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<b>Summary Information</b>	
<b>Assignment Code</b>	<b>RW243</b>
Country	Rwanda
Country Project	Maize
Host Organization	KIMUYANZA Cooperative
<i>Type of Volunteer Assistance</i>	Technology Transfer = T
<i>Type of Value Chain Activity</i>	On Farm Production = F
Assignment Title	Capacity building on Maize post-harvest handling practices and storage
Assignment preferred dates	January, 2021
Objectives of the assignment	The objective of this assignment is to build capacity and to equip the KIMUYANZA Farmers' Cooperative with practical knowledge on good maize post-harvest handling practices and storage.
Desired volunteer skill/expertise	A suitable volunteer for this assignment shall have a degree in agriculture, crop production, crop sciences, agribusiness; at least five years working with farmer cooperatives. He/she must be knowledgeable about adult training approaches, be prepared to work in remote, physically demanding varied environments (Hilly terrain under hot tropical sun) and passionate working with farmers.

#### **A. Brief background information of Agriculture Sector in Rwanda:**

Rwanda has experienced a remarkable recovery since the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi whereby the gross domestic product (GDP) has grown 10 percent per year on average. Agriculture is the dominant sector of the economy, contributing 33% of the country's GDP and about half of Rwanda's export earnings. Because about 80 percent of the population lives in rural areas and is engaged in agriculture to some extent, increasing agricultural productivity is key to improving incomes and decreasing poverty. The government of Rwanda (GoR) has therefore made agricultural development a priority and allocated significant resources to improving productivity, expanding the livestock sector, promoting sustainable land management, and developing supply chains and value-added activities. At the same time, Rwanda's agriculture sector faces a series of challenges. Agricultural land plots are very small (80 percent of land holdings are less than 1 hectare [ha]), and over 70 percent of agricultural land is either on hills or on the side of hills. To address such a challenge, in 2008 the Government introduced the land consolidation program whereby farmers in a given area with closed parcels grow the same priority crops on a minimum size area in a synchronized manner on the provision of subsidized inputs by the government while the boundaries and rights on parcels remain intact.

Current agricultural policies are geared to increasing productivity in the sector by achieving scale in agricultural production. Risks can potentially have significant implications on stakeholders, investments, and development in the agriculture sector. Adverse movements in agricultural

commodity and input prices, together with production-related shocks (for example, from weather, pests, and diseases, post-harvest quality loss), not only affect farmers and firms active in particular.

The current status of the maize value chain includes:

- **Production:** According to the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), in 2019 Season B, maize cultivated area was estimated at 73,139 ha. This is a 6% decrease when compared to 2018 season B estimates. Maize production was 90,128 MT, a decrease of 2% from 2018 season B estimates. The average yield of maize was estimated at 1,232 kilograms per hectare.
- **Usage:** In Rwanda, fresh maize, maize flour, and maize grits are used for food products, while maize bran is used as animal feed.
- **Data:** Consistent data is difficult to obtain; however, it is estimated that consumption of maize flour has increased by 450 percent from 100,000 tons in 2004 to 550,000 tons in 2012.
- **Formal Trade:** Rwanda is a net importer of maize grain and general processed maize products but is a net exporter of maize flour.
- **Informal Trade:** There is a significant informal trade in green maize between Rwanda and the DRC, however no official data exists to make a clear assessment of this activity.
- **Value Addition:** Most of the value addition to the value chain occurs at the agricultural level, followed by the processing stage.
- **Agricultural Seasons:** Rwanda comprises three agricultural Seasons scheduled as follows:
  - ✓ Season A that starts in September and ends with February of the following year;
  - ✓ Season B that starts in March and ends with June of the same year; and
  - ✓ Season C that starts in July and ends in September of the same year.
- **Maize Post harvest losses:** Official statistics also reveal that 16% of the farm produce is being lost during post-harvest period. The Government target is to reduce Post-harvest losses from the current 16 per cent to 5 per cent by 2024.

#### **KIMUYANZA Cooperative Profile:**

Koperative icyerekezo MUYANZA(KIMUYANZA), is a farmer's cooperative located in Ryinzovu Village, Taba Cell, Burega Sector, Rulindo District, Northern Province. The cooperative was established in 2016, and its registration no. RCA / 0024/2016 from Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA). The cooperative is composed of 130 members (45 men and 85 women) and cultivate maize on 170 Ha.

KIMUYANZA cooperative has a good relationship with four financial institutions: Banque Populaire du Rwanda(BPR), SACCO MBADUKO-BUREGA and SACCO GIRUBUKIRE-BUYOGA, Banque of Kigali/NYIRANGARAMA branch. Apart from maize farming business, the cooperative is also operating as Agro-dealer through the selling of agriculture inputs (Fertilizers, pesticide, and improved maize seeds) to their members but also to other farmers. KIMUYANZA cooperative has a contract with the national agricultural inputs supplier namely the Agro Processing Trust Cooperation Ltd (APTC) under the Government subsidy scheme.

Like other Cooperatives in Rwanda, KIMUYANZA has a General Assembly, an executive Board which is made of Board of Directors who supervise the Cooperative Business, and Employees. General Assembly takes the overall decisions and the executive board oversees the cooperative business and manage staff. The cooperative has access to market for its maize produce through a farming contract.

