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FY22 Semi Annual Performance Report

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Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) Program LWA

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Cover Photo: Local Nepali volunteer Dr. Chet Raj Upreti training participants from F2F host Small Farmer Agriculture Cooperative Limited (SFACL), on dairy herd management for enhanced production and productivity in Surkhet, Nepal January 2022.

Photo by CRS Staff

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Acronyms

ALCA-Benin	Association de Lutte contre l'Analphabétisation
CAPRORE	Cooperative des Agriculteurs Progressistes de Remera-Intambwe
COIB	Cooperative Ibyiza Biri Imbere
COMSS	Cooperative des multiplicateurs de semences selectionees
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
EGCDWO	Ethiopian Guenet Church Development and Welfare Organization
EV2D	Eden Vision pour un Développement Durable
EWNRA	Ethio-Wetlands and Natural Resources Association
F2F	Farmer-to-Farmer
FY	Fiscal year
HAFOTI	Hamahon Feto Timor
IPM	Integrated pest management
JAFEM	Juventude Agricultura Floresta Emprezarial
KDFA	Kamuli District Farmers Association
KIMUYANZA	Koperative icyerekezo MUYANZA
KOAIRU	Koperative y'abahinzi b'ibigori n'ibishyimbo ba Rubira
LUSCUN	Lumbini Specialized Co-Operative Union Ltd.
MAAIF	State Minister of Agriculture Animal Industries and Fisheries
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
NEPLAS	Nepal Laboratory Accreditation Scheme
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
PERSUAP	Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan
SACCO	Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization
SFACL	Small Farmer Agricultural Cooperative Limited
SoW	Scope of Work
TILOFE	Timor-Leste Organic Fertilizer (organization)
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

I. Introduction

The goal of Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) five-year Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) program is to generate rapid, sustainable and broad-based food security and economic growth in the agricultural sector in six countries: Benin, Ethiopia, Nepal, Rwanda, Timor-Leste and Uganda. A secondary goal is to increase the American public's understanding of international development programs and to promote international understanding of the United States (U.S.) and its role in foreign assistance.

During the first six months of fiscal year (FY) 2022, CRS continued to rely heavily on paired volunteer assignments (U.S. remote volunteers paired with non-U.S. local volunteers) to provide technical support to host organizations. For this reporting period, CRS completed 79 paired-remote assignments and one in-person assignment, directly training 4,953 people (51% women and 31% youth). Women made up almost half (48%) of all U.S. volunteers. Hosts contributed resources valued at \$40,871 toward assignment completion with 17 new hosts assisted. Of the 80 fielded volunteers (79 local volunteers supported remotely by U.S. volunteers, and one U.S. volunteer in person), 15 were women and 50 were new to the program.

Impact data was collected during this reporting period. Cumulatively, host organizations realized annual gross sales valued at \$56,557,829 from a baseline value of \$44,589,954 with annual net incomes increasing to \$5,053,024 from a baseline of \$3,386,141. Hosts mobilized additional resources worth \$6,217,037. Though the number of loans increased from 31,105 to 34,769, there was a decline in the value of agricultural lending, from a baseline of \$21,133,475 to \$13,685,124. New products and services developed with hosts were 72 and 32, respectively. Data tables for the reporting period are provided to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in a separate Excel worksheet. Summary descriptions of each volunteer assignment for FY22 are in Annex C.

Staffing Updates: Innocent Labiyi was hired as the Project Coordinator in Benin after a competitive hiring process. In March, recruiter Maria Figueroa tendered her resignation. Her work is currently being covered by another recruiter, the Operations Manager, and the Project Director.

USAID Coordination: F2F key personnel regularly updated Mission contacts on all volunteer assignments and invited Missions to virtual and in-person volunteer debrief presentations. CRS continued to actively engage core country USAID Missions to enhance F2F contributions to USAID country strategies and Feed the Future initiatives. In December, the CRS F2F team in Timor-Leste accompanied USAID Foreign Service Officer Charlee Doom on a field visit to F2F host Centro de Desenvolvimento Comunitario, or "Community Development Centre," to view work carried out by volunteers on drip irrigation and composting. In Rwanda, F2F Country Director Grace Gasana attended several briefings hosted by the Rwanda Mission and met with Economic Growth Office Director Amy Beeler to discuss the findings of a study carried out by CRS into the plight of Urban Women Horticulture Traders with a view to addressing their needs through a buy-in or associate award. Discussions around a buy-in or associate award continued between the CRS Country Program, F2F and USAID in Uganda, but unfortunately came to a stalemate when the Mission notified CRS that funding was not available. In Ethiopia, there were initial talks around a collaboration between CRS and the Feed the Future Soybean Innovation Lab. In March, CRS requested a meeting with the Ethiopia Mission to explore their interest in issuing an associate award for work in the soybean sector. In Q2, USAID notified CRS that the Sudan Mission is interested in making an associate award to CRS for development programming in the country. At the HQ and regional levels, the Project Director and Operations Manager based in the US, and the Deputy Director and

Technical Advisor II for Program Quality based in East Africa, maintained regular contact with the USAID F2F Agreement Officer Representative and management staff in Washington.

Collaboration with USAID Implementing Partners, Other Projects, and Local Governments: F2F country projects are aligned with USAID Mission strategies and local government development plans. CRS strengthened strategic partnerships with other U.S. government and national government partners by prioritizing technical support to those partners as host organizations. This contributed to the efficient utilization of resources and the achievement of development objectives. At the implementing partners’ meeting in February 2022, CRS led a session on host follow-up. During this reporting period, CRS also launched a project on behalf of the F2F community of practice to develop a video showcasing the successes of one volunteer pair per implementing partner covering eight countries in total. The CRS Senior Technical Advisor for Gender and Nutrition Integration in Agriculture and the CRS F2F Project Director led initial discussions with other interested implementing partners around ways to make host assessment tools more gender sensitive. This will lead to a pilot of updated tools in the coming months.

Outreach: CRS conducted 132 outreach activities, both in the U.S. and globally, to generate public understanding of the F2F program and its activities. These included group presentations and social media posts. CRS volunteers made 60 presentations and 69 social media posts, and three publications related to their F2F assignments. Volunteers spent a total of seven days giving post-assignment technical support to host organizations.

II. Summary of Implementation Experience in Core Countries

Benin

Volunteers completed 12 remote paired assignments with nine host organizations, including five new organizations, in the cashew and soybean country projects directly assisting 598 people (28% women and 20% youth). These assignments were on technology transfer in farm production, enterprise development, and organizational capacity development to strengthen host and individual enterprise contributions to agricultural economic and social development. Volunteers made 56 recommendations, provided a total of 175 days of service, and hosts contributed \$5,822 toward assignment completion.

Country Project	Assignments
Cashew	4
Soybean	8
Total	12

Cashew

Volunteers completed four assignments with four hosts organizations, directly assisting 101 people (37% women and 42% youth) during 56 days of volunteer service. Assignments focused on agribusiness plan design and analysis of agricultural micro-projects for a government agency, marketing strategy development for a private processing unit, business accounting management and financial education for *agripreneurs*, and human resources management for a community organization. Volunteers provided 21 recommendations, including improving organizational performance and contributions to sectoral development. Host organizations contributed \$1,699 toward the assignments.

Soybean

Volunteers completed eight assignments with five host organizations, directly assisting 497 people (22% women and 13% youth) during 119 days of volunteer service. Assignments focused on leadership and governance training for a pineapple processor group, farm management and investment plan

development, training on results-based monitoring and evaluation for community-based development actors, and sustainable farm production and storage technologies in soybean and pineapple production for individual farmers supported by hosts. Volunteers provided 35 recommendations and host organizations contributed \$4,123 toward the assignments.

Major Impacts and Accomplishments

- Through partnerships developed with the Crop Production Department of the Ministry of Agriculture to improve farmers’ skills in pineapple, soybean and palm tree production, CRS recruited three new hosts. Two of the new hosts have already received technical assistance on improved production technologies for pineapple and soybean for farmers with the Association de Lutte contre l’Analphabétisation (ALCA-Benin), or “Association for the Fight against Illiteracy,” and the non-governmental organization (NGO) Eden Vision pour un Développement Durable (EV2D), or “Eden Vision for Sustainable Development.” A total of 300 farmers have already received training through F2F.
- F2F increased project visibility through an [informational poster](#) and a local volunteer’s outreach at a radio station. These efforts resulted in the recruitment of one host, Amda-Sarl. This host was supported in developing a marketing plan which has attracted two new clients and helped expand their market share. They have increased their monthly sales by \$410.

Implementation Problems or Deviations from Expectations

- The percentage of women participants directly assisted was 31%, which is lower than the target. This was due to lower rates of women’s participation at the host level. In the second half of FY22, the team will work to improve women’s participation through value addition assignments where women play a significant role.

Ethiopia

Volunteers completed 15 assignments with 12 host organizations under the crops and livestock country projects. In total, the volunteers directly assisted 444 people (40% women and 49% youth). The types of volunteer support included organizational development and technology transfer. Volunteers completed a total of 235 days of service, and hosts contributed \$6,747 toward assignment completion.

Country Project	Assignments
Crops	10
Livestock	5
Total	15

Crops

Volunteers completed 10 assignments with six host organizations: six assignments focused on organizational development and four on technology transfer. Hosts supported included a variety of organizations, including NGOs, cooperatives, unions, a university, and a private company. Volunteer assignments on technology transfer included warehouse management for grain and seed storage, and the R software package (a programming and statistical tool) for agricultural data management and analysis. Organizational development assignments were focused on digital monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL) systems, grants management, and leadership and management. Volunteers provided 165 days of service and 37 recommendations. Six recommendations have been applied by the hosts and include improved warehouse management for grain and seed storage by Bora Denbel Farmers Union and research grant proposal writing by Selale and Wolkite Universities.

Livestock

Volunteers completed five assignments: three on technology transfer and two on organizational development. Assignments were completed with the private sector, universities and an NGO. The

technology transfer assignments focused on quality improvement of small-scale farm machinery (e.g., threshers and shellers), poultry feed processing and formulation, and human nutrition (e.g., food processing and recipe demonstration). Organizational development focused on youth livelihood skills and academic leadership and management. Volunteers provided 70 days of service and made 25 recommendations. A recommendation on the use of FeedWin, a software tool for quality poultry feed selection and formulation, has been adopted.

Major Impacts and Accomplishments

- F2F Ethiopia collaborated with the Resilience for Food Security Activities team to establish a digital (web-based) MEAL system for local NGO Ethio-Wetlands and Natural Resources Association (EWNRA). This led to the transformation of their manual system to a digital system that will improve data collection accuracy, timeliness and analysis, and therefore contribute to improved decision making.
- Yaya Dairy Farm secured an additional 4.5 hectares of land from the local government for fodder production and feed processing. The farm also started a school feeding program in collaboration with local government and an NGO.
- Host Wolkite University distributed agronomic tools and bio-fertilizers to farmers with the support of a CRS Fair Trade Fund. These tools were promoted through demonstrations at two farmer training centers, a university research station, and three farms. The demonstrations were implemented with local extension services to ensure farmers receive continuous technical support and access to technology.
- Using research funds valued at \$65,000 obtained after volunteer support in FY20, Injibara University staff implemented applied and on-farm action research on agronomy and varietal adaptation for crops, such as wheat, barley, and potato in six “woredas,” an administrative division managed by the local government. The funds were also used to promote improved dairy and poultry technologies in the woredas.

Implementation Problems or Deviations from Expectations

- Women’s participation remained low (40% for project participants and 13% for volunteers) compared to the target indicators. CRS has put efforts in place to increase women’s participation as project participants and volunteers. The project aims to reach participation targets through efforts such as targeting experts from professional women’s organizations in the case of volunteer recruitment, and, in the case of participants, ensuring the timing and location of trainings are suitable for women, and planning gender-sensitive assignments like nutrition for pregnant and breastfeeding women and mirroring cultural norms in which women are responsible for food preparation, processing and nutrition for the family.
- F2F was unable to provide support to host organizations in Tigray and some parts of Amhara due to the conflict in northern Ethiopia. Hosts Kombolcha Poultry Enterprise, Lay Gayint Farmers’ Union and Kombolcha Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education Training College also reported losses of some of their assets.

Nepal

Volunteers completed 14 assignments with 13 host organizations (10 new), assisting 385 people (40% women and 26% youth). These assignments were on technology transfer, organization development and business enterprise development. Volunteers completed a total of 233 days of service and hosts contributed \$4,818 toward assignment completion.

Country Project	Assignments
Crops	7
Livestock	7
Total	14

Crops

Volunteers completed seven assignments with seven host organizations directly assisting 165 people (37% women and 21% youth) during 100 days of service. Three assignments focused on organization development, one on business enterprise development and three on technology transfer. Hosts supported were public agricultural research and development organizations, private sector agribusiness service providers, farmer groups and cooperatives. Volunteers made 39 recommendations, of which 20 have been applied. Hosts contributed \$966 toward assignment completion.

