



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

Assignment Summary Information			
Host ID:	PH_009		
Country:	Philippines		
Host Organization:	College of Agriculture, La Carlota City College		
Assignment Title:	Soil Fertility Depletion		
Assignment Dates:	Fall 2024		
Type of Assignment	Remote or In-person		
Area of Technical Assistance:	Climate-smart agriculture		
Associated Area(s) of Technical Assistance	Extension and advisory services, Agricultural education		
Target Value Chain:	High Value Vegetables		
Objectives of the assignment:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance faculty and student expertise in advanced soil fertility management, including improved organic and sustainable soil management practices. 2. Develop a localized soil fertility manual for vegetable growers, emphasizing the use of locally available materials and resources 3. Integrate advanced soil fertility practices into the BS Agriculture curriculum, ensuring practical education to address the country's current farmland challenges. 		
Desired volunteer skill/expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Master's degree in Soil Science, Agronomy, or a related field, with a strong focus on soil fertility management and sustainable agriculture practices. ● Hands-on experience in soil fertility management, soil rehabilitation and organic farming. ● Has training and teaching experience and ability to design and deliver effective workshops and educational activities with students, faculty and farmers. ● Has good communication and interpersonal skills. 		
PERSUAP Classification ^{1[1]}	II		
Anticipated number of people to be trained	Men	Women	Youth (15-29)
	12	13	20
Will the assignment address gender gaps? (Yes/No) If yes, please describe in assignment background & rationale			Yes

^{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.



Will the assignment address climate change? (Yes/No) If yes, please describe in assignment background & rationale	Yes
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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.

Through demand-driven technical assistance, the ALOFT Philippines project seeks to strengthen the fruit, vegetables, small livestock, and aquaculture value chains and agrotourism sector. ALOFT Philippines will collaborate closely with Central Philippine State University (CPSU) to deliver impactful and locally appropriate voluntary technical assistance to a range of host-organizations, including farmer cooperatives, vocational training centers, extension services, and agribusinesses. Technical assistance will promote the adoption of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) by smallholders, strengthen extension services and agricultural education, expand access to financial services, particularly youth and women, and support agricultural entrepreneurship and small-business growth.

Host Organization Background

La Carlota City College (LCCC) was founded on November 24, 1966 as the first institution of its kind outside Manila. LCCC was established with the mission of providing access to higher education for the college-bound youth of La Carlota and neighboring communities, many of whom had limited or no access to such opportunities.

LCCC began its operations in the 1967-1968 school year with 293 students, 12 instructors (3 full-time and 9 part-time), and a single two-story building with five classrooms.



Today, LCCC has grown significantly, with an average student population exceeding 6,900. The faculty and staff have expanded from the original 12 to over 250 members. The campus has also grown from one building to over 20, with 75 classrooms spread across its Main and Cubay campuses. Initially offering just four courses—Secretarial, Education, Engineering, and Commerce—LCCC now provides a diverse array of academic programs, including doctoral and master’s degrees, 11 baccalaureate courses, and two associate programs in Agriculture and Criminology.

The LCCC has an overall student body of around 7,000, of which 650 are pursuing an agricultural bachelor's degree. The college also has an adopted farming community near the campus where it provides technical support to the farmers in developing their farms.

Assignment Background and Rationale

The LCCC College of Agriculture operates a laboratory farm where students gain hands-on experience in vegetable production. Typically, the farm grows okra, pechay (bok choy), string beans and malabar spinach. However, the soil on this farm has become depleted of nutrients, resulting in poor vegetable growth despite favorable weather conditions, such as sufficient rainfall, abundant sunlight, and minimal climatic disturbances. To address this challenge, the college aims to provide its faculty, students, and assisted farmers with a more meaningful and practical experience by involving them directly in the process of soil rehabilitation.

By improving soil fertility and boosting vegetable production, the college seeks to enhance the capabilities of students, faculty, and farmers in soil fertility management, with a strong emphasis on utilizing locally available materials—a critical foundation for achieving highly productive and sustainable vegetable farming. Additionally, the college is committed to promoting gender equality by involving more women in the project's capacity-building activities. The project also aims to address climate change by adopting minimal tillage practices in vegetable farming.

