





FY22 Annual Performance Report

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OCTOBER 1, 2021 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

Reporting Period: OCTOBER 1, 2021 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

USAID Leader with Associate Cooperative Agreement No.: 7200AA18LE00006

Submitted to:

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Cover Photo: Volunteer Elizabeth Norden training participants at the Rwanda Institute of Cooperatives, Entrepreneurship and Microfinance, building their capacity in proposal writing and resource mobilization. Kigali, Rwanda, June 2022.

Photo by CRS Staff

Contents

I.	Introduction	5
II.	Summary of Implementation Experience in Core Countries	6
A	. Benin	6
B	. Ethiopia	8
C.	. Nepal	10
D	. Rwanda	12
E.	. Timor-Leste	14
F.	Uganda	15
III.	Overall Implementation Problems or Deviations from Expectations	17
IV.	Summary of Progress Toward Indicator Targets	17
V.	Planned Activities for the Next Six Months	18
VI.	Annexes	18
A	. PERSUAP Reporting	199
B	. Volunteer Assignment Summaries FY22	233
C.	. Buy-ins	79
D	. Associate Awards	80

Acronyms & Abbreviations

ALCA-Benin	Association de Lutte contre l'Analphabétisation
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
F2F	Farmer-to-Farmer
FY	Fiscal year
HAFOTI	Hamahon Feto Timor
IPM	Integrated pest management
ISO/IEC	International Organization for Standardization and International Electrotechnical Commission
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
PRV	Paired remote volunteer
SILC	Savings and Internal Lending Communities
SoW	Scope of Work
SUAP	Safer Use Action Plan
SWOT	Strength, weakness, opportunity and threat
U.S.	United States
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene

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 reporting period of fiscal year (FY) 2022, CRS relied on both U.S. and paired remote volunteer (PRV) assignments (U.S. remote volunteers paired with non-U.S. local volunteers) to provide technical support to host organizations. Of the 165 total volunteer assignments completed during FY22 (37 by women) CRS completed 133 through paired remote assignments and 32 through in-person assignments (by U.S. volunteers), directly training 10,437 people (51% women, 29% youth). Eleven of the 32 U.S. volunteer assignments were completed by women. There were 105 different volunteers since some were repeat volunteers. Hosts contributed resources valued at \$88,474 toward assignment completion with 46 new hosts assisted.

CRS collected impact data during this reporting period. Cumulatively, host organizations realized annual gross sales valued at \$58,166,075 from a baseline value of \$49,778,788, with annual net income increasing to \$5,926,354 from a baseline value of \$4,174,455. Hosts mobilized additional resources worth \$6,485,959. Hosts developed 81 new products and 39 new services. Though the number of loans acquired over the course of the project increased from 33,843 to 34,799, the value of agricultural lending has decreased from a baseline of \$21,587,843 to \$13,844,960. 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.

CRS F2F hosted three Small Farms Conferences in FY22: in Ethiopia in May, Nepal in June and Uganda in July 2022. The purpose of the conferences was to facilitate exchange and adoption of best practices, technologies and innovations among host partners and beneficiaries, and to facilitate linkages and collaboration among host partners and other stakeholders. The Small Farms Conference reports for each country are being submitted as attachments with this annual report.

Commencing in May and continuing into June, CRS F2F held a four-day all-staff reflection, learning and planning meeting in Kigali, Rwanda. This was the first time staff had gathered as a whole team for several years and proved to be a rich opportunity for sharing, learning and preparing for FY23. During the workshop, staff from CRS' six F2F countries developed workplans for FY23.

Similarly, CRS hosted the F2F Asia Regional Meeting in Nepal in September 12-15, 2022. The meeting, which was attended by USAID's F2F Agreement Officer Representative, Peggy Carlson, also benefited from the participation of implementers from the Agricultural Volunteer Opportunity Project's small grants program, Grameen Foundation (Philippines), the Center of Excellence on Sustainable Agricultural Intensification and Nutrition (Cambodia), and CRDF Global (Uzbekistan); as well as Venture 37/Land O'Lakes and CRS. This meeting followed the Africa Regional Meeting hosted in Kenya by International Executive Service Corps, which CRS attended in June 2022.

CRS completed the production of a 10-minute short <u>video</u> highlighting the successes of the PRV model adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, six implementers received three-minute mini clips featuring their own F2F PRVs. <u>Here</u> is CRS' clip featuring an assignment in Nepal.

Staffing Updates: CRS F2F Deputy Director Nyambura Theuri retired at the end of August 2022. Since the program is in the last year of implementation, CRS does not plan to hire a replacement for this position. The Technical Advisor for Program Quality and Impact (TA F2F PIQA) is filling this position in an acting capacity for six months while the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) Coordinator based in Nepal is overseeing program MEAL activities in all countries as Acting MEAL Manager for the same period. After this period, if their performance reviews indicate that they are proficient in these positions, they will assume these roles indefinitely. F2F is currently fully staffed in each of the countries and does not anticipate any significant changes to staffing in FY23.

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 understand their priorities and enhance F2F's contributions to USAID's country strategies and Feed the Future initiatives.

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 use of resources and the achievement of development objectives. The CRS Senior Technical Advisor for Gender and Nutrition Integration in Agriculture and the CRS F2F Project Director led initial discussions with other F2F implementing partners around ways to make host assessment tools more gender sensitive. This will lead to a pilot of updated tools in FY23.

Outreach: CRS conducted 428 outreach activities, both in the U.S. and globally, during the reporting period to enhance the general public's understanding of the F2F program and its activities. These included group presentations and social media posts. CRS volunteers and staff made 205 presentations, 214 social media posts, and nine publications related to their F2F assignments. Volunteers spent a total of eight days giving post-assignment technical support to host organizations.

II. Summary of Implementation Experience in Core Countries

A. Benin

Volunteers completed 32 assignments with 20 host organizations, including 10 new organizations, in the cashew and soybean country projects directly assisting 1,968 people (44% women, 21% youth). These assignments focused on technology transfer, organizational development, business and enterprise development, and environmental conservation to strengthen

Country Project	Assignments
Cashew	12
Soybean	20
Total	32

host and individual enterprise contributions to agricultural, economic and social development. Volunteers made 141 recommendations, of which 54 have already been applied by hosts. They completed 515 days of service, and hosts contributed \$18,158 toward assignment completion.

Cashew

Volunteers completed 12 assignments with nine host organizations, directly assisting 854 people (61% women, 15% youth) during 209 days of service. Assignments focused on technology transfer in food processing, climate change adaptation, enterprise and business development, and organizational development through accounts management and financial auditing, human resources management, cooperative management and improvements in loan lending systems. Volunteers provided 65 recommendations, and host organizations contributed \$5,864 toward assignment completion.

<u>Soybean</u>

Volunteers completed 20 assignments with 11 host organizations, directly assisting 1,114 people (32% women, 27% youth) during 306 days of volunteer service. Assignments were on a variety of topics: organizational development through leadership, governance and gender integration; technology transfer in food processing; sustainable farm production techniques and storage technologies; farm management and investment plan development; results-based monitoring and evaluation systems; market development; and advocacy and lobbying techniques for farmers, communities and community-based development organizations. Volunteers provided 76 recommendations and host organizations contributed \$12,294 toward assignment completion.

Major Impacts and Accomplishments

- There was significant participation of women (44%) overall. This was particularly evident in the cashew country project, a traditionally male-dominated sector, where 61% of the 854 people trained were women. The training involved cashew-apple promotion to increase women's participation and strengthening of Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC), activities in which women's participation is very high.
- The host organization, Vert Monde Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) participated in the Society of American Foresters conference in the U.S. following an assignment on biogas production using cashew apples and other agricultural waste in mobile biodigesters for rural women. For this achievement, the organization won the 2022 Society of American Foresters Gregory Award. This innovative assignment on clean cooking energy production (biogas) is helping community members reduce their use of firewood, while developing other food processing activities and introducing the use of organic manure for vegetable production. More than 20 rural households have installed and benefit from mobile biodigesters.
- Host organization, Agbara-Oluwa, won a first-place prize for innovation at the annual Departmental Agro-Pastoral Fair held by the department of Collines. This was thanks to the coconut-enriched soy yogurt they learned to produce through an F2F assignment on soybean-derived product diversification.
- Host organization, Amda-Sarl, received support developing a marketing plan and has since attracted new clients (including one potential international client) and expanded its market share. As a result, monthly sales have increased by over \$410, a jump of almost 10%.
- More than 60% of soybean farmers trained through an assignment on integrated approaches to pest and disease management and sustainable land management have applied their new knowledge in best practices. More than 240 hectares of soybean and pineapple fields are now being managed through improved good agricultural practices.
- F2F increased its project visibility through key outreach activities via local radio (Radio Nato in Natitingou), Web TV, and newspaper (Daabarou in Parakou) carried out by a local volunteer and two

host organizations. Additionally, some municipal authorities, such as the Mayor and District Heads, were present at assignment kick-off and closeout meetings.

Implementation Problems or Deviations from Expectations The percentage of women participants directly assisted (44%) is still lower than the program target (48%). The team is working to improve women's participation through value addition assignments where women play a significant role, such as the SILC groups.

Country Project	Assignments		
Crops	14		
Livestock	10		
Total	24		

B. Ethiopia

Volunteers completed 24 assignments with 13 host organizations under the crops and livestock country projects. In total, the volunteers directly assisted 747 people (36% women, 43% youth). Volunteer support included organizational development and technology transfer. Volunteers completed a total of 368 days of service, and hosts contributed \$20,074 toward completion of the assignments.

<u>Crops</u>

Volunteers completed 14 assignments with seven host organizations: nine assignments focused on organizational development and six on technology transfer. Hosts include NGOs, a farmer cooperative union, universities, and a microfinance share company. Volunteer assignments on technology transfer included seed multiplication techniques (e.g., agronomic/field and lab standards); warehouse management for grain and seed storage; use of the R software package, a programming and statistical tool for agricultural data management and analysis; human nutrition; and food processing. Organizational development assignments focused on strategic planning; digital MEAL systems; proposal writing; grants management; and leadership and management. Volunteers provided 228 days of service and 55 recommendations, 29 of which have been applied by hosts.

<u>Livestock</u>

Volunteers completed 10 assignments: five on technology transfer, four on organizational development and one on business development. Assignments were completed with private sector companies, universities and an NGO. The technology transfer assignments dealt with quality improvement of smallscale farm machinery (e.g., threshers and shellers), poultry feed processing and formulation, human nutrition (e.g., food processing and recipe demonstration), and dairy product (e.g., yogurt and cheese) processing and development. Organizational development assignments focused on youth livelihood skills, climate resilience modeling, leadership and management. The business development assignment was on branding and marketing of dairy products (e.g., yogurt, cheese, pasteurized milk). Volunteers provided 140 days of service and made 45 recommendations. A total of 26 recommendations have been applied by hosts.

Major Impacts and Accomplishments

- F2F Ethiopia collaborated with the USAID Resilience Food Security Activity to establish a digital webbased MEAL system for local NGO, Ethio-Wetlands and Natural Resources Association. This has transformed their manual system into a digital system thereby improving data collection accuracy, timeliness and analysis, and contributed to improved decision making.
- F2F collaborated with CRS' water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programming to introduce and demonstrate vegetable production techniques in health centers and to link agriculture to human nutrition and health. Tagel Health Center planted a vegetable garden with carrots, cabbage, peppers, beets and onions to raise patients' awareness of nutrition. The garden has generated income through the sale of vegetables, especially carrots and peppers, to health center staff. In

June, the WASH program and the host (Bahir Dar Catholic Secretariat) replicated the model in two other health centers.

- Yaya Dairy Farm secured an additional 4.5 hectares of land from the local government for fodder production and feed processing. The farm also purchased a feed processing machine and started a school feeding program, supplying milk to children, in collaboration with the local government and an NGO.
- Mohammed Abuna Guto Dairy Farm established forage production systems growing elephant grasses, alfalfa, fodder and maize on five hectares of land obtained from the local government. The site is used by the Ministry of Agriculture and local extensionist to facilitate learning by farmers from other areas and to disseminate best practices. The company has expanded its business by starting milk processing, opening two restaurants to sell its products, and engaging with school feeding programs. For more details, see the success story accompanying this report.
- Following an on-farm demonstration of biofertilizer use, Wolkite University facilitated supply of
 rhizobium inoculants to farmers in two districts through its regular extension system, with support
 from the CRS Fair Trade Fund. The university also promoted small farm tools (e.g., row makers,
 weeders) and taught farmers to practice in-home gardening with light soils.
- When starting its research and extension services in 2019, Injibara University received technical support on research methodologies and designs which enabled it to mobilize funds and design and implement action-based research with local extensionists and farmers. This year, the research unit mobilized \$103,000 to implement improved production technologies in six districts for crops, such as wheat, barley and potatoes. The funds are also being used to promote improved dairy and poultry technologies.
- Debre Markos and Wolkite University researchers used the R Software Package to manage, analyze and interpret results from applied research. They used the tool to generate and formulate recommendations for improved agricultural production technologies for use by local farmers and extensionists.
- The Small Farms Conference, organized by CRS F2F in May 2022, prompted fruitful exchanges and linkages among host partners, local experts and other stakeholders. It also enhanced collaboration and integration with other USAID and CRS country programs. Interest has increased following the conference by host partners in need of volunteer support and by local volunteers interested in engaging with the program.

Implementation Problems or Deviations from Expectations

- Women's participation remained low (36% for project participants and 13% for volunteers) compared to the target indicators. During the pandemic when we relied more on local volunteers, the proportion of women to men volunteers was lower than it normally is for US volunteers. The project aims to improve by ensuring the timing and location of trainings are suitable for women, recruiting experts from professional women's organizations as volunteers, planning gender-sensitive assignments (e.g., nutrition for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers), 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 the northern part 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 asset losses. With the cessation in the conflict, these hosts are resuming operations.

C. Nepal

Volunteers completed 30 assignments with 26 host organizations, assisting 1,038 people (50% women, 28% youth). These assignments were on technology transfer, organizational development, business enterprise development, and administrative support during the F2F Small Farm Conference. Volunteers completed a total of 442 days of service and hosts contributed \$11,051 toward assignment completion.

Country Project	Assignments
Crops	20
Livestock	10
Total	30

Crops

Volunteers completed 20 assignments with 17 hosts directly assisting 705 people (51% women, 28% youth) during 292 days of service. Two assignments focused on organizational development, seven on business enterprise development, one on information support and 10 on technology transfer. Hosts supported included public agricultural research and development organizations, a university, private sector agribusiness service providers, farmer groups and cooperatives. Volunteers made 90 recommendations, of which 37 have been applied. Hosts contributed \$6,123 toward assignment completion.

<u>Livestock</u>

CRS completed 10 assignments with 9 host organizations directly assisting 333 people (46% women and 30% youth) during 150 days of service. Seven assignments focused on technology transfer, one on organizational development, and two on business enterprise development. Volunteers made 38 recommendations, of which 18 have been applied. Hosts contributed \$4,928 toward assignment completion. A total of 333 farmers, agro-entrepreneurs, scientists, technicians and host staff were trained in applying new tools and techniques in the goat, cattle, honeybee, fish, and dairy value chains.

