

SAA's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic Effects



"Walking with the Farmer"

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The 5th AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WEEK

Munyonyo Resort Hotel, 15th November, 2021



SASAKAWA AFRICA ASSOCIATION

- Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA)- an international agricultural development NGO, co-founded in 1986 by Nobel Laureate Dr. Norman Borlaug, Japanese philanthropist Ryoichi Sasakawa (Nippon Foundation) and former US President Jimmy Carter
- SAA was established in 1986, has worked in over 15 countries in Africa, majorly funded by Nippon Foundation – Japan;
- Currently in 11 countries: Uganda, Nigeria, Mali, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Benin, Ghana, Malawi, Tanzania, Mozambique and Sierra Leone



Background....

- Signed MOUs with governments through Ministries of Agriculture
- Promotes farming as a business in partnership with other stakeholders
 - Ministry of Agriculture, Universities, National Agricultural Research Institutions, CGIAR centers, Farmers/farmer organizations, private sector, Development partners such as AGRA, IFAD, WFP, AFAAS, USAID, JICA, Govt of Japan
- Focuses on smallholder farmers- 60% of whom are women , also youth and persons with special needs –PWDs
- Since inception, SAA has reached out to over 10, 261,986 farmers
- Has had impact on smallholder farmers and improved their food and nutrition security and ousehold incomes despite some challenges that include the COVID 19 pandemic among others



Background to the Rapid Impact assessment

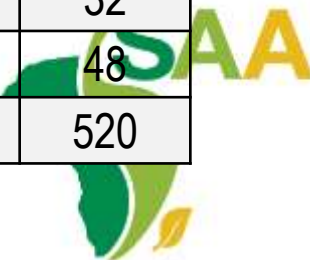
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- The lockdown due to COVID 19 started in March, 2020; immediately impacting on the agricultural sector
- SAA commissioned a rapid impact assessment in all its implementing countries to get information on the current and anticipated effects of the COVID-19 pandemic specifically in the agricultural sector
- **Objectives of the assessment**
 - To assess the impact of COVID-19 on the food systems
 - To establish how the COVID-19 pandemic situation and mitigation measures by the country are affecting the food systems
 - Recommend/Suggest tangible mitigation measures and practical solutions that SAA can deliver on
 - Develop a COVID – 19 emergency project funded by SAA/Nippon Foundation



- E-assessment (phone interviews and emails) guided by a questionnaire
- Sample: farmers, off-takers/traders, input dealers, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), private service providers, development partners as well as financial institutions.
- Data collection: Used phone interviews and emails guided by semi-structured tools and questionnaires
- Overall, 520 respondents participated in the survey across the focus countries as summarized in table 1.

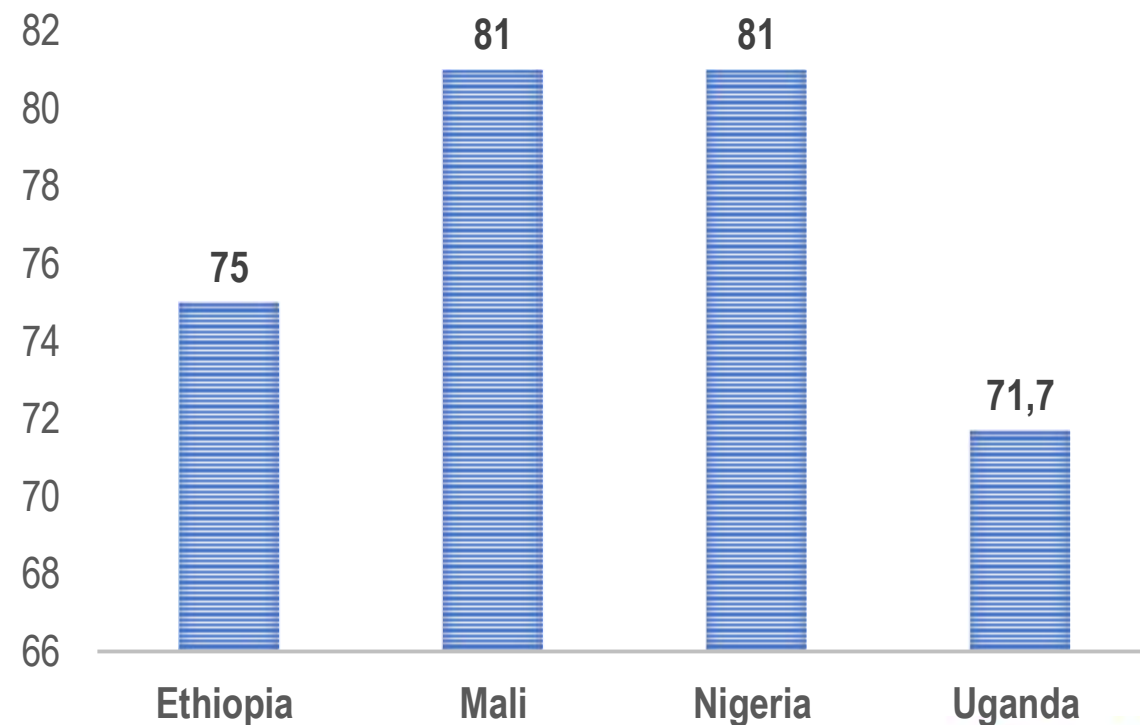
Respondent Category	Ethiopia	Mali	Nigeria	Uganda	¹ Other Countries	Total
Agro-processors & Private Service Providers	10	10	10	8	–	38
Extension Service (Extension/Development Agents)	26	15	14	11	–	66
Farmers	24	20	30	46	–	129
Financial Institutions	8	6	2	4	–	20
University & Agriculture Colleges (Administrators and Students)	57	16	05	5	32	151
Input dealers (seeds, fertilizer and agro-chemicals)	13	11	5	7	–	35
MAAIF/MOA & Partners	4	17	3	8	–	32
Off-takers & Traders	13	10	19	6	–	48
Total	155	105	97	95	32	520



