



Guidelines to minimize the effects of COVID-19 on resilience in agriculture transformation

COVID-19 is disrupting global, regional, and local food systems and divesting resources at national and global level to respond to the crisis. This is likely to affect the resilience of food systems to effects of climate change and environmental degradation.

It is critical that we work towards supporting food security to ensure minimal effects to resources capacities to that tend to shield farmers and countries from the effects of climate change and other external shocks.





AGRA is determined to ensure that the outbreak does not lead to food insecurity and reduce the resilience in food systems so far developed.

Resilience across cutting issues should still be prioritized by AGRA partners throughout the agricultural season:

1. Information provision for climate and weather forecasts

2. Training on climate smart technologies:

- tillage practices
- mixed cropping
- cover crops
- water management
- postharvest management
- drought tolerant crops
- Sustainable land management – soil health

3. Risk management – identification and mitigation

4. Capacity development in environmental and social management

Several activities mentioned above require direct contact with farmers and other value chain players. There is are also other face-to-face interactions with government and cooperating partners in policy engagement and training activities.

These contacts must now be made via digital platforms and/or telephonically to avoid human-to-human transmission of COVID-19. AGRA recommends the following:

1. Partners should continue to use relevant partners in ensuring that relevant training materials are included in the interaction platforms developed. VBAs or leaders of farmer groups to prepare for the transmission

of weather and climate information; tillage practices, crop choices.

2. Face-to-face interactions, only when necessary/exceptionally between VBAs and trainers with the adequate social distancing and COVID-19 prevention protocols will be considered.
3. Information on markets, climate, agronomic practices will be via digital and telephone systems.
4. Introduction and use of resilience enhancing technologies – irrigation or postharvest handling should be via video technologies where available. If not available, face to face interaction using the COVID-19 prevention protocols are recommended.
5. Analytical work, risk management and discussion should be done via online platforms.
6. Maintain contact with the ministries. Assist them in designing and integrating contingency plans in the value chain to ensure continued resilience.
7. Prevention and mitigation measures of COVID-19 should follow the general guidelines issued by AGRA.

THANKS FOR YOUR WORK AND STAY SAFE.