Major Impacts and Accomplishments

- CRS F2F Nepal hosted the Asia Regional Meeting successfully on September 12-15, 2022. Partners of the Americas Agricultural Volunteer Opportunity Project, Venture 37 Land O'Lakes (US and Bangladesh), Grameen Foundation (Philippines), Center of Excellence on Sustainable Intensification and Nutrition (Cambodia), CRDF Global (Uzbekistan) and CRS attended the meeting.
- Relationships with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, other key government agencies, the USAID Mission, and other implementing partners improved thanks to the team's continuous networking efforts.
- Muna Krishi Public Ltd. expanded its business outreach by establishing new market outlets in Pokhara and Kathmandu valley by implementing business development and branding and marketing plans developed by F2F volunteers.
- The Agriculture Technology Center in Kathmandu, which provides soil and fertilizer testing laboratory services, applied for laboratory certification under the Nepal Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (NEPLAS) using a laboratory quality manual developed with support from F2F volunteers. The host made significant improvements to its laboratory system to be compliant with the International Organization for Standardization and International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC) 17025:2017 and NEPLAS, including the separation of chemical and soil testing labs and the installation of fire extinguishers and granite tabletops.
- CRS F2F Nepal organized a Small Farms Conference under the theme "Transforming and Sustaining Small Farms" on June 24, 2022. This was done in collaboration and partnership with the Government of Nepal, universities, research organizations, the Federation of Small Farmers'

Cooperatives, the National Federation of Farmers' Groups, financial institutions, USAID's implementing partners, private sector entities and community-based organizations. Presenters (i.e., farmers, researchers, and experts) shared successes in smallholder farming as well as innovative ideas for research, extension and education with the aim of strengthening collaboration between the public and private sectors, including cooperatives. The conference also provided a forum in which to discuss the results of research conducted by the Nepal Agriculture Research Council and Agriculture and Forestry Universities. Fifteen hosts exhibited and showcased their products and services. There were 117 participants from a variety of sectors and backgrounds.

- After receiving F2F volunteer support on seed production, quality control, post-harvest management and annual seed production planning, the Small Farmer Agriculture Cooperative Ltd., Kailali increased its paddy seed production area from eight hectares in FY21 to 17 hectares this year. The cooperative also started selling seeds using printed bags bearing its own logo and branding. It received funding support from the provincial government and invested \$28,000 to open the Custom Hiring Center, a rental shop for agricultural equipment. A total of 48 farmers, including 13 women seed producers, were trained.
- Following training on organic vegetable production and liquid biopesticide production, 75 small scale farmers (41% women) belonging to the Organic Vegetable Producers Farmers Group, Rupandehi, started producing organic liquid fertilizers and decomposers using Effective Microorganisms. The host and local government recently completed the construction of an organic vegetable collection center and space for commercial production of the Effective Microorganismbased decomposer and liquid fertilizer by investing \$18,000.
- Small Farmers' Cooperative Ltd., Butwal, started producing and marketing at least eight 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.
- 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 dehorners. 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.
- Victoria Agriculture Firm in 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. The firm completed the construction of new agro-tourism facilities including a farmhouse, organic kitchen, farm trails, and fishponds.
- The recruitment of women volunteers increased from one in 2021 to six in FY22 following increased efforts to target women, using previous women volunteers to promote the program among other women. The six women were five local volunteers and one US in-person volunteer.

Implementation Problems or Deviations from Expectations

 While the number of women participants increased from 31% in 2021 to 50% in 2022, the percentage of youth remained low at 35%. This is because many young people have 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 relatively low. The lifting of COVID-19 restrictions provided the Nepal team with an opportunity to be more intentional in its efforts to increase the number of trained participants by working with community-based organizations and farmer cooperatives with a large pool of beneficiaries. As a result, the average number of participants per training increased from 25 in 2021 to 35 in 2022.

D. Rwanda

Volunteers completed 30 assignments with 26 host organizations under the horticulture and maize country projects, assisting 1,509 people (47% women, 16% youth). Volunteers focused on building the capacity of program participants within each value chain to increase their incomes by addressing constraints related to cooperative governance and management, post-harvest

Country Project	Assignments
Horticulture	14
Maize	16
Total	30

losses, business performance and marketing, organic fertilizer compost production, seed multiplication, resource mobilization and proposal writing, and good agricultural practices. Volunteers contributed 385 days of service and hosts contributed \$11,382 toward assignment completion. Volunteers made a total of 131 recommendations, of which 67 have been applied.

<u>Horticulture</u>

Volunteers completed 14 assignments with 11 host organizations, directly assisting 748 people (52% women, 19% youth) and they contributed 182 days of service. Assignments focused on technology transfer and organizational development. Volunteers made 57 recommendations, of which 11 have been applied. Hosts contributed \$6,549 toward assignment completion.

Maize

Volunteers completed 16 assignments with 15 host organizations, directly assisting 761 people (42% women, 12% youth) and volunteers contributed 203 days of service. Assignments focused on technology transfer, organizational development and business development. Volunteers made 74 recommendations, of which 56 have been applied. Hosts contributed \$4,833 toward assignment completion.

Major Impacts and Accomplishments

- Host Abishyizehamwe-Taba community was trained in mushroom production practices and used its new skills to produce more than 1,098 kilos of mushrooms, gaining an income of \$1,900 this year. Most of this production has been bought by the volunteer who also became their main market and linked the community farmers to other nearby markets. See the success story submitted with this report.
- Three cooperatives Coopérative des Agriculteurs Progressistes de Remera-Intambwe, Koperative Icyerekezo MUYANZA, and Coopérative des Multiplicateurs de Semences Sélectionnées harvested and handled 92 tons of maize as a result of volunteer training and recommendations on post-harvest and good handling practices, keeping their maize dry and ventilated in storage facilities to avoid aflatoxin contamination. Coopérative des Multiplicateurs de Semences Sélectionnées was also granted a certificate to work as an agro-dealer and has started to retail basic inputs (e.g., fertilizer, pesticides, 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, Ganza mobilized its members to adopt good post-harvest practices; the executive committee and staff attended training sessions on marketing and financial management for the cooperative, and the audit committee started to monitor and evaluate the executive committee's activities. The cooperative used the business plan to apply for \$4,000 from the local authority and was granted a loan at 2% interest. It used the funds to collect maize from farmers and store it at the cooperative's collection facility, also providing small loans to members in critical need. A small portion of the loan funded the cooperative's operations. Today, 75% of members sell their produce to the cooperative, amounting to eight tons of farmers' soya production. The cooperative has also been granted the right to sell agricultural inputs.
- Conseil Consultatif des Femmes received support to write a business plan for the construction of a seed bank. The seed bank will store key quality seeds needed by farmers, especially maize and soya, in optimal storage conditions before supplying them to farmers.
- F2F increased the number of women participating in trainings to 47%: out of 1,509 people trained, 705 were women. This complies with the government's requirement that at least 30% of participants in development activities be women and 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 (UWHT) study conducted by the Country Program and the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, which identified the problems these traders face. These include weak links to financial opportunities, limited infrastructure such as postharvest storage, high logistics costs (market space and transportation cost), and not being organized into a formal group. The team has begun training the UWHT and CRS Rwanda continues to advocate for more funding from the USAID Mission in Rwanda for a buy-in or associate award.
- F2F Rwanda hosted the F2F Reflection, Learning and Planning meeting in Kigali in May and June. All six countries implementing F2F were represented. F2F HQ leadership and staff also participated. One key output of the meeting was the program's FY23 work plan.
- The Rwanda F2F team participated in three district 'Open Days' in Gatsibo, Kirehe and Rulindo. Three hosts supported in each of the three districts shared with district officials and the general public how the F2F support helps them improve production and increase profits from their agricultural activities. This increased CRS' visibility within the districts and among partners while also increasing the number of outreach activities.
- F2F Rwanda together with five hosts participated in the International Day of the Cooperative which was organized by the Rwanda Cooperative Agency. The CRS country program also supported the event with \$3,899 which increased its visibility and acknowledgement by the government. The CRS country program also gave \$1,200 to F2F host UR-CAVM to support its workshop during Youth Entrepreneurship Week in which F2F participated as a key partner.
- U.S. volunteer Elizabeth Norden supported the Rwanda Institute of Cooperatives, Entrepreneurship and Microfinances with a training course on proposal writing and resource mobilization. After the assignment, she stayed in touch with the host and reviewed proposals and expressions of interest drafted by the host. She also advocated for small local organizations to get USAID funding. For this course, USAID's Office of Acquisition and Assistance organized a meeting with different local hosts from Rwanda, Uganda and Ethiopia to discuss how local organizations can work with and seek support from USAID.

Implementation Problems or Deviations from Expectations

 The percentage of women volunteers, both local and from the U.S., remained low, with women completing 10 out of 30 assignments in FY22. To increase the number of women volunteers, F2F will recruit more women by headhunting and prioritizing women during the recruitment process if they qualify for the posted assignments.

E. Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste's F2F activities supported the Modernizing Agriculture country project. CRS completed fourteen assignments, working with eight hosts: four private companies, one youth group and three farmers' associations.

Country Project	Assignments	
Modernizing Agriculture	14	
Total	14	

The assistance aligned with the USAID Mission's strategy to build agro-enterprise capacity and modernization of the horticulture, livestock, and industrial crop sub-sectors in Timor-Leste. Volunteers provided 62 recommendations, contributed 200 days of service and directly assisted 579 people (50% women, 69% youth). Host organizations contributed \$4,141 toward assignment completion.

Major Impacts and Accomplishments

- As a result of volunteer support in drip irrigation installation, host Nova Casa Fresca installed a system in a 12- by 50-meter greenhouse with the capacity to grow 400 tomatoes and 1,600 capsicums plants. The crops have been harvested 20 times since January 21, with a total yield of 2500 kilograms, valued at \$11,250.
- Through a branding assignment at Timor-Leste Organic Fertilizer, branding materials were developed and used in labeling bags, marketing brochures, T-shirts, and identification cards. Following this, over a period of nine months (January to September), the organization produced more than 80 tons of organic fertilizer which has been sold out, at \$20,000, to 245 clients. Another volunteer supported Timor-Leste Organic Fertilizer 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 the host's overall reporting processes and management decision-making.
- Juventude Agricultura Floresta Emporesarial implemented volunteer recommendations to improve mushroom production technologies, including the construction of a new building with good sanitation and capacity to house 6,000 mushroom growing bags. The host has started growing mushroom seeds on 2,000 bags and is harvesting an estimated 100 kilograms per month. The local volunteer also linked the host organization to another mushroom producing group and the two will now conduct joint marketing. Monthly sales currently average 100 kilograms valued at \$750. The host has also started producing mushroom nuggets and chips. They sell their mushrooms to 10 supermarkets and two restaurants in Dili.
- As the result of technical support in compost production, Don Bosco Fuiluro increased its vegetable production by 50% and now has enough vegetables to feed 200 resident students. Its annual compost production is estimated to be 3,200 kilograms. This year, the host used 1.5 tons of compost to produce 10,000 nursery trees. The school also established 1.5 hectares of elephant yam (konjac) using new and improved technologies introduced by volunteers. This has a ready market in Timor-Leste and overseas and harvesting will begin in August 2023.
- The Community Development Centre won five grants after submitting project proposals. Three were from the Government of Timor-Leste, one from the German government's Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, or GIZ, and one from the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization

with total value of \$163,004. The funds were used to construct an office building that was opened on September 23, 2022, and a mobile agricultural training unit serving eight villages for eight groups with a total of 160 participants. The Community Development Centre has started producing its own tomato seeds through application of volunteer recommendations. The Centre also sent two graduate students to work in Israel for a year, following the recommendation of Seloi Horticulture Production's coordinator, a local volunteer, and the Ministry of Agriculture.

- F2F trained host Dos Santos Agropec on composting and production of organic manure from broiler chicken waste from their farm. The host is currently producing 500 kilograms of organic fertilizer for its vegetable garden and has also addressed the offensive smell emanating from the chicken waste.
- As a result of F2F support in revising its strategic plan, the Association of Commercial Seed Producers gave full-time jobs to its temporary workers and changed its management system to comply with the national seed policy. The strategic plan has been introduced to 70 associations in 12 Municipalities.
- Escola Technical Agricola Moleana applied volunteer recommendations on producing solid and liquid compost, organic pesticide and new techniques for growing vegetables, chili, watermelon and bitter melon. The host has since earned \$3,500 by selling the produce and has purchased a truck, motor bike and chairs for the training center.
- Host Arcamaten has utilized the dehydration machine that was produced by the volunteer to dry ripe bananas to be fermented and produce wine. Arcamaten currently produces 500 liters of wine that are sold to 12 supermarkets in Dili.

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, business training institutions and youth business groups.

F. Uganda

Volunteers completed 35 assignments with 19 host organizations directly assisting 4,596 people (57%

women and 31% youth) during 600 days of service. Assignments focused on leadership and management, improved nutrition practices for vulnerable populations (children under age five, women of reproductive age, nursing mothers, and people living with HIV/AIDS) and on building the capacity of value chains actors to increase their incomes by reducing constraints in

Country Project	Assignments
Agribusiness	23
Livestock	12
Total	35

agribusiness and livestock activities. Volunteers made 174 recommendations and hosts contributed \$23,668 toward assignment completion.

Agribusiness

Volunteers completed 23 assignments with 12 host organizations, directly assisting 2,781 people (61% women, 39% youth) during 397 days of service. Assignments focused on: leadership and management; facilitation of, and a presentation at, Gayaza High School's Farm Camp; human resource development; information and communication technology in agriculture; financial management; safe handling and application of agro-chemicals; apiary management practices; natural resource management; maize post-harvest handling; and human nutrition. Hosts included public education institutions, community-based organizations, cooperatives and associations, and private agri-business enterprises. Volunteers made

114 recommendations, of which 97 have been applied. Hosts contributed \$17,245 toward assignment completion.

<u>Livestock</u>

Volunteers completed 12 assignments with seven host organizations, directly assisting 1,815 people (52% women, 18% youth) during 197 days of service. Assignments focused on strategic planning, farm planning and management, and animal health and nutrition. The assignments were classified as organizational development and technology transfer. Volunteers made 60 recommendations, of which 47 have been applied. Hosts contributed \$6,423 toward assignment completion.

Major Impacts and Accomplishments:

- F2F supported the 7th Annual Gayaza High School Farm Camp in October 2021. F2F volunteers were key facilitators and documented the event through a series of videos. The state minister for Agriculture was the guest of honor at the closing ceremony and declared the Farm Camp a national event, in concurrence with his counterparts from the Ministries of Education and Sport.
- F2F provided technical assistance on human resource development for Jakana Foods Ltd. staff and managers on performance and workforce retention. The managing director noted immediate changes that have had a positive impact on the work environment for staff. Jakana Foods hired a human resources manager, as recommended by the volunteer, who was trained through follow-up F2F technical assistance. The company's Organizational Development Index rating improved from 3.1 to 3.5, it created a website and it hired a staff member to create online commercials and manage web-based sales.
- F2F designed assignments for host organizations to increase the number of women participants. The assignments included human nutrition and kitchen and backyard farming. Out of the 4,596 people directly trained, 2,629 (57%) were women.
- COVID-19 limited the number of people directly trained in each assignment. Despite this hurdle, F2F's support to Kamuli District Farmers Association, 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 program and district leadership.
- Through training in best practices in fishpond farming, members of the Kamwenge District Farmers Organization were able to discover how they lost 80% of a \$1,666 investment in fishpond farming due to incorrect technical advice received from the district's fisheries department. Organization members learned from F2F volunteers that water in pond farming should not flow in and out daily (as they had been advised) as pond nutrients are washed away in the process before fish can feed. The Kamwenge District Farmers Organization, which has improved access to adequate fish nourishment, set up a hatchery at the farm owned by Vincent Kamugisha. This farm hosted over 60 Small Farm Conference participants.
- Thanks to F2F training in backyard and kitchen gardening, 105 members (30%) of Mahyolo Area Cooperative Enterprise established vegetable gardens. Also, following the training, SASAKAWA African Association donated 8 kilograms of cabbage, cauliflower, onions and lettuce seeds valued at \$940 to boost production.
- Synchronized F2F training in business planning, leadership and record keeping for Mahyolo Area Cooperative Enterprise helped the cooperative gain the trust of donors and secure \$56,497 from the Government of Uganda's Agriculture Cluster Development Project to support production, processing

and marketing of maize. The Area Cooperative Enterprise also received \$4,166 for women's development from The Columbia Project.

