 

**Farmer to Farmer East Africa**

**Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work**

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| **Summary Information** | |
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| Assignment Code: | UG35 |
| Country: | Uganda |
| Country Project: | Oil Seed Crops Country Project |
| Host organization: | Iganga District Farmers Association (IDFA) |
| Assignment Title: | Agronomic practices for Soya bean and Groundnuts production |
| Type of Volunteer Assistance: | **Technology Transfer (T)** |
| Type of Value Chain Activity: | **On Farm Production (F)** |
| Preferred assignment dates: | May-June , 2015 |
| Objective: | Provide framework for best agronomic practices to enhance production. |
| Desirable Volunteer Knowledge and Skills: | Agronomy specialist |

1. **BACKGROUND**

The Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) East Africa program is a program that leverages US volunteer’s 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. Through F2F, CRS will improve the livelihoods and nutritional status of significant numbers of low income households by: i) broadening their participation in established commodity value chains as producers and service providers; ii) strengthening community resilience to shocks such as droughts, that adversely affect livelihoods; and iii) preserving/enhancing natural resources upon which most rural communities depend. CRS will also increase the American public’s understanding of international development programs and foster increased cross-cultural understanding between host countries and US volunteers.

Uganda considers oilseed crops as one of several strategic commodities to spearhead the transformation of the agriculture sector from subsistence to commercial farming. The government strategy is to increase production of raw materials including increasing the production of sunflower and groundnuts. Developing the oilseed crops subsector supports Uganda’s agriculture strategy, increases smallholder incomes and strengthens Uganda’s position among regional markets. Moreover, oilseed crops improve household nutrition in addition to being lucrative cash crops. The F2F Uganda oilseeds project target groundnut, soybean and sunflower value chains.

Recent data indicates that Uganda’s edible oil demand stands at 120,000 MT against a production capacity of 40,000 MT, resulting in a deficit of 80,000 MT annually. Uganda’s high edible oil demand is due to its varied usage throughout the country. Vegetable oil is not only used for domestic cooking, but also for commercial baking, the food service industry and the manufacture of detergents. Vegetable oil demand has continued to outstrip supply, forcing the country to rely on imports.

There are several constraints to oil seed crops value chain identified limiting the productivity and ability for smallholders to earn incomes from oil seed crops farming including lower producer knowledge of proper agronomic practices, limited accessibility to improved varieties of seed, high post-harvest losses, weak producer associations, deteriorating land resources, poor market linkages and credit access.

Bukawa area cooperative enterprise limited is a cooperative registered by the registrar of cooperatives in Uganda in 2004. The cooperative was formed with the objective of increasing the quantity and quality of cereal crops, especially maize, in order to increase household incomes. The cooperative is involved in activities like; farmer mobilization, enterprise selection, training of members in good agronomic practices, post-harvest handling techniques, bulking and marketing of farmers’ produce, analysis and dissemination of market information at an elementary level.

Bukawa ACE ( Area Cooperative Enterprise) has diversified into oil seed crops (Soybean and groundnuts) as new enterprises; they need a lot of support for these enterprises in terms of agronomic practices, marketing, streamlining of the records system. For the purpose of this assignment, the focus will be on provision of skills of agronomic practices to member farmers.

1. **ISSUE DESCRIPTION**

The oil crops sub-sector is dominated by small scale farm operators. Whileimproved production techniques are key to realizing meaningful and economic yields from farmers’ investments, farmers generally lack adequateknowledge on proper agronomic practices. Additionally, a very low extension staff to farmer ratio (1:1000) contributes to generally poor access to extension services by the farmers. The rural small scale farmers are equally financially constrained and cannot effectively demand for extension services.

The low level of extension contact with farmers has been reported to be worse in the remote districts of the country such as Iganga district. These farmers also have limited access to agricultural inputs due to economic reasons. For example, inorganic fertilizers, which are the most handy soil amendment inputs, are quite expensive, with costs at about shs.50, 000 per 50 kg bag. Considering that farmers may need between 4-5 bags an acre, the total cost becomes quite prohibitive. More so, limited avenues for farmers to obtain production credit to buy quality seed/certified seeds, herbicides and pesticides also clearly limit the farmer output and income.There is a general lack of knowledge of some basic production management practices, whichinclude timely land preparation and planting to enable a growing crop to utilize all therain that is available in the season. Others include appropriate spacing and soilfertilization.The situation can be said to be even worse in the case of soybean and ground nuts especially to new farmers trying the crops for the first time. Training farmers in the district on relevantagronomic practices of soybean and groundnuts production is very crucial to maximize yields. It is against this background that Bukawa ACE is requesting for F2F technical assistance.

1. **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The specific objectives for the volunteer will be to provide technical support in the areas of:

1. Basic agronomic practices such as seed bed preparation, timely planting, row cropping, intercropping, optimum plant population, fertilizer application, pest and disease identification and control.
2. Volunteer recommends appropriate agronomic/production and harvesting practices.

