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**FARMER<sup>T</sup>OFARMER**  
The USAID John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program

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

<b>Summary Information</b>	
Assignment Code	TT85
Country	Trinidad & Tobago
Assignment Title	Climate Smart Agriculture- Shade House and Vertical Farming
Best dates for volunteer visit	After January 2023
Host Organization(s)	<p>Vision On Mission (VOM) is a dynamic non-government organization (NGO) which provides rehabilitation services, empowerment, life skills, and employment skillstraining and development in agriculture and other areas to clients (ex-prisoners) in need of re-integration into society after serving time in prison.</p> <p>The organization, which manages a live-in center in East Trinidad, hopes to establish and grow produce, raw materials, and value-added products to sell commercially.</p>
<b>Assignment Information</b>	
Objectives and Anticipated Results	<p>Due to climate change and the extended wet seasons due to excessive rainfall, the area of Cumuto in which the NGO's fields are located, are susceptible to flooding. As a result, VOM experiences crop losses during these times. In response to this challenge, the VOM staff and clients would like to build shade houses and set up vertical planting systems to create cropping systems off the ground. However, they have limited knowledge on these topics and thus request staff and client training from a volunteer in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundamentals of shade house design, construction and management</li> <li>• Introduction to vertical planting systems, set up and maintenance</li> <li>• Development of a shade house and vertical planting system</li> </ul> <p>Through this training, VOM staff and clients will be able to better cope with climate change and create strategies for extreme wet seasons and flooding.</p>
Expected Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hands-on experience – designing and building a shade house with vertical farming</li> <li>• Provide materials to members for all subjects</li> <li>• Debriefing with country staff 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>• Volunteer Timesheet</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One outreach activity (news article, interview, presentation, etc.) about your F2F activity.</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 with shade houses and vertical agriculture in a tropical environment</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 15 participants members of Vision On Mission NGO
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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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.



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	<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 assistance or accommodations.</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>	