- F2F host Balawoli Kyebaja Tobone dairy cooperative mobilized resources in the form of a milk pasteurizer from the Government of Uganda worth \$139,249. This was after three sequential F2F assignments on farm planning, herd and pasture management and record keeping. The F2F volunteers helped to increase daily milk production from 2,200 liters to 3,000 liters and improved the enterprise's record keeping. These combined improvements convinced the Uganda Dairy Development Authority to recommend the cooperative for support from National Agriculture Advisory Services.
- Building on F2F training, Kamuli District Farmers Association sought a partnership with the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization and received a project grant titled Building Community Resilience against Climate Change in Agro-Pastoral Communities. The project has enrolled 1,500 farmers in climate change activities, including growing improved nutritive and drought tolerant pastures and legumes in the cattle rearing communities of Kamuli, and pasture preservation methods. The project has established 50 hectares of pasture mother gardens using the knowledge and skills in pasture management provided by the F2F volunteer.

III. Overall Implementation Problems or Deviations from Expectations

When COVID-19 travel restrictions were relaxed, most F2F countries were able to start fielding in-person U.S. volunteers again, with the exception of the conflict zone of northern Ethiopia. Despite this, some of the performance indicator targets for the reporting period were not fully achieved. This was partly due to the gradual transition back to in-person assignments and some volunteers' hesitation to travel. CRS completed a total of 165 assignments against a planned target of 178 for FY22. Of those completed assignments, 133 were implemented through the paired remote volunteer model, while the remaining 32 were in-person U.S. volunteer assignments. Since the number of assignments contributes toward the achievement of other indicator targets, CRS also fell short in the number of people trained, number of women volunteers, and number of volunteer service days and outreach activities.

Farmer-to-Farmer Program Standard Indicators	FY22 Target	Achieved	% Achieved
Number of volunteer assignments	178	165	93%
Number of women volunteers	71	37	52%
Number of new volunteers	89	86	97%
Number of days of volunteer service on assignment	3,024	2,540	84%
Number of persons trained (total)	10,900	10,437	96%
Number of persons trained (women)	5,668	5,283	93%
Number of new host organizations assisted	30	46	153%
Value of annual gross sales	\$45,950,000	\$58,166,075	127%
Value of annual net income of assisted hosts	\$2,950,980	\$5,926,354	201%
New/improved products and services	53	120	226%

IV. Summary of Progress Toward Indicator Targets

Number of outreach activities (worldwide total)	534	428	80%
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V. Planned Activities for the Next Six Months

- CRS intends to implement 102 volunteer assignments from October 2022 to March 2023. Assignments will be a combination of paired remote and in-person assignments.
- 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 FY23 approved workplan and country projects.
- The CRS F2F team will collaborate with marketing and communications staff within the organization to produce a suite of host impact stories highlighting some of the successes of the F2F program. These will be shared with USAID as well as through CRS' media channels.
- CRS will intensify needs assessments and Scope of Work (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 to collaborate with local USAID Missions, U.S. government-supported projects, local governments and other stakeholders.
- CRS will continue to support the associate award in Sudan and hold further discussions around an associate award with the USAID Mission in Ethiopia.
- CRS will collaborate with Winrock to organize the Volunteer of the Year award.
- CRS F2F will finalize discussions within the community of practice on making host assessment tools more gender sensitive and will pilot updated tools in FY23.

VI. Annexes

- Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) reporting
- Volunteer Assignment Summaries FY22
- Buy-ins
- Associate award descriptions

A. PERSUAP Reporting

i. 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 48 completed assignments that PERSUAP applies to, seven were Type 1 and 41 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. Annex C contains 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. All assignments not listed in this table are Type III assignments or Type IV assignments that fall within the Type III category.

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	П	N/A
R-E-258	Dr. Mugimba Kizito	Uganda	Livestock	Ш	N/A
R-E-260	Ivonia De Deus	Timor- Leste	Modernizing Agriculture	П	N/A
R-E-266	Athanase Hategekiman	Rwanda	Crops	II	N/A
R-E-267	Daniel Laney	Nepal	Livestock	II	N/A
R-E-275	Aline Clementine Ingabire	Rwanda	Maize	П	N/A
R-E-275	Aline Ingabire Clementine	Rwanda	Maize	11	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-285	Diriba Regassa	Ethiopia	Сгор	II	N/A
R-E-290	Dr. Raju Kadel	Nepal	Livestock	I	N/A
R-E-291	Ramesh Humagain	Nepal	Crops	II	N/A

ii. PERSUAP Reporting Table

R-E-292	Dr. Chet Raj Upreti	Nepal	Livestock	I	N/A
R-E-293	Dr. Ram Prakash Pradhan	Nepal	Livestock	II	N/A
R-E-296	Wilfred Eneku	Uganda	Livestock	Ш	N/A
R-E-298	Aline Clementine	Rwanda	Maize	Ш	N/A
R-E-299	Marc Agbangba	Benin	Soybean	Ш	N/A
R-E-303	Alemayehu Guteta	Ethiopia	Livestock	11	N/A
R-E-306	Godfrey Okoth Ochola	Uganda	Livestock	11	N/A
R-E-307	Patrick Inaku	Uganda	Agribusiness	11	N/A
R-E-309	Sem Akowanou	Benin	Soybean	11	N/A
R-E-310	Zipporah Waitathu	Uganda	Agribusiness	11	N/A
R-E-311	Juliet Alieto	Uganda	Agribusiness	11	N/A
R-E-312	Addisu Sebsibe	Ethiopia	Livestock	11	N/A
R-E-314	Arun Khanal	Nepal	Crops	11	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	П	N/A
R-E-325	Sangam Sherpa	Nepal	Livestock	11	N/A
R-E-326	Rojino da Cunha	Timor- Leste	Modernizing Agriculture	Ш	N/A
R-E-327	Theodule Aikpando	Benin	Soybean	Ш	N/A
R-E-328	David Luseesa	Uganda	Agribusiness	11	N/A
R-E-343	Sem Akowanou	Benin	Soybean	11	N/A
R-E-361	Dr. Alganesh Tola	Ethiopia	Livestock	11	N/A
R-E-362	Jeffrey Knowles	Timor- Leste	Modernizing Agriculture	Ш	N/A
R-E-370	Mary Matava	Rwanda	Horticulture	Ш	N/A

R-E-373	Abubacar Diagne	Uganda	Agribusiness	II	N/A
R-E-375	David Ringuette	Uganda	Agribusiness	Ι	N/A
R-E-376	Raymond Weil	Uganda	Agribusiness	Ξ	N/A
R-E-379	Addisu Sebsibe	Ethiopia	Сгор	Ξ	N/A
R-E-384	Dr. Amsalu Ayana	Ethiopia	Сгор	Ξ	N/A
R-E-386	Chantal Muhoza	Rwanda	Horticulture	Ξ	N/A
R-E-396	Bénetedi Akpata	Benin	Soybean	Ι	N/A
R-E-407	David Tingley	Rwanda	Horticulture	Ξ	N/A
R-E-409	Jason Reed	Timor- Leste	Modernizing Agriculture	Π	N/A
Total			48		

iii. 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.

iv. Needs for a PERSUAP Amendment

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

v. Certifications of Assignment and Office Compliance with PERSUAP Guidelines Listed below.

vi. 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	 Safer Use Action Plan (SUAP) 	 SUAP
	 Attachments A-G 	 Environmental Brochure
	 Environmental Brochure for F2F volunteers 	for F2F volunteers
	 Host country list of approved and registered 	 Executive Summary or
	pesticides	Summary of Findings of the
	pesticides	F2F Pesticide Safety

		Assessment for the specific
	 Executive Summary or Summary of Findings of the F2F Pesticide Safety Assessment for the specific country or PERSUAP questionnaire 	 SUAP briefing with F2F field
	 SUAP briefing with F2F field staff 	staff
	 List of IPM practices and tools, forms, protocols, plans from previous volunteers 	
	 Relevant Material Safety Data Sheets (filed in field office) If a 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 is here: https://www.usaidgems.org/fumigationPEA.htm 	
Developed/ Provided by Volunteer	 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 	 Recommendations for additional support on pesticide management practices
	pesticide management practices	 Recommendations or
	 Recommendations or feedback on local IPM or pesticide practices witnessed 	feedback on local IPM or pesticide practices witnessed
	 IPM practices, tools, forms, protocols, plans, etc. for mitigating negative environmental outcomes 	 IPM practices, tools, forms, protocols, plans, etc. for
	 Report on pesticide availability and how it corresponds to pesticides in F2F PERSUAP 	mitigating negative environmental outcomes
	 Material safety data sheet for any pesticide or active ingredient used or recommended 	 Report on pesticide availability and how it corresponds to pesticides in F2F PERSUAP

vii. PERSUAP Compliance – F2F Offices

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

Home Office Field Office

Documents Updated and on File	 F2F Environmental Brochure for staff PERSUAP with attachments Any USAID Mission or sector wide PERSUAP(s) for relevant country or sector 	 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-253Volunteer Name:Athanase HategekimanaCountry:RwandaCountry Project:MaizeHost:Coopérative des Agriculteurs Progressistes de Remera-IntambweAssignment Dates:September 21 – October 7, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Athanase Hategekimana and U.S. volunteer Glen Murphy trained cooperative 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 postharvest demonstrations to show farmers how to reduce losses, maintain quality and market value, and increase shelf life and incomes. Volunteers and members also discussed the causes of aflatoxin and prevention measures. 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).

Volunteer Name:	Tilahun Ferede
Country:	Ethiopia
Country Project:	Crops
Host:	Debre Markos University

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.

Assignment Dates:

September 23 – October 7, 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 skills on research and statistical methods, and adopt a training-of-trainers approach. The volunteers also recommended continuing to engage Dr. Ferede in the host's staff 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
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, Ethio-Wetlands and Natural Resources Association. 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. Volunteers made three recommendations, including developing a clear data flow for all project activities, 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
Host:	Small Farmer Agricultural Cooperative Ltd., 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 cooperative 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 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:
Country:
Country Project:

Ivonia De Deus Timor-Leste Modernizing Agriculture

Host:	Nova Casa Fresca
Assignment Dates:	October 11 – 25, 2021

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 installing a greenhouse hydroponics system and mixing nutrient formulations 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 nutrients 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
Assignment Dates:	October 17 – 30, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Mugimba Kahoza Kizito and U.S. volunteer Benzalem Senoti supported Kamuli District Farmers Association 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 those trained 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 training-of-trainers manual 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

Volunteer Ivonia de Deus paired virtually with U.S. volunteer John Griffis supported host Nova Casa Fresca for an assignment on improved agronomic practices for capsicum production using a 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 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 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, declared the farm camp to be a national annual event.

R-E-262

Volunteer Name:	Bethelhem Teka
Country:	Ethiopia
Country Project:	Crops
Host:	Ethio-Wetlands and Natural Resources Association
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 Ethio-Wetlands and Natural Resources Association. 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.

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

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
Assignment Dates:	November 22 – 30, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Athanase Hategekimana and U.S. volunteer Glen Murphy trained Koperative Icyerekezo MUYANZA 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; and 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 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
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's Agriculture Research Council technical officers and scientists. The volunteer transferred skills and knowledge through training and demonstrations. He trained eight 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.

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

Local volunteer Terry Bayingana and U.S. volunteer Nanga Kaye trained the 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 the next steps to increase profitability. As an immediate action, volunteers recommended a change in the design of poultry housing, 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 (6 women and 4 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 Glazoue, Agence Territoriale de
	Développement Agricole
Assignment Dates:	November 29 – December 8, 2021

Local volunteer Amelina Mahugnon and U.S. volunteer William Clapham trained Cellule Communale Glazoue 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:	Ethio-Wetlands and Natural Resources Association
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 to deploy the system and trained management and MEAL staff how to use the system.

R-E-273

Volunteer Name:	Ashim Sigdel
Country:	Nepal
Country Project:	Crops
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.

Volunteer Name:	Sabina Pokhrel
Country:	Nepal
Country Project:	Crops

Host:	Skill Lab Nepal
Dates:	November 30 – December 14, 2021

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
Assignment Dates:	December 1 – 15, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Aline Clementine Ingabire and U.S. volunteer Ellen Franzenburg trained Cooperative Ibyiza Biri Imbere members on maize post-harvest handling practices and storage. The training focused on small-scale post-harvest handling practices and potential solutions that are appropriate and feasible for 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 the cooperative 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, 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 Limited
Assignment Dates:	November 22 – December 17, 2021

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Jean Marie Sentaru and U.S. volunteer Joe McFadden assisted Freedom Kawunga Limited 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; conducting a SWOT analysis of the company; and developing the procedural manual to improve financial compliance. 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).

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

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 7 youth). The local volunteer provided three recommendations: to further strengthen participants' monitoring capacities, implement efficient planning, and apply improved organizational procedures.

R-E-278

Volunteer Name:	Leopoldino Vasco Martins
Country:	Timor-Leste
Country Project:	Modernizing Agriculture
Host:	Juventude Agricultura Floresta Emporesarial
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 with the host 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 six 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-279

Volunteer Name:	Jelito Nunes
Country:	Timor-Leste
Country Project:	Modernizing Agriculture
Host:	Timor-Leste Organic Fertilizer
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 Timor-Leste Organic Fertilizer. The assignment focused on conducting a field survey with the organization's team to identify issues; designing branding for brochures, sacks, and 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.

Volunteer Name:	George Ssekanjako
Country:	Uganda
Country Project:	Agribusiness

Host:	Jakana Foods Ltd.
Assignment Dates:	December 6 – 21, 2021

Local volunteer George Ssekanjako paired with U.S. volunteer Chidimma Jones Mubima to support Jakana Foods Ltd. in building employee capacity in strategic 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 created staff development plans. They developed an action plan for improving human resources management. A total of 17 staff (9 women, 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:	Kamuli District Farmers Association
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 Kamuli District Farmers Association 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, 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; improve 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 women, 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, 4% youth).

R-E-283	
Volunteer Name:	Jean Claude Musabyimana
Country:	Rwanda
Country Project:	Horticulture
Host:	KOUAMU Cooperative
Assignment Dates:	December 13 – 22, 2021

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, 53% youth) attended the training.

R-E-284

Volunteer Name:	Iliassou Yaya
Country:	Benin
Country Project:	Cashew
Host:	Amda Limited Liability Company (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 company's juice. 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 (7 women, 10 youths).

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, lot management, and 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 (2 women, 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 was 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 (4 women, 8 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
Assignment Dates:	December 19 – 31, 2021

Assignment Summary

The Ethiopian Guenet Church Development and Welfare Organization 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 (7 women, no youth), including the top management, received the support.

