



To express interest in this assignment, email Mireille.Ngokion@crs.org

**Farmer to Farmer Benin
Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

Summary Information	
Assignment Code	BJ219
Country	Benin
Country Project	Cashew subsector
Host Organization	URPA Oueme-Plateau
Type of Volunteer Assistance	Technology Transfer (T)
Type of Value Chain Activity	Information and Input support services (S)
Assignment Title	Beekeeping for honey production and cashew plantations pollination
Assignment preferred dates	October-November 2019
Objectives of the assignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train some cashew farmers on beekeeping techniques for honey production, • Train some cashew farmers on packets of bees' production techniques, • Train some cashew farmers on the orchard's pollination with bees techniques • Help to install some beekeeping Units
Desired volunteer skill/expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert in beekeeping for honey production, • Expert in packets of bees' production techniques, • Practical experiences in bees' usage for orchards pollination • Relevant experiences in modern techniques of beekeeping, • Experiences in adult training • Be familiar to participatory approach

A. BACKGROUND

The Regional Union of Cashew Producers of Ouémé-Plateau (URPA-OP) is a Cooperative Society with Board of Directors (COOP / CA) created on March 12, 2013 but officially registered on May 03rd, 2018 in compliance with the Uniform Act of the Organization for the Harmonization of African Business Law (OHADA) on the law of Cooperative Societies. It comprises two founding members that are the Common Unions of Cashew Producers (UCPA) of the communes of Kétou and Adja-Ouèrè which include eighteen (18) Village Cooperative of Cashew Producers (CVPA).

The URPA Oueme-Plateau network covers more than 599 producers members, including 472 men and 127 women with an area of 1225.25 hectares of cashew trees in production. The URPA-OP is endowed by FENAPAB with a technical staff. This staff consists of a coordinator, an office secretary and an agricultural advisor.

Its main mission is to boost cashew production at regional level by providing advice to producers, setting up quality plant material, adapted production tools and organizing the marketing of raw cashew nuts through group sales system.

The Regional Union of Cashew Producers of Ouémé and Plateau (URPA / OP) is a service cooperative for the benefit of UCPA members. During the 2017-2018 marketing year, the URPA Oueme-Plateau sold 140.329 tons of cashew nuts in a grouped system.

B. ISSUE DESCRIPTION

In Benin, the cashew orchards produce for only 04 months per year (January to April) and the rest of the time, many producers lack activities and most of them are generally looking for additional income generating activities to diversify their revenue. These later coupled with the increasing demand of honey from both inside the country and the neighboring Nigeria make that the producers figured out that beekeeping for honey production could be a very profitable activity for them. In addition, the average yield of cashew nuts per tree per year is very low (approximately 1.5 to 4 kilograms) and the cashew producers are also looking for developing a strategy to improve the cashew plantations' yield that will make them more profitable. One of the suggested techniques is pollinating the cashew plantations by bees. Then, the URPA realize that beekeeping activities can be a very helpful activity for many famers members of the Union which can contribute to improve their income and through this their living conditions.

C. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The main objective of this assignment is to train some cashew producers of URPA Oueme-Plateau on beekeeping for production and bees production for cashew plantations pollination. The assignment will intend specially to:

- Train some cashew farmers on beekeeping techniques for honey production,
- Train some cashew farmers on packets of bees' production techniques,
- Train some cashew farmers on the orchards pollination with bees techniques
- Help to install some beekeeping Units

D. HOST CONTRIBUTION

The contribution of the URPA OP to this assignment will consist of mobilizing, supporting the commuting, the lodging and the feeding fees of the participants to the diagnosis and training sessions. In addition, the URPA OP promises to take in charge the roundtrip commuting of the volunteer from his or her hotel to its headquarter every day.

E. ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT

Through the volunteer technical assistance, the yields of the plantations will greatly be improved as well as the production activities. In addition, this assignment will help many cashew producers to diversify their income generating activities through beekeeping activities development.

