

**To express interest in this assignment please email** maria.figuerosa@crs.org

**Farmer to Farmer**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

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| **Summary Information** |
| **Assignment Code** | **ET200** |
| Country | Ethiopia |
| Country Project | Livestock country project  |
| Host Organization | Meki Catholic Secretariat (MCS) |
| Host Partner  | CRS- Livelihoods for Resilience Activity- Oromia (LRO) |
| Assignment Title | Livestock fattening with focus on oxen, sheep and goat  |
| Assignment preferred dates | March - April 2019 |
| Objectives of the assignment | * Improve the fattening livestock value chain through improved practices and awareness.
* Train and technically assist targeted project households who are practicing or have a plan to fatten.
* Improve targeted project households’ skills and knowledge of livestock feed preparation from locally available materials.
* Develop an oxen, sheep, and goat fattening curriculum for LRO/MCS for future trainings.
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| Desired volunteer skill/expertise | * Demonstrated knowledge and experience in livestock fattening and feed preparation.
* Experience in dry-season feeding techniques
* Experience training adults, community development workers or members of a community-based organization
* Experience developing curriculum and training materials
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| Type of Volunteer Assistance | T |
| Type of Value Chain Activity | F |
| PERSUAP Classification | Type 2 |

1. **BACKGROUND**

CRS Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) Program is a USAID funded 5-year program (July 2018 – June 2023) that will provide technical assistance from United States (U.S) volunteers to farmers, farmer groups (cooperatives and associations), agribusinesses and other agriculture sector institutions. The program objectives are to facilitate economic growth within targeted agriculture sub-sectors, enhance sub-sector inclusiveness to expand participation to a broader range of individuals and communities and to increase the American public’s understanding of international development issues and US international development programs. Volunteers, recruited from all States and the District of Columbia, are individuals who have domestic careers, farms and agribusinesses, or are retirees who want to participate in development efforts. F2F program will assist in agriculture development, commodity value chain competitiveness and firm upgrading by providing technical assistance to introduce new technologies, innovations and development of local capacity for more productive, profitable, sustainable and equitable agriculture systems.

Meki Catholic Secretariat (MCS) (<http://mcsethio.org/>) is located in Meki, Oromia region in the Rift Valley. It is approximately 105 kilometers south of Ethiopia’s capital, Addis Ababa. MCS is one of the 13 diocesan coordinating offices of the Ethiopian Catholic Church – Social and Development Commission. The host brings together different stakeholders to support local development in different areas including education, health, water supply, income generation, food security and emergency response. The host provides support to smallholders via provision of capacity building trainings, income generating activities, access to credit, market linkage and value chain, and nutrition.

MCS is implementing the Feed the Future Ethiopia – Livelihoods for Resilience Activity- Oromia (LRO) which is a USAID-funded project that focuses on ensuring that households have improved their sustainable economic well-being by: 1) Increased income and diversification through on-farm opportunities including crop and livestock market systems; 2) Increased income and diversification of off-farm livelihood options; 3) Increased income from gainful employment; and 4) Increased innovation, scaling and sustainability of livelihood pathways. This F2F assignment will focus on goal 1: increased income and diversification through on-farm opportunities including crop and livestock market systems. LRO clients are grouped into livelihood groups (LGs) based on their selected on-farm livelihood pathway. Clients with selected on-farm pathway will receive technical trainings in their selected pathway and value-chains. F2F volunteer will provide technical support for LG members who selected fattening as their on-farm livelihood pathway. Livestock fattening will focus on oxen, sheep, and goat fattening. This technical support will provide LG members the necessary skills and tools to move up the livestock fattening value chain, improve livelihood, and become resilient against stresses and shocks.

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

Livestock in Ethiopia perform important functions in the livelihoods of farm owners, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists. Approximately 85% of Ethiopia’s population is rural based, and livestock supports the livelihoods for about 80% of rural people[[1]](#footnote-1). At the national level, livestock is the source of industrial raw materials (milk, meat, hides and skins) and contributes about 45% to the agricultural GDP, 18.7% to the national GDP and 16–19 % to the total foreign exchange earning of the country[[2]](#footnote-2). The livestock subsector provides an opportunity for further economic development and contributor to poverty reduction by improving the livelihood of rural people in Ethiopia; however, livestock production remains low due to various constraints compounded by inefficiencies in input and output marketing.

The livestock fattening value chain was selected as a LRO priority by assessments carried out at the onset of the LRO project. The assessments found the following: skill and knowledge gaps among farmers who practice fattening; farmers are not properly following the fattening cycle of the three-month period for fattening; farmers are not properly feeding and housing oxen to allow good weight gain; and feed is difficult to access. These will be the issues addressed by the F2F volunteer and livestock fattening will focus on oxen, sheep, and goat fattening.

Farmers are unaware of proper livestock management practices to ensure maximum output. Specifically, farmers are unaware of the necessary 2-3 month fattening period and proper livestock housing. There is a need for capacity strengthening for beneficiary farmers and extension service providers in feeding, herd management, marketing, and fattening cycle, and correct genetic selection for breeding, facilitation skills for extension workers.