R-E-288

Volunteer Name:	Tamrat Lema
Country:	Ethiopia
Country Project:	Livestock
Host:	Selam Hawasa Business Group Private Limited Company
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 Private Limited Company 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 (2 women, 24 youth).

R-E-289	
Volunteer Name:	Fikrineh Negash
Country:	Ethiopia
Country Project:	Livestock
Host:	Hawassa University
Assignment Dates:	January 17 – 28, 2022

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 both on-farm and off-farm activities, and self-employment opportunities. In total, 39 unemployed youth (8 women, 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
Host:	Chandas Goat and Agriculture Farm Pvt. Ltd.
Assignment Dates:	November 11 – December 12, 2021

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, no youth) 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
Host:	Kamuli District Farmers Association, 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, no youth) were trained on practical 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 acts 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.

Dr. Chetraj Upreti
Nepal
Livestock
Kamuli District Farmers Association, Surkhet
January 1 – 14, 2022

Local volunteer 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, no youth) 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
Host:	Kamuli District Farmers Association, Dhading
Assignment Dates:	January 6 – 20, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer 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, no youth) 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
Host:	The Local Agro Pvt. Ltd., Kathmandu
Dates:	January 10 – 25, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Ravi Bhattaiar 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 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, nine youth). The volunteer gave six recommendations to the host.

R-E-295

Volunteer Name:	
Country:	

Hillary Mwesigwa Uganda

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

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, 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:	Kamuli District Farmers Association
Assignment Dates:	January 16 – 30, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Wilfred Eneku paired with U.S. volunteer Dannica Wall supported Kamuli District Farmers Association 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, 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:	Coopérative des Agriculteurs et de Transformateurs d'Ananas de
	Mutendeli
Assignment Dates:	January 19 – 31, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Jerome Ruhanga and U.S. volunteer Bryce Malsbary trained 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 women, youth and people with disabilities in the development of the cooperative. The volunteers recommended that the cooperative should establish small entities or zones in each sector and elect committees to lead established zones and work closely with the 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 the cooperative and improve gender equality in all cooperative structures. A total of 58 people (17 women, no youth) attended the training.

R-E-298

Volunteer Name:	Aline Clementine Ingabire
Country:	Rwanda
Country Project:	Maize
Host:	Coopérative des Multiplicateurs de Semences Sélectionnées
Assignment Dates:	January 20 – 31, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Aline Clementine and U.S. volunteer Ellen Franzenburg trained cooperative members on maize post-harvest handling and storage practices. The training focused on small-scale post-harvest handling practices and potential appropriate and feasible solutions. 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 the cooperative improve the maize seed multiplication by making it more profitable; increase awareness in maize post-harvest handling materials available and accessible; strengthen maize insect and pest control; mitigate aflatoxin contamination in maize; and increase the spirit of teamwork within the cooperative. Up to 96 people (56 women, 4 youth) attended the training.

R-E-299

Volunteer Name:	Marc Agbangba
Country:	Benin
Country Project:	Soybean
Host:	Eden Vision pour un Développement Durable
Assignment Dates:	January 26 – February 3, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Marc Agbangba, paired with U.S. volunteer Aboubacar Diagne and hosted by the local NGO Eden Vision pour un Développement Durable, 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 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.

Volunteer Name:	Humbelina de Araujo
Country:	Timor-Leste
Country Project:	Modernizing Agriculture
Host:	Hamahon Feto Timor (HAFOTI)
Assignment Dates:	January 17 – February 4, 2022

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 Ltd.
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 of developing Jakana's human resources capacity. This scope of work was developed because of volunteer recommendations on a previous assignment 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, 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:	Koperative y'abahinzi b'ibigori n'ibishyimbo ba Rubira, Ganza
Cooperative	
Assignment Dates:	February 2 – 10, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Amos Kajuga and U.S. volunteer Valerie Varco trained cooperative members on cooperative marketing, marketing strategies and negotiation skills. The training focused on the importance of market information, market research, understanding customers, market supply and demand, marketing mix, negotiation, and adapting to changes in the market. The volunteers recommended that the cooperative 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 good 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

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; 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 four 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 Ochora
Country:	Uganda
Country Project:	Livestock
Host:	Kabeihura Farms Ltd.
Assignment Dates:	February 6 – 22, 2022

Local volunteer Godfrey Okoth Ochola paired with U.S. volunteer Shayan Ghajar to support Kabeihura Farmers Ltd. to build the capacity of management and staff in poultry feed formulation. This goal was to ensure nutrient composition meet the recommended daily requirement 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:	Association de Lutte contre l'Analphabétisation-Benin (ALCA-Benin)
Assignment Dates:	February 7 – March 2, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Sem Akowanou paired with U.S. volunteer Tiffany LaShae to provide 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 participants 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.

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

Senior horticulturist and local volunteer Arun Khanal and 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, no youth) 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
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 (7 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 the CRS country program in 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.

Volunteer Name:	Boniface Hitimana
Country:	Rwanda
Country Project:	Horticulture

Host: Assignment Dates:

Rwanda Horticulture Interprofessional Organization February 21 – March 11, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Boniface Hitimana and U.S. volunteer Patrick Shandonay trained the members of the Rwanda Horticulture Interprofessional Organization on conservation of horticultural produce using solar energy. The volunteers conducted an assessment with 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, no youth). 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.

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

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 approved.

R-E-322

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

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Aju Nyachhyon paired with Jerry Skiles to complete a business development strategy assignment for Lumbini Specialized Co-Operative Union Ltd. The objectives of this assignment were to develop business strategies and train staff. The volunteer carried out discussions with the staff, board members, advisors, and other stakeholders. Finally, the volunteer conducted a comprehensive workshop to gather information to inform the business strategy, from which they drafted strategies, a five-year road map, activities by year, and the potential risks to activities. The business strategy was developed using a detailed market survey and data gathered from the field and in consultation with other dairy industries. The training was provided to 18 host staff (3 women, no youth).

R-E-323

Volunteer Name:

Shilu Dahal

Country:	Nepal
Country Project:	Livestock
Host:	Lumbini Specialized Co-Operative Union Ltd.
Assignment Dates:	February 21 – March 23, 2022

Local volunteer Shilu Dahal, paired with U.S. volunteer John Berry, to conduct a market assessment for dairy products in Lumbini Province for Lumbini Specialized Co-Operative Union Ltd. The objectives of this assignment were to analyze market dynamics, outline the historical and forecasted market growth rates and analyze market segmentation, drivers and barriers, including relevant regulations, and market trends. The volunteer held a series of discussions with board members, advisors, staff and relevant stakeholders (e.g., farmers) to gather required data and information. Field activities included both physical and virtual meetings with the board, and advisors, as well as in-person visits to host sites and interaction with staff. The tools required for analyzing the market dynamics were developed and administered during interviews with the host organizations, cooperatives, individual farmers, hotels, bakeries, consumers, and supermarkets. Training was provided to 18 host staff and board members (3 women, no youth). The host has been implementing volunteer recommendations to expand and scale up of their activities and pursue additional fundings.

R-E-324

Volunteer Name:	Sangam Sherpa
Country:	Nepal
Country Project:	Livestock
Host:	Victoria Organic Farm Pvt. Ltd.
Assignment Dates:	February 19 – March 22, 2022

Assignment Summary

Sangam Sherpa, an agro-tourism specialist and organic farming promoter, was paired with 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 (one woman, five 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 Society Ltd.
Assignment Dates:	March 6 – 23, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Tom Muganzi Kasaijja, paired with U.S. volunteer Bob Cooperrider, supported Kasolwe Savings and Credit Cooperative Society Ltd. to identify and install finance software to support the host's financial management and transactions. The volunteers accomplished all the assignment objectives and trained four people (one woman, no youth). 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 Savings and Credit Cooperative Society Ltd.

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
Assignment Dates:	March 14 – 25, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Theodule Aikpando paired with U.S. volunteer Jim Rice to strengthen seed producers' skills in improved soybean seed production techniques and the certification process. The volunteer trained 102 seed producers (17% women, 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, no youth). Volunteers made three recommendations which included strengthening service provision in liaising 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.

Volunteer Name:	Fulgence Mpayimana
Country:	Rwanda
Country Project:	Maize
Host:	Coopérative des Agriculteurs Progressistes de Remera-Intambwe
Assignment Dates:	March 14 – 30, 2022

Local volunteer Fulgence Mpayimana and U.S. volunteer Peter Callan Assisted the cooperative 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 the cooperative 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 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 save 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:	Ethiopian Guenet Church Development and Welfare Organization
Assignment Dates:	March 11 – 30, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Getachew Biru and U.S. volunteer Tamara Jones paired to provide technical support to Ethiopian Guenet Church Development and Welfare Organization 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, no youth) 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, vision, core values of the consortium, 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 needs assessment survey,

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 (no youth).

R-E-332

Tarekegne Argaw
Ethiopia
Crops
Injibara University
March 17 – 31, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Tarekgne 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, 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.

R-E-333

Volunteer Name:	Ravi Bhattarai
Country:	Nepal
Country Project:	Crops
Host:	Bairen Agro-Consultant and Traders Pvt. Ltd.
Dates:	March 25 – April 5, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Ravi Bhattarai was paired with U.S. volunteer Gretchen Hopley to support the Bairen Agro-Consultant and Traders Pvt. Ltd. (Kathmandu) in preparing their branding and marketing strategy and developing their business plan. F2F volunteers helped the host prepare promotional materials, a communications plan, and the organization's business development plan to attract private and public funding. The volunteer trained four company owners (all youths, one female).

R-E-334

Volunteer Name:	Ambroise Hakizimana
Country:	Rwanda
Country Project:	Horticulture
Host:	Rwanda Organization for Development Initiatives
Assignment Dates:	March 7 – April 5, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Ambroise Hakizimana and U.S. volunteer Andrea Eger trained Rwanda Organization for Development Initiatives members to make organic compost at six selected sites using locally available materials. The training was conducted using a training-of-trainers model and focused on making compost fertilizer using harvest waste and farm residue. Through the hands-on training, farmers made their own compost. After the assignment, the volunteers recommended that the cooperatives increase the production of organic manure by mobilizing other farmers to make and use compost on their farms and increase the quantity of compost made each season to make it available for all farms belonging to the cooperatives. They also recommended that Rwanda Organization for Development Initiatives monitor and evaluate the mobilization and compost making process. A total of 250 participants (51% women, 20% youth) participated in the assignment.

R-E-335

Volunteer Name:	Leonidas Mushimiyimana
Country:	Rwanda
Country Project:	Horticulture
Host:	Abishyizehamwe Huye
Assignment Dates:	March 28 – April 6, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Leonidas Mushimiyimana and U.S. volunteer Dr. Khalid Hameed trained Abishyizehamwe Huye community on mushroom good agricultural practices and helped them gain market access. The training focused on the preparation of mushroom spawn, spawn conditioning and pest management at the farm. The volunteers also taught mushroom harvesting and storage practices and shared some mushroom recipes. The volunteers recommended that the trainees multiply their mushroom production training guides, train other community members, and conduct market research to increase their market share by reaching out to supermarkets, restaurants, and hotels in the nearby area. In total, 44 people (28 women, 33 youth) attended the training.

R-E-336

Volunteer Name:	Patrick Gbegbe
Country:	Benin
Country Project:	Cashew
Host:	Amda Limited Liability Company (Amda Sarl)
Assignment Dates:	March 29 – April 11, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Patrick Gbegbe paired with U.S. volunteer Adelia Bovell-Benjamin and provided technical support to Amda Sarl to improve pineapple juice quality and the efficiency of the processing chain. Thanks to this assignment, the host has reduced its processing time and improved the quality of its juice. Unused processing machines that were lying idle were repaired by the local volunteer and are now being used to speed up processing. The volunteers provided six recommendations and trained nine staff (seven women, all youth).

R-E-337

Volunteer Name:	Moses Enzama
Country:	Uganda
Country Project:	Agribusiness
Host:	Koboko District Farmers Association
Assignment Dates:	March 28 - April 14, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Moses Enzama paired with U.S. volunteers Katrina Poitier and Coy Poitier to support the Koboko District Farmers Association with kitchen gardening skills. The assignment focus was to demonstrate and train on kitchen gardening skills for fruit and vegetable production. The volunteers accomplished the assignment objective and trained 82 people (6% women, 34% youth). The volunteers made the following recommendations: follow-up with training participants to ensure they practice what they learned, the association should set up a model kitchen garden, and select farmer groups in all subcounties to benefit from training-of-trainers. A manual was developed for further guidance.

R-E-338	
Volunteer Name:	Latif Amadou Soumanou
Country:	Benin
Country Project:	Cashew
Host:	Agrifinance
Assignment Dates:	March 24– April 15, 2022

Local volunteer Latif Amadou Soumanou paired with U.S. volunteer Troy Witt to review and update Agrifinance's financial operations, policies and procedures. The training covered loan policy manuals, loan procedures, agricultural risk mapping, and national and regional agricultural financing policies. As a result, operational agents (e.g., loan officers, cashier managers and operations managers) have better tools for managing loans and savings activities, such as an agricultural loan and savings risk mapping document. This assignment strengthened the capacity of Agrifinance's agents in charge of agricultural finance. The volunteers trained 15 participants (two women, no youth) and made six recommendations.

R-E-339

Volunteer Name:	Sem Akowanou
Country:	Benin
Country Project:	Soybean
Host:	ALCA-Benin
Assignment Dates:	April 4 – 18, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Sem Akowanou paired with U.S. volunteer Angela Yemma to train pineapple producers supported by ALCA-Benin on sustainable land use management practices to improve their farming systems. The volunteers provided training on practical soil management practices adaptable to pineapple production and sustainable land management practices. Some of these practices have already been initiated in the farmers' fields. The volunteers trained 110 producers (14% women, 3% youth) and made two recommendations.

R-E-340

Volunteer Name:	Arjun Prasad Luitel
Country:	Nepal
Country Project:	Crops
Host:	Small farmer Agriculture Cooperative Ltd., Latikoili, Surkhet,
	Karnali Province
Assignment Dates:	April 6-19, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Arjun Prasad Luitel paired with U.S. volunteer Matt Sheaffer to conduct capacity building of women farmers on commercial vegetable production under poly-house and open field conditions. The main objectives of assignment were to provide on-farm and hands-on training to smallholder women farmers on commercial vegetable production in poly-house structures using environmentally friendly and climate resilient technologies. At the end of the assignment, farmers learned techniques and how to use commercial vegetable production technologies; maintenance and repair of poly-house structures suitable to local agro-climatic conditions; and how to develop year-round vegetable production calendars considering local agro-climates and market demand. Training was provided to 47 host staff and members (41 women, five youth).

Volunteer Name:	Jonas Dassoundo-Assogba
Country:	Benin
Country Project:	Cashew
Host:	Agbara-Oluwa
Assignment Dates:	March 23 – April 19, 2022

Local volunteer Jonas Dassoundo-Assogba and U.S. volunteer Paulino Gutierrez trained cashew farmers and Agbara-Oluwa's staff in business linkages between cashew farmers and cashew apple processing units. The assignment was designed to improve Agbara-Oluwa's cashew apple supply system. As a result, the farmers learned to identify the quality of apples sought by processing units and techniques for collecting good quality apples. The volunteers also helped the host identify and articulate its real needs, they assessed the host's storage capacity and provided recommendations on how to plan and manage the supply chain. Participants learned the importance of completing and filing management tools. In total, 375 cashew producers and Agbara-Oluwa staff participated (58% women, 2% youth). The volunteers made five recommendations.

