**Farmer-to-Farmer East Africa**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

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| **Summary Information** | |
| Assignment code | ET 36 |
| Country | Ethiopia |
| Country Project | Horticultural Crops Production and Sector Support |
| Host Organization | Alage Agricultural, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) College |
| Host Partner | Ministry of Agriculture, Office of ETVET colleges |
| Assignment Title | Educating/training/advising in “vegetable production technologies”  (refer the Annex for major list of vegetate crops in Ethiopia) |
| Assignment Preferred Dates | February – May 2016 |
| Assignment objectives | * Educate and advise on vegetable production technologies to ccontribute in to producing qualified agricultural personnel * Share overseas experience and practically teach junior lecturers and crop science students (candidate Agricultural Development Agents-DAs) |
| Desired Volunteer’ Skill/Expertise (two) | Specialist in vegetable crop production preferably graduate level, and **practical** education experiences in learning institutions |

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.

Ethiopia faces challenges of population pressure and low levels of agricultural productivity which aggravate the country’s food insecurity situation and contribute to poor nutrition. Increasing production and diversification of vegetables must be coupled with behavior change at the household level to increase productivity levels of producers to subsequently increase their incomes, as well as improve household nutrition status. Low use of modern vegetable crop production technologies and practices contribute to yields that are lower than would otherwise be expected. Despite ecological and socioeconomic potentials of Ethiopia, horticulture in general and vegetable production in particular is relatively small scale and underdeveloped in the country. Presently however, horticulture including vegetable crops is one of the priority sectors of the Agricultural Growth Program (AGP) of the Ethiopian government[[1]](#footnote-1).

Agricultural production constraints are linked to low number of skilled extension staff, in Ethiopia, called development agents (DAs), who are assigned to support the large base (85%) of the smallholder farmers. Limited flows of the agricultural knowledge/skills and technologies to the large domains of the farming communities are critical. Therefore, increasing the volume and quality of skilled manpower in agriculture, and improving the quality of agricultural colleges and other educational institutions of the country are paramount. Such interventions improve the quality of DA candidates and strengthen the Agricultural, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) colleges in different parts of the country. In terms of teaching modality, most, ATVET colleges use a modular coursing system where subsequent courses are arranged one after the other, whereby one course lasts a period of 20-30 days.

Alage ATVET College is one of the several ATVET colleges established in Ethiopia, which were established to teach agricultural students and produce technically equipped agricultural Development Agents (DAs). ATVET graduates are recruited by the regional bureaus of the Ministry of Agriculture. DAs are assigned to work for grassroots farming communities. DAs are assigned with responsibilities of all agriculture issues such as problem identification and analysis, on-farm research and extension, technological demonstrations, promotion of modern agricultural techniques, training of smallholder farmers and their cooperatives, project implementation and data collection. DAs are also responsible to administer certain agricultural institutions such as Farmer Training Centers (FTCs) that support cooperatives and community based organizations (CBOs).

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

Many of the obstacles that prevent vegetable crop producers of the country from achieving higher yields of consistent quality are rooted in improper production practices. As it is common to many African countries, Few Ethiopian smallholder vegetable farmers use modern production practices. Mostly use local cultivars, have poor plant propagation techniques, poor soil fertility management, low levels of inputs, improper harvesting and poor post-harvest management techniques.

In-line with its mandate to produce well educated agricultural personnel, the Alage ATVET College requires an advanced level of knowledge and experience on vegetable production technologies. The college is interested in integrating elements of US agricultural education into the current locally available instruction approach of the college. In addition to providing refresher courses to the junior instructors, instructing and advising crop science students (candidate DAs) will contribute to upgrading the competence of the college, and thereby transferring better agriculture technologies smallholders.

