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

**To express interest in this assignment, Ethiopian and East African volunteers please email** **haile.deressa@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**

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| **Summary Information** |
| **Assignment Code** | ET294 |
| Country: | Ethiopia |
| Country Project: | Crops |
| Host Organization: | Bora Denbel Cooperative Union  |
| Partner: | N/A |
| Date of baseline data collection: | 06/25/2019 |
| Date of host agreement signing: | 04/19/2019 |
| Number of previous volunteer assignments: Note, if this is the first/new host, please discuss with Peter & Nyambura  | 3 |
| Volunteer recommendations given (Total): | 17 | Volunteer recommendations applied (Total): | 9 |
| Assignment Title: | Wheat Protein Quality Control by Using Glutomatic System |
| Objectives of the assignment: | To provide technical assistance on calibration and use of Perten Glutomatic System for wheat protein (gluten) quality control |
| Assignment preferred dates: | November 06 – 19, 2022 |
| Desired volunteer skill/expertise | Food chemistry, food science, food engineering/technology or other relevant field with practical skills in wheat protein quality control by using Glutomatic System. |
| Type of Volunteer Assistance | T |
| Type of Value Chain Activity | F |
| PERSUAP Classification[[1]](#footnote-1)[1] | II |
| Number of people to be trained | Men | Women  | Youths |
| 10 | 2 |  |
| 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.

Bora Denbel Union, established in 2007, is one of the fastest growing cooperative unions in the country. The Union is growing in terms of members, business, and services it provides. Currently, the host has 87 primary cooperatives with about 22,726 members, 17 of which are involved in production, processing and marketing of agricultural produces. The Union’s annual value of lending is about $ 4,655,172, annual gross revenue of $ 1,379,310, total value of assets of $ 7,118,414 and total value of liability of $1,127,910. The growth of Boral Denbel Union in term of revenue, and volume of transactions necessitated, skill development of its personnel. Better product management, marketing and tracking of financial performances has become crucially important for the Union.

Bora Denbel Union is currently highly involved in the production, purchase, processing/value addition and sale of grains and seeds of crops (maize, wheat, haricot bean, teff etc.). The union mainly collects produce from the member primary cooperatives which are found in three districts. The cooperative union performs processing and value additions which include cleaning, grading, wheat flour manufacturing and packing. In addition, the union provides services such as distribution of agricultural inputs (fertilizer, seed, agro-chemicals etc.), credit facility and wheat flour to its members and other customers. It also supplies merchandises like sugar, detergents, corrugated iron sheet, and other basic consumer goods to its members. It has warehouses to provide services to its member primary cooperatives. In the recent years, the Union is expanding its agro-processing business especially wheat flour manufacturing and distributions to its members, local consumers, and bakeries in Mekki and Addis Ababa.

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

A steady increase in wheat consumption in the recent years has resulted in rising demand for quality flour and processed products. To meet the demands and become competent and sustainable supplier of wheat flour to consumer beneficiaries, Bora Denbel Union lacks a standard quality control system at its flour milling factory. It has no established protein quality control system which is needed to determine baking quality and nutritional value of wheat. As a result, the Union is facing problems in terms of maintaining specific quality requirements of flours needed for specific food products. The wheat varieties produced and used for flour manufacturing by the Cooperative Union are not characterized for their gluten qualities and quantities which highly affect viscosity and elasticity of the dough during food product processing.

Hence, the union is not able to provide flours with specific qualities for specific product processing such as breadmaking, semolina for pasta and macaroni, biscuits and cuscus. The consumers and customers are demanding quality maintenance and continuous supply of quality flours for their specific needs. In addition, the customers are interested to get information about nutritional quality, especially gluten protein, of the flours.

To solve these challenges, Bora Denbel Union has currently purchased a Perten Glutomatic System with the support from Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations which requires calibration and training on its operation. Hence, the Union has requested F2F to support in calibration and establishment of the system so that it can characterize protein quality of wheat varieties it is growing and using for flour manufacturing.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The main objective of this assignment is to provide technical assistance on establishment of wheat flour protein control system at the milling factory.

The specific objectives are:

* To calibrate Perten Glutomatic System for wheat flour gluten protein testing
* To provide training on operation of the Perten Glutomatic System for gluten protein testing
* To advice the Union on characterization of wheat varieties it is growing and using for flour manufacturing and determining their end product suitability.

This support will be provided to 12 technical staffs (10 men and 2 women) from both the crop production and the flour manufacturing sides to develop their capacity along the value chain.

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**

It is anticipated that the assessment will lead to:

* Established Gulutomatic System for flour gluten protein quality control
* Staff equipped with skills to conduct the gluten protein testing
* Wheat varieties produced and used for manufacturing of flours are characterized for their gluten contents and end use suitability
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 Meki with CRS staff and meet the host staff
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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 expenditure and liquidation (if any) with finance as required
* Submit volunteer reports, training attendance sheet, assignment report, PPT presentation and any reference materials to CRS F2F team
* Departure of volunteer
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1. **DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS**

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

* Formal qualifications in food chemistry, food engineering/technology, food science, or other relevant fields with practical skills in wheat flour protein quality control system
* Experience and skills in Glutomatic System calibration and operation
* Knowledge and practical experiences characterization of wheat varieties for different end uses, i.e., based on gluten protein content
* 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 OTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS**
* The volunteer will stay in a hotel near the assignment location, booked and confirmed before the assignment start date. The hotel will include services such as breakfast and wireless internet etc.
* CRS will provide a vehicle and accompany the volunteer to the assignment location.
* CRS Ethiopia will arrange hotel accommodation and cover lodging bills against receipts.
* CRS HQ will provide the volunteer with a per-diem advance to cover meals and incidentals.
* CRS Ethiopia will reimburse the volunteer for laundry costs against receipts.
1. **RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS**
* Although CRS F2F has developed the assignment SOW, the volunteer can fine-tune it based on her/his professional experience.
* Prior to the assignment, the volunteer is advised to prepare necessary training and demonstration aids and written handouts. Soft copies 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 request these and collect them from the CRS office in Addis Ababa prior to the assignment.
* Handouts can be translated into the local language at the assignment location, if required.
* Depending on the meeting places and the availability of electric power and an LCD projector, the volunteer may use a laptop and projector for PowerPoint presentations.
1. **REMOTE/LOCAL VOLUNTEER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Both volunteers participate in a call to discuss the assignment’s objectives and their approach to collaboration at the start of the assignment. Collaboration platforms vary depending on the type of assignment and degree of connectivity. The most frequently used platforms are MS Teams and WhatsApp. The volunteers are highly encouraged to visit [CRS’s 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 can use or customize for training. Upon completion of the 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).

Remote 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 dedicate 4-8 hours per week, depending on the nature of the assignment and degree of collaboration.

1. **KEY CONTACTS**

**1. CRS Baltimore**

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**3. Host Organization**

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Deputy General Manager

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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)