

<b>Summary Information</b>	
<b>Assignment Code</b>	<b>BJ238</b>
Country	Benin
Country Project	Cashew subsector
Host Organization	Regional Union of Cashew Producers' Cooperatives of Borgou - Alibori (URCPA B-A)
<i>Type of Volunteer Assistance</i>	Environmental Conservation (C)
<i>Type of Value Chain Activity</i>	Information and Input support services (S)
Assignment Title	Train the agricultural advisors and some farmers on climate-smart agriculture and support climate-smart agriculture plan designing for cashew production.
Assignment preferred dates	May -June 2020
Objectives of the assignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train the participants on climate change concepts, the link between agriculture-climate change-environment</li> <li>• Train the participants climate -smart agriculture concepts</li> <li>• Support the designing of climate-smart agriculture plan for cashew production</li> <li>• Set up a tool for monitoring and evaluation of the plan</li> </ul>
Desired volunteer skill/expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agronomist expert in climate smart agriculture</li> <li>• Have strong experience on tropical agriculture</li> <li>• Used to adult training approaches</li> </ul> Be familiar to participatory approach

## **A. BACKGROUND**

Created in December 2004 following the government's call to make cashew nuts one of the priority subsectors and with the support of the National Office of Support to the Agricultural income and Stabilization (ONS) and the Regional Center of Agriculture and Rural Development (CARDER) of Borgou-Alibori (BA); the Regional Union of Cashew Producers Cooperatives of Borgou - Alibori (URCPA-BA) became a cooperative structure. It was officially recognized by the Benin Government under registration number 03/00/032016/0361 / Im of 05/25/2016 and governed by the OHADA uniform act relating to cooperative societies. The main reason for its creation is the organization of the producers in a cooperative for the promotion of the cashew subsector. It provides services to facilitate the competitiveness of cashew nuts for producers in

Borgou and Alibori. Note that the creators of URCPA / BA are legal persons (the Communal Unions that gathered the village cooperatives). The URCPA / BA brings together eleven (11) communal unions (UCCPA) including 08 from Borgou (Tchaourou, Kalalé, Parakou, Sinendé, N'dali, Nikki, Pèrèrè, Bembèrèkè) and 03 others from Alibori (Ségbana, Gogounou and Kandi)) with more than 1000 cashew farmers members.

The vision of the URCPA-BA is: The Regional Union of Cashew Producers / Borgou-Alibori Cooperatives is a radiant, well-functioning organization that helps improve producers' incomes. Its mission is to ensure the promotion of the cashew sector in Borgou and Alibori through the reinforcement of the technical and organizational capacities of the members on the production, the processing and the group sales of cashew nuts and apples.

## **B. ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

Cashew is the second highest export earner in Benin after cotton. It's an economically alternative for Benin. Benin is among the top ten producers in the world with 2% of production and occupied the sixth place in the world in 2011 with around 3.8% of the volume of nuts produced and the third rank of the West African countries after Nigeria and the Ivory Coast (FAO, 2014). Several factors slow the development of this sector in Benin; climate change is one of these factors. As a manifestation of this phenomenon, producers have noted a poor distribution of rains, the frequency of droughts and intense heat waves which have very negative impacts on the production of cashew plantations. Water and / or heat stress are at the origin of the fall of flowers, reduced size or malformation of cashews nut, proliferation of pests which leads to lower yields and production. All the cashew production areas in Benin are facing this problem and particularly in the north (the departments of Borgou and Alibori) which the driest area. The cashew producers remain powerless in face to this phenomenon because they lack knowledge on how to set up sustainable strategies and actions, to mitigate and adapt effectively to this situation.

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

This assignment aims to train the cashew producers and URCPA Borgou-Alibori agricultural advisors on climate-smart agriculture and support climate-smart agriculture plan development for cashew production. Especially it intends to

- Train the participants on climate change concepts, the link between agriculture-climate change-environment
- Train the participants climate -smart agriculture concepts
- Support the designing of climate-smart agriculture plan for cashew production and
- Set up a tool for monitoring and evaluation of the plan

**D. HOST CONTRIBUTION**

The Regional Union of Cashew Producers’ Cooperatives of Borgou et Alibori’s contribution to this assignment will consist of mobilizing, supporting the commuting, the lodging and the feeding fees of the participants to the training sessions. In addition, they will provide a meeting room and all the required material for the raining session.

**E. ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

The knowledge acquired during the training, will help the cashew producers to have a good understanding of their environment and contribute to their behavior change for environment conservation. In addition, they will be better equipped to develop some relevant strategies to mitigate climate change effect on their agricultural activities. The implementation of the climate smart agriculture plan developed for cashew production will contribute to improve cashew plantation productivity and increase producer’s incomes while preserving environment.

**F. DELIVERABLES**

The deliverables expected from this assignment are the follows:

- The training of 20 participants (technical staff and cashew producers) on climate smart agriculture is done,
- The climate smart agriculture plan for cashew production is designed,
- The assignment is debriefed with USAID and country staff
- The assignment final report is provided

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

Day	Activity
Day 1	Departure from US

Day 2	Arrive in Cotonou (Benin), pick up at the airport and check in 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. Travel to Parakou and check in Pluriel Hotel.
Day 4	Introduction meeting will be held at URCPA-BA office the following day. The volunteer will review and finalize his work plan with the URCPA-BA responsible. Conduct some diagnosis activities and review training materials
Days 5-6-7 and 8	Training session on Climate change concepts, climate smart agriculture
Day 9	Rest day
Day 10-11	Designing a climate-smart agriculture plan for cashew production
Day 12	Debriefing with URCPA-BA responsible and CRS Benin F2F staff, actions plan and recommendations review
Day 13	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
Day 15	Travel back to US

#### **H. DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS**

To complete this assignment the volunteer should be:

- Agronomist expert in climate smart agriculture
- Have strong experience on tropical agriculture
- Used to adult training approaches.
- Be familiar to participatory appraisal

#### **I. ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS**

In Cotonou, the volunteer will stay at Livingstone Hotel, whereas in Parakou, the volunteer will stay at Pluriel Hotel. In Benin, CRS will pay for hotel accommodation. In addition, a local network SIM card will be provided to the volunteer at his or her arrival in Cotonou. In Parakou, CRS will hire a local translator for the volunteer's work and URCPA-BA will contribute to the volunteer 'commuting as well as mobilizing and supported its members for training sessions. The URCPA-BA Regional Director will work closely with the volunteer, during the preparations and the trainings, to ensure that key persons are trained and will continue training other even after the assignment is completed.

## 1. Working Environment

Parakou is in the North of Benin from about 450 km of Cotonou. The URCPA-BA is headquartered in the city of Parakou where most of the sessions will take place. But some commuting could be required around Parakou and in some remote areas where the farmers and their local cooperatives are settled if required. The volunteer will work mainly with the Regional Director of the URCPA-BA and the members of the Administrative board who are mainly cashew farmers. 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.

## 2. Recommended Reading

CRS strongly recommends that the volunteer becomes familiar with this SOW, the cashew subsector country project description prior to arrival in the country as well as country information that will be provided. Anyway, some orientations will be given to him before his departure to the field.

## 3. 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 May.

## KEY CONTACTS

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