 

**Farmer to Farmer East Africa**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

**NOTE: SCOPE OF WORK AWAITING FINAL EDITS**

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| **Summary Information** | |
| Assignment code | ET78 |
| Country | Ethiopia |
| Country Project | Grain Crops Production and Sector Support |
| Host Organization | Ethiopian Catholic Church social and Development Coordination Office of Meki, Wonji branch |
| Host partner | Development Food Aid Program (DFAP) |
| Assignment Title | Skill training on improved soil and water conservation and rain water harvesting practices |
| Assignment preferred dates | In March 2016 |
| Objective assignment | Equip smallholder farmers with soil and water conservation practices and water harvesting technologies in Dodota and Sire districts. |
| Desired volunteer skill/expertise | Natural resource, Irrigation engineer and other related field with broad experience in smallholder farming systems focusing mainly on water harvesting, irrigation and soil and water conservation practices and has experiences in moisture stress areas |

1. **BACKGROUND**

The Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) East Africa program is a program that 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 volunteers.

Agriculture in Ethiopia is not only an economic activity but also a way of life for which agricultural land is an indispensable resource upon which the welfare of the society is built. The livelihood of the vast majority of the population depends directly or indirectly on this sector. Such dependence obviously leads to increased vulnerability of the economy to problems related to land degradation. Most farmers are poor and operate at subsistence level, and investment for intensification of agriculture is not well developed in the country. This has created a vicious circle of low productivity - land degradation reduces the production potential of the land and this, in return, makes it difficult for farmers to produce enough and invest in protecting the land. Although land provides a means of livelihood for the majority of the population, land resources are facing increasing degradation mainly due to erosion (FAO. 1986).

Land degradation in the form of soil erosion, sedimentation, depletion of nutrients, deforestation, and overgrazing - is one of the basic problems facing farmers in the Ethiopian highlands, and this limits their ability to increase agricultural production and reduce poverty and food insecurity. The integrated process of land degradation and increased poverty has been referred to as the "downhill spiral of un-sustainability" leading to the "poverty trap" (Greenland et al., 1994). The immediate consequence of land degradation is reduced crop yield followed by economic decline and social stress.

In general, Ethiopia’s population is facing serious challenges of resource depletion and the need to survive under stress. The country has to feed itself by enhancing its agricultural production, yet it’s predominantly rain fed agriculture has been constrained by the unpredictable variability of the rainfall pattern. Obviously, this situation brings about the need to maximize the use of existing or unexploited sources of freshwater. Given the good potential of Ethiopia’s agro-climatic resources, the prevailing limitations in terms of rainfall distribution and amount could be effectively addressed if rainwater harvesting is seriously taken. Applications of rainwater-harvesting techniques, however, are constrained by the limited availability of information on the technologies and relevant traditional practices, and inadequate attention to avail and promote suitable extension packages to the end users.

Development food Aid assistance is a program funded by USAID and implemented by a host Meki Catholic Secretariat-Wonji branch in two drought- prone and food insecure Woredas Sire and Dodota, Arsi Zone of Oromia regional state. Through this program the host implements various environmental rehabilitation activities since the past many years. However, the impact of climate changes and miss management of natural resource causes drought and impacts the agriculture severely. Intergovernmental Panel for climate change (IPCC) has listed water harvesting as a key strategy planned for adaptation of the water shortage. In general in Dodota and Sire, poor soil fertility and water scarcity has made cultivation very challenging. Therefore, the purpose of this F2F volunteer technical assistance is to contribute to improving the knowledge and skills of the smallholder farmers through training and hands on practical demonstrations on rain water harvesting techniques and soil and water conservation practices.

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

Drought and degradation are resulting from climate change, soil erosion, nutrient depletion the likes are some of the most challenging environmental problems in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian highlands have been experiencing frequent drought and declining soil fertility due to severe soil erosion and intensive farming on steep and fragile land. Recognizing drought and land degradation as a major environmental and socio-economic problem, the government of Ethiopia has made several interventions. As a result, a lot of efforts on water harvesting and also large areas have been converted to terraces, covered by soil bunds, closed by area closures and planted with millions of tree seedlings. Nevertheless, the achievements have fallen far below expectations. The country still experiencing frequent drought and loses a tremendous amount of fertile topsoil, and the threat of land degradation is broadening alarmingly.

