 

**Farmer to Farmer East Africa**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

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| **Assignment Summary** |
| **Assignment Code** | **TZ34** |
| Country | Tanzania |
| Country Project | Tanzania F2F Horticulture project |
| Host Organization | Chekimaji Village Council – Hai district Kilimanjaro Region  |
| Assignment Title | Smallholders Training on horticultural and plant protection best practices for tomato, onion and other horticultural crops  |
| Assignment objective | Increased productivity and quality of tomato, onions and other horticultural crops  |
| Desired skills | Agronomist with particular expertise on tropical horticultural crops  |
| Assignment preferred dates | February to June 2015 |

1. **Background**

The Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) East Africa program is a program that uses short-term US volunteer expertise to assist small holder farmers and small scale processors in East Africa to improve their business practices through volunteer assignments conducted with host organizations. The goal of the (F2F) horticulture project is to increase incomes and improve nutritional status of Tanzanian smallholder farmers through; smallholder farmers increased productivity of horticultural crops, improved access to and utilization of markets and credit and preservation and enhanced natural resources upon which target communities depend.

In Tanzania, horticulture makes a significant contribution to food security, nutrition improvements and economic growth. Horticulture is mainly practiced by female smallholder farmers as well as a limited number of large scale operators. Commercial horticulture is endowed with local and foreign investors, particularly in floriculture and export vegetables, and has production and market growth potential. Tanzania’s favorable socio-political environment provides an opportunity for horticulture sector to thrive.

Since the horticulture sector makes a significant contribution to food security, nutrition and economic growth, development of the sector offers the opportunity to increase incomes through meeting demand in domestic, regional and international markets, while simultaneously improving household nutrition through dietary diversity.

The key challenges that the horticulture industry faces in Tanzania include; low productivity of horticultural crops, limited processing of horticultural products and poor access to markets. Some key opportunities that favor the growth of the industry and thereby success of the F2F project in Tanzania include the multiple players in horticultural value chains working at various levels including the USAID Feed the Future TAPP and TAHA programs. Through these on-going programs and structures, specific interventions will allow volunteers to reach out to smallholder farmer groups and micro-small and medium production and processing companies.

This scope of work is for providing volunteer technical assistance to horticultural farmers in Chekimaji village in Hai district, Kilimanjaro region. The village is located about 13 km from Boma Ng’ombe town, the nearest big settlement with hotel and other facilities. There are about 840 farmers in the village, who cultivate mainly tomato, onion, sweet pepper, okra and cabbage. Tomato and onion are the key economic crops.

**B: ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

Like with most other farmers in Tanzania, Chekimaji Village farmers also suffer from lack of proper extension education. The village is one among five served by one extension officer who is in charge of a whole ward comprising of over 2000 farmers spread over long distances. In addition, the extension officer does not have enough and up to date skills for the variety of crops grown and up to date information on appropriate horticultural practices and plant protection mechanisms. Another challenge is shortage of good quality farming inputs, poor skills in application and protection practices. Apart from poor availability and high prices farmers also complain of fake agro-inputs like pesticides. During the last two years farmers have incurred huge losses in their farms because they unknowingly bought fake seeds. Also, a new leaf mining insect infected farms since the end of last year. The insect that has not been classified feed on tomato leaf tissue and bores small tomato fruits. Most farmers reported that although they used various different insecticides to kill the insect- sometimes buying insecticide from neighboring Kenya and doubling or tripling the prescribed dosage, they harvested almost nothing from their farms due to destruction caused by this insect.

Horticultural farming with Chekimaji farmers is all year round given irrigation water availability tapping from River Kikavu that flows from Mt. Kilimanjaro. The irrigation system is not well developed however given that it is only the main intake that is properly constructed. The streams flow by gravity and are not constructed by concrete. Farm inputs are purchased from Boma Ng’ombe town, Rundugai village and Moshi municipal city all within 15 km distance from the village. In terms of marketing, the key outlet for the various vegetables are; Moshi Municipal, Boma Ng’ombe town and Kwa Sadala markets. For onions there are occasionally whole sale buyers from Kenya. The soil is good for the crops grown but unfortunately there is no soil testing to determine the type and amount of fertilizer to apply leading to over-or under-application of chemical fertilizer.

