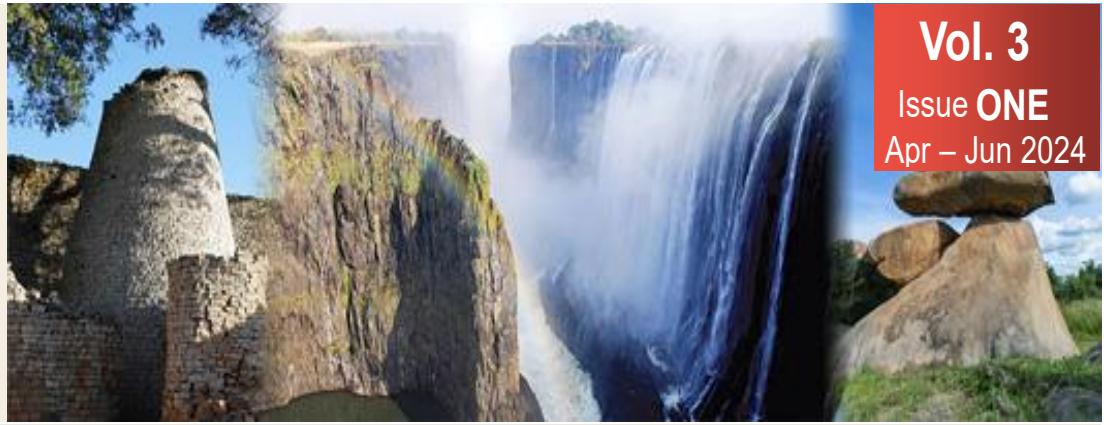




Japan International
Cooperation Agency



Vol. 3

Issue ONE

Apr – Jun 2024

An Insight into JICA Zimbabwe Activities

JICA Zimbabwe Newsletter



our highlights for this quarter >>>

SHEP approach contributing to increased horticulture income...



The Project for Zimbabwe Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (ZIM-SHEP) started in 2019 and will be coming to an end in March 2025. The project, targeting irrigation schemes in 8 provinces in Zimbabwe, is empowering smallholder horticulture farmers to practice farming as a business contributing to increased horticulture income. The project has changed the mindset of the farmers from “Grow and sell” to “Grow to Sell”. The farmers are trained to look for a market through market research and to produce according to the market demand. More than 3200 farmers have been trained to take farming as a business and more than 107 extension officers and agricultural officials from the National, Province and District offices have also received training in Japan, Third countries and locally. The ZIM-SHEP project has been embraced in all eight provinces and has now converged on Matebeleland North and Matebeleland South where the final chapters of the project unfold. The project is now applying all the essences which was obtained in the process of implementation of the activities in other 6 provinces.

❖ **Let's catch up on the project activities in Matebeleland North and South on page 2...**



On April 2, JICA and Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) signed a Record of Discussions (R/D) for the technical cooperation project, **“Project for Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Promote the Power Pool in Southern Africa.”** This project will promote the development of renewable energy and the interchange of electricity in the Southern African region in an integrated manner. In addition, the project will contribute to the promotion of the stable use of clean and affordable electricity in the region by strengthening the capacity of the electric power utilities of the 12 member countries of the SAPP to operate wide-area grids and electricity markets through the Southern Africa Power Pool (SAPP), which has its secretariat in Zimbabwe. These collaborations will lead to contributions towards achieving JICA's Global Agenda 3 (Energy and Mining) and SDG Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), Goal 13 (climate action) and Goal 17 (Partnerships).

🔗 https://www.jica.go.jp/.../press/2024/20240403_41_01.html

Catching up with the ZIM-SHEP Project!



Market Survey Exercise by Matabeleland North Officers

The Project for Zimbabwe Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (ZIM-SHEP) team conducted SHEP Training of Trainers (ToT) in Matabeleland North province in March and Matabeleland South province in April 2024. A total of 16 agriculture officers from each province took part in the training. Participants included provincial, district, Agricultural Extension Supervisors (AES) and Agriculture Extension Officers (AEO).

