

**Farmer to Farmer East Africa**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

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| **Summary Information** | |
| Assignment Code: | **UG117** |
| Country: | Uganda |
| Country Project: | Maize Country Project |
| Host organization: | Little Sisters of Mary Immaculate (Karungu Farm) |
| Type of Volunteer Assistance: | **Technology Transfer (T)** |
| Assignment Title: | **Maize Agronomy** |
| Type of Value Chain Activity: | **On Farm Production (F)** |
| Preferred assignment dates: | Mid - August, 2017 |
| Assignment Objective: | To impart knowledge and skills of better and improved agronomic practices at the sisters’ farm that will result into increased and quality crop yields. |
| Desirable Volunteer qualifications, Knowledge and Skills: | * An agronomist with practical hands-on experience with maize production in tropical conditions. Additional experience with pest and disease identification, weed suppression and soil fertility and erosion management. good communication skills including adult facilitation skills. |

1. **BACKGROUND**

Little Sisters of Mary Immaculate of Gulu is the first Indigenous Institute in Northern Uganda specifically in Gulu. It was founded in 1936 by the Comboni Missionaries, currently operating in 9 dioceses including Hoima diocese where Karungu Farm is located**.** This is a sisters’ congregation comprised of 400 members who commit themselves to the course of the needs of the most vulnerable; children, girls, women, orphans, the destitute, children and youths with disability and the elderly. The Superior General is the top leadership and she is assisted by 4 Councilors who lead the departments of Health, Education, Formation and Development. Each of the departments has a committee and the various programs within them have In-charges, Heads or managers who account to the committees headed by the Councilors.

The objective of the congregation is ***to offer possibilities to uplift the status of the vulnerable through both formal and informal education at all levels and by providing health services, social works and pastoral support.*** The goalis **to *have enlightened the nation for self-reliant citizen-ship by availing needed services in all the places were the sisters are serving. With the core values of being light in darkness by living a simple life for identification with the poor and vulnerable.***

Little Sisters of Mary Immaculate have members of various professionals including; teachers, health workers, social workers and some of them are farmers. Among the farming activities, the congregation carries out agriculture activities on a 100-acre size land at Karungu farm-engaging in crop production (of Maize, beans, groundnuts, potatoes, cassava, millet and sesame) and livestock production (Cattle, Chicken, and goats). The congregation has 4 big pieces of land for farming in Hoima Diocese, Gulu Archdiocese, Arua Diocese and Nebbi diocese. All of them need training support and wish to start with one, Karungu farm located in Kiryandongo district. The farm is seated on an average land size of 100 acres. However, the sisters are utilizing less than 30% of the total land for growing above mentioned crops and keeping few animals, this is attributed to a number of challenges among which are lack of the necessary agronomic skills on how to maximize production- use of poor traditional farming methods, preparing land using hand hoes, planting own saved seeds, planting by seed broadcasting, poor disease surveillance and control), pests and diseases, weeds infestation and soil infertility, and lack of machinery to open up more land for farming as well as purchasing the necessary Agro-inputs due to limited funding. Due to the current subsistence farming, all the crops grown are used to feed the 400 members from other dioceses. However, the plan is to increase crop yields; retain for own consumption and sell the excess to support some of the congregation activities. The purpose of this volunteer technical assistance is to train the sisters in better agronomic practices – tackling issues of GAPs (Good Agricultural Practices) such as seed selection, proper plant spacing, timely planting, fertilizer application, weed management, pest and disease identification and control, basics on soil fertility management, and basics of post-harvest management.

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**.

Agriculture remains the biggest employer of the Ugandan population with over 80% directly or indirectly involved. With an ever increasing Ugandan population at a staggering figure of over 39.2 million by 2015 from the below 20 Million people in 1960s, this exerts a momentum pressure on the Ugandan land because of the more mouth to feed currently. Farming as the biggest source of livelihood of these people, statistics have shown that agricultural productivity cannot neutralize the pace at which population is increasing, hence need for change in the way things have been long done.

For long, poor and traditional methods of farming have been used in Ugandan agriculture, the reason for very low productivity and production. This includes but not limited to use of poor seeds (home saved seeds), over cultivation, soil erosion, use of rudimentally tools, and the current climate change effects of long droughts, floods, increased pests and diseases, increased weeds, landslides and many more; all these have greatly contributed to the low production levels at Karungu Farm. More specifically to Karungu Farm, evidenced during the initial host assessment and through discussions with the farm manager, the 30 acres of land have been primarily farmed using the hand hoes which is labor intensive and results into untimely planting, ultimately affecting the rest of the season’s activities. The farm is also characterized by use of home saved seeds, limited to almost no fertilizer application, rampant infestation by perennial weeds, poor pesticide application – especially for weedicides, mono cropping practices and almost no signs of crop rotation.

With, a vast idle land and the need for increased crop productivity and production amidst all these challenges, Little Sister of Mary Immaculate of Gulu congregation requested CRS Uganda through F2F program to assist them with an expert who would train them in issues related to crop agronomy, hinting on soil and water conservation practices and pests and disease management. The expert wont only train the sisters’ congregation at Karungu farm only but will also include farm managers from other farms, students from the formation in Gulu, such that the knowledge and skills aren’t limited but can reach as many people as possible including neighboring farmers.

