



To express interest in this assignment please email [priyanka.subba@crs.org](mailto:priyanka.subba@crs.org)  
**CRS Farmer to Farmer Program**  
**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

**Notice for potential volunteers:**  
**Some assignment details are subject to change.**

Summary Information	
<b>Assignment Code</b>	<b>TL204</b>
Country	Timor-Leste
Country Project	Modernizing Agriculture sector
Host Organization	Nova Casa Fresca
Assignment Title	Organic Strawberry Production & disease management
Assignment preferred dates	June 2019
Objectives of the assignment	- Increase organic strawberry production for NCF and Farmer groups - Utilize appropriate method (IPM) for controlling pest and deasses
Desired volunteer skill/expertise	Background in horticulture science or experience in organic strawberry production, IPM experience adaptable toe rural areas, hands on training skills and expertise
Type of Volunteer Assistance	Technology Transfer (T)
Type of Value Chain Activity	On Farm Production (F)
PERSUAP Classification <sup>1</sup>	Type I

## A. BACKGROUND

Nova Casa Fresca is an Agribusiness company established in 2015 with the mission of contributing to Timor Leste’s economy by producing and promoting organic agricultural products. The company’s objectives include:

- Produce and provide horticultural products, livestock and fisheries to local and intenational markets
- Create competition between the local and imported products which is dominating in Timor-Leste market system as a result of economical advantagees
- To attract foreigners and Timorese for high quality of local produce

Nova Casa supplies locally produced vegetables to the Dili based supermarkets, hotels and restaurants, and catering services by collecting vegetables from nearly 150 farmers from their farm gate.

<sup>1</sup> USAID precisely classifies PERSUAP in four categories; **PERSUAP Type I** assignments directly related to pesticides recommendations, **Type II** as assignments with indirectly related with pesticides, **Type III** assignments related to curriculum review and designing, business plan development and strategies development and **Type IV** as assignments associated with other USAID projects and collaborators.

## **B. ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

Timor-Leste has native strawberry that grows wildly but not commercially. In 2016, the USAID funded Avansa Agriculture imported around 60,000 strawberry plants and distributed them to farmers in the Aileu, Ainaro and Ermera municipalities. Nova Casa Fresca received 9000 seedlings during this distribution.

Despite the growing demand for strawberry products in the country, the company is struggling to supply at desired quantity and quality due to the limited capacity of the staff to provide necessary advisory support to the daily workers and farmers on appropriate organic strawberry cultivation methods and pest management. Additionally, farmers severely lack awareness on proper soil health management and composting techniques that lead to increased yields. This issue of low yields due to low production and productivity has also resulted in creating supply chain management issues as there aren't enough crops to organize an efficient supply chain system.

Data provided by Nova Casa shows monthly yields as much as 160 kg -180kg per month at peak production. However, the production has continuously dropped since 2017 due to plant disease and the inability to properly handle the issue. In 2018 NCF moved to a new place but the disease continued to attack the plants and production dropped to 60-80kg /month and the number of plants also continued to decline until there were only 2500-3000 trees left. The existing variety is sweet charley.

The Strawberry yield can be increased by enhancing staff, worker and farmers capacity on good organic strawberry production and IPM practices through the effective use of local resources to reduce crops and vegetable cost of production for Nova Casa Fresca and rural farmers. These could be the main motivating factor for subsistence and rural farmers to sustain their businesses and support livelihood farming as a business. Thus, the host Nova Casa Fresca has requested for support through a F2F technical volunteer to address the issues and gaps that staff and farmers are facing at the moment.

## **C. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The objective of this assignment is to train Nova Casa Fresca staff and their daily workers on Organic strawberry Production using appropriate technology for increasing quantity and quality of strawberry production through applying appropriate IPM methods to prevent pest and disease to meet the market demand

The main aim is to transfer skills and knowledge on Organic strawberry Production and IPM to NCF staff and daily workers. This will be conducted in on farm of lectures and practical demonstrations and any other method that volunteer and the NCF determine to be the best suited for this purpose. The volunteer jointly with the NCF can also plan to visit at least one nearby strawberry farmer to observe and practically discuss about Organic Strawberry Production and IPM issues with member farmers. The beneficiaries of this assignment will be expected is 3 staff and 14 daily workers of Nova Casa.

Anticipated training topics include but are not limited to the following;

- General organic management practices
- Soil health and site selection
- Nutrient Management Variety selection
- Technical and time for harvesting
- Organic strawberry IPM- wet and dry season
- Pesticide register for use in Organic strawberry
- Food safety

#### D. HOST CONTRIBUTION

The Nova Casa Fresca (NCF) will select, determine and mobilize the attendances regarding to training participant. The NCF will also ensure that the necessary class rooms and local training aids and other teaching materials are in place. The host will also provide the volunteer with and facilitate the volunteer for meal services. The NCF will also assign a focal person who can guide and facilitate the volunteer specialist during the assignment period. The host will also provide office space and office furniture as well as vehicle if any travel is required during the assignment duration.

