

RAPID IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF COVID-19 ON AGRICULTURE SECTOR



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AT THE 3RD NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION E-SYMPOSIUM- 2020

THEME: POSITIONING AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES FOR
RESILIENT AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS IN UGANDA



HOTEL AFRICANA – 30TH JULY 2020



Background

- Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA)- an international agricultural development NGO, co-founded in 1986 by Nobel Laureate Dr. Norman Borlaug, Japanese philanthropist Ryoichi Sasakawa (Nippon Foundation) and former US President Jimmy Carter
- SAA was established in 1986, has worked in over 15 countries in Africa, majorly funded by Nippon Foundation - Japan
- **VISION**
- A Sub-Saharan Africa free from hunger and poverty, sustainably producing nutritious food in an eco-friendly, market-oriented and socially viable system.
- **MISSION**
- Working in partnership with public and private stakeholders, in particular extension advisory services, SAA will take a lead in influencing the inclusive transformation of African agriculture to empower smallholder farmers to sustainably increase productivity and income in response to market demand.
- **Goal:** Agricultural extension models to promote food security are adopted officially by universities and public extension system.

SAA Uganda

- 1996 signed an MOU with the Govt of Uganda through MAAIF
- Since inception in Uganda, has reached out to over 1m households for small holder farmers in 66 districts, built capacity of over 4000 extension agents
- Focuses on smallholder farmers 60% women , also youth and persons with special needs –PWDs
- Promotes farming as a business in partnership with other stakeholders (MAIIF, NARO, Farmers/farmer organisations, private sector, Development partners like aBi, K+S Germany/Grainpulse, IFAD, WFP,



SAA promotes various agribusiness models along the value chains namely:

- **Agro-processing and Enterprise Center (APEC)**
 - Agro-processing Enterprise (APE)
 - Enterprise Centers (EC)
 - Value chain centre- VCC (eg the one stop centres)
 - Promoting Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization for SHFs (PHTP)
- **Private and Extension Service Provision (PESP)**
 - Commodity Association Traders/Trainers (CAT)/Village agent model adopted by MAAIF
 - Commodity Association (CA)
 - Community-based Facilitators (CBF)
 - Collective Marketing
 - PSP Model
- **Community Savings for Investment in Agribusiness (CSIA)**
- **Community Based Seed Multiplication (CBSM)**
- **Farmer Learning Platform (FLP) – Climate smart Villages**
- **SAFE Demand Driven Curriculum (SDDC)**

Supervised Enterprise Projects (SEP):

Enterprise Centers (EC) (as shown in APEC Model)

Demand Driven Curriculum (DDC)



- The lockdown started at the beginning of the first season.
- Given the COVID-19 pandemic, SAA undertook a rapid impact assessment in all its implementing countries
- It was commissioned to get information on the current and anticipated effects of the disease specifically in the agricultural sector.
- **Objectives of the assessment**
 - To assess the impact of COVID-19 on the food systems
 - To establish how the COVID-19 pandemic situation and mitigation measures put by the country are affecting the food systems
 - Recommend/Suggest concrete mitigation measures and practical solutions that SAA can deliver on
 - Develop a COVID – 19 emergency project funded by SAA/Nippon Foundation
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METHODOLOGY

- E-assessment (phone interviews and emails) guided by a questionnaire
- Sample: farmers, off-takers/traders, input dealers, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), private service providers, development partners as well as financial institutions.
- Data collection: Used phone interviews and emails guided by semi-structured tools and questionnaires
- Done by technical staff from CPE, PHAP, BD, MERC as well as Management.
- Overall, 95 respondents participated in the survey across the 4 regions: Central, Northern, Western and Eastern. Of the participants, 61 were male and 34 female. The average age for both male and female participants was 44.5 years as summarized in table 1.

Sample size by category	
Respondent category	Total number
Farmers	46
EAs/DLG	11
Financial Institutions	4
Off-takers	6
HR students	2
HR Institutions	3
Private Services Providers	8
Input dealers	7
MAAIF and Partners	8
Total	95



Stakeholder category	Hand washing	Social distance	Avoid gatherings/stay home	Report suspected persons	Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth	Hand sanitizer	Wear Mask	Sneezing, coughing and spitting etiquettes
Farmers	95	64	21	2	10	2	5	2
Off-takers	100	100		50	100	-	83	-
Financial Inst	100	100	-	-	100	-	75	-
Input traders	100	86	29	-	57	29	29	-
EAs	100	13	100	0	88	13	13	-
PSP	82	100	27	18	9	45	-	-

There is general awareness of the disease as well as key preventive measures



- Majorly due to restrictions on transport, movements and gatherings the affected areas are;
- Input and output market access
- Access to extension services
- Labour availability
- Reduced acreage
- Food and nutrition security
- Reduced savings

Figure 3: Percentage response on effect on Food and nutrition security by MAAIF and partners

