



To express interest in this assignment for virtual support, please email [emily.keast@crs.org](mailto:emily.keast@crs.org)  
 To express interest in this assignment for Liberian volunteers, please email [geraldine.tabi@crs.org](mailto:geraldine.tabi@crs.org)  
**CRS Farmer to Farmer Program**  
**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

Summary Information	
Assignment Code	LR233
Country	Liberia
Country Project	Cassava
Host Organization	Kpayeh Rural Women Cooperative
Assignment Title	Capacity building on cassava good agriculture practices (GAP)
Assignment preferred dates	February 2021
Objectives of the assignment	The objective of this assignment is to build the capacity of the Kpayeh Rural Women Cooperative’s members on the application of good agriculture practice to guide the production systems towards sustainable and ecologically safe agriculture, obtain harmless products of higher quality, contribute to food security by generating income through access to markets, and improve working conditions of producers and their families.
Desired volunteer skill/expertise	The volunteer should have skills in the area of agriculture, ability to conduct training with rural people in cassava good agricultural practices. The candidate should have a degree in general agriculture or crop sciences. Must have at least five years of working experience in rural communities with rural institutions especially farmer cooperatives and agro businesses. The candidate must be knowledgeable on adult training approaches, be prepared to work in a remote area, and be passionate working with developing communities.
Type of Volunteer Assistance	Technology Transfer = T
Type of Value Chain Activity	On Farm Production = F
PERSUAP Classification <sup>1</sup>	III

**BACKGROUND**

Kpayeh Rural Women Cooperative is a women’s cooperative farmers group that specializes in cassava production. The cooperative is based in the eastern side of Gbarnga in Jorquelleh District Bong County. The population of the community is approximately 9,205. The cooperative is located approximately 16 kilometers away from Gbarnga. In this community, the local people grow cassava for consumption and marketing purpose. Cassava is usually produced by the local communities and sold to WOC DAL Inc. for processing and packaging of deepah, gari, and fufu and other local processors for the processing of Garri. Kpayeh Rural Women Cooperative was founded in 2015 by a small group of women who were abounded with children by their husbands and children’s fathers. At that time most of women did not even have a house of their own to stay. It was based on this continuous hardship

<sup>1</sup> 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.



that some of women decided to venture into cassava production that will help them generate money to support their families financially and economically. In 2017, USAID/LADA project implemented by CNFA provided capacity building training in good agriculture practice in cassava production using improved farming methods and cassava variety. In 2018 the cooperative decided to venture into cassava processing into different products (gari and fufu).

#### **A. ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

Since 2018, the cooperative has been struggling to effectively grow cassava and have a better yield due to lack of knowledge in the application of good agriculture practice. The leadership and members of the cooperative does not have the knowledge and strategies to apply good agriculture practices, pest management, fertilizer applications and even site selection when planting cassava. The cooperative members also are not knowledgeable enough on the timing and best way to plant cassava cuttings into the soil and use the standard dimension/spacing (1meter by 1 meter) that will ensure a good yield at the end of the farming season. Kparyeh Rural Women Cooperative's members and leaders also do not have the knowledge on the application of organic fertilizers to cassava during the planting season. Due to the lack of these technical knowledges and skills, Kparyeh Rural Women Cooperative's members do not usually have good yields after the farming season. This overall continuously makes the cooperative struggle financially because the members often do not have a good cassava yield for sale to improve their income after harvest. Providing the members and leadership of Kparyeh Rural Women Cooperative with knowledge on good agriculture practices on cassava planting, pest management, site selection, and spacing methods while planting cassava will help the cooperative and its members have a good yield at the end of the farming season. Applying good agriculture practice and having a good yield at the end of the farming season will help the farmers and the cooperative focus on cassava farming because they will be able to sell their product in huge quantities and generate funds that will also bring more income to the farmers group /cooperative and its members for sustainability.

#### **B. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The main objective of this training is to enhance the capacity of the farmer cooperative members on good agricultural practices for increased productivity through adoption of cassava farming management practices.

Specifically, the objectives of this assignment are:

- Develop a training guide for the trainer and trainees.
- Develop the training methodology/approach.
- Train cassava producers using the best agronomy practices to increase their yields.
- Enhance farmers with knowledge on the cassava varieties suitable for their environment, for industrial use, and tolerant to brown streak.
- Provide farmers trainers with knowledge and skills on community-based clean seed production for cassava.
- Enhance farmers knowledge in climate smart agronomic management (fertilizer use, intercropping, conservation agriculture, spacing) practices for cassava.
- Enhance farmer knowledge in climate smart Integrated pest management (IPM).
- Conduct the training for the leaders and members putting heavy emphasize on improved cassava crop production practices.