An additional fatting constraint is livestock feed. When it comes to livestock feed, there is a shortage of supplies and feed preparation skills, and feeds are difficult to access. Shortage of feed is due to shrinkage of communal grazing land and recurrent drought. Livestock mostly feed on grass hay and crop-residues – like cereal and pulse straws. Most of this feed is poor quality, highly affected by seasonality, creating challenges for sustainable and affordable delivery of compound feeds. Supplementary feeds, like cereal bran and oil cakes, are either too expensive or in short supply. New feed technologies need to be introduced to reduce the cost on feed expenses. Due to its high need, LRO and MCS have requested CRS F2F program for volunteer assistance on livestock fattening, specifically focusing on knowledge sharing, fattening management, and feed preparation.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The general objective of this volunteer assignment is to improve the livestock fattening value chain through improved practices and awareness, specifically in oxen, sheep, and goat fattening. The specific objective of the assignment is to provide training to 300-500 LRO farmers, 100 community animators, 9 livelihood community facilitators. During the assignment the F2F volunteer will:

* Travel to selected kebeles[[3]](#footnote-3) and train 300-500 livestock farmers, 100 community animators, and 9 livelihood community facilitators and observe management practices.
* Review farmers’ knowledge and skills on fattening management and provide training based on identified knowledge/skills gaps.
* Conduct training on feed preparation based on locally available materials to 300-500 livestock farmers, 100 community animators, and 9 lead community facilitators.
* Visit feed markets and small-scale commercial fattening enterprise.
* Develop an action plan with host organization for future cascading.
* Develop oxen fattening curriculum and training materials for LRO/MCS for future reference.

The beneficiaries of this assignment will be farmers in selected livestock fattening livelihood pathway, community animators, and livelihood community facilitators. The F2F volunteer will base in Meki area and travel to LRO intervention woredas[[4]](#footnote-4): Dodota, ATJK, Siarro, and if time allows Sirre.

1. **HOST CONTRIBUTION**

The host MCS will select farmers, community animators, and lead community facilitators. It will also avail key personnel to work closely with the volunteer at all times to ensure translation to the local language (Afaan Oromo) and to assist the volunteer during trainings. The host will also provide the volunteer with office space and furniture at its office compound in Meki town (about 105 km Southeast of Addis Ababa). The host will also provide the volunteer with a guestroom (subsidized fees in its church compound at Meki) and facilitate meal services depending on the volunteer interests. For field travel in the assignment area, the host will provide the volunteer with transportation and consult CRS to cover fuel cost against receipts or as per CRS regulations.

1. **ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

It is anticipated that this volunteer assignment will result in improved knowledge/skill capacity of LRO farmers, community animators, lead community facilitators workers to further understand the basic concepts and techniques of livestock fattening**.** The volunteer will contribute to the following:

* 70-100 LRO farmers, 100 community animators, 9 livelihood community facilitators with improved knowledge on livestock fattening management.
* 70-100 LRO farmers, 100 community animators, 9 livelihood community facilitators trained on improved livestock fattening practices.
* 70-100 LRO farmers, 100 community animators, 9 livelihood community facilitators trained on feed preparation from locally available materials.
* Increased weight of local livestock
* Increased income from the sale of fattened animals
* Curriculum/training materials for future livestock fattening reference
1. **DELIVERABLES**
* A record of people involved in training
* Volunteer final report due BEFORE departure
* Group presentation with local stakeholders at the end of the assignment
* Outreach activity, press release or a media event back in US
1. **SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN ETHIOPIA**

\*Assignment duration is flexible

| **Days**  | **Activity** |
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| Day 1  | Arrival in Addis. The volunteer will be met at Bole Airport by CRS’s client hotel Saro Maria Hotel (mail: reservation@saromariahotel.com; [Phone](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1GGRV_enET751ET751&q=saro-maria+hotel+phone&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwie4JH0gNfWAhXFOBoKHS8rB1sQ6BMIwwEwEA): +251 11 667 2167).The volunteer will locate the Saro Maria hotel kiosk and receive their pre-arranged transport |
| **Day 2** | **Rest Day** |
| Day 3 | * Take hotel shuttle to CRS office (CRS working days are Monday to Friday from 8:00AM to 5:00 PM East Africa Time)
* Welcoming by CRS, and briefing meeting on security, general orientation, logistic and reporting formats.
* Discuss anticipated outcomes and work plan
* Travel to the assignment site (Meki Town, Oromia region, 115km South of Addis Ababa).
* S/he will be introduced with the host and will be accommodated. If time permits, general orientation with the host will be pursued.
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| Day 4 | * Further identify skill and training gaps through visiting and discussing with clients.
* Based on information gathered and gaps identified, enrich the prepared training materials incorporating hands-on practices.
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| Day 5 | * Visit feed markets and small scale commercial fattening enterprise
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| Day 6 | * Provide training for selected farmers, community animators, and livelihood community facilitators.
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| Day 7 | * **Rest Day**
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| Day 8-13 | * Continue provision of trainings and technical assistances for beneficiaries
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| Day 14 | * **Rest Day**
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| Day 15-16 | * Continue provision of trainings and technical assistances for beneficiaries
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| Day 17-18 | * Wrap up trainings and emphasize key concepts of assignment. Participants evaluate the training and together with the volunteer discuss final report recommendations.
* Work with CRS LRO and MCS for action plan/training material preparation
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| Day 19 | * Group presentation to the host in the presence of CRS
* Volunteer travels back to Addis Ababa
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| Day 20 | * Finalize reimbursement expenditures and liquidations (if any) with finance.
* Finalizes his/her reporting and submit training M&E forms to CRS F2F staff.
* Debriefing at with CRS staff and/or USAID Mission
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| Day 21 | Complete any unaccomplished activities and depart for USA |
| TBD  | Outreach event when back in the USA  |

