

AFRICA'S CALLING, WILL YOU ANSWER?

NFU is working with the NCBA Farmer-to-Farmer Program to send American farmers & agribusiness professionals to do 2-3 week agricultural development projects in Senegal and Niger. The Program is sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The Program pays all assignment-related expenses. Volunteers should not have to pay any of their own money in order to participate.

Interested? E-mail NFU at mmiller@nfu.org.



***Farmer-to-Farmer
Volunteer Program at
NFU/NCBA***

National Farmers Union (NFU) International Outreach Opportunity

At both the state and national level, Farmers Union leaders have a rich history in working with like-minded groups overseas. We have an excellent opportunity to build on this tradition. Working with the National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA), National Farmers Union is ready to send a new crop of leaders to Africa.

We are looking for volunteers (you or other Farmers Union members). The Farmer-to-Farmer Program sends American farmers and agribusiness professionals to do 2-3 week agricultural development projects in Senegal and Niger. The Program is sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The Program pays all assignment-related expenses. Volunteers should not have to pay any of their own money in order to participate in Farmer-to-Farmer.

The Farmer-to-Farmer Program promotes sustainable economic growth and agricultural development worldwide. Volunteer technical assistance from US farmers, agribusinesses, cooperatives, and universities helps developing countries to improve productivity, access new markets, and conserve environmental and natural resources.

Farmer-to-Farmer volunteers work with farmers, producer groups, rural businesses, and service providers to develop local capacity necessary to enhance food security, increase incomes and economic growth, and address environment and natural resource management challenges. The program also has the potential to provide volunteers with firsthand experience in some of Africa's emerging markets. After Farmer-to-Farmer assignments, volunteers come back to work with the kind of in-depth, qualitative understanding of conditions in emerging markets that is impossible to achieve through desk-based research.

Below is the current list of available assignments. If you interested in the program, but don't see an assignment that fits your skills and experience, we definitely still want to talk with you and review your resume!

Available Volunteer Assignments

NIGER

Integrated pest management: NCBA needs an expert in integrated pest management (IPM) to work with moringa farmers groups in Niger on economical ways that they can

reduce the negative effects of pests and diseases on their crop yield. (Moringa is a versatile, drought tolerant tree with edible, nutritious leaves.) The dates of this assignment are flexible, but we would like to complete it before the second week of August 2010.

Irrigation management: NCBA is seeking irrigation experts for a volunteer opportunity working with farmers' groups in Niger to build efficient and effective irrigation systems to water their moringa crop. (Moringa is a versatile, drought tolerant tree with edible, nutritious leaves.) The farmers need systems that are inexpensive to construct and maintain while achieving high efficiency in Niger's desert environment. The dates of this assignment are flexible, but we'd like to do it in October 2010.

Marketing: NCBA is seeking experts in marketing of agricultural produce for volunteer opportunities working with moringa farmers' groups in Niger on basic marketing plans. (Moringa is a versatile, drought tolerant tree with edible, nutritious leaves.) The volunteers will help the farmers' groups assess the markets that are available to them and determine which markets offer the most profitable price for their produce. There are two marketing volunteer opportunities available, one is scheduled for January 2011 and the other is scheduled for February 2011.

Agricultural Processing: NCBA is looking for experts in agricultural processing to help moringa farmers' groups in Niger identify and assess the costs and benefits of their options for processing moringa leaf. (Moringa is a versatile, drought tolerant tree with edible, nutritious leaves.) Specific processing techniques to be developed will be based on market demand, as assessed in the marketing assignment. This assignment is scheduled for March 2011.

SENEGAL

Striga Control: NCBA is seeking experts in control of the parasitic striga weed that infests Senegalese millet crops. The volunteer will work with groups of millet farmers to develop ways of controlling the striga weed that are useable with the resources that are available to the farmers. The assignment is scheduled for July-August 2010.

Millet Production: NCBA needs volunteers with expertise in millet production to work with Senegalese millet farmers on ways of increasing their crop yields. This assignment is scheduled for August-September 2010.

Millet Processing: NCBA needs volunteers with expertise in millet processing to help millet farmers in Senegal identify and assess the costs and benefits of their options for

processing their millet. This assignment is scheduled for March 2011. This assignment is scheduled for September-October 2010.

If you're interested in pursuing a volunteer opportunity, please e-mail me. NFU is currently assembling its first team of leader volunteers to go overseas. What you take home may be worth more than what you bring.

All the best,

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