 

**Farmer-to-Farmer East Africa**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

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| **Summary Information** | |
| Assignment code | ET-40 |
| Country | Ethiopia |
| Country Project | Horticultural Crop Production and Sector Support |
| Host Organization | Kombolcha Branch Office of Water Action |
| Host partner | Water Action HQ Office, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia |
| Assignment Title | Training on innovative irrigation technologies and irrigated tropical vegetable production practices (refer Annex for list of Ethiopian vegetable crops but incomprehensive) |
| Preferred Dates | October 2015 – January 2016 |
| Assignment objectives | * Train and innovate modern irrigation technologies * Equip target beneficiaries in skills and techniques on improved irrigated vegetable production practices |
| Desired Volunteer’ Skill/Expertise | Irrigated vegetable or horticultural crops production specialist |

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 increasing population pressure and low levels of agricultural productivity, which contribute to food insecurity and poor nutrition. Increasing production and diversification of vegetable crops must be coupled with behavior change of households (HHs) to increase productivity levels and subsequently improve incomes and nutrition status at HHs levels.

Use of low levels of modern production technologies and practices including in irrigation farming system contribute to yields that are lower than would otherwise be expected. Despite the high ecological and socioeconomic potentials of Ethiopia, vegetable production in the country is relatively small scale and underdeveloped. Presently however, the horticulture sector including vegetable crops is a priority for the Agricultural Growth Program (AGP) of the Ethiopian government[[1]](#footnote-1).

Realizing the food insecurity situation of kalu district of the Amhara region, the Kombolcha Branch Office of Water Action is presently supporting more than 150 household farmers through establishing small scale irrigation (SSI) schemes to grow and produce various horticultural crops under irrigation. These farmer beneficiaries are organized in forms of water user farmers associations (WUFA).

The district is located in the tropical dry lowland agro-ecology. Since its annual precipitation is low and the natural rainfall pattern is uneven and erratic, the introduction of small scale irrigation schemes will play critical role in alleviating food insecurity and improving community resiliency in the district. Kalu district is located in South Wello Zone of the Amhara regional state. Amhara region is one of the four USAID’s Feed-the-Future (FtF) and the Agricultural Growth Program-I (AGP-1) regions designated by the Ethiopian government.

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

During this recent introduction of irrigated farming to four kebeles[[2]](#footnote-2) of the Kalu’s farming community by Water Action’s small scale irrigation projects, these households are currently using furrow/channel and flood irrigation systems. Beside the water stress conditions due to the prevalence of drought; lack of modern irrigation technologies and the lack of water saving strategies are critical problems of irrigated farming in the area.

Many challenges relevant to vegetable production are rooted in improper production practices including the use of low quality seeds and seedlings, poor plant propagation techniques, poor soil fertility management, low level of inputs, poor pest management and lack of skills in improved vegetable production practices. Post-harvest handling and management of the produce is also another factor that hinders productivity. These lead to the inability to consistently supply the food and nutrition demand of the community. Lack of high quality horticultural produce is also a problem.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The objective of this particular volunteer assignment is to train and/or technically assist the targeted women (52%) and men beneficiaries on modern and practical irrigation methods and improved production practices of tropical vegetable crops. The volunteer will assess current practices and recommend improved practices through a series of training events and on-field practical shows or demonstrations, as applicable.

The beneficiaries include five irrigation personnel of the host, five extension staff (Development Agents) of the government and 90 smallholder irrigated farmers from two of the four kebeles of the following two WUFAs and/or projects:

* 1. Beshilo Irrigation Water Users Farmers Association (Ancharo Integrated Water resources Management Project-Bossena Kebele)
  2. Filwuha Irrigation Water Users Farmers Association (Lower Harbu Integrated Watershed Management Project-Addis Mender)

Anticipated topics for training/technical assistance include the following:

* Practical irrigation methods adoptable for the schemes/localities (kebeles);
* Training on good irrigation agronomic technologies and practices for vegetable crops;
* Crop water requirements for vegetable crops;
* Soil fertility and irrigation;
* Nursery establishment and management for vegetable crops.

It is preferred that this “irrigable vegetable production assignment” be scheduled at the same time with the other “irrigable fruit production assignment” (pair assignment).

**Host contribution** – The host will support the volunteer in accomplishing the overall assignment objectives. It will select the right beneficiaries from both irrigation farmers and staffs for the said training and technical assistance of this assignment. The host will also assign a counterpart/focal person to the volunteer, who will accompany or facilitate the volunteer during her/his entre assignment period and also act as translator/interpreter and advise him/her on the culture of the local community/ies. The host will also provide an office space and furniture for the volunteer as required, and facilitate hotel (logging) accommodation and meal services. The host will also avail transport for fieldwork during the assignment period and maybe consult with CRS for fuel reimbursement in pursuance to CRS’s financial/admin regulation.

