

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: **Richard Cooke**
- b) State of Origin: **Illinois**
- c) Host Organization: **Gbonkolenken Farmers Association (GbonFA)**
- d) Assignment: **Provide basic technical knowledge and skills to GbonFA staff and partner FBO members on improved land preparation methods and reconstruction of irrigation bunds and drainage canals on rehabilitated Inland Valley Swamps in Tonkolili district, Northern Sierra Leone.**
- e) Dates of Assignment: **June 10 to June 24, 2017**
- f) Number of days worked: **15 days**
- g)

1.2.1 Objective 1 in your SOW :**Support GbonFA staff and FBO representatives with technical specifications that will be used to reconstruct the irrigation bunds and drainage canals constructed during the rehabilitation for good water control and management**

- a)Progress with the objective: **Surveyed main channels at the four sites and provided information on channel adjustment to provide unimpeded flow.**
 - **Established stations at 20m intervals along each channel**
 - **Determined channel invert elevation at each station**
 - **Plotted channel profiles and determine minimum cut and fill for non-adverse slopes**
 - **Marked cut or fill depth at each station**
- b) **Expected impacts/results: FBO members at 4 location have information required to rehabilitate their main drains**
- c)Recommendations:
 1. **(FBO Members) Rehabilitate main drains, then practice annual maintenance of main drains**
 2. **(CRS) Establish an SOW to provide similar survey work for peripheral channels. The main channel is used for water removal, and the peripheral channels for water supply. Water management is impossible if both types of channels are not functional**

1.2.2 Objective 2 in your SOW: 2. **Provide technical training to GbonFA staff and FBO representatives on how to level IVS lands for improved water flow.**

- a)Progress with the objective: **Introduced the water level, an inexpensive instrument for accurate land leveling, and built one for each of 3 FBOs**
 - **Stressed the importance of land leveling to rice (effect on tillering and yield)**
 - **Demonstrated the use of the water level**
 - **Worked with GbonFA staff to put together an instrument**
 - **Provided training on the use of the Engineer's Level for Profile Surveying, and for determining cut and fill depths**
- b) **Expected impacts/results: The greatest impact depends on GbonFA leveling their own demonstration plots, thereby providing a visual demonstration of the benefits of proper leveling**
- c)Recommendations:

1. (GbonFA) Level demonstration plots
2. (GbonFA) Continue training FBO members of the use of the water level
3. (CRS) GbonFA has in their possession an engineer's level, and a laser surveying device. There is need to provide training on the use of these equipment. An initial training session was conducted on the use of the engineer's level, but follow-up training is needed.

1.2.3 Objective 3 in your SOW: **Train GbonFA staff and FBO representatives on improved methods of water control through the installation of inlet and outlet pipes using local materials.**

- a) Progress with the objective: In several places, bamboo inlet and outlet pipes were observed on plots. The farmers knew how to use them.
- b) Expected impacts/results: The use of inlet and outlet pipes are dependent on the ability to manage water. With the current state of the main and peripheral channels, there is but little impact from the use of inlet and outlet pipes.
- c) Recommendations:
 - Rehabilitate main and peripheral channels

1.3 Recommended future volunteer assignment : Until the channels have been rehabilitated, the only assignment that makes sense in the short term, is to build the capacity of GbonFA members. Recommended future activities include

- Providing training on the use of the equipment that they already have
- Providing training on GIS and database management
- Helping GbonFA to build plot layout, soil, and crop yield GIS layers

1.4 Action Plan

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			

1.5 Number of people Assisted

- a) Through formal training (Classroom setup)
- b) Through direct hands on practical assistance (Do not double count)
- c) Out of these above, number of host staffs
- d) Training/assistance by field

Category	Total	Males	Females
Members/ owners	43	34	9

Employees (GbonFA)	7	6	1
Clients/ Suppliers	0	0	0
Family Members	0	0	0
Total	50	40	10

1.6 Gender

- a) What gender roles did you recognize in your host community? Did these roles play a part in your assignment? How?
- 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 \$

- a. Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment: 20 hours
- 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. No

1.9 Recommendations for CRS: The greatest need is the rehabilitation of the main and peripheral channels. Without this rehabilitation, water management practices cannot be implemented, and without proper water management, the benefits of new production techniques, and improved rice varieties, will not be realized.

1.10 Press Release

1.10 Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[US City] Farmer [Researcher, etc] Works with Counterparts in [Country]

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

[DATELINE: City, State, Month, Day, 2016]--- [Name], a [title] from [city, state] who is a [add your title, or area of expertise] travelled to [country] for [x] weeks to share his/her technical skills and expertise with local farmers. [Name]'s assignment is part of Catholic Relief Services' Farmer-to-Farmer program that promotes economic growth, enhanced nutrition through access to healthy food, and agricultural development in East Africa.

"[Volunteer quote]," said [name]. [Quote should tell why you were there and how you spent your time, what you were trying to accomplish and how your visit made a difference. Quotes that are short (2 sentences) and paint a picture are strongest.]

Farmer-to-Farmer matches the technical expertise of U.S. farmers and professionals in agribusinesses, farming cooperatives, and universities with farmers in developing countries to assist them in improving agricultural productivity, accessing new markets, and increasing their incomes. Farmer-to-Farmer is funded by the U.S Agency for International Development (USAID).

In a world where 80% of food is produced by farmers working on small farms or fisheries, the movement to share proven farming and business skills can improve the quality and quantity of the world's food supply. For communities in the developing world who often struggle to produce enough food, this can improve access to a reliable source of food and better nutrition. For the farmers, it can strengthen their path to prosperity.

The goal of [name's] assignment was to [___describe goal_____]. He/she worked with [# of and type of beneficiaries] who [describe situation/challenge/opportunity]. Most of [name's] time was spent in the [describe the location/part of the country] working with [name the partner]. [Optional Statement: What impact do you think your work will have?]

This is [name's (first, second, third, etc.)] volunteer assignment with Farmer-to-Farmer and is one of nearly 500 assignments that focus on improving approaches to local agriculture practices, expanding production of quality food crops and nutrition in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya



and Uganda. The program, funded by the U.S. government has been running for nearly 30 years.

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 volunteers travel to East Africa for anywhere from one to six weeks.

“We are certain 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 and a whole lot better 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 more than 100 countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality. CRS’ relief and development work is accomplished through programs of emergency response, HIV, health, agriculture, education, microfinance and peacebuilding. For more information, visit www.crs.org or www.crsespanol.org and follow Catholic Relief Services on social media: [Facebook](#), Twitter at [@CatholicRelief](#), [@CRSnews](#) and [@CRSnoticias](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#) and [YouTube](#).