

For clarification questions about this assignment, please email mireille.ngokion@crs.org.

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Summary Information	
Assignment Code	BJ246
Country	Benin
Country Project	Soybean subsector
Host Organization	Hunger Free World (HFW)
Type of Volunteer Assistance	Technology Transfer =T
Type of Value Chain Activity	Farm Production = F
Assignment Title	Sustainable farm land management
Assignment preferred dates	Flexible
Objectives of the assignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train 100 farmers on soil degradation causes, • Train the participants on different techniques of sustainable soil management • Provide information on suitable condition of using each technique
Desired volunteer skill/expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert in sustainable land management • Have practical experiences in sustainable farmland management • Be familiar with tropical agriculture system • Be familiar with the participatory approach

A. BACKGROUND

Hunger Free World (HFW) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) whose vision is to work for a world without hunger. The organization has been operating since 2005 in Benin. It has its head office in Abomey – Calavi. The commune of Zè, precisely the twelve (12) villages of Dodji district are its intervention zone. The main objective of the organization is to meet the right to food for all. This, through the capacity-building of the populations and the support for socio-community infrastructures. The Hunger Free World is working with soybean, corn and peanut farmers through their capacity- building. This not only to allow them to better produce but to have a better living as well. It's in the framework of this, that the organization has solicited the Farmer to Farmer project's support in order to build 100 farmers capacity on sustainable farm land management.

B. ISSUE DESCRIPTION

Agriculture is the backbone of Benin economy and about 70% of its population makes their living from this sector. Although agriculture is vital for Benin economy, the latter is facing many challenges and one of them is farm land degradation. About 62% of Benin farm land is degraded (PSI-GDT 2010). This is owed to continuous cropping without replacement of nutrients exported by harvests and the way farmers use chemical fertilizers. This soil fertility depletion is impinging on farmers 'income and therefore their condition living. Regarding this situation, the restoration of soil fertility and the sustainable land management is a major challenge to overcome in order to assure food security and agriculture development.

To restore the farm land fertility, it is crucial to build farmers capacity on sustainable land management techniques.

The hunger Freed World NGO has solicited this training on behalf of soybean, peanut and corn farmers who are mostly suffering from the farm land degradation.

This capacity building of these farmers will surely enhance the crops (soya, corn, peanut) production and will allow the farmers to have a better living conditions.

C. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The main objective of this assignment is to build 100 farmers 'capacity on sustainable farm land management.

Specifically, train the 100 farmers on:

- Soil degradation causes,
- Different techniques of sustainable farm land management by focus on Composting techniques, agropastoral system (livestock pasture), agroforestry (use of forest plant to enrich soil and wind protection belts around vegetable fields), rotational crop system, etc.
- Provide information on suitable condition of using each technique.

D. HOST CONTRIBUTION

The Hunger Free World (HFW), contribution to this assignment will consist of mobilizing the participants (farmers) to the training sessions. In addition, they will provide a training room and all the required material for the training session. Finally, they promise to take in charge the roundtrip commuting of the volunteer from his or her hotel to its quarter every day.

E. ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT

This assignment will allow the participants (farmers) to be aware of behaviors that contribute to the degradation of their farm land. Besides, this training will build their capacity on different techniques to be used for sustainable farm land management. The adoption of these techniques will surely impact positively their income by increasing their productivity. After, this assignment, the farms' productivity will be increased of 50%.

DELIVERABLES

- The participants have their capacity built on techniques of farm land management
- The Final report is provided
- The debriefing with CRS Benin and USAID local mission is done
- A Group presentation is done

F. SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN COUNTRY (DRAFT)

The training will be held in two sessions. The sessions should be combined with practice.

Day	Activity
Day 1	Travel from home to US international airport
Day 2	Arrival at Benin International Airport, picked up and check in at Livingstone Hotel.

