 

**Farmer to Farmer East Africa**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

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| **Assignment Summary** | |
| **Assignment Code** | **TZ99** |
| Country | Tanzania |
| Country Project | Horticulture |
| Host Organizations | Same District Council- Mhezi Agricultural Group - Mhezi Village, Same District Kilimanjaro Region. |
| Assignment Title | Smallholders Training on Agricultural Best Practices Applied to Agronomy |
| Assignment Objective | Increased quality and quantity of vegetable crops cultivated by the group due to better understanding of agricultural best practices |
| Desired Skills | Horticulturalist with particular expertise in high altitude crops, corn, beans and cabbage farming, and irrigation water management |
| Assignment Preferred Dates | October 2016 |

1. **Background**

The Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) East Africa program is a USAID funded project that uses American volunteer expertise to assist small scale farmers and processors to improve their production and business practices through short-term Volunteer assignments conducted with host organizations. The goals of the F2F horticulture project are to increase production and quality of fruits and vegetables, increase access and utilization of markets and credit (thereby boosting farmer incomes) and improve food security and nutritional status of Tanzanian smallholder farmer households, while enhancing natural resources upon which target communities depend.

In Tanzania, horticulture makes a significant contribution to food security, better nutrition and economic growth. Horticulture production 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 favourable climate and socio-political environment provide an opportunity for horticulture sector to thrive. 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.

This scope of work aims to provide technical assistance to an agriculture improvement group in Mhezi Village, composed of over 30 members both women and men. The Mhezi Agriculture Group was formed in early 2016 to promote better farming practices and to manage and upkeep the irrigation scheme in Mhezi Village. The group was the combination of three different groups that have been working successfully in the Mhezi area for numerous years. The three groups that formed into the Mhezi Agriculture Group was the Kalimani Group formed in 2010, the Makea Irrigation Farmers formed in 1994 (33 men, 13 women) and the Mshewa Irrigation Group formed in 1996 (13 men, 11 women). The groups meet on weekly basis and attempt to implement improved agriculture and irrigation in the village and are recognized by the District as official groups. The group has had pervious successes in the past. They have managed to construct a 22-meter irrigation canal by using concrete. In the project they contributed 25% and a donor contributed 75%. The chairman of the Mhezi Agriculture Group is the current village agriculture officer. He has been living and working in the Same mountains his entire life and is devoted to the improvement of the people of Mhezi. The Volunteer will facilitate training on general agricultural best practices including soil fertility and the use of various agricultural inputs geared to increasing horticulture crop production using available resources.

The majority of all economic growth in Mhezi village is based on agriculture. The primary crops are corn (maize), beans, bananas and sugarcane and these are the priority. Lower quantities of onions, tomatoes, cabbage, avocado, potatoes, and green leafy vegetables are produced as well in significant quantities. Currently, the majority of crops are grown for subsistence farming. When villagers produce extra, they sell to nearby villages. When and if villagers have the capacity, they will meet the high horticultural demand in markets in larger towns such as Same, located over 60 kilometres away. The village of Mhezi is located high up (over 5,000 feet above sea level) in the gorgeous Pare (pronounced ‘PAH-ray) Mountains. The terrain is lush and mountainous. The Pare Mountains help to form the ancient Eastern Arc chain; their steep cliffs and forested slopes are the home to a remarkable number of rare animals and plants. The Wapare tribe is comprised of a unique and proud people. They have lived in the Pare Mountains for hundreds of years and have strong traditions and connections to the land. The Pare Mountains are densely populated, with many tiny villages connected by a system of local paths and more recently, roads. The village is in the Same district of the Kilimanjaro region of northern Tanzania. It is in a remote mountainous area with very little electricity or plumbing, with a population of about 1,500 in Mhezi village.

This assignment is unique in that it is a product of a partnership with the US Peace Corps, which has placed an agriculture sector Volunteer in the village. The Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV), named David Beroff, was installed to his site in April 2015; he lives in the center of the village. This partnership affords the F2F Volunteer with multiple advantages. Firstly, the PCV has professional speaking capacity in Kiswahili, and has agreed to assist with translation services (in addition to other Tanzanian volunteers). The PCV has also received cross cultural training on how to integrate into a Tanzanian village; these skills will be useful as the F2F Volunteer attempts to do the same thing. The PCV has a deep understanding of their village’s social dynamics and they will be a great resource for mobilizing the community. They know what it’s like to be in the F2F Volunteer’s shoes, which will make the transition from American life to African village life much smoother. Even though these Peace Corps Volunteers are cross cultural community mobilizers, their technical agricultural expertise is not a high enough level to inform the farmers on specific issues. This is why collaboration with Peace Corps and F2F Volunteers would be an ideal combination to solve the various capacity gaps identified by the farmer’s group in Mhezi.

