



**Farmer-to-Farmer East Africa
Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

Summary Information	
Assignment Code	SU01
Country	Sudan
Country Project	Peanut Production and Sector Support
Host Organization	Samil Industries/Darfood
Assignment Title	Scaling up peanut farming (pre-planting phase)
Assignment preferred dates	Flexible (preferred dates starting end of May/first of June 2018)
Objective assignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a framework for best agronomic practices to improve groundnut production • Develop simple guidelines, training manuals, demonstrations on pre-planting phase and management of aflatoxin
Desired volunteer skill/expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experienced farmer (10+ years) with peanuts on large scale • Experience working with farmers in transition to scaling up production quantity and quality • Adult training skills • Knowledge of the groundnut value chain

A. BACKGROUND

The Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) East Africa program leverages US volunteer’s expertise to assist smallholder 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 volunteers.

Darfood is a joint venture between Salih Abdelrahman Yagoub Company (“SAY Co”) and Onyx Development Company. The directors of the two companies met in 2010 and determined that both organizations could establish commercial relationships in Sudan by leveraging their core competences in malnutrition products and groundnut processing. In 2011, the organizations

created a joint venture called Samil Industries, Ltd. The objective of the facility is to produce PlumpyNut®, PlumpySup™, peanut-based products for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Samil is also part of the PlumpyField™ network – a network of independent producers who manufacture ready-to-use nutritional solutions in the countries where they are most needed.

SAY Company is involved in the groundnut sector in the region of Darfur. The company is currently procuring, distributing, and trading in groundnuts from the region. As such, the company has knowledge of the Darfuri peanut market value chain and has established strong working relationships with local producers. Further, the company is active in Darfur in the line of gum Arabica collection and pre-processing activities. SAY Company is interested in expanding its presence in Darfur and strengthening its operations. In fact, some of the firm’s collectors of gum Arabica are also peanut farmers during the rest of the year as the crops have different seasonality.

Darfood’s project idea was created in Sudan, where SAY Company recognizes on a daily basis, the social and economical cost for Darfur and the lack of tapping into the potential to produce high quality peanuts for the local, international food, local confectionary industry, as well as for the production of Ready-to-Use food (RUTF).

B. ISSUE DESCRIPTION

Darfood is seeking to improve quantity and quality of groundnuts bought by farmers in the area. Many in East Darfur are small-scale farming operations which are moving from traditional farming to mechanized farming. There is a general lack of knowledge of some basic production management practices, such as optimal strategies in land preparation, improved seed and storage, appropriate spacing and soil fertilization. Further, best management practices in weed control, pest and disease control, soil fertility/conservation practices, management of aflatoxin, and steps toward plantation and harvesting are desired. Proper and strategic agronomic practices are desired to scale up farmers to the mechanized farming.

By providing technical assistance in early phases of groundnut production, farmers (and Darfood staff) will acquire skills in land preparation, seed selection, pest and disease identification/management, timing of planting, proper spacing, and weed control. Farmers will then be able to increase their yields and quality of those yields.

At present, Samil Industries procures its raw material from other locations. This is due to the fact that current supplies of high-graded premium groundnuts is quite unreliable and the products’ quality is uncertain. Further, Sudan does not play a significant role in the international markets for hand-picked selected peanuts (HPS) nor in the local market, despite being one of the main peanut producers in the world. Consequently, Darfur’s peanut processing sector was identified as poorly developed and under-supported. This affects all of the stakeholders in the sector within the

value chain. Local players, such as peanut edible oil crushing factories and millers, are compelled to mobilize their products to Khartoum for cleaning, de-shelling, and sorting, in order to be processed.

The establishment of a “Certified Sorting Line for the Production of Food Graded Peanuts” in El Daein, East Darfur, represents an extension of the two companies and their combined business activities. Final products will be further utilized in the production of RUTF in the Samil Industries factory. By doing so, the partners assist in the effort to alleviate malnutrition levels and conditions by sourcing/producing food-graded peanuts with the best quality required for the supply of RUTF, local industries and exporting markets. The establishment of this provides certainty and security to local farmers by integrating them into a comprehensive business platform. The project will also produce pressed peanut shells as input for animal feed.

For the first time in the region, Darfood uses modern agricultural methods. In 2016, the project used agricultural machines instead of traditional methods on a pilot study conducted on 300 acres. Six farmers were a part of this pilot and their yield improved. The project’s goal was to introduce farmers to farming in a mechanical way, hoping that they will transition from traditional farming to mechanical farming and reach 60,000 acres over 5 years. The target beneficiary of farmers expected is 1,400 smallholder farmers with an average of 30 acres per farmer.

Darfood is encouraging farmers to scale up on production which will result in higher yields. To do this, the host organization is seeking volunteers to assist in areas of pre-planting preparations, management of aflatoxin, and processing/usage of crop residue for animal feed.

C. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The objective of this volunteer assignment is to provide technical support in the areas of:

- Basic agronomic practices – seed bed preparation, timely planting, row cropping, improved seeds, seed selection/saving/storage, intercropping, optimum plant population, fertilizer application, pest and disease identification/management
- Make recommendations appropriate for pre-planting through plantation phases; recommend best practices
- Basic understanding of how field infestations of insects and molds contribute to storage losses; aflatoxin development in the field and in storage, and how this can be minimized;
- Create manuals/guidelines for pre-planting – plantation phases
- Relationship between groundnut quality standards and food safety aspects.

The volunteer will provide training to selected farmers and Darfood staff who will develop into trainers of these techniques. These selected staff will continue training other farmers to improve

capacity. The volunteer is also requested to develop a training guide to be used by Darfood staff and other farmers for future reference.

Training manuals need to be easy to understand for groups which may be illiterate as well as for easier translation from English to Arabic. Illustrations throughout the manuals as well as practical demonstrations are requested.

