Contribution of Agricultural Research and Innovation in Mitigating the Effects of COVID-19 in Africa

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Outline

1. CAADP XP4: Africa’s Partnership Mechanism for Agricultural Research and Innovation
2. Implications of COVID-19 on Food and Agriculture
3. Research and Innovation Interventions
4. Next Steps
1. Pandemics e.g. COVID-19 call for multi-country approach

2. CAADP XP4 is a mechanism for multi-country research and innovation actions to achieve agric development goals (CAADP & SDGs)

3. Mandate from AUC, AUDA, RECs
Implications of COVID-19 on food and agriculture in Africa

Human-Agriculture-wildlife interaction

Health crisis

Measures to contain virus spread [Lockdowns]

Supply
- Disruption of food distribution chains
- Disruption of production
- Post-harvest losses
- Research disrupted

Demand
- Panic buying $\rightarrow$ price hikes
- Reduced consumption due to drop in incomes & access to food markets

Projected output losses in Africa in 2020: USD 37-79B

Agric production projected to contract by 2.6-7%

World Bank (2020)

Innovations to respond to containment measures (online marketplace)

COVID-19 will be around for a long time: calling for new ways of working (transaction costs, job losses), and re-orienting research and innovation.
Proposed agriculture research interventions in response to COVID-19

1. Technologies for fast-tracking mitigation of food shortages and extending storability

2. Strengthening of food supply systems, trade and labour markets

3. Foresighting vulnerabilities in Africa’s food system
Technologies for mitigating food shortages & extending storability

1. Assessment of the effects of COVID-19 on the continent’s food system: the research and innovation dimension

2. Identify technology options for mitigating impacts and facilitate their dissemination
   - Institutional arrangements / partnerships (IPs)
   - Capacity development
   - Knowledge Management
   - Policies and financial incentives
Strengthening food supply systems, trade & labour markets

1. Assess constraints / barriers imposed by COVID-19 on food supply chains and trade

2. Generate evidence to support policies for addressing the constraints [SPS, standards, capacities]

3. Design safety nets

4. Promote use of ICT tools to improve efficiency and reduce transaction costs
Foresighting vulnerabilities in Africa’s food system

COVID-19 is additional to other risks to the food system e.g. climate change, fall army worms & desert locusts

1. Develop capacities in long-term planning and prioritization through use of foresight tools

2. Conduct foresight to simulate scenarios of the long-term impact of COVID-19 on food and nutritional security → identify needed interventions

3. Develop capacities to mitigate risks from interactions of agriculture and wildlife e.g. biosecurity surveillance
Next Steps

1. Online discussion (Dgroups or blog) to conclude this consultation and develop an action plan (up to end of May 2020)

2. Development of continental and regional initiatives to implement elements of the action plan (in consultation with AUC, AUDEA, RECs) (June-December 2020)

3. Assemble and share information on how research is being harnessed to mitigate impacts of COVID-19 on food and nutrition security (Ongoing, continuous)
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Thank you

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