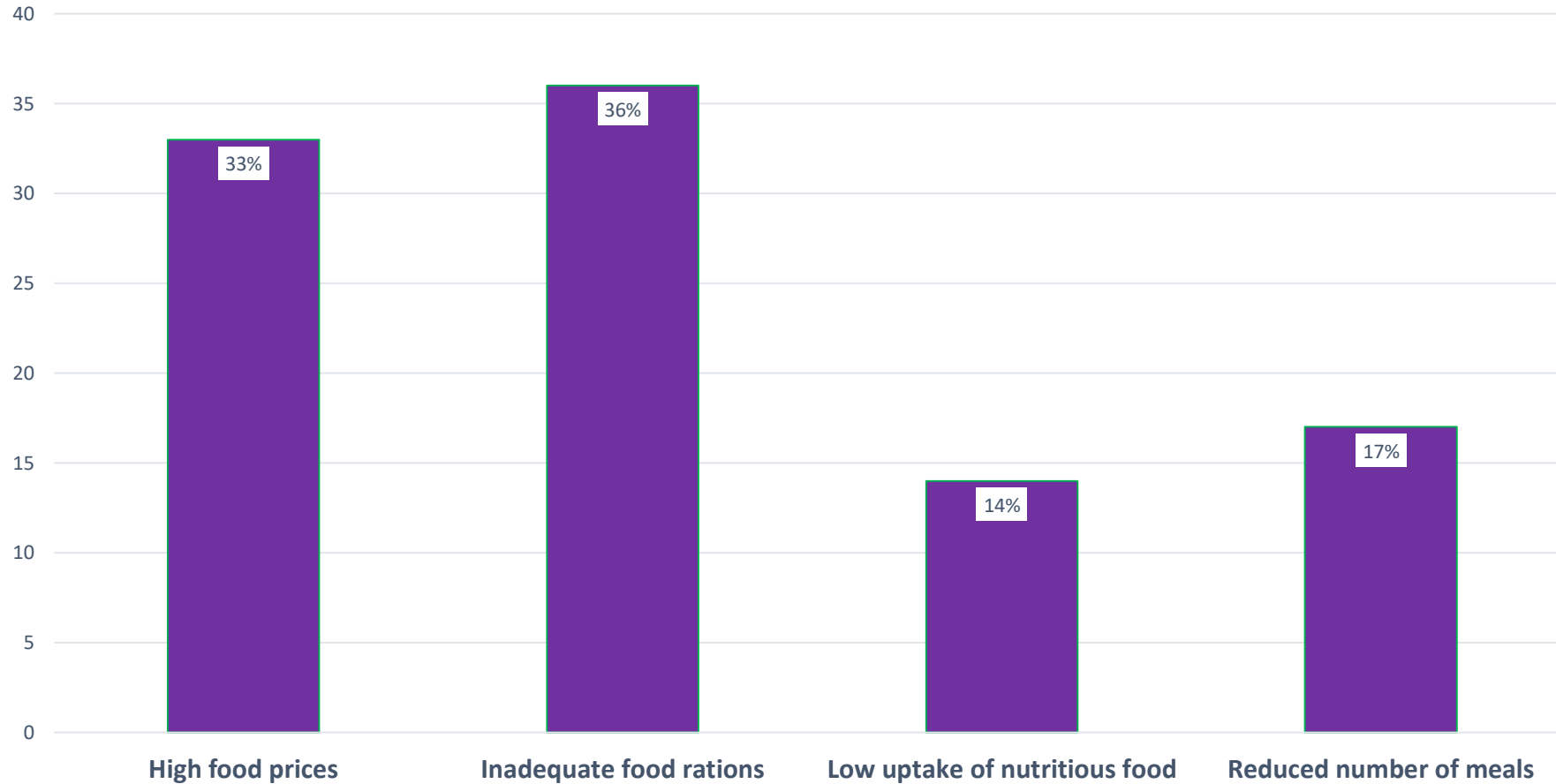
- Majorly due to restrictions on transport, movements and gatherings the affected areas were;