**C: OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The key objective of this volunteer assignment is to build the capacity of farmers in Chekimaji village so that they can increase yield and quality of tomato, onions and other horticultural crops through application of good horticultural practices. Other challenges faced by the farmers will be addressed under other scopes of work. The following are some of the training themes:

* Horticultural best practices training - the right practices from nursery management, planting, harvesting and maintenance of tomato, onions and other crops
* Integrated pest management for tomato, onions and other horticultural crops
* Safe handling of chemicals used in cultivation of the crops

Most of the training will be within the farmer fields and the volunteer will be expected to walk around farms directly engaging with the farmers as a means to understand the farming system and problem diagnosis and limited group/class work. Most of Chekimaji farmers are literate, very enterprising and have experience in farming, which will make it easy for them to practice what they will learn during the assignment.

**Host contribution** – Leadership of Chekimaji village will mobilize farmers to participate in the training, and avail key personnel to work closely with the volunteer, during preparations and actual trainings, to ensure that the farmers are trained and will put in practice what they have learnt. The host will also provide the training venue for the assignment and where possible transport to the various training sites.

**D: ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

Immediate anticipated results of the training is improved knowledge of farmers on farming best practices for tomato, onions and other horticultural crops, which will contribute to improved production, marketing and farmer incomes.

 **E: SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY IN TANZANIA**

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| **Day** | **Activity** |
| Day 1 | Travel from home to US international airport |
| Day 2 | Arrival in Tanzania at Kilimanjaro International airport. The volunteer will be picked form the airport by a designated cab and driven to the Snow View Hotel at Boma Ng’ombe.  |
| Day 3 | At 10.00 am the volunteer is greeted at the hotel by CRS F2F staff, provided briefing materials (welcome package). In the afternoon, the volunteer and CRS staff will drive to Chekimaji village to meet members of the group, discuss and agree on the training schedule  |
| Day 4-6 | The volunteer will visit various farmers around the village for familiarization with the group and farmer challenges  |
| **Day 7** | **Resting day** |
| Day 8-9 | Training farmers on the right technology from nursery management, planting, harvesting and maintenance of tomato. Onions and other crops |
| Day 10-11 | Training farmers on Integrated pest management for tomato, onions and other horticultural crops |
| Day 12-13 | Training farmers on safe way to handle chemicals used in cultivation of tomato, onions and the crops |
| **Day 14** | **Rest Day**  |
| Day 15-20 | Direct farmer training in their fields  |
| **Day 21**  | **Rest Day** |
| Day 22 | Debriefing with farmers and CRS - Volunteer will finalize his/her reporting and Evening the volunteer departs for USA |
| TBD | Outreach event when back in the USA |

***\**** *Please note that the schedule is flexible with the actual daily agenda been determined at the field in collaboration with the farmers after volunteer arrival*

**F. DESIRABLE VOLUNTEER SKILLS**

The volunteer will have good skills on agronomical practices of vegetable crops, especially tomato and onions. Among other things, the volunteer should be knowledgeable on good use of fertilizer and pesticide, use of improved seeds, and plant protection general. In addition to that, the volunteer should have the following attributes;

* Agronomist with specific experience on horticulture (tropical crops)
* Excellent- hands-on training skills to an adult audience
* Good communication skills and able to train through a translator
* Prior experience on similar subjects with farmer to farmer program is an advantage

**G: ACCOMODATION AND OTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS**

In Boma Ng’ombe the volunteer will stay at the Snow View Hotel; Tel +255 787 272 and +255 767 320629 email: snowviewhotels@gmail.com; web; www.snowviewhotel.com a distance of about 40 km from Arusha city. All logistics will be organized by CRS and host. All proposed facilities have basic amenities of water, electricity, self-contained rooms, wireless internet access and/or modem and have reliable security. CRS will pay for hotel accommodation, and provide volunteer with per diems to cater for meals and other incidentals. CRS will also facilitate daily transport for the volunteer between Boma Ng’ombe town and Chekimaji village during the assignment

**H: RECOMMENDED ASSIGNEMENT PREPARATION**

As part of preparation for the work ahead the volunteer should familiarize with USAID Feed the Future program, the EARO and Tanzania F2F horticultural program proposal and scope of work for this particular assignment. It is also advisable that the volunteer read and familiarize with Tanzania, its development challenges and opportunities. For any printed material these will be printed at CRS office in Dar es Salaam before commencement of the assignment. Flip charts, markers, masking tapes will be provided by CRS. Volunteers are not advised to rely on LCD projections as the main method of training because full time electricity is not guaranteed in most venues where such trainings take place.

**I: KEY CONTACTS**

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