Livestock

Seven assignments were completed with five new hosts directly assisting 220 people (42% women and 30% youth) during 133 days of service. Five assignments focused on technology transfer and two on business enterprise development. Volunteers made 25 recommendations, of which nine have been applied. Hosts contributed \$3,852 toward assignment completion. A total of 220 farmers, scientists and technicians, and staff of the hosts were trained in the application of new tools and techniques in goat, cattle, and dairy value chains for improved profitability and sustainability of their businesses.

Major Impacts and Accomplishments

- Small Farmers' Cooperative Ltd., Butwal, started production and marketing of at least eight different milk-based sweets and other dairy products, following hands-on training by the F2F volunteer on product diversification. These products are made on demand. The farmer members also improved market access for their fresh milk. The host invested \$3,000 in display cabinets, tools and utensils.
- Women's participation increased from 33% in FY21 to 40% during this reporting period. This was accomplished by delivering technology transfer training at the community level and using local languages.
- Skill Lab Pvt. Ltd, a F2F host, fully implemented business selection and evaluation toolkits and improved services to its agribusiness incubation training program.
- The National Goat Research Program in Bandipur improved its goat research and development technologies by applying a wide array of volunteer recommendations on topics such as selective breeding for does and bucks; feed supplements for lactating goats (steaming-up) and breeding goats (flushing up); the design of feeders and a milking parlor; goat cheese-making procedures; and the use of various tools and machinery including milking machines, heavy duty mineral feeders, and dehorner. The volunteer donated equipment, valued at \$1,800, and provided educational materials which will be translated into Nepali. This assignment helped the National Goat Research Program to improve the overall quality of its goat breeding and goat husbandry practices, leading to better quality milk and better herd health.
- The Agriculture Technology Center in Kathmandu, which provides soil and fertilizer testing laboratory services, started using the laboratory quality manual developed by F2F volunteers in order to apply for certification under the Nepal Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (NEPLAS). This laboratory will be the first of its kind in Nepal to obtain a license for testing chemical and organic fertilizers. The host has made significant improvements to its laboratory system to be compliant with ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and NEPLAS, including the separation of chemical and soil testing labs and installation of fire extinguishers and granite tabletops.
- Victoria Agriculture Firm (Bhaktapur), a new host, implemented four out of five volunteer recommendations in their agro-tourism farm and received an additional grant of \$18,000 from the provincial government. These funds will be used to construct new agro-tourism infrastructure and facilities.
- The recruitment of women volunteers increased from one in 2021 to four in the first half of FY22

following increased efforts to target women, using previous women volunteers to promote the program with other women.

Implementation Problems or Deviations from Expectations

- While the number of women participants increased, the percentage of youth remained low at 26% because many young people migrated from rural to urban areas or to other parts of the country in search of income generating opportunities. CRS F2F Nepal will continue to encourage the participation of youth, women, and people from disadvantaged communities across all our hosts and assignments.
- The number of people trained remained low. This is attributed to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and consequent movement and social distancing restrictions. The recent lifting of COVID restrictions gives the Nepal team an opportunity to be more intentional in their efforts to address this and increase the number of trained participants by working with community-based organizations and farmer cooperatives with a large pool of beneficiaries.

Rwanda

Volunteers completed 15 assignments with 14 host organizations in horticulture and maize projects, assisting 616 people (48% women and 10% youth). Volunteers focused on building the capacity of program participants within each value chain to increase their incomes by addressing constraints related to poor cooperative governance and management, post-harvest losses, poor business performance and marketing, and organic fertilizer compost production. Volunteers contributed 203 days of service and hosts contributed \$5,074 toward assignment completion. Volunteers made a total of 70 recommendations, of which 34 have been applied.

Country Project	Assignments
Horticulture	6
Maize	9
Total	15

Horticulture

Volunteers completed six assignments with six host organizations, directly assisting 191 people (57% women and 18% youth) across 75 days of service. Assignments focused on technology transfer for two hosts and organizational development for four hosts. Volunteers made 34 recommendations, of which six have been applied. Hosts contributed \$3,524 toward assignment completion.

Maize

Volunteers completed nine assignments with eight host organizations, directly assisting 425 people (43% women and 7% youth) during 128 days of service. Assignments focused on technology transfer for four hosts and organizational development for five hosts. Volunteers made 29 recommendations, of which 24 have been applied. Hosts contributed \$1,550 toward assignment completion.

Major Impacts and Accomplishments

- Freedom Kawunga Ltd. hired a production manager, a quality control officer and a storekeeper for its maize flour processing plant and started following the manual's procedures for daily activities. The company has applied for certification from the National Standard Certification Bureau and has been visited by Rwanda's Food and Drug Authority to certify the quality of the maize flour. Freedom Kawunga has also received a bank loan of \$65,000, used to buy equipment to improve the processing channel flow and hygienic conditions of the processing area as part of the requirements to obtain the National Standards Bureau Certificate.

- Three cooperatives – Coopérative des Agriculteurs Progressistes de Remera-Intambwe (CAPRORE), Koperative icyerekezo MUYANZA (KIMUYANZA), and Coopérative des multiplicateurs de semences sélectionnées (COMSS) – started harvesting maize in line with volunteer training and recommendations on post-harvest and good handling practices as well as keeping maize dry and ventilated in storage facilities to avoid aflatoxin contamination. COMSS was also granted a certificate to work as an agro-dealer in the community and has started to retail basic inputs (i.e., fertilizer, pesticides, and hermetic grains storage bags) to members and other farmers. The cooperative has been granted the right to work as a maize seed multiplier in the region.
- Koperative y’abahinzi b’ibigori n’ibishyimbo ba Rubira (KAOIRU Ganza) mobilized its members to adopt good post-harvest practices, conducted small training sessions on marketing and financial management for its executive committee and staff, and started to monitor and evaluate the executive committee’s activities through the cooperative’s auditory committee. KAOIRU Ganza used the business plan to apply for \$4,000 from the local authority and was granted a loan at 2% interest. The funding will be used to collect maize from farmers and store it at the cooperative’s collection facility, and for providing small loans to members in critical need. A small portion of the loan will also fund operations.
- F2F Rwanda increased the number of women participating in trainings to 48%, complying with the government’s requirement for at least 30% of participants in development activities to be women, and reached F2F’s target for the number of women trained. This was achieved by addressing barriers to women’s participation with the hosts before the volunteer assignments took place.
- F2F Rwanda secured funding of \$30,000 from CRS Rwanda to implement recommendations from the report on the Urban Women Horticulture Traders study conducted by the Country Program and the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources to identify problems faced by these traders. The team has developed an action plan for training activities to start next quarter while CRS Rwanda continues to advocate for more funding from stakeholders for a buy-in or associate award.

Implementation Problems or Deviations from Expectations

- The percentage of women volunteers (both local and U.S.) remained low, with two women local volunteers and three women U.S. volunteers across 15 assignments. To increase the number of women volunteers, F2F will recruit more women by head hunting and reminding F2F recruiters to give priority to women during the recruitment process if they qualify for the posted assignments.
- Local COVID-19 restrictions continued to affect program implementation, leading to fewer training participants owing to the limited number of people allowed to congregate at a meeting. Training or meeting participants were also required to have negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests for all assignments, further limiting participation.

Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste’s F2F activities supported the Modernizing Agriculture country project.

Eight assignments were completed, supporting four hosts: three private companies and a farmers’ association. The assistance aligned with the USAID Mission’s strategy to build agro-enterprise capacity and modernization of the horticulture, livestock, and industrial crops sub-sectors in Timor-Leste. Volunteers provided 35 recommendations, contributed 107 days of service and directly assisted 367 people (60% women and 53% youth). Host organizations contributed \$2,255 toward assignment completion.

Country Project	Assignments
Modernizing Agriculture	8
Total	8

Major Impacts and Accomplishments

- As a result of volunteer support on drip irrigation installation, host Nova Casa Fresca installed a drip irrigation system in a 12- by 50-meter greenhouse with the capacity to grow 400 tomatoes and 1,600 capsicums. The crops have been harvested 13 times starting from January 21, with a cumulative yield of 511 kilograms, valued at \$2,019.
- Through a branding assignment at Timor-Leste Organic Fertilizer (TILOFE), branding materials were developed and used on labeling bags, marketing brochures, T-shirts and identification cards. Following this, within a period of two months (January and February), TILOFE marketed more than eight tons of organic fertilizer, valued at \$2,092, to 245 clients. Another volunteer supported TILOFE in developing bookkeeping templates and training staff in record keeping. As a result, the host has digitized its records and can now generate accurate and timely reports; this has improved overall reporting processes and management decision-making.
- Joventude Agricultura Floresta Emprezarial (JAFEM) implemented volunteer recommendations to improve mushroom production technologies which included constructing a new building for mushroom production with good sanitation and capacity to house 6,000 mushroom growing bags. The host has started growing mushroom seeds and is harvesting 70-100 kilograms per month. The local volunteer also linked JAFEM with another mushroom producing group and the two will now conduct joint marketing. Monthly sales average 190 kilograms and are sold to 10 supermarkets and two restaurants in Dili.
- Agriculture Technical School Don Bosco Fuiluro established 1.5 hectares of elephant yam (konjac) using new or improved technologies introduced by volunteers. This has a ready market in Timor and overseas and will be harvested in August 2023.
- Centro de Desenvolvimento Comunitario has won five additional project proposals bringing the total to seven. Three were from the Government of Timor-Leste, one from the German government's Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, or GIZ, and one from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization with total value of \$163,014. The funds will be used to construct a mobile agricultural training unit serving eight villages, conduct institutional development, train 62 students, and build a new office block.
- A F2F volunteer trained host company Dos Santos Agropec, Unip Lda. on composting and production of organic manure from waste on the broiler chicken farm. This has addressed the issue of the offensive smell emanating from the uncomposed waste. The compost is now used on the vegetable farm, with the vegetables having a ready market in Dili.
- Through CRS's HAKOREN project (Haforsa no Hasae Komunitade Nia Rezilensia ba Responde Alterasaun Klimatika or "Strengthening and Increase Community Resilience to Response to Climate Change"), Hamahon Feto Timor (HAFOTI) has purchased 500 liters of virgin coconut oil from HAFOTI members worth \$2,000, providing market access and incomes for members.

Implementation Problems or Deviations from Expectations

- The number of people trained remained low due to a higher number of organizational development assignments where only management teams were trained. To increase the numbers, the project will collaborate with institutions with similar capacity development needs to train their staff. These include large projects, universities, and business training institutions.
- Timor-Leste continued to face challenges in recruiting local volunteers due to low uptake of scopes of work (SoWs) and preference for U.S. volunteers by host organizations. While efforts will continue to be made to create a pool of qualified local volunteers, this is expected to become less urgent with the resumption of traditional volunteers from the U.S. starting in May 2022 (which will reduce the need for local volunteers).

Uganda

Volunteers completed 16 assignments with 10 host organizations directly assisting 2,543 people (60% women and 33% youth) during 267 days of service. Assignments focused on training hosts on organizational strengthening in leadership and management, and on building the capacity of actors within the projects' value chains to increase their income by reducing constraints in agribusiness and livestock. The volunteers made 79 recommendations, and hosts contributed \$15,555 toward assignment completion.

Country Project	Assignments
Agribusiness	10
Livestock	6
Total	16

Agribusiness

Volunteers completed 10 assignments with five host organizations, directly assisting 1,278 people (64% women and 49% youth) during 175 days of service. Assignments focused on leadership and management, facilitation and a presentation at a farm camp, human resource development, information and communication technology in agriculture, maize post-harvest handling and human nutrition. Hosts included public education institutions, cooperatives and associations, and private agri-business enterprises. The assignments were classified as organizational development, administrative and technology transfer. Volunteers made 47 recommendations, of which 22 have been applied. Hosts contributed \$10,973 toward assignment completion.

Livestock

Volunteers completed six assignments with four host organizations, directly assisting 1,265 people (57% women and 17% youth) during 92 days of service. Assignments focused on animal health and nutrition with host farmers' associations. The assignments were classified as technology transfer. Volunteers made 32 recommendations, of which 18 have been applied. Hosts contributed \$4,582 toward assignment completion.

