



Assignment Information:

Volunteer Name:	Jill M. Motschenbacher
Host Organization:	Namungalwe Area Cooperative Enterprise (ACE)
Assignment: UG02	Postharvest Handling Training
Dates of Assignment:	May 5, 2014 – May 24, 2014
Days worked at Iganga:	16

A. Objectives on the Scope of Work (SOW):

The overall objective was to provide a road map for Namungalwe ACE to address postharvest challenges and improve farmers' knowledge in preventing on farm maize losses and improve on its quality through hands-on training in the best postharvest practices. Provide training on the above mentioned topics to 3 management staff of each of the 5 Rural Producer Organizations (RPOs) and 60 RPO farmers. The sub-objectives include:

- 1. Provide training and technical support on postharvest processes such as maturity indices, drying, storage, quality control and assurance, control of storage pests.**

Progress with the objective:

Completed as indicated.

Expected impacts/results:

I had a very successful turnout for the trainings a great interaction from the audience. I conducted separate trainings for the farmers and the staff. However, all of the staff at each RPO also attended the farmer training. I expect these changes to start taking place in the near future with the continued emphasis being encourages by Namungalwe ACE.

Recommendations:

I encourage the co-op and RPO representatives to continue the postharvest training to farmers that were not able to attend the training. I have left them will all of the necessary documents, posters, and materials to do so. Transition takes time, so it is essential to continue encouragement in improving postharvest practices.

- 2. Provide training and technical support about recommendations on simple, cost effective storage facilities such as drums, bins and other storage facilities that have proved to work for other grain producers in other developing countries.**

Progress with the objective:

Completed as indicated.



Expected impacts/results:

I think the process will take time to transition to. I do not think some of the farmers will invest in the equipment unless they see proven results that it will work. The idea of spending money is the reason the farmers will hold back. Unless they have assistance with purchasing the suggested hermetic bags, tarpaulins, and/or making drying cribs will not get done unless assistance in the transition is available.

Recommendations:

I think that the GrainPro bags and storage supplies would be a great asset to the area, but the idea was not so accepted as anticipated. However, the idea of building drying cribs was really accepted. I wrote up a proposal to try and obtain money that would help fulfill this need (see attached proposal). Also, the investment in plastic tarpaulins would greatly encourage the drying of the grain on a place other than the soil. In addition to drying devices, having access to moisture meters would probably improve storing moisture before it reaches the recommended level of < 13.5%, which would be very helpful for storage improvement.

- 3. Provide training and technical support on the basic understanding of how field infestations of insects and molds contribute to storage losses; aflatoxin development in the field and in storage, and how this can be minimized.**

Progress with the objective:

Completed as indicated.

Expected impacts/results:

I really paid special attention to emphasizing the soil contaminations, in terms of insects and moulds. Also, I emphasized proper ways to keep the moisture dry at maturity in the field and after removal from the field. The motto I stressed was to “keep grain dry, off the soil/ground, and be vigilant on every step of the postharvest handling and storage”. I also trained on aflatoxin in maize grain and how it affects grain quality.

Recommendations:

I think GrainPro bags and the constant encouragement of drying and maintaining dryness will drastically improve the insects and moulds, thus decrease storage losses.

- 4. Provide training and technical support on alternative uses of severely infested maize grains.**

Progress with the objective:

Completed as indicated.

Expected impacts/results:

I demonstrated through animated pictures how grain can be solarized if an insect infestation occurred in stored grain to kill the insects. I recommended that the grain be burned if it is severely infested with mould because feeding infested grain to animals could make them sick.



Recommendations:

Training needs to continue on this topic in the future.

5. Provide training and technical support in the relationship between grain quality and food quality.

Progress with the objective:

Completed as indicated.

Expected impacts/results:

I went over the grain quality standards for East African Maize. Almost everyone wrote down the percentages of allowable grain that is broken, damaged, moldy, infested with insects, etc. The idea of increasing income was the best motivator for the farmers. I also talked about why the quality standards are set and the idea of better nutrition and food safety with increased quality.

Recommendations:

Like the other topics, more training can keep emphasising this idea.

B. Number of People Assisted:

Topic/field	Total	Males	Females
Postharvest Handling and Storage – Formal Farmer Training 7 Sessions	156 *Includes both farmers and Co-Op representatives	104	52
Postharvest Handling and Storage – Formal Host Staff Training 2 Sessions	(26) **	(24)**	(2)**
Soil Health, Management Training – 1 Session	(12) **	(10)**	(2)**
Soil Sampling Training with Field Demonstration – 2 Sessions	(31)**	(29)**	(2)**
Direct Technical Assistance	(1) **	(1)**	(0)**
Total	156	104	52



*Includes both farmers and Co-Op representatives

**Included in overall total – Supervisors and Head Farmers were double or tripled trained in numerous sessions

C. Gender:

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

There was only one woman in a supervisory role within the co-op (Winnie, RPO manager). Although there were a few acceptations, it appears that women are primarily the field labor, which limits their income possibilities. Although women attended the trainings, they did not ask as many questions as the men. However, the men seem to respect the women being there, which was a surprise to me because this has not been the case in many of my past experiences.

I would like to see more women have more of the authoritative roles within the co-op. I would also like to see that women are provided with training on any machinery received in the area during the development in the future. This will allow them to have more opportunities to acquire better paying positions.

2. How might CRS or the host organization improve opportunities for the women in this host or host community?

Perhaps CRS can provide a special training session for the women only. This way the women could be more open about their needs if the men were not present. They currently raise the children, do field work, and sell the produce/grain at the market, in addition to other household tasks. Maybe there could be a workshop that will create unity among the local women so they can better feed their families. Furthermore, they might be more acceptable of newer technologies because they are doing most of the grain handling during the postharvest.

D. Value of volunteer contribution:

- 1. Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment: 50+**
- 2. Estimated value of all material contributions volunteer contributed to host during assignment: \$250 - Paper, pens, candy, hand outs, report covers, gifts, etc.**

E. Value of hosts' contribution:

- 1. Meals– (\$0)**
- 2. Transportation –** Arranged times for transportation to and from location for the day (\$350)
- 3. Lodging – (\$0)**
- 4. Translation –** 2 staff members provided translation during the assignment (Almost always Badru, 2 times Peter) (\$131)
- 5. Other –** Provided data sheets on yields and helped give the information to write to a proposal in hopes of future funding for drying cribs



F. 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.

The area is organized into 7 Rural Producer Organizations (RPO) that are organized under the Namungalwe Area Cooperative Enterprise (ACE), instead of the 5 mentioned on the SOW, The Namungalwe ACE is a registered cooperative in Trade and Industry (registration No. 9855/RCS) and is currently and consistently working on strengthening farmer membership and involvement. Currently, Namungalwe ACE has about 630 members spread out among the seven RPO locations. Of these members, there are two fulltime staff members, a Manager and a Production Officer, who are responsible for the implementation and organization of activities that will allow the Cooperative to educate and assist local farmers in agronomic and business practices. The seven RPOs under Namungalwe ACE include Akanabala Namunkanaga, Namungalwe, Bonanzer, Bulumwaki, Bufutula, Nawansega, and Namungalwe Development Foundation (DF).