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

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

<b>Summary Information</b>	
Assignment Code	TT81
Country	Trinidad & Tobago
Assignment Title	Food Preservation and Food Product Development
Best dates for volunteer assignment	After January 2023
Host Organization(s)	The Tri Valley Cluster is comprised of farmers, agro-processors, agricultural value-added agents, agro-tourism agents and rural community development activists from the North-Eastern regions of Trinidad- Lopinot, Brasso Seco and Aripo. The group empowers stakeholders by leading and facilitating the development of rural community agribusiness, agricultural raw material production, product and service development and innovation, joint event marketing, fund raising and awareness drives. Through various development initiatives, collaboration with industry stakeholders, and other support agencies, the Tri Valley Cluster's main goal is to create opportunities for growth, diversification and sustainability of its members whilst ensuring adherence to international standards of quality, leading to improved value and globally recognized brands.
<b>Assignment Information</b>	
Objectives and Anticipated Results	<p>The Tri-Valley Cluster would like to diversify its product mix of cocoa beans, chocolate and cocoa products to include processed foods- sauces, condiments, pickled and preserved vegetables, and fruits and candied fruit using local fresh produce as the raw material for the value-added product. This initiative will increase the income earning capacity of its farmers, their profitability, and their skills sets. To do this however, they require training in food preservation, and processing of sauces, condiments, preserved vegetables, and fruits. While Tri-Valley farmers have some knowledge in making sauces such as pepper sauce, they still require training and additional skills.</p> <p>Therefore, a volunteer is requested to provide training in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fundamentals of food preservation</li> <li>2. Fundamentals of pickling fruits and vegetables and making candied fruit</li> <li>3. Production of pepper sauces and other sauces infused with coconut oil and dried condiments such as flavoured salt and dried seasonings.</li> </ol> <p>Once this training is provided, the members of the Tri-Valley Cluster</p>



	will be better able to develop value added products from their fresh produce.
Expected Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hands-on experience – preserving food using various methods and practice making sauces infused with variety of flavors</li> <li>• Provide training materials to members for all subjects</li> <li>• Debriefing with country director and Purdue after assignment</li> <li>• F2F Assignment Report and F2F Recommendations Form to be completed at the end of the assignment (completed for debriefing with staff)</li> <li>• Sign-in sheets for training sessions (work with Field Coordinator)</li> <li>• One outreach activity (news article, interview, presentation, etc.)</li> <li>• If applicable, “like” the Purdue F2F Facebook and Twitter pages and share your experience</li> </ul>
Desired volunteer skill/expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 years of experience in food science, food preservation, value added food product development</li> <li>• Experience training adults in low-income communities</li> <li>• Experience working in a developing country preferred</li> <li>• Flexibility</li> <li>• Language: Proficient in English</li> </ul>
Training Participants	About 10 participants who are Tri-Valley cacao members
Resources to be Contributed by Hosts and Local Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide in-country transportation, office space for meetings, and facilities for training and/or workshops; and</li> <li>• Provide supplies, equipment, and other resources for training activities.</li> <li>• Access to computer, projector, and screen</li> </ul>
<i>Farmer to Farmer Objective(s)</i>	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Information and Input Support Services (extension services, input supplies, veterinary services, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> On-Farm Production <input checked="" 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.
<b>Volunteer Information</b>	
Recommended Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please thoroughly read and follow the instructions provided in the volunteer orientation packet.</li> <li>• Let field staff know if you need supplies for your assistance.</li> </ul>

<b>Project Overview</b>
<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>