



**FY23 Semi Annual Performance Report**

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Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) Program LWA

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**Cover Photo:** F2F Ethiopia has supported host Bora Dembel Farmers’ Cooperativewith four assignments since fiscal year 2019 (FY19). Pictured in the photo is cooperative member Ifaa’s son holding up maize grown in their home. Ifaa has learned several farming techniques from the union through F2F volunteers.

Photo by CRS Staff/Melikte Tadesse

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**Acronyms**

**ALCA-Benin** Association de Lutte contre l’Analphabétisation

**ANAPROFIKO** Assosiasaun Nasionál Produtor Fini Komersial

**Ccom Dassa-Zoumé/** Dassa-Zoumé Communal Cell of Territorial Agricultural Development

**ATDA4** Agency/Pole 4

**COCOF** Conseil Consultatif de Femmes

**COOPAGA** Cooperative des Agriculteurs de Gatore

**CRS** Catholic Relief Services

**DEDRAS** Organization for sustainable development, reinforcement and

self-promotion of community structures

**F2F** Farmer-to-Farmer

**FY** Fiscal year

**HACCP** Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point

**IPM** Integrated pest management

**JAFEM** Juventude Agricultura Floreta Emprezarial

**KABOKU** Koperative y’Abahinzi n’Aborozi bo mu Kibaya cy’Umuvumba

**KDFA** Kamuli District Farmers Association

**KOAIRU** Koperative y’abahinzi b’ibigori n’ibishyimbo ba Rubira

**MEAL** Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning

**NEPLAS** Nepal Laboratory Accreditation Scheme

**NGO** Non-governmental organization

**PERSUAP** Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan

**ReTAB** Réseau des Transformateurs d’Ananas du Benin

**SILC** Savings and Internal Lending Communities

**SOW** Scope of Work

**SUAP** Safer Use Action Plan

**SWOT** Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats

**TILOFE** Timor-Leste Organic Fertilizer (organization)

**UNPAZ** Universidade da Paz (Timor-Leste)

**URCPA-BA** Regional Union of Cashew Producer Cooperatives, Borgou-Alibori

**USAID** United States Agency for International Development

# Introduction

The goal of Catholic Relief Services’ (CRS) 5-year Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) program is to generate rapid, sustainable and broad-based food security and economic growth in the agriculture 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 the first half of fiscal year (FY) 2023, CRS relied on both U.S. and paired remote volunteer assignments (U.S. remote volunteers paired with non-U.S. local volunteers) to provide technical support to host organizations. Of the 94 total volunteer assignments completed so far during FY23 CRS completed 37% through paired remote assignments and 63% through in-person assignments (by U.S. volunteers), directly training 4,634 people (46% women, 31% youth). Sixteen of the 59 U.S. volunteer assignments were completed by women. There were 44 new volunteers and seven new hosts.

In some CRS F2F countries the fiscal year ended in December and therefore during this reporting period. For hosts in those countries CRS collected impact data regarding sales and income. Cumulatively, host organizations realized annual gross sales valued at $80,949,096 (compared to a target value of $46,000,000) with annual net income increasing to $4,397,448 (compared to a target value of $3,100,000[[1]](#footnote-2)). Hosts mobilized additional resources worth $6,523,945. Hosts developed 80 new products and 56 new services. The number of loans acquired over the course of the project increased from 33,983 to 42,584 and the value of agricultural lending by hosts to members and clients has increased from a baseline of $21,741,434 to $29,972,164. 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 FY23 are in Annex B.

During the reporting period, CRS piloted two toolkits with a view to strengthening our programming. The first toolkit consists of updated host assessment and scope of work (SOW) templates which have been made more gender-sensitive. Based on feedback from the pilot, CRS intends to use these tools for future assignments to address gender-based constraints and gaps. The second toolkit consists of a micro, small and medium enterprise assessment tool. This tool is being piloted with agro-enterprises and will allow CRS to identify and address the challenges of hosts who are seeking to become eligible to receive financing from banks, financing institutions and investors. As with the gender tools, CRS intends to apply these tools in future programming.

In October CRS began implementation of the Bina’ Aljusur associate award in Sudan. Discussions began with the USAID Burma Mission around an associate award for that country, with a co-design workshop held in March.

Staffing Updates: Following a six-month trial period, in March Peter Kariuki was promoted from Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) Manager to Deputy Program Director, and Chhan Bhattachan was promoted from MEAL Coordinator to MEAL Manager. Both positions report to the Program Director. CRS did not replace the MEAL coordinator position. In March, CRS also hired an Operations Specialist I to recruit U.S. volunteers for the Bina’ Aljusur associate award. This is a U.S.-based position and the Operations Specialist I reports to the U.S.-based F2F Operations Manager.

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. In October the CRS Program Director met with the USAID Mission in Ethiopia to discuss their priorities and CRS’ interest in implementing an associate award in partnership with the Soybean Innovation Lab. These discussions are ongoing. In January the CRS Program Director met with the USAID Mission in Timor-Leste and accompanied Mission staff on a field visit to two hosts.

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.

In Nepal, CRS implemented an assignment to support the local government host Rapti-Sonari Rural Municipality’s agriculture development strategy and a short-term action plan. CRS is now in discussion with the Mission about funding additional trainings for more municipalities through a buy-in. This aligns with the Nepal Mission’s support for localization efforts in Nepal.

In Uganda, the local Mission has requested volunteer technical support for the National Agricultural Research Organization in commercialization of technologies to address post-harvest losses and disorders in tomatoes, mangoes, bananas and cassava. F2F Uganda is also supporting the local government in districts like Kamwenge to implement a Parish Development Model through enterprise selection and involving local government extension staff in all volunteer trainings.

Outreach: CRS conducted 147 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 63 presentations, 73 social media posts, and 11 publications related to their F2F assignments. Volunteers spent a total of 32 days giving post-assignment technical support to host organizations.

# Summary of Implementation Experience in Core Countries

## Benin

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Country Project** | **Assignments** |
| Cashew | 9 |
| Soybean | 6 |
| **Total** | **15** |

Volunteers completed 15 assignments with 14 host organizations within the cashew and soybean country projects, directly assisting 739 people (55% women, 58% youth). These assignments focused on technology transfer, organizational development, business and enterprise development, and environmental conservation. Volunteers made 52 recommendations, 13 of which have already been applied by hosts, and completed 267 days of service. Hosts contributed $13,508 toward assignment completion.

### Cashew

Volunteers completed nine assignments with eight host organizations, directly assisting 240 people (66% women, 52% youth) during 160 days of service. Assignments focused on organizational and enterprise development, and technology transfer. Volunteers provided 31 recommendations, and host organizations contributed $8,990 toward assignment completion.

### Soybean

Volunteers completed six assignments with six host organizations, directly assisting 499 people (49% women, 60% youth) during 107 days of volunteer service. Assignments were on a variety of topics related to organizational development, enterprise development and technology transfer. Volunteers provided 21 recommendations and host organizations contributed $4,518 toward assignment completion.

### Major Impacts and Accomplishments

* There was significant participation of women (55%). The project continues to support host organizations with a high number of women, such as Agbara-Oluwa, as well as supporting areas or activities of importance to women and youth, such as CRS’ Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) and engagement with secondary schools.
* With the support of volunteers Lior Singer and Wilfried Warigui host organization Vert-Monde non-governmental organization (NGO) was able to build a biodigester for a primary school in Parakou leading to a reduction in the use of firewood for cooking. The host also installed an electric lamp in the school to allow students to study after dark. The digesta obtained from the biodigester after the gas extraction is being used for vegetable production in the school garden.
* The implementation of volunteer recommendations from assignment R-E-339 by host Agbara Oluwa regarding linkages of cashew nut farmers to cashew apple supply has led to additional income for cashew nut farmers (mainly women) who are earning $0.04-$0.06 per kilogram of cashew apples sold. These are modest amounts but this is all additional income because in the past these cashew nut farmers threw away the cashew apples as waste. The cooperative has also increased its cashew apple supply from 350 kilograms to 2 tons daily, leading to increased juice production.
* Based on recommendations from assignment R-E-427, host Ccom-Dassa/ATDA4, the agricultural development agency of Dassa, has set up a women leaders’ network (not yet legally formalized) which is helping to develop new projects such as school gardens in some village schools.
* The local agricultural government agency of the commune of Zè (which was involved in the implementation of assignments R-E-309, R-E-338 and R-E-458 hosted by ALCA NGO), is now expanding the practice of intercropping soybean on pineapple farms, as taught by volunteers, because they have seen the positive impact of this.

### Implementation Problems or Deviations from Expectations

* Although the percentage of women volunteers (20%) represents an increase, it is still lower than the target (40%). The team is looking for qualified women for most of the rest of assignments to be implemented.

**Ethiopia**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Country Project** | **Assignments** |
| Crops | 7 |
| Livestock | 8 |
| **Total** | **15** |

Volunteers completed 15 assignments with 12 host organizations under the crops and livestock country projects. In total, the volunteers directly assisted 249 people (24% women, 38% youth). Volunteer support included organizational development, financial services, and technology transfer. Volunteers completed a total of 256 days of services, and hosts contributed $6,939 toward completion of the assignments.

### Crops

Volunteers worked with seven different host organizations to complete seven assignments: three assignments focused on organizational development, two on financial services and two on technology transfer. Hosts included NGOs, a farmers’ cooperative union, universities, and a microfinance share company. The volunteer assignments focused on technology transfer included wheat flour protein quality control, nutrition planning and food recipe demonstration. Organizational development assignments focused on leadership, management and grant writing for research projects. Financial service assignments focused on loan product assessment and development for youth and women, and financial data management using computer-based tools. Volunteers completed 124 days of service and made 34 recommendations, 11 of which have been applied. Volunteers trained 175 people (26% women, 35% youth) and hosts provided $5,969 toward assignment completion.

### Livestock

Volunteers completed eight assignments: four on technology transfer and four on organizational development. Assignments were completed with private sector companies and a government enterprise. The technology transfer assignments focused on poultry stock management, dairy farm management, cattle fattening and commercial broiler farm management. Organizational development assignments focused on strategic plan development for dairy farming, dairy product branding and market promotion, business plan development for integrated farming, manufacturing of animal feed supplements, and capacity development in leadership and management. Volunteers provided 132 days of services and made 36 recommendations, 13 of which have been applied. Volunteers directly assisted 74 people (20% women, 43% youth) and hosts contributed $970 toward completion of the assignments.

### Major Impacts and Accomplishments

* Yaya Dairy Farm has completed the legal processes allowing it to acquire an additional 4.5 hectares of land for fodder production and feed processing. The host has also purchased a feed processing machine. The company is expanding its business and services by engaging in a school feeding program, in collaboration with the local government and an NGO, by supplying pasteurized milk for school children.
* Mohammed Abuna Dairy Farm established forage production and feed systems. The host is growing elephant grasses, alfalfa, corn and lablab on five hectares of land obtained from the local government. The government’s local agriculture office is using Mohammed Abuna’s forage fields and dairy farm to demonstrate best practices to other farmers. The company has expanded its business by starting milk processing, opening a restaurant to sell its products, and engaging in school feeding programs. The host has increased yogurt sales from 700 to 1200 cups per day after receiving volunteer support on product development, marketing and branding.
* Following a previous volunteer assignment on rhizobium inoculation and with support from the CRS Fair Trade Fund, Wolkite University has expanded demonstrations and promotion of its biofertilizer in new districts and on new crops. The university implemented 20 on-farm demonstrations on faba bean and field pea in Cheha and Gumer districts, and 10 demonstrations on chickpea in Abeshge district.
* With the funds raised over the course of the past year ($103,000), Injibara university has expanded its research and extension services by introducing and promoting improved production technologies for wheat, barley and potatoes. The university has also begun conducting on-farm action research with farmers.
* Following the support and initial ideas provided on research project grant writing at the end of FY22, Debre Markos University won a $60,000 grant from the Canadian International Research and Development Center and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency to implement a project on climate smart agriculture.
* Following previous volunteer support on agricultural product marketing, Ras Gayint Farmers’ Cooperative Union joined the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange for export marketing. As a result, in the last nine months, it has generated $622,220 from red and white bean export marketing.
* Selam Hawassa Business Group PLC has redesigned its thresher machine production to reduce seed breakage and loss during processing after applying volunteer recommendations on design quality. As a result, customer demand for the teff thresher has increased. The host has manufactured seven teff threshers and sold five in the past six months, twice as many as the previous season. Compared to the previous design, the redesigned thresher has reduced seed breakage loss by 33%.

### Implementation Problems or Deviations from Expectations

* Women’s participation remained low (24% for project participants and 33% for volunteers), compared to target indicators. However, in the case of women volunteers, this represents an increase from the 13% during the last reporting period. To encourage higher participation of women, the program is planning trainings at times and locations that are convenient for women and planning gender-sensitive assignments (e.g., nutrition for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers), since women are culturally responsible for food preparation, processing, and nutrition for the family.
* F2F was unable to provide support to host organizations in Tigray due to the conflict in northern Ethiopia.

## Nepal

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| --- | --- |
| **Country Project** | **Assignments** |
| Crops | 9 |
| Livestock | 7 |
| **Total** | **16** |

Volunteers completed 16 assignments with 13 host organizations, assisting 732 people (44% women, 14% youth). These assignments were on technology transfer, organizational development, and business enterprise development. Volunteers completed a total of 269 days of service and hosts contributed $5,628 toward assignment completion.

### Crops

Volunteers completed nine assignments with eight hosts directly assisting 488 people (51% women, 14% youth) during 153 days of service. Two assignments focused on organizational development, one on business enterprise development, one on information and input support services, and five on technology transfer. Hosts included public agricultural research and development organizations, a university, private sector agribusiness service providers, farmer groups, cooperatives, and civil society organizations. Volunteers made 34 recommendations, 19 of which have been applied. Hosts contributed $3,336 toward assignment completion.

