

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: Winrock International

PROGRAM TITLE: West African Farmer-To-Farmer (F2f)

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM

Farmer-To-Farmer Program

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The Winrock International West Africa Farmer-to-Farmer Program is a capacity-building initiative that aims to improve agricultural practices and increase the productivity of smallholder farmers in West Africa. The program is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Winrock International.

The West African Farmer-to-Farmer is implemented in Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, and Senegal. However, this evaluation proposal will focus on the Farmer-Farmer program completed in Port Harcourt Nigeria hosted by Tammy's International Women in Agriculture Empowerment Association (TIWAEA).

The Farmer-to-Farmer program allows U.S. citizens to share their skills and experience with individuals, organizations, and businesses worldwide.

The US citizens who are volunteer experts in various agricultural fields work with local farmers, cooperatives, and other stakeholders to share their knowledge and skills through hands-on training and technical assistance.

The Farmer-to-Farmer program aligns with Winrock International's mission to empower the disadvantaged, increase economic opportunity, and sustain natural resources. According to Winrock International, this is not only central to what they do, but how they do it.

Number Of Assignments Completed

Since 1991, Winrock International's volunteers have completed over 6,600 assignments in 59 countries. However, this evaluation is focused on the volunteers' assignments that were carried out in Port Harcourt Rivers State, Nigeria with the topic: "Integrating Gender Issues into Agriculture Extension Services"

Nature of Assignments and Expected Outcomes

These citizens from the US are required to donate their time and knowledge as volunteers, which in turn, should directly improve the lives of others in West Africa.

These Volunteers from the USA have supported women and youth entrepreneurs, food and agriculture businesses, schools and training centers, and farmers enabling them to earn more income, feed their communities, and gain new jobs.

As a people-to-people exchange, volunteers are supposed to benefit as well.

Professionally, this is an opportunity to adapt, share, and deepen experience and skills in a different context. On a personal level, volunteers leave their assignments knowing that they had a positive impact and often have built lasting relationships.

Winrock International Farmer-To-Farmer Program Hosted By Tammy's International Women In Agriculture Empowerment Association

The Winrock International Farmer-to-Farmer training hosted by Tammy's International Women In Agriculture Empowerment Association was carried out in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria in 2022 with the topic: Integrating Gender Issues Into Agriculture Extension Services.

Mainstreaming gender equity was one of the strategic objectives of the training as the funder, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), as well as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations envisioning a world free of hunger and malnutrition, its strategic framework places gender equity alongside "traditional" key concerns such as raising levels of nutrition and the sustainable intensification of crop production. Rural women make up the majority of the world's poor. They have the world's lowest levels of schooling and the highest rates of illiteracy. In all developing regions, female-headed rural households are among the poorest of the poor.

Gender inequalities along the entire food production chain, "from farm to plate" impede the attainment of food and nutritional security. Gender inequalities in access to productive resources (land, labor, fertilizer, credit, technology, extension, and markets) for example, can negatively affect food availability.

Gender relations between and among men and women are important in determining vulnerability to food insecurity and malnutrition. Gender discrimination in the allocation of household resources, including those related to nutrition may result in an increased incidence of malnutrition among women and girls: this may be compounded in times of crisis.

Other differences such as age, wealth, ethnicity, and caste interplay with gender to determine food and nutrition security outcomes. Therefore, the training was an opportunity to provide insights and solutions to several issues that affect women in Agriculture in developing countries.

Purpose of Evaluation of the Farmer-to-Farmer Program (F2F)

The purpose of this qualitative and quantitative study is to evaluate the impact of the Winrock International Farmer-to-Farmer program hosted by Tammy's International Women in Agriculture Empowerment Association in Port Harcourt, Rivers State Nigeria. Specifically,

1. In what ways would participants change as a result of the Farmer-to-Farmer program? Immediately (i.e., knowledge, attitudes, and skills)? In one to three years (i.e., application of knowledge and skills, behavioral changes or resources)?
2. In what ways (expected or unexpected) will the program efforts contribute to the host organization and the participants?
3. How will the Farmer-to-Farmer program achieve the immediate changes stated in Question #1?
4. What evidence will demonstrate that the program was implemented as planned in terms of resources (human, organizational, financial, etc.)?

Evaluation Timeline

The evaluation can be conducted within one month and will involve collecting feedback and insights from the program host and participants in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria using interview protocols and surveys.

Approach/Methodology

Design

The Farmer-to-Farmer program will be evaluated using mixed method designs of both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods such as focus groups (Interview protocol) and survey instruments (questionnaire) to collect data from both participants and the host organization to assess the impacts, outcomes, and effectiveness of the Farmer-to-Farmer program.

