



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**Volunteer Name: Nicholas E. Meyer**

**Country: Uganda**

**Country project: Oilseed Crops, UG75**

**Host: ACWEC OMIO Cooperative Society Ltd**

**Venue: CRS Office**

**Audience: CRS F2F staff & HoP**

**Number of people : 2**

**Date: April 29, 2016**



# 1. Assignment Objectives as in SOW

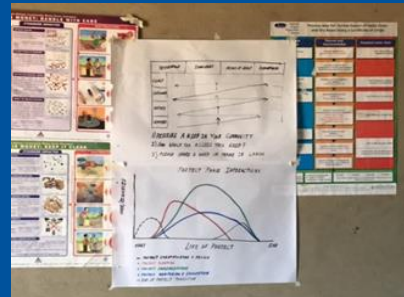
1. What is project management in the context of farmer cooperatives
2. Stages in the project life cycle
3. The role of the management team and board in execution of projects
4. Project reporting as per donor requirements

SERVICES:

## **2. Achievement of the assignment objectives**

1. Development of a 10-page training reference guide in project management
2. Conducted 20 hours of instruction in six training sessions for a group of seven individuals
3. Prepared list of recommendations for the host organization (project management and future assistance)

# Training Program



## **3. Recommendations to the host with regards to the assignment**

1. Complete community and online research of topics in project management
2. Initiate an information resource reference system
3. Solicit an external reviewer for project proposals
4. Create micro projects for intervention testing
5. Engage multiple stakeholders and increase participation in all project phases
6. Plan for growth – 10,000 members in 2018!

## 4. Anticipated Impact

1. Increase knowledge and understanding of project management concepts, phases, and terms among staff (professional development)
2. Preserve what the organization has learned through experience and time (institutional memory)
3. Improve success in project proposal identification, development, and approval (efficiency and effectiveness)
4. Expand benefits among cooperative membership (equitability)
5. Increase diversity, perspective, and ownership (project quality)
6. Improve the socio-economic status and well-being of more people in Oyam District (capacity building)

## **5. Recommended future volunteer Assistance**

- Farm financial planning and management
- Appropriate technology transfer and implementation
- Makerere University distance extension program
- 4-H project model for youth development
- Conservation and land resource management
- Horticultural/forestry/alternative crop production
- Rural community development planning
- Vocational trades/industrial arts education
- Business and technology incubator development

# Village Life





## **6. Recommendations to other non-host stakeholders**

- NGOs/partners/cooperatives to share success stories and lessons learned (siloing prevention)
- Micro projects for testing interventions among the target population (pilot programs)
- Ministry of Agriculture officials observation and listening tour (grass roots needs assessment)
- University/College externship program (youth engagement)
- Annual development networking event (capacity building)

# Action plan for host recommendations

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
1. Complete community and online research on topics in project management	Research local community and online web sources of information	All staff members	June 2016
2. Initiate an information resource reference system	Establish a physical and digital reference file of project management resources	Designated staff member	August 2016
3. Solicit an external reviewer for project proposals	Recruit or identify a person to assist with proposal review	Willy Okot	October 2016
4. Create micro projects for intervention testing	Investigate micro project opportunities and partners	Willy Okot	December 2016
5. Engage multiple stakeholders and increase participation in all phases	Identify additional partners and expand participation opportunities	Willy Okot	August 2016
6. Plan for Growth – 10,000 members in 2018!	Strategic planning for growth in membership	Board members	December 2016

## **7. How can CRS improve future volunteer experience**

- Simplify the initial documents package
- Revise the travel preparation checklist
- Create CRS Survival Guide to Uganda
- Require contact between host and volunteer prior to departure
- Facilitate contact with resources of interest in the assignment area
- Provide map/description of assignment area


# Postcard Memories



# Lessons Learned

- The value of time and listening, patience and adaptability, and positivity and appreciation
- Critical thinking opens the mind and heart to unforeseen opportunities
- There are hidden issues in every situation, everything is not always what it seems
- Progress and development occur organically, one individual at a time
- The best solutions are generated locally, not through an external entity

# **Farmer to Farmer Program**

A photograph of a dirt road winding through a lush green forest. The road is reddish-brown and curves to the right. The trees are dense and green, with sunlight filtering through the canopy. The text is overlaid on the road.

***Thank You!***  
***Webale nyo!***  
***Apwoyo matek!***