



**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: John Tewksbury
- b) Host Organization: Melka Abune Aregawi Gedam of Melka Jebdu/Dire Dawa branch of the Sebeta Getesemani Nunnery
- c) Assignment: 1.) Training on drip and small scale irrigation technologies and irrigated tropical fruit and vegetable production practices.
- d) Dates of Assignment: December 20, 2015 – January 1, 2016
- e) Number of days worked: 10 days

1.2.1 Objectives in your SOW: A.)Train and innovate modern irrigation technologies. B.)Equip target beneficiaries in skills and techniques on improved irrigated fruit production practices. C.)Demonstrate installation of drip irrigation kits.

- a) Progress with the objective: A.)Conducted training on furrow, sprinkler and drip irrigation technologies. B.)Taught and demonstrated drip irrigation skills to nuns and orphan girls that will improve vegetable and fruit production. C.)Conducted hands-on training on installation of drip irrigation kits and acquired 6 new drip irrigation kits from HCS through donation. Conducted training on repair and maintenance of drip irrigation equipment and acquired repair parts from Fair Planet Seeds at Tony Farm through donation.
- b) Expected impacts/results: Drip irrigation, if fully implemented, will result in improved crop production by more efficiently getting water to the plants’ root system. The drip system will also require less water, with a reduction target of at least 50% in water consumption. The nunnery’s new well seems like it will yield plenty of water. But, just because the water is available, doesn’t mean it should be wasted or used inefficiently. Using drip irrigation will more efficiently use the water and therefore extend the useful life of the well. Additionally this conservative approach to irrigation will also delay or prevent issues with excessive salinity in the soil.
- c) Recommendations<sup>1</sup>: 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. Install and maintain drip irrigation equipment on new beds.	Install per drip kit instructions and repair as per demonstration.	Willeta Jesus	Ongoing

<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.



3. Eliminate all bare soil.	Use mulch and green manures.	Willeta Jesus	Ongoing
4. Irrigate crops using recommended amounts and timing.	Follow guidelines given during instruction.	Willeta Jesus	Ongoing
5. Focus on young fruit tree health.	Apply manures, mulch and necessary amendments to young fruit trees. Install drip irrigation on young fruit trees and water according to schedule.	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]  
[Phone]  
[E-mail]

**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](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).*