 

**Farmer-to-Farmer East Africa**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

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| **Summary Information** | |
| Assignment code | ET-98 |
| Country | Ethiopia |
| Country Project | Horticulture Crop Production and Sector Support |
| Host Organization | Social Development Coordinating Office of Robe (SDCOR) |
| Assignment Title | Small scale irrigation technologies and drip kit installation |
| Preferred Dates | November 2017 - Jan 2018 |
| Assignment objectives | * Train on various types of modern small scale irrigation (SSI) technologies * Demonstrate installation of drip irrigation kits |
| Desired Volunteer’ Skill/Expertise | * Experience in drip and small scale irrigation technologies and preferably graduate in the area of irrigation * Experience in vegetable and fruit farming using irrigation system |

1. **BACKGROUND**

The Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) East Africa program 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 volunteer.

Ethiopia faces challenges of increasing population pressure and low levels of agricultural productivity, which contribute to food insecurity and poor nutrition. Increasing production and diversification of vegetable crops must be coupled with behavior change of households (HHs) to increase productivity levels and subsequently improve incomes and nutrition status at HHs levels.

Use of low levels of modern production technologies and practices including in irrigation farming system contribute to yields that are lower than would otherwise be expected. Yet, Ethiopia has the potential for its development both in terms of vast suitable land and fresh water resources that can be utilizes for irrigation. Despite the potential of the irrigation sector; it is still in an infant stage and therefore not contributing to agricultural sector growth. Since a limited amount of land in Ethiopia is currently cultivated using irrigation, the majority of crop production is rain-fed. However, the horticulture sector, including fruit and vegetable crops, are a priority for the Agricultural Growth Program (AGP) of the Ethiopian government.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Robe Catholic secretariat (RCS) is operating in Oromia regional state of West Arsi, Bale and Afder Zones. Currently the main office of the secretariat is found in Koffelle town and Dollo mena is one of the three branches of RCS. The organization has three hectares of demonstration field. And beneficiary farmers are learning practical knowledge and skill from the demo field. Farmers in the area are currently growing papaya, banana, mango and other tropical fruit species. The vegetable crops include tomato, garlic, Swiss chard, onion, and ginger. The water source for most horticultural crop production activity is river diversion. A NGO built a cement canal in the past but with a skill and knowledge gap farmers do not know when and how to irrigate lands.

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

The Robe secretariat has 3 hectares for demonstration farming. The farm is in the tropical lowland agro-ecology zone where there are high evaporation rates due to the high temperature. In normal years annual precipitation is low for crop production in the main season (June to September), however both rain fed and irrigation crop farming systems are used, though are predominantly conventional type of production system. The main water source for small-scale irrigation is river diversion, which is diverted to a reservoir and distributed throughout the farm by gravitational force in an earthen canal.

In general, the major production constraints impeding irrigation development in the area are:

* Poor irrigation scheduling/crop-water-requirement balance
* Inefficient water utilization irrigation method
* Low-technology of the overall existing production systems
* Limited access to improved irrigation technologies and inadequate research support
* Lack of trained manpower

To raise farmer’s awareness and to modernize the irrigation system, the host requested CRS, F2F program to get volunteer technical assistance. Thus, an F2F volunteer specialist on small-scale irrigation will address these knowledge gaps through a variety of training interventions and technical assistance for farmers both at Kofelle and Dollo Mena areas.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The objective of this particular volunteer assignment is to train and/or technically assist the host and government staffs and smallholder farmers on practical modern irrigation methods, improved production practices of tropical fruit and vegetable crops and installation of drip irrigation. The volunteer will assess current practices and recommend improved practices through a series of training events and practical field demonstrations, as applicable. The specific objectives of this assignment are to:

* Upgrade the existing and develop new small-scale drip irrigation systems.
* Rehabilitate the existing irrigation schemes suffering from inappropriate design and lack of proper operation and management
* Demonstrate drip kit installation

Anticipated topics for training/technical assistance include but are not limited to the following:

* Practical drip irrigation methods that can be adopted for the current irrigation schemes
* Good irrigation agronomic technologies and practices
* Crop water requirements

**Host contribution** – The host has committed to mobilize the trainees to receive the volunteer’s technical and practical assistance. The host will also avail key personnel to work closely with the volunteer at all times, assisting her/him during training and practical demonstration sessions, ensuring translation to the local language and advising on the culture of the organization. The host will also provide office space and furniture for the volunteer as required. CRS will cover lodging costs against receipts and other related costs. In coordination with the host and the volunteer, CRS will also arrange and pay for transport services or reimburse for fuel used when a volunteer traveling to provide technical assistance during the assignment period.

