

**To express interest in this assignment please email** **Chi.Olisemeka@crs.org**

**CRS Farmer to Farmer Program**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

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| **Summary Information** |
| **Assignment Code** | **UG2111** |
| Country: | Uganda |
| Country Project: | Livestock |
| Host Organization: | Kyeyo Farm limited  |
| Partner: | N/A |
| Date of baseline data collection: | February 8, 2019 |
| Date of host agreement signing: | May 15, 2019 |
| Number of previous volunteer assignments: Note, if this is the first/new host, please discuss with Peter and Nyambura before you proceed | 2 |
| Volunteer recommendations given (Total): | 9 | Volunteer recommendations applied (Total): | 9 |
| Assignment Title: | Promoting best cashew nut agronomic practices  |
| Objectives of the assignment: | Help Kyeyo farm limited to understand the best agronomic practices in cashew plantations management productivity. |
| Assignment preferred dates: | November-December, 2022 |
| Desired volunteer skill/expertise | Relevant professional skills and practical experiences in fruit plantations management. Strong knowledge and expertise in Cashew farming. |
| Type of Volunteer Assistance | Technology Transfer (T) |
| Type of Value Chain Activity | Information and Input support services (S) |
| PERSUAP Classification[[1]](#footnote-1)[1] | II |
| Number of people to be trained | Men | Women  | Youths |
| 63 | 33 | 52 |
| Will the assignment address gender gaps? (Yes/No)If yes, please include these in the issues description | No |
| Will the assignment address climate change? (Yes/No)If yes, please include this in the issues description | No |
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1. **BACKGROUND**

The CRS Farmer-to-Farmer program (F2F) is a five-year (2019-2023) USAID funded program implemented with the primary goal of reducing hunger, malnutrition, and poverty across six countries: Benin, Timor-Leste, Ethiopia, Nepal, Rwanda, and Uganda. The program aims to achieve this goal through advancing inclusive and sustainable agriculture led growth aimed at generating sustainable and broad-based economic growth in the agricultural sector. The program’s secondary goal is to increase US public’s understanding of international development issues and programs and share the knowledge back in the US. To achieve these goals, F2F provides volunteer technical assistance to farmers and farmer groups (associations and cooperatives), private agribusinesses and agricultural education institutions to address key technical and institutional issues identified by the hosts in selected agricultural value chains. F2F volunteers are pooled from a broad range of US agricultural expertise including private farmers, university professors, bankers/certified accountants, animal health and nutrition specialists, soil scientists and agronomists who can provide technical assistance to the local host organizations. The program introduces new innovations and skills to develop local organizations’ capacity to participate in more productive, profitable, sustainable, and equitable agricultural systems while providing an opportunity for people-to-people exchange within the agricultural sector. In Uganda, the F2F program focuses its technical interventions on the livestock and agribusiness value chains.

Cashew (Anacardium occindentale) is a hardy drought resistant tropical perennial tree crop with very long value chain that have vast economic and environmental. It strives best in dry areas with annual average temperatures above 28°C and having well drained deep sandy loam soils with high textural porosity. This makes it a very suitable commodity for dry cattle corridor areas of Uganda. Cashew is grown across the world including countries such as Mexico, Brazil, India, Philippines and other African Countries s including Nigeria, Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda among others Cashewnut offers enormous benefits including; Nutritional benefits where it provides macro and micro nutrients, such as protein, magnesium, zinc, copper, manganese a potential Source of vitamin C. Industrially, Cashewnut is used in manufacture of varnishes, typewriter rolls, industrial flooring tiles, gum, inks, oil cloth, paints, water-proofing paper, acid and alkali resistant cements, laminating resins among others. Economically, Cashew is a source of income for small holder farmers, provides employment opportunities and foreign exchange earnings for government. Environmentally, being a hardy drought resistant tree crop Cashew provides potential benefit to climate change mitigation especially for the dry land areas with annual average temperatures well above 28°C. This makes it very suitable for the cattle corridor districts of Uganda. On 16th October 2017 His Excellency the President directed Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) to integrate Cashewnut among the priority Commodities and to liaise with Uganda Cashewnut and Trees Limited (UCTL) for Development of Cashewnut Value Chain for improving livelihoods of smallholder farmers in the Cattle Corridor Districts of Uganda. In 2018/19, MAAIF developed a concept for Development of Cashewnut Value Chain in Cattle Corridor districts of Uganda. The concept was presented to various committees including the Development Committee (DC) of Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development (MFPED) but its still pending approval by MFPED’s Development Committee. Mr. Alex Lwakuba the Commissioner for Crop Production who leads the Task Force speaking at the signing in Kampala. A value chain analysis, a base line, a price policy and business models were developed for nursery operators and for processing.

