

To express interest in this assignment please email 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** | **TL237** |
| Country | Timor-Leste |
| Country Project | Modernizing Agriculture  |
| Host Organization | ETA Moleana (Agriculture Technical School Moleana) |
| Assignment Title | Farming as a business Guidance and Training  |
| Assignment preferred dates | August-December 2020 |
| Objectives of the assignment | * to engage the student’s participation in agriculture
* To guide student to see agriculture as their future career
* to increase the technical capacity of student, in addition to contributing to an enabling environment allowing them greater market engagement.
* The ultimate objective of the approach is sustainably increasing incomes of smallholder farmers by increasing productivity, decreasing the risk of market engagement, and restoring the environmental resource base
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| Desired volunteer skill/expertise | * Have a background in Agribusiness
* Have experiences in farming as business
* Experienced in virtual communication
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| Type of Volunteer Assistance | Technology Transfer (T)  |
| Type of Value Chain Activity | Information and support service (S) |
| PERSUAP Classification | Type III |

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[[1]](#footnote-1) 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

ETA Moleana or Agriculture Technical School Moleana is a public school that is running under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery through National Directorate for Agriculture Technical Training but implementing curriculum and modular from Ministry of education starting in the school year of 2014 until present time.

The objectives of ETA Moleana are; to improve the qualification of employee and management in Agriculture Technical School through partnership between national and international education, improve the use of resources with efficient and effective, improve the quality facility of learning the process, to build internal and external communication to support the teaching method based on the competency, develop extra-curricular activities, develop the role of the school to provide extension to agriculture as a social responsibility from school to the community, to have the cooperation with other institution in doing research and application in Agriculture Technology to improve the school and community and improve the competency and relevance graduates.

ETA-Molena has a vision to Educate young generation that has ethic and moral, high dedication, have competency and professional in agriculture to accelerate the national development, and mission to to improve the academic quality for education process that is qualify and have relevancy with high competency based on market demand in agriculture sector, develop the infrastructure to support the implementation of quality education, develop the internal communication between teachers, students and all employee, and external communication with parents and use the graduates to develop adequate learning system, develop the capacity to provide attendance to community by transform the technology science of agriculture, working together with other institution on research and implementation of technology agriculture.

The ETA-Moleana currently has 247 students and 190 are leaving in dormitory ETA-M is has 30 Teachers and has 135 ha of land that use for Horticulture production and crops production

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

Agriculture Technical School Moleana through Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery regularly send 6-12 graduates’ students to Israel every year to attend the training and working with farmers to increase their knowledge and skills on agriculture and send their graduate students to china for internship for 2-3 months. The return students mostly continue their study in the University and some of them did not continue to University. The students are do not share or implement their knowledge even though they brought some money from this assignment. It all happened because lack of idea and guidance on how they will use the skills, knowledge and money for. And many of Timorese young people assume that agriculture is identical to the lower-class people, dirty and others because their parents are farmers and their income is very minimal despite working hard.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The main objective of this volunteer assignment is train and guide the student and the returned students on Farming as business. This training is expected to increase the knowledge and skills for the students and the returned students to have a better understanding about farming as business and using the skills they already have to start their own small farming groups to start the production and link to the market, as the same time they can also share and train and pass their knowledge to the farmers especially on the modern technical agriculture they have learn.

The topics are including but not limited to:

1. The concept of farming as a business.
2. Risk management in farming businesses.
3. Planning farm business (emphasis on planning together).
4. Farm business record keeping.
5. Farm business financial management.
6. Farm business financial mobilization.
7. Farm operations and decision making.
8. Farm labor requirements.
9. Marketing of farm products.
10. Contract farming.
11. **HOST CONTRIBUTION**

ETA Moleana will select, determine and mobilize the attendance for the training participants. ETA Moleana will also ensure that the necessary classrooms 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. ETA Moleana 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. Sometimes ETA Moleana will provide a vehicle if any vehicle is available now when it is needed

**ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

This assignment volunteer will contribute to the following:

1. The student and teachers understand the business concept
2. Understand farmer as an entrepreneur
3. Distinguish between subsistence and commercial farming practices.
4. Identify opportunities and challenges associated with farm businesses.
5. Understand critical success factors in farm businesses.
6. Understand the importance of involving the whole family in decision making for effective resource allocation and utilization in a family farm business.
7. Be able to apply business principles in family decision-making processes.

