FOOD INSECURITY GROWS AS COVID-19 SPREADS ACROSS AFRICA

FOOD SECURITY OUTCOMES IMPROVED FROM FOOD CRISIS TO STRESSED PHASES DUE TO INCREASED FOOD AVAILABILITY SINCE BEGINNING OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The region is expected to experience normal to above normal seasonal rainfall performance through to the end of June, which will be beneficial to the cropping season that is underway. The region is entering the dry season and is not expected to receive rainfall during the month of June in most parts of southwestern Africa. For the parts of the region expected to receive rainfall, the rainfall is likely to be above normal which will be beneficial to cropping seasons. In the eastern parts of the region, the rainfall situation is expected to be normal to below normal. The region is expected to experience normal to above normal seasonal rainfall performance through to the end of June, which will be beneficial to the cropping season that is underway. The region is entering the dry season and is not expected to receive rainfall during the month of June in most parts of southwestern Africa. For the parts of the region expected to receive rainfall, the rainfall is likely to be above normal which will be beneficial to cropping seasons. In the eastern parts of the region, the rainfall situation is expected to be normal to below normal.

In countries such as Tanzania and Mozambique, the normal function of regional markets for crops has been interrupted, due to restrictions on movement of goods and people. Farmers have been unable to sell their produce sustainably. Especially when movement restrictions were in place, the role of village advisors has been key as they are locally known and based in farmers’ communities, providing a ‘critical link’ between farmers and their markets. Gathering is limited, but harvesting can now take place.

Phased easing of restrictions from June 30th for cargo only and extending the travel restriction on some in Mali.

In Ghana, the World Food Program has estimated that around 2.4 million people will be food insecure in the coming months as a result of COVID-19 food production disruption. In Kenya, a survey compiled by the Ministry of Health and the Population Council found that, while the number of deaths from the pandemic in AGRA focus countries remains low, totaling 728 as of 9 June 2020 (end of day).

In AGRA Focus countries, the restrictions continue to impact access to inputs for this season as the result of COVID-19 food production disruption. In countries such as Tanzania and Mozambique, the normal function of regional markets for crops has been interrupted, due to restrictions on movement of goods and people.

Cases of COVID-19 continue to rise in AGRA focus (1) countries with an increasing rate of cases recorded in most AGRA focus countries - especially Nigeria. The region is entering the dry season and is not expected to receive rainfall during the month of June in most parts of southwestern Africa. For the parts of the region expected to receive rainfall, the rainfall is likely to be above normal which will be beneficial to cropping seasons. In the eastern parts of the region, the rainfall situation is expected to be normal to below normal. The region is expected to experience normal to above normal seasonal rainfall performance through to the end of June, which will be beneficial to the cropping season that is underway.

Government response

19 response. Given the large sums of money that have been committed across the continent to COVID-19 response, we do not see enough needed investment coming through to the economies for years in sub Saharan Africa and around the world. In Ghana, the World Food Program has estimated that around 2.4 million people will be food insecure in the coming months as a result of COVID-19 food production disruption. In Kenya, a survey compiled by the Ministry of Health and the Population Council found that, while the number of deaths from the pandemic in AGRA focus countries remains low, totaling 728 as of 9 June 2020 (end of day).

Governments are easing restrictions gradually allowing agriculture and business to resume. Some countries are facing challenges on food trade and supply chains and how countries are addressing the effect of restrictions on movement.

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