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Fairtrade Africa COVID19 Update #03

Scope: Government Action and Product Updates

Week of April 09-17, 2020

Various African governments have announced lockdowns or curfews in response to the virus, which was slow to reach many African countries, but is now growing fast. In a statement marking Africa's 10,000th case, the WHO warned that the coronavirus could "unleash economic and social devastation" in Africa, where health systems and economies are fragile and urged governments to step up containment measures. Ethiopia, Africa's second-most populous nation and Liberia declared states of emergency on Wednesday to help curb the spread of the virus, a day after cases on the continent surged past 10,000 cases.

As of March 17, we have 19,068 cases with 969 reported deaths. Various African governments have announced lockdowns or curfews in response to the virus, which was slow to reach many African countries, but is now growing fast. The trend all over the world is an extension of lockdowns and curfews. No new strategies in containing the spread. We, therefore, continue working from home and observing all WHO and our respective government regulations/ advisories aimed at containing the pandemic.

1. Government Actions per Country

1.1 Ghana

The total number of confirmed cases as of April 17 stands at 641 with eight deaths and 83 recovered cases. The government is using drones to deliver samples for testing from far off regions to testing laboratories. In addition to the partial lockdown for parts of Ghana i.e. Greater Accra and Greater Kumasi and Awutu Senya East areas that are currently considered the epicentre of the pandemic, the lockdown and public gatherings have been extended for another week and two weeks respectively. The government also announced that the border closure had been extended till further notice, except for cargo. The impact of the lockdown globally and locally is beginning to be felt in the agricultural sector, as the global commodity prices such as cocoa are beginning to drop.

1.2 Cote d'Ivoire

Cote d'Ivoire has registered a total of 688 confirmed cases, 146 recovered and six deaths registered as of April 17. The government of Cote d'Ivoire has implemented measures to limit the spread of COVID-19. Schools (from pre-school to university) were closed for 30 days effective March 16. Sporting events, festivals, and gatherings of more than 50 people are banned effective March 18. Social distancing is in effect: no handshakes or embraces, maintain at least one meter distance from other persons. The airport has currently suspended all passenger planes. The Government of Cote d'Ivoire announced the closure of land, aviation and maritime borders on midnight, Sunday, March 22 for an indeterminate period.

However, cargo shipments are not affected. Curfew from 21.00 to 05.00 hours went into effect nationwide on March 24. Inter-city travel, apart from certain emergency services, was prohibited effective midnight, March 29. Travel between Abidjan, Dabou, Azagule, Bingerville, Grand-Bassam, Bonoua and Assinie is still permissible.

1.3 Cameroun

With 855 confirmed cases, 165 recovered cases and 17 deaths, Cameroon's Ministry of Public Health has developed a preparedness plan for COVID-19, including active surveillance at points of entry, in-country diagnostic capacity at the national reference laboratory, and designated isolation and treatment centres. WHO and other centres of disease control and surveillance are providing technical support and closely monitoring the situation in Cameroon.

1.4 Uganda

So far, the country has recorded 55 cases of infected patients, while 12 have recovered. The government extended the lockdown for another 21 days to prevent further spread of the coronavirus. The extension which began on April 14 will run to May 15. All the measures previously announced will continue to apply during this period.

The government hopes to have a clearer picture by May 5 to determine the way forward on the lifting of restrictions. Uganda's central bank has dropped its policy rate from nine per cent announced in February 2020 to eight per cent for April, to counter the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic on commercial banks, micro deposit taking institutions, the economy and borrowers.

Lower interest rates are meant to cut banks' funding costs, reduce borrowing costs boost consumer demand and restore economic growth in the wake of the damage caused by the pandemic.

1.5 Ethiopia

As of April 17, Ethiopia had 92 confirmed cases, 15 recovered cases and three deaths. Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed declared a state of emergency in the country on April 08. The government through the Council of Ministers approved a regulation after the parliament legislated the emergency decree.

The regulation:

- a) Outlaw's handshakes and obligates the use of face masks in public places. Non-compliance could be punished with up to three years in jail or a fine of up to 5,660 Euros.
- b) Outlaw's gatherings of over four people, sports activities, visiting prisoners, attending funerals, operating a bar or movie business, increasing rental fees, evicting renters, and laying off employees of private companies without following the procedures of the Labour Ministry. Mass religious, social gatherings and large political and government functions are also on the list of banned activities.
- c) Restaurants and hotels are prohibited from allowing more than three people to sit at a table.
- d) Crossing borders without approval from the Council of Ministers prohibited.
- e) Public transport providers to cut loading capacity by half.

