



National Agriculture Show was held in Lusaka!

The National Agriculture Show was held in Lusaka from 27th July to 1st August. The CPU team from the Ministry of agriculture and Japanese experts exhibited the E-COBSI booth and joined this show for the first time. Also Japanese experts visited the three district model sites in New provinces for monitoring of the Permanent Weir Construction.

E-COBSI participated the National agriculture show for the first time

The National Agriculture Show was held in Lusaka from July 27th to August 1st, and E-COBSI had participated in it for the first time since the beginning. The Ministry of Agriculture HQ exhibited an E-COBSI booth, and they explained its' activities using posters, pamphlets, banners, photographs, and vegetables grown using small-scale irrigation.



E-COBSI participated in the show in a MoA HQ section

Many government officers, farmers, private companies, and people from other projects have visited E-COBSI booth and they were interested in our project. We explained the contents of the project and exchanged information on irrigation. In particular, farmers in Lusaka asked us many questions about the possibility of small-scale irrigation.



A Food and Nutrition officer of MoA HQ explained about E-COBSI activities to the customers.

Provincial booth in National Agriculture show

All target provincial agricultural offices exhibited own booths in the National Agriculture Show. E-COBSI also supported Northern Provincial booth and they introduced E-COBSI in own booth. Finally, the Northern Provincial booth won the first prize among the provincial booths.



Northern provincial agricultural office exhibited various crops and cooked food, also they introduced E-COBSI activities in own booth.

Monitoring of Permanent Weir Construction

Three permanent weirs are under construction in Mufulira District, Kasempa District and Mukusi District. An E-COBSI Team member, Dr. Sagawa, visited three sites from the end of June to the beginning of July to monitor the progress. We will share the results of the monitoring and advise from Dr. Sagawa as follows.

Twalukuba Site in Mufulira, Copperbelt Province (as of June 29 and 30)

- Since farmers have already collected more than a half of necessary stones, they started carrying them. Mufulira DACO's office has requested mining companies in the district to provide unnecessary stones during the mining as a part of contribution to farmers. So that farmers can use the unnecessary stones for the permanent weir construction and concentrate on excavation works.

- Farmers with relevant officers found good sand for the construction at a depth of about 50cm at a location about 50m away from the construction site. Since it is near to the construction site, the farmers can carry the sands by using wheelbarrow.



Farmers putting sandbags to make a temporary coffer dam (Mufulira District, Copperbelt Province). The master of trainers taught how to install the coffer dam using sandbags.

- After the site cleaning, the farmers put pegs in a location where a permanent weir and canals will be constructed. Since the excavation and the construction works should be done in the dry, the farmers excavated a diversion canal and installed a coffer dam. Because access road is located on the left bank, the diversion canal should be constructed on the right bank. The farmers installed the coffer dam by using 150 sandbags at the upstream side of the permanent weir.
- Although the coffer dam was installed, water remains at the permanent weir site. Thus, farmers should drain the water by using a pump or buckets and continue excavation and construction works in the dry.

Kabele Site in Kasempa, Northwestern Province (as of July 4 and 5)

- Since farmers have already collected more than a half of necessary stones, they started carrying them.
- Location of the permanent weir were being moved 20m upstream. Along with this, the elevation at actual construction should correspond to the elevation displayed on the design drawing plus 0.55m.
- Since the location of the construction site was shifted, the farmers again conducted site cleaning and then put pegs in a place where a permanent weir and canals are constructed. To excavate the site and construct the weir in the dry, they excavated a diversion canal and installed a coffer dam. Since the access road is located on the left

bank, the diversion canal was constructed on the right bank. The farmers installed the coffer dam at the upstream of the permanent weir site by using 30 sandbags.



Farmers constructed a diversion canal (Kasempa District, Northwestern Province).

Kafwa Site in Mukusi, Central Province (as of July 7 and 8)

- Although the farmers used to collect stones on the left bank, those stones included weak ones. After that, the farmers found a good collection point which can provide high quality stones and started the collection again.
- Location of the construction has never changed since the planning. Since there were many fallen trees, the farmers required long time for the site cleaning. Same as the other sites, the farmers finished putting pegs, excavation of a diversion canal and installation of a coffer dam. A second temporary coffer dam was installed because groundwater seeps out downstream of the temporary coffer dam.
- Although farmers can keep the site in the dry by draining using buckets, there are some points where groundwater upwells. Farmers needs attention when excavating, and sometime may require use of a pump.



Female farmers made sandbags for construction of a diversion canal (Mukusi District, Central Province).