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To express interest in this assignment please email emily.keast@crs.org

CRS Farmer to Farmer Program

Paired Remote Volunteer Assignment Scope of Work

Summary Information			
Assignment Code	BJ2111		
Country:	Benin		
Country Project:	Soybean		
Host Organization:	Nature Plurielle NGO		
Partner:	Department of Crop Production		
Date of baseline data collection:	04/01/2022		
Date of host agreement signing:	04/12/2022		
Number of previous volunteer assignments:	1		
Volunteer recommendations given (Total):	04	Volunteer recommendations applied (Total):	01
Assignment Title:	Training Climate and Ecology Ambassadors (ACE) on Education for Climate Justice, Environment and Ecology		
Objectives of the assignment:	Strengthen the capacity of secondary school head students on environmental education and environmental justice for environmental protection.		
Assignment preferred dates:	End November 2022		
Desired volunteer skill/expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agronomist; specialist in climate change and biodiversity • Proven knowledge of UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) • Experience in associative life, activism and school garden development • Familiar with training youths (students ages 12-22) 		
Type of Volunteer Assistance	Technology Transfer = T		
Type of Value Chain Activity	Farm Production = F		
PERSUAP Classification ¹	II		
Number of people to be trained	Men	Women	Youths
	35	25	60
Will the assignment address gender gaps?	Yes		
Will the assignment address climate change?	Yes		

A. BACKGROUND

¹ USAID precisely classifies PERSUAP in four categories; **PERSUAP Type I** assignments directly related to pesticides recommendations, **Type II** as assignments with indirectly related with pesticides, **Type III** assignments related to curriculum review and designing, business plan development and strategies development and **Type IV** as assignments associated with other USAID projects and collaborators.



The Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) program is an American initiative that provides technical assistance from highly qualified volunteers to farmers, farmer groups (cooperatives and associations), agribusinesses, research institutes and other organizations in the agricultural sector in developing countries and countries in transition. The supports are usually provided by American volunteers but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, currently, the missions are carried out by pairs of volunteers; a volunteer recruited locally and an American volunteer. The F2F project has been implemented in Benin since September 2018 by CRS, to support the cashew and soybean value chains over a period of five years, both approved by the USAID mission in Benin.

Nature Plurielle” (NaP) NGO has been in operation since 2015 and was officially registered on May 23, 2018. It was created by young university graduates from various professional backgrounds including agronomy. NaP’s main objective is to contribute to integrated and sustainable development in Benin. The mission of the NGO is to promote agroecological measures to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. More specifically, the NGO aims to: (i) promote agricultural diversification through green entrepreneurship; (ii) make ecological phytosanitary products accessible to rural producers and assist agricultural producers in sustainable production; (iii) protect nature, climate and natural resources; (iv) organize information and awareness campaigns on biodiversity and climate; and (v) advocate for food security through entrepreneurship development with a focus on organic agriculture. With its headquarters in the commune of Avrankou, department of Oueme, NaP supports agricultural producers, youth and women agricultural entrepreneurs in the palm oil trees and vegetables crops sub-sectors through training, monitoring and provision of advisory services for the improvement of crop quality and yield. For agroecology and environmental protection, NaP received its first assignment on the promotion of biological control products by training farmers in some areas. In this way, the host organization is investing more of its work in student ambassadors (coached on environmental protection issues) in the schools in its area of intervention and promoting easier access to ecological phytosanitary products for producers. Its activities contribute to inclusive and sustainable agricultural economic growth.

B. ISSUE DESCRIPTION

Environmental education allows individuals to explore environmental issues, engage in problem solving, and take action to improve the environment. Youth, in most of the NGO's areas of intervention, are increasingly involved in economic activities, particularly agricultural activities. Poor agricultural practices using more chemical inputs, traditional techniques for processing agricultural products and excessive deforestation are so much practiced by populations, especially young women and men. In one way or another, these activities contribute to the uncontrolled release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and the progressive degradation of biodiversity.



