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Volunteer Name: Steve Hallett, Marcia Croft

Country: Ethiopia

Country project: Horticulture Short Course

Host: Debre Berhan University

Venue: On Campus

Audience: Staff and Masters students, Ag
College

Number of people : 20

Date: 24-27 Aug, 2017



1. Assignment Objectives as in SOW

Teach Horticulture Short Course

2. Achievement of the assignment objectives

Course was taught. Facilities were modest, but adequate. No trips were made to outlying farms, but the college farm (undeveloped) was used as a venue for participatory farm-development project.

Classes varied from the technical to theoretical. They appeared to be well received.

A focus emerged on land/soil protection, soil building, and sustainability.

3. Recommendations to the host with regards to the assignment

- Follow through on the farm development project.
- Try to integrate farm development with livestock people (for manure for composting) and campus food service (for composting food wastes and sales of horticultural crops)
- The university is very new. It lacks facilities but seems to have some very good staff, and Tsigemariam Bashe appears to be an outstanding, energetic leader. I think there is great potential here.
- Any building of capacity in active and experiential learning that can be done will be very valuable. The farm could help with that, if a way can be found to develop it. The key will be organization and collaboration, not technology...

4. Anticipated Impact

- Although a very short course, only a few days, I hope the course delivered both some new techniques and also some new ways of thinking.
- A receptive class, open to hearing outside views and, to some extent, debating them.
- About 6-7 of the staff, mostly in the 25-30 year age range (my guess), both male and female, showed

5. Recommended future volunteer Assistance

- The Ag College at DBU is still young, and lacking in infrastructure, but the staff are energetic, and keen to engage in change, and to learn. Further investment in the staff of the college is warranted.

6. Recommendations to other non-host stakeholders

- Debre Berhan University is a new institution, only ten years old. It lacks facilities and equipment, but has some excellent young staff and an energetic young Dean, Tsigemariam Bashe. DBU seems needful and worthy of investment in order to bring quality education to this part of the Ethiopian highlands.

Action plan for host recommendations

I recommend investments in any infrastructure that will enable increased capacity for active learning and experiential learning. Agriculture classes practicals, demonstrations, and hands-on experience.

I hope that the college will consider the development of the space designated for the horticulture farm. A farm run by/with students that integrates into the rest of the campus could have significant power to elevate the reputation of the university and improve learning opportunities.

7. How can CRS improve future volunteer experience

- Nothing suggested. The CRS F2F program runs beautifully. I particularly appreciate the focus on simplicity and smooth-running while minimizing costs.

Thank You!