

VOLUNTEER REPORT

To be submitted to CRS at the end of volunteer assignment and shared with the Host

1.1 Assignment information

- a) Volunteer Name: **Udai Bishnoi**
- b) Host Organization: Bukusu Area Cooperative Enterprise
- c) Assignment: UG42 Agronomic Practices for Soy bean and Sunflower
- d) Dates of Assignment: January 6th – 29th, 2016
- e) Number of days worked: 21 days

1.2.1 Objective 1 in your SOW: Equip farmers with knowledge and skills in good Agronomic practices of sunflower and soybeans

- a) Progress with the objective: All latest agronomic practices listed in SOW not only sunflower, soybeans but for ground nuts and sesame were taught and demonstrated
- b) Expected impacts/results: If agronomic practices taught are adopted by the farmers, yields of their crops will increase by at least 50%
- c) Recommendations¹: Farmers need further assistance from the ToTs/Village Agents
Bukusu Yetana ACE field staff need to develop a marketing strategy'

1.2.2 Objective 2 in your SOW: Improve farmers' knowledge in pest and disease identification and control

- a) Progress with the objective: all major pests and diseases and their control for soybean, sunflower, groundnuts and sesame were discussed
- b) Expected impacts/results: If farmers will be able to identify and control the disease and pests in these crops – their production will increase from total failure to 100% increase in yield.
- c) Recommendations: Farmers need to know the names of insecticides, fungicides and herbicides approved to control insects, diseases and weeds in soybeans, sunflower, sesame and Ground nuts

1.2.3 Objective 3 in your SOW: Same as # 1

- a) Progress with the objective
- b) Expected impacts/results
- c) Recommendations:
 - A training manual on agronomic practices of oil seed crops has been prepared for use by ToTs and farmers. A copy was handed over to the manager
 - Bukusu Yetana ACE/ToTs must explain all agronomic practices to all or some lead farmers. BYACE must make arrangements for fertilizers, soil test kits, recommended chemicals for prospective oil seeds crop producers.

¹ **Note:** Only make not more than 6 recommendations. The most useful recommendations for hosts are ones that they can implement themselves with minimal expense. For example, a cooperative might change its financial reporting procedures or hold more regular meetings of its board. Broad recommendations on tax or credit reform, changes in government policy, or investment in large-scale equipment, are usually not within the host organization's reach.

- BYACE must develop a small farmers' service and crop marketing hub so that farmers are able to get farm supplies and best prices for their produce.

1.3 Action Plan

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
Make manual available to field staff and ToTs	Re-type manual and spiral bind	Manager BYACE	February 20, 2016
Contact Agribusiness stores for accessing agro-inputs for farmers	Prioritize on Agro-input stores located in Mbale	Manager and staff	End of February 2016
Farmers need to know the names of insecticides, fungicides and herbicides approved to control insects, diseases and weeds in soybeans, sunflower, sesame and Ground nuts	F2F should provide the list of approved chemicals from the PERSUAP document to BYACE manager	Maria- F2F Uganda	End of February, 2016
Translate manual in local language	Need translation and typing – submit a copy of manual to CRS	Manager and Field staff	End of February 2016
Organize farmers service and marketing hub	Call meetings and make laws	Board members & Management	June 30, 2016
Bukusu should produce their own seed of recommended variety of oil seed crops	Select lead farmers to initiate seed multiplication process	Lead/skilled farmers and BYACE staff	By August 2016
All lead farmers must work with their spouses and attend all meetings together	BYACE needs to make this necessary	Chairman and BYACE Manager	March 1, 2016

1.4 Number of people Assisted

- Through formal training: 296
- Through direct technical assistance (Do not double count): 30 (24 male, 6 Female)
- Out of these above, number of host staffs: 5 all male
- Training/assistance by field

Category	Total	Males	Females
Members/ owners	291	201	90
Employees	5	4	1
Clients/ Suppliers			



Family Members			
Total	296	205	91

1.5 Gender

- a) What gender roles did you recognize in your host community? Did these roles play a part in your assignment? How?

About 35% women participated in the training sessions, about 10% male and 5% female were very active in questions and discussions and some farmers showed their crops and some brought crop plants with problems for discussion. Most men who attended the trainings left their wives at home to attend to the farm work and household chores

- b) How might CRS or the host organization improve opportunities for the women in this host or host community? CRS and the host can ask each participant especially farmers to bring their spouses for the training sessions as well as independent women farmers

1.6 Value of volunteer contribution in \$ **7,170**

- a. Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment: About 120 Hours
b. Estimated value of all material contributions volunteer contributed to host during assignment; Soybean encyclopedia- \$ 120

1.7 Value of hosts' contribution: \$ **644.45**

- a) Meals : \$ 23.05
b) Transportation: \$ 341.18
c) Lodging: \$ 0
d) Translation:\$ 172.89
e) Others: photocopy of volunteer handouts- \$ 3.60, farmer mobilization- \$ 43.22, Training venue- \$ 60.51

1.8 Host Profile Data:

Did you obtain any data that supplements or corrects the data in the existing host information as detailed in the SOW? Please list it.

None

1.9 Recommendations for CRS:

- CRS to ask the host to train ToTs and village agents to translate the manual into local language and thereafter train farmers in small groups of 10 or so.
- Ask BYACE to organize farmers' service and marketing hub. A sheet of details on how to go about with this has been given to the host



1.10 Press Release:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Huntsville Area Volunteer, Travels to Uganda to Share Skills with Local Farmers

**Farmer to Farmer program promotes economic growth and
Agricultural development in East Africa**

Udai Bishnoi, an agronomist from **Huntsville, Alabama** travelled to **Uganda** for **four** weeks to share his technical skills and expertise with local farmers. Udai's assignment is part of Catholic Relief Services' Farmer-to-Farmer (FTF) program that promotes economic growth, food security, and agricultural development in East Africa.

"The oil seed production training to small holder farmers will improve their economic well-being," said **Udai Bishnoi**.

Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the five-year program matches the technical assistance of U.S. farmers, agribusinesses, cooperatives, and universities to help farmers in developing countries improve agricultural productivity, access new markets, and increase their incomes.

In **Uganda**, **Udai Bishnoi** worked with **Bukusu Yetana ACE** in **On Farm Production** training and giving technical assistance on agronomic practices for soybean, sunflower, sesame and Ground nuts to small holder farmers to enable them to **adopt best agronomic practices to enhance production of oil seed crops**. Up to 296 beneficiaries were reached.

Udai Bishnoi's volunteer assignment is one of nearly 500 assignments that focus on agriculture, food security and nutrition in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. This is the first time CRS has been involved in the 28-year-old Farmer-to-Farmer Program funded by the U.S. government.

CRS is partnering with five U.S. institutions to tap into the rich diversity of the U.S. agriculture community: the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Foods Resource Bank, National Association of Agricultural Educators, American Agri-Women, and the University of Illinois' College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

The U.S. volunteers will travel to East Africa for anywhere from one to six weeks, their expenses covered by USAID.



“One thing we are certain of is that this program will be beneficial not just to the farmers in East Africa, but also to the volunteers from America,” said Bruce White, CRS’ director for the program. “It’s going to make the world a little bit smaller for everyone involved.”

For more information, visit farmertofarmer.crs.org

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Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. The agency alleviates suffering and provides assistance to people in need in nearly 100 countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality. For more information, please visit crs.org or crsespanol.org.