



To express interest in this assignment please email [maria.figueroa@crs.org](mailto:maria.figueroa@crs.org) with copy to [emily.keast@crs.org](mailto:emily.keast@crs.org)

**CRS Farmer to Farmer Program  
Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

Summary Information	
Assignment Code	BJ279
Country	Benin
Country Project	Soybean
Host Organization	Eden-Vision for Sustainable Development (EV2D) NGO
Assignment Title	Integrated pests and diseases control methods in pineapple production
Assignment preferred dates	February 2022
Objectives of the assignment	<p>Improve pineapple yield and productivity by training farmers on integrated pests and diseases control methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen pineapple farmer's knowledge of the relevant pests and diseases in pineapple production.</li> <li>• Enhance capabilities to recognize the symptoms and origin of pests and diseases in pineapple production.</li> <li>• Provide training on the integrated pests and diseases control methods in pineapple production.</li> </ul>
Desired volunteer skill/expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agronomist.</li> <li>• Proven knowledge in pineapple cropping systems and extensive experience in plants protection.</li> <li>• Ability to train adults, especially farmers with low education level Familiar to participatory approaches.</li> </ul>
Type of Volunteer Assistance	Technology Transfer = T
Type of Value Chain Activity	Farm Production (F)
PERSUAP Classification <sup>1</sup>	I

## A. BACKGROUND

The "Farmer-to-Farmer" (F2F) program is an American initiative that provides technical assistance from highly qualified volunteers to farmers, farmer groups (cooperatives and associations), agribusinesses, research institutes and other organizations in the agricultural sector in developing countries and countries

<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.

in transition. The supports are usually provided by American volunteers but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, currently, the missions are carried out by pairs of volunteers; a volunteer recruited locally and an American volunteer. F2F project has been implemented in Benin since September 2018 by CRS, to support the cashew and soybean value chains over 5 years, both approved by the USAID mission in Benin.

Established in 2019, Eden Vision for Sustainable Development (EV2D) is a Non-Governmental Organization that works for the promotion of sustainable development and poverty alleviation in rural communities. It is located in Porto-Novo, in southern Benin and implements its activities in Allada, Djidja, Porto-Novo and Sakété areas. EV2D's vision is to be an organization with technical strategies for strengthening the economic and technical knowledge of vulnerable socio-professional groups for agricultural development by 2030. The NGO's mission is to support the initiatives of young people and agricultural groups in the field of crop production and processing, while facilitating the professional insertion of vulnerable people. Its supports farmers' groups in rural areas, especially some key area where their focus crops such as maize, palm tree, soybean, pineapple and vegetable crops are produced and processed. As part of its activities to support the production sector, EV2D follows and works with farmers groups on improving targeted crops production system and productivity, trains community facilitators and identified farmers' leaders on management skills and good agricultural practices, sensitizes agricultural groups on the challenges of climate change and adaptation measures. The pineapple sector is one of the priority agricultural sectors to which EV2D is contribution for their development starting from the production part by ensuring farmers education and adoption of good agricultural practices.

## **B. ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

The contribution of Professional Agricultural Organizations (OPA) to the national production is assessed by the volume of pineapples they produce. OPA in the commune of Allada supplies more than half of the regional production; however, as result of increase of new pineapple farms owned by new pineapple farmers and intensification, pineapple production faces a lot of problems, such as loses and decrease in the productivity and pineapple yield due to pests and diseases. Most of the young and new farmers in the sectors, especially those supported by Eden Vision, do not know much about pests and disease management to prevent, or successfully control pests and pathogens when their farms are attacked or infested. Also, even though some experienced and medium/large farmers have developed some basic knowledge in diseases management, most of the small farmers (especially young and new) are not aware of, or are not well informed of, the new technologies developed in the pineapple production. Indeed, since pineapple has been selected as one of the priority crops in the country, its production sectors has registered the development of some new ecological good production practices, that small farmers do not master for application or do not know about. This lack of knowledge leads to the low yield mentioned above, low quality, and high post-harvest loses, and thus, lowering farmers' incomes. Average yield obtained by small farmers is about 30 tons per ha, while those obtained by medium and large size farmers range from 45 to 65 tons per ha. It is urgent to strengthen farmers capacities in integrated pests and diseases control methods.

## **C. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

This assignment aims to improve pineapple yield and productivity obtained by farmers in the commune of Allada by training them on integrated pests and diseases control methods in pineapple production.

Specific objectives:

- Strengthen pineapple farmers' knowledge on relevant pests and diseases in pineapple production.
- Enhance capabilities to recognize the symptoms and origin of pests and diseases in pineapple production.
- Provide training on the integrated ecological pests and diseases control methods in pineapple production.
- Develop IPM guidelines for pineapples and related crops

#### **D. HOST CONTRIBUTION**

EV2D, the host organization, will provide training hall and materials for this assignment. The host will also mobilize and support the commuting, lodging and feeding of the participants during the training sessions. CRS will cover lodging and other related costs of the volunteer against receipts.

