

To express interest in this assignment please email [priyanka.subba@crs.org](mailto:priyanka.subba@crs.org)

**CRS Farmer to Farmer Program**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

Notice for potential volunteers:

Some assignment details are subject to change.

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| **Summary Information** | |
| **Assignment Code** | **TL205** |
| Country | Timor-Leste |
| Country Project | Modernizing Agriculture |
| Host Organization | Laledu Farmer Association |
| Assignment Title | Cold Chain Expert |
| Assignment preferred dates | October 1st -19th, 2019 |
| Objectives of the assignment | Provide technical advice and training to farmer group about small-scale cold storage options for farmers growing strawberries |
| Desired volunteer skill/expertise | Experienced in cold storage facilities in developing countries where electricity is a problem |
| Type of Volunteer Assistance | Technology Transfer (T) |
| Type of Value Chain Activity | Information and support service (S) |
| PERSUAP Classification | Type IV[[1]](#footnote-1) |

1. **BACKGROUND**

CRS Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) Program is a USAID funded 5-year program (July 2018 – June 2023) that will provide technical assistance from United States (U.S) volunteers to farmers, farmer groups (cooperatives and associations), agribusinesses and other agriculture sector institutions. The program objectives are to facilitate economic growth within targeted agriculture sub-sectors, enhance sub-sector inclusiveness to expand participation to a broader range of individuals and communities and to increase the American public’s understanding of international development issues and US international development programs. Volunteers, recruited from all States and the District of Columbia, are individuals who have domestic careers, farms and agribusinesses, or are retirees who want to participate in development efforts. F2F program will assist in agriculture development, commodity value chain competitiveness and firm upgrading by providing technical assistance to introduce new technologies, innovations and development of local capacity for more productive, profitable, sustainable and equitable agriculture systems.

The Timor-Leste Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Strategic Plan[[2]](#footnote-2) recognizes the fundamental importance of agriculture to Timor-Leste’s economy and the impact of agriculture on poverty reduction, food and nutrition security, economic growth, and income and employment generation through its linkages to other sectors of the economy. The agriculture sector in Timor-Leste accounted for 19% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), or over $253 million in 2013. However, there is a considerable net deficit in agricultural trade as imports in 2014 were valued at approximately $60 million. Major imports include rice, sugar, meat (chicken, beef, pork), vegetable oil, fish, milk, and vegetables (potato, onion)2. In rural communities 57% of women and 60% of men are actively involved in agriculture3. Agriculture consists primarily of subsistence farming with limited access to inputs, technical knowledge, and market linkages. There is a heavy reliance on traditional agricultural practices such as slash-and-burn cultivation. Most smallholdings are mixed rainfed farms growing maize, cassava, red kidney beans, sweet potato, rice, groundnut, and vegetables. Coffee, coconut and candlenut are the most common tree crops. Livestock, such as poultry, pigs, cattle, buffalo, goats and sheep are raised on a small-scale and extensive

USAID’s Avansa Agrikultura project supports the development of the horticulture value chain. In 2016, Avansa introduced California strawberries in Timor in 2016 when 20,000 seedlings were provided to four to five farmers. Since then, strawberry production has increased significantly - over 20 farmers are now growing the products, and strawberries are consistently available in the Dili supermarkets. The farmers who received the original seedlings in Maubesse, are doing exceptionally well. They have expanded production by working with new farmers and have formed an association to directly sell to markets. They also have a cool truck to transport strawberries to buyers in Dili.

There may be potential for Timor to start exporting strawberries and other berries that can be grown alongside strawberries and are easier to transport. Most countries in the Pacific do not have the terrain to grow berries, potentially providing Timor with a competitive advantage in the berry sector. The main crop is strawberry, but they also cultivate other crops such as Tomatoes, Capsicum, Mustard, Spring onion, Broccoli, Cauliflower, etc. Laledu harvested strawberry twice a week with average quantity around 300kg, then cleaning, grading, packaging and transporting to Dili. The quantity for other crops is heavily rely on season, however Laledu also purchase veggies from other farmers in Maubesse and Aileu. Total quantity can reach to 500kg (all crops), collected it twice a week. Based on their delivery schedule, twice a week, transporting those crops to Dili as main market. Two hours commuting from Maubesse to Dili.

Laledu has built a small house as collection center which has two rooms. It will be great trough volunteer assistance can train them on how to build a cold storage using basic materials (which is available in the rural area or in the country) and easy to maintenance.

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

The strawberries are delivered from the farm to the capital in a cool truck on the day they are harvested. There are no facilities at the farm to store the strawberries or in Dili. Avansa is assessing the potential to start exporting the strawberries, however this would require larger quantities of strawberries to meet market demands in Singapore or West Timor. There is only one flight to Singapore a week. There are no cold storage facilities in Timor to store the strawberries for a few days. At harvest from the information obtained states that around 15 to 25 percent are damaged due to poor technique and storage system. Electricity are available in Laledu farming but, sometimes unstable for various reasons.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The volunteer assignment will focus on training and assisting the staff on Identify and training energy efficient cold storage facility solutions suitable to strawberry farmers either at farm level or in Dili.