Additionally, various government institutions are also taking measures to complement the national government's efforts. Tigray Regional State, for instance, is set to start door-to-door monitoring for signs of COVID-19 for residents across the Regional State. The Addis Ababa City Administration has announced similar plans beginning next week.

1.6 Rwanda

So far, Rwanda has reported 138 cases of coronavirus infections, with 54 recovered cases. The government of Rwanda announced a total lockdown late March that has been extended to April 30 to prevent further spread. The government is using drones to keep residents of Kigali informed of lockdown measures and help catch lockdown transgressors.



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Measures such as the prohibition of unnecessary movement and visits outside homes remain, except for essential services such as healthcare, food shopping or banking. Additionally, Rwandans and visitors remain subjected to a mandatory 14-day quarantine.

1.7 Tanzania

The total number of confirmed cases as at April 17 stands at 94. Out of these, 11 have recovered while four have died. Tanzania unlike its counterparts in the East African community and parts of Africa has not imposed any restrictions on movement or closed its borders. However, it has suspended social gatherings and ordered education institutions shut. Places of worship remain open.

1.8 Kenya

With 234 confirmed cases, 53 recovered cases and 11 deaths as of April 17, efforts to protect Kenyans from the virus have seen the government of Kenya issue orders including nationwide dusk to dawn curfew, cessation of movement into and out of Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale counties and the suspension of international flights.

In the latest update, the government indicate plans to step up efforts on various fronts some of which include:

- a) The Health and Public Service ministries will develop a welfare package to cushion frontline health workers.
 - b) The Education Ministry will take steps to protect students from the negative impacts of measures taken against COVID-19.
 - c) Counties will be given a three-month waiver from the requirement on mandatory procurement from the Kenya Medical Supplies Agency (KEMSA), allowing counties to locally source for supplies including face and surgical masks.
 - d) Parliament will consider the legislative proposals in the house towards economic relief.
- The government will supplement counties' efforts by sending them a total of KES5 billion.

1.9 South Africa

There are 2605 registered cases in the country as of April 17, with 903 recovered and 48 deaths. The lockdown measure has been extended until the end of April (to be reviewed). The current stance is that if the numbers keep increasing, by at least 90 people per day, the lockdown will be extended.

Globally, there is a shortage of the long swabs needed to do the tests, therefore, asymptomatic people are not being tested which means that about twenty percent of people are being missed. Additionally, South Africa is entering the flu season, which will make people more vulnerable to the Coronavirus.

However, the country has implemented an aggressive approach to flatten the curve. This includes doing door-to-door screenings and testing in vulnerable communities as well as monthly surveillance of healthcare workers; schools; mines; prisons and big companies.

Regulations that have been amended to allow the export of wine with effect from April 7, have once again been cancelled. All wine exports have been banned effective April 16 2020. This has huge implications for our producers and impacts on the livelihood and long-term future of the wine industry.



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1.9 Kingdom of Eswatini

Eswatini has 16 confirmed cases, registering one death and eight recovered cases as of April 17. A partial lockdown is being instituted, the public is anxious as the Republic of South Africa extended its lockdown, and that has a direct impact on the country. Government still has no compensation plan for losses.

1.10 Malawi

Malawi has reported 16 cases and two deaths as of April 17. A lockdown will begin April 18 until the midnight of May 09 in all districts in Malawi except for enforcement officers, no person shall be allowed to leave their homes unless under special approval from CEO of district councils.

Intensified laboratory testing of coronavirus, recruitment of additional health personnel, intensification of border security patrols and mounting of roadblocks in strategic point's countrywide, provision of PPE to all health facilities across the country and conducting massive awareness campaigns to the public.

1.11 Madagascar

Reported cases in Madagascar are 117 with 33 recovered cases. Health Emergency was extended throughout Madagascar and extension of the confinement imposed in the capital Antananarivo, the city of Toamasina, and its extension to the city of Fianarantsoa, until April 19. The Government has ordered five million masks of international standards to be manufactured by export processing companies in Madagascar and has started distributing them in high-risk cities and to all workers exposed to risks.

Suspected cases are being tested and patient care is based on a single health protocol. It is a strategy unanimously adopted by medical specialists, medical experts, prominent Malagasy professors and researchers to ensure that coronavirus patients receive adequate treatment during their stay in hospital. 23 patients have recovered.

