

## Cuso International – Volunteer Placements

### **Farmer Field School Trainer**

Location: Guyana (Caribbean)

Partner name: National Agriculture Research and Extension Institute

Length of placement (months): 12

Start date: Jul – Sep 2017 (flexible)

Funding Eligibility requirements: Open to Canadian Citizens and Permanent Residents only

Language Requirements: English: Level 4, Writing: Level 4, Speaking: Level 4

### **The Volunteer's Role**

The overall purpose of the placement is to increase the access to extension services, create awareness of new technology in sustainable agricultural production, train farmers on improved farming practices due to its necessity in developing countries. Many techniques are employed by extension personnel to satisfy this need. A widely-used tool is the utilization of Farmer Field Schools (FFS). This tool facilitates knowledge and skills transfer to farmers, in new agricultural technology.

#### **As a volunteer, you will:**

- Provide support for the development and implementation of a Farmer Field Schools Program.
- Foster awareness of the importance and relevance of Farmer Field Schools among key stakeholders
- Support establishment of Farmer Field Schools in identified areas/communities.
- Develop training materials, mobilize extension personnel and farmers and facilitate training.
- Conduct field visits to monitor implementation of improved agricultural practices among farmers, and mentor extension personnel in provision of extension services.

#### **Essential Academic Qualifications:**

- Bachelor's or Master's Degree in Agriculture Science, Agronomy or relevant field
- Degree in Program, project or international development or relevant experience
- 5 to 10 years' experience.

#### **Essential Professional Background:**

- 5-10 years of practical experience managing agricultural programs.
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience in sustainable agriculture practices and new agriculture technology.
- Ability to train others.

### **About Our Partner: National Agriculture Research and Extension Institute**

The National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute was established following the ascent of the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute Act 2010 in March 2011. It was created to expand the services offered by the then National Agricultural Research Institute, which was formed in 1984. The National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute was established to promote greater efficiency in the crops and agricultural product industry; provide enhanced services in Agricultural Research and Extension and Crop Protection; and allow effective administration and regulation of trade, commerce and export of crops and agricultural products.

### **Terms and Conditions**

Cuso International terms and conditions allow you to lead a modest and healthy lifestyle while being effective in your placement. This support package will cover basic living expenses for one volunteer and is not intended to cover home-based expenses (ex. loans, support payments, etc. (ex. imported items and international personal travel)).

### **Support Package**

- Modest living allowance (varies depending country)
- Accommodation while overseas
- Return airfare and visa/permit costs
- Cost of required vaccinations, antimalarial medication and health insurance
- Comprehensive training and support program.
- Travel and accommodation for reintegration debriefing weekend
- Modest support for accompanying partners/dependents going on placement with you for 12+ months
- Access to Employee Assistance Program while overseas and upon return
- Cuso International assessment day (Candidates must cover the first \$200 of the most cost-effective travel expenses and all accommodation costs).
- Travel and accommodation for the five-day pre-departure training course and in-country training orientation

### **Fundraising**

We ask each volunteer, regardless of placement length, to raise \$2,000. All volunteers receive support from Cuso International to help achieve the goal through fundraising. If the volunteer chooses not to fundraise or is unable to achieve the fundraising goal, he/she can make a one-time donation or become a monthly donor to support our work.

### **E-volunteering**

Depending on the nature of the placement volunteers are encouraged to provide e-volunteering support to the local partner or Cuso International before or after the field placement.

## **Residency and Citizenship**

In order to become a volunteer with Cuso International, you must be living in Canada for the time between your application date and the date you go overseas. Short vacations during this time are feasible. We may require your passport and would need to be aware of any travel plans you may have during this time. We must be able to contact you, and you must be able to contact us easily and promptly throughout the process. You will also require unrestricted access to Canada during the pre-departure process for assessment and training.

Leaving your country of residence can have significant effects on your citizenship status in that country. It is your responsibility to research the consequences of traveling to Canada during the pre-departure process and of going overseas for a long-term placement with the immigration authority where you live.