



**VOLUNTEER  
TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE**

*Advancing Global Development  
People-to-People*



**WINROCK**  
INTERNATIONAL

Putting Ideas to Work

# VOLUNTEER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



## Volunteers Close the Information Gap

Globally, the barriers to progress are not the ability of people, their vision or motivation. Instead barriers arise from a shortage of the most basic and critical resources: knowledge of new technologies, market data, credit and financial systems, service and production strategies, and, most of all, information.



Knowledge of the best options and proven practices can make the difference between success and failure in countries where people must confront eroding economies and the new challenges of global markets without strong government services.

Volunteer Technical Assistance programs close the knowledge gap by matching volunteer skills to needs of private businesses, organizations, and institutions. Volunteers donate their time for short-term assignments and leave behind long-lasting results.

## Winrock Volunteer Programs Deliver

Volunteer Technical Assistance programs are exceptionally successful, flexible and cost-effective development tools. The simplicity of their design, backed by a sophisticated recruiting and placement operation, makes them highly responsive to the changing needs of host organizations, donors, and varying local conditions. Traditional development approaches can take years to gain momentum and even

longer to produce results. Volunteers with specifically-targeted skills can be working with host groups to implement ideas very quickly, often within a matter of weeks. Assignments can be tailored to provide just the right combination of expertise for single or multiple clients, and large- or small-scale operations.



**WINROCK**  
INTERNATIONAL

● Volunteer Assignments

Check current volunteer assignments at  
[www.winrock.org/volunteer](http://www.winrock.org/volunteer)

# VOLUNTEER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

*Advancing Global Development  
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**Winrock seeks  
volunteers with a  
wide range of  
experience including,  
but not limited to:**

Agribusiness  
Agricultural Sciences  
Credit & Banking  
Eco-tourism  
Enterprise Development  
Farming  
Financial Management  
Food Processing  
Forestry & Natural  
Resource Management  
Human Resources  
Information Technology  
International Trade  
Management  
Marketing  
Renewable Energy  
Strategic Planning  
Wood Processing

## Making Global Connections

In the past decade, Winrock International's Volunteer Technical Assistance group has completed some 1,800 volunteer assignments in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union. Volunteers who are skilled and experienced professionals open doors to progress by introducing new information and technology, sharing firsthand experiences, and exchanging ideas. The local



organizations, institutions, and businesses that benefit from volunteer assignments incorporate new information into their operations, processes, and planning. This interchange results in increased productivity and marketability of goods — even creation of jobs and whole new sectors and services.

Volunteers benefit as well, bringing home a greater understanding of the conditions under which people around the world live and work. They experience the vast geographical and cultural distances that separate nations while discovering the common threads that connect people and the challenges they share. The connections made between volunteers and those they serve are rewarding on a personal and professional level.

## The Volunteer Experience

Winrock's Volunteer Technical Assistance programs are driven by the needs of those they serve. In-country representatives work with local organizations and partners to identify challenges that cannot be overcome with the knowledge and skills at hand. Together, they

develop scopes of work that define volunteer assignments. Winrock's Technical Assistance recruiters use these scopes of work to identify volunteers through an extensive electronic database and volunteer network. Recruiters

coordinate all travel and logistical arrangements for the volunteer and help acquaint travelers with the culture of host countries.

Volunteers donate their time and work independently or as part of a team of experts. Although most travel abroad for an assignment of two to

four weeks, technology advances are offering new opportunities for delivering technical assistance via the Internet. Program funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and other partners, pays for volunteers' travel expenses.

Once volunteers reach their destinations, transportation and interpreting services are arranged by local Winrock staff members who serve as contacts during the assignment. Volunteers then work directly with

organizations and businesses to exchange ideas, solve problems,

and create lasting solutions. At the end of assignments,

volunteers have an opportunity to review their work and make recommendations for future assistance. Many

volunteers develop long-term relationships with the organizations they serve and return on follow-up assignments to refine solutions and provide further technical assistance.

Volunteers find these assignments to be some of the most professionally rewarding and personally fulfilling work they do. Helping people help themselves is a contribution that makes sense. They also report a better appreciation for and understanding of U.S. foreign assistance programs.



