

# How Are Kenyan Farmers Faring In The Face Of COVID-19?

Results from Round 1: June

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60 \_ decibels



Credit: Acumen

# Agenda

- 13.05      **Introduction to SIIMA Lean Data Innovation Platform.**  
Dan Haglund, Senior Advisor, DFID RED
  
- 13.10      **Presentation of key insights and emerging hypothesis**  
Venu Aggarwal, Director of Agriculture, 60 Decibels
  
- 13.20      **Brief Comments**  
Jamie Anderson, Senior Financial Sector Specialist, Rural and  
Agricultural Livelihoods, CGAP / World Bank Group  
Leesa Shrader, Program Director, AgriFin Accelerate, Mercy Corps
  
- 13.25      **Group discussion**  
We would love to hear your thoughts.
  
- 13.50      **Setting priority insights for to next phase**  
We would love your input for the next phase of this work
  
- 13.55      **Wrap Up and Next Steps**

# About SIIMA Lean Data Innovation Platform



**Dan Haglund**

Senior Advisor

Research and Evidence Division

DFID

# Key Insights And Emerging Hypotheses

Let's start with a short poll!

# About Our Research

We spoke to a representative sample of Kenyan farmers who own less than 3 acres of land.

**N=500**

Kenyan farmer households

**ALL**

Own less than 3 acres of land

**45**

Of 47 Kenyan counties represented. Excluded from sample: Nairobi, Mombasa

**50%**

Female Respondents

**~66%**

Planted less than or equal to 1.2 acres in the last 12 months

**54%**

Lived on less than \$3.2 per person per day compared to Kenyan national average of 47% and rural average of 65%

**~70%**

Earned income from selling farm produce in last 12 months

**~40%**

Earned income from selling livestock produce in last 12 months

# Farmers Are Worse Off Than Customers Of Social Enterprises

Targeted support to farmers is important to keep our food systems intact.

## Very Vulnerable

34% Farmers

vs

28% Customers of Kenyan social enterprises

## Coping

11% Farmers

vs

21% Customers of Kenyan social enterprises

## 60 Decibels Vulnerability Index

The 60dB Vulnerability Index aims to identify how shocks affect a family's situation. There are three levels on this spectrum: Very Vulnerable, Vulnerable and Coping.

The index is based on farmers responses on four key themes:

- Poverty level
- Change in financial situation
- Coping mechanisms used
- Effect on food consumption

# Farming Is Becoming More Important As Wage Income Shrinks

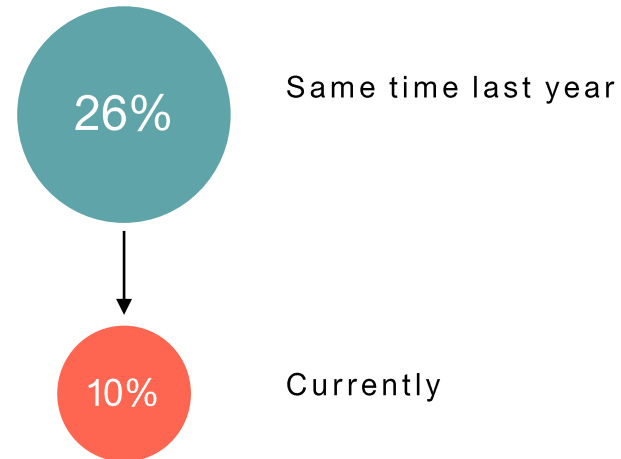
Reduced diversity of income has left farmers overly dependent on farming and vulnerable to additional market and climate shocks.

## Livelihood Mix

**25%** Have lost at least one source of income

**52%** Said farming had become more important to their livelihood

## Earning wages from a regular job



“Farming is the only solution to stop hunger and earn income since most of the part-time jobs have been closed indefinitely.”

“It's the only source of income and food for the time being.”

# But Returns From Farming Appear Limited

This adverse effect on farm economics is compounded by farmers' overall financial hardship, further reducing their bargaining power.

## Costs increase as prices decrease

**72%** Received lower price for their produce

**81%** Said price of agricultural inputs had increased

## Decrease in volumes harvested and sold

**77%** Reduced amount of produce sold

**65%** Reduced amount harvested

## Overall financial situation is worse

**88%** Say their financial situation is worse

**51%** Took a significant step like selling an asset or borrowing money to cope with COVID-19

# Farmers Are Having To Make Several Adjustments On Farm

Agriculture labour, who are the poorest in agriculture supply chains and often migrant workers, are likely bearing the brunt of the pandemic.

**98%** Adjusted at least one farm activity in last 2 weeks to cope with COVID-19

**95%** Hired less farm labour

**51%** Adjusted all five farm activities in last 2 weeks to cope with COVID-19

**42%** Spent more days on farm as a family

“My children have assisted in farming since the closure of school.”

“Buying of fertilizers and seeds has been a great challenge because the prices keep on getting higher.”

# We Are Not Alone

There are lots of incredible research projects focused on the impact of COVID-19 at macro and micro levels.

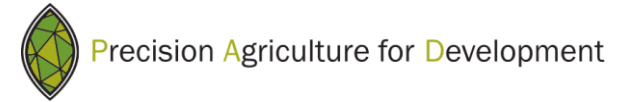
## Macro / Enterprise Data



## Population Data



## Farmer Data



# Comments From Experts



**Jamie Anderson**

Senior Financial Sector Specialist  
Rural and Agricultural Livelihoods  
CGAP / World Bank Group



**Leesa Shrader**

Program Director  
AgriFin Accelerate and AgriFin Digital Farmer Programs  
Mercy Corps

# Group Discussion

We'd love to hear your comments and questions – ping them in the chat or just unmute yourself!

## Thought Starters

1. What are your emerging hypotheses based on this research?
2. How do these insights compare with other research in the sector?
3. How does this tie into what you are hearing on the ground?

# What's Next

We will continue collecting data every month and updating our dashboard with the latest evidence at the same frequency.

## Cross-sectional Sample: 6 Rounds

- Focus today - June
- Ongoing - July
- Yet to start – August, September, October, November

## Additions to July

- Locusts
- Next Month for Farmers: phase of farming, confidence, anticipated challenges, support needed

## Additions for August - November

**We want this information to be useful for you – tell us what you'd like us to collect starting August!**

Both lives and livelihoods are at risk  
We risk a looming food crisis.

Farming is the only  
solution to

> stop hunger and

> earn income

since most of the  
part-time jobs have  
closed indefinitely.