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

**CRS Farmer to Farmer Program**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

|  |
| --- |
| **Summary Information** |
| **Assignment Code** | ET2112 |
| Country: | Ethiopia |
| Country Project: | Crops |
| Host Organization: | Project Mercy |
| Partner: | N/A |
| Date of baseline data collection: | 1/10/2023 |
| Date of host agreement signing: | 1/5/2023 |
| Number of previous volunteer assignments: Note, if this is the first/new host, please discuss with Peter & Nyambura  |  |
| Volunteer recommendations given (Total): |  | Volunteer recommendations applied (Total): |  |
| Assignment Title: | Fruit Trees Management and Propagation Techniques |
| Objectives of the assignment: | * To provide technical assistance on fruit trees, especially apple, peach, macadamia, olive, avocado and mango, orchard management techniques
* To train and demonstrate pruning, training and propagation techniques to project mercy staffs and selected community members
 |
| Assignment preferred dates: | February, 2022 |
| Desired volunteer skill/expertise | * Formal qualifications in plant science, horticulture, pomology or other related field
* Extensive knowledge and practical experience in temperate and tropical fruit trees management and propagation techniques
 |
| Type of Volunteer Assistance | Technology Transfer (T) |
| Type of Value Chain Activity | On Farm Production (F) |
| PERSUAP Classification[[1]](#footnote-1)[1] | III |
| Number of people to be trained | Men | Women  | Youths |
| 25 | 10 | 8 |
| 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  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. **BACKGROUND**

The CRS Farmer-to-Farmer program (F2F) is a five-year (2019-2023) USAID funded program implemented with the primary goal of reducing hunger, malnutrition, and poverty across six countries: Benin, Timor-Leste, Ethiopia, Nepal, Rwanda, and Uganda. The program aims to achieve 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’s understanding of international development issues and programs and share the knowledge back in the US. To achieve these goals, F2F provides volunteer technical assistance to farmers and farmer groups (associations and cooperatives), private agribusinesses and agricultural education institutions to address key technical and institutional issues 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 assistance to the local host organizations. The program introduces new innovations and skills to develop local organizations’ capacity to participate in more productive, profitable, sustainable, and equitable agricultural systems while providing an opportunity for people-to-people exchange within the agricultural sector.

Project Mercy is in Butajira, Gurage Zone, 135 km southwest of Addis Ababa. It is a US-based a US-based not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 organization with development, health, and education projects in Butajira, Ethiopia. It is based in the community and provides services to improve livelihood, health and nutrition, and education of the local people. It has established hospital, schools (kindergarten, primary school, high school, and college) and farms (fruits and vegetables, cereals/wheat, pulses/beans, dairy, and poultry) to provide these services.

Project Mercy began its operations in 1977 with a focus on “aid” assisting refugees and famine victims. In the early 1990s, it shifted its focus to development with operations in rural Ethiopia. Its vision is to renew the heart of a nation by plucking out poverty by eradicating its root causes through integrated and participatory community development approaches. The model is built on a foundation of listening and responding to community needs combined with active participation and a contribution of resources by those living in the district.

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

Project Mercy has been supporting holistic community development through education, food and nutrition security, infrastructure, and health services. To address the prevailing problems of low human nutritional security, diseases, and low income in the areas it operates in, the organization introduced high value temperate fruits such as apple, peach, macadamia, and olive and some tropical fruits including avocado and mango. It has a fruit orchard at Yetebon and has provided several seedlings to the community. However, because of limited knowledge and skills in orchard management and propagation techniques, the fruit yield is very low, and in some cases the trees are not bear fruits (e.g., olive and peach). Most of the temperate fruits, especially olives, macadamia, and apples, are new to the area. These problems are evident on Project Mercy’s orchards and the fruit trees of the farmers that received the seedlings.

The production of fruit trees is sensitive to management and weather variables; as a result, it requires the appropriate skills and knowledge to appropriately monitor and manage. It is critical to introduce and enhance management and propagation skills to ensure sustainable production of the fruits, both at the Project Mercy and community levels, and contribute to improved nutritional security and income of the farmers.

Hence, this assignment is needed to equip Project Percy staffs and selected community members with knowledge and skills required for productive fruit orchard management and seedling propagations.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The main objective of this volunteer assignment is to provide training and technical support on fruit trees management and propagation techniques to Project Mercy staffs and local communities.

The specific objectives are:

* To identify knowledge and skill gaps of Project Mercy staffs and local farmers on fruit trees management practices and propagation techniques
* To evaluate growth and production performance of the fruit trees and practically demonstrate key management techniques including pruning, training, etc.
* To practically demonstrate propagation techniques of the fruit trees
* To provide advice on climatic and edaphic factors affecting growth and production of the fruit trees
1. **HOST CONTRIBUTION**

The host also is committed to mobilize its staff and communities to attend the trainings to be conducted by the volunteer. The host will avail key personnel to always work closely with the volunteer to ensure translation to the local language and to assist the volunteer during trainings and practical demonstration sessions. 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 transport services for daily use to and from the office.

1. **ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

It is anticipated that the training will lead to:

* Improved aw knowledge and skills on fruit trees (temperate and tropical fruit trees) management and propagation techniques for staffs and communities
* Improved fruit production, and nutritional security and income of the local communities
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
* Conduct a final debriefing (PowerPoint presentation) with the host organization (plus key stakeholders) and CRS/USAID
* Develop localized simple fruits management manual based on the feedback getting from the trainees.
* Training lists with people trained and photo captured
* 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 Project Mercy, Yetebon, with CRS staff and meet the host staffs
 |
| 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)
 |
| Day 3 | * Conduct further assessment on the assignment
 |
| Day 4-14 | * Carry out the assignment and provide orientation to the host staff
 |
| Day 15 | * Briefing / exit meeting with the host in the presence of CRS staff
 |
| 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:

* Formal qualifications on Agricultural science, Horticulture and/or Pomology
* Knowledge and practical experience in fruit tree and nursery managements
* 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 start 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. **KEY CONTACTS**

**1. CRS Baltimore**

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**3. Host Organization**

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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)