Day 3	At 8.30 am, the volunteer is greeted at the hotel by CRS staff and thereafter go to CRS office for introductions and orientations (briefings including host brief), logistics and expectations and anticipated outcomes. Any necessary hand-outs will be prepared at CRS offices and travel to Abomey Calavi and afterward to Ze for checking in Hotel Bonté du Soleil. CRS Benin F2F team introduces the volunteer to Hunger Free World staff at Abomey Calavi for defining working condition and for finalizing the working plan. Afterward this working session, the volunteer will head toward Ze where he or she will stay at Bonté du Soleil Hotel.
First session (train of 50 participants)	
Day 4	-Check up the background of the 50 participants related to the assignment and their expectations -Provide information on soil degradation causes
Days 5	-Train on Composting techniques and its use for fertilizing soil (combine with practices) -Provide information on suitable conditions of using each technique
Day 6	-Train on the use of agroforestry for soil fertilization (use of forest plant to enrich soil and wind protection belts around vegetable fields) -Train on a agropastoral system (livestock pasture) its use for fertilizing soil -Provide information on suitable conditions of using each technique
Day 7	-Train on rotational crop system for fertilizing soil -Provide information on suitable condition of using each technique
Second Sessions (train of 50 participants)	
Day 8	-Check up the background of the 50 participants related to the assignment and their expectations -Provide information on soil degradation causes
Day 10	-Train on Composting techniques and its use for fertilizing soil (combine with practice) -Provide information on suitable condition of using each technique
Day 11	-Train on the use of agroforestry for soil fertilization (use of forest plant to enrich soil and wind protection belts around vegetable fields) -Train on a agropastoral system (livestock pasture) its use for fertilizing soil -Provide information on suitable condition of using each technique
Day 12	-Train on rotational crop system for fertilizing sol, -Provide information on suitable condition of using each technique
Day 13	Debriefing with CRS Benin F2F staff and the Hunger Free World representatives, actions plan and recommendations review and trip back to Cotonou
Day 14	Debriefing at CRS office with USAID Mission and CRS staff. Volunteer will finalize his/her reporting at CRS office and fill out all necessary M&E forms.
Day 15	Depart for USA

G. DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS

To achieve this assignment objectives, the volunteers should have professional skills and solid experiences in sustainable land management. He/she must:

- Be an Expert in sustainable land management
- Have practical experiences in sustainable farm management
- Be familiar with tropical agriculture system
- Be Familiar with participatory approach

H. ACCOMMODATION AND ANOTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS

In Cotonou, the volunteer will stay at Livingstone Hotel, whereas at Zè, the volunteer will stay at the Hotel Bonté du Soleil. In Benin, CRS will pay for hotel accommodation. In addition, a local network SIM card will be provided to the volunteer as well as a spare computer if needed. In Zè, CRS will hire a local translator for the volunteer's work and Hunger Free World will contribute to the volunteer's commuting as well as mobilizing and supporting the participants.

I. RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS

1. Training Materials

The volunteer should have courses material. The handout materials can be printed in CRS office in Cotonou. Flip charts, markers, masking tapes can be obtained at the CRS offices in case the volunteer wishes to make some illustrations during the sessions. For the practice sessions, the volunteer may ask the materials she or he will need so as to allow the host organization to prepare them for the session.

2. Working Environment

Zè is located in the south of Benin in the Atlantique department. It is situated at about 50 km from Cotonou. People there are mostly Christians but all of them are well involved in endogenous religion. People there speak two mains languages: AĪZO and FON. Also, in Zè, people are open to collaborate with foreigners.

3. Recommended Reading

The volunteer may read on: Benin 'agriculture with focus on sustainable farm land management technologies promoted in Africa especially Benin.

4. Weather Appropriate Clothing

The weather appropriate clothing is light and not dark clothes. In the south of Benin, the weather is a bit hot and humid with some temperatures waving between 23 to 36 Celsius degree. It is also a sunny with some rains fall from March.