The SHEP ToT is an intensive three-day program consisting of a series of lectures and practical exercises. The participatory training gives extension officers hands on knowledge and skills to implement SHEP approach activities in the field. Topics that were covered included

the importance of record keeping, market survey, crop selection and crop calendar making.

In the Market Survey exercise, participants conducted a mock interview with local buyers from Entumbane open market. Participants have gained confidence through the practical exercise.



Mock of Market Survey Exercise by Matabeleland South Officers

In the SHEP ToT of Matabeleland South, the Provincial Director of AGRITEX graced the occasion and gave important insights into the Crop Calendar and Action Plan Making to better understand SHEP. He further proposed that a sensitization workshop be conducted for the 4 non-SHEP districts as they scale up the project. Overall, participants developed action plans that would guide them in the implementation of SHEP activities.

The next activity planned is the ZIM-SHEP's Participatory Baseline Survey to be conducted in each target district.



Discussion of Crop Calendar Making for Matabeleland North



Group photo of Matabeleland South Officers with HQ Officers and Experts

JICA for Sustainable Food and Agricultural Systems to Realize Food Security and Nutrition and Livelihood Improvement



From 2023, JICA has been deploying rice experts, and providing seed and training, targeted at increasing rice production across Zimbabwe. JICA in collaboration with Agricultural Research, Innovation and Development (ARID) did a pilot of planting the New Rice for Africa (NERICA), a type of rice that is a cross of Asia and Africa rice which has high yield potential and resistant to pests and diseases, at different demo sites in the peri-urban around Harare and in the Southern and Eastern parts of the country. The pilot was a huge success with the first harvesting done in April 2024 having results of 1kg of seed getting a yield of 50kg of rice in most of the demo sites. Moreover, from the great harvest, the demo sites have gone on to multiply the seed initially provided by JICA, to share with farmers who did not get the opportunity to receive the seed in the last cropping season. Some of this seed will also be given to farmers at new target demo sites to ensure sustainability of rice production.

JICA for Building Resilient Health Systems

■ We are getting better!

JICA is currently rolling out the Project for Quality Improvement of Health Service through 5S-KAIZEN-TQM Approach in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC). We are pleased to share Vol.3 of the newsletter for the project.

- ❖ Read on how JICA is helping to improve health services in 14 hospitals and how results are showing the shift from “We can be better!” to “We are getting better!”

📄 https://www.jica.go.jp/.../2024/05/29/newsletter_03.pdf

Best practice of 5S in hospitals - Store Room of Gwanda PH -

BEFORE

AFTER

The store room in Gwanda Provincial Hospital has resulted in improved work efficiency, effective stock management, cost reduction, and enhanced safety for staff through these Quick KAIZEN / 5S activities. Well done!!

- Too much time taken to locate the items needed
- Poor stock management
- Negative comments on general cleanliness from other staff members
- Necessary are hidden
- Accidents and incidents to staff due to disorganized stores.
- Stock management was improved
- Cleanliness and tidiness are maintained
- Time to locate items is reduced
- Teamwork and morale are strengthened
- Necessary items are placed at appropriate places
- Cost efficiency is ensured through reduction of excess inventory

QIT of Gwanda PH

Project for Quality Improvement of Health Service Through 5S-KAIZEN-TQM Approach (ZIM-QIPS)

JICA Project Newsletter

We Are Getting Better!

Vol.3
April, 2024

Group photo of participants in the Annual Progress Report Meeting 2024, Harare

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT MEETING 2024 WAS CONDUCTED SUCCESSFULLY!

Welcome Ms. Rina Koda



Rina Koda

In April, JICA Zimbabwe welcomed new Marketing volunteer, Ms. Rina Koda to the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) team. Ms. Koda who is attached to the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA) for the next two years, brings in knowledge, having worked in the tourism sector and promoted mutual understanding and exchange between young people in Japan and young people from USA, UK, France, Germany, and China.