#### **Issue Description:**

In KIMUYANZA Cooperative, post-harvest losses are particularly high. More than 40% of the grain produced can be lost through the entire post-harvest chain before reaching the market. These losses occur at every stage – harvest, transport, drying, shelling, winnowing, sorting/packaging,

storage, and even during transport to market. Quality requirements of big processors are not well understood by farmers, especially in relation to aflatoxin levels in maize, which is due to a limited understanding of basic post-harvest handling and storage practices.

The root causes of this issue on the side of the farmers are because of;

- lack of adequate extension services to build farmers' skills in post-harvest handling practices (PHHs),
- lack of proper packaging and storage facilities;
- insufficient appropriate on-farm drying and storage facilities,
- lack of buyers to immediately buy and take the produce (sometimes)

The above challenge requires urgent intervention to ensure that the cooperative doesn't continue to incur losses, that is the reason why Farmer to Farmer project would like to bridge the gap between buyers and producers (cooperative members) to maximize financial returns for all value chain actors by providing technical assistance to Cooperative members focusing on how to improve their skills on post-harvest handling practices and storage as a contribution of Farmer to Farmer project to address some of the above issues.

By improving and introducing quality-enhancing techniques, farmers will be able to sell to much larger and more reliable markets, such as the World Food Programme's Purchase for Progress (P4P) programme, but also to Africa Improved Food and MINIMEX – two major local maize processing companies.

### **B. Objectives of the Assignment**

The overall objective of this F2F volunteer scope of work is build capacity and to equip the KIMUYANZA Farmers' Cooperative with practical knowledge in good maize post-harvest handling practices and storage.

More specifically,

- Develop training guide for the trainer and trainees
- Develop the training methodology/approach
- Identify small-scale postharvest handling practices and potential solutions which are most appropriate for local target cooperative.
- designing postharvest demonstrations to show farmers how to reduce losses, maintain quality and market value, increase shelf life and incomes.
- Conduct the training for the cooperative board, members and staff putting heavy emphasize on governance, cooperative structure and leadership, human resource management, services to be provided by cooperatives to their members, communication in cooperative, integration of gender, youth and people living with disabilities.
- Prepare a training report, detailing how the trainings were conducted, achievements, challenges, lessons, opportunities for future engagements and recommendations on how to reduce postharvest losses.
- Organize a half -day presentation to cooperative members, other stakeholders like local government, buyers, any other partner to share the training report and recommendations.

### **C. Host Contribution**

To conduct this assignment, KIMUYANZA cooperative is expected to meet the following requirements:

- Mobilize and facilitate cooperative members to attend all the training sessions.
- Provide venue for the training sessions and any other logistics
- Commit to implement all the recommendations provided by the volunteer (s) after the completion of the assignments.

### **D. Anticipated results from the Assignment:**

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

- Cooperative members (farmers) have a good understanding of good maize post-harvest handling practices.
- Maize quality improved
- Increased farmer's income.
- Increased sales
- 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 (Draft)

Day	Planned Activity
Day 1	Arrival in country, pick up and check – in at LA Posh Hotel
Day 2	Weekend(Sunday)
Day 3	Meet the CRS Country Representative (CR), Head of Programs (HoP) (Morning) Meet with the CRS Operations Manager for Security briefing (Afternoon)
Day 4	Leave for Rulindo District to meet with the District Authority, the host KIMUYANZA Cooperative Management, board members for introduction and review of the Scope of work.
Day 5-7	Share the training plan with the cooperative members Start the rollout of agreed work plan and conduct the training
Day 8-9	Weekend (Saturday and Sunday)
Day 10-14	the rollout of agreed work plan and conduct the training
Day 15-16	Weekend (Saturday and Sunday)
Day 17	Organize and conduct 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 Fill out all necessary M&E forms and submit to F2F Program Director
Day 21	Depart from Rwanda

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

#### **Additional requirements: A volunteer should be:**

- Proactive, results-oriented and service-oriented;
- Have very good interpersonal skills, and
- Flexible to work in rural settings.

#### F. Accommodation and other in -Country Logistics

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

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.

In general, Rwanda has very good weather patterns. In particular, in Rulindo District, Temperatures vary from 20°C to 30°C degrees. It's mostly hot during the day and cool at night. Appropriate dressing is recommended for the volunteer.

#### G. Recommended assignment preparations

- **Training Materials:**

The volunteer should prepare training materials for hand out which can be printed at CRS office in Rwanda. Regarding Flip charts, markers, and a projector if needed, can be obtained at CRS Rwanda office.

- **Working Environment**

The training will be conducted at the training venue provided by KIMUYANZA cooperative whose office is in Rulindo District, Burega sector, Taba Cell, Northern province of Rwanda. The volunteer will work closely with cooperative Board of directors, and in country F2F Field team as well.

- **Recommended Reading**

Rwanda F2F program recommends that the volunteer familiarizes with this scope of work and to take his or her time to read about the maize value chain sub-sector in Rwanda.

## H. Key Contacts

<b>CRS Baltimore</b>	<b>Rwanda</b>
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