1. **DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS**
* Extensive practical experience in livestock fattening, livestock management, feed preparation, specifically for oxen, sheep, and goat
* Experience in livestock curriculum development and developing training materials
* Experience training adults, community development workers or members of a community-based organization
* Good analytical and intercommunication skills
1. **ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS**
* Before travelling to MCS in Meki, the volunteer will stay in Addis Ababa at one of the CRS’s client hotels, Saro Maria Hotel (mail: reservation@saromariahotel.com; [Phone](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1GGRV_enET751ET751&q=saro-maria+hotel+phone&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwie4JH0gNfWAhXFOBoKHS8rB1sQ6BMIwwEwEA): +251 11 667 2167).
* In Addis Ababa, the hotel usually has rooms that include services such as airport pickup and drop-off, breakfast, wireless internet, etc.
* The hotel shuttle or CRS will arrange a vehicle for short travel from the hotel to CRS office and vice versa in Addis Ababa.
* All required materials will be prepared ahead of time and will be provided to the volunteer.
* During the assignment period, the volunteer will be booked at the host organization’s guesthouse in Meki town (+251 221180798; info@mcsethiopia.org) or at Haile resort hotel at Ziway town. The accommodation details will be confirmed prior to the volunteer’s arrival in country.
* CRS Ethiopia will arrange hotel accommodations and cover the lodging bills against receipts.
* CRS HQ will provide the volunteer with a per-diem advance to cater meals and incidences.
* CRS Ethiopia will also reimburse the volunteer with laundry costs against receipts.
* Before departing from Ethiopia, the volunteer will liquidate any advances received in Ethiopia.
* For more information, please refer to country information that will be provided.
1. **RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS**
* The volunteer can fine-tune the Scope of Work based on her/his professional qualifications to successfully carry out this livestock fattening training program.
* Generally, Ethiopia is under the tropical zone, where malaria may be a problem. Therefore, the volunteer is advised to take pills or vaccination for malaria and (maybe also for cholera) as per medical recommendations by her/his doctors/health professionals in US before departing from US. (This is an issue in Meki)
* Prior to travel, the volunteer is advised to prepare necessary training and demonstration aids and written handouts. Soft copies of the handouts and any other paper materials can be printed for at the CRS office in Addis Ababa on request by the volunteer.
* If the volunteer requires use of simple training aids like flip charts, markers and tape, s/he should make the request and collect from the CRS office at Addis Ababa 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. Handouts needing translation must be provided at least 2 weeks in advance to CRS Ethiopia before volunteer’s arrival to allow for adequate time for translation.
* Depending on the meeting places and availability of electricity and LCD projector, the volunteer may use a laptop and projector for PowerPoint presentations. This can only be done in Meki Town and in Woerdas and not at community level when training farmers.
* Trainings held in the field will usually take place at a Farmers’ Training Center (FTC). There will be no power at FTCs so please plan presentations accordingly.
* The weather in Meki is a bit hot and windy. At night the temperature drops to moderate.
1. **KEY CONTACTS**

To express interest in this assignment, please email the CRS Baltimore contact listed below. To find out additional information about the host, issue description or field conditions, please email the country contact provided below, copying the CRS Baltimore contact.

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| **CRS Baltimore** |
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| **CRS Ethiopia** |
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| **Host Organization** |
| **Mr. Solomon Kebede**Excutive manager for Ethiopian Catholic Church Social Development Coordinating Office of MekiMobile: +251-913-728985Email: mcsmeki@gmail.com | **Ian de la Rosa**Chief of PartyFeed the Future Livelihoods for Resilience – Oromia/ CRS EthiopiaEmail  ian.delarosa@crs.org **Haile Dolango** LRO Program Manager I - Market System & Value Chain and LivelihoodsMobile: +251-912-665684Email: Haile.Dolango@crs.org |

1. ILRI 2011 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Animal production vision and strategy for Ethiopia, Ministry of Agriculture and ILRI, February 2013 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Kebele: town/village [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Woreda: an administrative area equivalent to district [↑](#footnote-ref-4)