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FARMER-TO-FARMER
The USAID John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program

**FARMER-TO-FARMER
VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENT FORM**

Summary Information	
Assignment Code	TT77
Country	Trinidad & Tobago
Assignment Title	Small Aquaponics System
Best dates for volunteer visit	After January 2023
Host Organization(s)	<p>Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries (MALF) Extension, Training and Information Services Division (ETIS) is mandated to provide information in aspects of agriculture and related issues with the aim of assisting farmers in increasing efficiency in production and hence increasing profitability. The Division continues to seek ways to improve the delivery of service to their clientele who are spread throughout the various counties on the island. Extension is divided into three main divisions: The Extension, Training and Information Services Division (ETISD) which is the core training and extension unit for the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, the Regional Administration North and the Regional Administration South. The ETISD is dedicated to the provision of guidance courses and demonstrations, providing farmers and all other interested persons with information on aspects of agriculture and related issues. This Division continuously holds a number of guidance/training courses and demonstrations which can be obtained at the Farmer's Training Centre in Centeno and at selected County Offices. The northern region is made up of St. George County, St. David County, St. Andrew County, and County Caroni. The southern region is made up of County Victoria, County Mayaro, County Nariva, and St. Patrick County. All Divisions share a common goal of providing a coordinated approach to the delivery of support services to all clientele while promoting and bolstering food production, to facilitate increased production, the adoption of improved technology and to encourage the involvement of youth, through the provision of extension and support services. Additionally, extension officers have the following responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth programs • Farmers registration • Food production and incentive programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory services • Training programs • Pest management • Farmers database



Assignment Information	
Objectives and Anticipated Results	<p>In view of rising input costs for agriculture and climate change, many primary producers are experiencing low profitability and low productivity. In response, they want to diversify their farms to create more income streams. A small aquaponics system is one viable method of farm diversification for Trinidad and Tobago. The Extension Unit for the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries (Regional Administration North and the Regional Administration South) would like to provide assistance to farmers in the selection, construction, and management of a small aquaponics system for fish production. However, presently, extension officers have limited knowledge on these topics. Therefore, in response to this need, the Extension Unit for the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries (Regional Administration North and the Regional Administration South) require staff training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To set up and operate a simple sustainable aquaponics system to include: construction, fish management, water pump selection, costing • To produce an aquaponics teaching guide and factsheet at the end of the training <p>During the training, extension officers would like to construct a small aquaponics unit. The extension offices need 4 months advance notice of materials needed in order to purchase supplies. Through this training, extension staff will be able to impart knowledge and skills learned to assist farmers in the design, set up, and maintenance of a small aquaponics unit, enabling them to diversify their farms, optimize small spaces, and increase sales.</p>
Expected Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hands-on experience – system selection, getting resources and supplies, construction, and maintenance for small cost-efficient aquaponics system • Provide materials to members for all subjects • Debriefing with country staff and Purdue after assignment • F2F Assignment Report and F2F Recommendations Form to be completed at the end of the assignment (completed for debriefing with staff) • Sign-in sheets for training sessions (work with Field Coordinator) • One outreach activity (news article, interview, presentation, etc.) about your F2F activity. • If applicable, “like” the Purdue F2F Facebook and Twitter pages and share your experience.



Desired volunteer skill/expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 years of experience in aquaponics • Experience training adults in low-income communities • Experience working in a developing country preferred • Flexibility • Language: Proficient in English
Training Participants	About 20 participants extension officers of Extension North and South Regional Offices
Resources to be Contributed by Hosts and Local Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide in-country transportation, office space for meetings, and facilities for training and/or workshops; and • Provide supplies, equipment, and other resources for training activities. • Access to computer, projector, and screen
<i>Farmer to Farmer Objective(s)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase agricultural sector productivity and profitability <input type="checkbox"/> Improve conservation and sustainable use of environmental and natural resources <input type="checkbox"/> Expand agricultural sector access to financial services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strengthen agricultural sector institutions
<i>Type of Volunteer Assistance</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technology Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Development <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Enterprise Development <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Services <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative
<i>Type of Value Chain Activity</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information and Input Support Services (extension services, input supplies, veterinary services, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> On-Farm Production <input type="checkbox"/> Processing (primary and final product transformation, storage, transportation, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing (branding, advertising, promotion, distribution, sales, etc.)
<i>PERSUAP – Volunteer Assignment Type</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Type 1 Volunteers provide direct assistance for the use or procurement of pesticides and are likely to recommend and/or provide advice on specific pesticide active ingredients or products. <input type="checkbox"/> Type 2 Volunteers provide indirect assistance for the use or procurement of pesticides; they are not expected to recommend or provide advice on specific pesticide active ingredients or products. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Type 3 Volunteers are not expected to be involved in pesticide issues. <input type="checkbox"/> Type 4 Volunteers work on a separately-funded USAID project/activity which may have a PERSUAP governing its operations related to the use and procurement of pesticides.



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Volunteer Information	
Recommended Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please thoroughly read and follow the instructions provided in the volunteer orientation packet. • Let field staff know if you need assistance or accommodations.

Project Overview
<p>Trinidad and Tobago is a two-island country of a diverse population with rich history and culture. As an island nation, it is under the constant mercy of changing climate that is affecting natural resources and agriculture. At present, it is a net food importing country forcing the government to refocus its attention on sustainable agriculture as a part of its 2030 country development strategy. The tropical climate and available natural resources, if used properly, can make the country self-sufficient in vegetables, root crops and some fruits with a provision to export value added products. It is an opportune time for F2F volunteers to engage with agriculture extension officers and farmers to impart knowledge and learn about the culture and endurance of Trinbagonians. The objective of the F2F Trinidad and Tobago Country Program is to improve food and nutrition security through productivity, safety, and profitability as well as strengthening the extension service through capacity building.</p>