



## VOLUNTEER REPORT FORMAT

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

### 1.1 Assignment information

- a) Volunteer Name: **Jonas Carpenter**
- b) Host Organization: **Kawayo Village**
- c) Assignment: **TZ 27**
- d) Dates of Assignment: **2/6/2015 – 2/25/2015**
- e) Number of days worked: **15**

#### 1.2.1 Objective 1 in your SOW:

**Good horticultural practices training - the right technology from nursery management, planting, harvesting and maintenance of onions and other crops**

- a) Progress with the objective:

**Spent lots of time training farmers on soil health and fertility. They are good farmers – hard working, organized and getting decent yields. Most of the problems lie in the lack of organic matter in the soils and the depleted biology. This caused by over cultivation, exposed soils, and excessive use of pesticides, herbicides, fungicides and synthetic fertilizers.**

- b) Expected impacts/results

**Increased adherence to organic farming principles are expected by a core group of 5-7 farmers. They will be able to lead by example. The reduction of reliance on the outside inputs of industrialized agricultural products is also expected.**

- c) Recommendations

**The incorporation of more organic matter is top priority to maintain future yields and soil health. This can be accomplished in many ways; spreading manure from local sources onto fields, adding cover cropping to their rotations, keeping the soil mulched with plants cut from the bush, bring animals into the fields post harvest or in between plantings (pigs, chickens, goats, sheep, cattle), begin making compost and spreading over fields or adding to planting holes and to allow more resting periods between cropping. Farmers need to transition away from using insecticides and towards natural alternatives to pest control (neem, lantana, soap, pyrethrum, bacterial sprays). There is also a need to increase the biological health of the soils. This can be accomplished by less tillage, increase of organic matter/mulching and spraying with compost teas. All soil tests of Ph levels indicate alkaline soils of 8+ on the ph scale. The addition of sulfur and organic matter should help bring soils back to a more productive neutral level.**

#### 1.2.2 Objective 2 in your SOW:

**Crop rotation best practices for the variety of crops grown by the groups using onions as the base crop**

- a) Progress with the objective

**There was an emphasis placed on increased crop rotations – less monoculture, more diversity. Increase of crop rotations will increase yields, reduce impact of soil borne pathogens, reduce loss of crops by pests and provide farmers with a more diverse offering to retail markets.**

- b) Expected impacts/results

**More crop planning and rotations of annual vegetable crops are expected. Also, the incorporation of cover crops into the fields is expected.**

### c) Recommendations

There is great need to move towards a more balanced, less disturbed ecosystem. If long term cropping is to be expected the incorporation of perennial crops is a must. This can be accomplished by planting field edges (windbreaks, hedges), avenue or alley cropping, edge planting of waterways, and incorporating trees into pasturelands. There are so many yields from the perennial backbone these fields need - tropical forests store most of their fertility in living plant matter, not like the forests in temperate zones which store most of it the soil. The yields include; fruit production, mulch production, fertility in the form of nitrogen fixing species, soil stabilization, areas of non-tilled fungal dominant soil, fodder production, firewood, timber, medicine, preservation of native species, fiber, habitat for wildlife, shade for animals, shade for understory plantings, windbreaks and stream stabilization. Current selection of vegetable types and varieties are limited. Adding more diversity is a must.

#### 1.2.3 Objective 3 in your SOW:

**Plant protection best practices for the host environment for onions and the other horticultural crops**

##### a) Progress with the objective

The common pest and disease problems were discussed and identified. Most problems are caused by plant stress (soil depletion), lack of diversity in the system (monocultures), too much water at one time (soil borne pathogens spread by water), excessive chemical use (death to soil biology, plant burn), or lack of rotations between plant families.

##### b) Expected impacts/results

More diversity in plantings and rotations are expected. Limited use of chemicals and more use of natural remedies are expected.

##### c) Recommendations

Similar to other recommendations: increase organic matter in soils, diversify species in fields, better crop rotations, use of natural remedies, foliar sprays of compost teas to encourage healthy bacteria on leaf surfaces, and decreased mentality/usage of chemicals to "kill the enemies."

#### 1.3 Action Plan

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
1. Increase organic matter in soils	Add manures, cover crops, mulch all bare soil	Kawayá farmers	It is a continual process
2. Move animals into fields	Build chicken and pig tractors - movable housing that allow animals to work the soil in the fields	Kawayá farmers	As soon as possible
3. Lower Ph in Soils	Add sulfur and organic matter	Kawayá farmers	As soon as possible
		Kawayá farmers	As soon as possible

<b>4. Get a more in depth soil test completed</b>	<b>Work with extension officer or CRS, or get a soil test kit</b>		
<b>5. Improve vegetable crop rotations/diversity</b>	<b>Create crop rotation plan that includes strips of crops, rather than whole field plantings. Plant more diverse range of vegetables</b>	<b>Kawaya farmers</b>	<b>Immediately</b>
<b>6. Plant more perennials</b>	<b>Plant edges with mulch, fertility, fruit crops</b>	<b>Kawaya farmers</b>	<b>During the wet season/ immediately</b>

#### 1.4 Number of people Assisted

- a) Through formal training: **91**
- b) Through direct technical assistance (Do not double count): **27**
- c) Out of these above, number of host staffs: **n/a**
- d) Training/assistance by field

<b>Category</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
Members/ owners	<b>91</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>27</b>
Employees			
Clients/ Suppliers			
Family Members	<b>144 – School Children</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>101</b>
Total	<b>235</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>128</b>

**These are the totals for all attendance. On average I had a core group of 4 men and 2 women.**

#### 1.5 Gender

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

**It seems that the men hold more authority in the village decision making processes, but women play a key role in management of agricultural production. The men farmers seem to make the decisions of what crops to grow and where the money is spent. The women farmers in my core group exhibited the best practices though. They were ahead of the men when it comes to incorporating cover crops, cultivation of perennial crops and using natural fertilizers and pesticides.**

- b) How might CRS or the host organization improve opportunities for the women in this host or host community?