R-E-342

Volunteer Name:	Emma Rukundo
Country:	Rwanda
Country Project:	Maize
Host:	Cooperative pour le Development et la Promotion de l'Agriculture de
	Mais
Assignment Dates:	April 14-27, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Emma Rukundo and U.S. volunteer Pamela Karg trained cooperative members on business management by helping them analyze their expenses and improve financial decisions, pay taxes on time, and grow their business. The volunteers taught the cooperative to use the billing machine to make tax declarations on time and pay their tax to avoid penalties. The volunteers recommended that the cooperative save money to purchase fertilizer for its production activities, make full use of the billing machine to help the cooperative issue invoices to buyers, and to negotiate contract that are favorable to its members. A total of 54 people (25 women, 2 youth) participated in the training.

R-E-343

Volunteer Name:	Huma Nupane
Country:	Nepal
Country Project:	Livestock
Host:	Shree Swanra Integrated Community Development Center
Dates:	April 15–29, 2022

Assignment Summary

Huma Neupane was paired with Dennis McCarthy to work with Shree Swanra Integrated Community Development Center to study the inclusive goat value chain in Gorkha district. The main objectives of the assignment were to map and conduct a SWOT analysis of the existing value chain for goats in Gorkha and assess opportunities and barriers that smallholder and female goat producers face in accessing profitable markets. In addition, the volunteers identified short- and medium-term recommendations to make goat rearing a sustainable and profitable source of income for smallholders. The host is anticipated to use this document for future funding opportunities and scale up recommended improvements to goat related interventions. The volunteer assignment trained 57 host members and staff (46 women, 22 youths).

R-E-344	
Volunteer Name:	Jerome Ruhanga
Country:	Rwanda
Country Project:	Maize
Host:	Twungubumwe
Assignment Dates:	April 25 – 29, 2022

Local volunteer Jerome Ruhanga and U.S volunteer Joseph Malual trained Twungubumwe cooperative members on governance, leadership, and basic principles of cooperative management and development. The volunteers focused on the new law governing cooperatives in Rwanda, and the responsibilities of different committees, staff, and members to better serve the cooperative and contribute to its development. The volunteers recommended the cooperative increase its membership as a means to increase production, to align the cooperative's internal rules and regulations with new Rwandan laws, and to get insurance following government guidance. In total, 19 people (10 women, no youth) participated in training.

R-E-345

Volunteer Name:	Laira Kyazike
Country:	Uganda
Country Project:	Agribusiness
Host:	Mahyoro Area Cooperative Enterprises
Assignment Dates:	April 14 – May 6, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Laira Kyazike paired with U.S. volunteer Barbara Wunsch to support Mahyoro Area Cooperative Enterprises to develop nutritious and balanced diets using locally available foods, devise recipes for the new products, and promote understanding of nutrient deficiencies and ways to address such deficiencies. The volunteers trained 123 people (66% women, 28% youth) and made five recommendations: to strengthen linkages of Village Health Teams with existing structures to continuously disseminate nutrition education messages using different platforms, engage religious leaders as trainers and mobilisers to continuously disseminate nutrition information, promote production and consumption of green leafy vegetables and fruits to improve dietary diversity, form a nutrition trainers' group to spearhead and coordinate the training of farmer groups on the basics of preparing nutritious food recipes, and support the nutrition trainers during their dissemination of information on the preparation of new recipes, nutrition and household hygiene and sanitation. The volunteers developed a manual for further guidance.

R-E-346

Volunteer Name:	Rick Fruth
Country:	Timor-Leste
Country Project:	Modernizing Agriculture
Host:	People Trade Company
Assignment Dates:	April 21 – May 12, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Rick Fruth provided training on QuickBooks at the People Trade Company and covered topics on QuickBooks system budget preparation for financial year planning, preparation of financial statements at the organization level, income statements, balance sheet and cash flow statements, generating financial reports, cost-benefit analysis for gross profit analysis, and enterprise selection. The volunteer trained 12 participants (six women, no youth) and made the following recommendations:

review and revise the chart of accounts as demonstrated by the volunteer; review and revise the products and services list as demonstrated by the volunteer; when the chart of accounts and products lists are completed, reconfigure Shopify to export transactions into QuickBooks Online and sales receipts rather than as invoices; examine account balances looking for errors; and continue engagement with CRS to see if there are other areas in which they may assist.

R-E-347

Volunteer Name:	Emma Rukundo
Country:	Rwanda
Country Project:	Maize
Host:	Cooperative des Agriculteurs de Maïs de Nyakagarama
Assignment Dates:	May 9 – 13, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Emma Rukundo and U.S volunteer Pamela Karg trained Cooperative des Agriculteurs de Maïs de Nyakagarama members on business management. They helped the cooperative reach out to local and national authorities to solve the electricity connection issue and connect its long-dormant maize flour milling equipment to the electricity grid. They also provided guidance on how the cooperative can re-build its operations to support its members, enhance access to markets for its produce, and improve its capacity to finance expenses and maintain a good relationship with the local tax authorities. All these were aimed at meeting the cooperative's long-term goal of starting a maize flour milling business. The volunteers recommended the following: pave the way for new leasers to take over, address tax penalties with the Rwanda Revenue Authority, follow up on their request for tri-phase electricity so the maize mill starts operating, and ensure quality standards for produce by following the Rwanda Standards Board guidelines. In all, 25 people (13 women, no youth) were trained.

R-E-348

Volunteer Name:	Kebebew Assefa
Country:	Ethiopia
Country Project:	Crops
Host:	Debre Markos University
Assignment Dates:	May 2 – 14, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Dr. Kebebew Assefa from the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research paired with U.S. volunteer Suzanne Ondrus to support Debre Markos University on research project grant writing. The assignment focused on capacity building of academic and research staff in developing winning grant proposals to mobilize funds from different sources and provide research and extension services to farmers in the area. The volunteers also provided information on key donors for research projects and their requirements. In total, 41 of the university's academic and research staff (32% women, no youth) were trained. Volunteers provided key recommendations including the importance of following transdisciplinary approaches in research, relationship-building and networking with donors and stakeholders, and establishing a research grant committee for developing proposals and soliciting grant funds.

Volunteer Name:	Dr. Silvia Abel-Caines
Country:	Uganda
Country Project:	Livestock
Host:	Balawoli Kyebaja Tobana Dairy Cooperative Society Ltd.
Assignment Dates:	April 30 – May 14, 2022

U.S. volunteer Silvia Abel-Caines supported Balawoli Kyebaja Tobana Dairy Cooperative Society Ltd. on farm planning and management skills. The assignment focused on farm infrastructural layout and proper pasture planning for year-round production and improved farm productivity. She facilitated the development of short, medium- and long-term plans and their implementation and accomplished all the assignment objectives. She trained 193 people (38% women, 22% youth) and made the following recommendations: follow up with member farmers to ensure they have short- (3 months) medium- (1 year) and long-term (3 years) farm goals; identify farmers in each subregion who are implementing the daily feeding of 1-2 kilograms of the nutritional supplement mix and have them share their results with neighboring farmers; work with National Agricultural Research Organization field centers and local seedling producers; promote the use of improved napier grass, rhodes grass, Sesbania species, Glycine (neonotonia wightii) and Greenleaf (desmodium intortum); follow up with local farmer David Isanga's offer to provide bulls for breeding once farmers have identified active breeding days for their cows; introduce a nutritional supplemental mix to improve milk productivity; and improve access to water points for cows throughout the day.

R-E-350

Volunteer Name:	Tom Kasaijja
Country:	Uganda
Country Project:	Agribusiness
Host:	Kasolwe Savings and Credit Cooperative Society Ltd.
Assignment Dates:	May 02 - 19, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Tom Kasaijja paired with U.S. volunteer Bob Cooperrider to support Kasolwe Savings and Credit Cooperative Society Ltd. in building the capacity of staff in financial management and nonfinancial transactions in the 'Solution Credit' accounting software system, train staff on bank reconciliation, and filing returns and generation of financial reports using Microsoft Excel. The volunteers accomplished all the assignment objectives and trained four staff (1 woman, 2 youth). The volunteers made two recommendations: include computer networks and establish backup power (UPS that is solar, or a powered by a generator).

R-E-351

Volunteer Name:	Robert Owen
Country:	Nepal
Country Project:	Livestock
Host:	Shree Janachetana Small Farmers Cooperative Ltd.
Assignment Dates:	May 6 to May 20, 2022

Assignment Summary

Volunteer Robert Owen worked with bee producing cooperative members in Nepal. The objective of this assignment was to equip the beekeepers with improved honeybee colony management technologies through a thorough assessment of factors contributing to the declining bee colonies and to confirm the hosts' capacity gaps and address them. The volunteer focused on bee disease management, which is killing many colonies and causing significant financial loss to beekeepers. In particular, American Foul Brood, caused by the bacterium Paenibacillus larvae, is a serious problem. American Foul Brood is a serious bee disease globally, although it is manageable. The volunteer provided training on bee production, bee disease management and honey storage. Training was provided to 18 host members (0 women, 7 youth) in total.

Volunteer Name:	Julien Koukponou
Country:	Benin
Country Project:	Soybean
Host:	CARITAS-Benin
Assignment Dates:	May 2 –20, 2022

Local volunteer Julien Koupkonou paired with U.S. volunteer Leslie Cosgrove to identify learnings from the Partner Capacities Strengthening program and other projects implemented by CRS partners on community development, as part of the program's experience capitalization process. The volunteers developed tools, plans and a methodology and conducted data collection. As the first phase of the process, the assignment identified outstanding and innovative projects that will be documented and disseminated for learning and improvement. Through this assignment, the project quality team from Caritas and the Partner Capacities Strengthening management team were helped to implement a program capitalization process to improve their skills and performance vis-à-vis community development. Volunteers trained six staff (four women, no youth) and provided two recommendations.

R-E-353

Volunteer Name:	Stephen Bongonzya
Country:	Uganda
Country Project:	Agribusiness
Host:	Community Center Management Association
Assignment Dates:	May 10 - 21, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Stephen Bongonzya paired with U.S. volunteers Katherine Cassidy in building the capacity of the Community Center Management Association in leadership and management. The assignment sought to understand the philosophy, values and principles of cooperatives, how cooperatives are founded, aspects of cooperative leadership, governance, management and business processes. They also trained the leaders and farmer representatives on SWOT analysis as a tool in business analysis. The volunteers trained 25 people (44% women, 40% youth) and made the following recommendations: adapt some of the components of cooperative governance to strengthen the association's structure, develop and implement an incentive scheme that rewards members who patronize their association, complete documentation of the association's three-year business plan using the information generated during the training, and ensure that the association's leaders complete a training guide with learning needs, training session/content, and suitable training methodology.

R-E-354

Volunteer Name:	Dr. Krishna Prasad Bhandari
Country:	Nepal
Country Project:	Сгор
Host:	Institute of Agriculture and Animal Sciences, Lamjung Campus
Dates:	May 13 to 24, 2022

Assignment Summary

Dr. Krishna Prasad Bhandari was paired with Dr. Ram Ray to work with the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Sciences, Lamjung Campus on the application of Geographical Information Systems in agricultural teaching and research. The main objective of the assignment was to strengthen the skills of the faculty in GIS mapping. The volunteers, who are trained in Arc GIS 10.8, were able to create agricultural maps. Training was provided to 16 people (6 women, 7 youth) who were host faculty and associated members.

R-E-355	
Volunteer Name:	Juliet Alieto
Country:	Uganda
Country Project:	Agribusiness
Host:	Reach out Nkokonjeru Parish HIV/AIDs Initiative
Assignment Dates:	May 10 – 24, 2022

Local volunteer Juliet Alieto paired with U.S. volunteer Amy Nickerson to support the Reach Out Nkokonjeru Parish HIV/AIDs Initiative to offer training-of-trainers for Village Health Teams on improved nutrition and hygiene practices. The aim of the assignment was to empower teams on improved nutrition and hygiene practices for children under age five and women of reproductive age. The support focused on the significance of consuming nutritious food in improving the health of vulnerable members of the household. The volunteer taught the host to conduct rapid assessments to understand the feeding behaviors and nutrition status in target areas, and design and conduct cooking demonstrations focusing on biofortified foods grown within the household and other locally sourced foods available and accessible to the household. The volunteers trained 172 people (87% women, 73% youth) and recommended the following: the formation of nutrition groups in the community by Village Health Teams, regular mentorship of teams, and follow up meetings with teams to offer support. A manual was developed for further guidance.

R-E-356

Volunteer Name:	Aristophane Soukossi
Country:	Benin
Country Project:	Cashew
Host:	Diocese of N'Dali
Assignment Dates:	May 4 – 24, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Aristophane Soukossi paired with U.S. volunteer Hunter Swanigan to carry out the final evaluation of the Diocese of N'Dali's implementation of its five-year strategic plan. The volunteers helped the host assess outcomes and facilitated capacity building on strategic plan evaluation and development. The overall effectiveness of the strategic plan is estimated at 70%. The evaluation was successful and the host organization now understands what worked well and where improvements are needed in order to better implement their next strategic plan. The volunteers provided four recommendations and worked closely with seven management staff (one woman).

R-E-357

Volunteer Name:	Wilfried Warigui
Country:	Benin
Country Project:	Cashew
Host:	Vert-Monde NGO
Assignment Dates:	May 5– May 27, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Wilfried Warigui paired with U.S. volunteer Adrienne Pierce to support Vert-Monde NGO to promote mobile biodigester installation and biogas production from cashew apple by-products. The assignment was designed to enhance the use of cashew apple waste products as a renewable energy source and to improve the economic status and livelihoods of people in the village of Karo, Parakou. Participants learned how to transform cashew apples and other organic waste into biogas. They were instructed in better ways to collect and store cashew apples for use in biodigesters and how to add

other organic materials, such as cow dung to improve biogas production. Ten biodigesters were installed and are now working efficiently for use in domestic and small-scale food processing. The volunteers accomplished all the assignment objectives and trained 40 people (all women, 27 youth). The volunteers made five recommendations which included the following: replication of this first successful experience in another area to enhance the dissemination of this technology, and for the host to properly master the process through practical hands-on experience. The volunteers also developed a manual for further guidance.

R-E-358

Volunteer Name:	Jeffrey Knowles
Country:	Timor-Leste
Country Project:	Modernizing Agriculture
Host:	Youth Empowerment for the Future
Assignment Dates:	May 7-27, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Jeffrey Knowles supported Youth Empowerment for the Future on integrated soil fertility and soil health management. Training topics included the importance of soil quality to crop production, factors that influence soil health, factors influencing soil fertility and its management, organic manure and natural fertilizers, nutrient requirements for vegetables and watermelon, nutrient deficiency symptoms and suitable corrective measures, timing of manure and fertilizer applications, the effects of chemical fertilizer and inorganic pesticide on soil health, soil and water conservation measures, and compost preparation. A total of 113 participants (38 women, 92 youth) participated in the training. The volunteer made the following recommendations: Youth Empowerment for the Future should begin to implement the 'four secrets to unlocking the soil' (as taught through the assignment), expand organic compost production, begin to propagate indigenous micro-organisms from forest leaf litter or undisturbed trees, create a solution of lactic acid bacteria to restore needed bacteria within the soil, further educate themselves through Chris Trumps online videos, refer to the Korean natural farming book provided by Knowles, and begin to make small permaculture beds on their farmlands.

