 

**Farmer-to-Farmer East Africa**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

**NOTE: THIS SCOPE OF WORK AWAITING FINAL EDITS**

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| **Summary Information** | |
| Assignment code | ET-101 |
| Country | Ethiopia |
| Country Project | Horticultural Crop Production and Sector Support |
| Host Organization | Ethio-Wetlands and Natural Resources Association (EWNRA) |
| Assignment Title | Increasing shelf life of fruit using drying techniques |
| Preferred Dates | January-March 2017 |
| Assignment objectives | * To train small holder farmers on the economic and nutritional importance of increasing shelf life of fruits * To train on fruit drying techniques to small holder farmers * To introduce simple equipments that can help to dry fruits * To introduce simple packaging mechanisms for dried fruits |
| Desired Volunteer’ Skill/Expertise | * Experience in fruit processing/post-harvest handling/ food science * Experience with drying fruits such as mango, avocado, banana and pineapple |

1. **BACKGROUND**

The Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) East Africa program leverages US volunteer’s expertise to assist small holder farmers and small scale processors in East Africa to improve their business practices through volunteer assignments conducted with host organizations. Through F2F intervention, CRS will improve the livelihoods and nutritional status of significant numbers of low income households by: i) broadening their participation in established commodity value chains as producers and service providers; ii) strengthening community resilience to shocks such as droughts that adversely affect livelihoods; and iii) preserving/enhancing natural resources upon which most rural communities depend. CRS will also increase the American public’s understanding of international development programs and foster increased cross-cultural understanding between host countries and US volunteer.

Ethio Wetlands and Natural Resources Association (EWNRA) is a local non-governmental organization established in 2000 with environmental and development objectives specifically focusing on wetlands and natural resource conservation in the country. The organization strives to realize its vision of seeing healthy Ethiopia’s wetlands and related ecosystems providing sustainable benefits to local and global environment and development. Since its establishment, Ethio-Wetlands and Natural Resources Association have been doing research and working on various development projects in an integrated manner with a view to resolve better the interwoven problems fueling one another in its target areas. The prime objectives of these projects are to address environmental issues in order to contribute towards sustainable natural resources management and poverty reduction in the country through improving the livelihood bases of the local communities within its intervention areas. Most of the beneficiary farmers of the association are involved in production and marketing of fruits such as avocado, banana, papaya, mango and pineapple.

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

Ethiopia has a variety of fruit crops grown in different agro ecological zones by smallholder farmers, mainly as a source of income as well as food. The nature of the product on one hand and the lack of market system on the other hand have resulted in low producers’ price and hence low benefit by the producers.[[1]](#footnote-1) Southern part of Ethiopia where EWNRA is located known for its high potential for production of fruits of different types. Avocado, banana, papaya, mango and pineapple are the common fruit crops grown in the area.

These fresh fruits are high value crops with high consumer demand and high export potential. However, being highly perishable products, there are many considerable challenges and ultimately extend their shelf life to promote sufficiency and sustainability.

Even though fruits are contributing to a house hold income in the region, it is common practice that during the harvesting time the price of these fruits goes down and farmers are obligated to sell it out at any price which is mainly determined mainly by consumers and assembles. These fruits are the main source of nutrition for the household however after the pick season for the fruits it is hard to get it at home for consumption since it will get spoiled/ perished easily after few days.

Having this facts EWNRA aspire to minimize the existing challenges related with low market price for fruits and non-availability of the fruits at any time needed to consume at household level. And its nutritional implication of consuming fruit on a regular basis. Therefore, the host is requesting a volunteer assistance in enhancing the knowledge and skill of farmers in preserving, drying and packaging fruits to increase its shelf life there by getting better price at marketing and access to the fruit at the off seasons.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The objective of this volunteer assignment is to train and technically assist EWNRA beneficiary farmers on mechanisms that increase the shelf life of fruit mainly techniques of drying using locally available resources and materials. The volunteer is also expected to train beneficiaries on how to pack dried fruit products in a way that can be delivered to market.

The specific activities will include

* Train small holder farmers on the economic and nutritional importance of increasing shelf life of fruits
* Train on fruit drying techniques to small holder farmers
* Introduce simple equipments that can help to dry fruits
* Introduce simple packaging mechanisms for dried fruits

**Host contribution** – The host has committed to mobilize the farmers to receive the volunteer’s technical and practical assistance. The host will also avail key personnel to work closely with the volunteer at all times, assisting her/him during sessions, ensuring translation to the local language and advising on the culture of the specific area. The host will also facilitate vehicle availability for everyday use of the volunteer and CRS will cover fuel cost against receipt (if requested by the host organization). The host will also provide the volunteer with office space and furniture at its office compound at Guwanga town.

1. **ASSIGNMENT DELIVERABLES**

It is anticipated that this volunteer assignment will results in improving in the area of fruit drying technique and better use from the fruits produced.

