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**Farmer to Farmer East Africa**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

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| **Summary Information** | |
| Assignment Code | UG137 |
| Country | Uganda |
| Country Project | Oilseeds |
| Host Organization | Tabu Integrated Cooperative Society |
| Assignment Title | Safe use of Agro chemicals in Agriculture production. |
| Type of Volunteer Assistance: | Technology Transfer (T) |
| Type of Value Chain Activity: | Information and Input Support Services (S) |
| Assignment preferred dates | Jan-March 2018 |
| Assignment objective | To train and equip village agents with the capacity and skills to safely use, handle and dispose agro chemicals in agriculture production for good health and clean environment. |
| Desired volunteer skills/ expertise | * Experience in Agronomy with bias in plant health * Knowledge of agro chemical usage and handling in crops. * Experience in training adult people / good communication skills * Should be knowledgeable about the agricultural patterns and systems in developing countries and in Uganda, as an added advantage. |

1. **BACKGROUND**

Tabu integrated cooperative society, formally known as Tabu integrated women groups, started in 2004 by a group of women in problems (‘Tabu’). The cooperative has a vision to empower women and men with knowledge to develop their faculties fully to be able to engage in activities that will make them lead prosperous lives economically and socially. The mission is “to build the capacity of women, men, youth and OVCs for good governance and long term sustainability as a way of planning to identify opportunities through which they can engage to realize full benefits to lead a good life”. The vision and mission is understood by some members and all activities are geared towards achieving their objectives. The cooperative is member owned with an executive committee chaired by a female and other 9 members. The executive is reported to by several sub committees; Trainers of Trainers for the Village Saving and Loan Associations, Village agents who train farmers, procurement committee, 2 Technical staff who are contracted on as basis. All these serve farmers at the bottom of the organization structure.

The cooperative members are engaged in production of maize, beans, ground nuts, sunflower, soy bean and cassava. For purposes of the F2F program, the host is categorized under the oil seed crops country project. Services offered to host beneficiaries include: bulking, ware housing and marketing of farmers’ produce, farmer training on modern agricultural practices and input supply.

Farmers are the direct beneficiaries from the host’s products and services. These farmers form a member ship of 500 members out of which 333 are women and 167 men. Other beneficiaries include the community at large who consume crops produced by the host, buyers and suppliers of agro-inputs. The host does not have employed staff; daily operations are coordinated by the chairperson in collaboration with village agents (5). The chairperson keeps a record of updated membership register. The host revenue fund is from the sale of produce that is cultivated as TABU group and membership fees currently at 5,000 shillings. The other source is donor funds which can come in anytime. Recently, Tabu opened up an input shop to help bring closer agro inputs to farmers while at same time earning revenue. All the revenue is used to fund the operation activities of the cooperative including services provision.

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

Agricultural industry is an essential component of Uganda’s economy. Eighty percent of Uganda’s workforce works in Agriculture; however, over forty five percent of the total population experience food shortage or are food insecure. This is majorly resulting from low agricultural production emanating from lack of proper production knowledge and skills, infertile soils, pest and diseases, climate change and other social factors like land fragmentation as a result of increased population. The government has worked itself hard to put in place proper functional extension strategies like National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) to provide advisory service to farmers so they can improve on their production but funding, planning and management challenges have failed these strategies, so farmers are still struggling to obtain good advice from the existing national agricultural extension and research systems.

Agricultural dealers (agro dealers) are often the primary source of advice to farmers with plant health problems. Approximately, 2000 registered agro dealers operate and serve the farming community in Uganda. Being the first source of information to farmers, their advice directly affects the behavior and therefore the country’s crop yields and food security. Through a questionnaire based study conducted by Uganda National Agro input Dealers Association (UNADA) in 2010, 975 agro dealers were asked their interaction with farmers, their training level, and their knowledge on plant health problems and their role in agro chemical industry. Analysis showed that majority of them entered into business to help farmers and seed is the most important product stocked and stored in most of their stores. However, 14 percent had not received training before opening up their stores.

Based on the research/study reports from Pesticide Evaluation Report & Safe Usage Action Plan (PERSUAP) - of USAID Uganda FY 2008, improper use of agricultural chemicals has disastrous negative effects like diseases resistance, death of human life and animals as well as environment pollution. The improper use of the chemicals could be a result of lack of knowledge, skills or technical know-how on proper handling and safe usage of agrochemicals. Operating under this environment, Tabu integrated cooperative society runs an input shop with a team of 15 village agents that act as extension advisers to the farming communities on matters of crop health. It is against this background that Tabu is requesting for Farmer to Farmer technical assistance to equip the village agents with appropriate knowledge and skills for safe use, handing and disposal of expired agrochemicals and agrochemical containers/ packages.

1. **OBJECTIVE(S) OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The main objective is to train and equip village agents and agro input shop attendants on the knowledge and skills to safely use, handle and dispose agrochemicals for keeping farmers’ good health and staying in a clean environment.

This training will be cover the following objectives but not limited to them

* Categorization of agrochemicals as highly toxicity and hazardous to human/animal life and the environment.
* Protection against agro chemicals while use and storage
* Identification of the right agrochemicals to use for the right purpose at the right time.
* Proper disposal of agrochemicals containers as well as expired agrochemicals
* Qualities of good agrochemicals or How to identify agrochemicals that are not adulterated, those with clear labels

**Host contribution** - Tabu has committed to mobilize village agents, agro retail shop attendants and some farmer group members to attend the trainings. The host will also, avail 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. The host will also provide translation services.

1. **ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

**The anticipated deliverables include:**

* Trainings conducted and people trained
* Training manuals/guidelines developed
* Debriefing with USAID, CRS and volunteer 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 staff introduces the volunteer to Tabu’s management team. CRS, Tabu’s management team, and the volunteer will review and finalize the scope of work and action-plan. In the afternoon, the volunteer will learn about the current farming systems and agronomic practices carried out. |
| Day 5 | The volunteer will visit agro input shop(s) and meet village agents in the assignment area to acclimatize him/her with the situation on ground. |
| Days 6-11 | Train village agents on agro chemicals, their usage, their handling and their disposal for good health and clean environment. |
| Day12-14 | Train village agents on agro chemicals, their usage, their handling and their disposal for good health and clean environment. |
| Day 15 | Meet with CRS coordinator, Tabu’s management, and volunteer to discuss recommendations and action plans in relation to the completed trainings. Volunteer travels back to Kampala. |
| Day 16 | 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 17 | 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 Hotel Wash & Wills in Mbale town. The hotel has basic amenities like running water, electricity and Wi-Fi, however, CRS will also provide the volunteer with an internet dongle for use in case of failed internet at the hotel.

CRS Uganda will pay for hotel accommodation, field transport and other incidentals such as laundry and any other costs related to the training provided they are receipted, the volunteer will get an advance in country office to cater for the above-mentioned field expenses which has to be cleared before departing Uganda. CRS HQ will provide volunteer with per diems to cater for meals and personal incidentals. For more information, please refer to country information that will be provided

**E. 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 –Farming and agronomy systems as these will form a strong base to handle the whole assignment successfully.
* CRS strongly recommends that the volunteer become familiar with USAID PERSUAP. The documents will be shared upon request with the potential volunteer once firmed up.

1. **KEY CONTACTS**

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