



RESCAP Weekly Progress in **DECEMBER 2014**

RESCAP stands for “Rural Extension Service Capacity Advancement Project through PaViDIA Approach”

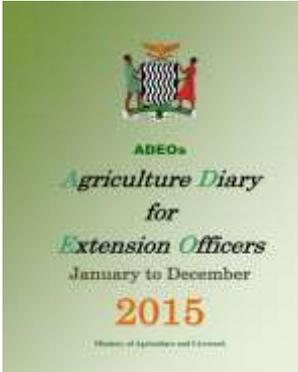
Extension Service in Action!

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Date	Main Activities in This Week (■ HQ, ■ Northern ■ Lusaka)	News around
1 Mon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Preparation of the Project Completion Report ■ Preparation for the closure of Project Office 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Words from Advisor, Mr. Hirohiko ASADA (Coordinator/ Training Management)</i></p> <p>I joined the RESCAP 3 years ago to take over from the former coordinator, Ms. Hasegawa in November 2011. Thanks to many colleagues who have worked with me under the RESCAP. I am happy to be a part of the team to carry out such significant works to improve the extension service in Zambia. During the project, I was happy to see the change in the performance of the District Management such as report submission and the formulation of Extension Strategy, utilization of ADEOs, a number of demonstration sites set up by Camp Officers and so on. For the success of the project, I believe it is important to pay attention to daily basic things and accomplish to the end. And I also believe that such foundations of the extension management enable us to expand the impact of improved services nationwide. I think what the RESCAP established is a platform for extension services. New technologies, crops, varieties and whatever can be delivered to farmers through the platform which consist of the extension strategy, Training of Trainer, In-Service Training, Demo calendar and ADEOs. Of course, there are many pending issues remained, but I hope this platform helps your extension service delivery and improve production and productivity of small scale farmers. I would like to thank you all again and wish you all the best!</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>
2 Tue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Preparation of the Project Completion Report ■ Preparation for the closure of Project Office 	
3 Wed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Preparation of the Project Completion Report ■ Preparation for the closure of Project Office 	
4 Thu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Preparation of the Project Completion Report ■ Preparation for the closure of Project Office 	
5 Fri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Preparation of the Project Completion Report ■ Preparation for the closure of Project Office 	
Upcoming Events/ Activities		This Week's Picture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closure of RESCAP Office in the MAL HQ 12th December 2014 - Completion of the Project 14th December 2014 		<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“ADEOs 2015 is under preparation!”</i></p> <p>One of the most famous booklets of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, “Agriculture Diary for Extension Officers (ADEOs) is being prepared for 2015 Version. ADEOs since 2012 has been prepared and distributed to all Extension Officers, District and Provincial staff nationwide as a planning and monitoring tool for extension services at field level with support of RESCAP. ADEOS also has useful technical references for extension officers with on crop production, aquaculture and livestock. This year, Preparations of ADEOs are managed by DOA/MAL staff only with partnership with more companies which are willing to be partners with ADEOs!</p>

Report on Mushroom Production Training for Luapula Province

From PAO, Luapula Province, Mr. Osbert Hamweete

Mushrooms are an important part of human diet providing both nutritional and medicinal value to humans. The good news is that mushrooms can be grown like other crops. With the financial support from the Programme for Luapula Agricultural and Rural Development Phase II (PLARD II), a training workshop was conducted at Kasama FI from 24-26 November 2014 for two (2) Food and Nutrition Officers from Mansa and Samfya districts, five (5) Officers in charge of FTCs and Farm Institute for Mwense, Mwansabombwe, Nchelege, Samfya and Mansa farm Institute, SAO Mwense and 1 Biologist at the province and PAO Luapula. The training was conducted to build capacity of participants in spawn and mushroom production. The training workshop was facilitated by staff at Kasama Farm Institute, Japanese Volunteers and Misamfu Research Station.



The training programme was two-fold namely, spawn production and mushroom production. On the first day, the training was opened by the Kasama Farm Institute principal and

he give a brief background to the establishment of Oyster mushroom production at KFI and how it has attracted attention from farmers from various districts in Northern province.

The training started with a practical on soya bean substrate preparation for mushroom production. Participants were taken through the process of chopping the soya bean stalk into small pieces and later on practiced the process. Thereafter, participants practiced the sterilization of the prepared substrate by immersion method where the substrate is immersed in boiling water at regulated boiling temperature. After the substrate preparation session for mushroom production, participants were taken through the theory aspect of spawn production by the facilitator from Misanfu research station. Participants were then taken through the practical process of substrate preparation for spawn production by tissue culture method. This was a hands-on session where participants learned how to prepare the potato substrate agar (PDA) used to culture the mushroom spawn and millet and sorghum substrate also used to subculture the spawn.

On the second day, participants had practical lesson preparation procedure for spawning in the spawning room. Participants also visited the mushroom fruiting room where harvesting of the mushroom was practiced. Hygiene, disease identification and control and watering of the mushroom were key topics explained and then practiced by the participants. The second day concluded with the preparation of the action plan by the MAL officers from Luapula with the guidance and input of the facilitator at KFI and Misanfu Research Station. The

officers prepared an action plan to be implemented starting January 2015 on both spawn production to be based in Mansa and mushroom production demos to be based at FTCs in Mwense, Nchelenge, Mwansabombwe and Samfya. The action plans also highlighted proposed field days and trainings to be conducted for extension officers and farmers on mushroom production in Luapula province.



The third day was characterized by field visits made to Misanfu Research Station spawn production lab where participants were familiarized with equipment and

materials found and used in the lab for spawn production. This was a familiarization visit for spawn production lab which was planned to be established in Mansa. Other field visits were made to Lwabwe camp where two cooperatives (Lwabwe and kabole) and an individual farmer in Musa camp were visited to observe and share their experiences on mushroom production.

During the training, participants appreciated the practical aspects which dominated the training from the first day to the last day. Participants appreciated the processes well on both spawn and mushroom production. During the sterilization and substrate preparation process for mushroom production, the officer from Nchelenge wanted to know what other substrates can be used in place of soya beans as the substrate is not readily available in some districts in Luapula owing to the limited number of farmers who are into soya bean production. It was discussed that other locally available substrates such as groundnuts or beans can be used. However, it was strongly recommended that soya bean substrate be used since it has been proved to work well and for the fact that mushroom production was just a new activity starting in Luapula.

During the plenary sessions, participants also wanted to know the market potential for Oyster mushroom and adoption of the technology for farmers in Northern Province. The unit manager Mr. Chikumbi explained that market was readily available in the province both for the mushroom and the spawn. He also indicated that the adoption rate was so far good as most farmers and farmer groups within Kasama district and beyond have started the mushroom production business; especially after the field day they held which saw two cooperatives.

The group agreed to set up a spawn production lab in Mansa in collaboration with ZARI Mansa and thereafter establish mushroom production demos at their respective FTCs. The KFI and Misanfu Research Station will play a monitoring and advisory role through the process of actualizing the formulated action plan. Field days and cooking demonstrations will be conducted at FTCs after which Extension officers and farmers from interested camps will be trained and demos established at sites of identified interest groups and individual farmers. Meanwhile, FTCs will continue to practice the knowledge they acquired from the training and ensure that the mushroom production dream in Luapula Province becomes a reality.