



**Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow (ALOFT) Farmer-to-Farmer Program for Southeast Asia
Volunteer Scope of Work - Philippines**

Assignment Summary Information	
Host ID:	PH_007
Country:	Philippines
Host Organization:	CPSU
Assignment Title:	Training of Trainers on Carbon Sequestration Assessment
Assignment Dates:	October 2024
Type of Assignment	In person
Area of Technical Assistance:	Extension and Advisory Services
Associated Area(s) of Technical Assistance	Climate-Smart Agriculture and Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship
Target Value Chain:	Horticulture, Agritourism
Objectives of the assignment:	• To equip the CPSU main, Victorias and other campuses' Extension Services and Agriculture Faculties and other CPSU partners technical staff with knowledge and skills necessary to assess the carbon adsorption capacity of both mangrove and terrestrial trees and understand the mechanics of carbon credits. • To support the development of a plan to sell carbon credits at the university and community level • To strengthen awareness of the important role of trees in sustainable agroforestry and agroecosystems
Desired volunteer skill/expertise	• B.S. or higher degree in environmental science, environmental management, forestry, agriculture, agroecology, or a related field. • Experience with carbon sequestration projects, carbon credit schemes, agroforestry and/or related environmental initiatives • Hands-on experience with carbon measurement, monitoring, and reporting • Expertise in capacity-building and training, especially with a variety of groups such as faculty, extension agents, and farmers.
PERSUAP Classification ^{1[1]}	III

^{1[1]} USAID precisely classifies PERSUAP in four categories; **PERSUAP Type I** assignments directly related to pesticides recommendations, **Type II** as assignments with indirectly related with pesticides, **Type III** assignments are not expected to be involved in pesticide issues. and **Type IV** as assignments associated with other USAID projects and collaborators.

Anticipated number of people to be trained	Men 10	Women 10	Youth (15-29) 15
Will the assignment address gender gaps? (Yes/No) If yes, please describe in assignment background & rationale			Yes
Will the assignment address climate change? (Yes/No) If yes, please describe in assignment background & rationale			Yes

A. Project Overview

Country Strategy Overview

The University of Tennessee's (UT) "Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow" (ALOFT) regional Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) program for Southeast Asia supports youth-led and youth-serving institutions to build more resilient and inclusive food systems. Through F2F, U.S. specialists spend two to three weeks on specific technical assignments, working directly with counterparts in the region to address local needs. ALOFT's demand-driven voluntary technical assistance will be delivered in four primary areas: 1) climate-smart agriculture; 2) agricultural entrepreneurship and agribusinesses; 3) agricultural education; and 4) extension and advisory services. Locally appropriate technical assistance will be provided to a range of host-organizations, including farmer cooperatives, vocational training centers, extension services, and agribusinesses. The University of Tennessee, country ALOFT teams, and established host-organizations will provide the necessary logistical, technical, and material assistance to position volunteers to successfully carry out the exchange of knowledge with communities.

The ALOFT Philippines initiative aims to enhance the agroecotourism industry and the value chains of fruits, vegetables, small livestock, and aquaculture by providing demand-driven technical support. In order to provide significant and locally relevant voluntary technical assistance to a variety of host-organizations, such as farmer cooperatives, vocational training centers, extension services, and agribusinesses, ALOFT Philippines will work closely with Central Philippine State University (CPSU). In addition to strengthening agricultural education and extension services, increasing access to financial services for youth and women in particular, and supporting agricultural entrepreneurship and small-business growth, technical assistance will encourage smallholders to adopt climate-smart agriculture (CSA).

Host Organization Background

Central Philippine State University (CPSU) is a public higher education institution located just outside Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental, with eleven additional satellite campuses throughout the province. In addition to providing quality education to over 14,000 students across all campuses each



year, CPSU offers extension programs that address various socio-economic and environmental needs of the surrounding communities.

