

**Farmer to Farmer East Africa**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

**NOTE: THIS SCOPE OF WORK AWAITING FINAL EDITS**

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| **Summary Information** | |
| Assignment Code | UG 106 |
| Country | Uganda |
| Country Project | Oil seed crops country project |
| Host Organization | Alito Joint Farmers’ Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd (AJOFMC) |
| Type of Volunteer Assistance: | **Technology Transfer (T)** |
| Type of Value Chain Activity: | **Processing (P)** |
| Assignment Title | Oil crops (Soybeans and Sunflower) post-harvest handling and storage management |
| Assignment preferred dates | May – June 2017 |
| Assignment objective | Equipping farmers/members and staff of the host with knowledge and skills on modern post-harvest handling technics and storage methods for soya beans and sunflower |
| Desired volunteer skills/ expertise | * Qualifications in postharvest technology in oil crops are desirable. * Good knowledge on post-harvest handling of, oil seeds and storage techniques in tropical developing countries * Wide experience in working with small holder farmers’ groups and knowledge on farming in developing countries. * Knowledge on the range of post-harvest handling technologies and pest management during storage. * Good writing and analytical skills, interpersonal communication and presentation skills (adult education skills) |

1. **BACKGROUND**

Alito Joint Christian Farmers’ Group (AJCFG) started in 1998 with only five members who had a vision of taking farming as a business through bulk marketing of soya beans, sunflower, sesame and groundnuts alongside food security crops such as maize, cassava, pigeon peas and beans. It was legally registered as CBO/NGO in 2004 having 58 founder members, 42 men and 16 women. The organization is currently registered and operates as Alito Joint Farmers’ Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd (AJOFMCS) with a total membership of 10,815 farmers – 45% women representation, organized in 161 subgroups covering Lango and part of Acholi sub regions. The cooperative has a vision of becoming the leading promoter and producer of oil seed crops in Northern Region in a cooperative setting, and improving the livelihoods of the farmers through bulking and marketing of their produce.

In order to achieve its vision, AJOFMCS is engaged in a number of activities ranging from provision of agro-inputs- seeds, fertilizers, acquisition of basic post -harvest materials, produce bulking and marketing, cross cutting services such as guidance and counselling sessions for HIV infected farmers. The various roles played by Alito Joint Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd from production to marketing make the organization influential in regards to the dynamics of the local sunflower, sesame and soybean markets.

Oilseed crops, including groundnuts, soya, Simsim (sesame) and sunflower, have been produced in northern and eastern Uganda as subsistence and commercial crops for eight decades.[[1]](#footnote-1) These crops have the potential to transform the income status of the farmers and the country through export earnings, however, minimal support has been committed to these crops and are hence still largely produced by small holder subsistence farmers.F2F program targeted similar crop value chains to support different host organizations operating in the sector. Alito Farmers Multipurpose cooperative society is one of such organizations primarily promoting the production and marketing of Oil seeds (sunflower, soya beans and sesame). The cooperative is operating in various districts in Northern Acholi and Lango sub regions – these are organized as clusters and subgroups forming a total membership of 10,815 farmers out of which 45% are women. The cooperative is providing diversified services to its members such as provision of advisory services on agronomic related areas by setting up demo sites, seed Multiplication through local seed business groups (LSBs), Sunflower Oil extraction, Maize sorting & Cleaning, Agro-input supply (Issue of seed loans), Bulking, Storage (Warehouse) and Marketing of their produce.

Currently the cooperative is seeking for technical assistance from a farmer to farmer volunteer in the area of post-harvest handling and storage management.

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

High post-harvest loses are one of the major challenges hindering the oilseed sector development in the country. Oil crops are normally dried on bare ground or even along road sides, and hence contain significant amounts of debris. Due to a lack of appropriate storage facilities, oil crops are stored in farmers’ houses which often leak, lack of pallets to store the produce off bare ground. The storing methods are not in a way that prevent the crops from developing aflatoxin and farmers has no skill to early detect the growth of aflatoxin and to take measures. Additionally, farmers are unfamiliar with and lack the means for moisture level detection techniques.[[2]](#footnote-2) Because the drying tis dependent on availability of natural sunlight, drying of produce to the desired moisture content is a challenge, which results in deterioration in the quality of produce under storage.

