

COVID-19 and Food Security

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The Covid-19 is a health crisis but could also end up becoming a Food security Crisis. The Virus so far has generated a lot of global impacts especially on the negative side with scores of human population depleted. But the death of humans doesn't seem to be its only effect, as this pandemic has the possibility of affecting the humans left on earth even after its eradication through food security. It could end up affecting the world far more than the disease itself.

Already, the Virus has already made a major impact on supply and logistics in most parts of the world for both producers and consumers which is very obvious seeing that most countries now have a closed border, national lockdown and a drastic reduction in the movement of planes.

The poor people in countries who rely on importation of most of their food and fuel and export of primary commodities to pay for them are likely to be affected the most. This impact of the virus will mean a more expensive importation of goods and a lot less money through exportation for them. Already the price of fuel has drastically crashed and countries whose main source of income is Fuel are likely to be affected the most.

Ebola had a huge impact on the economies of some African countries through a reduction in agriculture production caused by road blockages and farmers having limited access to inputs such as seeds, fertilisers, availability of veterinary professionals for animal farms and the rest. Even the ones who were able to produce some foods couldn't transport them to the urban markets and trade was disrupted as international shipping services were either delayed or cancelled.

The economic meltdown in 2018 showed us the effect of reduced income and uncertainty. It made people spend less which resulted in a drastic reduction demand, this meant Sales declined also and so did production.

The good news is that this pandemic doesn't necessarily have to end up in a crisis especially for food security. The extent to which a country is affected depends on whether they panic or not.

Regulating agencies need to take drastic actions to monitor food prices and markets and strengthen market regulations. It is also important to ensure that the international food supply chains function normally by not placing restrictions on the movement of agricultural produce across and within countries. Governments Need to step up their game in ensuring that they meet people's food needs especially the vulnerable populations (FAO).

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