



To express interest in this assignment please email emily.keast@crs.org

**CRS Farmer to Farmer Program
Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

Summary Information	
Assignment Code	LIB205
Country	Liberia
Country Project	Rice
Host Organization	Trust in God Farmers
Assignment Title	Capacity building on rice post-harvest handling practices and storage
Assignment preferred dates	October 2021
Objectives of the assignment	The objective of this assignment is to build capacity and equip Trust in God Farmers with practical knowledge on rice post-harvest handling practices and storage.
Desired volunteer skill/expertise	A suitable volunteer candidate for this assignment must have relevant experience working with rural farmers association and should understand how to handle post-harvest losses and storage. The candidate shall have a degree in general agriculture, post-harvest technology, food preservation and at least 5 years of working experience with rural farmers in rice. He/she must be knowledgeable, and understand adult illiteracy training approaches and be prepared to work in remote area.
Type of Volunteer Assistance	Technology Transfer = T
Type of Value Chain Activity	On Farm Production = F
PERSUAP Classification	III

A. BACKGROUND

Trust in God Farmers was founded in February 2011 by the USAID-FED project in Kpademai town, Voinjama District. It has active membership based of 37 local rice farmer/producers (16 female and 21 male farmers), each currently operating 2.8 hectares of lowland, and farm two times a year. Therefore, the total hectares operated by the group is 66.6 hectare. Trust in God Farmers has a significant collection of botanical varieties of rice (IR-5 135-140 days in field, Suakoko 12 & Suakoko-8 140-145 days in field, and Rok-3- 125-135 days in field).

Trust in God Farmers contributes 22% of the raw material supplies to the Selma Agriculture Development Cooperative (SADC) with the capacity of milling 16MT/day, in Voinjama District, Lofa County.

B. ISSUE DESCRIPTION:

Rice is the most cultivated crop in the Voinjama District Lofa County. It is a major staple food in Liberia and is a major constituent of the diets consumed in Lofa County. ASA



project observed that Trust in God Farmers is experiencing a lot of post-harvest loss, below are the losses observed:

Stage	Wastage observed during need assessment
Harvesting and handling at harvesting	Edible grains left in field, ploughed into soil, eaten by pests, timing of harvest not optimal, grains damaged during harvesting.
Threshing	Loss due to poor technique
Drying, transport, and distribution	Quality and quantity loss of during drying, poor transport infrastructure; loss owing to spoiling/bruising
Storage	Pests and disease attacks, spillage, contamination; natural drying out of food
Primary processing, cleaning, classification, hulling, pounding, grinding, packaging, soaking, winnowing, drying, sieving, milling	Process losses; contamination in process causing loss of quality

In Lofa County, rice is more vulnerable to damage and more likely to suffer qualitative and quantitative losses. Among these critical stages, drying and storage are especially important. Between 10-40% of the food that is grown never reaches the market or a consumer's plate because of insects and rodents that get into storage containers, losses during harvesting and processing, market demand for "perfect" unblemished produce, and other factors. Post-harvest losses can occur during any of the various stages of post-production system. (*According to FAO 2016 post-harvest awareness report*)

This assignment, proper management of post-harvest technology, will serve as a major help in resolving various social and economic issues. A significant decrease in post-harvest grains loss will alleviate food insecurity and food safety can be ensured by protecting commodities from mold growth and contamination.

The reduction of post-harvest losses will increase the rice commodity for Selma Agriculture Development Cooperation (SADC), a rice processing factory, and will also lead to food availability to the growing population, decrease the area needed for production, and conserve natural resources.

The above challenge requires urgent intervention to ensure that the farmer association is run professionally. The assignment would bridge the gap between processor and producers to maximize financial returns for all value-chain actors by providing technical assistance focusing on how to improve their skills on post-harvest handling practices and storage.

C. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The objective of this assignment is to build capacity and equip Trust in God Farmers with practical knowledge in good rice post-harvest handling practices and storage.

More specifically:



- Develop training guide for the trainer and trainees
- Develop the training methodology/approach
- Identify small-scale post-harvest handling practices and potential solutions which are most appropriate for local target cooperative.
- Design post-harvest demonstrations to show farmers how to reduce losses, maintain quality and market value, and increase shelf life and income.
- Conduct training for the board, members, and staff emphasizing improved rice crop production practices, innovated and locally adaptive harvesting techniques, convenient post-harvest handling practices, convenient and locally adaptive storage mechanisms, and improved transportation methods.
- Prepare a training report detailing how the trainings were conducted, achievements, challenges, lessons, opportunities for future engagements and recommendations on how to reduce postharvest losses.
- Organize a half-day presentation to members, other stakeholders like local government, buyers, and any other partner to share the training report and recommendations.

