

**Feed the Future Sierra Leone Farmer to Farmer Program**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

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| **Summary Information** | |
| **Assignment Code** | **SL 19** |
| Country | Sierra Leone |
| Country Project | Horticulture Country Project |
| Host Organization | Community Aid - Sierra Leone |
| Assignment Title | Improved Vegetable production technologies |
| Type of Volunteer Assistance: | **Technology Transfer (T)** |
| Type of Value Chain Activity: | **On Farm Production (F)** |
| Assignment preferred dates | October - December, 2017 |
| Objective: | Provide technical support to Community Aid SL and its partner Farmer Based Organization (FBO) members on improved vegetable production |
| Desired volunteer skill/expertise | * Formal qualifications in agriculture * Good experience in horticulture/vegetables production * Experience working with farmers on using improved inputs/technologies in vegetable production * Good communication skills |

1. **BACKGROUND**

Community Aid-Sierra Leone (CASL) is a local Non-Governmental Organization, registered with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, and the Sierra Leone Association of Non-Governmental Organizations. The organization has its Head Office situated in Freetown, and branch offices in Tonkolili and Moyamba Districts. CASL targets youth, women, children, disabled persons, orphans and farmers.

CASL was formed in 2003. It started as a community development association by the inhabitants of Gbonkolenken Chiefdom in Tonkolili District, with the initial goal of engaging in agricultural activities, health and sanitation, advocacy, governance and child welfare promotion in their localities. As a result of the organization’s expansion in membership, target beneficiaries and operational areas with a broader mandate to undertake sustainable development initiatives, CASL registered as a national NGO with the Government of Sierra Leone, through the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

CASL has the vision to strengthen the self-development capacities of target beneficiaries and communities for general improvement in their living conditions and life situation in the society.

The organization has the mission of general improvement in the standard of living and welfare of target beneficiaries for the reduction in abject poverty, hunger, teenage pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and promotion of sustainable development, improved health and sanitation, and provision of quality education in their operational areas in Sierra Leone.

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

Sierra Leone has a favorable climate for vegetable production. It has huge potentials for improved production for consumption and marketing. Despite this great potential, vegetable production is mainly practiced in small scale mostly women in the rural communities. Tonkolili is one of the 14 districts of Sierra Leone with potentials for vegetable production. Vegetables can be cultivated for 2 to 3 times per year in most parts of the country.

Vegetable production is faced with many challenges that affect production and productivity. Below are some of the issues around vegetable production:

* Inadequate knowledge and skills by vegetable producers on improved agronomic practices. The application of improved agronomic practices is key to improving vegetable production and productivity. Majority of the producers in Sierra Leone do not have access to improved extension services and therefore use traditional methods of planting, and application of fertilizers without specifications and scale Farmers do not know the exact time to apply fertilizers, if they have access, nor the quantity and methods of application. Farmers need knowledge in the appropriate technologies for improved vegetable production. These small scale farmers also lack skills on other agronomic practices; weeding, disease and pest control, soil fertility management, watering etc.

CASL staff and farmer leaders do not have enough knowledge and skills in improved methodologies and good agronomic practices and are therefore unable to assist the smallholder farmers. They need capacity building support in the best agronomic practices that will enhance vegetable production in their areas of operation. There is need for training materials/ guides that they will use to refresh and transfer knowledge to others.

Community Aid Sierra Leone is requesting a partnership with the Feed the Future Sierra Leone Farmer to Farmer program, to build the capacity of their staff and partner FBO members on improved vegetable production in Gbokolenken chiefdom, Tonkolili district. This request is a result of the inadequate knowledge and skills of their staff and partner FBO members on improved vegetable production.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

Provide technical support to Community Aid Sierra Leone and its partner Farmer Based Organization members on improved vegetable production.

The specific objectives of this assignment are stated below:

1. Train CASL staff and their partner FBO members on good agronomic practices for improved vegetable production, including seed selection, weeding and soil fertility maintenance and improvement for increased productivity
2. Provide training to CASL staff and partner FBO members on the best practices of land preparation for improved vegetable production, including improved ploughing and harrowing, preparation of nurseries and transplanting sites with technical specifications, and appropriate dimensions of planting spaces
3. Train CASL staff and their partner FBO members on improved methodologies of vegetable production, such as methodological packages developed by research institutions
4. Train CASL staff and their partner FBO members on sustainable methodologies that will make vegetables resilient to unpredictable weather conditions. Use of Climate Smart Agriculture knowledge and skills
5. Prepare on farm demonstration for the participants on the use of improved agronomic practices and methodologies of vegetable production for improved production and productivity
6. Develop simple training guides that the trained staff and lead farmers can continue to use in training farmers.

By the end of the training CASL staff and their partner FBO members will have improved knowledge and skills on good agronomic practices and improved methodologies of vegetable production. Participants will gain good understanding of improved methodological packages of vegetable production that is adaptable to the local conditions of the producers. By the end of the assignment, participants will gain good knowledge in Climate Smart Agriculture to tackle the adverse effects of Climate Change.

**D. HOST CONTRIBUTION**

* CASL will assign staff to work closely with the volunteer during the assignment
* CASL will use its financial resources to mobilize staff and partner FBO members to effectively participate training sessions.
* CASL will conduct in-country induction training for the volunteer.

1. **ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**Check that all network cables are plugged in.