1. **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

To impart knowledge and skills of better and improved maize agronomic practices at the sisters’ farm that will result into increased and quality crop yields.

The specific activities will include technical support in the areas of but not limited to:

1. Improved crop agronomy and management with emphasis and practical hands-on on use of improved seeds, better practices such as planting, spacing, weeding, fertilization and weed control.
2. Improved ways of keeping soils fertile and soil moisture to sustain longer crop production.
3. Ways to controlling and managing crop pests and diseases the farm

The volunteer will provide training on the above-mentioned areas to selected managers of the different farms in the archdiocese, student sisters in formation for purposes of sustainability and cascading of the trainings and technologies to reach most the neighboring farmers to realize increased crop production.

1. **ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

After the agronomy assignment, we anticipate that the recommendations left behind by the volunteer if put into use, there is going to be tremendous changes in terms of yields got from the farm(s). This will definitely result from use of improved seeds, practicing all the good agronomic practices as well as conserving the natural resource base for sustainable use and healthy living.

The anticipated deliverables include:

* Trainings conducted and people trained
* Simple training guidelines on good agronomic practices (GAPs) of major crops grown at the farm including a section of soil fertility management (basics)
* Debriefing with USAID and in country group presentations after assignment
* Field trip report and expense report
* Outreach activity, press release or a media event back in US

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

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| Day | Activity |
| Day 1: | Travel from home to US international airport |
| Day 2 | Arrival at Uganda Entebbe Airport, picked by hotel shuttle to Kampala and check in at Fairway Hotel. |
| Day 3 | At 9.00 am the volunteer is greeted at the hotel by CRS staff and thereafter taken to CRS office for briefing and finalise with logistics. Any necessary training materials will be printed at CRS offices before travel to the field. |
| Day 4 | Travel to Kiryandongo district, Check in at Max Hotel where the volunteer will be staying and commence the assignment. |
| Day 5 | In the morning CRS introduces the volunteer to sister congregation representatives, Karungu farm manager and other farm managers.  Together with CRS and the management, the volunteer will review the SOW and develop the action plan.  In the afternoon, visit to Karungu farm to familiarise with current agronomic practices and look at the crop status at the farm. |
| Days 6-13 | Train selected farm managers and student sisters from the formation, giving appropriate recommendations. The training should use a participatory approach with practical- hands on field demonstrations. This will increase knowledge and skills update and field based experience that the sisters can carry back to other congregation farms. |
| Day 14 | Wrap up meetings, whilst emphasizing key concepts of the assignment. Participants evaluate the training, together with the volunteer review the training guide and its implementation for refresher and future trainings.  Discussion of assignment recommendations and develop an action plan |
| Day 15 | Travel back to Kampala |
| Day 16 | Debriefing at CRS office with USAID Mission and CRS staff.  Volunteer finalizes his/her reporting at CRS office and fill out all necessary M&E forms as well as finalise liquidations with finance. |
| Day 17 | Depart for the US |
| TBD | Outreach event in the US |

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

In Kampala, the volunteer will stay at Fairway Hotel & Spa (www.fairwayhotel.co.ug). While in Kiryandongo district, the volunteer will stay at Max Hotel. The hotel has good running water and electricity with expected power fluctuations sometimes.

CRS will pay for hotel accommodation, and provide the volunteer with per diems to cater for meals and other incidentals. The volunteer will get an advance, which will have to be cleared before departing from Uganda. For more information, please refer to the country information that will be provided.

**Host contribution** – The sisters congregation has committed to mobilize other farm managers from sister farms in the diocese and student sisters to attend trainings. The host will also avail one key personnel to work closely with the volunteer and conduct translations, during the preparations and actual trainings, to ensure that key staff and attendees are trained and will continue training others and neighboring farmers even after the assignment is completed.

1. **RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATION**

* The volunteer should prepare materials for hand-outs, which can be printed at CRS office in Kampala 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 because at the farm there is solar generated power. 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 maize country project 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** | **CRS EA Regional Office** |
| **Maria Figueroa**  Volunteer Recruiter Manager  EA Farmer to Farmer Program  228 W. Lexington Street  Baltimore, MD 21201  410-951-7366  Email: [maria.figueroa@crs.org](mailto:maria.figueroa@crs.org) | **Nyambura Theuri**  Deputy Project Director  EA Farmer to Farmer Program  P.O. Box 49675 – 00100  Nairobi, Kenya  St. Augustine Court Karuna Close Road  Email: [nyambura.theuri@crs.org](mailto:nyambura.theuri@crs.org) |
| **CRS Uganda** |
| **George Ntibarikure**  Project Director,  Farmer-to-Farmer Program  Uganda  Office Tel: +256 031 226 5658  Mobile cell phone +256 772 472 103  Email: [george.ntibarikure@crs.org](mailto:george.ntibarikure@crs.org) | **Kathryn Clark**  Head of Programs  CRS Uganda  Office Tel: +256 031 226 5658  Mobile cell phone +256 772 767 764  Email: kathryn.clark@crs.org |