### Livestock

CRS completed seven assignments with five host organizations directly assisting 244 people (30% women, 23% youth) during 116 days of service. Six assignments focused on technology transfer and one on business enterprise development. Farmers, agro-entrepreneurs, scientists, technicians and host staff were trained in applying new tools and techniques in the goat, cattle, honeybee and dairy value chains. Volunteers made 32 recommendations, 11 of which have been applied. Hosts contributed $2,292 toward assignment completion.

### Major Impacts and Accomplishments

* F2F collaborated with USAID implementing partner International Development Enterprises in Nepal to assess the Fall Armyworm situation and develop strategies for its sustainable management using integrated pest management (IPM) techniques. CRS F2F and International Development Enterprises jointly organized the National Workshop on Fall Armyworm in Nepal on March 22, 2023, to share research results achieved so far nationally and globally and develop strategies for the sustainable management of Fall Armyworm in Nepal. Sixty-five participants from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Department of Agriculture, Plant Quarantine, USAID, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, Winrock, Agriculture and Forestry University, Nepal Agriculture Research Council and Far-Western University attended the workshop.
* Among the hosts served during the reporting period, 38% were government entities or USAID implementing partners.
* Gandaki University’s Board of Trustees approved the University Needs Assessment Report and the University Strategic Plan (2022-2031), both of which were developed with F2F technical assistance. Resources for the current year have been secured to implement the 10-year strategic plan.
* CRS F2F supported the Kalinchowk Yak and Agroforestry Tourism Research Centre in preparing their business plan, enabling the host to mobilize $74,380 toward the establishment of a vegetable farm, yak farm and other infrastructure related to their agro-tourism project.
* F2F collaborated with the Department of Agriculture to conduct a feasibility assessment on establishing a Honeybee Breeding and Resource Center. The host allocated US$ 35,000 to purchase the equipment required for bee breeding activities. The DoA also formed a high-level technical working group on the establishment and operation of the Honeybee Breeding and Resource Center consisting of members from the Agriculture and Forestry University, Nepal Agriculture Research Council, Department of Agriculture, and CRS Nepal.
* The National Goat Research Program in Bandipur improved and expanded goat cheese research and development technologies by applying a wide array of volunteer recommendations on topics such as using various cheese mold sizes, cultures, and additional ingredients like herbs to enhance the flavor of the cheese. The volunteer donated equipment and supplies such as a cheese press, hoof trimmers, castrators and banders, medicines, rennet and cultures, a yogurt maker, power converter, books on cheese making and herd management valued at $500. This assignment helped the National Goat Research Program improve the overall quality of its research and development, leading to better quality cheesemaking and technology dissemination to the farmers and entrepreneurs.
* 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. The host is at the final stage of acquiring NEPLAS accreditation, which will allow it to expand services, including to government entities.
* After receiving F2F volunteer support during 2021 and 2022 on seed production, quality control, post-harvest management and seed production planning, the Small Farmer Agriculture Cooperative Ltd., Kailali increased its paddy seed production area from eight hectares in FY21 to 30 hectares this year. The cooperative built a seed processing house with the required machinery and began providing agricultural machinery and equipment rental services to its member farmers. The host also established a pulse processing plant with partial funding support from the provincial government.
* 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 course increased from 35 in 2022 to 51 in the reporting period.

### Implementation Problems or Deviations from Expectations

* While the number of women participants increased, the percentage of youth remained low (14%). This is because many young people have migrated from rural to urban areas or to other countries 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.

## Rwanda

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Country Project** | **Assignments** |
| Maize | 8 |
| Horticulture | 8 |
| **Total** | **16** |

Volunteers completed 16 assignments with 15 host organizations under the horticulture and maize country projects, assisting 925 people (42% women, 7% youth). Volunteers focused on building the capacity of program participants within each value chain to increase their incomes by addressing constraints related to technology transfer, organizational development, and business development. Volunteers contributed 251 days of service and hosts contributed $4,710 toward assignment completion. Volunteers made a total of 71 recommendations, 34 of which have been applied.

### Horticulture

Volunteers completed eight assignments with eight host organizations, directly assisting 523 people (45% women, 17% youth) and completing 133 days of volunteer service. Assignments focused on technology transfer, organizational development and business development. Volunteers made 43 recommendations, 17 of which have been applied. Hosts contributed $3,582 toward assignment completion.

### Maize

Volunteers completed eight assignments with seven host organizations, directly assisting 402 people (38% women, 7% youth) and volunteers contributed 118 days of service. Assignments focused on technology transfer, organizational development, and business development. Volunteers made 32 recommendations, 17 of which have been applied. Hosts contributed $1,128 toward assignment completion.

### Major Impacts and Accomplishments

* Host General Investment in Farming Technologies (GIFT) Rwanda Ltd. presented its business plan developed through volunteer technical support to Banque Populaire du Rwanda and acquired a loan of $477,000 as part of their Capacity Building on Investment Plan Development initiative. The company used $116,000 to buy 30 hectares of land and infrastructure from the government in Zaza Sector, Eastern Province, and $361,000 to renovate buildings and facilities for a plant tissue culture laboratory, which will produce disease-free banana, passion fruit, tamarillo, pineapple, and strawberry plantlets. The total capacity of this laboratory will be three million plantlets annually. GIFT Ltd. presented the same investment business plan to Banque Rwandaise de Développement and received a bank loan notification of $629,000 for working capital for this laboratory. The loan will be disbursed in August 2023.
* Conseil Consultatif de Femmes (COCOF) received support from F2F to develop business plans for seed bank and pineapple processing facilities. The host presented the business plans to different funders and has been able to mobilize $173,700. The grants include $5,000 from OXFAM International for seed bank construction; $25,000 from the Rwanda Governance Board to integrate youth in agriculture; $80,000 from Hillary Dante and OXFAM International to empower women in the pineapple value chain; $38,000 from IRISH AID through OXFAM International for a soya seed bank; and $25,700 from OXFAM International to start construction of pineapple processing facilities in Nyamagabe and Muhanga districts.
* Host Rwanda Organization for Development Initiatives received F2F volunteer support on strategic plan development, proposal writing and resource mobilization. As a result of this support, the host has been able to mobilize $221,996 from different sources including $35,000 from Education Development Center/USAID to support youth to receive vocational training and obtain self-employment start-up kits, $161,996 from a project funded by Enable (the development agency of Belgium’s federal government) and $25,000 from the Rwanda Governance Board and the United Nations Development Programme Rwanda.
* Host Koperative y’Abahinzi n’Aborozi bo mu Kibaya cy’Umuvumba (KABOKU) received volunteer technical assistance on financial literacy, enabling them to use QuickBooks accounting software. The accounting team has now digitally recorded all its FY22 transactions, which were previously kept in paper form, and the cooperative manager is able to produce financial reports that the cooperative will use in the coming cooperative general assembly to present the financial status of the cooperative to its members.

### Implementation Problems or Deviations from Expectations

* Two hosts, Gatsibo Agroprocessing Plant Ltd. and Freedom Kawunga, have had problems finding working capital to continue their maize flour processing activities due to financial losses incurred. They have shut down temporarily. The losses are attributed to the effects of COVID-19 and rising input costs.

## Timor-Leste

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Country Project** | **No.** |
| Modernizing Agriculture | 15 |
| **Total** | **15** |

Timor-Leste’s F2F activities supported the Modernizing Agriculturecountry project. CRS completed 15 assignments, working with eight hosts: three private companies, two educational institutions, two farmers’ associations and one local NGO. The assistance aligned with the USAID Mission’s strategy to build agro-enterprise capacity and modernize the horticulture, livestock, and industrial crop sub-sectors in Timor-Leste. Volunteers provided 80 recommendations, contributed 306 days of service and directly assisted 874 people (51% women, 67% youth). Host organizations contributed $6,505 toward assignment completion.

### Major Impacts and Accomplishments

* As a result of volunteer support, host Timor-Leste Organic Fertilizer (TILOFE) has improved the quality and quantity of its compost, established an accounting system and developed marketing materials and business plans. This year, the company has produced 65 tons, earning $14,625. With the earnings they purchased a truck to support their activities. With the improved accounting system, the company was entrusted with a grant from the Government of Timor-Leste of $9,400 to build compost ponds. The French Embassy also provided TILOFE with a grant of $8,000, a portion of which will be used to purchase a lawn mower ($2,500) for a new branch in Atauro municipality.
* Juventude Agricultura Floreta Emprezarial (JAFEM) implemented volunteer recommendations to improve mushroom production technologies and mushroom spawn seed multiplication techniques using different substrates, such as corn and sorghum. The company has since grown 3,000 bags of white and pink mushrooms, selling 60 kilograms per month and earning a monthly average of $420. Volunteer Van Cotter introduced two types of seeds, Poho and Pink, and in February, the company began selling pink mushrooms. The company continues to sell to the ten main supermarkets in Dili, as well as to mushroom production groups in Ermera and other municipalities.
* LANAMONA[[2]](#footnote-3) Credit Union’s membership grew from 1,837 in 2021 to 2,128 currently, with total assets valued at $1,337,647. During the reporting period, the host continued training 296 group members on customer service so that they can attract more members to the union. During this reporting period, LANAMONA hosted volunteers on poultry, pig, cattle, and paddy production practices. As result of the poultry production training, five members took out loans of $250 which they each used to by purchase a rooster and two hens along with cages and feed; as of the time of reporting each member now owns on average 11 chickens.
* Don Bosco Fuiluro’s compost production is now sufficient to cover one hectare of its vegetable garden and forestry nursery. Some of the vegetables produced during the reporting period were used to feed 200 students while the rest were sold to the local market, earning roughly $2,000.
* F2F host Community Development Centre has continued to use the tomato teaching manual created by an F2F volunteer. The objective is to stop purchasing imported tomato seeds while increasing the quality and quantity of its own tomato production. The host produced one kilogram of seeds, planted over 4,000 trees, and grew over 2,000 tree seedlings during this reporting period.
* Escola Technical Agricola Moleana continued to produce 1.5 tons of dry compost and 750 liters of liquid fertilizer during this reporting period to apply to vegetable production. The vegetables were sold to teachers and the local market, earning over $2,600. The training on Farming as a Business has led students to establish four groups and purchase a 20- by 6-meter poly tunnel for tomato production.
* Seloi Horticulture Production generated 200-400 liters of liquid compost every three months for vegetable production and continued to provide training to five community farmer groups with a total of 50 members. They continued producing vegetables and selling them to the local market and to supermarkets in Dili, earning $300 weekly with total sales in this reporting period of $7,200. Seloi Horticulture Production also took part in a basic accounting training course hosted by TILOFE and is currently using a bookkeeping template to record all transactions.

### 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 continues to collaborate with institutions with similar capacity development needs to train their staff. These include large projects, universities, business training institutions and youth business groups.

## Uganda

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Country Project** | **Assignments** |
| Agribusiness | 9 |
| Livestock | 8 |
| **Total** | **17** |

Volunteers completed 17 assignments with 11 host organizations directly assisting 1,115 people (47% women, 15% youth) during 286 days of service. Assignments focused on technology transfer, business development, organizational development, financial services and environmental conservation. Volunteers made 79 recommendations and hosts contributed $5,067 toward assignment completion.

### Agribusiness

Volunteers completed nine assignments with five host organizations, directly assisting 362 people (52% women, 30% youth) during 155 days of service. Assignments focused on technology transfer, business development and environmental conservation. Hosts included cooperatives, associations, and private agri-business enterprises. Volunteers made 41 recommendations, of which 27 have been applied. Hosts contributed $2,739 toward assignment completion.

### Livestock

Volunteers completed eight assignments with six host organizations, directly assisting 753 people (45% women, 12% youth) during 131 days of service. Assignments focused on organizational development, technology transfer and financial services. Volunteers made 38 recommendations, of which 28 have been applied. Hosts contributed $2,328 toward assignment completion.

### Major Impacts and Accomplishments:

* After an initial training on nutrition where a recommendation was given to explore other nutritive soya-based products, such as soya milk and yoghurt, Mahyolo Area Cooperative Enterprise requested technical assistance in soya bean value addition. Cooperative members could not hide their excitement after tasting soya milk for the first time in two decades of growing soya beans. Previously, members would grow soya beans either for consumption as sauce (after boiling) or to sell at the market. Now, the members are considering starting a cottage industry based on soya bean processing.
* KazFresh Yoghurt, a product produced by Kabeihura Farm Ltd., increased its sales by 10% after F2F technical assistance thanks to the improved taste of the yoghurt. The F2F volunteer found that the yoghurt acidity was higher than expected and worked with the quality control team to improve the yoghurt’s acid balance.
* F2F host Kamuli District Farmers Association (KDFA) reported that two months after its training, 74% of the 267 farmers trained established 1-3 acres of pastureland each and are growing feeding hay as a result of F2F volunteer technical assistance. Initially, they planted only pastures rich in carbohydrates but due to the volunteer training they started growing legumes too because of their protein content.
* Mahyolo Area Cooperative Enterprise procured a maize mill, and they now mill, package and sell maize flour as a new product. This came as a result of an assignment on strategic plan development.

### Implementation Problems or Deviations from Expectations

* Accessing expertise for new export cash crops to Uganda such as Hass avocado has been a challenge, as has finding experts for assignments on monitoring and evaluation.

# Overall Implementation Problems or Deviations from Expectations

Health challenges led to some implementation problems during the reporting period. The Country Director for Rwanda experienced a health set-back which meant that she was on leave for the majority of the period. The F2F Coordinator for Rwanda stepped up as acting Country Director and CRS hired a consultant to support with field operations. Some staff in Ethiopia and Timor-Leste also faced temporary health challenges necessitating the hiring of short-term assistants. Beyond these and the implementation problems identified at the country level, overall there were no further challenges to implementation.

