

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.

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| **Summary Information** | |
| **Assignment Code** | **TL222** |
| Country | Timor-Leste |
| Country Project | Modernizing Agriculture |
| Host Organization | Universidade Oriental Timor-Loros’ae (UNITAL) |
| Assignment Title | Agriculture Faculty Course Catalogue Review |
| Assignment preferred dates | May-June 2020 |
| Objectives of the assignment | * Revision of Agriculture faculty existing course catalogue considering global and local country context. |
| Desired volunteer skill/expertise | Experienced in curriculum review for Agriculture Faculty and adapt to rural environment |
| Type of Volunteer Assistance | Organizational development (O) |
| Type of Value Chain Activity | Information and support service (S) |
| PERSUAP Classification | Type III |

1. **BACKGROUND**

CRS Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) Program is a USAID funded 5-year program (July 2018 – June 2023) that will provide technical assistance from the United States (U.S) volunteers to farmers, farmer groups (cooperatives and associations), agribusinesses and other agriculture sector institutions. The program objectives are to facilitate economic growth within targeted agriculture sub-sectors, enhance sub-sector inclusiveness to expand participation to a broader range of individuals and communities and to increase the American public’s understanding of international development issues and the US international development programs. Volunteers, recruited from all States and the District of Columbia, are individuals who have domestic careers, farms and agribusinesses, or are retirees who want to participate in development efforts. F2F program will assist in agriculture development, commodity value chain competitiveness and firm upgrading by providing technical assistance to introduce new technologies, innovations and development of local capacity for more productive, profitable, sustainable and equitable agriculture systems.

The Timor-Leste Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Strategic Plan[[1]](#footnote-1) recognizes the fundamental importance of agriculture to Timor-Leste’s economy and the impact of agriculture on poverty reduction, food and nutrition security, economic growth, and income and employment generation through its linkages to other sectors of the economy. The agriculture sector in Timor-Leste accounted for 19% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), or over $253 million in 2013. However, there is a considerable net deficit in agricultural trade as imports in 2014 were valued at approximately $60 million. Major imports include rice, sugar, meat (chicken, beef, pork), vegetable oil, fish, milk, and vegetables (potato, onion)2. In rural communities 57% of women and 60% of men are actively involved in agriculture3. Agriculture consists primarily of subsistence farming with limited access to inputs, technical knowledge, and market linkages. There is a heavy reliance on traditional agricultural practices such as slash-and-burn cultivation. Most smallholdings are mixed rainfed farms growing maize, cassava, red kidney beans, sweet potato, rice, groundnut, and vegetables. Coffee, coconut and candlenut are the most common tree crops. Livestock, such as poultry, pigs, cattle, buffalo, goats and sheep are raised on a small-scale and extensive.

Agricultural Education institutions play an increasingly important role in moving the nation toward a more productive and commercial oriented agricultural economy. Training a workforce that feeds into the extension system and agribusiness community will serve as a catalyst to strengthen the knowledge base of agriculture sub-sector in Timor Leste.

Founded in 2002, Universidade Oriental Timor Lorosa'e (Oriental University of Timor-Leste), UNITAL, is a private higher education institution located in the large town of Dili (population range of 50,000-249,999 inhabitants). It is officially accredited and recognized by the National Commission for Academic Assessment and Accreditation. UNITAL consist of 7 faculties; Agriculture, Law, Science of Education, Economics, Engineering, Politics and Health. The Faculty of Agriculture is made up of six departments; Agronomy, Forestry, Fisheries, Technology Industrial Agronomy, Agro-Economy and Livestock.

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

Since its establishment in 2002, UNITAL has been applying a curriculum based on the adaptation of Indonesian curriculum. This is the case for all faculties, including the Faculty of Agriculture. This has presented a big challenge in modelling training to the needs of the people of Timor leste. According to the lecturers, the curriculum is not suitable to the UNITAL student because it does not reflect the current situation and standards of Timor-Leste. UNITAL management recognizes the challenges faced by the course instructors in preparing the students adequately to fully contribute their skills in modernizing agriculture in Timor Leste. On the part of students, they are more theoretically oriented, and they face difficulties in executing practical applications on what they have learned. This is particularly evident in the final year of studies, when the students are expected to engage in practical activities. This has impacted to the quality of the graduating students and as well as the university. This university is very important to the people of Timor Leste and is strategically located to continue offering quality education to the many young people, who would otherwise not have an opportunity to receive tertiary education. It is for this reason that the university reached out to the F2F program to facilitate the university in reviewing and updating the existing agriculture faculty course catalogue to reflect and adapt Timor-Leste needs and standards for current and future students in the faculty of agriculture to address global as well as local contexts.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The objective of this assignment is to facilitate the faculty of agriculture in reviewing and updating the existing curriculum catalogue to reflect the reality of Timor Leste. To achieve this, the volunteer will work closely with the Dean, faculty of Agriculture, as well as the teaching and technical staff at the university to update the existing catalogue of curriculum. The volunteer may also interact with other stakeholders engaged in agriculture to get a deeper understanding of the general needs for the agriculture education for Timor-Leste.

