**Remote Paired Volunteer Assignment: Ethiopian or East African volunteer to be paired with virtual supporting American volunteer**

**To express interest in this assignment, Ethiopian and East African volunteers please email** **haile.deressa@crs.org** **or** **assefa.degefu@crs.org. Interested American volunteers for virtual support please email** **chi.olisemeka@crs.org****.**

**CRS Farmer to Farmer Program**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

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| **Summary Information** |
| **Assignment Code** | ET2107 |
| Country: | Ethiopia |
| Country Project: | Crops |
| Host Organization: | Wolkite University |
| Partner: | N/A |
| Date of baseline data collection: | 09/16/2019 |
| Date of host agreement signing: | September, 2019 |
| Number of previous volunteer assignments: Note, if this is the first/new host, please discuss with Peter & Nyambura  | 5 |
| Volunteer recommendations given (Total): | 21 | Volunteer recommendations applied (Total): | 18 |
| Assignment Title: | Research Grant Project Writing  |
| Objectives of the assignment: | * To develop skills of the university’s researchers in research grant project proposal writing
* To enhance capacity of the university in research and community services to the local farmers
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| Assignment preferred dates: | March, 2022 |
| Desired volunteer skill/expertise | Demonstrated experiences in agricultural research, research grant project writing, research project management. Minimum MSc or above in these or other related fields |
| Type of Volunteer Assistance | Organizational Development (O) |
| Type of Value Chain Activity | Information and Input Support Services (S) |
| PERSUAP Classification[[1]](#footnote-1)[1] | III |
| Number of people to be trained | Men | Women | Youths |
| 30 | 15 | - |
| Will the assignment address gender gaps? (Yes/No)If yes, please include these in the issues description | No |
| Will the assignment address climate change? (Yes/No)If yes, please include this in the issues description | No |
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1. **BACKGROUND**

CRS Farmer-to-Farmer program (F2F) is a five-year (2019-2023) USAID funded program implemented with a primary goal of reducing hunger, malnutrition, and poverty across six countries: Benin, East Timor, Ethiopia, Nepal, Rwanda, and Uganda. The program aims at achieving this goal through advancing inclusive and sustainable agriculture led growth aimed at generating sustainable and broad-based economic growth in the agricultural sector. The program’s secondary goal is to increase US public understanding of international development issues and programs and share the knowledge back in the US. To achieve these goals, F2F program provides volunteer technical assistances to farmers and farmer groups (associations and cooperatives), private agribusinesses and agricultural education institutions to address key technical and institutional problems identified by the hosts in selected agricultural value chains.

F2F volunteers are pooled from a broad range of US agricultural expertise including private farmers, University professors, bankers/certified accountants, animal health and nutrition specialists, soil scientists and agronomists who can provide technical assistances to the local host organizations. The program introduces new innovations and skills to develop local organizations’ capacity for more productive, profitable, sustainable, and equitable agricultural systems while providing an opportunity for people-to-people exchange within the agricultural sector.

The development of higher education is a key contributor for economic growth and the development of countries. Despite the clear importance of higher education for economic growth and social development, investment in the sector in developing countries is very limited. Over the past two decades, Ethiopia has invested considerable resources in the higher education system, often with the support of external aid and lending agencies. However, the number of students enrolled in higher education institutions continued to rise rapidly reflecting intensified demand for research capacity development. However, increased competition for scarce public funds have reduced government’s capacity to support higher academic institutions in research and academic development. The effect of the squeeze on resource availability has been exacerbating by inefficiency in resource utilization. Therefore, for higher academic institutions, the Ethiopian government encourages it to mobilize resources with the aim of being financially self-sufficient institutions. The institutions are guided by strategies on achieving this aim.

Wolkite University (WU) began operation in 2004 and is one of the third-generation universities in Ethiopia. The University is located at 165 km from Addis Ababa to the west and 15 km from Wolkite town in Gurage Zone on 246 hectares of land and provides services on its three campuses (Gubreye Main Campus, Wolkite Campus and Butajira Campus). The university provides academic services through the Colleges of Agriculture and Natural Resource Management, Computing Informatics, Engineering & Technology, Natural Science, Social Science and Humanities College. The program streams include undergraduate, post-graduate, summer in-service program, and weekend and night programs. The college of Agriculture and Natural Resource Management has seven undergraduate programs and one post graduate program. Departments under the college are Agribusiness and Value Chain Management, Plant sciences, Ecotourism and wildlife Management, Animal Production and Technology, Agricultural Economics, Natural Resources Management, and Horticulture.

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

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has been widely applied and been recognized as effective and

powerful tool in detecting land cover and land use change [1].