# Summary of Progress Toward Indicator Targets

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Farmer-to-Farmer Program Standard Indicators** | **FY23 Target** | **Achieved** | **% Achieved** |
| Number of Volunteer Assignments | 118 | 94 | 80% |
| Number of Women Volunteers (US and local) | 48 | 25 | 52% |
| Number of New Volunteers | 59 | 44 | 75% |
| Number of Persons Trained (Total) | 7,434 | 4,634 | 62% |
| Number of Women Trained | 3,568 | 2,149 | 60% |
| Number of days of volunteer service | 2,124 | 1,635 | 77% |
| Number of New Host Organizations Assisted | 31 | 7 | 23% |
| Number of Outreach Activities (Worldwide Total) | 234 | 147 | 63% |
| Annual Gross Sales | $46,000,000 | $80,949,096 | 176% |
| Annual Net Income | $3,100,000 | $4,397,448 | 142% |
| New/improved products and services | 23 | 136 | 591% |

# Planned Activities for the Next Six Months

## Overall

* CRS intends to implement 42 volunteer assignments between April and September 2023. This will take us to 18 more assignments than initially planned and is made possible by budget savings from the COVID-19 pandemic. Assignments will be completed through a combination of paired remote and in-person assignments.
* The CRS F2F team will continue to 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. CRS will also make short assignment videos in Uganda, Nepal and Benin. These videos will feature U.S. volunteers and will be used to raise the profile of the F2F program. Both the videos and the host impact stories will be shared with USAID as well as through CRS’ media channels.
* The program will continue to collaborate with local USAID Missions, U.S. government-supported projects, local governments and other stakeholders. In Nepal, CRS is hoping to secure a buy-in to fund the development of a step-by-step guidebook to help municipalities create local agriculture development plans and budgets based on their localized needs.
* CRS will continue to support implementation of the associate award in Sudan as well as design and implementation of the associate award in Burma, if the award is made.
* CRS will finalize volunteer assignments and hold closeout events in each of its six core countries. There will be a final internal reflection and learning meeting for the whole CRS F2F team in Uganda.
* CRS will participate in the virtual implementing partners meeting (IPM) in May and a project impact and volunteer celebration event hosted by Partners of the Americas in Washington, D.C. in June.

# Annexes

* Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) Reporting
* Volunteer Assignment Summaries FY23
* Buy-ins
* Associate Award Descriptions

## PERSUAP Reporting

### PERSUAP Implementation Experience

In the first half of FY23, 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 94 completed assignments that PERSUAP applies to, zero were Type I and 30 were Type II (see the details in the table below). There were no relevant Type IV assignments completed during this reporting period.

### PERSUAP Reporting Table

| **Assign. (Trip) Number** | **SOW Number** | **Volunteer Name** | **Country** | **Project** | **PERSUAP Assign. Type** | **Work Directly with USAID Mission or Mission-Funded Project (Type IV)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| R-E-418 | NE275 | David Blomquist | Nepal | Livestock | II | n/a |
| R-E-419 | RW297 | Russell Wallace | Rwanda | Maize | II | n/a |
| R-E-424 | TL280 | Daniel Miller | Timor-Leste | Modernizing Agriculture | II | n/a |
| R-E-426 | NE2101 | Eric Pawlowski | Nepal | Crops | II | n/a |
| R-E-431 | UG2103 | Gary Ruegsegger | Uganda | Livestock | II | n/a |
| R-E-435 | TL276 | Henry Van T Cotter | Timor-Leste | Modernizing Agriculture | II | n/a |
| R-E-437 | UG286 | George Kegode | Uganda | Agribusiness | II | n/a |
| R-E-438 | TL279 | David Tingley | Timor-Leste | Modernizing Agriculture | II | n/a |
| R-E-446 | UG2109 | Esther Muhimakazi | Uganda | Livestock | II | n/a |
| R-E-455 | NE2102 | John Bliss | Nepal | Crop | II | n/a |
| R-E-456 | UG2116 | Penninah Aryemo | Uganda | Agribusiness | II | n/a |
| R-E-457 | TL281 | Jonathan Moyle | Timor-Leste | Modernizing Agriculture | II | n/a |
| R-E-459 | NE2111 | Dr. Chet Raj Upreti | Nepal | Livestock | II | n/a |
| R-E-460 | ET294 | Cherinet Kasahun | Ethiopia | Crop | II | n/a |
| R-E-462 | NE296 | Daniel Miller | Nepal | Livestock | II | n/a |
| R-E-464 | NE2103 | Robert Owen | Nepal | Livestock | II | n/a |
| R-E-465 | NE2109 | Govind KC | Nepal | Crop | II | n/a |
| R-E-466 | NE2112 | Dennis McCarthy | Nepal | Livestock | II | n/a |
| R-E-468 | RW2107 | David Ringuette | Rwanda | Horticulture | II | n/a |
| R-E-471 | UG2100 | Saphan Muzoora | Uganda | Livestock | II | n/a |
| R-E-474 | TL289 | George Paul Kotch | Timor-Leste | Modernizing Agriculture | II | n/a |
| R-E-475 | BJ2111 | Brice Kouderin | Benin | Soybean | II | n/a |
| R-E-478 | NE2108 | Ramesh Humagain | Nepal | Crop | II | n/a |
| R-E-484 | TL271 | Brian Boman | Timor-Leste | Modernizing Agriculture | II | n/a |
| R-E-490 | UG2108 | Norah Gulaita | Uganda | Livestock | II | n/a |
| R-E-492 | RW2104 | Tiffany LaShae | Rwanda | Horticulture | II | n/a |
| R-E-493 | TL282 | Richard Cooke | Timor-Leste | Modernizing Agriculture | II | n/a |
| R-E-495 | NE2116 | Daniel Laney | Nepal | Livestock | II | n/a |
| R-E-505 | UG2106 | Penninah Aryemo | Uganda | Agribusiness | II | n/a |
| R-E-507 | NE2119 | Muniappan Rangaswamy | Nepal | Crop | II | n/a |

### SOWs in IPM and Safer Pesticide Use

No volunteer SOWs in IPM and safer pesticide use were undertaken for the CRS 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.

### Needs for a PERSUAP Amendment:

There was no identified need for a PERSUAP amendment to add pesticides.

### Certifications of Assignment and Office Compliance with PERSUAP Guidelines:

Listed below.

### PERSUAP Compliance: F2F Assignments

This certifies that all volunteers have received the F2F Environmental Brochure and further certifies that 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) * Attachments A-G * Environmental Brochure for F2F volunteers * Host country list of approved and registered pesticides * Executive Summary or Summary of Findings of the F2F Pesticide Safety Assessment for the specific country or PERSUAP questionnaire * SUAP briefing with F2F field staff * List of IPM practices and tools, forms, protocols, plans from previous volunteers * Relevant Material Safety Data Sheets (filed in field office) if an F2F volunteer may provide advice (training, recommendations) on fumigation (at processing facilities or warehouses): - USAID’s Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Fumigation of Title II Food Aid Commodities found here: <https://www.usaidgems.org/fumigationPEA.htm> | * SUAP * Environmental Brochure for F2F volunteers * Executive Summary or Summary of Findings of the F2F Pesticide Safety Assessment for the specific country * SUAP briefing with F2F field staff |
| **Developed/ Provided by Volunteer** | * Any pesticides that the F2F program should be able to recommend or use which are not included on approved lists * Recommendations for additional support on pesticide management practices * Recommendations or feedback on local IPM or pesticide practices witnessed * IPM practices, tools, forms, protocols, plans, etc. for mitigating negative environmental outcomes * Report on pesticide availability and how it corresponds to pesticides in F2F PERSUAP * Material safety data sheet for any pesticide or active ingredient used or recommended | * Recommendations for additional support on pesticide management practices * Recommendations or feedback on local IPM or pesticide practices witnessed * IPM practices, tools, forms, protocols, plans, etc. for mitigating negative environmental outcomes * Report on pesticide availability and how it corresponds to pesticides in F2F PERSUAP |

### PERSUAP Compliance: F2F Offices

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Home Office** | **Field Office** |
| **Documents Updated and on File** | * 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 attachments[[3]](#footnote-4) * 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 |

## Volunteer Assignment Summaries FY23

**R-E-418**

Volunteer Name: **David Blomquist**

Country: Nepal

Country Project: Livestock

Host: Livestock Unit, Galyang Municipality

Assignment Dates: September 15-October 1, 2022

Assignment Summary

David Blomquist, a microbiologist, provided technical assistance to dairy farmers on mozzarella cheese making and quality control. This assignment was hosted by the Livestock Unit of Galyang Municipality, Syangja District. The goal of the assignment was to improve the quality of mozzarella cheese produced from dairy goats. A procedure was developed and tested with mixed results. Successive trials showed continuous improvement and warranted further testing. The volunteer demonstrated hands-on techniques for making mozzarella cheese. The assignment is expected to increase the quality of cheese and the income of small cottage industries. The volunteer trained 17 participants (47% women, 29% youth) and made five recommendations including: building a fresh milk and sanitary room with sink and table; purchasing pots and pans, a digital thermometer and measuring spoons/cups; acquiring a large container to hold boiled water; working to improve the quality of cheese using recommended procedures and quality inputs; and approaching local stores as potential market outlets.

**R-E-419**

Volunteer Name: **Russell Wallace**

Country: Rwanda

Country Project: Horticulture

Host: Green Leaf Cooperative

Assignment Dates: September 17-October 1, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Russell Wallace worked with host Green Leaf Cooperative on chili pepper post-harvest handling and storage practices. The assignment focused on appropriate irrigation and fertilization, and practices to prevent the spread of viruses in the field. The volunteer recommended improving the post-harvest quality of the peppers through in-field training; obtaining soil samples from production fields, especially unproductive ones, to improve the quality of post-harvested peppers by selecting only premium peppers in the field; placing peppers in drying facilities or on mesh screens to improve drying quality; developing marketing for additional products; reviewing certification procedures; applying appropriate in-field harvesting methods to reduce mixed maturities, color and size in products sent for sorting; taking care when transporting bagged peppers from the field to the drying facility; and practices to prevent the spread of viruses in the field. Volunteers trained 108 people (51% women, 6% youth).

**R-E-420**

Volunteer Name: **Giscard Agbakli**

Country: Benin

Country Project: Soybean

Host: Circle of Reflections and Actions for a Flourishing World

Assignment Dates: September 15-October 5, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Giscard Agbakli, paired with U.S. volunteer Suzane Ondrus, supported the NGO on an assignment focused on the importance of gender considerations in agricultural cooperative development and management. The participants learned the socioeconomic impacts of gender in cooperative development and management. Some women leaders shared their experiences of participation in associations in comparison to what they observed of men’s experiences. The volunteers made three recommendations including: reviewing organizational documents and structure to actively involve women in decision-making bodies; conducting and integrating gender awareness sessions into their day-to-day activities; and conducting post-assignment follow-up. Volunteers trained 140 people (46% women, 48% youth).

**R-E-421**

Volunteer Name: **Getaneh Gobezie**

Country: Ethiopia

Country Project: Crops

Host: Meklit Microfinance Institution

Assignment Dates: September 16-October 5, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Getaneh Gobezie and U.S. volunteer Janet Buresh provided technical support to Meklit Microfinance Institute on collateral services. The volunteers worked with host staff to identify service products (i.e., loans and savings) for youth and women, based on their location and needs. The volunteers provided three recommendations including: raising staff awareness of gender mainstreaming; building capacity on savings product development and marketing; and incorporating training into the credit service package. A total of 24 staff (25% women, 54% youth) received technical support.

**R-E-422**

Volunteer Name: **David Daines**

Country: Timor-Leste

Country Project: Modernizing Agriculture

Host: TILOFE

Assignment Dates: September 18-October 9, 2022

Assignment Summary

Volunteer David Daines provided support to TILOFE on development of a 5-year business plan. The volunteer conducted a strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis of TILOFE together with the board and key staff; organized a workshop for board members to identify a company vision, mission, and key activities; drafted the business plan and trained the board and key staff on the plan. The volunteer made four recommendations, including: expanding production, concentrating on the core business of fertilizer production and sales; raising prices gradually while increasing TILOFE’s value to customers; paying close attention to monthly cash flow; and continually planning and exploring other products and services to supply to commercial farmers to improve soil productivity. A total of seven participants were involved in the assignment (five women, seven youth).

**R-E-423**

Volunteer Name: **Tom Kasaijja**

Country: Uganda

Country Project: Livestock

Host: Kabeihura Farmers Ltd.

Assignment Dates: October 3-17, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Tom Kasaijja, paired with U.S. volunteer Bob Cooperrider, supported Kabeihura Farmers Ltd. in accounting basics to use Tally.ERP 9 accounting software. The assignment focused on basic accounting terms, accounting principles, vouchers, account types, bookkeeping and accounting concepts and conventions. The volunteers accomplished all the assignment objectives. Four people were trained (three women, one youth). The volunteers gave two recommendations including: designing a reference manual for the Tally.ERP 9 accounting software: and daily practice with the software by the finance team.

**R-E-424**

Volunteer Name: **Daniel K. Miller**

Country: Timor-Leste

Country Project: Modernizing Agriculture

Host: LANAMONA Credit Union

Assignment Dates: September 22-October 17, 2022

Assignment Summary

Volunteer Daniel Miller provided support to LANAMONA Credit Union on cattle production best practices. He trained farmers on animal husbandry for cattle meat production, feed formulation using natural forage, genetic selection of cattle to fatten, and simple stall design. The participants included 111 people (49% women, 82% youth). The volunteer made six recommendations, including: requiring farmers to prove they have a place to keep animals and a source of feed for them before they seek loans; fattening the cattle at a time of year when feed is available; considering the use of grasses such as napier and teosinte as feed; looking for a source of microminerals to be used by the farmers to make urea mineral salt blocks; and conducting training sessions on preparing silage from legume plants if there is too much rain during bean harvest to make hay from the plants.

