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

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CRS Farmer to Farmer Program

Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work

Summary Information	
Assignment Code	LR238
Country	Liberia
Country Project	Cassava-Producer
Host Organization	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Johnsonville Women Multipurpose Cooperative 2. Mt. Barclay Oldfield Community Local Farmer Union Group A&B 3. Kaker Agriculture Development Project Inc. 4. Welekema Farming Group 5. Korkarleh Assistant Program Farmers' Cooperative Society Group I 6. Yarquiqui Community Self -Help Low land Agriculture Project 7. New Vision Cassava Project
Assignment Title	Training of Trainer (TOT) on Cassava Good Agricultural Practice (GAP)
Assignment preferred dates	February 2022
Objectives of the assignment	The objective of this assignment is to build the capacity of the mentioned farmer cooperatives on the application of good agricultural practices to guide the production systems towards sustainable and ecologically safe, obtain harmless products of higher quality, contribute to food security by generating income through access to markets and improve working conditions of producers and their families.
Desired volunteer skill/expertise	The candidate should have a degree in General Agriculture or Crop Sciences and with rich experiences in cassava production. Candidates having knowledge on soil fertility is an advantage. Must have at least 5 years of working experience in rural communities with rural institutions, most especially farmer cooperatives and agro businesses. The candidate must be knowledgeable on adult training approaches, be prepared to work in a remote area, and be passionate working with developing communities.
Type of Volunteer Assistance	Technology Transfer = T
Type of Value Chain Activity	On Farm Production = F



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PERSUAP Classification ¹	III
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A. BACKGROUND.

1. Johnsonville Women Multipurpose Cooperative

Johnsonville Women Multipurpose Cooperative is a local cassava producer and processing business established in February 2015 and became a legal entity in June 2016. Johnsonville Women Multipurpose Cooperative is involved with cassava production and cassava-based products including fufu, deepay, and super gari. Johnsonville Women Multipurpose Cooperative is in Johnsonville Community, Caresbury District, Montserrado County. It has active membership based of 45 local cassava farmers/producers (15 male and 30 female farmers), each of them is currently operating the minimum of 1 hectare of cassava farmland. Approximately, the Johnsonville Women Multipurpose Cooperative has a total of 45 hectares of cassava farmland.

- 2. Mt. Barclay Oldfield Community Local Farmer Union Group A&B Local Farmers Union Group** is a local group of cassava producers/farmers organized as a farmers association April 2015 by CNAFA-LADA. The Local Farmers Union Group also run the biggest VSLA in the Johnsonville Community around the cow field, Caresbury District, Montserrado County. It has an active membership base of 60 local cassava farmers/producers (20 male and 40 female farmers), each of them currently operating the minimum of 1.5 hectare of cassava farmland. Approximately, the Local Farmers Union Group has a total of 90 hectares of cassava farmland.

3. Kaker Agriculture Development Project Inc

Kaker Agriculture Development Project Inc was founded in December 2014 by the Feed the Future Liberia Agribusiness Development Activity (LADA-UASID project) in Zolupay Town, Todee District, Lower Montserrado County. It has an active membership based of 65 local cassava farmers/producers (31 male and 34 female farmers), each of them currently operating between the minimum of 2.81. hectares of cassava farmland, and the maximum of 2.99 hectares of cassava farmland. The Kaker Agriculture Development Project Inc has an approximate total of 182.65 hectares of cassava farmland. This farmer association contributes 13% of the raw materials supplies to the Bravo Sister Enterprise, and 34% of fresh cassava, and fufu supplied at the Montserrado Red-Light Market. The objective of Kaker Agriculture Development Project Inc is to enhance production, productivity, and profitability to farmers.

