



**Volunteer Name:** Nicole Bridges

**Country:** Ethiopia

**Country project:** Horticulture Production and Sector Support

**Host Organization:** Robe women saving and credit multi-purpose cooperative, Kofelle

**Host partner:** Social and Development Coord Office of Arsi-Robi, Kofelle

**Venues:** CRS training facility, Kofelle

**Audience:** members of the women coop

**Number of people trained/assisted:** 36 (33 female and 3 male)

**Date/duration:** Jan 26-Feb 10,2016/ 12 days



## Assignment Objectives as in SOW

- Increased shelf-life of vegetables through reduction in post-harvesting handling and management
- Develop simple post-harvest handling guidelines on vegetables
- Provide training and technical assistance on vegetable agronomic practices



## 2. Achievement of the assignment objectives

- Materials provided to CRS training staff for post-harvest loss management. Included is 20+ pages of information on how to build more sound post-harvest facilities for vegetable crops.
- Training related to organic pest control was delivered, addressing the snail problem effecting cabbage using a technique called a 'beer trap.'
- I also delivered training related to the concept of inter-cropping, developing two demonstration plots at the CRS facility, and provided group members with seed to try on their own farms. 20 members of the group received two different kinds of seeds, through a donation from my parents. They have been advised to use these seeds to practice inter-cropping on their own farms.

## Beer Trap-Organic pest management





### **3. Recommendation to the host against the assignment**

- Hold trainings related to post-harvest loss management using the provided resources. Build a 'mound' or 'ground cellar' at CRS facility to use as demonstration.
- Follow up with members of the group to see how they have integrated inter-cropping into their farming practices.
- Continue to provide training related to organic pest management



- **Others: Recommendations**

1. Continue trainings related to inter-cropping, organic pest management and post-harvest loss prevention.
2. Connect with ADM, a US based company with funding available for post-harvest management in developing nations.
3. Hold one day workshops for girls and boys aged 7-18-building skills and relationships. Replicate Camp Globe, with assistance from Peace Corps.





## 4. Anticipated Impact

- Through continued intercropping, farmers should expect to experience:
  - Increased yields
  - A decline in pest and disease damage
  - Improved soil quality
- Through a continued partnership with CRS, I hope that resources can be brought to the area through opportunities available through the Post-Harvest Loss Prevention Program instituted through ADM.



## **5. Recommended future volunteer Assistance**

- Future volunteers should continue to provide trainings related to organic pest management, a major problem identified by the group.
- In conjunction with CRS staff, a volunteer could hold a hands-on training to build a mound, or cellar on the CRS site to show the women how one is built and how it can be used to store vegetables. I have provided resources for a future volunteer and/or CRS staff to develop this training at a time that is more appropriate for the harvesting of vegetables such as potatoes.





# Inter-Cropping





# Planting in Unison





# Field Training





# The Oromo Culture





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***Thank You!***