



## AEW and preparation of COBSI Research were carried out

At the end of the E-COBSI training cycle, Annual Evaluation Workshop (AEW) was carried out in each target province. Officers of the project target district explained the achievement of this year and shared the good practices, lessons learned, and challenges. In addition, continuing from the last month, the project team proceeded with the activities related to the construction of permanent weirs in new target states, COBSI research, and annual farmer's Household Surveys.

### Annual Evaluation Workshop (AEW)

Annual evaluation workshop (AEW) was held in each province as a summary of the one-year E-COBSI activity cycle. In this workshop, the Senior Agriculture Office (SAO) of each district summarized E-COBSI activities in the district and made a presentation. Since the request from the CPUs and district officers was many, the project team invited District Agriculture Coordinator (DACO) to the AEW to share the actual E-COBSI activities in the province.

Then district officers and CEOs conducted group work to evaluate each topic of E-COBSI activities (SHEP, water management, O&M of irrigation facilities, nutrition improvement, farmer's organization, etc.), the impact of COVID-19 on marketing and SHEP, and newly implemented activities from 2021 (demonstration plots at district model site, organic pesticides, and online reporting system). The result of group work was presented by TSB officers.

In Copperbelt province, it was reported that cooking demonstrations were held in all districts as a nutrition improvement activity. On the other hand, the difficulty of newly introduced activities in 2021 was also reported such as the production of organic pesticides, and the online reporting system under off-line situations. Based on the feedback from the ground, E-COBSI activities will be improved by Japanese experts and CPUs next year.



Representative of each district reported the achievement of annual activities and made discussion among the participants. (Copperbelt province)

### Preparation for COBSI Research

Continuing from last month, the project has provided support for field-level surveys for COBSI research in three districts in Central Province (Chibombo, Chisamba, and Kapiri Mposhi).

The project had invited CEOs and BEOs in charge of potential sites and the district TSB officers to hold the workshops on the COBSI approach and the potential site for COBSI research in each district.

The survey of the potential site is scheduled to be conducted by mainly the CEO/BEO of each district. For this reason, TSB officers and CEOs/BEOs from each district visited the existing COBSI site in Central province before starting the survey to understand COBSI, practically.

Officers from Chisamba and Chibombo district visited the COBSI site in Mukshi district on 9<sup>th</sup> December (18 participants from Chisamba district, 20 participants from Chisamba district), and officers from Kapiri Mposhi district visited on 10<sup>th</sup> (42 participants from the district). The participants observed the actual situation of the COBSI site, e.g. simple weir, water flow, canal, and irrigated fields. Also, they asked the farmers about the activities of irrigation agriculture for a better understanding of the COBSI approach and the potential site.



District TSB and CEO were invited and visited COBSI site. This picture shows the scenery that district TSB explained gravity irrigation. (Central province, Mukshi district)



SIE in central province explained COBSI approach and the potential site. (Central province)

Eng. Cheelo, SIE in Central province, explained to the participants the objective of expanding the project to these three districts. It is research that will scientifically examine the impact of COBSI approach on the income of farmers and obtain evidence to disseminate COBSI approach to other areas of Zambia and other African countries. She further explained that the newly targeted districts would be implemented COBSI approach differently from E-COBSI target but under the COBSI Research.

### Permanent weir construction

By last month, one permanent weir site had been selected per province. The trainees of permanent weir training (district TSB officers) had made the layout and the construction plans. Moreover, the quantity and types of tools for the permanent weir construction were confirmed, and the procurement and distribution of these tools have been done in December. Then, sensitization meetings for the candidate's permanent weir sites were carried out and all farmers agreed with the plan for the construction. The farmers will prepare the materials for the permanent weir construction during this rainy season.



The picture shows the scenery of orientation to target farmers. Content of the activities was explained to target farmers before permanent weir construction. (Central province, Mukushi district)

### Annual farmer's Household Survey

On 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021, Japanese experts visited the new district model site in Chililabombwe district in Copperbelt Province. According to the interviews with farmers and CEO, this site has been actively grouped after irrigation facilities have been improved by E-COBSI. On this site, there are two types of farming plots: One is farming plots which are managed by grouped farmers, the other is managed by individuals. The vegetables cultivated in group farming are all self-consumed. Thus, the farmers who have individual farmland and earn from the irrigated agriculture there were targeted for the annual farmers' household survey. Because it is a rare case that irrigated farmland is managed by a group activity, it is expected that this site is a "model" for group activities.

### Procurement of Motorbike spare parts

It has been a big issue that many CEO in COBSI target area have problems with their motorbike and are unable to conduct COBSI activities or the government's extension service on time and sufficiently. To improve the situation, the project checked the current condition of the motorbike in each district and support the budget for the necessary spare parts to each provincial CPU. It is expected that E-COBSI activity will be accelerated by this support.



Motorbike spare parts were prepared by the CPU and some of them were given to CEO in AEW. (Central province)

### National CPU meeting and JCC meeting

National CPU meeting and Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) meeting were planned to have in December 2021 to share the annual report on E-COBSI activities with six provincial CPUs and HQ CPU, and also discuss the implementation plan for next year. However, these two meetings were postponed to January 2022 due to the COVID-19 expansion in Zambia. Also, Project Director, Mr. Mwale, suggested having the virtual meeting using the online equipment provided by the project in April 2021. Therefore, the 3<sup>rd</sup> CPU meeting and 7<sup>th</sup> JCC meeting will be held on 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in January 2022.