



How to Access Assistance from Farmer-to-Farmer (FTF) Programs

The John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer (FTF) Program provides volunteer technical assistance in agriculture and rural development. Volunteers from US farms, universities, agribusinesses, consulting firms, and other organizations provide assistance to institutions serving agriculture and rural areas. Local organizations may request assistance from the Program. USAID Missions may request assistance for work in a particular area or may fund programs for their countries.

Options for Developing Country Entities to Access FTF Services:

Volunteers provide assistance to many different types of institutions, including cooperatives and farmer organizations, agribusinesses, agricultural support services, individual farms, training and extension services, government agencies, NGOs, and other institutions serving agriculture and rural areas. Assistance to an individual farm is possible, but not too common as the program seeks to have the widest impact possible. For any assignment, the implementing organization will have at least three requirements – that there be an identified and viable host organization, that there be a clearly defined and feasible scope of work, and that there be arrangements to ensure adequate logistical support to the volunteer. There may be some technical fields or specialties in which it is not possible to recruit volunteers.

Entities interested in requesting assistance from a volunteer should contact (in order of preference):

1. One of the implementing partners listed under current programs in this website. For countries with core country programs, this should be the implementing partner active in your country.
2. One of the USAID Farmer-to-Farmer program staff listed in this website.
3. The USAID Mission, if there is one in your country.

Options for USAID Mission Access to FTF Services:

There are several options for Missions to access support from the FTF Program.

1. Coordination with Core Programs: Core country program resources for are now largely programmed and are often already linked to other USAID-funded projects. Missions may contact FTF Country Directors to explore potential links to other activities.
2. Flexible Volunteer Assignments: Any Mission can request volunteer services for specific onetime assignments. Assignments require a clear scope of work, a local host organization, and logistical support for the volunteer. These are easiest where there is an FTF Program in country. Other Missions can contact implementing organizations directly or BFS (galex@usaid.gov or ayeboah@usaid.gov) to see if a flexible assignment is possible.
3. Associate Awards: Missions can fund Associate Awards with the LWA holder of their choice. Programs must be for agriculture activities that use volunteer technical assistance and can provide substantial complementary program inputs. Advantages of Associate Awards are: no further competition required for Mission Associate Award, simplified Mission award documents, simplified certification by the recipients, and reporting directly to the Missions. For procedures for Associate Awards contact BFS (galex@usaid.gov or ayeboah@usaid.gov) or see ADS 303.3.26 Leader/Associate Awards (<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303.pdf>).