

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: **Srinivasa Rao Mentreddy**
- b) Host Organization: Primary Host – Nile Pro Trust Ltd (however he worked with consortium partners -WENAC including ARUDFA, WENIPS, other stakeholders in the oil seed crops value chain). ARUDFA and WENIPS are part of F2F hosts
- c) Assignment: Providing guidance on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures along the oil seed crops value chain
- d) Dates of Assignment: July 8th – 28th, 2017
- e) Number of days worked: 16 days

1.2.1. Objective 1:

1. To train and empower WOSSIP members, local governments in the West Nile region, the District Farmers Associations (DFAs), Higher Level Farmers Organizations (HLFOs), produce buyers, Processors and Millers with skills and knowledge on sanitary and phytosanitary issues, measures and controls to act and ensure surveillance and compliance by different actors along the oilseed crops value chain.

a) **Progress with the objective**

Since my arrival in Arua on July 11, training sessions ranging from a minimum of 2 hours to more than 5 hours were held daily for several groups of farmers, primarily women, extension service professionals, District level administrators on the importance and the need for sanitary and phytosanitary measures along the oilseed production chain. The training sessions, audience, and content are described in the attached detailed summary. Meetings were arranged with all groups except local seed buyers. Only two oilseed processors were met with in an informal atmosphere.

b) **Expected impacts/results**

The sanitary measures beginning with variety selection to harvesting and post-harvest of oilseed crops if followed, will result in clean, weed, insect, and disease free seed for sale by farmers;

Farmers have been made aware of sustainable production practices and modern agriculture using fertilizers and chemical means of insect and disease control to ensure clean, high quality seed of not only oil crops but any other crop. This will ensure transition of farmers to large-scale modern agriculture.

- c) **Recommendations¹:** Education of farmers using demonstrations of clean, modern methods of farming that integrate sanitary and phytosanitary measures at every level of the production system.

1.2.2 Objective 2

2. To orient and build community awareness on quality standards and requirements in the oilseeds markets and position the communities for sustainable access to the lucrative markets locally, nationally, regionally and globally and ensure increased farmers engagements in market oriented food safety and health care initiatives

- a) **Progress with the objective**

This objective could be partially fulfilled as there were no meetings with community members. However, several farmers were made aware of market driven production agriculture, food safety issues, and liabilities involved.

- b) **Expected impacts/results** Farmer accountability for producing high quality, toxic content-free seed.

- c) **Recommendations**

Train farmers in Book-keeping and simple farm economics with emphasis on cost: benefit ratios and net profits. Seeing profits increase after integrating clean production practices will stimulate the farmers to adhere to sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

1.2.3 Objective 3

3. To train and support the farmers on SPS measures and their control at the farm level and ensure compliance with quality standards at the production stage since this is a critical stage in the value chain to obtain lucrative and sustainable premium prices and ensure access for their produce to up-market regional and global markets and contribution to industrial processes.

- a) **Progress with the objective**

Three farmer groups of which two were women groups were beneficiaries of training sessions. All of these farmers were trained in sanitary and phytosanitary measures at the production, harvest, and post-harvest drying and storage of oilseed crops. The training was by verbal discussion supported by written points and illustrations on flip charts. One women farmer group were taught how to overcome drought conditions by harvesting rain water and storing it for use when needed. A rainwater storage demonstration was conducted as a collective activity. Farmers dug channel along the roof drip line and

¹ **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.

directed it to a large 3 m x 5 m x 1m sump lined with thick plastic to [prevent seepage losses].

Demonstration plots of soil solarisation using clear plastic and black plastic were also established as a group activity. This simple technique is used to kill weed seeds, insects, and disease organisms by generating high temperature and humidity under plastic. This is one of the methods for eliminating/minimizing pest prevalence and ensuring effective phytosanitary conditions.

b) Expected impacts/results

The farmers understand the need for choosing the right variety that is not only suitable for the environment, but also has resistance to multiple insects and diseases. They received hands-on training in rainwater harvesting and storage systems. Higher and better quality seed yields are expected if crops are protected from drought stress by providing supplemental irrigation using stored rain water.

