



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**

Summary Information	
Assignment Code	NE210
Country	Crops Country Project
Country Project	Nepal
Host Organization	Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU), Department of Agronomy
Partner Organization	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)/USAID Nepal Seed and Fertilizer (NSAF) Project
Assignment Title	Seed Science Post Graduate Curricula Review and Upgrade
Assignment preferred dates	August-September 2019
Objectives of the assignment	Upgrade Seed Science post graduate curricula of the university
Desired volunteer skill/expertise	Expert in Seed Science Curricula Development and University Professors
Type of Volunteer Assistance	Organizational Development (O)
Type of Value Chain Activity	Information and Input Support Services (S) on curricula upgrading
PERSUAP Classification <sup>1</sup>	Type III

**A. BACKGROUND**

The United States Agency for International Development in Nepal (USAID Nepal) supported Nepal Seed and Fertilizer (NSAF) project is being implemented by International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT). NSAF contributes to Feed the Future’s goal of sustainably reducing global poverty and hunger by aligning with the Feed the Future Nepal multi-year strategy (2011–2017) and USAID’s Country Development Cooperation Strategy for Nepal (2014–2019).

The project aims to strengthen the country’s seed and fertilizer systems by:

- enhancing the capacity and role of public, private and community sectors in the seed and fertilizer value chains through the provision of technical and business development services;
- improving private sector access to inbred lines and research knowledge from national and international research institutions; and

<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.

- enhancing public-private partnerships and coordination by establishing a tripartite research forum and a seed and fertilizer information system at the national level.

In this connection, CIMMYT/NSAF wants to build the capacity of Nepal's Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) by reviewing post graduate Seed Science Curricula.

The Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) was established in Rampur, Chitwan, Nepal in 2010 which is the first technical university in the country. The university aims at producing highly skilled human resources required to work on quality research and development in agriculture. It aims at all round development of agriculture, livestock, aquaculture and forestry which would raise the socio-economic conditions of rural people through quality teaching, research and extension. The mission of Agriculture and Forestry University is to produce competent manpower to promote education, research and development in agriculture, veterinary, fisheries, forestry and allied disciplines. The university has started 4 years B.Sc. Fisheries, M.Sc. in Biotechnology, M.Sc. in Weed Science, M.Sc. Seed technology, M.Sc. Agribusiness Management and Ph.D. programs in Developmental Studies.

The university has 107 faculty members and 255 support staffs at this moment. The current student strength consists of 1,883 including 1471 undergraduate students, 367 M.Sc. students and 45 Ph.D. scholars in different disciplines. Nearly 35 % students are girl students.

## **B. ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

Agriculture and Forest University (AFU) offered MSC Agronomy Seed Science and Technology Course for post graduate students and a cycle has already completed. The Nepal Seed and Fertilizer Project (NSAF) is closely working with AFU to enhance its research and extension course to respond to current need of seed and fertilizer sub sector. After reviewing the course from NSAF program, the post graduate seed science and technology curricula need to review and updated to standardize it as per international standard. The course offers limited opportunity to complement The National Seed Vision 2013-25 that aimed at making Nepal seed sufficient. The National Seed Vision 2013-25, of the Government of Nepal has envisaged a strong domestic seed industry for export of seed, as well as for meeting local seed demand. However, there is lack of manpower to fulfill the need to improve the seed system. AFU offers basic knowledge on seed science and remained weak on local seed improvement, research and they type of extension services that are required to promote seed production

Further the existing courses do not adequately meet the requirement/needs of the national seed industry. Also, the seed industry is not getting qualified seed technicians and are unable to train their existing staff. They are seriously lacking testing technology and methods of testing for proper germination. They even lack curricula to train their staffs and technicians on the aspect. Therefore, updating post graduate seed science and technology curricula is must for the growth and development of seed industry in Nepal.

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

The general objective of the assignment is to upgrade Seed Science post graduate curricula of the University with following specific tasks;

- Assess the existing Seed Science post graduate curricula of the university
- Conduct workshop with Seed Companies on curricula review
- Conduct workshop with the university academic faculties on curricula review process
- Suggest necessary changes in the university established Seed Processing unit to ensuring quality of Seeds

**D. HOST CONTRIBUTION**

AFU Agronomy Department will provide the physical space for discussion/interaction with the faculties and officials of the AFU.

**E. ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

- Implemented upgraded post graduate curriculum on seed science and technology by the university
- Increased number of experts on the field to meet the demand of the industry

**F. DELIVERABLES**

- Updated curricula in place
- Host recommendations action plan developed

**G. SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN COUNTRY (DRAFT)**

Days	Activities
Day 1	Rest day
Day 2	Security briefing and orientation at CRS office and meeting at CIMMYT Kathmandu office
Day 3	Travel to host location at AFU Rampur, Chitwan
Day 4	Meeting with host and detail planning for the assignment
Day 5-7	Curriculum review
Day 8	Curriculum review
Days 9– 11	Curriculum review
Day 12	Presentation to the University academic faculties on reviewed curriculum and feedback collection
Day 13	Incorporate feedback in the curriculum
Day 14	Final presentation and host planning
Day 15	Travel back to KTM from field
Day 16	Report preparation and submission to CRS F2F and debriefing
Day 17	Travel back to the US

**H. DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS**

The volunteer expert is preferred to have the following expertise

- Experienced on Seed Science curriculum development for under and post graduate levels

- Experiences in the field of crop improvement and seed technology will be very useful
- Experience in seed testing laboratories and awareness on quality standards on seed will be helpful

**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, Hotel Kutumba <https://www.orbitz.com/Lalitpur-Hotels-Hotel-Kutumba.h33780567.Hotel-Information> 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 or guest room provided by host facility, 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 sufficiently communicate with host focal points to better prepare assignment in advance as it is related to curricula upgrading.
- Go through AFU existing curricula module and search for other curricula in the US universities what works the best in local context and scenario
- 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 placed.
- 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.

**K. KEY CONTACTS**

<b>CRS Baltimore, US</b>	<b>CRS Nepal Country Program</b>
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