**B: ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

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 fair markets. Many farmers sell their produce at low prices to passing truck who then take the produce to market and sell for a high profit. Even within the village and surrounding areas there is a demand for produce that exceeds supply. In addition to the local demand there is access to larger markets only 10 kilometres from Mhezi village. In spite of limited success in cultivating horticultural crops, farmers in Mhezi village are still facing a number of challenges that include scanty knowledge of agricultural best practices (crop rotation, mulching etc.), dependence on and misapplication of chemicals, and lack of integrated systems for horticultural farming as a whole. Due to the steep, mountainous terrain, many farmers’ fields are susceptible to erosion and washing away of topsoil in the rainy season or during irrigation an issue that could be addressed with improved practices and better management. The farmers need assistance to choose and prepare their seeds, and they have a shortage of capital for buying better seed varieties. Currently, the farmers do not fully understand the benefits or methods of farm record keeping, and those that do need encouragement to change their behaviour, something which could be addressed in a follow up assignment. Farmers see that there are issues with their crops, but don’t know how to recognize the specific disease, bacteria, pest, fungus etc. The government assigns an agricultural extension officer who theoretically is responsible for this job, but in practice, extension workers are responsible for multiple villages and find it difficult to travel to the most remote farming areas. Therefore, the Volunteer is expected to take a day or two to visit some farms, so that he/she can familiarize him/herself with the specific crop issues these farmers are experiencing and develop some recommendations.

There are other issues facing the members of these groups, such as shifting from subsistence farming to farming as a business, collective buying and selling, etc., that will be addressed under some other future scope of work.

**C: OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The key objective of this Volunteer assignment is to build the capacity of members of the agriculture group in Mhezi village to increase the quantity and quality of horticultural crop production, and therefore household incomes. The United States Peace Corps as an intermediary organization and members of both groups have requested F2F Volunteer training assistance with knowledge and experience in general agricultural best practices. The specific areas of agricultural best practices will be based on the volunteer’s knowledge and experience, and also on what issues are observed on the farms.

The Volunteer will focus on:

* Soil fertility: mulching techniques, best use of animal manure, soil testing and feasible methods of increasing fertility,
* Seed selection and seed saving,
* Integrated pest management (IPM) basics – crop sanitation (quarantine), scouting, biological and mechanical controls, companion planting etc.
* Water management in steep terrain – erosion control, methods of slowing water, avoiding chemical run-off, rainwater catchment (bunds, terracing, swales, etc.),

Some of the farmers are literate, but all of them have lifetime experience farming which will help them to capture what they will learn during the assignment.

**Host contribution** – This assignment has a very large host contribution:

1. Translation services – Peace Corps Volunteer David Beroff and English speaking members of the group

2. A suitable venue for trainings

3. Mobilization of the members of the group to participate in the training

4. Group members who will work closely with the Volunteer, during preparations and actual trainings, to ensure that the farmers will implement what they have learned.

**D: ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

The primary anticipated result of the training is improved knowledge of farmers on good agricultural practices, which when implemented, will eventually contribute to improved production of horticultural crops of higher quality. Farmers will have a deeper understanding of the benefits of record keeping, which will place them in an ideal position to begin making the transition away from subsistence farming towards farming as a business, to be addressed in a future Scope of Work. They will sell more crops, leading to higher incomes, and more food security. These three results make farmer households more resilient to climate shocks, unstable markets, diseases, spikes in demand and supply, emergencies, etc. With more horticulture crops available to farmers and their families, the beneficiaries will have the added health benefits of a diversified, well-balanced diet and better nutrition. This will result in more water availability and access for the village as a whole.

**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 at Kilimanjaro International airport. The volunteer will be picked by a designated cab and driven to Uhuru Hotel. |
| Day 3 | At 9:00 am, Volunteer will meet at the hotel with F2F staff for briefing. At 10:00 am, Volunteer departs with F2F staff to Same (SAHM-ay) town where the Volunteer will sleep at Amani Lodge. |
| Day 4 | At 9:00 am, Volunteer will travel up the mountain to Mhezi village Volunteer will have an audience with the host (both Peace Corps Volunteer and representatives from Mhezi village) and discuss expectations of the assignment and specific farming issues, and begin planning assignment. |
| Day 5 | The Volunteer will begin orientation: interviewing farmers and taking tours of various farms to get a deeper understanding of the environment, issues, capacity, resources, etc. |
| Day 6 | Volunteer will continue orientation activities, if needed. If he/she finishes, then it is possible to begin first day of training. |
| **Day 7** | **Resting day** |
| Day 8-13 | Agricultural Best Practices trainings in Mhezi Village |
| **Day 14** | **Resting day** |
| Day 15-20 | Agricultural Best Practices trainings in Mhezi Village |
| **Day 21** | **Resting day** |
| Day 22 | In the morning, wrap up trainings and emphasize key concepts of assignment, in collaboration with local agriculture extension agents.  In the afternoon the volunteer will travel to Moshi and lodge at Uhuru hotel. |
| Day 24 | Volunteer departs for USA after finalizing their report and submitting it to CRS |
| TBD | Outreach event when back in the US |

