



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: Mark Lichtenwalner
- b) Host Organization: Mhezi Agricultural Group
- c) US State of origin
- d) Assignment: TZ 99
- e) Dates of Assignment: Feb 24 – Mar 10, 2017
- f) Number of days worked 10

1.2.1 Objective 1 in your SOW. Land management

- a) Progress with the objective Progress on land management was made by conducting presentations on soil and water conservation.
- b) Expected impacts/results Farmers have more knowledge of soil conservation practices they can implement on their farms. Improved soil conservation will also improve water retention on farms.
- c) Recommendations Crops need to always be planted along the contour, or across the slope, never up and down the slope. The best conservation practice is to construct bench terraces. Other alternatives would be ridge tillage, using filter strips of grass, which could be harvested for livestock, and applying mulch after planting to protect the soil.

1.2.2 Objective 2 in your SOW. IPM

- a) Progress with the objective. Progress was made on integrated pest management (IPM) through presentations dealing with effective IPM strategies.
- b) Expected impacts/results Farmers have a better understanding of the IPM concept using many control options with pesticides being the last option.
- c) Recommendations. IPM strategy takes into consideration how all aspects of crop growing will affect pests. Rotate crops as much as possible with unrelated crop families. If crop residue is diseased, consider removing it from the field and destroying it by composting. Use disease free seed. Use newer varieties that have genetic disease resistance. Use proper plant spacing to encourage leaf drying and air circulation. Control weeds. As a last resort, use the proper pesticide and follow the label directions.

1.2.3 Objective 3 in your SOW. Crop production

- a) Progress with the objective. Progress was made on general crop production through presentations.
- b) Expected impacts/results Farmers have better knowledge of growing maize and vegetables with improved fertility and proper plant spacing.
- c) Recommendations. Maintain fertility with proper applications of compost and manure before planting. If fertilizer is needed, P and K should be applied at or before planting making sure the fertilizer does not touch the seed. Small amounts of N may be applied at planting, with larger amounts sidedressed 4-6 weeks after planting. Use proper plant spacing. 1-2 maize plants per human foot is proper. Higher planting rates are not productive and waste seeds. Following are spacings per human foot: cabbage 1, onion 6-8, carrot 6-8, beans 6-10, okra 3-4, peppers 1, potatoes 1, eggplant 1. Following are 1 plant per 2 foot, tomatoes, cucumber.

1.3 Action Plan



Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
1. Soil conservation	Install appropriate conservation practices	Each farmer on their farm	Before planting and on going in following seasons until completed
2. Composting	Build compost piles using local organic matter	Each farmer on their farm	Any time organic matter is available
3. Crop spacing	Use the appropriate spacing for each crop	Each farmer on their farm	At planting time
4. IPM	Follow IPM strategy	Each farmer	At all times
5. Pesticide safety	Follow safety procedures	Anyone using pesticides	Whenever pesticides are used
6.			

1.4 Number of people Assisted

- a) Through formal training 38
- b) Through direct technical assistance (Do not double count)
- c) Out of these above, number of host staffs 2
- d) Training/assistance by field

Category	Total	Males	Females
Members/ owners			
Employees			
Clients/ Suppliers			
Family Members			
Total	38	26	12

1.5 Gender

- a) What gender roles did you recognize in your host community? Did these roles play a part in your assignment? How? I did not recognize any gender roles, women appeared to farmer equally with men, although a larger numbers of farmers were men. Women are generally the sellers at the market.
- 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 \$ 40

- a. Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment 15
- b. Estimated value of all material contributions volunteer contributed to host during assignment

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



- a) Meals
- 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. The SOW was accurate to the conditions in Mhezi. Some farmers expressed interest in training on livestock and poultry. The farmers also expressed interest in marketing, coffee production, small scale sugar cane processing, and new crops like ginger and garlic.

1.9 Recommendations for CRS: The assignment went very well. The farmers showed much interest in the trainings and participated in productive discussions. Some recommendations that might be helpful for future assignments.

The journey from USA to host country is long and tiring. It may help to have detailed procedure for arrival and immigration at the airport.

Continue to partner with Peace Corp, the assignments are more productive with their assistance.

In the orientation materials, including an example of a completed final report could be helpful.

1.10 Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VOLUNTEER CONTACT: Mark Lichtenwalner

Pennsylvania farmer
610-965-5214
kmlfarm@rcn.com

Macungie, Area Volunteer Travels to Tanzania to Share Skills with Local Farmers

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

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Macungie Area Volunteer Travels to Tanzania to Share Skills with Local Farmers



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

Mark Lichtenwalner, a farmer from **Macungie, PA** travelled to **Tanzania** for 2 weeks to share his/her technical skills and expertise with local farmers. Mark'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.

“The soil and climate in Mhezi Village has great potential for agricultural growth,” said **Mark Lichtenwalner**.

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 Tanzania, **Mark** worked with **Mhezi Agricultural Group** in farm production training and giving technical assistance to **men and women farmers** to enable them to improve the production of vegetables. Up to 38 beneficiaries were reached. **Trainings were conducted on topics of soil and water conservation, integrated pest management, and vegetable crop production.**

Mark'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.