PRESS ROUNDTABLE:
The pandemic and implications for the world food supply

Monday, 14 December
11:00 am US Eastern Time
PANELISTS

- Iman Haqiqi, Purdue University
- Michael Puma, Earth Institute, Columbia University
- Cynthia Rosenzweig, Earth Institute, Columbia University
- John Valbo-Jorgenson, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
INFORMATION FOR REPORTERS

- Reporters: Please ask your questions directly to the panelists

- Slides from this presentation are available in the Fall Meeting Media Center: https://www.agu.org/Fall-Meeting/Pages/Attend/Media-Center

- This event will NOT be recorded

- Questions and technical issues: Email news@agu.org
FOOD SYSTEM-COVID19 LINKAGES

- **Causal links**
  - Habitat disruption; proximity, zoonotic disease

- **Immediate consequences**
  - Supply chain disruption in food industry
  - Depressed demand (loss in wages; restrictions on movement of people, goods and services; factory closures)
  - Loss of foot traffic in restaurants

- **Medium to longer-term consequences**
  - Disruption in agricultural input supply chains
  - Decline in GDP; depressed government resources; reduced safety nets
COVID-19 CASES AND CLIMATE EXTREMES IN AFRICA

Senegal
Cases: 15,835
Deaths: 329
Total Pop: 15.8M

Ghana
Cases: 50,457
Deaths: 323
Total Pop: 29.7M

Zimbabwe
Cases: 8,981
Deaths: 261
Total Pop: 14.4M

Johns Hopkins COVID19 Tracker (Nov 19, 2020)
AgMIP CLARE National-Scale Research
Impacts on Food System

- Greatest reported effects are loss of incomes and erosion of livelihoods. Second, and related effect, is disruption of productivity.
- Effects on food availability are ~5 on scale of 1 (little effect) to 7 (large effects)
- Effects on affordability are almost 6 for Zimbabwe, around 4 in Senegal, around 3-4 in Ghana.

Impacts on Climate Adaptation Planning

- Overwhelming consensus that pandemic has made engagement with stakeholders on climate change difficult, particularly in Ghana and Zimbabwe.
- About half of survey respondents say that climate change planning work has slowed down in Ghana and Zimbabwe, and about 30% in Senegal.
- Around 40% of respondents in each country say that the pandemic is spurring innovative thinking about ways to improve resilience to risks.
THANK YOU

Contact me:
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UP NEXT
Roundtable: Life in the clouds of Venus?
Lessons from studying life in Earth’s atmosphere

Monday, 14 December
1:00 pm US Eastern Time