



To express interest in this assignment please email mireille.ngokion@crs.org

**CRS Farmer to Farmer Program
Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

Summary Information	
Assignment Code	NE205
Country	Nepal
Country Project	Crops Country Project
Host Organization	Uddaymsil Agricultural Multipurpose Cooperative
Assignment Title	Oyster Mushroom Seed Production
Assignment preferred dates	July-August, 2019
Objectives of the assignment	To transfer the knowledge mushroom seed production techniques and technology
Desired volunteer skill/expertise	Mycologist with experience on Mushroom seed production
Type of Volunteer Assistance	Technology Transfer = T
Type of Value Chain Activity	Information and Input Support Services (S) on Mushroom Seed Production
PERSUAP Classification	PERSUAP Type III

A. BACKGROUND

Nepal is predominantly depending upon agriculture for their livelihood. The agriculture is traditional; subsistence based producing mostly food security crop and very less amount of high value cash crop. Nepal Government emphasize poverty alleviation and economic growth through agriculture especially promoting the geographically suitable high value commodity crops. Climatic condition of the country varies from tropical in Terai region via alpine in Hills to Himalayan regions. Due to this rich diversity, the potential for mushroom production is immense can cultivated across the country.

In recent years smallholders have been united into farmers groups and cooperatives to increase volume of their produces and transform the subsistence Agriculture farming into a commercial one. Such initiatives are taken in across country. The group working culture has significantly improved livelihoods of smallholders

Nepal Government has also come forward to support farmers initiatives by developing extension. Services to strengthen the groups or cooperatives. This extension services have its own limitations and is resource poor in various forms. Uddaymsil Agricultural Multipurpose Cooperative established by uniting 25 members on 2007 at Lamahi Dekhuri, Dang. It is registered with Nepal government. It is

located in Inner Terai in Province No. 5 at midwestern Nepal. Ghorahi is headquarters of dang district. It is 393 K.M from Kathmandu capital city of Nepal.

The ethnic composition of the local areas offers increment in livestock because of availability of pasture land and urbanization. Deukhuri valleys is dominated by indigenous 'Tharu' with deep root in livestock rearing.



Uddaymsil cooperative is union of 70 farmers groups with 1392 members. Uddyamsil is pioneer in agriculture marketing, livestock trading and dairy trading. Since its establishment, cooperative works on mushroom seed production on own lab and marketed to seven adjoining districts. In addition, they had conducted various training

to lead farmers to transfer the knowledge on mushroom production.

B. ISSUE DESCRIPTION

Many of the small holders engaged in the crops sub sector are shifting towards modern farming methods but are struggling with access to knowledge and techniques prerequisite to increase production and productivity. Furthermore, disease and pests, poor farm management practices, lack of efficient water use practices, limited knowledge on maintaining quality of produced seed, limited knowledge on soil nutrition management, limited access to farm mechanization technologies and limited access to farm extension services are aggravating low productivity.

Mushroom as a source of nutrient is widely recognized in urban and peri-urban areas of Nepal. It has gained its reputation as a commodity to fetch higher income among mushroom growers. Small holders are organized in cooperative to produce mushroom in scale. The technologies on mushroom seed development has been transferred to the cooperatives by various initiatives. The knowledge transfer through short term entrepreneurship programs have provided exposure in different aspects of mushroom cultivation and seed production. To some extent, the mother culture development techniques and equipment supplies have been done in the cooperatives. However, the seed produced through the cooperative is not matching expectation of farmers. Farmers are bearing huge losses due to inferior seed. In this context, Cooperative is looking for advance skills on use of mother culture techniques to produce quality mushroom seed to supply it to farmers. Further, cooperative is yet to understand proper planting methods, handling of existing equipment's and need of additional equipment to produce quality seed.

C. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Mushroom seed development will be provided to laboratory technicians of cooperative and planting techniques will be provided to farmers groups. The specific objective of this volunteer assignment is to

provide training on quality mushroom seed production as well as plantation. The general objective will be:

- Introduce and demonstrate handful techniques to produce mushroom seed.
- Develop simple mushroom seed production guideline/protocol for local technicians.
- Trained farmers on quality seed selection and cultivation.

D. HOST CONTRIBUTION

The assignment will be conducted closely with the mushroom seed production laboratory of Uddaymsil Agriculture Multipurpose Cooperative and mushroom growers, thus the host will facilitate the volunteers to reach the targeted beneficiaries to ensure successful completion of assignment. The host will also arrange training for smallholders to cultivate mushroom. Host will also provide the volunteer with office space, training hall and daily tea/snacks for participants.

E. ANTICIPATED RESULTS (Outcome/impact) FROM THE ASSIGNMENT

It is anticipated that this volunteer assignment will contribute to quality mushroom seed production to be used by cooperative members and will directly contribute to the following;

- Cooperative laboratory will adopt the improved mushroom seed production techniques
- Cooperative members will adopt the improved cultivation techniques
- Increased uniform incomes of all round the year
- Outreach events conducted upon return to the US

F. DELIVERABLES

The anticipated deliverables accomplished by the volunteer also include:

- One simple mushroom seed production guideline/protocol for the local technicians will be developed
- Appropriate and relevant technologies on mushroom cultivation will be transferred
- Host recommendations action plan developed
- Trip Report should be submitted before exit meeting

G. SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN COUNTRY (DRAFT)

Day	Activity
Days 1	Arrival Nepal, Trivubhan international Airport. The volunteer will be picked by Greenwich Hotel with a placard bearing “ CRS logo and volunteer name ”.
Day 2	Introduction and meeting with CRS management, and briefing meeting (security, general orientation, logistic, reporting formats, etc.) at CRS office. Discuss anticipated outcomes and work plan.

Day 3	Travel to assignment site. Introduction and assignment briefing with host representatives
Days 4 – 13	Complete assignment related activities at the host location
Day 13-14	Activity close out, host action plan preparation for implementing recommendations
Day 15	Travel back to Kathmandu
Day 15-16	Report revision, submission,
Day 17	Debriefing including CRS country Office and USAID Local mission and fly back to USA

H. DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS

The volunteer will have the following qualifications and competencies:

- Mycologist with experience on Mushroom seed production
- Oyster mushroom seed and mushroom production techniques

I. ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS

- Before travelling to the assignment place, the volunteer will stay in Kathmandu at one of the CRS's client hotels, **Greenwich village Resort (<http://www.greenwichnepal.com>)** or another hotel that will be booked and confirmed before the arrival date. In Kathmandu, 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 Kathmandu.
- All required materials will be prepared ahead of time and will be provided to the volunteer. CRS Nepal will provide the volunteer with a laptop computer (if s/he needs), local internet dongle (modem/EVDO) and mobile phone with charged local SIM-card. Any other required logistics and facilities can also be requested by the volunteer during her/his stay in Kathmandu. CRS will provide a vehicle and accompany the volunteer to the place of assignment.
- During the assignment period, the volunteer will be booked in a hotel at the project site, to be confirmed prior to volunteer arrival. CRS Nepal will arrange hotel accommodation and cover the lodging bills against receipts. CRS HQ will provide the volunteer with a per-diem advance to cater meals and incidences.
- Security information will be provided by CRS Nepal Security focal person at Kathmandu CRS Country office.

J. RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS

- Prior to travel, the volunteer is advised to prepare necessary training and demonstration aids and written handouts. Electronic copies of these handouts and any other printed materials can be printed for immediate use at the CRS office in Kathmandu on request by the volunteer.

- If the volunteer requires use of simple training aids like flip charts, markers or tape s/he should make the request and collect from the CRS office in Kathmandu prior to travel to the assignment place.
- Translation of handouts to the local language can be done at the assignment location 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 Appropriate Clothing: <https://www.accuweather.com/en/np/nepal-weather> (will provide later)

K. KEY CONTACTS

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