# VOLUNTEER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



Over the last decade, Winrock volunteers have served in 32 countries to:

- Improve food production, processing, and marketing.
- Build entrepreneurship and business management skills.
- Introduce efficient farming, wood processing, and manufacturing technologies.
- Promote eco-tourism and other environmentally responsible business practices.
- Improve sustainable natural resource management.
- Build the capacity of local organizations and associations to provide services.
- Increase efficiency of energy use.

**V**olunteer success stories are as varied as the assignments — creating credit-worthy business plans, developing new products, promoting sustainable agriculture, identifying new markets. These and scores of other endeavors promote food security and increase economic opportunities. Winrock's Volunteer Technical Assistance program, in partnership with USAID and other funders, has enabled people around the world to build brighter futures. Beginning as the Farmer-to-Farmer program, Volunteer Technical Assistance still assists the agriculture sector, and also fields volunteers with a variety of business and manufacturing experience.

**T**hree Winrock volunteers visited Uzbekistan when veterinary practices were first privatized. Previously, most veterinarians had been employed by collective farms and didn't have experience in private practice. Volunteers conducted seminars on setting up private practices for local vets, many of whom are women, consulted with more than 250 farmers, and donated medicine and equipment to local organizations.

**O**ver nearly a decade, the Nicaraguan Association of Producers of Non-Traditional Products has welcomed 15 volunteers. Volunteers helped identify problems in production, post-harvest handling, and marketing horticultural products and provided training to solve these problems. These assignments have led to an upsurge in farm exports, from avocados to zucchini.



**D**ozens of Winrock volunteers have helped establish rural credit institutions in countries where lending is a new concept. With funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Winrock volunteers helped create the Kazakhstan Community Loan Fund. In less than two years, the Fund distributed 10,000 loans totaling \$2 million to agribusinesses and farmers, who until that time had little or no access to credit. The loan repayment rate has increased to 98 percent.

**W**inrock volunteers help make connections. Apiary specialists who worked in India suggested that Nepali beekeepers visit their Indian counterparts. Nepali farmers learned techniques for successful bee care and management and were introduced to modern equipment. When they returned to Nepal, they placed an order with an Indian supplier for equipment and supplies and have established a link that crosses national boundaries.

**A**n auto industry trade association in the Russian Far East was storing used tires until they could be disposed of safely, creating an environmental hazard. A volunteer introduced pyrolysis, a reduction process that yields a clean-burning fuel and a solid product that can be used for construction. The result was minimal environmental stress and profitable byproducts.

**I**n the West African nation of Guinea, volunteer-introduced mango cultivation and processing practices increased fruit sales from 10 metric tons to 1,000 metric tons annually. New pruning and weeding practices allow farmers to forego the use of chemicals to control pests and weeds.



*Your experience can make a difference to a farmer or entrepreneur, or to an entire community or region.*

*Consider a short-term assignment as a Winrock volunteer. For more information or to complete an application, visit Winrock's website, [www.winrock.org/volunteer](http://www.winrock.org/volunteer).*



## The World Needs Volunteers



Winrock volunteers have made a difference to countless men and women around the world, just by sharing what they know. Winrock volunteers:

- Possess skills and experience in your profession or vocation.
- Enjoy meeting and working with new people.
- Share an interest in the world.
- Adapt to situations as they change.
- Use creativity to solve problems.
- Is in good health.
- Can spare two to four weeks for the experience of a lifetime.
- Desire to be of service.

Learn more about  
Winrock International at  
[www.winrock.org](http://www.winrock.org) and  
Volunteer Technical  
Assistance programs at  
[www.winrock.org/volunteer](http://www.winrock.org/volunteer).



*Winrock International is a nonprofit organization that works with people in the United States and around the world to increase economic opportunity, sustain natural resources, and protect the environment. Winrock matches innovative approaches in agriculture, natural resources management, clean energy, leadership development, and policy with the unique needs of its partners. By linking local individuals and communities with new ideas and technology, Winrock is increasing long-term productivity, equity, and responsible resource management to benefit the poor and disadvantaged of the world.*

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*For more information:*

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