In FY 2019/20, MAAIF through NAADS allocated funds amounting to 1 (One) billion shillings only for procurement of Cashewnut Seedlings of improved varieties. A total of 166,965 improved Cashewnut seedlings were procured in Season 2019A (Season1) and distributed to demonstration farmers which was then planted in 2,000 acres of land in 28 districts in the cattle corridor area of Uganda. This FY 2019/20, MAAIF ringed fenced up to 2 (two) billion shillings for procurement and distribution of Cashewnut Seedlings of improved varieties to demonstration Host Farmers in season 2019B (season 2). In September 2019 MAAIF initiated the procurement of 333,333 seedlings of improved Cashewnut Varieties worth 2 billion Uganda Shillings. In collaboration with Uganda Cashewnut and Trees Limited, Nursery Operators were identified, inspected and up to 171 Nursery operators submitted bids, evaluated and have signed contract with MAAIF to supply up to 333, 333 seedlings of improved Cashewnut varieties AA7, AC4, AC43, AZA2 and AC10 in season 2020A. The start-up seedlings was provided to farmers in 42 districts along the dry cattle corridor areas of Uganda including districts in the sub regions of Karamoja, Teso, Lango, Acholi, WestNile, Parts of Central and Southwestern Uganda. In 2019, MAAIF in collaboration with Uganda Cashewnut and Trees Limited drafted Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to support promotion of Cashewnut Value Chain in Uganda. This step was in the form of signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding with the organized farmers under the umbrella Uganda Cashew and Trees Limited in Kampala.

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

The Kyeyo Farm limited has ventured in cashew production and have established over 200-acre plantation. Being a new venture in the country, many farmers including Kyeyo lack the general skills in cashew production. Among the challenges Kyeyo is experiencing include:

- Improved techniques of the cashew plantations management,

- Improved techniques of the cashew plantations maintenance,

- Training of the field team and the farmers on the rehabilitation of plantations techniques,

- Pest and disease management.

To help improve productivity and production levels, Kyeyo requests CRS Farmer-to-Farmer volunteer assistance to equip farmers with the technical knowledge on basic agronomic practices to be able to produce cashew on a commercial scale. By providing technical assistance in this area, Kyeyo will acquire skills in land preparation, seed selection, pest and disease identification and control, timing of planting, proper spacing, weed control plantation malmanagement and maintenance. Providing skills in the best agronomic practices isa envisaged to increase crop efficiency and production volumes. The increased productivity will lead to increased income generation and associated nutritional benefits to the population. Furthermore, farmers will be able to market the surplus and generate income for their households.

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The main objective of this assignment is to provide skills in best plantations management techniques to improve productivity. The assignment specific objectives include:

- Assess the ongoing practices and technologies of the cashew plantations management about production practices including planting, maintenance and harvesting,

- Make a participatory diagnosis of the cashew plantations problems,

- Discuss with the farmers some affordable improved practices and technologies,

- Train the farmers on the most important improved technologies and practices

- Make some recommendations that can help improved cashew production

-Develop a manual guide on best agronomic practices

**Target Audience:** This will include all the farm team.

**Host contribution:** Kyeyo management has committed to mobilize its team of staff, field workers to participate in the trainings to be conducted by the volunteer.

**ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

Through the volunteer technical assistance, Kyeyo will adopt best practices that improve production and productivity of cashew plantations. In addition, this assignment will extend skills to farmers surrounding Kyeyo farm, thereby expanding cashew catchment area through trickle down effects.