The main aim is to transfer skills and knowledge on how to identify available materials and train the Laledu association members on stables cool storage system.

Anticipated training topics include but are not limited to the following;

1. Identify materials for setup cools storage system that available in the country. in rural area and DILI
2. Train and installing cool a storage system for Laledu
3. procedures and ways to repair if the system if it is broken
4. **HOST CONTRIBUTION**

Laledu will select, determine and mobilize the attendance for the training participants. Laledu will also ensure that the necessary class rooms and local training aids and other teaching materials are in place. The host will also provide the volunteer with and facilitate meal services for the volunteer on training days. Laledu will also assign a focal person who can guide and facilitate the volunteer specialist during the assignment period. The host will also provide office space and office furniture as well as a vehicle if any travel is required during the assignment duration

**ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

This assignment volunteer will contribute to the following:

* Increased knowledge of 22 staff on how stables a cool storage system cheaper that use available material in the country
* One cool storage is stables
* Strawberry product can store longer
* Reduce percentage of looses
* Increase income of Laledu association members

1. **DELIVERABLES**
2. Report on proposed cold storage solution
3. Technical specifications for cold storage
4. Group presentation with local stakeholders at the end of the assignment in country
5. Group presentation for staff
6. Training Manuals
7. Identification of potential cold storage vendors and volunteer outreach activities in the US
8. **SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN TIMOR-LESTE**

| ***Please note that this is a tentative schedule and will be finalized post volunteer selection with consultation with volunteer*** | |
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| **Day** | **Activity** |
| Day 1 | Arrival into Timor-Leste. The volunteer will be met by a hotel pick CRS’s client hotel with a placard bearing “**CRS logo and volunteer name”**. |
| Day 2 | * Briefing meeting at CRS office with CRS F2F staff, security briefing and logistics and itinerary of the trip and discuss anticipated outcomes and work plan; * Meeting with ambassador and USAID mission |
| Day 3 | * Travel to Maubesse in (50 km from Dili) * Setup with guesthouse and other logistics * Briefing meeting with staff Laledu and Local Leader) * First hand briefing on outlines of topics of the training, plan, approach, etc, and adjust the topics as required. * Work planning discussion with the staff of the Laledu * Prepare course/training and plan with the Laledu to proceed with the assignment (lecturing and practicing) |
| Day 4-13 | * Conduct the assignment according to an agreed schedule on cool storage system (training and contract it) |
| Days 14 | * Wrap up sessions that emphasize key concepts of the assignment: the Laledu evaluates the assignment and discusses final report recommendations with the volunteer.   Group presentation to the host in the presence of CRS F2F staff and local leader |
| Day 15 | * Travel back to Dili and Debriefing at CRS office with Ambassador, USAID Mission and CRS staffs. * Submit all reports, return logistic items and complete all required activities |
| Day 16 | * Travel back to USA |
| TBD | Conduct outreach activity when back in the US |

1. **DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS**

* Experience in cool storage solution
* Experience working with small farm businesses in strawberry in developing countries is a plus,
* Good writing and analytical skills, interpersonal communication and presentation skills (adult education skills).
* Ability and preparedness to use relevant teaching aids and audiovisuals,

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

* Before travelling to the assignment place, the volunteer will stay in Plaza Hotel at one of the CRS’s client hotels that will be booked and confirmed before the arrival date. <https://www.agoda.com/plaza-hotel_2/hotel/all/dili-tl.html?checkin=2019-04-10&los=1&adults=1&rooms=1&cid=1646622&tag=974ceae6-7504-ae4c-1f07-a9e79faff10b&searchrequestid=e8bd6065-3418-43b5-a0fa-86fa9bee4e6e&travellerType=-1&tabbed=true>
* In Dili, 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 or using Taxi
* CRS Timor-Leste 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 Timor-Leste.
* CRS will provide a vehicle and accompany the volunteer to the place of assignment in the first day
* During her/his assignment period on the field, the volunteer will be staying at Hotel in Maubesse town with minimum conditions
* Ladedu will provide material for the training needs
* CRS HQ will provide the volunteer with a per-diem advance to cater meals and incidences.
* Before departing for the US, the volunteer will also liquidate advances (if any) at CRS Timor-Leste
* For more information, please refer to country information that will be provided

1. **RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS**

* 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 at either office of CRS 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 either office at Dili office prior to travel to the assignment place.
* Translation of handouts to local languages can 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 target training is for staff, workers and beneficiaries with some of them a high level of illiteracy
* Recommend reading are <https://www.usaid.gov/timor-leste/project-descriptions/usaids-avansa-agrikultura-project> and Maubesse <https://www.bucketlistly.blog/posts/maubisse-guide-things-to-do-getting-there>
* Related to the weather condition in October is dry season

1. **KEY CONTACTS**

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| **CRS Baltimore** | **Country Manager** |
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| **Host Organization:** | |
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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. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/tim149148.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)