Host contribution

- Identification of the farmers and formation of farmers association.
- Area of operation and size
- Translation
- Facilitation of the training spaces (Location of training and all related materials)

D. ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT

By providing this technical assistance, farmers and Darfood staff will acquire skills in land preparation, seed selection, aflatoxin management in the early phases of groundnut production, pest and disease identification/management, timing of planting, proper spacing, and weed control.

The anticipated deliverables include:

- Trainings conducted and people trained on early phases of groundnut production, including aflatoxin management.
- Training guidelines/manuals developed
- Debriefing with the CRS and Hosting Organization and in country group presentations after assignment.
- Report with recommendations and expense report.
- Outreach activity, press release or a media event back in US

E. SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN SUDAN

Day	Activity
Day 1	Arrival in Khartoum. The volunteer will be met at the airport by CRS’s duty driver and driven to Bougainville Hotel (insert webpage and phone #).
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing meeting at CRS office with CRS F2F staff, briefing on logistics, safety/security, itinerary of the trip, and discuss anticipated outcomes and work plan; • Meet with Samil Industries/Darfood Khartoum Office • Prepare documents for clearance to Darfur - Darfood
Day 3-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare training materials for field • Small workshop for Darfood Khartoum Office on aflatoxin • Meet with Ministry of Agriculture?

Day	Activity
Day 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rest day
Days 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel to East Darfur • Setup with guesthouse and other logistics (UMCOR?) • First hand briefing on the main objectives and modality of the assignment and adjust the agenda for the coming days. • Introduction with Samil Industries/Darfood staff. • Briefing with the staff and jointly prepare work plan for the assignment days
Day 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with smallholder farmers to understand their challenges focusing on the pre- and post-harvesting management and production and handling practices. <p>Based on information gathered and gaps identified, prepare training materials</p>
Days 11-15	Provide hands on field level training and practical demonstration at sites
Days 16	Rest day
Day 17-20	Provide hands on field level training and practical demonstration at sites
Day 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrap-up trainings emphasizing key concepts of the assignment. Participants evaluate the overall technical innovations/assistances and the training, and together with the volunteer discuss final report recommendations. • Group presentation to the host
Day 22	Travel back to Khartoum
Day 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debriefing at CRS office with USAID Mission and CRS staff. • Submit all reports, return logistic items and complete all required activities • Depart for USA (evening hours)
TBD	Conduct outreach activity when back in the US

F. DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS

- 10+ years of experience in peanut farming on commercial scale; experience with scaling up farmers is desirable
- Demonstrative experience in agricultural education/extension/adult learning,
- Good interpersonal and communication skills including analytical skills
- Respect the cultural and religious norms of rural people.
- Willing to work under the context of East Africa, Sudan condition

G. ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS

- Before travelling to the host at the assignment place, the volunteer will stay in Khartoum at one of the CRS's guesthouses or CRS-approved hotels that will be booked and confirmed before the arrival date.

- CRS will provide you with an orientation packet on what to expect when arriving in Sudan (e.g. appropriate attire for men/women, what to do at immigration [including obtaining your visa], CRS pickup, etc)
- In Khartoum, the guesthouse/hotel has comfortable rooms that include breakfast (at guesthouse, it's the basics), wireless internet, etc.
- CRS will arrange a vehicle for short travel from the airport; also from the guesthouse/hotel to CRS and vice versa while in Khartoum.
- Foreign credit and ATM cards will not work in Sudan. CRS can assist you with exchanging money upon arrival.
- All required materials will be prepared ahead of time and will be provided to the volunteer. CRS Sudan will provide the volunteer with a mobile phone with charged local SIM-card, and wireless internet in the CRS office (and potentially a loaner laptop).
- Any other required logistics and facilities can also be requested by the volunteer during her/his stay in Khartoum.
- Darfood/UMCOR will arrange transport service and accompany the volunteer to the place of assignment in East Darfur.
- During her/his assignment period, the volunteer will stay in the guesthouse of Darfood/Samil Industries or UMCOR.
- CRS HQ will provide the volunteer with a per-diem advance to cater meals.
- For more information, please refer to country information that will be provided.

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H. SECURITY IN SUDAN

- You will receive a thorough security briefing upon arrival in Khartoum by CRS as well as Darfood/UMCOR.
- Khartoum is considered as one of the safest capital cities in Africa, however, one should still remain vigilant while outside the office. There is no curfew for the city.
- Use precaution when taking photos outdoors.
- In Sudan, where Sharia law is in place, our individual behavior can impact the perceptions and the acceptance of CRS and F2F as organizations/programs. It is essential that when in Sudan one is mindful of Sudanese culture and adapt one's behaviors in and outside of the work environment. Patience is necessary.
- When working with national staff (CRS, UMCOR, Darfood), it is important to listen, be transparent and consistent in your working practices and respect local practices.
- Please remember you are a guest in Sudan and you have to respect the law, regulations and social rules (e.g. no alcohol, modest dress, personal space, etc.)

I. RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS

- Although CRS F2F has developed a needs-based SOW, the volunteer can fine-tune through her/his professional qualifications to successfully carry out this assignment.

- Generally, Sudan is dry, but malaria may be a problem. Therefore, the volunteer is advised to consider pills for malaria as per medical recommendations by her/his doctors/health professionals in US before departing from US.
- Prior to travel, the volunteer is advised to prepare necessary training and demonstration aids and written handouts. Electronic copies of the handouts and any other paper materials can be printed for immediate use at the CRS office in Khartoum on request by the volunteer.
- If the volunteer requires simple training aids like flip charts, markers or tape s/he should make the request and collect from the CRS office in Khartoum prior to travel to the assignment place.
- 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.

J. KEY CONTACTS

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