 

**Farmer to Farmer East Africa**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

**NOTE: THIS SCOPE OF WORK AWAITING FINAL EDITS**

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| **Summary Information** | |
| Assignment code | ET75 |
| Country | Ethiopia |
| Country Project | Grain Crops Production and Sector Support |
| Host Organization | Ethiopian Catholic Church social and Development Coordination Office of Harar (ECC-SDCOH) |
| Host partner | Resilience through Enhanced Adaptation, Action-learning and Partnership (REAAP) |
| Assignment Title | Skill training on improved rain water harvesting practices |
| Assignment preferred dates | March to June 2017 |
| Objective assignment | Equip smallholder farmers with water harvesting technologies and improved soil and water conservation practices in East and west Hararghie Zones of REAAP districts (Woredas). |
| Desired volunteer skill/expertise | Irrigation engineer and other related field with broad experience in smallholder farming systems focusing mainly on water harvesting, irrigation and soil and water conservation practices |

1. **BACKGROUND**

The Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) East Africa program is a program that leverages US volunteer’s expertise to assist small holder farmers and small scale processors in East Africa to improve their business practices through volunteer assignments conducted with host organizations. Through F2F intervention, CRS will improve the livelihoods and nutritional status of significant numbers of low income households by: i) broadening their participation in established commodity value chains as producers and service providers; ii) strengthening community resilience to shocks such as droughts that adversely affect livelihoods; and iii) preserving/enhancing natural resources upon which most rural communities depend. CRS will also increase the American public’s understanding of international development programs and foster increased cross-cultural understanding between host countries and US volunteers.

Currently, Ethiopia’s population is facing serious challenges of resource depletion and the need to survive under stress. Ethiopia has to feed itself by enhancing its agricultural production, yet it’s predominantly rain fed agriculture has been constrained by the unpredictable variability of the rainfall pattern. Obviously, this situation brings about the need to maximize the use of existing or unexploited sources of freshwater. Given the good potential of Ethiopia’s agro-climatic resources, the prevailing limitations in terms of rainfall distribution and amount could be effectively addressed if rainwater harvesting is seriously taken. Applications of rainwater-harvesting techniques, however, are constrained by the limited availability of information on the technologies and relevant traditional practices, and inadequate attention to avail and promote suitable extension packages to the end users.

Impact of climate change occurs on ecosystem, food security, water resources and health. It is argued that the impact in water resource is central to all other impacts. Hence, water sector seek alternative water resource development and management system. Intergovernmental Panel for climate change (IPCC) has listed water harvesting as a key strategy planned for adaptation in the water sector. In many parts of Hararghie, rain fall and water scarcity has made cultivation of old farmland impossible. Farmers have been forced to constantly cultivate new and more marginal areas. For instance, farmers have altered the forest and watershed areas in to cultivated land in way that probably influence the local rain fall pattern and microclimate.

The purpose of F2F intervention through volunteer technical assistance is to contribute to improving the knowledge and skills of the smallholder farmers through training and on-farm practical demonstrations on good irrigation practices as well as soil and water conservation measures. Volunteers will promote use of improved technologies to increase grain production levels. Grain sub-sector development is an important sector for food security and agricultural development at ECC-SDCOH area of jurisdiction.

Resilience through Enhanced Adaptation, Action- learning, and Partnership (REAAP), a three-year activity funded by USAID/OFDA, Global Climate Change Initiative (GCC) and Feed the Future Initiative (FtF) and implemented in six drought- prone and food insecure Woredas (Fedis, Midhega Tola and Meta) of East Hararghe Zone and (Mieso, Oda Bultum and Tulo) of West Hararghe Zone of Oromia regional state.

It is implemented through a consortium, led by CRS, with three members (ECC-SDCOH, HI and Cordaid). REAAP will strengthen linkages and learning through a focus on Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CM-DRR) process, which will enhance community learning and action by highlighting the link and inter-dependencies among livelihoods, food security, nutrition, and natural resource management and by creating community DRR action plans.

REAAP is developed to have sustainably increased resilience and reduced long term vulnerability to current and future climate change and climate-related shocks and stresses for 95,000 households among communities live in three livelihood zones (farming, agro pastoral and pastoral) in 100 kebeles, six woredas of East and West Hararaghe Zones. ECC-SDCOH is one of the consortium members responsible to implement at grass root level, it has many years of experience in community resilience, food security and agricultural development projects in the eastern part of Ethiopia.

