COFFEE FARMERS AND COVID-19 IN KENYA
Survey rounds 1 & 2 | June 2020

Coffee farming households in Kenya

- 452 households surveyed
- 50% of households have children who were attending school prior to school closures

COVID-19 knowledge and concerns

Farmers' top COVID-19 concerns:

- Health concerns
- Access to jobs
- Access to markets
- Food concerns

COVID-19 timeline

- March 13: First case reported
- March 20-22: Schools closed, WFH imposed, public gatherings banned, public transport limited
- March 27: Curfew in place
- April 6: Movement restrictions in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi, Kwale
- July 7: County movements permitted

Younger farmers are more knowledgeable about COVID-19

- 55% average age of farmers who could identify 3+ preventative measures
- 60% average age of farmers who could not identify 3+ preventative measures

How have coffee farming households been affected so far?

- 76% of households have lost income as a result of COVID-19 since the outbreak began

Households report losing income from diverse sources, in particular:

- salaried jobs: 31%
- sale of excess food crops: 28%
- other non-farm business: 18%

How do households cope?

- 90% of households report using coping strategies to cover basic needs.

Larger households report using more food-based coping mechanisms, such as:

- relying on less preferred or cheaper food
- reducing meal size or number

Farmers are pessimistic about current and future financial wellbeing

- 94% of farmers believe they are worse off financially than they were one year ago
- 51% of farmers believe they will be worse off financially in one year than they are now

Loss of job opportunities in the coffee sector is the main reason for lost coffee farming income, which has knock-on effects for farming activities

1 in 3 farmers report difficulties implementing pest and disease management activities

1 in 4 farmers report difficulties applying fertilizer or compost and with sucker selection

Coffee farming households in Kenya

- Household includes a member aged 60+:
  - Yes: 47%
  - No: 53%

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