



To express interest in this assignment please email emily.keast@crs.org and copy maria.figueroa@crs.org

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

Summary Information	
Assignment Code	BJ282
Country	Benin
Country Project	Soybean
Host Organization	Eden-Vision for Sustainable Development (EV2D) NGO
Assignment Title	Capacity building on production techniques and certification process of improved soybean seed production
Assignment preferred dates	Mid-March 2022
Objectives of the assignment	<p>Improve the availability of quality improved soybean seeds through capacity building of seed producers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance seed farmers knowledge on difference between traditional varieties seed production and improved varieties seed production. • Train seed farmers/growers on multiplication techniques of improved soybean seed production • Demonstrate to participants the techniques of proper harvesting, post-harvest and seed storage. • Strengthen seed farmers' knowledge on certification process of improved soybean seeds according to the government of Benin specifications.
Desired volunteer skill/expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agronomist. • Proven knowledge in soybean cropping systems. • Extensive experience in seed production. • Experience in storage and conservation of soybean seeds an asset. • Ability to train adults, especially farmers with low education level <p>Familiar to participatory approaches.</p>
Type of Volunteer Assistance	Technology Transfer = T
Type of Value Chain Activity	Farm Production=F
PERSUAP Classification ¹	Type II

¹ USAID precisely classifies PERSUAP in four categories; **PERSUAP Type I** assignments directly related to pesticides

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 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. Both the soybean and cashew country projects were 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 the southern part of Benin. EV2D implements its activities in Allada, Djidja, Porto-Novo and Sakété regions. 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 development of the vulnerable people. They support farmers' groups in rural areas, and their focus crops include soybeans, pineapple, palm tree, and vegetable crops at both production and processing levels. As part of its activities to support the production sector, EV2D follows and works with farmers groups on improving targeted crops production systems and productivity, trains community facilitators and selected farmers' leaders on management skills and good agricultural practices, sensitizes agricultural groups on the challenges of climate change and mitigation measures.

B. ISSUE DESCRIPTION

For EV2D, the main interest in seed production is to obtain a large quantity of good quality and uniform seeds at an affordable price and at the right time and place to meet the demands for their many farmers. The soybean sector is under development with interest from different agricultural development parties, but, although some work has been done on seed improvement, the soybean seed production/multiplication is not yet taken on by seed farmers nor the soybean farmers themselves. The motivation of the seed producers lies in the interest and quick return on investment if they produce seeds that meet the market demands.

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.

The need for improved soybean seed is expressed by farmers, in the face of changes in production systems due to the low productivity recorded. Farmers have difficulties accessing improved soybean seeds due to the lack and poor organization of seed companies in the subsector. This has an impact on decreasing germination of soybean seeds and use of recycled seeds, both of which contribute to yield reductions. While there are improved seeds from the research sector, most of the actors supported by Eden Vision do are not aware of these improved seeds and their production techniques to improve productivity and yield. In addition, as the soybean sector is under development, despite their experience in seed production, some seed growers are not aware of the certification process.. This leads to some seed growers not investing in, or producing the soybean seed and others who do it end up providing some non-certified seed. Moreover, there is a lack in the number of soybean seed producers as seed demands are increasing following the sector development. Some farmers can and are willing to develop soybean seed multiplication activity as demand is high.

C. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The main objective of this assignment is to improve the availability of quality improved soybean seed through capacity building of seed producers. Specifically, this assignment aims to:

- Enhance seed grower's knowledge on difference between traditional varieties seed production and improved varieties seed production.
- Train seed farmers or multipliers on multiplication techniques of improved soybean seed.
- Demonstrate to participants the techniques of proper harvesting, post-harvest and seed storage.
- Strengthen seed farmers' knowledge on certification process of improved soybean seeds.

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 to the training sessions. But CRS will cover lodging and other related costs of the volunteer. The host will liaise with partners that supply basic soybean seeds, and also identify demonstration plots as may be required.

E. ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT

The expected results through this assignment are:

- A least 50 seed farmers/multipliers and 10 EV2D's agricultural advisors will be trained and technically reinforced on improved soybean seed production practices and certification process.
- Locally adaptable and helpful overseas' experiences are transferred and adopted for better productivity, incomes and livelihood.
- Soybean producers will have better access to the improved soybean seed and apply the agricultural practices
- Training handouts/guidelines is developed by the volunteer for further use.

F. DELIVERABLES

- 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 materials and guide.
- Debriefing with USAID and F2F country staff.

G. SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Days	Activities
Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Volunteer's welcome and orientation at CRS office in Cotonou and signing of administrative documents.• Introduction of the volunteer to the host organization• 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).
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travel to Djidja and check-in at the hotel• Introduction of the volunteer to the participants• Conduct a quick issue analysis with farmers and conduct a SWOT analysis to better understand the real needs of participating.
Day 3 to 7	Complete assignment related activities with and for participants
Day 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travel to Cove and check-in at the hotel• Introduction of the volunteer to the participants• Conduct a quick issue analysis with farmers and conduct a SWOT analysis to better understand the real needs of participating.
Day 9 to 13	• Complete assignment related activities with and for participants
Day 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare reports and recommendations for the host and participants.• Debriefing with CRS Benin F2F staff and host.• Submit volunteer reports, training attendance sheet, assignment report. PPT presentation and any reference materials to CRS F2F team.
Day 15	Volunteer travels back

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

To complete this assignment, the volunteer should be/have:

- Agronomist, with proven knowledge in vegetable cropping systems.
- Demonstrated experience in seed production and multiplication.

- Strong experience in the soybean subsector will be an asset.
- Skilled to train adults, especially farmers with low education level familiar to participatory approaches.

I. ACCOMMODATION AND ANOTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS

For this assignment the volunteer will be accommodated in Bohicon at “Hotel des Princes”. He/she will work in Djidja (located at 150 km from Cotonou) and Cove (located at 155 km from Cotonou) where the training sessions will be held, EV2D will mobilize the participant to the training sessions and work closely with the volunteer for any need necessary for the success of the assignment.

J. RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS

▪ Targeted trainees’ Description

The participants in this training will be made up of about 30 farmers (men and women and young people) and technical advisors in each commune. Some have a minimum educational level of the primary school and others are literate. Some of them can read and write in French and most of them speak the local language *Fongbé*. The volunteer will also work with technical advisors of the NGO 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, cellphone signal, key security, health issues

The volunteer will work in the commune of Djidja and Djidja, where power cut is sometimes experienced. Even if there were power cuts, a relay energy group will be set up. The telephone signal of the MTN and MOOV networks is good. In Bohicon and Cove where the volunteer will be accommodated, the electricity supply and the internet are more stable.

▪ Working Environment and culture

Djidja and Cove are rural commune of Benin located in the south of the country in the department of Zou. It is called the granary of Zou and it is located at about 150 km from Cotonou. *Fongbé* is the dominant local language. Other spoken languages can be recorded, and the people are Christians, Muslims, and Animists.

▪ Recommended Reading

CRS strongly recommends that the volunteer familiarize themselves with this SOW, read the documents on: improved soybean seed production techniques; soybean certification process; the various actors and stakeholders in the soybean sector. The volunteer can read materials on the different topic 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.

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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