#### E. ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT

This assignment volunteer will contribute to the following:

- increase knowledge of 3 staff and 14 daily workers of Nova Casa Fresca on Organic Strawberry Production and IMP practices
- Increase quality and quantity strawberry production of 150 contract grower strawberry farming on Organic Strawberry Production and IMP practices

#### F. DELIVERABLES

1. Volunteer final report due BEFORE departure
2. Group presentation with local stakeholders at the end of the assignment in country
3. Group presentation for staff
4. Volunteer outreach activities in the US and in country
5. Farmers guidelines on organic Strawberry production and IPM

#### G. SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN TIMOR-LESTE

Day	Activity
Day 1-2	Arrival into Timor-Leste. The volunteer will be picked by a car provided through CRS's client hotel with a placard bearing " <b>CRS logo and volunteer name</b> ".
Day 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Briefing meeting at CRS office with CRS F2F staff, security briefing and logistics and itinerary of the trip and discuss anticipated outcomes and work plan;</li><li>• Meeting with ambassador and USAID mission</li></ul>
Day 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Travel to Aileu Nova Casa Fresca Field Office (47 km from Dili)</li><li>• Setup with guesthouse and other logistics</li><li>• Briefing meeting with staff Nova Casa Fresca and Local Leader</li></ul>
Days 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First hand briefing on outlines of topics of the training, plan, approach, etc, and adjust the topics as required.</li><li>• Work planning discussion with the staff of the Nova Casa Fresca</li><li>• Prepare course/training and plan with the NCF to proceed with the assignment (lecturing, advising, and practicing)</li></ul>
Day 6-7	Conduct the assignment according to an agreed schedule on Organ (Practical, advise and training)
<b>Day 8-9</b>	<b>Report Preparation</b>
Days 10-12	Continue conducting the assignment (academic, advise and practical)
Days 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wrap up sessions that emphasize key concepts of the assignment: the NCF evaluates the assignment and discusses final report recommendations with the volunteer.</li><li>• Group presentation to the host in the presence of CRS F2F staff and local leader</li></ul>
Day 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Travel back to Dili and Debriefing at CRS office with Ambassador, USAID Mission and CRS staffs.</li><li>• Submit all reports, return logistic items and complete all required activities</li></ul>
Day 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Travel back to USA</li></ul>

## H. DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS

- Graduate/experience in soil science or soil fertility management and composting
- Demonstrative experience in agricultural private sector and/or on field experience
- Ability and preparedness to use relevant teaching aids and audiovisuals,
- Specialist in vegetable crop production and strawberry **practical** education experiences in learning
- Good communicator and interpersonal skills

## I. ACCOMMODATION AND ANOTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS

- Before travelling to the assignment place, the volunteer will stay in [Plaza Hotel](#) at one of the CRS's client hotels that will be booked and confirmed before the arrival date.
- In Dili, 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 or using Taxi
- CRS Timor Leste 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 Timor-Leste.
- CRS will provide a vehicle and accompany the volunteer to the place of assignment.
- During her/his assignment period on the field, the volunteer will be booked in [a hotel](#) at district that with minimum conditions the one that preferred is
- CRS Timor-Leste 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.
- Before departing to US, the volunteer will also liquidate advances (if any) at CRS Timor-Leste
- For more information, please refer to country information that will be provided

## J. RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS

- Prior to travel, the volunteer will be advised to prepare necessary training and demonstrating aids and written handouts. Softcopies of the handouts and any other paper materials can be printed for immediate use at either office of CRS on request by the volunteer.
- If the volunteer requires use of simple training aids like flip charts, markers, masking tapes, etc, s/he should make the request and collect from either office at Dili office prior to travel to the assignment place.
- Translation of handouts to local languages can be done in the locality of the assignment, if shortly required. Depending on the meeting places, the volunteer may use a laptop and projector for power point presentations
- The target training is for staff, workers and beneficiaries that with high illiteracy
- Working environment and culture is people of Aileu very friendly and respectful to their guest and in the traditional ceremony they might be request as to smoke or eat betel nut, but if she/he don't like just to touch it and give back to them.
- Recommend reading are Dr. Mike Colegrove report, [USAID Avansa Project and Aileu Municipality site](#)
- Related to the weather condition now is rainy season so she/he can bring the boots or clothes resistance to water and muddy

**K. KEY CONTACTS**

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