

Please indicate your availability for this assignment in your resume or upload an additional document.

Timing and duration of assignments are often flexible, though assignment should be at least 2 weeks

**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** | **TL229** |
| Country | Timor-Leste |
| Country Project | Modernizing Agriculture sector  |
| Host Organization | Hamahon Feto Timor (HAFOTI) |
| Assignment Title | Good agronomy practices on coconut plantation  |
| Assignment preferred dates | Flexible  |
| Objectives of the assignment | Training the cooperative members on coconut seed selection, nurseries and agronomy practices  |
| Desired volunteer skill/expertise | Agronomist, experience in coconut tree plantation, and an excellent facilitator and communicator.  |
| Type of Volunteer Assistance | Technology Transfer (T) |
| Type of Value Chain Activity | On Farm Production (F) |
| PERSUAP Classification[[1]](#footnote-1) | Type II |

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 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 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[[2]](#footnote-2) 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

Hamahon Feto Timor (HAFOTI) is a local non-government organization comprising of a consortium of 27 small rural women producer groups across seven districts. Its aim is to enhance the capacity of rural women to generate incomes to support their families. HAFOTI women work together to support each other in business – getting training in business skills, access to revolving credit and jointly marketing their products under the HAFOTI umbrella. HAFOTI is short for ‘Hamahon Feto Timor’ – Shelter for the Timorese Woman. HAFOTI has an office in Dili where sales and administration is carried out for the group and a [HAFOTI shop](https://hafoti.com/contact/)sells products made by these women as well as a variety of other Timorese products. Senora Dortia Kese has been HAFOTI’s Directress since 2004. Lizete da Costa manages Administration and Finance. Founded in 2002, HAFOTI now has 250 members.

HAFOTI as umbrella for 22 cooperative exits in seven Municipality such as  Manufahi, Viqueque, Oecusse, Aileu, Baucau, Liquisaand Bobonaro. As Union the board members are representing from each cooperative unit, and one full time HAFOTI Co-Ordinator is employed in each Municipality to support the members to run the business. All products are produced by cooperatives in each city and Hafoti takes and sells them to supermarkets in Dili and some products are exported abroad such as to New Zealand and Australia. The products produced by HAFOTI are: Black Rice, Red Rice, Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO), Gloves, Banana Chips, several types of vegetables, black rice, honey etc.

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

Despite the growing demand for VCO produce in the country and for international market HAFOTI cooperative members is still requesting dried coconuts from other farmers to be processed into VCO. because what they get from kebon they cannot meet the market needs which every month 400-500 jar ( 150 ltr) per month basically they can meet market demands but the benefits obtained are less than the maximum because most coconuts are still supplay it from other farmers. Futhermore, in addition, to make the business of coconut oil production continue, they need to anticipate it by planting new coconut plants because coconut trees owned by farmers are less productive, caused by various factors and one of them is getting old.

The cooperative member are lack of knowledge on seed selection , nursery preparation and maintanance, crop management in the field as well other improved production technologies that can lead to increased yields and strengthening and suntaining the production in coming 4 or 5 years coming.

Thus, training on good seed selection practices for sustainably improving productivity and earned more icome in coming years is the way to address this constraint. Sustainability coconut production can be increased by enhancing the farmers capacity on seed selesction, provison of healthy seedling management and composting along with other agricultural input services, good agriculture practices and with the effective use of local resources to reduce cost of production for rural coconut farmers.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The objective of this assignment is to train the cooperative members on the technique of coconut seed selection, nursery and agronomy practices to ensure the sustainability of HAFOTI's business because the coconut plants owned by the members of the cooperative are no longer productive because most of the trees are getting old.

The volunteer assignment will focus on training and assisting the targeted beneficiaries on seed selection process, nursery and agronomy technique to improve the coconut production in coming years. This knowledge transfer will be conducted through on farm of lectures and practical demonstrations including other methods that volunteer and the HAFOTI determine suitable. The volunteer jointly with the HAFOTI can also plan to visit at least one nearby coconut plantation to observe and practically discuss about agronomy practices.