The anticipated deliverables include:

* Trainings conducted and people trained
* Manual developed on best agronomic practices
* Debriefing with USAID and in country group presentations after assignment
* Field trip report and expense report
* Outreach activity, press release or a media event in US and Uganda
1. **SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN UGANDA**

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| Day | Activity |
| Day 1 | At 9.00 am, the volunteer is greeted at the hotel by CRS staff and thereafter go to CRS office for introductions and briefings including host brief, logistics and expectations and anticipated outcomes. Hand-outs will be prepared at CRS offices.  |
| Day 2 | At 9.00 am, the volunteer is greeted at the hotel by CRS staff (George or Robbinah) and thereafter go to CRS office for introductions and briefings including host brief, logistics and expectations and anticipated outcomes. Hand-outs and other study materials will be prepared at CRS offices and thereafter travel to Kyeypo farm in Nakaseke  |
| Days 3-5 | Assess the ongoing practices and technologies of the cashew plantations management about production practices including planting, maintenance and make appropriate recommendations |
| Day 6-7 | Make a participatory diagnosis of the cashew plantations problems and make appropriate recommendations |
| Days 8-9 | Discuss with Kyeyo team and interested neighbouring farmers some affordable improved practices and technologies and make appropriate recommendations |
| Days 10-11 | Train the farmers on the most important improved technologies and practices and make appropriate recommendations |
| Day 12 | Wrap up trainings and emphasize key concepts of assignment to entire team. Participants evaluate the training and together with the volunteer discuss final report recommendations. |
| Day 13-14 | Develop a manual guide on best agronomic practices  |
| Day 15 | Debriefing at CRS office with USAID Mission and CRS staff.Volunteer will finalize his/her reporting at CRS office and fill out all necessary M&E forms as well finalize advances and expenditures with finance. |
| Day 16 | Depart for USA |
| TBD | Outreach event in the US**Note:** ***This is a draft schedule that will be finalized based on volunteer actual dates of availability, Sundays are typical rest days and working on Saturday is, per the host’s request*** |

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

In Kampala, the volunteer may stay at Fairway Hotel & Spa ([www.fairwayhotel.co.ug](http://www.fairwayhotel.co.ug))

While on the assignment, the volunteer may stay at farm house or any identified hotel in Nakaseke The volunteer will work accompanied by Kyeyo farm staff in the farm.

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

**F. RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS**

* CRS-F2F designs assignments with the assumption of some pre-field departure preparation by both the US and local volunteers. CRS relies on the volunteers to assess the tasks outlined in this SOW and to make their own judgment about how much and what kind of preparation is needed prior to field travel.
* The volunteer should prepare materials which can be printed at the CRS office in Kampala before commencement of the assignment. Flip charts, markers, and masking tape can also be obtained at the CRS office.
* CRS strongly recommends that the volunteers become familiar with [CRS programs in Uganda](https://www.crs.org/our-work-overseas/where-we-work/uganda), especially the agribusiness country project description.

**REMOTE/LOCAL VOLUNTEER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (if the assignment is carried out by a remote pair)**

Both volunteers participate in a call to discuss the assignment’s objectives and their approach to collaboration at the start of the assignment. Collaboration platforms vary depending on the type of assignment and degree of connectivity. The most frequently used platforms are MS Teams and WhatsApp. The volunteer is highly encouraged to visit [CRS’s F2F Digital Resource Library](https://f2flibrary.crs.org/Presto/home/home.aspx?_ga=2.141716784.32617302.1616765386-2022794543.1567520784) and search for resources that they can use or customize for training. Upon completion of the assignment, volunteers are requested to send any resources they would like to contribute to the library (whether created or found) to farmertofarmer@crs.org.

The local volunteer is responsible for assignment design, preparation, training, developing assignment reports, conducting action planning with hosts and outreach in country, and achieving the assignment objectives. The local volunteer works directly with the host with assistance/input from the US volunteer. Assignments usually last up to 2 weeks, sometimes extending beyond two weeks due to pending follow up visits, emails etc. Local volunteers are asked to track assignment hours per day, to stay under 112 hours (14 days x 8 hrs).

Remote support from a paired US volunteer helps provide supplementary training resources, fill in the gaps for technical areas, and share creative ideas and solutions. Two specific responsibilities are to: (i) complete the outreach component of the assignment and (ii) support the in-country volunteer as needed. US volunteers typically dedicate 4-8 hours per week, depending on the nature of the assignment and degree of collaboration.

**G. KEY CONTACTS**

To express interest in this assignment, please email the CRS Baltimore contact listed below. To find out additional information about the host, issue description or field conditions, please email the country contact provided below, copying the CRS Baltimore contact**.**

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| **CRS Baltimore** |
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| **Host Organization:** |
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1. [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)