USAID-FUNDED JOHN OGNOWSKI AND DOUG BEREUTER FARMER-TO-FARMER (F2F) PROGRAM: SOUTHERN AFRICA

GENERAL FAQs

What is F2F?

- F2F provides technical assistance to farmers, farm groups, agribusinesses and other agriculture sector institutions in developing and transitional countries to promote sustainable improvements in food security and agricultural processing, production, and marketing.
- The main goal of the program is to generate sustainable, broad-based economic growth in the agricultural sector through voluntary technical assistance. A secondary goal is to increase the U.S. public’s understanding of international development issues and programs.
- CNFA implements F2F in Madagascar, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

How is F2F Funded?

- The F2F Program was initially authorized by Congress in the 1985 Farm Bill and funded through Title V of Public Law 480. The program, designated as the “John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program,” continues to be funded through the U.S. Farm Bill, administered by USAID, and implemented by U.S.-based NGOs.

Who qualifies as a volunteer?

- Volunteering opportunities are open to U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents. Volunteers need to have expertise and skills that are relevant to a particular assignment and must be willing to offer their time and expertise to building the capacity of host organizations in the CNFA F2F countries.

What type of volunteer assignments are available?

- In-person: In an in-person assignment, the U.S. volunteer travels to one of our four focal countries, and performs hands on work with the host, providing suggestions and recommendations to improve their livelihoods and outcomes.
- Paired-remote: In a paired remote assignment, the U.S. volunteer is paired with a local, qualified volunteer from one of our four focal host countries. Before working with the host organization, the two volunteers collaborate on training materials and methods. The local volunteer performs hands on work with the host and provides progress updates to the US volunteer.

How long are F2F assignments, and what are transportation and accommodations like for a typical assignment?

- Assignments vary in length, but typically range from two to four weeks. For a typical assignment, travel, meals and lodging are paid for and organized by CNFA.
- If there is a need for a translator for the assignment, our field office teams will have arranged to have one available to you once you are in country.
- CNFA will arrange and supply a driver to accompany volunteers to and from their training sites, along with a F2F country staff.
What is expected of me after I complete the assignment?

- Volunteers are expected to submit two reports detailing their activities and to participate in debriefing sessions in the host country and the U.S.-based HQ team. Additional documents are required for assignments involving pesticides. Volunteers are also encouraged to participate in outreach programs in both the U.S. and host country. You will also need to track any additional outreach activities and/or time spent on further supporting the host from the U.S.

What are the required areas of expertise?

- Required areas of expertise are diverse, ranging from production agriculture, business and organizational management to finance and communications, among others. With a focus on rural enterprise development, the 2023-2028 Program employs a market systems approach to address the barriers preventing smallholder farmers from accessing local market systems and opportunities. The Program employs technical assistance in three areas, i.e., production strengthening, enterprise development, and market facilitation, to help farmers integrate into their local economies and identify opportunities for growth, improving incomes and contributing to regional economic development.

What kinds of cultural opportunities are there for me?

- The F2F program encourages volunteers to share aspects of their cultures, values, and American traditions when they are on assignment. This involve, among others, sharing food, presenting on American holiday traditions or cultural events, and discussing work or family life.

Travel Related FAQs

Does CNFA cover travel costs, including insurance, while I am traveling on assignment?

- Yes, while volunteers are on assignment with CNFA implementing F2F activities, CNFA will cover their full trip from the agreed upon start and end date. This includes a fixed per diem, economy flights and other allowable expenses. CNFA uses AIG International as its insurance provider for medical and security evacuation assistance for all CNFA volunteers. Further information on these will be provided in more detail upon selection.
- Volunteers are not covered under CNFA’s insurance during personal travel. It is highly recommended volunteers purchase their own travel insurance if they choose to carry out further travels. This can be discussed in further detail upon selection.
- CNFA policy stipulates that all volunteers be covered by a valid medical insurance policy, valid through a minimum of one month following the assignment. When selected for an assignment, volunteers must provide medical insurance information upon request.

Can I plan our personal travel while I am on assignment?

- CNFA is flexible with volunteers conducting personal travel, only after they have completed their assignment. We ask to not make accommodations for your personal travel until after your flights and itineraries have been confirmed.
- If you do book personal travel, CNFA will not reimburse you for the added costs to the travel leg after the completion of the assignment.

Can I volunteer for F2F from another country, or do I have to be based in the United States or a Territory to be considered for Farmer-to-Farmer program?
• CNFA can accommodate travel from another country as long the volunteer is a U.S. Citizen or a Permanent Resident.

**Does CNFA cover the cost of getting a vaccine required to travel to my assignment country?**

• CNFA F2F will reimburse the cost of certain vaccinations recommended by the CDC website. More information will be provided by our team upon selection.

**Can family members of friends accompany volunteers on their assignment?**

• No, family members or friends are not allowed to accompany volunteers while they are on assignment. They are, however, allowed to join the volunteer before or after the assignment. For travel before or after the assignment dates, F2F will not cover any costs or provide insurance to the volunteer, friend or family member. It is the responsibility of the volunteer to acknowledge these conditions and plan accordingly if they choose to bring along any additional travelers.

**What safety and security measure does CNFA put in place for volunteers?**

• CNFA provides assistance should a volunteer need to be evacuated in the event of natural disasters, wars, civil unrest, etc. CNFA also monitors the security situation in all countries where staff and volunteers are working and consults with multiple risk management and security providers, including CNFA’s insurance provider, AIG International, for medical and security evacuation assistance.

**If I am available only during a short period in a more distant future, how can I improve my chance of getting an assignment?**

• Please get in touch with F2Frecruitment@cnfa.org and identify dates when you are available, and we will keep your CV on file for the timeline you have identified. Please make sure to include your CV for consideration and any other information that you would like to share regarding your expertise, travel needs, etc.

**I would like to meet with particular organization during my assignment. Is this possible?**

• Yes, please let us know and we can make arrangements in coordination with our Country Teams.

**My spouse and I are both interested in agriculture and are interested in volunteering. Can we volunteer together?**

• We can only accommodate one volunteer per assignment. If you are interested in volunteering in the same country together, we suggest informing F2Frecruitment@cnfa.org email and we will see if there may be two concurrent assignments planned in a country that fit your and your spouse’s expertise.