



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Volunteer Name: Antonio Reyna
Country: Tanzania
Country project:
Host: Sokoine University of Agriculture
Venue: SUA Campus
Audience: SUA Faculty and Lecturers
Number of people : 21
Date: 6-20 October, 2017



1. Assignment Objectives as in SOW

The objective of this assignment is to train university lecturers and senior lecturers in project management. Trainees will learn to use formal project management techniques to develop an implementation plan and to inform decision-making during design, planning, and implementation.

2. Achievement of the assignment objectives

Successfully trained university lecturers and senior lecturers in project management. The group was exposed to simplified formal project management techniques which were tailored to provide maximum applicability to their workshop examples as well as personal projects without the need for previous project management experience. The class was very receptive of said techniques and proved their understanding through immediate application during workshop group exercises. This understanding was reinforced even further during class the group presentation portion of the workshop.

3. Recommendations to the host with regards to the assignment

1. Offer more training opportunities related to executive summaries and project management; the concepts shared during this workshop were new and enlightening to a majority of the attendees.
2. Look into the feasibility of partnership with business school to provide guidance with respect to the business or budgeting aspects of proposal writing, when workshops are not available.
3. Reassess the impact of sharing “points” when it comes to joint proposals or research projects.
4. Encourage all researchers to engage with industry to network and discover, or foster, new research projects and funding opportunities.

4. Anticipated Impact

Students gained new perspectives with respect to how to manage and outline their own research projects, as well as new skills in proposal writing with the goal of targeting specific funding sources with efficient executive summaries to make the goal of their projects clear to anyone potential investors. Students projects developed during the workshop exercised proved to be well organized with a clear action plan containing detailed tasks and allocated resources encompassing everything required to successfully manage a project to completion.

5. Recommended future volunteer Assistance

Recommend continuing to offer courses to other departments at SUA where research proposals and funding procurement occur. After covering the assignment material it became clear that the attendees had not been previously exposed to the perspectives and concepts offered by the workshop. Throughout the training the instructor could observe a noticeable difference in mindset and personal perspective related to the importance of applying project management techniques to understand the full extent and cost of their proposals and research opportunities. I feel that this type of course would be beneficial to many people in the research and academic field in any countries. Recommend extending the length of the course to at least a week to allow for more instruction while still maintaining the amount of group work. Also, consider adding more time or offer a completely separate training involving the subject of budgeting. The time allotted for this course was not adequate to completely cover these subjects while also speaking to the more general topic of project management.

6. Recommendations to other non-host stakeholders

I recommend that the information provided during this assignment be shared or presented to others in academia or other universities in general. The unique perspectives offered during this assignment could benefit anyone.

Action plan for host recommendations

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
1	Organize peer review proposal/project meetings with the intent of receiving feedback from colleagues internal to the university prior to formally submission of proposals/projects.	Akwilina Mwanri, Riespikius Martin, Goodluck Massawe, Primitiva Andrea	Bi-monthly or As Needed
2	Organize a task force to develop a proposal for a policy which rewards to faculty for bringing in funding and publishing peer-reviewed papers.	Dr. Kahimba/Dr. Mushi	January 2018
3	Request additional capacity building workshops related to proposal development and project management through CRS.	Principal of College	As Needed
4	Create a Research Coordination Office to research funding opportunities and coordinate opportunities with SUA faculty; create a centralized online database or faculty user interface to increase visibility and university wide communication of opportunities.	Dr. Mushi	ASAP

7. How can CRS improve future volunteer experience

This being my very first volunteer assignment I was not entirely sure of what to expect, but everything went very smoothly and it was an amazing personal experience. I have no improvements to recommend.

Thank you for the opportunity!

Thank You!