Factor	Ethiopia	Mali	Nigeria	Uganda
Access to extension	83	81	83.3	82.6
access to PHH		52	71.4	23.9
Transportation		100	95.2	52.2
Labour availability	75	90	90.5	63
Price changes		67	95.2	76.1
Output markets		100	92.9	82.6
Access to credit		62	90.5	87
Access to farms			88.1	
Food and nutrition security	75	81	81	71.7
Reduced farming activities		81		
Access to inputs	90			

Figure 1: Percentage response on COVID-19's effect on food and nutrition security by country



Effect of COVID 19 on food security and nutrition among farmers



Effects	Uganda	Ethiopia	Mali	Nigeria
Delayed delivery of imported inputs	33.3			
Delayed payments by debtors	16.7			
Increased cost of business	16.7			
Increased prices	16.7	18		
Limited sales	66.7			81
Scarcity of inputs/lack of access to supply	100.0		91	85
Limited stock/shortage of inputs	66.7	55	46	63
Transport		36		
Lack of access to loans		18		
Out of stock	16.7			80

Effect of COVID_19 on extension service provision

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Variable	Uganda	Ethiopia	Nigeria	Mali
Limited monitoring/technical support to farmers	75	42.3	92	
Suspended activities (trainings, demonstrations, data collection)	33	51.3	60	
Inability to facilitate input delivery/distribution	20	5.7		
Increased cost of service delivery	25		90	



Figure...: Percentage response on effect of COVID-19 on PHAP service provision in Nigeria

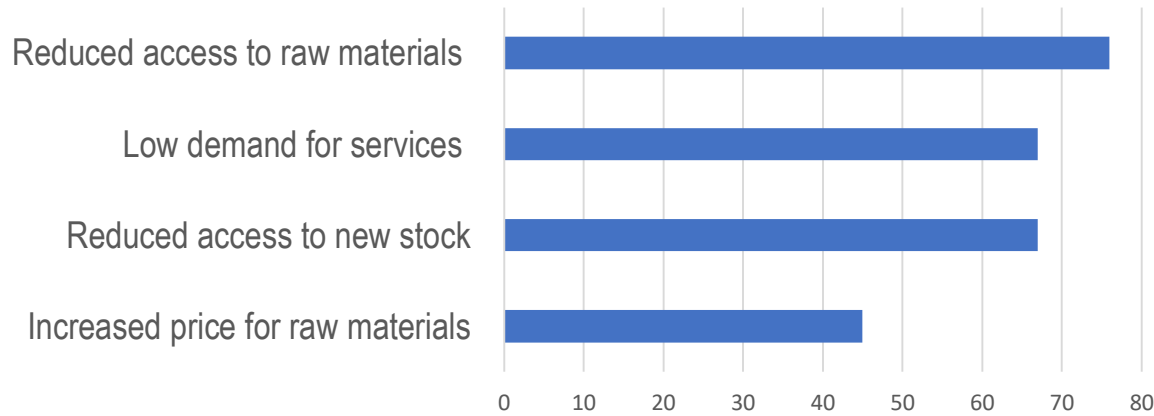


Figure...: Percentage response on effect of COVID-19 on PHAP service provision in Mali

