

The COVID-19 Impact on Kenyan Farmers

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

Insights from 4,600+ farmer conversations: June, 2020 – February, 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.



65% of farmers have drawn on their savings.

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

70%

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.

55%

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



83%

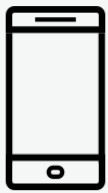
wanted to sell more but could not.



04. A third of farmers increased their usage of digital technologies.

36%

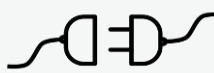
increased their use of digital technologies.



> Largest increases were for personal use and financial transactions.

25%

decreased their use of digital technologies.



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

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 becoming more important as income from other sources has decreased



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

JUN

53%

x

FEB

63%

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

FEB

74%

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

FEB

61%

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

FEB

72%

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01. Farming Impact



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

30%

35%

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

22%

19%

02. Financial Impact



% reporting 'much worse' financial situation

45%

40%

% confident about loan repayment

45%

60%

03. Top Requests



% asking for cash as top support to cope

44%

39%

Top request to increase sales

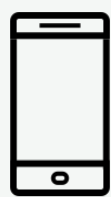
72%

68%

Connecting with new buyers

Market information

04. Digital Use



% used smartphone last month

37%

49%

% used feature phone last month

70%

60%

Funded by:



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- Female farmer, Age 26, June