Team: Farmer-to-Farmer Commitment: Volunteer Location: Angola

**Cooperative Management and Leadership**

The John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) Program is authorized by the U.S. Farm Bill and managed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). F2F works to generate rapid, sustained economic growth in the agricultural sector through short-term technical assistance provided by U.S. volunteers and supported by highly trained local staff. A secondary goal of F2F is to increase the American public’s understanding of international development issues and programs, and international understanding of the United States and U.S. development programs.

CNFA is implementing F2F in the Southern Africa region, working in Malawi, Mozambique, and Angola. We rely on the expertise of U.S. volunteers from diverse backgrounds to respond to the needs of hosts. These hosts can be farms, processors, cooperatives, farmer associations, or other agricultural enterprises; they vary in size and commodity focus. Each volunteer assignment has distinct objective that are determined by the needs of the host organization.

**Issue Description:**

Mavanga Nleke is a newly formed cooperative located in the Municipality of N´Zeto about 233 kilometers away from the provincial capital of Zaire. The cooperative is managed by the 10 founding members. The cooperative collectively owns 11 hectares of land and uses an additional 18 hectares of private land owned by individual members. Mavanga Nleke grows a variety of vegetables and fruits and plans to continue diversifying their production to increase their profit. A major constraint to growth, however, is the organization within the cooperative. Therefore, the board of directors and the members have requested a Farmer-to-Farmer volunteer to assist with the cooperative’s efforts in improving management practices to better manage cash flow and benefit livelihoods of the cooperative members and the community. Through their improved internal organization, the cooperative members hope to qualify for a bank loan to expand their operations, which will ultimately help increase food and cash crop production.

**Desired Impacts:**

* Provide basic knowledge in farmer cooperative management.
* Equip the cooperative with necessary tools and documents to assist with organizational structure
* Improve management and leadership skills to help members of the group work more effectively

**Desired qualifications:**

* Extensive experience in business management and administration.
* Specific knowledge and experience with the cooperatives and associations.
* Willingness to work for a week or more in rural areas.
* Must be citizen or permanent resident of the U.S.