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## **Experimental Research Aqua Farm Project**

This project is a partnership between Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) of ACDI/VOCA and the William V. S. Tubman University funded by the U.S. government through USAID. Farmer to Farmer (F2F) Program promotes sustainable economic growth, food security, and agricultural development worldwide. It provides volunteer technical assistance from US farmers, agribusinesses, cooperatives, and universities to help developing countries to improve their agricultural productivity, access new markets, and conserve environmental and natural resources. The F2F volunteers work with farmers, producer groups, rural businesses, and service providers to develop local capacity necessary to increase food production and rural incomes, expand economic growth, and address environmental and natural resource management challenges. This people-to-people exchange promotes international goodwill, understanding of US foreign assistance programs, and private involvement in development activities. The F2F Liberia program is working in three intervention areas: Livestock, Horticulture, and Youth in Agriculture.

The Experimental Research Aqua Farm Project is hosted by the William V.S. Tubman University (WVSTU) in Tubman Town, East Harper, Maryland County. WVSTU is a public academic institution established as technical college in 1979, but chartered to a full university in 2009. It is the only University in the Southeast Region which aspires to become a center of quality and excellence and which mission is to provide quality educational experiences to transform lives for worthy service.

The project involves providing a consultant to work with the University for three months (90 days) in setting up an experimental research aquaculture project for teaching purposes.

### **The Objectives of the Project**

The objective of this volunteer assignment is to have an expert volunteer assist the administration of TU to set up an aquaculture experimental project for teaching purposes. The volunteer will provide advice on whether the site selected for the project is a good one, determine whether the salinity of water can support different fish types, and determine types and regularity of giving fish feed. This aquaculture project when set would be of benefit to students in life sciences. Where the students learn the rudiments of aquaculture, this project shall also provide career opportunities.

### **Project Activities:**

- Work with about two classes of 30 students and faculty and staff to set up an experimental research aquaculture site
- Work with TU staff responsible for fishery project to write a fact sheet on fish farming
- Submit a final report on the assignment and training during a debriefing session before departing for home
- Make recommendations intended for the host that are easily understood and easily adaptable (using available resources) as part of the final end of assignment report
- Volunteer will be briefed at the beginning of the assignment and debriefed at the close of assignment.

## **Deliverables**

- A simple-to-read and understand fact sheet on fish farming
- An experimental research aquaculture site suited for teaching purpose is set up
- Final report including recommendations relevant to the project submitted to F2F and TU
- Briefing before the start of assignment and debriefing at the close of assignment departure for home

## **Indicators for the Evaluation of Impact-**

Key indicators for the evaluation of impact for the assignment include a fishery project that is functional and managed in a way that productivity is high. Additionally, the project accrues some net income over and above what is expended, and the adaption rate of volunteer recommendations will be indicators for evaluation of impact. A higher score of the host by the F2F organizational development indicator (ODI) after 30 months, due among others, to the host's ability to adapt volunteer recommendations is also another indicator for evaluation. Monitoring visits will be made by F2F staff to ensure host implements volunteer recommendations and improvements resulting from such adaptations will be recorded.

## **Organization Profile:**

**Staffing infrastructure:** TU is staffed with internationally recognized professors and teaching staff from Egypt, Liberia, Nigeria, Guinea, Jamaica, Sierra Leone, Ghana, the Philippines and the United States.

**Beneficiaries:**

## a. Direct beneficiaries:

College of Agriculture

female 54

male - 249

## c. Indirect beneficiaries:

1082 students of the University

350 faculty, staff, and administrators of the University

300 people from Grand Cavalla Village

A Number of families in Barrobo

**Expected Outcomes**

- An aquaculture experimental research site is established for TU
- 60 persons acquire knowledge in aquaculture or fish farming through on-site and classroom training
- Participants know the ideal environmental conditions to support fish breeding
- Participants know the required feed type for selected fish breed, adequate feed rations needed for faster growth
- Participants are capable of using locally available resources to formulate fish feed

**Expected Results/Impact:**

The overall objective of the assignment is to assist TU to set up an experimental aquaculture project for research and teaching purposes. This experimental and research site would provide an opportunity for students to acquire the practical and hands on research experience they would need in future places of work upon graduation whether for themselves or other institutions; this would ultimately engender an increase in food production and enhance rural economic growth.

**USAID Regional Objectives**

This assignment will provide an opportunity for expert Americans to transfer aquaculture skills to young Liberians that would help to address the issues of research based fish farming, local food security and nutrition, and incomes for farming households who may want to do fish farming for a living.

**Host Organization**

Name: William V.S. Tubman University

Primary Contact: Dr. Elizabeth Q. Enanoria Carbajosa

Cell: +231-886-709-955

Email: [eeanoriacarbajosa@tubmanu.edu.lr](mailto:eeanoriacarbajosa@tubmanu.edu.lr)

Secondary Contact: Dr. Barbara Simmons

Cell: +231-886-749-174 (Dr. Simmons)

Email : [bsimmons@tubmanu.edu.lr](mailto:bsimmons@tubmanu.edu.lr)

Address: Tubman University, Maryland County, Liberia

**Contact Persons:**

Patrick M. Yattoh

Program Manager

Farmer to Farmer

ACDI/VOCA-Liberia

Cell #: (231)776-814-506; E-mail [pyattoh@acdivoca-lib.org](mailto:pyattoh@acdivoca-lib.org)

David Parker

Chief of Party

Livelihood Improvement for Farming Enterprise (LIFE III) Program

ACDI/VOCA-Liberia Cell # (231) 775532097; E-mail: [dparker@acdivoca-lib.org](mailto:dparker@acdivoca-lib.org)

**Washington Headquarters' contacts:**

Ashley Dean

Project Coordinator

ACDI/VOCA Washington, DC USA

Tel # (202)688-4725 E-mail: [ADean@acdivoca.org](mailto:ADean@acdivoca.org)

Diana Boni Shipman

Recruiter, Volunteer Program

ACDI/VOCA Washington, DC USA

Tel# (202) 469-6182 E-mail: [Dboni@acdivoca.org](mailto:Dboni@acdivoca.org)

Helen Ryan

Recruitment Assistant, Volunteer Programs

Tel: +1 202 469-6218, Fax: +1 202 469 6257: [hryan@acdivoca.org](mailto:hryan@acdivoca.org)

50 F Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20001

[www.acdivoca.org](http://www.acdivoca.org)