

Applied Agricultural Science



Your Skills. Our Jobs.

Agriculture provides the economic base for local communities throughout the world. Yet, many of these communities are relying on antiquated techniques, many of which are harmful to the environment and limiting long-term farmer profitability. The Peace Corps has been called upon to help these communities transition to sustainable farming practices, and it needs knowledgeable agricultural specialists to join the effort and become part of a service legacy that dates back to 1961. While you may have many job prospects, nothing in your career is likely to compare to the challenges and rewards of the Peace Corps.

Sow the Seeds of Change and You Can Move Mountains.

Add a new dimension to your career. Discover innovative ways to apply your workplace, classroom, and leadership experiences. Work in unforgettable locations where your knowledge and resourcefulness are in great demand. Forge new and lifelong relationships within the communities you serve, while empowering farmers to engage in modern and sustainable practices that will improve the quality of life for their families and communities. The possibilities as a Peace Corps Volunteer are endless and yours to leave an indelible mark.

Upon returning to the U.S., you'll discover open doors leading to new and exciting personal and professional opportunities. Fluency in a foreign language, international experience, and cross-cultural understanding are highly sought-after assets in today's global economy. You'll take away the satisfaction of knowing your efforts will have a lasting influence abroad while making you stand out here at home.

Peace Corps agricultural experience is valued by numerous organizations, including the US Forest Service, National Park Service, USDA Extension service, the U.S. Food and Nutrition Service, the Food and Agriculture Organization, CARE International, United Nations Environment Program, and many private corporations and public organizations seeking individuals with unique skills.

The Work.

As an Applied Agricultural Science Volunteer, your role will be to work hand-in-hand with farmers and the community to introduce them to organic sustainable techniques and promote the development of small agricultural business projects to increase market opportunities. Depending on your specific assignment, you might:

- Demonstrate organic agricultural techniques such as composting, green manure, and worm beds to address such challenges as pest control and soil quality
- Conduct field trials to increase production of staple crops; may introduce crop rotation, erosion control, cover crops, seed production, soil fertility management, and integrated pest management
- Teach farmers bio-intensive gardening techniques that maximize production in a limited area or growing season
- Introduce methods to decrease post-harvest losses to insects, rodents, or spoilage using home storage units or grain treatments using ash or other locally available materials
- Conduct market studies and organize farmers into cooperatives to gain higher market prices and farther selling reach for their products
- Encourage sustainable and profitable farming, including creating community banks, promoting small animal husbandry, increasing irrigation systems, and implementing information technology



As the Peace Corps approaches its 50th anniversary, it continues to promote peace and friendship, with Volunteers serving in over 70 countries. Since 1961, nearly 200,000 Americans have served the Peace Corps in 139 countries around the world.

Are You Ready?



How do I qualify?

To qualify for an Applied Agricultural Science assignment, you will need at a minimum:

- Bachelor's or associate degree in agronomy or horticulture or
- Three years of full-time farm experience or
- Bachelor's in any discipline plus 18 months full-time farm experience or
- Bachelor's in botany or entomology plus six months of fruit or vegetable growing experience or
- Bachelor's in biology with substantial coursework in agricultural science, botany, or entomology plus six months of fruit or vegetable growing experience

Is this the right fit?



Let the Peace Corps match your skills and ambitions with the right type of program. Based on the areas identified by our host countries, there is a pressing need to raise sustainable production levels of crops and small animals in a way that is beneficial to both the environment and the farmers' margins of profit. You will live and work in a rural area or a very small community, and have the opportunity to apply your knowledge and ideas in a new setting where you will be a catalyst for long-term sustainable improvements.

How can I stand out?

In addition to the minimum qualifications, competitive applicants may have a solid background in agricultural production on family or commercial farms; experience growing fruits and vegetables; or understand concepts such as soil fertility and integrated pest management. Interest in, and knowledge of, organic farming, teaching or training work, work with livestock, and knowledge of food storage and preservation will strengthen your application.

The ability to learn a new language is an important ingredient to a successful volunteer experience. Become more competitive by taking at least a year of French or two years of Spanish at the university level. If you have learned a language informally, Peace Corps may consider the CLEP and ACTFL exams to consider you for placement.

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Call 800.424.8580, option 1 to talk to a recruiter near you.

"I was very grateful to work on fruit tree grafting, improved millet trials, and the Sahelian Eco-Farm, an integrated agroforestry system. It was a great opportunity to see development from the research point of view and realize what a useful tool Peace Corps can be to link the research to application in the village."

— Shane Hetzler, Volunteer in Senegal