



## 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: Gary Ruegsegger
- b) State of Origin Wisconsin
- c) Host Organization: SOS Children Village, Mekelle, Ethiopia
- d) Assignment: Dairy Farm Management
- e) Dates of Assignment: January 6<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>
- f) Number of days worked - 14 days

### 1.2.1 Objective 1 in your SOW - Dairy farm management training and identification of areas to improve on the dairy

- a) Progress with the objective - Provided training, and together with the farmers and management, we identified areas to focus on for improvement in daily, dairy activities.
- b) Expected/impacts results - With the increased understanding of dairy management, the farmers and management will have the capability to make the changes recommended.
- c) Recommendations - Work with the local Regional AI Center on additional training in the areas of reproduction and record keeping. The AI Center was very interested in providing additional training.

### 1.2.2 Objective 2 in your SOW - Feed selection, preparation, management and feeding practices

- a) Progress with the objective - Evaluated current feeding practices and located an economical, local concentrate of higher quality with flaxseed meal in it to feed in order to increase overall feed quality.
- b) Expected impacts/results - Together with other recommendations, milk production should increase from 4 liters/day to 8 liters/day..... this will make the dairy more profitable.
- c) Recommendations - Follow feeding guidelines provided to SOS, which are based on feeding the new concentrate with flaxseed meal and increased quantities of feed to higher producing cows.

### 1.2.3 Objective 3 in your SOW - Dry season feeding

- a) Progress with the objective - Developed a plan to plant .25 to .5 hectares of corn for ensiling on land that is not currently utilized.
- b) Expected impacts/results - Will provide a quality forage for the dry season, and can provide a quality forage for the whole year
- c) Recommendations - Plant and ensile .25 to .5 hectares of corn for ensiling in small, airtight bags for feeding during the dry season. Fertilize with dairy or poultry manure along with chemical fertilizer.

### 1.3 Recommended future volunteer assignment - Assistance in the area of proper corn silage making steps and procedures.

### 1.4 Action Plan

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
1. Increase water availability	Offer water at least 4 times per day for all livestock	All four of the dairy employees	February 1st
2. Feed the concentrate from the Endeta Farmers Coop	Purchase the concentrate with flaxseed and feed to all livestock according to feeding recommendations	Management and Abraha Memu (the lead farmer)	February 1st
3. Estrous watch list	Monitor estrous cycles of all cows and follow next potential estrous on a calendar	Abraha Memu	February 1st
4. Plant and ensile corn	Plant .25 to .5 hectare of corn in vacant areas by dairy and ensile the whole plant corn in bags	New Farm Manager	Mid-June for planting and approximately 90 days later to chop for ensiling
5. Adjust animal numbers and add small ruminant to the farm enterprise	Sell 2 of the lowest producing non-profitable, non-pregnant dairy cows and purchase 20 to 25 goats or sheep	Management and farm division	March 1st
6. Install used rubber belting from Messebo Cement Company	Purchase a small amount of used belting and have it installed over some of the concrete in dairy to try 1st	Management, maintenance and farm repair department	March 1st

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			
Employees	6	6	
Clients/ Suppliers	1	1	
Family Members			
Total	7	7	

#### 1.6 Gender

- a) What gender roles did you recognize in your host community? Did these roles play a part in your assignment? How? Yes, because I worked with men only. That men worked on the farm at SOS, and women provided the labor for cleaning the offices.
- b) How might CRS or the host organization improve opportunities for the women in this host or host community? Do not know.

#### 1.6 Value of volunteer contribution in \$

- a. Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment (30 to 40 hours)
- b. Estimated value of all material contributions volunteer contributed to host during assignment (\$30)

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

- a) Meals - \$20
- b) Transportation - \$150
- c) Lodging - \$0
- d) Translation - Hard to quantify, it was provided in house by SOS.....
- 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:

For future volunteers, I would recommend that CRS organize with SOS to ensure adequate time availability of translation services for the volunteer.



1.10 Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**VOLUNTEER CONTACT:** Gary Ruegsegger  
Phone 1-715-207-0637  
E-mail garyruegrainbow@gmail.com

## **Marshfield, Wisconsin Area Volunteer Travels to Ethiopia to Share Skills with Local Farmers**

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

**Gary Ruegsegger**, a **volunteer** from **Marshfield, Wisconsin** travelled to **Ethiopia** for **3 weeks** to share his technical skills and expertise with local farmers. Gary'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.

"My volunteer experience not only allowed me to share my skills, but to experience the rich Ethiopian culture and better understand the daily challenges facing Ethiopians - it was an enlightening experience that I will always cherish", said **Gary**.

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 **Ethiopia**, **Gary** worked with the Mekelle **SOS Children Village** in **dairy cattle management** training and giving technical assistance to **the dairy farmers at SOS** to enable them to improve dairy production. This will allow SOS to be more profitable and to continue to provide a consistent source of milk to the SOS children and surrounding community members. Up to 5 beneficiaries were reached.

Gary'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).*