting

The fifth national CPU meeting was held on 10th January 2024. The meeting was originally scheduled to take place on 19th December 2023 but had to be postponed to January due to the conflict of the meeting schedule. The National CPU meeting gathered CPU members from all six target provinces and CPU members from HQs of the Ministry of Agriculture and was held over one day.

The national CPU meeting has changed the agenda every year to the activities of that year, but the main report is on the activities of the respective provincial CPUs and their activity plans for the following year. In addition to these reports, the result of the end-line survey and the 3-year action plan for post-E-COBSI, which was approved by MoA PS, were reported this year.



ALL provincial CPUs reported the project activity progress, challenges and lessons & learnt in 2023.

Final JCC Meeting

The following day of the National CPU meeting, the final JCC meeting was held at the same venue. PACOs, PAOs and SIEs who represented provincial CPU, CPU members of MoA HQs and officers from the JICA Zambia office attended.

The representative of Follow-up provinces and New Target Provinces gave a presentation on the progress report which summarized the report from the provincial CPUs. Then, the achievement status of PDM indicators was reported by the project team leader. There were three indicators for project purpose and eight indicators for project outputs.

For indicator No.1 of the project purpose, the Irrigation area is expanded by 500 ha in the new target provinces (Copperbelt, North Western and Central), was achieved with 515.8ha. For indicator No.2 of the project purpose, the Agricultural income of farmers is improved by 70% in the model sites in the follow-up provinces (Luapula, Muchinga and Northern) by virtue of irrigation and marketing approach, was achieved with 126.4% increase. For indicator No.3, the Action Plan (2024-2026) for smallholder Irrigation development is approved by MoA, was achieved in December 2023 by the approval MoA PS. The other all indicators for project outputs were also achieved successfully.

Completion Seminar

To share the achievements of E-COBSI, a completion seminar was held on January 12th 2024. For spreading the project achievements widely, the seminar was attended not only by concerned government officers and beneficiary farmers of E-COBSI, along with JICA officers, but also by development partners such as the World Bank, the African Development Bank, GIZ, and concerned organizations, NRDC, ZAJIFA, and ZNBC. In total, 128 people participated in the seminar.

At the beginning of the seminar, the Acting PS of the MoA gave an opening remark. This was followed by presentations from CPU members on E-COBSI activities, including the COBSI approach, the construction of permanent weirs as an upgrade to simple weirs, SHEP activities, and nutrition improvement. Subsequently, the changes brought about by E-COBSI were presented by representatives from SAO Kalulushi, CEO Kasama, and farmers from Kasempa and Lupososhi districts. Finally, Mr. Yonebayashi, the JICA Chief Representative, and Dr. Shepande Chizumba, the Director General of DOA, delivered closing remarks expressing their willingness to continue the E-COBSI activities.



Acting PS of MoA gave opening remarks.



A presentation for the achievements of E-COBSI by CPU members. 128 people gathered for the completion seminar.

Message from E-COBSI project members

This is the final issue of the E-COBSI newsletter. We extend our sincere gratitude to all government officers who have been involved in project activities and to the farmers who have benefited from the project. We remain hopeful that COBSI activities will persist and contribute to improving the livelihoods of the Zambian people. Additionally, we aspire for Zambia to emerge as a leading center for the COBSI approach in African countries, attracting numerous visitors from around the world in the future.