1. **ASSIGNMENT DELIVERABLES**

It is anticipated that this volunteer assignment will improve and equip the beneficiaries on basic principles of modern or adaptable irrigation methods and improved vegetable production technologies and practices that will ultimately lead to sustainable yield increases. The major anticipated outputs of this assignment include, but not limited to:

* + Initial preparations made and work plan prepared and discussed with the host and beneficiaries;
  + 100 beneficiaries (52% women) will be trained and technically assisted on proper irrigation methods and improved irrigable vegetable production technologies/practices;
  + If possible, training of trainers guidelines or handouts developed and submitted;
  + Field trip reports with recommendations to host organization and CRS are submitted;
  + All logistics and advances (if any) are reconciled at CRS;
  + Final debriefing (PPT presentation) meeting with host organization (plus key stakeholders) and CRS/USAID conducted;
  + Outreach events conducted upon return to the US by the volunteer.

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

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

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| **Day** | **Activity** |
| Days 1 | Arrival to Ethiopia, Bole international Airport. The volunteer will be picked by Sor-Amba Hotel with a placard bearing “**CRS logo and volunteer name”**. |
| Day 2 | * Introduction with and welcoming by CRS higher officials and briefing meeting (security, general orientation, logistics, reporting, etc) at CRS office. Discuss anticipated outcomes and work plan. * Introduce the volunteer with HQ-official/s of Water Action in Addis Ababa |
| Days 3 | * Travel (flight or car) to the assignment site (Kombolcha town; 375 km north-east of Addis Ababa). S/he will be introduced to the host and accommodated in Kombolcha town. * If time permits, general orientation with the host will be pursued. First hand briefing on the main objectives and modality of the assignment and adjustment of the agenda for the coming days (work planning session). Briefing with the field staff. |
| Days 4 | * Further identify and asses the skill and training gaps and major constraints. * Based on information gathered and gaps identified, enrich the prepared training materials incorporating hands-on practices. * Firsthand information/data collection by volunteers as applicable. |
| Day 5-7 | * Conduct firsthand training and presentation to host staffs and leaders and members of the Water Users’ Farmers’ Associations. * Assess and refine the quality of trainings through feedback and observations. |
| **Day 8** | **Rest day.** |
| Days 9-14 | Continuation of the trainings and technical assistances. |
| **Day 15** | **Rest day.** |
| Days 16-21 | Continuation of the trainings and technical assistances. |
| **Day 22** | **Rest day** |
| Day 23 | * Wrap-up session with the host organization in the presence of CRS F2F * Group debriefing presentation to the host in the presence of CRS. |
| Day 24 | Volunteer travels back to Addis Ababa. |
| Day 25 | * Volunteer also finalizes his/her reporting and submit training M&E forms to CRS F2F staff. * Finalize reimbursement and liquidations (if any) with finance. * Debriefing at CRS office with USAID Mission and/or CRS staff. * Depart for USA in the evening |
| TBD | Outreach event when back in the US could include: presentation with a local group/organization, press release, media event and/or speaking tour. |

1. **DESIRABLE VOLUNTEER SKILLS**

The volunteer will have the following qualifications and competencies:

* Irrigable vegetable/horticulture crops specialist with demonstrated experience in irrigated farming and tropical **vegetable** production and management;
* Experience in adult training and technical assistance especially with smallholder irrigation farmers;
* Preferable experience with irrigated farming;
* Willingness and interest to train and technically assist farming communities;
* Willingness to travel in rural areas and in areas of small scale irrigation schemes
* Respect the cultural and religious norms of the rural people.

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

* Before travelling to the host at the assignment place, 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 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.
* CRS Ethiopia will prepare all required materials ahead of time and will provide to the volunteer. This includes provision of laptop computer (if s/he needs), local internet dongle (modem/EVDO), mobile phone with charged local SIM-card, flipcharts, markers and notebook. Any other required logistics and facilities can also be requested by the volunteer during her/his stay in Addis Ababa.
* CRS will arrange transport service and accompany the volunteer to the place of assignment.
* During her/his assignment period, the volunteer will be booked in a hotel at Kombolcha town. In consultation with the host, CRS Ethiopia will arrange hotel accommodation and cover lodging bills against receipts.
* CRS HQ will provide the volunteer with per-diem advance to cater meals and incidences.
* CRS Ethiopia will also reimburse the volunteer with laundry costs and local medical costs (if sick) against receipts. Before departing from Ethiopia, the volunteer will also liquidate if s/he received any advances 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 leadership skills transfer.
* The assignment district is located in dry lowland (hot) areas where malaria maybe a problem. Therefore, the volunteer is advised to take pills or vaccination for malaria (and also for cholera) as per medical recommendations by her/his doctors/health professionals in US before departing from US.
* 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 use of simple training aids like flip charts, markers or tapes/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 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 power point 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 (incomprehensive list)

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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* | Fosolia |
|  | 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. Kebele is the lowest administrative structure of Ethiopia, below district/woreda level (woreda and district are synonymously or interchangeably used) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)