#### **E. ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

The national economic importance that the pineapple sector represents and the income that it procures to farmers, training the farmers on this topic will help them implement the acquired knowledge and enhance their incomes. After this assignment, the knowledge acquired during the training will help the pineapple producers have a good understanding of integrated pests and diseases control methods. In addition, implementing new knowledge in this topic will significantly contribute to the reduction of production and post-harvest losses and increase pineapple productivity and yield. This will also increase quality and quantity of harvested pineapples and increase availability for processing units.

#### **F. DELIVERABLES**

- At least 40 small-holder pineapple producers trained on integrated pests and diseases control methods.
- Volunteer final trip report due BEFORE departure.
- Group presentation with local stakeholders at the end of the assignment in country.
- Volunteer outreach activities in the US and in country through social media, journal, radio, TV, etc...
- Training guidelines  
Debriefing with USAID and F2F country staff.

#### **G. SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES**

<b>Days</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Volunteer's welcome and orientation at CRS office in Cotonou and signing of administrative documents.</li><li>• Travel to Allada and checking at the hotel.</li><li>• Introduction of the volunteer to the host organization by CRS Benin F2F team.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General orientation with the host, first-hand briefing on the main objectives and modality of the assignment and adjustment of the agenda for the coming days (work planning session).</li> </ul>
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of the volunteer to the participants</li> <li>• Conduct a quick diagnosis and evaluation with farmers and conduct a SWOT analysis to better understand the real needs of participating.</li> </ul>
Day 3 to 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold training session.</li> </ul>
Day 7 to 8	Practical demonstration and application
Day 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare reports and recommendations for the host.</li> <li>• Debriefing with CRS Benin F2F staff and host.</li> <li>• Submit volunteer reports, training attendance sheet, assignment report. PPT presentation and any reference materials to CRS F2F team.</li> </ul>
Day 10	Volunteer travels back

## H. DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS

To complete this assignment, the volunteer should be:

- Agronomist, expert in crop production in tropical zones.
- Proven knowledge in vegetable cropping systems and extensive experience in plants protection.
- Skilled to train adults, especially farmers with low education level familiar to participatory approaches.
- Have strong experience in the pineapple sector will be an asset.

## I. ACCOMMODATION AND ANOTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS

The volunteer will work and be accommodated in Allada, located at 44 km from Cotonou, where there is always electricity. In addition, the communication networks are very good with excellent security situation. Travel arrangements, adhering to COVID-19 safety precautions, will be made by CRS. The volunteer will be paid a per diem to cover feeding expenses.

## J. RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS

### ▪ Targeted trainees' Description

The participants in this training will be 40 farmers (men and women and youth) gathered around a professional agricultural organization. Some have a minimum educational level of primary school and others are literate. Some of them can read and write in French and most of them speak the main local language *Fongbé*. The volunteer will also work with technical advisors of the NGO and the ones of the communal cell of the Territorial Agricultural Development Agency.

### ▪ Training Materials

The volunteer should prepare documents that can be printed at the CRS office in Benin prior to arrival. Flipcharts, markers, masking tapes can be obtained from CRS offices in case the volunteer wishes to do illustrations. If possible, for the mission, the volunteer can bring a laptop with them, but it is possible to get a spare on site. For PowerPoint presentations, Eden Vision or one of its partners can provide a video projector. The translation of handouts to the local language can be done in the locality of the assignment, if required.

- **Electricity, internet, cell phone signal, key security, health issues**

The volunteer will work in the municipality of Allada where power outages are sometimes experienced. Even if there were power cuts, a relay energy group will be set up. The phone signal of MTN and MOOV networks is good. In the town where the volunteer will be accommodated, the electricity supply and the internet are more stable.

- **Working Environment and culture**

Allada is an urban municipality of Benin located in the south of the country in the department of Atlantique. Historic and religious town, Allada is located at about 44 km from Cotonou. *Fongbé* is the main and dominant local language. Other spoken languages can be recorded (like *Tori* and *Adja*), and the people are Christians, Muslims, and Animists. They are very nice and respectful, especially towards foreigners; they are also social and open to collaboration with foreigners.

- **Recommended Reading**

CRS strongly recommends that the volunteer familiarize themselves with this SOW, and read the documents on: integrated pests and diseases control methods in pineapple production; the various actors and stakeholders in the soybean sector. The volunteer can read materials on the different pineapple production and protection techniques in Benin, West Africa, Africa and somewhere else. Some materials may be found in the [CRS' F2F Digital Resource Library](#).

## **K. 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.

## L. 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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