



## 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: Rodrigo Gonzalez (Orlin)
- b) Host Organization: **Allege ATVET College**
- c) Assignment: Instruct Students and Staff on modern methods of tropical fruit cultivation
- d) Dates of Assignment: Nov.6-Nov.20
- e) Number of days worked: 13

### 1.2.1 Objective 1 in your SOW: **Equip target beneficiaries with skills and techniques on improved fruit crops production.**

- a) Progress with the objective: **I was successful in my task of providing the students and staff with Skills and techniques on improved fruit crops production.**
- b) Expected impacts/results : I predict that they staff and students will continue to practice the skills that I have taught them. In doing so, they will be able to graft over inferior varieties into superior varieties that are more resistant to diseases and have a higher market value. I also predict that they will rely less on buying plants from the nursery because they will make their own grafted plants. I also predict that they will use the various methods of parthogenesis that I taught them such as air layering and trench layering.
- c) Recommendations<sup>1</sup>: I recommend that they follow my instructions on how to graft, propagate, irrigate, sanitize, prune, and space their fruit trees. I showed both the students and staff various methods of improving their fruit production. I hope that they implement them well.

### 1.2.2 Objective 2 in your SOW: **Develop TOT guidelines or manual on improved fruit crops production.**

- a) Progress with the objective: **I provided specific instructions for all fruit crops found at the college. I also provided the students and staff with skills and knowledge on a wide variety of fruit crops that can be grown in various regions of ethiopia.**
- b) Expected impacts/results : I expect that the staff and students will follow the manuals I have provided them with and consequently, the health of their orchard will improve and their yields will grow.
- c) Recommendations: I recommended that each tree be planted correctly, that they are irrigated enough and at the right time, to fertilize with a 0-0-51 potassium fertilizer on mangos, to apply mulch, to use IPM, etc.

### 1.2.3 Objective 3 in your SOW (**There was no 3<sup>rd</sup> objective on my SOW**)

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

---

<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.

## c) Recommendations

## 1.3 Action Plan

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
1.Prune Trees to manageable size	Pruning (thinning and heading trees)	Plant Science Students and Workers	Before trees flower again (must immediately prune after harvest of fruits)
2.Graft local resistant rootstocks to superior varieties	Use the suggested grafting methods to change trees to varieties with disease resistance and superior market value.	Plant Science Students and Workers	Before the next flush of growth. Best to graft when buds are starting to swell.
3.Apply Mulch to ALL trees (either woodchips or bark);DO NOT USE EUCALYPTUS FOR MULCH	Apply mulch 12 inches away from trunk, at about 3-6 inches in thickness, and at a spread of around 3 feet.	Plant Science Students and Workers	Immediately after planting new grafted trees and as soon as conveniently possible for older trees.
4. Remove soil from around stem of all fruit trees to the level of the first taper root.	Use the first taper root as the indicator for correct soil height.	Plant Science Students and Workers.	Plant trees like I suggested and remove soil on old trees from around the trunk to the first taper root. Modify basin irrigation accordingly. Use improved planting methods as soon as you plant and remove soil from older trees as soon as possible.
5. Fertilize Mango trees with a 0-0-51 (potassium) fertilizer twice per year	Apply 1 handful of pellet fertilizer (slow release) fertilizer for every inch of trunk diameter (measurement taken at 12 inches above base of tree). Disperse fertilizer evenly at drip line of	Plant Science Students and Workers.	Apply once when flowers emerge and again when fruits develop. No need for supplemental nitrogen if trees have been mulched (all the nitrogen they need comes from the mulch).



	trees.		
6. Apply Integrated Pest (IPM) Management concepts to orchards	<p>Follow the advice that I provided on IPM. Make wise ecologically based decisions when confronted with pests and pathogens. Observe carefully and record populations of pest insects and beneficial insects. Invest in beneficial ladybeetles and wasps. Read pesticide instructions CAREFULLY and always consider how the pesticide can affect you and the environment.</p>	Plant Science Students and Workers	<p>Practice the principle of IPM on a year round basis. Follow the chart I provided on the IPM year. Use pesticides as a last resort when all else fails. Use intelligent horticultural techniques such as pruning as best line of defense against fungal problems.</p>

1.4 Number of people Assisted

- a) Through formal training 78 (48 were students)
- b) Through direct technical assistance 78 (Do not double count)
- c) Out of these above, number of host staffs 30 (1 technician, 2 formal, 1 horticulturist)
- d) Training/assistance by field 78

Category	Total	Males	Females
Members/ owners	48	29	19
Employees	30	28	2
Clients/ Suppliers			
Family Members			
Total			

1.5 Gender

- a) What gender roles did you recognize in your host community? Did these roles play a part in your assignment? How? Females seem to be the ones that work the most in this community. However, this did not affect my teachings. The majority of my students were male. I observed that the women I did teach seemed very interested in practical concepts such as grafting and air layering.
- b) How might CRS or the host organization improve opportunities for the women in this host or host community? Actively involve more females in the classes.