D. HOST CONTRIBUTION

To conduct this assignment, Trust in God Farmers is expected to meet the following requirements:

- Mobilize and facilitate group members and staff to attend all the training sessions.
- Commit to implement all the recommendations provided by the volunteer(s) after the completion of the assignments.

E. ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT

Following the completion of this assignment, the outcomes below will be anticipated:

- Trust in God Farmers will reduce wastages and losses (rice), avoid glut, maximizes farm prices and income, utilize marketable surplus, and increase employment.
- Proper management of post-harvest technology will serve as a major help in resolving various social and economic issues. A significant decrease in post-harvest grains loss will alleviate food insecurity and food safety can be ensured by protecting commodities from mold growth and contamination.
- Rice quality improved.
- A final report explaining how the assignment was conducted; it should include recommendations to be implemented by the host organization.

F. DELIVERABLES

- Final report one day BEFORE assignment completion
- Group presentation with local stakeholders at the end of the assignment in country
- Volunteer outreach activities in the US and in country
- Training manual



G. SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN COUNTRY

Day	Planned Activity
Day 1	Orientation session Meet with ASA team to review the scope of work and develop detailed work plan covering all activities required to effectively implement this scope of work.
Day 2	Leave for Voinjama City, Lofa County for introduction to cooperative management and review of scope of work. Develop detailed work plan covering all activities in the scope of work. Check in the hotel.
Day 3-12	Start the rollout of agreed work plan and conduct the training.
Day 13	Organize workshop to share achievements and recommendations
Day 14	Conduct debrief session with CRS country team and perhaps USAID Mission on the completed assignment. Fill out all necessary M&E forms and submit to F2F program staff.

This is a draft schedule, final itinerary will be discussed and agreed by all parties upon arrival.

H. DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS

Additional requirements: A Volunteer should be:

- Proactive, results-oriented, and service-oriented
- Have very good interpersonal skills
- Flexibility
- Willing to work in remote community

I. ACCOMMODATION AND ANOTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS

In Voinjama City, Lofa County, the volunteer's transportation, accommodation, and meals will be taken care of by CRS.

J. RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS

• **Training Materials:**

In the event the volunteer prepares materials for hand out, they can be printed at the CRS Office in Lofa County. Flip charts, markers, and a projector, if needed, can be obtained at the CRS, can be obtained at CRS -ASA Lofa County Project office.

• **Working Environment**

The assignment will be conducted at the venue provided by Trust God in Farmers whose office is in Kpademai town, Voinjama City.

• **Recommended Reading**

ASA Project recommends that the volunteer familiarizes themselves with this scope of work and to take his/her time to read about improving grain (rice) postharvest handling and storage.



K. REMOTE/LOCAL VOLUNTEER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Both volunteers participate in a call to discuss objectives and collaboration approach at the start of the assignment. Collaboration platforms vary depending on the assignment and connectivity. The most frequently used platforms are MS Teams and WhatsApp. The volunteers are highly encouraged to visit [CRS' F2F Digital Resource Library](#) and search for resources that they could use or customize for training. Upon completion of your 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 and 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).

Virtual 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 put in 4-8 hours per week depending on the nature of the assignment and collaboration.

L. KEY CONTACTS

To express interest in this assignment, please email the CRS Liberia Program Office contact listed below. To find out additional information about the host, issue description or field conditions, please email the country contact provided below, copying the CRS Liberia Program Office contact.

CRS Baltimore	
Emily Keast Volunteer Coordinator Farmer to Farmer Program 228 W. Lexington Street Baltimore, MD 21201 410-951-7366 Email: emily.keast@crs.org	TABI, GERALDINE Volunteer recruiter Agriculture Sustainability Activity (ASA) 16 th Street, Gardner Ave C-140 Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia Tel: 0776448755 Email: geraldine.tabi@crs.org
CRS Country Program	
Wesseh Zoryou Project Coordinator Tel: +231775461470 Email: wesseh.zoryou@crs.org	Or Cornelius Teah Doe Program Manager Tel: +231777711641 Email: cornelius.doe@crs.org
Host Organization:	
Chairlady Name: Sylvester S.S.Kpadah Tel: +231-881925558	Co-Chairman name: Ezekiel D. Yelobo Tel: +231-881-862-915



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