

**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: Aboubacar Diagne
- b) Host Organization: Catholic Relief Services
- c) Assignment: Agronomic of Groundnut production
- d) Dates of Assignment: 4/29/2017-5/19/2017
- e) Number of days worked: 22 days

**1.2.1 Objective 1 in your SOW**

Basic agronomic practices such as seed bed preparation, timely planting, row cropping, intercropping, optimum plant population, fertilizer application and soil management, pest and disease identification and control

- a) Progress with the objective: 100% achieved
- b) Expected impacts/results: Farmers who attended the respective trainings acquired the skills in seed bed preparation, seed selection, choice of market types and varieties, the timing of planting, proper spacing/row cropping, intercropping, optimum plant population, fertilization issues and soil management, pest and disease identification and control. In addition, attendees were exposed to different types of fertilizers, the application of fertilizers and calculations associated with fertilizer utilization. Farmers have a practical knowledge of soil PH, its significance, the interpretation of the results of soil PH tests, and how to adjust soil PH to fulfill crop requirements.
- c) Recommendations<sup>1</sup> of appropriate agronomic/production and harvesting practices

1) Seed selection and Market types:

This step in peanut production is a good preventative measure. A varietal choice applicable to the localities available. Some high yielding groundnut varieties are 55 437, 73 30, GC 8 35 and others.

The two market types commonly grown in the area are cultivars of the Spanish and Virginia groups. Seeds from the Virginia group will last longer in the fields and require more moisture than seeds from the Spanish group.

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<sup>1</sup> **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.



*Recommendation 1:*

Systematize the utilization of cultivars from the Spanish group for the long rainy season (6 months) in the district to get two harvest or have a mix of the varieties from the Virginia group and the Spanish group for the season.

2) Soil type and fertilization:

The soil type, composition and its level of fertility have a great effect on the efficiency of applied fertilizers and will impact peanut production. Sandy and loamy soils are suitable for growing peanuts. Unfortunately, sandy soils have a low water retention and tends to be deficient in nutrients, in particular boron. Boron is the most important micronutrient contributing to the kernel quality and pod production. Nutrient deficient fields will give lower yields than the ones well fertilized. In Tonkolili district, growers indicated that that small, depressed seeds and poppy seeds are common at the time of harvest. The symptoms are linked to nutrient deficiencies, in particular calcium. More affordable forms of fertilization (Farmyard manure) is available to farmers. At this point, the utilization of organic matter is limited and not integrated in the farming practices of the district.

*Recommendation:2:*

Choose a light-colored, well drained sandy loam soils for growing groundnuts. Clay soils should a good structure, or friable for groundnut production.

*Recommendation 3:*

Plow early in the season instead of plowing days before planting

*Recommendation 4:*

Well composted organic matter can be applied to peanut in field productions. Do consider manure applications (15-20 t per ha).

3) Soil PH and fertility issues:

Soil tests from three farmer fields were typical of this ecology. Results showed acidic soils. Groundnuts prefer slightly acidic to neutral soils. In strongly acidic soils (pH 5 or less) nodulation on the root system is impeded. As a result, nitrogen deficiencies can be noticed. This situation can be corrected by using amendments to increase nodulation.

*Recommendation 5:*

Utilize calcic lime to raise the pH on strongly acidic soils

### 1.2.2 Objective 2 in your SOW

Volunteer recommends appropriate agronomic production and harvesting practices

- a) Progress with the objective: 100% achieved
- b) Expected impacts/results: Groundnut production require a basic understanding of agronomic recommendations collected from the body of scientific experimentations and various farming experiences. Dim Din members of the Federation are trying to improve their ways of conducting their field operations. These oilseed growers are able to select the best practices (reduction of crop losses, post-harvest handling) and include them in their itineraries. By doing so, the opportunity of increasing their yield and total output will be increased. The economic gains will reflect positively in their lives and by extension, the life of the community.

#### c) Recommendations

#### 4) Mature versus immature seeds:

Immature seeds have a higher moisture content than mature seeds. As a result, immature seeds Present a perfect medium for fungal growth.

Recommendation 6:

Remove the immature seeds before storing the groundnut harvest.