4. Welekema Farming Group

Welekema Farming Group was founded in December 2014 by the Feed the Future Liberia Agribusiness Development Activity (LADA-UASID project) in Nyehn Town, Todee District, Lower Montserrado County. It has an active membership base of 53 local cassava farmers/producers (29 male and 24

¹ USAID precisely classifies PERSUAP in four categories; **PERSUAP Type I** assignments directly related to pesticides recommendations, **Type II** as assignments with indirectly related with pesticides, **Type III** assignments related to curriculum review and designing, business plan development and strategies development and **Type IV** as assignments associated with other USAID projects and collaborators.



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female farmers), each currently operating between the minimum of 4.8 hectares of cassava farmland and the maximum of 5.2 hectares of cassava farmland. The Konia Cassava Farmers Association has an approximate total of 254.40 hectares of cassava farmland. This farmer association contributes 22% of the raw materials supplies to the Bravo Sister Enterprise, and 31% of fresh cassava supplied to Montserrado Red-Light Market. The objectives of the Welekema Farming Group are enhancing farmers' knowledge and skills, boosting the modernization of agriculture, increasing cassava yields, improving farmers' livelihood, and developing the rural economy.

5. Korkarleh Assistant Program Farmers' Cooperative Society Group I

Korkarleh Assistant Program Farmer's Cooperative Society Group I was founded in August 2017 by the USAID-FED in Gbeno Town, Todee District, Lower Montserrado County. It has an active membership base of 67 local cassava farmers/producers (31 male and 36 female farmers), each currently operating the minimum of 2.09 hectares of cassava farmland. Approximately, the Korkarleh Assistant Program Farmer's Cooperative Society Group I has a total of 140.04 hectares of cassava farmland. This cooperative contributes 17% of the raw materials supplies to Bravo Sister Enterprise, and 19% supplies of fresh cassava at Montserrado Red-Light Markets. The objectives of Korkarleh Assistant Program Farmer's Cooperative Society Group I are enhancing farmers' knowledge and skills, boosting the modernization of agriculture, increasing cassava yields, improving farmers' livelihood and developing rural economy.

6. Yarquiqui- Community Self-Help Agriculture Project Inc.

Yarquiqui- Community Self-Help Agriculture Project Inc. was founded in December 2017 by the Feed the Future Liberia Agribusiness Development Activity (LADA-UASID project). It has an active membership base of 49 local cassava farmers/producers (27 male and 22 female farmers), each of them currently operating between the minimum of 3.05 hectares of cassava farmland and the maximum of 3.32 hectares of cassava farmland. The Yarquiqui- Community Self-Help Agriculture Project Inc. has approximately 149.45 total hectares of cassava farmland. This farmer association contributes 17% of the raw materials supplies to the Bravo Sister Enterprise, and 32% of fresh cassava at Montserrado-Red-Light Market. The objective of Yarquiqui Community Self-Help Agriculture Project Inc. is to reduce poverty and inequality by generating employment among poor households and by moving highly vulnerable households into sustainable livelihoods and toward economic stability.

7. New Vision Cassava Project

New Vision Cassava Project was founded in December 2017 by the Feed the Future Liberia Agribusiness Development Activity (LADA-UASID project) in Karto Town, Todee District, Lower Montserrado County. It has an active membership base of 53 local cassava farmers/producers (24 male and 29 female farmers), each currently operating between the minimum of 2.9 hectares of cassava farmland and the maximum of 3.6 hectares of cassava farmland. The New Vision Cassava Project has a total of 153.70 hectares of cassava farmland. This farmer association contributes 12% of the raw materials supplies to the Bravo Sister Enterprise, and 33% of the fresh cassava supplied in



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Kakata and Montserrado Red-Light. The objective of New Vision Cassava Project is to build capacities of the targeted communities in identification, production, financing, and marketing of potential agricultural and non-agricultural products, including micro-enterprises.

B. ISSUE DESCRIPTION

In large parts of Liberia, soil fertility is low because of inherently infertile parent materials and/or due to continuous cassava farming without external inputs. Soil fertility depletion has been described as one of the most important constraints to food security in Liberia (Sanchez et al., 1997; Smaling et al., 1997).