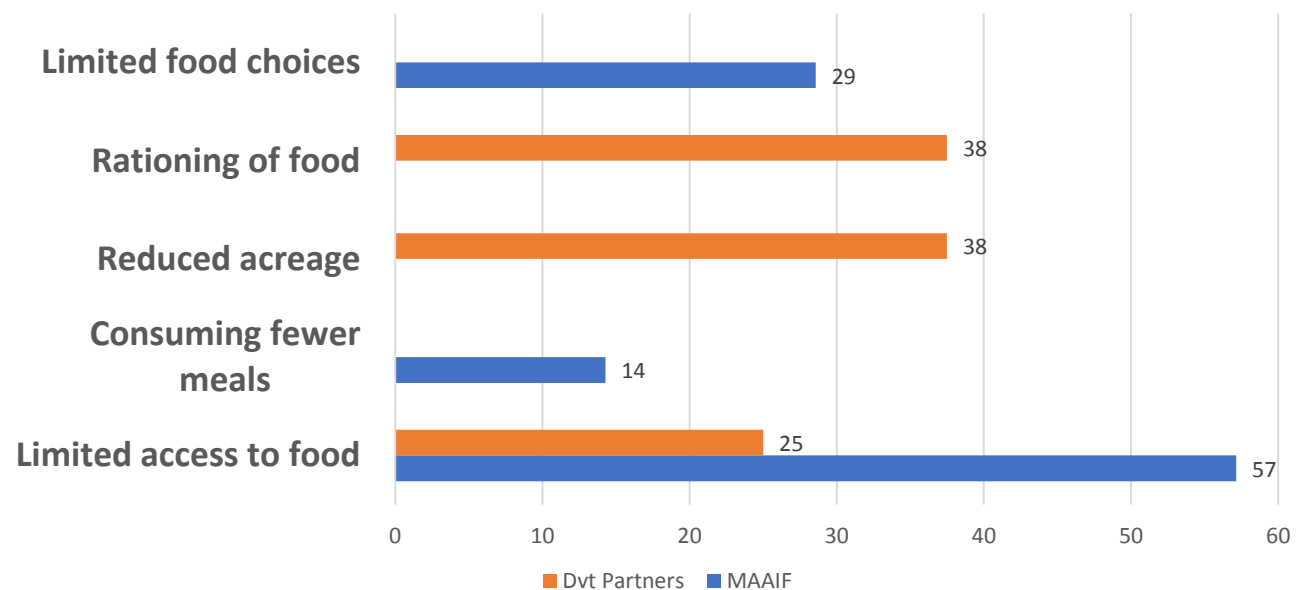


Figure 4: Percentage farmers' responses on factors affected by COVID-19

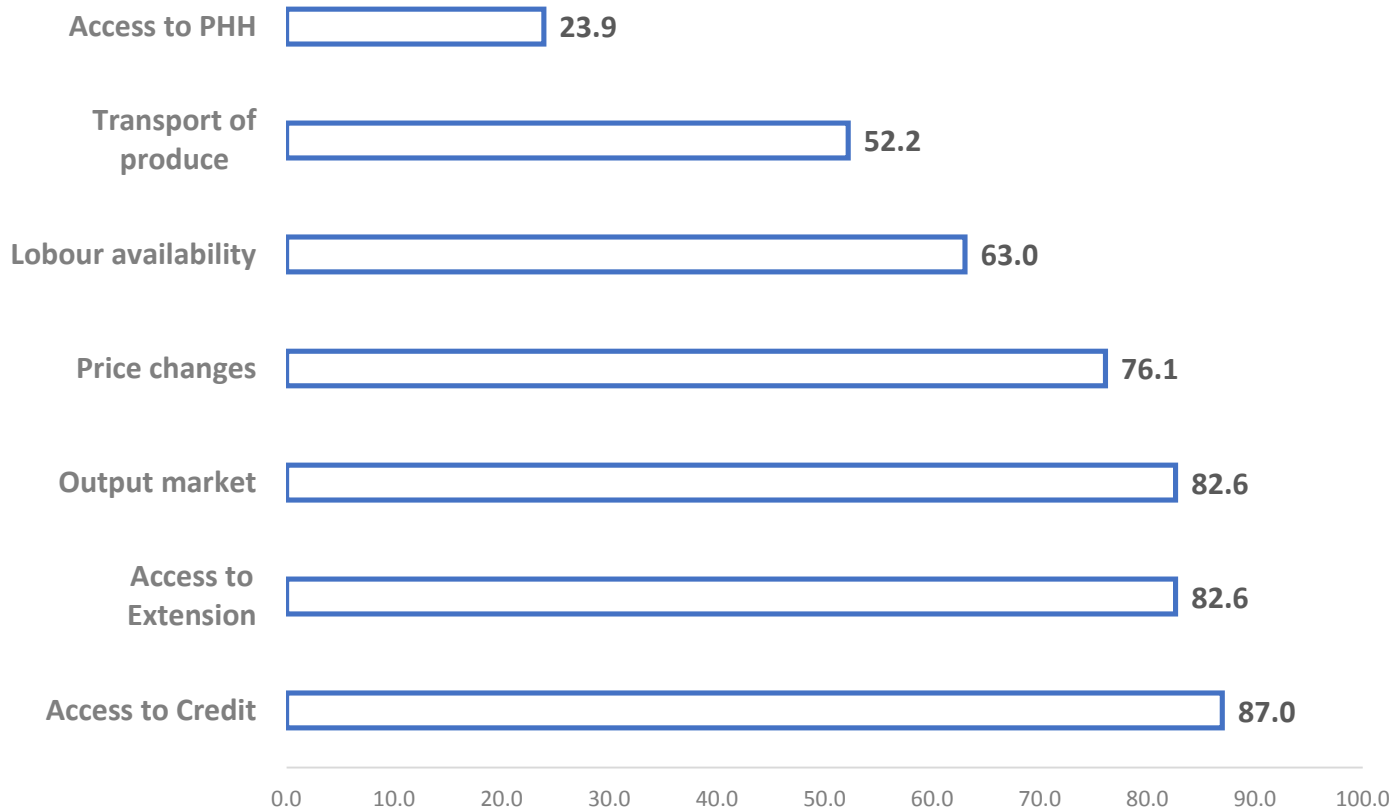


Figure 5: Effect of COVID 19 on food security and nutrition among farmers



Measure	Percentage response
Continuous cultivation	24%
Food rationing	36%
No measure taken	12%
Phone call EA for advisory services	10%
Reserve unsold food for home consumption	10%
Sell at farm gate	7%
Use family labour	33%