1.12 Mauritius

The number of COVID-19 cases stands at 324, of which 261 are active cases. Moreover, 81 patients have recovered, and 270 persons are under quarantine in centres across the country while nine deaths have been reported.

Mauritius will receive medical supplies (comprising personal protective equipment for the health personnel and other equipment) following a donation by the Jack Ma Foundation to Africa. Some of the measures undertaken by the government include; setting up a teleconference mechanism, to allow the exchange information and advice on the COVID-19 between Mauritian medical practitioners and a specialized hospital in China. This initiative is a joint venture of the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation and Huawei.

Additionally, an online training/seminar on COVID-19, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, was held for doctors as from April 8. A working session between local anaesthetists and those from Reunion Island is also scheduled.

The confinement imposed on the population is bearing its fruits. While the curve may be flattening, the Government urges Mauritians to remain vigilant and keep up social distancing measures. Testing has increased. The Ministry of Health and Wellness will rapidly expand testing to cater for people showing symptoms, persons in contact with patients and those on the frontlines.



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1.13 Zimbabwe

The country has reported 23 confirmed cases, with one recovery and three deaths. Following the 21 days national lockdown beginning March 30, the government has introduced a 5 km radius allowance to farmers, which means they can still work on their fields and process their crop. However, there is a ban on travelling outside the 5km radius from the farms.

1.14 Zambia

With 48 confirmed cases, two deaths and 30 recoveries reported, a mandatory 14-day self-quarantine period has been set for travellers from or having transited through countries affected by the COVID-19 outbreak 14 days before their arrival in Zambia.

1.15 Egypt

As of April 17, 2505 cases confirmed, 589 recoveries and 183 deaths have been reported. The government has introduced a curfew from 19.00hrs-6.00hrs but medical & food supply chain are exempted from this curfew. Some hospitals have been assigned in each governorate to receive and support cases. Additionally, a hotline phone number has been assigned for support in the response to COVID-19.

1.16 Palestine

All education activities have been suspended amidst a total lockdown having a total of 205 confirmed cases.

1.17 Morocco

Confirmed cases as of April 17, stands at 2, 251 with 247 recovered cases and 128 deaths. The government has suspended all flights both domestic and international, cafes, restaurants, shops and schools have also been closed. Curfew has been instituted between from 18.00hrs-6.00 hrs.

Additionally, wearing of masks has been made mandatory. Sports activities and competitions have also been suspended until further notice. The Moroccan government is in the process of setting up a special Fund for the Management of the Coronavirus Pandemic. This will benefit employees who have been laid off and are affiliated to the social security system a monthly flat-rate allowance of 2000.00 dirhams net, family allowances and compulsory health insurance benefits. These employees will also be able to benefit from the postponement of repayment of bank credit maturities, namely consumer credit and acquiring credit until June 30, 2020.

1.18 Tunisia

With 780 confirmed cases, 43 recoveries and 35 deaths, all education activities suspended and currently depending on online education. A curfew has been instituted beginning 19.00hrs to 6.00hrs. Government has closed land and air borders as well as cafes, restaurants and shops. However, the ports are still working and controlled by government agencies.



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World Health Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Africa

COVID-19

WHOAFRICAUPDATE17.04.20

Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Country	Total cases	Total Deaths
WHO Africa Region			Tanzania	94	4	Sierra Leone	15	0
South Africa	2,605	48	Ethiopia	92	3	CAR	12	0
Algeria	2,268	348	Togo	81	5	Seychelles	11	0
Cameroon	855	17	Liberia	73	6	Gambia	9	1
Cote d'Ivoire	688	6	Cabo Verde	55	1	Mauritania	7	1
Ghana	641	8	Uganda	55	0	Burundi	5	0
Niger	609	15	Equatorial Guinea	51	0	South Sudan	4	0
Burkina Faso	543	32	Zambia	48	2	Sao Tome & Principe	4	0
Guinea	438	1	Guinea Bissau	46	0	WHOAFRO Total	11,733	583
Nigeria	373	11	Benin	37	1	WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region		
Senegal	335	2	Eritrea	35	0	Egypt	2505	183
Mauritius	324	9	Mozambique	29	0	Morocco	2251	128
DRC	287	23	Chad	27	0	Tunisia	780	35
Kenya	234	11	Zimbabwe	23	3	Djibouti	591	2
Mali	171	13	Angola	19	2	Somalia	80	5
Rwanda	138	0	Malawi	16	2	Libya	48	1
Congo	117	5	Namibia	16	0	Sudan	32	5
Madagascar	117	0	Eswatini	16	1	Africa Total	18,020	942
Gabon	95	1	Botswana	15	1			

WHO only publishes verified information. Data may reflect differences in reporting methods, retrospective data consolidation, and reporting delays.