Major Impacts and Accomplishments:

- The CRS F2F program supported the October 2021 7th Annual Gayaza High School Farm Camp. F2F volunteers were key facilitators of the event and documented the event through a series of [videos](#). The State Minister for Agriculture was an honored guest at the closing ceremony and declared Farm Camp as a national event in concurrence with his counterparts from the Ministry of Education and Sports.
- F2F provided technical assistance on human resources development for Jakana Foods Limited staff and managers on performance and workforce retention. The managing director noted immediate changes that have positively impacted the work environment for staff. Jakana Foods hired a human resources manager, as recommended by the volunteer, who has been trained through follow-up F2F technical assistance.
- The F2F Uganda team successfully designed assignments for host organizations to achieve high rates of women's participation. Of the 2,543 people directly trained, 1,532 (60%) were women.
- The COVID-19 pandemic limited the number of people directly trained by each assignment. Despite this hurdle, F2F technical assistance in animal health management to Kamuli District Farmers Association (KDFA), in collaboration with Kamuli District Local Government, attracted a record 518 training participants. This is attributed to the value farmers attach to F2F technical assistance as well as the collaboration between the F2F program and district leadership that supported such mobilization.

Implementation Problems or Deviations from Expectations

- While the number of women participants increased, the percentage of assignments completed by local women volunteers remained low (18%) with fewer female volunteers expressing interest. The Uganda Country Program plans to resume traditional volunteering and strengthen recruitment efforts to reach out to qualified female volunteers.

III. Overall Implementation Problems or Deviations from Expectations

Restrictions were relaxed in most F2F countries which enabled field travel (one exception to this was the conflict zone of northern Ethiopia). However, some of the performance indicator targets for the reporting period were not fully achieved. A total of 80 assignments were completed against a planned target of 178 for FY22. Volunteers completed 79 assignments using the paired-remote volunteer model since international volunteer travel did not resume during the reporting period, in accordance with CRS policy. One assignment was conducted in Nepal by a U.S. volunteer who was already in the country on personal business. The number of assignments contributes toward the achievement of other indicator targets, therefore, CRS also fell short in the number of people trained, number of women volunteers, and number of volunteer service days and outreach activities. This was further compounded by COVID-19 restrictions for large gatherings, and the high number of organizational development assignments which targeted fewer training participants.

As the percentage of people vaccinated against COVID-19 continues to increase and we see an easing of restrictions on gatherings, F2F is on track to complete an additional 98 assignments by the end of Q2.

IV. Summary of Progress Toward Indicator Targets

Farmer-to-Farmer Program Standard Indicators	FY22 Target	Achieved	% Achieved
Number of Volunteer Assignments	178	80	45
Number of Women Volunteers	71	15	21
Number of New Volunteers	89	50	56
Number of Persons Trained (Total)	10,900	4,953	45
Number of Women Trained	4,628	2,514	54
Number of days of volunteer service	3,024	1,220	40
Number of New Host Organizations Assisted	30	17	57
Number of Outreach Activities (Worldwide Total)	534	154	29
Annual Gross Sales	\$45,950,000	\$56,557,829	123
Annual Net Income	\$2,950,980	\$5,053,024	171
New/improved products and services	53	104	162

V. Planned Activities for the Next Six Months

Overall

- CRS intends to implement a combination of paired-remote assignments (U.S. volunteers paired with non-U.S. local volunteers) and traditional assignments (U.S. volunteers providing in-country

technical assistance directly) as a response to the ongoing challenges presented by the pandemic. CRS plans to resume international volunteer travel in the second half of FY22. Virtual and paired remote assignments are likely to continue throughout the year as supplementary forms of assistance for interested volunteers unable to travel. An estimated 98 assignments will be completed in the last 6 months of FY22.

- CRS will continue to work with partners at the country level to recruit and support 14 hosts with a special focus on those with the capacity to absorb remote and in-person technical support, implement volunteer recommendations and scale up innovations.
- The program will continue to review host development plans to determine the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to tailor technical support to changing needs and priorities. CRS will implement processes for operational efficiencies, such as increased monitoring of adoption of volunteer recommendations and other key indicators, and assess project implementation against the FY22 approved workplan and country projects.
- CRS will intensify needs assessments and SoW development for existing hosts and will continue to guide F2F country project alignment and support to other USAID initiatives based on key findings.
- The program will continue collaboration with local USAID Missions, U.S. government-supported projects, local governments and other stakeholders.
- CRS hopes to receive an associate award from the Sudan Mission and will engage in discussions around an associate award with the Ethiopia Mission.
- CRS F2F will host Small Farms Conferences in Ethiopia (May), Nepal (June) and Uganda (July).
- CRS staff will participate in the Africa regional meeting to be held in Kenya in June and will host the Asia regional meeting in September.
- CRS F2F will hold a four-day all-staff reflection, learning and planning meeting in May and June in Rwanda. During this meeting CRS will develop a draft workplan for FY23.
- CRS will continue to lead and will complete the production of a video featuring all F2F implementing partners on the topic of paired remote volunteer successes.
- CRS F2F will lead discussions within the community of practice on making host assessment tools more gender sensitive and will pilot updated tools over the coming months.

VI. Annexes

- Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) Reporting
- Volunteer Assignment Summaries FY22
- Buy-ins
- Associate Award Descriptions

A. PERSUAP Reporting

a. PERSUAP Implementation Experience

In FY22, CRS complied with USAID F2F environmental compliance guidelines. All assignments were completed in accordance with USAID guidance and in adherence to applicable country-specific environmental laws and policies. Of the 33 completed assignments that PERSUAP applies to, three were Type I and 30 were Type II. There were no relevant Type IV assignments completed during this reporting period.

The table below lists all Type I and Type II assignments that were completed during the reporting period. Summaries of each volunteer assignment with a general description of activities with

pesticides and recommendations for additional support needed to improve pest and pesticide management practices are found in Annex C. All assignments not listed in this table are Type III assignments or Type IV assignments that fall within the Type III category.

b. PERSUAP Reporting Table

Assignment (Trip) Number	Volunteer Name	Country	Country F2F Project	PERSUAP Assignment Type	Work Directly with USAID Mission or Mission-Funded Project (Type IV)
R-E-253	Athanase Hategekimana	Rwanda	Maize	II	N/A
R-E-256	Meena Kumari Chidi	Nepal	Livestock	II	N/A
R-E-257	Ivonia de Deus	Timor-Leste	Modernizing Agriculture	II	n/a
R-E-258	Dr. Mugimba Kizito	Uganda	Livestock	II	N/A
R-E-260	Ivonia De Deus	Timor-Leste	Modernizing Agriculture	II	n/a
R-E-263	David Luseesa	Uganda	Agribusiness	II	N/A
R-E-266	Athanase Hategekimana	Rwanda	Maize	II	N/A
R-E-267	Daniel Laney	Nepal	Livestock	II	N/A
R-E-275	Aline Ingabire Clementine	Rwanda	Maize	II	N/A
R-E-279	Leopoldino Vasco Martins	Timor-Leste	Modernizing Agriculture	I	N/A
R-E-281	Joachine Idibu	Uganda	Livestock	II	N/A
R-E-285	Diriba Regassa	Ethiopia	Crops	II	N/A
R-E-290	Dr. Raju Kadel	Nepal	Livestock	I	N/A
R-E-291	Ramesh Humagain	Nepal	Crops	II	N/A
R-E-292	Dr. Chet Raj Upreti	Nepal	Livestock	II	N/A
R-E-293	Dr. Ram Prakash Pradhan	Nepal	Livestock	II	N/A
R-E-296	Wilfred Eneku	Uganda	Livestock	II	N/A
R-E-298	Aline Clementine	Rwanda	Maize	II	N/A
R-E-299	Marc Agbangba	Benin	Soybean	II	N/A
R-E-303	Alemayehu Guteta	Ethiopia	Livestock	II	N/A

R-E-306	Godfrey Okoth Ochola	Uganda	Livestock	II	N/A
R-E-307	Patrick Inaku	Uganda	Agribusiness	II	N/A
R-E-308	Ambroise Hakizimana	Rwanda	Horticulture	II	N/A
R-E-309	Sem Akowanou	Benin	Soybean	II	N/A
R-E-310	Zipporah Waitathu	Uganda	Agribusiness	II	N/A
R-E-314	Arun Khanal	Nepal	Crops	II	N/A
R-E-315	Marc Agbangba	Benin	Soybean	I	N/A
R-E-318	Dr. Mugimba Kahoza Kizito	Uganda	Livestock	I	N/A
R-E-319	Hortencio Amaral	Timor-Leste	Modernizing Agriculture	II	N/A
R-E-324	Sangam Sherpa	Nepal	Crops	II	N/A
R-E-326	Rojino da Cunha	Timor-Leste	Modernizing Agriculture	II	N/A
R-E-327	Theodule Aikpando	Benin	Soybean	II	N/A
R-E-328	David Luseesa	Uganda	Agribusiness	II	N/A
Count				33	

c. **Regional Program, Country Program or Country Project Area Assignments or SoWs in IPM and Safer Pesticide Use**

No volunteer SoWs in integrated pest management (IPM) and safer pesticide use were undertaken for the F2F regional program, country program or country project area. These differ from the individual assignments addressing pesticide use with specific hosts, which are included in the table above.

d. **Needs for a PERSUAP Amendment**

During the reporting period, there was no identified need for a PERSUAP amendment to add pesticides.

e. **Certifications of Assignment and Office Compliance with PERSUAP Guidelines**

Listed below.

f. **PERSUAP Compliance – F2F Assignments**

This certifies that all volunteers have received the F2F Environmental Brochure and further certifies the following has been provided to or developed by the relevant volunteers:

	Type I SoWs	Type II SoWs
Provided to Volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Use Action Plan (SUAP) • Attachments A-G • Environmental Brochure for F2F volunteers • Host country list of approved and registered pesticides • Executive Summary or Summary of Findings of the F2F Pesticide Safety Assessment for the specific country or PERSUAP questionnaire • SUAP briefing with F2F field staff • List of IPM practices and tools, forms, protocols, plans from previous volunteers • Relevant Material Safety Data Sheets (filed in field office) If an F2F volunteer may provide advice (training, recommendations) on fumigation (at processing facilities or warehouses): - USAID's Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Fumigation of Title II Food Aid Commodities found here: https://www.usaidgems.org/fumigationPEA.htm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUAP • Environmental Brochure for F2F volunteers • Executive Summary or Summary of Findings of the F2F Pesticide Safety Assessment for the specific country • SUAP briefing with F2F field staff
Developed/ Provided by Volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any pesticides that the F2F program should be able to recommend or use which are not included on approved lists • Recommendations for additional support on pesticide management practices • Recommendations or feedback on local IPM or pesticide practices witnessed • IPM practices, tools, forms, protocols, plans, etc. for mitigating negative environmental outcomes • Report on pesticide availability and how it corresponds to pesticides in F2F PERSUAP • Material safety data sheet for any pesticide or active ingredient used or recommended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations for additional support on pesticide management practices • Recommendations or feedback on local IPM or pesticide practices witnessed • IPM practices, tools, forms, protocols, plans, etc. for mitigating negative environmental outcomes • Report on pesticide availability and how it corresponds to pesticides in F2F PERSUAP

g. PERSUAP Compliance – F2F Offices

This certifies that during this FY, all F2F staff have reviewed the F2F Environmental Brochure for staff and the following have been updated and kept on file:

	Home Office	Field Office
Documents Updated and on File	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F2F Environmental Brochure for staff • PERSUAP with attachments • Any USAID Mission or sector wide PERSUAP(s) for relevant country or sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F2F Environmental Brochure for staff • PERSUAP with Attachments¹ • USAID Mission or sector wide PERSUAP(s) for relevant country or sector (if available) • Host country list of approved pesticides • Material Safety Data Sheets for relevant pesticides² • Tools, forms, protocols, plans, etc. developed by volunteers • Volunteer-recommended IPM practices

B. Volunteer Assignment Summaries FY22

R-E-253

Volunteer Name: **Athanase Hategekimana**
Country: Rwanda
Country Project: Maize
Host: Coopérative des Agriculteurs Progressistes de Remera-Intambwe (CAPRORE)
Assignment Dates: September 21 – October 7, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Athanase Hategekimana and U.S. volunteer Glen Murphy trained CAPRORE members on maize post-harvest handling practices and storage. The training focused on: identifying small-scale post-harvest handling practices and appropriate solutions for the local cooperative; and designing post-harvest demonstrations to show farmers how to reduce losses, maintain quality and market value, and increase shelf life and incomes. The causes of aflatoxin and prevention measures were also discussed. The volunteers recommended using mineral and organic fertilizers continuously and judiciously; training members on maize post-harvest handling and storage practices; buying plastic sheets for members; maintaining a stock of needed materials in proximity to farmers; and developing a clear strategy and training in contract negotiation and marketing. 59 people received the training (21 women, 38 men and 3 youth).

R-E-254

Volunteer Name: **Tilahun Ferede**
Country: Ethiopia

¹ If governed by F2F PERSUAP, Type IV SoWs should follow requirements for Type I, II or III SoWs, as most relevant.

² It is recommended that these documents be translated into local languages for distribution to relevant hosts and partners. Please note if they have been translated (in whole or in part), and if not, why.