* Verify that airplane mode is turned off.
* Make sure your wireless switch is turned on.
* See if you can connect to mobile broadband.
* Restart your router.
* Increased capacity of CASL staff and their partner FBO members on improved agronomic practices and methodologies of vegetable production. Participants will have good understanding of technical specifications for preparing land and planting seedlings for improved vegetable production. Participants will have good understanding of climate smart agriculture approaches to tackle erratic weather conditions against vegetable production.
* Partner FBO members of CASL will adopt the improved practices and methodologies of vegetable production gained from the training.
* CASL staff and partner FBO members will cascade the training to other farmers for improved vegetable production in their communities
* Check that all network cables are plugged in.
* Verify that airplane mode is turned off.
* Make sure your wireless switch is turned on.
* See if you can connect to mobile broadband.
* Restart your router.

1. **DELIVERABLES**

* Volunteer develops user friendly training manual/guide for the participants to enable them refresh their knowledge and transfer knowledge and skills to other farmers
* Established demonstration plot for improved vegetable production
* Volunteer developed simple structure reports that will be shared with stakeholders.
* Volunteer make a Power Point presentation at CRS Country Office in Freetown on the assignment

1. **SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN SIERRA LEONE**

Upon arrival at the Lungi International Airport, the Feed the Future Sierra Leone Farmer to Farmer Volunteer Logistician, Alie Timbo **(cell phone: +23276648010/+23230506922)** and CRS Expeditor, Bai Bai Kamara **(cell phone: +23279735330)** will receive the volunteer, and assist him or her with movements and luggage within the airport before taken to the hotel.

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| Day | Activity |
| Day 1 | Volunteer leaves home country (US) |
| Day 2 | Volunteer arrives at the Lungi International Airport and is assisted by the CRS Expeditor to be accommodated at the Lungi Airport Hotel, if he or she arrives in the evening, to pass the night |
| Day 3 | Volunteer is taken to Makeni from the Airport Hotel by the F2F Logistician and is accommodated at the CRS Guest House, where he/she will stay throughout the assignment. |
| Day 4 | Volunteer is taken to the Feed the Future field office in Magburaka for introductions and security briefing.  Volunteer is taken by the F2F Program Coordinator to the host office location in Magburaka for introductions and local cultural briefing |
| Day 5-8 | Volunteer train CASL staff and their partner FBO members on good agronomic practices for improved vegetable production, including seed selection, weeding and soil fertility maintenance and improvement for increased productivity |
| Day 9 | Volunteer rest for the weekend and prepare for work on the next day |
| Day 10-13 | Volunteer train CASL staff and their partner FBO members on the best practices of land preparation for improved vegetable production, including improved ploughing and harrowing, preparation of nurseries and transplanting sites with technical specifications, and appropriate dimensions of planting spaces |
| Day 14-15 | Volunteer train CASL staff and their partner FBO members on improved methodologies of vegetable production, such as methodological packages developed by research institutions |
| Day 16 | Volunteer rest for the weekend and prepare for work on the next day |
| Day 17-18 | Train CASL staff and their partner FBO members on sustainable methodologies that will make vegetables resilient to unpredictable weather conditions. Use of Climate Smart Agriculture knowledge and skills |
| Day 19 | Volunteer close training |
| Day 20 | Volunteer submits draft power point presentation and end of assignment report to CRS, and travel to Freetown for debriefing at the CRS Country Office |
| Day 21 | Volunteer debrief at CRS office in Freetown, and depart later in the day for home country |
| TBD | Outreach event in the US |

After the volunteer debrief at the CRS Country Office in Freetown, depending on the departure time, he or she will have a 15 minutes’ drive from the CRS Office in Freetown to Aberdeen to board a water taxi that will take him/her to Lungi for departure. The water taxi takes about 20 to 30 minutes to land on the shore in Lungi. At the shore, the passengers will wait for about 10 to 15 minutes for the luggage to be transferred to a mini-bus that will take them to the airport and the passengers will board another mini-bus to the airport for checking and departure. At the airport, it takes an hour or more for the airport authorities to complete checking. However, some flights may delay for about an hour or more, and passengers will be encouraged to exercise patience by the airline.

1. **DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS**

* Formal qualifications in agriculture
* Good experience in horticulture/vegetables production for good marketing and consumption
* Experience working with farmers on using improved inputs/technologies in vegetable production
* Good communication skills

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

Volunteers arriving at the airport before 4 pm will be taken by Alie in a CRS car to Makeni for accommodation at the CRS Guest House. When the volunteer arrives after 5:00 pm, the Logistician or CRS Expeditor will take the guest to the Lungi Airport Hotel, E-mail: ([management.lungihotel@hotmail.com](mailto:management.lungihotel@hotmail.com)) for passing the night. In the morning around 10, the volunteer will be taken by a CRS car to Makeni where he/she will stay at the CRS Guest House throughout the period of the assignment.

CRS will provide transportation for the volunteer from the hotel to the host throughout the assignment.

CRS will provide the volunteer with per diem which will not be accounted for, to be used as expenses for meals and incidentals. For more information, please refer to the country information that will be provided.

1. **RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS**

The volunteer should prepare materials for hand-outs, which can be printed at CRS office in Makeni before commencement of the assignment. Flip charts, markers, masking tapes can be obtained at CRS offices in case the volunteer wishes to make some illustrations. Depending on the training venue the volunteer may use a laptop and projector for power point presentations. However if the training venue is in the community, it will be difficult to use PowerPoint. In this case the volunteer will be expected to prepare training materials and have hand-outs printed at CRS offices for distribution to the participants.

CRS strongly recommends that the volunteer becomes familiar with the Sierra Leone Feed the Future EAIN F2F Program description prior to arrival in the country as well as country information that will be provided.

1. **KEY CONTACTS**

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| **CRS Baltimore** | |
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