In a country like Ethiopia where its climate and topography make the production of virtually all tropical, sub-tropical and temperate horticultural crops viable[[2]](#footnote-2), and with a good proximity to potential importing regions of horticultural crops such as Europe (50% of the world’s imports of fruits and vegetables), the Middle East (one of the fastest growing markets) and markets in East Africa[[3]](#footnote-3); educating candidate DAs and improving the quality of these skilled personnel on horticulture sector is of paramount importance.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The objective of this particular assignment is to transfer practical modern vegetable production technologies to junior local instructors and crop science students/candidate DAs of Alage ATVET College by lecturing, advising instructors, workshops and seminars. In addition to such sessions, the specialist will use laboratory and fieldwork to demonstrate the lessons and technologies on practical production technologies of vegetable crops. The beneficiaries of this assignment will be expected to be more than 100 crop science students and about ten junior vegetable lecturers of the college.

Although subject to revision based on the course outlines of the college, some anticipated topics for technical assistances would include the following:

* Importance of vegetable crops for food, nutrition and income;
* Basics of production and improved technologies for vegetable crops;
* Farm planning for diversified vegetable production considering nutrition, market, weather considerations;
* Techniques and practices of modern production for each vegetable crop (refer Annex) under a small scale farming system;
* Compost making and recommendation for use and general soil management.

**Host contribution** – The department of Plant Sciences of the Alage ATVET College will select and determine the attendances of the said junior lecturers and crop science students. The college will assign a focal person who can guide and facilitate the volunteer specialist during the assignment period. Prior to lecturing hours, the College will provide the volunteer with the course topics and outlines where the volunteer will integrate into her/his prior prepared training and advising materials from overseas. The college will also assure that the necessary class rooms and local training aids and other teaching materials are in place. The host will also provide the volunteer with guesthouse (subsidized fee) and facilitate the volunteer for meal services. The host will also provide office space and office furniture as well as vehicle if any travel is required during the assignment duration.

1. **DELIVERABLES FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

It is anticipated that the volunteer transferred up-to-dated technologies and overseas’ experience to the junior vegetable lecturers and crop science students (candidate DAs) in a forms of lecture, workshop, seminars, and/or practical means including lab and fieldworks.

The anticipated deliverables that can be accomplished by the volunteers can also include:

* Initial presentation done (outlines of topics of the course, plan, approach, etc),
* Reports with recommendation submitted;
* Presentation to CRS staff and USAID;
* Outreach events conducted in the US.

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

**SCHEDULE MUST BE NO MORE THAN 20 DAYS DUE TO CURRENT VISA ISSUES.**

| **Day** | **Activity** |
| --- | --- |
| Day 1 | Arrival into Ethiopia. The volunteer will be met by a hotel pick from Sor-Amba hotel ([www.sorambahoteladdis](http://www.sorambahoteladdis)) with a placard bearing “**CRS logo and volunteer name”**. |
| Day 2 | * Briefing meeting at CRS office on logistics and itinerary of the trip and discuss anticipated outcomes and work plan; * Meet with Ministry of Agriculture (General Manager Office of the ATVET colleges) for introduction and expectations |
| Day 3 | * Travel to Alage College (210 to the south of Addis Ababa) * Setup with guesthouse and other logistics |
| Days 4 | * First hand briefing on outlines of topics of the course, plan, approach, etc, and adjust the topics as required. * Work planning discussion with the staff of College * Acquainted with the existing curriculum and course topics of the department and the instructing modalities of the College through integrating volunteer prepared courses and lesson plans. * Prepare course/training and plan with the local associate of the college to proceed with the assignment (lecturing, seminar, workshops, advising, etc) |
| Day 5-7 | Conduct the assignment according to an agreed schedules and modality of lecturing, advising, seminar, etc |
| **Day 8** | **Rest day** |
| Days 9-14 | Continue conducting the assignment (academic and practical) |
| **Days 15** | **Rest day** |
| Day 16-21 | Continue conducting the assignment (academic and practical) |
| **Day 22** | **Rest day** |
| Day 23-24 | Continue conducting the assignment (academic and practical) |
| Day 25 | * Wrap up sessions that emphasize key concepts of the assignment. * The college evaluates the assignment and discusses final report recommendations with the volunteer. * Group presentation to the host in the presence of CRS F2F staff |
| Day 26 | Travel back to Addis Ababa |
| Day 27 | * Debriefing at CRS office with USAID Mission and CRS staffs. * Submit all reports, return logistic items and complete all required activities |
| Day 28 | Depart for USA |
| TBD | Conduct outreach activity when back in the US |

