



MAAIF
Ministry of Agriculture
Animal Industry and Fisheries

Farmers Perspective on the effects of the current vulnerabilities



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Introduction.

- UNFFE's mission is to organize and advocate for favorable policies and transform the farmers into prosperous communities.
- In June 2020 UNFFE conducted a survey in 8 districts of Uganda, sampled from the different regions.
- Although the sample area was small compared to the number of districts in Uganda, its distribution gives a good picture of what the farmers have experienced during the Covid19 pandemic.



The disruptions and shock.

- The impact of Covid19 is observed both at production and marketing levels.
- Generally small holder farmers were affected more than the general public would imagine.
- Horticulture, Poultry and Livestock most severely affected at both levels.
- Access to critical farm inputs like chemicals & planting materials and credit financing.



Production related challenges.

- Input dealers who depended on public transport to restock their supplies.
- Ban on gatherings could not allow farmers' meetings to continue, trainings also made difficult.
- Farmers located some distance from the input dealers were challenged with travels.
- Those who do not directly live at the farm could not access their farms; travel restrictions.
- Notable increase in some input costs.
- Limited access to financial services like VSLA.



Market related challenges.

- Consumption of milk and eggs in hotels reduced greatly and marketability dropped.
- Urban dwellers purchasing power has reduced and now only buy food to sustain life which has affected marketability for many fresh food products.
- Input costs increased due to travel challenges but output costs reduced due to lack of buyers.
- Absence of roadside chicken roasters greatly affected the market for broiler chicken, these provide a huge market.



Coping and Thriving Strategies.

- Many small holder farmers have resorted to hawking their products especially eggs, milk and chicken.
- Readily expose off their products on credit to credit worthy consumers.
- Those with small family vehicles have resorted to using them as market stalls on road sides.
- The FOs have resorted to e-meetings for service delivery.



Any new opportunities manifesting.

- Many people who left towns for the villages during the lock down have resorted to farming realizing they had nothing else to do.
- Covid19 has awakened farmers to start saving for the future and for emergency situations.
- Farming stakeholders have become more oriented to technology advancements as a way of ensuring service delivery.



Recommendations for strategies and priority changes.

- Prioritize investments in technology and research with regard to extension service delivery.
- Government should ensure proper management of the e-voucher system under ACDP in order to fully benefit the intended target at local level.
- Build the capacity of extension staff both public and private to be able to respond to farmers needs as a result of emergency.
- Support innovations in extension service delivery to ensure farmers are helped and establish farm service centers at zonal levels to ensure supply of essential inputs to farmers.

