



VOLUNTEER REPORT

1.1 Assignment information: TZ16

- Volunteer Name: Scott W. Stovall
- Host Organization: Kining'ina Farmers Association (KFA)
- Assignment: Organizational and Management Capacity for Profitable Paddy Farming
- Dates of Assignment: August 30 to September 13, 2014
- Number of days worked: 14
- Media Outlet: Group Presentation

1.2.1 *Objective 1 in your SOW – Basic Farm Recordkeeping*

- Progress with the objective – 100% Completed
- Expected impacts/results
 - Farmers should now know how to record production costs, calculate a breakeven, and determine profit/loss per crop grown.
 - Farmers will be in a better position to negotiate selling price.
 - Farmers will be able to know ways on how to increase profits to improve their livelihoods.
- Recommendations
 - Record all expenses and income for each crop.
 - Determine total costs.
 - Divide total cost by the amount harvested to attain cost of production per unit sold – example: cost per bucket sold.
 - Calculate profit/loss for total crop which is market price minus cost of production per unit.
 - Complete for each crop and/or enterprise
 - Use cost of production to negotiate a better selling price for products
 - Train new members and farmer groups on record keeping. Trainings can be held with individuals or groups.

Cost Benefit Analysis

- Progress with the objective – 100% Complete

- Expected impacts/results
 - Farmers will be able to use their record keeping skills to make farm management decisions.
 - Over time farmers can use their profit/loss calculations to determine what crops to grow when farm planning.
- Recommendations
 - Diversify crops grown to reduce risks and increase profits.
 - Compare profit/loss calculations when determining crops to plant.
 - Farmer Groups and individuals can meet before planting season to determine crops grown for bulking with the RPO based on cost/benefit analysis.

1.2.2 Objective 2 in the SOW – Basic Record Keeping for Financial (loan) and Institutional management

- Progress with the objective – 100% Complete
- Expected impacts/results
 - Farmers will be able to know how to access loans.
 - From their experience in record keeping and the calculation of profit/loss, farmers will be able to service (pay off) loans in a timely manner.
 - Farmers will know the mechanics of getting a loan, and know how it can increase profits and/or understand how it can hurt their business if not used correctly.
 - The Association will be able to show a simple income statement and balance sheet to its members and other institutions.
- Recommendations
 - When seeking grants, aid, and/or loans, many institutions will require that financial information be presented from the association. This is usually done in the form of an income statement which is expenses and revenue and a balance sheet, which is assets owned by the cooperative minus any outstanding money owed.
 - Loans can provide money to be used to purchase farm inputs but a loan is not free money and has to be paid back.
 - Interest charged on loans is a cost of production and should be listed as a cost when record keeping.
 - Loans should be paid off as soon as possible to help reduce production costs and increase profits.

1.2.3 Objective 3 in the SOW- Strategic Planning

- Progress with the objective – 100% Complete
- Expected impacts/results

- KFA has a clear direction on the path they want to take over the next five years. They have listed their objectives, services they will provide, and project goals. They have determined short term goals that need to be met to meet their long term goals through an action plan.
- Recommendations
 - Strategic plans are like road maps. They show the direction KFA wants to take over the next three to five years to get to their destination. If the road changes, then the map should change. So if the KFA objectives change, then the strategic plan should change.
 - The Board of Directors should approve the strategic plan. This way, the management team and Board of Directors are all working in the same direction to meet the RPO's goals.
 - The Board of Directors should ensure that the KFA is moving in the direction of the strategic plan and should monitor that the goals are being met.

1.2.4 Objective 4 in the SOW- Governance

- Progress with the objective – 100% Complete
- Expected impacts/results
 - KFA should be able to achieve the objectives that are identified in the strategic plan by the formation of committees.
 - KFA will be able to conduct meetings and operate the Association in a transparent, open meeting forum.
- Recommendations
 - KFA should form committees to ensure that the strategic goals of the association are being met.
 - Examples of Committees can include marketing, membership, construction, input store, production, and finance committees.
 - The Committee should be responsible for the implementation of the strategic plan goals assigned to the committee.
 - The Committee should make a report at the Association meeting on the progress of meeting their goals.
 - KFA should conduct their meetings in an open, transparent manner and the Association finances should be reported at each meeting.
 - KFA should list the challenges facing the Association and let all members help in arriving at a solution.

1.3 Number of people Assisted

- Through formal training - 60
- Through direct technical assistance (Do not double count) -
- Out of these above, number of host staffs - 2

Training/assistance by field

Topic/field	Total	Males	Females
Record Keeping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual, • Institutional, • Financial Mgmt. 	20	11	9
Governance	20	11	9
Strategic Planning	20	11	9
Total	60	33	27

1.4 Gender

- What gender roles did you recognize in your host community?
 - During the training, women participated in the decision making process and were listened to when they made recommendations. The Chairperson of KFA Board of Directors is a woman.
- Did these roles play a part in your assignment?
 - Yes. Women were very involved in the decision making process for the Association and when we developed a strategic plan. Also women comprised a large percentage of the people who attended the trainings on record keeping.
- How might CRS or the host organization improve opportunities for the women in this host or host community?
 - Encourage women to seek continuing training and education.

1.6 Value of volunteer contribution in \$

- Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment – 25 hours
- Estimated value of all material contributions volunteer contributed during assignment - \$100

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

- Meals
- Transportation
- Lodging
- Translation
- Other (Specify)

1.9 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 Kining'ina Farmers Association is comprised of 30 members of which 20 members are women and 10 are men. The organization is less than one year old. It is in the process of attaining its registration as an association. It has adopted a constitution and is formulating a set of bylaws. The majority of the members are

subsistence farmers. The average yield per acre for rice that the members produce is 8 to 10 bags. With modern farming practices, the yield can be as high as 30 bags per acre. The host profile, as stated in the SOW, is a little different.

Recommended future volunteer Assistance

I think over time, CRS can send many volunteers to KFA if the group would like to continue with the program. Volunteers could be used with technical expertise in increasing yields in rice production, irrigation of rice paddies, modern farming practices, rice harvesting techniques, processing, and marketing. They could also use help in resource mobilization to attain loans and grants for the construction of their warehouse and have requested help on starting a Savings and Credit Association in Kining'ina.

Notes

Kining'ina farmers association is a new organization and has been operating for less than a year. They are still trying to find their direction and are struggling but their intentions are very sincere. It's going to be a challenge for KFA to survive as an association and hopefully they do. They really need assistance from a long-term partner to show them the way. I think after this training they realize how associations can benefit their members and what the purpose of an association is. The farmers are at subsistence level and any help the F2F program can offer would greatly benefit them and improve their livelihoods.

I enjoyed working with KFA. I would like to thank the CRS staff in Dar es Salaam for the excellent job they did in coordinating this project. I would also like to thank Maria Figueroa in Baltimore for arranging the pre-assignment logistics.