

**Farmer to Farmer East Africa**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

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| **Summary Information** | |
| Assignment Code | UG132 |
| Country | Uganda |
| Country Project | Oil Seeds Project |
| Host Organization | Bukusu Yetana Area Cooperative Enterprise (ACE) |
| Type of Volunteer Assistance: | **Technology Transfer (T)** |
| Type of Value Chain Activity: | **Information and Input Support Services (S)** |
| Assignment Title | Backyard Farming |
| Assignment preferred dates | November – December (preferable 07th-30th, November, 2017) |
| Assignment objective | Build the capacity of Bukusu Yetana members in understanding the basics involved in backyard farming ranging from product/enterprise selection, agronomy, value addition, organic way of doing backyard farming and others aspects that affect production and productivity hence lead to improved food and nutrition security, enhanced incomes and better living conditions. |
| Desired volunteer skills/ expertise | 1. Formal qualifications in Crop Agronomy with bias in backyard farming 2. Adult training knowledge and skills 3. Good interpersonal and communication skills 4. Good report writing and presentation skills |

1. **BACKGROUND**

Bukusu Yetana ACE is a farmer owned enterprise that was started in 2001 under the support of Uganda cooperative Alliance. The ACE initially started with 6 farmer groups, however; in 2003 it obtained legal registration under the Uganda Cooperative Act. Bukusu Yetana ACE is the apex organization owned by farmers who form the general assembly, from which the board is selected. The board is run by the chairperson and nine other members who form the executive committee, the board supervises the management team which is comprised of the manager, accountant, two filed staff and a nursery attendant. The management team is responsible for executing the day to day activities of the organization. The board committee is the policy maker, it ensures that the organization meets planned objectives and these should be in favor of the farmer members. Reports and updates are made to the general assembly during meetings that are organized on a quarterly basis. There are also several committees which include: the supervisory committee which supervises the management team and reports back to the board. Other committees include; the production committee, marketing committee and procurement committee; these work together to ensure that the required volumes of produce are availed to satisfy the market demands identified by the marketing committee, the procurement committee is responsible for purchase of fertilizers, seeds and other inputs for supply to the farmers.

The ACE has continued to grow currently constituting 98 farmer organisations spread across 30 sub- counties with in Manafwa District. Current membership is 6500 active members out of which 3,850 are male, are 2,650 female (40%).

The ACE was created with the vision to **become a rural farmer organization eradicating poverty in members’ households**. The mission of the cooperative is ***to strengthen member farmer organizations to bulk their commodities, add value to their produce and market at better prices to eradicate poverty***. To achieve/ contribute to the set vision and mission, the ACE has laid out various objectives which are achieved through commercial enterprises and services promoted and offered to its members. Commercial enterprises promoted include: coffee, beans, maize, sunflower, ground nuts and soya beans. The intervention point for CRS is the oil seed crops targeting sunflower, ground nuts and soya beans. These are majorly looked at as cash crops however they can also be used to boost the nutrition status of the farmer households through proper post-harvest handling, value addition and actual consumption of the products. Services offered to its members include; bulking and marketing of farmers’ produce, providing access to market information, organizing farmer field days where the local government officials are involved, farmer trainings, provision of demonstration kits to model farmers and product value addition- oil extraction & Wine processing from soybean and coffee respectively.

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

Eastern part of Uganda, where Manafwa district lies is one of the most populated regions with a total population of 9,042,422 people constituting 26.1% of the total Ugandan population as of 2014 National census. The high number is mostly comprised of women and youth as shown in the 2014 census demographics in this region. The 2014 census further revealed that population density stands at 230 persons/km2 which translates into high pressure on natural resources as land, water and environment in general.

Agriculture and particularly crop farming is the largest source of livelihood in Uganda and Eastern Uganda no exception. Land, a great resource that supports agriculture is limited since the population keeps increasing and land does not. As a result, land fragmentation (dividing of land into many small plots/portions) so as to distribute among the family members (one’s children) is a threat to agriculture growth; this is, in addition to social and cultural traditions where women and youth do not own land and this has continually affected agriculture production in this region and it is evidenced from high unavailability and inaccessibility to food, lack of dietary diversity and high poverty levels.

