



## 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 :John Groninger
- b) Host Organization:Archdiocese of Arusha
- c) State of origin Illinois
- d) Assignment: TZ55: Support the Catholic Archdiocese of Arusha with land use planning and conservation agriculture best practices for its' Canaan Farmland
- e) Dates of Assignment: January 2-January 16 (travel dates included)
- f) Number of days worked 11

### 1.2.1 Objective 1 in your SOW

To support the archdiocese develop land use planning for the Canaan farm in order to properly utilize the 128 acres land resources to ensure higher productivity that also takes care of the environment

#### a) Progress with the objective

A plan was developed in consultation with key staff within the Archdiocese that addressed myriad of conservation, sustainable agriculture, and other environmental services consistent with present and anticipated future land uses.

#### Expected impacts/results

Reduce the costs of protecting key infrastructure from severe gully erosion. Increase the economic productivity, utility, and aesthetic beauty of the site. Beneficiaries include the orphanage, People living or owning property downstream, people living within the view shed, visitors interested in learning about sustainable agriculture and conservation practices, pilgrims and others using the site for spiritual uplift and contemplation.

#### Recommendations<sup>1</sup>

Consult the plan documents and revise when necessary to inform land management at Canaan, Monduli Juu, and Karangai

### 1.2.2 Objective 2 in your SOW

Advise and/or design conservation agricultural practices that ensures preservation and /or enhancement of the natural resources of the area to include soil and water

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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.

a) Progress with the objective

A list of soil conservation practices was generated with specific recommendations as to their relative suitability to Canaan Farm and locations where these practices should first be attempted or where they should be further encouraged in the case of practices already in use on the farm. Secondly, a list of conservation agriculture practices to be established for income generation and demonstration was offered. Two additional farms, Monduli Juu and Karangai, were visited and recommendations were produced.

b) Expected impacts/results

Income generation for the Archdiocese. Opportunities to disseminate useful practices for visitors to the farm.

c) Recommendations

Stop overgrazing on vulnerable lands and institute sustainable grazing principles

Institute conservation farming practices at Karangai

Crop and land protection at Monduli Juu

Conduct reforestation at Canaan Farm

### 1.2.3 Objective 3 in your SOW

To enable this Archdiocese farm serve as a model farm for the surrounding community of small holder farmers surrounding the farm, the congregations and visitors visiting the Canaan Spiritual Centre.

a) Progress with the objective

Options for disseminating information were discussed with key personnel and included in the management plan..

b) Expected impacts/results

Visitors will have the opportunity to learn sustainable agriculture and conservation practices both passively, through placement of practices within easy view of areas with high visitor use and actively through formal demonstration of management practices by farm personnel.

c) Recommendations

Demonstration of sustainable agriculture on all farms

### 1.3 Action Plan

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
1. Consult the plan documents and revise when necessary to inform land	N/A		Ongoing as needed

management at Canaan, Monduli Juu, and Karangai			
2. Stop overgrazing on vulnerable lands and institute sustainable grazing principles	Provide training and supervision for herders. Monitor vegetation and soil. Reduce herd size or provide additional livestock feed to prevent grazing during periods of vulnerability		Immediately and continuously, with monitoring during the rainy season and when available vegetation for grazing is becoming scarce
3. Institutes conservation farming practices at Karangai	Institute a fallow period		As soon as current crops are harvested or abandoned
4. Conduct reforestation at Canaan Farm	Plant and protect trees at Canaan Farm according to priorities listed in the Canaan Farm Land Use Plan		Beginning in conjunction with grazing management and until desired vegetation cover is established
5. Crop and land protection at Monduli Juu	Invest in a hedge or fence at Monduli Juu farm		As soon as is feasible
6. Demonstration of sustainable agriculture on all farms	Selected practices outlined in Canaan Farm Land Use Plan. Additional practices are already underway		During the weeks prior to planting or establishment season

#### 1.4 Number of people Assisted

- Through formal training 0
- Through direct technical assistance (Do not double count) 4
- Out of these above, number of host staffs 4
- Training/assistance by field

Category	Total	Males	Females
Members/ owners			
Employees	4	4	0
Clients/ Suppliers			
Family Members			
Total	4	4	0



### 1.5 Gender

- a) What gender roles did you recognize in your host community? Did these roles play a part in your assignment? How? NA
- b) How might CRS or the host organization improve opportunities for the women in this host or host community? NA

### 1.6 Value of volunteer contribution in \$

- a. Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment 40
- b. Estimated value of all material contributions volunteer contributed to host during assignment 0

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

- 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. No

### 1.9 Recommendations for CRS:

Update pre-trip literature regarding revised health requirements for entry into Tanzania. Revise the statement suggesting reimbursement of the \$100 visa fee would occur during the briefing. Instead, the fee will be reimbursed afterward meaning. This proved not to be a big problem but I had \$100 less in cash during my stay in Tanzania than I had planned.

Regarding the press release, consider sharing this with the Diocese of Belleville (Illinois) since I am a parishioner at St. Andrew Catholic Church in Murphysboro.

### 1.10 Press Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Southern Illinois Volunteer Travels to Tanzania to Share Skills with Local Farmers**

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



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** [Name]  
[Title]  
[Phone]  
[E-mail]

# **Southern Illinois Volunteer Travels to Tanzania to Share Skills with Local Farmers**

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

John Groninger, a Forestry professor at SIU travelled to **Tanzania** for two weeks to share his technical skills and expertise with local farmers. John'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 focus of my project was natural resources conservation as farmers are dealing with degraded soils and the challenges of farming on hilly land. It was amazing how well our experiences in southern Illinois translated to the situation in Tanzania. My hosts were very good farmers but they seemed to benefit from a fresh point of view, especially when it came to dealing with erosion problems. I'm looking forward to sharing this experience with my students at SIU.**

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, John worked with the Catholic Archdiocese of Arusha in conservation agriculture training and giving technical assistance to farm managers to enable them to effectively and efficiently utilize the land resource for agricultural production in order to finance the Archdiocese development and evangelical work. Those directly impacted by this work included an orphanage and people living in the surrounding city and villages.

John'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).*