Below are our observations that is leading to the producers' organization experiencing low yields in recent time:

1. The lack of adequate knowledge in selecting high yield cassava stems or cuttings
2. Producer organizations have inadequate knowledge in land preparation
3. Producer organizations have inadequate knowledge in planting methods
4. Producer organizations have inadequate knowledge pest and disease management on cassava farming, the process of harvesting and the storage of cassava cuttings/seedling.

Considering the above facts, the CRS-ASA Project wants to build the capacity of cassava producer organizations through a volunteer assignment by conducting Training of Trainer (ToT) in good agronomy practices with the anticipated results to increase cassava yields and provide improved seedlings (cuttings multiplication) to producer organizations.

C. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The main objective of this training is to enhance the capacity of farmer cooperative members on good agricultural practices for increased productivity through adoption of improved cassava farming management practices.

Specifically, the objectives of this assignment are:

- Develop a training guide for the trainer and trainees
- Develop the training methodology/approach
- Train cassava producers using the best agronomy practices to increase their yields.
- Enhance farmers with knowledge on the cassava varieties suitable for their environment, for industrial use, and tolerant to brown streak.
- Provide farmer trainers with knowledge and skills on community-based clean seed production for cassava.
- Enhance farmers knowledge in climate smart agronomic management (fertilizer use, intercropping, conservation agriculture, spacing) practices for cassava.
- Enhance farmer knowledge in climate smart integrated pest management (IPM).
- Conduct the training for the leaders and members heavily emphasizing improved cassava crop production practices.



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- 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, any other partner to share the training report and recommendations.

D. HOST CONTRIBUTION

To conduct this assignment, the farmer organizations are expected to meet the following requirements:

- Mobilize and facilitate members to attend all the training sessions
- Provide venue for the training sessions and any other logistics
- The host will also provide translation when needed
- Commit to implement all the recommendations provided by the volunteer(s) after the completion of the assignments.

E. ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT

At the completion of this assignment, the below anticipated results are expected:

- Farmers will be empowered with the knowledge in best agronomy practices to increase their yields.
- Farmers will be equipped to maintain high yielding resistant cassava varieties which meet requirements of consumers (sweet taste).
- Farmers will practice the knowledge gained and train other producers in the improved crop management practices which are within the means of resource poor farmers.
- A final report providing full detail on how the assignment was conducted, it should include not more than six (6) realistic recommendations be implemented by the cooperative.

F. DELIVERABLES

1. Volunteer final report due before departure and people trained
2. Group presentation with local stakeholders at the end of the assignment in country
3. Volunteer outreach activities in the US and in country
4. Training Manual developed

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	Meet with the representatives of all the farmer organizations for introduction and review of the scope of work.
Day 3-12	Start the rollout of agreed work plan and conduct the training



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Day 13	Organize the 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 ASA staff.

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

H. DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS.

Additional requirement, a volunteer should be:

- Proactive, results-oriented, and service-oriented.
- Have very good interpersonal skills
- Flexible

I. ACCOMMODATION AND ANOTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS

In rural Montserrado County the volunteer's transportation and accommodation will be taken care of by CRS ASA.

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 Monrovia. Flip charts, markers, and a projector, if needed, can be obtained at the at CRS Monrovia.
- Training content and materials should be tailed to local farmers who have very little or no formal education. Pictures, videos, amongst other useful adults learning materials are recommended.

- **Working Environment**

The assignment will be conducted at the venue provided by the host organizations in Montserrado County.

- **Recommended Reading**

Liberia F2F program recommends that the volunteer familiarizes with this scope of work and to take his or her time to read about the cassava value chain sub-sector in Liberia.

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; Sometimes extending beyond two weeks due to



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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 Baltimore 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 Baltimore contact.

CRS Baltimore	CRS Liberia
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