

Extension and advisory services at the frontline of COVID-19 response for food security in Africa

Tuesday 30 June 2020
10:00-11:30 (CET)



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

The global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has generated extreme vulnerability in the agricultural sector. Governments around the globe are confronted with multiple challenges related to minimizing the devastating health impact and protecting human lives, livelihoods and ensuring sufficient food supplies and the functioning of services to those most in need.

Extension and Advisory Service (EAS) systems, through their network of actors (public, NGOs, private sector, Producer Organizations, farmer groups, etc.), can play an indispensable role in raising awareness of COVID-19 to reduce spread of the pandemic and assist in emergency operations, while ensuring that rural producers have relevant and accurate information, inputs and services to support their agricultural production, strengthen local value chains, both during and in the post-emergency period.

Recognising that the impact of COVID-19 and response measures are not uniform across the globe, FAO's Research and Extension Unit (AGDR), and Regional Office in Africa (FAORAF) in collaboration with the Regional Network of Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (AFAAS) is organising this webinar to discuss the role of EAS in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This webinar will:

- Brief on the key challenges posed by COVID-19 in agricultural sector, markets and supply chains that affect EAS assess and delivery;
- Explore and discuss the potential roles of EAS actors and regional networks and policy aspects in providing essential services to the rural population in a short and medium term including socio-economic recovery;
- Share experiences of key measures that EAS actors are undertaking by adapting their capacity, activities, and operational mechanism to respond effectively to COVID-19;
- Highlight specific country examples from Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda and Liberia and responses to overcome challenges of COVID-19 impact and related measures;
- Discuss the way forward in transforming EAS to provide effective support to food security & sustainable agriculture.

Speakers:

- Mr Ade Freeman, Regional Programme Leader, FAO Regional Office for Africa.
- Dr Puyun Yang, Agricultural Training and Extension Officer, FAO Research and Extension Unit (AGDR).
- Dr Rasoanindrany Andrianjafy, African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Service (AFAAS) Secretariat.
- Ms Rose Kamau, Principal Agriculture Officer, Crop Protection Division, State Department of Crop Development and Agriculture Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperative, Kenya.
- Dr Nathalie Bogui Konan, National Rural Development Support Agency (ANADER), Côte d'Ivoire.
- Dr Richard Miiro, Lecturer, Makerere University, Department of Agriculture Extension and Innovation Studies, Academia Representative-Uganda Forum for Agricultural Advisory Service.
- Mr Thomas Amenya, FFS Expert, FAO Country Office in Malawi.
- Mr Edward Perry, Ministry of Agriculture, Liberia.

Target audience:

All those engaged in the response to the impact of the COVID-19 on the agriculture and food systems, rural development, including policy makers, EAS providers, donors and development and humanitarian practitioners.

The webinars will be in English with French interpretation, for duration of 90 minutes.

We hope you join us at the webinar and please feel free to circulate this invite within your network!