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

- a. Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment about 15 hours
- b. Estimated value of all material contributions volunteer contributed to host during assignment \$2 USD for some plaster I got from Addis Ababa...no need to pay me for this.

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

- a) Meals I paid for all my meals from the cafeteria
- b) Transportation I took the free public bus and sometimes I used the campus vehicle...but not often because I like to walk and when I did need a vehicle Mr. Daniel kindly took me where I needed to go on his motorcycle.
- c) Lodging I had a very nice guest house with daily housekeeping.
- d) Translation My translator was Mr. Daniel. He kindly translated for me during my lectures and practical lessons on the field. Two or so other instructors translated too on a few occasions when Mr. Daniel was not around.
- e) Other (Specify) I used water in the guesthouse for showering and using the toilet. I used electricity to charge my computer and small camera. I also used the Wi-Fi from the computer lab when there was decent internet connection and electricity.

#### 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.

I did not receive a SOW for this assignment. I was told that the assignment was quite similar to my previous assignment at the Sebeta Nunnery. I would have liked to know beforehand that the instructors are frequently late because they do not wish to walk to scheduled classes (I had no problem walking and actually found the walk quite pleasant). There is a transportation issue at this compound and there is also a lack of efficient internet access and adequate phone signal. The electricity was also usually gone at night and the early morning. It would be nice to suggest future volunteers to bring strong flash lights and perhaps a dynamo phone charger or solar phone charger.

#### 1.9 Recommendations for CRS:

Suggest to the host organization to wisely select the most interested instructors for the training and lectures.

Provide more time with students and less with instructors...or include both instructors and students in classes. In general, students are more focused than instructors in classes and punctual. It would be wiser to only include the most interested and punctual instructors in lessons. Students need more practical lessons and are more appreciative and attentive of these lessons. It would also be a good idea to insist that the compound provide a reliable translator for all classes (even practical ones)...because if it was not for the help of Mr. Daniel I would not have been as successful at getting my lessons to 'sink in' with the students. Some of the instructors would suddenly leave my classes or start texting...when I would ask them if they had any questions only the most dedicated instructors would ask questions (very few)...the rest would blankly stare at the wall. It would also help to provide volunteers with a generous amount of sign in sheets, because there is an energy problem at the compound. When I needed to print sheets there was no electricity and I had to tell students to sign in on the back of full sheets. I had to improvise one sign in sheet that I made by hand. It is not really a critical issue but it would be a good idea to provide volunteers with more sign in sheets in order to maintain more



organization and accurate records of attendance. Overall, my experience here was very pleasant and I loved working with the students and some of the instructors (those that were interested/helpful and punctual). It took me a couple of days to get good sleep because the monkeys kept jumping up and down on my roof in the early morning and at random times during the night. I also had to get accustomed to the very spicy foods of Ethiopia, however, I have now grown to appreciate the food here (the vegetarian foods). The majority of the staff is very polite and helpful. The only issue I had was with putting up with the behavior of some of the instructors (mostly their apparent disinterest in learning and lack of punctuality). Not all instructors were like this, some were very attentive, helpful, polite, punctual, etc. The students are all wonderful and I think they have a good future in the field of agriculture. The students are sharp and curious. I thoroughly enjoyed the fauna here at the compound. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to teach the students of Alage.

1.10 Press Release

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**VOLUNTEER CONTACT:** Rodrigo Gonzalez

Fruit Expert  
202-674-8767  
orlinhome275@gmail.com

## **West Palm Beach, Florida Area Volunteer Travels to Alage compound, Ethiopia to Share Skills with Local Farmers**

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

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Rodrigo Gonzalez (Orlin)

Fruit Expert  
202-674-8767  
Orlinhome275@gmail.com

## **West Pam Beach, Florida Area Volunteer Travels to Alage Compound, Ethiopia to Share Skills with Local Farmers**

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

**Rodrigo Gonzalez, a Fruit Expert from West Palm Beach, Florida travelled to Ethiopia for 3 weeks to share his/her technical skills and expertise with local farmers. Rodrigo'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.**



**“I have spent the last two weeks here in Alage College teaching students and staff about grafting, pruning, pomology, parthogenesis, Integrated Pest Management, Orchard management, planting, irrigation, fertilization, etc. My time here has been productive and I had a good time here in Alage. I hope that the students and staff benefit from my teachings.”** said **Rodrigo Gonzalez (Orlin)**.

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, Rodrigo Gonzalez worked with Alage Compound in Tropical Fruit Horticultural training and giving technical assistance to Instructors and Students to enable them to increase yields, orchard health, and increase awareness of the value fruit crops. Up to 78 beneficiaries were reached. [Other details are optional]**

Rodrigo’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)

###

*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).*