



To express interest in this assignment for virtual support, please email emily.keast@crs.org

To express interest in this assignment for Liberian volunteers, please email geraldine.tabi@crs.org

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

Summary Information	
Assignment Code	LR217
Country	Liberia
Country Project	Cassava
Host Organization	United Women for Sustainable Development [UWSD]
Assignment Title	Capacity building on cassava post-harvest management
Assignment preferred dates	November 2021
Objectives of the assignment	The objective of this assignment is to build the capacity of UWSD's members and leadership in cassava post-harvest handling and management.
Desired volunteer skill/expertise	The volunteer should have skills in the following areas: general agriculture, ability to conduct training with rural people in cassava post-harvest management. The candidate shall have a degree in development studies, social sciences, international development, or general agriculture. Must have at least 5 years of working experience in rural communities with rural institutions, especially cooperatives and agro businesses. The candidate must be knowledgeable on adult training approaches and be prepared to work in a remote area.
Type of Volunteer Assistance	Technology Transfer = T
Type of Value Chain Activity	On Farm Production = F
PERSUAP Classification	III

A. BACKGROUND

United Women for Sustainable Development [UWSD] is a cassava farmers' cooperative that is based in Gbondoi town Suakoko District Bong County. The cooperative is engaged in cassava production in that part of the country. The cooperative was established in 2012 by group of women in Bong County who realized that the demand for cassava was high at that time. It has an active membership base of 30 local cassava producers (8 female and 22 male farmers). The cooperative decided to venture into cassava production based on the increase in the demand for healthy cassava products and also initiatives to ensure food security in Liberia have focused on the cultivation of drought-resistant and biofortified cassava varieties. Cassava is a staple root crop grown in the tropical climates within Liberia. Cassava flour is gluten free, which can be used as composite flour in essential foods such as bread. Thus, the role of postharvest handling of freshly harvested cassava root is essential, owing to the rapid physiological deterioration of the root soon after harvest.

ISSUE DESCRIPTION:

United Women for Sustainable Development [UWSD] lacks basic information and knowledge on post-harvest management of cassava thus resulting in spoiling/rotting of the produce before taking it to the market or processing it into garri, fufu, or depeh (cassava powder). This situation confers a limited shelf life and thus creates poor utilization of the cassava root. However, processing cassava root into other food forms such as fufu, garri, starch and high-quality flour enhances stability and long-term storage. In a developing country like Liberia, cassava root is a valuable food and energy source.



Understanding the role of optimum postharvest handling, processing and storage techniques would alleviate some concerns of food insecurity. If the cooperative/farmers group are not trained in methods of handling post-harvest this leads to poor quality, limited income, and limited prospects for expansion and this will continue to hinder the growth of the cooperative. Reduction of post-harvest losses will increase the availability of cassava products to the growing Liberian population in the region and nearby communities/ town and even cities like Gbarnga. The cooperative will also realize the value added to the commodity once they have an understanding in postharvest handling and storage for cassava.

B. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The objective of this assignment is to build the capacity of United Women for Sustainable Development in cassava post-harvest handling practices and storage that will serve as a major help in resolving various economic issues for farmers. A significant decrease in post-harvest loss will alleviate food insecurity. Simultaneously, food safety can be ensured by protecting commodities from mold growth and contamination.

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 the 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 the training for the board, members, and staff heavily 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.

C. HOST CONTRIBUTION

To conduct this assignment United Women for Sustainable Development will provide the following:

- 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.

D. ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT

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

- United Women for Sustainable Development cooperative members have a good understanding about post-harvest handling and management.
- 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.
- Cassava quality improved



- A final report providing full detail on how the assignment was conducted. It should include not more than six (6) realistic recommendations to be implemented by the United Women for Sustainable Development cooperative.
- A final report explaining how the assignment was conducted; it should include recommendations to be implemented by the host organization.

E. 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

A. 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	Volunteer arrives at CRS field office in Gbarnga for introduction with the United Women for Sustainable development. Develop detailed work plan covering all activities in the scope of work.
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.

F. 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.

G. ACCOMMODATION AND ANOTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS

In Gbarnga City, Bong County, the volunteer's transportation and accommodation will be taken care of by CRS.

H. RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS

- **Training Materials:**
In the event the volunteer prepares materials for hand out, they can be printed at the CRS office in Gbarnga City. Flip charts, markers, and a projector, if needed, can be obtained at CRS Liberia.
- **Working Environment**



The assignment will be conducted at the venue provided by United Women for Sustainable Development production in Gbondoi town Suakoko district Bong County.

- **Recommended Reading**

ASA Project recommends that the volunteer familiarizes themselves with this scope of work and to take his or her time to read about improving cassava post-harvest handling practices and storage.

I. 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; 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.

B. 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	CRS Liberia
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USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Host Organization:	
Denise Karway Executive Director Contact: 0886-696344	Theophius Sackie Financial Controller Contact: 0886569360