* Train and technically assist beneficiaries on fruit drying methods and packaging
* If possible, develop training of trainers’ guidelines or handouts
* Submit field trip report with recommendations and action plan to the host and CRS
* Reconcile logistics and advances (if any) with CRS (if necessary)
* Conduct a final debriefing (Power Point Presentation) with the host organization (plus key stakeholders) and CRS/USAID

1. **SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN ETHIOPIA**

| **Day** | **Activity** |
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| Days 1 | Arrival to Ethiopia, Bole international Airport. The volunteer will be picked by Churchill Hotel or another CRS client hotel with a placard bearing “**CRS logo and volunteer name”**. |
| Day 2 | Introduction to CRS higher officials and briefing meeting (security, general orientation, logistic, reporting formats, etc.) at CRS office. Discuss anticipated outcomes and work plan. |
| Days 3 | * Travel to Dilla (located 370 km to the south of Addis Ababa) |
| Days 4 | * 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). * Further identify skill and training gaps through visiting and discussing with the host. * Based on information gathered and gaps identified, enrich the prepared training materials incorporating hands-on practices. * First-hand information/data collection by volunteers as applicable. |
| Day 5-7 | * Conduct firsthand training and presentation to the EWNRA beneficiaries * Assess and refine the quality of trainings through feedback and observations. |
| **Day 8** | **Rest day.** |
| Days 9-14 | Continuation of the trainings and practical technical assistance |
| **Day 15** | **Rest Day** |
| Day 16-18 | Continuation of the trainings and practical technical assistance |
| Day 19 | * Group debriefing presentation to the host in the presence of CRS. * Volunteer travels back to Addis Ababa. |
| Day 20 | * Finalize reimbursement expenditures and liquidations (if any) with finance (if necessary). * Finalizes his/her report and submit training M&E forms to CRS F2F staff. * Debriefing at CRS office with USAID Mission and CRS staff |
| Day 21 | * Depart for USA (evening hours) |
| TBD | Outreach event when back to the US could include: presentation with a local group/organization, press release, media event and/or speaking tour etc. |

1. **DESIRABLE VOLUNTEER SKILLS**

The volunteer will have the following qualifications and competencies:

* Experience in fruit processing/post-harvest handling/ food science
* Experience with drying fruits such as mango, banana, pineapple and others
* Experience and/or familiarity in agriculture sector
* Good communicator and interpersonal communication skills

1. **ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS**

* Before travelling to the assignment place, the volunteer will stay in Addis Ababa at one of the CRS’s client hotels, Churchill or another hotel that will be booked and confirmed before the arrival date.
* In Addis Ababa, 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 and vice versa while in Addis Ababa.
* All required materials will be prepared ahead of time and provided to the volunteer. CRS Ethiopia will provide the volunteer with a laptop computer (if s/he needs), local internet dongle (modem/EVDO) and mobile phone with a charged local SIM-card. Any other required logistics and facilities can also be requested by the volunteer during her/his stay in Addis Ababa.
* CRS will provide a vehicle and accompany the volunteer to the place of assignment.
* During her/his assignment period, the volunteer will be booked in a hotel in Dilla town.
* CRS Ethiopia will arrange hotel accommodations and cover the lodging bills against receipts.
* CRS HQ will provide the volunteer with a per-diem advance to cater meals and incidences.
* CRS Ethiopia will also reimburse the volunteer with laundry costs against receipts.
* Before departing from Ethiopia, the volunteer will liquidate any advances received in Ethiopia.
* For more information, please refer to country information that will be provided.

1. **RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS**

* Although CRS F2F has developed such hinting SOW, the volunteer can fine-tune through her/his professional qualifications to successfully carry out this assignment.
* Some areas of the assignment/project site have some lowland agro ecologies. Therefore, precautions through taking pills or vaccination for malaria (and maybe also for cholera) upon recommendations by her/his doctors/health professionals in US is advisable.
* Prior to travel, the volunteer is advised to prepare necessary training and demonstration aids and written handouts. Softcopies of the handouts and any other paper materials can be printed for immediate use at the CRS office in Addis Ababa on request by the volunteer.
* If the volunteer requires simple training aids like flip charts, markers or tape s/he should make the request and collect from the CRS office in Addis Ababa prior to travel to the assignment place.
* Translation of handouts to the local language can be done in the locality of the assignment, if required.
* Depending on the meeting places and availability of electric power and LCD projector, the volunteer may use a laptop and projector for power point presentations.

1. **KEY CONTACTS**

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| **Host Organization** | |
| **Mr. Taye Eshetu**  EWNRA-Abaya District, Guanga Project Office.  Cellphone: +251-915-751451  Email: tayy tayyisha@yahoo.com | **Afework Hailu**  Executive Director, EWNRS  P. O. Box 1518 code 1110  Tel: 251-115527791 Email: [ewrp@ethionet.et](mailto:ewrp@ethionet.et)  Addis Ababa, Ethiopia |

1. Nega Mateows *et al* 2015 Market Chain Analysis of Agro-forestry Products. The Case of Fruit at Tembaro District, Kembata Tembaro Zone South Ethiopia, Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development www.iiste.org ISSN 2222-1700 (Paper) ISSN 2222-2855 (Online) Vol.6, No.13, 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)