



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**Volunteer Name: Jeffrey Lynn Knowles**

**Country: Uganda**

**Country project: Maize**

**Host: Nkoma ACE, RPO's Kidanduma, Kaberebere,  
Mabale, Nkoma, Kabingo,**

**Venue: CRS Office**

**Audience: AOR from USAID, F2F staff, CR and other  
volunteers in country ( Katherine & Madeleine)**

**Number of people : 6**

**Date: September 3, 2015**



# **1. Assignment Objectives as in SOW**

- 1) Build capacity among farmers of the Nkoma ACE, to use and conserve land/soils through sustainable land management practices.
- 2) Provide a road map for Nkoma ACE members for addressing challenges of soil degradation in a sustainable manner using available resources at the farm level

## **2. Achievement of the assignment objectives**

Two hundred and three farmers received direct training which will allow them to begin immediate implementation of conserving soils and improved yields within a short period of time. The chairman and managers of the ACE and RPO's now have the capacity to teach all farmers within their respective areas of responsibility. One demonstration of a compost bin was constructed at the Bisozi Catholic Church. The priest of the Bisozi Church will share with parish members and RPO leaders will be able to use the demonstration site to model at the own RPO. Each RPO is being asked to install a demonstration compost bin and a demonstration farm with constructed composting facilities, so 5 additional compost bin demonstration plots will need to be established and 6 minimum demonstration farms need to be established.

### 3. Recommendations to the host with regards to the assignment

- 1. Identify a farmer within each RPO to implement the **Minimum Tillage** Best Management practice and use his farm as a demonstration farm for neighbors within his community. The farmer needs to allow entrance to his farm for his neighbors and possibly to assist community leaders as in-field training events. Use the Job Sheet developed by Knowles and distributed by CRS as a guide
- 2. Identify a farmer/church within each RPO to implement the **composting** BMP and use his farm/church as a demonstration farm for neighbors within his community. The farmer/church needs to allow entrance to his farm/church for his neighbors and possibly to assist community leaders as in-field training events. Use the Job Sheet developed by Knowles and distributed by CRS as a guide
- 3. Follow the BMP **Nutrient Management** Purchase and acquire one soil test kit for each RPO so the farmer can determine what nutrients are lacking within the soil. Stop all sales of commercial sales until soil test kits and soil testing is completed. Refer to the Nutrient Management BMP job sheet for information on acquiring soil test kit. Ensure the soil test kit test has the ability to test the soil for for N, P, K, Soil PH, Soil organic matter.
- 4. Complete training on soil erosion/conservation and the B. M.P.'s recently provided to 5 RPO's. The Nkoma producer & Marketing Team missed the training due to a conflict with a local farmers market

## **4. Anticipated Impact**

- 1) It is anticipated there will be wide spread acceptance of the 3 primary BMP's and the BMP's will be implemented throughout much of the ACE.
- 2) Upon implementation of the BMP;s, significant reductions in soil erosion will occur as well as improvement in the health of the soil. Soil quality will greatly improve which will have a direct impact on the ability of the farmer to increase yields and improve the quality of life for farm families.
- 3) It is anticipated that the suggested BMP's can be used in many areas of Uganda resulting in similar benefits where ever the BMP's are applied.
- 4) It is believed that 90% of the organic currently being burned by farmers can be composted to make a high quality, organic soil additive.
- 5) The reduction in fires will result in improved health for humans because much of the smoke in fires contain carcinogens similar to tobacco smoke. In addition a reduction in burning will result in less carbon being released into the atmosphere.
- 6) The increase in ground cover will allow plant life and crop residues to capture carbon and store in the soil. Soils have a tremendous ability to store vast quantities of atmospheric carbon.

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

- Request CRS to recruit an expert in coffee production and marketing. The trainer should be well versed on; pest control within coffee fields, weed control, pruning, fertilization needs, processing, harvesting and marketing of coffee

## **6. Recommendations to other non-host stakeholders**

- NONE

# Action plan for host recommendations

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
1. Identify a farmer within each RPO to implement the <b>Minimum Tillage</b> Best Management practice and use his farm as a demonstration farm for neighbors within his community. The farmer needs to allow entrance to his farm for his neighbors and possibly to assist community leaders as in-field training events. Use the Job Sheet developed by Knowles and distributed by CRS as a guide	Identify a farmer whom will implement the BMP- <b>minimum tillage</b> . Farm will be available as a demonstration and educational tool to assist in wide scale community acceptance.	Nkoma ACE chair and manager. RPO chair and managers of Kidunduma, Kaberebere, Mabale, Nkoma RPO Kabingo	As soon as possible!!! No later than 12/31/15
2. Identify a farmer/church within each RPO to implement the <b>composting</b> BMP and use his farm/church as a demonstration farm for neighbors within his community. The farmer/church needs to allow entrance to his farm/church for his neighbors and possibly to assist	Identify a farmer whom will implement the BMP- <b>composting</b> . Farm will be available as a demonstration and educational tool to assist in wide scale community	Nkoma ACE chair and manager. RPO chair and managers of Kidunduma, Kaberebere, Mabale, Nkoma RPO Kabingo	As soon as possible. No later than 12/31/15



## **7. How can CRS improve future volunteer experience**

- 1) The exchange rate for large bills, \$100 US bills, receive a higher exchange rate than \$20 US bill. Large bill receive an exchange rate of 3400-3500 shilling/dollar versus 2900 shillings for \$20. Please advice future volunteers of this.
- 2) I crossed 13 time zones and it took 38 hours from my home in Kealahou, Hawaii to arrive at the hotel in Kampala. I was extremely de-hydrated upon arrival and required 5 IV's at a local hospital and a day of rest prior to moving to assignment location. I would recommend trips that require the crossing of more than 6-8 time zones, that the volunteer be given the opportunity to spend a night at a hotel at a half way point.
- 3) Future volunteers should be housed at the Club Africa co-location instead of Club Africa.

***Thank You!***