Baseball for Socio-Economic Development

Volunteers have contributed immensely to the socio-economic development of Zimbabwe and one key area they have contributed to is the field of sport particularly baseball, through working with baseball associations under the Zimbabwe Baseball Association and affiliated to the Sports and Recreation Commission. Volunteers have facilitated baseball coaching and officiating clinics, trained Zimbabwe baseball national teams and worked with community and schools' teams.



Baseball volunteer coaches, Ryosuke Kasai and Aymu Murata pictured with a team they are coaching

Mutare Polytechnic Successfully Hosted a Japanese Cuisine Cooking Lesson



Mutare Polytechnic Students Undertaking the Cooking Lesson

In May, Tourism and Hospitality Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV), Mr. Shingo Tada organised a colourful cooking lesson that was facilitated by the Japanese Ambassador's renowned official Chef Arakida at Mutare Polytechnic. The cooking lesson was held under the theme – International Friendship Japanese Cooking Class “Chef Arakida Japanese Cuisine Promotion”. Chef Arakida showed the students how to prepare ‘Maki’ Sushi. The lesson was a good initiate to promote gastronomy tourism.

JOCVs Sharing on JICA's Development Impact



In April, JOCVs together with the JICA Zimbabwe team showcased JICA activities and impact to date at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair. Visitors to the JICA stand also got to learn the Japanese culture and some Japanese games like origami, kendama, and koma, and got souvenirs of their names in Japanese (shodo) courtesy of JOCVs.

JICA for capacity development >>>



Ms. Khetiwe Nungu, Mr. Mkhunjulelwa Ndlovu, Mr. Nobert Masiwa and Mr. Innocent Shayamano participated in a KCCP course, “Market-Oriented Agriculture Promotion (Planning and Management)” online from April 25 to May 7, 2024 and in Japan from May 12 to 25, 2024. The training was part of the ongoing support from JICA to ensure the success of the SHEP project that promotes market-oriented agriculture for small holder farmers. The participants learnt how to effectively apply the SHEP approach and shared experiences with others from Kenya, Lesotho, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Zambia.



In the spirit of learning from each other and growing and developing together, JICA Zimbabwe sent off Irrigation Engineers from Department of Irrigation and ZINWA, Ms. Nomsa Moyo and Mr. Isaiah Chikurumhe, who from June 16 are participating in the KCCP course “Maintenance, Operation and Management of Irrigation Facilities (A) in Japan. They will come back equipped to address climate change, transfer technology to farmers and plan for appropriate operation, maintenance, and management of irrigation facilities.



Mr. Tariro Mandisodza, an Engineer at the Department of Irrigation undertook training in “Participatory Irrigation Management System for Paddies (A)” from May 12 to June 26 in Japan. He was enthused to learn from Japan’s experience, enjoy their food and places of leisure, and to embrace their diversity, culture and beliefs.



JICA Zimbabwe continues its drive to ensure sustainable projects that benefit future generations. One such project is the rice production that aims to improve nutrition, livelihoods, and food security. To ensure sustainability of this project, Ms. Jane Makoni is undertaking training in Japan for “Development of Core Agricultural Researcher for Promotion of Rice Production in Sub-Saharan Africa” from June 26 to August 10, 2024. Ms. Makoni who is a Researcher at Agricultural Research, Innovation and Development (ARID), was also a participant in rice training provided by JICA in Uganda last year July. The past and current training will help her to formulate research plans for rice development that favours the promotion of rice production in Zimbabwe. She and participants from 7 other countries and Japanese researchers will form international networks and share knowledge and ideas for solving issues they face in their respective countries.

Contact Us >>>

Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking time to read JICA Zimbabwe Newsletter and thank you for your support during the year. 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.

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