Among the issues addressed by these programs are forest denudation, soil fertility depletion, and dwindling water supply during long dry spells. At the CPSU main campus, out of 52 natural springs, only 15 had water during a recent El Nino. In response to these growing issues and concerns, CPSU's extension offices have initiated forest and fruit tree growing and conservation projects in both terrestrial and mangrove areas. The main campus spans a total land area of 4,563.7 hectares, of which a large part is farmed by local farmers. The university continuously plants fruit and forest trees in the areas it directly manages and encourages farmers-tillers to do the same. Approximately 800 hectares of the main campus are covered with both naturally grown and planted trees. Additionally, the Victorias City Campus collaborates with a coastal community association and the local government of Barangay 6-A and the City to rehabilitate and protect 11 hectares of mangrove areas. Other campuses are also engaged in similar projects in partnership with local communities and government units.

Assignment Background and Rationale

CPSU university leadership believes that more people will be persuaded to grow trees if they are well informed about the benefits trees provide, such as their capacity to store water and facilitate groundwater replenishment. That said, an important role of trees is the absorption of carbon dioxide, which can help mitigate climate change. However, this benefit is often not given much importance because it is not easily quantified or expressed in monetary terms. Additionally, many people are unaware of the potential for income generation through carbon credits associated with tree planting. Aims to persuade more farming communities, business establishments, local government units, and other key stakeholders to participate in the program of tree growing and conservation are vital to ensure the survival of future generations. Therefore, CPSU is focused on enhancing the capacity of its extension faculties to effectively support this mission.

Overall, the university wants to help the people of Negros Island and other regions of the nation by offering technical extension services. To better facilitate this work, CPSU asks for F2F volunteer technical support to increase the ability of its Extension and Agriculture faculties to evaluate trees' capability to absorb carbon dioxide and comprehend carbon credits. Additionally, they would like more information and support as to how they might generate additional revenue through the sale of carbon credits. The goal of this initiative is to get more stakeholders to take part in conservation and tree planting activities around the CPSU campuses and other communities that its partners serve. This assignment will cover both fruit tree crops at the main CPSU campus as well as mangrove forests located near the satellite campus of CPSU Victorias.

The fruit trees grown at the CPSU campus are avocado, cacao, coffee, jackfruit, banana, star apple, mango, rambutan, lanzones and chico. While the forest trees includes among others molave, narra, aluwihaw and dau

B. Desired Qualifications of Volunteer

- B.S. or higher degree in environmental science, environmental management, forestry, agriculture, agroecology, or a related field.
- Experience with carbon sequestration projects, carbon credit schemes, agroforestry and/or related environmental initiatives
- Hands-on experience with carbon measurement, monitoring, and reporting
- Expertise in capacity-building and training, especially with a variety of groups such as faculty, extension agents, and farmers.

C. Objectives and Expected Results***Objectives of the Assignment***

1. To equip the CPSU main, Victorias and other campuses' Extension and Agriculture Faculties and other CPSU partner-organizations' technical staff with knowledge and skills necessary to assess the carbon adsorption capacity of both mangrove and terrestrial trees and understand the mechanics of carbon credits.
2. To support the development of a plan to sell carbon credits at the university and community level
3. To strengthen awareness of the important role of trees in sustainable agroforestry and agroecosystems

Anticipated Results

After F2F volunteer support, the following results shall have been achieved:

- Enhanced technical expertise of CPSU's Extension and Agriculture Faculties, along with technical staff from partner organizations, to assess the carbon absorption capacity of both mangrove and terrestrial trees during the practicum.
- The participants will gain thorough understanding of the mechanics of carbon credits, enabling them to effectively guide and educate others in the community.
- The development of a draft plan by which the university and/or the local community could implement a carbon credit program

Expected Deliverables

- Volunteer end-of-assignment report with recommendations to the host institutions
- Final debriefing with the host organization (plus key stakeholders) and the Smith Center



- Conduct in-country outreach events in the Philippines (print, radio, TV presentations, social media, etc.)

D. Materials & Translation

The available materials related to carbon sequestration is the Department of Environment Natural Resources Order No. 2021-43 - **Guidelines on the establishment of the carbon accounting, verification, and certification system (CAVCS) for forest carbon projects.**

For the lectures, mostly the materials being accessed through google. No standard reference materials yet used in the university.