- c) Recommendations:** The extension service professionals need to work with farmers on one-on-one basis with realistic goals, outcomes assessment, and impact assessments. Better prepare farmers to mitigate drought effects through rainwater/surface water storage, help farmers with construction of rainwater and surface water storage systems; Work with farmers in crop and variety selection (commodity group meetings; pre-season planning meetings, meeting farmers regularly during crop growing season to identify and scout pest prevalence, easy methods of pest avoidance, et.)

4. Develop sanitary and phytosanitary guidelines along the critical points (production, post-harvest handling and storage, transportation, processing & marketing) of the value chain that will be used by the different actors in the value chain in ensuring production and marketing of safe, quality oil seed produce and products that meet standard quality and safety regulations.

The elaborate training in production, harvesting and post-harvest handling including drying and storage will ensure safe and toxic contaminants-free grains for commercial use.

1.4 Action Plan

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
1. Identify soil testing and plant protection services for specific fertilizer recommendations, and disease and insect identification, and management.	a. Extension workers take soil, insects, and plants with disease infection to university or a suitable facility for testing.	a. Extension workers	a. October-November 2018
2. Improve record keeping of farmers, especially in crop and plant disease	a. Farmers write down crop	a. Extension workers	a. Season 2017B onwards

histories; simple production economics including cost: benefit ratios and net profits.	observations, inclusive of dates. b. Simplified template for farmer record keeping.	b. Rao, Luke, Aaron (former F2F vol), WENAC	b. End of season 2017B
3. Introduce new agricultural tools via showcasing and demonstrations.	a. WENAC extension workers identify well developed groups to showcase innovations and link with agricultural engineers/local fabricators to build implements.	a. WENAC management	a. Season 2018A
4. Explore new crops and techniques; for example safflower, canola, and a range of legumes for domestic consumption and/or export	a. Introduce new varieties with high potentials for productivity and climate resilience to WENAC farmers b. Increase the number of side by side field demonstrations	a. WENAC management b. Extension workers	a. Season 2018A onwards b. Season 2018A
5. Weather data collection for pest and disease outbreaks and harvesting timing	a. WENAC to seek ways to establish weather stations across West Nile sub-region	a. WENAC management	a. Long term plan (5 years)
6. Cooperative formation and strengthening	a. Ensure all WENAC producer organizations are linked to cooperatives with constitutions and by-laws b. Promote private sector investment in 5 seed processing/ distribution centers and 10 LSBs	a. WENAC management b. WENAC management, West Nile LSB society, District commercial officer	a. Season 2018A b. Season 2018
7. Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreements between WENAC and seed	a. WENAC engage private input dealers to purchase quality	a. District local governments b. WENAC management and	a. End of season 2017B b. End of season 2017B

companies, farmers and buyers	inputs for farmer organizations b. Create SPS policy documents for the 5 districts WENAC is implementing VODP2. c. Farmer cooperatives and buyers create MOU's	procurement department c. Cooperatives	c. End of season 2017B
8. Professional development of extension workers	a. Improve training manuals used by extension staff on SPS issues b. Adopt skills learned from training in WENAC training methodologies c. Improve accountability and impact assessments d. Identify partner(s) to construct or strengthen a technical school specifically for agricultural extension	a. Rao b. WENAC management c. WENAC M&E team d. Rao, CRS, WENAC, farmer groups, District Local Government, Private Universities	a. August 2017 b. August 2017 c. Season 2018A d. Long term (5 years)

1.5 Number of people Assisted: Numbers will be corrected based on actual attendance lists

- a) Through formal training (Classroom setup): >210
- b) Through direct hands on practical assistance (Do not double count): 22
- c) Out of these above, number of host staffs: 4
- d) Training/assistance by field

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

1.6 Gender

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

In most communities visited, women were the main agricultural workers; men play a supportive role. All farmers irrespective of gender were trained equally in my assignments.

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

Integrating home economics and encouraging both females and males to work together in record keeping and burden sharing might help.

1.6 Value of volunteer contribution in \$: $21 \times 470 = \$ 9,870$

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

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.

1.9 Recommendations for CRS:

Better prepare the host for the volunteer assignment.

A clear and more specific objectives for volunteers.

Advance information where possible, on the audience level, number, and level of their understanding will help design better/appropriate training materials in advance.

Adequate time in between training sessions to review and prepare for the next group of trainees will help.