



For clarification questions about this assignment, please email [mireille.ngokion@crs.org](mailto:mireille.ngokion@crs.org)

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| Summary Information                 |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Assignment Code                     | RW234   |
| Country                             | Rwanda  |
| Country Project                     | Horticulture  |
| Host Organization                   | YANZA Horticulture Promotion Cooperative (YAHOPROC)   |
| <i>Type of Volunteer Assistance</i> | Technology Transfer (T)   |
| <i>Type of Value Chain Activity</i> | Information and Input Support Services (S)  |
| Assignment Title                    | Capacity building on Horticulture good post-harvest handling practices  |
| Assignment preferred dates          | Flexible  |
| Objectives of the assignment        | The objective of this assignment is to build capacity for YAHOPROC (YANZA Horticulture Promotion Cooperative) on good post - harvest handling practices and storage for horticulture crops focusing mostly on fresh vegetables.   |
| Desired volunteer skill/expertise   | A suitable volunteer candidate for this assignment must have relevant experience working with agricultural cooperatives. The candidate shall have any of the following degree in agriculture , crop sciences, agri-business with crop production or horticulture background or related field. He/She must have relevant work experience in post-harvest management in perishable crops. He/she must be knowledgeable about adult training approaches, be prepared to work in remote areas and passionate working with the developing communities. |

## A. Background information

### Horticulture Sub-Sector

The horticulture industry in Rwanda is committed to the production of high quality and environmentally friendly products while ensuring the health and welfare of the consumers. The horticulture sub-sector offers considerable potential and can contribute positively to poverty reduction and economic development if adequately exploited.



Rwanda's comparative advantages in horticulture include favorable climate, diversified Agro-climatic conditions including high, medium and low altitude, fertile soils, abundant water resources, and abundant cheap labor that can be used to produce quality and competitive horticulture products for sale in regional and international markets. The development of horticulture enables farmers to earn a regular income, whilst providing essential nutritional requirements. Horticulture development can play a significant role in the government's efforts to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, reduce child mortality and improve health.

### **Processed Horticulture Exports**

Value added horticulture exports have been increasing. Include pineapple juice, dried pineapple, mango juice, passion fruit juice, dried and canned vegetables, and pastes like tomato and strawberry jams.

Export destinations for processed horticultural products include countries in the region such as Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan, as well as global destinations such as the EU and the US.

The Government of Rwanda has set itself ambitious targets for the diversification and growth of horticulture exports, and is actively promoting investment in the sector.

### **Brief background of the YANZA Horticulture Promotion Cooperative (YAHOPROC)**

- Location: The YANZA Horticulture Promotion Cooperative (YAHOPROC), is a farmers cooperative involved in Horticulture farming, located in Nyakagezi Village, Karambo Cell, Ngoma Sector, Rulindo District, Northern Province.
- Cooperative members, and types of vegetables grown: The cooperative was established in 2016, but received its registration no. RCA / 0295/2017 in May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA). The cooperative is composed of 195 members (120 men and 75 women) and cultivate 26 horticulture crops such as zucchini, Cucumber, Beet, Eggplant, Carrots, red cabbage, green French beans, red and green Pepper, onions (red and white), spinach, sukumawiki, etc. The cooperative has one collection centre facility for efficient post-harvest collection activity.
- Organizational structure of YAHOPROC: YAHOPROC is structured in way that enhance good cooperative management and governance whereby it possesses a General Assembly, supervisory committee, and an executive board which is made of Board of Directors that supervise the overall cooperative business, and employees. General Assembly takes the overall decisions and the supervisory committee is in charge of audit and compliance of the rules of the cooperative.
- Future strategic plan activities: in the coming five years, cooperative YAHOPROC plans to increase its yield, to improve its business management and operations, and acquiring more assets.



- Access to finance: YAHOPROC has a good working relationship with one financial institution: SACCO SHIRUBUKENE/ NGOMA Sector.
- Access to Market: The cooperative is market oriented in the sense that members have access to market for their horticulture produce. Last year 2019, through our partnership with this cooperative, they were able to establish their own selling point in Kigali whereby all wholesalers/buyers can find vegetables and go to sell them in their turn to other markets like Nyabugogo, Kimironko, and Kimisagara. The cooperative sales/supplies on daily basis 3.5 Metric tons of vegetables. This means a total of 105 MT per month and 1,260 MTs yearly.

### **B. Issue Description:**

Despite the fact that YahoProc is doing well to produce and market member produce, they still struggle with post-harvest handling challenges. This cooperative despite the fact that it sells these vegetables, they lack appropriate techniques for better harvest and a good management of the produce. Farmer have limited knowledge related to good post-harvest handling practices and storage which leads to considerable loss at the farm, collection facility, during cleaning, sorting, packaging stage, storage, transportation, in wholesale markets and, in retail market due to poor handling conditions.