Level of material translation services needed for this assignment:

- ☐ All training materials will need to be translated prior to arrival (powerpoints, handouts, etc)
- ☐ Some training materials will need to be translated (describe below)
- ☒ No translation of materials needed

E. Resources to be Contributed by Host and Local Partners

As the host organization, CPSU will assign staff to support volunteers in implementing the proposed SOW activities. Additionally, CPSU will designate a focal person from Victorias City Campus to work closely with the volunteer, coordinating engagement with other organizations that will participate in the training activities with the volunteer. CPSU will also provide an office space with Wi-Fi access for the volunteer to use during the assignment.

F. Assignment Logistics and Itinerary*

Accommodations and Logistics

Volunteers should review the country orientation manual and video series for extensive logistics information including pre-departure planning, expense reimbursements, health management, safety & security, and emergency protocols.

Key Points:

- Hotels and airfare will be booked by ALOFT Smith Center and reservation details will be provided to the volunteer before arrival in the Philippines. Hotels will offer air-conditioning, wireless internet, and proximity to local food options.

- ALOFT Smith Center will reimburse all assignment-related travel expenses
- The ALOFT Philippines team and/or the host organization will provide transport to assignment site
- All assignment sites will have access to local restaurants taxi and other local transportation available
- Any logistic concerns can be addressed to ALOFT Smith Center using the contact information located in Section F.

Recommended Preparation

- Complete volunteer orientation series
- Review volunteer orientation manual
- Complete volunteer pre-departure checklist
- Bring any videos, posters, PowerPoints, or other materials that are important to your training and activities. If they are in English, please send them to the field staff at least 2 weeks before your assignment to be translated. We recommend you bring these materials on both a USB flash drive and hardcopy.
- Please bring any specialized tools/equipment with you as there may be limited options for acquiring them at the assignment site.
- The ALOFT country office has laptops, Microsoft Office, a projector/ television, flash drives, and other materials that can be used for training and workshops.
- Download [country specific] messenger app to maintain contact with volunteer partner

General Itinerary

*subject to change based on the needs of the host.

Day(s)	Activity	Location
1 st and 2 nd day	Travel from the USA	
3 rd day	Meeting the CPSU assigned staff and focal persons to discuss scope of work and itinerary for the entire engagement period.	CPSU Victorias Campus or Bacolod
4 th and 5 th day	The volunteer conducts field inspections and observations at the mangrove area in Victorias and Terrestrial Trees in CPSU Main Campus to see the current status of trees. This will include connecting to	Barangay VI-A Victorias City and Brgy. Camingawan, Kabankalan City

	groups with ongoing activities related to carbon credits.	
5 th day to 7 th day	Training Day Actual training to 30 participants (CPSU extension and Agriculture Department staff/faculty, young farmers and adult farmers). The topics may cover but are not limited to: 1. Basic concept – the science behind carbon sequestration by trees 2. Factors affecting the trees' capacity to sequester carbon (species, tree age and growth stage, tree biomass and density, etc) 3. Carbon sequestration duration 4. Data collection method 5. Carbon credits and market valuation Can input additional topics from the potential volunteer once identified.	CPSU
8 th -9 th days	Weekend schedule	
10 th to 11 th	Practicum on actual measurement of carbon absorbed by trees both in mangroves and forest/fruit trees.	Victorias and Main Campuses
12 th 13 th	Work on the trip report and recommendations. Complete any additional deliverables as necessary.	CPSU Main Campus
14 th day	Wrap up meeting with host organization representatives	
15 th day	Travel back to the USA	

E. USAID Classification of Volunteer Assistance and Activities

Primary classification for volunteer assistance (select one)

☒ Technology Transfer

☐ Organizational Development



- ☐ Business/Enterprise Development
- ☐ Financial Services
- ☐ Environmental Conservation
- ☐ Administrative

The primary classification of the type of value chain activity (select one)

- X Information and Input Support Services (extension services, input supplies, veterinary services, etc.)
- ☐ On-Farm Production
- ☐ Processing (primary and final product transformation, storage, transportation, etc.)
- ☐ Marketing (branding, advertising, promotion, distribution, sales, etc.)