F. DELIVERABLES

The deliverables expected from this assignment are the follows:

- Training the cashew producers on beekeeping for honey production is done,
- Training the cashew producers on the packets of bees’ production technologies,
- Helping some cashew producers to install their beekeeping units,
- Showing the cashew producers how to use bees to pollinate the plantations
- Debriefing with USAID and in country staff after assignment
- Provide activity report

G. SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN COUNTRY (DRAFT)

Day	Activity
Day 1	Travel from home to US international airport
Day 2	Arrival at Benin International Airport, picked up and check in at Livingstone Hotel.
Day 3	At 9.00 am, the volunteer is greeted at the hotel by CRS staff and thereafter go to CRS office for introductions and orientations (briefings including host brief), logistics and expectations and anticipated outcomes. Any necessary hand-outs will be prepared at CRS offices and Travel to Ketou and check in City Hotel. CRS Benin F2F team introduces the volunteer to URPA’s staff and the administrative board as well as to the chief of police and to Mayor of the district. The volunteer will review and finalise the work-plan and discuss with them on any other arrangement for the work
Day 4	Make a quick diagnosis to better know the beekeeping background of the participants and the beekeeping technologies developed in their area
Days 5	Exchange with the farmers on the required dispositions and equipment for beekeeping and honey and bees harvesting
Day 6-7 and 8	Train the farmers on beekeeping for honey production techniques, honey harvesting and
Day 10 and 11	Train the farmers on packets bees production techniques and practices on trees pollinating with bees

Day 12	Help some of the farmers to install their beekeeping units
Day 13	Wrap up the meetings with URPA's representatives, debriefing with CRS Benin F2F staff, actions plan and recommendations review and travel back to Cotonou
Day 14	Debriefing at CRS office with USAID Mission and CRS staff. Volunteer will finalize his/her reporting at CRS office and fill out all necessary M&E forms as well finalize advances and expenditures with finance
Day 15	Depart for USA
TBD	Outreach event in the US

H. DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS

As described above, the volunteer we are looking for this assignment must have relevant professional skills and practical experiences in beekeeping for honey production and for trees pollination. Especially, he or she must be:

- Expert in beekeeping for honey production,
- Expert in packets of bees' production techniques,
- Practical experiences in bees' usage for orchards pollination
- Relevant experiences in modern techniques of beekeeping,
- Experiences in adult training
- Be familiar to participatory approach
- Open to share knowledge and it experiences with others
- He/she must be result oriented
- Working experience in the cashew subsector is an asset

I. ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS

In Cotonou, the volunteer will stay at Livingstone Hotel, whereas at Ketou, the volunteer will stay at the City Hotel. In Benin, CRS will pay for hotel accommodation. In addition, a local network SIM card will be provided to the volunteer as well as a spare computer if needed at his or her arrival in Cotonou. In Ketou, CRS will hire a local translator for the volunteer's work and The URPA will contribute to the volunteer's commuting as well as mobilizing and supporting its members for the required sessions. Mr Alphonse HODONOU DEKOUNDE who is the president of the administrative board of the Union and Mr Olivier SENAHOUN who is the focal point of the Union will work closely with the volunteer, during the preparations and his/her work, to ensure that the assignment goals are being achieved.

J. RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS

1. Training Materials

The volunteer should prepare materials for hand out which can be printed at CRS office in Benin before his arrival. Flip charts, markers, masking tapes can be obtained at the CRS offices in case the volunteer wishes to make some illustrations during the sessions.

2. Working Environment

The URPA Oueme-Plateau is headquartered in Ketou which is in an area very close to Nigeria Federal Republic. The Nigerian border is at about 17 km. Ketou is also at 150 km from Cotonou, the biggest city of Benin and at 100 km from Porto-Novo, the capital of Benin. People of Ketou are mostly Christians and some are Muslims but all of them are well involved in endogenous religion. It is an area where the endogenous ceremonies to worship the 'revenants' are vibrant and with many freedom restrictions mainly for women during the period of August. The main language is Nagot. But people are open to collaborate with foreigners.

3. Recommended Reading

The volunteer may read some documents on cashew plantations and about tropical farms.

4. Weather Appropriate Clothing

The weather appropriate clothing is light and not dark clothes. In the south of Benin, the weather is a bit hot and humid with some temperatures varying between 23 to 36 Celsius degree. It is also a sunny weather with some rains fall from March.

K. KEY CONTACTS

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