Country Project: Crops
Host: Debre Markos University
Assignment Dates: September 23 – October 07, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Dr. Tilahun Ferede paired with U.S. volunteer Dr. Haimanote Bayabil to provide technical support on R software for data management, analysis, and graphics to Debre Markos University. The assignment focused on practical training on the application of R software to agricultural data management, including data entry, analysis, graphics, and the interpretation of outputs. At the end of the assignment, the volunteers recommended that the host organize training for other staff, develop staff's skills on research and statistical methods, and adopt a training-of-trainers approach. The volunteers also recommended continuing to engage the local volunteers in the host staff's skills development to strengthen volunteer-host linkages and collaboration.

R-E-255

Volunteer Name: **Mulugeta Tadesse**
Country: Ethiopia
Country Project: Crops
Host: Ethio-Wetlands and Natural Resources Association (EWNRA)
Assignment Dates: September 28 – October 17, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Mulugeta Tadesse from CRS Ethiopia paired with U.S. volunteer Taralyn Lyon from CRS HQ to design a digital (web-based) MEAL system for host partner EWNRA. The volunteers conducted an assessment and consultation with the host staff on system requirements and technology selections. Existing projects' MEAL formats were also reviewed during the system requirement identification and definition for the digital tool. Following this assessment, the volunteers designed a template for the digital MEAL system. The three recommendations provided by the volunteers included developing a clear data flow for all activities of the project, developing standard data collection tools with clear instructions, and ensuring the selected technologies are correct and fit to the demand of the organization in terms of user friendliness, scalability and affordability.

R-E-256

Volunteer Name: **Meena Kumari Chidi**
Country: Nepal
Country Project: Livestock Country Project
Host: Small Farmer Agricultural Cooperative Limited (SFACL), Semlar
Assignment Dates: September 29 – October 13, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Meena Kumari Chidi and U.S. volunteer Steven Pao strengthened the skills and knowledge of SFACL Semlar staff and executive members on dairy product diversification. The training was conducted in a classroom through practical demonstrations. Participants actively engaged in the practicum sessions on making traditional sweets. A total of eight people (25% youth) were directly trained by the volunteers. The host has started to sell the sweets on a demand-led basis. With this intervention, the cooperative will be able to expand its business by producing various types of dairy products on a commercial scale, helping member farmers to save milk from wastage and foster income opportunities.

R-E-257

Volunteer Name: **Ivonia De Deus**
Country: Timor-Leste
Country Project: Modernizing Agriculture
Host: Nova Casa Fresca
Assignment Dates: October 11 – 25, 2021

Assignment Summary

Volunteer Ivonia de Deus paired virtually with U.S. volunteer John Griffis to support the host organization Nova Casa Fresca on an assignment focused on greenhouse hydroponics system installation and nutrient formulations mixing for capsicum plants. Through this assignment they installed a hydroponic system in the greenhouse and delivered training to four Nova Casa Fresca staff on mixing nutrient and agronomy practices. The volunteers made three recommendations, including checking the formulation of nutrient mixing, checking all installations and control of pests and diseases.

R-E-258

Volunteer Name: **Mugimba Kahoza Kizito**
Country: Uganda
Country Project: Livestock
Host: Kamuli District Farmers Association (KDFA)
Assignment Dates: October 17 – 30, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Mugimba Kahoza Kizito and U.S. volunteer Benzalem Senoti supported KDFA to equip Kamuli local government extension staff, livestock farmers and cooperatives with knowledge and skills on livestock health management to increase production and productivity of milk yields for profitability and improved livelihoods. The volunteers accomplished all the assignment objectives and trained 518 people (62% women, 23% youth). The volunteers made four recommendations that included community sensitization on power relations at the household level, keeping animal health records, carrying out demonstrations on acaricide mixing and spraying and acaricide resistance testing. Three recommendations have been applied by 30% of the beneficiaries and are ongoing including animal health record keeping, acaricide mixing and spraying and acaricide resistance testing.

R-E-259

Volunteer Name: **Stephen Bongonzwa Mugumya**
Country: Uganda
Country Project: Agribusiness
Host: Caritas Arua Diocese
Assignment Dates: October 17 – November 5, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Stephen Bongonzwa Mugumya paired with U.S. volunteer Katherine Cassidy to build the capacity of Caritas Arua in leadership and management. Caritas Arua's staff and the management teams of farmer groups in the Bidi Bidi refugee settlement were trained in best practices in cooperative governance, management principals, group cohesion and conflict resolution to enhance their leadership roles and responsibilities. The volunteers accomplished all the assignment objectives and trained 368 people (49% women and 32% youth). The volunteers made three recommendations that included

reviewing and updating strategic plans in response to COVID-19; undertaking self-assessment to understand the existing policies and procedures of the organization; and internalizing the information obtained from the training, relate it to the current workplace environment, and identify outstanding or emerging training or learning needs. The volunteers developed a manual guide for Training of Trainers on leadership and management skills that will be used for refresher training at Caritas Arua Diocese management level and with farmers.

R-E-260

Volunteer Name: **Ivonia De Deus**
Country: Timor-Leste
Country Project: Modernizing Agriculture
Host: Nova Casa Fresca
Assignment Dates: October 26 – November 11, 2021

Assignment Summary

Volunteer Ivonia de Deus paired virtually with U.S. volunteer John Griffis supported host Nova Casa Fresca on an assignment on improved agronomic practices for capsicum production under hydroponics system. This was a follow-on assignment to the greenhouse hydroponics systems installation and nutrient formulation mixing for the capsicum crop. Participants were trained on nursery shed management, transfer of seedlings to the greenhouse and maintenance of the irrigation system. The training was delivered to 51 participants including university students (20 women, all youth). The volunteers made three recommendations: protect nurseries from pests and disease, use trellis wire or ropes to support the plants, and use different varieties of capsicum to meet the market demand.

R-E-261

Volunteer Name: **Brian Kibirige**
Country: Uganda
Country Project: Agribusiness
Host: Gayaza High School
Assignment Dates: October 26 – November 12, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Brian Kibirige paired with U.S. volunteer Ben Meyer to support Gayaza High School in pre-farm camp preparatory activities and delivered training and presentations at the farm camp itself. They facilitated the Future Farmers of America model, acted as rapporteurs and developed the farm camp report for the 7th Annual School Farm Camp in 2021. The farm camp was organized in conjunction with Future Farmers of America and other local partners, including CRS. The volunteers accomplished all the assignment objectives and trained 270 people (81% women and 100% youth) who were all students. Volunteers made six recommendations, including the need to have more partners and schools participate in the annual farm camp, document more model farmers and agri-prenuers (including farm camp impact stories), facilitate teachers' professional development, and carry out more publicity about the farm camp. F2F's journey with the farm camp, which started in 2016, paid off when the chief guest, the State Minister of Agriculture Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF), declared the farm camp to be a national annual event.

R-E-262

Volunteer Name: **Bethelhem Teka**
Country: Ethiopia

Country Project: Crops
Host: EWNRA
Assignment Dates: October 25 – November 13, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Bethelhem Teka and U.S. volunteer Taralyn Lyon paired to provide technical support on the coding phase of the web-based digital monitoring and evaluation system for host EWNRA. During the assignment actual coding was built for the system according to the design documents and outlined specifications. Eight people (25% women) benefited from the technical support. At the end of the assignment, volunteers made the following recommendations: engage with potential system users from the host organization; prepare server space from appropriate web hosting service providers; and develop a checklist to map users, their roles, and respective authorized privileges.

R-E-263

Volunteer Name: **David Luseesa**
Country: Uganda
Country Project: Agribusiness
Host: Kamwenge District Farmers Association
Assignment Dates: November 8 – 22, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer David Luseesa paired with U.S. volunteer Norbert Soltwedel to support the Kamwenge District Farmers Association in building the capacity of district extension workers, staff, and farmers by equipping them with knowledge and skills that address the challenges of post-harvest handling and storage of maize to improve food security and household incomes. Volunteers accomplished all the assignment objectives and trained 105 people (61% women and 23% youth). Volunteers made five recommendations which included fostering linkages with input and output markets, improving the design of locally available cribs, adopting proper methods of cleaning, controlling field and storage insect infestation and development of aflatoxins, and adopting proper practices to avoid contamination or deterioration of maize grain. Association members who participated in training are applying all recommendations through ongoing activities. The quality of maize sold and still in stores improved and attracted 20 cents per kilogram up from 16 cents the previous season.

R-E-264

Volunteer Name: **Domingos Pinto**
Country: Timor-Leste
Country Project: Modernizing Agriculture
Host: Lanamona Credit Union
Assignment Dates: November 15 – 26, 2021

Assignment Summary

Volunteer Domingos Pinto was paired virtually with U.S. volunteer Neelam Canto-Lugo on an assignment to provide customer service training. The assignment improved communication, listening, problem solving, product and service knowledge, and how to provide customers with an excellent service. The volunteers conducted a customer service strength, weakness, opportunity and threat (SWOT) analysis and delivered marketing training to identify how to increase customer satisfaction and improve product quality and demand. The training was delivered to 35 participants (18 women and 20 youth). Volunteers made five recommendations including providing further customer service training and in-depth

marketing and public relations training, ensuring that the techniques provided are practiced, conducting training of trainers workshops and in-country training when travel is possible by the U.S. volunteer.

R-E-265

Volunteer Name: **Yigerem Terefe**
Country: Ethiopia
Country Project: Crops
Host: Meklit Microfinance Institute
Assignment Dates: November 20 – 30, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Yigerem Terefe paired with U.S. volunteer Esther Morell to provide training on leadership and management for Meklit Microfinance Institute. The objective was to equip host management staff with leadership and management skills. Training was provided to leaders at different levels, including the director, to help them efficiently and effectively serve their clients. Recommendations included implementing a leadership development program, adapting a leadership style, developing an effective organizational strategy, applying results-based management at both program and project levels, and applying change leadership tools.

R-E-266

Volunteer Name: **Athanase Hategekimana**
Country: Rwanda
Country Project: Maize
Host: Koperative icyerekezo MUYANZA (KIMUYANZA)
Assignment Dates: November 22 – 30, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Athanase Hategekimana and U.S. volunteer Glen Murphy trained KIMUYANZA members on maize post-harvest handling practices and storage. The training focused on: identifying small-scale post-harvest handling practices and appropriate solutions for post-harvest losses; designing post-harvest demonstrations to show farmers how to reduce losses, maintain quality and market value while increasing shelf life and incomes; identifying the causes of aflatoxin and prevention measures. The volunteers recommended: using mineral and organic fertilizers judiciously; training more members on maize post-harvest handling and storage practices; building an on-farm drying facility with non-durable available materials (e.g., trees and plastic sheets); maintaining a stock of needed materials near farmers; and establishing demonstration plots for best cultural practices, especially for fertilizer use and storage practices. The training was provided to 98 people (42 women and 6 youth).

R-E-267

Volunteer Name: **Daniel L Laney**
Country: Nepal
Country Project: Livestock Country Project
Host: National Goat Research Program, Government of Nepal
Assignment Dates: November 18 – December 1, 2021

Assignment Summary

This dairy goat husbandry assignment was conducted in-person by Daniel Laney with the host, the National Goat Research Program in Bandipur. The goal was to improve dairy goat husbandry practices at

government research stations and to disseminate improved dairy goat farming technologies to Nepal Agriculture Research Council technical officers and scientists. The volunteer transferred skills and knowledge through training and demonstrations. He trained 8 technical staff on dairy goat husbandry and disease control. Together with National Goat Research Program scientists, the volunteer jointly developed standard operating procedures for constructing goat milking parlors, dairy goat feeding, doe selection, and goat cheese production.

R-E-268

Volunteer Name: **Terry Bayingana**
Country: Rwanda
Country Project: Horticulture
Host: National Cooperatives Confederation of Rwanda
Assignment Dates: November 29 – December 3, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Terry Bayingana and U.S. volunteer Nanga Kaye trained National Cooperatives Confederation of Rwanda staff on proposal writing and resource mobilization. The training focused on in-depth understanding of resource mobilization, fundraising and donor engagement; skills and knowledge in writing competitive proposals; understanding the techniques of proposal writing; how to draft a donor database; and gathering knowledge on the varying approaches to different Requests for Applications. Volunteers recommended that the confederation develop a donor database in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Rwanda Governance Board and Rwanda Cooperative Agency; acquire a list of members in collaboration with federations and unions; organize a retreat with all members to develop a resource mobilization strategy; and identify a specific Request for Applications in order to apply for funds. Nine people, including two women participated in the training.