R-E-359

Volunteer Name:	Joseph Sullivan
Country:	Nepal
Country Project:	Livestock
Host:	Churyia Agricultural Cooperative Ltd
Assignment Dates:	May 12-28, 2022

Assignment Summary

Volunteer Joseph Sullivan worked with fish producing members of Churyia Agricultural Cooperative Ltd. in Nepal. The objective of this assignment was to assess the factors contributing to the decline in fish productivity. The volunteer provided information on fish nutrition through production of a mixture of phytoplankton and zooplankton, which most carps feed on. The training was provided to 38 people (16 women, 5 youth).

Volunteer Name:	Caroline Asiimwe
Country:	Uganda
Country Project:	Livestock
Host:	Muyenga Dairy Farmers Cooperative Society
Assignment Dates:	May 11 – June 6, 2022

Local volunteer Caroline Asiimwe paired with U.S. volunteer Brad Perry to facilitate the development of a four-year strategic plan for Muyenga Dairy Farmers Cooperative Society. The assignment focused on a self-assessment of the host organization through a SWOT analysis to gain a clear understanding of the current state of the cooperative, train the cooperative board and staff on strategic plan development, and together with the team, start developing the plan, incorporating a work plan and framework for evaluating and monitoring implementation progress. The volunteers trained 11 people (9% women, 36% youth) and made the following recommendations: develop policies that guide the leadership and management of business operations; train leaders and staff on their roles and responsibilities in operationalizing the policies; formalize the cooperative's registration with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives; organize an annual general assembly for members to approve the strategic plan; and support the implementation of the strategic plan by recruiting competent staff. A four-year strategic plan was developed.

R-E-361

Volunteer Name:	Alganesh Tola
Country:	Ethiopia
Country Project:	Livestock
Host:	Mohammed Abuna Guto Dairy Farm
Assignment Dates:	May 23 – June 7, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Dr. Alganesh Tola and U.S. volunteer David Blomquist provided technical support to Mohammed Abuna Guto Dairy Farm on dairy product processing and development. The volunteers taught five host staff to process fruit-flavored yogurt (e.g., dates, mango, apple and pineapple), plain yogurt and pasteurized milk for sale at its 'Shala Café' and in the area. They also introduced and trained the host to process queso blanco and mozzarella cheese. The host staff received further training on the safe and hygienic handling of farm milk and the proper use of equipment, such as cream separators, milk pasteurizers and yogurt incubators. The volunteers provided key recommendations on hygienic milk handling, milk pasteurization, and the maintenance and proper use of facilities in milk processing areas and washing sinks.

R-E-362

Volunteer Name:	Ambroise Hakizimana
Country:	Rwanda
Country Project:	Maize
Host:	Amizero Iwacu
Assignment Dates:	May 9 - June 9, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Ambroise Hakizimana and U.S. volunteer Andrea Eger trained Amizero Iwacu cooperative to make organic compost. Through a hands-on training-of-trainers, the volunteers taught various techniques for making compost from harvest waste and farm residue. The volunteers recommended the host mobilize other farmers to make and use organic compost on their farms and increase the quantity of compost made each season to make it available for all the cooperatives' farms. In total, 48 people participated in the training (24 women, 6 youths).

Volunteer Name:	Eric Adéfalou
Country:	Benin
Country Project:	Soybean

Host: Assignment Dates: Eden-Vision for Sustainable Development May 25 – June 10, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Eric Adéfalou paired with U.S. volunteer Monica Norley to support NGO Eden Vision pour un Développement Durable in developing its palm oil marketing plan with a view to reaching untapped national and regional markets. The assignment also taught participants better methods and techniques for palm oil processing and conservation. A total of 52 palm oil processors (13 women, 10 youth) were trained. The volunteers made two recommendations which included the establishment of a monitoring committee to support palm oil processors-traders in obtaining the documents they require to access target markets.

R-E-364

Volunteer Name:	Govind Bahadur K.C.
Country:	Nepal
Country Project:	Crops
Host:	Airawoti Multipurpose Small Agriculture Cooperative Limited
Assignment period	June 1-12, 2022

Assignment Summary

Govinda K.C. paired with U.S. Volunteer Tika Adhikari to train members of Airawoti Multipurpose Small Agriculture Cooperative Limited on different aspects of rhizome rot management. They also trained the farmers to plant healthy seed rhizomes, create a healthy soil environment, and manage the storage of protected seed rhizome. A total of 59 people, including members of the host's leadership and other associated members, received the training (29 women, 22 youth).

R-E-365

Volunteer Name:	Amos Atodjinou
Country:	Benin
Country Project:	Soybean
Host:	Circle of Reflections and Actions for a Flourishing World
Assignment Dates:	May 23– June 12, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Amos Atodjinou paired with U.S. volunteer Amma Sika Adomako to train the farmer and processor associations supported by the NGO, Circle of Reflections and Actions for a Flourishing World, in leadership and management with a view to strengthening local support committees, leaders of agricultural associations, economic interest groups and agricultural enterprises supported by the host. As a result of the training, in all three communes in which this training was held, farmer associations and groups will be better restructured and managed to better contribute to the development of their communities. The volunteers made five recommendations and trained 112 people (39% women, 65% youth).

Volunteer Name:	Mary Matava
Country:	Rwanda
Country Project:	Horticulture
Host:	Ikonyk Hills Avocado Farm
Assignment Dates:	June 13 – 17, 2022

U.S. volunteer Mary Matava supported Ikonyk Hills avocado farm on avocado good agricultural production and handling practices. The volunteer focused on how to properly plant avocado trees, proper pruning techniques, appropriate irrigation requirements, and mulching and fertilizer requirements. The volunteer took a soil sample for further testing to provide appropriate answers around required fertilizers and other inputs. The volunteer recommended the following: improve irrigation during the dry season, increase mulching, evaluate soil fertility, and identify the causal agent of fruit disorders. A total of 24 people (18 women, 4 youth) participated in the training.

R-E-367

Volunteer Name:	Danica Wall
Country:	Timor-Leste
Country Project:	Modernizing Agriculture
Host:	Youth Empowerment for the Future
Assignment Dates:	June 3-17, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Danica Wall provided technical support to Youth Empowerment for the Future on feed processing using local ingredients, including the required ingredient content for poultry feed and formula. The volunteer trained 27 participants (9 women, 25 youth). The volunteer made four recommendations including identifying local ingredients, continuing to practice with formulations, understanding the appropriate nutrient requirements for the chickens, and staying in touch with the volunteer.

R-E-368

Volunteer Name:	Dr. Doreen Miller Diagne
Country:	Uganda
Country Project:	Agribusiness
Host:	Koboko District Farmers Association
Assignment Dates:	May 21 – June 10, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Doreen Miller Diagne supported Koboko District Farmers Association with training on farming as a business. The aim was to enable farmers to assess the profitability of their farm business operations. The assignment focused on planning, profitability analysis and cost-benefit analysis, and discussed recordkeeping involving production records, labor records, cash inflow and outflow records, and profit and loss records. The volunteer trained 149 people (55% women, 45% youth) and made the following recommendations: women should actively participate in decision-making related to farm operations and management (specifically, women should engage in handling, processing, and marketing farm products); farmers should sell the bulk of higher quality produce to the association and keep poorer quality produce to sell at local markets; the association should invest in some small equipment that it can rent to members; it should circulate a newsletter to member farmers; and farmers should limit themselves to three main crops in order to increase profits.

Volunteer Name:	Aboubacar Diagne
Country:	Uganda
Country Project:	Agribusiness
Host:	Global Forum for Development
Assignment Dates:	May 21 – June 10, 2022

U.S. volunteer Aboubacar Diagne supported Global Forum for Development with post-harvest handling and storage training for oil seed crops. The aim of the assignment was to equip farmers and staff with improved knowledge and skills on post-harvest handling techniques and storage methods for soybeans, sesame and sunflower through hands-on training in best post-harvest practices. The assignment focused on issues, such as determining maturity indices, drying, storage requirements, quality control and assurance, and control of storage pests. The volunteer trained 308 people (62% women, 17% youth) and made the following recommendations: not to over-dry beans; keep seed moisture between 12 and 13%; store only dry, clean seeds (no cracked seeds should be saved in the storage bins); ventilate and aerate the storage facility to cool the clean stored product; always separate the freshly harvested oilseeds from the old grain harvests in the storage facility or bins; brush and clean the interior of the storage bin thoroughly before storing the new product; and remove all debris and vegetation around the bins.

R-E-370

Volunteer Name:	Rodrigue Dimon
Country:	Benin
Country Project:	Soybean
Host:	Gbewa NGO
Assignment Dates:	April 19 – June 24, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Rodrigue Dimon paired with U.S. volunteer Afsana Hye to support Gbewa NGO in improving its MEAL system and drafting its first MEAL standards and policy document. The volunteers developed MEAL capacity building materials, including on the use of specific tools. With the aim of establishing a sustainable system, the host invited some of its partner staffs to attend the training sessions. The MEAL manager also received customized training on how to use the tools. The first draft of the policy document is under development based on the current improved practices and will be tested before full implementation. The volunteers trained 12 project and management staffs (two women, two youth) and made four recommendations.

R-E-371

Volunteer Name:	David Ringuette
Country:	Uganda
Country Project:	Agribusiness
Host:	Mahyolo Commercial Farmers Association
Assignment Dates:	June 11 – 24, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer David Ringuette supported Mahyolo Commercial Farmers Association with training on safe use and handling of agro-chemicals in order to protect humans, animals and the environment. The assignment focused on risk of exposure, safe washing of personal protective equipment (i.e., separate from family laundry), cross contamination, storage, mixing, monitoring, and empty container disposal. The volunteer trained 125 people (34% women, 0% youth) and made the following recommendations: reduce pesticide exposure by wearing long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, shoes and gloves when spraying; carry out community sensitization through public meetings and churches; protect the environment by destroying empty containers; protect bees; avoid spraying chemicals within 30 meters of waterways; and explain the hazards of pesticides by distributing brochures.

Volunteer Name:	Raymond R Weil
Country:	Uganda

Country Project:	Agribusiness
Host:	Global Forum for De
Assignment Dates:	June 11 – 24, 2022

U.S. volunteer Raymond Weil supported the Global Forum for Development on sustainable natural resource management for oil seed crops. The aim was to offer practical skills on climate smart agriculture and sustainable natural resource management practices that mitigate the effects of climate change by improving soil health, crop productivity, and incomes. The assignment focused on management practices with an emphasis on soil health and management, water conservation for improved on farm productivity, increased incomes and sustainable conservation of natural resources. The volunteer trained 124 people (59% women, 23% youth) and made the following recommendations: loan ripper chisel plows to farmers so they can try them out on fields that have been producing low yields; encourage farmers to save the ashes from their cooking and at planting time sprinkle them next to the crop rows; collect urine in tightly closed jerry cans to be used later as organic fertilizer; assess fields using electrical conductivity and pH meters; obtain seed for planting cover crops and green manures to enhance soil health and build soil organic matter.

Development

R-E-373

Volunteer Name:	Grilo Dos Santos Colly
Country:	Timor-Leste
Country Project:	Modernizing Agriculture
Host:	Don Bosco Foiluro
Assignment Date:	June 17 – 30, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local Volunteer Grilo Dos Santos Colly paired remotely with U.S. volunteer William McWilliams to deliver agribusiness training to students at the agriculture technical school Don Bosco Foiluro. The training aimed to improve the teachers' and staff agribusiness knowledge and skills and identify business opportunities at Don Bosco Foiluro focused on maximizing the use of land and resources to generate income. Forty people participated in the training (33% women, 90% youth). The volunteers made three recommendations: to continue training the students using the agribusiness module provided by the Instituto de Apoio ao Desenvolvimento Empresarial, to use the module next to train students on accounting, and to involve students who already hold this certificate in Instituto de Apoio ao Desenvolvimento Empresaris.

R-E-374

Volunteer Name:	Georgina Houinsou
Country:	Benin
Country Project:	Soybean
Host:	Agbara Oluwa
Assignment Dates:	June 23 – 30, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Georgina Houinsou paired with U.S. volunteer David Headley to support Agbara Oluwa cooperative in stabilized soybean milk production and conservation techniques. The assignment aimed to train Agbara Oluwa to manufacture preserve new soybean by-products and to preserve soybean products. Participants were taught how to comply with good hygiene practices and good manufacturing practices for products which contain milk. Members of the cooperative learned how to manufacture two new by-products: dried soy cheese and soybean skewers. By the end of the training, participants understood the hazards to consumers of soy products including stabilized milk, dried cheese and

skewers, and the provisions to ensure safe, healthy organoleptic quality for consumption. The volunteers trained 11 people (all women, 9 youths) and made two recommendations.

R-E-375

Volunteer Name:	Mahesh Jaishi
Country:	Nepal
Country Project:	Crops
Host:	CRS Nepal
Assignment period	June 20 – July 4, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local Volunteer Mahesh Jaishi paired with Gretchen Hopley to facilitate CRS' F2F Small Farms Conference and compile a report for publication. The volunteers facilitated group discussions on five different topics, with a total of 130 participants (24 women, 52 youths). Mahesh Jaishi presented the results of the discussions at the closing session of the conference.

R-E-376

Volunteer Name:	Nanda Kishor Mandal
Country:	Nepal
Country Project:	Crops
Host:	Boston International College, Bharatpur, Chitwan
Assignment Dates:	June 20 - July 4, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Nanda Kishor Mandal was paired with U.S. volunteer Ruby Ajanee to provide training to entrepreneurs on business management to improve business efficiencies and sustainability. Through this assignment, the volunteer trained 41 participants (59% women, 90% youth).

R-E-377

Volunteer Name:	Aimé Guedou
Country:	Benin
Country Project:	Cashew
Host:	Cellule Communale Dassa-Zoumé, Agence Territoriale de
	Développement Agricole / Pole 4
Assignment Dates:	June 21 – July 9, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Aimé Guedou paired with U.S. volunteer Paulino Gutirez to train SILC groups supported by Cellule Communale Dassa-Zoumé in cooperative management to make their management systems more sustainable. Four different SILC clusters in several villages benefited from the training. They have seen their capacities strengthened in SILC basic principles, the roles of each elected member, and in results-based management. Participants also learned the fundamentals of conflict management. The volunteers made six recommendations and trained 291 people (71% women, 9% youth).

Volunteer Name:	Makosso Allavo
Country:	Benin
Country Project:	Soybean
Host:	Agbara Oluwa
Assignment Dates:	July 6 – July 11, 2022

Local volunteer Makosso Allavo paired with U.S. volunteer David Headley to support Agbara Oluwa cooperative in diversification of soybean by-products. The assignment helped Agbara Oluwa develop new soybean by-products and preserve soybean products. Through the assignment, Agbara Oluwa members learned to produce biscuits, toasted soybean and dried cheese. Training participants included representatives of the Mairies des Jeunes du Benin youth group from Dassa-Zoumè. The volunteers trained 13 people (10 women, 12 youths) and made three recommendations.

R-E-379

Volunteer Name:	Addisu Sebsibe
Country:	Ethiopia
Country Project:	Crops
Host:	Wolkite University
Assignment Dates:	June 27 – July 7, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Addisu Sebsibe and U.S. volunteer Dr. Tara Wilfong supported Wolkite University's Research and Community Service Office with training on nutrition and food processing. Training participants included pregnant and breastfeeding women, children under age five, community health extension workers and university staff. The assignment focused on nutrition awareness, the use of nutrient-dense plants and animal foods, food processing and fortification. In total, 35 adults (97% women, 49% youth) benefitted from the assignment. The volunteers provided five recommendations focused on continued nutrition education, women's empowerment and promotion of crops with high nutritional value, such as vegetables.