Figure 6: Effect of COVID 19 on input business

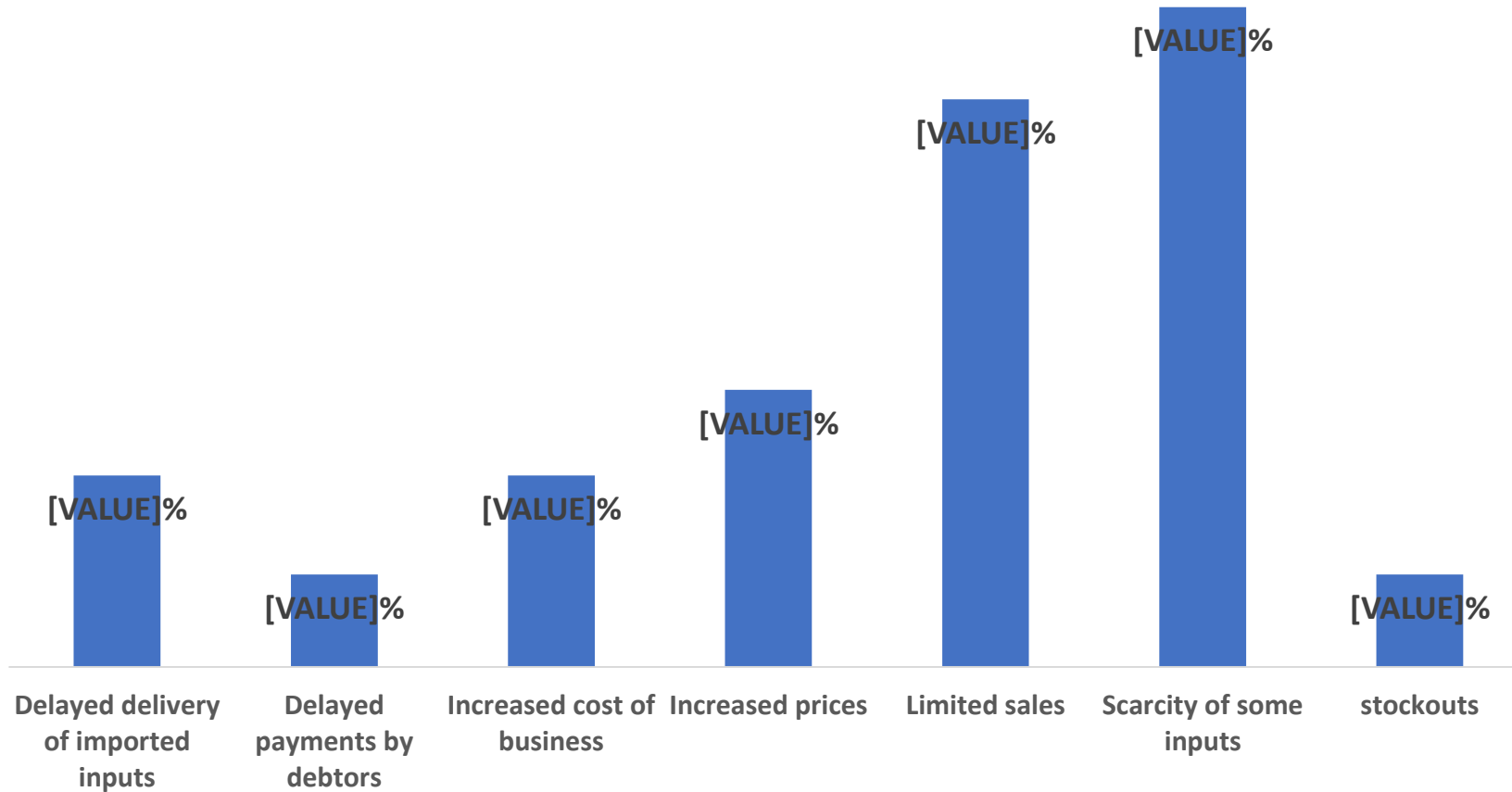


Figure 8: Percentage Responses on the effect of COVID 19 on delivery of extension services

