

**To express interest in this assignment please email** [maria.figuerosa@crs.org](mailto:maria.figuerosa@crs.org)

**Farmer to Farmer**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

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| **Summary Information** | |
| **Assignment Code** | **ET201** |
| Country | Ethiopia |
| Country Project | Crop |
| Host Organization | The Nicolas Mekele Schools and technical training center of Rainbow4Children |
| Assignment Title | Small Scale Irrigation |
| Assignment preferred dates | March/April 2019 |
| Objectives of the assignment | To provide training and technically assist students, teachers, gardeners, managers at the School on water management from new borehole, vegetable production planning & soil fertility management |
| Desired volunteer skill/expertise | knowledge/skills and experience in borehole water management, planning water resource in a dry environment, vegetable production, and organic production and composting |
| 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.

Vegetable crops are valuable sources of vitamins and minerals especially to a country like Ethiopia where most people experience malnourishment. This is partly due to heavy dependence on cereals such as tef, maize, wheat and others. Vegetable crops are also important for food security and nutrition in times of drought, famine and food shortage. They provide a source of income, create employment opportunity and contribution to the national economy as export commodities.

Ethiopia has very good environment for year-round production, huge water sources and abundant labor force. In addition, there is high demand of horticultural products (local, regional and international). Various types of vegetable crops (leafy, root, tuber, bulb and fruit vegetable) are grown in the country both under rain-fed and/or irrigation systems. The major economically important vegetables grown in the assignment woreda[[1]](#footnote-1) include cabbage, carrot, Irish potato, kale, garlic and onion.

Despite favorable conditions, horticulture production faces a number of challenges including environmental degradation due to agricultural practices, rapid population growth and the consequent increase in the exploitation of natural resources. The challenges range from land degradation to environmental pollution due to the misguided application of inorganic inputs (pesticides, herbicides, and inorganic soil fertilizer). Unsustainable agricultural practices including misuse/overuse of inorganic pesticides and fertilizers threatens human health, and the surrounding environment. So, environmentally sound farming system is the vision for the society to cope up the problems of chemical based farming system.

The Nicolas Robinson School (NRS), located in Mekele, Tigray region, is an independent foundation and provides education for disadvantaged children in Ethiopia – primarily the children of adults with disabilities such as loss of limbs and blindness. NRS wants to lead by demonstrating the benefits of eco-friendly production and effectiveness of organic soil management techniques and provide a demonstration and learning center for the local community. Furthermore, the NRS plans to open Technical and Vocational Training College which will be training agricultural science in the next few years, and needs to start to prepare the 4 hectares of land ready for this work.

The host organization NRS already has a reputation for its best in class quality teaching and leadership in school in the area. New skills are taught, and the value of the knowledge gained is valuable for the community. Tigray region is part of Ethiopia’s highly degraded landscapes and is an Agricultural Growth Program (AGP) and Feed-the-Future (FTF) target region. Therefore, promoting sustainable vegetable production and soil management in the region is aligned with the national Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) of Ethiopia.

By looking at the advantages of organic farming, the host requested CRS F2F program for volunteer assistance on sustainable vegetable production and soil management system that also enhances biodiversity, biological cycles and soil fertility. In particular, they have just had the drilling of a borehole donated by the Tigray Development Association on their land. This will enable them to provide irrigation to the whole site throughout the year and enable them to grow crops throughout the year.

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

Despite the increasing need for vegetables in Ethiopia, there is inadequate knowledge on improved production systems and marketing. Vegetable production in the country is generally challenged by shortage of high yielding and good quality verities, disease and insect pest, poor agronomic practices and post-harvest handling, weak production and market chain, and shortage of skilled personnel. Another challenge is the high price of artificial fertilizer and chemicals.

The Nicolas Robinson School (NRS) is training its students in many issues and Rainbows4Children will soon be starting a Technical and Vocational Training College for the town. They are very keen to ensure good quality agriculture techniques are taught in the school and eventually in the college. The program at the school will also focus on training the trainers so that knowledge gained can be passed on to others. However, there are gaps in understanding benefits of using organic means to grow vegetables and maintain soil fertility. The current extension system also focuses on promoting the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides.

NRS therefore, plans to close this skill and knowledge gaps and has requested F2F volunteer assistance to provide additional technical support on organic vegetable production along with soil management for small-scale back yard farming

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The main objective of this volunteer assignment is to train and/or technically assist the targeted beneficiaries on small scale irrigation and improved organic vegetable production and soil management system and provide advice on minimal use of off-farm inputs and on management practices that restore, maintain and enhance ecological harmony. In particular, to grow vegetables throughout the year, using irrigation from the recently drilled borehole. Furthermore, to check that the composting system, inaugurated by F2F, is still functioning well and start using some of this compost to bind the soil and regenerate it for vegetable production. Principles of crop rotation and disease avoidance through rotating crops, should also be taught.

By applying this training and recommended practices, beneficiaries will sustainably produce vegetable and increase incomes generated from the sale of the produce. This assistance is also expected to contribute to improve agronomic practices which will also directly contribute to better quality of produce and increase productivity per unit area of land. In particular, it is intended that the crops and herbs grown will be used in the hospitality training center at the school and thus benefit the school in helping students to understand the full crop cycle and the cultivation of food for the table. The volunteer expert will spend significant time with the beneficiaries, directly assisting and training them with skills on the following:

* Share the science and skill of modern small-scale irrigation system
* Provide training on organic vegetable production systems
* Train on crop rotation, use of green manures and composting, mulching, crop diversity
* Advise on organic soil fertility management
* Check, orientate and improve the resource management of the new borehole water.