The major post-harvest challenges faced by members of Alito Farmers’ cooperative society include; failure to determine the correct time for harvesting- the crops tend to be left to dry in the field and as such during harvest field pests are transferred unknowingly to the storage space, drying is usually done on bare ground or dung plastered floors which increases cross contamination, the soyabeans are removed from the pods by beating with a stick which breaks the grain/bean and exposes it to infestation. All in addition to other practices lead to loss of the quality and quantity which ultimately affects the product pricing. The cooperative stores the members produce for more than 3 months in its small warehouse which is also another cause for loss of quantity and quality.

Trends in consumption patterns are increasingly changing with consumers’ awareness and demand for different nutritional and health factors of the agricultural products becoming common. The consequences of aflatoxin have become an issue among all the value chain actors of these oil crops by demanding high quality products for both for processed and non-processed. This increased demand for better quality leads to a stronger focus on better post-harvest handling and storage techniques which the cooperative needs to consider to be a competent supplier. However, the capacity of the cooperative members and employees to practice the modern techniques of post-harvest handling and storing is limited. Therefore, the F2F volunteer is expected to fill this gap by providing practical technical assistance to the members, management committees and employees of the cooperative.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

This assignment is intended to provide the required knowledge and skills on improved post-harvest techniques and storage methods. The volunteer will provide technical support in the areas of:

1. Post-harvest processes such as determining maturity indices, drying, storage requirements including moisture content levels to maintain the integrity of the produce under storage, quality control and assurance, control of storage pests;
2. Provide recommendations on simple, cost effective storage facilities that have proved to work for other oil seed crop producers in other developing countries;
3. Basic understanding of how field infestations of insects and molds contribute to storage losses;
4. Aflatoxin development in the field and in storage, and how this can be minimized;
5. Alternative uses of severely infested oil crops;
6. Relationship between oil crop quality and food quality.

The volunteer together will provide training on the above mentioned topics for Alito staff and selected topics will target farmer members of the cooperative. The majority of training participants are illiterate or semi-illiterate, the volunteer is advised to prepare training materials with this in mind. Focus will be on practical demonstrations, pictorials, illustrations and less theory. Training venues are usually in a cooperative compound - office and storage facilities or under the tree/shade.

**Host contribution** – Alito Joint Farmers’ Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd has committed to mobilize the members and employees to the trainings to be conducted by the volunteer. The host/Alito will also avail all the necessary demonstration materials such as damaged crops, sacs, and threshing/shelling equipment if available that are believed to make the training more practical.

1. **ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

It is anticipated that the volunteer’s technical assistance to Alito Joint Farmers’ Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd in postharvest handling and storage management will provide the cooperative members and employees with improved techniques to implement, monitor and manage the overall process after harvesting. The improvement in post-harvest handling at members’ level will contribute to increased volumes of production to meet supplier demand for the cooperative and to ensure house hold food security and safe food consumption.

A guide line to support and monitor post-harvest process from the cooperative side will be designed that creates accountable system between members and the cooperative. Then farmers will be in position to plan harvesting and post-harvest handling at various stages for better quality and quantity. Farmers will also be in position to understand the relationship between quality and nutrition for improved health.

It is anticipated that once farmers start approaching postharvest handling from quality and quantity point, their nutrition and incomes will improve. This will enhance the living standards of the rural farmers in terms of housing, food security and meeting basic household needs while contributing to the larger goal of making a transition from subsistence to a health and cash economy, or the creation of wealth.