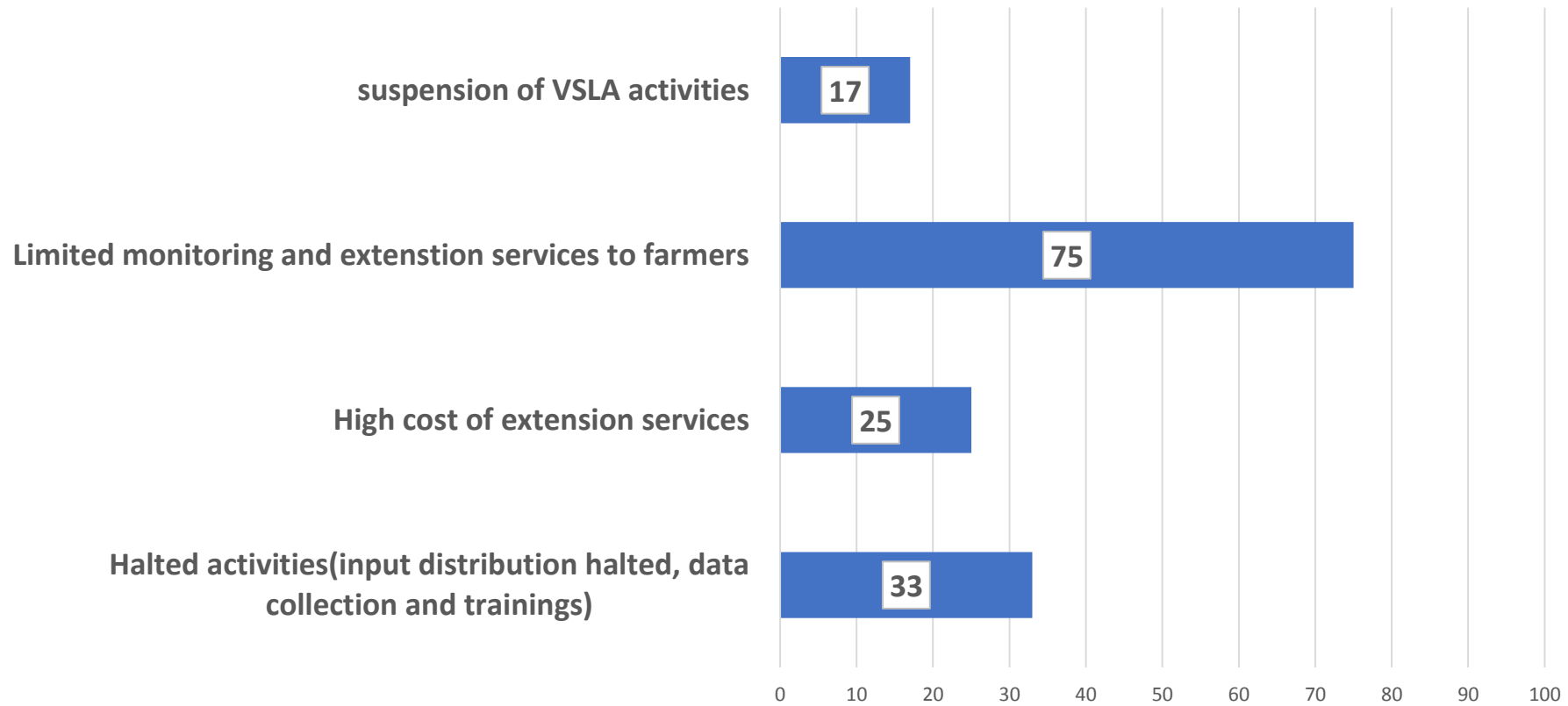
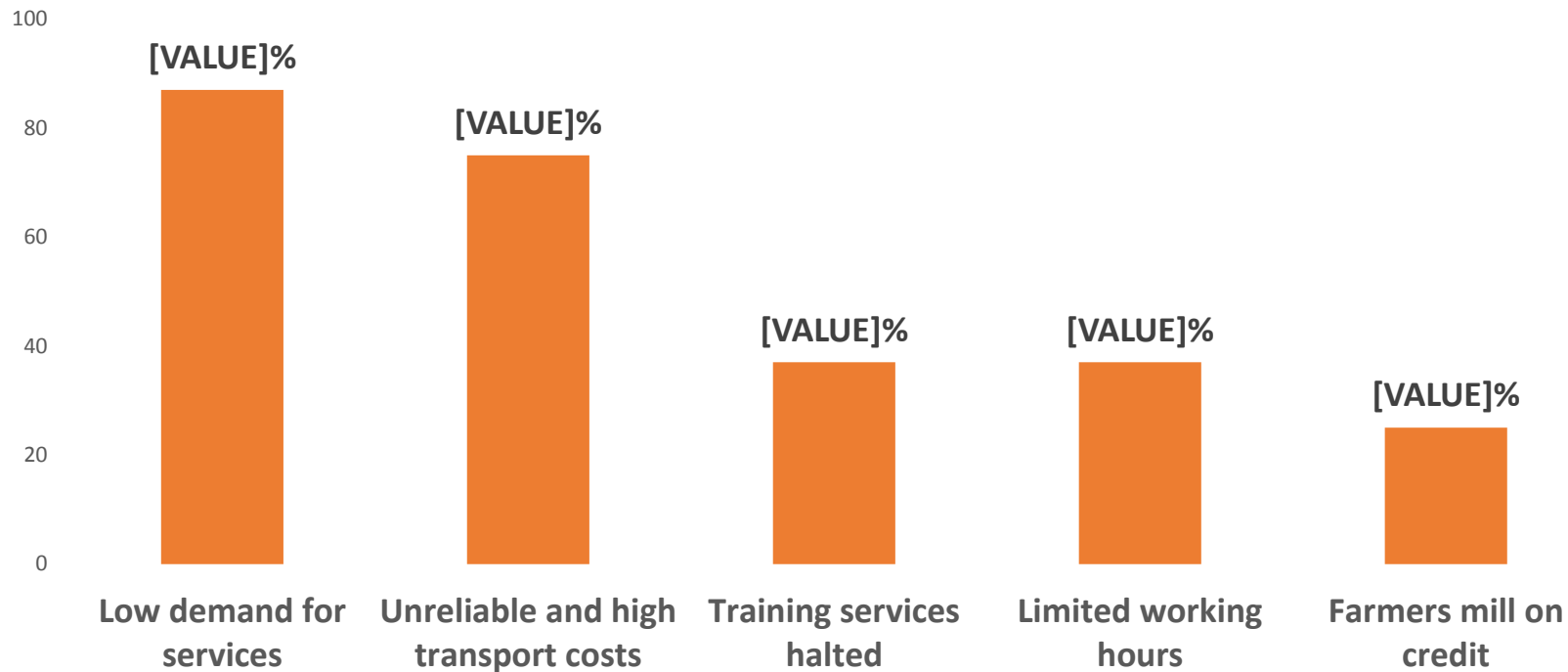


