 

**Farmer to Farmer East Africa**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

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| **Summary Information** | |
| Country | Kenya |
| Assignment Code | KE118 |
| Country Project | Dairy Country Project |
| Host Organization | Lessos Farmers’ Cooperative Society Limited |
| Type of volunteer assistance | Technology transfer (T) |
| Type of value chain activity | Extension services (S) |
| Assignment Title | Good Dairy Farming Practice Training |
| Assignment preferred dates | April – June 15th 2018 |
| Assignment objective | To equip Lessos dairy cooperative staff and farmers with knowledge and skills on Good Dairy Farming Practice |
| Desired volunteer skills/ expertise | Dairy Management |

1. **BACKGROUND**

Lessos Farmers’ Cooperative Society was formed in November 1962 under the Co-operatives Societies Act of the Laws of Kenya (Reg. No: CS/920). It is a farmer own co-operative located in Nandi County, Nandi Hill Constituency, and Ol’lessos Division Koilot Location. This was because farmers wanted an avenue to market their produce. At the same time most of these farmers had taken, bought, land on loan and wanted a cooperative that would enable them pay up their loans. The Cooperative grew steadily and by the early 1980s, they were competing with Githunguri Cooperative; with Githunguri selling 20,000 liters a day, while Lessos sold 15,000 liters a day. This was the time when the government was giving financial and technical support to the cooperatives.

By the 90s, government changed their policies and cooperatives did not receive the much support they were getting before. This was also the era of liberalization and the cooperatives no longer had monopoly over the farmers’ produce. It was also at this point that KCC collapsed in 1999 and Lessos lost ksh.7.6 Million that belonged to the farmers. It was at this point that Lessos collapsed. Between 1999 and 2003, there were attempt to revive Lessos but the operations were on and off.

With the encouragement and motivation of the farmers through government efforts to revitalize the dairy sector generally in Kenya, Lessos Cooperative was also revived in the process. However, it took 5 years to win the farmer’s confidence. In 2008, Lessos Cooperative started registering farmers. The participation by the youth who are mainly elites shows continuity in dairy farming as well as potential for a strengthened board in future.

By 2009, farmers wanted a cooler, and the Board of directors approached the Ministry of Agriculture and was given a 2.0million grant through the Njaa Marufuku programme (NMK). Currently LFCSL handles 8,000 liters of milk per day and have a total membership of 2,750 farmers who pool together their resources and market through the Co-operative

The vision of the cooperative is to be a center of excellence in provision of dairy services in Nandi County and its mission is to improve the household income through provision of quality and sustainable dairy services to farmers in Nandi County and its environs. The main activities of LFCSL includes milk procurement, bulking, chilling and marketing; Agro-vet, AI and AHA services (Quality semen-progeny tested, ECF vaccination, and other health issues) training and financial services (advances, loans).

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

Kenya has one of the most successful dairy industries in sub-Saharan Africa based on over 3 million cattle of mostly high-grade Bos taurus dairy breeds and a relatively advanced milk marketing infrastructure. The main breeds for dairy production are Friesian, Guernsey, Ayrshire and their crosses with the local East African Zebu (EAZ).

Smallholder dairying is viewed by both farmers and development agencies as a promising avenue for rural poverty alleviation, asset building and the efficient utilization of intensified land use. It is therefore expected that the number of smallholder dairy farmers will continue to increase in the foreseeable future. There is an urgent need that mechanisms for the delivery of both efficient marketing and input services are expanded, since these are no longer delivered by the public sector. Because of their lack of resources, smallholders need strong institutions to support them; both for service provision and for innovative research support under intensifying conditions. The strengthening of these support organizations is an urgent priority to improve productivity on these farms. Most of the Lessos Farmers’ Cooperative Society dairy farmers lack the necessary knowledge and skills on basic dairy management. Therefore, Lessos farmers’ cooperative society has requested CRS F2F for volunteer technical assistance on basic dairy management.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The main objective for this assignment is to improve Good Dairy Farming Practice for Lessos farmers cooperative society. It is anticipated that the training will lead to safe, quality milk produced from healthy animals using management practices that are sustainable from an animal welfare, social, economic and environmental perspective. To achieve this objective, the F2F volunteer expert will train dairy farmers on good practice in the following areas:

* animal health;
* milking hygiene;
* nutrition (feed and water);
* animal welfare;
* environment and socio-economic management

For each of the above categories develop a guideline listing good dairy farming practices, and suggests measures that can be implemented to achieve the desired outcome

**Host contribution** – Lessos has committed to mobilize dairy farmers and farmer volunteers to attend the training at various villages. The cooperative 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 farmers on Good dairy Management Practices after the assignment is completed.

1. **ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

The anticipated deliverables from the volunteer assignment include:

* Trainings conducted and people trained
* Developed Good Dairy Management Practices guideline
* Presentation on best practices of good dairy management practices
* Debriefing with USAID and in country group presentations after assignment
* Field trip report
* Outreach activity, a press release and a media event back in US

1. **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN KENYA**

A detailed schedule of planned activities will be developed with CRS F2F volunteer Gary and Lessos farmers cooperative training manager once travel dates are agreed. The assignment duration is however estimated at about 3 weeks including travel days.

# DESIRABLE VOLUNTEER SKILLS

The volunteer must have the following qualifications and competencies:

* Minimum of 10 years or more work experience in dairy management
* Experience working with dairy farmers companies and or cooperatives
* Excellent hands-on training skills to an adult audience is necessary
* Understanding of the farmers’ cooperatives would be an added advantage
* Sufficiently physically fit to be able to endure multiple visits to a variety of locations, while providing technical assistance;

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

While in Nairobi, the volunteer will stay at The **Zehneria Portico** 10 Karuna Road, Westlands | P.O. Box 66249-0800 | Nairobi |Website: [www. zehneriahotel.com](http://zehneriahotel.com/); Telephone: +254 731617469/264 | Mobile: +254 733988813 | Email:[reservation@zehneriahotel.com](mailto:reservations@zehneriahotel.com) or any other hotel identified by CRS and communicated to the volunteer prior to arrival. While in Lessos, the volunteer will stay at Eden Spring hotel P.O Box 33-30300 in Kapsabet town. Telephone; +254 713449 449; Email: [info@edenspringshotel.com](mailto:info@edenspringshotel.com) Website: [www.edenspringhotel.com](http://www.edenspringhotel.com)

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

**H. 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 Kenya.
* The volunteer should prepare materials for hand out which can be printed at CRS office in Nairobi before commencement of the assignment. Flip charts, markers, masking tapes can be obtained at CRS offices. Depending on the training venue the volunteer may use a laptop and projector for power point presentations. But if the training venue is in the community, it will be difficult to use PowerPoint.
* CRS strongly recommends that the volunteer become familiar with CRS programs in Kenya, the livestock project description, other information in the briefing pack before arrival to Kenya

1. **Key Contacts**

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