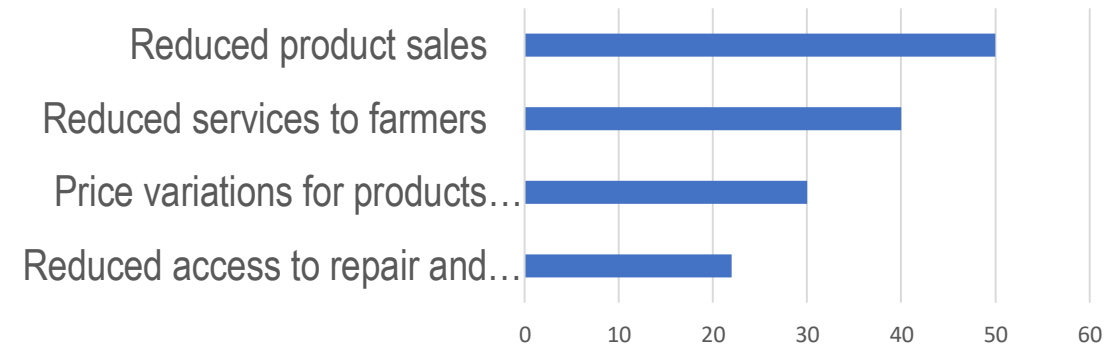


Figure...: Percentage response on effect of COVID-19 on PHAP service provision in Ethiopia

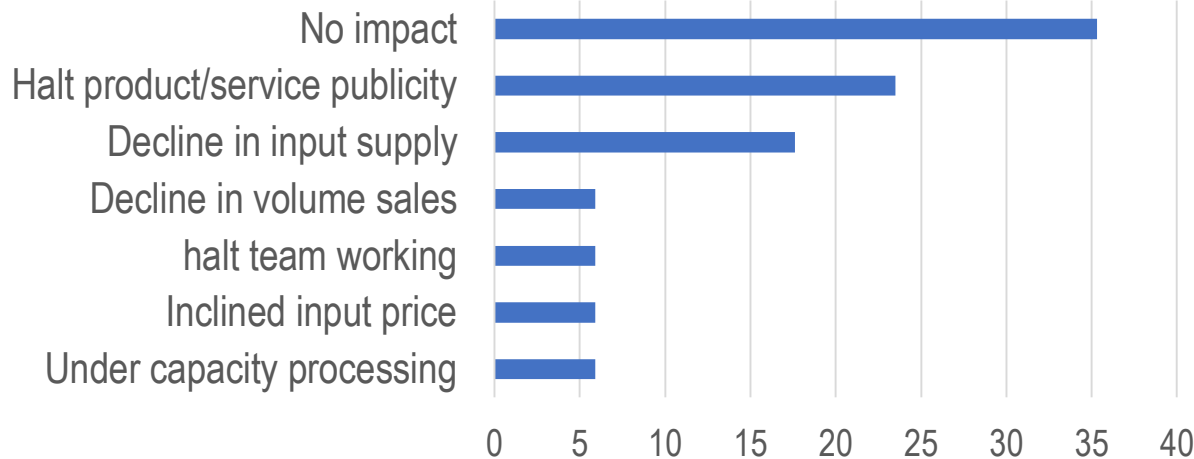
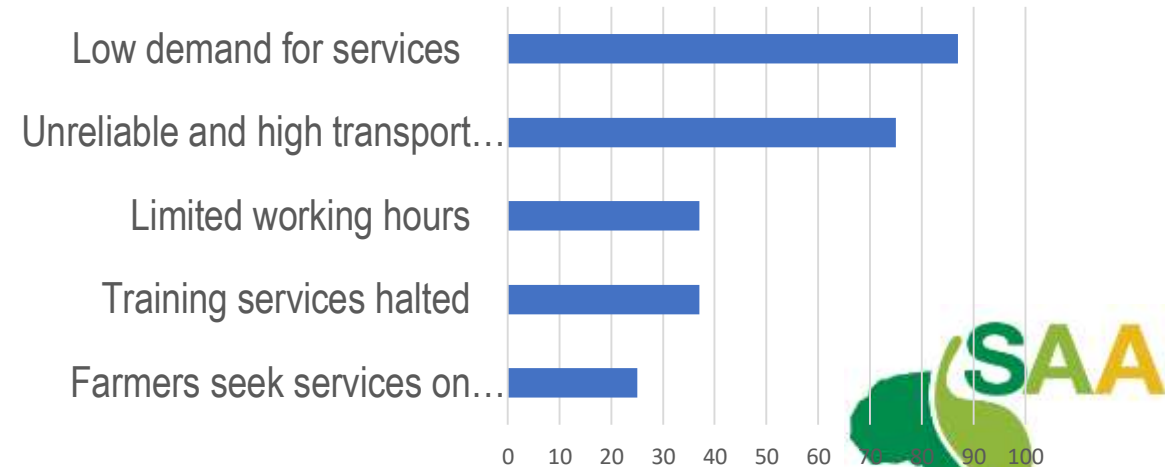