The anticipated deliverables include:

* Trainings conducted and people trained
* Training guidelines/manual developed
* Guideline for post-harvest handling management
* Debriefing with USAID and in country group presentations after assignment
* Field trip report and expense report
* Outreach activity, press release or a media event back in US

1. **SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN UGANDA**

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| Day | Activity |
| Day 1: | Travel from home to US international airport |
| Day 2 | Arrival at Uganda Entebbe Airport, picked by hotel shuttle to Kampala and check in at Fairway Hotel [www.fairwayhotel.co.ug](http://www.fairwayhotel.co.ug) |
| Day 3 | At 9.00 am the volunteer is greeted at the hotel by CRS staff and thereafter taken to CRS office for briefing and finalise with logistics. Any necessary training material will be prepared/printed at CRS offices before travel to the field. |
| Day 4 | Travel to Lira district to commence the assignment. |
| Day 5 | In the morning CRS introduces the volunteer to the Alito cooperative management team and board members.  Together with CRS and the management, the volunteer will review the SOW and develop the action plan. The host will give an update on previous volunteer assignments and farmer adoption of best practices.  In the afternoon, Visit some farmer fields for soyabeans and sunflower and existing storage facilities at the community level. The volunteer will also be given a tour/orientation of the host facilities and activities. |
| Day 6 | Visit more farmer fields and houses to look in to the storage mechanism and discuss on issues related with storage and post-harvest handling. In the afternoon, the volunteer will prepare materials in preparation for the first training day. |
| Days 7-8 | Training to the management team and selected board representatives |
| Days 9 - 10 | Training cluster group 1 (Farmer representatives from different subgroups) |
| Days 11 - 12 | Training cluster group 2 (Farmer representatives from different subgroups) |
| Day 13 - 14 | Training cluster group 3 (Farmer representatives from different subgroups) |
|  | Training cluster group 4 (Farmer representatives from different subgroups) |
| Day 15 -16 | Training cluster group 5 (Farmer representatives from different subgroups) |
| Days 17 | Wrap up meetings, whilst emphasizing key concepts of the assignment. Participants evaluate the training and together with the volunteer discuss final report recommendations.  End of assignment presentation. |
| Day 18 | Travel back to Kampala |
| Day 19 | Debriefing at CRS office with USAID Mission and CRS staff.  Volunteer finalizes his/her reporting at CRS office and fill out all necessary M&E forms as well as finalise liquidations with finance. |
| Day 20 | Depart for the US |
| TBD | Outreach event in the US |

1. **DESIRABLE VOLUNTEER SKILLS**

The volunteer will have the following qualifications and competencies:

* Formal qualifications in postharvest technology with bias in oil crops are desirable.
* Good knowledge on post-harvest handling and storage management of oil seeds and storage techniques in tropical developing countries
* Wide experience in working with commercial grain farmers and knowledge on farming in developing countries.
* Good writing and analytical skills, including good interpersonal communication
* Other required expertise may include wide knowledge on the range of post-harvest

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

In Kampala, the volunteer will stay at Fairway Hotel & Spa ([www.fairwayhotel.co.ug](http://www.fairwayhotel.co.ug)). In Lira; the volunteer will stay at Margaritha Palace Hotel.

CRS will pay for hotel accommodation, and provide volunteer with per diems to cater for meals and other incidentals. The volunteer may get an advance which has to be cleared before departing Uganda. For more information, please refer to country information that will be provided.

**G. RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS**

* CRS-F2F designs assignments with the assumption of some pre-departure preparation by the volunteer. Actual preparation time will vary based on the experience of the volunteer, as well as informational or training resources the volunteer has readily available. CRS relies on the volunteer to assess the tasks outlined in this SOW and to make his or her own judgment about how much and what kind of preparation is needed prior to arriving in Uganda
* The volunteer should prepare materials for hand out which can be printed at CRS office in Kampala before commencement of the assignment. Flip charts, markers, masking tapes can be obtained at CRS offices.
* CRS strongly recommends that the volunteer become familiar with CRS programs in Uganda, especially the oil seed crops country project description and other information in the briefing pack before arrival to Uganda

1. **Key Contacts**
2. **KEY CONTACTS**

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1. Royal Tropical institute (KIT)- Case study on Ugandan Oilseed sector [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Farmer to Farmer program -Oilseed Crops Country Project Description #2, 2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)