



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: Dan Janzen
- b) Host Organization: Good Neighbors Community Project
- c) Assignment: Tomato Production (focus on greenhouse production, disease sanitation—particularly oak wilt and potential for grafting as possible solution)
- d) Dates of Assignment: July 28-Aug. 15th
- e) Number of days worked 19

1.2 Progress with overall objective:

The objective of this volunteer assignment was to build the capacity of 60 GNCP farmer trainers through a Training of Trainers mechanism (TOT) on improved tomato production technologies. This objective was fulfilled but the numbers of participants in formal training were not as high as the host anticipated (aprox. 25 short of the 60). However, in the field many were informally trained and that would bring the total up over 60 for the number of farmers affected through training. Much hinges on the host and the extension officers for follow-through with the multiplication principle of the TOT training that I completed, because I did not introduce the most exciting part of the “way forward”, row tunnels, until I trained the extension officers. My expectation is that a successful demonstration of row tunnel technology at host’s farm and a field day will generate the needed inertia to reach the goals of the TOT training objective of this assignment. However, much also depends on what the extension officers do with the training I provided to them which included the only formal training I provided on row tunnel technology.

1.2.1 Objective 1: Visit GNCP nursery and demonstration farm and review current knowledge and practice on tomato production.

a) Progress with the objective:

I believe I exceeded the objective but my focus was on solving problems such as soil fertility, disease, and insect control and it was through visiting all the farms collectively that I put together the most important recommendations for a “way forward”. I also taught grafting techniques and hot-callousing for macadamia nut grafting.

b) Expected impacts/results (see below) Also, the host should be able to apply many of the suggestions made as a result of visiting and training her employees. Therefore, I would expect her to set up row tunnel demonstrations, mulch demonstrations including reflective mulch demonstration, demonstration of how to produce bio-suppressants and a result demonstration on their use. Other suggestions were to stock her ponds with fish and consider hogs manuring fish production in one of her unused pens adjacent to catchment (feeding crop residue). Field days could showcase the technologies introduced and facilitate adoption & diffusion.

c) Recommendations (see above & PowerPoint)



1.2.2 Objective 2: Visit trained GNCP farmer beneficiaries involved in tomato production and identify training gaps.

a) Progress with the objective:

We visited 7 or 8 greenhouse farmers/groups, even one on Sunday. However, the arrangement of the trainings should have been pushed to the very last days instead of the mid-way point of visiting the greenhouses and then I could have included training on Fusarium Wilt in both trainings instead of just one of the two farmer trainings. In addition, I anticipate that at that time I could have included training on row tunnel technology as I would have reached that conclusion at that time.

b) Expected impacts/results/recommendations: Talked about need to use systemic insecticides prior to production, rotate insecticides, check efficacy through internet or contacting extension service, spray from below with high pressure, and follow label using proper PPE. Discussed sanitation needs to check spread of Fusarium and provided recommendations with individual farmer's fertility issues as I encountered them. Also discussed irrigation scheduling based on feeling soil moisture, soil fertility management, trenching for proper drainage outside greenhouse, organic matter and mulch application to soil both inside and outside greenhouse, and how to grow seedlings with proper sanitation and girth (slowly). Also discussed was how to successfully grow tomatoes in the field in the wet season by wide spacing and intercropping and strategically placing plantings where wind is not obstructed for quick drying of leaves. Pruning of lower leaves where too excessive was also encouraged.

c) Recommendations: (see above)

1.2.3 Objective 3: Provide training of trainers training on nursery management and agronomic practices.

a) Progress with the objective:

A true false test served to challenge the predominant paradigm of belief about the potential of Western Kenyan agricultural practices. I covered all the items in (b) above and also focused on how to grow more intensively through intercropping, companion compensation, relay cropping and taking advantage of value-added opportunities. I also covered aspects of planting more extensively through lease/rent/crop share options, offering contract growing opportunities, & marketing for other growers. In addition, I encouraged growers to use urine as foliar feed and to help control fungus.

b) Expected impacts/results: I certainly hope I changed many of the prevailing and crippling myths about farming economics and investment; and provided a methodology of increasing fertility and providing adequate crop protection without excessive expenditure, particularly for the small-holder just starting on high-value horticultural crops.

c) Recommendations (see above and PowerPoint also)

1.3 Number of people Assisted

a) Through formal training - 8

b) Through direct technical assistance (Do not double count) 3



- c) Out of these above, number of host staffs 4
- d) Training/assistance by field

Topic/field	Total	Males	Females
Farmer Mobilization	7	3	4
Registration	1	-	1
Propagation technique	3	1	2
Field Management	3	1	2
Diseases and pest	3	1	2
Post harvest	3	1	2
Total	20	7	13

1.4 Gender

- a) What gender roles did you recognize in your host community?

The coordinator of the project is a woman and she has a wonderful attitude toward assisting both men and women. In fact, it was interesting to note that she seemed more critical of the women's farming ability than that of the men (given the groups/farmers we visited). Most of the greenhouse groups were women. Some greenhouse farmers were individual men and women as well. Extension staff trained were both men and women but more were men. The gender of the two producer/farmer trainings were mixed men and women fairly equally.

- b) How might CRS or the host organization improve opportunities for the women in this host or host community?

By following the recommendations for appropriate technology, row tunnels, there will be many opportunities for women with little start-up capital. This will have a very significant impact on women in particular

1.6 Value of volunteer contribution in \$

- a. Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment 60
- b. Estimated value of all material contributions volunteer contributed to host during assignment. \$300

1.7 Value of hosts' contribution in \$

- a) Meals \$500
- b) Transportation \$1,000
- e) Other (Specify) \$ 800 (Communication, Stationery, Hiring of Halls)

1.9 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.

After checking multiple greenhouses for Bacterial Wilt I only found Fusarium Wilt and question whether Bacterial Wilt has even become an issue in the area. One extension officer claims he has a greenhouse with bacterial wilt but “it doesn’t add up” and I think he is lying regarding checking and finding Bacterial Wilt. We wanted to go see the farmer and he told us the farmer refuses to see us—How likely is that! Another extension officer in the training made extensive comments of lamentation as to the nature of the problem of false diagnosis of the wilt situation in the context of the diagnosis being mandated in a “top down” dictatorial manner.

I have come to the conclusion that greenhouse production is not a viable technology in the short-run for Western Kenya unless really high-value crops such as flowers are grown. I took a show of hands from extension officers as to how many greenhouses they knew of that had been purchased by local farmers. They could not think of any and the existing greenhouses came into existence from a govt. grant. People don’t have the funds to purchase greenhouses (or rather investors with funds are yet to see the benefits of investing in greenhouses) but people do have the funds to start with row-tunnel technology and eventually save up enough to purchase greenhouses.

2.How CRS can improve your experience as a volunteer?

There should be more communication between the local organizers and CRS regarding presentation materials. I ran into a problem because I was told that the local organizers would have everything but upon arriving I found that they did not have a powerpoint projector. I had a miniprojector with me but it did not have enough lumens for the audience to see clearly even with the lights off.

Presentation toolbox is needed: The flip chart did not have an easel. Fortunately I had a roll of sticky tape Velcro with me. I recommend every volunteer carry a roll of this or duck tape and return to CRS what they do not use at the end. A laser pointer would be great as well. Sheets are needed for the windows to obscure outside light.

The arrangement of the producer trainings was not correct. They should have been scheduled on the last days instead of the midway point.