



**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:** Jeff Knowles
- b) **Host Organization:** Nankoma RPO
- c) **Assignment:** UG89
- d) **Dates of Assignment:** 9/10/16-9/24/16
- e) **Number of days worked** 14

1.2.1 **Objective 1 in your SOW:** Enhance the capacity among farmers of Nankoma RPO to use and conserve land/soils through sustainable land management practices

- a) **Progress with the objective:** Completed
- b) **Expected impacts/results**
  - 1 A 50-75% reduction in hand labor when all recommendations are applied
  - 2 An empowered RPO and TOT will mobilize a large scale change in farming technique over the next 1-3 years.
  - 3 Surrounding areas will seek the Nankoma RPO to provide training outside their area.
  - 4 Vegetative barriers will change the appearance of the farmland landscape.
  - 5 Improved soil quality and increase yields within 1-3 years.

c) **Recommendations**

- 1 <sup>1</sup>Establish demonstration farms in each village showing three conservation practices.
- 2 No-tillage in banana, cassava and coffee fields
- 3 Vegetative barriers
- 4 Reduced or minimum tillage in annually tilled crops such as maize and beans.
- 5 Complete construction of A-frame contouring tool.
- 6 Seek training on how to use soil test kits and train farmers on soil fertility.
- 7 Train all farmers on the four subjects provided by Knowles

**1.3 Action Plan**

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
1) Identify and establish a demonstration farm within each village in coffee, cassava and banana fields show	Keep the coffee, banana and cassava fields covered with growing plants by not hoeing. Weeds will be controlled by	RPO board members	Immediately

<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.

casing no plowing beneath the trees.	manual cutting allowing the residue to return to the soil		
2. Establish minimum tillage demonstration farms in each village.	Instead of plowing the entire field where maize, beans and other annual crops will be planted, hoe only the area where the seed will be planted. Cut or spray herbicides on the unplowed area	RPO board members /ToTs	Immediately
3. Complete construction of 4 additional A-frame contour tools	Construct the tool using the levels provided by the volunteer and directions from the one Knowles (CRS volunteer) and Peter put together.	Peter and other board members	Within 2 months
4. Create demonstration farms in each village using the A-frame tool and establish vegetative barriers	Trainers must teach the villagers how to use this tool	RPO board members/ToTs	Next planting season
5. Provide training to remaining villagers on the 4 part training provided by Knowles	Conduct training throughout RPO to untrained farmers	Agnes and TOT's	Beginning in December on the second Saturday of each month
6. Get assistance from Extension personal on use of soil test kits	Using existing STK provide training to farmers on the how to of soil testing.	Agnes and TOT's	Begin in 15 days

#### 1.4 Number of people Assisted

- Through formal training (T) 119
- Through direct technical assistance (Do not double count) (DT)
- Out of these above, number of host staffs
- Training/assistance by field

Category	Total	Males	Females
Members/ owners	119	48	71
Employees			
Clients/ Suppliers			



Family Members			
Total	119	48	71

1.5 Gender

- a) What gender roles did you recognize in your host community? Did these roles play a part in your assignment? How? Women comprised the majority of the audience, although nearly all the questions came from the men
- b) How might CRS or the host organization improve opportunities for the women in this host or host community?

1.6 Value of volunteer contribution in \$ **2,350**

- a. Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment, 40
- b. Estimated value of all material contributions volunteer contributed to host during assignment \$5000.00

1.7 Value of hosts' contribution in \$ **339.66**

- a) Meals:0
- b) Transportation for participants: \$ 141.08
- c) Lodging
- d) Translation: \$ 103.73
- e) Other (Specify): Training venue: \$ 35.57, Farmer mobilization: \$ 59.28  
1USD = Ushs. 3,374

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.

No, the SOP was well written and provided accurate information about the assignment

1.9 Recommendations for CRS: Use the attachments; 1) Unlock the secrets of the soil, 2) Can soil help solve climate change. Throughout Africa poor farming practices results in soil degradation and excessive amounts of carbon being released into the atmosphere. Farmers throughout East Africa need to understand that soil conservation not only improves soil quality and increases crop production, but indeed helps to sequester carbon. CRS should distribute these two documents to government and educational institutions and assist in wide scale education on this matter.

1.10 Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Kealakekua Area Volunteer Travels to Uganda to Share Skills with Local Farmers**

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

**Jeff Knowles, a retired USDA employee from Kealakekua, Hawaii** travelled to **Uganda** for 3 weeks to share his/her technical skills and expertise with local farmers. Knowles' assignment is part of Catholic Relief Services' Farmer-to-Farmer (FTF) program that promotes economic growth, food security, and agricultural development in East Africa.

**The majority of farmers in the rural parts of East Africa plow their lands with hand hoes leaving the soil exposed to soil erosion, said Knowles. Some farmers do use oxen and a very small percentage has mechanical equipment, such as tractors and plows. The vast majority of all croplands in the Bugiri District have bare soil year round.** Knowles indicated this is causing a rapid decline in the quality of the soil. To compound the problem, most crop residues are removed from the field upon harvest and the percentage of natural organic matter within the soil decreases each year. Knowles said this organic matter depletion is destroying the ability of soil to host microbial activity and life within the soil. Knowles indicated that soils can store vast quantities of atmospheric carbon, but only if the soil is covered with living or dead plant residues. Bare soils quickly release any stored carbon into the atmosphere contributing to climate change. Knowles believes a worldwide educational effort need to be undertaken stressing the role soils can play in addressing climate change by sequestering atmospheric carbon into the soil.

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 Uganda, Knowles worked with the Nankoma rural producer organization in soil conservation and soil fertility training and giving technical assistance to farmers to enable them to conserve their soils while improving crop yields.** There were 119 farmers who received formal and practical training. Of those farmers, 71 were women which did indeed reflect the high percentage of women involved with the subsistence farmers of the area.

Knowles' 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).*