R-E-269

Volunteer Name: **Vital Tchibozo**
Country: Benin
Country Project: Soybean
Host: Don Bosco
Assignment Dates: November 15 – December 6, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Vital Tchibozo paired with U.S. volunteer John Berry to facilitate farm management and investment plan development for Don Bosco. The volunteers worked with Don Bosco's farm management team to address their challenges regarding low poultry productivity, vegetable production and palm tree management. The volunteers helped Don Bosco to review its production plan by assessing the performance of animal and crop production projects under implementation and providing guidance on next steps to take to increase profitability. As an immediate action, volunteers recommended a change in poultry housing design which the host applied. They also trained workers and other trainees on aspects of farm management that were not included in the existing formal training curriculum. The local volunteer is currently assisting the host in developing palm tree and vegetable crop micro-projects, in addition to their initial business plan. Four recommendations were provided, among them to recruit a specialist for the farm manager position. Vital continues to assist them in implementing the action plan developed while they recruit for the position. In total, 19 people (18 women, and 14 youth) were trained.

R-E-270

Volunteer Name: **Pedro Adjafon**
Country: Benin
Country Project: Soybean
Host: ReTAB
Assignment Dates: November 29 – December 6, 2021

Assignment Summary

In his second assignment, local volunteer Pedro Adjafon paired with U.S. volunteer Pamela Karg to provide management and leadership training to ReTAB, a network of pineapple processors. The local volunteer trained 14 people (six women and four youth). Based on the assessment of the group's structure and management, the volunteer focused the training on roles and responsibilities, the group's objectives and legal status. He helped them to develop strategies to achieve their shared goals. Together the volunteers provided the following recommendations: to help the host's members understand their roles and responsibilities, achieve their sale targets together, and encourage new members from other communes to join the group.

R-E-271

Volunteer Name: **Amelina Mahugnon**
Country: Benin
Country Project: Cashew
Host: Cellule Communale (Ccom)-Glazoue/Agence Territoriale de Développement Agricole (ATDA4) or "Territorial Agricultural Development Agency"
Assignment Dates: November 29 – December 8, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Amelina Mahugnon and U.S. volunteer William Clapham trained Ccom-Glazoue/ATDA4 staff in agribusiness plan design and analysis of agricultural micro-projects in order to increase the number of youth agri-entrepreneurs who receive funding from government programs and other development agencies. Nine staff (five women and one youth) were trained and given the tools to efficiently conduct financial and technical quality analysis of future micro-projects. The local volunteer made five recommendations, one of which was to hold at least one session to advise entrepreneurs on key points to include in proposals and to follow up on unsuccessful project proposals in order to learn lessons from the experience.

R-E-272

Volunteer Name: **Bethelhem Teka**
Country: Ethiopia
Country Project: Crops
Host: EWNRA
Assignment Dates: November 22 – December 11, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Bethelhem Teka and U.S. volunteer Taralyn Lyon conducted an assignment on the deployment of a digital MEAL system and provided training on using the system and tools. Together with the host, they identified the facilities required for the deployment of the system and, after installation, they trained the management and MEAL staff how to use it.

R-E-273

Volunteer Name: **Ashim Sigdel**
Country: Nepal
Country Project: Crops Country Project
Host: Agricultural Technology Center
Assignment Dates: November 29 – December 13, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Ashim Sigdel paired with U.S. volunteer Dr. Rocky W. Lemus to develop a Soil Laboratory Quality Manual for the Agriculture Technology Center, Pvt. Ltd. The local volunteer worked closely with host staff to identify current gaps. Based on discussions with various stakeholders, including government agencies, the local volunteer developed a quality manual aligned with ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and NEPLAS standards. This assignment will enhance the host's capacity to qualify for NEPLAS certification. The local volunteer also trained the host's executives and staff on using the manual. Eight participants (37% women and 100% youth) took part in the training.

R-E-274

Volunteer Name: **Sabina Pokhrel**
Country: Nepal
Country Project: Crops Country Project
Host: Skill Lab Nepal
Dates: November 30 – December 14, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Sabina Baniya Chhetri Pokhrel and U.S. volunteer Eric M. Fox supported Skill Lab Nepal in designing selection and impact evaluation toolkits for promising businesses. The volunteers worked closely with host staff to identify business incubation selection criteria and a toolkit for the incubation program. The program was designed to select entrepreneurs who will incubate successful business ventures. Similarly, an incubation evaluation toolkit was developed to track performance of the incubation program and provide evidence of the program's success. Furthermore, the evaluation will provide clarity in the areas for improvement. The local volunteer trained a total of 18 participants (61% women).

R-E-275

Volunteer Name: **Aline Clementine Ingabire**
Country: Rwanda
Country Project: Maize
Host: Cooperative Ibyiza Biri Imbere (COIB) Cooperative
Assignment Dates: December 1 – 15, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Aline Clementine Ingabire and U.S. volunteer Ellen Franzenburg trained COIB cooperative members on maize post-harvest handling practices and storage. The training focused on small-scale post-harvest handling practices and potential solutions which are most appropriate and feasible for COIB Cooperative members. They used illustrations and comparative pictures to show farmers how to reduce losses, maintain quality and market value, and increase shelf life and incomes. They also discussed aflatoxin contamination and mitigation measures. The volunteers recommended

that COIB purchase pesticides on time, properly control fall armyworm, buy harvesting materials, organize regular meetings, train members on post-harvest handling and storage practices, buy hermetic storage bags (PICS bags) for cooperative members, mitigate aflatoxin in maize using learned tips, develop a clear organizational strategy, and provide training in contract negotiation and marketing. Under this assignment, 84 people (42% women and 12% youth) were trained.

R-E-276

Volunteer Name: **Jean Marie Sentaru**
Country: Rwanda
Country Project: Maize
Host: Freedom Kawunga Ltd.
Assignment Dates: November 22 – December 17, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Jean Marie Sentaru and U.S. volunteer Joe McFadden assisted Freedom Kawunga Ltd. in developing a manual on administrative and financial procedures for the company's maize flour processing plant. The assignment focused on assessing the company's current operations and procedures; assessing their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) through analysis of the company; and developing the procedural manual to help the company operate in a financially compliant way. The volunteers recommended the company acquire new shareholders, recruit a qualified general manager, pay staff through the banking system, seek more financing from the bank, and start the process of applying for food quality certification. Six staff were trained through the assignment (three women and three youth).

R-E-277

Volunteer Name: **Aristophane Soukossi**
Country: Benin
Country Project: Soybean
Host: Hunger Free World
Assignment Dates: December 10 – 17, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Aristophane Soukossi paired with U.S. volunteer Donald Wheeler to train Hunger Free World representatives to set up and operationalize a results-based monitoring and evaluation system. The host developed a capacity-building program that led to volunteers training 33 participants (13 women and seven youth). The local volunteer provided three recommendations: to further strengthen participants' monitoring capacities, implement efficient planning, and install improved organizational procedures.

R-E-278

Volunteer Name: **Jelito Nunes**
Country: Timor-Leste
Country Project: Modernizing Agriculture
Host: Timor-Leste Organic Fertilizer - organization (TILOFE)
Assignment Dates: December 13 – 21, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Jelito Nunes was paired with U.S. volunteer John Berry on a brand design for TILOFE. The assignment focused on a field survey with the TILOFE team to identify issues; design branding for TILOFE on brochures, sacks, identification cards; and training 11 participants on branding. The volunteers made six recommendations: enhancing understanding of market segmentation for products, continued marketing materials development, professional development of staff in marketing, measurement of buyer reactions to new marketing efforts, and development of new products.

R-E-279

Volunteer Name: **Leopoldino Vasco Martins**
Country: Timor-Leste
Country Project: Modernizing Agriculture
Host: Joventude Agricultura Floresta Emprezarial (JAFEM)
Assignment Dates: December 13 – 21, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Leopoldino Vasco Martins was paired with U.S. volunteer Henry Van T. Cotter on an assignment to improve mushroom production technologies through good agronomic practices. The assignment focused on field identification of problems with mushroom production in JAFEM and five other groups in Ermera. Volunteers provided training on pasteurization and disinfection practices and advice on sanitation practices. Volunteers delivered training to 11 participants and made 6 recommendations on the following: exclusion measures, sanitation measures, water storage floors, mushroom production room walls, shortening the production cycle, and investigating safe insecticide options as a complement to the above measures.

R-E-280

Volunteer Name: **George Ssekanjako**
Country: Uganda
Country Project: Agribusiness
Host: Jakana Foods Ltd.
Assignment Dates: December 6 – 21, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer George Ssekanjako paired with U.S. volunteer Chidimma Jones Mubima to support Jakana Foods Ltd. in building employee capacity in critical thinking, effective communication, and sales negotiation to bring about improved business management and sales. The volunteers conducted individual coaching and mentorship, they analyzed performance gaps and developed staff development plans. They developed an action plan for improving human resources management. A total of 17 staff (nine women and 15 youth) participated. The volunteers made four recommendations including recruitment of a human resources manager, self-productivity management, strategy versus activity analysis, and development and approval of a human resources manual. All recommendations have been applied, including beginning the search for a human resources manager with a further request from F2F to train the new human resources manager in the new position. The managing director at Jakana Foods Ltd. reported an improvement in staff conduct and work habits.

R-E-281

Volunteer Name: **Idibu Joachine**
Country: Uganda
Country Project: Livestock

Host: K DFA
Assignment Dates: December 9 – 22, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Idibu Joachine paired with U.S. volunteers Sarah Potts and Jeff Semler to support the K DFA by providing refresher training to district animal extension workers from local government and development partners. Training focused on animal nutrition and specifically on feed supplementation, fodder and pasture management, and hay and silage for dry season feeding to achieve improved productivity. The volunteers accomplished all assignment objectives and trained 292 people (65% women and 35% youth). The volunteers made six recommendations which include promote the use of total mixed rations for feeding dairy cattle in peri-urban areas; simplify the learning manual for farmers; improved cattle breeds to enhance response to optimal rations; promote adoption of improved crop residues for feeding ruminant livestock; and increased access to forage seeds at Kamuli District Farmers Association. Two volunteer recommendations have been applied – the use of mixed rations and crop residues. A manual on best practices in dairy nutrition was also developed.

R-E-282

Volunteer Name: **Apollo Munanura**
Country: Rwanda
Country Project: Horticulture
Host: KOTIBANYA Cooperative
Assignment Dates: December 13 – 22, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Apollo Munanura and U.S. volunteer Sharlene Prosser trained KOTIBANYA cooperative members and staff in cooperative governance and management. The training focused on cooperative structure and principles. The volunteers recommended: a training on marketing, stakeholder engagement, partnerships and networking; mainstreaming of gender, youth and people living with disabilities within the cooperative; promoting a culture of innovation, professionalism and service delivery; wearing uniforms; posting of marketing displays to boost sales; and construction of a modern washing station to improve product quality. Volunteers trained 56 people (95% women and 4% youth).

R-E-283

Volunteer Name: **Jean Claude Musabyimana**
Country: Rwanda
Country Project: Horticulture
Host: KOUAMU Cooperative
Assignment Dates: December 13 – 22, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Jean Claude Musabyimana and U.S. volunteer Pamela Karg trained KOUAMU cooperative members in financial management and accountancy. The training focused on corporate governance principles; entrepreneurship; marketing; taxation and auditing going hand-in-hand with financial management and accountancy; appropriate financial and managerial record keeping; and calculation of production costs. The volunteers recommended the cooperative make the following changes: start saving to buy land and build a new commercial building; record accounts and perform accurate calculation of production costs; choose members of the committee to implement commercial linkages, research and development; and encourage new members, especially young people with

agribusiness skills, to join the cooperative. In total, 36 people (58% women and 53% youth) attended the training.

R-E-284

Volunteer Name: **Iliassou Yaya**
Country: Benin
Country Project: Cashew
Host: Amda Sarl
Assignment Dates: December 15 – 23, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Iliassou Yaya paired with U.S. volunteer Valerie Varco to facilitate the training of Amda Sarl commercial agents and the management team on market research and marketing plan development. Through the training, commercial agents learned how to market the juice the company produces. The volunteer also worked with the management team to draft a marketing plan to be finalized after the assignment. They also discussed and developed strategies to engage more potential clients. The volunteer also supported the host market at two exhibition stands in a commercial center during the holiday period. The volunteers provided six recommendations and trained 11 people (seven women and 10 youth).

R-E-285

Volunteer Name: **Diriba Regassa**
Country: Ethiopia
Country Project: Crops
Host: Bora Denbel Farmers' Cooperative Union
Assignment Dates: December 15 – 29, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Diriba Regassa paired with Loren Sprouse from the U.S. to train the Bora Denbel Farmers' Cooperative Union in warehouse management for grain and seed storage. The aim was to improve the union's warehouse management and storage systems through proper pest control, hygiene management, and lot management and by assigning reference numbers for the seed lots. The support focused on reducing deterioration in the physical and biological quality of grains and seeds, and subsequent losses by the union. A total of 30 people (two women and 15 youth) benefited from the technical support. The volunteers provided six recommendations, including demarcating storage areas with paint, maintaining the cleanliness of the stores and five-meter areas surrounding them, stacking goods according to lot reference numbers and bin cards, storing seed and grain separately, repairing cracked floors and walls, regularly monitoring pests, and disposing of expired seeds.