The use of water resources to meet the socio-economic needs of the Ethiopian people is very limited due to various constraints. The major limitation lies in the uneven distributions and mismatch of the available water resources with the agro-ecological and settlement patterns of the country. Moreover, despite Ethiopia’s high aggregate annual rainfall, it falls either too early or too late with a characteristic high intra- and inter-annual variation in quantity and in terms of the spatial and temporal distributions of the seasonal rainfall.

ECC-SDCOM Wonji branch requested CRS for F2F volunteer assistance and skills transfer on improved rain water harvesting practices and soil conservation, to address the challenges of water scarcity and soil degradation for agricultural productivity. An F2F volunteer specialist will address these knowledge gaps through a variety of training interventions and technical assistances.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The annual rainfall distribution of most parts of Ethiopia, including the highlands, is not only lacking in uniformity but also highly unpredictable in terms of inter-annual variations. Therefore, overcoming the limitations of these arid and semi-arid areas and making good use of the vast agricultural potential under the Ethiopian context is a necessity rather than a choice, which requires appropriate intervention to address the prevailing constraints. In addition the land degradation as a result of poor soil fertility management needs to be addressed.

Therefore, the objectiveof this volunteer assignment is to build the technical knowledge/skills of 4 host staffs, 8 community development workers and 8 DAs and 60 smallholder farmers on improved rain water harvesting and soil conservation technologies and practices. Technical assistance in the form of hands on training and relevant technologies will promote conservation friendly and on-farm knowledge transfer.

Specific tasks for this volunteer assignment are:

* To train on new innovation and usage of improved rain water harvesting technologies/practices
* Ecosystem and agriculture
* Demonstrate on farms soil moisture harvesting technologies

**Host Contribution**: - The host will select farmers from its saving and internal lending community (SILC) groups from DFAP/PSNP beneficiaries and facilitate the volunteer to reach them. The host will also avail key personnel to work closely with the volunteer at all times in assisting her/him during training, visiting sessions (in FTCs, on-farm/HHs, etc.), and also to ensure translation to local language. The host will also select CDWs and DAs for this training, and make arrangements if prior scheduled training forums by local agriculture office are schedule to enable the volunteer present as many DAs as possible. The host will also provide the volunteer with office space and furniture in Dodota town (115 km Southeast of Addis Ababa). In consultation with CRS, it will also facilitate booking of hotel accommodation (lodging) at CRS client hotel in Adama town. For field travel in the assignment area, the host will provide the volunteer with transport and/or if the host doesn’t have, it will discuss with CRS to assign a car. The host will consult CRS if fuel cost can be covered in mode of fuel receipts, mileage or any convenient ways as per the financial/administrative regulation of CRS.

1. **ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

It is anticipated that this volunteer assignment will contribute to improving soil and water conservation, and rain water harvesting techniques, hence the skill will transferred to staff of the host, key partners (DAs) and the smallholder farmers’ beneficiaries. During volunteer’s intervention, anticipated impacts are:

* + Farmers acquainted with improved water harvesting practices and efficient use of harvested water
  + Farmers apply the improved soil and water conservation technologies for higher yields and agronomic practices

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

* + Improved land management and water harvesting technologies transferred,
  + Training and on-farm demonstrations conducted, Field report with recommendations and press release submitted and cash advanced reconciled
  + Presentation for CRS staff and/or USAID
  + Outreach events conducted in the US

