Agriculture and Nutrition Development Worker (Ethiopia): Peace Corps

Volunteers participating in the Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Project make it a priority to teach smallholder farmers new and improved techniques in home gardening, poultry, beekeeping, and nutrition. As Agriculture and Nutrition Development Workers serving in rural villages, Volunteers help improve farmers' food security.

Agriculture and Nutrition Development Workers are assigned to farmers' training centers located in small towns ranging from 500-3,000 inhabitants. Working with local Development Agents, Agriculture and Nutrition Development Workers work directly with smallholder farming families to increase the availability of diverse and nutritious foods; resulting in farming families improving their nutrition and food security.

Apply by: June 1, 2019, Know by June 15, 2019 if you are going forward into an interview. Departs by January 17, 2020.

<u>Sustainable Agriculture Volunteer (Tanzania)</u>: Peace Corps

Sustainable Agriculture Volunteers introduce improved technologies to maximize crop production, diversify farming, encourage appropriate agricultural practices, and create new opportunities for farmers. Through training and capacity building, Peace Corps Tanzania's Sustainable Agriculture project promotes food security, sustainable livelihoods, and increased resilience. Volunteers mobilize community leaders, identify community counterparts and work with community-based organizations interested in learning new and improved ways of farming. They support awareness raising and play the role of catalyst.

Apply by: June 1, 2019, Know by June 15, 2019 if you are going forward into an interview. Departs by Feb 3, 2020.

Agriculture and Forestry Extension Agent (LIFE) and Agriculture Extension Agent (Rural Aquaculture) (Zambia): Peace Corps

Volunteers who have served in Zambia consider it to be the "quintessential Peace Corps experience" due to living in the most rural communities, the warmth and friendliness of the Zambian people and the supportive professional environment in which they work.

The Rural Aquaculture Promotion (RAP) project is focused primarily on the principles and practices of rural-based, small-scale, integrated agriculture technologies. Volunteers collaborate with Zambia's Department of Fisheries with the goal of improving nutrition and rural livelihoods through fish farming. They live in rural farming communities and provide intensive extension services aimed at increasing farmer capacities to successfully build and manage fishponds to increase production and incomes. Volunteers teach and assist farmers in technical aspects such as site selection, pond construction, stocking, management, and harvesting. They also seek to enhance the integration of fish farming with other agricultural activities such as gardening, animal husbandry, fruit trees, and agro-forestry.

For farmers who are interested in scaling up their activities, Volunteers also provide training in basic business skills such as planning, record keeping, and marketing. In addition, Volunteers teach members of households the importance of improving nutrition by using more food groups and meals that include fish.

Given that 40% of natural water resources in Southern African Sub-region are found in Zambia, fisheries

and aquaculture has gained increasing attention as a sub-sector that has potential to uplift food security, nutrition and income levels of people. Volunteers working on this project have an opportunity to transfer new or improved integrated aquaculture-agriculture-related knowledge, skills, and attitudes directly to smallholder farmers.

Apply by July 1, 2019, Know by Sept 1, 2019, Depart by March 9, 2020

<u>Agriculture Extension Volunteer (Madagascar)</u>: Peace Corps

At least 80 percent of Malagasy people are farmers living on less than one US dollar per day. Poor infrastructure limits access to much of the island's arable land. The Government of Madagascar (GoM) has limited agricultural extension capacity, leaving an important gap in the GoM's ability to empower small-holder famers and households with important skills for ensuring sustainable and diverse food production. Notably, there is a lack of capacity in bio-intensive production and low-cost, asset based soil management to maximize food production on limited land. Additionally, capacity is limited in low-cost, asset-based water management skills essential for managing erratic rain events, or periods of prolonged drought or rainfall.

Food insecurity is significant in Madagascar. According to UNICEF, Madagascar is one of the 10 countries in the world with the highest burden of chronic malnutrition, and one of the 20 countries where 90 percent of the world's stunted children live. Acute malnutrition among children under five varies from 10 percent to 20 percent in the country's most vulnerable regions during the 'lean season' when food supplies are limited. Research has shown that alleviating stunting among children under two, through improved availability and access to nutritious food every day, has dramatic effects on cognitive function, language and behavioral development, and significantly contributes to overall reductions in morbidity and mortality.

To address food production and household nutrition needs, Peace Corps Madagascar's Food Security Project builds capacity of household decision makers, gardeners, and farmers to create and maintain bio-intensive, daily-access, climate-smart growing spaces that produce nutrient-dense food for family consumption.

The purpose of Peace Corps Madagascar's agriculture project is to improve food and nutrition security for Malagasy households.

Apply by: July 1, 2019, Know by Sept 1, 2019, Depart by March 2, 2020

Rural Development Facilitator (Guatemala): Peace Corps

Guatemala faces high rates of food insecurity that disproportionally affect vulnerable populations living in rural areas. The government of Guatemala is working to meet the challenges of food insecurity by strengthening its national extension system, which is a system focused on rural development initiatives. Specialists working within this system have expertise in the areas of agriculture, animal husbandry, home health and economics. While these specialists have strong technical expertise for their position, they often lack formal training on the teaching and group development methodologies necessary to effectively empower communities. Additionally, community promoters, who hold an important role in sharing new knowledge with fellow farmers, do not always understand their role and lack the skills necessary to provide the support and leadership required of them. Therefore, Volunteers do not need to be subject-matter experts themselves. Rather, Volunteers support the work of the specialists and community promotors by providing training, support and mentorship that will help them transfer their knowledge more effectively.

Volunteers provide one-on-one and group training to specialists working within the national extension system as well as to community promoters. Training topics range from facilitation techniques and adult experiential learning methods to leadership and organizational skills. Volunteers will use their own facilitation skills to teach the process of participatory community development as well as techniques. In addition to providing trainings, Volunteers will conduct need assessments, identify gaps in available resources, and develop new materials to support the work of rural development initiatives. Volunteers are expected to play a facilitator role to minimize community dependency on their skills and to improve the sustainability of the project within the national extension system.

**Spanish requirement! That is, 4 years of High School Spanish classes OR 2 semesters in college.

Apply by July 1, 2019, Know by Sept 1, 2019, Depart by March 3, 2020

All positions are 27 months and fully-funded and supported by the US Government. All of your fees/airfare, Med/dental benefits, housing, training in language and technical skills, and monthly stipend are covered. Gain leadership, project management, technical, cultural immersion, and language skills on the global level. Work in grassroots, sustainable development and amplify your resume, elevating your career trajectory.

For any questions about these positions, applying and best practices or if you are in need of resume guidance, please contact Andrea Tiller, 317.726.9225 or attller@peacecorps.gov

Andrea Tiller

Field-based Recruiter: Indiana Returned Volunteer, Mongolia 2015-2017 317-726-9225