**R-E-425**

Volunteer Name: **Jean Bosco Tumusifu**

Country: Rwanda

Country Project: Maize

Host: Koperative y’abahinzi b’ibigori n’ibishyimbo ba Rubira (KOAIRU) Ganza

Cooperative

Assignment Dates: October 10-21, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Jean Bosco Tumusifu, supported by U.S. volunteer Jennifer Snyder, supported KOAIRU Ganza Cooperative with training on business planning. The volunteers focused on how to determine sources of investment, how to calculate depreciation and amortization and to conduct cost-benefit analysis, how to forecast sales and how to write key financial statements. The volunteers recommended sourcing inputs close to where the members are located; increasing post-harvest and storage activities; and improving the cooperative’s management and monitoring and evaluation activities. A total of 60 people (42% women, 8% youth) participated in the training.

**R-E-426**

Name: **Eric Pawlowski**

Country: Nepal

Country Project: Crops

Host: Small Farmer Agriculture Cooperative Ltd., Kebalpur Dhanding

Assignment Dates: October 5-21, 2022

Assignment Summary

Volunteer Eric Pawlowski conducted capacity building of women farmers on environmentally friendly commercial vegetable production. The main objectives of the assignment were to provide on-farm and hands-on training to smallholder women farmers on commercial vegetable production using environmentally friendly and climate change resilient technologies. By the end of the assignment, farmers had learned techniques and tools for commercial vegetable production including organic methods of cultivation in poly-houses or open fields, and maintenance and repair of poly-house structures suitable to local agro-climatic conditions. Farmers were able to develop year-round vegetable production calendars considering local agro-climates and market demand. Training was provided to 50 host staff and host associated members (46% women, 8% youth).

**R-E-427**

Volunteer Name: **Léa** **Bassabi**

Country: Benin

Country Project: Cashew

Host: Dassa-Zoumé Communal Cell of Territorial Agricultural Development

Agency/Pole 4 (Ccom Dassa-Zoumé/ATDA4)

Assignment Dates: October 10-25, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Léa Bassabi, paired with U.S. volunteer Katherine Cassidy, supported the Ccom Dassa-Zoumé/ATDA4 on women’s leadership and community development. This assignment targeted women cashew farmers in several villages and aimed to constitute and train a pool of women leaders to engage in the host’s activities. Participants were exposed to the roles and qualities of a leader and agreed to be part of that pool of leaders. The volunteers made three recommendations including: following up with the participants they trained to train others in their villages; making sure participants select group leaders from each group to receive further training; and establishing and formalizing a communal network. The volunteers trained 60 people (95% women, 27% youth).

**R-E-428**

Volunteer Name: **Lior Singer**

Country: Benin

Country Project: Soybean

Host: Family Joy Farm

Assignment Dates: October 15-28, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Lior Singer supported Family Joy Farm in designing a biogas system (biodigester) based on chicken manure flow. After assessing the farm, the volunteer prepared and submitted three alternative design plans for biodigesters. The volunteer visited biogas production units in Allada and at the University of Abomey-Calavi Polytechnical School seeking potential collaborations. The volunteer collaborated with five host staff (60% women, no youth) and made two recommendations: finalizing the design based on locally available materials; and sharing progress updates with the volunteer for feedback.

**R-E-429**

Volunteer Name: **Tom Kasaijja**

Country: Uganda

Country Project: Livestock

Host: Kabeihura Farmers Ltd.

Assignment Dates: October 18-29,2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Tom Kasaijja, paired with U.S. volunteer Bob Cooperrider, supported Kabeihura Farmers Ltd. to configure accounting software Tally.ERP 9 to capture manufacturing accounts and related financial information and improve stock controls. The volunteers trained four people (three women, three youth). The volunteers made two recommendations: to use the accounting software to create missing accounting source documents including vouchers, ledgers, stock items and units of measure; and to buy a data backup device to avoid interruptions in the accounting systems due to limited data.

**R-E-430**

Name: **Aju Nyachhyon**

Country: Nepal

Country Project: Livestock

Host: Kalinchowk Yak and Agroforestry Tourism Research Centre

Assignment Dates: October 14-30, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Aju Nyachhyon paired with U.S. volunteer Jerry Skiles on a Business Development Strategy assignment for Kalinchowk Yak and Agroforestry Tourism Research Centre. The objectives of this assignment were to develop business strategies and train company staff. The volunteers developed strategies for four years (FY22-25) with the goal of being profitable starting in FY22/23. The training was provided to 18 host staff (17% women, 18% youth). Kalinchowk Yak and Agroforestry Tourism Research Centre is expected to use this document to scale up their activities and pursue additional funding streams. The volunteer recommended that the host carry out quarterly reviews of the business plan and its progress against the research center’s vision, with the participation of board members and employees; and plan achievable actions in each year by taking into account capital resources, time and other externalities.

**R-E-431**

Volunteer Name: **Gary Ruegsegger**

Country: Uganda

Country Project: Livestock

Host: Kamwenge District Dairy Farmers Cooperative Society Ltd.

Assignment Dates: October 14-November 1, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Gary Ruegsegger supported Kamwenge District Dairy Farmers Cooperative Society with a refresher training for extension workers on dairy nutrition through feed supplementation, and fodder and pasture management for dry season feeding to achieve improved productivity. The volunteer completed all assignment objectives, trained 64 people (6% women, 16% youth) and gave four recommendations: set up four forage demonstration plots in each of the four milk cooperative zones; increase access to improved dairy genetics for cooperative members’ dairy cattle; add forage training for farmers while providing forage planting material; and continue to provide training in hay and silage making.

**R-E-432**

Volunteer Name: **Dawit Assefa**

Country: Ethiopia

Country Project: Livestock

Host: Mohammed Abuna Guto Dairy Farm

Assignment Dates: October 26-November 9, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local Volunteer Dawit Assefa and U.S. volunteer Brad Perry collaborated to create a 5-year (2023-2027) strategic plan for Mohammed Abuna Guto Dairy Farm. They conducted an assessment and key informant interviews with the owners and farm manager to better understand key strategic issues that need to be emphasized in the strategy. In addition to the strategic plan, the volunteers trained 11 host staff (no women, 82% youth) on dairy farm management activities. The volunteers made four recommendations including: increasing the herd size and the percentage of dairy cows; increasing average milk yield per cow; building loose dairy shade; and purchasing a tractor for tilling forage fields and transporting feed. During the reporting period, the host adopted the first three recommendations.

**R-E-433**

Volunteer Name: **Fulgence Mpayimana**

Country: Rwanda

Country Project: Maize

Host: Cooperative des Agriculteurs de Gatore (COOPAGA)

Assignment Dates: October 31-November 11, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Fulgence Mpayimana, supported by U.S. volunteer Hunter Swanigan, supported COOPAGA on developing the cooperative’s maize milling feasibility study. The volunteers recommended maintaining and refurbishing existing assets that can be used when COOPAGA begins maize processing operations; setting up a separate bank account for savings for investment costs; conducting a study tour before establishing the milling facility; ensuring that the cooperative has met all of the requirements before embarking on maize processing activities; planning practical trainings with existing processing plant personnel who are well-versed in maize processing; and ensuring that the final processed products are certified in order to gain market acceptance. During this assignment, the local volunteer worked with 60 participants (28% women, no youth).

**R-E-434**

Volunteer Name: **Troy Dewitt**

Country: Benin

Country Project: Cashew

Host: Tolaro Global SA[[4]](#footnote-5)

Assignment Dates: October 29-November 11, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Troy Dewitt provided training to Tolaro Global SAS staff on financial and accounting management. The staff’s capacity was strengthened in International Accounting Standards and the International Financial Reporting Standards in French and English. In addition, the volunteer provided training and training materials to Tolaro staff on analysis and reporting tools related to those standards. Current and future participants can apply International Accounting Standards and International Financial Reporting Standards to develop and maintain compliant financial statements that will assist with improving operations and support future financial capacity building efforts. The volunteer made four recommendations including: identifying and designating an IAS/IFRS expert within the team; discussing with Tolaro’s top management the need to combine Tolaro Benin and Tolaro USA for better use of the international system; determining whether to include ‘goodwill’ as financial item line; and hiring a third party to review the first years’ financial statements using IAS/IFRS. Four people (no women, one youth) were trained.

**R-E-435**

Volunteer Name: **Henry Van Cotter**

Country: Timor-Leste

Country Project: Modernizing Agriculture

Host: TILOFE

Assignment Dates: October 21-November 11, 2022

Assignment Summary

Volunteer Henry Van Cotter provided support to JAFEM in mushroom spawn production. The objective of the assignment was to train participants in improved mushroom spawn production techniques; address sanitation, pests and diseases and their prevention; and address simple measures relating to quality and contamination. The assignment included a visit to a mushroom farm to discuss spawn growth and pest issues. A total of 38 participants were involved in the assignment (32% women, 92% youth). The volunteer made six recommendations, including: creating an aseptic environment for culture transfer and spawn inoculation; improving sterilization methods; expanding spawn options; diversifying mushroom production; establishing a protocol documentation system in the local language (Tetun); and improving insect and mouse control in the spawn laboratory.

**R-E-436**

Volunteer Name: **Pamela J. Karg**

Country: Nepal

Country Project: Crops

Host: National Farmers’ Group Federation

Dates: October 28-November 12, 2022

Assignment Summary

Volunteer Pamela J. Karg supported the National Farmers’ Group Federation with the development of its 5-year organizational development plan. The volunteer conducted meetings with four farmer groups, directors and regional employees, and conducted a SWOT analysis. All their ideas were synthesized into the final document, mostly as strategies (actions or tools) for the organization to consider after approval of its new strategic plan. Training was provided to 78 host staff and members of the host organizational development plan (81% women, 18% youth). The volunteer made the following recommendations: translating the proposed strategic plan into the local language for sharing with all board members and all NFGF staff; gathering feedback and incorporating it into the final document; having the plan approved at NFGF’s Annual General Assembly Meeting; and setting up a committee to begin prioritizing how to implement the plan.

**R-E-437**

Volunteer Name: **George Kegode**

Country: Uganda

Country Project: Agribusiness

Host: Caritas Arua Diocese

Assignment Dates: October 14 - November 14, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer George Kegode supported Caritas Arua Diocese in pest and disease management using organic pesticides and other ecological methods or approaches. The aim of the assignment was to equip extension staff and lead farmers in Bidibidi refugee settlement, and host community members in identification of pests and diseases and pesticide formulation using available local materials for improved crop production and income. The volunteer trained 90 people (30% women, 16% youth) and made four recommendations including: applying IPM strategies; using biopesticides: rotating crops; and minimizing inorganic pesticide use.

**R-E-438**

Volunteer Name: **David Tingley**

Country: Timor-Leste

Country Project: Modernizing Agriculture

Host: LANAMONA Credit Union

Assignment Dates: October 7-November 15, 2022

Assignment Summary

Volunteer David Tingley provided support to LANAMONA Credit Union on pig production. The objective of the assignment was to train farmers on husbandry practices (e.g., housing, nutrition, health), feed formulation using locally-available feed ingredients, and pig farming as a business. The volunteer trained 87 people (67% women, 16% youth) and made recommendations including de-worming pigs and selling limited veterinary supplies in their community shops.

**R-E-439**

Volunteer Name: **Leslie Cosgrove**

Country: Ethiopia

Country Project: Crops

Host: Injibara University

Assignment Dates: November 11-26, 2022

Assignment Summary

US volunteer Leslie Cosgrove assisted Inibara University staff with research grant writing techniques. The training focused on identifying and gathering business intelligence and feeding it into grant proposals. It also addressed the development of relationships with donors and other stakeholders. In total, 30 employees (20% women, 57% youth) were trained. The volunteer made six recommendations, including: using concept notes in grant proposal development; identifying sources of funding; approaching and strengthening collaborations with partners and donors; problem solving for community-based project development; budget development; and high-level relationship building with donors and potential partners.

**R-E-440**

Volunteer Name: **Solange Negui**

Country: Benin

Country Project: Cashew

Host: Agence le Phoenix SARL

Assignment Dates: November 12-27, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Solange Negui, paired with U.S. volunteer Marissa Burkett, trained young agro-entrepreneurs in financial education, accounting and financial management of small and medium enterprises. The entrepreneurs were trained in business accounting and learned more about tools adapted to the agricultural and agri-food sectors. The volunteers provided three recommendations which included post training follow-up and other training sessions on marketing and market access. They trained 68 entrepreneurs (51% women, 56% youth).

**R-E-441**

Volunteer Name: **Penninah Aryemo**

Country: Uganda

Country Project: Agribusiness

Host: Koboko District Farmers Association

Assignment Dates: November 15-30,2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Penninah Aryemo, paired with U.S. volunteer Eve Kaplan, supported Mahyoro Commercial Farmers Association in promotion of Farming as a Business to improve the production and profitability of farm enterprises. The volunteers completed all assignment objectives and trained 70 people (75% women, 18% youth). Volunteers gave three recommendations: the need for farmers to continuously keep records; development of crop budgets; and for farmers to practice bulking and collective marketing.

**R-E-442**

Volunteer Name: **Anitha Mahoro**

Country: Rwanda

Country Project: Maize

Host: Twungubumwe Cooperative

Assignment Dates: November 16-December 2, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Anitha Mahoro, supported by U.S volunteer Matthew Arthur, trained Twungubumwe Cooperative on organic fertilizer production. During the training, the local volunteer asked participants to use locally available materials such as marshland grasses. She also recommended collecting and using kitchen scraps and animal manure, shredded bark and plant residues. The assignment had 93 participants (44% women, 6% youth).

