

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: Leah Tewksbury
- b) Host Organization: Melka Abune Aregawi Gedam of Melka Jebdu/Dire Dawa branch of the Sebeta Getesemani Nunnery
- c) Assignment: 1.) Integrated soil fertility management to the nuns and orphan girls
- d) Dates of Assignment: December 20, 2015 – January 1, 2016
- e) Number of days worked: 10 days

1.2.1 Objective in your SOW: A.)Provide training and technical assistance on integrated soil fertility management techniques. B.)Demonstrate the different techniques of improving soil organic matter content.

- a) Progress with the objective: A.)Provided classroom instruction on soil nutrition, illustrating the life in soil and the need for nutrient cycling. Identified sources of nutrients at the nunnery. Providing training and technical assistance on soil blocking techniques and appropriate seedling soil mix. B.)Demonstrated construction of a permanent no-till raised bed, emphasizing sheet composting techniques and surface mulching. Conducted hands-on training of legume cover crop direct seeding.
- b) Expected impacts/results: Adoption of permanent raised beds and sheet composting soil building, along with the elimination of bare soil through mulching, will enhance healthy soil, fertility, yield production, and soil compaction issues. Recognizing and recapturing all nutrients on site and cycling them into food crop areas will further enhance soil fertility and reduce off-farm inputs costs. Implementing soil blocking practices for starting seedlings will yield stronger, healthier transplants that can withstand variable environmental conditions.
- c) Recommendations: See below.

1.3 Action Plan

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
1. Convert farm field to raised beds.	Follow sheet mulching techniques.	Willeta Jesus	Ongoing
2. Eliminate all bare soil.	Use mulch and green manures.	Willeta Jesus	Ongoing
3. Capture all nutrient waste from cow barn.	Hire labor to move all existing manure to garden area. Direct barn wash waste onto mulch and move to garden area frequently.	Willeta Jesus	Ongoing
4. Identify and use all sources of nutrients at the nunnery to assist in the production of food.	Resume composting, recover waste plant debris, ash piles, egg shells, chicken coop waste...	Willeta Jesus	Ongoing
5. Implement soil blocking	Use soil blocks to ensure	Willeta Jesus	Ongoing

practices.	robust seedling transplants.		
6. Implement record keeping practices.	Record planting schedule and bed location, yields, nutrient additions, rainfall amounts, and soil block composition.	Willeta Jesus	Ongoing
7. Arrange farm layout to optimize bed space.	Build beds to reduce land space needed to grow same amount of production, thus allowing beds to alternate between legume-based cover crop and production.	Willeta Jesus	Ongoing

1.4 Number of people Assisted

- a) Through formal training: 25
- b) Through direct technical assistance (Do not double count)
- c) Out of these above, number of host staffs: all
- d) Training/assistance by field: 25

Category	Total	Males	Females
Members/ owners	25		25
Employees			
Clients/ Suppliers			
Family Members			
Total	25		25

1.5 Gender

- a) What gender roles did you recognize in your host community? Did these roles play a part in your assignment? How? Strictly women.
- b) How might CRS or the host organization improve opportunities for the women in this host or host community? N/A

1.6 Value of volunteer contribution in \$

- a. Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment: 20 hours
- b. Estimated value of all material contributions volunteer contributed to host during assignment: \$450

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

- a) Meals: \$20
- b) Transportation
- c) Lodging
- d) Translation
- 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.

1.9 Recommendations for CRS:

- Provide direct CRS follow-up with host to encourage adoption of recommendations and help troubleshoot problems or challenges that occur during implementation.
- Consider investing in highly useful agricultural supplies such as drip irrigation and shade cloth.
- Consider the value of sending an Ethiopian CRS representative to the U.S. to tour sustainable farms and gain valuable on-site agricultural knowledge.

1.10 Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VOLUNTEER CONTACT: John and Leah Tewksbury
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Muncy Area Volunteers Travel to Ethiopia to Share Skills with Local Farmers

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: [Name]
[Title]
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Muncy Area Volunteers Travel to Ethiopia to Share Skills with Local Farmers

Farmer to Farmer program promotes economic growth and Agricultural development in East Africa

John and Leah Tewksbury, farmers from Muncy, PA travelled to Ethiopia for 2 weeks to share their technical skills and expertise with local farmers. John and Leah'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.

"This international experience provided valuable insight for us about the challenges faced in implementing sustainable agricultural practices in developing nations" said Leah.

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, John and Leah worked with the Melka Jebdu Nunnery in soil fertility and drip irrigation training and giving technical assistance to the nuns and orphan girls to enable them to improve the productivity and resilience of their vegetable and fruit farm. Up to 30 beneficiaries were reached. **[Other details are optional]**

John and Leah'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

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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 or crsespanol.org.