R-E-286

Volunteer Name: **Dr. Tilahun Ferede**
Country: Ethiopia
Country Project: Crops
Host: Wolkite University
Assignment Dates: December 16 – 31, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Dr. Tilahun Ferede and Dr. Haimanote Bayabil from the U.S. provided training to Wolkite University on the use of R software for agricultural data management, analysis and graphics. The goal of the assignment is to support evidence-based research technology and information generation, greatly enhancing university outreach and community service. Major recommendations provided by the volunteers included follow-up training for staff, support on statistical methodologies, consider data management and analysis in curriculum reviews, and train on research grant proposal writing. In total, 36 people (four women and eight youth) were trained and gained skills on the use of the R software package.

R-E-287

Volunteer Name: **Hebret Worku**
Country: Ethiopia
Country Project: Crops
Host: Ethiopian Guenet Church Development and Welfare Organization (EGCDWO)
Assignment Dates: December 19 – 31, 2021

Assignment Summary

EGCDWO received support on resource mobilization from local volunteer Hebret Worku and U.S. volunteer Aimal Murady. The objective of the assignment was to improve strategies for mobilizing resources as well as to access potential funding sources that are locally available to the host but have not been adequately researched and solicited. Developing a grant management manual, project management training, and revising the organization’s strategic plan were three important recommendations provided by the volunteer. In total, 22 staff (seven women), including the top management, received the support.

R-E-288

Volunteer Name: **Tamrat Lema**
Country: Ethiopia
Country Project: Livestock
Host: Selam Hawassa Business Group Private Limited Company (Plc.)
Assignment Dates: December 20, 2021 – January 2, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Tamrat Lema and U.S. volunteer Roger Engstrom supported Selam Hawassa Business Group Plc. on quality improvement, production, and assembly of small-scale threshers and sheller machinery. The focus of the assignment was to develop the capacity of the host on designing thresher and shellers affordable to smallholder farmers by providing training and practical assistance to the host technical staff. The volunteers also provided support to quality control system of the machinery and advice on market-led product development. He provided four recommendations. A total of 24 staff were assisted (two women and 24 youth).

R-E-289

Volunteer Name: **Fikrineh Negash**
Country: Ethiopia
Country Project: Livestock
Host: Hawassa University
Assignment Dates: January 17 – 28, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Fikrineh Negash paired with U.S. volunteer Mary Cait McManamon to provide a training on livelihood skills development for youth. Graduate and non-graduate unemployed youth in Meki area received training on livelihood creation and development, focusing on on- and off-farm activities, and self-employment opportunities. In total, 39 unemployed youth (eight women and 39 youth) participated in the training. The volunteer provided six recommendations which include supporting the youth with follow-up training, creating linkages with financing organizations, facilitating a business pitching competition, encouraging and creating opportunities to participate in volunteer activities with local organizations, applying for free services and internship positions, and exploring opportunities via the internet.

R-E-290

Volunteer Name: **Dr. Raju Kadel**
Country: Nepal
Country Project: Livestock Country Project
Host: Chandas Goat and Agriculture Farm Pvt. LTD.
Assignment Dates: November 11 – December 12, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Dr. Raju Kandel paired with U.S. volunteer Jacob Tipton to support the Chandas Goat and Agriculture Farm Pvt. Ltd. in Kanchanpur district. A total of 35 technical staff and smallholder goat farmers (23 women) were trained to identify and manage Boer goat diseases, and to apply practical tools and techniques related to goat husbandry and nutrition. The volunteers made four recommendations: regular drenching using a FAffa MAlan CHArt (FAMACHA) card, which uses a color chart to measure ocular mucous membrane color to determine anemia; providing additional feed supplements before breeding season and during lactation; hoof trimming; and feeding quality concentrates in pellets and coarse ingredients.

R-E-291

Volunteer Name: **Ramesh Humagain**
Country: Nepal
Country Project: Crop Country Project
Host: Kamuli District Farmers Association (SFACL), Kailali
Assignment Dates: December 27 – January 8, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Ramesh Humagain was paired with the U.S. volunteer Dr. Ramesh Dhakal to provide field-level training to seed producers. A total of 48 farmers (13 women) were provided with hands-on training on seed production, quality control, and post-harvest management. The volunteers supported farmers to prepare annual seed production calendars and action plans. They also trained in improved agronomic practices for seed production and on government seed policies, seed act and regulations. The trainees were taken on a field trip to a seed production cooperative, Tikapur, Kailali, for experience sharing and to identify potential areas for collaboration.

R-E-292

Volunteer Name: **Dr. Chet Raj Upreti**
Country: Nepal

Country Project: Livestock Project
Host: Kamuli District Farmers Association (SFACL), Surkhet
Assignment Dates: January 1 – 14, 2022

Assignment Summary

Dr. Chetraj Upreti was paired with U.S. volunteer Donna Force to conduct training on the holistic approaches to increase milk production and productivity of cows and buffaloes. In all, 55 cooperative member farmers (38 women) participated in the training. The volunteers provided practical training and demonstrations on fodder and forage production technologies, animal nutrition, cattle and buffalo shed management, disease control (mainly reproductive disease including mastitis), and clean milk production.

R-E-293

Volunteer Name: **Dr. Ram Prakash Pradhan**
Country: Nepal
Country Project: Livestock Country Project
Host: Kamuli District Farmers Association (SFACL), Dhading
Assignment Dates: January 6 – 20, 2022

Assignment Summary

Dr. Ram Prakash Pradhan was paired with U.S. volunteer Donna Force to train smallholder goat producers on the approaches, tools, and techniques of goat rearing to enable them to start a small-scale goat business. Through this training, 32 farmers (19 women) were trained on green fodder and forage-based diet planning and feed supplements, such as minerals, vitamins, and liver tonic in their regular diet; disease identification and treatment; preparation of health calendar; record-keeping and insurance. The volunteers made nine recommendations.

R-E-294

Volunteer Name: **Ravi Bhattarai**
Country: Nepal
Country Project: Crops Country Project
Host: The Local Agro Pvt, Ltd, Kathmandu
Dates: January 10 – 25, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Ravi Bhattarai was paired with Gretchen Hopley to support the Local Agro Pvt. Ltd. of Kathmandu to prepare their branding and marketing strategy and business plan development. The host has been engaged in marketing credible, authentic and safe food products through a fair pricing mechanism. This business is registered in Kathmandu and operates nationwide. This private company has developed a network of farmers who are adopting organic and IPM approaches, purchases their produce directly from farmers, and sells these products with geographical identifiers. F2F volunteers supported the host by helping them to prepare promotional materials, a communication plan, and a business development plan to attract private and public funding. A total of 13 people were trained (five women and nine youth). The volunteer gave six recommendations to the host.

R-E-295

Volunteer Name: **Hillary Mwesigwa**
Country: Uganda

Country Project: Livestock
Host: Kamwenge District Dairy Farmers Cooperative Society
Assignment Dates: January 11 – 28, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Hillary Mwesigwa paired with U.S. volunteer Brittini Treichler in building the capacity of Kamwenge District Dairy Farmers Cooperative Society members and staff by equipping them with knowledge and skills in information and communication technology applications in agriculture development activities, such as market access, information sharing and improved dairy cooperative efficiency. The volunteers accomplished all the assignment objectives and trained 17 people (five women and six youth). Volunteers made six recommendations that include use of email for information sharing, investing in reliable internet service provision, daily data back up on cloud or external data storage devices, research on current agriculture information, and digitalization of cooperative documentation.

R-E-296

Volunteer Name: **Wilfred Eneku**
Country: Uganda
Country Project: Livestock
Host: K DFA
Assignment Dates: January 16 – 30, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Wilfred Eneku, paired with U.S. volunteer Dannica Wall, supported K DFA in poultry layer production management to women participants who received 6,000-layer birds from a Rotary International project that aims to improve the productivity of poultry units for improved household income and food security. The volunteers accomplished all assignment objectives and trained 331 people (53% women and 13% youth). Volunteers made six recommendations including: identifying local feed resources for feed formulation; regular supervision in record keeping and feeding program practices; continuous practice of feed formulation and mixing; establishing bio-security measures; keeping vaccination records to track interventions at the production level; practicing bulk marketing of eggs; and carrying out periodic gross margin analysis for proper financial management. About 40% of trained participants have begun to keep vaccination records and establish biosafety measures.

R-E-297

Volunteer Name: **Jerome Ruhanga**
Country: Rwanda
Country Project: Horticulture
Host: Cooperative Des Agriculteurs et de Transformateurs d'Ananas de Mutendeli (CATAM)
Assignment Dates: January 19 – 31, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Jerome Ruhanga and U.S. volunteer Bryce Malsbary trained CATAM cooperative members on cooperative governance and management. The training focused on cooperative structure and leadership, member roles and responsibilities, member services, the importance of communication and integration of gender, youth and people with disabilities in the development of the cooperative. The volunteers recommended that the cooperative should: establish small entities or zones at least in each

sector and elect committees to lead established zones and work closely with board of Directors and General Assembly; set well defined roles and responsibilities of sub-committees that will manage small zones; develop clear performance indicators for sub-committees; share dividends with cooperative members; build competitive strong mechanisms to increase market profitability; align the cooperative's internal rules and regulations with Rwanda's new cooperative law; integrate youth and people with disability in CATAM and improve gender equality in all CATAM structures. A total of 58 people attended the training, including 17 women.

R-E-298

Volunteer Name: **Aline Clementine**
Country: Rwanda
Country Project: Maize
Host: Cooperative des multiplicateurs de semences selectionees (COMSS)
Assignment Dates: January 20 – 31, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Aline Clementine and U.S. volunteer Ellen Franzenburg trained COMSS members on maize post-harvest handling and storage practices. The training focused on small-scale post-harvest handling practices and potential solutions which are most appropriate and feasible for COMSS. The volunteers used illustrations and comparative pictures to show farmers how to reduce losses, maintain quality and market value, and increase shelf life and incomes. They also discussed aflatoxin contamination and mitigation measures. The volunteers recommended that COMSS improve the maize seed multiplication by making it more profitable; increase awareness in maize post-harvest handling and storage for non-trained cooperative members; make available and accessible both harvesting and post-harvest handling materials; strengthen the control of maize insects and pests; mitigate aflatoxin contamination in maize; and increase the teamwork spirit within the cooperative. Up to 96 people (56 women and four youth) attended the training.

R-E-299

Volunteer Name: **Marc Agbangba**
Country: Benin
Country Project: Soybean
Host: EV2D
Assignment Dates: January 26 – February 3, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Marc Agbangba, paired with U.S. volunteer Aboubakar Diagne and hosted by the local NGO EV2D, provided technology transfer to soybean farmers in the commune of Djidja on post-harvest handling and storage of soybeans. A total of 30 farmers (5 women and 12 youth) were trained on techniques, methods and storage structures adapted to their conditions; factors and agents of post-harvest loss of soybeans; and management of soybean stocks in order to reduce losses, store their soybean longer and sell them at a higher price. Technical measures to be taken in pre-harvest have also been explained and demonstrated to participants. Volunteers made four recommendations to both the farmers and host organization.

R-E-300

Volunteer Name: **Humbelina de Araujo**
Country: Timor-Leste

Country Project: Modernizing Agriculture
Host: HAFOTI
Assignment Dates: January 17 – February 4, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Humbelina de Araujo paired with U.S. volunteer Henry Van Den Truong on an assignment to improve the quality of sweet potato, cassava and taro chip production. The assignment focused on materials and equipment needed for the training to produce quality chips. The volunteer provide training focusing on use of ingredients, especially spice seasoning in processing fried chips; controlling production process; and practical demonstration of sweet potatoes, taro and cassava chip production. The training was delivered to 72 participants (70% woman and 70% youth). Volunteers made five recommendations, including activities to enhance understanding of market segmentation for products; continued marketing materials development; professional development of marketing staff; and measuring buyer reactions to innovative marketing efforts, new products, and professional development in marketing.

R-E-301

Volunteer Name: **George Ssekanjako**
Country: Uganda
Country Project: Agribusiness
Host: Jakana Foods Limited
Assignment Dates: January 24 – February 10, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer George Ssekanjako paired with U.S. volunteer Chidimma Jones Mubima to support Jakana Foods Ltd. in recruitment and induction of a Human Resources Operations Manager with a goal to boost Jakana's human resource capacity development. This scope of work (UG281) was developed as a result of volunteer recommendations on a previous assignment (UG273) to recruit a human resources operations manager who would take responsibility for human resources duties that were previously scattered among management and line managers. The volunteers accomplished all assignment objectives and trained 19 people (52% women and 73% youth). The volunteers made four recommendations which included establishing a consequence management culture at Jakana Foods Ltd.; ensuring that each role has a clear and aligned job description; drafting and rolling out the human resources manual; and carrying out a periodic strategy versus activity analysis. The volunteers developed a human resources manual that was shared with the host. Jakana Foods Ltd. applied three recommendations and is now planning to start periodic strategy versus activity analysis.