1. **DELIVERABLES**
2. Guidelines on farming as business
3. Appropriate and relevant technologies transferred to the target beneficiaries,
4. Trainings and technical assistances delivered,
5. Field report with recommendation produced at the end of the assignment.
6. Group presentation with local stakeholders at the end of the assignment in country
7. Group presentation for CRS staff
8. **SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN TIMOR-LESTE**

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| ***Please note that this is a tentative schedule and will be finalized post volunteer selection with consultation with volunteer***  |
| ***Day*** | **Activity** |
| Day 1 | Arrival in Timor-Leste. The volunteer will meet 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, logistics and itinerary of the trip and discuss anticipated outcomes and work plan;
* Meeting with ambassador and USAID mission
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| Day 3 | * Travel to Maliana 152,6 km from Dili
* Setup with Hotel/ guesthouse and other logistics
* Briefing meeting with staff ETA Moleana and School Principal
* First hand briefing on outlines of topics of the training, plan, approach, and adjust the topics as required.
* Work plan discussion with the staff of the ETA Moleana
* Prepare course/training and plan with the ETA Moleana to proceed with the assignment (lecturing and practicing)
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| Day 4-14 | * Conduct the assignment according to an agreed schedule of ETA Moleana
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| Days 15 | * Wrap up sessions that emphasize key concepts of the assignment: The ETA Moleana 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
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| Day 16 | * Travel back to Dili and Debriefing at CRS office
* Submit all reports, return logistic items and complete all required activities
* Debrief meeting with Mission and US Ambassador
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| Day 17 | * Travel back to USA
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| TBD | Conduct outreach activity when back in the US |

1. **DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS**
2. Ability and preparedness to use relevant teaching aids and audiovisuals,
3. Have a background in Agribusiness and Agronomy
4. Experience or doing business in Agriculture
5. writing and analytical skills, interpersonal communication and presentation skills (adult education skills).
6. **ACCOMMODATION AND ANOTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS**
7. 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>
8. In Dili, the hotel usually has rooms that include services such as airport pickup and drop-off, breakfast, wireless internet, etc.
9. The hotel or CRS will arrange a vehicle for short travel from the hotel to CRS or using Blue Taxi
10. 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.
11. CRS will provide a vehicle and accompany the volunteer to the place of assignment on the first day
12. During her/his assignment period on the field, the volunteer will be staying at closest Hotel/guest house from ETA Moleana and will come to the compound s/he will ride one of the vehicles belongs to a teacher from ETA Moleana (around 10 minutes)
13. ETA Moleana will provide material for the training needs
14. CRS HQ will provide the volunteer with a per-diem advance to cater meals and incidences.
15. Before departing for the US, the volunteer will also liquidate advances (if any) at CRS Timor-Leste
16. For more information, please refer to country information that will be provided
17. **RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS**
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. Translation of handouts to local languages can be Dome 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
21. The target training is for teacher, students and staff
22. Recommend reading are <http://www.dbtimorleste.org>
23. Related to the weather condition in August is dry season
24. **KEY CONTACTS**

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| **CRS Baltimore** | **Country Manager** |
| **Priyanka Subba**Volunteer RecruiterFarmer to Farmer Program228 W. Lexington StreetBaltimore, MD 21201410-955-7194Email: priyanka.subba@crs.org  | Jose Maria Alves Ornai Farmer-to Farmer Project Manager, Catholic Relief ServicesTimor LesteRua Dom Boaventura No. 12, Motael Vera Cruz, Dili, Timor-LesteEmail: josemaria.alves@crs.org Celestina Ramos CristoFarmer to Farmer Project AssistantChatolic Relief ServicesTimor-LesteRua Dom Boaventura No. 12, Motael Vera Cruz, Dili, Timor-LesteEmail: celestinaramos.cristo@crs.org |
| **Host Organization:** |
| Dir. Bonifacio de Oliveira Fraga, L. Agrn.Suco Ritabou, Bobonaro Timor-LesteEmail: oliveira0173@gmail.comTelphone: +670 77249341 | Longuinhos João, S. TPSuco Ritabou, Bobonaro Timor-LesteTelephone: +67075657950 |

1. <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/tim149148.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)