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

The use of water resources to meet the socio-economic needs of the Ethiopian people is very limited due to various constraints. The major limitation lies in the uneven distributions and mismatch of the available water resources with the agro-ecological and settlement patterns of the country. Moreover, despite Ethiopia’s high aggregate annual rainfall, it falls either too early or too late with a characteristic high intra- and inter-annual variation in quantity and in terms of the spatial and temporal distributions of the seasonal rainfall.

Water scarcity is a critical issue for many developing countries like Ethiopia. It has long been understood that intensive water resource development can have a decisive role in the economic and social development of a country and in alleviating drought. In eastern Ethiopia, in an effort to address the problems of recurrent drought and food insecurity, attempts are being made to harvest runoff water for use both in households and small-scale irrigation schemes. It is recognized that the construction of water harvesting structures with proper irrigation and agronomic services will result in micro-climatic and environmental changes with positive impact on sustained productivity. Realizing the food insecurity situation of REAAP district of the Oromia region, the west and east HCS office is presently supporting small holder farmers in 5o different communities through CM-DRR approaches. Communities will the lead to organize labor to establish different water harvesting practices for household, livestock use and to grow and produce various horticultural crops using spate irrigation farming system.

ECC-SDCOH, REAAP project requested CRS for F2F volunteer assistance and skills transfer on improved rain water harvesting practices, to address the challenges of water scarcity for agricultural productivity. An F2F volunteer specialist will address these knowledge gaps through a variety of training interventions and technical assistances.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The annual rainfall distribution of most parts of Ethiopia, including the highlands, is not only lacking in uniformity but also highly unpredictable in terms of inter-annual variations. Therefore, overcoming the limitations of these arid and semi-arid areas and making good use of the vast agricultural potential under the Ethiopian context is a necessity rather than a choice, which requires appropriate intervention to address the prevailing constraints.

Therefore, the objectiveof this volunteer assignment is to build the technical knowledge/skills of, 50 DRR facilitator, 15 DAs and 7 REAAP staffs as a training of trainers and about 70 smallholder farmers on improved rain water harvesting technologies and practices. Technical assistance in the form of training in improved water harvesting practices and relevant technologies will promote conservation friendly and on-farm knowledge transfer. This volunteer’s assignment will transfer knowledge to the poor smallholder farmers either directly by the volunteer or by transferring the improved knowledge of the volunteer through the TOT (i.e. DRR facilitators, extension agents and relevant REAAP’s staff members).

Specific tasks for this volunteer assignment are:

* To train on new innovation and usage of improved rain water harvesting technologies/practices
* Demonstrate on farms soil moisture harvesting technologies Demonstrating rain water harvesting practices like, spring development in watershed areas, flood diversion and spate irrigation practices

**Host contribution** – ECC-SDCOH will select farmers from REAAP operation areas.The host will also avail key personnel to facilitate the volunteer successfully completed the assignment through accompanying the volunteer to the project sites and translation. The host will make all logistical arrangements to facilitate the volunteer access to the scheduled training forums the host or by government agency, so that the volunteer conducts the TOT training to 50 DRR facilitators, 15 DAs and seven REAAP staff. The host will also provide the volunteer with office space. A CRS car at Dire Dawa CRS PDP will be requested and assigned to support the volunteer for field travel within the assignment radius.

1. **ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

It is anticipated that this volunteer assignment will contribute to improving soil and water conservation and hence on the productivity of the cultivated land through improved water and land management practices transferred to staff of ECC-SDCOH (, DRR facilitators DAs and REAAP staff), its key partners (DAs) and the smallholder farmers’ beneficiaries. During volunteer’s intervention, anticipated impacts are:

* + Farmers acquainted with improved water harvesting practices, efficient use of harvested water, water harvesting calendar, and ability to harvest moisture and runoff water on their farm land and adopt other relevant improved technologies
  + Farmers apply the improved conservation and harvesting technologies for higher yields and agronomic practices

The anticipated deliverables that can be accomplished by the volunteers can also include:

* + Improved land management and water harvesting technologies transferred,
  + Training and on-farm demonstrations conducted, Field report with recommendation submitted and cash advanced reconciled
  + Presentation for CRS staff and USAID
  + Outreach events conducted in the US