Figure...: Percentage response on effect of COVID-19 on PHAP service provision in Uganda



Effect of COVID-19 on output market

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Table...: Percentage responses on farmers' perceptions on the effect of COVID-19 on output markets

Output marketing	Percentage responses (%)			
	Ethiopia	Mali	Nigeria	Uganda
Increased input & Post Harvest Handling materials prices	-	-	23	12
Scarcity of produce	15	60	60	67
Increase food prices and other essentials	15	20	48	45
Limited market access due to ban of weekly markets	8	20	51	81

Table...: Percentage responses on off-takers' perceptions on the effect of COVID-19 on output markets

	Uganda	Ethiopia	Mali	Nigeria
Closure of business	33.3			
High transport	66.7	7.7		51.0
Scarcity of produce	100.0	15.4	60.0	
Limited stock	83.3		40.0	56.0
Price variation	100.0	15.4	20.0	48.0
increased sales		15.4		
Decline in income		38.5		
Lack of access to loans		7.7		



Effect of COVID-19 on access to finance

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Variables	Uganda	Ethiopia	Mali	Nigeria
Decline on debtors	80			
Decline on savers/deposits		40		89
Poor loan servicing	60	30	67	67
suspension of loan disbursement	40	20		
Deficit in loanable funds	20	10	67	
Constrained credit flow	60			72



- Restrictions on physical movements among farmers, lecturers, and students
- The implementation of SAFE Demand Driven Curriculum (SDDC) is completely affected by COVID-19. Major activities such as lectures, examination; assignments; practical field work, etc. are completely interrupted.
- Supervised Enterprise Projects (SEPs) activities (such as: proposal preparation, project development, project funds raising, project implementation, supervision and evaluation) which is the pillar of the SAFE program is affected by COVID-19.
- Low connectivity and limited access to internet, ICT equipment and facilities are challenges faced by university lecturers and students.



Conclusion:

- The pandemic has registered a number of effects on the sector; input and output access, service provision, extension advisory services, financial inclusion and learners in tertiary institutions.

Recommendation:

- Support smallholder farmers to increase food production for food security and nutrition
- Promote the use of e-extension to enable output and input access; extension advisory services
- Support digitalization of training materials for learners in tertiary institutions



Addressing issues of seed and nutrition

- Provision of planting materials; vegetable seed, Sweet potatoes vines – orange fresh potatoes biofortified with Vit A (with early maturity period)
- Time saving technologies/reducing drudgery (planters, weeders, post harvest machines ..)

Knowledge transfer activities

- E-extension
 - Profile available e-extension service providers/platforms
 - Registering farmers and extension agents, staff on the profiled platforms
 - Supporting Extension agents to have smart gadgets (phones, tablets)
 - Training EAs on use of the platforms
 - Developing content material for the platform and translating to local languages
- Radio programs and spot messages – addressing issues of the crop calendar, nutrition
- Provide personal protective equipment (temp gun, hand washing facilities, masks, overalls, sanitizers.)
- Establish call centers and WhatsApp groups

Support digitalization of training materials

- Universities have been given equipment including Pico projectors, smart cameras, printers, laptops
- Supported financially to digitize training materials to enhance online learning



Extension agents have embraced the applications and are offering services within communities- Advisory, Access to input and output markets



Joseph posing by his input shop in Kiboga district with his phone in hand illustrating the Ezy Agric platform



Francis Kyambadde (holding a smartphone) with Aisha Nakibuule (extreme right) with farmers during a training on e-extension in Mubende District





Left: Aida Abia Embracing Private service provision one of the SAA agribusiness models SAA staff providing protective equipment:
Right: SAA team District teams during a radio talk show in Lira







An extension worker receives bicycle from SAA handed over by Director of Extension



One of the Extension agents receiving his smart phone