2. Actions by Fairtrade Africa

The Leadership Team has taken the following measures to ensure business continuity:

2.1 Internal security (emergency) response committee

Together with the Leadership Team, the committee continues to develop various response plans as appropriate.

2.2 Service delivery by alternative means

A decision to suspend all travel and field related activities was taken on March 17, 2020. The trend all over the world is an extension of lockdowns and curfews. No new strategies in containing the spread. We, therefore, continue working from home and observing all WHO and our respective government regulations/ advisories aimed at containing the pandemic.

2.3 Communication

Dissemination of health and safety information to producers and staff is a key part of our operations during this time. This is met through weekly memos, WhatsApp, bulk SMS and e-mail updates. Similarly, relevant information on markets and the status of producers is shared with donors, partners and other key stakeholders bi-weekly.



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2.4 Assessment of operational and project risks

A risk assessment and evaluation of project implementation is underway. This is aimed at re-evaluating implementation feasibility, and a possibility to redefine project activities, as agreed with project donors, and partners.

2.5 Collaborative response

Fairtrade Africa in collaboration with NFOs, is pursuing partnerships with organizations operating in various African regions for consolidated welfare and emergency response, to minimize the impact of COVID-19 and to mobilize long-term support for producers and workers.

2.6 Advocacy

Fairtrade Africa, in collaboration with FI and other stakeholders at the country level, continues to explore intervention mechanisms. FTA and FI have established a common emergency response kitty for soliciting and disbursing funds aimed at cushioning Fairtrade producers and workers from the impacts of COVID-19.

3. Updates on Fairtrade Certified Products

3.1 Flowers

Kenya:

Flower producers, particularly in Kenya, continue to suffer the impacts of COVID-19 on export businesses. Nonetheless, producers have in the last week started to see a slight recovery. Growers are beginning to ship some volumes mainly to the auction. Moreover, online flower sales have started to pick up steadily in Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. This is an indication that better times may lie ahead. However, this improvement is impeded by the current status of freight services whose demand has increased momentarily. With most African countries still on lockdown, this is making it impossible to operate. Additionally, with some service providers charging more than double the usual cost, the burden is too huge for producers during these fragile times. As a result, flower producers remain in the woods. Consequently, many workers continue to suffer job loss and loss of income owing to producer decisions to either lay off their workers or send them on unpaid leave.

Given this and following the new guidelines on Fairtrade Premium funds, majority of the flower producers in Kenya, in discussion with Fairtrade Premium Committees, have agreed to spend funds on the provision of food to affected workers. Farms are anticipated to begin implementing this in the coming week. At the same time, others like Oserian are spending their premium in production of face masks for workers, their dependants and the surrounding community.

Ethiopia:

Producers have recorded a drop in sales owing to cancellation of flights to key destinations. However, this is not as significant as Kenya's since cargo flights to some destinations remain operational, hence most farms are shipping an average of 50%-60%. The farms continue to implement all necessary health and safety protocols such as social distancing, washing hands and wearing of masks to manage the spread of COVID-19. To enable the sale of flowers from the country, the minimum price for cut flowers has been raised. Producers have not begun to make use of the new guidelines on Fairtrade Premium funds. However, discussions are on-going around in-kind disbursements of consumable goods such as foodstuffs to all workers.

In Uganda, most flower farms have also scaled down their operations, sending half of their labor force on unpaid leave.



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In summary, rejection at the farm is now a common practice to prevent the flowers from blooming. Harvested flowers are being converted into compost manure. This is especially so in Kenya. Several layoffs have been occasioned and workers in selected farms across the region sent on a 2-week leave. The Trade Union and Agricultural Employers Association in Kenya have agreed to declare 50,000 flower farm workers redundant due to the adverse effects of COVID-19. Also, approximately 20,000 workers in FT farms are currently working on rotational terms and remunerated at half pay.

3.2 Coffee

Generally, there has been a decline in coffee prices as a result of COVID-19. Demand for speciality coffee is likely to be affected due to the social distancing measures which have seen cafes and restaurants close down thus diminishing out-of-home consumption.