B. Desired Qualifications of Volunteer

- Master's degree in Soil Science, Agronomy, or a related field, with a strong focus on soil fertility management and sustainable agriculture practices.
- Hands-on experience in soil fertility management, soil rehabilitation and organic farming.
- Has training and teaching experience and ability to design and deliver effective workshops and educational activities with students, faculty and farmers.
- Has good communication and interpersonal skills.

C. Objectives and Expected Results

Objectives of the Assignment



1. Enhance faculty and student expertise in advanced soil fertility management, including improved organic and sustainable soil management practices.
2. Develop a localized soil fertility manual for vegetable growers, emphasizing the use of locally available materials and resources
3. Integrate advanced soil fertility practices into the BS Agriculture curriculum, ensuring practical education to address the country's current farmland challenges.

Anticipated Results

1. The students, faculty and some assisted farmers will acquire soil fertility management knowledge, skills and attitude through theoretical inputting and actual field demonstration.
2. The students, faculty and some assisted farmers will perform actual soil improvement technologies in the college farm laboratory farm.
3. Volunteer will draft a localized soil fertility manual for vegetable growers, emphasizing the use of locally available materials.
4. Volunteer will draft a training curriculum on soil fertility management for integration to the BS Agriculture curriculum that can help address the country's current farmland challenges.

Expected Deliverables

1. Final copy of the approved localized soil fertility manual for vegetable growers, emphasizing the use of locally available materials.
2. Final version of training curriculum on soil fertility management for integration to the BS Agriculture curriculum addressing the country's current farmland challenges.
3. Volunteer end-of-assignment report with recommendations to the host institutions
4. Final debriefing with the host organization and key stakeholders
5. Conduct in-country outreach events in the Philippines (print, radio, TV presentations, social media, etc.)

D. Materials & Translation

The available reference material at the college is the book *Fertility and Fertilizers*.

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



D. Resources to be Contributed by Host and Local Partners

The Host Organization can contribute the following:

- Transportation
- Interpreter
- Cost of trainings and other logistical requirements
- Farm inputs/material for actual field demonstration on soil fertility improvement. There is an on-going effort to establish a vermi-composting facility. Also, there is a sugar mill nearby that the school can request for a supply of mudpress (sugarcane milling waste).

E. 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 and rickshaw/taxi transportation
- 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, flash drives, and other materials that can be used for training and workshops.
- Download WhatsApp messenger app to maintain contact with volunteer partner

General Itinerary

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

Day(s)	Activity	Location
October 26	Arrival in Bacolod either from Clark or Manila. Stay 1 night in Bacolod and meet the ALOFT Team	Bacolod City
October 27	Travel to La Carlota City and check in at the hotel	La Carlota City
October 28 A.M.	Meeting the CPSU - ALOFT Country Coordinator and Host Organization focal persons to discuss scope of work and itinerary for the entire engagement period.	La Carlota City College Board Room
P.M.	The volunteer conducts field for ocular assessment of the farm laboratory site and performs interview and discussion with the faculty in-charge.	College of Agriculture Campus in Barangay Cubay, La Carlota City
October 29	The volunteer will review and update the training program based on its actual assessment results of the site and interviews.	Dean's office of the College of Agriculture
October 30 to 31	Conduct of theoretical trainings on soil fertility management	Farm laboratory
Nov 1 to 3	Holiday and weekend	
November 4 and 5	Actual field application/demonstration of soil fertility management technologies/measures	
November 6-7	Preparation of the Localized Soil Fertility Management Manual	Dean's office
November 8	The volunteer will prepare trip report and recommendations	Dean's office or at the hotel
November 9	Final debriefing and submission of the report with recommendations	Dean's office or at the Board Room



Nov. 10	Departure from the Host Organization.	
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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)

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.)

F. Key Contacts

ALOFT Smith Center	
Morgan Owens Farmer-to-Farmer Program Manager – US, Smith International Center 103 McCord Hall, 2640 Morgan Circle Dr Knoxville, TN 37996 865-974-6960 Email: mowens48@utk.edu	Gracie Pekarcik Farmer-to-Farmer Program Manager – SEA, Smith International Center 101 McCord Hall, 2640 Morgan Circle Dr Knoxville, TN 37996 865-974-7747 Email: gpekarci@utk.edu
ALOFT Philippines	
Name: Dr. Manny Palada Ph.D. Farmer-to-Farmer Country Director, CPSU Address: Main Campus, Barangay Camingawan, Kabankalan City Email: mpalada@gmail.com	
Host Organization:	



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