**R-E-443**

Volunteer Name: **Jean Baptiste Hategekimana**

Country: Rwanda

Country Project: Maize

Host: Amizero Cooperative

Assignment Dates: November 21-December 2, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Jean Baptiste Hategekimana, supported by U.S volunteer Bob Cooperrider, trained Amizero Cooperative members on financial literacy. The volunteers focused on inputs and cash flow record keeping for farmers, and ways to prepare financial reports for the audit committee. The volunteers recommended: hiring a manager to oversee the cooperative’s activities; diversifying the cooperative’s revenue; separating leadership roles to avoid conflicts of interest; developing a strategic plan; and creating a procedures manual for the cooperative. A total of 69 people participated in this assignment (62% women, 6% youth).

**R-E-444**

Volunteer Name: **James Robert Anderson III**

Country: Rwanda

Country Project: Horticulture

Host: COCOF Organization

Assignment Dates: November 18-December 3, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer James Robert Anderson III supported COCOF Organization in developing two business plans for its two juice factories. The volunteer recommended that the organization only run one processing plant at a time. He reviewed COCOF’s existing business plans and recommended that the organization focus on developing a brand. He performed market research to identify buyers and identified expense categories that still need research (e.g., insurance, transportation/logistics). In total, 52 people participated in this assignment (48% women, 12% youth).

**R-E-445**

Volunteer Name: **Ashutosh Shukla**

Country: Nepal

Country Project: Crops

Host: Gandaki University

Dates: October 15-November 3, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Ashutosh Shukla paired with U.S. volunteer Neelam Canto-Lugo to support Gandaki University with its needs assessment. They reviewed a report titled “The Needs of Academic Programs Under Gandaki University,” commissioned and completed by Gandaki University at an earlier date. The volunteers worked on the text of the report independently and shared their proposed changes prior to presenting them to the university authorities. At least four online consultations were organized with the authorities of Gandaki University over the duration of the assignment. The feedback received from the authorities of the University was duly incorporated. Based on the needs assessment further action will be taken for the development of the entire university system. The volunteer recommended that the host get approval of the report from the University Board of Trustees and ensure resources are available for the implementation of the recommendations.

**R-E-446**

Volunteer Name: **Esther Muhimakazi**

Country: Uganda

Country Project: Livestock

Host: KDFA

Assignment Dates: November 21-December 7,2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Esther Muhimakazi, paired with U.S. volunteer Shayan Ghajar, supported KDFA with a training to equip extension workers and farmer field school facilitators with knowledge and skills on pasture preservation to enhance the production efficiency of dairy cows. The volunteers trained 267 people (46% women, 10% youth). The volunteers made five recommendations including: continuous backstopping of farmers by farmer field school facilitators and extension workers to ensure pasture improvement and preservation; KDFA encouraging farmers to work in teams during pasture preservation; farmers growing more pastures; multiplying seeds; and farmers improving their cow breeds through artificial insemination to strengthen the quality of milk production.

**R-E-447**

Volunteer Name: **Allan Nkinzehiki**

Country: Uganda

Country Project: Livestock

Host: Kabeihura Farmers Ltd.

Assignment Dates: November 21-December 7,2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Allan Nkinzehiki paired with U.S. volunteer David Blomquist to support Kabeihura Farmers Ltd. production staff and director in evaluating the organization’s yogurt processing procedures for compliance with best production practices for market penetration and product growth. The volunteers trained seven people (no women, 57% youth). The volunteers gave five recommendations that included implementing safety control measures and biosafety measures; venturing into new products; introducing standard milk control checks; and purchasing disposable head gear for workers as opposed to fabric ones.

**R-E-448**

Volunteer Name: **Wilfrid Warigui**

Country: Benin

Country Project: Cashew

Host: Vert Monde

Assignment Dates: November 18-December 7, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Wilfrid Warigui, paired with U.S. volunteer Lior Singer, strengthened women’s capacities in mobile biodigester installation and biogas production by using cashew apple by-products and other agricultural waste as renewable energy sources in the community. A 6m3 biodigester was installed and the women learned how to use biogas as clean energy for cooking and making agricultural products like processing soybeans into soybean cheese. In addition, the women and students were trained in the use of digestate from the biodigester as organic fertilizer for agricultural production in school and village gardens. The volunteers trained 43 people (100% women, 77% youth) and provided five recommendations.

**R-E-449**

Volunteer Name: **Angela Wells**

Country: Nepal

Country Project: Crops

Host: National Agriculture Genetic Resources Centre-Genebank

Dates: November 25-December 9, 2022

Assignment Summary

Volunteer Angela Wells worked with the National Agriculture Genetic Resources Centre-Genebank to accelerate access to information on Nepal’s agricultural genetic resources by developing searchable digital/online platforms. The volunteer developed the website and created space to document genetic resources. The goal of the assignment was to increase access to all Nepalese agriculture genetic resources for a wider public audience across the globe. The volunteer supported the development of a data management system to facilitate ease of documentation, inventory, and maintenance and making available detailed records of the more than 20,000 accessions of different agricultural genetic resources. The volunteer trained six scientists on data entry into the website (no women, no youth). The volunteer recommended the host continue to build on the website and improve by accommodating future policy and program changes on genetic resources.

**R-E-450**

Volunteer Name: **Mombinou Dorichamou**

Country: Benin

Country Project: Cashew

Host: URCPA-BA

Assignment Dates: November 27-December 10, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Mombinou Dorichamou, paired with U.S. volunteer Tamara Jones, trained URCPA-BA’s staff on resource mobilization and project design. The main objective of this assignment was to improve URCPA-BA’s fundraising capacity through well designed projects and services offered to its member cashew producers. During this assignment, the volunteers helped participants to start designing projects and gave practical steps to identify potential partners. The volunteers trained 20 URCPA-BA staff (15% women, 70% youth) and made four recommendations including refining the resource mobilization manual.

**R-E-451**

Volunteer Name: **Michael Jeffery Mayott**

Country: Rwanda

Country Project: Horticulture

Host: DEYI Ltd.

Assignment Dates: November 26-December 16, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Michael Jefferey Mayott supported DEYI Ltd. on using Odoo[[5]](#footnote-6) software for financial management. The assignment focused on installing updated cloud-based software and coaching staff on using the system. At the end of the assignment, the volunteer made recommendations to establish Odoo accounts for DEYI and Kabuye Hill School; establish a chart of accounts for DEYI and Kabuye Hill School; enter customer and vendor data into the system; and enter opening and closing account balances. The volunteer trained 20 people (33% women, 35% youth).

**R-E-452**

Volunteer Name: **Ali Beker**

Country: Benin

Country Project: Cashew

Host: Organization for sustainable development, reinforcement

and self-promotion of community structures (DEDRAS) NGO

Assignment Dates: November 26-December 16, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Ali Beker supported DEDRAS-NGO by training the staff at a feed mill and the farm belonging to the Center for Initiation and Advanced Training in Entrepreneurship and Agricultural Professions on formulation of layer feed and egg productivity. Feed mill employees were trained in ration formulation and overall improvement in the quality and efficiency of the feed formulation process. The volunteer also gave lectures using visual aids on how to formulate soybean-based diets for chickens. Finally, he carried out an assessment of the management of the layer farm and provided lessons on how to calculate egg production indices. The volunteer collaborated with nine DEDRAS staff (no women, five youth) and made four recommendations: ensure biosecurity through rodent control; ensure a hygienic environment for chickens with regular cleaning and disinfection; install fans; and keep records of the feeding activities and egg production.

**R-E-453**

Volunteer Name: **Luis Gast**

Country: Benin

Country Project: Cashew

Host: Tolaro Global SAS

Assignment Dates: December 2-16, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Luis Gast trained the technicians of the Tolaro Global technical department on assessment, management, and maintenance of breakdowns of industrial equipment and tools used for cashew nut processing. On the first day of the assignment, the volunteer assessed all equipment and devices in the factory. After that, the host staff received technical assistance in maintenance and repair of equipment, with recommendations to keep a log as a tool for identifying the equipment and components that need special attention and to predict failures. The volunteer made four recommendations: develop a maintenance schedule for the whole plant; develop a log of maintenance and repair for all the equipment in the plant; develop a stock of critical parts; and identify technicians at the company that supplies the equipment for maintenance needs. Five people (no women, one youth) received the training.

**R-E-454**

Volunteer Name: **Valerie Varco**

Country: Ethiopia

Country Project: Livestock

Host: Mohammed Abuna Guto Dairy Farm

Assignment Dates: December 2-16, 2022

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Valerie Valco provided technical support to Mohammed Abuna Guto Dairy Farm on dairy product (e.g., pasteurized milk, yogurt and cheese) marketing, focusing on potential market identification, value chain mapping and customer management. The volunteer conducted customer management and service training for five employees (four women, five youth) of the Shallo Yogurt Shop. The volunteer made four recommendations including: continuing to build the Shallo yogurt brand by standardizing the branding; developing the product description; improving milk output per cow by moving cows to open-air grazing systems and reducing cows with poor milk performance; implementing strategies to reduce customer complaints at the yogurt shop; and product and packaging development (new products and improved packaging so they can sell to supermarkets). The farm is building its brand by printing its brand logo on yogurt cups and advertising and is improving average milk yield (4-5 liters per cow per day) by improving the feeding system.

**R-E-455**

Name: **John Bliss**

Country: Nepal

Country Project: Crops

Host: Small farmer Agriculture Cooperative Ltd., Shantakhani, Surkhet

Assignment Dates: December 2-16, 2022

Assignment Summary

Volunteer John Bliss conducted capacity building of women farmers on eco-friendly vegetable production technologies for inclusive and climate resilient agriculture. The main objectives of the assignment were to provide on-farm and hands-on training to smallholder women farmers on commercial vegetable production using environmentally friendly and climate change-resilient technologies. At the end of the assignment, farmers learned techniques and tools about commercial vegetable production including organic methods of cultivation. Farmers were able to develop year-round vegetable production calendars taking into consideration local agro-climatic conditions and market demand. The training was provided to 74 host staff and host-associated members in total (86% women, 22% youth). The volunteer made the following recommendations: the host should manage Farmyard Manure (FYM) more effectively so that it is better conserved; organization of organic study groups and farm tours for peer-to-peer learning; organic-focused Farmer Field Schools should continue to emphasize sustainable practices such as mulching and integrating cover crops.

**R-E-456**

Volunteer Name: **Penninah Aryemo**

Country: Uganda

Country Project: Agribusiness

Host: Mahyoro Commercial Farmers Association

Assignment Dates: December 4-19, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Penninah Aryemo paired with U.S. volunteer William Zimmerman to support Mayhoro Commercial Farmers Association extension staff, village agents and farmers on the application of climate smart agriculture practices. Volunteers trained 36 people (61% women, 19% youth) and made five recommendations that included: extending training in climate smart agriculture to reach a greater number of farmers; carrying out practical field trainings on Zai pits; compositing; conducting periodic assessments on progress of climate smart agriculture application by trained farmers; and conducting seasonal evaluation of best practices applied.

**R-E-457**

Volunteer Name: **Jonathan Moyle**

Country: Timor-Leste

Country Project: Modernizing Agriculture

Host: LANAMONA Credit Union

Assignment Dates: December 1-19, 2022

Assignment Summary

Volunteer Jonathan Moyle provided support to LANAMONA Credit Union on poultry production. The objective of the assignment was to train farmers on basic concepts of farming as a business, improving poultry housing using locally available materials, and feeding chickens with locally available feed. A total of 27 people participated in the training (16 women, 4 youth). The volunteer made four recommendations including: providing the poultry with clean water; improving poultry housing; improving feed varieties using locally available feed; and coordinating with the Ministry of Agriculture for annual chicken vaccinations. As the result of this assignment, five members received loans of $250 each to purchase a rooster, two hens, cages and feed, as a result of which they now own 11 chickens each.

**R-E-458**

Volunteer Name: **Sem Akowanou**

Country: Benin

Country Project: Soybean

Host: Association de Lutte contre l’Analphabétisation (ALCA)-NGO

Assignment Dates: December 12-23, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Sem Akowanou paired with U.S. volunteer Kenton Ayers to train pineapple producers and groups supported by ALCA NGO on cluster development to improve and strengthen their capacities and ways to access the market. The volunteers trained participants on the different stages of cluster development as well as the advantages of the cluster model for the productivity and marketing of pineapples. A total of 87 participants (54% women, one youth) were trained. Volunteers provided three recommendations: following up with the producers until the cluster model has been put in place; supporting producers in identifying potential organic markets; and making sure that farmers and groups apply the knowledge acquired during the training.

**R-E-459**

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

Country: Nepal

Country Project: Livestock Project

Host: Small Farmers Agriculture Cooperatives Limited, Latikoili

Assignment Dates: December 12-25, 2022

Assignment Summary

Dr. Chet Raj Upreti was paired with U.S. volunteer Dr. Dennis McCarthy to conduct training on holistic approaches to increase milk production and productivity of cows and buffaloes. The volunteers provided practical training and demonstrations on fodder and forage production technologies, animal nutrition, cattle and buffalo shed management, disease control (mainly reproductive diseases including mastitis), and clean milk production. A total of 53 cooperative members participated in the training (75% women, one youth). The volunteer made the following recommendations: the host should conduct training on clean and hygienic milk production and marketing; the host should help cooperative members prepare business plans, and organize a farm-visit program for members to showcase modern livestock management practices at both the government and private farms.