1. **DESIRABLE VOLUNTEER SKILLS**

The volunteer will have the following qualifications and competencies:

* Specialist in vegetable crop production preferably graduate level, and **practical** education experiences in learning institutions
* Hands-on practice, experience and knowledge on at least three of the list of vegetable crops in Annex,
* Long and demonstrative instructing experience in agricultural college and universities in the US and/or other African agricultural universities,
* Ability and preparedness to use relevant teaching aids and audiovisuals,
* Demonstrated experience in advisory, research and laboratory work, emphasizing fruit science and pre harvest management issues,
* Good communicator and interpersonal skills

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

* Before travelling to the host (Alage ATVET College), the volunteer will stay in Addis Ababa at one of the CRS’s client hotels, Sor-Amba Hotel ([www.sorambahoteladdis](http://www.sorambahoteladdis)) or another hotel that will be booked before arrival dates. 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 in Addis Ababa.
* All required materials will be prepared ahead of time and will be provided to the volunteer.
* During the assignment period, the volunteer will be booked at the host’s guesthouse in Alaaage ATVET College. The accommodation details will be confirmed prior to the volunteer arrival in country.
* CRS Ethiopia will pay for guesthouse or hotel accommodations and CRS HQ will provide the volunteer with per diem advance for meals and incidentals. The volunteer will liquidate all advances received in Ethiopia before departure.

1. **RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS**

* Although CRS F2F has developed such hinting SOW, the volunteer can fine-tune it based on her/his professional qualifications to successfully carry out this assignment.
* Prior to travel, the volunteer will be advised to prepare necessary educating/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 use of simple teaching/training aids like flip charts, markers and tape, s/he should make the request and collect from the CRS office at Addis Ababa prior to travel to the assignment place.
* Translation of handouts to local languages 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 PowerPoint presentations.

1. **KEY CONTACTS**

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| **CRS Baltimore** | **CRS East Africa Regional Office** | |
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| **Host Organization** | | |
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ANNEX: Major vegetable crops of Ethiopia

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| No | **Name of the vegetable crop (English name)**  **[leafy vegetables, tubers and root crops]** | **Scientific name** | **Local name in Amharic** |
|  | Tomato | *Lycopersicon esculentum* | Timantim |
|  | Onion | Allium cepa | Key shinkurt |
|  | Ethiopian kale/**Abyssinian cabbage** | *Brassica carinata* | Yeabesha gomen |
|  | Pepper | *Capsicum* species | Berbere |
|  | Head cabbage | *Brassica oleracea* | Tikil gomen |
|  | Swiss chard | *Beta vulgaris* | Kosta |
|  | Potato | *Solanum tuberosum* | Dinich |
|  | Sweet potato | *Ipomoea batatas* | Sikar dinish |
|  | Eggplant | *Solanum melongena L.* | Deberjan |
|  | Lettuce | *Lactuca sativa* | Selata |
|  | Garlic | *Allium sativum* | Nech shinkurt |
|  | Taro | *Colocasia esculenta* | Taro |
|  | Green bean | *Phaseolus spp* |  |
|  | Others |  |  |

*Source: Extracted from Ethiopian Central Statistics Authority-CSA (2013), Crop Production Data of 2012/2013 by, and Survey Report on coffee, fruit and vegetables led by Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ethiopia (2011).*

1. World Bank (2010): Ethiopian Agricultural Growth Project (AGP) Project Information Document (PID)-Appraisal Stage, Report No.: Ab5416 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Stephen Devereux (2000): Food Insecurity In Ethiopia - A discussion paper for DFID* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Ethiopian Horticultural Development Agency /EHDA/ and Ethiopian Horticultural Producers and Exporters Association /EHPEA/ (2011): *Assessment of development potentials and investment options in the export-oriented fruit and vegetable sector in Ethiopia* [↑](#footnote-ref-3)