1. **SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN ETHIOPIA**

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| Day | Activity |
| Day 1 | Arrival to Ethiopia. The volunteer will be met at Bole Airport by CRS’s client hotel Churchill (churchillhotel@ethionet.et / info@churchillhoteladdis; phone # 0111111212) or another client hotel with a placard bearing “CRS logo and volunteer name”. |
| Day 2 | Briefing meeting at CRS office with CRS F2F staff and become fully briefed on logistics and itinerary of trip. Discuss anticipated outcomes and work plan, |
| Day 3 | * Flight to Dire Dawa (45 minutes) * First hand briefing on the main objectives and modality of the assignment and adjust the agenda for the coming days. Briefing with the field staff will continued |
| Day 4 | Introduction with ECC-SDCOH and REAAP staff. |
| Day 5-6 | Travel to REAAP operation Woredas meeting with the Woreda staff and smallholder farmers to understand their challenges focusing on seasonal water harvesting practices. |
| Days 7 | **Rest day:** |
| Day 8 | Based on information gathered and gaps identified, prepare training materials |
| Day 9-13 | Conduct relevant trainings to DRR facilitators, DA, key REAAP personnel and selected farmers’ beneficiaries |
| Day 14 | **Rest day** |
| Day 15-17 | Continue the training with other groups |
| Day 18 | Wrap-up trainings emphasizing key concepts of the assignment. Participants evaluate the overall technical innovations/assistances and the training, and together with the volunteer discuss final report recommendations. |
| Day 19 | Group presentation (morning) and Volunteer flight back to Addis Ababa (afternoon). Finalize advances and expenditures with finance. Debriefing at CRS office with USAID Mission and CRS staff. |
| Day 20 | Volunteer will finalize his/her reporting and fill out all necessary M&E forms and handover to CRS F2F staff |
| Day 21 | Depart for USA |
| TBD | Outreach event when back in the US |

1. **DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS**

The volunteer will have the following qualifications and competencies:

* Knowledge and demonstrated experience (water harvesting for irrigation) in small holder farmers and others like, on soil fertility management conservation agriculture including intercropping, seed system, varietal development, , soil fertility management, on-farm natural resources and or biodiversity conservation, ploughing and farm implements, etc.
* Knowledge and demonstrated experience on water harvesting technologies and soil fertility management practices,
* Experience in training of extension workers, development agents, farmers, cooperative leaders, members of community based organizations (CBOs), etc;
* Proven skills in modern farming technologies for smallholder farmers on grains ;
* Good communication skills
* Physically fit

1. **ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS**

Before travelling to the host at the assignment place (Dire Dawa), the volunteer will stay in Addis Ababa at one of the CRS’s client hotels Churchill (churchillhotel@ethionet.et / info@churchillhoteladdis; phone # 0111111212) or another client hotel that will be communicated prior to volunteer. At the assignment site, the volunteer will stay in host’s guesthouse in Dire Dawa city and in other hotels of the travelling districts during fieldwork days. CRS will cater for volunteer accommodations and assignment related living costs. The volunteer shall get an advance which has to be cleared before departing Ethiopia. For more information, please refer to country information that will be provided.

The hotel or CRS will arrange a vehicle for short travel from the hotel to CRS and vice versa in Addis Ababa. CRS will purchase air tickets and accompany travel to assignment place. All required logistic facilities and materials will be prepared ahead of time and will be provided to the volunteer. Any other required logistics and facilities can also be requested by the volunteer during her/his stay in Addis Ababa.

1. **RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS**

* Although CRS F2F has developed such hinting SOW, the volunteer can fine-tune through her/his professional qualification to successfully carry out this small scale based agricultural knowledge/skill transfer program in water harvesting. Prior to travelling to Ethiopia, s/he will be expected to collect relevant technological information and modeling aids. CRS F2F relies on the volunteer to design appropriate methodologies to address the suggested bottlenecks and associated missing gaps of the smallholding farmers based on this indicative SOW.
* Prior to travel, the volunteer will be advised to prepare necessary training and demonstrating aids and written handouts. Softcopies of the handouts and any other paper materials can be printed for immediate use in Ethiopia CRS office at Addis Ababa on request by the volunteer. If the volunteer requires use of simple training aids like flip charts, markers, masking tapes, etc, s/he should make the request and collect from the CRS F2F Office in Addis Ababa prior to travel to the assignment place. Translation of handouts to local language could be done in the locality of the assignment, if shortly required. Depending on the meeting places, the volunteer may use a laptop and projector for power point presentations.
* The volunteer is also recommended to start learning and adapting to the local condition of Ethiopia and the assignment/working places using all opportunities of contacts and communications in the country soon after arrival. Reading the Ethiopian Airlines’ magazine about Ethiopia can be easily started in the airplane, if the flight to Ethiopia will be the Ethiopian Airlines.

1. **KEY CONTACTS**

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