- 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 members, other stakeholders like local government, buyers, any other partner to share the training report and recommendations.

**C. HOST CONTRIBUTION**

To conduct this assignment, Kpayeh Rural Women Cooperative is expected to meet the following requirements:

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

**D. ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

At the completion of this assignment, the anticipated result below is expected:

- Kpayeh Rural Women Cooperative members and leadership will be empowered with the knowledge in best agronomy practices to increase their yields.
- Farmers will be equipped to maintain high yielding resistant cassava varieties which meet requirements of consumers (sweet taste).
- Farmers will practice the knowledge gained and train other producers in the improved crop management practices which are within the means of resource poor farmers.
- A final report providing full detail on how the assignment was conducted; it should include no more than six (6) realistic recommendations be implemented by the cooperative.

**E. DELIVERABLES**

1. Volunteer final report due BEFORE departure
2. Group presentation with local stakeholders at the end of the assignment in country
3. Volunteer outreach activities in the US and in country
4. Training manuals

**F. SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN COUNTRY**

Days	Activity
Day 1	Orientation session  Meet with ASA Team to review the scope of work and develop detailed work plan covering all activities required to effectively implement this scope of work.
Day 2	Meet with the Kparyeh Rural Women Cooperative management for introduction and review of the scope of work.
Day 3-12	Start the rollout of agreed work plan and start with the training session.
Day 13	Organize the workshop to share achievements, expected results and recommendations.



Day 14	<p>Conduct debrief session with CRS country team and perhaps USAID Mission on the completed assignment.</p> <p>Fill out all necessary M&amp;E forms and submit to ASA staff</p>

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

**G. DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS (Academic and hands on experience on subject matter)**

A volunteer also has the following skills:

- Must be results-oriented and service-oriented.
- Must be proactive and willing to work in remote communities.
- Must have good interpersonal skills and must be flexible.

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

In Gbarnga City, Bong County, the volunteer’s transportation and accommodation will be taken care of by ASA Project.

**I. RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS**

The targeted trainees are mostly local farmers who live in remote communities. Most of them have low-levels of formal education.

• **Training Materials:**

In the event the volunteer prepares materials for hand out, they can be printed at the CRS office in Gbarnga, Bong County. Flip charts, markers, and a projector, if needed, can be obtained at the CRS Liberia, Gbarnga Bong County office.

• **Working Environment**

The assignment will be conducted in Kpayeh Town Bong County. The volunteer will work closely with Kpayeh Rural Women Cooperative management and CRS country F2F field team as well.

• **Recommended Reading**

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

**J. REMOTE/LOCAL VOLUNTEER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Both volunteers participate in a call to discuss objectives and collaboration approach at the start of the assignment. Collaboration platforms vary depending on the assignment and connectivity. The most frequently used platforms are MS Teams and WhatsApp. The volunteers are highly encouraged to visit [CRS’ F2F Digital Resource Library](#), and search for resources that they could use or customize for training. Upon completion of your assignment, volunteers are requested to send any resources they would like to contribute to the library (whether created or found) to [farmertofarmer@crs.org](mailto:farmertofarmer@crs.org).



The local volunteer is responsible for assignment design, preparation, training, developing assignment reports, conducting action planning with hosts and outreach in country, and achieving the assignment objectives. The local volunteer works directly with the host with assistance/input from the US volunteer. Assignments usually last up to 2 weeks; Sometimes extending beyond two weeks due to pending follow up visits, emails etc. Local Volunteers are asked to track assignment hours per day, to stay under 112 hours (14 days x 8 hrs).

Virtual support from a paired US volunteer helps provide supplementary training resources, fill in the gaps for technical areas, and share creative ideas and solutions. Two specific responsibilities are to: (i) complete the outreach component of the assignment and (ii) support the in-country volunteer as needed. US volunteers typically put in 4-8 hours per week, depending on the nature of the assignment and collaboration.

**K. KEY CONTACTS**

**To express interest in this assignment, please email the CRS Baltimore contact listed below. To find out additional information about the host, issue description or field conditions, please email the country contact provided below, copying the CRS Baltimore contact.**

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