

Retarding Food Production Worldwide Due to COVID 19 Pandemic

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Received: 15 July 2022

Published: 19 July 2022

Keywords: *COVID 19; Food Production*

Dear Editor,

The COVID-19 shock has derailed gains made towards achieving food security in Africa and around the world.

Food prices dip: Cereal production sees the first decline in four years as Ukraine war bites.



The COVID-19 epidemic has led to a significant loss of human life everywhere and poses an unprecedented challenge to the public. Health, food and work systems. Moreover, the economic and social disruption caused by the epidemic is devastating: many dozens of people find themselves at risk of falling into extreme poverty, while the number of people suffering from malnutrition, currently estimated at almost a billion, could increase to.

In the COVID-19 crisis, food security, public health and employment and labor issues, particularly employee health and safety, are converging. Adherence to safety and health procedures in the workplace and ensuring access to decent work and protection of workers' rights in all industries will be essential in dealing with the human dimension of the crisis. Immediate and purposeful action to spare lives and livelihoods should include expanding social protection for universal health coverage and ensuring income for those very affected. These are workers in the informal economy and in low-wage, low-wage jobs, including youth, older workers and immigrants. Attention should be paid to the situation of women, who are over-represented in employment and low-wage care positions. Various forms of support are critical, including cash transfers, child benefits and health meals at schools, shelter, food aid initiatives, employment retention and recovery support, and financial relief for businesses, including small, medium and small enterprises. In planning and implementing such measures, governments must work closely with employers and employees.

Countries facing existing humanitarian crises or emergencies are particularly vulnerable to Corvete-19 effects. Therefore, a rapid response to the epidemic while ensuring that humanitarian aid and recovery reach the most needy, is critical.

This article is intended to analyze the effects of COVID-19 on the relationship between food systems, the environment and sustainable development and to suggest ways for governments and international agencies. However, to moderate the effects in the short and medium term. It covers the historical period from early 2020 to early 2021. It also estimates prospects. Although the evidence is gathered from all over the world, the focus is mainly on developing countries. The methods used are the review of the declared actions and preliminary findings in the academic and gray literature as well as on reliable websites from global and international institutions. By October 2020, governments around the world had invested about \$ 12 trillion to neutralize the economic effects of COVID-19. This investment may contribute to progress in SDGs and global climate goals if it is invested in a framework that supports both socio-economic recovery and sustainability. Preliminary analysis indicates investments for economic risk management. The Global Agenda for Sustainable Development must promote the resilience and sustainability of food systems through policies and measures that: (a) take into account environmental thresholds and compromises; ii) promote food security and a healthy diet; iii) to improve and protect the livelihood of the village; And 4) address the inequalities and injustices that have emerged and will prevail during the post-COVID transition. National incentive programs and the actions of international agencies must be evaluated and monitored to provide multiple benefits simultaneously and better guide construction back [1].

In spring 2020, we conveyed a letter to the editor concerning "Retarding Food Production - The Coronavirus Crisis may Cause billions to live on the Brink of Starvation" [2].

Although at that stage of COVID 19 developing pandemic, many did not estimate the outbreak to contain everywhere of our planet earth and that in many waves many variants of the virus, paralyzed huge economies and kill millions around the world. And on top of that, a bloody war exploded in Ukraine, severely affecting cereals' production there.

An epidemic is not a new event encountered in the history of humankind because humankind has dealt with various outbreaks in history. The common point of epidemics is their severe negative effects on the world economy. Given the food supply chain, one of the most important sectors in the economy, it can be seen that COVID-19 impacts the entire process from the field to the consumer. In light of the recently identified challenges in the food supply chain, there is now a great deal of concern about food production, processing, distribution, and demand. COVID-19 has led to restrictions on the labor movement, changes in consumer demand, Closed food production facilities, limited food trade policies, and financial pressures in the food supply chain. Therefore, organizations and governments should facilitate the movement of workers and agricultural food products. In addition, small farmers or vulnerable people should be financially supported. Facilities should change working conditions and maintain the health and safety of workers by changing safety measures. A protectionist policy on food should be avoided to prevent a rise in food prices. In conclusion, each country must understand the severity of the situation and sometimes it must tighten or release the measures depending on the spread of the epidemic. The supply chain also needs to be flexible enough to respond to challenges in the food supply chain. The aimly identified of this review is to assess The impact of COVID-19 on the agriculture and food sector and summarize the recommendations needed to reduce and control the impact of the epidemic [3].

The '*Strategic preparedness and response plan*' suggested by the WHO includes all countries' health measures. It had to prepare for and respond to this pandemic. This plan covers what we have learned about the virus so far. It aims to transform this information into strategic action that can guide all national and international partners while developing national and regional operational plans. According to this plan, priority steps and actions outlined in eight main topics:

- Coordination, planning, and monitoring at the country level;
- Risk communication and community participation;
- Surveillance, quick response teams, and case investigation.
- Entry points.
- National laboratories.
- Prevention and control of infection.
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- Prevention and control of infection.
- Situation management.
- Operational support plan, and logistics [4].

International rice prices also rose [5]. Across the board, while crude grain prices fell 2.1%, with corn prices falling more sharply due to a slight improvement in U.S. crop conditions, seasonal supply in Argentina and the imminent start of Brazil's main corn harvest.

The FAO Vegetable Oil Price Index has fallen 3.5% since April, while still being significantly higher than its previous year. Prices have dropped for palm oil, sunflower, soybean and rapeseed, partly due to the lifting of Indonesia's short export ban on palm oil and a slow global demand for soybean and flake oil imports in light of the high costs in recent months.

"Export restrictions create market uncertainty and can lead to rising prices and increased price volatility. The decline in oilseed prices shows how important it is when they are removed and allowed exports to flow smoothly," said FAO chief economist Máximo Torero Cullen.

Dairy and sugar prices are falling while meat is also soaring. The FAO milk price index has fallen by 3.5% month-on-month.

Milk powder prices have fallen the most, linked to market uncertainty from continued COVID-19 locks in China, while strong retail sales and high demand from restaurants in the northern hemisphere prevented a significant drop in cheese prices despite declining demand for global imports.

Butter prices also fell due to weaker demand for imports amid an improvement in exportable supply.

The FAO sugar price index fell 1.1% from April, with an overcrowded crop in India boosting global availability. The weakening of the Brazilian real against the dollar, along with lower ethanol prices, also pushed world sugar prices down.

Meanwhile, the FAO Meat Price Index set a new all-time record, rising 0.6% in May even as world beef prices remained stable and pork prices fell.

The increase was because of a steep rise in international poultry prices, reflecting the continuation of the supply chain disruptions in Ukraine and recent cases of avian influenza amid a surge in demand in Europe and the Middle East.



Figure: Basic food goods that get more and more expensive due to world crisis.

Proper nutrition and moisture are essential. People who eat a balanced diet tend to be healthier with a stronger immune system and a lower risk of chronic and infectious diseases. So you need to eat a variety of fresh and unprocessed foods daily to get the vitamins, minerals, dietary fiber, protein and antioxidants your body needs. Drink enough water. Avoid sugar, fat and salt to significantly reduce the risk of overweight, obesity, heart disease, stroke, diabetes and certain types of cancer.

While proper nutrition and hydration improve health and immunity, they are not magic bullets. People living with chronic diseases who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19 may need support for their mental health and nutrition to ensure that they maintain their health. Seek counseling and psychosocial support from health care professionals who have undergone appropriate training, as well as community counselors and professionals.

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