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

| Day | Activity |
| --- | --- |
| Day 1 | Arrival to Ethiopia. The volunteer will be met at Bole Airport by CRS’s client hotel Churchill (churchillhotel@ethionet.et / info@churchillhoteladdis; phone # 0111111212) or another client hotel with a placard bearing “CRS logo and volunteer name”. |
| Day 2 | Briefing meeting at CRS office with CRS F2F staff and become fully briefed on logistics and itinerary of trip. Discuss anticipated outcomes and work plan, |
| Day 3 | * Travel to Dodota (115km) * Introduction with ECC-SDCOM-Wonji branch * First hand briefing on the main objectives and modality of the assignment and adjust the agenda for the coming days. |
| Day 4 | * Travel to Keeble to conduct assessment and interviewing farmers i.e. to understand their challenges |
| Day 5 | * Give first hand training to host staffs, CDWs and DAs |
| Day 6 | * Based on feedback collected in the first days training, revise training materials |
| Days 7 | **Rest day:** |
| Day 8-9 | * Continue the training |
| Day 9-13 | * Practical hands on training |
| Day 14 | **Rest day** |
| Day 15-17 | * Continue the practical training |
| Day 18 | * Wrap-up trainings emphasizing key concepts of the assignment. Participants evaluate the overall technical innovations/assistances and the training, and together with the volunteer discuss final report recommendations. |
| Day 19 | * Group presentation (morning) and Volunteer travel back to Addis Ababa (afternoon). Finalize advances and expenditures with finance. |
| Day 20 | * Debriefing at CRS office with USAID Mission and CRS staff. * Volunteer will finalize his/her reporting and fill out all necessary M&E forms and handover to CRS F2F staff |
| Day 21 | Depart for USA |
| TBD | Outreach event when back in the US |

1. **DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS**

The volunteer will have the following qualifications and competencies:

* Knowledge and demonstrated experience in soil and water conservation, and water harvesting techniques in moisture stress area.
* Experience in training of extension workers, development agents, farmers, cooperative leaders, members of community based organizations (CBOs), etc;
* Proven skills in modern farming technologies for smallholder farmers on grains ;
* Good communication skills
* Physically fit

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

* Before travelling to the host at the assignment place (Dera), the volunteer will stay in Addis Ababa at one of the CRS’s client hotels Churchill (churchillhotel@ethionet.et / info@churchillhoteladdis; phone # 0111111212) or another client hotel that will be communicated prior to volunteer.
* 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.
* All required materials will be prepared ahead of time and will be provided to the volunteer. CRS Ethiopia will provide the volunteer with a laptop computer (if s/he needs), local internet dongle (modem/EVDO) and mobile phone with charged local SIM-card. Any other required logistics and facilities can also be requested by the volunteer during her/his stay in Addis Ababa.
* CRS will provide a vehicle and accompany the volunteer to the place of assignment.
* During her/his assignment period, the volunteer will be booked in a hotel at Adama town.
* CRS Ethiopia will arrange hotel accommodation and cover the lodging bills against receipts.
* CRS HQ will provide the volunteer with a per-diem advance to cater meals and incidences.
* CRS Ethiopia will also reimburse the volunteer with laundry costs against receipts.
* Before departing to US, the volunteer will also liquidate advances (if any) at CRS 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 qualification to successfully carry out this water harvesting and soil and water conservation skill transfer program in water harvesting. Prior to travelling to Ethiopia, s/he will be expected to collect relevant technological information and modeling aids. CRS F2F relies on the volunteer to design appropriate methodologies to address the suggested bottlenecks and associated missing gaps of the smallholding farmers based on this indicative SOW.
* Prior to travel, the volunteer will be advised to prepare necessary training and demonstrating aids and written handouts. Softcopies of the handouts and any other paper materials can be printed for immediate use in Ethiopia CRS office at Addis Ababa on request by the volunteer. If the volunteer requires use of simple training aids like flip charts, markers, masking tapes, etc, s/he should make the request and collect from the CRS F2F Office in Addis Ababa prior to travel to the assignment place. Translation of handouts to local language could be done in the locality of the assignment, if shortly required. Depending on the meeting places, the volunteer may use a laptop and projector for power point presentations.
* The volunteer is also recommended to start learning and adapting to the local condition of Ethiopia and the assignment/working places using all opportunities of contacts and communications in the country soon after arrival. Reading the Ethiopian Airlines’ magazine about Ethiopia can be easily started in the airplane, if the flight to Ethiopia will be the Ethiopian Airlines.

1. **KEY CONTACTS**

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