**Create a program for women farmers. Bring in more volunteers who are women farmers.**

#### 1.6 Value of volunteer contribution in \$2,625 – 15 days, 7 hours a day @ 25/hr



- a. Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment **Before departure – 10 hours\ During program – 25-30 hours**
- b. Estimated value of all material contributions volunteer contributed to host during assignment **n/a**

1.7 Value of hosts' contribution in \$ (Please consult the host as well) **n/a - CRS paid**

- a) Meals
- b) Transportation
- c) Lodging
- d) Translation
- e) Other (Specify)

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.

**It does not appear that Green Rain has much if anything to do with supporting the farmers at Kawaya Village. The might have supplied onion seed initially.**

1.9 Recommendations for CRS:

- A) The SOW could give more specific information about current operations and expectations of the volunteers. The SOW gave a brief overview, but when getting to the sites on day one I felt unprepared and uninformed. More groundwork done by CRS would be helpful in better identifying the problems faced by the village, what groups/alliances already exist, and what kind of training/information the actual farmers want.**
- B) I think that working with the same group for two weeks was limiting to the amount of people who could commit. My core group was great and we were able to use the time to go into great depth about subjects. The longer session also allowed for a strong foundation to be laid and for each sections to build on the last. Perhaps breaking it up into different groups within the village and spending a couple days with each would be best. Or perhaps weekend training sessions where participants spend most of the day with the volunteer in the classroom setting and then spend the week doing in the field touring and problem solving. More in the field touring and discussions with farmers would have been nice.**
- C) When there are two volunteers in the same area, I think it will be best to have a driver for each. Having to coordinate two villages schedules together was sometimes challenging. Also, having to drop off Rachel and Sebastian first, left them waiting around a lot. It also put a lot of pressure on Peter and I to finish as early as possible. Some days this was very difficult considering farmers run on their own time.... Some days it left Sebastian and Rachel waiting for several hours. It is nice to have the time in the car together to discuss things and to save on gas, but it would be more efficient to have separate vehicle.**
- D) CRS might want to consider providing some sort of incentives for the farmers to draw in more participants. It was told to me that a lot of the farmers did not attend because they were not being given money or anything for coming, as they had gotten before from other trainings. I**



don't think money is the answer but rather food, seeds, cover crop seeds, in depth soil testing, notepads and pens, print outs, or t shirts. Perhaps even developing some sort of certificate for the training.

- E) It has been requested that CRS help the Kawayi village obtain more soil testing. I think doing this would build a stronger connection and show the farmers who don't want to come just to learn that CRS is helping in a very tangible way.
- F) Getting any maps ahead time from the villages would be very helpful. I tried to get some, but it never happened.
- G) A dry-erase or chalk board would be a great investment for volunteers to have. It will save on paper too!
- H) The hotel in Boma was very accommodating. The staff was so nice and quite helpful. The unreliable water was the only issue. For \$65 a night it seems unreliable water is unacceptable.
- I) In the future it might be best to place volunteers in Moshi for this area work. There are more options for the volunteers to seek out and Boma is kind of a chaotic place. Also, the translators are traveling from there each day and the volunteers could meet them and leave from there. Just a thought
- J) It might be a good idea to have food made for the villagers one day that utilizes a wide diversity of vegetables. It seems that one limiting factor to the farmers expanding their production to more vegetable crops is that they aren't familiar to the use of those crops in the kitchen.
- K) Future specialized trainings might include: Soil Testing/Analysis, Aquaculture, Post Harvest, Water Storage, Rotational Animal Grazing, Cover Cropping, Tree Crops, Retail Market Development
- L) This was a wonderful experience and I would love to find my way back to East Africa with FTF again.



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Bloomington, Indiana Area Volunteer Travels to Tanzania to Share Skills with Local Farmers**

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

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**Bloomington, Indiana Area Volunteer Travels to Tanzania to Share Skills with Local Farmers**

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

Jonas Carpenter, a Farmer from Bloomington, Indiana travelled to Tanzania for 2 ½ weeks to share his/her technical skills and expertise with local farmers. Jonas'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.

"Farmer to Farmer has been a very rewarding experience as a teacher and a farmer. I have learned a lot from the practices of the Kawayia Village farmers and about farming in semi-arid tropical climates. Teaching through a translator has helped me become a more concise and focused instructor. FTF is a great program and resource for African and American farmers" said Jonas Carpenter.

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 Tanzania, Jonas worked in a village called Kawayu. Organic production training and technical assistance was given to vegetable farmers to enable them to increase productivity and quality of produce through organic means. They focused on building long term soil health and fertility by incorporating manure, compost, cover crops, perennial mulch/fertility crops and animals into the fields. A core group of 6-8 farmers met daily and up to 40 farmers reached were reached. Jonas also held two classroom sessions with over 75 secondary students focusing on agro-ecology.

Jonas'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](http://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](http://crs.org) or [crsespanol.org](http://crsespanol.org).*