Multiple improvements are needed by famers to overcome this issue in order to reduce losses, increase supply and quality of their vegetables. Farmers need to embrace modern techniques at cheap costs.

### **C. Objectives of the Assignment**

The overall objective of this F2F volunteer scope of work is to build capacity through training and to equip the YAHOPROC (YANZA Horticulture Promotion Cooperative) farmers with practical knowledge in good post-harvest handling and storage practices for horticulture crops emphasizing on vegetables.

More specifically,

- Develop training guide for the trainer and trainees
- Develop the training methodology/approach
- Assess their production, methods of harvesting, washing, sorting practices. This information will be used to train them on how to improve their way of post-harvest handling practices.
- Train farmers on vegetable good post-harvest handling practices to preserve the quality and the use of dynamic-control atmosphere storage to maximize the shelf life of vegetables.
- prepare postharvest demonstrations during the training sessions.
- Prepare a training report, detailing how the trainings were conducted, achievements, challenges, lessons, opportunities for future engagements and recommendations.
- De-brief with the Program, USAID mission, cooperative members, and any other partner to share the training report and recommendations.



**D. Anticipated results from the Assignment;**

Following the completion of this assignment, the outcomes below will be anticipated:

The cooperative will be able to:

- reduce post-harvest loss of commonly grown vegetables
- maintain produce quality (appearance, texture, flavor and nutritive value)
- Increase farmer’s income through selling more
- A final report explaining how the assignment was conducted, it should include recommendations to be implemented by the cooperative.

**E. Schedule of Volunteer Activities in Country**

| Day       | Planned Activity  |
|-----------|---|
| Day 1     | Arrival in country, pick up and check – in at LA Posh Hotel (or any other assigned hotel.)  |
| Day 2     | Weekend   |
| Day 3     | Meet the CRS Country Representative (CR), Head of Programs (HoP) and USAID for introductions<br>Meet with the CRS Operations Manager for Security briefing (Afternoon)  |
| Day 4     | Leave for Rulindo District to meet with the District Authority, the host YAHOPROC Cooperative Management, and some members for introduction and review of the Scope of work.<br>Develop detailed Work Plan covering all activities required to effectively implement this scope of work |
| Day 5-7   | conducting training as agreed in the work plan  |
| Day 8-9   | Weekend   |
| Day 10-14 | conducting training as agreed in work plan  |
| Day 15-16 | Weekend   |
| Day 17    | Organize the workshop to share achievements and recommendations.  |
| Day 18-19 | Prepare a report on the assignment  |
| Day 20    | Conduct debrief session with CRS Country team and perhaps USAID mission on the completed assignment<br>Fill out all necessary M&E forms and submit to F2F Program staff   |
| Day 21    | Depart from Rwanda  |
| TBD       | Outreach event in the US  |

*This is a draft schedule, a final itinerary will be discussed and agreed upon arrival by all parties.*

**F. In -Country Logistics**

- **Accommodation:**



In Kigali, the volunteer will stay at La Posh Hotel/ KN 84 St, Nyarugenge/ Kigali, phone +250 784119855, <http://laposhhotel.rw/>.

- **Other Logistics:**

Volunteer transportation within Rwanda, accommodation and meals will be taken care of by the F2F Program. Additionally, a local telephone (handset and SIM card) and internet will be provided to the volunteer at his or her arrival in Rwanda.

- **Weather:**

In the heart of Africa, fractionally south of the equator, Rwanda's relatively high altitude provides it with a remarkably pleasant tropical highland climate, albeit also with plenty of rain. Temperatures vary considerably between locations depending on their altitude, but very little from month to month in the same place. In the capital, Kigali, the average daily temperature is about 21°C.

Rwanda's long rainy season lasts from about March to May, when the rain is heavy and persistent. Then from June to mid-September is the long dry season; October to November is a shorter rainy season and it's followed by a short dry season from December to February.

During both of Rwanda's dry seasons, there is often light cloud cover. This helps to moderate the temperatures, but also occasionally brings light rain showers. Appropriate dressing is recommended for the volunteer.

## **G. Recommended assignment preparations**

### **Training Materials:**

- The volunteer should prepare training materials and handouts.
- Training materials will be printed at CRS office in Rwanda
- Flip charts, markers, and a projector (if the training venue has electricity) will be obtained from the CRS Office.

### **Additional reading resources**

Rwanda F2F program team recommends that the volunteer familiarizes with the Rwanda horticulture sub sector through website searching and the cooperative movement in Rwanda.

### **CRS F2F Rwanda:**

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