

# TOPS/FSN Commodity Management Task Force

## **Purpose of the Task Force:**

The Commodity Management (CM) Task Force is a community of practitioners working to improve the quality of food aid commodity management. It is composed of representatives from NGO Title II grantees and other stakeholders. It provides an inclusive forum for identifying, sharing, adapting, refining and disseminating information, methodologies, tools and promising practices for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of commodity management.

The Task Force enables its members from around the world to directly contribute their expertise in continuing discussions on development and adaptation of crucial information, tools, and methods that are responsive to stakeholder needs. The CM Task Force is inclusive, stakeholder driven and field oriented. This is a platform for commodity management professionals to collectively generate ideas, create new knowledge and understanding, and craft responses to challenges and opportunities that can increase the effectiveness and impact of food aid commodity management.

## **What are the responsibilities of the CM Task Force members?**

- Advocate for and prioritize technical topics and activities that will benefit your organization as well as the broader NGO community, leverage expertise across organizations, and contribute to the development of state-of-the-art tools and processes
- Participate regularly in task force meetings, contribute to successful completion of the task force work plan and volunteer to lead or contribute to task force activities
- Share technical information, tools, and opportunities with the task force and disseminate information, tools and other products within your organization including your partners
- Identify and exchange information related to best practices, resources and opportunities
- Link with academics, advocates and private resources and experts
- Foster their own professional development
- Build organizational partnerships and capacity
- Articulate important field and implementation perspectives in global policy dialogues and alliances

## **Why join the CM Task Force?**

- A wider network of links to the realities of the field-discerning trends, learning from other efforts
- An opportunity to regularly interact with other organizations and the Food for Peace
- Participation in the development of state-of-the-art tools, practices and strategies
- A wide array of learning, dissemination and leadership opportunities
- Connections to academics, advocates, donors and others
- Membership in an intimate community of practice which brings networking, mentoring, peer support, information exchange, and creativity
- Opportunity to showcase your organization and its accomplishments

**How does the CM Task Force function?**

It is up to the task force members to determine a reasonable timetable for regular meetings, and develop group objectives, proposed outputs, and an agenda or work plan for completing them. In addition, the task force will elect a Chair or Co-Chairs to provide technical leadership and facilitate group processes.

**How will the CM Task Force communicate?**

The Task force will meet in person and using remote meeting software on a quarterly basis as well as by email via a dedicated listserv for dialogue, queries and information sharing between meetings. In addition, there will be an online discussion forum for commodity management related dialogue and queries.

**How does someone join or leave the group?**

If you have commodity management technical experience, are willing to attend quarterly meetings (in-person or online) and willing to take on substantive roles to review, develop or adapt tools, technical reference materials or other deliverables, we would love to have you. Permission to join the Task Force is through the main contact person. Members are free to unsubscribe at any time.

**Membership:** Open to all interested individuals

**Meeting frequency:** Quarterly

**How long has this Task Force existed?** The Task Force will be launched in July 2012

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