

The COVID-19 Impact on Kenyan Farmers

How are Kenyan Farmers Faring in the Face of the Pandemic?

Insights from 5,100+ farmer conversations: June 2020 – March 2021

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01. Farmers' financial well-being has significantly decreased, and they need cash and credit leniency to cope with the pandemic.



9 in 10 farmers report being worse off due to the pandemic.



One quarter of farmers have lost at least one income source.



66% of farmers have drawn on their savings.

02. Access to affordable inputs will help farmers cope with declining farm profitability.

74%

reported an increase in the price of food or agricultural inputs.



63%

received lower prices for their produce.



03. Connection with new buyers, access to market information and transportation support will help cement returns.

52%

reduced the amount of produce sold in the last two weeks.



83%

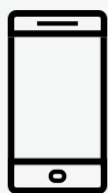
wanted to sell more but could not.



04. More than a third of farmers increased their usage of digital technologies.

37%

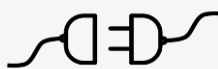
increased their use of digital technologies.



> Largest increases were for personal use and financial transactions.

27%

decreased their use of digital technologies.



> Because they lacked access to funds to get data top-ups or a device.

Funded by:



“Both lives and livelihoods are at risk from this pandemic...we risk a looming food crisis.”

- Female farmer, Age 26, June

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01. Agriculture is as growing in importance as the pandemic continues; farmers are relying on their crops for food as financial strife remains.



% of respondents who reported farming is more important as a source of food for their families

JUN

34%

x

MAR

66%

02. Input prices have remained high since the start of the pandemic and lockdown, but have started to stabilize.



% of farmers who purchased inputs in last 2 weeks and said the price was higher than usual)

JUN

72%

x

MAR

71%

03. On the demand side, farmers have consistently seen lower prices for their produce sales, but this seems to be improving.



% of farmers who sold produce in last 2 weeks and said the price was lower than usual)

JUN

72%

x

MAR

64%

04. Despite of the situation, farmers remain optimistic for the short rain season.



% of respondents who felt confident in ability to undertake normal farming activity in the next month

JUL

87%

x

MAR

78%

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01. Farming Impact



% of 'very confident' in the next month's farming activities

29%

34%

% who sold 'much less' produce to cope with pandemic

20%

18%

02. Financial Impact



% reporting 'much worse' financial situation

45%

40%

% confident about loan repayment

50%

63%

03. Top Requests



% asking for cash as top support to cope

44%

38%

Top request to increase sales

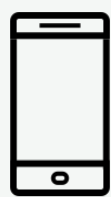
72%

69%

Connecting with new buyers

Market information

04. Digital Use



% used smartphone last month

39%

52%

% used feature phone last month

67%

57%

Funded by:



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- Female farmer, Age 26, June