Farmer-to-Farmer Program
Strengthening Global Food Security with Volunteer Technical Assistance
Catholic Relief Services

- International humanitarian agency of Catholic Church in US
- Began in 1943 - relief to refugees in Europe
- Assistance based on need, not creed
- In over 90 countries worldwide
- Work through established networks & local partner organizations
F2F – The Basics

- 5 years
- 500 volunteer assignments
- 4 countries: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia
- Over 19,000 people reached, 50% women
F2F – Three Part Strategy

1. Support inclusion of rural poor farmers in value chains as producers/service providers

2. Strengthen the resilience of rural farmers in coping with shocks

3. Preserve/enhance essential community natural resources
F2F – Objectives

- Nutrition interventions
- Improve access to markets
- Link to private sector and government to expand impact
- Strengthen value chains including: Grains, Livestock, Legumes, Horticulture
- Target Women: 50% female farmers in Africa, 40% female US volunteers
- Train on new technologies and management practices
F2F – Value Chain Development

Strengthening value chains, including:

• Grains
• Legumes
• Oilseeds
• Fruits and Vegetables
• Dairy
• Livestock
• Aquaculture
• Apiculture
F2F – Capacity Strengthening

Strengthen the capacity of in-country partners to help rural farmers.

- Farmer Organizations
- Universities
- Agribusinesses (mostly small)
- Banks, small scale lenders
- Local NGOs
- Government Staff
- Industry Associations
- Environmental Organizations
F2F Volunteers

Americans from:

• Farms and ranches – big and small
• Food processing companies
• Cooperative extension services
• Education institutions
• Consulting firms
• Agribusinesses
• Banks
• Non-profits
Challenges in East Africa

- **Production** – limited use of seed, fertilizer, irrigation
- **Postharvest** – lack of processing, good handling and storage practices
- **Marketing** – lack of links to markets, business skills
- **Financial constraints** – limited access to credit, poor loan management
- **Organizational capacity** – poor leadership, limited management skills
### Volunteer Requirements

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>What we are looking for</th>
<th>What is not required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Significant experience</strong> in agriculture, agribusiness development, rural finance, nutrition, etc.</td>
<td>College degree</td>
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<td>Volunteers willing to spend 1-6 weeks overseas in East Africa</td>
<td>Second language</td>
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<td><strong>Good ambassadors</strong> who will share their experience to promote F2F</td>
<td>Development or overseas experience</td>
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Volunteer Expenses

F2F covers costs of:
• airfare
• in-country transportation
• lodging
• meals
• supplemental and evacuation insurance
• visa and passport services
• etc.
F2F Volunteer Process

Volunteer applies on F2F website → Volunteer is matched with scope of work or held for later → CRS makes assignment preparations from US and East Africa

Assignment is completed → Volunteer attends in-country briefing → Volunteer departs for assignment

Volunteer reports and makes recommendations → Volunteer returns to US and engages in an F2F outreach activity → Volunteer departs for assignment
Who Benefits: The Host

- Business improvement
- Updated technology
- Working together
- Cultural exchange
- Continued business relationship/ongoing mentoring
- Financial support
Who Benefits: The Volunteer

- Professional and personal growth
- Helping people learn to help themselves
- Cultural exchange
- Build relationships
- Travel opportunities
Who Benefits: The Employer
Our School Systems

• Enhances teacher’s knowledge of and experience with international culture

• Enhances teacher’s knowledge of and experience with international agriculture

• Visibility, notoriety for the school

• Lifelong relationships
Who Benefits: The United States

• U.S. citizens are educated on the value of U.S. Government agricultural assistance in developing countries.

• Volunteers share their experience with congressional representatives.

• Volunteers share their experience with the media, colleagues, family and friends.
How Can You Get Involved?

- Watch for information through NAAE’s communications (website, Communities of Practice, U.S. Ag Ed Listserv ... be sure NAAE has your current e-mail address in the membership database)

- Tell your colleagues about this opportunity

- Contact Jay Jackman – JJackman.NAAE@uky.edu

- Pick up materials here and/or at reception this afternoon
Farmer-to-Farmer Program

Questions / Comments

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