In Kenya, the coffee auction remains closed as a result of containment measures in Nairobi Metropolis. Producers in the lower eastern regions of Machakos and Mukuyuni are preparing for their main harvest season which runs through the end of April to early May. In other parts of the country, the crop is at its flowering stage.

Producers in Uganda continue with their factory operations but with skeletal staff. Also, coffee delivery to washing stations is on-going.

In Burundi, the harvest season is on and operations are going on as usual. POs are providing handwashing facilities for the workers and farmers who visit the coffee washing stations. Sales and exports are largely challenged due to cancellation of contracts by some buyers.

In the global markets, there is low demand for Ethiopia's coffee export due to logistics and supply chain disruption. This will continue to threaten the stability of the country's macroeconomy.

3.3 Tea

Malawi: Malawi has five Fairtrade certified tea producers. These include Satemwa Tea Estate, Kawalazi Tea Estate, Thuchila Tea Association, Sukambizi Association Trust (tea), Msuwadzi Tea Association, Out of all these, Satemwa and Kawalazi are Hired Labour (HL) organizations while the rest are small producer organizations (SPOs).

Kawalazi Tea Estate: Due to lockdown, no workers will be allowed to work, therefore the company will lose a lot of its tea (crop loss) as tea needs to be picked daily. This will, in the end, have financial implications as the company won't be able to pick, process and sell its tea for the next 21 days.

Satemwa Tea Estate: The lockdown guidelines give factories the leeway to continue operating but under strict conditions or completely shut down. Should the company close, they will go broke as they will not be able to pick, process and sell their tea.

Sukambizi Association Trust: This is a tea SPO that supplies its green leaf to Lujeri Tea Estate. Just like Satemwa, Lujeri has not yet decided to completely shut down or operate under strict conditions. However, should the factory completely shut down, Sukambizi will lose crop (tea) for the next four months. This will mean no income for the farmers for the next four months. In simple terms, if the factory completely shuts down, the crop will overgrow and after 21 days it will need to be pruned. After pruning it takes about four months to regenerate.

Msuwadzi Tea Association: This is an SPO that supplies its green leaf to Satemwa Tea Estate. Should Satemwa decide to completely shut down, the farmer's income will be affected for the next four months as there will be no harvesting.



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Thuchila Tea Association: This is an SPO that supplies its green leaf to Eastern Produce Limited. As of now, EP has not yet decided to continue operating or completely shut down. However, should EP completely shut down, just like any other tea SPO, Thuchila Tea Association will have no income for the next four months.

Kenya:

Normal production processes are on-going albeit with caution. Demand is generally stable, particularly for Kenyan tea.

Local sales distribution and marketing in all countries are affected by the restrictions on movement. Also, producers are experiencing extreme delays in dispatching tea samples to buyers.

3.4 Cocoa

Ghana:

Within the last week, the impact dynamics have changed from what was previously reported. Cocoa prices in the world market have plunged, and has cost the Ghanaian government USD 1Bio. This will affect the revenue generated by farmers from volumes projected for the year. There is a restriction to shipment of cocoa beans to some locations due to the ban on international flights. There is a perceived financial risk for cocoa farmers. The greater part of the risks is anticipated in the 2020/21 cocoa season as Cocobod is currently struggling to get syndicated loan agreements due to closure of most foreign banks. Cocobod was to use the loan facility to increase cocoa yields per hectare. If this continues, it could affect even the availability of money for Licensed Buying Companies to purchase cocoa from the farmers at the community level. This could also affect the farm gate price of cocoa if the market price continues to fall

Cote d'Ivoire:

Chocolate companies anticipated lower-than-usual sales during the Easter period. Any dip in demand could take some time to overcome, even after restrictions on daily movement are lifted. However, investment bank Credit Suisse suggests the pandemic may not significantly dampen demand: This should also be good news for the farmers.

3.5. Banana and other products (Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroun, Burkina, Senegal, Benin, Togo)

There is no major impact in the production of fresh and dried fruits so far, however, the local demand is continuously dropping due to lockdown of most populated towns.

There has been a major decrease in cotton in both prices and sales. In Senegal, producers may have to keep their cotton as local buyers' storage spaces are getting full.

Some areas in the Eastern region of Ghana have recorded cases of the virus; no employee of Fairtrade banana plantations has been affected.

3.6 Wine

The harvesting is finished for most producers, with only a few yet to complete harvesting. All wine tastings have been banned and cellars remain closed for tours or visits.