**F. DESIRABLE VOLUNTEER SKILLS**

The Volunteer will have detailed knowledge on good agronomical practices of high altitude vegetable crops. In addition to that, the Volunteer should have the following attributes;

* Experience with training and mentoring subsistence farmers in remote, rural Africa is an advantage
* Ability to quickly adopt to challenging working environments, ability to adopt to the slower pace of translating through interpreters, making sure to verify correctness of interpretation
* Flexibility to work with groups of varying literacy level, taking into account gender norms of rural Tanzanian culture
* Resilient, in good health, and possessing the ability to walk around on steep, uneven (and possibly muddy) terrain at high altitudes

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

The volunteer for this assignment will come to Tanzania through Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) which receives direct flights from abroad. The volunteer will be picked up from the airport on a 30-minute drive to Uhuru hotel in Moshi ([www.uhuruhotel.org](http://www.uhuruhotel.org)), where the volunteer will lodge for one or two nights before travelling to Same. At Uhuru hotel we do not expect internet or phone connectivity problems, but up in Pare Mountains there may be power outages and challenges in accessing internet and phone connectivity. CRS will pay for hotel accommodation; provide Volunteer with per diems to cater for meals and other incidentals. Additionally, the volunteer will be provided with an internet dongle and a mobile phone. In Same, the Volunteer will stay at the Amani Lodge, which is very comfortable and serves meals. All logistics will be organized by CRS and the hosts. All proposed facilities have basic amenities of hot water, electricity, self-contained rooms, internet access (with a modem which will be provided by CRS), 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 the transport to and from the villages at the beginning and end of the assignment. For the duration of the Mhezi trainings, the Volunteer will be driven from the Amani Lodge in Same to the training venue in Mhezi.

**H: RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATION**

As part of preparation for the work ahead, the Volunteer should familiarize with USAID, the Feed the Future program, CRS’s Tanzanian F2F horticultural program proposal, and of course the Scope of Work for this particular assignment. It is also advisable that the Volunteer familiarize him/herself with Tanzania and its development challenges and opportunities. Due to the fact that all of the trainees in this assignment are women, a basic understanding of the cultural differences between American and Tanzanian gender norms will help the Volunteer prepare. Any printed materials will be printed at CRS office in Dar es Salaam before commencement of the assignment. Flip charts, markers, and masking tape 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 trainings take place.

**I: KEY CONTACTS**

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| **CRS Baltimore** | **CRS East Africa Regional Office** |
| Maria Figueroa  Recruitment Manager  EA Farmer-to-Farmer Program  228 W. Lexington Street  Baltimore, MD 21201  410-951-7366  Email: [maria.figueora@crs.org](mailto:maria.figueora@crs.org) | Nyambura Theuri  Deputy Project Director  EA Farmer-to-Farmer Program  P.O. Box 49675 – 00100  Nairobi, Kenya  St. Augustine Court Karuna Close Road  Email: [nyambura.theuri@crs.org](mailto:nyambura.theuri@crs.org) |
| **CRS Tanzania** | |
| Mary Kabatange  Farmer-to-Farmer Program Country Director  Plot #144 Migombani Street, Regent Estate, Mikocheni A  P. O. Box 34701 Dar es Salaam,  Tanzania  Office Tel: +255 222 773 141  Mobile cell phone +255 758 820 025  Email: [mary.kabatange@crs.org](mailto:mary.kabatange@crs.org) | Brian Gleeson  Country Representative  CRS Tanzania  Plot #144 Migombani Street, Regent Estate, Mikocheni A  P. O. Box 34701 Dar es Salaam,  Tanzania  Office Tel +255 222 773 141  Mob: +255 754 930966  Email: [conor.walsh@crs.org](mailto:conor.walsh@crs.org) |
| **Peace Corps Volunteer** | **Mhezi Village** |
| David Beroff  Sustainable Agriculture PCV  Mhezi Village  dberoff@umich.edu  +255 785 494 583 | Also Mbaga  Village Agriculture Officer  Mhezi Village  +255 785 185 482 |