



COVID-19 risks to global food security

Webinar on Food Supply Chain Vulnerabilities

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COVID-19 Shakes all Four Pillars of Food Security

- Availability
- Access
- Utilization
- Stability

Availability

- Disrupting production in labor-intensive activities
- Disrupting movement of workers
- Closing some food service sectors
 - Whether through shutdowns or consumer reluctance
- Export restrictions



Access

- Through sharp declines in household incomes
 - Mostly through declines in non-agricultural incomes
- Especially serious in developing countries with limited resources
 - Where many households spend large shares of income on food
- Social safety nets particularly important

Utilization

- Health problems reduce ability to utilize food
- Reductions in dietary diversity
 - Making people more vulnerable to illness

Stability

- Trade and regulated labor mobility help diversify supplies
 - Reduce volatility relative to isolated economies
- Quantitative trade policies like export bans & quotas inject instability
- Important to keep food systems operating
 - Eg green lanes for food movement under lockdown

Conclusions

- COVID-19 highlights need for assessments of vulnerability to food insecurity
- Food access particularly important in this case
- Substantial disruptions in food supply chains
 - Well functioning borders help diversify supplies
 - And minimize price shocks

Laborde, D., Martin, W., Swinnen, J. and Vos, R. (2020), 'COVID-19 Risks to Global Food Security' *Science* 369(6503), July 31.