R-E-380

Volunteer Name:	Ramesh Prasad Humagain
Country:	Nepal
Country Project:	Crops
Host:	Small Farmer Agriculture Cooperative Ltd., Bajrabarahi
Dates:	June 30- July 15, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Mr. Ramesh Prasad Humagain was paired with U.S. volunteer Dr. Dilip Panthee to train Small Farmer Agriculture Cooperative Ltd. in Bajrabarahi to prepare varietals of Akabare Khursaani (*Capsicum frutescens*) for registration at the National Seed Board of Nepal. Specifically, the volunteers trained farm technicians and other members of the cooperative to develop proposals and documents as per Government of Nepal guidelines. The host has since submitted a proposal to the National Seed Board. The training was attended by 28 lead farmers and seed producers and 2 technicians (10 women, no youths).

R-E-381

Volunteer Name:	Elizabeth Norden
Country:	Rwanda
Country Project:	Maize
Host:	Rwanda Institute of Cooperatives, Entrepreneurship and Microfinance
Assignment Dates:	July 1 - 15, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Elizabeth Norden trained the institute's staff and partners on proposal writing and resource mobilization. The volunteer provided tips on writing successful proposals using lessons learned

from previously submitted and failed proposals. The volunteer led the host through a review of expressions of interest and provided guidance the type of organizational information to include in proposals to comply with donor requirements. The volunteer trained 30 people (15 women, 2 youths).

R-E-382

Volunteer Name:	Pamela Karg
Country:	Rwanda
Country Project:	Maize
Host:	Economic Policy Research Network
Assignment Dates:	July 2 - 15, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Pamela Karg trained Economic Policy Research Network staff and supported students on proposal writing and resource mobilization. The volunteer focused on tips to write acceptable proposals using unsuccessful submitted proposals, she also showed key things to consider when writing a successful proposal and how to attract donors. The volunteer recommended the host subscribe to development newsletters (e.g., Devex, Relief Web and PND) for free membership services, approach this task as a team rather than assigning it to individuals, and acquire the services of an English expert to edit proposals. There were 75 training participants (17 women, 47 youths).

R-E-383

Volunteer Name:	Ashim Sigdel
Country:	Nepal
Country Project:	Crops
Host:	Agricultural Technology Center
Assignment Dates:	July 5 – 17, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Ashim Sigdel paired with U.S. volunteer Dr. Craig Stubler from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University to develop a soil laboratory quality manual for the Agriculture Technology Center, Pvt. Ltd. Through a workshop held with various stakeholders, including government agencies, the local volunteer developed a quality manual as per ISO/IEC 17025:2017 & NEPLAS compliance. This assignment will enhance the host's capacity to qualifying for NEPLAS certification. Additionally, the volunteer trained executives and host staff to use the manual. Eight participants (three women, all youth) took part in the training.

R-E-384

Volunteer Name:	Dr. Amsalu Ayana
Country:	Ethiopia
Country Project:	Crops
Host:	Bora Denbel Farmers' Cooperative Union
Assignment Dates:	July 8 – 20, 2022

Assignment Summary

Dr. Amsalu Ayana, a researcher and seed sector advisor to the Ministry of Agriculture and Hiwot Menber, a U.S. volunteer from the University of Maryland, collaborated to provide technical support to Bora Denbel Farmers' Cooperative Union on seed multiplication techniques for wheat, maize and teff. The volunteers trained model farmers, cooperative union experts and the district office of agriculture on the field (agronomic) standards of seed multiplication and quality control at both field and lab levels. The local volunteer organized seed multiplication clusters for each crop type to control physical and biological mixtures. In total, 23 model farmers and experts (13% youths) were trained. The volunteers provided the following recommendations: assign a field coordinator for each multiplication cluster; carry out field and lab inspections; provide further training on seed value chain and marketing; increasing crop-variety portfolios to meet the needs of member farmers and others.

R-E-385

Volunteer Name:	Tiffany LaShae Riggs
Country:	Uganda
Country Project:	Agribusiness
Host:	Reach Out Nkokonjeru Parish HIV/AIDS Initiative
Assignment Dates:	July 8 – 22, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Tiffany LaShae supported Reach Out Nkokonjeru Parish HIV/AIDS Initiative members with backyard planning and production techniques for fruit and vegetable production. The aim of the assignment was to equip members with skills to understand the concepts of backyard farming through training and demonstration of best practices. The training focused on more efficient use of limited space for fruit and vegetable production, soil remediation, crop diversification and sustainable land management practices for improved soil health. The volunteer trained 110 people (96% women, 47% youth) and made the following recommendations: continue classes to improve skills and self-empowerment; promote peer-to-peer skills sharing, especially among women; follow up with women's groups to address challenges and celebrate successes; establish an educational site to continue training on techniques; cultivate intergenerational information exchange; and develop a hub for sharing skills and resources.

R-E-386

Volunteer Name:	Chantal Muhoza
Country:	Rwanda
Country Project:	Horticulture
Host:	COFFK EJOHEZA
Assignment Dates:	July 20 - 28, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Chantal Muhoza trained COFFK EJOHEZA cooperative members on passion fruit seed multiplication techniques including seed sorting and preparation, nursery bed maintenance, and post nursery bed agronomic practices. The volunteer recommended the host select clean planting material and seed preparation, prepare seed culture media and gather all materials needed to set up the nursery, prepare the soil adequately, maintain proper crop planting, follow good harvesting and post-harvest handling, and ensure rotation with other crops to keep the farm productive. The volunteer trained 23 people (2 women, 2 youths).

R-E-387

Volunteer Name:	Joseph Malual
Country:	Uganda
Country Project:	Agribusiness
Host:	Global Forum for Development
Assignment Dates:	July 8 – 29, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Joseph Malual supported Global Forum for Development with resource mobilization and proposal writing skills. The aim of the volunteer assignment was to equip the organization's management with resource mobilization and proposal writing skills and develop a resource mobilization

strategy to be used as a framework to generate funds. The assignment trained staff on the principles and techniques of resource mobilization using participatory and asset-based approaches, understanding the interrelationships among various resources at local, national, and international levels illustrated through interdisciplinary asset-based frameworks. The volunteer and host drafted an action plan for resource mobilization and fundraising. The volunteer trained 15 people (40% women, 33% youths) and made the following recommendations: implement the resource mobilization and fundraising action plan to secure funds; identify the needs of farmers and communities to prioritize and focus programming efforts; review the overall organizational strategic plan; review and strengthen organizational leadership; demonstrate the organization's impact to the community, donors, and other key stakeholders.

R-E-388

Volunteer Name:	James Herne
Country:	Rwanda
Country Project:	Maize
Host:	KABOKU
Assignment Dates:	July 18 – 29, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer James Herne trained KABOKU cooperative members on business planning and supported them to develop the cooperative's five-year business plan. The volunteer made the following recommendations: hire a manager to oversee all cooperative activities; ensure application of the cooperative's plans; resolve the existing debt issue by setting up monthly payments; finalize the business plan by including all necessary information; submit a loan application; and launch animal feed operations. In total, 82 people received the training (29 women, 9 youths).

R-E-389

Volunteer Name:	Ronald Philips
Country:	Uganda
Country Project:	Livestock
Host:	Namwendwa Dairy Farmers' Saving and Credit Cooperative Society
Assignment Dates:	July 15 – August 5, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Ronald Philips supported Namwendwa Dairy Farmers' Saving and Credit Cooperative Society in farm records management. The volunteer trained future trainers on streamlining farm record keeping books and other herd management packages, developing cash flow books tailored to individual dairy farms, using data to calculate profit and loss, and using annual cash books at the farmer household level. In addition, farmers learned to do routine monitoring of their herds to avoid inbreeding and to register the age and duration of pregnancy of each animal. One week into the training (having accomplished the training-of-trainers and developed cash flow books at household level) Ronald Philips fell ill, so local volunteer Rogers Nuwagaba was recruited and completed the assignment with remote support from Ronald Philips. In total, 122 people were trained (46 women, 20 youths).

Volunteer Name:	Scott Stovall
Country:	Timor-Leste
Country Project:	Modernizing Agriculture
Host:	Agriculture Technical School of Moleana
Assignment Date:	July 21 – August 7, 2022

Volunteer Scott Stovall Provided training on farming as a business to students at the Agriculture Technical School of Moleana. The training covered planning and management of farm businesses to enable informed production and financial decisions to maximize farm incomes, better access to markets, and how to establish farmers groups. The volunteer trained 37 participants (15 women, all youths) and made the following recommendations: determine profit/loss for each crop produced, budget for expected profit/loss before planting, form groups to carry on farming activities, provide each student group with its own plot to grow their selected crop in a mock farming as a business application.

R-E-391

Name:	Arjun Prasad Luitel
Country:	Nepal
Country Project:	Crops
Host:	Small Farmer Agriculture Cooperative Ltd., Suddhodhan, Rupandehi
Assignment Dates:	July 25 – August 8, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Arjun Prasad Luitel paired with U.S. volunteer Tom Honigford to train women farmers on commercial vegetable production in polyhouses and open fields. The main objectives of assignment were to provide on-farm and hands-on training to smallholder women farmers on commercial vegetable production using environmentally friendly and climate resilient technologies. By the end of the assignment, participants learned how to maintain and repair polyhouses and were able to develop year-round vegetable production calendars, taking into consideration local agro-climates and market demand. The training was provided to 94 host staff and associated members (80 women, 5 youths).

R-E-392

Volunteer Name:	Dr. Jim Worstell
Country:	Ethiopia
Country Project:	Livestock
Host:	Salale University
Assignment Dates:	July 29 – August 11, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Dr. Jim Worstel supported Salale University staff on socio-ecological modeling of farming communities' resilience to the impacts of climate change. He trained academic and research staff in the field of agriculture on the tools to assess the impacts of climate change and how to design mitigation and adaptation strategies for farming communities. The key farming components considered in the analysis and modeling include the integration of forage trees into existing farming systems, methods of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from dairy farms, the establishment of model climate smart dairy farms and the development of market value chains for dairy products. The volunteers trained 26 faculty staff (19% women, no youth) and one client and provided seven recommendations related to milk processing, dairy cooperative and value chain development, forage development, and assessment of carbon sequestration.

Name:	Valerie Varco
Country:	Nepal
Country Project:	Crops
Host:	Munaa Krishi Limited
Assignment Dates:	July 27 – August 12, 2022

U.S. Volunteer Valerie Varco worked with Munaa Krishi Limited on developing a marketing strategy with a view to growing the company. The volunteer trained 11 staff and leaders (4 women, 3 youths) on marketing and branding strategies.

R-E-394

Volunteer Name:	Marissa Burkett
Country:	Benin
Country Project:	Cashew
Host:	The Organization for Sustainable Development, Reinforcement and Self-
	Promotion of Community Structures
Assignment Dates:	July 30 – August 12, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Marissa Burkett helped the Organization for Sustainable Development, Reinforcement and Self-Promotion of Community Structures design an agricultural development plan for its Center for Initiation and Advanced Training in Entrepreneurship and Agricultural Professions farm. The volunteer facilitated an analysis of the farm as a business, evaluated the profitability of the various areas of interest (e.g., poultry farming, vegetable production, beekeeping, sheep fattening, processing of agricultural products, arboriculture, fish farming) and determined where to allocate resources to make the farm both financially viable and capable of passing on useful knowledge through future trainings. The volunteer collaborated with six staff (no women, 1 youth) and made five recommendations.

R-E-395

Volunteer Name:	Rogers Nuwagaba
Country:	Uganda
Country Project:	Livestock
Host:	Namwendwa Dairy Farmers' Saving and Credit Cooperative Society
Assignment Dates:	August 3 – 15, 2022
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Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Rogers Nuwagaba paired with an in-country U.S. volunteer Ronald Philips and completed the assignment objectives that Ronald Philips was unable to complete in-person with Namwendwa Dairy Farmers' Saving and Credit Cooperative Society in farm records management. The volunteers accomplished all assignment objectives and trained 122 people (38% women, 16% youth). The volunteers made the following recommendations: develop individual cash flow templates for each cow; carry out routine trainings for group members, especially in farm recordkeeping; involve all family members in the management and supervision of dairy farm records; reorganize cooperative members for collective bulking and marketing of milk while streamlining records at the cooperative level; and hold quarterly board meetings and an annual general assembly to present an audit report.

R-E-396

Volunteer Name:	Bénetedi Akpata
Country:	Benin
Country Project:	Soybean
Host:	Action Group for Grassroot Development
Assignment Dates:	July 27 – August 17, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Bénetedi Akpata paired with U.S. volunteer Emmanuel Byamukama to train soybean producers supported by Action Group for Grassroot Development in integrated pest and disease

management. They taught participants phytosanitary diagnostic techniques in order to locate the different types of insect pests and diseases found on farms, and explained the parameters (e.g., soil moisture and acidity, temperature) that promote the multiplication, growth and activity of pests and disease vectors in soybean cultivation. The volunteers trained 58 producers (12 women, 4 youths) and made six recommendations.

R-E-397

Volunteer Name:	Kopila Rijal
Country:	Nepal
Country Project:	Crops
Host:	Agriculture Forestry University
Dates:	August 1-18, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Kopila Rijal was paired with U.S. volunteer Dr. Ellen-Earle Chaffee to support the Agriculture Forestry University on the review and completion of the university's strategic plan. The volunteers worked with host leadership and reviewed the current draft strategic plan of the Agriculture Forestry University. This assignment assumed that Agriculture Forestry University would take ownership of the strategic plan and that the printed strategic plan would be published and distributed to stakeholders. Based on the strategic plan, further actions will be taken forward for the development of the entire university system. A total of 115 university faculty and representatives of affiliated organizations were trained through this assignment (75 women, 25 youths).

R-E-398

Volunteer Name:	Jerome Ruhanga
Country:	Rwanda
Country Project:	Horticulture
Host:	DUKUNDUMURIMO
Assignment Dates:	August 8 – 19, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Jerome Ruhanga paired with U.S. volunteer Joe Duffy to train DUKUNDUMURIMO cooperative members on cooperative governance and leadership. The main topics were the responsibilities of committees and members, and leadership styles at different levels of the cooperative. The volunteer recommended that the cooperative align its internal rules and regulations with the new cooperative law, collaborate with insurance institutions to get agriculture insurance under the government's guidance, start sharing dividends to cooperative members, and improve collaboration between cooperative structures. In total, 142 people received the training (74 women, no youths).

R-E-399

Volunteer Name:	Carmine J. DeStefano
Country:	Uganda
Country Project:	Agribusiness
Host:	Mahyoro Commercial Farmers Association
Assignment Dates:	August 5 – 22, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Carmine J. DeStefano supported Mahyoro Commercial Farmers Association with best practices in apiary management. The assignment focused on the safety aspects for beekeepers emphasizing the use of appropriate equipment (e.g., protective suits, veils, smokers); the adoption of modern frame beekeeping hives (e.g., TBA Langstroth); diversification of management styles; and

smaller groupings of hives to improve production. The volunteer accomplished all assignment objectives, training 73 beekeepers (16% women, 5% youth). The volunteer gave the following recommendations: create awareness among the community on the importance of bees; increase the population of beekeepers; acquire business knowledge through exchange visits both internally and externally; solicit funding for safety equipment from the government, donors and other key stakeholders; and develop new markets through advertisement and group marketing.