**R-E-460**

Volunteer Name: **Cherinet Kasahun**

Country: Ethiopia

Country Project: Crops

Host: Bora Denbel Farmers’ Cooperative Union

Assignment Dates: December 7-26, 2022

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Cherenet Kassahun and U.S. volunteer Padmanaban Krishnan provided technical assistance to host Bora Denbel Farmers’ Cooperative Union on calibration and use of the Perten Glutomatic System for wheat protein (gluten) quality control. The training was provided with the aim of helping the union establish a wheat flour protein control system at the milling factory. The volunteers provided six recommendations including: focusing on wheat quality at the point of receiving the raw materials; assigning one full- or part-time quality control lab technician; purchasing less expensive lab materials (e.g., digital balance, sieve, Hectoliter weight apparatus, seed counter, gluten washer); fully filling the dry machine for gluten quality control; establishing a mini lab and on-the-job training for lab technicians and factory operators; and following up on wheat quality control with Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) protocols. A total of four staff (no women, one youth) were trained. The host adopted recommendations including checking wheat quality at the reception of the raw materials and by assigning one quality control lab technician.

**R-E-461**

Volunteer Name: **Chelsea Johnson**

Country: Timor-Leste

Country Project: Modernizing Agriculture

Host: Arcamaten LDA[[6]](#footnote-7)

Assignment Dates: December 12-28, 2022

Assignment Summary

Volunteer Chelsea Johnson provided support to host Arcamaten LDA on banana and pineapple wine production. The objective of the assignment was to produce new wine products and introduce the host to a wine processing flow diagram that will enable them to observe good manufacturing principles. Eleven participants were involved in the assignment (4 women, 11 youth). The volunteer recommended introducing secondary fermentation for the wine, making an additional batch of ginger beer, and gathering feedback on the product.

**R-E-462**

Volunteer Name: **Daniel Miller**

Country: Nepal

Country Project: Livestock Project

Host: Kalinchowk Yak and Agroforestry Tourism Research Centre

Assignment Dates: December 16, 2022-January 2, 2023

Assignment Summary

Volunteer Daniel Miller conducted training on cattle buffalo health and husbandry management for livestock extension staff and lead farmers at the Kalinchowk Yak and Agroforestry Tourism Research Centre. The volunteer provided practical training and demonstrations on fodder and forage production technologies, animal nutrition, members’ cattle and buffalo shed management, disease control (mainly reproductive diseases including mastitis), and clean milk production. In addition, extensive veterinary parasitological training was conducted for livestock extension agents. The main objective of the training was to identify harmful ruminate parasites using the MacMaster slide. A total of 47 host client member farmers participated in the training (11% women, 15% youth). The volunteer made the following recommendations: promoting the use of Napier grass, cutting it before stems start to develop; feeding the buffalo more bran, oil seed cake, legumes, or another sources of protein; leaving the sides of the barns open to allow for air circulation.

**R-E-463**

Volunteer Name: **Honeligne Eshiete**

Country: Ethiopia

Country Project: Crops

Host: Ras Gayint Multipurpose Farmers’ Cooperative Union

Assignment Dates: December 27, 2022-January 6, 2023

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Honeligne Eshiete and U.S. volunteer Matthew Enekwe provided technical support to Ras Gayint Multipurpose Farmers’ Cooperative Union on computerized financial accounting and database management. The volunteers helped Ras Gayint Cooperative Union transition to a computerized accounting system called Peachtree. A total of 11 staff (38% women, no youth) were trained. The volunteer provided six recommendations including revising the chart of accounts; compiling subsidiary ledger data; starting to maintain permanent company data on Peachtree software; verifying the required financial data, information, and policy for starting the system; starting to record transactions; and doing financial reporting using Peachtree.

**R-E-464**

Volunteer Name: **Robert Owen**

Country: Nepal

Country Project: Livestock

Host: Department of Agriculture Centre for Industrial Entomology Development (CIED)

Assignment Dates: January 1-18, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Robert Owen supported CIED in establishing a honeybee breed improvement and resource center. The volunteer observed various bee-keeping sites in Nepal followed by a rigorous discussion with farmers and government stakeholders. Within the assignment period, the volunteer conducted two days of hands-on training on bee biology, bee disease, queen rearing, and colony selection. The participants included representatives of various institutions, the department of agriculture, academic and research institutions, and lead farmers. The total number of participants was 63 (5% women, no youth). At the end of the assignment, the volunteer presented his finding to the senior management team of the Department of Agriculture including the Director General. The volunteer provided a separate feasibility assessment report and developed technical specifications for establishing a honeybee breeding and resource center. One of the recommendations to the host was to purchase honeybee instrumental insemination equipment, which the host purchased for $3,739.

**R-E-465**

Volunteer Name: **Govind KC**

Country: Nepal

Country Project: Crops

Host: Airawoti Multipurpose Small Agriculture Cooperative Ltd.

Assignment period Jan 1-18, 2023

Assignment Summary  
Local volunteer Govind KC was paired with U.S. volunteer Tika Adhikari to train members of Airawoti Multipurpose Small Agriculture Cooperative Ltd. on low-cost ginger and zero energy storage modules. Farmers were trained on low-cost ginger storage technology. As a result of the assignment, farmers can store ginger safely up to five months without rotting, weight loss or sprouting. A total of 51 people, including members of the host’s leadership and other associated members, received the training (70% women, 12% youth). The volunteer made the following recommendations: expanding the construction of the storage chamber using locally available resources such as brick, straw, and sand; collecting data on the weight, rotting weight, sprouting condition, and storage duration of ginger at farms where storage chambers were constructed during the volunteer training course; organizing a farmers' day during the opening of the storage chamber to showcase the quality of ginger stored with new technology.

**R-E-466**

Volunteer Name: **Dennis McCarthy**

Country: Nepal

Country Project: Livestock

Host: Livestock Unit, Galyang Municipality

Assignment Dates: Jan 7-21, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Dennis McCarthy trained the Livestock Unit, Galyang Municipality, Syangja District of Gandaki Province on goat husbandry. The volunteer used a training-of-trainers approach. Eight Galyang municipal livestock extension staff completed three days of training exercises at the livestock extension facility on site. In addition, the volunteer trained 46 goat producers in the municipality (22% women, 24% youth) on goat shed improvement, FAMACHA anemia testing techniques, the five-point assessment for parasite load, and age determination. The volunteer shared information on goat shelter construction, silage preparation, birthing, castration, and FAMACHA-related techniques. The volunteer made the following recommendations to the municipality: increasing farmers' ability to treat intestinal parasites more effectively through an extensive training program; increasing the availability of forage and fodder seeds for use by farmers; and further capacity building of extension staff on goat feed formulation, cost reduction techniques and goat disease management.

**R-E-467**

Volunteer Name: **Godfrey Wandera**

Country: Uganda

Country Project: Livestock

Host: Namwendwa Dairy Farmers Savings and Credit Cooperative Society.

Assignment Dates: January 9-January 25,2023

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Godfrey Wandera paired with U.S. volunteer Madeleine Phil to support Namwendwa Dairy Farmers and Credit Cooperative Society on cooperative leadership and management with the aim of empowering the executive, board and farmer field school leaders regarding cooperative principles that will streamline leadership roles and responsibilities, encourage group cohesion, and re-emphasize the benefits associated with belonging to the cooperative. Volunteers trained nine people (three women, three youth). The volunteers gave six recommendations that include: conducting regular free and fair elections; separation of roles and responsibilities; adherence to good cooperative governance principles; solving conflicts as and when they occur; ensuring adherence to leadership principles; and streamlining board and management roles and responsibilities.

**R-E-468**

Volunteer Name:  **David Aaron Ringuette**

Country: Rwanda

Country Project: Horticulture

Host: Cooperative des Agriculteurs and Transformateurs d’Ananas de

Mutenderi

Assignment Dates: January 14-27, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer David Aaron Ringuette supported the cooperative in pineapple vegetative propagation. The assignment focused on how to cut a pineapple crown and establish a pineapple nursery. The training started with a short video presentation on how to cut a crown into four parts, remove the stem, establish a nursery, and propagate the four crown parts into other pineapples. This technique allows for more than 100 pineapples to be propagated from only one crown. At the end of the assignment, the volunteer advised the cooperative’s lead team and members to increase pineapple propagation material starting with a nursery using the split crown technique, maximizing fertilizer efficiency by placing fertilizer at the root zone where the leaves end, maximizing water use or mulching, and identifying plant problems by performing plant autopsies. The volunteer trained 85 people (35% women, no youth).

**R-E-469**

Volunteer Name: **Daniel Kevin Lavin**

Country: Rwanda

Country Project: Maize

Host: KABOKU

Assignment Dates: January 14-27, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Daniel Kevin Lavin supported KABOKU in financial literacy. The assignment focused on how to use QuickBooks to improve KABOKU’s financial and accounting management system. The volunteer recommended that the accounting team of the cooperative produce a monthly report using the software and send the report to the executive committee for review. A second recommendation was for the lead committee of the cooperative to conduct post-season reviews, including updated numbers from all farmers. The volunteer trained 69 people (16% women, 3% youth).

**R-E-470**

Volunteer Name: Dilip Nandwani

Country: Timor-Leste

Country Project: Modernizing Agriculture

Host: Universidade da Paz (UNPAZ)

Assignment dates: January 1-14, 2023

Assignment Summary

US volunteer Dr. Dilip Nandwani provided support to host UNPAZ to enhance the university faculty’s capacity on research design, and to build teachers’ research analysis skills and knowledge on scientific writing. There were 55 participants in the assignment (18% women, 4% youth). The volunteer made five recommendations including: continuously launching initiatives to strengthen the capacity of UNPAZ faculty: strengthening collaboration with other higher education and research institutions in Timor-Leste for grant submissions to agencies abroad; having UNPAZ faculty serve on international journal editorial boards to gain experience in reviewing manuscripts and scientific writing; increasing electronic access to international journals through libraries and other open education resources; and establishing a memorandum of understanding with research institutions in the U.S., Australia, Indonesia and Europe for trainings and exchange programs.

**R-E-471**

Volunteer Name: **Saphan Muzoora**

Country: Uganda

Country Project: Livestock

Host: Kamwenge District Dairy Farmers Cooperative Ltd.

Assignment Dates: January 16-31, 2023

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Saphan Muzoora paired with U.S. volunteer Heidi Kassenborg to support Kamwenge District Dairy Farmers Cooperative Ltd. members to equip its members with knowledge and skills on dairy health management for increased profitability at the cooperative and individual household levels. The volunteers trained 135 people (38% women, 10% youth). They made seven recommendations including: organizing farm tours of model farmers for knowledge acquisition on animal health management; continued training on dairy animal health management; continuous clearing of farms to remove poisonous plants such as lantana camara; controlling for ticks; establishing pasture gardens; conservation of maize as animal feed; and improvement in power relations between family heads and workers.

**R-E-472**

Volunteer Name: David Visher

Country: Timor-Leste

Country Project: Modernizing Agriculture

Host: Universidade Da Paz (UNPAZ)

Assignment Dates: January 15-31, 2023

Assignment Summary

Volunteer David Visher provided support to host UNPAZ on agri-entrepreneurship development. The objective of the assignment was to enhance the agri-entrepreneurship knowledge, development and training capacity of the UNPAZ faculty within the food processing department. A total of 41 people participated in the assignment (46% women, 100% youth). The volunteer made five recommendations including: deciding whether agri-entrepreneurship will be part of UNPAZ curricula; assigning a faculty member to become specialized in this subject matter; seeking assistance from F2F for a volunteer (possibly remote) with the sole responsibility of providing an agri-entrepreneurship curriculum without simultaneously trying to teach a class; surveying the graduating class about their expectations; and creating an independent agri-entrepreneurship study program.

**R-E-473**

Volunteer Name: **David Lloyd Wolf**

Country: Rwanda

Country Project: Maize

Host: Twungubumwe Cooperative

Assignment Dates: January 20-February 4, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer David Lloyd Wolf supported Twungubumwe Cooperative in developing a 5-year strategic plan. The volunteer conducted a SWOT analysis of the cooperative and helped shape the mission and vision of the cooperative, mapping realistic goals and objectives, setting priority activities and their timeline, designing a monitoring and evaluation mechanism, and preparing a budget for the activities set. The volunteer recommended that the cooperative validate the strategic plan with the general assembly; create a brochure which can be used to recruit new members; identify and implement activities to create sustainable revenue sources to support operating and activity expenses; create educational linkages with other national and international stakeholders such as NGOs, agribusinesses and educational institutions; and involve local mayors, agriculture ministries, and farmers, to solicit their input on priority needs in the development of future education. The volunteer trained 15 people (6 women, 1 youth).

**R-E-474**

Volunteer Name: **George Kotch**

Country: Timor-Leste

Country Project: Modernizing Agriculture

Host: Assosiasaun Nasionál Produtor Fini Komersial (ANAPROFIKO)

Assignment date January 11-February 6, 2023

Assignment Summary

Volunteer George Kotch provided support to host ANAPROFIKO by reviewing their commercial seed production guidelines. The objective of the assignment was to provide a refresher training to ANAPROFIKO’s members on seed production best practices and provide guidelines for commercial maize seed production. In total, 74 people participated in the assignment (39% women, 63% youth). The volunteer made four recommendations including: developing a plan for capacity building on the maize crop production guidelines; implementing capacity building based on that plan; developing rice seed production guidelines with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; and developing and executing a Fall Armyworm mitigation capacity development plan.

**R-E-475**

Volunteer Name: **Brice Kouderin**

Country: Benin

Country Project: Soybean

Host: Nature Plurielle (NaP) NGO

Assignment Dates: January 25-February 10, 2023

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Brice Kouderin paired with U.S. volunteer Javonne Mulins to support NaP NGO to strengthen the capacity of secondary school students on environmental justice for environmental protection. The students gained a good understanding of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, climate change and small eco-citizen actions. They learned the meaning of biodiversity, its importance and the actions that destroy it. The volunteers made three recommendations: monitoring of activities carried out in the garden; encouraging students to nurture their gardens; and continuing the daily awareness-raising of students for sustainable impact. The volunteers trained 169 people (47% women, 99% youth).

