 

**To express interest in this assignment please email priyanka.subba@crs.org**

**CRS Farmer to Farmer Program**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

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| **Summary Information** |
| **Assignment Code** | **NE246** |
| Country | Nepal |
| Country Project | Crops Country Project |
| Host Organization | Agriculture and Forestry University |
| Assignment Title | Crisis and Agriculture Planning Process |
| Assignment preferred dates | July 2020 onwards |
| Objectives of the assignment | Enhance knowledge on agriculture planning |
| Desired volunteer skill/expertise | Agriculture Planning Specialist  |
| Type of Volunteer Assistance | Technology Transfer = **T** |
| Type of Value Chain Activity | Information and Input Support Services (S)  |
| PERSUAP Classification | PERSUAP Type III |

1. **BACKGROUND**

Nepal’s topography, micro climatic pockets, diverse farming skills (traditional as well as modern skills), state agriculture development strategy, and climate change, epidemics, pandemics, natural disasters like flood, earthquake, landslides, and sudden fires are shaping up discussion on current agriculture planning process. The smallholder based agriculture sector of an average land hold size of .5 ha is still contributing 32% in Gross Domestic Product. Couple of issues like adequate irrigation, labor shortage, quality inputs, inadequate extension and research, access to credit and technology are refuting the sector’s potentiality. The sectoral transformation is ongoing in support of experts, academia and policy planner’s intensive engagement to reap the benefit from the sector. Agriculture and Forestry University is one of the pioneer institute to engage in all this process.

Agriculture and Forest University (AFU), Nepal’s only land grant university, is closely working with Nepal’s central, provincial and local government to restructure agricultural sector. This university was established in Rampur, Chitwan, Nepal in 2010. The university aims at producing highly skilled human resources required to work on quality research and development in agricultural activities. 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.[[1]](#footnote-1)

This university was founded merging Rampur Campus, Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science (IAAS) and Forestry Campus, Hetauda of the Institute of Forestry of Tribhuvan University of Nepal. In addition to the existing academic programs, 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 1883 including 1471 undergraduate students, 367 M.Sc. students and 45 Ph.D. scholars in different disciplines. Nearly 35 % students are girl students.

AFU and CRS/F2F are collaborating to create awareness and bring innovative ideas on agriculture planning to combat natural and human induced crisis. The university is looking forward to enrich its students, faculties and researchers to adapt agricultural practices amid climate change and COVID-19 like scenarios.

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

Farmers, cooperatives and the private sector are increasingly facing challenges to reap benefits from agriculture. The agriculture development practices often freeze out during crisis and turn farmers, traders, and market players vulnerable. The freeze out with lot of restrictions during crisis led to economic injuries at all levels and turn small farmers, small and medium enterprises, and supply chain actors more vulnerable. The inadequate services to farms and enterprises, and entrepreneurs may result into no productivity. In this scenario, AFU is trying to understand how to prepare farms and communities resilient.

AFU believe on existence of new knowledge on curbing crisis by making farms and communities resilient. It is aiming to transfer the good practices of USA, and other countries adopted to mitigate crisis impact in agriculture to its professors, researchers, academia and students. It is looking forward to an agriculture planner cum researcher to exchange ideas on making farms resilient by developing good agricultural plans.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The main objective of this assignment is to improve knowledge on agriculture planning process addressing crisis through sharing of new knowledge and good practices.

Trainings will be organized for AFU faculties, researchers and graduating students. Specifically, the volunteer shall;

* Introduce share global good practices of agriculture planning.
* Develop and discuss simple farming modules for small holder and commercial farms.
* Train faculties and graduating students on goat breed improvement.
1. **HOST CONTRIBUTION**

AFU will facilitate the volunteers to reach the targeted faculty members and farmers to ensure successful assignment completion when F2F volunteers will be in Nepal. The host will also arrange training. Host will also provide the volunteer with office space, training hall and daily tea/snacks for participants.

1. **ANTICIPATED RESULTS (Outcome/impact) FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

It is anticipated that through this volunteer assignment;

* + Faculty members and graduate students will improve agriculture planning practices
	+ Outreach events conducted upon return to the US
1. **DELIVERABLES**

The anticipated deliverables accomplished by the volunteer also include:

* + Appropriate and relevant knowledges on agriculture planning during emergencies and crisis will be transferred
	+ Host recommendations action plan developed
	+ Trip Report should be submitted before exit meeting
1. **SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN COUNTRY (DRAFT)**

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| **Day** | **Activity** |
| Days 1  | Arrival Nepal, Trivubhan international Airport. The volunteer will be picked by Greenwich Hotel with a placard bearing “**CRS logo and volunteer name”**.  |
| Day 2 | Introduction and meeting with CRS management, and briefing meeting (security, general orientation, logistic, reporting formats, etc) at CRS office. Discuss anticipated outcomes and work plan. |
| Day 3 | Travel to assignment site. Introduction and assignment briefing with host representatives |
| Days 4 – 11 | Complete assignment related activities at the host location |
| Day 12-13 | Activity close out, host action plan preparation for implementing recommendations  |
| Day 14 | Travel back to Kathmandu |
| Day 15-16 | Report revision, submission  |
| Day 17 | Debriefing including CRS country Office and Local mission  |
| Day 18 | Departure to the US |

1. **DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS**

The volunteer will have the following qualifications and competencies:

* University professor engaged in Agriculture Planning Course
* University professor with adequate crisis exposure
* Communication and training skills for adult audience
1. **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 hotel, HOTEL KUTUMBA (https://www.hotels.com/ho1081978144/hotel-kutumba-lalitpur-nepaI) 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. Wherever the hosts cannot contribute vehicle, CRS will provide transport services to volunteer.
* During the assignment period, the volunteer will be booked in a hotel at the project site, 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.
1. **RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS**
* Prior to travel, the volunteer is advised to prepare necessary training and demonstration aids and written handouts. Electronic copies of these handouts and any other printed materials can be printed for immediate use at the CRS office in Kathmandu on request by the volunteer.
* 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 place.
* 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.
* Weather Appropriate Clothing: https://www.accuweather.com/en/np/nepal-weather
1. **KEY CONTACTS**

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| **CRS Baltimore, US** | **CRS Nepal Country Program** |
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| **CRS Nepal Country Program** |
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| **Host Organization:** |  |
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1. <https://www.afu.edu.np/about-us> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)