The volunteer will work towards attaining the aforementioned objectives at two levels: The training is targeted for selected lead farmers and Bukawa ACE field staff whose capacity will be developed as farmer trainers. These will continue the farmer training to reach all the member farmers. In addition to the training, the volunteer will be expected to develop a training guide to be used by extension staff for future reference during farmer trainings.

As for the staff, the volunteer will take 2-3 days with them, at the organisation’s head office covering (1-2) above and thereafter will be part of FG (Farmer Groups) trainings to further enhance their skills.

For the RPO (Rural Producer Organisation) farmer groups (FG) training on 1-2 above, the volunteer will train at least five groups of 15 – 20 members each. The volunteer will give each group two days for the hands-on training and evaluation, at their FG meeting venue, in the villages.

Nature of training participants;

The target group for this training are majorly farmers who are illiterate adults, it’s imperative that the volunteer tonns down the training material for easy understanding, try to use illustrations as much as possible, less of the lecturing and more practical/hands on skills. However the extension staff from the host organisation are educated with some experience working with rural farmers, the training for this particular group can be more intense so that they can acquire as much knowledge and skills for training other farmers.

1. **ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT**

By providing this assistance, farmers will acquire skills in land preparation, seed selection, pest and disease identification and control, timing of planting, proper spacing, and weed management. As a result of the training, it is anticipated that soybean and ground nut production volumes will increase and this will translate into increased incomes at household level and the community at large.

In addition, the Volunteer will develop soy bean and ground nut training manual for both the farmer level- and organisational level – training.

The anticipated deliverables include:

* Trainings conducted and people trained
* Training guidelines/manuals developed
* Debriefing with USAID and in country group presentations after assignment
* Volunteer feedback
* Field trip report and expense report

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 Fairway airport shuttle to Kampala and check in at Hotel. |
| Day 3 | 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 4 | Travel to Iganga district to commence the assignment. |
| Day 5 | In the morning CRS introduces the volunteer to the Bukawa ACE management team. Together with CRS and the management, the volunteer will review and finalise the work-plan. The action plan should include group presentations to be done after the assignment. In the afternoon, visit some of the Bukawa ACE RPO farmer organizations (FGs). |
| Days 6 | Group 1:Training FG members on objectives 1-2; and make appropriate recommendations |
| Day 7 | **Rest day** |
| Day 8 | Complete training group 1 |
| Days 9-10 | Group 2: Training FG members on objectives 1-2; and make appropriate recommendations |
| Days 11-12 | Group 3: Training FG members on objectives 1-2; and make appropriate recommendations |
| Days 13 | Group 4: Training FG members on objectives 1-2; and make appropriate recommendations |
| Day 14 | **Rest day** |
| Day 15 | Complete training for Group 4 |
| Days 16-17 | Group 5: Training FG members on objectives 1-2; and make appropriate recommendations |
| Day 18-19 | Training Bukawa ACE staff on objectives 1-2; and make appropriate recommendations. |
| Day 20 | Wrap up trainings and emphasize key concepts of assignment. Participants evaluate the training and together with the volunteer discuss final report recommendations. |
| Day 21 | **Rest day** |
| Day 22-23 | Develop a training guide on best agronomic practices |
| Day 24 | End of assignment presentation and Volunteer travels back to Kampala |
| Day 25 | 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 26 | Depart for USA |
| TBD | Outreach event in the US |

1. **DESIRED VOLUNTEER QUALIFICATIONS**

* Formal qualifications in crop agronomy(butwith broad knowledge of crop production in tropical conditions)
* Wide experience dealing with oil seed crop production
* Other required skills may include knowledge of other important aspects of the soybean and ground nuts value chain.
* Good writing skills

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

In Kampala, the volunteer will stay at Fairway hotel, www.fairwayhotel.co.ug. While at the host in Iganga, the volunteer will stay at Hotel Continental. The hotel has all the basic facilities such as running water, electricity and internet.

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.

**Host contribution** – Bukawa ACE has committed to mobilize the RPO FGs members to the trainings to be conducted by the volunteers. The ACE personnel will work closely with the volunteer, providing translation during the preparations and actual trainings, to ensure that key staff are trained and will continue training other farmers even after the assignment is completed.

1. **RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATION**

* 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 in case the volunteer wishes to make some illustrations. Depending on the training venue the volunteer may use a laptop and projector for power point presentations. However if the training venue is in the community, it will be difficult to use PowerPoint. In this case the volunteer will be expected to prepare training materials and have hand-outs printed at CRS offices for distribution to the participants.
* CRS strongly recommends that the volunteer becomes familiar with the Oil seed country project description prior to arrival in the country as well as country information that will be provided.
* Knowledge on other oil seed crops such as sunflower and sesame is also advised.

1. **KEY CONTACTS**

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