Anticipated training topics include but are not limited to the following;

* Seed selection
* Good nursery techniques
* Agronomy practice and plant maintenance

1. **HOST CONTRIBUTION**

HAFOTI will select, determine and mobilize the attendance for training participants. HAFOTI will also ensure that the necessary venues, local training aids and other teaching materials are in place. HAFOTI will assign a focal person who can guide and facilitate the volunteer specialist during the assignment period. HAFOTI will provide office space and office furniture as well as a vehicle if any travel is required during the assignment duration. Will support local transportation side to side training

1. **ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

This assignment volunteer will contribute to the following:

* increase knowledge and skills of farmers group of HAFOTI on coconut seed selection
* Increase knowledge of cooperative members on nursery Techniks and management
* Increase knowledge on simple agronomy practices for coconut plantation
* Increased gross sales and net incomes earned by the farmers after 4-5 years coming
1. **DELIVERABLES**
2. Volunteer final trip report due BEFORE departure
3. Train 2 cooperative groups in coconut seed selection, nursery preparation and agronomy practices
4. Group presentation with local stakeholders at the end of the assignment in country
5. Group presentation for staff
6. Participant list
7. Volunteer outreach activities in the US and in country
8. **SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN TIMOR-LESTE**

| **Day** | **Activity** |
| --- | --- |
| Day 1 | Arrival into Timor-Leste. The volunteer will be met by a hotel pick CRS’s client hotel with a placard bearing “**CRS logo and volunteer name”**.  |
| Day 2 | * Briefing meeting at CRS office with CRS F2F staff, security briefing and logistics and itinerary of the trip and discuss anticipated outcomes and work plan;
* Security briefing from HR
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| Day 3 | * Introduction to HAFOTI
* Agenda discussion and schedule
* Travel to HAFOTI’s farmer group in Municipalities.
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| Days 4-6 | * Firsthand briefing on outlines of topics of the training, plan, approach, etc, and adjust the topics as required.
* Work planning discussion with the staff of HAFOTI
* Prepare course/training and plan with the HAFOTI to proceed with the assignment (lecturing, advising, and practicing)
* Conduct the assignment according to an agreed schedule on Improving vegetable production (Practical, advise and training)
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| **Day 7-8** | **Report preparation and rest day** |
| Days 10-12 | Continue conducting the assignment (academic, advise and practical) |
| Days 13 | * Wrap up sessions that emphasize key concepts of the assignment: the NCF evaluates the assignment and discusses final report recommendations with the volunteer.

Group presentation to the HAFOTI in the presence of CRS F2F staff and local leader  |
| Day 14 | * Travel back to Dili and Debriefing at CRS office with Ambassador, USAID Mission and CRS staffs.
* Submit all reports, return logistic items and complete all required activities
* Debrief meeting with USA Ambassador and Mission
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| Day 15 | * Travel back to USA
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| TBD | Conduct outreach activity when back in the US |

1. **ACCOMMODATION AND ANOTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS**
* Before travelling to the assignment place, the volunteer will stay in Plaza Hotel at one of the CRS’s client hotels that will be booked and confirmed before the arrival date. <https://www.agoda.com/plaza->
* 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.
* During her/his assignment period on the field, the volunteer will be booked in a hotel at district that with no WiFi conditions room with less furniture.
* CRS Timor-Leste 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.
* Before departing to 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. Softcopies 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 either office at Dili office prior to travel to the assignment place.
* 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.
* The target training is for staff and groups.
* Working environment and culture of Timorese people are very friendly and respectful to their guest and in the traditional ceremony they might be request as to smoke or eat betel nut, but if she/he don’t like just to touch it and give back to them.
* Related to the weather condition now is rainy season so she/he can bring the boots or clothes resistance to water and muddy
1. **KEY CONTACTS**

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| **CRS Baltimore** | **Country Manager** |
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1. USAID precisely classifies PERSUAP in four categories; **PERSUAP Type I** assignments directly related to pesticides recommendations, **Type II** as assignments with indirectly related with pesticides, **Type III** assignments related to curriculum review and designing, business plan development and strategies development and **Type IV** as assignments associated with other USAID projects and collaborators. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/tim149148.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)