Figure 10: Effect of COVID 19 on private service delivery to farmers

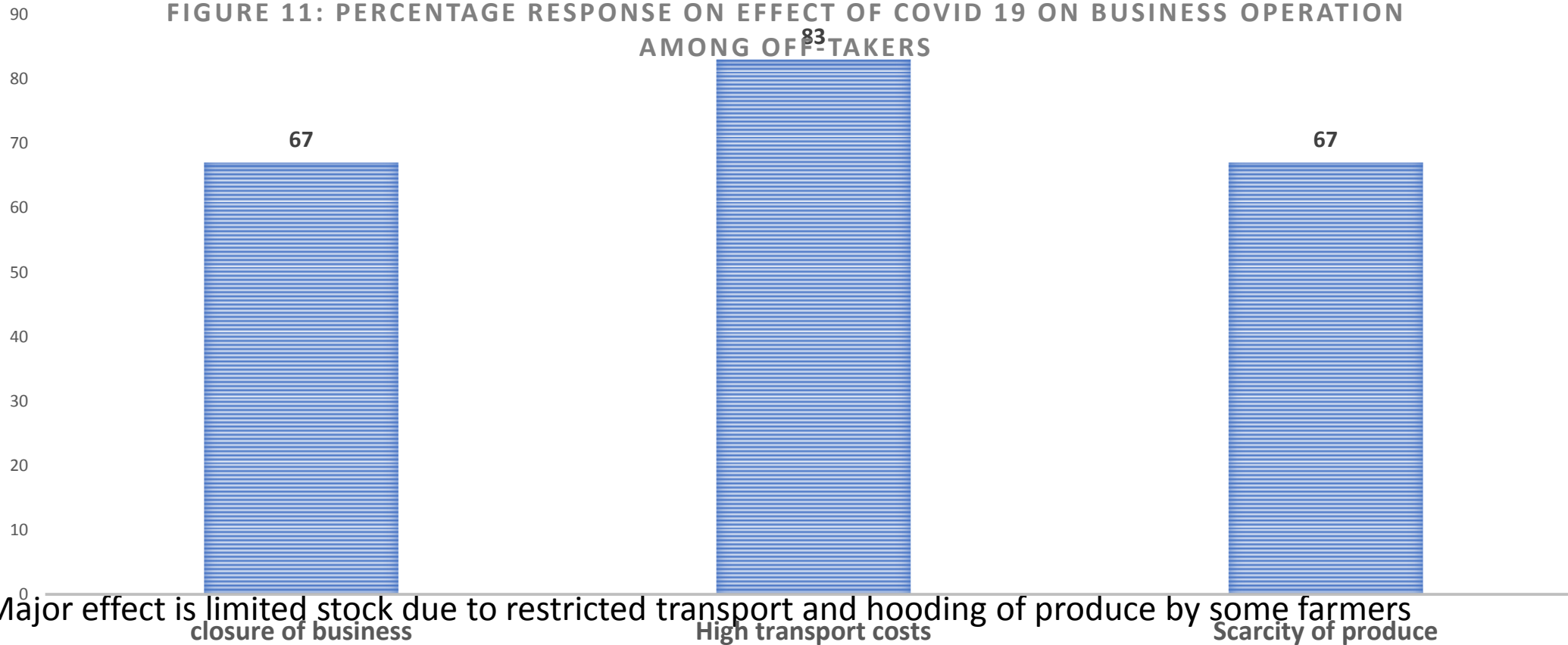


- Consequently, product sales have been affected. E.g a kilogram of rice ranges between 4500 – 6000 shillings (1.2-1.6\$) from 3000 shillings (0.8\$) while maize costs UGX 1200(0.32\$) per kilogram compared to Sh. 800 before



