

## 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: David Ringuette
- b) State of Origin Hawaii
- c) Host Organization: Ethiopian Catholic Church-Social and Development Coordinating Office of Adigrat (ECC-SDCOA)
- d) Assignment: ET99
- e) Dates of Assignment:14/4/17-3/5/17
- f) Number of days worked 10

#### 1.2.1 Objective 1 in your SOW

Train farmers on the basic science of vegetable production

- a) Farmers were taught how water and nutrients move in a plant. Identify nutrient deficiencies and correct them. Application of IPM for pest management. Practice field sanitation and crop rotation. Identify and monitor pests. Apply appropriate control measures. Tilling the soil at the proper moisture to reduce soil clumping. I also encouraged them to use spent coffee grounds as a fertilizer.
- b) Expected impacts/results Estimated 15% increase in marketable produce and a greater self reliance on making farm decisions
- c) Recommendations<sup>1</sup>Collect and apply coffee grounds. Utilize IPM techniques

#### 1.2.2 Objective 2 in your SOW

Train on irrigation and crop water requirements

- a) All farms are irrigated using the furrow method. Drip was tried and failed due to poor water filtration. Furrow irrigation inherently has low water distribution efficiency method of water application, but it is the most appropriate method. Crop water use tables were provided to staff along with crucial crop phases for water. The farmers were shown the sponge technique for illustrating how water in soil moves . The bottle technique was demonstrated to minimize water stress during important crop phases.  
Farmers were all part of the area water users group. The problem is that they are allocated water based on a calendar and not crop requirements. Another issue for those on pumped water is the inconsistent electrical supply which shuts off the pump (renewable energy sources?)
- b) Expected impacts/results Using the bottle technique should increase tomato yields by 20%
- c) Recommendations Place perforated water bottle between tomato plants. Fill with one half cup manure and 1 liter water

#### 1.2.3 Objective 3 in your SOW

Nursery management and harvesting

- a) Staff was trained on using ash to store tomatoes. Farmers were trained harvesting techniques. Early morning, when tomatoes are breaking, and cleaning with 10% bleach prior to shipment.

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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.

Farmers applied too much manure to the nurseries and I encouraged them to use a manure solution instead.

- b) Expected impacts/results Longer shelf life and a higher quality of produce reaching the market
- c) Recommendations Harvest crops in the early morning and tomatoes at the break stage

### 1.3 Recommended future volunteer assignment

Fruit / vegetable preservation

Farming as a business

### 1.4 Action Plan

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
1.Increase soil fertility	Collect spent coffee grounds	All agents	1/5/17
2.Pest management	Crop rotation	10% farmers	1/5/17
3.Soil pH	Apply lime/eggshells	All agents	1/9/17
4.			
5.			
6.			

N.B. Action plan developed by staff of SDCOA

### 1.5 Number of people Assisted

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

Category	Total	Males	Females
Members/ owners	54 (b)	41	13
Employees	26 (a)	20	6
Clients/ Suppliers			
Family Members			
Total	80	61	19

### 1.6 Gender

- a) What gender roles did you recognize in your host community? Did these roles play a part in your assignment? How? As the data shows a third of the participants are female. The women asked questions and were as involved in the trainings as the men. N.B. Driving to site one day I noticed a group of men and women around a field being plowed. We stopped and found out that the women were being trained in plowing. It seems single family women were being charged 50% of crop proceeds for the plowing service. I hope more women will learn to plow their fields.

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

1.6 Value of volunteer contribution in \$ 45

- a. Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment 22
- b. Estimated value of all material contributions volunteer contributed to host during assignment \$100

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

- a) Meals \$35
- b) Transportation
- c) Lodging
- d) Translation \$100
- 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.

None

1.9 Recommendations for CRS: This is a dedicated, hospitable host. Continue working with them on future F2F assignments

After aphids, caterpillars are the most observed pest. CRS should work to get Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) into Ethiopia. This is an organic insecticide for caterpillar control.

1.10 Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Hawaii Farmer Works with Counterparts in Ethiopia

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

**Honolulu, Hawaii May 2017** David Ringuette a Farmer from Kaneohe, Hawaii who is President of Serikaku Farm travelled to Ethiopia for 3 weeks to share his technical skills and expertise with local farmers. David's assignment is part of Catholic Relief Services' Farmer-to-Farmer program that promotes economic growth, enhanced nutrition through access to healthy food, and agricultural development in East Africa.

**"Working with farmers on the Eritrean border was inspiring. Farmers working in such harsh conditions and wanting to learn new techniques gives me a very positive outlook for the area I worked,"** said David.

Farmer-to-Farmer matches the technical expertise of U.S. farmers and professionals in agribusinesses, farming cooperatives, and universities with farmers in developing countries to assist them in improving agricultural productivity, accessing new markets, and increasing their incomes. Farmer-to-Farmer is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

In a world where 80% of food is produced by farmers working on small farms or fisheries, the movement to share proven farming and business skills can improve the quality and quantity of the world's food supply. For communities in the developing world who often struggle to produce enough food, this can improve access to a reliable source of food and better nutrition. For the farmers, it can strengthen their path to prosperity.

The goal of David's assignment was to **increase vegetable production**. He worked with **54 farmers and 26 local staff** who **desired training on pest and water management**. Most of David's time was spent in the **mountains of Adigrat near the Eritrean border** working with

The Ethiopian Catholic Church-Social and Development Coordinating Office of Adigrat (ECC-SDCOA)

This is David's 10th volunteer assignment with Farmer-to-Farmer and is one of nearly 500 assignments that focus on improving approaches to local agriculture practices, expanding production of quality food crops and nutrition in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. The program, funded by the U.S. government has been running for nearly 30 years.



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 volunteers travel to East Africa for anywhere from one to six weeks.

“We are certain 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 and a whole lot better 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 more than 100 countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality. CRS’ relief and development work is accomplished through programs of emergency response, HIV, health, agriculture, education, microfinance and peacebuilding. For more information, visit [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org) or [www.crsespanol.org](http://www.crsespanol.org) and follow Catholic Relief Services on social media: [Facebook](#), Twitter at [@CatholicRelief](#), [@CRSnews](#) and [@CRSnoticias](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#) and [YouTube](#).