1. **HOST CONTRIBUTION**

The contribution of the UNITAL will be the transportation for roundtrip from his/her hotel to UNITAL, training hall(classroom) and prepared the stationary for the training and provide homestay.

1. **ANTICIPATED RESULTS/IMPACTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

* Reviewed Agriculture faculty course catalogue will be approved by academic council and offered to students
* Based on reviewed course catalogue, all departments within the faculty would be able to detail the curriculum of concerned subjects
* Faculties capacity enhanced in terms of teaching, research and extension with the application of reviewed course catalogue and designed curricula
* The agriculture graduates compete with students graduated from international universities (Long term)

Through the volunteer assistance, UNITAL will have a relevant developed curriculum for the student of Agriculture Faculty. This will greatly help them improved the teaching quality on this faculty and the enrolled students. In addition, the students will benefit from a good quality curriculum that reflect the current situation of Timor-Leste that that will help them not only learn in theoretical but also put into practice. Then, more students will be enrolled and will be trained successfully.

1. **DELIVERABLES**

* A revised faculty of agriculture curriculum catalogue drafted and submitted to the Dean, faculty of Agriculture
* The assignment report is provided
* Guidelines to develop the curriculum
* Group presentation for lectures

1. **SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN TIMOR-LESTE**

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| ***Please note that this is a tentative schedule and will be finalized post volunteer selection in consultation with the volunteer*** | |
| **Day** | **Activity** |
| Day 1 | Arrival in Presidente Nicolau Lobato Airport. The volunteer will be met by CRS’s client Plaza Hotel (mail: [plaza\_hotel@hotmail.com](mailto:plaza_hotel@hotmail.com); [Phone](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1GGRV_enET751ET751&q=saro-maria+hotel+phone&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwie4JH0gNfWAhXFOBoKHS8rB1sQ6BMIwwEwEA): [+67077232438](javascript:void(0))).The shuttle from Plaza hotel will locate the volunteer to the hotel. |
| Day 2 | * Take CRS cars or pre-arranged taxi to come to CRS office (CRS working days are Monday to Friday from 8:00AM to 5:00 Timor-Leste time) * Welcoming by CRS, and briefing meeting on security, general orientation, MEAL (attendance sheet, reporting and PPT templates), and logistic. * Discuss anticipated outcomes and work plan * Introduction to UNITAL |
| Day 3 | * S/he will be introduced with the host. And general orientation will be pursued. * Further assess skill and training gaps through visiting and discussing with the Dean of Faculty and the lectures |
| Day 4-7 | * Based on information gathered and gaps identified, the volunteer will work with the Dean of Faculty, department heads, lectures and other stakeholders like government department and private companies who hire graduates from the university |
| **Day 8** | **Rest Day (Sunday) and reporting preparation** |
| Day 9-10,11 | * Present reviewed first draft of course catalogue among Dean, Department Heads, Lectures and stakeholders and receive their feedback * Continue worked with the Dean of Faculty, department head and the lectures |
| Day 12 | * Final presentation of reviewed course catalogue and recommendation to UNITAL |
| Day 13 | * final presentation report to CRS staff Dili * Debriefing with US Ambassador and US Mission in Dili and * Finalize reimbursement expenditures and liquidations (if any) with finance. * Submit attendance sheet, assignment report, PPT presentation and any reference materials to CRS F2F team. |
| Day 14 | * Depart for USA |

1. **ACCOMMODATION AND ANOTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS**

* Before travelling to the assignment place, the volunteer will stay in [plazahoteldili.](http://plazahoteldili.com/) The Hotel is a 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 in the first day
* UNITAL will provide material for the training needs
* CRS HQ will provide the volunteer with a per-diem advance to cater for meals and incidental expenses.
* Before departing for the 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

1. **RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS**

* Prior to travel, the volunteer will be advised to prepare necessary training and demonstrating aids and written handouts. Electronic copies 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 the Dili office
* 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
* More information about UNITAL provided in Tetun language, please click in the link <https://unitaldili.wordpress.com/academic-program/>

1. **KEY CONTACTS**

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| **CRS Baltimore** | **Timor Leste** |
| **Priyanka Subba**  Volunteer Recruiter  Farmer to Farmer Program  228 W. Lexington Street  Baltimore, MD 21201  410-955-7194  Email: [priyanka.subba@crs.org](mailto:priyanka.subba@crs.org) | Program Manager  Jose Maria Alves Ornai  Farmer-to Farmer Project Manager,  Catholic Relief Services  Timor Leste  Rua Dom Boaventura No. 12, Motael Vera Cruz, Dili, Timor-Leste  Email: [josemaria.alves@crs.org](mailto:josemaria.alves@crs.org)  **Celestina Ramos Cristo**  Farmer to Farmer Project Assistant  Email: [celestinaramos.cristo@crs.org](mailto:celestinaramos.cristo@crs.org)  Telephone: +670 77526421 |
| **Host Organization:** | |
| **Romaldo**  Dean : Agriculture Faculty  Email: [romaldox@gmail.com](mailto:romaldox@gmail.com)  Teleohone: +67077906689 | **Florindo Pereira**  Rector  Telph. 77230043 |

1. <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/tim149148.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)