Selected beneficiaries include 25 people from students, gardeners, teachers, administration staff and delegates from Mekele University Department of Agriculture/other. Staff and student trainings will be conducted at the Nicolas Robinson School compound in Mekele.

1. **HOST CONTRIBUTION**

The Nicolas Robinson School will support the volunteer in accomplishing her/his overall assignment. The Nicolas Robinson School will assign an associate to the volunteer to accompany and advise her/him on the local situations and act as a translator. The Nicolas Robinson School or CRS will arrange transportation as required. CRS PDP Mekelle will organize the volunteer’s hotel arrangements (lodging and meals) and ensure all required facilities are appropriate. CRS will cover lodging costs against receipts and provide per-diem advances for meals.

1. **ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

It is anticipated that this volunteer assignment will contribute to organic vegetable production, which will directly contribute to the following:

* + Beneficiary skills enhanced on organic vegetable production
  + Increased quality of produce and benefits from farm
  + Increased skill on soil management - use of green manures and compost, mulching, crop diversity, integrated pest management, and weed management.
  + Best practice in water management

1. **DELIVERABLES**

The anticipated deliverables accomplished by the volunteer also include:

* + Initial presentation is completed (outlines activities, plan, approach, etc.)
  + Training and on-farm/household technical assistance conducted
  + Field report with recommendations is submitted and cash advance is reconciled
  + Vol final report due BEFORE departure
  + Group presentation with local stakeholders at the end of the assignment
  + Presentation to CRS staff and/or USAID
  + Outreach events conducted upon return to the US

1. **SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN ETHIOPIA**

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| **Days** | **Activity** |
| 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](mailto: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](javascript:void(0))).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 (Tigray region, Northern Ethiopia). S/he will be introduced with the host and will be accommodated. If time permits, general orientation with the host will be pursued. |
| Day 4 | * Further assess skill and training gaps through visiting and discussing with beneficiaries and stakeholders.   Based on information gathered and gaps identified, enrich the prepared training materials incorporating hands-on practices. |
| Day 5-7 | Provide training for staffs of the host and beneficiaries |
| **Day 8** | **Rest day** |
| Day 9-11 | * Continue provision of trainings and technical assistances for beneficiaries |
| Day 12 | * Briefing / exit meeting with the host in the presence of CRS staff |
| Day 13 | * Volunteer travel back to Addis Ababa |
| Day 14 | * Debriefing with CRS staff and/or USAID Mission * Finalize reimbursement expenditures and liquidations (if any) with finance. * Finalizes his/her reporting and submit training M&E forms to CRS F2F staff. And depart for USA |
| TBD | Outreach event when back in the US |

1. **DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS**

The volunteer will have the following qualifications and competencies:

* + Experience in small scale irrigation system and organic vegetable production
  + Experience in adult training or learning alliances with smallholder farmers, community development/extension workers, members of community-based organizations (CBOs), etc.
  + Good communication and interpersonal skills
  + Willing to work under East African context

1. **ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS**
   * Before travelling to the assignment place, the volunteer will stay in Addis Ababa at one of the CRS’s client hotels, Saro Maria that will be booked and confirmed before the arrival date.
   * In Addis Ababa, the hotel usually has rooms that include services such as airport pickup and drop-off, breakfast, wireless internet, etc.
   * The hotel or CRS will arrange a vehicle for short travel from the hotel to CRS and vice versa while in Addis Ababa.
   * All required materials will be prepared ahead of time and provided to the volunteer. CRS Ethiopia will provide the volunteer with a laptop computer (if s/he needs), local internet dongle (modem/EVDO) and mobile phone with a charged local SIM-card. Any other required logistics and facilities can also be requested by the volunteer during her/his stay in Addis Ababa.
   * CRS will provide a vehicle and accompany the volunteer to the place of assignment.
   * During her/his assignment period, the volunteer will be booked at Axum or in a hotel near assignment area, Mekele. This hotel will have rooms that include services like WiFi internet.
   * 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.
2. **RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS**
   * Although CRS F2F has developed such hinting SOW, the volunteer can fine-tune through her/his professional qualifications to successfully carry out this assignment.
   * 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 not an issue in Mekele)
   * 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 Addis Ababa 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 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.
   * 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.
   * Weather in Mekele is usually moderate during the day, but it gets a bit cold at night. It is recommended to bring some jacket and warm clothes for night.
   * Technical trainings will take place at the school compound and the school has power for Power Point presentations.
3. **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 Program** | |
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| **Host Organization** | |
| **Kathryn Robinson**  Rainbows4Children Foundation  Email: [kwrlachen27@gmail.com](mailto:kwrlachen27@gmail.com)  Tel: +251-912-964 966  **Max Robinson**  Rainbows4Children Foundation  Email: [rmrlachen27@gmail.com](mailto:rmrlachen27@gmail.com)  Tel: +251-922-410 621 | **Tesfagabir Tamru**  Nicolas Robinson School (Head of school)  Email: Tesfagabir.nrs@gmail.com  General Manager  Tel: +251-930-370 419 |

1. Woreda: an administrative area equivalent to district [↑](#footnote-ref-1)