R-E-302

Volunteer Name: **Amos Kajuga**
Country: Rwanda
Country Project: Maize
Host: KOAIRU Ganza Cooperative
Assignment Dates: February 2 – 10, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Amos Kajuga and U.S. volunteer Valerie Varco trained KOAIRU Ganza cooperative members on cooperative marketing, marketing strategies and negotiation skills. The training focused on defining marketing; the importance of market information, market research, understanding the

customer; market supply and demand; marketing mix; mastering negotiation; and how to comply with changes in the market. The volunteers recommended that KOAIRU Ganza identify the most appropriate strategies for acquiring relevant market related information; strengthen relationships with existing customers; continue to identify and attract new customers; increase the volume of the cooperative's produce by avoiding side-selling; and adopt best agricultural practices. The training had 43 participants (17 women).

R-E-303

Volunteer Name: **Alemayehu Guteta**
Country: Ethiopia
Country Project: Livestock
Host: Addis Alem Agricultural Development PLC
Assignment Dates: January 31 – February 14, 2022

Assignment Summary

Addis Alem Agricultural Development PLC received technical support from local volunteer Alemayehu Guteta and U.S. volunteer Marissa Cohen on poultry feed formulation and production. The volunteers were able to support the host on quality poultry feed production including material selection, processing, formulation, and safety and quality control to alleviate the problem of low efficiency in egg production. A total of seven people (three women and two youth) were trained by the volunteer. The volunteers demonstrated and installed FeedWin (a computer-based tool) for selection of quality feed ingredients, especially Nug seed cake, wheat, soybean meal and maize. The volunteers provided key recommendations including laboratory analysis of raw feed ingredients and formulated feed rations, modifications of a warehouse temperature regulation system, strengthening of biosecurity, and organizing refresher training for staff two to three times per year.

R-E-304

Volunteer Name: **Apollo Munanura**
Country: Rwanda
Country Project: Maize
Host: COOPAGA Cooperative
Assignment Dates: February 14 – 18, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Apollo Munanura and U.S. volunteer Sharlene Prosser trained COOPAGA cooperative members on business management and distribution channels. The training focused on developing a concise business plan, improving customer care, negotiation skills, time management, work ethics, professionalism, and business, information, and technology systems in the cooperative. The volunteers recommended the cooperative review the existing business plan, integrate simple technology in daily business operations, set-up mechanisms to obtain relevant information in the business, and develop a new business plan based on the performance review of the existing one. During the training, 20 people participated (6 women and 3 youth).

R-E-305

Volunteer Name: **Solange Negui**
Country: Benin
Country Project: Cashew
Host: Agence le Phoenix Consulting (AP-Consulting)

Assignment Dates: January 1 – February 19, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Solange Negui, paired with U.S. volunteer Marissa Burkett, facilitated the training of young agro-entrepreneurs in financial education as well as accounting and finance management of small and medium enterprises. Through the training, the entrepreneurs learned about basic management tools adapted to the agricultural and agri-food sectors, followed by practical applications. The volunteers provided 4 recommendations in addition to specific guidance provided during the field visits and trained 74 entrepreneurs (26 women and 31 youth).

R-E-306

Volunteer Name: **Godfrey Okoth Ochola**
Country: Uganda
Country Project: Livestock
Host: Kabeiura Farms Ltd.
Assignment Dates: February 6 – 22, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Godfrey Okoth Ochola paired with U.S. volunteer Shayan Ghajar to support Kabeiura Farmers Ltd. to build the capacity of management and staff in poultry feed formulation. This goal was to ensure nutrient composition meets the recommended daily requirements for productivity in layer birds. The volunteers accomplished all the assignment objectives and trained six farm employees (all male, three youth). The volunteers made six recommendations, which include mixing a smaller quantity of poultry feed per batch (one ton instead of six); weighing and recording how much feed goes into the four poultry houses; putting in place a monitoring tool to compute profitability on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis; and improving weight gain in growers while benchmarking with the standard for the breed. The volunteers developed a manual on feed formulation and feed mixing.

R-E-307

Volunteer Name: **Patrick Inaku**
Country: Uganda
Country Project: Agribusiness
Host: Kamwenge District Farmers Organization
Assignment Dates: February 11 – 23, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Patrick Inaku paired with U.S. volunteer Andrew Leingang to support Kamwenge District Farmers Organization to build the capacity of district extension workers, staff, and farmers by equipping them with knowledge and skills in commercial pond fish farming to enhance profitability and productivity of their fish farms. The volunteers accomplished all assignment objectives and trained 97 people (26 women and 4 youth). Volunteers made five recommendations, which include strengthening of individual farmers to specialize in seed production, feed, or value chains; supervision of pond constructions and design; identification of model farmer group and strengthen their capacity; encouragement to farmer groups to procure water testing kits; and farmers visits to other areas to see and share best practices.

R-E-308

Volunteer Name: **Ambroise Hakizimana**

Country: Rwanda
Country Project: Horticulture
Host: KOGIMUIN Cooperative
Assignment Dates: February 7 – 24, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Ambroise Hakizimana and U.S. volunteer Tom Zimmer assisted KOGIMUIN cooperative members on making composted organic fertilizer at three sites that can serve as demonstration and teaching sites for other members and farmers. The training of trainers focused on making compost fertilizer using harvest waste and farm residues, techniques for maximizing the quality of fertilizer, and key considerations for changing the heap. All training was done using demonstration and facilitation approaches and farmers participated in making compost. The volunteers recommended increasing the use of organic manure by making compost, promoting best practices in compost production, and regular monitoring and evaluation of the reception of high-quality compost. During the assistance, 23 participants attended the training (11 women and 12 youth).

R-E-309

Volunteer Name: **Sem Akowanou**
Country: Benin
Country Project: Soybean
Host: ALCA-Benin
Assignment Dates: February 7 – March 2, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Sem Akowanou paired with U.S. volunteer Tiffany LaShae provided ecological cropping systems and improved production technology training to pineapple farmers supported by host organization ALCA-Benin. Volunteers worked with two groups of farmers in the communes of Tori-Bossito and Zè and trained 111 people, 109 farmers and 2 host staff, (36 women and 12 youth). Training touched on integrated good agroecological practices for pineapple production, research-based agroecological cropping systems to maximize production, requirements of agroecological production, and minimum quality standards for marketing fresh pineapples. Following training, the volunteer conducted farm visits to accompany farmers in identifying the practices they could implement the following season. The volunteer made six recommendations to farmers and the host organization on implementation and developing recommended agroecological practices in pineapple production.

R-E-310

Volunteer Name: **Zipporah Waitathu**
Country: Uganda
Country Project: Agribusiness
Host: Mahyoro Area Cooperative Enterprise
Assignment Dates: February 14 – March 3, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Zipporah Waitathu paired with U.S. volunteer Kimani Anku to support the host and community members build backyard farming skills. The volunteers trained and conducted practical demonstration on production techniques for fruits and vegetables. The main objective was to address food shortages and improve access to nutritious foods for household self-sufficiency. The volunteers accomplished all assignment objectives and trained 105 people (62% women and 19% youth).

Volunteers made six recommendations, including raising awareness on the need for balanced feeding, addressing the low participation of women in trainings, repeating trainings in the rainy season (initial training was conducted during the dry season and demonstrations suffered from a shortage of water), training all farmer groups in backyard gardening, integrating the Gender Action Learning systems in backyard farming, and acquiring watering cans.

R-E-311

Volunteer Name: **Juliet Alieto**
Country: Uganda
Country Project: Agribusiness
Host: Reach Out Nkokonjeru Parish HIV/AIDS Initiative
Assignment Dates: February 14 – March 3, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Juliet Alieto paired with U.S. volunteer Savanna Henderson to support Reach Out Nkokonjeru Parish HIV/AIDS Initiative to build the capacity of its members, staff, caregivers of children under five, village health teams' clients (including people living with HIV and AIDS) by equipping them with knowledge and skills in improved nutrition practices with the goal of tackling undernutrition and micronutrient related illnesses in vulnerable household members. The volunteers accomplished all assignment objectives and trained 249 people (89% women and 68% youth). Volunteers made five recommendations, including formation of nutrition groups at village level as a sustainability strategy, introduction of kitchen gardens to grow easily managed vegetables as a micronutrient deficiency intervention, regular mentorship of village health teams, and encouraging men's participation in nutrition trainings.

R-E-312

Volunteer Name: **Addisu Sebsibe**
Country: Ethiopia
Country Project: Livestock
Host: Meki Catholic Secretariat
Assignment Dates: February 15 – March 3, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Addisu Sebsibe paired with U.S. volunteer Jennie Schmidt to conduct human nutrition awareness training and food preparation training and demonstrations for mostly women beneficiaries of the Meki Catholic Secretariat. The assignment targeted pregnant and breastfeeding women. The assignment was implemented in Meki (east Shoa zone), Shashemene (West Arsi zone) and Assela (Arsi zone). In total, 176 people participated (73% women and 56% youth). The practical support focused on food processing, recipe demonstration and food fortification. Volunteers recommended follow-up and refresher training and demonstrations, including more males in nutrition education, promoting vegetable home gardening and utilization, and economically empowering women.

R-E-313

Volunteer Name: **Gerad Tiko**
Country: Benin
Country Project: Soybean
Host: ALCA-Benin
Assignment Dates: February 21 – March 4, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Gerard Tiko and U.S. volunteer Mark Condon strengthened pineapple farmers' business skills in areas, such as business planning, profitability analysis, and accounting in the communes of Tori-Bossitio and Zè. The goal of the assignment was to improve the economic performance and production resource management among pineapple producers. As result, participants now understand the advantages of using financial accounting tools for pineapple farm management. They have been trained in designing practical operating accounts for their farms. Volunteers conducted one case study on profitability analysis per session to enable farmers to improve their decision making and understand the principles of accounting through a practical example. This assignment targeted 93 producers (24 women and 5 youth). A total of five recommendations were made by the local volunteers to the participants and host organization ALCA-Benin.

R-E-314

Volunteer Name: **Arun Khanal**
Country: Nepal
Country Project: Crops
Host: Butwal Organic Vegetable Production Farmers' Cooperative Ltd.
Assignment Dates: February 24 – March 10, 2022

Assignment Summary

Senior horticulturist and local volunteer Arun Khanal and the U.S. volunteer John Bliss provided technical assistance to the hosts via on-farm training on organic vegetable production and marketing with member farmers. Through this training, the volunteers trained and conducted field demonstrations of at least 10 new technologies related to organic nursery preparation, bio-pesticides and compost production, soil testing and fertility management using local resources, crop water management and plant nutrition. A total of 79 participants (32 women) were trained. The volunteers made six recommendations.

R-E-315

Volunteer Name: **Marc Agbangba**
Country: Benin
Country Project: Soybean
Host: Eden Vision pour un Développement Durable (EV2D)
Assignment Dates: February 15 – March 10, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Marc Agbangba paired with U.S. volunteer Amanda Rose strengthened producers' skills in integrated pests and diseases control methods in pineapple production among farmers in Allada and Toffo. Training sessions were conducted in two steps: theory and on-site practical demonstrations. During the theory classes, producers learned how to recognize the symptoms and origins of pests and diseases in pineapple production. They also got information packages relevant to pests and diseases in pineapple production. Techniques and strategies to control pests and diseases were developed and discussed. In addition, the volunteer conducted field visits and supported the host and farmers in sharing more information in IPM guidelines development for pineapples and related crops. The volunteers provided 5 recommendations and trained 79 pineapple producers (seven women and 45 youth).

R-E-316

Volunteer Name: **Landry Chabi**
Country: Benin
Country Project: Cashew
Host: Diocese of N'Dali
Assignment Dates: February 23 – March 11, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Landry Chabi completed his second F2F volunteer assignment together with U.S. volunteer Doseke Akporiaye. They conducted the social audit of the Diocese of N'Dali and trained section managers on employee management and motivation for better performance and societal development. The audit was successfully conducted with the host organization, which can now apply important lessons learned to improve human relations. Based on the type and the hierarchical structure of the host, volunteers helped managers and decisionmakers identify a suitable human resources management system. Seven managers were trained by the volunteers, who made six recommendations to the host organization for better human resources management. With support from CRS Benin's Human Resources Manager and Partnership and Capacity Strengthening Manager, the host and volunteers developed an action plan based on the non-compliance points identified through the audit process.