**R-E-476**

Volunteer Name: **Fernanda Santos**

Country: Ethiopia

Country Project: Livestock

Host: Kombolcha Poultry Resource Development Enterprise

Assignment Dates: January 27, 2022-February 11, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Fernanda Santos provided technical assistance to Kombolcha Poultry Resource Development Enterprise to enhance the host staff’s knowledge of poultry parent stock management and egg and chick production. A total of four staff (no women, no youth) were trained. The volunteer provided six recommendations including: starting a rodent control program; keeping grass levels low; building composting bins; increasing egg collection frequency; protecting water storage tanks from the sun; and implementing a visitor log record.

**R-E-477**

Volunteer Name: **Melinda Habecker**

Country: Timor-Leste

Country Project: Modernizing Agriculture

Host: ANAPROFIKO

Assignment Dates: January 21-February 11, 2023

Assignment Summary

Volunteer Melinda Habecker provided support to host ANAPROFIKO to enhance ANAPROFIKO board members’ and group delegates’ knowledge of organizational management and leadership development. The volunteer trained 56 participants (50% women, 82% youth) and made four recommendations including: creating a more diverse and sustainable financial footing for ANAPROFIKO; recruiting qualified staff to fill skills gaps; continuing to strengthen communication and leadership skills at the district level; and developing a systematic approach to agricultural production that includes timelines.

**R-E-478**

Volunteer Name: **Ramesh Humagain**

Country: Nepal

Country Project: Crop

Host: Small Farmer Agriculture Cooperative Limited, Kailali

Assignment Dates: January 25-February 13, 2023

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Ramesh Humagain paired with the U.S. volunteer Dr. Khushi Ram Tiwari to transfer seed production, quality control, and post-harvest management technology to seed-producing farmers, and enhance seed producers’ technical capacity in seed production and marketing. The volunteers helped farmers prepare annual seed production calendars and action plans. Participants were also trained in improved agronomic practices for seed production and on government seed policies, seed acts, and regulations. The volunteers trained 56 member farmers in total (55% women, 28% youth). The volunteer made the following recommendations: coordinating and maintaining trust with the previous leadership to promote collective action; preparing and implementing a business plan and business code of conduct to run the seed business; hosting meetings with the local offices of NARC, the Agriculture Knowledge Center, the government Farm and Seed Testing Laboratory, the Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project, and the Rural Municipality to improve access to government support services; increasing investment to expand seed storage houses, threshing floors, small machinery and equipment.

**R-E-479**

Volunteer Name: **Aften Beeler**

Country: Nepal

Country Project: Crops

Host: National Farmer’s Group Federation

Dates: February 3-15, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Aften Beeler worked with the National Farmer’s Group Federation to design a project in response to an opportunity released by the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program. She also conducted training on business development for key staff and executive members. This assignment aimed to make the host better equipped to write proposals either as a lead organization or as a sub-recipient. The volunteer trained 48 participants (60% women, 17% youth). The volunteer made the following recommendations: engaging a Nepali-to-English translator to translate the NFGF constitution, organizational operations guidelines, and financial policies; preparing a two-page document that includes information from NFGF's organizational profile and summaries of previous project results as past performance references; allocating a staff member to regularly reviewing key donor websites to identify opportunities for NFGF to either prime or reach out to other NGOs/INGOs for potential partnerships.

**R-E-480**

Volunteer Name: **Vinton Smith**

Country: Ethiopia

Country Project: Livestock

Host: Yaya Dairy Farm

Assignment Dates: February 1-16, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Vinton Smith supported Yaya Dairy Farm on improved dairy farm management with the aim of improving the farm’s feed and nutrition, housing and management, milk hygiene and sanitation practices. The volunteer provided five recommendations including: increasing access to water; implementing a new Total Mixed Ration feeding program; implementing new milking preparation techniques that improve sanitation, hygiene and cow well-being; improved calf hand heifer management practices; improving record keeping systems (e.g., individual dairy cow record cards, milk production). A total of 10 people (no women, seven youth) were trained. All recommendations are being implemented by the host.

**R-E-481**

Volunteer Name: **Elizabeth Norden**

Country: Rwanda

Country Project: Horticulture

Host: General Investment in Farming Technologies (GIFT) Ltd.

Assignment Dates: February 3-18, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Elizabeth Norden supported GIFT Ltd. by training staff and partners on proposal writing and resource mobilization strategies. The volunteer recommended that GIFT Ltd. designate or hire a specific staff person to focus on fundraising. She trained participants to identify sources of funding and underlined the importance of collaboration moving forward with regard to proposals. The volunteer trained 28 people (14% women, 4% youth).

**R-E-482**

Volunteer Name: **William Clapham**

Country: Ethiopia

Country Project: Crops

Host: Wolkite University

Assignment Dates: February 2-19, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer William Clapham provided technical support to Wolkite University on research grant project writing, developing the skills of researchers in grant proposal writing. The volunteer provided three recommendations including: using interdisciplinary teams to address problems; using the internet to research potential grantors; and collaborating with different national and international institutions. A total of 40 staff (8% women, 30% youth) were trained.

**R-E-483**

Volunteer Name**: Matthew O. Enekwe**

Country: Timor-Leste

Country Project: Modernizing Agriculture

Host: TILOFE

Assignment Dates: February 2-19, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Matthew O. Enekwe supported host TILOFE with an introduction to accounting and implementation of QuickBooks Online. There were 137 participants (75% women, 87% youth). The volunteer made three recommendations including transferring all ledger information to QuickBooks Online; focusing on one business idea or operation; and developing a website for the host. As a result of having their new accounting system in place, TILOFE met the requirements to receive $8,000 of funding from the government of France.

**R-E-484**

Volunteer Name**: Brian Boman**

Country: Timor-Leste

Country Project: Modernizing Agriculture

Host: Agricultural Technical School of Natarbora

Assignment Dates: February 2-19, 2023

Assignment Summary

Volunteer Brian Boman provided support to host, the Agricultural Technical School of Natarbora, on banana and pineapple wine production. The assignment aimed to upgrade the existing small-scale irrigation system and demonstrate drip kit installation. In total, 109 people participated in the assignment (22% women, 85% youth). The volunteer made five recommendations including: constructing a new well; installing the new drip irrigation system with proper filtration; obtaining quality analysis of the irrigation water; using fertigation as an essential part of the production system; and rolling up the drip tape instead of folding up the tape after crops are harvested.

**R-E-485**

Volunteer Name: **Aemiro Ashagie**

Country: Ethiopia

Country Project: Livestock

Host: Addis Alem Agricultural Development PLC

Assignment Dates: February 6-20, 2023

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Aemiro Ashagire and U.S. volunteer David Roberts supported Addis Alem Agricultural Development PLC on cattle fattening. The assignment aimed to prepare a least-cost concentrate mixture based on available feed ingredients to support the desired growth rate of cattle on the farm. A total of five employees (two women, four youth) participated in the training. The five recommendations provided by the volunteer included: making the concentrate mixture consist of 25% maize grain, 30% wheat bran, 20% rice bran, 15% noug seed cake, 5% rape seed cake, 3% lime and 2% salt; considering the right proportion of roughage and concentrate mixture for different fattening stages; setting daily rations for cattle at certain intervals; using software to formulate rations; and weighing bulls every 15 days.

**R-E-486**

Volunteer Name: **Jerome Ruhanga**

Country: Rwanda

Country Project: Horticulture

Host: Cooperative of Fruits Farmers of Kigabiro, Ejoheza

Assignment Dates: February 3-18, 2023

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Jerome Ruhanga with U.S. volunteer Katherine Cassidy supported the Ejoheza cooperative by training members on cooperative management and leadership. The volunteers focused on members’ roles and responsibilities, effective communication, the importance of integrating youth and people with disability into the cooperative, and consideration of gender aspects within the cooperative. The volunteers also recommended that the cooperative acquire insurance under a government scheme, provide dividends to cooperative members, and align their internal rules and regulations with Rwanda’s new cooperative law. The volunteers trained 22 people (18% women, 18% youth).

**R-E-487**

Volunteer Name: **Latif Amadou Soumanou**

Country: Benin

Country Project: Cashew

Host: Agrifinance

Assignment Dates: January 30-February 22, 2023

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Latif Amadou Soumanou, paired with U.S. volunteer Darla Gonson, trained Agrifinance’s agents on anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing. This assignment aimed to commit to following national applicable laws and regional and international standards related to finance institutions. The volunteers developed an Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Manual and made it available to staff. Volunteers provided three recommendations including: the operationalization of the manual with regular task assignment; effective use of the manual at the sub offices level; and implementation follow-up by the host’s internal auditor. The volunteers trained 11 participants (two women, no youth).

**R-E-488**

Volunteer Name: **Mary Cait McManamon**

Country: Benin

Country Project: Cashew

Host: Agbara-Oluwa

Assignment Dates: February 4-24, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Mary Cait McManamon supported Agbara-Oluwa cooperative to design their communication and marketing tools. During this assignment, the volunteer trained host staff on marketing best practices and created two promotional videos, two new logos, graphic elements and a library of resources for the host to use moving forward. She helped the host set up key online platforms, best marketing strategies that can be applied to content creation, website design, and sales. In addition, she trained and helped the host set up Facebook, Google Business and Canva accounts. She provided four recommendations including: implementation of the marketing strategy; expansion of the marketing strategy content with new ideas; the creation of a website; the redesign of the product Branding. She trained nine staff (six women, five youth).

**R-E-489**

Volunteer Name: **James Worstell**

Country: Ethiopia

Country Project: Livestock

Host: Naseba Animal Nutrition

Assignment Dates: February 10-24, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer James Worstell provided technical support to Naseba Animal Nutrition on business plan development. The volunteer created a long-term business plan that includes strategic orientations, a financial plan, and potential integrated farm activities. He provided five recommendations including: modifying the existing business plan; designing a new campus for manufacturing and demonstration sites; establishing a relationship with Elanco animal health; exploring new Ethiopian medicinal plants for inclusion in NAN products; and developing new products using new medicinal plants. A total of six people (four women, no youth) benefited from the technical support.

**R-E-490**

Volunteer Name: **Norah Gulaiata**

Country: Uganda

Country Project: Livestock

Host: KDFA

Assignment Dates: February 7-24,2023

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Norah Guliata paired with U.S. volunteer Elizabeth Hines to support KDFA members, extension staff and smallholder pig farmers in best piggery management practices to increase the profitability of households and farmer groups in Kamuli district. The volunteers trained 266 people (54% women, 8% youth) and made six recommendations that include: farmers with breeding boars should vaccinate them against venereal diseases; farmers should visit Kasolwe stock farm and benchmark good piggery practices; KDFA should empower those trained under a training-of-trainers model to continue providing extension services; the host should implement biosecurity measures on the farms; and the host should produce silage.

**R-E-491**

Volunteer Name: **Adelia Cynthia Bovell Benjamin**

Country: Rwanda

Country Project: Maize

Host: PANOVITA Ltd.

Assignment Dates: February 10-25, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Adelia Cynthia Bovell Benjamin trained PANOVITA Ltd. to make baking powder. The volunteer recommended that PANOVITA Ltd. test the storage stability of the baking powder by storing it under the right conditions and applying the ‘Bubble Test’ at monthly intervals. Other recommendations include incorporating the baking powder in the bakery products produced; developing the HACCP review for the baking powder; training staff on the use of protective gear when working on the production line, measurement skills and food safety. The volunteer trained 12 people (three women, no youth).

**R-E-492**

Volunteer Name: **Tiffany Stock Riggs LaShae**

Country: Rwanda

Country Project: Horticulture

Host: PANOVITA Ltd.

Assignment Dates: February 10-25, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Tiffany Stock Riggs LaShae trained Rwanda Organization for Development Initiatives beneficiaries on pineapple propagation techniques using sectioned crowns. The volunteer did three practical demonstrations with three different groups. She taught participants planting techniques to increase pineapple yield, and about the soil health requirements to increase pineapple plant health. The volunteer recommended that Rwanda Organization for Development Initiatives help farmers to access markets once their pineapples are grown and provide a training on soil health, climate smart agriculture, agroforestry, reforestation, and pest management. The volunteer trained 145 people (51% women, 14% youth).

**R-E-493**

Volunteer Name: **Richard Cooke**

Country: Timor-Leste

Country Project: Modernizing Agriculture

Host: LANAMONA Credit Union

Assignment Dates: February 2-26, 2023

Assignment Summary

Volunteer Richard Cooke provided support to host LANAMONA Credit Union on good agronomy practices for paddy production. In total, 91 people participated in the assignment (74% women, 89% youth). The volunteer made three recommendations including: introducing rice straw composting; preparing seedbeds; and introducing rice intensification demonstration plots.

**R-E-494**

Volunteer Name: **LaRon Beemer**

Country: Uganda

Country Project: Agribusiness

Host: Mayhoro Area Cooperative Enterprise

Assignment Dates: February 14-Febraury 28,2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer LaRon Beemer supported Mahyoro Area Cooperative Enterprise in marketing skills development for processed maize grain. He provided a road map to address existing marketing challenges and tap into the competitive market for milled maize. The volunteer completed all assignment objectives and trained 13 people (three women, four youth) and made six recommendations that include: recruiting distribution partners; improving efficiency and safety; preparing for product launch; developing product promotional plans; continuing market research; and monitoring sales and profits.