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health of crop, extent of infestation, potential yield and soil

conditions. It applied to explore agricultural applications such as

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soil moisture estimation, yield estimation, agriculture water

management, agro meteorological etc

Wolkite university has been able to mobilize very limited external funds for research and academic development. Most of university staff have limited skills and experience in research grant project writing. In the current funding environment, the chances of winning grants for these staff are very slim. Developing wining research grant projects in this highly competitive environment depends on how good the organizations and staffs are in exploring opportunities to acquire funds. This highly depends on skills required to develop well-designed, complete, compliant, and persuasive research grant projects. In line with this, the university need to explore diversified funding sources to enhance achievement of its research and community service missions. This requires identifying different funding sources (public and private, national, and international donors) and understanding their requirements. A successful grant-winning application requires articulated research problems with best probable ideas/solutions, innovative approaches, and budget planning and management.

Because of high competition for donor resources, for an organization to secure grant funds it depends on its competence to explore fund sources and compete with other organizations. Hence, to research grants, the university staffs should be equipped with skills required for intel gathering, grant proposal writing, and relationship building with donors and other stakeholders. Thus, the university is requesting for volunteer technical support to acquire skills required to develop winning research grant projects.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The overall objective of this assignment is to equip the university’s staff with skills and knowledge required to develop winning research grant projects. The specific objectives of the assignment include:

* To improve skills of the staff on identifying and business intel gathering
* To enhance skills of the staff on preparation of wining grant proposals
* To strengthen research and community service capacities of the university To train host staff on relationship building with donor and other stakeholders

This assignment will directly contribute to capacity development of the college researchers and instructors, and indirectly to other beneficiaries. The expected number of target beneficiaries of this support is around 45 staff of the university.

1. **HOST CONTRIBUTION**

The host will be committed to mobilize its key staff to work with the volunteer. The host will also assign a focal person to work closely with the volunteer in assessing the existed strategy and developing a revised one. CRS will cover lodging and other related costs of the volunteer against receipts. In coordination with the host and the volunteer, CRS will also arrange and pay for daily transport services to and from the office.

1. **ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

After F2F volunteer support, the following outcomes are anticipated

* Improved knowledge and skills in identifying potential funds and strategies to win grants
* University staff well-versed with research grant project development
* In the long-term, the host win grant proposals and implement projects to support local beneficiaries
1. **DELIVERABLES**

The major deliverables of this assignment include, but not limited to:

* Volunteer end of assignment report with recommendations to the host organization action plan and recommendations to CRS
* Final debriefing (PowerPoint presentation) with the host organization (plus key stakeholders) and CRS/USAID
* Training lists with people trained and photo captured
* Conduct a final debriefing (PowerPoint presentation) with the host organization (plus key stakeholders) and CRS/USAID
* Conduct in-country outreach events in Ethiopia using social media (for local volunteers)
* Conduct outreach activities about the assignment in USA (US volunteer) using appropriate medias (print, radio, TV, group presentation, social etc.)
1. **SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN ETHIOPIA**

| **Day** | **Activity** |
| --- | --- |
| Day 1 | * Receive security and general orientation
* Travel to the host place in Wolkite with CRS staff and meet the host staffs
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| Day 2 | * Discuss and clarify SOW, anticipated outcomes, and work plan
* 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)
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| Day 3 | * Conduct further assessment on the assignment
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| Day 4-14 | * Carry out the assignment and provide orientation to the host staff
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| Day 15 | * Briefing / exit meeting with the host in the presence of CRS staff
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| Day 16 | * Facilitate in country/virtual debriefing with CRS staff and/or USAID Mission
* Finalize reimbursement of expenditures and liquidations (if any) with finance as required
* Submit volunteer reports, training attendance sheet, assignment report, PPT presentation and any reference materials to CRS F2F team
* Depart for his/her place
 |

1. **DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS**

The volunteer needs to have the following skills, qualifications, and competencies:

* Extensive knowledge and experience in business development for academic and/or research institutions.
* Experience in identifying grants, writing grant winning proposals and concept notes
* Experience and skills in adult training methodologies
* Strong communication and interpersonal skills
* Willingness and flexibility to train and technically assist the staff whenever required
* Respect for the cultural and religious norms of the rural people
1. **ACCOMMODATION AND ANOTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS**
* The volunteer will stay in a hotel near to the assignment place booked and confirmed before the volunteer the assignment star date. The hotel will have rooms that include services such as breakfast and wireless internet etc.
* CRS will provide a vehicle and accompany the volunteer to the place of assignment.
* 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 incidentals.
* CRS Ethiopia will also reimburse the volunteer with laundry costs against receipts.
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.
* Prior to the assignment, 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 the assignment.
* 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. **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](https://f2flibrary.crs.org/Presto/home/home.aspx?_ga=2.141716784.32617302.1616765386-2022794543.1567520784), 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.

1. **KEY CONTACTS**

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**3. Host Organization**

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Wolkite University, Ethiopia

1. [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)