### 1.3 Action Plan

| Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Specific Action | Responsible person | By when                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Recommendation 1:</b><br><br>Systematize the utilization of cultivars from the Spanish group for the long rainy season (6 months} in the district to get two harvest or have a mix of the varieties from the Virginia group and the Spanish group for the season. | Implementation  | Dim Din Farmers    | Before planting (Mid April) |
| <b>Recommendation:2:</b><br><br>Choose a light-colored, well drained sandy loam soils for                                                                                                                                                                            | Implementation  | Dim Din Farmers    | Before planting             |

|                                                                                                                                                                |                |                 |              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| growing groundnuts. Clay soils should a good structure, or friable for groundnut production.                                                                   |                |                 |              |
| <b>Recommendation 3:</b><br><br>Plow early in the season instead of plowing days before planting                                                               | Implementation | Dim Din Farmers | Mid April    |
| <b>Recommendation 4:</b><br><br>Well composted organic matter can be applied to peanut in field productions. Do consider manure applications (15-20 t per ha). | Implementation | Dim Din Farmers | Mid March    |
| <b>Recommendation 5:</b><br><br>Utilize calcic lime to raise the pH on strongly acidic soils                                                                   | Implementation | Dim Din Farmers | Mid March    |
| <b>Recommendation 6:</b><br><br>Remove the immature seeds before storing the groundnut harvest.                                                                | Implementation | Dim Din Farmers | Harvest time |

#### 1.4 Number of people Assisted

- Through formal training 231 trained ( 109 women)
- Through direct technical assistance (Do not double count)
- Out of these above, number of host staffs
- Training/assistance by field

| Category           | Total | Males | Females |
|--------------------|-------|-------|---------|
| Members/ owners    | 231   | 126   | 109     |
| Employees          |       |       |         |
| Clients/ Suppliers |       |       |         |



|                |  |  |  |
|----------------|--|--|--|
| Family Members |  |  |  |
| Total          |  |  |  |

#### 1.5 Gender

- a) What gender roles did you recognize in your host community? Did these roles play a part in your assignment? How? I did not recognize specific gender roles in the host community. Women were actively involved in the host community. Many women are represented in the leadership of Dim Din Farmers Federation.
- b) How might CRS or the host organization improve opportunities for the women in this host or host community? By bringing in more female volunteers specialized in Agronomy.

#### 1.6 Value of volunteer contribution in: \$ 15 per hour

- a. Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment: 50 hours
- b. Estimated value of all material contributions volunteer contributed to host during assignment  
\$ 6.00 (Ph meter)

#### 1.7 Value of hosts' contribution in \$ 10 (Please consult the host as well)

- a) Meals
- b) Transportation
- c) Lodging
- d) Translation
- e) Other (Specify): Fruit (mangoes, pineapples)

#### 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 them. I did not obtain any data that supplements or corrects the data in the existing host information as detailed in the SOW.

#### 1.9 Recommendations for CRS: No recommendation

#### 1.10 Press Release

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**VOLUNTEER CONTACT:** [Aboubacar Diagne]

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## **[Orlando] Area Volunteer Travels to [Sierra Leone] to Share Skills with Local Farmers**

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

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** [Aboubacar Diagne]  
[Agronomist]  
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## **[City] Area Volunteer Travels to [Country] to Share Skills with Local Farmers**

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

[Aboubacar Diagne], an [agronomist] from [Orlando, FL] travelled to [Sierra Leone] for [3] weeks to share his/her technical skills and expertise with local farmers. [Diagne]'s assignment is part of Catholic Relief Services' Farmer-to-Farmer (FTF) program that promotes economic growth, food security, and agricultural development in West Africa.

**“[Interacting with the Tonkolili oilseed growers was a mutually beneficial experience],”** said [Diagne].

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 [Sierra Leone], [Diagne] worked with [Dim Din Farmers Federation] in [groundnut] training and giving technical assistance to [farmers] to enable them to [provide framework for best agronomic practices to enhance production]. Up to [ ] beneficiaries were reached. [Other details are optional]

[Diagne]'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 West 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).*