1. Effect of COVID-19 on output market

FIGURE 11: PERCENTAGE RESPONSE ON EFFECT OF COVID 19 ON BUSINESS OPERATION AMONG OFF-TAKERS

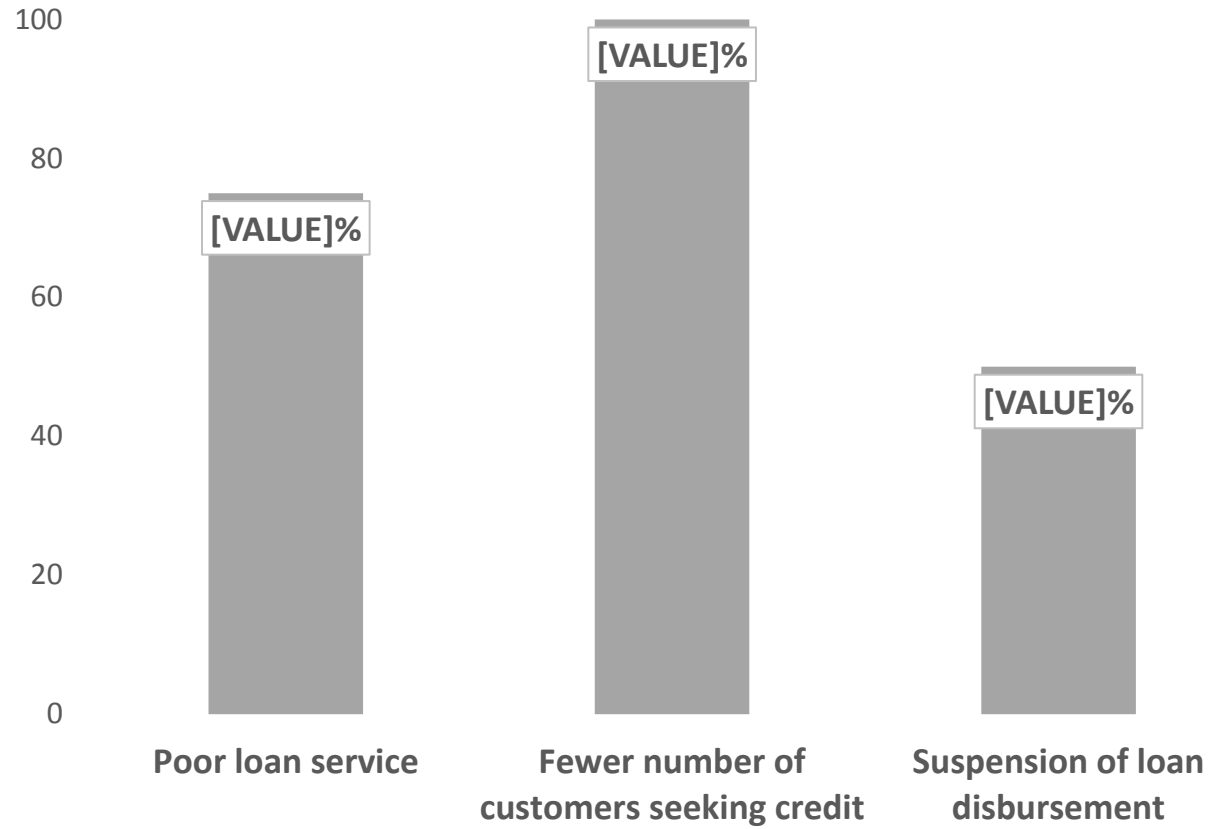


- Major effect is limited stock due to restricted transport and hoarding of produce by some farmers
- Prices have also been affected

Produce	Average price before (in UGX)	Average price after (in UGX)	Average price difference (in UGX)
Maize	808 (\$0.22)	1091 (\$0.29)	283 (\$0.08)
Beans	2540 (\$0.68)	3780 (\$1.01)	1240 (\$0.33)
Rice	3500 (\$0.93)	4000 (\$1.07)	500 (\$0.13)



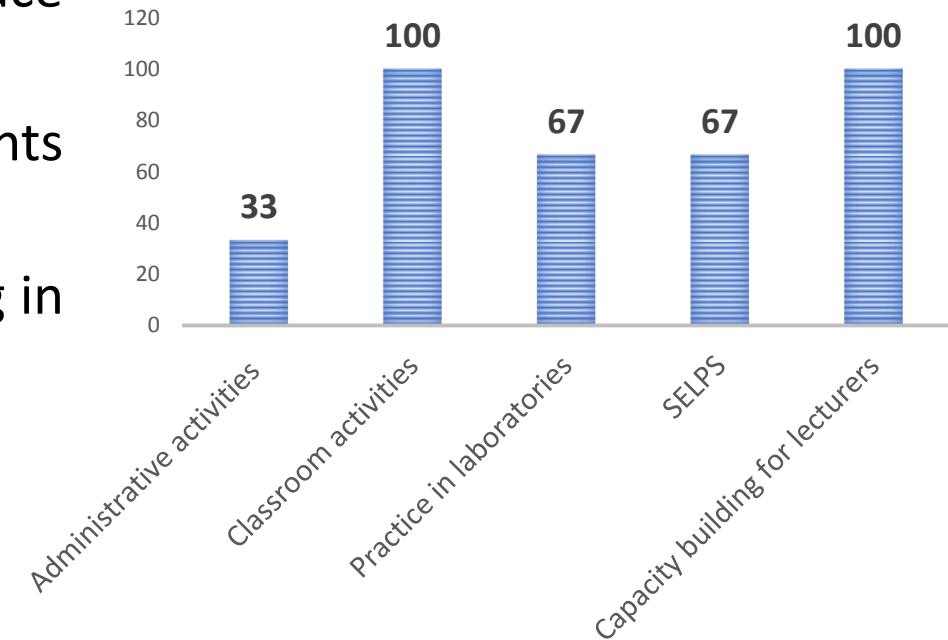
Figure 13: Effect of COVID - 19 on credit flow



