



Recommencement of the E-COBSI Activities from July

E-COBSI activities had been suspended since April 2020 to control the spread of COVID-19, but we decided to resume them from July. Joint Kick-off Training (KOT) and Midterm Training (MTT) for Follow-up Provinces (Northern, Luapula and Muchinga provinces) will be held in July, and MTT for the New Target Provinces will be held in August.



Support of Fuel Provision for Monitoring of E-COBSI Activities and Construction of Simple Weirs

Zambian officials had to work from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic from April. As of June 3, 2020 following Government announcement, it became possible to resume E-COBSI activities while complying with a guideline for the COVID-19 of the Ministry of Health in Zambia. Thus, the JICA project team has worked with the JICA Zambia office, JICA HQ/Japan, and MoA HQ/Provincial CPUs to prepare for recommencement of the E-COBSI activities. Besides, the JICA office and the project team held online meetings with the provincial CPU members of FU provinces and the new target provinces respectively on June 24 to discuss the use of the project funds to continue with activities of E-COBSI.

By the end of June, funds for E-COBSI activities from JICA were remitted to the provincial CPUs through their official bank account. Since the beginning of E-COBSI project, JICA provided fuel for implementation and monitoring of E-COBSI activities including construction of simple weir, SHEP and other activities to CEOs (Petrol: 30 lit/month), District offices (Diesel: 150 lit/month) and Provincial CPUs (Diesel: 250 lit/month). We look forward to good progress from now on through monthly reports!



Inclined weir at Funda site (left: Mkushi district, Central province, 2019) Double line weir at Kazhimbe site (right: Mufumbwe district, Northwestern province, 2019)

Preparation and Schedule of Joint KOT&MTT in FU provinces

Initially, a series of KOT in the FU provinces was supposed to be held in April and May, and MTT was

scheduled to be held in July, but KOT was postponed due to the COVID-19. After that, since KOT was rescheduled in July, we decided to jointly conduct KOT and MTT. KOT was planned to be a 3-day training, but Joint KOT&MTT will be a 4-day training.

Main contents of the Joint KOT&MTT will be; 1) Review of SHEP Approach, 2) Cultivation Technics for Horticulture Crops, 3) Water Management, O&M, Farmer's Organization & Gender, 4) Site visiting, 5) Farm Management, 6) Nutrition Improvement. In addition, as the JICA project team must acknowledge COVID-19 impacts on our works, 7) situation Analysis of COVID-19 impacts on government ordinary works and E-COBSI Activities will be added.

The Joint KOT&MTT will be conducted in the following schedule.

- Muchinga Province: July 14-17 & July 18-21 (two groups)
- Northern Province: July 20-23
- Luapula Province: July 20-23

The provincial CPUs and the JICA project team held the Market Survey Training (MST) in Mpika jointly for Northern and Muchinga Provinces in January 2020, but Joint KOT&MTT will be changed to be conducted separately in each province to observe social distance of the participants during the training. As for Muchinga Province, since the number of Corona cases in Nakonde district was increasing rapidly, joint KOT&MTT will be conducted two sessions to decrease the number of participants to less than 20 people per session. In addition, all the participants must wear masks and strictly observe all health guidelines during the training.



OJT of canal alignment by Officers to Farmers at Twalubuka site (Mufulira district, Copperbelt province, 2019)

Plan of MTT for the New Target provinces

The provincial CPUs together with the JICA Project team held KOT in the new target provinces in February and March 2020, and MTT will be scheduled in August. MTT will be conducted in each province to avoid crowding and close contact during the training just like FU provinces, and it is planned to be hold two sessions in both Copperbelt and Northwestern province where the number of participants is large.

Main modules of the MTT will be; 1) Cultivation Technics for Horticulture Crops, 2) Farm Management, 3) Nutrition Improvement, 4) Monitoring of E-COBSI Activities. Besides, 5) situation Analysis of COVID-19 impacts on government ordinary works and E-COBSI Activities will be added.

Revision of the Training Materials (COBSI Extension Package)

The training materials of E-COBSI should add new components such as SHEP approach and nutrition improvement, and improve the contents of water management, O&M and farmers' organizations of which T-COBSI used for its extension. In addition, based on recommendations from the participants of a series of training (KOT, MTT, Annual Evaluation Workshop (AEW)) conducted in 2019 and lessons learned from the activities at the district model sites, the JICA project team revised the contents of the training materials. Since the project team members cannot travel to Zambia due to the COVID-19, we are working on the revision of training materials in Japan.

The training materials (COBSI extension packages) are divided into two volumes, "I. COBSI Technical Package" and "II. Dissemination and PR activities Package". "I. COBSI Technical Package" consists of (1) COBSI training material, (2) Manual for permanent weir construction and (3) COBSI field manual. "II. Dissemination and PR activities Package" consists of (4) Poster for farmers and (5) Leaflet for farmers. (Refer to Table 1).

(1) COBSI training materials are being prepared based on KOT, MTT and AEW lecture materials. The JICA project team is working to add supplementary explanations and points of each PPT slide in the memo column at the bottom of the PPT slide, so that the provincial CPU members as instructors of trainings can fully understand the contents of each PPT slide and explain it to the participants. So far, the team finished inputting supplementary explanation into the memo column of the half of the overall PPT slides. We will continue this work on (1) COBSI training materials, and revise other teaching materials.



SHEP Approach (Market Survey & Crop Ranking) at Kalila site (Mansa district, Luapula province, 2019)

Table 1. Contexture of Training Materials (COBSI Extension Package)

Items	Target of materials	Descriptions/Contents
I. COBSI Technical Package		
(1) COBSI Training Material	1) Provincial and District Officers, BEOs and CEOs, etc. (Inclusive of other donors, NGO, University, Collage, JICA volunteer, etc.)	- Construction of Simple Weir, Water Management/ O&M, SHEP Approach, Cultivation/ Farm Management, Nutrition Improvement, Farmers' Organization, Gender Mainstreaming, etc. - Editing mainly on PPT materials of KOT, MTT, AEW
(2) Manual for Permanent Weir Construction	Same as above 1)	- Construction and design of Permanent Weir, Irrigation Planning - PPT materials used for permanent weir training for TSB officers
(3) COBSI Field Manual for CEOs/BEOs and Farmers	2) BEOs, CEOs and Farmers	- Construction of Simple Weir and Permanent Weir, Water Management/ O&M, SHEP Approach, Cultivation/ Farm Management, Nutrition Improvement, Farmers' Organization - Revision of Technical Manual (Simple Weir Construction and Canal Alignment: Process Description method) of T-COBSI - Addition of SHEP Approach, Cultivation/ Farm Management, Nutrition Improvement, Farmers' Organization, - Translation into local languages (Bemba, Nyanja, etc.)
II. Dissemination and PR activities Package		
(4) Poster for Farmers	Same as above 2)	- Review of posters created by T-COBSI (Simple Weir Construction, Nutrition Improvement) and addition of SHEP Approach
(5) Leaflet for Farmers	Same as above 2)	- Review of leaflets created by T-COBSI (Smallholder Irrigation and Irrigated Agriculture) and addition of SHEP Approach and Nutrition Improvement