3.7 Sugar

Mauritius: Though farmers are allowed to visit their farms, only those who have small plots can maintain and perform some operations after the heavy rains, such as weeding. For



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farmers who have to employ workers, they cannot do the weeding as there is no way to observe social distancing in transporting the workers to the farm.

Some farmers start sugarcane thrashing in April, which help them have better yields and reduce the cost of cane cutting. Farmers are also maintaining their farm with weeding. However, those operations are not possible for the moment because of health restrictions. Workers who were paid every week are short of finances due to the extension of the lockdown.

Eswatini:

All employees of Eswatini Sugar Association are still working from home following the call by government for a 20-day partial lockdown. Since the Goba / Matsamo border post to Mozambique has been closed, ESA has to use the alternative longer route to the Mozambique harbour, which will affect the costs on logistics. However, the status of the business is that operations have been consistent. Agro-inputs major suppliers have adjusted the price for the next season by eleven percent, Prices will continue going up, significantly increasing production costs. No changes in sales have been observed as yet. Still monitoring sales, but no changes have been observed. In **Maplotini** and **Phakama Mafucula**, preparations for harvesting is underway. Safety and health briefings are done every morning and sanitisers provided. None of the employees or management has contracted COVID-19. Harvesting and operations continue uninterrupted in **Mavalela**, **MM&N** Farmers and Komati Downstream Development Project Farmers Federation (**KDDPFF**) respectively. None of the employees or management has contracted the virus.

Malawi:

SPOs in sugar face a serious challenge as it is uncertain when cane harvesting will start. Cane harvesting needs a huge workforce which would work against government restrictions. On another note, the Illovo Nchalo mill which processes Phata and Kasinthula cane were due to be serviced by a South African contractor, but with the lockdown, this has not happened. This means cane harvesting will be delayed posing a serious risk to the farmers. Delayed harvesting will lead to cash flow/income problems for both the management companies and the farmer associations.

3.8 Vanilla

A large number of vanilla farmers and their children have moved to huts close to their vanilla farms to guard their vanilla. Therefore, children who stopped classes due to COVID-19 crisis have no occasion to review their lessons as they are in remote areas.

3.9 Herbs (Cinnamon; Cloves, Rooibos)

Zimbabwe:

There has been limited operations and activities with the farmers. Harvesting is due at the end of April; as there is a 5 km radius allowance that has been given to the farmers, they can still work on their fields and process their crop. However, buying and transportation will be delayed due to the ban on travelling outside the 5km radius.

Middle East:

In Egypt, the sales of fresh fruits such as oranges have gone up since it is in demand as a natural source of vitamin C. The vegetable farms continue their normal operations of working and export. In Morocco, the herbs and spices were already sold out way before the virus.



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There has been a decrease in the production and export of oilseeds and oleaginous fruit due to logistical challenges.

4.0 Some of the actions SPO are taking

In line with the governments and WHO preventive guidelines on COVID-19, the POs are undertaking the measures below:

- Sensitization and communication campaigns within their local communities by:
 - a) In Ghana, cooperatives like Asunafo North Farmers Union, West Akyem and ABOCFA cooperative have embarked on a series of sensitization efforts in their communities to help prevent the spread of the disease. Asunafo has been supporting a radio talk show for the past two years. Since the spread of the virus, they have started sensitization on COVID -19 to farmers through the radio show. ABOCFA has supported its members by donating sanitary kits such as soaps, hand sanitizers and sanitary equipment. While West Akyem farmer cooperative has supported its members and the community with informational posters on coronavirus preventive measures.
 - b) Invitation of health professionals to talk to the staff
 - c) Using bulk SMS messaging to their staff.
 - d) Posting of briefing notes for the respect of government prevention measures especially the adoption of barrier gestures and social distancing
- In Cote d'Ivoire, cooperatives have also embarked on education campaigns partly with support from the Conseil Café Cacao.
- In Madagascar, Association Theodore Vanille decided to use their Fairtrade premium to buy and distribute soap for washing hands to its 83 members and families and vulnerable groups in their community who cannot afford to buy soap. This is an immediate response to the call by the prefect of Sambava that cooperatives should take part in awareness campaigns to fight against coronavirus.
- Enforcement of hand washing, use of face masks, hand sanitizers and observation of social distancing to prevent the spread of the virus.

We will continue to update you on any news, emerging issues, or changes in our regular operations.