### Background Resource: CGIAR’s COVID-19 Hub

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**Purpose:** This material sets out, for information, an update on the work of the [CGIAR COVID-19 Hub](#) as it approaches one year of operation, and emerging lessons for future CGIAR responses to crises.

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<th>Issue date:</th>
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CGIAR COVID-19 Hub
COVID-19 impacts on food systems and food security

- The worst global economic crisis since the Great Depression in 1930s with complex, interlinked shocks to health and economies
- The crisis exacerbated inequality, poverty and malnutrition, with poverty increasing by 20% globally
- Quick response by CGIAR leveraging existing tools and data, for example country economy-wide model assessments; COVID-19 Policy Response, One Health.

- Early communication on lessons from food price crisis contributed to relatively smooth agri-food trade.
- Key future implications identified:
  - Systemic changes to public sector programs
  - Potential for accelerated food system innovations
  - Delayed but not forgotten – climate change and environment

![Graph showing poverty and nutrition impacts of COVID-19 across different regions and product categories]
COVID-19 Hub in brief

- **CGIAR response to COVID-19** – document for System Council, June 2020
- **Hub launched June 2020** – communication, coordination and “joint” research
- Hub proposal submitted to funders. Funding SO $500K (2020) and UK (W2) $2M to be spent in 2021
- Hub is a time-limited structure – coordinated by A4NH and SO
- Management Team from A4NH, PIM, ILRI, FTA, SO, and LSHTM
- Coordinates CGIAR work in four key areas:
  - Addressing value chain fractures
  - One Health
  - Supporting country responses
  - Resilient food systems and building back better
- Amplifies work conducted across CGIAR outside the Hub structure
Research: Working Group 1
Addressing Value Chain Fractures

• Brief: Analytical Framework for Addressing Value Chain Fractures (January 2021)
  • Identifies two types of policies affecting agrifood value chains: movement or market restrictions
  • Defines research questions moving forward using this framework
• Planned 2021:
  • Inventory of CGIAR value chain studies on COVID-19 to date
  • Synthesis of lessons learned from existing studies of value chains during COVID-19
  • Collaborative study of how well innovations in value chains mitigated impacts of COVID-19
Research – Working Group 2
One Health

Planned 2021 work:

**Pathogen crossovers**
- Review of key drivers associated with cross-over of pandemic-potential pathogens from animals to humans, and policy approaches to addressing these risks
- Study on wildlife trade and wildlife farming in Vietnam

**Epidemiology**
- Framework to map COVID-19 and other zoonotic diseases on agricultural productivity.
- Transmission at the interface among humans, domestic animals, and wildlife in different host ecosystems.
- Slaughterhouses as “hot-spots” for SARS-CoV-2 transmission
- Framework for one health assessment of aquatic food systems in Bangladesh

**Integrated modeling of interactions between health economic impacts**
- Integrating Economic and Epidemiological models at country level
- Health impacts of lockdown and economic impacts of ill-health
Half of CGIAR COVID-19 Hub funds focused on country engagement work in Bangladesh; Ethiopia; Malawi, Myanmar, Nigeria.

Co-design and implementation of research action plans, with 2-3 priorities areas that respond to country demand. For example:

- Farm stress monitor under development by the Hub is a priority for Bangladesh' Prime Minister's office; Aquaculture disease intelligence system discussed with stakeholders;
- To contribute to Ethiopia's COVID-19 response plan by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Hub is undertaking a seed supply chain mapping to generate digital solutions;
- Research in Nigeria on improved access to quality seeds and varieties; strengthening the capacity of women/youth and providing policy evidence address four of the government’s six priority areas.

Cross-country knowledge sharing and synthesis of lessons for One CGIAR country engagement.

• 2021 (planned): Studies on how to address vulnerabilities and provide solutions to build resilience, with key action domains:
  • Food environments
  • Diversification of production and consumption, markets
  • Urban-rural relations, and buffers for employment
  • Integrated surveillance systems food/health/land (link with WG2)
  • Guidelines for countries and actors to analyze and manage food chains shocks and crises (link with WG1 and WG3)
  • Foresight analysis: which new trends, new drivers, new levers to build resilience?
Internal and External Engagement

• Internal updates to Science Leaders and CGIAR researchers:
  • Held December 2020, April 2021
  • Planned June, Q3, Q4 2021

• Webinars:
  • January 2021 on supporting country responses
  • March 2021 on food systems lessons from COVID-19
  • May 2021 on One Health

• Consultation with Rome-based agencies: May 2021

• Planned external events:
  • with RBAs, Q3 2021
  • with CGIAR GENDER Platform, Q3 2021
Lessons for future CGIAR responses to crises

- COVID-19 is a global health, food, social and economic crisis that required a collective CGIAR response
- The Hub empowered and adapted existing structures to launch some collective research actions and implement quickly
- Agile and coordinated response to emergencies requires effective country engagement: with limited resources, the Hub is testing One CGIAR approaches
- Future emergency response needs to be supported by an appropriate institutional structure – such as the Regional and Country offices
- The Hub is a time-limited arrangement until the end of 2021: for continuity, the Hub work areas can be mapped to the CGIAR Initiatives (One Health, Value chains and markets, etc)
- Resilience building as a key feature of the future CGIAR research portfolio (along with others like sustainability, inclusion, efficiency)

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