

## 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: Willem Schrage
- b) State of Origin: Minnesota
- c) Host Organization: National Potato Council of Kenya
- d) Assignment: There is need for establishing the private accreditation unit for seed potato certification to optimize the benefits of the process which will ensure increased number of farmers accessing affordable seed potato and ensure timely availability of certified seed potato.
- e) Dates of Assignment: May 12 – June 2
- f) Number of days worked: 19

### 1.2.1 Objective 1 in your SOW

- a) Progress with the objective: Reports have been left with the NPCK. With suggestions on what is needed to manage accredited seed potato inspection
- b) Expected impacts/results: Because of the expected increase in imported certified seed to be certified in Kenya an increase in inspections is expected. Private accreditation may be the feasible solutions.
- c) Recommendations<sup>1</sup>: Improved seed will improve yields
- d) Accelerated access to foreign varieties increases the opportunity to introduce higher yielding varieties
- e) Importation of field grown seed will increase quantities of improved seed availability.
- f) Basic seed farms should maintain a closed system to avoid bringing in pests or diseases.
- g) Varieties with resistance to potato cyst nematodes should improve yield potential. A lack of crop rotation increases the development of potato cyst nematode populations.
- h) Varieties with tolerance to Bacterial Wilt may have the greatest potential to avoid yield losses in infected fields.

### 1.2.2 Objective 2 in your SOW

- a) Progress with the objective;
- b) Expected impacts/results:
- c) Recommendations

### 1.2.3 Objective 3 in your SOW

- a) Progress with the objective
- b) Expected impacts/results
- c) Recommendations

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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.

1.3 Recommended future volunteer assignment: When discussions with KEPHIS have progressed to the training of inspectors, a person with the skills of an inspector and administrative experience may work with the administration of the NPC and possibly cooperate with KEPHIS to facilitate accredited inspection.

#### 1.4 Action Plan

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
1. Setting up accreditation	Discussions with KEPHIS	Wachira Kaguongo and or Sarah Kuria	Within a year
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			

#### 1.5 Number of people Assisted

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

Category	Total	Males	Females
Members/ owners	Wachira Kaguongo	x	
Employees	Sarah Kuria		x
Clients/ Suppliers			
Family Members			
Total			

#### 1.6 Gender

- What gender roles did you recognize in your host community? Did these roles play a part in your assignment? How? Most managers were male, but not all.
- How might CRS or the host organization improve opportunities for the women in this host or host community? In my experience women are the driving force behind food production; involving women in any effort to improve food production has a greater chance of success. I have not noticed any gender difference when it comes to certification.

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

- Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment: 50 hours
- Estimated value of all material contributions volunteer contributed to host during assignment:
- \$220

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

- a) Meals (CRS)
- b) Transportation (CRS)
- c) Lodging (CRS)
- d) Translation (NPC)
- e) Other (Specify) Introductions (NPC)

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: Please send templates for reporting as separate file with designation as IMPORTANT.

1.10 Steps to avoid conflict between organizations rising out of an assignment will enhance the chance of success. In this case: KEPHIS should have been front and center to enhance the chance of success.

1.10 Press Release

10 Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



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## **Retired Seed Potato Certification Official from North Dakota Works with Counterparts in Kenya**

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

**East Grand Forks, MN, Willem Schrage, retired potato program director of the North Dakota State Seed Department** travelled to Kenya for three weeks to share his technical skills and expertise with local farmers and organizations. Schrage's assignment was 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.

**Willem Schrage: 'It was a great opportunity to be allowed to share experiences in certification in the US and in the framework of Seed Potato Section in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe with the National Potato Council in Kenya'. 'To share what is being done in many other places in order to help improve the potato crop is a great privilege.'**

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 **Schrage's** assignment was to **assist the National Potato Council in developing an accredited seed potato inspection service**. He worked with the National Potato Council of Kenya as well as with several growers and organizations to look for opportunities to enhance the seed potato inspection in the country. Most of **Schrage's time was spent visiting industry members in their respective locatitons and with staff of the National Potato Council of Kenya in Nairobi**.

This is Schrage's first 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](#).*