**ASSIGNMENT DELIVERABLES**

It is anticipated that this volunteer assignment will improve the beneficiaries’ knowledge and skills on basic principles of modern or adaptable small scale drip irrigation methods for improved fruit and vegetable production that will ultimately lead to sustainable yield increases. The major anticipated outputs of this assignment include, but not limited to:

* + Prepare initial materials, presentation and work plan in collaboration with the host and beneficiaries
  + Train and technically assist beneficiaries on proper drip irrigation methods and improved irrigable fruit and vegetable production technologies/practices
* If possible, develop training of trainers guidelines or handouts
* Submit field trip report with recommendations to the host organization and CRS
* Reconcile logistics and advances (if any) with CRS
* Conduct a final debriefing (PowerPoint presentation) with the host organization (plus key stakeholders) and CRS/USAID

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

| **Day** | **Activity** |
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| Days 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 | * Take hotel shuttle to CRS office (CRS working days are Monday to Friday from 8:00AM to 5:00 PM) * Welcoming by CRS, and briefing meeting on security, general orientation, logistic and reporting formats. * Discuss anticipated outcomes and work plan |
| Days 3 | * Car travel to the assignment site (Kofele town (270 kms from Addis Ababa). * S/he will be introduced with the host and will be accommodated at Koffele town. If time permits, general orientation with the host will be pursued. * Depending on the schedule with the host, the volunteer might travel to Dolo Mena in the first week |
| Days 4 | * First hand briefing on the main objectives and modality of the assignment and adjust the agenda for the coming days (work planning session). * Further identify skill and training gaps through visiting and discussing with clients/customers. * Based on information gathered and gaps identified, enrich the prepared training materials incorporating hands-on practices. * Firsthand information/data collection by volunteers as applicable. |
| Day 5-6 | * Conduct firsthand training and presentation to staffs and coop members * Assess and refine the quality of trainings through feedback and observations. |
| Day 7 | * Local market visit and collect information, or travel to another site |
| **Day 8** | **Rest day.** |
| Days 9-14 | * Continuation of the technical assistances (either Koffele or Dolo Mena) |
| **Day 15** | **Rest day** |
| Days 16-17 | Trainings and technical assistance |
| Day 18 | Wrap up trainings and emphasize key concepts of assignment. Participants evaluate the training and together with the volunteer discuss final report recommendations. |
| Day 19 | * Group presentation to the host in the presentation of CRS * Volunteer travels back to Addis Ababa |
| Day 20 | * Finalize reimbursement expenditures and liquidations (if any) with finance. * Finalizes his/her reporting and submit M&E forms to CRS F2F staff. * Debriefing at with CRS staff and/or USAID Mission |
| Day 21 | Complete any unaccomplished activities and depart for the USA |
| TBD | Outreach event when back in the US |

1. **DESIRABLE VOLUNTEER SKILLS**

The volunteer will have the following qualifications and competencies:

* Irrigable fruit/horticulture crops specialist with demonstrated experience in irrigation farming and tropical fruit production and management
* Experience in adult and youth training and technical assistance in small scale irrigation
* Experience in installation of drip irrigation kit
* Willingness and interest to train and technically assist to orphan girls and nuns
* Willingness to travel in rural areas and in areas of small-scale irrigation schemes
* Respect for the cultural and religious norms of the rural people.

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

* Before travelling to the assignment place, the volunteer will stay in Addis Ababa at one of the CRS’s client hotels, Churchill or another hotel that will be booked and confirmed before the volunteer arrival date. The hotel has rooms that include services such as airport pickup and drop-off, breakfast, wireless internet, etc.
* The hotel or CRS will arrange a vehicle for short travel from the hotel to CRS and vice versa while in Addis Ababa.
* All required materials will be prepared ahead of time and will be provided to the volunteer. CRS Ethiopia will provide the volunteer with a laptop computer (if s/he needs), local internet dongle (modem/EVDO) and mobile phone with charged local SIM-card. Any other required logistics and facilities can also be requested by the volunteer during her/his stay in Addis Ababa.
* CRS will arrange transport vehicle and as well as will accompany the volunteer to the assignment site.
* During the assignment period, the volunteer will stay at the host guesthouse or a hotel at Koffele town. The accommodation details will be confirmed prior to the volunteer arrival in country.
* CRS Ethiopia will pay for guesthouse or hotel accommodations
* CRS HQ will provide the volunteer with per diem advance to cater for meals and incidentals.
* CRS Ethiopia will also reimburse the volunteer with laundry costs against receipts.
* Before departing to US, the volunteer will also liquidate advances (if any) at CRS Ethiopia.
* For more information, please refer to country information that will be provided.

1. **Recommended Assignment Preparations**

* Although CRS F2F has developed such hinting SOW, the volunteer can fine-tune through her/his professional qualifications to successfully carry out this assignment.
* The assignment site is in dry lowland area where malaria is prevalent. Therefore, having precautions in taking pills or vaccination for malaria and (maybe also for cholera) upon recommendations by her/his doctors/health professionals in US is advisable.
* Prior to travel, the volunteer is advised to prepare necessary training and demonstration aids and written handouts. Softcopies of the handouts and any other paper materials can be printed for immediate use at the CRS office in Addis Ababa on request by the volunteer.
* If the volunteer requires use of simple training aids like flip charts, markers or tape s/he should make the request and collect from the CRS office in Addis Ababa prior to travel to the assignment place.
* If required, translation of handouts to the local language can be done in the locality of the assignment, if required.
* Depending on the meeting places and availability of electric power and LCD projector, the volunteer may use a laptop and projector for power point presentations.

1. **KEY CONTACTS**

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| **Host Organization:** | |
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1. World Bank (2010): Ethiopian Agricultural Growth Project (AGP) Project Information Document (PID)-Appraisal Stage, Report No.: Ab5416 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)