These young people (boys and girls) and a lot of adults (women and men), however, are generally disengaged in climate change issues. In terms of education, training curricula in secondary schools in Benin do not contain specific activities relating to environmental education and global warming. As a result, students, actors of the future, have remained insensitive and do not have a real knowledge of cross-cutting issues including the 17 SDGs and their targets, etc. The lack of information provided to young people, coupled with the misuse of chemical fertilizers in agricultural production and cooking charcoal production, reinforce young people's neglect of issues related to the environment and climate change. In addition, there is a lack of commitment from young people to the development of ecological school gardens.

Addressing secondary school students who will be part of this melting pot of exchanges and training on climate change, biodiversity and the SDGs, NaP-NGO intends to engage several youth ambassadors so that the objectives of the Conferences of the Parties (COP) on all the Paris Agreements are achieved as soon as possible along with the anchoring of eco-citizenship in Benin and particularly in the areas of intervention of the NGO.

C. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The main objective of the assignment is to strengthen the capacities of secondary school students on environmental education and environmental justice for environmental protection.

Specifically, this assignment aims to:

- Teach students about the UN's SDGs, the causes (bad practices) and consequences of climate change (human, socio-economic and environmental).
- Train students on eco-citizenship, best adaptation techniques to climate change and current environmental issues.
- Facilitate student participation in biodiversity advocacy projects and the relationship between youth and nature.
- Strengthen students' capacities on different soil fertilization techniques and the installation of ecological field schools.

D. HOST CONTRIBUTION

The host will provide a conference room for the different sessions and ensure the mobilization of key and relevant staff who will work closely with the volunteer to ensure the objectives are achieved. The host provide accommodation and cover associated costs for the participants in partnership with the heads of schools. In addition to these, the host will provide the necessary materials and inputs for the practical sessions on ecological field schools installation.

E. ANTICIPATED RESULTS FROM THE ASSIGNMENT



At least 60 students including 25 women will be trained on climate change issues and adaptation strategies, biodiversity advocacy projects, protection of the environment, climate justice and the use of biopesticides. They will gain a good understanding and relevant practical skills on improved agroecological production for ecological field schools. This will contribute to increasing young people's passion for ecotourism and nature by developing supportive and constructive relationships on current topics related to the environment. Additionally, it will contribute to environmental protection by reducing the use of chemical products.

F. DELIVERABLES

1. Volunteer final report due BEFORE departure.
2. Participant attendance list.
3. Group presentation with local stakeholders at the end of the assignment in country.
4. Debrief with USAID and F2F country staff.
5. Volunteer outreach activities in the US and in country using social media, Journal, radio, TV, etc.
6. Guidelines for students and other training materials.

G. SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN COUNTRY

Days (not dates)	Activity
Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and orientation at CRS office in Cotonou, signing of administrative documents, and security and safeguarding briefing. • Travel to Avrankou and introduction to host organization by F2F team: General orientation with the host, first-hand briefing on the main objectives and modality of the assignment and adjustment of the agenda for the coming days (work planning session) • Check in to hotel
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the first group of participants by host and F2F staff • Conduct a quick assessment and evaluation with students and heads of schools • Conduct a SWOT analysis to better understand the specific needs of the participants.
Day 3-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold first training session in Ifangni • Installation of ecological field schools
Day 7-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold second training session in Porto-Novo • Installation of ecological field schools
Day 11-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold third training session in Adjara • Installation of ecological field schools
Day 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debrief with host, participants representative and F2F



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit updated training materials, attendance sheet and any reference materials to CRS F2F team.
Day 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize and submit volunteer’s report, PPT presentation to CRS F2F team.
Day 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer’s Travel back. • Debriefing with USAID.

H. DESIRABLE VOLUNTEERS SKILLS (Academic and hands on experience on subject matter)

The desired volunteer for this assignment is:

- An agronomist and/or specialist in climate change and biodiversity
- Knowledgeable about the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
- Experienced in associative life, activism and school garden development
- Familiar with training students ages 12-22

I. ACCOMMODATION AND ANOTHER IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS

The volunteer will stay at the Ayelawadje Hotel in Porto-Novo for all the sessions in Porto-Novo, Ifangni and Adjarra. Travel between the hotel and the training venues will be arranged by NaP. CRS will pay for hotel accommodation. NaP’s coordinator will work closely with the volunteer during the preparations and his/her work, to ensure that the assignment goals are being achieved. Travel arrangements, adhering to COVID-19 safety precautions, will be made by CRS. Communication networks in the area are very good. The volunteer will be paid a per diem to cover feeding.

J. RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT PREPARATIONS

▪ **Targeted trainees’ Description**

The main participants to be trained through this assignment are head students (young men and women) from 8 secondary schools. Some students and teachers from the target schools will also be participating. All of them understand French but most of them have a low level of advanced French. Training will be done in ‘soft French’.

▪ **Training Materials**

The volunteer should prepare documents that can be printed at the CRS office prior to travel. Flipcharts, markers, masking tapes can be obtained from the host’s office in case the volunteer wishes to do illustrations. If possible, the volunteer should also prepare any specific materials or product that are difficult to get but needed for the bio-pesticides production even though host organization will provide necessary materials for that. For PowerPoint presentations, NaP can provide a video projector.

▪ **Electricity, internet, cellphone signal, key security, health issues**



In general, the electricity supply, internet connectivity and cell phone signal are stable in the assignment area of Porto-Novo, Ifangni and Adjarra. The hotel and the training venue have stable access to electricity. The cell phone reception is good for both mobile networks (MTN and Moov) available in the country.

Ifangni and Adjarra are close to the Nigerian border with Benin so the volunteer can expect to engage with Nigerians in the area. The volunteer will be instructed about security measures and safeguarding before going to the host organization. The volunteer is advised to travel with any required medications in his/her hand luggage to prevent health issues.

- **Working Environment and culture**

NaP is headquartered in Avrankou, Department of Ouémé. Indeed, Porto-Novo and Adjarra are the communes of Ouémé Department while Ifangni is the commune of Plateau Departement, all located in the South-west part of the country. Avrankou (the host's office) is about 50km from Cotonou. People in the assignment sessions area are mostly *Christians* and some are *Muslims* and most people are also involved in endogenous religion. In the commune of Ifangni, the endogenous ceremonies to worship "ORO" (a divine entity) are vibrant but sometimes they place restrictions on women. The volunteer will hear the main local language *Goun* but also *Fon* and *Yoruba*. People are very nice and respectful, especially towards foreigners; they are social and open to collaboration.

- **Recommended Reading**

CRS strongly recommends that the volunteer familiarize him/herself with this SOW, read some updated documents on the climate change and mitigation measures, the UN's SDGs, the [Conference of the Parties \(COP\)](#), and soil fertilization techniques in Benin, and West Africa. The volunteer can also visit the [farmer-to-farmer digital library](#) for relevant documentation about similar work.

K. REMOTE/LOCAL VOLUNTEER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Both volunteers participate in a call to discuss their objectives and collaborative approach at the start of the assignment. Collaboration platforms vary depending on the assignment and connectivity. The most frequently used platforms are MS Teams and WhatsApp. The volunteers are highly encouraged to visit [CRS' F2F Digital Resource Library](#), and search for resources that they could use or customize for training. Upon completion of your assignment, volunteers are requested to send any resources they would like to contribute to the library (whether created or found) to farmertofarmer@crs.org.

The local volunteer is responsible for assignment design, training, assignment reports, action planning with hosts, outreach in-country, and achievement of the assignment objectives. The local volunteer works directly with the host with assistance/input from the US volunteer. Assignments usually last up to two



weeks, sometimes extending beyond two weeks due to pending follow-up visits, emails etc. Local volunteers are asked to track assignment hours per day and to stay under 112 hours total (14 days x 8 hrs).

Virtual support from a paired US volunteer helps provide supplementary training resources, fill in the gaps for technical areas, and share creative ideas and solutions. Two specific responsibilities are to: (i) complete the outreach component of the assignment and (ii) support the in-country volunteer as needed. US volunteers typically dedicate 4-8 hours per week, depending on the nature of the assignment and collaboration.

L. KEY CONTACTS

To express interest in this assignment, please email the CRS Baltimore contact listed below. To find out additional information about the host, issue description or field conditions, please email the country contact provided below, copying the CRS Baltimore contact.

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