Poverty levels in Eastern Uganda have continued to rise from 68% to 84% from 2006 to 2013 respectively as indicated in Uganda Poverty Assessment Fact Sheet 2016 conducted by World Bank. This all is attributed to lack of sufficient land available for youth and women to do more and better agriculture, lack of adequate farming technologies (knowledge and skills), and other factors like climate change effects, lack of access to credit, pest and diseases that lower agricultural productivity and so on.

At this time, Bukusu Yetana members believe if they can get trainings from experts on backyard gardening/farming; a technology they believe can improve on their agriculture production and productivity, improve on their food and nutritional status and improve on their incomes as it does not require much land and capital to start and it is women and youth friendly. Backyard farming is also being looked at as one of the methods of combating climate change effects. It is on this ground that Bukusu ACE is requesting CRS through F2F to source for a US volunteer expert, come offer trainings to build their capacity regarding backyard farming.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The objective of this volunteer assignment is to build the capacity of Bukusu Yetana ACE members in understanding the basics involved in backyard farming ranging from product/enterprise selection, agronomy, value addition, organic way of doing backyard farming and others aspects that affect production and productivity.

The volunteer will provide technical support through:

1. Training on the agronomic practices involved in backyard farming, giving hints on organic farming and conservation farming.
2. Enterprise selection that best fits backyard farming (product knowledge)

**Host contribution** – Bukusu Yetana ACE has committed to mobilize its staff, and farmer members to attend the trainings to be conducted by the volunteer. The ACE will also avail one key personnel to work closely with the volunteer during the preparations and actual trainings, to ensure that key staff are trained and will continue training other farmers even after the assignment is completed.

**ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

Enhanced capacity of Bukusu Yetana farmer members especially youth and women to do profitable backyard farming. Members will know what to farm, when to farm, resources needed to farm, and how to farm in backyard farming.

As a result, members will realize increased productivity and production, increased food and nutrition security and improved incomes that will lead to improved kind of living.

**The anticipated deliverables include:**

* Trainings conducted and people trained
* Assignment related demonstrations and photographs
* Training guidelines/communication tools e.g. Materials developed to facilitate community sensitization on nutrition education.
* 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**

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| Day | Activity |
| Day 1 | Travel from home to US international airport |
| Day 2 | Arrival at Uganda Entebbe Airport, picked by Fairway Hotel shuttle to Kampala and check in at Hotel. |
| Day 3 | At 9.00 am, the volunteer is greeted at the hotel by CRS staff and thereafter go to CRS office for introductions and briefings including host brief, logistics, expectations and anticipated outcomes. Handouts will be prepared at CRS offices. Travel to Mbale district to commence the assignment. |
| Day 4 | In the morning CRS introduces the volunteer to the Bukusu Yetana ACE management team, board and Village agents. CRS F2F coordinator, Bukusu Yetana management and volunteer will review and finalize with the action-plan for the assignment |
| Days 5-12 | Training and demonstrations on backyard farming |
| Day 13 | Volunteer travels back to Kampala |
| Day 14 | Debriefing at CRS office with USAID Mission and CRS staff.  Volunteer will finalize his/her reporting at CRS office and fill out all necessary M&E forms as well finalize advances and expenditures with finance. |
| Day 15 | Depart for USA |
| TBD | Outreach event when back in the US |

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

In Kampala, the volunteer will stay at Fairway Hotel & Spa (www.fairwayhotel.co.ug), Hotel phone contact: 0414-259571. While in the field, the volunteer will stay at Wash and Wills, he/she will be travelling between Mbale and Manafwa districts, a distance of 33KM and 45Min drive

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

**G. RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS**

* CRS-F2F designs assignments with the assumption of some pre-departure preparation by the volunteer. Actual preparation time will vary based on the experience of the volunteer, as well as informational or training resources the volunteer has readily available. CRS relies on the volunteer to assess the tasks outlined in this SOW and to make his or her own judgment about how much and what kind of preparation is needed prior to arriving in Uganda
* The volunteer should prepare materials for hand out 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.
* CRS strongly recommends that the volunteer become familiar with Uganda –agriculture, population and poverty demographics.

1. **KEY CONTACTS**

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