



Japan International Cooperation Agency



Vol. 1  
Issue FOUR  
Jan – Mar 2023

An Insight into JICA Zimbabwe Activities

# JICA Zimbabwe Newsletter



## our highlights for this quarter >>>

### Rice Expert lays groundwork for rice production

JICA Zimbabwe hosted Rice Expert, Dr. Tatsushi Tsuboi who was in the country from March 5 to March 22, conducting research into the possibility of New Rice for Africa (NERICA) production in Zimbabwe.

More on the story on page 2...



### Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) Meetings

JICA Zimbabwe successfully held the 1<sup>st</sup> JCC meeting for the Project for Quality Improvement of Health Services through 5S-KAIZEN-TQM Approach and the 4<sup>th</sup> JCC Meeting for the Project for Zimbabwe Smallholder Empowerment and Promotion (ZIM-SHEP).

More on the stories on page 2...



## Farewell Zimbabwe!

### Note from the Resident Representative

Dear Reader,

It has been a pleasant two years where I had the opportunity to see parts of this beautiful country visiting our project sites and got to meet some of the wonderful people of this nation.

Unfortunately, as I write this note, it is a bittersweet moment as this marks the end of my term, but at the same time I am confident in the great work that my successor will continue to do here. Thank you to the people of Zimbabwe for their warm hospitality, it sure made my stay here pleasant and I have great memories that I will cherish. Thank you to all the readers for taking time

**JICA**  
leading the  
world with trust

to read our Newsletter over the past year since we launched it. Thank you to our counterparts for making my work here easier because of the support they offered in ensuring the success of the projects that we are working on. Thank you to the JICA staff for their excellent team work, for together we indeed 'led the world with trust.' I leave with a big smile knowing that together we accomplished much and we paved the way for a beautiful success story in the future.

Farewell Zimbabwe!  
Thank you, Maita Basa,  
Siyabonga, Arigato-gozaïmasu!

Regards,  
Kyosuke KAWAZUMI

set the stage >>>

## JICA setting the stage for Rice Production



*Dr. Tsuboi shedding insights on the rice at the Panmure field, Shamva*

On his trip to Zimbabwe to investigate rice production, Dr. Tatsushi Tsuboi paid a courtesy call to the First Lady, Dr. Auxillia Mnangagwa to discuss his plans during the visit. This was following the visit made by the First Lady to Japan in November last year, where she met with Dr. Tsuboi and discussed on how Zimbabwe can tap into rice production. He also travelled around the country visiting trial farms, research centres and seed companies, to determine the NERICA seed in the country and the suitability of the seed variety to the area under production.

Following this, he conducted a 2-day workshop which provided training for stakeholders on all things NERICA. His visit culminated in a training

for researchers and students on research methods, as well as a wrap up meeting with the Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Dr. John Basera, where he shared his findings and the way forward.

Dr. Tsuboi's trip was a resounding success with consensus that:

- Rice as a strategic crop can contribute to enhanced food security and nutrition in the country.
- There is great potential for commercialisation and increase of rice cultivation and productivity, not only to ensure self-sufficiency at household level, but to ensure the reduction of the rice import bill in the country.

## JICA held the first JCC meeting for the 5S Project

January 16, JICA held the first Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) meeting for the Project for Quality Improvement of Health Services through 5S-KAIZEN-TQM Approach, a project that JICA is rolling out in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) from May 2022 to May 2026. In attendance were a Mission from JICA HQ, JICA Experts and officials from JICA, Embassy of Japan and MoHCC.

At the meeting, the JICA Zim Resident Representative gave his assurance that the cooperation between JICA (Japan), MoHCC (Zimbabwe) would be maintained, and JICA would always be there to support the project. This was following remarks made by the Acting Permanent Secretary for MoHCC, Dr. Munyaradzi Dobbie who said that he is very grateful with the project as it will see many indicators improving, including reduction of patient waiting time, improvement of healthcare workers' attitude and morale and improving the availability of medicines and medical consumables. In support of the project, he pledged that, "As a country, we will give it our all."



*Signing of the Minutes of Meeting*

To close off the meeting, the two parties JICA (JICA Mission) and MoHCC (QAPS Directorate) signed the Minutes of Meeting.

## Fourth JCC Meeting for ZIM-SHEP Successfully Held

March 2, the 4th Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) Meeting for the Project for Zimbabwe Smallholder Empowerment and Promotion (ZIM-SHEP) was held. The ZIM-SHEP project, which to date has had profound results is being rolled out by JICA in collaboration with the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development (MLAFWRD), from March 2019 to February 2025. In attendance were a Mission from JICA HQ, JICA Experts and officials from JICA, Embassy of Japan and the MLAFWRD.