A number of areas have been affected as shown

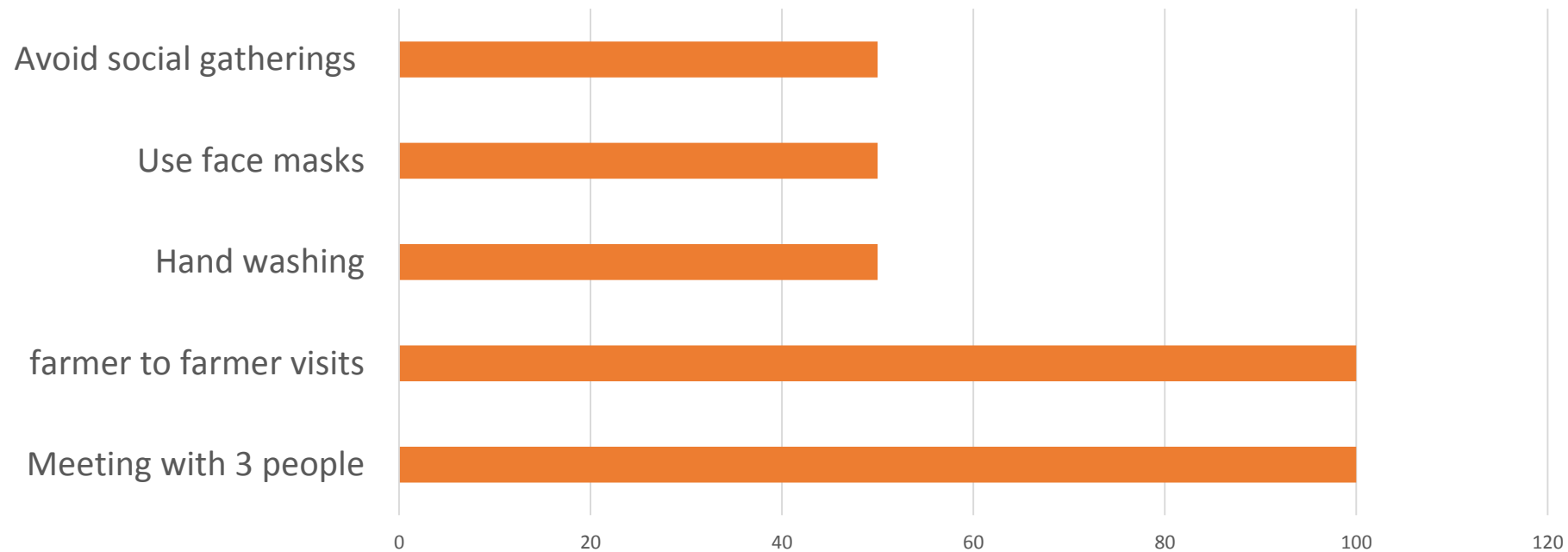
- No ICT mode of training at the university
- Most common mode of delivering the trainings is face-to-face and a few of students are under semi-distance program
- However, some lecturers have kept in touch with the students they are supervising
- Recommendation: have strategies for incorporating e-learning in the current modes

Figure 15: Percentage response on affected activities



- Students are well aware of the COVID-19 and its effects
- All learning institutions were closed more than a month ago
- The students did not have any manual related to preventive measure on COVID-19
- However, they suggested strategies of how to take preventive measures while doing their Supervised Enterprise Learning Projects (SELPs) or internships

Figure 17: Percentage response on protection strategies



- Overall, all stakeholders were aware of at least two preventive measure against COVID_19
- It is evident that the COVID_19 pandemic has affected the agricultural sector; affecting the different stakeholders in diverse ways.
- Mostly, ban on public transport and social gatherings has suffocated several activities in the sector including access to inputs, output markets, financial services and extension services among others.
- Generally, food and nutrition security has been affected across the country regions since farmers can barely access output markets. This has resulted into reduction in the number of meals accessed at household level per day but also limiting the variation of food types per meal.



- Support production of food security crops such as cassava and sweet potatoes (Vit A biofortified) as well as high value fast growing crops such as vegetables; provide planting materials and technical support
- Conduct radio talk shows and spot messages, video clips to sensitize the farmers- timely weeding, pest and disease control, post-harvest handling, reduce food wastage, disaster preparedness.
- Increase number of demos per group from 1 to at least 4 to reduce on crowding and observe social distancing, or meeting farmers from a number of groups
- Promote E-extension; ensure that all extension workers and farmers are registered and e-marketing
- Support livestock like local poultry for nutrition, source of income but also as diversification of enterprises and also spreading risks.



RECOMMENDATION- *Improving farmer access to inputs*

- Establish call centers in liaison with CATs/VAs Farmer associations where farmers can send their demand for inputs that can be relayed to input stockists for delivery to farmers. Provide inputs through CATs using the voucher system.
- Provide linkages to certified agro-input dealers who provide delivery services
- Provide a revolving fund in form of a loan to support CATs boost the input business and deliver inputs to farmer groups,
- Enhance seed multiplication groups to focus on food security and nutrition, and timely access to quality seed within communities
- Promote WhatsApp groups since WhatsApp has picked up to share information, detect diseases, pests, through sharing pictures from the field then we send the chemicals basing on the assessment of the agronomist e.g. Army fall and chemicals provided as demanded



- Increase logistical support to EAs who are foot soldiers reaching out to farmers, give bicycles to CBFs but also motorcycles and fuel to government extension workers on a cost sharing basis to enable them traverse larger areas. More airtime will be required as there will be more use of phones
- Provision of personal protective equipment to extension agents to increase their confidence to go to the field- overalls, masks, gloves and Sanitizers
- Integrate them in media programmes (training radio and TV programs for various crops along the value chains)
- SAA can facilitate putting up the necessary structures (course modules in online delivery format and training the staff on using this delivery method) and infrastructure (ICT tools).
- Facilitate EAs to buy android/smart phones so that they can ably take lead in e-extension

- Digitization of the existing training materials; have them in a user-friendly format and the students can read them until that time when the university reopens.
- SAA can facilitate in putting up the necessary structures (course modules in online delivery format and training the staff on using this delivery method) and infrastructure (ICT tools).
- Facilitate/collaborate in establishment of online teaching but also support/facilitate rigorous skills development on designing on-line course modules for universities



Project in three phases- Immediate pilot, intermediate and long term

PILOT: Knowledge transfer activities

- E-extension (partnering with M-Mulimisa)
 - Profile available e-extension service providers/platforms
 - Registering farmers and extension agents, staff on the profiled platforms
 - Training EAs on use of the platforms
 - Provision of person protective equipment against COVID-19
- Radio programs – addressing issues of the crop calendar, nutrition
- ✓ Radio talk shows aired at local FM stations
- ✓ Radio spot messages
- ✓ Awareness on COVID_19 and its impact on Agriculture, health
- ✓ Provide personal protective equipment (temp gun, hand washing facilities, masks, overalls, sanitisers..)