R-E-317

Volunteer Name: **Boniface Hitimana**
Country: Rwanda
Country Project: Horticulture
Host: Rwanda Horticulture Interprofessional Organization
Assignment Dates: February 21 – March 11, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Boniface Hitimana and U.S. volunteer Patrick Shandonay trained the members of Rwanda Horticulture Interprofessional Organization on conservation of horticultural produce using solar energy. The volunteers conducted an assessment with different members to identify technology in use and available materials that could be used for processing. Volunteers helped develop guidelines on using solar energy for horticulture produce conservation. Volunteers used this manual in demonstrations on constructing a solar dryer and drying fruits using locally available materials. The volunteers recommended distributing the guidelines to members, particularly those members who were not present for the demonstration; constructing solar dryers; and maintaining hygienic condition of dryers to make high-quality products. Seven members of the organization attended training (five women and one youth).

R-E-318

Volunteer Name: **Dr. Mugimba Kahoza Kizito**
Country: Uganda
Country Project: Livestock
Host: Kamwenge District Farmers Organization
Assignment Dates: March 1 – 14, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Dr. Mugimba Kahoza Kizito, paired with U.S. volunteer Silvia Abel Caines, supported Kamwenge District Farmers Organization to equip Kamwenge local government extension staff, livestock farmers and cooperatives with knowledge and skills on livestock health management with the goal of increasing production and productivity of milk yields for profitability and improved livelihoods. The volunteers accomplished all the assignment objectives and trained 101 people (23 women). The volunteers made four recommendations that included training in gender issues in livestock production through community sensitization on power relations, routine inspection of animal health records during farm visits, demonstrations on acaricide mixing and spraying and integrated farming techniques. On request from Kamwenge district local government, F2F cost-shared with the local government to support a group of 10 trained extension workers demonstrate proper acaricide mixing and spraying for a period of 2 weeks throughout the district.

R-E-319

Volunteer Name: **Hortencio Amaral**
Country: Timor-Leste
Country Project: Modernizing Agriculture
Host: HAFOTI
Assignment Dates: March 2 – 14, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Hortencio Amaral was paired with U.S. volunteer Thomas Varghese to support HAFOTI members on good agronomic practices for coconut plantation management. The training covered cultivation techniques, such as seed selection, land preparation, seedling production, planting, maintenance, and harvesting. The training was delivered to 97 participants (62 women and 18 youth) and volunteers made four recommendations on topics including selecting seeds before planting, appropriate timing for planting, orchard establishment and maintenance of the coconut plant.

R-E-320

Volunteer Name: Mitiku Bekele
Country: Ethiopia
Country Project: Livestock
Host: Salale University
Assignment Dates: March 6 – 17, 2022

Assignment Summary

Salale University received technical support on academic leadership and management from local volunteer Mitiku Bekele and U.S. volunteer Amy Nickerson. The assignment focused on leadership dynamics, problem solving, and crisis and change management capabilities with the goal of improving staff performance in teaching, research, and community service. In total, 33 staff (five women and 18 youth) participated in the training. The volunteer provided five recommendations to improve staff leadership skills.

R-E-321

Volunteer Name: **Giridhari Sharma**
Country: Nepal
Country Project: Crops
Host: Gandaki University
Assignment Dates: March 1 – 18, 2022

Assignment Summary

Dr. Giridhari Poudel was paired with U.S. volunteer Dr. Ellen-Earle Chaffee in revising and developing a 10-year strategic plan (2022-2031) for Gandaki University. The volunteers provided 18 days of service and supported the host define the University's vision, mission, values and strategic pillars. This Strategic Plan has identified eight core values, 12 strategic pillars, 14 goals, 14 objectives, 14 strategies, 48 working strategies, and 145 activities and expected results. It is formulated within Nepal's rapidly changing socio-economic conditions and aims to fulfill the people's growing aspirations and expectations for a prosperous nation. The volunteers provided six recommendations and the first and most important recommendation – approval of the Strategic Plan from Board of Trustees – has been initiated.

R-E-322

Volunteer Name: **Aju Nyachhyon**
Country: Nepal
Country Project: Livestock
Host: Lumbini Specialized Co-Operative Union Ltd. (LUSCUN)
Assignment Dates: February 19 – March 20, 2022

Assignment Summary

Aju Nyachhyon paired with the U.S. volunteer Jerry Skiles to help LUSCUN establish and run their dairy business with a cohesive vision and mission by supporting the host develop a business plan for dairy products processing and marketing. The volunteers made three recommendations. Through this assignment 15 personnel (board members, management, and technical teams) were trained on business plan development and Implementation.

R-E-323

Volunteer Name: **Shilu Dahal**
Country: Nepal
Country Project: Livestock
Host: LUSCUN
Assignment Dates: February 21 – March 23, 2022

Assignment Summary

Shilu Dahal was paired with the remote U.S. volunteer John Berry to help LUSCUN establish and run their dairy business with a cohesive vision and mission by supporting the host assess markets for dairy products; analyze product competitiveness and consumer behavior; forecast market growth rates, market segmentation and trends. Through this assignment 64 (10 women and eight youth) were trained. The volunteers gave three recommendations.

R-E-324

Volunteer Name: **Sangam Sherpa**
Country: Nepal
Country Project: Livestock
Host: LUSCUN
Assignment Dates: February 19 – March 22, 2022

Assignment Summary

Sangam Sherpa, an agro-tourism specialist and organic farming promoter, was paired with the U.S. volunteer Eve Kalpan-Walbrecht to support the Victoria Organic Farm Pvt. Ltd. In Bhaktapur. The paired volunteers helped the host by providing practical trainings and demonstrations on organic vegetable production technologies (e.g., soil management, pest and disease control, irrigation management) and prepared strategies for integrating agro-tourism components along with the production of crops, livestock, fish and poultry. They trained five people, all youth. The volunteers made six recommendations and an action plan which are being implemented by the host.

R-E-325

Volunteer Name: **Tom Muganzi Kasaijja**
Country: Uganda
Country Project: Agribusiness
Host: Kasolwe Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization (SACCO)
Assignment Dates: March 6 – 23, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Tom Muganzi Kasaijja paired with U.S. volunteer Bob Cooperrider, supported Kasolwe SACCO to identify and install finance software to support SACCO's financial management and transactions. The volunteers accomplished all the assignment objectives and trained four people (one woman). The volunteers made six recommendations: create missing documents (i.e., cash book, asset register and journal vouchers); procure a power backup; acquire three computers and network; create payroll and remit mandatory statutory deductions; hire a trained bookkeeper or train existing staff; and acquire an external data storage device for data backup. CRS is processing a donation of a computer out of the closed projects to Kasolwe SACCO.

R-E-326

Volunteer Name: **Rojino da Cunha**
Country: Timor-Leste
Country Project: Modernizing Agriculture
Host: HAFOTI
Assignment Dates: March 14 – 25, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Rojino da Cunha was paired with U.S. volunteer Whitney Brim-DeForest on good agronomic practices for black rice production. The training topics included seed selection, land preparation, row planting, seed selection, plant density (seed requirements based on land size), weeding, pest control, harvesting and seed saving for the next planting season. The training was delivered to eight groups with 85 members (64 women and 24 youth). Five recommendations were made.

R-E-327

Volunteer Name: **Theodule Aikpando**
Country: Benin
Country Project: Soybean
Host: Eden Vision pour un Développement Durable (EV2D)
Assignment Dates: March 14 – 25, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Theodule Aikpando paired with U.S. volunteer Jim Rice and strengthened seed producers' skills in improved soybean seed production techniques and the certification process. Volunteer trained 102 seed producers (17% women and 9% youth) supported by the host in the communes of Djidja and Cove. Training sessions were conducted in two steps: theory and on-site practical demonstrations. Some of the producers were provided with samples of improved soybean basic seed, sufficient to cover 1.25 acres of land. This seed will produce certified seed when harvested. Volunteers provided four recommendations to both host and participants.

R-E-328

Volunteer Name: **David Luseesa**
Country: Uganda
Country Project: Livestock
Host: Kamwenge District Farmers Organization
Assignment Dates: March 13 – 29, 2022

Assignment summary

Local volunteer David Luseesa paired with U.S. volunteer Norbert Soltwedel to support Kamwenge District Farmers Association in building the host capacity in post-harvest handling and storage of maize grain at collection centers and warehouses. Volunteers accomplished all the assignment objectives and trained 44 people (32% women). Volunteers made three recommendations which included strengthening service provision in liaison with government and non-government organizations, strengthening market linkages with input and output markets, and enforcement of good practices for handling and storing maize grain by training farmers and traders on a code of conduct for maize grain trade.

R-E-329

Volunteer Name: **Fulgence Mpayimana**
Country: Rwanda
Country Project: Maize
Host: CAPRORE
Assignment Dates: March 14 – 30, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Fulgence Mpayimana and U.S. volunteer Peter Callan Assisted CAPRORE to conduct a feasibility study for a maize processing unit. The assignment focused on discussing with the host the objectives of the maize processing unit, assessing the requirements for a maize miller set-up, developing an implementation plan and budget, and compiling the recommendations for the set-up preparations and action plan. The volunteer recommended CAPRORE raise its visibility to attract key supporters, maintain and refurbish existing assets that can be used by the cooperative when setting up the maize processing unit, raise its members' awareness of the plan to install a processing unit so they start making their financial contributions as advised, and open a separate bank account to start saving toward establishing a maize processing unit in three years. During the feasibility study development, 17 people were consulted (five women).

R-E-330

Volunteer Name: **Getachew Biru**
Country: Ethiopia
Country Project: Crops

Host: EGCDWO
Assignment Dates: March 11 – 30, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Getachew Biru and U.S. volunteer Tamara Jones paired to provide technical support to EGCDWO on grant proposal writing. The volunteers assisted the host on grant proposal writing on post-harvest management, focusing on the use of hermetic PICS bags. This is intended to support the host in the application of a CRS Overseas Operations Fund toward addressing high levels of post-harvest losses. Additionally, the volunteers provided training to enhance staff proposal writing skills. Seven staff members (one woman) benefited from the technical support. The recommendations provided by the volunteer include providing training for commercial village agro-dealers in the project area and staff members from branch offices on grant writing, and facilitating practical sessions for staff members from branch offices on grant proposal development.

R-E-331

Volunteer Name: **Jean Marie Sentaru**
Country: Rwanda
Country Project: Maize
Host: National Seed Consortium
Assignment Dates: March 14 – 31, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Jean Marie Sentaru and U.S. volunteer Audrey Bracey Deegan assisted the National Seed Consortium to develop a strategic plan. The assignment focused on defining the mission, the vision, the core values of the consortium, the long-term and short-term objectives, as well as defining the consortium's priorities and developing an action plan and timeline for each activity. The strategic plan also includes the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to reach goals. The volunteer recommended establishing a financial management system, hiring personnel, carrying out a customer survey needs assessment, engaging and increasing the number of women and youth in the consortium, and focusing on services that help members to expand markets. Under the strategy development process, five leaders of the national seed consortium committee were present: two women and three men.

R-E-332

Volunteer Name: **Tarekegne Argaw**
Country: Ethiopia
Country Project: Crops
Host: Injibara University
Assignment Dates: March 17 – 31, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Tarekegne Argaw and U.S. volunteer Julia Piaskowski paired to provide technical support to Injibara University on the R software package for agricultural data management, analysis, and graphics. The training was conducted to improve skills of Injibara University research and academic staff in use of R Software for generating research information and conducting community outreach. In total, 21 staff (3 women and 20 youth) participated in the training. Volunteers provided recommendations which included: continuing practice and use of the knowledge obtained from the training to identify additional training needs; and organizing additional training and experience sharing on research methods, including proposal development and data analysis.

C. Buy-ins

CRS did not have any buy-ins in FY22 Q1 or Q2.

D. Associate Award

i.	Country	Liberia
ii.	Project Title	Agriculture Sustainability Activity
iii.	LOP Budget	\$2.93 million
iv.	Obligated Amount	\$2.93 million
v.	Start Date	July 22, 2021
vi.	Completion Date	July 21, 2022
vii.	Objectives	

The Agriculture Sustainability Activity will increase the availability of domestically produced and processed rice and cassava in Liberia by meeting the following strategic objectives:

- a. Female and male farmers increase sustainable rice and cassava production in target areas
- b. Target processors increase rice and cassava processing
- c. Other work identified through the closeout of Feed the Future Liberia Agribusiness Development Activity (LADA) is completed

viii. Role of Volunteers

F2F volunteers were paired with producer organizations, processors, and agro-dealers to provide short-term technical assistance and training related to award objectives. Specifically, in the first six months of FY22, 40 paired remote volunteer assignments provided technical assistance to farmer associations, cooperatives, processors, and agro-dealers. The assignments contributed to increasing the availability of domestically produced and processed rice and cassava through the following assignment topics: business and financial management, rice post-harvest handling and storage, cooperative governance and management, marketing strategy, irrigation, contract farming, good agricultural practices for cassava, and cassava post-harvest management.

ix. Lessons Learned

A designated recruiter in-country helps greatly with the paired remote volunteer model and the collaboration process.