**R-E-495**

Volunteer Name: **Daniel Laney**

Country: Nepal

Country Project: Livestock

Host: National Goat Research Program, Bandipur

Assignment Dates: February 14-March 2, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Daniel Laney provided technical assistance to dairy goat farmers on cheese making and quality control. This assignment was hosted by the National Goat Research Program, Bandipur. The goal of the assignment was to improve the quality of dairy goat cheese. The volunteer demonstrated hands-on techniques for aging cheese and increasing shelf-life, and on aromatic cheese making using locally available additives and herbs. The assignment is expected to increase the quality of cheese and the income of small cottage industries. The volunteer trained 11 scientists, local goat cheesemakers, and technical staff (two women, two youth) and made the following recommendations: completing the renovation of the cheese cave to ensure that the proper temperature and humidity levels are maintained; developing instructions in Nepali for making cheese and creating a handout to help promote the consumption of goat cheese in Nepal; designing and printing labels for the cheese produced at NGRP, which could serve as a model for outreach site farmers; purchasing minerals on a regular basis to ensure that they are permanently available to the goats.

**R-E-496**

Volunteer Name: **Neelam Canto-Lugo**

Country: Timor-Leste

Country Project: Modernizing Agriculture

Host: Caritas Dicesana de Baucau

Assignment Dates: February 3-March 11, 2023

Assignment Summary

Volunteer Neelam Canto-Lugo provided support to host Caritas Diocesna de Baucau on proposal development and income generation. The volunteer trained key Caritas staff on developing concept notes and proposals. A total of 30 participants were involved in the assignment (53% women, 60% youth). The volunteer made 10 recommendations, the key ones being: completing the budget and sustainability components when writing proposals; analyzing operational costs; researching donors and their requirements; hiring a PR and Marketing expert; starting an organic vegetable garden; and establishing a fresh food market. The participants and recommendations made have been combined from two hosts - one in Timor-Leste and one in Nepal - because the volunteer implemented her volunteer assignment in Timor-Leste and Nepal on a single trip. Since she spent the majority of her service days in Timor-Leste, the assignment is recorded and reported as part of the CRS Timor-Leste F2F program.

**R-E-497**

Volunteer Name: **Ali Beker**

Country: Ethiopia

Country Project: Livestock

Host: Alema Farms

Assignment Dates: February 10-March 4, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Ali Beker supported Alema Farms on commercial broiler farm management, reviewing their existing broiler farm management practices and providing advice on improved techniques of broiler feeding, disease management and biosecurity. A total of 16 staff (one woman, no youth) were trained. The volunteer provided four recommendations including: introducing biosecurity; creating and implementing recordkeeping at broiler farms; controlling the environment by installing air inlets and air mixing fans in the broiler houses; and regularly checking and adjusting feeders and waterers to shoulder height.

**R-E-498**

Volunteer Name: **Tara Wilfong**

Country: Ethiopia

Country Project: Crops

Host: Project Mercy

Assignment Dates: February 10-March 4, 2023

Assignment Summary

Tara Wilfong provided technical support to Project Mercy on nutrition planning and food recipe demonstration for a school feeding program and local communities. The assignment intended to identify knowledge and skill gaps on nutrition, food processing and recipe preparations, especially focusing on school-age children, patients, staff, and community members, identifying nutrient-dense crop and animal products produced in the area, and creating awareness on their utilization. In total, 34 people (47% women, 56% youth) benefited from the training, including heath care providers and nurses. The volunteer provided six recommendations including: diversification of school food program; expansion of school food program; empowerment of high school girls on health and safety; strengthening community health education; improving the evaluation of school children’s healthcare; and improving the evaluation of malnutrition in school children.

**R-E-499**

Volunteer Name: **Ralph Bucca**

Country: Benin

Country Project: Soybean

Host: Réseau des Transformateurs d’Ananas du Benin (ReTAB)

Assignment Dates: February 17-March 10, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Ralph Bucca facilitated the assessment of the organizational and operational capacity of ReTAB’s member units to develop an improved production management process. The volunteer visited and observed the operations of approximately 15 different pineapple processing units through the Toffo, Tori-Bossito and Zè regions of Benin. The volunteer made six recommendations: improve sanitation by workers wearing the correct attire; improve sanitation in processing through regular cleaning and maintenance of all materials and machines; use the refractometer to measure the percentage of sugar in the pineapple juice; expand markets by going beyond Muslim events, such as serving other religious organizations and clubs; experiment with new products from other crops; and make use of the bottling tube as demonstrated. 89 entrepreneurs and host coaches were trained (67% women, 67% youth).

**R-E-500**

Volunteer Name: **Patrick Shandonay**

Country: Rwanda

Country Project: Maize

Host: Economic Policy Research Network (EPRN)

Assignment Dates: February 24-March 11, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Patrick Shandonay supported EPRN by updating their strategic plan for the next five years. The volunteer focused on updating EPRN’s vision and mission with a guide to future activities, advising on best options to achieve financial sustainability, and analyzing EPRN’s strengths and aspirations to help determine a path toward financial sustainability. The volunteer recommended that EPRN introduce and use a monitoring, evaluation and learning model. In total, 24 people participated in the training (seven women, nine youth).

**R-E-501**

Volunteer Name: **Bryan Cole**

Country: Uganda

Country Project: Agribusiness

Host: Alumalum Rural Investment Ltd.

Assignment Dates: February 24-March 12,2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Bryan Cole supported Alumalum Rural Investment Ltd. staff in the development of a business and strategic marketing plan for Alumalum cold pressed moringa and simsim oil, outlining a roadmap to address the host’s operational challenges. The volunteer trained 18 people (four women, no youth), making three recommendations including: identifying additional buyers of cosmetics; testing soap for local markets; and improving business planning and coordination.

**R-E-502**

Volunteer Name: **Allan Nkinzehiki**

Country: Uganda

Country Project: Agribusiness

Host: Mahyoro Area Cooperative Enterprise

Assignment Dates: February 27-March 12,2023

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Allan Nkinzehiki paired with U.S. volunteer David Headley to support Mayhoro Area Cooperative Enterprise in soybean value addition. The assignment trained the enterprise members to diversify the use of soybean in their diets. The volunteers trained 15 people (five women, three youth) and made six recommendations that include: purchasing stainless steel tables; procuring a soymilk extractor machine; installing a batch pasteurizer and cold room; constructing a drainage system for wastewater management; and installing hand washing facilities, a foot bath, and a changing room for personnel.

**R-E-503**

Volunteer Name: **Patrick Gbegbe**

Country: Benin

Country Project: Cashew

Host: AMDA SARL[[7]](#footnote-8)

Assignment Dates: February 27-March 18, 2023

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Patrick Gbegbe and U.S volunteer David Headley strengthened AMDA SARL’s raw product supply system and grant application proposal development skills. The volunteers mapped AMDA SARL’s business network (suppliers and others) to analyze the business relations within the host organization and trained staff to identify the company’s funding needs. Similarly, they assessed the company’s eligibility to receive a government subsidy and the data needed to put together a solid proposal. They made two recommendations: clearly defining the roles of each member of staff; and setting up a clear production plan with monthly quantities to be produced and minimum stocks to have available at all times. The volunteers trained 20 participants (12 women, 16 youth).

**R-E-504**

Volunteer Name: **Brian Backe**

Country: Ethiopia

Country Project: Livestock

Host: Selam Awassa Business Group PLC

Assignment Dates: March 3-18, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Brian Backe provided technical support to host Selam Awassa Business Group PLC to enhance the senior management team’s leadership and management skills. A total of 20 people (four women, eight youth) participated in the training. This assignment included a training-of-trainers approach. The volunteer provided three recommendations including: developing complete individual action plans; providing follow-up coaching for trainees; and continuing leadership development.

**R-E-505**

Volunteer Name: **Penninah Aryemo**

Country: Uganda

Country Project: Agribusiness

Host: Kamwenge District Farmers’ Organization

Assignment Dates: March 6-18, 2023

Assignment Summary

Local volunteer Penninah Aryemo paired with U.S. volunteer Nana Yaw Kusi to support Kamwenge District Farmers Organization on climate smart agriculture. The volunteers trained 120 people (55% women, 10% youth) and made three recommendations that include: extending the skills and practices acquired from the training to other members; implementing shared practices to adapt to climate change; and undertaking climate change mitigation measures.

**R-E-506**

Volunteer Name: **Susan Foster**

Country: Ethiopia

Country Project: Crops

Host: Ethiopian Guenet Church Development and Welfare Organization

Assignment Dates: March 10-25, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Susan Foster provided technical support to Ethiopian Guenet Church Development and Welfare Organization to develop the leadership and management capacities of senior staff and enhance their organizational and operational performance. A total of 32 management staff (38% women, no youth) participated in the training. The volunteer made four recommendations to the host including: revising and standardizing all HR performance appraisal forms to include a strengths-based approach; incorporating staff self-evaluation as part of the semi-annual performance appraisal process; surveying the leadership team annually to request feedback on needs and ideas for future leadership development; and developing and adopting the missing pieces of the organization’s succession planning process.

**R-E-507**

Volunteer Name: **Rangaswamy N. Muniappan**

Country: Nepal

Country Project: Crops

Host: International Development Enterprises Nepal/USAID Feed the Future

Nepal Integrated Pest Management Project

Dates: March 6-25, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Rangaswamy N. Muniappan conducted training on sustainable management of Fall Armyworm in Nepal for USAID implementers, academic institutions (i.e., Agriculture and Forestry University, Far-Western University), National Agriculture Research Council, and private service providers (agrovet owners). A total of 125 people participated in the training (19% women, 6% youth). The volunteer made the following recommendations: registering one of the maize seed treatment chemicals to protect crops from early infection from FAW; continuing support by iDE Nepal to NARC and AFU for research activities on the biological control of FAW and the rearing of natural enemies of FAW.

**R-E-508**

Volunteer Name: **Tania Burgos**

Country: Rwanda

Country Project: Horticulture

Host: YANZA Horticulture Promotion Cooperative

Assignment Dates: March 10-25, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Tania Burgos supported YANZA Horticulture Promotion Cooperative on compost production. The volunteer recommended that the cooperative scale its compost production by teaching other farmers; create a national roll-out plan; and continue to educate farmers on the importance of compost making. The volunteer trained 76 people (40 women, 2 youth).

**R-E-509**

Volunteer Name: **Bryce Malsbary**

Country: Timor-Leste

Country Project: Modernizing Agriculture

Host: Caritas Diocesana Baucau

Assignment Dates: March 9-26, 2023

Assignment Summary

Volunteer Bryce Malsbary supported host Caritas Diocesana Baucau on review of the host’s 5-year strategic plan. A total of 23 people participated in the training (nine women, nine youth) and the volunteer made four recommendations including: using an abbreviated strategic plan; having the director review and approve the abbreviated strategic plan; monitoring the plan’s progress on a monthly basis; and developing a one-page executive summary of the plan for distribution to all employees.

**R-E-510**

Volunteer Name: **Joseph Malual**

Country: Uganda

Country Project: Agribusiness

Host: Global Forum for Development

Assignment Dates: March 3-26, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Joseph Malual supported Global Forum for Development board members and staff in developing a 3-5-year strategic plan. The volunteer trained seven people (four women, four youth). His recommendations included: mobilizing funds to pay staff and cover operational costs to implement the strategic plan; supporting access to financial capital for women and providing them with training on financial literacy; and conducting regular meetings with farmers and youth to identify emerging needs for timely interventions.

**R-E-511**

Volunteer Name: **Rachelle Chase**

Country: Uganda

Country Project: Agribusiness

Host: Global Forum for Development

Assignment Dates: March 3-26, 2023

Assignment Summary

U.S. volunteer Rachelle Chase supported Global Forum for Development staff working on its Information Communication Technology for Development project. The assignment focused on developing Global Forum for Development’s communication and marketing strategies and providing a roadmap to share its work with multi-disciplinary audiences including beneficiaries, sponsors, and stakeholders at local, national, and global levels. The volunteer trained six people (two women, five youth). Her recommendations included: writing captivating content for incorporating into all social media content; developing a monthly social media calendar; capturing current social media metrics and targets; developing a new website; and implementing an online fundraising campaign.

## Buy-ins

CRS did not have any buy-ins in FY23 Q1 or Q2.

## Associate Award

1. Country Sudan
2. Project Title Bina’ Aljusur, or Building Bridges, Project
3. LOP Budget $19,578,496
4. Obligated Amount $11,103,464
5. Start Date October 1, 2022
6. Completion Date September 30, 2026
7. 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 by meeting the following strategic objectives:

* Producer groups increase productivity and income in inclusive private sector-led market systems.
* Organized farmers and pastoralists have increased food security and productivity of their production systems.

1. Role of Volunteers

F2F volunteers for this award follow operating principles that are common to other F2F programs, such as placing highly qualified volunteers for 2-3-week assignments that work directly with or in support of private sector, competitive, market-based farms and enterprises to provide short-term technical assistance and training related to award objectives. Specifically, to supplement extension support and build capacities of farmer producer organizations and micro, small and medium enterprises, CRS will identify experienced practitioners from Sudan, the U.S., and countries with similar agricultural sector characteristics to support farmer producer organizations and micro, small and medium enterprises in group management, value addition, marketing, and business management. CRS will assign F2F volunteers in selected value chains and business management fields to mentor and network specific farmer producer organizations or pastoralist groups and micro, small and medium enterprises. Relationships will extend through production, processing, and marketing to ensure that promising practices are adopted, and challenges addressed. F2F volunteers, including female volunteers, will provide remote support to local experts, who will provide in-person mentoring and technical assistance in Sudan.

1. Lessons Learned

N/A.

1. Many host organizations close their annual accounts at the end of the calendar year which is why they are being reported here. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. The name is an abbreviation of the credit union’s founders: women’s groups Lakon Nakukun and Mosu Naroman. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Société par Actions Simplifiée - similar to a limited liability company under United States law [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Odoo is a suite of open-source business apps covering customer relationship management, eCommerce, accounting, inventory, point of sale, project management, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Similar to Limited Liability Company in English [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. *Société à responsabilité limitée* or limited company [↑](#footnote-ref-8)