Knowledge or technologies to be distributed (e.g. Labor saving and Input saving Agriculture technologies). Address issues of seed and nutrition

Developing content material for the platform and translating to local languages

- ✓ Vegetable seed; Sweet potatoes vines – orange fresh potatoes biofortified with Vit A (with early maturity period)
- ✓ Cassava cuttings
- ✓ Time saving technologies/reducing drudgery (planters, weeders, post harvest machines ..)

Mitigation measures for input supply chain (Partnering with Akorion)

- Profile CATs/agroinput stockists
- Guide the CATs /agroinput stockists to aggregate farmers demands for inputs
- Link CATs/Agroinput stockists to Agro-input companies – bulk SMS and participate on radio progs, whatsapp
- Facilitate establishment of call/business centres by CATs/VAs and agroinput stockists including transportation to the farmer
- Link CATs/Agro-input stockists to companies using ICT in agriculture for access to input and output markets





Left: Oliver a staff with SAA Uganda inspecting Aida Abia's rice multiplication garden in Bala Subcounty - Kole District. Masks are a must
Right: Aida Abia's soybean multiplication garden in Bala Subcounty – Kole Districts





Left: Okello Lillian a host farmer for the Iron rich beans multiplication garden; Right: Nakacwa Mary a host farmer for the iron rich beans multiplication in Mubende





Left: Sam Turyatamba, a host farmer for the maize demo in Mubende; Right: Ogweno Denis in his soybean seed multiplication in Otuke District



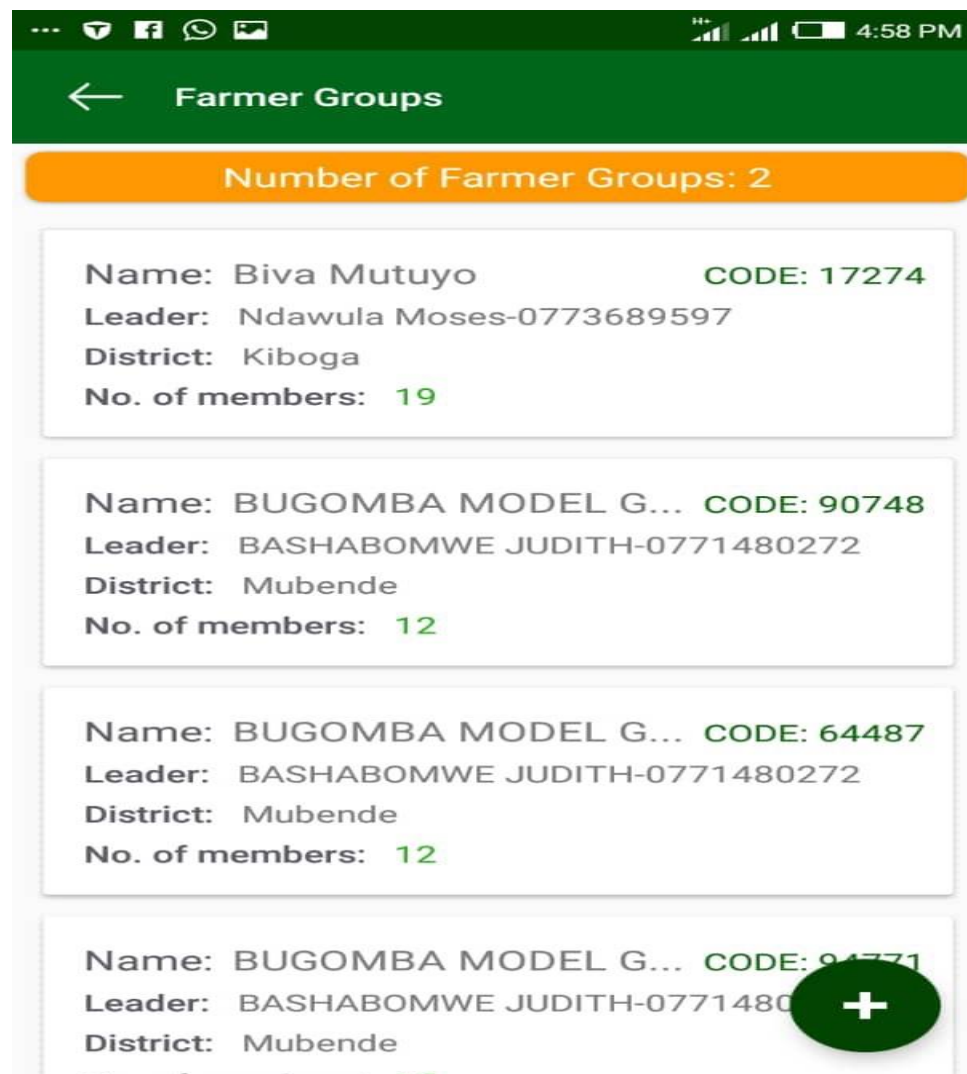


*Left: Aida Abia Embracing Private service provision one of the SAA agribusiness models SAA staff providing protective equipment;
Right: SAA team District teams during a radio talk show in Lira*



The adapted multi-row motorised planter-reduces drudgery and saves time







SAA mobile hand washing field facility

