



## Project 1<sup>st</sup> phase successfully Completed!!

Expansion of Community-Based Smallholder Irrigation Development Project (E-COBSI) started in December 2018, and the first project phase was completed in December 2020. The project has three phases as the first phase (from December 2018 to December 2020), the second phase (from January 2021 to January 2022), and the third phase (from February 2022 to February 2024). At the end of the first phase in December 2020, we held two meetings, the 2<sup>nd</sup> National CPU meeting and the 3<sup>rd</sup> JCC meeting, to share the E-COBSI achievements and the plan for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase. This article will share these topics.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> National CPU meeting

To share the E-COBSI activity achievements and challenges faced during implementation among the COBSI Promotion Units (CPUs), the National CPU meeting was held one day before the JCC meeting. The number of the attendants is as follows.

Location	No. of Attendance
MoA HQ	9
Northern Province	5
Muchinga Province	5
Luapula Province	6
Copperbelt Province	6
Northwestern Province	6
Central Province	6
Project Staff	2
Japanese Experts (Online)	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>

Japanese experts could not travel to Zambia due to the COVID-19 health restrictions but participated and presented towards the meeting through an online system.



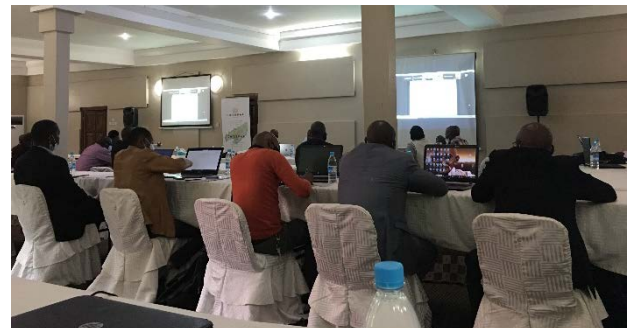
Japanese Experts participated in the meeting through online system and gave comments and questions to the participants in the meeting hall.

In the meeting, the first presentation of the meeting, Japanese Experts gave a summary of E-COBSI activities 2020. The activities till middle of March were carried out on time as planned, and then all the activities were suspended due to the COVID-19 outbreak from the end of March till the end of May.

Then, all the E-COBSI activities restarted under the “new normal” situation. The fuel provision for CPU, District office, and CEOs for E-COBSI activity was postponed during that period and restarted in July. Also, E-COBSI training continued in July. Due to the effect of COVID-19, the activity of E-COBSI was challenging to conduct and was delayed in relation to the year’s plan.

Following the summary of the E-COBSI activity, each provincial CPU gave a presentation on the activities in their province for 2020. In November, as an end of the series of E-COBSI training, each CPU conducted the annual evaluation workshop (AEW) in their respective provinces. All the target district officers reported their activities and the achievements of 2020 during the AEW, and CPU summarized those reports for their presentation at the national CPU meeting.

In addition to the report of provincial activities, each CPU reported on the COVID-19 impact on the project implementation and farmer’s activities. Furthermore, CPUs reviewed their own E-COBSI activities. Because of the absence of Japanese Experts due to COVID-19, the CPUs managed all E-COBSI training from the preparation till the implementation.



Each CPU gave a presentation on the achievements and challenges of E-COBSI activities in the province in 2020.

After the presentation from each CPU, Japanese experts explained the implementation plan for the year 2021. Then, all the participants had a general discussion. Regarding SHEP approach, participants commented it is practical and easy to understand, so it should be expanded not only the horticulture crops but

also aquaculture or animal husbandry. Other attendants commented that it is better to involve the provincial financial management unit to use the budget, which is transferred through the provincial bank account, smoothly. Regarding publicity activities, attendants commented Ministry of Agriculture will launch a new Radio station so it should strengthen the involvement with NAIS.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> JCC meeting

The 3<sup>rd</sup> JCC meeting was held the following day after the 2<sup>nd</sup> National CPU meeting at the same venue. For the JCC meeting, JCC members participated in the conference. As same as the National CPU meeting, Japanese Experts participated in the meeting by online. The number of participants is as follows.

Location	No. of Attendance
MoA HQ	5
Northern Province	3
Muchinga Province	3
Luapula Province	3
Copperbelt Province	3
Northwestern Province	3
Central Province	3
JICA Zambia Office	3
Project Staff	2
Japanese Experts (Online)	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>

Based on the report from each CPU, CPU members summarized the report by follow-up provinces and new target provinces and gave a presentation. For the follow-up provinces, Mr. Saila Mayson, Senior Irrigation Engineer (SIE)-Luapula province, and for the new target provinces, Mr. Jackson Bwalya, SIE-Northwestern province, reported, respectively. In the presentation, the achievements of 2020 were reported. In the follow-up provinces, 4,450 farmers were targeted and about 70ha was newly irrigated in 2020. In the new target provinces, 2,601 farmers were involved in the project activities and about 50ha was newly irrigated in 2020. These numbers were lower than that in 2019, but it can evaluate a high achievement under the severe condition of COVID-19.



JCC meeting of Japan side. Japanese experts joined the meeting via online meeting system.

There were some field photos in each presentation, and it could explain the current situation clearly than words sometimes.

Then, Japanese experts explained the revised implementation plan for the next year which was discussed in the National CPU meeting.



One of photos in the presentation by SIE. SIE in Luapula province explaining the water management method in the field.



One of photos in the presentation by SIE. Farmers newly dug the irrigation canal following the instruction of CEO in Kasempa district in Northwestern Province.

Following the next year's plan, all participants held a general discussion. One of the participants shared the story that many development partners working with MoA are already adopting the COBSI approach. Regarding SHEP approach, one officer commented that it is better to make a linkage between farmers and schools or hotels as a potential buyer. One food and nutrition officer requested to carry out a nutrition survey in the new target province, and the project team agreed carry out the survey starting in 2021.

All the comments and discussions were minuted, and it will reflect in the next year's implementation plan.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of E-COBSI Project

The 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the project was completed successfully through the continuous effort of the officers who have been participating in the project. In the next phase, we will accelerate the activities to expand the E-COBSI approach to other officers and farmers. The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase will be start in January 2021.

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