R-E-400

Volunteer Name:	Madeleine Philbin
Country:	Benin
Country Project:	Cashew
Host:	Hunger Free World
Assignment Dates:	August 13 – 24, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Madeleine Philbin trained producers supported by Hunger Free World on advocacy techniques. Several training sessions were held in the commune of Zè, the NGO's area of intervention. Participants were able to benefit from updates on key concepts related to advocacy and lobbying, and on different stages of an advocacy and lobbying. They learned how to prepare and hold advocacy and lobbying meetings through a variety of practical exercises. The volunteer trained 42 producers and Hunger Free World staff (14 women, 4 youths) and made three recommendations.

R-E-401

Volunteer Name:	Bryce Malsbary
Country:	Benin
Country Project:	Cashew
Host:	Amda Limited Liability Company (Amda Sarl)
Assignment Dates:	August 13 – 24, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Bryce Malsbary trained producers supported by Amda Sarl on enterprise management. The main objective of this assignment was to strengthen Amda Sarl's management system and improve the efficiency of its human resources department. The volunteer led discussions on good management practices, made suggestions on how to improve operations by using management best practices, suggested conflict resolution techniques and reviewed current human resources practices, offering suggestions on best human resources practices in the areas of record retention, hiring, compensation, safety, and employee relations. The volunteer trained five Amda Sarl staff (three women, three youths) and made six recommendations.

R-E-402

Volunteer Name:	Yigerem Terefe
Country:	Ethiopia
Country Project:	Livestock
Host:	Meki Catholic Secretariat
Assignment Dates:	August 14 – 27, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Yigerm Terefe from the Ethiopian Management Institute paired with U.S. volunteer Tamara Jones to provide leadership and management training to senior management at the Meki Catholic Secretariat. Participants were mainly program and project managers and deputy managers, executive and deputy directors, the head of administration and the human resources manager. The assignment aimed to build the decision-making capacity of senior staff in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, local and global conflicts, resource scarcity, and natural disasters. In addition to the training, the volunteers reviewed and suggested improvements to the Secretariat's strategic objectives, theory of change and results matrix. In total, 60 senior staff (12% women, 8% youths) participated in the training. The volunteers made the following recommendations: cascade the training to local (district) offices; create a capacity development strategy; retain senior staff; and improve the strategic objectives, theory of change and results matrix to enhance organizational and operational performance.

R-E-403

Volunteer Name:	Katherine Cassidy
Country:	Uganda
Country Project:	Livestock
Host:	Muyenga Dairy Farmers Cooperative Society
Assignment Dates:	August 5-19, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Katherine Cassidy supported Muyenga Dairy Farmers Cooperative Society, a cooperative supplying milk to Jesa Farm, one of the largest dairy processing facilities in Uganda, with a leadership and management training. The aim of the assignment was to train the board, management, and group leaders to understand leadership functions, the qualities of a good leader and good governance principles. The assignment covered ways to streamline the roles and responsibilities of leaders at the different levels, effective communication skills, conflict resolution, group motivation and empowerment skills, and team building. The volunteer trained 47 people (40% women, 36% youth) and made the following recommendations: start board meetings with mission and vision statements to remind board members of their purpose, hold a "Board Day" for review of the training material in preparation for training other members, hold meetings with the neighbor cooperative board (Kasejjere cooperative) for joint problem solving.

R-E-404

Volunteer Name:	Robert Kettelkamp
Country:	Uganda
Country Project:	Livestock
Host:	Namwendwa Dairy Farmers' Saving and Credit Cooperative Society
Assignment Dates:	August 19 – September 2, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Robert Kettelkamp supported Namwendwa Dairy Farmers' Saving and Credit Cooperative Society on farm planning and management. The assignment focused on identifying current farm layouts and sharing design tools to allow individual farmers to devise layouts that are appropriate in terms of their capabilities. The volunteer trained 173 people (49% women, 12% youths) and made the following recommendations: transition away from tethering to zero-grazing by planting forage, start a breeding program through artificial insemination, mobilize new farmer members, and organize an annual general meeting.

Volunteer Name:	George Kotch
Country:	Uganda
Country Project:	Agribusiness
Host:	Okwongodul Oil Seed Producers & Marketing Cooperative Society
Assignment Dates:	August 19 – September 2, 2022

U.S. volunteer George Kotch supported Okwongodul Oil Seed Producers & Marketing Cooperative Society with leadership and management training. The assignment focused on understanding, functions and qualities of a good leader and good governance principles, group dynamics and building group cohesion in the different farmer groups, effective communication skills/styles, conflict resolution, motivation, and empowerment skills and cooperative business governance and accountability. The volunteer trained 198 people (71 women, 107 youths). The volunteer gave seven recommendations including developing a five-year strategic plan to set cooperative direction, developing a succession plan, developing a plan to improve accountability, developing an action plan to improve decision-making, developing an organizational brand and training brand ambassadors, and improving the change management process at the farm level.

R-E-406

Volunteer Name:	Jeffrey Knowles
Country:	Nepal
Country Project:	Crops
Host:	A-One Agri-Vision
Assignment period	August 22 – September 7, 2022

Assignment Summary

Volunteer Jeff Knowles worked with host A-One Agri-vision on various aspects of dragon fruit management especially focusing on soil management. He introduced the techniques of soil inoculum and provided a hands-on demonstration of soil sampling. He also trained farmers on composting and introduced two new varieties of dragon fruit seed to the host. A total of 71 participants (50 men, 29 youth) were trained.

R-E-407

Volunteer Name:	David Tingley
Country:	Rwanda
Country Project:	Horticulture
Host:	KOUAMU Cooperative
Assignment Dates:	August 26 – September 12, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer David Tingley trained KOUAMU Cooperative on tree tomato seed multiplication. He demonstrated various techniques to increase tree tomato productivity and quality and taught the farmers the importance of crop rotation and post-harvest handling practices. The volunteer recommended that KOUAMU farmers remove all weeds from the orchards, develop and follow up on a one-year production plan, research better ways to market the crops, research storing shelled maize as a rotative crop to bring additional income to the cooperative, and maintain rotation in the tree tomato farms to increase productivity. In total, 24 people were trained (6 women, 7 youths).

Volunteer Name:	Thierry Dossou-Yovo
Country:	Benin
Country Project:	Cashew
Host:	The Regional Union of Cashew Producers' Cooperatives of Ouémé-
	Plateau
Assignment Dates:	August 25 - September 12, 2022

Local volunteer Thierry Dossou-Yovo paired with U.S. volunteer Chloe Alexander to support the Regional Union of Cashew Producers' Cooperatives of Ouémé-Plateau with its financial and accounting audit. The process showed that the annual financial statements of cooperative are regular and fair and give a true presentation of the operation's results, financial situation and assets. A total of 6 recommendations were made and four people (1 woman, no youth) were trained.

R-E-409

Volunteer Name:	Jason Reed
Country:	Timor-Leste
Country Project:	Modernizing Agriculture
Host:	Agriculture Technical School of Moleana
Assignment Date:	August 28 -September 13, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. Volunteer Jason Reed provided support to the Agriculture Technical School of Moleana, reviewing its current horticulture short courses curriculum. He provided guidance on the types of certifications offered to the students at different levels and trained the teachers to identify any topics missing from the curriculum with a view to adding them. A total of 25 people participated in the training (10 women, 19 youth). The volunteer's recommendations included improving student evaluation, restructuring lessons, and continuing to build partnerships with key stakeholders.

R-E-410

Volunteer Name:	William Zimmerman
Country:	Nepal
Country Project:	Crops
Host:	Organic Vegetable Producers Farmers' Group, Butwal, Rupandehi
Assignment Date:	September 2-17, 2022

Assignment Summary

Volunteer William Zimmerman worked with host Organic Vegetable Producers Farmers' Group, Butwal, Rupandehi on bio-fertilizer and pesticide production using locally available bio-resources. He introduced the production of LAB serum liquid biofertilizers and fermented plant juice to indigenous effective micro-organism preparations. Biopesticides were developed using garlic, chili peppers, onions, tobacco, mint and baking soda. A total of 54 participants (21 women, 12 youth) were trained.

R-E-411

Volunteer Name:	Daniel Dunn
Country:	Rwanda
Country Project:	Horticulture
Host:	KOGIMUIN
Assignment Dates:	August 30 – September 20, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Daniel Dunn trained KOGIMUIN cooperative on strategic planning and guided the cooperative in the development of its five-year strategic plan. The training helped the cooperative shape its vision and mission and set goals and objectives which will be used to develop yearly action plans. At the completion of the assignment, the volunteer recommended that the cooperative expand its membership, build more carrot wash stations at different sites, and penetrate new markets. A total of 32 people were trained (12 women, 7 youths).

Volunteer Name:	Anitha Mahoro
Country:	Rwanda
Country Project:	Horticulture
Host:	Ikony Hills Avocado Farm
Assignment Dates:	September 11 - 21, 2022

Local volunteer Anitha Mahoro paired with U.S. volunteer Wayne Thompson to train Ikonyk Hills Avocado Farm on organic compost making using available and accessible materials, such as crop waste and unused herbs from around the farm. The volunteer demonstrated compost-making using two types of organic compost and guided the farmers as they made their own compost heaps. The volunteer recommended that the farmers plant crops whose residues will be used as materials in composting, to collect kitchen scraps and animal manure as materials during compost making, to include fertilizer production in annual work plans, and to prune avocado trees for optimal production. A total of 16 people were trained (10 women, 5 youths).

R-E-413

Volunteer Name:	Yigerem Terefe
Country:	Ethiopia
Country Project:	Crops
Host:	Ethiopian Guenet Church Development and Welfare Organization
Assignment Dates:	September 01 – 21, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Yigerem Terefe from the Ethiopian Management Institute and U.S. volunteer Lisa Hammond collaborated to develop a five-year (2023 – 2028) strategic plan for the Ethiopian Guenet Church Development and Welfare Organization. The volunteers reviewed the old strategy and its evaluation results to develop a new and comprehensive strategic plan. They also interviewed the management team and board members to better understand key strategic issues and identified development interventions that need to be emphasized in the new strategy. They trained 28 key staff (54% women, 18% youths) and worked in consultation with them to develop the strategic document. The volunteers' three recommendations focused on review of the strategic document and development of appropriate tools and guidelines to track its implementation.

R-E-414

Volunteer Name:	Dr. Mitiku Bekele
Country:	Ethiopia
Country Project:	Livestock
Host:	Meki Catholic Secretariat
Assignment Dates:	September 14 – 24, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Dr. Mitiu Bekele from Jimma University worked with U.S. volunteer Mindy Habecker to provide leadership and management training to leaders of Meki Catholic Secretariat schools. The training focused on academic management and leadership, school administration, communication and reporting, and continuous education quality improvement. It also addressed the management and administration of the schools' resources. In total, 70 school management and administration staff (29% women, no youth) were trained. The volunteers made 3 recommendations related to the need for a training-of-trainers approach, having exchanges with other model schools, and conducting post training impact assessments.

R-E-415	
Volunteer Name:	Mulugeta Yimer
Country:	Ethiopia
Country Project:	Livestock
Host:	Mohammed Abuna Guto Dairy Farm
Assignment Dates:	September 14 – 27, 2022

Local volunteer Mr. Mulugeta Yimer and U.S. volunteer Mr. Robert Bond supported host partner Mohammed Abuna Guto Dairy Farm on branding and marketing of dairy products. The assignment focused on marketing dairy products, such as yogurt, cheese and pasteurized milk. It targeted local consumers including users of the farm's newly opened restaurants, as well as students (through school feeding programs) and other potential market outlets in the area. The volunteers assessed the host's needs and then developed a brand and logo to promote the products. They also provided advice on new market development. Four staff (one woman, no youth) were trained, and the volunteers made three recommendations related to methods of product promotion, market analysis and customer management.

R-E-416

Volunteer Name:	Mesmin Alizannon
Country:	Benin
Country Project:	Soybean
Host:	Nature Plurielle
Assignment Dates:	September 13-28, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Mesmin Alizannon paired with U.S. volunteer Amanda Rose Newton to help Nature Plurielle train oil palm tree producers in agroecology and pest management through the production and use of biopesticide. Participants learned relevant agroecological production strategies and how to use biopesticides. The assignment included a field visit in each commune. The volunteers trained 109 people (49% women, 80% youth) and provided four recommendations.

R-E-417

Volunteer Name:	Gerard Tiko
Country:	Benin
Country Project:	Soybean
Host:	ALCA-Benin
Assignment Dates:	September 14-28, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Gerard Tiko paired with U.S. volunteer Paulino Gutierrez to train producers and groups supported by ALCA-Benin on agricultural cooperative development and management. Based on the local volunteer's diagnosis of the group's structure and management, he focused the training on the texts governing cooperative life and the cooperative values, activity planning and management. The volunteers trained 86 people (71% women, 19% youth) and provided three recommendations.

C. Buy-ins

CRS did not have any buy-ins in FY22

D. Associate Awards

Country	Liberia
Project Title	Agriculture Sustainability Activity
LOP Budget	\$2.93 million
Obligated Amount	\$2.93 million
Start Date	July 22, 2021
Completion Date	September 1, 2022

Objectives

The Agriculture Sustainability Activity's goal is to increase the availability of domestically produced and processed rice and cassava in Liberia by meeting the following strategic objectives:

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

Role of Volunteers

The project fielded 52 volunteer assignments (7 in-person and 43 PRV) to provide short-term technical assistance to 121 cooperatives and associations, 26 private enterprises, and one NGO. In total, 3,807 people (2,228 women) were trained over 760 days. The assignments helped increase the availability of domestically produced and processed rice and cassava by providing support on the following topics: business and financial management, rice post-harvest handling and storage, good agriculture practices in rice, cooperative governance and management, marketing strategy, irrigation, contract farming, good agricultural practices for cassava, and cassava post-harvest management.

Lessons Learned

Agriculture Sustainability Activity was able to quickly field a high number of paired remote volunteer assignments due to the number of available staff supporting the project. The project had two field offices, each with two staff, allowing the team to quickly develop SoWs and oversee assignments. A designated in-country recruiter managing local volunteers helped increase collaboration between the U.S. and local volunteers.

Additionally, volunteer recruitment opened to third-country nationals, allowing the project to find volunteers with cassava and rice experience, crops not commonly grown in the U.S.

Country	Sudan
Project Title	Bina Aljusur, or "Building Bridges"
LOP Budget	\$19,578,496
Obligated Amount	\$12,578,495
Start Date	October 1, 2022
Completion Date	September 30, 2026

Objectives

Bina' Aljusur will enhance sustainable, inclusive, and broad-based economic growth by creating new commercial bridges in the agricultural sector, linking the formal private sector with rain-fed farming communities in Darfur and Kordofan.

Role of Volunteers

F2F volunteers will implement up to 110 assignments (20 U.S. in-person, 20 regional in-person, 70 PRV) over the course of the project. As always, the assignments will be demand-driven, but CRS anticipates that some topics will be related to expanding business-to-business platforms, training farmers in business management skills, supporting seed production systems, and technical support on natural resource management. Since the project includes a matching grant mechanism for locally based enterprises, volunteers will help the enterprises develop their proposals.

Lessons Learned

Currently there is nothing to report under lessons learned since the project is due to start on October 1, 2022.