



As Nigeria continues to face the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, CGIAR and partners have expanded access to quality seeds and improved crop varieties, strengthened capacity of women and youth, and informed national responses and policies with evidence-based recommendations.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19

With the relaxation of lockdowns and other restrictions in late 2020, people working in both farm and nonfarm sectors have gradually returned to conducting business as before. However, loss of income due to the economic recession and high inflation rates in the wake of the pandemic continue to diminish the purchasing power of many households in Nigeria.

Even though food supplies were exempt from lockdown restrictions, agrifood system (AFS) gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to decline in 2020/2021 due to income losses and supply chain disruptions. It is estimated that 14.7 percent of national GDP losses in Nigeria during the lockdowns in 2020 were incurred in the AFS.

The government is confronted with the simultaneous challenges of combatting the public health crisis of the pandemic and bolstering a weakening economy. The response has been to expedite efforts to vaccinate the population, particularly frontline workers.

CGIAR COVID-19 HUB RESEARCH RESPONSE

Key outputs from CGIAR COVID-19 response in Nigeria, expected in the last quarter of the year include:

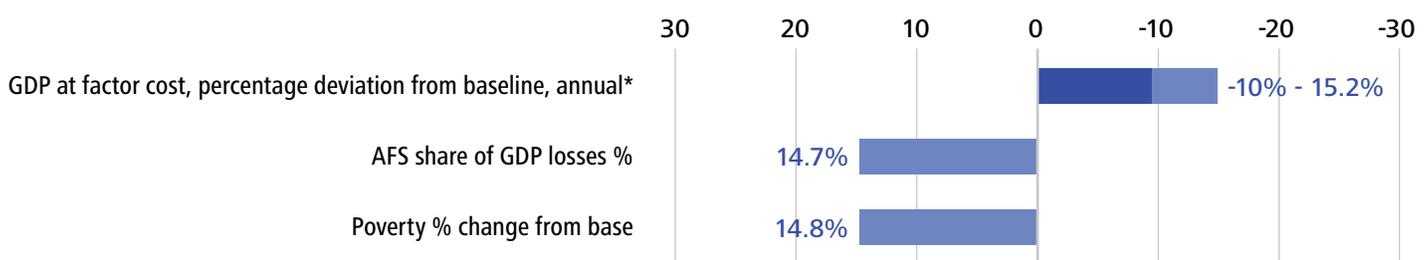
- Production and distribution of high-yield adapted sorghum and millet breeder seed

- Distribution of breeder seeds for four climate-resilient rice varieties
- Distribution of farmer-preferred chicken breeds
- Training of women and youth in agribusiness, followed by distribution of starter packs to beneficiaries/trainees
- Training of women and youth on sorghum and millet processing for household nutrition and income generation
- Demonstration of a crusher for increased utilization of crop residues
- Identification and training of five decentralized vine multipliers to boost production and supply of commercial orange-fleshed sweet potato vines to households
- Further analytical work from the first round of phone surveys conducted in July/August 2020 to understand the economic impacts of COVID-19, followed by a second round of phone surveys, currently ongoing
- A second-round phone survey with fish supply chain actors to assess the impacts of COVID-19 on the availability and price of aquatic foods and production inputs

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

As the COVID-19 crisis unfolded in Nigeria, CGIAR engaged with national actors to provide a research response. At the onset of the pandemic, CGIAR focused on assessing the impacts on the economy and food systems during lockdown periods. CGIAR also established rapid responses to the changed conditions, such as phone-based agricultural services.

Figure 1: Economic and poverty impacts of COVID-19 in Nigeria 2020/2021



The COVID-19 Hub created an opportunity for more integrated collaboration across CGIAR entities, with the aim of providing value chain actors access to diverse technical expertise. Coordination across CGIAR also enabled more effective engagement with the Nigerian government. Given the mobility restriction measures in response to COVID-19 and the lack of face-to-face interaction, building new partnerships has been challenging, but they are developing nevertheless. CGIAR's research response therefore builds on existing partnerships, with the COVID-19 Hub providing an opportunity for engagement and discussion with more partners.

CGIAR COVID-19-RELEVANT WORK IN NIGERIA

Distribution of breeder seed during the pandemic

CGIAR is implementing a COVID-19 emergency response project to produce and distribute 7 tons of breeder seeds for four climate-smart varieties to 10 private seed companies that will make certified seeds available to farmers.

Assessing the short-term impact of COVID-19 and policy responses

Building on past CGIAR investments in economywide tools and social accounting matrices, CGIAR researchers have used multiplier models to assess the short-term impacts of COVID-19 and policy responses. CGIAR also continues to engage with the Government of Nigeria to [identify policy priorities](#) to support recovery.

Impact of the pandemic on the fish value chain

Several studies were launched to analyze [the impacts of the pandemic on value chains](#), including the fish value chain in [Nigeria](#). CGIAR established a dedicated [COVID-19 portal](#) to rapidly share content and disseminate relevant documents and material related to COVID-19.

Monitoring changes to food security during the pandemic

Researchers repeated dietary intake surveys in [Nigeria](#) to monitor changes in fruit and vegetable intake in urban populations. Some key publications cover a [rapid appraisal](#) of food system risks emerging from COVID-19 measures; [local food system resilience](#); and impacts on [household food security](#).

Assessing the impact of COVID-19 on Aflasafe manufacturing and distribution

To evaluate the impact of the pandemic on Aflasafe commercialization partners in four countries including Nigeria, a survey was conducted to assess the [implications of the pandemic for their manufacturing and distribution businesses](#). COVID-19 has had a negative impact on the businesses of all Aflasafe partners, with the highest impact (70 percent) observed in Nigeria.



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The CGIAR COVID-19 Hub is led by the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health. To learn more, visit www.a4nh.cgiar.org/covidhub/

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