Speaking on behalf of the MLAFWRD Permanent Secretary, the Director of Strategic Planning and Monitoring and Evaluation, Mr. Abraham Mashumba highlighted that the ZIM-SHEP project was a vehicle to grow the agriculture



*Participants of the JCC Meeting*

sector by transforming smallholder farmers into income earners. He called on JICA and the MLAFWRD to learn from the project evaluation thus far on ways to improve, so that the SHEP approach can go beyond the irrigation schemes where it is currently being implemented and to upscale the 'farming as a business' model to a national model. JICA Zimbabwe Resident Representative, Mr. Kyosuke Kawazumi extended his gratitude to the MLAFWRD staff for their tireless commitment and support to ensuring the success of the ZIM-SHEP project. He pledged JICA's continued support towards the project in order to achieve the project's goal and to boost the economy of Zimbabwe.



# Training in Japan

JICA continues to develop capacities of human resources through the Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP).

February 16 to March 25, Mr. Simbarashe Gomo attended the Bridge Maintenance training in Japan.



February 1-28, Ms. Sekai Chitepo attended the Investment Promotion and Business Environment Reform training in Japan.



Mr. Pitmore Tavanhira is undergoing training in Japan for Market Oriented Agriculture Promotion for Extension Officers from March 12 to September 29.



January 12 to February 6, Ms. Mitchell Mubariki and Ms. Nthandose Hlabangana underwent training for Enhancing Policy and Practice in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Japan.

### CBT Project Hold Final Seminar



Delegates at the CBT seminar endorse the ZIMBHO campaign by the ZTA

February 1, JICA in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry (MECTHI), the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA) and the four Community Based Tourism (CBT) Enterprises Project Pilot Sites held a successful final seminar to share experiences, successes, challenges, lessons and recommendations that emerged during the implementation of the CBT Project. The project had run successfully from 2015 to January 2023 with the development of the Community Based Tourism Master Plan and implementation at four pilot sites namely Gairezi, Bulawayo, Tengenenge and Chesvingo.

The Ambassador of Japan to Zimbabwe, His Excellency Mr. Satoshi Tanaka, commended the CBT for its multiple benefits, as it allows tourists to experience another side of Zimbabwe that is much richer and deeper than simply seeing a tourist site. He added that tourists get a chance to interact with members of the community, experience their fascinating art and culture, and learn their rich history, while at the same time appreciating the beautiful natural surroundings.

MECTHI's Permanent Secretary, Ambassador Raphael Tayerera Faranisi pointed out that his Ministry was grateful for the support they had received from the Japanese government through JICA in the development of the CBTs. He said there was no doubt the development of the CBTs will play a significant role in alleviating poverty and enhancing community development.

The beneficiaries of the project expressed gratitude that the CBT project had enabled them to acquire skills that will help them to manage and sustain their CBT sites. As a result, they look forward to developing new tourist products and attracting more tourists.



Ryosuke Kasai volunteering to clean around the community during the month he was doing orientation and language training in Harare

January 26, JICA received a new baseball coach volunteer, Mr. Ryosuke Kasai. Mr. Kasai, who has been urged to use baseball to help the Government's fight against substance and drug abuse amongst the youth is working with the Bulawayo Baseball Association and the Sports and Recreation Commission. He is expected to develop the sport in schools and communities in Bulawayo's Western suburbs over a period of two years. Already the province has received Japanese volunteers in the past and Mr. Kasai will build on the work of his predecessors.

### Farewell to JICA Volunteer, Ami Nakashita



Ami Nakashita with some of her students

March 20, JICA Zim bid farewell to Ami Nakashita after a successful two year stint at Morgan Zintech Teachers' College, where she was a volunteer Physical Education Instructor. We are grateful for her tireless and exceptional efforts in ensuring sustainable cooperation, where teachers provided and students received high quality education.

### Contact Us >>>

Dear Reader,  
Thank you for taking time to read JICA Zimbabwe Newsletter.  
Please do not hesitate to contact us if you want to find out more about our activities and / or if you have any queries / suggestions regarding our newsletter. We value your feedback and your support.



JICA ZIMBABWE OFFICE  
4 Lucie Lane, Avondale, Harare, Zimbabwe  
P.O.Box 4060, Harare, Zimbabwe  
Email: zi\_oso\_rep@jica.go.jp

Tel: +263 242 333076, 334317, 303988, 304051, 332086

URL: <https://www.jica.go.jp/zimbabwe/english/index.html>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jicazimbabweoffice/>