



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

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

Summary Information	
Assignment Code	BJ234
Country	Benin
Country Project	Soybean subsector
Host Organization	The organization for Sustainable development, reinforcement and self-promotion of community structures (DEDRAS)
<i>Type of Volunteer Assistance</i>	Organizational Development (O)
<i>Type of Value Chain Activity</i>	Information and Input support services (S)
Assignment Title	Curriculum designing for the Center for Training in Entrepreneurship and Farming of Sirarou (CeFEMAS) of DEDRAS NGO
Assignment preferred dates	Januray-February 2019
Objectives of the assignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help to diagnose all the required courses and relevant activities to be carried out to achieve • To help to define all the required teaching sessions, learning processes for the training cycle, • To help to identify all the required materials, and practical sessions to be set up for the training cycle • To help to define a clear and relevant training process for a training cycle • To help to design the training curriculum document of the center
Desired volunteer skill/expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert in training curriculum development • Relevant experiences in training in agricultural and animal breeding subsectors • Practical experience in an agricultural training center in a trainers' training role • Experiences in an agricultural training center is an asset

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be used to young people training approach is an asset • Be familiar to participatory appraisal
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A. BACKGROUND

The Organization for Sustainable Development, Strengthening and Self-Promotion of Community Structures (DEDRAS NGO) is a faith-based organization that has been active since its creation in 1979 by the Union of the Evangelic Churches of Benin (UEEB) in the fight against poverty. It intervenes in several fields including:

- Protection, Education and Sponsorship;
- vocational training and youth employment;
- Development of agricultural sectors and food security;
- Nutrition, community health and reproduction;
- Water, hygiene and sanitation; Humanitarian action and peace

This request for support comes within the framework of the actions of DEDRAS NGO in the field of "craft and agricultural vocational training".

Indeed, DEDRAS has in SIRAROU (locality located at 30 kilometers of Parakou) a farm of vegetable, fish and animal production on an area more than 25 hectares distributed as follows:

- 13 hectares of mango, cashew and teak plantations
- 02 hectares of lowlands
- 01 hectare for infrastructures (shops, office, dormitories, water retention, modern chicken coop, sheepfold and training room module)
- 04 ha under development for market gardening
- 8 hectares of rich and cultivable land for the production of various crops

In its growing need to have a training center for young people in agricultural activities, DEDRAS set up Sirarou’s Farm in Agricultural Training called (Center for Training in Entrepreneurship and Farming of Sirarou: CeFEMAS). Indeed, the framework ideally responds to the training of young people given its situation (At the edge of the Inter State Road) and has within it all the necessary infrastructure for this training mission.

The vision of CeFEMAS is to train and support each year at least 30 young competent entrepreneurs in the exercise of the agricultural activities and decent through the acquisition of technical, managerial and professional skills and entrepreneurial attitudes.

The various components developed are: market gardening, poultry farming, the fattening of small ruminants, fish farming, rabbit breeding, beekeeping, professional nurseries and agricultural products processing.

These professions have been identified on the basis of a diagnosis, and can be done at a lower cost. On the other hand, there is a possibility to combine these activities, because there is a great synergy between them. These are interdependent and complementary professions.

The current training program is based on the Competence Based Approach (CPA) with a focus on learning by doing and the dual approach: classroom theory and practice at the production session level. The duration of the training is 12 months with 3 months of training. Recruitment is done every year and mainly concerns out-of-school youth with business ideas in the field of agricultural trades in the 25 to 35 age group.

The Center also develops training courses for professionals who have a need for training.

Since May 2019, this center has been welcoming about 10 young people in entrepreneurial training as part of agricultural training courses to pursue a career in agricultural entrepreneurship. And farmers and rural women farmers come to boost their capacity. And since this first experience, DEDRAS is more than ever convinced of the importance of this center but also the opportunity to expand this center to make a reference in Benin and also in the sub-region.

The main challenges are to maintain this center in a perspective of:

1. Self-financing training center
2. Training center offering relevant training

B. ISSUE DESCRIPTION

As stated above, DEDRAS is setting up an agricultural training center with various components on agricultural activities for young people. They have just started developing activities in the center and are still recruiting the young people who drop out school and who would like to set up in the future their business in agricultural sector. In order to make the center successful, they need to develop a curriculum for the training center that can give a real and better orientation to the training center. But they lack internal competences to design this document and are looking for some external competencies to help them to do it. Indeed, they are recruiting some technical staff who will be in charge of the training process for the center. But curriculum development is a matter of professionals and they cannot afford hiring someone locally who can help them on this and this is hindering the development of their training activities.

C. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The main objective of this assignment is to help to design a curriculum for the agricultural training center. The assignment intends specially to:

- Help to diagnose all the required courses and relevant activities to be carried out to achieve training cycle
- Help to define all the required teaching sessions, learning processes for the training cycle,
- Help to identify all the required materials, and practical sessions to be set up for the training cycle
- Help to define a clear and relevant training process for a training cycle
- Help to design the training curriculum document of the center

D. HOST CONTRIBUTION

The DEDRAS contribution to this assignment will consist of mobilizing, supporting the commuting, the lodging and the feeding fees of the participants to the working sessions. In addition, they will provide a meeting room and all the required materials for the working sessions. They will also take in charge the trips for the training center visits by the volunteer and the roundtrip from his/her hotel and their headquarter every day.

E. ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT

Through the volunteer technical assistance, DEDRAS NGO will have a relevant training curriculum for the student training in the agricultural center. This will greatly help them to extend the training center's

activities and to achieve successfully the training of the enrolled students. In addition, the students will benefit from a good quality of training that will help them to set-up successfully their own business after graduation. Then, more students will be enrolled and will be trained successfully.

F. DELIVERABLES

The deliverables expected from this assignment are the follows:

- The diagnosis of the required courses and relevant activities for the training center is done,
- The definition of the required teaching sessions, learning processes for the training cycle is done,
- The identification of the required materials, practical sessions to be set up for the training cycle is done,
- A complete curriculum document for the training center is achieved and available
- Debriefing with USAID and country staff after assignment is done
- The assignment report is provided

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 Parakou and check in Hotel Pluriel. CRS Benin F2F team introduces the volunteer to DEDRAS staff. The volunteer will review and finalize the work-plan and discuss with them on any other arrangement for the work
Day 4	Make some visits to the training center and diagnose the training center's current activities strengths and weaknesses
Days 5-6	Help to define all the required courses and relevant activities to be carried out to achieve the training cycle
Day 7-8	Help to define all the required teaching sessions, learning processes for the training cycle
Day 9 -10	Help to identify all the required materials, and practical sessions to be set up for the training cycle
Day 10-11	Help to define a clear and relevant training process for a training cycle
Day 12-13	Achieve the training curriculum document designing of the center
Day 14	Debriefing the assignment with DEDRAS responsible and technical staff, actions plan and recommendations review and travel back to Cotonou
Day 15	Debriefing at CRS office with USAID Mission and CRS staff and travel back to USA

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H. DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS

As described above, the volunteer we are looking for this assignment must have relevant professional skills and practical experiences in an agricultural training curriculum designing for a training center. Especially, he or she must be:

- Expert in training curriculum development
- Relevant experiences in training in agricultural and animal breeding subsectors
- Practical experiences in an agricultural training center in a trainers' training role
- Experiences in an agricultural training center is an asset
- Be used to young people training approach is an asset
- Be familiar to participatory appraisal

I. ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS

In Cotonou, the volunteer will stay at Livingstone Hotel, whereas at Parakou, the volunteer will stay at the Hotel Pluriel. 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 Parakou, CRS will hire a local translator for the volunteer's work and DEDRAS will contribute to the volunteer's commuting as well as mobilizing and supporting its members for the required sessions. The DEDRAS Coordinator 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

Parakou is in the North of Benin from about 450 km of Cotonou. DEDRAS is headquartered in the city of Parakou where most of the sessions will take place. But some commuting could be required around Parakou and Sirarou where the training center is located. The volunteer will work mainly with the DEDRAS Coordinator during his/her. In Parakou, the volunteer will meet both Muslims and Christians and the main languages are dendi, bariba and fon. People are open to collaborate with foreigners.

3. Recommended Reading

The volunteer may read some documents on the agricultural training centers in Africa

4. Weather Appropriate Clothing

The weather appropriate clothing is light and not dark clothes. In the North of Benin, the weather is a bit hot and dry with some temperatures varying between 25 to 42 Celsius degree. It is also a sunny weather with some rains fall from June.

K. KEY CONTACTS

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