Approach

50 participants will be recruited from among 100 participants who took part in the program both online and in-person participants. While 30 participants shall be selected from the in-person participants, and 20 shall be selected from online participants after they are identified through the organizations that hosted the training, a rapport will be established with them, and their confidentiality assured before the evaluation instruments are administered after getting their informed consent.

Sampling

A random sampling method will be employed in this study to gather data by randomly selecting 50 participants out of 100 participants in both the online and physical training in Port Harcourt Rivers State, Nigeria.

Instrument

The participants will be randomly placed into 5 groups of 10 participants each. In this study, interview protocol and questionnaire will be used, divided into two (2) sections, A, and B for the collection of data.

Section A will contain demographic information such as age, gender, religion, marital status, and educational level.

Section B will contain a structured questionnaire developed to measure the quantitative impacts of Farmer-to-Farmer training hosted by Tammy's International Women in Agriculture Association in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Focus Group/Survey

There will be five (5) focus groups of 10 participants each, the data collection method will involve the use of Zoom video call or Google Meet call, and the interview protocols to be administered to the same group of participants after obtaining the consent of all participants and each session interview session shall be recorded with the consent of the participants also.

Questions (Interview protocol) for all focus groups shall include:

1. What did you appreciate about the F2F volunteers' approach and methods to technology transfer, skills training, and experience sharing?

2. How have you integrated the training into your agricultural work? What motivated you to do so?
3. What continued challenges do you face in your Agriculture work and has the F2F training assisted you in tackling them in any way?
4. Since working with F2F, what have you viewed as your greatest accomplishment?
5. What effect, if any, has COVID-19 had on your products and services as a provider of AET and your ability to implement F2F volunteer recommendations?

Survey Instrument (questionnaire) shall include:

1. What additional resources were leveraged or accessed by the host due to F2F assistance? (This includes new funding, partnerships, equipment, etc. that the host received from in-country sources not from the US as a result of F2F assistance).
 - Previous Resources (US\$):
 - Describe any new resources leveraged:
 - Value of new resources (US\$):
 - Total value of previous resources plus current resources (US\$):
2. Were any resources donated from the US or any ongoing partnerships established with US entities after the assignment was completed? (This includes any materials or funds that the volunteer or others contributed to the host from the US, after the assignment. This does not include things that the volunteer donated during the assignment)
 - a. Description of new partnership(s) and/or resources leveraged:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - b. value (US\$), if available:
 - c. Total (previous resources + current resources (US\$):
3. Have there been continued US volunteer and participant connections?
Please describe:

How frequently? weekly, twice weekly, monthly, or yearly:

With what method do you communicate with the volunteer?

By phone, email, or social media:
4. Has the host or participants adopted new or improved agricultural production technologies or practices as a result of F2F training?
 - Please describe the nature of the new or improved technologies and or practices:

- What is the area of land affected by the new or improved technologies and or practices?:

Statistical Analysis

The data collected from the focus group discussions will be analyzed using qualitative techniques, the qualitative data will identify common themes, patterns, and trends. Data collected using survey instruments on the other hand will be analyzed using descriptive statistics to measure the monetary values, and frequency of communication between the US Volunteers and the participants as a result of the training.

The overall evaluation will focus on assessing the changes in knowledge, skills, resources, and practices of participants and the host organization as a result of their engagement with the Winrock International Farmer-to-Farmer program. The data will be used to measure the impact and effectiveness of the program in achieving its objectives and addressing the needs of smallholder farmers of Tammy's International Women in Agriculture Empowerment Association in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Using focus groups would offer a valuable opportunity to gather in-depth, qualitative insights from a diverse group of participants in a structured and interactive setting. By using a focus group approach, the evaluation of the Farmer-to-Farmer program will be able to capture a range of perspectives, experiences, and opinions on the program from different stakeholders whereas The quantitative data collected through questionnaires will provide rich insights into the program's numerical impact in terms of frequency of communication between US Volunteers and participants. In all, the effectiveness and impacts of the program, and areas for improvement in the implementation of the Farmer-to-Farmer program in the future shall be outlined from this evaluation efforts.

Result

The result of this evaluation shall cover the program's impact and effectiveness on participants as well as the host organization (Tammy's International Women In Agriculture Empowerment Association) and suggest areas for improvement in the implementation of the Farmer-to-Farmer program in the future in Nigeria and throughout West Africa.

The result of this evaluation is relevant to all stakeholders of the Farmer-to-Farmer program with recommendations for the funder (USAID), the implementing organization (Winrock International), and the host organization (Tammy's International Women In Agriculture Association).

Limitations

A limitation of this study is the fact that the study will be based on self-report. Hence, random bias is inevitable, invariably affecting the quality of data.

References

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